



## Tau Beta Pi Announces 2019 Laureates

Knoxville, TN — Tau Beta Pi, The Engineering Honor Society, has named four Laureates in the Association's annual program to recognize *gifted engineering students who have excelled in areas beyond their technical majors*.

The 2019 TBP Laureates are **Casey Main**, of Valparaiso University, cited for diverse achievements; **Kendra K. Noneman**, of Boise State University, cited for achievements in athletics; **Rose C. Ridder**, of Swarthmore College, cited for diverse achievements; and **Kelli L. Swenson**, of University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, cited for achievements in athletics. A total of 111 remarkable Tau Bates have been named Laureates since 1982.



**Main**

The Laureate Program exists to further Tau Beta Pi's mission to recognize academic and professional excellence rooted in personal integrity. The Society also promotes a well-rounded education essential for success.

The Laureates will be honored on October 12, 2019, at the 114<sup>th</sup> annual Convention in Columbus, Ohio. Tau Beta Pi President Wayne B. Paugh, LL.M., JD, *Florida Gamma '93*, will present each with a \$2,500 cash award and commemorative plaque. Their biographies follow:

**Casey Main**, *Indiana Delta '19*, recently graduated with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. She is a dedicated swimmer, natural leader, and enthusiastic volunteer.

Main is a four-year member of the Div. 1 women's swim team. Her nomination stated how she has helped improve the team culture as an academic and athletic leader. As a result, the team was named a Scholar All-America team by the College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association in 2019.

She is also an active leader of her sorority Kappa Kappa Gamma, where she served as president and vice president of standards. Main was able to create positive change in the local community through volunteer activities with KKG.

In addition, Main co-founded the Council of Engineering Inclusion and Equity to encourage student engagement of all members of the college of engineering community by valuing their differences. She was recognized with the Claire Duncan Memorial Award "for improvement in the college of engineering at the 2018 Engineers' Day banquet."

She is an active member of the IN Delta Chapter and is a 2018 TBPI Scholar. Her love of liberal culture through leadership and community service has had a lasting impact on each group she's participated in. These diverse achievements are a testament to her bravery, commitment to inclusion, and role model status.



**Noneman**

**Kendra K. Noneman**, *Idaho Gamma '20*, is a senior majoring in materials science & engineering with an applied mathematics minor. Her contributions as a student-athlete reach far beyond her success on the track.

Noneman is a weight and hammer thrower for the Div. 1 track & field team. She reached the finals at the Mountain West championships for two consecutive seasons and had a personal best throw of 18.28 meters in 2019.

What sets Noneman apart is a commitment to academic success and her leadership roles among student-athlete peers. When the BSU track team was without a coach for a few months, she acted as team manager, "filming teammate practices to help everyone continue to improve."

Her nomination cites the breadth of activities that Noneman participates in: judging 4-H competitions, STEM projects for children with disabilities, and recruitment for the college of engineering.

Noneman serves as ID Gamma Chapter president, is a 2019 TBPI Scholar, and actively plans her chapter's *TBPI Day* event on campus.

Her ability to maintain a stellar GPA, being named an NSF scholar recipient, participating in research, and involvement in community service make her an example among other student-athletes. This commitment breeds success, motivates those around her, and deserves recognition.

## Tau Beta Pi Laureates Continued...



**Ridder**

**Rose C. Ridder**, *Pennsylvania Kappa '20*, is a double major in engineering and cognitive science. She is engaged in community development and service locally and internationally while also a leader for on-campus organizations and programs.

Over the past year, Ridder has implemented a project in Northern Thailand fostering science engagement and education. The project worked with 70 students and 20 teachers to improve access to resources in rural Thai schools.

In the Swarthmore community, she serves as a residential assistant, orientation leader, and captain of the rugby team. Ridder also works with the Lang Center for Civic and Social Engagement in promoting social entrepreneurship and innovation on campus and around the world.

Ridder was named a Lang Opportunity Scholar her sophomore year and developed a water project to engage middle school students in the STEM fields. This project was expanded and implemented across Thailand.

She serves as PA Kappa Chapter president and has plans to grow the chapter, better engage members, and increase campus visibility.

Ridder was cited as “the embodiment of liberal culture lived daily, with a deep sense of empathy, and a passion for social justice.” She is an accomplished leader dedicated to helping others with a focus on promoting science and engineering.



**Swenson**

**Kelli L. Swenson**, *Wisconsin Gamma '19*, is a civil engineering graduate with a perfect GPA and a memorable legacy as a soccer player student-athlete.

Swenson joined the varsity soccer team as a freshman walk-on. She was inserted at halftime of the fourth game of her career and went on to start the next 73 consecutive games as a defender.

Swenson finishes her career extremely decorated with academic and athletic awards, including:

- *First ever repeat Horizon League Defensive Player of the Year*
- *Academic All-American First Team*
- *#76 on list of top 100 D1 women's soccer players*
- *GEICO Horizon League Fall Scholar-Athlete*

The individual honors are impressive, but according to her nomination, her “greatest collegiate moment” was scoring the game winning goal to propel her team to an NCAA Tournament appearance as a senior team captain.

She is also a member of the UWM student athlete advisory committee connecting student-athletes, athletic department, and the campus community. Swenson has participated in undergraduate pavement research and is a member of ASCE.

Aptly being characterized as “humble, focused, and well-prepared,” Swenson’s well-rounded education in the classroom and on the field has prepared her for a successful career in engineering and beyond.

**Tau Beta Pi is The Engineering Honor Society, founded at Lehigh University in 1885. As the world’s largest engineering society, TBP has collegiate chapters in 248 engineering colleges in the United States, active alumni chapters in 45 cities, and has initiated more than 601,000 members in its 134-year history.**

More info at <https://www.tbp.org/>