



FOR RELEASE
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Tau Beta Pi Announces Lt. Col. Donald W. Rhymer, Ph.D., as 2013 McDonald Mentor

Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society, has named its eighth McDonald Mentor. The award celebrates excellence in mentoring and advising among Tau Beta Pi educators and engineers who consistently support the personal and professional development of their students and colleagues. While the primary goal of Tau Beta Pi is to recognize students of superior scholarship and exemplary character and to honor eminent practicing engineers, the Association also lauds excellence in engineering education and in the ethical practice of engineering.

Lt. Col. Donald W. Rhymer, Ph.D., *Colorado Zeta '94*, is professor and department head of engineering mechanics at the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA). He is the *2013 Tau Beta Pi-McDonald Mentor*, and will be honored on November 1, 2013, at the 108th annual Convention to be held in Ames, IA. Tau Beta Pi President Larry A. Simonson, Ph.D., P.E., will present \$1,000 and an engraved medallion to Lt. Col. Rhymer. Another \$1,000 grant will be presented to the Colorado Zeta Chapter of Tau Beta Pi for nominating him.

Established in 2005 by Marion and Capers W. McDonald (*NC G '74*) and the Association, the McDonald Mentor Award recognizes engineering educators or professionals in industry, government, or service organizations who have shown true concern for the individual, supporting an environment for developing talents, and who have earned respect and recognition for their contributions to their field and to the greater community.

A tireless advisor, Dr. Rhymer was endorsed for going beyond the call in developing and mentoring engineering students. He has demonstrated a commitment to his cadets, his institution, and the local community that deserve the utmost recognition.

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Dr. Rhymer received his B.S. in engineering mechanics from the USAFA and a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology. He has been an instructor in the engineering mechanics department at USAFA for more than six years. In 2010, he became the deputy for the mechanical engineering curriculum.

During the past three years, he starts each class by motivating cadets about leadership and officership. He has also become a popular choice for speaking engagements and was recently asked to fill in as a guest speaker for an annual banquet for the senior class, when the originally named speaker cancelled on the morning of the event.

Dr. Rhymer advised 24 cadets during the recent academic year, including a Rhodes Scholar. In addition, he leads a council of cadets majoring in mechanical engineering to foster a direct means of student assessment and feedback.

Outside the classroom, he mentors cadets in professional growth, as the officer in charge for a religious education club, and as the officer in charge for the highly visible Falconry Club. He also remains active in the community, serving as a Sunday school teacher for Forestgate Presbyterian Church.

His devotion to his profession has been recognized with two recent teaching awards. Dr. Rhymer was named the Outstanding (USAFA) Academy Educator and the DFEM Instructor of the Year for the department of engineering mechanics. This year, the Colorado Zeta Chapter of Tau Beta Pi chose him as Instructor of the Year.

The chapter voted to nominate Dr. Rhymer and cited his, “consistent outstanding support to the personal and professional development of his students and fellow faculty, and as a consummate academic advisor and mentor.”

Dr. Rhymer’s enthusiastic commitment has made him a leader and role model among his peers. For these contributions as a trusted advisor and for providing unselfish service contributing to the development of future leaders, Lt. Col. Donald W. Rhymer, Ph.D., is the 2013 Tau Beta Pi McDonald Mentor.

Tau Beta Pi is the Engineering Honor Society, founded at Lehigh University in 1885. It has collegiate chapters at 241 engineering colleges in the United States and active alumni chapters in 31 cities. It has initiated more than 545,000 members in its 128-year history and is the world’s largest engineering society. (See www.tbp.org)