



FOR RELEASE
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Tau Beta Pi Announces Dr. Bruce L. Walcott as 2013 Outstanding Advisor

Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society, has named its 20th Outstanding Advisor in its program to recognize engineering faculty who make important contributions to students and collegiate chapters. 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.

Bruce L. Walcott, Ph.D., *Indiana Alpha '81*, professor of electrical and computer engineering at the University of Kentucky (UK) and Chief Advisor to the Kentucky Alpha Chapter, is the *2013 Tau Beta Pi Outstanding Advisor*. He will be honored on November 1, 2013, at the 108th annual Convention in Ames, Iowa. Tau Beta Pi President Larry A. Simonson, Ph.D., P.E., will present \$1,000 and a commemorative plaque to Dr. Walcott. Another \$1,000 grant will be presented to the UK College of Engineering's discretionary fund.

Dr. Walcott was cited in his nomination for promoting the mission of the Association, supporting its members at a local and national level, and offering guidance and leadership essential to the development of exemplary engineering professionals capable of contributing to society.

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Dr. Walcott received his bachelor's, master's, and Ph.D. degrees from Purdue University in electrical engineering. He joined the engineering department at UK in 1987 as an assistant professor. Since 1999, Dr. Walcott has served as an associate dean of the college of engineering and is the first ever alumni professor at UK's College of Engineering. His area of research focuses on the observation and control of nonlinear systems, variable structure control of flexible systems, and intelligent identification and control via neural networks. He is also the President and co-founder of Infinite Horizon, LLC.

He has been Chief Advisor to *Kentucky Alpha* for 15 years. Dr. Walcott was instrumental in encouraging the chapter's winning bid to host the 107th annual TBP Convention. He worked tirelessly behind the scenes to help in preparations, company recruitment, and even technical issues with projectors. During the Convention he would arrive first each day and would not leave until after the last volunteer.

On the UK campus, he is also a key figure in recruiting new members to the TBP chapter and has plenty of fun stories to share with new members. Not only has Dr. Walcott helped increase the number of active members, he has also created a sense of continuity within the chapter by starting an annual officer retreat at the end of the school year where current officers take a day to pass off important information to incoming officers.

Dr. Walcott is known as a dedicated educator evidenced by his receipt of 17 professional and teaching awards, including most recently the University Student Organization 2012 Advisor of the Year. He also makes time to be active in other campus activities. He is the founder and director of the new UK Center for Visualization and Virtual Environments. He is largely involved with energy initiatives on campus as he started the UK Solar Car team in 1998, and his newest endeavor is working on a design team to bring a net-zero building to campus. He also encourages an entrepreneurial spirit as the advisor of Big Blue Starters, an organization founded to guide students in the activities of beginning a startup company.

Dr. Walcott is also a staunch supporter of K-12 STEM efforts. He has developed a UK Engineering Summer Program and helps run a FIRST LEGO League for 4th to 9th graders. His efforts have allowed the KY A Chapter to get involved, introducing middle school students to binary, hosting a robot display, and volunteering at the Student Technology Leadership Program State Competition.

The chapter's nomination stated: "Despite all of his commitments to both student organizations and teaching, Dr. Walcott somehow manages to be accessible any time we need him. In fact, all of Dr. Walcott's other roles across campus have only helped strengthen the KY A Chapter by allowing us to work with other organizations."

In recognition of his commitment to the student chapter and the Association, as a role model and mentor to his students, and his efforts to support the professional development of young engineers, Tau Beta Pi hereby recognizes Bruce L. Walcott as the 2013 Tau Beta Pi Outstanding Advisor.

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 alumnus chapters in 29 cities. It has initiated more than 541,000 members in its 128-year history and is the world's largest engineering society. (See www.tbp.org)