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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tau Beta Pi Leaders Attend 103rd Convention

Sacramento, California, was the site of the 103rd annual Convention of Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society. The members of California Upsilon and California Lambda, the collegiate chapters at California State University, Sacramento, and the University of California, Davis, hosted the event. Three hundred forty-six engineering students from 219 collegiate chapters received leadership and management training and then practiced their skills in conducting the business of the Convention, held this year on October 23-25. There were 508 members of Tau Beta Pi on hand for this gathering of talented engineers.

The growth of the Association is a testament to the steady and enthusiastic 123-year involvement of students in the world's largest engineering society. National awards to outstanding members and chapters were presented.

Stephen D. Bechtel Jr., P.E., *Indiana Alpha '46*, chairman retired and a director of Bechtel Group Inc., and **Dr. Warren G. Schlinger, *California Beta '44***, venerated industrial leader and philanthropist, were each presented the Tau Beta Pi 2008 Distinguished Alumnus Award. A \$2,000 scholarship in their names will be awarded to two Tau Beta Pi student members for the 2009-10 academic year.

The R.C. Matthews Outstanding Chapter Award for 2007-08, the top honor to a campus group, went to Florida Gamma at the University of South Florida. Honorable mention was given to Texas Alpha at the University of Texas at Austin and California Alpha at the University of California, Berkeley.

The R.H. Nagel Most Improved Chapter Award for 2007-08 was presented to Pennsylvania Iota at Widener University. Honorable mention was given to Texas Alpha at the University of Texas at Austin. Both the Matthews and Nagel awards are named for former Secretary-Treasurers of the Association.

Dr. Richard B. Hayter, P.E., *South Dakota Beta '65*, Chief Advisor to the Kansas Gamma Chapter and associate dean of engineering for external affairs at Kansas State University, was recognized as Tau Beta Pi's 2008 National Outstanding Advisor. Dr. Hayter received a cash award of \$1,000 and a grant in the same amount will be presented to the dean of the college of engineering at Kansas State University for his discretionary fund.

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Established in 2005, the Tau Beta Pi-McDonald Mentor Award celebrates excellence in mentoring and advising among Tau Beta Pi educators and engineers. **Dr. Steven M. Cramer, P.E., *Wisconsin Alpha '79***, associate dean of academic affairs and professor at the department of civil and environmental engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison college of engineering, was named the 2008 Tau Beta Pi-McDonald Mentor, receiving \$1,000 and an engraved medallion. Another \$1,000 grant has been presented to the Wisconsin Alpha Chapter of Tau Beta Pi at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

