

October 22, 2010  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Dylan Lane  
865/546-4578

## Tau Beta Pi Leaders Attend 105th Convention

King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, was the site of the 105<sup>th</sup> annual Convention of Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society. Leaders of the organization returned to the place of Tau Beta Pi's founding to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Association. The members of Pennsylvania Alpha, the collegiate chapter at Lehigh University, hosted the event. Three hundred forty-three engineering students from 227 collegiate chapters received leadership and management training and then practiced their skills in conducting the business of the Convention, held this year on October 7-9. There were 514 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 125-year involvement of students in the world's largest engineering society. National awards to outstanding members and chapters were presented.

**Dr. Merl A. Baker, P.E., Kentucky Alpha '45**, retired administrator and educator in higher education, was honored with the Tau Beta Pi 2010 Distinguished Alumnus Award. A \$2,000 scholarship in his name will be awarded to a Tau Beta Pi student for the 2010-11 academic year.

The R.C. Matthews Outstanding Chapter Award for 2009-10, the top honor to a collegiate chapter, went to California Psi at the University of California, San Diego. Honorable mentions were given to California Alpha at the University of California, Berkeley, and Ohio Iota at Ohio Northern University.

The R.H. Nagel Most Improved Chapter Award for 2009-10 was presented to Montana Alpha at Montana State University. Honorable mention was given to Michigan Lambda at Grand Valley State University. Both the Matthews and Nagel awards are named for former Secretary-Treasurers of the Association.

**Dr. Robert E. Efimba, P.E., Massachusetts Beta '63**, Chief Advisor to the District of Columbia Alpha Chapter and associate professor of civil engineering at Howard University, was recognized as Tau Beta Pi's 2010 National Outstanding Advisor. Dr. Efimba 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 Howard University for his discretionary fund.

(more)

The Tau Beta Pi–McDonald Mentor Award celebrates excellence in mentoring and advising among Tau Beta Pi educators and engineers. **Dr. Donna S. Reese, *Mississippi Alpha '79***, associate dean for academics and administration at Mississippi State University and Advisor to the Mississippi Alpha Chapter, was named the 2010 Tau Beta Pi–McDonald Mentor, receiving \$1,000 and an engraved medallion. Another \$1,000 grant has been presented to the Mississippi Alpha Chapter of Tau Beta Pi.

The Laureate Program recognizes students who have demonstrated outstanding expertise outside the field of engineering. The Tau Beta Pi 2010 Laureates were: **Christina L. Bonnington, *Mississippi Beta '10***; **Jaclyn R. Kondratko, *Indiana Delta '10***; **Elisabeth Linton, *Utah Gamma '08***; **Travis W. Walker, *South Dakota Alpha '08***; and **Stephanie N. Zastrow, *Minnesota Alpha '11***. Recipients received a \$2,500 cash award and a commemorative plaque.

Several guest speakers were invited to celebrate the Quasiquicentennial celebration. **Dr. Lyle D. Feisel, P.E., *Iowa Alpha '61***, dean emeritus of the Watson School of Engineering and Applied Science and interim executive director of ASEE, spoke at Thursday's Welcoming Dinner. Professor at Lehigh University and former NASA astronaut **Terry J. Hart, *Pennsylvania Alpha '68***, gave his talk on the history and future of space flight at Friday's Advisor Recognition Dinner. A special one-man play, "Einstein the Man," was performed by Bill Landry, Knoxville television personality and performer, Friday evening and was sponsored by the University of Tennessee's college of engineering. Saturday on campus, the Bent Monument was rededicated in front of Asa Packard Laboratory. **Dr. Alton D. Romig Jr., *Pennsylvania Alpha '75***, deputy lab director and executive vice president of Sandia National Laboratories, addressed the group at Saturday's Initiation and Award Banquet.

Sixteen scholarships of \$500 each were presented for sustained excellent performance in project activities to the following chapters: Alabama Epsilon (University of South Alabama); California Alpha (University of California, Berkeley); California Psi (University of California, San Diego); District of Columbia Alpha (Howard University); Florida Alpha (University of Florida); Florida Gamma (University of South Florida); Indiana Delta (Valparaiso University); Iowa Alpha (Iowa State University); Michigan Gamma (University of Michigan); Michigan Epsilon (Wayne State University); New Mexico Gamma (New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology); New York Tau (Binghamton University); Ohio Iota (Ohio Northern University); Texas Alpha (University of Texas at Austin); Vermont Beta (Norwich University); and Wyoming Alpha (University of Wyoming).

The Executive Council, or board of directors, was re-installed to serve during 2010-14 and comprises: **President Larry A. Simonson, Ph.D., P.E., *South Dakota Alpha '69***, associate dean for advancement at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology; **Vice President Solange C. Dao, P.E., *Florida Alpha '95***, president of Dao Consultants, Inc.; Councillor **Jonathan F.K. Earle, Ph.D., P.E., *Florida Alpha '65***, associate dean emeritus at the University of Florida; Councillor **Jason A. Huggins, P.E., *Florida Alpha '96***, plant engineering manager at Armstrong World Industries, Inc.; and Councillor **Norman Pih, *Tennessee Alpha '82***, W.L. Gore & Associates.

.....  
Tau Beta Pi is the engineering honor society, now with 236 collegiate chapters, 18 active alumnus chapters, and a membership of more than 517,000. Engineering students in the top eighth of their junior class or top fifth of their senior class scholastically are elected to membership on the basis of character. Graduate engineers may be elected on the basis of their eminent achievements in the engineering profession. The international Headquarters of the Tau Beta Pi Association is located in Knoxville on the main campus of the University of Tennessee.