



November 10, 2011  
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## **Tau Beta Pi Leaders Attend 106th Convention**

Indianapolis, Indiana, was the site of the 106<sup>th</sup> annual Convention of Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society. Leaders of the organization met at the historic Crowne Plaza Hotel to conduct the Association's business. Members from Indiana Alpha (Purdue University), Indiana Beta (Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology), Indiana Gamma (University of Notre Dame), Indiana Delta (Valparaiso University), and Indiana Epsilon (Trine University), hosted the event. Two hundred and ninety-nine engineering students from 226 collegiate chapters received leadership and management training and then practiced their skills in conducting the business of the Convention, held this year on October 27-29. There were 455 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 126-year involvement of students in the world's largest engineering society.

The University of San Diego was awarded a charter to establish a Tau Beta Pi chapter and will be known as California Alpha Epsilon.

National awards to outstanding members and chapters were presented.

The R.C. Matthews Outstanding Chapter Award for 2010-11, the top honor to a collegiate chapter, went to Michigan Epsilon at Wayne State University. Honorable mention was given to California Alpha at the University of California, Berkeley.

The R.H. Nagel Most Improved Chapter Award for 2010-11 was presented to California Tau at the University of California, Irvine. Honorable mention was given to Tennessee Gamma at the Tennessee Technological University. Both the Matthews and Nagel awards are named for former Secretary-Treasurers of the Association.

Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Roger E. Hawks announced the establishment of a new J.D. Froula Most Improved Membership Award. The 2010-11 award went to Missouri Beta at Missouri University of Science and Technology. Honorable mentions were given to Georgia Alpha at the Georgia Institute of Technology, Nevada Alpha at the University of Nevada, Reno, and Arizona Gamma at Northern Arizona University.

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**Richard G. Higgins, *Maine Alpha '79***, retired engineer and executive, was honored with the 2011 Distinguished Alumnus Award. A \$2,000 scholarship in his name will be awarded to a Tau Beta Pi student for the 2011-12 academic year.

**Dr. Robert L. Ward, P.E., *Ohio Iota '88***, Chief Advisor to the Ohio Iota Chapter and professor of civil engineering at Ohio Northern University, was recognized as the 2011 National Outstanding Advisor. Dr. Ward 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 Ohio Northern University for his discretionary fund.

The Tau Beta Pi–McDonald Mentor Award celebrates excellence in mentoring and advising among Tau Beta Pi educators and engineers. **Dr. William R. Goodin, *California Epsilon '75***, director of short course programs at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and Advisor to the California Epsilon Chapter, was named the 2011 Tau Beta Pi–McDonald Mentor, receiving \$1,000 and an engraved medallion. Another \$1,000 grant will be presented to the California Epsilon Chapter of Tau Beta Pi.

The Laureate Program recognizes students who have demonstrated outstanding expertise outside the field of engineering. The Tau Beta Pi 2011 Laureates were: **Rosary C. Torralba Abot, *Indiana Gamma '11***, cited for diverse achievements; **Zachary W. Carr, *New Jersey Alpha '11***, cited for athletic achievements; **Ann M. Gilman, *Iowa Alpha '11***, cited for athletic achievements; **Jonathan A. Gross, *Arizona Alpha '11***, cited for achievements in the arts; and **Jennifer A. Johnson, *South Carolina Alpha '11***, cited for diverse achievements. Recipients received a \$2,500 cash award and a commemorative plaque.

**Rodger F. Smith, *Wisconsin Alpha '64***, managing director of Greenwich Associates and the Tau Beta Pi Trust Advisory Committee Chair, gave the keynote address at Thursday's Welcoming Dinner. His talk entitled "Engineering Your Story" depicted ten well-known Tau Bates whose engineering education led them on vastly different career paths. Smith and **Harry W. Lange, *Michigan Zeta '75***, portfolio manager for Fidelity Management and Research Co., and member of the TBP Trust Advisory Committee, hosted investments and personal finance sessions on Thursday and Friday night.

Eighteen 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); Iowa Alpha (Iowa State University); Michigan Gamma (University of Michigan); Michigan Epsilon (Wayne State University); Minnesota Alpha (University of Minnesota-Twin Cities); New Mexico Gamma (New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology); New York Tau (Binghamton University); Ohio Iota (Ohio Northern University); Ohio Kappa (University of Akron); South Carolina Alpha (Clemson University); South Dakota Alpha (South Dakota School of Mines & Technology); Texas Alpha (University of Texas at Austin); and Wyoming Alpha (University of Wyoming).

Tau Beta Pi **President Larry A. Simonson, Ph.D., P.E., *South Dakota Alpha '69***, conducted the transfer of Executive Directors. **Curtis D. Gomulinski, *Michigan Epsilon '01***, became Executive Director, Secretary-Treasurer, and Editor of the Association. **James D. Froula, P.E. (ret.), *Tennessee Alpha '67***, was awarded the title of Executive Director and Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus.

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Tau Beta Pi is the engineering honor society, now with 237 collegiate chapters, 16 active alumnus chapters, and a membership of more than 526,500. 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.