

FOR RELEASE
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Tau Beta Pi Announces 2010 Laureates

Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society, has named five Laureates in the Association's annual program to recognize gifted engineering students who have excelled in areas beyond their technical majors.

The 2010 Tau Beta Pi Laureates are Christina L. Bonnington, a 2010 electrical engineering graduate of the University of Mississippi, cited for her achievements in the arts; Jaclyn R. Kondratko, a 2010 graduate of Valparaiso University with a degree in mechanical engineering, cited for her achievements in athletics; Elisabeth Linton, currently a biological engineering graduate student at Utah State University, cited for her achievements in the arts; Travis W. Walker, currently a chemical engineering graduate student at Stanford University, cited for his diverse achievements; and Stephanie N. Zastrow, a rising senior at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities majoring in mechanical engineering, cited for her achievements in athletics. They join 69 other remarkable Tau Bates who have been named Laureates since 1982.

The Laureate Program exists to further Tau Beta Pi's second fundamental purpose as stated in the Association's Constitution: "*. . . to foster a spirit of liberal culture in engineering colleges.*" The primary concern of the Society is to recognize students of superior scholarship and exemplary character and to honor eminent practicing engineers. The Society also encourages excellence in engineering education and in the ethical practice of engineering.

The Laureates will be honored with other 2010 national award winners on October 9, 2010, at the 105th annual Convention to be held in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. Tau Beta Pi President Dr. Larry A. Simonson, P.E., will present each with a \$2,500 cash award and a commemorative plaque. Their biographies follow:

(more)

CHRISTINA L. BONNINGTON, *Mississippi Beta '10*, is an electrical engineering graduate from the University of Mississippi.

Christina has been committed to the study of ballet since the age of four, and has performed with troupes across the country. She spent the 2006-07 season performing professionally with Ballet Memphis.

She began teaching ballet in 2008 at the Oxford Ballet School. Christina has choreographed several contemporary dance works and staged the inaugural performance of the newly formed Oxford Ballet Company, of which she was a founding member. She volunteers her time to teach weekend and summer classes, reaching out to her community with performances and talks for local students and the retired.

At the university, Christina has worked as an engineering ambassador, recruiting junior-high and high-school students for the school of engineering. This gives her a chance to show that you can pursue extracurricular activities while succeeding academically, if you manage your time appropriately.

She has excelled in her studies at UM, being named the 2010 outstanding senior engineer, receiving a Taylor medal, the college's highest academic honor, and spending eight semesters on the chancellor's honor roll.

JACLYN R. KONDRATKO, *Indiana Delta '10*, is a mechanical engineering graduate of Valparaiso University and a 2010 TBP Fellow.

Jaclyn's interest in soccer began at the age of four, spurred by rivalry with a soccer-playing brother. Her years of dedication have led to her being named to high-school conference teams, a travel-team captaincy, and a conference MVP award in her senior year.

She played competitively on Valparaiso's NCAA Division 1 soccer team. In 2009, she was elected captain and named to the first team *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-American for soccer. She was also Horizon League scholar-athlete of the month for October 2009.

Jaclyn maintained a G.P.A. of 3.95 and was on the Valparaiso college of engineering dean's list for all her semesters. She has been working to develop a point vibration therapy device (PVTD) to help students limited by autism to assimilate into standard classrooms. Jaclyn co-authored an extended abstract on PVTD, which will be published in the 2010 International Symposium on Bio- and Medical Informatics and Cybernetics. She traveled to Switzerland for work on a solar thermal electrolysis project, being praised as an ambassador.

Jaclyn has also been commended for leadership and service demonstrated by involvement in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Senior Planning Council, and many other volunteer activities. She has been the Vice President for *Indiana Delta* and made the dean's list each year.

ELISABETH LINTON, *Utah Gamma '08*, is a biological engineering bachelor and master graduate of Utah State University.

Libbie's artistic talent lies in music, as a singer. She taught herself to whistle as a determined three-year-old, while sitting cross-legged on the floor of her bedroom. When asked to explain the relationship between engineering and music, she replied: "Keeping a balance between science and art has never been a dramatic struggle. Research requires creativity and songwriting is benefited by objective analytical reasoning—and each one serves as a helpful break from the other."

While pursuing both her degrees at USU, she has recorded and released two music albums, arranged and recorded songs for two Deseret Book albums, founded her own record label, and performed over 100 concerts, including benefits and fund-raisers.

Libbie had a master's G.P.A. of 4.0, sees engineering as a discipline with the potential to solve problems, and has passed the F.E. exam. She has been pursuing a career in studying biofuels and bioengineering, presenting and publishing her work in areas like recovery of cellular compounds.

She has been the Cataloger for *Utah Gamma* and was a 2007 TBP Scholar.

TRAVIS W. WALKER, *South Dakota Alpha '08*, received his master's in chemical engineering from Stanford University this year and double bachelor's degrees from South Dakota School of Mines & Technology. He plans to pursue a Ph.D.

Travis has been successful at every level of athletics at which he has participated. He has competed in NAIA collegiate football and track & field. While at SDSM&T, he was an assistant coach for two Rapid City high schools, spending numerous hours working with young athletes.

Travis is an Eagle Scout and continues to give back as an assistant scoutmaster with a Stanford-area troop. He traveled to Mongolia in the summer of 2005 to research mining techniques that would improve the country's mines. Two years later, he went to Chile to help build a facility for underprivileged children.

Travis has also taken part in the Washington Internships for Students of Engineering, where he advocated the use of alternative energy. His sponsors say he has shown himself to be globally conscious and politically aware, committed to improving the lives of others, whether working in a hands-on environment or introducing ideas for public policy.

He is a former TBP Scholar and Fellow. In 2008, he served as AIChE president.

STEPHANIE N. ZASTROW, *Minnesota Alpha '11*, is majoring in mechanical engineering at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and plans to graduate in May 2011.

Stephanie is an accomplished figure skater, has competed for 14 years at levels ranging from regional to nationals, and has over 100 medals. She is a five-time Minnesota state champion, two-time alternate to nationals, and an international medalist. At 15 years of age, she became the 25th person in the world to pass the Ice Skating Institute's level 10 freestyle test.

Stephanie spends many hours volunteering at local skating rinks, coaching younger skaters, and passing on her figure-skating skills. She also volunteers as a judge at test sessions and competitions, as well as tutoring younger skaters in English and calculus, mentoring them, and being a role model. Stephanie is a member of the U.S. Figure Skating collegiate committee.

She is part of the institute of technology honors program and student ambassador team. Her research has included developing a computer program to create a virtual reality simulator for human dentistry.

Stephanie has been her TBP chapter's Project Coordinator, as well as being active in Pi Tau Sigma and the Society of Women Engineers. As Project Coordinator, she planned Kits 4 Kids, an annual fund-raiser to buy engineering-related toys for donation to Toys 4 Tots during the holiday season. She also worked on the Pi Mile Run.

She will serve as the President of *Minnesota Alpha* during 2010-11.

Tau Beta Pi, the world's largest engineering society, has initiated 516,000 members since it was founded in 1885. Headquartered in Knoxville, Tennessee, the Association has 236 active collegiate chapters and 18 active alumnus chapters throughout the country.