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Tau Beta Pi Announces Patrick D. Homen as 2009 National Outstanding Advisor

Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society, has named its 16th National 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.

Patrick D. Homen, *California Upsilon '85*, faculty instructor of mechanical engineering at the California State University, Sacramento (CSUS), and Advisor to the California Upsilon Chapter, is the *2009 Tau Beta Pi National Outstanding Advisor*. He will be honored on October 17, 2009, at the 104th annual national Convention to be held in East Brunswick, New Jersey. Tau Beta Pi President Dr. Larry A. Simonson, P.E., will present \$1,000 and a commemorative plaque to Mr. Homen. Another \$1,000 grant will be presented to the California State University, Sacramento, engineering college's discretionary fund.

Mr. Homen was cited by students and friends of Tau Beta Pi for his district level activity, service as President of the Tau Beta Pi Sacramento Alumnus Chapter, and ability to steer students toward success.

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Mr. Homen returned to his alma mater, CSUS, in 2001 after working in the engineering industry following his graduation. Since his return, “Professor Pat,” as he is known, has been extremely active as a chapter advisor, and has been praised for a wide range of work helping the chapter meet its goals. During the period of his leadership, the chapter’s annual number of initiates has nearly doubled.

He is also a Tau Beta Pi District 15 Director and President of the Tau Beta Pi Sacramento Alumnus Chapter. He has turned the California Upsilon Chapter into the “go to” engineering organization on campus. He led the university’s children’s center play shelter project, teaching Tau Bates to work with administrators in designing and building a structure to provide children protection from weather. Students, volunteers, and the children concluded the project as a great success.

Mr. Homen also coordinated an EIT/FE examination review series assisted by the chapter every semester for all candidates to support students taking the exam and to encourage professionalism. His efforts allow Tau Beta Pi to foster ‘togetherness’ and inclusion by aiding every engineer who wants to succeed in passing the EIT and eventually the PE exam.

Professor Pat was a leader in the California Upsilon Chapter’s bid to co-host the 2008 National Convention, offering insight as an advisor from experience with an unsuccessful bid for the 2004 Convention. Acting as the bridge between the two institutions, University of California, Davis, and CSUS, Pat eventually led the groups to a successful bid. His optimistic attitude and guidance was lauded throughout the bidding and hosting process.

Mr. Homen is also an unofficial advisor to several chapters in his region. He has wider interests in the community, including service as president of the Eureka School District site council and as an industrial expert for the California Department of Consumer Affairs. Professionally, he is a small business owner as a California concrete subcontractor, and has been a wastewater treatment plant operator for Sacramento County.

In his nomination, the local advisory board stated, “Professor Pat provides the California Upsilon Chapter with a wonderful model of how to make an impact on the professional world. Through his unflagging positive attitude, creative suggestions, and constant support, our members learn to make a contribution to the college, university, and profession. He helps us maintain enthusiasm for our chapter and the work of Tau Beta Pi. His efforts provide a foundation for excellence.”

In recognition of his leadership abilities, countless contributions, and talent for inspiring students to create and maintain an effective chapter, Tau Beta Pi hereby recognizes Patrick D. Homen as the 2009 Tau Beta Pi National Outstanding Advisor.

Tau Beta Pi, the world’s largest engineering society, has initiated more than 508,000 members since it was founded in 1885. Headquartered in Knoxville, Tennessee, the Association has 234 active collegiate chapters and 17 active alumnus chapters throughout the country.