



FOR RELEASE  
July 6, 2015

CONTACT: Dylan Lane  
865/546-4578

## **Tau Beta Pi Announces Elizabeth A. Stephan, Ph.D., as 2015 Outstanding Advisor**

Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society, has named its 22<sup>nd</sup> Outstanding Advisor in its program to recognize engineering faculty and practitioners 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.

**Elizabeth (Beth) Stephan, Ph.D.**, *Ohio Kappa '93*, senior lecturer in the general engineering program at Clemson University, and Chief Advisor to the South Carolina Alpha Chapter, is the *2015 Tau Beta Pi Outstanding Advisor*. She will be honored on October 30, 2015, at the 110th annual Convention in Providence, Rhode Island. Tau Beta Pi President J.P. Blackford will present \$1,000 and a commemorative plaque to Dr. Stephan. Another \$1,000 grant will be presented to the Clemson College of Engineering and Science's (CES) discretionary fund.

Dr. Stephan was cited in her nomination for setting high expectations with her leadership style, creating a visible group of engineers dedicated to excellence on campus and in the community, and ensuring a well-balanced experience for each student that she advises. As a result of her drive and guidance, she is a role model not only to her students, but also to other leaders of the Association responsible for the development of young engineers.

(more)

Dr. Stephan received her bachelor's degree in chemical engineering and her Ph.D. in engineering both from the University of Akron (UA). She was initiated into Tau Beta Pi as an undergraduate student at UA, became the president of the Ohio Kappa Chapter, and served as TBP District 7 Director for five years. She joined CES in 2002. After transitioning to Clemson she spent nearly 13 years as TBP District 5 Director and has served as Chief Advisor to SC Alpha since 2006.

In addition to her duties as an advisor, Dr. Stephan has academic responsibilities and works in support of new student orientation, the Engineering Summer Immersion Program, and in prospective student recruiting at Clemson. She is a co-author of the textbook "Thinking Like an Engineer: An Active Learning Approach" which recently published a third edition. Her co-authors are Tau Bates Matt W. Ohland, Ph.D., *FLA '96*, and Ben L. Sill, Ph.D., *NC A '67*.

She has brought stability and focus to the SC Alpha chapter, continues to provide students with activities for academic and social development, empowers chapter officers, facilitates chapter growth, and has positioned the SC Alpha chapter as the largest engineering society on the Clemson campus with 188 members. Dr. Stephan has shared her wisdom nationally, including the article "Why Tau Beta Pi" in the Winter 2013 issue of *The Bent*. The article offers insight and discusses difficulties TBP chapters face with student membership.

According to her students and her superiors, Dr. Stephan fosters connections with the general engineering department that benefit students through community service projects, speaking at the CES Dean's advisory board luncheon, and recruiting programs such as Emagine and the Major DiscoverE night. She also uses her connections to garner support for programs such as the Emerson Rose Heart Foundation and the chapter's annual food drive for the Clemson Community Care Center.

Dr. Stephan does not try to advise the SC Alpha chapter by herself; instead she leads a team of advisors and encourages the chapter to participate with all of them. Each advisor has a distinct set of roles and responsibilities. These principles help keep the large chapter active, motivate students to stay engaged, and keep them involved as TBP alumni.

In her nomination packet, Dr. Stephan was recognized for "her commitment to forming well-rounded students through her dedication to service projects that directly serve and better the local community." During her time as Chief Advisor the chapter has won both the Secretary's Commendation and the Chapter Project Award seven times, nominated a winning TBP laureate, and had 18 TBP Scholars and 5 TBP Fellows.

In recognition of her contributions to the engineering profession, her promotion of leadership, excellence, innovation, and ethics, and her 20+ years of dedicated service, Tau Beta Pi hereby recognizes Beth Stephan as the 2015 Tau Beta Pi Outstanding Advisor.

---

**Tau Beta Pi is the Engineering Honor Society, founded at Lehigh University in 1885. It has collegiate chapters at 244 engineering colleges in the United States and active alumni chapters in 41 cities. It has initiated more than 564,000 members in its 130-year history and is the world's largest engineering society. (See [www.tbp.org](http://www.tbp.org))**