

President Simonson Reports to the 2012 Convention

The Executive Council leads the Association under the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws and the Acts of the Convention. It provides leadership to guide Association programs through Executive Director and Secretary-Treasurer Curt Gomulinski, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Roger E. Hawks, the Headquarters staff, District Directors, Chapter Advisors, and many additional outstanding volunteers. The Council receives guidance from and reports to the Convention.

THE CONDITION OF THE ASSOCIATION

Tau Beta Pi is the largest engineering society in the world with more than 535,000 initiated members. The number of active members is most important to the health of the Association. Our 238 chapters had a very good year, initiating 9,218 members, an increase of more than 450 initiates compared to the previous year and an increase of more than 1,500 reported five years ago. Congratulations to all who have been involved with the initiation process. Your efforts are well recognized. I challenge you to allow me to report another increase in initiates at next year's Convention in Ames, Iowa. We still have a ways to go before we can match the all-time record of over 13,000 initiates in 1984.

TBPI is a very active honor society, providing many member benefits. Your attendance at this Convention is an opportunity for you to be involved in conducting our business. Your participation is important for the future of our Association. Please accept your responsibilities and be actively involved. This Convention is funded from many sources, including a portion of each member's initiation fee, contributions from over 10,000 members, and earnings from the Association's Trust Fund. Looking at the numbers, TBPI's annual budget is about \$3 million with just under \$1 million each year coming from alumni contributions. The assets of the Association include nearly \$20 million of portfolio investments. This convention alone costs us approximately \$500,000. With this half million dollar investment, we count on each of you to make sure that this investment pays huge dividends and that the momentum of our organization continues to move forward.

Our 11-member staff in Knoxville is talented, loved by the Association, and efficient. We are supported by hundreds of volunteers and thousands of donors. Every year we are joined in our mission by several thousand top engineering students.

2011 CONVENTION BUSINESS

Each year the Convention has an opportunity to make changes to the Constitution and Bylaws. The 2011 Convention approved one amendment to the constitution,

which was ratified by the chapters, and one bylaw amendment. I expect that additional amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws will result from your work during the next two days.

OTHER EC ACTION SINCE THE 2011 CONVENTION

The Executive Council has been very busy during the past year. Curt Gomulinski has successfully completed his first year as our Association's Secretary-Treasurer and Executive Director.

A Vision Development Group was created nearly two years ago to do "Blue Sky thinking" for the Association's future. A group of former corporate CEOs and other high-level business executives and professionals was assembled to provide guidance for our Society. The Vision Development Group had their final meeting in New York City on September 11 and is finalizing a set of recommendations that will be submitted to the Executive Council for action. I will give you only a brief summary of the Vision Development Group meetings. Much of the discussion has focused on maintaining integrity, continuing to honor high-achieving engineering students, creating an aspiration for freshmen engineering students, enhancing the initiation process to create member pride, supporting our members' continued success, and establishing after-graduation programs to serve Tau Bates. We really want TBPI to represent the *Gold Standard for Engineering*. A very important part of the process was the input received from delegates at last year's Convention. The focus group input was most valuable and had a huge impact on the discussions. Student input always has been and always will be valued by the Association.

You will have an opportunity to meet three members of the Vision Development Group at this Convention. We are very fortunate to have Ray Rothrock deliver the year's keynote address at the Lexington Convention. Rodger Smith and Harry Lange will present several Personal Finance workshops. Their seminars are part of the Professional Development programs. Please take the opportunity to learn and benefit from their professional expertise.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SLATES

The current Executive Council was elected for a second term three years ago. At this, the 2012 Convention, we are completing the second year of our second four-year term. We have two years remaining. The 2013 Convention will begin on Halloween next year and will elect our successor Executive Council. The new Executive Council will be installed at the 2014 Convention. Now is the time to begin the politicking. It is my understanding that some plans are underway to form slates for next year's election. Slates must be

formally nominated by April 1, 2013. I encourage all of those involved to adhere to friendly campaign tactics. Please don't be guided by our national model that will be dominating the news for the next 40 days.

CHALLENGE

Let's have a great TBPI year. I challenge you to convert the energy that you bring to this Convention into productive projects to benefit your Chapters' members and to positively impact the future of the engineering profession. It is my hope that you will benefit personally from your experiences while you are in Lexington and while you are working with your chapter activities throughout the year.

We have the privilege to be guests of Lexington and the Hyatt Regency for the next 2-1/2 days. Let's be responsible Tau Bates and represent our honor society and our respective universities well in all that we do. Each delegate is responsible for attending all meetings according to the very busy Convention schedule. Many of you attended the Career Fair earlier today. During the next 2-1/2 days, you will conduct the business of the Association, meet outstanding engineering students from chapters other than your own, and have the privilege of helping us honor the five 2012 TBPI Laureates, the 2012 Outstanding Advisor, and the 2012 McDonald Mentoring Award recipient. Enjoy the experience.

2006-14 PRESIDENT

Larry A. Simonson, *South Dakota Alpha '69*, Ph.D., P.E., received B.S., M.S., and doctorate in



electrical engineering from South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, and returned as a member of the faculty in 1976 after working for Texas Instruments for three years. He served as department chair of Electrical and Computer Engineering for five years and retired as Professor Emeritus of Electrical and Computer Engineering in

2008. He currently works for the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology Foundation and makes efficient use of his time not only investigating new opportunities for his university, but to also visit Tau Beta Pi alumni individually and in groups.

He has served as Chief Advisor of South Dakota Alpha since 1986, District 12 Director during 1994-2006, and Engineering Futures Facilitator during 1990-2008.

"BLUE SKY THINKING" GOES INTO ACTION

The Executive Council has accepted plans which include forming a Young Engineer Organization (YEO) to help TBPI professionals aged 40 and under to advance their careers, recruit students, and form more connections with local employers and luminaries.

The proposals also call for:

- Forming three advisory boards consisting of students, young alumni (YEO members), and distinguished alumni from different disciplines.
- Developing programs to recognize the achievements of individuals and to mark the most significant engineering innovations of the past 100 years, the best emerging ideas, and the most impactful advances each year.

The plans came from a group of high profile members, who formed the Vision Development Group as the Association planned to assume new leadership. Four meetings were held in New York City. At the final meeting on September 11, 2012, the committee submitted the recommendations, which were accepted by the EC on September 30, 2012, along with these other aims for TBPI:

Vision:

- To recognize and champion excellence in engineering.

Mission:

- Recognize members' accomplishments.
- Celebrate exemplary people and their important engineering contributions to society.
- Champion the profession as a highly valued career.

Purpose:

1. Recognize and promote leadership, excellence, innovation, and ethics through membership.
2. Celebrate and gain recognition in academic, professional, and business circles that its members are the best, the brightest, and the most talented engineers.
3. Champion education and professional advancement.
4. Make engineering exciting and cool.
5. Formulate and promote unbiased, independent education on engineering to the population at large.

Rodger Smith is contacting members from the New York area to form the first YEO in Manhattan. Ray Rothrock will be forming a group in the San Francisco Bay Area.

We thank the Vision Development Group for their excellent work. They are: Gilbert F. Amelio, Ph.D., *GA A '65*, former CEO and chairman of Apple Computer Inc., and of National Semiconductor Corporation; Patrick T. Harker, Ph.D., *PA A '81*, president of the University of Delaware; Harry W. Lange, *MI Z '75*, former manager of the Fidelity Magellan Fund, and member of TBPI's Trust Advisory Committee (TAC); Jay O. Light, Ph.D., *NY A '64*, dean emeritus of Harvard Business School; Ralph A. Rockow, *OH I '58*, founder and president of Exodyne, Inc.; Ray A. Rothrock, *TX A '77*, general partner of Venrock Associates venture capital firm; Henry B. Schacht, *CT A '56*, managing director at Warburg Pincus, LLC, private equity firm, and former chairman and CEO of Lucent Technologies; and Rodger F. Smith, *WI A '64*, managing director of Greenwich Associates and chair of TBPI's TAC.