

President Pih Reports to the 2017 Convention

State of the Association

AS WE GATHER IN Dearborn, Michigan, for Tau Beta Pi's 112th Convention, I am happy to report that we remain the largest engineering society in the world with over 584,000 initiated members, 246 collegiate chapters, and 44 active alumni chapters. Through the excellent and sustained work at our chapters, we initiated 9,842 new members over the past year. We also installed our newest chapter, Idaho Delta at Brigham Young University-Idaho, on March 4, 2017.

The Tau Beta Pi Trust, which has been funded through generous bequests and other donations by many of our members over the years, reached a record \$27 million dollars just after the end of our past fiscal year.

We also received donations in our Annual Giving Program last year from over 10,000 members for gifts totaling \$1,148,000. Through the work of our Major Gifts Officer, Sherry Jennings-King, the Chapter Endowment Initiative has received support from 101 individual donors for 69 of our chapters. A total of 15 of those chapters are now endowed at \$100,000 or more. We are happy to have several Chapter Endowment Initiative donors joining us at this Convention.

We are also proud of being able to award our 84th group of Fellowships to 25 members for graduate study and our 19th list of Scholarships to 271 members for completing their undergraduate studies. Finally, our Engineering Futures program presented 176 sessions and 35 chapters had hands-on activity sessions at local schools using the MindSet program.

Strategic Plan

Over this past year, a key activity of the Executive Council and the Executive Director has been developing a strategic plan for the Association. This started with our hiring Brad Gray as a consultant to lead us through the process. With ideas from our Vision Development Group, numerous breakout sessions, polling at two past Conventions, and several meetings with Association Officials, we identified the areas of greatest interest to our members.

The Strategic Plan embodies that feedback in five goal areas:

- *Developing the Organizational Processes of the Association*
- *Enhancing the Image, Visibility, and Branding of Tau Beta Pi*
- *Improving Chapter Support and Operations*
- *Providing Relevant and Recognized Leadership and Professional Development Opportunities/Advancing Member Engagement*
- *Strengthening the Finances and Fundraising of the Association*

As we move forward, we will use the Strategic Plan as a roadmap to direct our efforts and resources. One of the areas where we have already begun work is in enhancing the Image, Visibility, and Branding.

Image, Visibility, and Branding

Through the work of District Directors Christina Harrison, Jason Rogan, and Justin Glasgow, Executive Councillors Alan Passman, Menna Youssef, J.P. Blackford, and myself, and our Director of Marketing and Communications, Pat McDaniel, we were able to make contacts with business schools at

the University of Iowa and the University of Pennsylvania and began studies with students at both of those institutions.

A link to the video of the students from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania presenting their recommendations to enhance our Image, Visibility, and Branding is being made available at this Convention.

The study at the University of Iowa just started this fall and we look forward to hearing their recommendations as well. We also are rolling out the VineUp app which should give our members another way to engage with one another.

Executive Council Restructuring

A proposal for the first restructuring of the Executive Council since 1950 was adopted at the 2015 Convention in Providence, RI. This was subsequently ratified by the required three-fourths affirmative vote by our active chapters. At last year's Convention in San Diego, we implemented the first part of a two-year transition when



the Convention elected three new councillors, bringing the EC up to eight members.

At this Convention, we will also elect three councillors who will begin their terms on January 1, 2018, as Councillor Alan Passman and I roll off. At that point, we will have nine Executive Council members, and will have completed our transition period. Going forward, each councillor will serve for at least a three-year term, with three members being elected at the Convention and three members rolling off each year.

A major reason for the restructuring was a recognition of how much we have grown since the previous model was put into place in 1950. At that time, we had initiated 65,228 members and had 83 chapters. Since then, we have grown tremendously in size and also added three major programs, the District Program in 1975, the Engineering Futures Program in 1989, and the Mind-Set Program in 2007. Also added were the awarding of Scholarships in 1998 and numerous other awards such as Outstanding Advisor, Distinguished Alumnus, Laureates, and the McDonald Mentor.

We believe the expanded EC will be able to better support the existing programs as well as being able to establish new programs going forward.

The Executive Council Restructuring will also give more continuity and a shorter learning curve for new members, which we will achieve by having at least six who have experience serving alongside the new ones. With annual elections being held at each Convention instead of every four years, and the shorter terms, we hope that more Tau Bates will have an opportunity to serve on the Council as it gives them the flexibility to volunteer during the time in their lives which best fits them.

Please take the opportunity to meet with each of the candidates who are running for election at this Convention and to gain an understanding of their visions and passions for the Association. The vote to elect three councillors will be held during the Fourth Business Meeting on Saturday morning.

Constitution and Bylaws Revision

Bill Lasher, Chief Advisor of Pennsylvania Mu, remarked to Executive Director Curt Gomulinski, during the chapter installation in January 2013, that our Constitution and Bylaws seemed a "bit wordy." This resulted in work of over four years to revise that 22,000 word document. Through Curt's efforts, and with the help of Councillor J.P. Blackford, several members who served on the Governance Document Restructuring Committee, and feedback from many more of our members, the revised, now 11,000 word, version of the Constitution and Bylaws is ready for review at this Convention. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee will review the revisions and make recommendations. The revised version, after approval by the Convention, will then be sent to our chapters for ratification by the required three-fourths affirmative vote.

My Opportunities

Volunteering with Tau Beta Pi and serving on the Executive Council as President has truly been an opportunity of a lifetime for me. Please understand however, that I was once perhaps where you might be relative to the Association. Volunteering and being on the Executive Council was not really in my plans after graduating from college.

I had been very active as a student in TN Alpha while at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, serving as both corresponding secretary and chapter president. Since this was also the location of the National Headquarters, I was able to meet Secretary-Treasurer Bob Nagel who regularly took part in our initiations. However, after moving away for graduate school and then starting a job, my activity with the Association essentially ceased. Perhaps like many of you, I felt that TBP was an activity I could enjoy as an undergraduate, but other than making annual donations in the future, there was not much more that I would have to do with the Association.

Then one evening in 1988, I was called by Martha Polston, a fellow alumnus of UT, Knoxville, past TN Alpha President, and at that time the Association President. She asked me to join in a new program with some other volunteers called Engineering Futures. Little did I know that as a result of Martha's call, I would end up volunteering with the program for 25 years. During this time, I not only had the opportunity to facilitate sessions with students at chapters all around the country but was also able to meet and work with many other Association volunteers. I was also able to reconnect with Bob Nagel at several annual Conventions. Serving as an Engineering Futures Facilitator led to other opportunities, such as becoming a District 3 Director and a Chapter Advisor.

When Solange Dao, Jason Huggins, and Larry Simonson, three fellow Engineering Futures volunteers, were forming an Executive Council Slate to run at the 2005 annual Convention, they asked me to join them and we ended up being elected. We were re-elected at the 2009 Convention.

During our second term, we had two opportunities which continue to impact the Association. The first was the formation of a Vision Development Group in April 2011, where we were able to work with members who had become leaders in industry and academia in discussing and developing "blue sky" ideas for the future of the Association. Many of the ideas from that group have been incorporated into the Strategic Plan. The second opportunity was the hiring of a new Secretary-Treasurer/Executive Director, a rare event for Tau Beta Pi. Since its founding in 1885, we had only hired three previous Secretary-Treasurers. R.C. "Red" Matthews who served in that position from 1912 to 1947, Bob Nagel, 1947 to 1982, and Jim Froula, 1982 to 2011. After a national search process, we hired Curt Gomulinski to replace Jim Froula.

With Curt being new to the role and believing that I could help in the transition by providing continuity to

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