

THE Bulletin

OF Tau Beta Pi

March 2008

A Publication
for the Collegiate
Chapters

It's Not Whether You Win...

by Roger E. Hawks, Assistant Secretary Treasurer

PROJECT WORK plays an important role in Tau Beta Pi. A student's participation is one means of determining character. The types of projects a chapter undertakes and the manner in which they are carried out are how Tau Beta Pi's character is demonstrated.

The Association recognizes excellence through its extensive award program, including: *Secretary's Commendations* for perfect reporting and fee payment, *Project Awards* to chapters that conduct and report on a variety of outstanding projects, the *R.H. Nagel Most Improved Chapter Award* given to that chapter which has shown the most improvement over a three-year period, and the *R.C. Matthews Outstanding Chapter Award*, to the chapter that performed the best overall in fulfilling our objectives.

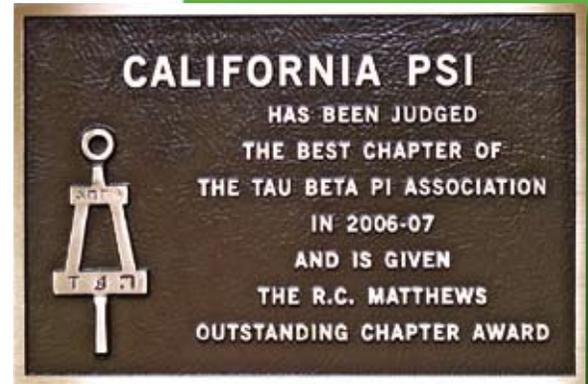
Descriptions of these awards, the process of selecting recipients, and tips on preparing a chapter survey will be outlined in this article. Great care is taken to include all Tau Beta Pi chapters in the evaluation process and to conduct the evaluation fairly and with-

out prejudice to chapter size. The main criterion is quality of the work, whether it is a report of election or a major service project.

Secretary's Commendations & Project Awards

These two awards are wood-mounted certificates presented by the Secretary-Treasurer. They are based upon the accuracy and timeliness of chapter reporting and fee payment and upon information provided in the annual chapter survey.

Secretary's Commendations recognize those chapters that properly complete all reports, submit them on time, and pay all fees when due. Each report of the 15 required receives a score of zero-to-four points, with four representing an on-time and accurate report and zero for no report. Among the items graded are: election process reports, information sheets, chapter surveys, initiation fees, and Convention assessments. A complete list including deadlines is available on the Chapter website. Secretary's Commendations are presented to all chapters scoring 100 percent. *(continued)*



Florida Alpha President **Candice L. Daibes**, with fellow chapter members **Ashish Myles**, center, and **Mark T. Oden** spelling it out during a downtime gathering at the 2007 Dearborn Convention. They were among the total of 530 Tau Beta Pi members who attended the 102nd Convention. Photo: Dan Duncan



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ISSUE AVAILABLE AT WWW.TBP.ORG

Chapter Project Awards recognize superior project activity. Information provided in the annual chapter survey is evaluated by the Secretary-Treasurer and Assistant Secretary-Treasurer. Twenty to 30 chapters that conducted outstanding projects during the previous year win Project Awards and are considered for the R.C. Matthews and R.H. Nagel Awards.

R.H. Nagel and R.C. Matthews Awards

Winners of the R.H. Nagel Most Improved Chapter and R.C. Matthews Most Outstanding Chapter awards are selected at the annual Convention by the Award Committee. A pre-screened list of chapters provides a starting point for the committee. Chapters receiving a Secretary's Commendation and/or Project Award almost certainly make the list. Failure to receive these awards does not disqualify a chapter, but it is difficult to make the cut otherwise.

Chapter performance over a three-year period forms the basis of the R.H. Nagel Most Improved Chapter Award. Chapter reporting performance and project activity are compared for the current year and the two previous years. A list of those chapters demonstrating a steady, significant improvement are presented to the Award Committee. Steady improvement is important. A chapter whose ratings varied from excellent to good to outstanding would thus not be included.

All chapters are evaluated for the Matthews Award based on reporting performance and project activity to pre-select a dozen or so candidates for consideration. The committee then chooses the outstanding chapter (and honorable mentions) based on all information and the chapter surveys.

The one chapter that performed best overall in fulfilling the objectives of Tau Beta Pi, as determined by fellow students on the Award Committee, receives the R.C. Matthews Outstanding Chapter Award. This prize represents a goal for which all chapters should strive in the spirit of "friendly" competition.

Project Grading

Because project activity is such a major portion of the grading, a great deal of time and effort is spent by the Headquarters staff in evaluating each survey. To begin the process, the Assistant Secretary-Treasurer evaluates each and every project in a chapter survey.

Points are awarded based on each project's originality, quality, and the time and effort involved. An original project can be new to either Tau Beta Pi or the chapter. Quality points are awarded to projects that can be placed in one of the following categories:

- Promoting liberal culture (breadth of interest); examples are high-school visits/counseling, collecting food, and community service.
- Supporting your school (honoring your *alma mater*); examples are tutoring and phoneathons.
- Supporting our engineering profession; examples are EIT reviews, JETS, and the Tau Beta Pi National K-12 Math & Science Initiative.
- Supporting the individual (professional development); examples are Engineering Futures sessions.
- Social (dealing with others); examples are banquets and picnics.

Not all projects listed in a survey receive points. Projects that are, in reality, requirements for the chapter (e.g., holding meetings or sending a delegate to the Convention) are not graded. (They do, unfortunately, add to the time involved in grading.) They are important to the proper functioning of a chapter and should be documented. The appropriate place for them is in a separate section in the back of the report. Small projects that are obviously parts of a large project, divided to pad the survey, are combined for grading.

When the total number of points has been determined, a points-per-eligible-student ratio is calculated. The number of eligible students is the total of the top eighth of the junior and top fifth of the senior class in the fall semester. This ratio compensates for the differences in size among the 234 chapters. This way, a large chapter cannot simply generate an overwhelming score by conducting many projects.

Any chapter, large or small, is equally capable, through good leadership and efficient planning, of obtaining an excellent ratio.

The Project Report

The most important document in this process is the project report. Its content and form can affect a chapter's score. A well prepared and concisely documented (this does not mean long) report can go a long way. The easier it is to determine whether a project is in one of the five target categories, and

how much time and effort was spent to complete it, the more likely the project will receive the score it deserves.

Appropriate documentation includes: pictures, posters, forms, and any other paperwork that could enable another chapter to do the same project. The project description should be brief and contain just enough details to explain how, when, where, who, and how much time.

The addition of unnecessary paperwork, such as agendas and minutes, does not help in the grading process (the cost of any heavy equipment needed by the Assistant Secretary-Treasurer to lift a survey can and will be deducted from your score).

Please remember that a project report is part of the annual chapter survey. While the survey is an online report, project reports are submitted on paper. Word or *pdf* versions are available on the Chapter website. Chapters listing reports on the survey that fail to submit the project reports will *not* receive a Secretary's Commendation.

... but How You Play the Game

Now that the award process has been made a little clearer, there are still a few points concerning the R.C. Matthews Award. Membership is the first and most important job of a Tau Beta Pi chapter—not winning awards. Those chapters that do the best in membership usually are recognized with awards.

These chapters report promptly and conduct well-planned projects that are enthusiastically undertaken by the members. As a result, they have an excellent image on campus, which makes the membership process that much easier. On the other hand, chapters overly concerned with winning awards tend to place an over emphasis on project work in order to score points.

This emphasis can, and usually does, turn potential members away from Tau Beta Pi. Excessive time requirements only make the membership process more difficult and less efficient.

While it is true that only one chapter can win the R.C. Matthews Award each year, the prize is a goal that all chapters may strive for in a spirit of friendly competition. To those that fall short one year, there are honorable mentions, Project Awards, and Secretary's Commendations. Each of these recognitions represents a job well done and should be a source of chapter pride.

Welcome OH Ξ & CA $\Delta\Delta$!

Two new chapters established by the 2007 Convention are being installed with the initiation of their charter members this year. Ohio Xi officially came into being on February 23, 2008, at the University of Miami in Oxford, OH, with Councillor **Jonathan F.K. Earle** as official installing officer. California Alpha Delta at the University of California, Santa Cruz, will officially join the Society on March 8, 2008, with Vice President **Solange C. Dao** serving as installing officer.

This brings the number of active collegiate chapters to 234.

Chapters must file with IRS in 2008

The IRS has instituted a new requirement for non-profit organizations that do not file an annual form 990. This change will affect all Tau Beta Pi chapters. Starting in 2008, chapters will be required to visit *IRS.gov* and submit this online-only Form 990-N no later than the 15th day of the fifth month after the close of the chapter's fiscal year.

For example, if the fiscal year ends May 31, the e-postcard is due by October 15. Information about Form 990-N and *IRS.gov* are available on the Chapter website. Officers need to be aware of this new federal requirement.

This will be a required report for receiving a Secretary's Commendation. Failure to submit this report will result in a chapter losing its tax-exempt status and could result in probation.

The e-postcard requires the following information:

- Organization's legal name: The Tau Beta Pi Association, Inc., Hawaii Omega Chapter.
- Any other names your organization uses: None.
- Organization's mailing address: Use Chapter mailing address.
- Organization's website address (if applicable): Use Chapter website.
- Organization's employer identification number (EIN): Use Chapter EIN (your chapter has one; see list at online system or call Headquarters).
- Name and address of a principal officer of your organization: Recommend Chief Chapter Advisor.
- Organization's annual tax period: Fiscal year listed in chapter bylaws.
- A statement that your chapter's annual gross receipts are \$25,000 or less: If not, notify Headquarters immediately!

TBP Engineering Futures Program Designed for Excellence!

BRING EF TO YOUR CAMPUS!

Bring the award-winning EF program to your campus. Contact Sherry King (*sherry@tbp.org*) today about hosting an EF session. Download a set of fliers to help promote the event at *www.tbp.org/Chapters/Resources/OtherResources/index.cfm*.

The Tau Beta Pi Engineering Futures Program was the winner of the American Society of Engineering Education Corporate Member Council's (CMC) **2007 Excellence in Engineering Education Collaboration Award**. Tau Beta Pi President Larry A. Simonson, Ph.D., P.E., accepted the award on February 7, 2007, during a conference for industry and education collaboration in Palm Springs, CA.

Letha Hammon, a DuPont manager and CMC chair, cited the TBP EF pro-

gram for its work in "developing critical interpersonal skill sets and leadership capability in our future engineering workforce ... lifelong skills needed by the employees that the CMC member companies hire." The 88 corporate and non-academic institutional members of the CMC include corporate sponsors of the Tau Beta Pi Convention (Avago, Boeing, Kaplan, NCEES, Northrop Grumman, and Raytheon) and other well-known firms, such as the Aerospace Corporation, Bechtel Corporation, Intel, Lockheed Martin, Merck, Microsoft, Rolls Royce, and Dow Chemical.

This recognition validated 18 years of effort by TBP Facilitators and students. During each year of a recent three-year period, an average of 206 sessions were presented to 3,100 students.

Tau Beta Pi

THE National Engineering Honor Society

Achieve Invent Lead

NOBEL PRIZE WINNING MEMBERS

Robert A. Millikan, CA B 1891 - discovered cosmic rays • Irving Langmuir, NY A 1903 - discoveries and investigations of surface chemistry • Carl D. Anderson, CA B '27 - co-winner for discovery of the positron • Edward M. Purcell, IN A '53 - co-winner for measuring magnetic fields in atomic nuclei • Linus C. Pauling, OR A '22 - discovered molecular bonding forces • John Bardeen, WI A '28 - co-winner for inventing the transistor • William B. Shockley, CA B '34 - co-winner for inventing the transistor • Donald A. Glaser, OH A '38 - invented the liquid crystal display • Melvin Calvin, CA B '18 - discovered the pathway of photosynthesis • Kary B. Mullis, GA A '66 - invented the polymerase chain reaction • Clifford G. Shull, PA G '35 - developed the neutron diffraction technique to determine the location of atoms in molecules

INVENTED BY MEMBERS

Small fan-jet engine
TRANSISTOR
 Jet engine
TURBO JET
 Spin stabilized synchronous communications satellite
COMPUTER MOUSE
 Flying wing plane
ETHYL GASOLINE

HEADED BY MEMBERS

Google
 Alcoa
 Gore-Tex
 Amazon.com

Moog Syntron
 Bethlehem Steel
 National Semiconductor
 Boeing Company
 North American Aviation
 Coca-Cola
 Novell
 Compaq Computer
 Phillips Petroleum Co.
 Cray Computer Corp.
 Raytheon
 CTI Molecular Engineering
 Seattle Mariners
 Dolby Laboratories
 Silicon Graphics
 Dow Chemical
 Sun Company
 Eastman Kodak
 Tektronix
 Exxon

SUPERCOMPUTER
 Single chip CPU
SYNTHETIC RUBBER
 High-voltage, high-power semiconductor PIN rectifier
OPTICAL FIBER
 Aircraft navigational radar
GYROSCOPIC COMPASS
 Punch-card tabulation machine system
STROBOSCOPE
AIR CONDITIONER

STEP UP!

865-546-4578 www.tbp.org

Special thanks to the members (shown) who posed for photographs at the 2006 Convention.

Above is a proposed design for a new poster. Tell us what you think of it.—david@tbp.org

Distinguished Alumnus Nominations Are Being Accepted

The Distinguished Alumnus Award recognizes members who have demonstrated the ideals of Tau Beta Pi as stated in our Eligibility Code and who have fostered a spirit of liberal culture throughout their lives after their college years. Their personal qualities of excellence and leadership serve as examples so as to influence the professional careers and personal lives of our collegiate members.

Honored alumni have made exceptional efforts to demonstrate our ideals and to foster a spirit of liberal culture locally, nationally, and perhaps internationally. They have demonstrated integrity, breadth of interest, adaptability, and unselfish activity.

Awardees are chosen by a committee of national officers and introduced at the Convention. A \$2,000 Tau Beta Pi Scholarship is named in honor of each Distinguished Alumnus.

Any individual member or any chapter may nominate any alumnus member, except a national official. There is no limit on the number of nominations. The following documentation in four sets must be sent to the Executive Director by April 1:

1. A one-page nomination form of biographical information and a summary of the achievements and/or contributions of the nominee exemplifying the objective of the award. (*President's Book*, C 32-33.)
2. A citation (one-page limit) appropriate for presentation, documenting the nominee's outstanding adherence to the Tau Beta Pi ideal of fostering a spirit of liberal culture in our society. It may be written by the nominating party.
3. Two letters of reference from persons (excluding the nominator(s) or sponsoring chapter president) knowledgeable about the nominee's contributions and achievements.



2005—H.V. Poor



2004—J.S. Tietjen



2003—D.D. Reneau and I.M. Jacobs



Spring Conferences 2008 Schedule



The District Program provides vital links between the national organization and collegiate chapters. Each year the Directors gather students at regional conferences to provide opportunities for both retiring and new officers to discuss chapter operations and to socialize. All chapters are urged to elect new officers before their District conference. All officers are encouraged to attend.

District	Location	Date
1	Boston, MA	Feb. 23
2	Hoboken, NJ	Feb. 16
3	Newark, DE	Feb. 9
4	Norfolk, VA	Mar. 29
5	Tampa, FL	Apr. 19
6	Birmingham, AL	Mar. 29
7	Dayton, OH	Apr. 5
8	Champaign, IL	Apr. 5
9	St. Louis, MO	Mar. 1
10	Baton Rouge, LA	Feb. 16
11	Minneapolis, MN	Apr. 4-5
12	Golden, CO (East)	Mar. 1
12	Salt Lake City (West)	Mar. 1
13	Las Cruces, NM	2/29-3/1
14	Seattle, WA	Apr. 5
15	Fresno, CA	Apr. 26
16	Pasadena, CA	Apr. 5

Seeking TBPi-McDonald Mentor Nominees

Marion and Capers (*North Carolina Gamma '74*) McDonald and the Association have established an award to celebrate excellence in mentoring and advising among TBPi educators and engineers. The honor recognizes those who have consistently supported the personal and professional development of their students and colleagues through mentorship.

The TBPi-McDonald Mentor is chosen by a committee of national officials and will be presented a special medallion and a \$2,000 cash award (\$1,000 to honoree and \$1,000 to the nominating chapter—or to



the honoree's chapter if nominated by a member). Only one award will be presented at any annual Convention.

Any chapter or member may nominate one (or more) alumnus member(s) for the award. The following material in four sets is required to be sent to the Executive Director by April 1:

1) A one-page summary of achievements and/or contributions of the nominee exemplifying the objective of the award.

2) Two letters of reference from persons other than the nominating party or sponsoring chapter president who are familiar with the nominee's contributions and achievements, such as a dean or supervisor.



EXPLORE HQ'S MUST SEE WEB PAGES

Whether you're a new member or a veteran chapter officer, check these helpful Tau Beta Pi web pages.

Tau Beta Pi Welcome
 "Designed to be helpful to members and first-time visitors alike."—Jim Froula
Log on: www.tbp.org



Tau Beta Pi Home Page
 "Bypass the welcome page by bookmarking this page in your browser."
 —Angie Winn
Log on: www.tbp.org/Member
1,850,000 hits!!



Member Benefits
 "It may surprise you to learn how many benefits and useful discounts are available to members."—Pat McDaniel
Look Under: *For Members*



Chapter Website
 "This one page leads to nearly everything a chapter could want or need. It's indispensable for filing your reports."—Roger Hawks
Look Under: *Chapters*



District Directors
 "You'll find photos of most Directors, as well as their contact information."
 —Ray Thompson
Look Under: *About TBP and People*



Tau Beta Pi Member Lookup
 "You can easily determine if someone is a member of Tau Beta Pi."
 —David Roberts
Look Under: *For Members*



"Email your address change"
 "Self explanatory! You'll find the link on the bottom of many pages."
 —Debbie Dewine
Look Down: *AddressChange*



2008 Convention Information
 "It has all the details you need for attending the next Convention."
 —Sherry King
Look Under: *Convention*



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 —Betty Harless
Look Under: *Publications*

Chapter Materials Order
 "The best place to order elective invitations, posters, honor cords, stoles, castings, and other necessary supplies...*without* a credit card."
 —Rebecca Davis
Look Under: *Chapters and under Resources*



1,850,000 hits!!

www.tbp.org/member/

Coming online soon:
 Tips on how and when to use all chapter materials

2008 Chapter Anniversaries

100th
75th

New York Gamma	June 12, 1908	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Virginia Beta	November 24, 1933	Virginia Polytechnic Inst. & State Univ.
Delaware Alpha	November 24, 1933	University of Delaware
Utah Alpha	December 8, 1933	University of Utah
South Carolina Beta	January 11, 1958	University of South Carolina
Vermont Alpha	December 20, 1958	University of Vermont

50th



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Important Deadlines

- **March 1** Scholarship Application
- **April 1** Ratification Ballot
 Outstanding Advisor,
 McDonald Mentor,
 Laureate, and
 Distinguished Alumnus
 Nominations
- **June 1** GIG Project Proposal
 Convention Bid for 2011
 Curriculum Appeal



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 New York Lambda '75

Executive Council

President: Dr. Larry A. Simonson, P.E., South
 Dakota Alpha '69, Rapid City, SD
 Vice President: Solange C. Dao, P.E., Florida Alpha
 '95, Orlando, FL
 Councillor: Dr. Jonathan F.K. Earle, P.E., Florida
 Alpha '65, Gainesville, FL
 Councillor: Jason A. Huggins, P.E., Florida Alpha
 '96, Gulf Breeze, FL
 Councillor: Norman Pih, Tennessee Alpha '82,
 Flagstaff, AZ

Special Benefits for Members

TBPI members can access these benefits via www.tbp.org/member

- **AlumNet**—online student/alumnus mentoring service.
- **Engineering Futures**—sessions on people skills for engineering students.
- **Fellowships/Scholarships/Laureate Nominations by Chapters.**
- **GEICO**—excellent rates and additional discounts for auto insurance.
- **Kaplan**—30% discounts on FE/EIT & PE examination preparation materials.
- **miQuotes.com**—free quotes for most types of insurance.
- **My Home Benefits**—real-estate services and moving discounts.
- **Princeton Review**—discounts for prep courses (GRE, GMAT, LSAT, MCAT, SAT, or ACT).
- **Student Loans**—for educational and initiation-fee assistance.
- **The Best People Job Connection**—browse jobs and post résumés.
- **Women for Hire**—job fairs and networking for women.