

Iowa Alpha Chapter of Tau Beta Pi Newsletter for 2007-08



Iowa Alpha's Centennial Celebration



VIESHEA 2007 saw the celebration to mark the 100th anniversary of the Chapter's establishment on 20 December 1907 as the 19th Tau Beta Pi Chapter in the United States. Keynote speakers for the evening were Iowa Alpha members Dr. James Melsa, former Engineering Dean at ISU and Mary K. Hurd, Tau Beta Pi Woman's Badge recipient and the first woman to receive the Marston Medal. Ninety-seven people attended the centennial banquet, including 16 Chapter Officers, 5 current or former Iowa Alpha Advisors, 37 new Tau Beta Pi members accompanied by 23 of their parents/guests, and 17 Iowa Alpha alumni and special guests. Among the special guests were 2 of Iowa Alpha's Tau Beta Pi Woman's Badge recipients, 3 past Deans of the College of Engineering, the President of the Tau Beta Pi Executive Council, the President of the Iowa State University Foundation and the Head of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department.

Iowa Alpha History



The history of our chapter reveals a strong influence of Tau Beta Pi members on the college of engineering, university and engineering profession over past 100 years. The influence and contribution of Tau Beta Pi members to engineering at Iowa State extends to every department within the college. Marston Hall, Coover Hall, Davidson Hall, Sweeny Hall and Black Engineering have all been named for Tau Beta Pi members, who brought their departments to national and international prominence. In addition, all of the other engineering buildings: Howe Hall, Hoover Hall, Town Engineering and the Durham Center were also named for Tau Beta Pi members. Throughout its history the Chapter has enjoyed strong support from the Deans of the College of Engineering. From the first Dean of Engineering, Anston Marston to Mark Kushnner, the current dean, there have been 8 deans and 4 acting deans and all have been Tau Beta Pi members. The Marston Medal is the highest award in the College of Engineering

and recognizes accomplishments of its alumni as evidenced by outstanding achievements in engineering, superior ability and professional prominence. Sixty-nine alumni have received the award since its inception in 1938 and 45 of the recipients (65 percent) have been Tau Beta Pi members. During its first 100 years the Chapter has initiated over 6,800 members. It has received numerous national awards including the R.C. Matthews Outstanding Chapter Award two times and been runner-up 7 times and the Secretary's Commendation 14 times. Two of its advisors have received the National Outstanding Advisor Award and it has had 4 Tau Beta Pi Laureates. The Chapter has also hosted the National Convention 4 times.

Chapter receives honors at 2007 Tau Beta Pi National Convention



The President and Vice-president of Iowa Alpha, together with two advisors, attended the 2007 Convention held in Dearborn, Michigan. The Chapter received two awards, one for the number and quality of its projects and the second, a Greater Interest in Government Grant, which was the 15th received by Iowa Alpha since establishment of the program in 1980, while no other chapter has received more than four grants.

James Balloun Keynote Speaker at 2007 Banquet



James Balloun, an Iowa Alpha member and retired Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Acuity Brands, Inc, provided the Keynote address at the 2007 Fall Tau Beta Pi initiation banquet. Mr. Balloun provided a gift to the University to establish the Engineering Policy and Leadership Institute to strengthen the College of Engineering as a leader in preparing graduates for successful careers both as engineers and as developers of policies affecting the engineering profession worldwide. Thirty-six new members were initiated including: 33 undergraduates and 3 graduate students. Sixty-nine people attended the banquet including 25 new Tau Beta Pi members accompanied by 24 parents/guests, 12 Chapter Officers/student members, 4 current or past advisors, the key note speaker, an ISU Foundation representative and two faculty members.

TBP 2008 Catapult Competition



The 2008 Catapult competition brought 5 high school teams to campus to compete in launching eggs with a trebuchet from 90 to 120 feet at a target in the shape of a frying pan. Traditionally held during VEISHEA, this year's

competition had to be postponed for the first time because of snow and high winds. Held a week later, without the crowd that generally watches the event, the teams still enjoyed the competition and most schools indicated their intention to compete again next year.

TBP 2008 Roller Coaster Competition



Twenty-one middle and high schools teams from across Iowa competed in the Roller Coaster competition, filling the atrium of Howe hall. Constructed of wood,

metal, paper and other materials the roller coasters were built to fit within a 4 ft. cube. Judging was based upon originality, creativity and the knowledge the students had of the physics and engineering concepts used in their designs; as well as how many of the engineering concepts were achieved by ball bearings moving through the roller coaster during one minute. This year 126 students competed, more than twice as many as 2007, and the largest number since inception of the event.

Tau Beta Pi Scholars Program Established

A scholarship program was established to provide financial assistance to ISU engineering students and increase recognition and appreciation of Tau Beta Pi. Participants in the program will be selected from among the top 12.5% of freshman and sophomore engineering students, who will each receive a \$500 scholarship and the opportunity to participate in mentoring relationships with current Tau Beta Pi members, attend Tau Beta Pi engineering leadership training workshops and speaker forums and be actively involved in Iowa Alpha outreach and community service activities. Currently, support for 10 participants per year is being provided through the annual giving and matching corporate contributions of one family of ISU engineering alumni. The Chapter hopes to expanded the program to 24 participates per year, 3 from each of the eight departments within the college of engineering.

Iowa Alpha to Partner with 1890 Land-Grant Institutions to Establish Chapters

Iowa Alpha has undertaken an outreach program to assist traditional black land grant universities to establish Tau Beta Pi Chapters. Noting that all but one land grant university established under the Morrill Act of 1862 had a Tau Beta Pi chapter, compared to only 3 of the 18 traditional Black Land Grant Universities created in 1890, Iowa Alpha proposed that assistance in establish new chapters be provided by the Tau Beta Pi Association. In response, Tau Beta Pi Headquarters requested Iowa Alpha to take the lead in partnering with these universities to establish a chapter on their campus. In 2008, efforts concentrated on Tuskegee University, which has strong historical ties to Iowa State.

Gary Hoover Keynote Speaker at 2008 Banquet

Gary Hoover provided the Keynote address at the 2008 Spring Semester Tau Beta Pi initiation banquet. An Iowa Alpha member, ISU Foundation Governor and recipient of the 2006 Alumni



Medal, the premier award given to alumni by the ISU Alumni Association, he and his wife provided a leadership gift to facilitate construction of Hoover Hall and funded the first endowed chair in the department of mechanical engineering. Thirty-three new members were initiated including: 26 undergraduates, 6 graduate students and 1 eminent engineer, Dr. Derrick K. Rollins, Professor of Chemical Engineering and Assistant Dean for Diversity for the College of Engineering. Fifty-four people attended the Initiation Banquet including 19 new Tau Beta Pi members accompanied by 16 parents/guests, 14 Chapter Officers/student members, 3 current or past advisors, the keynote speaker and an ISU Foundation representative.

Endowment established to support Iowa Alpha

In conjunction with the celebration of the Iowa Alpha Centennial, a fund raising campaign was undertaken together with the Iowa State University Foundation to raise money towards an endowment to support the activities of the Chapter. Approximately 3,250 Iowa State engineering graduates, who were initiated by Iowa Alpha while attending ISU, including 750 former Iowa Alpha officers were contacted. Contributions from alumni and current and former advisors, allowed establishment of the Tau Beta Pi Endowment with over \$31,000.

For those wishing to support the work of the Chapter donations can be made to the ISU Foundation for either the Tau Beta Pi Endowment or the Tau Beta Pi Scholars Program.