

# Iowa Alpha Chapter of Tau Beta Pi

## 2016-17 Newsletter

<https://iowaalpha.tbp.org>

### Chapter Recognized for Expanded Engineering K-12 Outreach Activities

In recognition of its outreach activities, Iowa Alpha received two Iowa State University Awards this past year: the Division of Student Affairs Outstanding Commitment to Service Award for Iowa Alpha's contributions to the community and its K-12/MindSET outreach activities and the College of Engineering Outstanding Club K-12 Outreach Award.



A new outreach K-12 outreach activity based upon the Tau Beta Pi MindSET program was started. An Iowa Alpha Committee was formed, and in cooperation with the College of Engineering K-12 Community Outreach Office, members received training in working with youth. K-12/MindSET activities were undertaken with local Cub Scouts and youth attending the annual Fly-In at the Ames Municipal Airport

Iowa Alpha also partnered with Genesis Development, a local non-profit organization, which helps place people with disabilities into the workforce, in designing engineering solutions to help these individuals. This spring, Iowa Alpha members in cooperation with an initiate small group designed a device to help a woman with cerebral palsy fold towels at a laundry facility.



Additionally, the chapter continued their long-standing K-12 Outreach events. The Roller Coaster Competition drew 19 roller coasters from five high schools and one middle school. Roller Coasters were judged based upon originality, creativity and the students' knowledge of the physics and engineering concepts used in their designs as well as the number of engineering concepts performed by ball bearings moving through their roller coaster during one minute. Over 100 students participated in the competition with trophies being awarded to the winning teams.



In Building the Future, 53 middle school students from five Iowa schools came to campus to experience hands-on engineering. The event is based around the scenario of a tornado hitting a small Iowa town and what engineers can do to help. Activities included building a model wind-powered generator, constructing a bridge, observing the effects of a hazardous waste spill on ground water supplies and programming an autonomous Lego vehicle.

### IA-A National Awards:

#### 2016 Tau Beta Pi Chapter Awards

- Chapter Excellence Award
- Chapter Project Award
- Chapter Performance Scholarship

#### 2016 TBP Laureate



**Angadbir S. Sabherwal, IA-A'16**

*8<sup>th</sup> IA-A Laureate*

#### 2017 Distinguished Alumni



**Charles Sukup, IA-A'76**

President, Sukup Manufacturing  
*3<sup>rd</sup> IA-A Distinguished Alumni*

#### 2017 Outstanding Advisor



**LeVern Faidley, IA-A'67**

IA-A Chief Advisor  
*3<sup>rd</sup> IA-A Outstanding Advisor*

Iowa Alpha has the most Laureates and Outstanding Advisors and is 2<sup>nd</sup> to DC-A in the number of Distinguished Alumni.



## Iowa Alpha Continues to See Growth in Initiation Classes

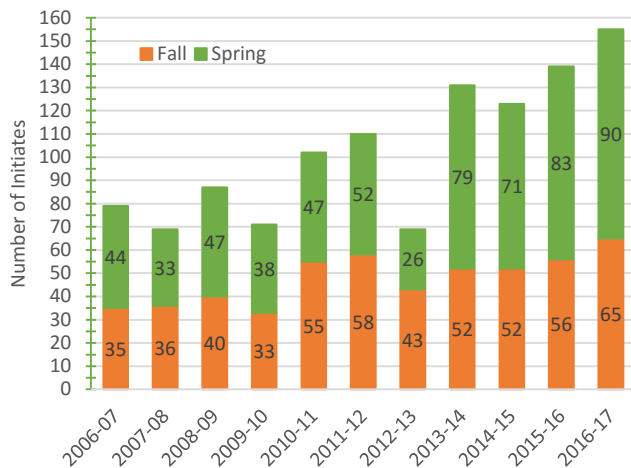
Membership in Iowa Alpha grew by 155 members in 2016-17 including 132 undergraduates, 17 graduate students, four Eminent Engineers and two Alumni members. This year's initiate class was the largest since 1987-88 and the fifth largest annual increase in membership ever recorded.

In the 2016 Fall semester Iowa Alpha initiated 65 new members: 48 undergraduates, 14 graduate students and three Eminent Engineers. The 14 graduate students initiated was the largest number of new graduate student members ever initiated in a single semester.

Spring 2017 saw the initiation of 90 new members including: 84 undergraduates, three graduate students, one Eminent Engineer and two Alumni members. The 90 new members initiated spring semester was the largest number Iowa Alpha has initiated during one semester since 1987 and the sixth largest ever initiated by Iowa Alpha.

The Tau Beta Pi – Iowa Alpha Scholars program, now in its 9<sup>th</sup> year, has had over 190 participants. Scholars are chosen by the College of Engineering from among the top one-eighth of first year engineering students in all eight departments within the College. Each scholar receives a \$500 scholarship and the opportunity to participate in social, educational, professional development and service activities. The program has been very successful. Over 75 percent of the participants in the Scholar's Program have qualified for membership as juniors or seniors and 83 scholars (61 percent) have become members. The percent of scholars joining Iowa Alpha far exceeds the average of about 16 percent of all eligible students and many of these members serve in leadership positions within the Chapter.

Iowa-Alpha Intitiation Classes



## Iowa Alpha 2016-17 Eminent Engineers and Alumni Initiates



**Don Greenwood**  
President Ret  
Construction  
Group, Burns  
& McDonnell



**Gul Kremer**  
Chair  
IMSE Dept.



**Sriram Sundararajan**  
Associate  
Dean for  
Academic  
Affairs



**Scott Merkle**  
Senior  
Lecturer  
ME Dept.



**Sebastien Feve**  
Senior  
Lecturer  
ME Dept.



**James Michael**  
Asst.  
Professor  
ME Dept.

Further information about Iowa Alpha is available at: <https://iowaalpha.tbp.org/>

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 Endowed Scholars Program at: <http://www.foundation.iastate.edu/TBP>