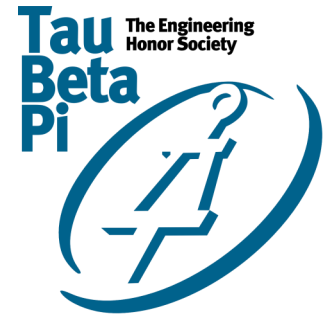


Alumni Notes



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MI-Gamma

From the Desk of the President

Inside this issue:

From the Desk of the President	1
New Website	2
Elections	3
Liu's Successful Ph.D. Defense	3
National Convention	4
Book Swap	6
Awards	7

Fall 2013 was an exciting semester for Tau Beta Pi, characterized by a commitment to trying new things. The officer corps developed and executed plans to expand the organization's influence on campus, started a new tutoring program in collaboration with Pioneer High School, and held an Engineering Futures session for the first time in a long while. The chapter hosted roughly forty service events, initiated 67 new members (47 undergraduate, 15 graduate, 2 alumni, and 3 eminent engineers), and hosted a career fair large enough that it required use of the FXB for the first time since 2007.

As I look forward to the new semester, I hope to continue last semester's efforts in the way of developing Tau Beta Pi's image and expanding our presence on campus. Two outreach events that were designed last semester will be carried forward, namely The Hot Chocolate Effect, during which Tau Bates serve hot chocolate to freshmen exiting their Engineering 101 exams, and TBPuzzles, an initiative whereby anyone in the College who produces the correct solution to the puzzles we advertise will receive a prize. Already, we have plans to build on those events. In February, we will host a mixer for freshmen and sophomores who are on track for eligibility. Our Operations officer, Tae-Hyung Kang, will manage a new initiative called Tuesday Breakfast Party on Tuesday mornings during which Tau Bates will serve free bagels to our fellow engineers, akin to the Alumni Association's Welcome Wednesdays. Also, our Publicity officer, Alexander Waselewski, is exploring ways to take better advantage of social media than TBP has in the past, in the hopes of making our fellow students more aware of the many ways in which TBP contributes to the College of Engineering community.

Apart from initiatives geared toward campus outreach, I am excited about a number of new projects Tau Bates will be tackling this semester. Our membership officer, Kevin Collao, will begin to track member demographics. By comparing the demographics of those who successfully elect the organization to the demographics of those who are eligible, he intends to search for gaps that represent sectors of the College to which Tau Beta Pi needs to explore ways of making itself more appealing. The team structure within the officer corps will be developed via team visioning and objective-setting meetings. Already, at the beginning of this semester, teams bonded by competing with one another in a scavenger hunt designed by our advisors. The chapter will also be partnering with the Up To Us campaign to co-sponsor a town hall on engineering and fiscal policy in collaboration with the Dean's office.

The winter 2014 officer corps seems extremely engaged so far. We have a great mix of new and experienced officers that I am confident will do an excellent job of shaping the future of MI-G. I look forward to helping them develop as leaders and to witnessing their accomplishments in the years to come.

Natalie Eyke
President, Tau Beta Pi, Michigan Gamma

New TBP Website Launched

Available at tbp.engin.umich.edu

A little history

When I initiated TBP back in the fall of 2009, we were more or less content with the previous website. Sure it was a bit crufty and dated, and no one knew how to find anything, but it worked, usually. Within a year or so; however, the seams had worn thin, the world, university, and college were all accelerating into the world of flashy, responsive websites. These shiny new websites served as marketing tools in addition to being a content management system, and that was something that the old website (whose framework was two years deprecated even then) was never going to pull off. Oh and people had gotten spoiled by the dawn of touch screens and intuitive UIs and found the old website “difficult to use.” Thus the quest for a new website was begun.

Initially, this quest was viewed with excitement—a new website, awesome! As the months turned into years and attempted new website after attempted new website sputtered and died, that excitement turned to cynicism. Discussions of the website were viewed much the same as that little sprite claiming a wolf was a foot—fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, we don’t get fooled again. After a few years of this, with no website to speak of, Kyle Lady and I decided that (mea culpa, mea culpa) “it cannot possibly be this hard.” And in retrospect it is a very good thing that I thought that.

The beginning of the new website

After 9 months of development, and the website still not fully featured, I have learned well the lesson learned so well by every website chair in the last 3+ years: making a website from nothing is really, really difficult. Locating a workable server and choosing a development framework killed just about every previous attempt to get a website going. We were fortunate that Kyle Lady, TBP Grad Student Advisor and HKN President Emeritus, was able to get the first problem solved for us. Further, Arthur Shih, Website Chair W12-W13, identified a framework that would allow us to realize the functionality we wanted. With our tools picked out we finally stood to succeed where those before us had failed. Aside: this is really starting to read like a Greek tragedy; I suppose that’s fitting.

The part that actually talks about the new website

So after nine months of coding, learning painful lessons about the price of hubris, and acquiring a slightly disconcerting emotional attachment to a virtual entity; the website was finally launched. We’d had to trim back some of the desired features to make sure that everything that was absolutely necessary was ready for launch, but it did finally happen.

As intended the new website is entirely unrecognizable from the old; it was built from the ground up with the intent of making every point of interaction as intuitive as possible. To that end we have a number of new features:

- Polished [landing](#) and [about](#) pages
- A redesigned [event calendar](#) that integrates with Google Calendar
- An entirely redesigned [MindSET](#) page, and the ability for non-members to sign up for MindSET events, removing the need for google form sign-up
- [Member profiles](#) that feature pictures and bios that members can update themselves at anytime
- Integration with umich authentication, reducing the overhead of adding new members
- A new progress tracking system designed around the VP and Membership Officer workflows
- An intuitive permissions system
- Streamlined resume submission (as part of member profiles)
- An Elections Nomination system that reduces the workload of the elections chair, and streamlines the process of submitting, accepting/declining, and viewing nominations
- And many more features as well as more to come.

While the website development proved to be way more work than I initially imagined—and let’s be honest it’s probably for the best that I had no idea it would be this much work—the project has been quite rewarding and has taught me a lot about the chapter. Stay tuned as more features will be coming throughout the coming months. And remember, once a member always a member, feel free to add a profile for yourself to see what all the hype is about!

Mike Hand, Advisor

Welcome Winter 2014 Officers

Officers:

President: Natalie Eyke (neyke)

Vice President: Ki-Joo Sung (sungkj)

Secretary: Ariel Rose (akrose)

Treasurer: Jason Cassell (jasocass)

External Vice Presidents:

Cameron McBride (camcbrid)

Alyssa Woo (wooae)

Website Officer: Lee Sin Lim (leesin)

Service Coordinator: Scott Cooper (smcoop)

Corporate Relations: Leo Devota (lpdevot)

Activities Officer: Michael Angileri (mangi)

Grad Coordinator: Michael Benson (mlbenson)

New Initiatives Officer: Kelsey Hockstad (kelshock)

K-12 Outreach Officers:

Laura Kruger (krulaura)

Sara Rusignuolo (srus)

Campus Outreach Officer: Josh Kempfer (jkempfer)

Officers cont'd:

Intersociety Officer: Mike MacFarlane (macfarmi)

Membership Chair: Kevin Collao (kcollao)

Operations: Tae-Hyung Kang (taekang)

Publicity: Alex Waselewski (waselewa)

Historian: Sylvia Domanico (domansyl)

Advisors:

Chief Advisor: Paul Kominsky (paulko)

Alumnus Advisors:

Pritpaul Mahal (pritspaul)

Andy Boucher (yanders)

Elson Liu (eyliu)

Grad Student Advisors:

Mike Hand (mikehand)

Kyle Lady (kylelady)

Sarang Supekar (supekar)

Undergraduate Advisor: Ryan Chen (ryanchen)



Above: Winter 2014 officers and advisors after elections.

MI-G Celebrates Elson Liu's Successful Ph.D. Defense



Former MI-G President and long-time graduate student advisor Elson Liu (AZ-A '01) successfully defended his thesis "Immersion Scatterometry for Nanoscale Grating Topography Extraction" early this January. Throughout his Ph.D. work Elson always made time to contribute to TBP, both at the local and national level. Notably, Elson recently helped to charter the Ann Arbor Area Alumni Chapter (AAAAC) of Tau Beta Pi, where he currently serves as President. Elson has also been a mainstay of many of the behind-the-scenes operations of the chapter, where he has contributed to everything from helping out at service events, to helping update the chapter bylaws, to helping coordinate with the national organization. Elson will be continuing on as chapter advisor through April and as the AAAAC President for at least the next year.

Mike Hand, Advisor

National Convention

MI-G's Trip to Ames

Last October saw the 108th Tau Beta Pi National Convention in Ames, IA. From the official business, to professional development sessions and Engineering Futures modules, the experience was very valuable for the 11 attendees in the MI-G delegation. In addition to Ryan Chen, chapter president and voting delegate, the delegation consisted of Cameron McBride, Corporate Relations Officer; Kelsey Hockstad, Membership Officer; Laura Kruger and Alex Waselewski, K-12 Outreach Officers; Ethan Stark, Graduate Student Coordinator; Quan Zhou, prestigious active; and advisors Mike Hand, Kyle Lady, Elson Liu, and Pritpaul Mahal. A number of delegates filled additional roles throughout the convention. Elson and Pritpaul are currently serving as the president and vice president of the newly formed Ann Arbor Area Alumni Chapter (AAAAC). Kyle and Ethan attended the Convention recruiting fair to recruit prospective graduate students for the College of Engineering. Mike is also serving as a member of the Student Advisory Board, which in its first year was active in many aspects of the Convention.



Above: Kyle Lady, Ethan Stark, and Kelsey Hockstad

Awards Recap

Michigan Gamma held serve at the Convention earning another Secretary's Commendation and Project Award. The big prize of the R.C. Matthews Most Outstanding Chapter Award continues to remain elusive and went to Kentucky Alpha at the University of Kentucky.

Elevate Slate Elected as the Next Executive Council



Above: the new Executive Council
(Photo by Raymond Thompson)

One of the main items of business for the Convention was to elect a new Executive Council who would take over following the 2014 Convention in Spokane, WA. In addition to president-elect J.P. Blackford, the slate consists of George Morales, Susan Holl, and Alan Passman, as well as current Executive Council member Norman Pih. With a well-articulated vision for the future, the Elevate Slate looks to move Tau Beta Pi forward in the coming years. The slate, particularly president-elect Blackford, also appears to enjoy a strong rapport with the student members and chapters and looks to foster greater student participation through endeavors like the Student Advisory Board.

Newly Formed Student Advisory Board Makes Splash at First Convention

Formed in January, the Student Advisory Board (SAB) is a group of 9 recent graduates from chapters around the country which seeks to provide student input and voice to undertakings at the national level between Conventions. The board is chaired by long-time District 7 member Lauren Logan. Current MI-G Advisor Mike Hand will continue to serve on the board through the end of 2015. The board served in an advisory capacity for many of the committees, and looks forward to national initiatives targeting improving the President's Book, improving chapter materials like transition reports, streamlining reporting, assisting in the upcoming review of the national Constitution and Bylaws, and providing additional support to smaller chapters.

National Convention (cont'd)

Convention Site Selection Update

Michigan Gamma has had its sights set on hosting the 2017 TBP National Convention for a number of years now. 2017 marks the 200th anniversary of the founding of the University and would be the third time that MI-G has hosted the Convention. Previous occasions were in 1967, for the sesquicentennial of the University, and in 1922, for no discernibly significant reason. Last year's Convention saw a change to the way that convention sites are selected. In particular, rather than sites being selected three years in advance, sites would now be selected only two years in advance. As a result of this, the 2013 Convention Site Selection Committee could not be tasked with selecting a site; however they were tasked instead with reviewing a number of "mock" bid and with recommending changes to the process based on their experience. With the plan to host the 2017 Convention in mind, MI-G submitted such a bid to the committee; and our voting delegate, then President Ryan Chen, was assigned as a member of the committee.

Below: Kyle Lady and Ethan Stark during grad school recruiting (Photo by Raymond Thompson)



As its first course of business, the committee decided to ignore the first half of its charge (reviewing the mock bids) and to instead present recommendations for changes, ultimately rehashing much of the work of the 2012 Convention. At MI-G, we are very fortunate to not suffer from a lack of institutional memory; given the large number of active advisors, veteran officers, and Elson. The average convention committee, however, is not so lucky. If the committee is predominantly comprised of first-time convention attendees, as was the case with Convention Site, it becomes the responsibility of the advisors to properly inform (reminding as necessary) the committee of what has been done in the past, what is within its scope, and what to expect on

the Convention Floor. This responsibility was not well carried out, however, and the committee quickly got off into the weeds, so to speak.

As the committee proceedings wore on, it became evident that many of the members of the committee, as well as some of the officials in attendance, were of the opinion that the primary objective for Convention is to be as inexpensive as possible. While lowering the cost of Convention is of obvious importance, other factors such as chapter pride, uniqueness of experience, and ability of the host chapter (if there even was one) to adequately organize and execute the Convention experience, were not given much consideration in the committee proposal. In an attempt to overcome such inertia, many of our non-voting delegates attended parts of the committee meetings to add additional voices to the opposition. Ultimately, the proposal that was brought to the floor contained little MI-G input and recommended heavy prioritizations to low cost venues and to venues such as Orlando or Chicago, that are considered to be more popular "vacation destinations".

Even with troubling nature of the proposal, the most unsettling development from the committee was the way in which it was brought forward. The committee spent an appreciable amount of its allotted time discussing strategy on how to get it passed, going so far as to encourage members to sit close to microphones to "box out" opposition. On the convention floor, the committee chair presented the proposal in a "razzle-dazzle" manner that was inappropriate for a business meeting, and sought to wow the convention with the presentation while glossing over the content.

Below: the new Executive Council (Photo by Raymond Thompson)



National Convention (cont'd)

While ultimately the convention, aided by the “I’m hungry, let’s pass it and move on” mindset, voted to approve the proposal, there were a number of strong voices in opposition. Mike Hand (MI-G and SAB), who reminded the convention of the importance of chapter participation in convention, was joined by Chris Douglas (IL-D, Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chair), Logan Anteau (OH-Z), and others who additionally observed that under the proposed priorities, locations such as Ames, last year’s Lexington, or next year’s Spokane would be strongly discouraged, despite being unique, beneficial experiences for those in attendance.

While the ultimate outcome of the committee was less than ideal, and may make the task of hosting the 2017 Convention more difficult, there was appreciable opposition to the proposal (some of those speaking in opposition were even applauded by an appreciable number of those in attendance). Further, what was ultimately adopted was nebulous enough that its impacts may ultimately be of little consequence. Next year’s Convention will be telling on how the process will ultimately work and will provide much guidance on our efforts to host the Convention in 2017.

Toward Spokane 2014

Next year’s Convention will be held in Spokane, Washington. We look forward to another wonderful Convention and hope to build on some of the positive momentum from this Convention going forward.



Above: All participants of National Convention gathered for a picture.

Mike Hand, Advisor

Book Swap



We started the winter semester off with another TBP engineering book swap. As always, the swap was a success with over 300 students buying and selling books. Book swap provides a medium for students to put their used textbooks up for sale and also allow them to buy the books they may need for the coming semester. The book swap is a great opportunity for the members of Tau Beta Pi to provide a service to the college community and provide a boost to the image of the organization. Overall the swap went very smoothly and was a great success for Tau Beta Pi.

Scott Cooper, Service Coordinator

End of Fall Semester Congratulations

Congratulations to the 48 new undergraduate initiates, 18 new graduate initiates, and 3 new Eminent Engineers for joining the Mi-Gamma chapter of Tau Beta Pi. Additionally, we would like to congratulate the following Actives on their semester achievements:

Natalie Eyke—Outstanding Officer Award
 Jason Cassell—MVP Award
 Tae-Hyung Kang and Quan Zhou—Outstanding Active Award
 Kate Lobaza—Outstanding Electee Award
 Leslie Becker, Alex Lancaster, Conrad Lather, Lee Sin Lim, Michael MacFarlane,
 Ariel Prabawa, Julia Prisby, Sara Rusignuolo, and Lydia Su—Best Electee Group



Above: Fall 2013 Initiates. Right: Ryan Chen with Natalie Eyke at the Fall Banquet.

Congratulations Initiates and Distinguished Actives

Congratulations Fall 2013 Undergrad Initiates!

Leslie Becker	Jason Leung
Lauren Bilbo	Lee Sin Lim
David Birkenheier	Kate Lobaza
Jocelyn Bohr	Scott Loeffler
Sam Brodkey	Michael MacFarlane
Abhi Cauligi	Spencer Nofzinger
Shruthi Chandra	Spencer Paris
GK Cheong	Haresh Patel
Zander Chocron	Spencer Pawlik
Cathleen Chong	Yoke Ping
Daphne Chou	Robert Polik
Eric Colomb	Ariel Prabawa
D'Arcy Cook	Julia Prisby
Margaret Decker	Chris Ranella
Sylvia Domanico	Brandon Rodd
Alex Golinski	Sara Rusignolo
Colin Harman	Lydia Su
Nathan Immerman	Jun Lin Tan
Aaron Kaufman	Scott Thierbacker
Kirby Kenny	Andrew Thorwall
Alp Kiremitci	Xianglong Wang
Alex Lancaster	Alyssa Woo
Conrad Lather	Joe Yanos

Congratulations Fall 2013 Graduate Initiates!

Michael Benson	Hao Sun
Jeremy Castaing	Perit Terway
Pin-Yu Chen	Tarun Veerarghavan
Rongfei Du	John Wittpenn
Neil Fernandes	Haipeng Wu
Abhisek Kumar	Tianpei Xie
Qianyu Liang	Ming Yang
Jiecho Liu	Xiaoshan Zhang

Congratulations Fall 2013 Eminent Engineers!

Kenneth Alfano, Martha K. Hicks, Dr. Mark Brehob

DISTINGUISHED ACTIVES, Fall 2013

Seventeenth Term

Pritpaul Mahal

Fifteenth Term

Elson Liu

Fourteenth Term

Yvan Boucher

Eighth Term

Michael Hand III

Sixth Term

Ryan Chen

Fifth Term

Hannah Denomme, David Martel

Fourth Term

Mike Boyd, Gina Calco, Shannon Liu

Third Term

Jason Cassell, Kyle Lady, Quan Zhou

Second Term

Kelsey Hockstad, Tae-Hyung Kang, Joshua Kempfer, Laura Kruger, Max Olender, William Pozehl, Ariel Rose, Ki-Joo Sung, Jacob Texel, Alexander Waselewski, Eric Waselewski

First Term

Michael Angileri, William Beyer, Hannah Cheriyan, Andrew Chou, Scott Cooper, Kevin Collao, William Creighton, Leo Devota, Natalie Eyke, David Marsh, Cameron McBride, Rohan Morajkar, Ethan Stark, Michael Zelenak

Yvan Boucher, Advisor