

# The Cornerstone

Volume 34, Issue 1

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## Letter From the Historian

Hello and welcome, electees, to your first Tau Beta Pi meeting!

First and foremost, I want to congratulate each of you on your exceptional academic achievements that have earned you an invitation to Tau Beta Pi. Your dedication to excellence and the highest standards of integrity exemplifies the qualities we celebrate at Tau Beta Pi. It is an honor to welcome all of you to our First General Meeting.

My name is Jimmy, and I will be your historian for the Winter 2025 semester. I will be in charge of writing The Cornerstone and Alumni Newsletter. Here on The Cornerstone, there will be an agenda for the current meeting, upcoming events, any additional information that will be helpful for your electing process, as well as fun puzzles and interesting reads near the end.

Tau Beta Pi is the second oldest honor society in the United States with Michigan Gamma being the second largest of the 255 active chapters. As such, there are some seemingly rigorous initiation requirements.

However, as someone who just initiated last semester, I am here to assure you that the process is nowhere near as daunting as it seems at first glance. With a variety of fun service, social, and professional development events, there are plenty of amazing opportunities to grow closer with the engineering community here at the University of Michigan.

If you have any questions regarding Tau Beta Pi, do not hesitate to contact either me or any other officers. We are all very excited to have you here this semester!

- Jimmy Samson

### In This Issue

- Letter from the Historian
- First General
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- TBPuzzles

### Meeting Agenda

- What is Tau Beta Pi?
- Officer Introductions
- Initiation Requirements
- TBP Website Account Creation
- Q&A and Wrap Up

### Upcoming Events

- Buffalo Wild Wings I:  
1/21, 6:00PM-8:00PM
- Birmingham Public Schools Girls in STEM Jimu Robot:  
1/25, 11:00AM-3:45PM
- K-12 Content Dev. I:  
1/29, 6:00PM-7:00PM
- Lunar New Year Celebration:  
1/29, 6:30PM-8:30PM
- Knitwits I:  
1/30, 6:00PM-8:00PM

## Initiation Requirements

- ❖ Attend All Meetings
  - General Meetings (1-5): 1/21, 2/4, 2/25, 3/25, 4/15
  - TBP Elections: 4/8
  - Initiation: 4/19
- ❖ Complete Service Hours
  - Undergraduates - 16 Hours Total
    - ≥ 1 hour(s) of TBP Tutoring
    - ≥ 4 hours of K-12 Outreach Service Events
  - Graduates - 10 Hours Total
- ❖ Attend at least 2 Professional Development Events
- ❖ Attend at least 2 Social Events
- ❖ Attend 3 Team Meetings with your Electee Team (More info at Second Gen)
- ❖ Participate in TBPals mentorship program
- ❖ Electee Interview Questionnaire
  - Upload this with your resume to your TBP profile at [tbp.engin.umich.edu](http://tbp.engin.umich.edu)
- ❖ Complete Character Evaluation Interview with an Active Member.
  - Sign up for a slot as soon as possible on the TBP website.
- ❖ 6 Casual Peer Interviews due by Fifth General (4/15)
- ❖ One-time \$100 Membership Fee due by Fifth General (4/15)
- ❖ (Undergraduate only) Complete and submit Electee Exam by Fifth General (4/15)

## Quick Links and Guides

Access to the TBP Website: [tbp.engin.umich.edu](http://tbp.engin.umich.edu)

- Access resources for Electees at **For Members** → **Electee Resources**
- Sign up for events at **Calendar** → **Event List**
- Track your electing progress at **For Members** → **Track My Progress**

Prerequisites for signing up for K-12 Outreach Service Events:

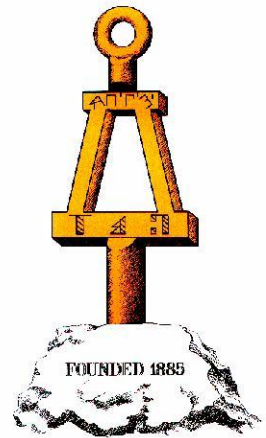
- Complete the Youth Protection Training by Second General (2/4):  
[tbpmig.org/ypt](http://tbpmig.org/ypt)
- Upload certificates at [tbpmig.org/YPT-confirm](http://tbpmig.org/YPT-confirm)
- Opt-in to UM background check at [tbpmig.org/opt-in](http://tbpmig.org/opt-in)

## One Minute Reads

Tau Beta Pi is actually the oldest engineering honor society in the United States, founded by Dr. Edward Williams Jr. at Lehigh University in 1885, Williams wanted to recognize not just brilliant engineers but also ones with strong character.

The society's symbol, the Bent, is actually inspired by a watch key owned by Williams' father. It's shaped like the Greek letter Tau ( $\tau$ ) and perfectly reflects the organization's focus on integrity and strength.

Another fun twist in Tau Beta Pi's story happened in 1974, when it merged with Sigma Tau, an engineering fraternity that had been around since 1904. (Hint: This may be a question on your electee exam :D)



## The Best Puzzles

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