
Alumni Notes

Tau Beta Pi Celebrates Semester Achievements

by Kristin Graf, Tau Beta Pi Vice-President

This semester we had eleven electee groups and a special team composed of actives to make the competition a little more interesting (Team Active). Although Team Active had the most amount of points at the end of the semester, they never intended on winning the competition, only hoping to increase the level of competition among the other groups.

The electee groups fought hard for the coveted trophy by painting the rock, polishing the Bent, bringing food to officer meetings, and competing in the electee games after meetings. At the end of the semester, three groups were tied, but there could only be one winner. The three groups were put on the spot at banquet and asked to name the chapter officers starting from President. The first team failed at External Vice Presidents and the winner was decided when the second team could not name the Diversity and Leadership Chair.

The winner this semester was Team Zoos consisting of Nick Ruff, Saloni Chokhani, and Chris Fair with group leaders Marissa Lafata, Jason Lee, and Eric Hung.



Above: The winter 2012 electee class along with several of the winter 2012 Officers.



Above: Outstanding electee group "Team Zoos" painting the rock.

Right: Outstanding officer Michael Hand

Tau Beta Pi Semester Awards:

Outstanding active: Mark Sprague

Outstanding officer: Michael Hand

Outstanding electee: Kevin Wang

Outstanding sports: Andy Boucher

Outstanding electee group: Team Zoos



Presenting the Fall 2012 Officers

by Yvan Boucher, Tau Beta Pi Graduate Student Advisor

The elections of the Fall 2012 officer corps went very smoothly, lasting just under 4 hours. We have a very good officer corps for the coming year, consisting of a variety of experienced officers and new faces to allow for growth and development of the society.

Officers

President—Mike Hand (mikehand)
Vice-President—Mike Boyd (mjboyd)
Secretary—Chris McMullen (cmcmull)
External VP—Vicki Choe (vchoe) and
Kevin Joseph (kevjose)
Treasurer—Matthew Khoo (khoowx)
Corporate Relations—Kristin Graf (grafk)
Activities—Isabel Cosnahan (cosnahan)
Website—Arthur Shih (ajyshih)
Service—Maria Schneider (schneima)
New Initiatives—Gina Calco (gcalco)
Campus Outreach—Ben Rothacker (benroth)
Diversity and Leadership—Susie Chung (susiec)
Grad Coordinator—Nathan McKay (ngmckay)
K-12 Outreach—Carlos Pons Siepermann (carlpons) and
Marissa Lafata (malafata)
Intersociety—Eeshan Kanpara (keeshan)
Membership—Justine Kunz (justkunz)
Publicity—Ryan Chen (ryanchen) and Nick Ruff (nickruff)



Above: TBP President-Elect Mike Hand

Advisors

Paul Kominsky (paulko) (Chief Advisor)
Dan Becker (debecker)
Andy Boucher (yanders)
Dan Kiefer (dkiefer)
Josh Larson (jilarson)
Elson Liu (eyliu)
Pritpaul Mahal (pritpaul)
Sarang Supekar (supekar)



Above: Outgoing and incoming officers in a group photo following the elections meeting.

Interested in Future Involvement with TBP?

If you are interested in becoming more involved with TBP in the future, we are looking for more outreach and networking activities. Contact Kristin Graf (tbp-corporate@umich.edu) or Mike Hand (tbp-president@umich.edu) and we will gladly let you know of future opportunities or work together to plan a special event.

2012 Leaders and Honors Brunch

by Vicki Choe and Kevin Joseph, External Vice-Presidents

The Leaders and Honors Brunch is a yearly event hosted by the College of Engineering, Tau Beta Pi, and the Epeians Engineering Leadership Society. This event honors CoE students who have made exceptional contributions in the areas of scholarship, research, leadership and service via university, departmental, and student organization scholarships. This year, 29 awards were presented to 85 students for a total of over \$200,000 in scholarship funds. Key speakers at the event include David C. Munson, Robert J. Vlastic Dean of Engineering; Jeanne Murabito, Executive Director for Student Affairs; Thomas Zurbuchen, Associate Dean for Entrepreneurship; James Holloway, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education. This event is made possible through the hard work of members of the Office of Student Affairs, Tau Beta Pi, and Epeians—namely Jennifer Wegner, CoE Student Affairs Assistant Director; Kelle Parsons, Student Affairs Graduate Intern; Vicki Choe and Kevin Joseph, TBP External Vice Presidents; and Auresa Thomas, Epeians Leadership Awards Chair. Elson Liu (Tau Beta Pi, AZ A) provided a musical prelude to the proceedings.

The major responsibility of the External Vice Presidents of Tau Beta Pi was to recruit and form eight award committees comprised of one faculty member, one grad student, and one undergrad student per award. They then scheduled the award interview slots based on committee availability and, finally, the student nominees. The EVPs were also in charge of selecting the recipients of the First Year Student Awards. They coordinated the committees during interview week and worked with the Office of Student Affairs to set up and direct guests at the Leaders and Honors Brunch capstone event.

Congratulations to all of the Tau Bates who received academic, leadership, and/or organization awards at this year's Student Leaders & Honor Brunch:

Yvan Anders Boucher, Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences—Distinguished Leadership Award
Rebecca Frank, Computer Engineering—Distinguished Achievement Award
Elizabeth Grobbel, Civil & Environmental Engineering—Henry Ford II Prize
Michael J Hand, III, Electrical Engineering: Systems—Distinguished Leadership Award, Tom S. Rice Tau Beta Pi Award
Steven Hoffenson, Mechanical Engineering—Distinguished Leadership Award, Richard F. and Eleanor A. Towner Prize for Distinguished Academic Achievement
Daniel Kiefer, Aerospace Engineering—Distinguished Leadership Award
Brendan Kochunas, Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences—Richard F. and Eleanor A. Towner Prize for Distinguished Academic Achievement
Abhishek Kumar, Aerospace Engineering—Richard F. and Eleanor A. Towner Prize for Distinguished Academic Achievement
Joshua Lumley, Chemical Engineering—Distinguished Leadership Award, Distinguished Achievement Award
Michele Mastria, Chemical Engineering—Tom S. Rice Tau Beta Pi Award
Darin McLeskey, Civil & Environmental Engineering—Distinguished Achievement Award
Paul Rigge, Electrical Engineering—Distinguished Achievement Award
Aftin Ross, Biomedical Engineering—Marian Sarah Parker Graduate Prize, Richard F. and Eleanor A. Towner Prize for Distinguished Academic Achievement
Shani Ross, Biomedical Engineering—Richard F. and Eleanor A. Towner Prize for Outstanding GSIs
Nick Ruff, Computer Science Engineering—Cooley Writing Prize: Fiction Division
Sarang Supekar, Mechanical Engineering—North Campus MLK Spirit Award
Vivek Thanabal, Mechanical Engineering—Distinguished Achievement Award
Patrick Theisen, Computer Science Engineering—Distinguished Achievement Award
Yiqing (Shirley) Xu, Chemical Engineering—Cooley Writing Prize: Nonfiction Division



Above (L-R): Yvan Boucher, Vicki Choe, Kevin Joseph, Jenna Bertke (2011 SWE Career Fair Director), Mike Hand, Michele Mastria, Sarah Ewing (2010 SWE Career Fair Director).

Relay for Life

by Shannon Pawloski

This year, Tau Beta Pi joined up with six other engineering student organizations (the University of Michigan chapters of the Society of Women Engineers, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Eta Kappa Nu, Epeians, <CSE.Scholars>, and the Engineering Global Leadership Student Society) to form the Relay for Life group “Team TECHIES.” Relay for Life is a twenty-four hour fundraising event for the American Cancer Society. Team members take turns walking a track throughout this time, symbolizing the constant fight back against cancer. During the event there are also plenty of activities, performances, and onsite fundraisers to educate participants in cancer prevention, raise money, honor survivors, and entertain participants and visitors.



Above: Mike Hand being dunked during the fundraiser by Dan Kiefer.

Throughout the year, Team TECHIES hosted several fundraising events, including a bake sale, a benefit dinner, and a dunk tank where students could request their professors to be dunked. Overall, the team raised about \$1,500, contributing to MRelay’s record year of over \$365,000.

Building Networks Through Service

by Mike Hand, Tau Beta Pi Corporate Relations Chair

Late fall semester we were contacted by General Electric about expanding their campus presence and involvement with TBP. After some discussion, we decided to try something that was a little different than the usual forms of corporate involvement: a joint service event working with Habitat for Humanity.

The planned project went through many iterations, date changes, and site changes; but we eventually converged on a service project through the Habitat ReStore in Ann Arbor. Through the project we were able to engage in very meaningful work that we hope to continue in the coming years. We were also able to have great dialogue about what companies, GE in particular, are looking to get out of working with our chapter of TBP. We were able to brainstorm future collaboration and hope to put the lessons learned to use in the coming semesters of TBP Corporate Relations endeavors.

Overall the event was very successful, and we hope to continue this type of event in the future.



Above: Mike and Andy with two GE Representatives.

Below: The group of Tau Bates with GE at H4H Restore.



Winter Book Swap

by Jason Lee

At the beginning of every semester, our chapter of Tau Beta Pi hosts a Book Swap where College of Engineering students can sell and purchase books, often at prices significantly lower than those at campus bookstores and Amazon. The planning committee, comprised of two new actives and two returning actives, implemented a few changes for this semester. We enhanced communication with fellow engineers by sending out e-mails as early as three weeks prior to the event, allowing students ample time to plan ahead, and posted entertaining flyers featuring comic memes to draw attention.

We also advanced Book Swap on the technological front. We redesigned our website and database to utilize Google's cloud services, and we implemented a take-a-number system (hosted by Google App Engine) to benefit the students who had to wait in extraordinarily long lines. This allowed us to effectively communicate inventory to prospective buyers, though we encountered unanticipated heavy loads that caused our website to crash for four hours.



MindSET Teacher Professional Development Workshop

by Sarang Supekar, Graduate Student Advisor

On December 9 last year, the chapter hosted its first MindSET Teacher Professional Development (TPD) workshop. Fifteen Ann Arbor Public Schools system elementary school teachers and education facilitators were present at the event, which was designed to demonstrate hands-on learning of mathematics and science concepts using inexpensive day-to-day items. The TPD modules have been developed by K-12 education academics working in conjunction with TBP at the University of Florida, and form a key instrument in achieving MindSET's vision of bridging the STEM achievement gap in an all-round manner by working with the students, teachers as well as parents. Carol Goehring, a high school mathematics teacher and MindSET TPD facilitator from Orlando, lead the TPD workshop with great zeal, and the event was very well received by its attendees. The workshop was hosted at the Washtenaw Intermediate School District premises in Ann Arbor with assistance from CoE's Office of Engineering Outreach and Engagement.



MindSET Program – Winter 2012

by Carlos Pons Siepermann, K-12 Outreach Chair

Continuing the hard work of past semesters, the K-12 Outreach Chairs, Nathan Rowley and Carlos Pons Siepermann hosted four public schools from the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti areas for four consecutive weekends to teach interested children about science, math and engineering.

This semester was of great importance given that it was the first time two K-12 chairs were working together simultaneously. As a result, many projects were undertaken in order to strengthen the program and hopefully ensure continuous growth and progress in the coming years. Some of the most notorious endeavors were: contacting the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) for collaboration in the modules in order to increase the number of volunteers available; the implementation of a volunteer-run transportation system, which allowed active members of Tau Beta Pi that reside in Central Campus and lack personal means of transportation to get to the modules in North Campus; and finally, the creation of two completely new modules, one called Density Quest (that introduces the students to basic chemistry concepts) and another called Engineering Product Design (which instructs in topics such as material selection, product design and marketing).

The program was very successful this semester, approximately 30-40 kids came all weekends and a strong volunteer/student ratio was sustained. Additionally, the new modules were performed without any setbacks and were well received, it is the intention of the chairs to send the worksheets and presentations of the new modules to Tau Beta Pi Nationals to show the hard work performed by our chapter in order to ensure that MindSET remains a dynamic and growing program.

The plans for the future include contacting more leadership-and-service-focused student societies such as the Epsilon Chi in order to expand the number of active collaborators to the program and allow further growth. The goal of the chairs is to allow more schools and children to participate in the program as the number of available volunteers increases. Additionally new modules are being prepared constantly with the goal of ensuring that the scope of topics covered in the program is rich and diverse, covering all branches of science and engineering.



Above and right: Pictures of K-12 Students participating in MindSET with aide from volunteers from Tau Beta Pi.



Bylaw Changes and New Resolutions

by Yvan A. Boucher, Graduate Student Advisor

At First Actives this past month, there were several changes made to the Mi-Gamma Bylaws, as well as two resolutions passed for the winter semester. The bylaw changes consisted primarily of updating the current bylaws to more closely follow current chapter practice, including election procedures and the make-up of the executive committee. However, there was one major change related to the meeting schedules and electing process. Starting this semester, there will be a third actives. This meeting will become the voting meeting on whether or not to initiate the electees. Second actives will be used to vote on the electees character as a referendum to Third Actives. These changes should help to not let electees get too far along the path before being rejected for character.

The first of the two resolutions that were passed create a third tier of achievement for members of the society. Members can now become active, distinguished active, or prestigious active through their involvement in the chapter. Prestigious active status is defined as attending all three voting meetings, two other meetings, completing a minimum of one electee interview, earning a leadership credit, and completing a total of 30 hours of combined social and service hours. The hours are capped at a total of 8 from social events, and 15 from any single service event. The achievement of 30 hours may be helped through the implementation of the second resolution, which creates a tiered leadership structure. This will allow the leaders of positions which require a larger amount of effort to earn service hours in addition to their leadership credit. There will be 4 tiers of leaders which will carry 0, 3, 8 and 15 service hours, respectively. The lowest tier will be filled with most of the service project chair positions. The second tier will hold the officers and the electee group leaders. The third tier will hold the service project leaders for large events such as cub scout day. The highest tier will be for the larger events, such as career fair committee chair and book swap chair. Members of the society will be able to appeal to the advisory board in order to be bumped to a higher leadership tier based on their effort in organizing an event.

Convention 2017: Laying the Groundwork

by Elson Liu, Tau Beta Pi Graduate Student Advisor

The last time that the Michigan Gamma Chapter hosted a Tau Beta Pi National Convention was in 1967, which happened to coincide with the sesquicentennial (150th anniversary) of the founding of the University of Michigan. The chapter is already laying the groundwork to submit a bid to host the 2017 convention to coincide with the bicentennial of the University of Michigan.

Article III, Section 2(i) of the Constitution of the Tau Beta Pi Association states that the site of any particular convention can be determined no more than 3 years in advance. Thus the earliest (and best) time for the chapter to submit a bid to host the 2017 convention is by June 1, 2014, so that the bid can be considered at the 2014 convention. An exploratory committee has tentatively established the following set of milestones for hosting the 2017 national convention.

1. Successfully bid for and host the 2013 TBP District 7 conference. This will facilitate the development of the organizational structure and experience crucial to submitting a successful convention bid and hosting a successful convention.
2. Establish an *ad hoc* committee to prepare and submit a national convention bid by June 1, 2014.
3. If and when the bid is accepted, establish an *ad hoc* committee for the arrangements for the 2017 convention.

The pieces are already falling into place for the chapter to successfully complete the first milestone. The exploratory committee prepared a 14-page written bid for the 2013 District 7 conference. Highlights of the written bid included determination of the ideal dates for the district conference (April 5-6, 2013, so as to avoid major religious holidays and the FE exam), and the novel concept of running the district conference concurrently with a MindSET session (to assist other chapters in starting a MindSET program). The bid was accepted by the 2012 District conference over completing oral bids by the Michigan Theta (Oakland University) and Michigan Iota (University of Michigan-Dearborn) chapters.

Upon the acceptance of the bid, the MI-G officer corps created a new appointed officer position--District 7 Conference Chair--to be selected by application. Applications were collected and evaluated, and Ariella Rose (MI-G 2014) was selected for the position. She has hit the ground running--within a week of being transitioned into the position by a few members of the exploratory committee, she was working on selecting and reserving rooms for the district conference.

Expect additional updates on the district conference and national convention in future alumni newsletters.

Prestigious Actives

by Yvan A. Boucher, Graduate Student Coordinator

A new resolution was passed early in the semester to create a new tier of active status titled 'Prestigious Active'. The designation would allow members to aspire for a higher level than 'Distinguished Active' and encourage our membership to become more involved in our chapter. To achieve prestigious active, a member must complete a total of 30 hours of service, socials, or interviews. The hours must be completed through a combination of at least three different activities, with a maximum of 15 hours from a single service event and a limit of only 8 total social hours. This semester, 16 Tau Bates achieved this status and celebrated their contribution to the society through a sponsored dinner at the Melting Pot. The first term prestigious actives are listed below.

PRESTIGIOUS ACTIVES, Winter 2012

First Term

Daniel Becker, Yvan Boucher, Michael Boyd, Vicki Choe, Kristin Graf, Michael Hand, Marissa Lafata, Jason Lee, Pritpaul Mahal, Michele Mastria, Nathan McKay, Christopher McMullen, Justin Paupore, Carlos Pons Siepermann, Mark Sprague, Ethan Wampler

Congratulations Initiates and Distinguished Actives

Congratulations Winter 2012 Undergrad Initiates!

Bora Agabigum	Umakanthan Kavin
Saam Aghevli	Michael Kines
Tyler Alexander	Matthew Kolevar
Brandon Amat	Lawrence Lai
Gina Calco	Saurav Lohani
Christina Capricioso	Luis Molina
Justin Carr	Evan Noon
Jason Cassell	Frances Phillips
Eduardo Cerame	William Pozehl
Saloni Chokhani	Ariel Rose
Ryan Coleman	Chris Ruehs
Megan Egbert	Nick Ruff
Brian Fagan	Ashley Shipley
Chris Fair	Michael Shook
Duane Gardner	Ethan Stark
David Goodman	Chris Stuart
Grace Gu	Ashwin Varghese
Tim Huang	Kevin Wang

Congratulations Winter 2012 Graduate Initiates!

Anna-Maria Rivas McGowan	
Robert Goeddel	Ankit Dingra
Geoff Hancock	Ed Gamero
Kyle Lady	Anurag Gulati
John Bashel	Qianru Guo
Boxhao Chen	Erwin Hendarto
Min-Hua Chen	Alisyn Malek
Qian Zhang	

DISTINGUISHED ACTIVES, Fall 2011

Fourteenth Term

Pritpaul Mahal

Twelfth Term

Elson Liu

Eleventh Term

Yvan Boucher

Sixth Term

Daniel Becker

Fifth Term

Don Li, Michele Mastria, Mike Hand

Fourth Term

Dan Kiefer, Nathan McKay, Nathan Rowley, Sarang Supekar

Third Term

Ben Rothacker, Devina Sanjaya, Ethan Wampler, Jon Gold, Kristin Graf, Kevin Joseph, Kevin Lin, Nick Cobane, Ryan Chen, Mark Sprague, Vicki Choe, Mario Admon,

Second Term

Ari Chivukula, Jason Lee, Carlos Pons Siepermann, Christopher McMullen, David Martel, Hannah Denomme, Emily Zumbrunnen, Jenn Jocz, Marissa Lafata, Nicholas Clift, Rachael Harrington, Jon Nicholas, Maria Schneider, Evan Olexa

First Term

William Beyer, Yangdi Zhou, Susie Chung, Samuel Dettling, Justin Paupore, Justine Kunz, Devki Desai, Barton Kiley, Jesiska Tandy, Shannon Liu, Michael Boyd, Shannon Pawloski, Isabel Cosnahan, Arthur Shih, Joshua Wong, Marc Biondo, Eric Hung, Matthew Khoo, Sarah Clark, Michael Sypniewski