



# Alumni Notes



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MI-Gamma

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## Semester Recap

Greetings Fellow Tau Bates. As the semester draws to a close, let's look back at where we've gone and what we've done over the last twelve or so weeks, and where Michigan Gamma is going from here.

### *Semester Notables*

This semester saw an expansion in our MindSET program and of our corporate relations program. We had volunteers help out with MindSET from the Epeians Engineering Leadership Honor Society, Alpha Sigma Mu the Materials Science Honor Society, and Sigma Gamma Tau the Aerospace Honor Society. K-12 Outreach will also be expanding beyond MindSET next semester to include outreach programs that bring TBP volunteers to the local area schools.

Our corporate relations program has continued to expand including ten information sessions and increased corporate interest. We're looking at adopting a committee model for corporate relations next semester to better our ability to provide professional development for our members.

We had plans to start an Alternative Spring Break trip for next semester, but unfortunately there was insufficient participant interest in attending the trip this semester and it had to be cancelled. There may be opportunity for this in the future, but that remains to be seen.

This semester we also will be initiating a number of professors into TBP. Following a relatively exhaustive lookup of which professors are currently members of TBP, we determined a list of professors to nominate to membership as Alumni or Eminent Engineers. The list of professor initiates for this semester is:

*Alex Bielajew, NERS*

*Amy Cohn, IOE*

*Semyon Meerkov, EECS*

*Jamie Phillips, EECS*

*Dimitrios Zekkos, CEE*

We look to continue to invite outstanding professors to membership in the coming semesters.



## Semester Recap (cont.)

### *Election Results*

We held elections this November, and have a lot of new faces to introduce to you. Without further ado here are the results:



President: *Kristin Graf*  
 Vice President: *Ryan Chen*  
 Secretary: *Chris McMullen*  
 Treasurer: *Joe Menzia*  
 External Vice Presidents: *Mike Boyd* and *Natalie Eyke*  
 Website Chair: *Arthur Shih*  
 Service Chair: *Maria Schneider*  
 Corporate Relations Chair: *Eamonn Shirey*  
 Activities Chair: *Shannon Liu*  
 Graduate Coordinator: *Kyle Lady*  
 New Initiatives Chair: *Jacob Texel*  
 K-12 Outreach Chair: *Jeff Lowe* and *Marissa Lafata*  
 Diversity and Leadership Chair: *Susie Chung*  
 Campus Outreach Chair: *Laura Kruger*  
 Intersociety Chair: *Jason Cassell*  
 Membership Chair: *Matt Khoo*  
 District 7 Coordinator: *Ariel Rose*  
 Operations Chair: *Vicki Choe*  
 Publicity Co-Chairs: *Gina Calco* and *Josh Kempfer*

Chief advisor: *Paul Kominsky*, reelected for 3 years  
 Alumnus advisor: *Pritpaul Mahal*, reelected for 3 years  
 Graduate student advisors: *Mike Hand*, *Sarang Supekar*, *Andy Boucher*, *Elson Liu*, *Dan Kiefer*, *Dan Becker*

### *Upcoming Changes*

Probably the biggest change that TBP is going to be embarking on next semester is to get the Foo Bar space in the CSE building up and running. We're still in the planning stages and may be partnering with another student organization to get things off the ground, but we have done a fair bit of data gathering and background planning and have elected Vicki Choe (EVP 2012) to a new officer position to be in charge of finishing the planning



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## Semester Recap (cont.)

and getting the Foo Bar open for business. It looks to be a great venue for increased visibility for TBP and a way to provide a needed service to the College.

Another change that may be upcoming is in the structure of our initiation requirements. Over the past few semesters, we've seen a steady decline in the number of initiates and have continued discussions into why this might be. After surveying potential members who did not choose to continue electing, it appears that the number of hours required to join may be perceived as too high. While TBP certainly values a strong commitment to service, it is important that we do not confuse someone's ability to perform the prescribed service hours with the strength of their character. To be sure, willingness to perform service is an indication of one's character, but completing those hours is not the only way that that character can be manifest. Each semester, we turn away a number of talented individuals, not because they lack the required character, but because they do not have (or do not think they have) ample time to complete the necessary requirements. Our chapter has an opportunity here to increase our relevance to joining members and to dispel the perception that it is "too hard" to join TBP. The exact change has not been finalized, but discussions are well underway about how to increase the number of individuals who choose to join without diminishing the service that we provide to the college and to the community.

~ Mike Hand, President

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## District 7 District Conference Spring 2013

Michigan Gamma has received the honor of hosting the Tau Beta Pi District 7 Conference this coming April. There is currently significant effort being contributed by the planning committee in order to turn this into a reality.

The event will unofficially begin Friday night with dinner at the Original Cottage Inn Gourmet Pizza in downtown Ann Arbor. The business will officially commence Saturday morning as the delegates convene in the elegant Michigan League at the heart of the university's central campus. Here, they will spend the rest of their day accomplishing district business and learning more about the workings of Tau Beta Pi. Prominently, the delegates will have the opportunity to build and strengthen relationships with students and advisors from the Tau Beta Pi chapters of other universities across the lower peninsula of Michigan and Ohio.

A primary goal of the planning committee is to give the delegates the opportunity to spend the morning experiencing one of Michigan Gamma's MindSET modules. This would be done to educate other chapters on the program, allowing them to see the benefits first hand, and hopefully helping them create MindSET programs at their own universities.

The conference will close late Saturday afternoon leaving time to go out and experience spring in Ann Arbor. Michigan Gamma is very excited for this opportunity and look forward to hosting the District 7 Conference at our outstanding university.

~Ariella Rose, District 7 Conference Chair



**"Michigan Gamma  
is very excited for  
this opportunity to  
show off our  
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university."**