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# Alumni Newsletter

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**Tau Beta Pi**  
The Engineering Honor Society

## Letter From the Historian

Hello Tau Beta Pi Alumni!

I am Alex de la Iglesia, and I am your historian for this semester. As we reach the halfway point of yet another semester at the University of Michigan, I am sending this newsletter to provide an update on what has been happening in the Michigan Gamma Chapter of TBP! This semester has been very eventful and so I hope this newsletter can help alumni like yourself stay up to date with Michigan Gamma current events.

As will be described in more detail, new to this semester we created a new (ad-hoc) officer to the leadership team: the Website Officer! This new officer (elected Ben King) is the head of the website committee and is responsible for overall functionality of the website and future development goals of the website.

In addition, we have also hosted a great number of community service events and chapter social events so far this semester and are planning on hosting many more! This has included MindSET for K-12 students, NROTC Tutoring, volunteering for the University of Michigan Science Olympiad Tournament, Knitwits, and the Maize and Blue Cupboard, and for the chapter we have had Buffalo Wild Wings nights, Cantina, Boba socials, Ice Skating, and a Valentine's Day Party!

We are looking forward to greatly improving the chapter this semester, and I am glad to represent the great alumni we have!

Alex de la Iglesia  
Historian

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## Letter From the President

Greetings Alumni of Tau Beta Pi,

In a Winter 2023 semester that brings a new set of both challenges and opportunities as the return to in-person operation reaches all corners of the chapter, MI-G has responded with an exceptional level of participation from its members. Throughout the first half of W23, the historically young officer corps, consisting of 10 new and 8 returning officers, has introduced a fresh perspective and helped to revitalize the chapter. The resulting culture shift within the organization has been noticeable; the members of MI-G have enjoyed a new emphasis on meaningful in-person interaction, attending service, social, and professional development events in record numbers for the post-pandemic era.

From General Meetings to New Initiatives and Officer Meetings, the vast majority of this semester's operations have shifted to a primarily in-person format. While Zoom access is still provided for anyone looking to remain up to date with our meetings from out of town, a focus on in-person attendance has finally returned for the first time since early 2020. As a result, the chapter has seen the largest recorded active meeting attendance in the past few semesters, and an impressive group of 35 electees has kept pace with the Fall semester, indicating strong future membership. MI-G's current active membership has also been exceptionally engaged, with 33 chairs and committee members stepping up and taking on major responsibilities in some of the chapter's most important areas of operation, including K-12 outreach, professional development, campus outreach, and the website.

The website committee in particular deserves a special mention, as the push to improve, update, and eventually completely redesign the website is stronger than ever in the W23 semester. The advisory board voted to authorize the officer corps to create an ad hoc website officer, who now leads the website committee. This committee consists of two chairs and eleven total committee members, a record number in recent years. In addition to working on routine website changes and optimizations as usual, the long-term goal of the website committee is to make a substantial investment in a completely redesigned website that will provide crucial, up-to-date infrastructure and serve as the backbone of the chapter's operations for the next several years or more. So far, the committee has written an RFP and reached out to multiple vendors, and the committee is in the process of scheduling meetings with vendors. The future of the website is exciting with so many dedicated members working to create lasting improvements.

The connection between MI-G and the University of Michigan College of Engineering has also reached levels of success not seen over the past several years. As always, the chapter will be co-hosting the Leaders & Honors Awards Brunch this month alongside the College of Engineering. During this year's award ceremony, one of MI-G's advisors, Dr. David T. Martel, will be honored with the College of Engineering's Most Outstanding Student Organization Advisor award. In addition to this event, for the first time ever, the chapter is taking over responsibility of the prestigious Order of the Engineer ceremony from the Engineering Honor Council, also in partnership with the College of Engineering. This tradition, carried out every semester, will serve as an opportunity to advance the mission of TBP by awarding a nationally recognized academic honor to eligible seniors in the College of Engineering, promoting the value of distinguished scholarship in engineering and making TBP an even more prominent name among the students and faculty of the University of Michigan College of Engineering.

With such outstanding involvement from our members, there is no better time to be involved in the Michigan Gamma chapter of Tau Beta Pi. To our dear alumni, I hope you keep in touch and continue to follow the progress of the chapter as it experiences a tremendous phase of growth. I look forward to updating you all at the conclusion of the semester with more exciting initiatives and accomplishments.

Riley Garliauskas  
President, TBP MI-G

## Welcome the New Website Officer!

This semester, our chapter has decided to add a website officer position to our officer corps. The role of the website officer will be to chair the website committee and make needed updates and changes to the website each semester. Concurrently, our chapter is currently in the process of finding a company to create a new website for us, so in the first few semesters of the role, the officer and website committee will also oversee the integration of the new TBP website. We will work with the company to ensure the website has all the features we desire in our website, and document how this works so that future committee members will be able to easily make changes to the website as needed. The position is currently an ad hoc one, but we plan to make this position permanent at the terminus of the ad hoc position.

Ben King  
Website Officer

## Professional Development Events Overview

Greetings Alumni!

Professional Development events have been in full swing this semester. Given lower corporate interest in having information sessions in the Winter Semester, we are focusing more on events that get our members ready for recruiting season.

The first such event we held was a Graduate School Panel. We had seven current graduate student Tau Bates as panelists for an open Q&A session with our undergraduate members. Members were presented with the various different paths available to them when it comes to graduate school and the need-to-know information for each. The panelists were also able to give plenty of insightful advice about picking a graduate program, finding a research advisor, and more.

Our current members have also been attending the Engineering Futures Virtual Workshops with great interest. These events put on by the TBP national organization are presentations on topics relevant to careers in engineering. The most recent ones have been “Making the most of LinkedIn”, “Data Management for Engineers”, and “Choosing a Graduate Program”.

Upcoming events include individual mock interviews as well as workshops for resumes, presentations, and elevator pitches. As always, we welcome and encourage feedback and involvement from alumni regarding professional development opportunities for our members. Please feel free to reach out with any questions, concerns, or other inquiries via email at [tbp-corporate@umich.edu](mailto:tbp-corporate@umich.edu).

Ansh Patel  
Professional Development Officer

## New Initiatives for the Chapter

Hello Alumni,

Throughout this semester, from every topic discussed at a New Initiatives meeting, I have been focusing on 1-2 new initiatives to work on. Firstly, the initial subject was centered around new service and professional development events. Given the interest of many students in pursuing graduate studies, we established a graduate student panel to offer invaluable insights into the field. Furthermore, as a means of giving back to the community, several members expressed their interest in volunteering with underprivileged students. In light of this, I have been actively reaching out to underrepresented schools and service organizations to arrange a volunteering opportunity for TBP. By doing so, we aim to leverage our engineering knowledge and tutoring skills to assist those in greater need.

Additionally, the second subject that was discussed at our New Initiatives meeting was outreach. To that end, I have been developing an alumni referral program, which will enable students to connect with accomplished TBP alumni for referral purposes. To this end, I kindly ask alumni to fill out the Google form that I have sent via email to collect contact and relevant information, so current members can then reach out to them.

In order to increase our outreach to the wider campus community, we have increased our social media presence and distributed brochures at breakfast parties. In addition, I am working on organizing a fun activity, such as a bounce house, to be available for all University of Michigan students during finals week. This de-stressing event aims to make more students aware of TBP, and the positive impact we have on the community.

Finally, our upcoming topic of discussion for new initiatives will be centered around website improvements. I am excited about this, as we now have a dedicated committee and a website officer in place to head progress in this area.

Advika Jhingran  
Chapter Development Officer

## Service Events Overview

Hello, I'm Drew Boughton, a junior in Mechanical Engineering and the Winter 23' Service Coordinator. Since electing in Fall 21', I have been a distinguished and prestigious active, a project lead, an electee team lead, a Career Fair chair, and, this semester, the main driver of TBP's community service. Because I greatly value variety of service, I've made it a goal to engage with a great collection of classic, recently introduced, and new events, such as:

### Classic Events

- *MindSET*: We've continued to see excellent student turnout and engagement with our hands-on STEM activities.
- *Merit Badge Day*: Only growing in size and scope, students always have a blast learning about electrical engineering and computer science topics.
- *Cub Scouts Day*: The ultimate TBP mainstay, CSD is better than ever with more scouts, more passionate volunteers, and many more eggs to drop!

### Recently Introduced Events

- *NAP Stewardship Days*: We work with Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation to help remove invasive plant species from Ann Arbor's parks and nature areas to preserve local biodiversity.
- *Maize and Blue Cupboard*: We work with Maize & Blue Cupboard, an on-campus food pantry, to help run their North Campus food distribution events where we hand out free produce to students.
- *UM Science Olympiad*: We sponsor University of Michigan Science Olympiad through our volunteers and assist with operations for both regional and invitational tournaments for both middle and high school students.
- *Knitwits*: We have lots of fun turning fleece into no-knit blankets and donating them to charities in the Flint area.

### New Events

- *First Robotics with FAMNM*: We're working to support First Alumni and Mentors Network at Michigan by volunteering in various roles at local First Robotics competitions.
- *HVHS Shelter Making*: We're planning on making TNR (trap, neuter, or rescue) shelters from common materials to help the Huron Valley Humane Society capture feral cats.
- *Adopt-a-Park*: We're currently working to adopt our own nature area in Ann Arbor that we can maintain and potentially implement cool projects in.

Drew Boughton  
Service Coordinator

## What the chapter has been up to!



Giving out food for the Maize and Blue Cupboard



Making blankets for Knitwits



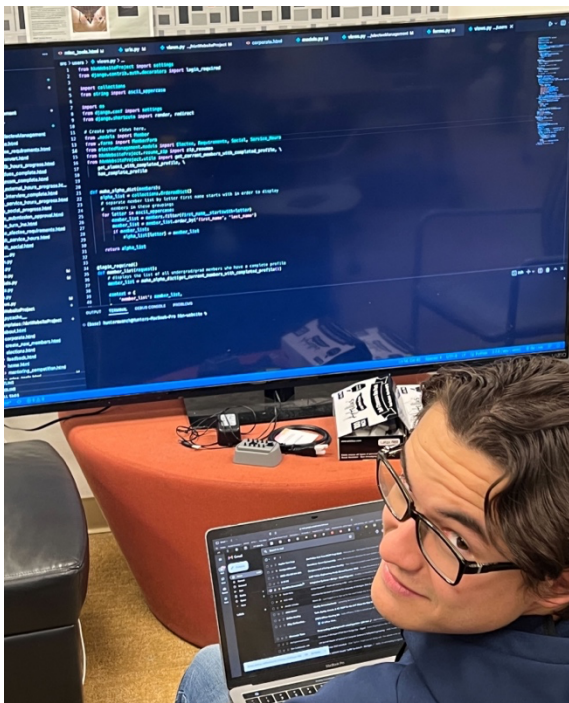
Boba Social with actives and electees!



Cantina fun!



MindSET: Water Bottle Rockets Event



Working on the website!



Valentine's Day Party!