

Alumni Notes



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MI-Gamma

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From the Desk of the President

Fall 2012 is shaping up to be an awesome semester, with meaningful service events, engaging socials, and some exciting changes in the pipeline. We've already met success with our first participation in the College of Engineering "Welcome Day" and Northfest. We've dramatically increased the visibility of Book Swap to incoming freshmen. This month we also co-hosted one of the largest SWE/TBP Career Fairs to date. This is an exciting time to be involved in TBP at Michigan and I expect great things throughout the rest of the semester.

Michigan Gamma strives to engage in meaningful service to the college and community. Over the next year we hope to not only continue to meet our current service expectations, but to increase our relevance by engaging in new and exciting opportunities to give back. This semester we've already seen progress in some key areas of the service that we perform.

Building on the success of previous semesters, this semester's Book Swap aimed to increase our visibility to incoming freshmen by providing information to them during Summer Orientation. We also were able to reach many students about our Book Swap and Tutoring at the "Engineering Welcome Day" hosted by CoE. The website also underwent a complete redesign, including an improved front-end for customers and streamlined back-end for inventory management. The new system has dramatically increased efficiency while cutting down on data errors, and will be built on in future semesters to provide increased functionality and improved ease-of-use.

"We know how great a chapter we have here"

ASB trips were one of the most powerful and formative experiences of my time as an undergrad, and I'm very excited that we're starting off our program this year. Reaching beyond our normal sphere, Nathan Rowley, Nick Clift, and Dan Kiefer hosted what was likely the first and only international MindSET module in Cape Town, South Africa during a volunteer abroad trip with EGL this summer. They taught 5 classes on water bottle rockets and even impressed a local paper. In addition to serving the community and college, TBP engages in a number of events that aim to help members and fellow students in their professional and career development. Every fall, TBP helps to bring one of the largest student-run career fairs in the country to North Campus. This fall was no exception. Over 290 companies were in attendance at the SWE/TBP Career Fair. It was a busy time on North Campus with hundreds of recruiters and thousands of students networking throughout the engineering buildings.

Our Corporate Relations Program is also continuing to grow and develop, with eight information sessions this past month, and corporate interest for new and expanding programs.

From the Desk of the President (cont.)



Michigan Gamma is also excited to be hosting the upcoming District 7 Conference this coming April. We know how great a chapter we have here, and we're excited to be able to show the rest of our district what we have to offer. Look forward to more information about the D7 Conference as it approaches.

And what semester could be complete without a good stock of socials and new ideas? And as always, there will be plenty to discuss at New Initiatives meetings. We'll be investigating the Prestigious Actives and Tiered Leadership pilot programs and looking into exciting new undertakings.

This is going to be a great semester with lots to be involved in. Hope your semester both inside and outside of TBP is great. **Go Blue!**

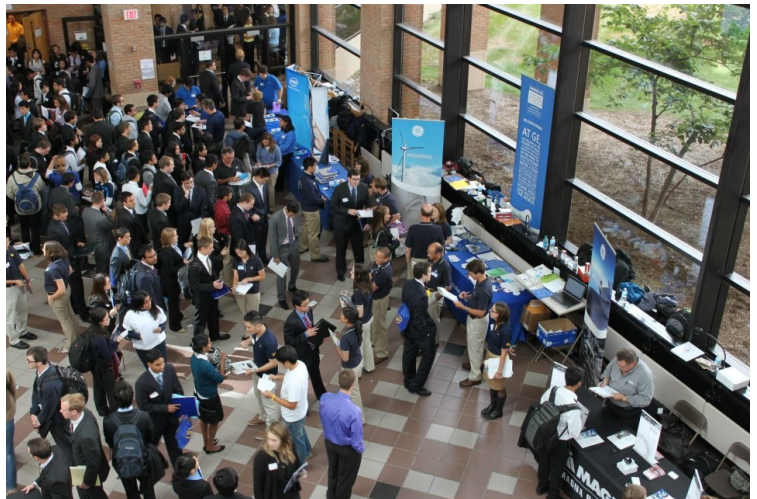
~ Mike Hand, President, Tau Beta Pi MI-G

"Student involvement continues to be as strong as ever, with over 3000 students attending each day."

Fall Career Fair 2012

Another year, another career fair! The SWE/TBP Engineering Career Fair, now in its 28th iteration, took place on September 24th and 25th. The number of companies wanting to attend continues to grow, with nearly 300 companies in attendance this year. Student involvement continues to be as strong as ever, with over 3000 students attending each day. Tau Beta Pi was critical to the success of this career fair, led by directors Vicki Choe and Kevin Joseph as well as several chairs. Of course, there were also hundreds of hours volunteered by TBP electees and actives.

There were a few changes to this year's career fair that made an impact. The first was a redesigned website, which can be seen at umcareerfair.org. The new website allowed for easier registration for companies and also provided easy access to information such as the list of attending companies. The next change, which was more behind the scenes than the others, was the use of a shipping company to handle packages. Anyone who volunteered in the past and had to lug packages around North Campus should be glad (or jealous) to know we no longer ask that of anybody. Finally, a minor change which had a huge effect was the addition of card swipers to the student registration table. This allowed for students to speedily check in with their Mcard and grab a directory. Even though there



Fall Career Fair 2012 (cont.)

was still a long line, most students didn't have to wait longer than 5 minutes before they could go in.

The SWE/TBP Career Fair remains one of the most anticipated events for the College of Engineering and continues to provide strong publicity for our organization. With the continued growth, its future looks bright indeed!

~ Kevin Joseph

External Vice President



Career Fair Directors and Committee Chairs

National Convention Recap

Michigan Gamma has a strong tradition of being very involved in TBP National Conventions and this year was no exception. Convention this year was hosted by Kentucky Alpha (University of Kentucky) in Lexington, KY. Our delegation consisted of 4 advisors – Dan Becker, Paul Kominsky (Chief Faculty Advisor), Elson Liu, and Pritpaul Mahal, 4 officers – Mike Boyd (VP), Mike Hand (President), Chris McMullen (Secretary), and Ariel Rose (District 7 Conference Chair), and 2 actives – Nick Cobane (former New Initiatives Chair), and Nathan Rowley (former K-12 Outreach Chair).

Overall, convention was a very productive, rewarding, and tiring experience. Three new chapters were granted charters, a new process for determining convention sites was implemented, the Constitution and Bylaws were reviewed and updated to correct many small issues, awards were given, a curriculum appeal was granted, engineering futures sessions were attended, and much other business was conducted. The overview (Summary of Business Conducted) and details (minutes) are available on the nationals website. The parts of particular interest to MI-Gamma are elaborated here.

Convention Site Process Changes

Per the change approved (over strong opposition from MI-G, District 4, an Executive Councilor, and possible others) at Convention:

- Convention sites are now selected 2 years in advance (instead of 3).
- The Executive Council (delegated to the staff, in particular Asst. Sec.-Treas. Roger Hawks) will review hotel options and do much of the legwork in setting up arrangements for a chosen site.
- The Executive Council can enter into long term (up to 5 year) contracts with particular hotel chains.

The part of the proposal that was found to be unfavorable to those listed was the third point. This would likely not harm a chapter like MI-G which is positioned near a hotel from most of the major chains, but chapters in lower populated areas that lack access to varied hotel options could be harmed by this provision.

“Overall, convention was a very productive, rewarding, and tiring experience.”

National Convention Recap (cont.)

Awards

Michigan Gamma was awarded the same three awards as last year:

1. Secretary's Commendation

Given to a chapter that has successfully completed all the reports to nationals correctly and on time. Thanks to our former Secretary, Michele Mastria, for making this happen.

2. MindSET Grant

This is given to schools that seek to expand their MindSET program. Thanks to everyone who's worked so hard to establish our MindSET program as one of the premier programs in the nation (esp. Sarang Supekar, Nathan Rowley, Carlos Pons Siepermann, and Marissa Lafata)

3. Project Award, Project Performance Scholarship

Granted to chapters with outstanding projects (like us). In addition the scholarship is for chapters that have done so for 3 or more straight years (like us).



Curriculum Review Committee

Michigan Gamma has a reasonably strong history of helping chair committees at National Convention. For this convention, Mike Hand was elected to serve as the Vice-Chair of the Curriculum Review Committee and the Chair of the subcommittee responsible for reviewing the Computer Science Curriculum Appeal from NY-H (City College CUNY). This curriculum appeal was granted, per the recommendation from the subcommittee, without any voiced opposition. It's hard to say yet, but this could very well mean that the controversy surrounding Computer Science Curricula has finally subsided.

Learning to Run Nationals

Mike Hand and Ariel Rose were able to attend the transition meeting where the planning committee from KY A transitioned IA A (Iowa State) on how to run a national convention. Many points covered were applicable to Ariel's upcoming running of the District 7 Conference, and all of the points will be useful as we move toward bidding to host the 2017 TBP National Convention in commemoration of the University's bicentennial.

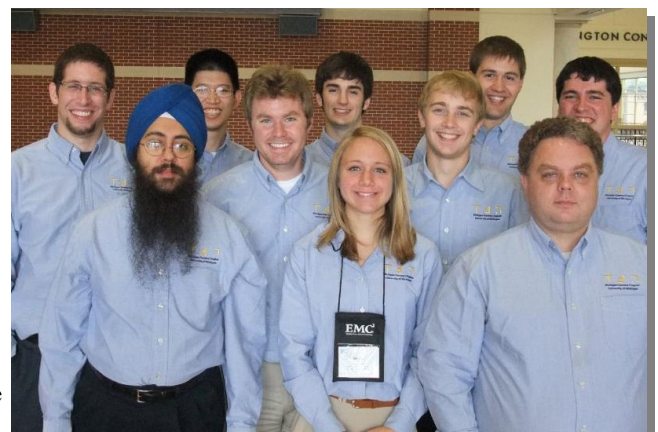
Everything Else

We had two officers represented on the Teller's Committee (Mike Boyd and Chris McMullen). Nathan Rowley audited the MindSET committee (additionally serving as the committee scribe) and was able to share some of MI-G's tips and tricks. Mike Boyd, Chris, Ariel, and Nick were able to attend various Engineering Futures modules. Everyone participated in the Inter Chapter Exchange sessions and we came back with some good ideas on how to improve as a chapter. One such idea is our recent push to get professors more involved—we expect to initiate at least four amazing professors into TBP this semester.

And for the benefit of those who've had the opportunity to attend Convention previously: MI-G unquestionably got the second on the approval of the agenda (one of ten total seconds), the napkin chain went off without a hitch, and Curt is doing great in his new role of Executive Director, Secretary-Treasurer, and Editor of The Tau Beta Pi Association, Inc. (affectionately abbreviated Supreme Overlord).

While we were not awarded the award for Most Outstanding Chapter, we had an outstanding convention overall and look forward to ever better things from TBP, both at the chapter level and the national level.

~ Mike Hand, President



Top Row: Dan Becker, Elson Liu, Mike Boyd, Chris McMullen
Middle Row: Mike Hand, Nick Cobane, Nathan Rowley
Bottom Row: Pritpaul Mahal, Ariel Rose, Paul Kominsky