



# Iowa Alpha Chapter of Tau Beta Pi Newsletter for 2008-09



## Iowa Alpha Scholars Announced

The first **Tau Beta Pi – Iowa Alpha Scholars** were selected this spring to participate in the Tau Beta Pi Scholars program. The 24 scholars selected by the College of Engineering Scholarships and Awards Committee came from among the top one-eighth first year engineering students with emphasis on the participation of ethnic minorities and women. The scholars, who represent all eight departments within the College of Engineering, will each receive a \$500 scholarship, participate in peer group activities and have the opportunity to establish mentoring relationships with current Tau Beta Pi members. It is hoped they will also attend Tau Beta Pi engineering leadership training workshops and speaker forums and be actively involved in Iowa Alpha outreach and community service activities. Funding for the program came from alumni donations, particularly the Faidley family.



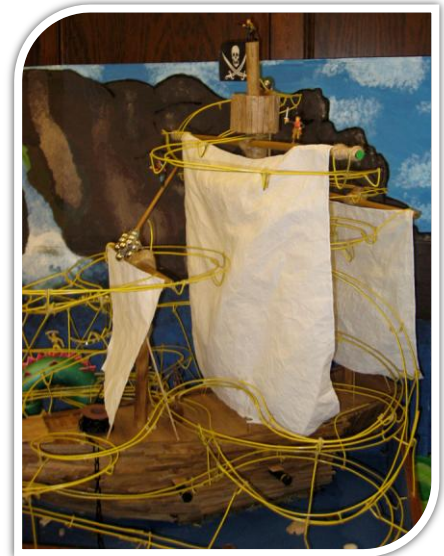
## Chapter receives honors at 2008 Tau Beta Pi National Convention

The President, Vice-president and two officers of Iowa Alpha, together with three advisors, attended the 2008 Convention held in Sacramento, California. The Chapter received two awards, one for the number and quality of its projects, 46 were completed in 2007-2008 the second largest of any chapter, and second Secretary's Commendation for the timely submission of its reports to Headquarters. Subsequent to the convention the Chapter was awarded a Greater Interest in Government Grant, which was the 16th received by Iowa Alpha since establishment of the program in 1980, while no other chapter has received more than four grants.



## Tau Beta Pi Roller Coaster Competition

Fourteen teams from 6 middle and high schools throughout Iowa competed in the **2009 Roller Coaster competition**. Constructed of wood, metal, paper and other materials the roller coasters had to fit within a space 3 feet wide, 4 feet long, and 4 feet high. Judging was based upon originality, creativity and the knowledge the students had of the physics and engineering concepts used in their designs. In addition, it was judged on how many of the engineering concepts were achieved by ball bearings moving through the roller coaster during one minute. This year 74 students competed and the winning roller coaster was from Unbandale High School. One of the more unique designs this year was an underwater roller coaster.





### Building the Future

A new outreach program called **Building the Future** was developed for high school and middle school students providing them a hands-on activity aimed to illustrate different engineering disciplines. Projects included building a model wind-powered generator, constructing a bridge, and building and programming an autonomous Lego vehicle. The first session for about 25 students, was held during November 2009. Funding for the project was provided from a Greater Interest in Government (GIG) grant from Tau Beta Pi Headquarters.



### Initiations and Banquets a Success

In the Fall of 2008 Iowa Alpha initiated 39 new members including: 36 undergraduates, 2 graduate students and 1 eminent engineer, Dr. Tom Shih, Chair of the Aerospace Engineering Department. **Richard Stanley** provided the Keynote address at the 2008 Fall Semester Tau Beta Pi banquet. An Iowa Alpha alumni, he is Chair of the Board of Directors of the Stanley Foundation, and Chair Emeritus and past President of the Stanley Group, a leading international engineering firm.

Spring 2009 saw the initiation of 48 new members including: 41 undergraduates, 4 graduate students and 2 eminent engineers, Dr. Diane Rover, Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Budget College of Engineering and Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Dr. Dale Chimenti, Professor in Aerospace Engineering and Senior Scientist in the Iowa State University Center for Nondestructive Evaluation. In addition, an alumnus member, Michael Zaccone, was initiated by South Carolina Beta on behalf of Iowa Alpha. **Dr. Vance D. Coffman** was the keynote speaker at the 2009 Spring Semester Tau Beta Pi banquet. An Iowa Alpha alumni, he is the retired CEO and Chairman of the Board, Lockheed Martin Corporation. While at Lockheed Martin he provided the technical and managerial leadership for some of the country's most important technological achievements in space and defense. Special guests at the banquet included the keynote speaker, the Interim Dean and newly named Dean of the College of Engineering and 2 department chairs. Also attending were 15 of the 24 Tau Beta Pi – Iowa Alpha Scholars. In total, 140 people attended the banquet.

### Endowment to support Iowa Alpha

In conjunction with celebration of the Iowa Alpha Centennial in 2007, a fund raising campaign was undertaken together with the Iowa State University Foundation to raise money towards an endowment to support the activities of the Chapter. Contributions from alumni and current and former advisors, allowed establishment of the Tau Beta Pi Endowment of over \$32,000. Unfortunately, the economic problems caused a decline of about 20 percent in the endowment during 2008-09. However, the chapter was still able to benefit from the first earnings from the endowment, which provided support for a Tau Beta Pi Scholarship for an incoming freshman engineering student and other activities of the Chapter.

### Tau Beta Pi – Catapult Competition

The **2009 Catapult competition** brought 2 high school teams to campus to compete in launching eggs with a trebuchet from 90 to 120 feet at a target in the shape of a frying pan.

Held near the campanile following the VEISHEA parade, this year's competition attracted a large number of spectators. The winning trebuchet from Armstrong-Ringsted High School was the most sophisticated design ever entered in the competition.



*Further information about Iowa Alpha is available at: <http://iowaalpha.tbp.org/>*

*For those wishing to support the work of the Chapter, donations can be made to the ISU Foundation for either the Tau Beta Pi Endowment or the Tau Beta Pi Scholars Program.*