

# Tau Beta Pi Times

Florida Alpha Chapter  
Spring 2007

## President's Message

The 2006-2007 academic year is at an end, meaning that Tau Beta Pi is getting ready for its summer hiatus. This year has been packed with a great number and wide variety of events, service projects, and social activities. We've added more than 80 new members to Tau Beta Pi and to our chapter through initiation. In October, we sent three representatives to National Convention in Denver, Colorado. At convention, Florida Alpha received a Chapter Project Award for the 22nd consecutive year! In April we sent four representatives to the District 5 Meeting in Miami, Florida where we exchanged ideas and information with other chapters. Recognizing the importance of and great benefit provided by the Engineering Futures program, we held all five sessions this year, offering members the opportunity to complete the entire program.

On the home front, we made great progress in the Clock Tower Project as we near the installation of the first clock. We began participating in GatorTRAX and will take a more active role in this great program in the future. In late April we held our annual Regional SECME Olympiad, bringing over 200 elementary, middle and high school students on campus to compete in science, engineering, and mathematics related events. Other service projects throughout the year included a Shands Children's Hospital Trick-or-Treat, Habitat for Humanity, a wheelchair ramp construction project, and Family Fun Night at Ronald McDonald House.

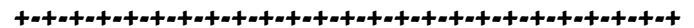
I'm very proud of the number of great service projects we were involved in and the wonderful level of commitment from our members. In the College of Engineering we participated in E-Day, E-Week, Gator Engineering Outreach, and the 2nd annual Engineering Bowl, in which we placed 3rd overall. Bowling, a Lake Wauburg BBQ, happy hour, and beach volleyball were some of the social activities planned throughout the year.

You can find more details about many of the activities mentioned above in some of the articles in this newsletter or by visiting our website: <http://tbp.eng.ufl.edu>. We are looking to establish a

stronger relationship with our alumni. If you are interested in getting involved or helping our chapter with any of its projects or events, please contact us at [tbp@grove.ufl.edu](mailto:tbp@grove.ufl.edu).

Thank you and Go Gators!

~ Alan Passman  
President



## SECME

This year's SECME went remarkably well, and the kids had a great time! With eight schools participating, the competition was fierce, and the Regional winners will be heading to National competition in July. Our members and electees joined forces with volunteers from three other engineering societies on the day of SECME. Over 1000 hours were put into the event, with the majority coming from Tau Beta Pi members.

The Olympiad encompassed traditional events such as Math and Science tests, water rockets, and mousetrap cars. Additionally, the Middle and High School students engineered catapults for their Surprise Design event. Some of the designs were quite impressive, and we plan to use this event in the future as well.



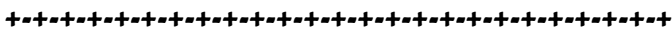
Students preparing for the Catapult competition



Awards Ceremony

Thanks go to Dean Earle, Stephen Roberts and Margie Williams for the amazing support they provided to make this SECME such a great success. Our future plans are to make SECME more of a priority during the Fall semester so that we can involve more schools in the coming years. Hopefully, all our volunteers will be back next year to make SECME better than ever!

~ Austin Cooley  
SECME Coordinator



**GatorTRAX**

Following the 2006 Tau Beta Pi National Convention, GatorTrax is gaining momentum toward becoming a significant part of the national K-12 initiative. The program is designed to pave the way to careers in engineering or other fields that require creative thinking and analytical problem-solving skills. We hope to begin to spread this program to other select schools in Florida in the near future.

Measurable goals of the program include student completion of algebra by the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, calculus by the 12<sup>th</sup> grade, and possibly pre-engineering studies at community colleges. These milestones are necessary for successful completion of engineering studies in college. Our motivation is to produce more engineering graduates and thereby keep our country competitive in the global marketplace.

~ Michael Rewak  
National Project Coordinator



**Clock Tower Project**

There is a non-functioning clock tower on the north-west side of Weil Hall at the University of Florida. Four clocks are painted on the four windows at the top of the tower, representing the four real clocks that will eventually be placed in it. The clock was the original idea of Dr. Theodore Crom, a renowned horologist. Dr. Crom insisted that students of the University of Florida lead the project. Dr. Bloomquist commissioned TBP in the Spring of 2006 to design the real clocks that will be installed into the tower. The clocks are antique pocket watch designs; the Sun and Moon, the Differential Dial, the Metric Dial, and the Wandering Hour Dial.



Clock Tower near Weil Hall

Chi Epsilon, the National Civil Engineering Honor Society had previously designed and built the Tower, installed the painted dials and installed a 1915 Howard Clock Movement. Harry Bell in 2003 designed preliminary AutoCAD drawings for the Wandering Hour Dial. Eric Donnelly, a graduating Electrical Engineering Master’s Degree student designed a “black box” device in 2003 which will operate the clocks. The Spring 2006 group of participants decided to work on finishing the design of the Wandering Hour Dial, the Fall 2006 and Spring 2007 group continued the design.

In Spring 2006 the Clock Tower participants organized the information they were given, decided to work on the Wandering Hour Dial first, and built a to-

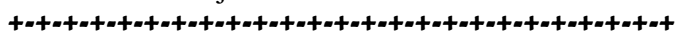
scale model of the dial to help understand the concept. In Fall 2006 the students created three teams which would focus on major parts of the project; an Electrical group, a Design group, and a Structural group. The Electrical group would improve Eric Donnelly's design, the Design group would draw each individual part required to build the Wandering Hour dial and coordinate its fabrication, and the Structural group would make changes to the Tower as appropriate and prepare for the installation of the clock. The design group started the Pro/E design of the Wandering Hour Dial and delivered dimensioned prints to Theodore Crom Jr., the machinist who is volunteering his time to help the project. The electrical group designed ways to modify Eric Donnelly's design to implement a feedback system and a way to monitor the Howard Clock Movement to tell time. The structural group built a replica of the harness which will mount the clock face. The Wandering Hour clock face was delivered by Theodore Crom Jr.



Wandering Hour Dial model

In Spring 2007 the Design team finished the Pro/E design of the Wandering Hour Dial and began working on the Sun and Moon Dial. The electrical team continued their feedback and timing system design. The Structural group built a podium in the center of the tower with a brick facing and a concrete top to raise, support, and honor the Howard Clock Movement. In continuing semesters the remaining clocks will be designed and installed. The group will need to seek outside support to design the gearing boxes for each clock and is looking into that currently.

~ Mark Oden  
 Clock Tower Project Coordinator



**Socials**

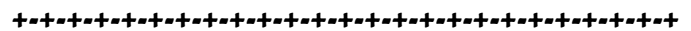


TGI Friday's Social

The TGI Friday's social started off the semester for socials, and the food and service were outstanding. The second social was the Bowling social which took place at the Reitz Union game room. Six bowling lanes and three pool tables were reserved for this social, but it turned out that we only used three lanes and actually rented out more pool tables. The third and largest social of the semester turned out to be the Chili's social which had an attendance of 25 members and electees. Since at the Bowling social there was a high preference in playing pool rather than bowling, a Pool social was held and a miniature tournament took place with much success. The fifth and final social of the semester was an Ice-cream social located on the lawn just outside of the New Engineering Building. Several members and electees came out to enjoy a cold treat on a hot day.

In the coming semesters we plan to host a variety of other socials, including a Skating social, Sports-day social, Lake Wauburg social, Speed-way social, and more. As always, suggestions for socials are more than welcome.

~ Charles Khalil  
 Social Chair



**Service Projects**

This semester's crop of electees and returning members found ways to integrate service projects into their studies. We worked together to build a wheelchair ramp, beautify the neighborhood, redeem abandoned animals, and more.

The most rewarding event was our Wheelchair Ramp Build. A lady in Gainesville was unable to get into her house, so we partnered with Christians Concerned for the Community to install a 54 foot long wheelchair ramp. The volunteers kept building in spite of temperatures in the 50's and pouring rain.



Wheelchair Ramp Build

We also got down and dirty with Keep Alachua County Beautiful. On various Saturdays we met and filled over two dozen bags of trash in Archer and Gainesville.



Community Clean-up

Tau Beta Pi also took care of abandoned pets with the Alachua County Humane Society. We increased the awareness for abused and neglected animals by supporting an Adopt-A-Thon and scouring down cages and trays that pets lived in.

There were many more outreaches. We gave tours for the Gator Engineering Outreach, made Easter Eggs at the Ronald McDonald House, and constructed

housing with Habitat for Humanity. Our electees and members touched our community with gratitude and dedication.

~ Andrew May  
Service Chair

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### Cell Phone Drive

Old cell phones that are no longer being used can now be recycled and put to better use. These cell phones will be refurbished by GMC Wireless and donated to a battered woman's shelter where they can be used to make 911 emergency calls if needed. Tau Beta Pi will receive a check for the amount of donated cell phones in which the money will be donated to a local battered woman's shelter in Gainesville, FL.

With that in mind, if there are any used cell phones that are no longer in use, they can be shipped or dropped off to us at the locations below. Cell phone chargers are not needed as GMC Wireless will take care of reformatting and charging the used phones.

Drop off location: Weil Hall 302

Mailing Address: Tau Beta Pi  
312 Weil Hall  
Gainesville, FL 32611

~ William Goh  
Cell Phone Drive Coordinator

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### Donations

Help support your chapter! If you would like to offer your support to Florida Alpha and the many projects and activities completed each year, please send donations to:

Tau Beta Pi Association  
P.O. Box 2697  
Knoxville, TN 37901-2697

Make all checks payable to Tau Beta Pi and please indicate "For Florida Alpha" on the check so that the donation will be received by our chapter. Also indicate your chapter and class so that National Headquarters may properly credit your giving record.

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