

# STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Student organizations are an outgrowth of student interest and serve the needs of a variety of students. Many provide programs that supplement the classroom experience and extend into areas of service for the community. All provide learning and leadership training for participating students.

There are over 260 registered student organizations on the UK campus. For further information regarding campus student organizations and activities, contact the Student Organizations Center, 106 Student Center, (859) 257-1099.

Student organizations that are typically of interest to Civil Engineering students are included in this Handbook. They include: American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA), American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Chi Epsilon (Civil Engineering Honorary), Institute for Transportation Engineers (ITE), the Kentucky Society of Professional Engineers (KSPE), the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), and Tau Beta Pi (Engineering Honorary).

## **AMERICAN ROAD AND TRANSPORTATION BUILDERS ASSOCIATION STUDENT CHAPTER (Professor Donn Hancher, Faculty Advisor)**

The University of Kentucky Student Chapter of the American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) is an organization that is open to all undergraduate and graduate civil engineers. ARTBA allows all students interested in the transportation industry to develop relationships, which will extend into their careers. The University of Kentucky Chapter provides forums and field trips where speakers can relate their experience and knowledge to the chapter members. The ultimate goal of this organization is to promote the transportation industry.

## **AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS STUDENT CHAPTER (Professor Donn Hancher, Faculty Advisor)**

The University of Kentucky Student Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers is an organization in which membership is open to all civil engineering students. Officers are elected annually on a calendar year basis from the active membership. Nominal annual dues are charged each member to support various chapter activities. Additional support is provided by the Department using alumni donated funds.

The objectives of the Chapter are:

- Encourage the development of a professional consciousness,
- Afford an opportunity for civil engineering students to become acquainted and to practice working together effectively,
- Promote a spirit of collegiality among members, and
- Provide friendly contact with the faculty and the engineering profession.

To achieve these objectives, the Student Chapter sponsors group activities. For example:

- Field trips to civil engineering construction projects, seminars and lectures given by professional engineering personnel (**including the National President of ASCE and the District 9 Director**),
- Academic consultations and discussions among members,
- Intramural athletic games,
- Concrete canoe contest, Steel bridge contest, and
- Other projects based on the interest of the student members.

The student chapter is involved with a number of community service and outreach activities. A joint meeting is held each year with the Bluegrass Branch of ASCE during the spring semester and students are encouraged to attend Branch meetings throughout the year. Four to six officers attend the national ASCE meeting and several student members attend the Zone II Workshop for Student Chapter Leaders each year.

An Ohio Valley Regional Student Chapter Meeting is held each year at the school that hosts the Regional Steel Bridge Building Competition. The UK chapter has hosted three regional meetings since the initiation of the steel bridge competition and most recently hosted the 2003 regional meeting with both the concrete canoe and steel bridge contests. The steel bridge teams have been successful participants in the steel bridge competitions. They have won four out of the past five regional competitions and have competed in three national competitions: University of Florida (1995), State University of New York - Buffalo (1996), and Colorado State University (1998). The concrete canoe team competed in the 2003 National Concrete Canoe competition hosted by Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA.

National student members of the Student Chapter also enjoy all privileges offered by the National ASCE. For example, awards, scholarships, discount on purchasing published professional materials, and discounted group insurance rates. Furthermore, membership initiation fees are waived for National student members upon graduation from the University.

Information concerning the Student Chapter and applications for membership can be obtained from the Officers, the Faculty Advisor of the Chapter, or the CE office.

### **CHI EPSILON** **(Professor Scott Yost, Faculty Advisor)**

Chi Epsilon is a national Civil Engineering honor society founded at the University of Illinois in 1922. The purpose of Chi Epsilon is to identify the characteristics of the individual Civil Engineer that are fundamental to the successful pursuit of an engineering career and to aid in the development of these characteristics in civil engineering students. Conferring membership on them honors graduate students and faculty. Special recognition is given to outstanding Civil Engineers by elevation to Chapter Honor Member or National Honor Member. The University of Kentucky

chapter of Chi Epsilon received its national charter in May 1962 and has hosted the bi-annual National Chi Epsilon Conclave on two occasions, most recently in 1996.

Student membership is opened to junior or senior Civil Engineering students who have completed at least three civil engineering courses. A student classified as a junior must be in the top fifth of the class and a student classified as a senior must be in the top quarter of the class.

Chi Epsilon annually presents the outstanding junior, senior and faculty awards. The students conduct nominations for these awards and elections. The engraved plaque awards are presented at the Engineering College Awards Banquet held during the spring semester. The chapter also honors one of the department's outstanding alumni each semester, which provides an opportunity for the members to become acquainted with many successful practicing engineers.

## **INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS STUDENT CHAPTER**

**(Professor Nick Stamatiadis, Faculty Advisor)**

The University of Kentucky Student Chapter of the Institute of Transport Engineers (UK-ITE) was organized in 1965, authorized by ITE National headquarters in 1969, and was chartered in 1974. Members usually belong to the Student Chapter of ASCE.

UK-ITE members automatically become international ITE members, receive the national ITE Journal, and participate in such transportation related activities as:

- Visits with practicing traffic and transportation engineers at city, state, and national levels for review of current research, design, maintenance and operations activities;
- Talks on campus by practicing engineers concerning career guidance, problems, and prospects for young engineers in the transportation milieu;
- College of Engineering open house, group and individual projects and presentations; and
- Special studies aimed at familiarization with current traffic and transportation activities such as traffic flow (Covington downtown, Dixie Highway, Richmond Rd. Lexington), parking for sporting events (Commonwealth Stadium), and traffic impact studies for new developments (Fayette Mall expansion, Wal-Mart stores, etc.).

Student program planners normally arrange social and professional events and attendance at Kentucky Division and Southern Section ITE meetings with practicing engineers during each year. Membership is open to any Civil Engineering student. Information concerning the student chapter and applications for membership can be obtained from the officers or the faculty advisor of UK-ITE.

The UK-ITE student chapter has also been involved in outreach activities sponsoring clothes and food drives for various organizations and members have made presentations to high school students regarding civil engineering education.

## **KENTUCKY SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS STUDENT CHAPTER**

**(Professor Srinivasa Lingireddy, Faculty Advisor)**

The Kentucky Society of Professional Engineers is the only professional society in Kentucky whose membership is drawn from all of the engineering disciplines. The student chapter of the Society therefore is open to all students enrolled in the College of Engineering. The U.K. organization is affiliated with the Bluegrass Chapter of the State organization. Members of the student chapter meet several times a year with the Bluegrass Chapter at luncheons and other events. This gives students an opportunity to hear and meet with professional engineers as they discuss events that occur in their practices.

Another major event made available to 20 of the KSPE student chapter members each year is the KSPE Leadership/Management Seminar for Engineering Students in Kentucky. The seminar familiarizes engineering students with the professional aspects of engineering including interpersonal relationships, management, leadership, professional attitudes and behavior, goal setting, career objectives, and understanding the impact of these concepts on one's career development. These objectives are achieved through lecture, example, and student participation. Activities run from Friday night through Sunday noon, including scheduled breaks, meals, and group exercises. All sessions are held at Park Mammoth Resort. All meals (including dinner Friday evening) and accommodations are included in the fee of \$60.00, the College subsidizes each participating KSPE student chapter member \$30 for the seminar. Sixteen practicing professional engineers conduct the two-day seminar.

## **SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS STUDENT CHAPTER**

**(Ms. Sue Scheff, Advisor)**

The Society of Women Engineers is the professional organization for graduate women engineers, women with equivalent engineering experience in the United States, and women engineering students. It is a nonprofit, educational, service organization dedicated to making known the need for women engineers and encouraging young women to consider engineering as a profession. The specific objectives of the Society are to:

- Inform young women, their parents, counselors, and the general public of the qualifications and achievements of women engineers and the opportunities open to them,
- Assist women engineers in preparing themselves for a return to active work after temporary retirement,
- Serve as a center of information on United States women in engineering, and
- Encourage women engineers to attain high levels of educational and professional achievement.

SWE student sections have been chartered by many colleges, universities, and engineering institutions, including the University of Kentucky College of Engineering.

## **TAU BETA PI**

**(Professor D. Bhattacharyya (CME), Faculty Advisor)**

“...to mark in a fitting manner those who have conferred honor upon their Alma Mater by Distinguished scholarship and exemplary character as undergraduates in engineering...” That is what Edwin Higginson Williamson, Jr. had in mind when he founded the Tau Beta Pi Association in 1885 at Lehigh University. For years Phi Beta Kappa had conferred honor upon outstanding graduates in the field of liberal arts and sciences. Dr. Williamson thought that such recognition was needed for outstanding scholars in engineering, and thus Tau Beta Pi was founded.

Since that time, Tau Beta Pi chapters have increased in number until today there are 134 active chapters that have initiated 158,000 members. The chapter at the University of Kentucky (Kentucky Alpha) was established in 1902. It was then the eighth chapter in the nation. Kentucky Alpha has been active ever since, except for two years near the end of World War II.

Tau Beta Pi, like Phi Beta Kappa, is an honor society, and requirements for membership are stringent. Only the upper one-eighth of the junior class and upper one-fifth of the senior class are eligible for membership.

Tau Beta Pi sponsors an Engineering Awards Banquet each year in the spring semester along with the other honor societies in engineering. New members of all the honor societies are recognized and honored during this banquet, one of the highlights of each year.

Tau Beta Pi and Kentucky Alpha have much to offer the individual student. All incoming engineering students should consider attaining membership in Tau Beta Pi as one of their goals and make every effort to qualify for membership.