



*The Tau Beta Pi Association was founded at Lehigh University in 1885 by Edward Higginson Williams Jr. to mark in a fitting manner those who have conferred honor upon their Alma Mater by distinguished scholarship and exemplary character as students in engineering, or by their attainments as alumni in the field of engineering, and to foster a spirit of liberal culture in engineering colleges.*  
—Preamble to the Constitution

COUNCIL'S CORNER



**I**N OCTOBER 1994, NEW YORK NU HOSTED OUR NATIONAL Convention at locations in Buffalo and on campus at SUNY at Buffalo. Six young delegates arrived together to represent Florida Alpha. At the end of Saturday's Convention events, the six clambered into a car with a new friend, a delegate from Detroit. The seven headed for the Canadian border. The good earth was in spectacular form that day. The seven splashed under Bridal Veil Falls and ran to the Canadian side to view Niagara Falls at the cusp of the night. Their adventure continued on the homeward trek as, entering the U.S. border, they were detained by INS. At 1:00 a.m., two hours of interrogation started because of a unified burst of laughter at the border agent's question, "Is any one in the vehicle coming back with over \$10,000 in cash or merchandise." The seven quickly realized that on-duty INS agents do not appreciate ironic comedy.

This 13-year-old memory brings on a smile still. I was one of those seven. Some parts are vivid like yesterday, while other areas are misty. I don't recall the name of the other delegate who joined our Florida Alpha "Canada Adventurers' Club." Frankly, I am not truly sure he was from Detroit. It's like a missing-person report filed by an amnesiac—only bits and pieces of the full collage remain after all this time.

Emails are lost, computers crash, cell phones die. There are many other Tau Beta Pi alumni with similar fantastic memories of Convention adventures. Is there a way to find again the awesome people we met?

Tau Beta Pi was asked by the 2007 Convention to explore providing all alumni with permanent email addresses because membership to our Association is for life. The logistics of supporting a possible 400,000 emails is an Everest of a logistical challenge. Another possible avenue the Executive Council explored is the use of an exclusive member network, similar to LinkedIn and Facebook. Following some discussion with Affinity Circles, Inc., Tau Beta Pi now proudly announces its own unique **TBPCONNECT**.

Many other alumnus associations are looking at this ilk of online networking communities to serve as a user friendly and secure environment to link alumni and students. **TBP-CONNECT** has the basic capability to store data about your confirmed friends, to send messages to other members, and to notify group members of events like an initiation ceremony or a wedding. Tau Beta Pi also sees the use of an




exclusive network environment as an efficient way for alumni to assist with posting job openings, finding keynote speakers for banquets, calling volunteers for community service, and notifying alumni of the Fall Convention or a Spring Conference in their area. There are a myriad more uses that our online network community will provide.

**TBPCONNECT** is operating now and ready to welcome any student or alumnus member wanting to join the leaders in our network. To participate in this wonderful free member-exclusive network, visit [www.tbp.org](http://www.tbp.org). On the Members page, there is a link to the **TBPCONNECT** community. Look for the globe with a blue swoosh logo. Please login using your class year, update your email address, add your photo, post your engineering cartoons in your album, play around the site, join your *alma mater* chapter group, and find and invite other Tau Bates to join the 2,000 of us already there. This is the start of a collective energy force with focus on fun and continued strengthening of our great Association.

If the 1994 National Convention cohort to the Florida Alpha delegates reads this article, find me inside **TBPCONNECT**. It will be great to see all Tau Bates inside **TBPCONNECT**.

—Solange C. Dao, P.E., Florida Alpha '95, Vice President

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS  THE BENT**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_ Effective date of new address: \_\_\_\_\_

New City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

*Email information to: [addresschange@tbp.org](mailto:addresschange@tbp.org)*  
*Or complete this form and mail to: Tau Beta Pi / P.O. Box 2697 / Knoxville, TN 37901-2697*