

**The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University**

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# How Can the Engineering College Best Inculcate a Professional Attitude In the Engineering Student?

## A PRIZE-WINNING TAU BETA PI ESSAY

By **ELGAR P. BROWN**

At the very beginning of his course of study the engineering student should be impressed with the fact that he is striving for membership in an established profession. He should obtain this feeling as a result of studying under the guidance of those who are already established in engineering work. In the College of Engineering the members of the faculty are the engineers with whom the student is most closely associated. Faculty members may be the only engineers with whom many students have contact early in the course of study. It is the duty of each and every faculty member to demonstrate to the student by word and deed that he is about to earn membership in an interesting, honorable and useful profession.

The engineering student must realize too, that society is composed not only of engineers but also of bankers, lawyers, politicians, farmers and people in many other walks of life. Toward this end the engineering college should encourage active participation in extra curricular activities. An engineer, in order to avoid becoming a human machine, must take his rightful place as an active and progressive citizen of the community in which he lives. Extra curricular activities offer those who participate valuable citizenship training. However, it might be unwise to give college credit for extra curricular work as the student should learn to develop community interests without too much thought of immediately resultant personal gain.

The engineering student should be encouraged to join and maintain membership in the student branch of the professional society of the branch of engineering that he is studying. The society should, in turn, have as speakers at meetings men that are prominent in their profession. The professional attitude may be fostered in the student by such contacts.

Each student in engineering should read the leading professional magazines of his field regularly. The faculty can encourage this by assigning specific articles for review or abstract as a part of the regular curriculum in connection with courses that are related to the articles. This work should be planned in such a manner as to develop within the student a genuine interest in

the different publications in his field so that he will continue to read appropriate professional literature after graduation. He should also be encouraged to read books and magazines of a liberal nature whether or not they are directly related to his work.

Finally, the engineering course should be lengthened to five years instead of the present four years, in order that the student might have the opportunity to go to school carrying the normal university schedule and have ample time for the things outlined heretofore and with sufficient time to spare for an adequate and well balanced social life.

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### TAU BETA PI

The annual winter initiation of Tau Beta Pi was held Friday, December 8 at the Faculty Club. The student members initiated were Elgar Brown, C.E., Felice J. Celli, Ch.E., J. L. McClellan, M.E., Richard Hang, Ch.E., E. G. Kohli, Mine E., Anthony Miele, M.E., Arch G. Robison, Ch.E., and Jack Taylor, E.E. Eric Lindahl, M.E. of the Mechanical Engineering Department was initiated as a faculty member.

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You can lead a chemical engineer to water, but why disappoint him.

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