

# IN THE COLLEGES

Tau Bates having an impact at institutions of higher learning.

## David A. Bader Ph.D.

Pennsylvania Alpha '90

David was inducted into the Mimms Museum of Technology & Art Hall of Fame and received the Heatherington Award for Technological Innovation. A distinguished professor at NJIT, he revolutionized computing by designing the first commodity-based supercomputer, which established Linux-based systems and his work led to creating the first Linux supercomputer for open scientific use.



## Patsy D. Brackin Ph.D., P.E.

Tennessee Alpha '74

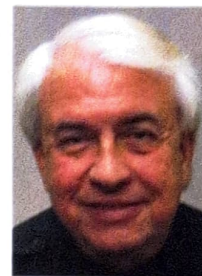
Patsy received the 2024 Kate Gleason Award from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Foundation in recognition of contributions by a distinguished female leader in the eng'g profession. At Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology (IN), she's a professor and Engineering Design program director. Established in 2018, the program received ABET's Innovation Award in 2024.



## Michael A. Ferrante

Florida Beta '75

Michael was honored as the AlumKnight Leadership and Service volunteer at the 2025 University of Central Florida Awards. He serves as FL Beta Chapter Chief Advisor and retired in 2013 as a senior systems engineer from the Naval Air Warfare Center. Michael worked at NAVAIR since 1975 as a program manager and engineer on simulation & live system development projects.



**SPOTLIGHT: CEOs Call for Computer Science Graduation Requirement** — "In the age of AI, we must prepare our children for the future — to be AI creators, not just consumers." This was part of an open letter, published by the nonprofit CS for All that 250+ CEOs recently signed. Currently, only 12 U.S. states require students to learn computer science basics and roughly 6.4% of high school students take computer science courses annually, according to the Computer Science Teachers Association. The letter also cited a widening skills and income gap, stating that "A basic foundation in computer science and AI is crucial for helping every student thrive in a technology-driven world." DoorDash CEO **Tony X. Xu**, CA A '07, and Uber CEO **Dara Khosrowshahi**, RI A '91, were listed as signers.

**Gift to Wayne State Focuses on Engineering** — A \$50 million gift to Wayne State University (WSU) to accelerate research, entrepreneurship, and student success in the College of Engineering was recently made by **James A. Anderson**, MI E '66, and his wife, Patricia. In recognition of this historic investment, the college will be renamed the James and Patricia Anderson College of Engineering. Jim is president and CEO of Urban Science, an automotive consultancy and technology firm and a two-time WSU graduate with B.S. (civil eng'g) and M.S. (MechE) degrees. Aiming to continue creating new opportunities for high-paying STEM careers and fostering innovation, the gift will also provide support for faculty, doctoral fellowships, mobility & energy storage research, and recruitment at WSU.

## Andrea J. Goldsmith Ph.D.

California Alpha '86

Andrea was named the seventh president of Stony Brook University (NY), effective August 1. Most recently, she's been dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science at Princeton Univ. Her research interests include communications, control & signal processing, and their applications to wireless communications, and biomedical devices. Andrea authored the book "Wireless Communications" in 2005.



## Gary S. Ledley MD

Maryland Alpha '78

Gary was awarded the William Likoff Clinical Excellence Award from Drexel University College of Medicine, where he is a professor. Gary also serves as the regional director of Clinical Cardiology Services, Tower Health, at Phoenixville Hospital and Pittstown Hospital. The award recognizes a faculty member who serves as a role model through professionalism, ethics & diagnostic acumen in the practice of medicine.



## Joel "Alex" Mejia Ph.D.

Texas Theta '07

Alex was appointed as head of the University of Cincinnati Dept. of Engineering and Computing Education. He arrives from the University of Texas at San Antonio, where he served as an associate professor of biomedical & chemical engineering and in the dept. of bicultural-bilingual studies. His work has significantly contributed to the understanding of bilingualism and broadening participation in eng'g spaces.





**George A. Nnanna** Ph.D., P.E.  
*Texas Eta '01*

George will serve as founding director of the new School of Engineering at University of Missouri-St. Louis. He previously served as founding dean of the College of Engineering at the Univ. of Texas Permian Basin and recently as the director of its Texas Water and Energy Institute. His research expertise includes topics such as the development of plasmonic metasurface nanostructures.



**José R. Sánchez** Ph.D.  
*Illinois Delta '00*

José was named the next dean of Purdue University Northwest's College of Engineering and Sciences. Previously, he was at Merrimack College (MA), where he served as dean of the School of Science and Engineering and founding dean of the School of Engineering and Computational Sciences. José has three degrees in electrical and computer eng'g, B.S. and M.S. from Bradley Univ., and a Ph.D. from UIUC.



**William H. Sanders** Ph.D.  
*Illinois Alpha '83*

Bill will become Rochester Institute of Technology's eleventh president beginning July 1. He's been Carnegie Mellon University's dean, College of Engineering since 2020, has 37 years of experience in academia, and spent 25 years as a tenured professor at the University of Illinois. Bill has three degrees from the Univ. of Michigan, including a B.S. in computer engineering.



**FACILITIES: New building for lasers at Colorado State University** — Construction has started on a powerful new laser research facility located on Colorado State University's (CSU) Foothills Campus. The facility is the combined result of 40 years of laser development research at CSU in partnership with the U.S. Dept. of Energy's Fusion Energy Sciences program in the Office of Science and a strategic \$150 million public-private partnership with industry leader Marvel Fusion that launched in 2023. To be known as the Advanced Technology Lasers for Applications and Science (ATLAS) Facility, plans are for it to be completed by 2026. A major topic of research will be laser-driven fusion as a viable clean energy source and support for interdisciplinary work into topics like medicine.

**Syracuse Advanced Semiconductor Manufacturing Center** — Plans have been announced to launch the Syracuse University Center for Advanced Semiconductor Manufacturing, an interdisciplinary center that will bring together expertise in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, manufacturing processes, optimization, and robotics to advance the science of semiconductor manufacturing. The center will be funded through an investment from the University, as well as a \$10 million grant from Onondaga County. The new center is part of a more than \$100 million investment in transforming STEM and expanding the College of Engineering and Computer Science. The state-of-the-art teaching and research facility will replicate an autonomous-advanced manufacturing floor enabling research & design.

**Steven Schreiner** Ph.D., P.E.  
*Massachusetts Iota '86*

Steven was selected as the inaugural dean of the College of Charleston's School of Engineering, Computing, and Mathematics. Most recently, he served as provost and VP for academic affairs and professor of electrical and computer eng'g at Manhattan College, where he was also a NY Xi Chapter advisor. An engineering education & research leader, Steven has a biomedical eng'g Ph.D. and was a neurosurgery research fellow.



**Kimberly R. Stillmaker**  
Ph.D., P.E. *California Rho '08*

Kimberly received the Wang Family Award for Outstanding Faculty Innovator in Student Success from the California State Univ. She is an associate professor and Director of the Lyles College of Engineering's Foundations for Success program at the California State Univ., Fresno, which focuses on improving outcomes for first and second year eng'g students. Kimberly is a TBII Fellow, Scholar, and served as a D15 Director from 2010-15.



**Neel U. Sukhatme** Ph.D., J.D.  
*Illinois Alpha '01*

Neel was appointed Dean of Law at the University of Michigan Law School, effective July 1. He joins from Georgetown University Law Center, where he has been associate dean for research and academic programs since 2023. Neel is recognized for his research on felony disenfranchisement, which has had significant policy implications, and earned a computer eng'g B.S. from the Univ. of Illinois (UIUC).

