



K A P P A T A U A L P H A NEWSLETTER

National Society Honoring Scholarship in Journalism and Mass Communication

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Convention Issue

KTA celebrates 100th birthday

Kappa Tau Alpha's year-long observance of its 100th anniversary continues at the Denver convention.

A highlight of the year will be a convention panel Thursday afternoon entitled "Kappa Tau Alpha Centennial: Celebrating the Scholarly Life," featuring outstanding scholars who will talk about the rewards and challenges of a life of intellectual inquiry and about their experiences working with undergraduate and graduate students who light up the classroom and, from there, the industry and the academy. Panelists include Maurine Beasley, Jay Black, Esther Thorson, Donald Shaw and David Weaver. The panel, which will be held at 3:15 p.m. Thursday, is co-sponsored by the CTM Division and the Council of Affiliates. Jane Singer, national KTA President, will be the moderator.

KTA members will have a blue ribbon attached to their convention badges reading "KTA 100." All convention registrants will receive a tote bag with KTA

logo.

Special attention to the anniversary will be noted at the annual KTA/AEJMC Awards Luncheon. During the luncheon, the Mott-KTA Research Award will be presented to Clifford Christians and Theodore Glasser on behalf of their co-authors (see article below), Peter Gade will receive the Taft Outstanding Chapter Adviser of the Year Award, and division top student paper authors will receive checks for \$100, a dollar for each of KTA's years.

The anniversary celebration started officially March 10, the founding date, with a luncheon at the University of Missouri, where the Society was founded at the world's first school of journalism. A commemorative plaque noting the founding was presented to R. Dean Mills, dean. William H. Taft, who served as KTA executive director for 30 years before retiring in 1991, was a guest of honor. The tradition of a KTA Lecture was renewed

with Singer speaking on "Journalism Ethics and Structural Change." The lecture was webcast live and can be accessed at www.rjionline.org.

All members initiated into KTA in 2010 will receive special 100th anniversary notation on their certificates.

Campus chapters celebrated the anniversary in a variety of ways, from special recognitions at induction ceremonies to notations on commencement programs to guest speakers to inviting alumni to attend initiation. Eastern Illinois University chose the occasion to name its chapter after its founder, Howard Price.

Although most of the 93 chapters have initiated for the year, the anniversary observance will continue by those that initiate in the fall.

KTA is the seventh oldest national college honor society. It has been a member of the Association of College Honor Societies since 1951.

'Normative Theories' wins Mott Award

Building on the well-known and much discussed 1956 *Four Theories of the Press*, Clifford Christians, Theodore Glasser, Denis McQuail, Kaarle Nordenstreng and Robert A. White in *Normative Theories of the Media: Journalism in Democratic Societies* develop an up-to-date and more relevant and useful way to think about media roles.

Their collaboration has won the Frank Luther Mott - Kappa Tau Alpha Research Award for the best scholarly book of 2009 about journalism/mass communication.

"This book is virtually certain to be a new foundation for the considerations of normative theory," writes Jane B. Singer (Iowa), KTA president and a finalist judge. "The authors are leaders in our field, and they have turned their formidable collective brainpower to an overdue reconceptualization of a fundamental topic for our discipline: the role of journalism in a democracy. As might be expected, they do it very, very well." The book is published by the University of Illinois Press.

The authors develop four social roles for news media to deal with what they see as the central issues today: Monitorial, Facilitative, Radical and Collaborative. The roles are not exhaustive, the authors advise, but "these relate to the transparency of society and flow of information within it; the facilitating of social and political processes; the critical role for communications media that has to be fulfilled independently of vested interests and established institutions; and the collaboration, or not, of media with authority."

Other finalists were Susan A. Brewer's *Why America Fights: Patriotism and War Propaganda from the Philippines to Iraq* (Oxford University Press); Ralph Engelman's *Friendlyvision: Fred Friendly & the Rise and Fall of Television Journalism* (Columbia University Press); and Adam Tuchinsky's *Horace Greeley's New-York Tribune: Civil War-Era Socialism and the Crisis of Free Labor* (Cornell University Press).

Gade named top chapter adviser

Peter Gade (University of Oklahoma) is the 2010 William H. Taft Chapter Adviser of the Year.

The award, named after the former executive director who served the society for 30 years until retiring in 1991, will be presented at the KTA/AEJMC Awards Luncheon Aug. 5 in Denver.

"Thanks to Peter's steadfast

devotion, KTA has a priority place in our graduation week activities," writes Joe Foote, dean of the Gaylord College at Oklahoma.

Gade is Journalism Area Head at Oklahoma, where he is Gaylord Family Professor. He is the co-author of *Twilight of Press Freedom: The Rise of People's Journalism*. He has served as chapter

adviser since 2001. He received his Ph.D. at the University of Missouri. He will become national vice-president after the convention.

He is the 26th recipient of the award. Previous winners, most recent first, are: Joe Campbell (American), Margaret Patterson (Duquesne), Al Stavitsky (Oregon), Mark Popovich (Ball State), Jane Singer (Iowa), William Click (Winthrop), Karen List (U-Mass), James Whitfield (LA-Monroe), Tony Rimmer (Cal State-Fullerton), Sam Riley (Virginia Tech), Thomas Schwartz (Ohio State), Emmanuel Onyedike (Hampton), Gil Fowler (Arkansas State), Milt Holstein (Utah), Luther Sanders (Arkansas at Little Rock), George Abney (Georgia), Marion Marzolf (Michigan), Whitney Mundt (Louisiana State), Daniel Pfaff (Penn State), David Sloan (Alabama), Earl Conn (Ball State), Jack Sissors (Northwestern), Taft (Missouri), Lucas Staudacher (Marquette) and Quintus Wilson (Northern Illinois).

Honor Societies promote excellence in scholarship

Honor societies have existed in the United States since the founding of Phi Beta Kappa in 1776. They exist primarily to recognize the attainment of scholarship and leadership of a superior quality. To the degree that they make such recognition a thing to be coveted, they encourage students to strive toward meeting high standards.

The Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS) is the coordinating agency for collegiate honor societies. Its objective is to maintain high standards for the recognition and promotion of academic excellence in higher education. Membership in the Association of College Honor Societies is a certification that an honor society has met high standards. On its web site, ACHS (www.achsnaat.org) provides a list of criteria on "How to Judge the Credibility of an Honor Society." ACHS was founded in 1925 and has 67 member societies.

Kappa Tau Alpha is the seventh oldest national college honor society.

Membership is by invitation only by one of the Society's 93 campus chapters and is based solely on scholarship and character.

Only students majoring in journalism or mass communication are eligible.

Juniors, seniors and graduate students must rank in the upper 10 percent of their class (based on overall GPA). Outstanding doctoral students also may be eligible. Chapters may set higher standards for membership.

Chapters are located at four-year degree-granting institutions accredited by the appropriate regional agency (e.g., New England Association of Colleges) that offer a major in journalism or mass communication.

For more information about KTA, including how to apply for a chapter, see www.KappaTauAlpha.org

Missouri, Illinois leaders key to KTA development

Soon after the Missouri School of Journalism's first year, faculty members led by Dean Walter Williams sought a method to recognize the work of outstanding students. The first meeting of Kappa Tau Alpha was held March 10, 1910. Minutes indicate that grades were to be the only prerequisite for admission.

A second chapter was established in 1925 at the University of Illinois under the leadership of journalism director Lawrence W. Murphy.

Prof. Murphy led a nationalization drive that culminated in a December, 1930 meeting during the annual meeting of the American Association of Teachers of Journalism, forerunner of AEJMC. Murphy was elected president and served until 1935 when J.L. O'Sullivan of Marquette succeeded him. Frank L. Martin of Missouri followed in 1936 and Frank Luther Mott of Iowa served 1937-1939. Mott later moved to Missouri where he established a permanent national headquarters and served as secretary from 1944 to 1962.



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