



# 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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## Losing Pravda wins research award

Once upon a time, Russian journalists had a social compact with their readers: Their work would convey the truth of a situation and promote justice. Amid the economic and political tumult of the past 25 years, however, that commitment faltered.

That's the argument independent scholar Natalia Roudakova makes in *Losing Pravda: Ethics and the Press in Post-Truth Russia*. Her book is this year's winner of the Frank Luther Mott/Kappa Tau Alpha Research Award. The award honors the best book on journalism and mass communication based on original research published in 2017.

Roudakova draws upon moral and political theory, as well as ethnographic fieldwork in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia, to explain and evaluate journalism practices in Soviet and post-Soviet Russia.

"Roudakova presents a challenge to both



ROUDAKOVA

the traditional Cold War, oversimplified view of the Soviet-era press and the transformation and the privatization she claims 'prostituted' journalists as they lost status and had financial dependency upon owners," said Jeff Fruit, president of Kappa Tau Alpha and a contest judge.

As Roudakova examines ethics in journalism in the context of truth-telling and truth-seeking, her book is relevant in considering challenges to the role of journalism in the United States as its economic model has been disrupted and its legitimacy challenged, Fruit said.

Roudakova is a cultural anthropologist working in political communication and comparative media studies. The book was published by Cambridge University Press.

The award is in honor of Mott, a Pulitzer Prize-winner, educator and longtime leader of Kappa Tau Alpha, the national college honor society for journalism and mass communication. The competition has been held annually since 1944.

Other finalists were Michael Clay Carey for *The News Untold: Community Journalism and the Failure to Confront Poverty in Appalachia*; Julia Guarneri for *Newsprint Metropolis: City Papers and the Making of Modern Americans*; Aynne Kokas for *Hollywood Made in China*; and Michael McCluskey, *News Framing of School Shootings*.

The competition deadline for books with a 2018 copyright is Dec. 9, 2018. For more information and a list of previous winners, go to [kappataualpha.org](http://kappataualpha.org) and click on Awards.

## Missouri's Volz wins 34th KTA adviser of year award

University of Missouri Professor Emeritus Keith Sanders says he was blown away the first time he witnessed Yong Volz lead a Kappa Tau Alpha initiation ceremony at MU.

The elegant ceremony includes a PowerPoint with a thumbnail bio on every inductee and historical photographs of the MU chapter. Students and their family members get a good sense of what an honor KTA membership is.

This year, Volz, a journalism professor at Missouri, is being honored as the 34th recipient of the William H. Taft Outstanding Adviser Award during the annual convention of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

Sanders and his successor as KTA's executive director, Beverly Horvit, have both shared Volz's techniques and recruitment materials with other KTA advisers as exemplars.

"Yong is very deserving of this award," Horvit said. "Her efforts create another memorable moment for the students and their families during graduation weekend."

This spring, Volz helped initiate 44 students into KTA. Horvit was unable to attend the ceremony because of her own son's graduation in Virginia and asked Sanders to announce the award instead. He was more than happy to help.

Volz has served as the adviser for Kappa Tau Alpha at MU since 2012.

"I am privileged to serve as the adviser to help celebrate the achievements of our brightest and most hard-working students," Volz said.

Volz has been teaching at the Missouri School of



NATE BROWN

Professor Emeritus Keith Sanders congratulates Yong Volz for being named the KTA adviser of the year at the University of Missouri's spring initiation ceremony.

Journalism for 13 years. She was the 2017 recipient of MU Alumnae Anniversary Faculty Award. Earlier this year, she was named a 2018-19 fellow for AEJMC's Institute for Diverse Leadership in Journalism and Communication.

As a researcher, Volz has written about such issues as the impact of the 9/11 attack on Americans'

reception of foreign-language films, and social stratification and the ultra-elite of U.S. foreign correspondents.

Although Kappa Tau Alpha's national headquarters is based at the University of Missouri, an MU adviser has not won the Taft award since 1987.

# Arkansas State's Hall to lead Kappa Tau Alpha

Holly Kathleen Hall, of Arkansas State, will become the 45th president of Kappa Tau Alpha on Sept. 1.

Hall, an associate professor of strategic communication, succeeds Jeff Fruit, of Kent State, who served from 2016-2018.

"I am indebted to Jeff and Holly for their steady, thoughtful leadership during KTA's transition to a new executive director," said Beverly Horvit, who succeeded longtime Executive Director Keith Sanders in March 2017.

Hall previously served as vice president. The newly elected vice president is Edward L. Carter, director of the School of Communications at Brigham Young University. Horvit was re-elected executive director/treasurer.

Hall has served as the Kappa Tau Alpha adviser for the Arkansas State chapter since 2009 and received a chapter adviser research grant in 2011 to conduct interviews in London for a research project on "super-injunctions" and Twitter.

She has been published in *Visual*



HALL

Relations Society of America. She received her J.D. at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She was initiated into KTA in 1994.

Carter occasionally engages in legal consulting and represents news media clients and others in federal and state courts. Previously, Carter worked as a journalist writing for newspapers in Utah, Illinois and Mexico. He completed a postgraduate degree in International Human Rights Law at the University of Oxford, holds an LL.M. (master of laws) degree, with distinction, in Intellectual Property from the University of Edinburgh School of Law and received a J.D. from the BYU J. Reuben Clark Law School. He also

*Communications Quarterly, Communication Law and Policy and Communication Law Review*, and has contributed chapters regarding social media to four books. Before joining the ASU faculty, Hall worked in public relations for 10 years and is accredited in public relations by the Public

holds a master's degree from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University and a bachelor's degree in communications from BYU.

He served as a law clerk for Judge Ruggero J. Aldisert of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit from 2003-04. Carter's academic research focuses on intellectual property and freedom of expression in U.S. and international law. As an undergraduate, he was inducted into KTA, and he has served as the BYU chapter adviser of KTA for 11 years. He received the national KTA Adviser of the Year award in 2016.

Horvit is an assistant professor professional practice at the Missouri School of Journalism, where she earned her Ph.D. She coordinates the school's introductory news-writing course and teaches international journalism. She served as KTA chapter adviser at Texas Christian University for four years. She has a B.A. from Southern Methodist University and a master's from Missouri, where she was inducted into KTA in 1997.

## Three advisers receive research grants

Kappa Tau Alpha awarded three chapter advisers research grants in fall 2017 to help them investigate such topics as a landmark free press-fair trial case, the coverage of gay and lesbian athletes, and the effectiveness of immersive journalism.

Erin Coyle, of Louisiana State University, is using her \$1,000 grant to help fund a historical analysis of the Sheppard v. Maxwell free press-fair trial case. In late 1954, Samuel Sheppard was convicted of killing his wife, Marilyn. In 1966, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Sheppard had not received a fair trial in part because of the extraordinary news coverage of the case. Sheppard was found not guilty at a 1966 retrial.

Coyle recently traveled to Ohio to review court records and news clippings.

"This grant is making it possible for me to explore what those documents reveal about press freedom and ethical responsibilities for members of the press covering a murder trial that received international news coverage in the mid-20th century," Coyle said.

Ivanka Pjesivac, of the University of Georgia, received an \$800 grant to continue her research into virtual reality, also known as



COYLE



PJESIVAC

immersive journalism. She and co-author Sun Joo Ahn will conduct a randomized experiment to evaluate information processing, empathy and news credibility.

They have conducted related studies, "so the KTA-supported one will be a nice follow-up," Pjesivac said.

The third grant recipient, Bill Cassidy, of Northern Illinois, used his \$500 grant to study how, if at all, media coverage has evolved in the eight years between the coming-out announcements made by two basketball stars.



CASSIDY

Cassidy presented a paper based on his research, "Sports Journalism and the Coming-Out Stories of Women Athletes: Sheryl Swoopes and Brittney Griner," at the International Association for Communication and Sport's 11th Summit on Communication and Sport in April in Bloomington, Indiana.

Kappa Tau Alpha began the grant program in 2003. The 2017 grants bring the total awarded to \$27,625.

## IN BRIEF

### Linfield College starts new chapter

Linfield College, based in McMinnville, Oregon, won approval in November 2017 to become the newest Kappa Tau Alpha chapter.

Linfield College is a private, comprehensive undergraduate institution with about 2,300 students. The college is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. Kappa Tau Alpha now has 96 chapters across the United States.

Michael Huntsberger, chairman of the mass communication department, oversaw the school's first initiation ceremony in May. Huntsberger was filling in for KTA adviser Susan Currie Sivek, who was on research leave.

"Membership in KTA honors our students' achievements and reinforces the importance of academic excellence in our discipline," Currie Sivek said.

### Kappa Tau Alpha honors excellence

Kappa Tau Alpha, founded in 1910 at the University of Missouri, is the seventh oldest national college honor society.

Membership is by invitation only by one of the society's 96 campus chapters and is based solely on scholarship and character.

Journalism/mass communication 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.

Faculty with demonstrated excellence in teaching and research may qualify, and individuals whose scholarly qualities have distinguished them in the media may be selected for honorary membership.

Chapters are located at four-year degree-granting institutions accredited by the appropriate regional agency.

Kappa Tau Alpha is an accredited member of the Association of College Honor Societies, which is the coordinating agency for collegiate honor societies. ACHS was founded in 1925 and has 67 member societies.



### The Kappa Tau Alpha Newsletter is published by:

Kappa Tau Alpha, School of Journalism  
University of Missouri  
Columbia, MO 65211-1200  
email: [umcjourta@missouri.edu](mailto:umcjourta@missouri.edu)  
[www.KappaTauAlpha.org](http://www.KappaTauAlpha.org)

### Executive Director:

Beverly Horvit