



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

Fitzpatrick captures Mott Award

Vincent Fitzpatrick's meticulously researched look at Gerald W. Johnson, self-described "disturber of the peace," prolific author and friend of H.L. Mencken has been selected as the Frank Luther Mott / Kappa Tau Alpha Research Award for the best research book in journalism and mass communication published in 2002.

The award is named in honor of Mott, Pulitzer Prize winner, educator and long-time leader of KTA, the National Honor Society in journalism/mass communication. The \$1000 award will be presented Aug. 1 in Kansas City during the annual convention of the Assoc. for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

In *Gerald W. Johnson: From Southern Liberal to National Conscience*, Fitzpatrick paints a detailed word-picture of his subject's rise from regional writer to nationally-known essayist on the important issues of the day. A bold civil libertarian and long time friend of Mencken, Johnson considered himself primarily a journalist

through his work at the *Greensboro Daily News* and the *Baltimore Evening Sun*. He also was a major literary figure with more than 40 books.

"Using voluminous archives, Fitzpatrick writes about an important life in journalism. The writing is superb, and this is first-rate history," noted Thomas Schwartz (Ohio State), one of the finalist judges. "Johnson's varied and interesting career and his impact on southern life deserve the attention Fitzpatrick has given them. This is truly a significant addition to the literature of journalism," wrote J. William Click (Winthrop), another judge.

Fitzpatrick is curator of the H.L. Mencken Collection at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore. The book is published by Louisiana State University Press.

Other finalists were Richard L. Kaplan for *Politics and the American Press: The Rise of Objectivity, 1865-1920*; Steve Reeher, Steve Davis and Larry Elin for *Click on Democracy: the Internet's Power*

to *Change Political Apathy into Civic Action*; and George Sylvie and Patricia D. Witherspoon for *Time, Change and the American Newspaper*.

Preliminary judges were Cheryl Bacon (Abilene Christian), Michael Bishop (Baylor), Joseph Campbell (American), Clarence Cotton (Hampton), David Garlock (Texas-Austin), William Griswold (Georgia), Dennis Hale (Bowling Green), Gracie Lawson-Borders (Southern Methodist) and Alan Stavitsky (Oregon). KTA national officers Click, Schwartz and Keith Sanders (Missouri) served as judges for the finals.

The deadline for books published in 2003 is Dec. 8. Authors/publishers must submit six copies to Keith Sanders, Kappa Tau Alpha, 102 Neff Hall, School of Journalism, University of Missouri, Columbia MO 65211-1200. For more information about the contest, which has been held continuously since 1944, including a list of previous winners, see www.missouri.edu/~ktahq/mott-kta.html

List named Adviser of Year

Karen List has been named William H. Taft Chapter Adviser of the Year.

The award, named after the executive director who served the Society for 30 years until retiring in 1991, will be presented at the Kappa Tau Alpha/AEJMC Awards luncheon Aug. 1 in Kansas City. Dr. Taft will be on hand to make the presentation to Dr. List, who took over the teaching of the legendary History and Principles class at Missouri when he retired.

Dr. List founded the chapter at the University of Massachusetts in 1990 and has been its only adviser. She was elected KTA national president in 1996 and served through 1998. She was named a Freedom Forum Journalism Teacher of the Year in 1998.

Dr. List "has shepherded students through their college careers and many of her top students have become the KTA awardees," wrote Norman Sims, Journalism Department Chair, in his nomination letter. "She understands how to motivate students and she encourages them to produce their very best scholarship."

She was initiated into KTA in 1969 by the University of Missouri. She also has degrees from the University of Wisconsin (Ph.D.) and Penn State University (M.A.).

She is the 19th recipient of the award. Previous winners include: James Whitfield (Louisiana-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

An honor society is defined by the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS) as an association of primarily collegiate members and chapters whose purposes are to encourage and recognize superior scholarship or leadership achievement either in broad fields of education or in departmental fields at either undergraduate or graduate levels.

Honor Societies have existed in the United States since the founding of Phi Beta Kappa in 1776. To meet their objectives, honor societies must define and maintain high standards of eligibility for membership and achieve sufficient status by so doing that membership becomes something to be valued highly.

ACHS was founded in 1925 and has 67

member honor societies with more than 9000 collegiate chapters. For more information, see www.achsnaatl.org

Kappa Tau Alpha, founded in 1910 at the University of Missouri, is one of the oldest honor societies. It has been a member of ACHS since 1951. It is the only journalism/mass communication society so recognized.

Membership requirements

Kappa Tau Alpha is a college honor society that recognizes academic excellence and promotes scholarship. Membership is a mark of high distinction and honor.

Membership is by invitation only by one of the Society's 92 campus chapters and is based solely on scholarship and character.

Only students majoring in journalism or mass communication are eligible. Juniors and seniors must rank in the upper 10 percent of their class (based on overall GPA). Graduate students of superior achievement also may be selected. Chapters may set higher standards for membership.

Chapters are located at four-year degree-granting institutions accredited by the appropriate regional agency (i.e., 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.missouri.edu/~ktahq/

93 years and counting

The Society was founded by Dean Walter Williams at the University of Missouri March 10, 1910, and initiated its first members later that spring.

KTA is the seventh oldest national honor society and has the highest standards for membership (upper 10 percent) of the 67 member groups of the Association of College Honor Societies.

Lawrence Murphy, University of Illinois, was the first president of the national organization. J. William Click, Winthrop University, is the current president.



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Named KTA chapters

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