



# KAPPA TAU ALPHA NEWSLETTER

National Society Honoring Scholarship in Journalism and Mass Communication

Volume 24, No. 2, Summer, 2007  
Convention Issue

## The Race Beat wins Mott Award

Gene Roberts and Hank Klibanoff have won the Frank Luther Mott / Kappa Tau Alpha Research Award for the best book on journalism and mass communication based on original research published in 2006.

The award is in honor of Mott, Pulitzer Prize winner, educator and long-time leader of Kappa Tau Alpha, the national college honor society in journalism and mass communication. The competition has been held annually since 1944. The \$1000 prize will be presented Aug. 10 in Washington, D.C. during the annual convention of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

In *The Race Beat: the Press, the Civil Rights Struggle, and the Awakening of a Nation*, Roberts and Klibanoff trace in vivid detail how the press came to recognize the civil rights movement as one of the major stories of the century. It is a story of courage, by newsmakers and journalists

alike.

"The authors show us how both the region and the nation wrestled with challenges to social norms that had been in place for generations. They show us a movement toward civil liberties that, in hindsight, we forget was never monolithic, never uncontested and never inevitable. They show us how television came of age, how newspapers changed, and how newsmakers learned to recognize and then, quickly, manipulate the power of the press," wrote Jane Singer, one of the judges for the finals.

"This is a stunningly good book. It is beautifully written, exhaustively researched, and critically important to the ongoing story of the media, the South and the nation as a whole," adds Singer.

Roberts is journalism professor at the University of Maryland and has served as executive editor of *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and managing editor of *The New York Times*. Klibanoff is the managing

editor for news at *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and former deputy managing editor of *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. The book is published by Alfred A. Knopf (518 pp.).

Other competition finalists were: Amanda D. Lotz for *Redesigning Women: Television after the Network Era*, Sallie Hughes for *Newsrooms in Conflict: Journalism and the Democratization in Mexico*; Isaiah Wilner for *The Man Time Forgot: a Tale of Genius, Betrayal and the Creation of Time Magazine* and Robert C. Williams for *Horace Greeley: Champion of American Freedom*.

Preliminary judges included 12 KTA chapter advisers, national book reviewer Steve Weinberg and others. The finalists were judged by KTA national officers.

For information about the contest, including a list of previous winners, see [www.KappaTauAlpha.org/mott-kta.html](http://www.KappaTauAlpha.org/mott-kta.html).

## Stavitsky honored as adviser

Alan Stavitsky (University of Oregon) has been named this year's winner of the 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. 10 in Washington, D.C..

Since becoming adviser in 1993, chapter acceptance rates have increased dramatically to vault Oregon to near the top of the list. This spring KTA induction became a signature part of a new awards event the School of Journalism and Communication held the night before spring commencement. Stavitsky organized the event and served as master of ceremonies. Stavitsky is a winner of the university's Ersted teaching award and the School's Marshall Award for Innovative Teaching and a leading scholar in the field of public broadcasting. His use of podcasting in the classroom (the "AI Pod"), which was supported by a university teaching grant, attracted national attention. He also serves the school as associate dean and as director of the George S. Turnbull Center in Portland.

Stavitsky received his Ph.D. from Ohio State University, where he was initiated into KTA.

He is the 23rd recipient of the award. Previous winners include: Mark Popovich (Ball State), Jane B. Singer (Iowa), J. William Click (Winthrop), Karen List (U-Mass.), 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 membership is a certification that

an honor society has met high standards and is legitimate. On its web site ACHS ([www.achsnatl.org](http://www.achsnatl.org)) has a list of criteria on "How to Judge the Credibility of an Honor Society." ACHS was founded in 1925 and has 67 member honor societies.

KTA is the only journalism/mass communication organization recognized by ACHS.

## 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 93 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 (*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](http://www.KappaTauAlpha.org)

## Our 97th anniversary

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. Tony Rimmer, California State University-Fullerton, is the current president.



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

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

### Executive Director:

Keith P. Sanders

## KTA presidents

Lawrence Murphy (Illinois)	1927-1934
J.L. O'Sullivan (Marquette)	1935
Frank L. Martin (Missouri)	1936
Frank Luther Mott (Iowa)	1937-1939
James Pollard (Ohio St.)	1939-1942
Max Grossman (Boston)	1942-1944
Perley I. Reed (West Vir.)	1944-1946
Ralph L. Crossman (Colo.)	1946-1948
George Simmons (Tulane)	1948-1950
William Swindler (Neb.)	1950-1952
Frederic Merwin (Rutgers)	1952-1954
Wesley Maurer (Michigan)	1954-1956
Quintus C. Wilson (Utah)	1956-1958
John E. Drewry (Georgia)	1958-1960
L.J. Hortin (Ohio)	1960-1962
A.L. Higginbotham (Nev.)	1962-1964
E.L. Callihan (SMU)	1964-1966
Warren C. Price (Oregon)	1966-1967
John Paul Jones (Florida)	1967-1969
Nathan Blumberg (Mont.)	1969-1970
C.S. McCarthy (Duquesne)	1970-1972
Al Scroggins, Jr. (S Car.)	1972-1974
Oliver Smith (Brig. Young)	1974-1976
Norris G. Davis (Texas)	1976-1978
Paul Peterson (Ohio State)	1978-1980
Guy Stewart (West Vir.)	1980-1982
Earl L. Conn (Ball State)	1982-1984
Bill Ross (Texas Tech)	1984-1986
George Crutchfield (VCU)	1986-1988
Milton Holstein (Utah)	1988-1990
George Everett (Tenn.)	1990-1992
George Abney (Georgia)	1992-1994
William Ryan (Syracuse)	1994-1996
Karen K. List (UMass)	1996-1998
David Sloan (Alabama)	1998-2000
Gilbert Fowler (Ark. St)	2000-2002
William Click (Winthrop)	2002-2004
Thomas Schwartz (Ohio S)	2004-2006
Tony Rimmer (CS Fuller.)	2006-2008