

October 2018  
New Series 10.2



# Theta Alpha Kappa

The National Honor Society for Religious Studies and Theology

## *The President's Newsletter*

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[www.thetaalphakappa.net](http://www.thetaalphakappa.net)

## Annual Meeting of Theta Alpha Kappa

### AAR/SBL, Denver, Colorado

### 6:00 PM, November 18, 2018

### Grand Hyatt - Mt. Columbia (Third Level)



The Fall season calls to mind pumpkin spice as well as Theta Alpha Kappa's Annual Meeting which takes place during the upcoming AAR/SBL meeting in Denver. Chapter Representatives, you are all heartily encouraged to attend. At this meeting, as required by our Constitution, we elect new officers, conduct the business of the society, and recognize the recipient of the annual Connolly-Weinert Leader of the Year Award: L. D. Russell (Elon College). A reception will begin at 6:00 and continue after the business meeting until 7:30 PM. If you will be at the AAR/SBL and if you are free at this time, please attend TAK's Annual Meeting. Your TAK Board Members look forward to this opportunity to meet with you and to thank you in person for your service.

**Kelley Coblentz Bautch, President**

### Don't Forget to Nominate Students for the Undergrad- uate Achievement Award

If your chapter code number ends in the **digits 5—9**, it is your academic year to name one student from your chapter for this \$100 Undergraduate Achievement Award. This award is available to each chapter every other year to promote excellence among undergraduate students. Designating the student you wish to recognize is very easy; **simply send the name of the student** (along with that individual's **current mailing address**) to the Theta Alpha Kappa Treasurer, Dr. Christopher McMahon at:

[Christopher.McMahon@stvincent.edu](mailto:Christopher.McMahon@stvincent.edu)

Don't pass up this opportunity to honor one of your chapter's finest members.

### *Journal of Theta Alpha Kappa* and 2019 Clark Awards

As Chapter Representatives, you have the privilege to read the excellent papers by Theta Alpha Kappa undergraduate and graduate students. Through the *Journal of Theta Alpha Kappa*, you can share your students' superlative work with a wider audience; moreover, your students' work can also be considered for the annual Albert Clark Awards competition. There are four awards at the undergraduate and graduate levels given to the best student essays in religious studies or theology submitted to our panel of judges. Award-winning essays are published in the journal along with other excellent submissions received. Please encourage your students to submit their polished work for consideration. The deadline for submissions is January 25, giving students time over winter break to receive feedback and revise papers from the fall semester. Even if a student does not win a Clark Award, their articles may still be considered for publication. Details about and application instructions for the Clark Awards can be found on the TAK website.



## Theta Alpha Kappa Welcomes Dr. Andrea Stanton to the National Board

Theta Alpha Kappa welcomed to the National Board a new Member-at-Large on July 1: Dr. Andrea L. Stanton, Associate Professor of Islamic Studies and Chair of the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Denver. Dr. Stanton, whose doctoral degree is from Columbia University, is a specialist in contemporary Islam. When asked about the role Theta Alpha Kappa plays at her institution, Dr. Stanton remarked that her chapter, Alpha Lambda Zeta Chapter, began seeing



the benefits of joining the honor society almost immediately. Said Dr. Stanton, "We have benefited particularly from our students' ability to submit articles for the Albert Clark award: we administer a doctoral program in the study of religion with the Iliff School of Theology, and have had five doctoral students named as winners or runners-up for the Albert Clark Award in the past six

years. It's a terrific opportunity for students to be recognized for their scholarship, and to gain visibility beyond our institution. My colleagues and I feel very lucky that our department joined the TAK community." In light of her work as Chapter Representative, encouraging ALZ students to strive for excellence and to participate in Theta Alpha Kappa opportunities, Dr. Stanton was selected as the 2016 Kathleen Connolly-Weinert Leader of the Year. Dr. Stanton also shared that having an active TAK chapter has benefited her department in both recruitment of students and retention. Welcome to the National Board, Dr. Stanton!

## Recipients of the Graduate Fellowship Awards

There were many impressive applications for the Graduate Fellowship Award and the judges were edified to learn more about TAK members and their professional aspirations. The first place winner of the 2018 TAK Graduate Fellowship Award is **Mitchell Mallary** (Alpha Eta Omicron Chapter, Judson University). Mitchell matriculates at the doctoral program of the University of St Andrews-Logos Institute. One of the second place award recipients is **Peter Yuanxi Chen** (Alpha Gamma Lambda Chapter, Pomona College- the Claremont Colleges). Peter studies in the MA Program at The University of Chicago Divinity School. The other second place awardee is **Samuel Stubblefield** (Alpha Delta Eta Chapter, Indiana University-Bloomington). Samuel undertakes doctoral studies at the University of California, Berkeley. We extend our congratulations to Mitchell, Peter, and Samuel and celebrate all of our TAK members who embark on graduate studies this year. Chapter representatives, please continue to encourage your seniors and recent alumni who plan to attend graduate school to submit applications for the Graduate Fellowship Award. Instructions for the application can be found on our website in Spring 2019.

## Orientation for Chapter Representatives and Induction Information

If you are new to the role as Chapter Representative, be on the lookout for Orientation Information from Member-at-Large, Sharon Betsworth. The National Board is happy to assist and answer any questions you may have. One of the most important tasks for Chapter Representatives is inducting members. When you are ready to induct students, you will do so through our online platform hosted by Kenneth E. Jernigan and Associates. Jernigan collects induction information and prints (and distributes to chapter representatives) induction certificates. **Registering inductees and ordering induction certificates occurs via the [KENNETH E. JERNIGAN](#) website.** Before Chapter Representatives attend to the online form, they should collect information from inductees that is needed for the certificate requests and for TAK records: name; permanent address; phone number and e-mail address; anticipated year of graduation, and date of induction (semester and year) for each eligible student. Only chapter representatives (designated as "moderators" on the Kenneth E. Jernigan website) can enter induction information. Students are permitted, however, to order regalia from the Jernigan website. In any event, no induction certificates or regalia will be shipped without prior payment to Jernigan. Questions?

Contact: [christopher.mcmahon@stvincent.edu](mailto:christopher.mcmahon@stvincent.edu).

### Did you know...?

*Members, once inducted, are permanent members of TAK and do not have to pay annual dues. Members wishing to receive copies of the journal after the first year's subscription and support financially the work of the society, should submit a subscription renewal form available on the TAK website.*

## Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee will bring to the Annual Meeting in November the name of Kelley Coblentz Bautch to serve a second term as President and the name of Dexter Callender to serve as At-Large Director.