

March 2013
New Series 5.2



Theta Alpha Kappa

The National Honor Society for Religious Studies and Theology

The President's Newsletter

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2013 Graduate Fellowship Awards Competition

Chapters are invited to nominate one graduating senior or recent alumnus/a to compete for a first prize of \$2000 or a second prize of \$1000 to be used for educational costs associated with matriculation in a graduate degree program in religion or theology for fall 2013.

Nominations *must be sent in hard copy via U.S. Mail or other carrier* and must include the following:

- * a letter from the nominee, detailing his/her educational goals
- * two letters of recommendation from his/her professors
- * confirmation of the student's membership in TAK (if the student will be inducted subsequent to the deadline, please indicate planned date of induction)
- * sealed official undergraduate transcript
- * proof of acceptance *and* intent to matriculate into a relevant graduate program

Completed nomination packets are due in the President's office by April 30, 2013. Winners will be announced by June 1, 2013, and award funds will be transferred directly to the winners. For this reason, it is imperative that valid mailing addresses for June be provided to avoid misdirection of funds.

Nomination packets should be sent to:

Dr. C. David Grant, TAK President
Beasley Hall 105
Texas Christian University
TCU Box 298100
2855 S. University Dr.
Fort Worth, TX 76129



Undergraduate Achievement Awards

If your chapter code ends in 5-9, this is your academic year to name your best student for an Undergraduate Achievement Award. One cash award of \$100 is available to each chapter every other year to promote excellence among our undergraduates. If you've not done so, mail the name of the student (along with his/her address) to Bob Dunston, TAK Treasurer, Dept. of Religion, University of the Cumberland, 7989 College Station Dr., Williamsburg, KY 40769. Don't pass up this opportunity to award your best student this cash award!

Induction Procedure

Each chapter representative (moderator) should collect information from new inductees and enter it in the web form set up by our vendor, Ken Jernigan and Associates. ***Our site is not set up for students to enter their own information.*** Detailed instructions for this process are available on our website, <http://www.thetaalphakappa.net>, under "Member Information." You will find a link there to the Ken Jernigan website.

Albert Clark Award Winners

Each year, Theta Alpha Kappa sponsors competition for the Albert Clark Awards, given to the best student essays in religious studies or theology submitted to our panel of judges. **The 2013 graduate winner is Mr. Patrick D. Bowen of the University of Denver-Illiff School of Theology** for his essay "Prince D. Solomon and the Birth of Modern African-American Islam." **The 2013 undergraduate winner is Ms. Rina Sadun of Pomona College** for her essay "Sometimes, Everyone Lives: Reading Jonah in the Context of the Genesis Flood Story." Their essays will appear, respectively, in the Spring 2014 and Fall 2014 issues of *The Journal of Theta Alpha Kappa*.

Chapter representatives are asked to watch for outstanding student essays suitable for next year's competition. Further information about the Albert Clark Award can be found on our website, <http://www.thetaalphakappa.net>. The deadline for submission next year is January 10, 2014.

ΘAK HAS NO GROUP TAX EXEMPTION

Theta Alpha Kappa's tax exemption status applies only to the activities of the governing national organization. **The exemption does not apply to local chapters.**

In most cases, the local chapter is probably covered under the tax exemption of the institution, but each chapter needs to check on this before assuming it is tax exempt.



Trademark Registration Awarded to ΘAK

On November 13, 2012, The US Patent and Trademark Office granted ΘAK a registered service mark for the name "Theta Alpha Kappa, The National Honor Society for Religious Studies and Theology" along with the logo of our society. Local chapters are authorized to use the service mark for matters pertaining to the official business of the chapter but special permission must be requested for the use of the logo for other purposes. Contact the President, C. David Grant, if you

have questions about the appropriate use of our trademark. Please note that the mark cannot be used by any commercial entity supplying paraphernalia to chapters as we have an exclusive contract with Ken Jernigan and Associates to supply such items.

WELCOME NEW CHAPTERS

The following three new chapters have been chartered since the last listing in the *President's Newsletter* of October 2012:

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Chapter</u>
Chapman University	AAA
Univ. of Hawaii at Manoa	AAM
Colorado College	AAN

Theta Alpha Kappa now has 258 active chapters and those chapters induct approximately 1500 new members yearly. Your all-volunteer Board of Directors is charged with running the organization and meets twice yearly to conduct the ongoing business of our organization. *If you are a chapter representative and are interested in being considered for a board position in the future*, please write a letter of interest, indicating your activities with your local chapter and your qualifications for board membership, and send it to R. Blake Michael, TAK Secretary, Department of Religion, Ohio Wesleyan University, Phillips Hall 117D, Delaware, OH 43015.