

October 2009
New series 2.1

Theta Alpha Kappa

National Honor Society for Religious Studies & Theology

The President's Newsletter

It has been a very busy half year for Theta Alpha Kappa! This issue of the *President's Newsletter* brings annual reminders and a call for nominations to fill two positions on the Board of Directors. It also brings news of an initiative that we on the Board hope will streamline the process

of ordering certificates and regalia, as well as bring some relief to our extraordinarily dedicated and hard-working Secretary and Treasurer.

So, read on! And please know that I welcome your feedback.

.-Vivian-Lee Nyitray

Annual Awards and Fellowships

2009-10 Achievement Awards

All chapters with TAK chapter numbers ending in the digits **0-4** are invited to name one student to receive this \$100 Award. The deadline is **May 1**, but there is no need to wait until spring! Eligible chapters are welcome to submit the name of a deserving student who will graduate after Fall semester, or Fall or Winter quarter. Please note, however, that each chapter may submit only one name over the course of the present academic year.

Selection is at the discretion of the local chapter. Criteria might include academic excellence, chapter leadership, or outstanding public service; in the case of a sophomore or junior inductee, the chapter may elect to use this award to both recognize achievement and to encourage continued excellence.

The Achievement Award is not competitive beyond the local level: each selected student will be sent a \$100 Award. For instructions and additional information, see the TAK website under Scholarships and Awards.

Looking Ahead: Graduate Fellowship Awards

Chapters are invited to nominate one graduating senior or recent alumnus/a to compete for a first prize fellowship of \$2000 and a second prize fellowship of \$1000 for costs associated with matriculation in a graduate degree program. Application information is available on the TAK website; postmark deadline is Thursday, **April 15**.

For more information, please see the TAK website under Scholarships and Awards.

Awards and Fellowships, cont.

official TAK logo

JTAK Clark Awards

Please check your e-mail and/or the website for the details concerning the annual Clark Prizes for best undergraduate and graduate essays. Winners receive a cash prize and publication in the *Journal*. The deadline for the 2010 prizes is **January 15**.

Seed funds for chapter activities

If you have an idea for a chapter activity that could benefit from a small grant (usually not more than \$100), send a brief (500 word) proposal with budget justification and timetable to the Office of the President. There is no deadline; applications reviewed on a rolling basis.

Podium banners now available in both drape and dowel styles. See Regalia page on TAK website

Letters regarding one's service to TAK -- to one's dean or for inclusion in tenure and promotion files -- are gladly provided upon request to the President's office.

Be sure that you have bookmarked the correct TAK website ~ ThetaAlphaKappa.net

New Procedures for Certificates and Regalia

One of the most gratifying tasks for the Board is the chartering of new chapters. Interest in TAK has been growing steadily in recent years. But with more than 250 chapters, it has become a significant challenge for Betsy Bauman, our Secretary, and Bob Dunston, our Treasurer, to keep up with orders for certificates and regalia. Particularly during rush periods in December and April-May, their workload—carried out above and beyond their own campus duties—can be crushing, even with student assistance.

In discussing possible solutions, the Board decided that it is still premature to consider hiring a part-time Executive Director; we are in good financial shape but

the costs of even part-time salary and benefits would rapidly deplete our modest reserves.

A trial solution has come in the form of an offer from Ken Jernigan, TAK's longtime supplier of certificates and regalia. After consultation with another honor society that piloted Ken's online order service, the Board has decided to enter into a one-year agreement with Ken to handle all certificate and regalia orders, and to assist with database matters—at a very modest cost to TAK.

Payment will be possible by check, credit card, or via PayPal account. Details will be sent by e-mail to all moderators and will be posted on the website ASAP.

2009 Members' Meeting and Receptions

TAK's annual members' business meeting and reception will be held in conjunction with the AAR meeting in Montréal. Please join us Sunday, November 8, from 4:00-6:30 pm in the Fairmount Queen Elizabeth, Hochelaga 2.

TAK will once again host a reception for moderators and members attending the SBL meeting in New Orleans. Please join us Sunday, November 22, from 4:00-6:30 PM in the Conde room (JW).

Theta Alpha Kappa

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Theta Alpha Kappa is
a not for profit 501 (c) 3
organization
incorporated in the
State of New York.

Seeking Nominations

Nominations and self-nominations are sought for the position of President and for a position as Representative-at-Large to the Board of Directors of Theta Alpha Kappa. Both positions are for three-year terms, effective July 1, 2010.

The President is charged with the conduct of meetings of the Board of Directors, representing TAK to the public and to affiliated professional societies, and

communicating with chapter moderators and members. Representatives-at-Large attend twice-yearly meetings and perform duties relative to Board activities.

Officers and Board members receive no stipends, but travel expenses are paid as provided by the Constitution and the Board of Directors' *Policies and Procedures*.

Deadline for nominations: **November 1** to any Board member.

New Brochures Available

At last! New brochures are available for distribution to prospective inductees and their families, to administrators, and to colleagues who might be interested in establishing a chapter at their own institution. In partnership with the Association of College Honor Societies, of which TAK is a

member society, copies of a second brochure, *A Matter of Honor*, are also available and will ship with the new TAK brochure.

To order, please send an e-mail with the number of brochures requested to the national office at ThetaAlphaKappa@ucr.edu

Volunteers Needed!

Theta Alpha Kappa relies on the assistance of a number of chapter moderators to assist in the work of reading essays for the Clark Prize and serving on *ad hoc* committees. Please consider offering your services!

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for chapters w/ incorrect or returned moderator e-mail addresses