April 2010
New series 2.2

Theta Alpha Kappa
National Honor Society for Religious Studies & Theology

The President’s Newsletter

This issue brings end-of-year reminders and a call for nominations to fill two positions on the Board of Directors. It also brings an update on the new process of ordering certificates and regalia.

This is my last President’s Newsletter, as my term of office ends on June 30. It has been a pleasure to get to know at least some of you and a privilege to have served all of you. On July 1, Representative-at-Large David Grant from the Alpha Alpha Psi chapter at Texas Christian University assumes the Presidency. –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, so send the name of your awardee to Treasurer Bob Dunston ASAP!

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 automatically. Please be sure that the mailing address will be valid through the end of May.

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 in religious studies or theology.

Application information is available on the TAK website; applications are due by Friday, May 14.

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 $250), 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.
Seeking Nominations

Nominations, including self-nominations, are sought for the positions of Vice President and Representative-at-Large to the Board of Directors of Theta Alpha Kappa. Both positions are for 3-year terms, effective July 1, 2011. The VP responds to inquiries concerning the chartering of new chapters and oversees the chartering process. Other duties may be assigned as needed.

Representatives-at-Large serve on Board committees (nominating, awards) and provide counsel to the officers of the Board. Officers and Board members receive no stipends, but travel expenses are paid as provided by the Constitution and the Board’s Policies and Procedures.

Please send nominations by September 1 to Vivian-Lee Nyitray at vnyitray@ucr.edu

New Procedures for Certificates and Regalia

As explained in the previous Newsletter, the growth of TAK has brought significant challenges for Betsy Bauman, our Secretary, and Bob Dunston, our Treasurer. Particularly during rush periods in December and April-May, their workload—carried out above and beyond their own campus duties—can be crushing.

The Board has entered into an agreement with our longtime vendor, Ken Jernigan, to handle all certificate and regalia orders, and to assist with database matters—at a very modest cost to TAK.

All regalia orders, including banners, must now be made through Ken’s website, KenJernigan.com, where there is a link to the Theta Alpha Kappa “store.” Payment for regalia can be made by check, credit card, or via PayPal account.

At present, Ken’s website enables the ordering of certificates. The $25 fee shown INCLUDES the TAK induction fee (the website is being updated to make this clearer). However, Ken’s online form does not presently capture the address of individual inductees—information we need to send out the journal. Until this is clarified and updated, we ask your indulgence in completing Ken’s online form (which generates the certificates that are mailed to the advisor) AND in getting a list of inductees and their addresses to the Secretary, Betsy Bauman. You can either send a list or you can complete the induction form we have been using for the past few years, available at www.snc.edu/religiousstudies/ta kmembership.html. You can also have the students complete the induction form themselves while you place the order on Ken’s website. Ken’s company only accepts certificate, i.e., induction, orders from chapter advisors or chapter contacts, so it is vital that this information be kept up to date.

We appreciate your patience during this transition to a system that we trust will make these processes easier in the long run.