

March 2012
New Series 4.2



Theta Alpha Kappa

The National Honor Society for Religious Studies and Theology

The President's Newsletter

Board of Directors

President

C. David Grant, Texas
Christian University

Vice President

Eric F. Mason, Judson
University

Secretary

R. Blake Michael, Ohio
Wesleyan University

Treasurer

Bob Dunston, University
of the Cumberland

At-Large Members

Kelley Coblentz Bautch,
St. Edward's University

Susan L. Graham,
St. Peter's College

Mark Mattes, Grand
View University

David Nikkel, University
of North Carolina at
Pembroke

JTAK Editor

Leo Madden, Ohio Do-
minican University

www.thetaalphakappa.net

2012 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 2012.

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, 2012. Winners will be announced by June 1, 2012, 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 0-4, this is your 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.

Reminder

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 Awards

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 2012 undergraduate winner is Ms. Kiva Shiri Nice-Webb of Elon University for her essay "Reconsidering the Goddess in the Saint: Reading Brigit through a Postcolonial Lens." The graduate winner is Mr. Jonathan Loar of Emory University for his essay "Between Hindu and Muslim: Shirdi Sai Baba, Hagiography, Syncretism, and Religious Identity." Their essays will appear, respectively, in the Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 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, 2013.

2011-2012 Theta Alpha Kappa Board of Directors



This photograph was taken at the 2011 Annual Meeting of Theta Alpha Kappa, held in conjunction with the meetings of the AAR and SBL last November in San Francisco. From left to right, standing are: Eric F. Mason, VP, David Grant, President, Mark Mattes, At-Large, David Nikkel, At-Large, Kelley Coblenz Bautch, At-Large, Susan Graham, At-Large. Kneeling are: Leo Madden, *JTAK* editor, Bob Dunston, Treasurer, and Blake Michael, Secretary.

The President's Newsletter is published twice a year and sent to all Theta Alpha Kappa Faculty Chapter Representatives

Theta Alpha Kappa now has over 240 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.