March 2019
New Series 11.1

Theta Alpha Kappa

The National Honor Society for Religious Studies and Theology

The President's Newsletter

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THE 2019 ALBERT CLARK AWARD WINNERS

Theta Alpha Kappa is pleased to announce the winners of the 2019 Albert Clark Award Competition which recognizes the best graduate and undergraduate essays in Religious Studies and Theology.

Graduate Student Category:

Joshua Paul Smith, University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology
"From the Altar to the Abattoir: The Evolving Figure of the Bovine in Jewish Text and Art"

Runner-Up, Rebecca M. David Hensley, University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology
"Is This the Real Life? Is This Just Fantasy? Misogyny, Pornography, and a Feminist Ethic of Erotic Justice"

Undergraduate Student Category:

Kristina Meyer, Elon University
"The Challenge of White Christian Guilt in Faith-Based Community Organizing"

Runner-Up, Kira Nelson, Christopher Newport University
"Suffering, Image, and Pilgrimage on *El Camino de Santiago*: Invitation to Participate in the Suffering of Christ"

These essays will appear in the Spring 2020 and Fall 2020 issues of *The Journal of Theta Alpha Kappa*. Chapter representatives, please encourage your undergraduate and graduate students to submit outstanding papers for considerations for the 2020 Albert Clark Award. Submission guidelines now require that papers be accompanied by a completed Clark Award Submission Form. Look for Guidelines and Clark Award Submission Forms on our website in April.

"Like Us on Facebook"

Theta Alpha Kappa now has a Facebook page. You are encouraged to share photos, video clips or updates from your chapter. We are happy to celebrate via social media students' accomplishments, chapter representative's milestones, and chapter highlights. If your department has a Facebook page, "like us" from there as well. Questions or ideas? Contact At-Large Member Andrea Stanton: andrea.stanton@du.edu .

2019 Graduate Fellowship Awards Competition Open for Nominations

Your TAK chapter may nominate for the 2019 Graduate Fellowship Award a senior or recent alumnus/a who continues to study religion or theology at the graduate level next year. Nominees compete for three prizes (1st prize with an award of $3000, 2nd prize of $2000, and 3rd prize of $1000) which are to be used for educational costs associated with matriculation in a religion or theology graduate degree program in Fall 2019. This year, Theta Alpha Kappa requests applications be submitted through our online application form. The deadline for student applications is 11:59 pm EST, April 23, 2019; the deadline for letters of recommendation and confirmation of nominee status by the chapter representative is 11:59 pm EST, April 30, 20 19. See our website for details as well as for the link to the online form.
Direct questions to Theta_Alpha_Kappa_Inquiries@thetaalphakappa.org.

WELCOME!

We are delighted to welcome a newly chartered chapter to our society: Southwestern Adventist University (Alpha Nu Mu) This chapter joins 346 chapters of Theta Alpha Kappa!

Note of Appreciation for Dr. Ellen Umansky

The National Board of Theta Alpha Kappa wishes to recognize Dr. Ellen Umansky of Fairfield University who completes her second term as At-Large Member. Dr. Umansky has both participated in and chaired several significant committees, and has consistently advocated for TAK's commitment to excellence in the study of religion and theology. Reflecting on her hospitable nature, Vice President David Nikkel observed that Dr. Umansky, "always an excellent conversationalist, has contributed much to our Board through her many thoughtful comments and welcoming of new members…we will miss her." Thank you, Ellen, for your service, good cheer, and dedication to Theta Alpha Kappa!

New Chapter Representatives

Wondering how to induct students or what your chapter code is? If you are a new chapter representative, you can receive orientation materials and other helpful information. Simply complete our online form which you can find at our website under "Chapter Representative Resources," and we will be in touch.

Nominating Students for the Undergraduate Achievement Award

Every other academic year, each chapter in good standing is eligible to select a student for the Undergraduate Achievement Award. The Award comes with a prize of $100. This academic year, chapters with numeric codes ending in the digits 5-9 may designate an undergraduate student for this award. Chapter representatives, if this is your chapter's year for the Undergraduate Achievement Award, simply send the name of the student you wish to recognize (along with the student's current mailing address) to Theta Alpha Kappa Treasurer, Dr. Christopher McMahon: Christopher.McMahon@stvincent.edu.