November 2022
New Series
14.2

Theta Alpha Kappa

The National Honor Society for Religious Studies and Theology

PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

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2022 TAK Business Meeting and Reception at the Denver AAR-SBL Annual Meeting

Please mark your calendar to attend the **2022 TAK Business Meeting and Reception** on Sunday, November 20, at 6–7:30 p.m., in conjunction with the AAR-SBL Annual Meeting. We will gather in the Mattie Silks room on lower level 1 in the Hilton City Center for conversation, hor d'oeuvres and drinks, and discussion of the honor society's activities. The program number for the event is P20–403.

This is our first in-person event since the 2019 business meeting and reception in San Diego, as the 2020 and 2021 business meetings were conducted online instead due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We will not have an online meeting component this year.

Committee chairs and officers from the national board will give updates on the programs of the honor society, **Leo Hugh Madden** will receive the Kathleen Connolly-Weinert Leadership Award, and we will vote on the following slate of nominees for leadership positions:

Michael Ashcraft (Truman State University MO), for election to an At-Large position (2023–2026)

Julye Bidmead (Chapman University CA), presently Secretary completing a vacated term (2022–2023), for election to the office of Secretary (2023–2026)

Sr. Mary Kate Birge (Mount St. Mary's University MD), for election to the office of Vice President (2023–2026)

Elizabeth Coody (Morningside University IA), for election to an At-Large position (2023–2026)

First Online Issue of *JTAK* Now Available

The new issue (46.2) of *Journal of Theta Alpha Kappa* has recently been released, now in its new online, open access format. You may find this and future issues of *JTAK* at https://jtak.scholasticahq.com.

Please share this link with the members of your chapter (present and past, if possible) and with your institution's library, along with a reminder that print issues will no longer be mailed.

The journal will continue to publish papers received through the Albert Clark Awards essay competitions for undergraduate and graduate students. Also, PDFs of articles from past issues remain available on the *Atlas* database.

Thanks to JTAK editor Dexter E. Callender Jr., associate editor Andrea Stanton, and former editor Bernadette McNary-Zak for their excellent work on this important transition for the journal.

*Welcome to the new TAK chapter at **Kenyon College** (chapter representative Krista N. Dalton).*

2023 Albert Clark Awards Competition Now Open

The TAK board is pleased to announce that the application period for the **2023 Albert Clark Awards** essay competition for undergraduate and graduate students is now open. The application deadline is January 23, 2023. Please see the competition guidelines and submission form at the TAK website (https://thetaalphakappa.org/clark-awards/). If you have questions about this program, please contact Andrea Stanton, *JTAK* Associate Editor, at andrea.stanton@du.edu.

Four Winners Selected for 2022 TAK Graduate Fellowships

The TAK Awards and Recognitions Committee is pleased to announce the selection of four winners of the **2022 Graduate Fellowship Awards**.

Our first place winner, **Philip Lindia**, a graduate of Wheaton College, is pursuing a Master of Arts in History of Christianity at Wheaton College Graduate School.

Our second place winner, **Kimberly C. Fromkin**, received her undergraduate degree at Valdosta State University and is enrolled in the Master of Liberal Arts in Religion program in Extension Studies at Harvard University.

Two students tied for third place. **James Jacob Nicholson** received his undergraduate degree at Truman State University and now specializes in New Testament in his Master of Theological Studies program at Duke Divinity School. **Renee Susanto**, a graduate of Pomona College, is enrolled in the Master of Divinity program at Harvard Divinity School.

Congratulations to all of our 2022 fellows!

Important Reminder about Annual Chapter Dues

Please remember that ***all*** chapters are obligated to pay annual chapter dues each year. **This is the case regardless of whether the chapter expects to induct new members in a particular year.** Chapter dues invoices were sent by email earlier in the fall semester to chapter representatives as listed in the national database. If you did not receive an invoice or need it resent, please contact TAK treasurer Michael Berger (michael.berger@emory.edu).

Undergraduate Achievement Awards Available

Local TAK chapters whose code number ends in the digits 5–9 may select one student to honor with the **Undergraduate Achievement Award** for the 2022–2023 academic year. **The deadline to request an award is June 30, 2023.** The award is available to each local chapter every other academic year to promote excellence among undergraduate students, and each recipient receives a check for $100 from the national society. Chapter representatives may confirm their chapter numbers in the chapter directory on the TAK website, and they may designate the student recipient for the prize by emailing (from their institutional email account) TAK treasurer Michael Berger (michael.berger@emory.edu).

2023 GFA Application Period Opens Soon

Applications for the **2023 Graduate Fellowship Awards** will open early next year. TAK inductees who graduate this academic year (or who completed their undergraduate degree within the last three years) are eligible to apply for awards for their first year of graduate study. The society will award up to **three fellowships** (with values of $3000, $2000, or $1000). The application deadline is May 22, 2023. Guidelines for the 2023 competition will be distributed by email and will also be posted on the TAK website at https://thetaalphakappa.org/graduate-fellowship-competition/.

Leo Hugh Madden Selected for 2022 Kathleen Connolly-Weinert Leadership Award

THE NATIONAL BOARD OF THETA ALPHA KAPPA is pleased to announce that **LEO HUGH MADDEN** is the 2022 recipient of the Kathleen Connolly-Weinert Leadership Award, to be presented at the society's Annual Business Meeting and Reception in Denver, Colorado, on November 20.

Dr. Madden is Associate Professor of Theology at Ohio Dominican University in Columbus, Ohio, where he has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in the humanities and biblical theology since 1992 and was honored in 1995 as the university's Outstanding Teacher of the Year. He has served as chair of the Department of Theology since 2009 and also directs the department's M.A. program. A graduate of Georgetown University, the Pontifical Biblical Institute, and the Pontifical Gregorian University, Madden especially enjoys teaching a first-year seminar course called "The Tragic Vision," which explores texts including the Epic of Gilgamesh, Greek plays, and the Gospel of Mark. During his career at ODU he has frequently addressed matters of biblical theology and Catholic life and thought in local media interviews and talks for fellow faculty and staff members.

Madden initiated ODU's TAK chapter (Alpha Epsilon Zeta) in 2001 and has served as its chapter representative for over two decades. He especially appreciates that inductees of the chapter are vitally engaged in Catholic parishes and schools throughout the Midwest. Shortly after founding the local chapter, Madden became involved with TAK on the national level when he volunteered as a judge for the society's Albert Clark Awards essay competition. Soon he was invited by Dr. Anthony Tambasco, the founding editor of *Journal of Theta Alpha Kappa*, to succeed him in that role. "Tony asked me if I would consider this position. My wife and my university gave me enormous support. I found a local printer that educated me on their procedures, and the whole experience turned out to be a real joy."

Madden took the reins of *JTAK* in 2006 and served until 2017, building on Tambasco's foundational work and expanding the profile and stability of the journal in numerous ways. He worked assiduously with students in the revisions process to help them write clearly and accurately. Key administrative contributions included expanding and standardizing the number of student-authored articles per issue, establishing procedures to ensure and validate the academic integrity of the articles published, and affiliating the journal with the indices and databases of the American Theological Library Association (now Atla). Madden took special delight in the excited reactions of students when informed that their work would be published in the journal: "I could hear and feel their happiness and deep sense of accomplishment even via email!"

Dr. David C. Grant, who served as TAK board president during most of Madden's editorial tenure, speaks warmly of his former society colleague—and the Buckeye peanut butter fudge candies he would bring to each board meeting. "Leo was a wonderful addition to the board. I always valued his opinions. He took the journal to a new level. In addition to his many other attributes, Leo is a kind and gentle person. I think Leo is an excellent choice for the KCW Leadership Award."

CAMERON CLUTTER, a senior Theology major at Ohio Dominican University, is the 2022 recipient of the **KCW Student Award**. This honor (formerly called the Moderator's Award) is presented annually to a student selected by the winner of the Kathleen Connolly-Weinert Leadership Award. When notified of his selection, he replied, "I am both humbled and honored to be receiving this award from TAK."

Cameron is especially interested in sacramental theology and practical issues of Christian discipleship. Madden notes that "his academic interests and talents in Theology courses have been impressive and multifaceted." He will complete his undergraduate degree in December 2022 and plans to pursue graduate studies in the future. Presently he is employed as the Evangelization Program Coordinator at St. Joan of Arc parish in Powell, Ohio, with special focus on youth ministry. He is also an experienced audio engineer.