Fall 2025 Theta Alpha Kappa President's Newsletter

Dear TAK Chapter Representatives,

I trust your semester is off to a good start. This is a very exciting year for Theta Alpha Kappa as we begin celebration of the society's fiftieth anniversary in 2026.

This edition of the TAK President's Newsletter has important announcements about an expansion of the **Undergraduate Achievement Awards** program, the new **Graduate Research Awards** and **Chapter Activity Grant** programs, attachments with **new promotional materials** to use for your local chapter, the calls for papers and judges for the **2026 Albert Clark Awards paper competition**, two **new national board members**, the TAK **dinner at the AAR-SBL Annual Meeting** in Boston, and the new date for the **annual business meeting** and forthcoming information about **constitutional changes** to be considered at the meeting.

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EXPANSION OF UNDERGRADUATE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

We are excited to announce a new trial policy that every chapter may now award an Undergraduate Achievement Award every year (rather than every other year). As before, the UAA may be presented by a chapter whose **annual chapter dues** for the academic year have been paid. The award is a **$100 cash prize** funded by the national TAK office. For more information, see https://thetaalphakappa.org/undergraduate-award/. The deadline to request awards for this academic year is **May 19, 2026**.

NEW GRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD

We are also delighted to announce a new Graduate Research Award program in conjunction with TAK's fiftieth anniversary in 2026. Chapter representatives **with legitimate graduate student participation in their local chapter** may select one graduate student each academic year to receive a **$200 cash prize to**

support travel expenses for research or conference presentation travel. Chapters may award both the UAA and the GRA in the same year; as with the UAA, annual chapter dues have been paid in order for a chapter to select an honoree for the GRA. Additional details will be posted to the TAK website at a later date, but for now, chapter representatives may contact TAK treasurer Michael Berger (Michael.berger@emory.edu) with the name and address of the honoree and a brief description of the qualifying research activity. The deadline to request awards for this academic year is **May 19, 2026**.

NEW CHAPTER ACTIVITY GRANT PROGRAM

Also in conjunction with TAK's upcoming fiftieth anniversary in 2026, we joyfully announce the new chapter activity grant program to provide **up to $250 in financial support for chapter-sponsored events** such as hosting a lecture on campus, an outing to a relevant museum, or hosting a student conference. **Eight awards are available in the first round of funding, and applications for this round are due on October 15, 2025**. Only chapters that are current on their annual chapter dues may apply. Please see the application form and additional information at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfpuAqxo-IFeplYGkKXcDdH0lqSwpXpnaE-q5DaiP7F0y9VLg/viewform?usp=sharing&ouid=102513124492602112566.

NEW PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS FOR LOCAL CHAPTERS

Please find attached two new resources for promoting TAK on your campus, a poster (flier) and a brochure. Note that **both items have panels where you can personalize the document with information about your local chapter (poster/flier: lower left; brochure: left panel of first page)**. The files are in PDF format, and the customizable sections can be edited in a PDF reader such as Adobe Acrobat or Preview. **Please download the files from this message first before trying to view or open them**, as some chapter representatives report problems when clicking directly on attachments sent through our new database program.

2026 ALBERT CLARK AWARDS CALLS FOR PAPERS AND JUDGES

The TAK national board is pleased to announce the call for papers for the 2026 Albert Clark Awards. **Three winning papers** will be selected in each division of the competition, **undergraduate and graduate**, with cash awards of **$1000, $500, and $250**, respectively. Winning papers (and selected others) will be **published** in a future issue of the ***Journal of Theta Alpha Kappa*** (jtak.scholasticahq.com).

The application deadline is Monday, January 26, 2026. Please see the full list of **eligibility and competition guidelines** and the **submission form** at https://thetaalphakappa.org/clark-awards/.

The Clark Awards program could not operate without your help. If you would like to **serve as a judge** for the 2026 competition, please contact the Associate Editor of *JTAK*, Andrea Stanton (Andrea.Stanton@du.edu). Judges receive an honorarium of $300.

WELCOME TAMBER-ROSENAU AND GABRIELLI TO THE NATIONAL BOARD

The TAK board was delighted to welcome new at-large board member **Caryn Tamber-Rosenau** and new *JTAK* editor **Timothy R. Gabrielle** on July 1, 2025. Caryn is an assistant professor in the department of Modern and Classical Languages at the University of Houston and directs the Jewish Studies program. Her scholarly interests include women in the Hebrew Bible and Second Temple literature, early Jewish biblical interpretation, and feminist and queer criticism of the Bible. She earned her Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University. Tim is an associate professor of Religious Studies and holds the Gudorf Chair in Catholic Intellectual Traditions at the University of Dayton, from which he also received his Ph.D. His research interests include sacramental theology, Catholicism in the United States, and ecclesiology.

TAK DINNER AT THE BOSTON AAR-SBL ANNUAL MEETING

Save the date of **Saturday, November 22, 2025** for the annual TAK complimentary dinner for chapter representatives in conjunction with the AAR-SBL Annual Meeting. More information and a sign-up link will be emailed later.

NEW DATE FOR ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The society's annual business meeting will shift to a new time of year in 2025–2026. After many years of fall business meetings, originally in person at the AAR-SBL Annual Meeting and then (since COVID) online in November or December, the national board has moved the date to **February 2, 2026, at 5 pm Eastern/2 pm Pacific (online)**. We hope this new date and time will allow more people to participate. Details about the meeting will come later, including information about votes on new **constitutional changes**.

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