



K A P P A T A U A L P H A NEWSLETTER

National Society Honoring Scholarship in Journalism and Mass Communication

Volume 33, No. 1, Summer, 2016
AEJMC Convention Issue

Pickard captures Mott Award

"How did Americans come to inherit this particular media system?" was the question that drove Victor Pickard to write *America's Battle for Media Democracy: The Triumph of Corporate Libertarianism and the Future of Media*, winner of the Frank Luther Mott / Kappa Tau Alpha Research Award for the best research-based book on journalism/mass communication published in 2015.

Pickard examines the media reform movement of the 1940s and its counterpoint to the commercialized market forces that successfully pushed profit-driven "corporate libertarianism."

Pickard places media ownership and practice, net neutrality and other current issues into the larger historical context of previous reform efforts.

"Pickard's important book, while focused on events from seventy years ago, speaks loudly to the current debates about the nature of the internet and arguments for and against net neutrality," according

to Andrew Mendelson, Kappa Tau Alpha national president and a finalist judge.

The author concludes that "the current commercial model for media is not adequately serving democracy" and argues for policy makers, media reformers and others to push for structural alternatives.

"The postwar settlement for American media marked a failure of reformers' visions of media democracy, one privileging access over corporate profits and diversity over commercial values. It is this vision that has been deferred, still awaiting its moment."

He suggests "Once we realize that the status quo was contingent, that there were other options, other roads not taken, we can begin to imagine that a very different media system was--and still is--possible."

Pickard is associate professor in the Annenberg School of Communication at the University of Pennsylvania. The book is published by Cambridge Univer-

sity Press.

Other finalists were W. Joseph Campbell for *1995: The Year the Future Began*; Teri Finneman for *Press Portrayals of Women Politicians, 1870s-2000s: From 'Lunatic' Woodhull to 'Polarizing Palin'*; and Diana C. Mutz for *In-Your-Face Politics: The Consequences of Uncivil Media*.

The Mott Award is named in honor of Mott, Pulitzer-Prize winner, educator and long-time leader of Kappa Tau Alpha, the national college honor society for journalism and mass communication. The competition has been held annually beginning in 1944. The \$1000 prize will be presented during the AEJMC convention Aug. 5 in Minneapolis.

Judges are KTA chapter advisers and officers. The deadline for books with a 2016 copyright is Dec. 9, 2016. For information and a list of previous winners go to KappaTauAlpha.org and click on Awards.

Carter to be honored as Adviser of Year

Edward L. Carter, Brigham Young University, is the 2016 William H. Taft Outstanding Chapter Adviser.

The award, named after the late executive director who served the Society for 30 years before retiring in 1991, will be presented at the KTA/AEJMC Awards Luncheon Aug. 5 in Minneapolis.

"Ed Carter has been a relentless promoter of KTA at BYU and an excellent chapter adviser," according to Keith Sanders, executive director. Carter has also contributed at the national level, serving as a Mott Award judge and participating in National Council meetings. He is professor and director of the BYU School of Communications. His main area of expertise is communications law, including copyright law. His degrees include a Master of Studies in International Law from Oxford, a master of laws degree from Edinburgh School of Law, a Juris Doctorate from BYU and a MSJ from Northwestern. He was inducted into KTA by BYU in 1995.

Carter is the 32nd recipient of the award. The award was inaugurated in 1985 and Quintus Wilson (Northern Illinois) was the first recipient. Previous winners, most recent first, include: Jeanni Atkins (Mississippi), Jeff Fruit (Kent State), Judy VanSlyke Turk (Virginia Commonwealth), Andrew Mendelson (Temple), Peter Gade (Oklahoma), W. Joseph Campbell (American), Margaret Patterson (Duchesne), Al Stavitsky (Oregon), Mark Popovich (Ball State), Jane Singer (Iowa), William Click (Winthrop), Karen List (Massachusetts), James Whitfield (LA-Monroe), Tony Rimmer (Cal State-Fullerton), Sam Riley (Virginia Tech), Thomas Schwartz (Ohio State), Emmanuel Onyedike (Hampton), Gil Fowler (Arkansas State), Milt Hollstein (Utah), Luther Sanders (Arkansas at Little Rock), George Abney (Georgia), Marion Marzolf (Michigan), Whitney Mundt (LSU), Daniel Pfaff (Penn State), David Sloan (Alabama), Earl Conn (Ball State), Jack Sissors (Northwestern), Taft (Missouri), Lucas Staudacher (Marquette) and Wilson.

Jeff Fruit to become 44th president

Jeff Fruit (Kent State) will become the 44th president of the Society on September 1.

Holly Kathleen Hall (Arkansas State) was elected vice-president and Keith Sanders was re-elected executive director/treasurer.

Fruit served as director of the School of Journalism/Mass Communication from 2002-2012 and as interim dean of the College of Communication and Information. He is interim director of the School of Library and Information Science. For 13 years he has served as adviser of the Kent State chapter, which was named in

his honor in 2015. He was the 2013 Taft Adviser of the Year.

Hall, associate professor of strategic communication at Arkansas State, teaches communication law and ethics, public relations and social media. She has received several awards, including the 2010 College of Media and Communications Faculty Award for Teaching and multiple nominations for "You Make a Difference" Adviser Awards. She received a KTA Chapter Adviser Research Grant in 2011 to conduct interviews in London for a project on "super-injunctions" and twitter. Prior

to joining the ASU faculty she worked 10 years in public relations. She received a J.D. at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She was initiated into KTA in 1994 at ASU.

Sanders has served as executive director since 1991. The KTA Outstanding Service Award is named in his honor. In 2008 he received the AEJMC Presidential Award for Outstanding Service. He is professor emeritus at the University of Missouri, where he taught for 34 years and served as department chair and associate dean for graduate studies/research. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa and was initiated into KTA at Ohio University in 1962.

Honor societies recognize, promote excellence in scholarship

Honor societies have existed in the United States since the founding of Phi Beta Kappa in 1776. They exist primarily to recognize the attainment of scholarship and leadership of a superior quality. To the degree that they make such recognition a thing to be coveted, they encourage students to strive toward meeting high standards.

Kappa Tau Alpha, founded in 1910 at the University of Missouri, is the seventh oldest national college honor society.

Membership is by invitation only by one of the Society's 96 campus chapters and is based solely on scholarship and character.

Journalism/mass communication juniors, seniors and graduate students must rank in the upper 10 percent of their class (based on overall GPA). Outstanding doctoral students also may be eligible. Chapters may set higher standards for membership.

Chapters are located at four-year degree-granting institutions accredited by the appropriate regional agency (e.g., New England Association of Colleges) that offer a major in journalism or mass communication.

The Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS) is the coordinating agency for collegiate honor societies. Kappa Tau Alpha is an accredited member of the ACHS. On its web site, ACHS (www.achsnatl.org) provides a list of criteria on "How to Judge the Credibility of an Honor Society." ACHS was founded in 1925 and has 67 member societies.



The Kappa Tau Alpha Newsletter is published by:

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Mangun, Relly awarded KTA research grants

Kim Mangun (Utah) and Jeanine Relly (Arizona) are the 27th and 28th recipients of Chapter Adviser Research Grants. Each received \$1000.

The program was established in 2000 to reward advisers for their work with KTA and to assist them in their research. These grants bring the total awarded in the program to \$24,125.

Mangun will use her grant to do a cultural biography of Emory Overton Jackson, long-time editor of the *Birmingham World* and an overlooked figure in the Civil Rights Movement. For more than 35 years Jackson played an outspoken role in the fight for equal rights. Upon his death, Rosa Parks said "Much of my inspiration came from knowing and working with him... before it was popular to speak out against injustice."

Relly's grant will help complete a book that examines the root causes of violence against journalists in Mexico and how reporters and editors have responded. Since 2000, more than 125 journalists have been murdered and more than 24 disappeared during the country's prolonged war against organized crime. The study includes more than 120 in-depth interviews with journalists and representatives from non-governmental organizations.

The application deadline is Oct. 1.