



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

National Society Honoring Scholarship in Journalism and Mass Communication

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Convention Issue

Hamilton captures Mott Award

James T. Hamilton has won the Frank Luther Mott/Kappa Tau Alpha Research award for the best book on journalism and mass communication based on original research published in 2004.

The award is named in honor of Mott, Pulitzer Prize winner, educator and long-time leader of KTA, the National Honor Society in journalism and mass communication. The \$1000 award will be presented Aug. 11 in San Antonio during the annual AEJMC convention.

In *All the News That's Fit to Sell: How the Market Transforms Information into News*, Hamilton develops an economic theory of news that explains and predicts the factors that determine what the public sees in the media. The book traces the movement of the news media away from their political purpose toward their financial interests, beginning in the 1870s and continuing through the present. Hamilton puts his theory to test in a concluding chapter of recommendations.

"Hamilton has brought a wide range of analytical tools to an even wider range of media and data. It's an impressive analysis of the extent to which the market has intruded into what many of us think is the sanctuary of the fourth estate," observes Tony Rimmer (Cal State-Fullerton), one of the finalist judges.

"There is a lot of fresh thinking in this book. It requires some intellectual leaps of faith, but these are well-founded and supported, which encourages the reader to consider the totality of Hamilton's ideas. Hamilton is not a critical scholar, nor is he a corporate apologist. He is a social scientist and theorist, and his ideas can extend mass communication scholarship," notes Peter Gade (Oklahoma), a preliminary judge.

Hamilton is Charles S. Sydnor Professor of Public Policy at Duke University. The book is published by Princeton University Press (342 pp.).

Runnersup were Robert M. Entman for *Projections of Power: Framing News*,

Public Opinion and U.S. Foreign Policy and Philip Meyer for *The Vanishing Newspaper: Saving Journalism in the Information Age*. Other finalists were Ralph L. Crowder for *John Edward Bruce: Politician, Journalist and Self-Trained Historian* and James Landers for *The Weekly War: Newsmagazines and Vietnam*.

Preliminary judges were Joseph Campbell (American), Clarence Cotton Jr. (Hampton), Gade, Joe Hayden (Memphis), Larry Lorenz (Loyola of New Orleans), Barbara Moore (Tennessee-Knoxville), Michael Sheerin (Florida International), Margaret Patterson (Duquesne) and Gale Workman (Florida A & M). KTA national officers served as judges for the finals.

The deadline for books published in 2005 is Dec. 8. For more information about the contest, which has been held annually since 1944, see: www.KappaTauAlpha.org/mott-kta.html.

Singer named outstanding adviser

Jane B. Singer (Iowa) is the 2005 recipient of the William H. Taft Chapter Adviser of the Year.

The award, named after the executive director who served the Society for 30 years until retiring in 1991, will be presented at the Kappa Tau Alpha/AEJMC Awards luncheon Aug. 11 in San Antonio.

Singer founded the chapter at Colorado State University in 1997 before taking over the Iowa chapter in 2000. Singer has served as a Mott-KTA Research Award judge and has been a regular participant at the annual meeting of the National Council. She was initiated into KTA in 1977 at the University of Georgia.

At Iowa, Dr. Singer is chair of the School's scholarship committee and is president-elect of the Alpha of Iowa Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. She was selected this spring as one of five Dean's Scholars for the Class of 2005-2007.

"Jane is an excellent, innovative teacher, who has great rapport with students and colleagues. Her research is widely known nationally by some of the leading scholars in our field," wrote Pamela Creedon, director of the school. "Jane goes the extra mile in everything she does."

Singer received her Ph.D. from the University of Missouri.

She is the 21st recipient of the award. Previous winners include: J. William Click (Winthrop), Karen List (U-Mass.), James Whitfield (Louisiana-Monroe), Tony Rimmer (Cal State-Fullerton), Sam Riley (Virginia Tech), Thomas Schwartz (Ohio State), Emmanuel Onyedike (Hampton), Gil Fowler (Arkansas State), Milt Holstein (Utah), Luther Sanders (Arkansas at Little Rock), George Abney (Georgia), Marion Marzolf (Michigan), Whitney Mundt (Louisiana State), Daniel Pfaff (Penn State), David Sloan (Alabama), Earl Conn (Ball State), Jack Sissors (Northwestern), Taft (Missouri), Lucas Staudacher (Marquette) and Quintus Wilson (Northern Illinois).

Honor societies promote excellence

An honor society is defined by the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS) as an association of primarily collegiate members and chapters whose purposes are to encourage and recognize superior scholarship or leadership achievement either in broad fields of education or in departmental fields at either undergraduate or graduate levels.

Honor Societies have existed in the United States since the founding of Phi Beta Kappa in 1776. To meet their objectives, honor societies must define and maintain high standards of eligibility for membership and achieve sufficient status by so doing that membership becomes something to be valued highly.

ACHS membership is a certification that

an honor society has met high standards and is legitimate. On its web site ACHS (www.achsnatl.org) has a list of criteria on "How to Judge the Credibility of an Honor Society." ACHS was founded in 1925 and has 67 member honor societies.

KTA is the only journalism/mass communication organization recognized by ACHS.

Membership requirements

Kappa Tau Alpha is a college honor society that recognizes academic excellence and promotes scholarship. Membership is a mark of high distinction and honor.

Membership is by invitation only by one of the Society's 93 campus chapters and is based solely on scholarship and character.

Only students majoring in journalism or mass communication are eligible. Juniors and seniors must rank in the upper 10 percent of their class (based on overall GPA). Graduate students of superior achievement also may be selected. Chapters may set higher standards for membership.

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

For more information about KTA, including how to apply for a chapter, see www.KappaTauAlpha.org

Our 95th anniversary

The Society was founded by Dean Walter Williams at the University of Missouri March 10, 1910, and initiated its first members later that spring.

KTA is the seventh oldest national honor society and has the highest standards for membership (upper 10 percent) of the 67 member groups of the Association of College Honor Societies.

Lawrence Murphy, University of Illinois, was the first president of the national organization. Thomas A. Schwartz, Ohio State University, is the current president.



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Keith P. Sanders

Named KTA chapters

Abilene Christian: Charles H. Marler
Alabama: W. David Sloan
Ball State: Earl L. Conn
Bowling Green: Jesse J. Currier
Brigham Young: H.R. Merrill
Cal State-Fresno: Dayle H. Molen
Cal State-Fullerton: Terry M. Hynes
Cal State-Northridge: Kenneth S. Devol
Duquesne: C.S. McCarthy
Georgia: Benjamin H. Hardy Jr.
Hampton: William Kearney
Illinois: Lawrence W. Murphy / William W. Alfeld
Iowa: Leslie G. Moeller
Kansas: Elmer Beth
Michigan: Zell F. Mabee
Minnesota: James Goodhue
Missouri: Frank Luther Mott
Nebraska: Will Owen Jones
North Carolina: Norval Neil Luxon
Northern Illinois: Quintus C. Wilson
Ohio State: James E. Pollard
Oklahoma: H.H. Herbert
Oklahoma State: Charles A. Fleming
Oregon: George S. Turnbull
South Carolina: Albert T. Scroggins
Southern Illinois: Walter Williams
Tennessee: Willis C. Tucker
Texas-Austin: Olin E. Hinkle
Texas-Arlington: Charles Arrendell
West Virginia: Guy H. Stewart
Wisconsin-Oshkosh: David J. Lippert
Virginia Commonwealth: George Crutchfield