



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

Miraldi wins Mott Award

Robert Miraldi has won the Frank Luther Mott/Kappa Tau Alpha Research award for the best research book in journalism and mass communication published in 2003.

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. 5 in Toronto during the annual AEJMC convention.

In writing *The Pen is Mightier: the Muckraking Life of Charles Edward Russell* Miraldi had no shortage of material; the problem was finding a way to put it together to adequately describe the multiple dimensions of his subject.

Arguably, Russell is best known as an editor under Pulitzer and Hearst during the yellow journalism era and as one of the group of journalists who became known as "muckrakers" for their attacks on corruption and industrial excess. But he also was one

of three co-founders of the NAACP.

"Although respected as one of American history's greatest journalists, it is fair to say that the journalism community knew only half of what muckraker Charles Edward Russell should be remembered for. Robert Miraldi's highly readable and thoroughly researched biography provides the full context of Russell's remarkable life," writes Thomas Swartz (Ohio State), one of the finalist judges.

"The book is well researched and a contribution to the field. It's an informative book that should interest almost anyone in journalism and certainly those with an interest in journalism history or muckraking and investigative reporting. Well written and easy to read, this is an outstanding book," adds finalist judge J. William Click (Winthrop).

Miraldi is professor of journalism at the State University of New York, New Paltz. Earlier, he was a reporter for the *Staten Island Advance*.

Other finalists were Glenda Balas for *Recovering a Public Vision for Public Television*; James Boylan for *Pulitzer's School: Columbia University's School of Journalism, 1903-2003*; Thomas Doherty for *cold war, cool medium: Television, McCarthyism and American Culture*; and B.G. Ellis for *The Moving Appeal: Mr. McClanahan, Mrs. Dill and the Civil War's Great Newspaper Run*.

Preliminary judges were Martin Halstuk (Penn State), Barbara Moore (Tennessee-Knoxville), Margaret Patterson (Duquesne), Mark Popovich (Ball State), Kit Rushing (Tennessee-Chattanooga), Jeanne Scafella (Murray State), Robert Spellman (Southern Illinois) and Mike Stricklin (Nebraska). KTA national officers served as judges for the finals.

The deadline for books published in 2004 is Dec. 7 For more information about the contest, which has been held annually since 1944, see: www.missouri/~ktahq/mott-kta.html/

Click named outstanding adviser

J. William (Bill) Click has been named 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. 5 in Toronto.

Dr. Click founded the Society's chapter at Winthrop in 1990 and has been its only adviser. He has been very active as a Mott-KTA Research Award judge and has been one of the most regular attendees at the annual meeting of the National Council. He was initiated into KTA in 1959 by the Ohio University chapter. He was elected KTA national president in 2002.

In addition to his KTA service, Dr. Click is a highly regarded teacher and scholar. He was recognized as the Educator of the Year by the AEJMC Magazine Division in 1999 and his research, especially in magazine journalism and typography, is exemplary. He was inducted into the Ball State University Journalism Hall of Fame in 1987 and the College Media Advisers Hall of Fame as a founding member in 1994.

He received his Ph.D. from Ohio State University and previously taught at Louisiana State University, Ohio University and Central Michigan University.

He is the 20th recipient of the award. Previous winners include: 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.missouri.edu/~ktahq/

95th anniversary nears

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. J. William Click, Winthrop University, is the current president.



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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
New York: James Melvin Lee
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