



KAPPA TAU ALPHA

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY IN JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Northwestern professor wins Kappa Tau Alpha adviser of year award

Journalism Professor Abigail Foerstner earned a top honor from the Kappa Tau Alpha national honor society at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication conference in Detroit.

National KTA President-elect Bill Cassidy announced that Foerstner was the 38th winner of the William H. Taft Outstanding Adviser Award at the annual awards ceremony.

“Every year I meet with the students inducted into KTA and know that a new generation of leaders will take our profession forward to tackle all the challenges we face,” Foerstner said in a recorded video message.

Foerstner had a previous commitment and could not attend the ceremony. In her message, she stressed that knowledge, truth and accuracy, the English words associated with Kappa Tau Alpha, are the hallmarks of journalism in a democratic society.

Charles F. Whitaker, professor and dean at the Medill School of Journalism, Media and Integrated Marketing Communications, said the award is well deserved.

“Abigail’s indefatigable devotion to her students’ success – both in the classroom and outside of it – makes her a model colleague,” Whitaker said. “KTA and Medill are lucky to have her.”

Foerstner received her bachelor’s degree from Northwestern and was inducted into KTA as a master’s student there in 1972. Now an associate professor, Foerstner has served as Medill’s KTA adviser since 2009.

The Taft award is named for William H. Taft, a University of Missouri journalism professor who served as KTA’s executive director from 1962-1991. The award has been awarded annually since 1945 and comes with a \$500 check.

Kappa Tau Alpha, the national honor society for journalism and mass communication, was founded at the University of Missouri and has 100 chapters at colleges and universities nationwide.