

Channeling  
creativity and  
curiosity into  
scholarship and  
service



**Alpha Chi**  
National College Honor Society



NOT JUST ANOTHER

# Honor Society

*Since 1922 Alpha Chi National College Honor Society has distinguished itself as one of the top national honor societies in the nation. Now with 480,000 alumni, some 300 chapters across 45 states, and 11,000 new members annually, we recognize exceptional student scholars and unite them around one goal—channeling creativity and curiosity into scholarship that serves the greater good.*



# An Elite Honor

*As a member of Alpha Chi, you're part of a select group of high-achieving college and university students. We admit only the top 10 percent of eligible institutions' juniors, seniors, and graduate students from diverse academic fields. Membership is prestigious and among the highest academic honors on any campus.*

## Turning Students into Scholars

At Alpha Chi, we take student scholarship to a new level, inviting students to join wider scholarly conversations through academic showcases, chapter-sponsored lectures and forums, debates, workshops, publication opportunities and, of course, our annual national convention.



*Alpha Chi recognizes academic achievers for their hard work and provides them opportunities to showcase their efforts.*



## EXCELLENCE & INTEGRITY

Alpha Chi members pledge to uphold the highest standards of academic excellence and integrity. Many members actively promote these values on their campuses by revising and instituting honor codes, serving on academic judicial committees, sponsoring multidisciplinary conferences, and more. We lead by example, celebrating the many collective voices engaged in the scholarly conversation while learning to make our own contributions in good faith.



### Your Induction is Only the Beginning

It's an honor to be invited to join Alpha Chi, a distinction you'll carry and list on your resume for life. But the benefits of membership are far more than honorary. Alpha Chi commissions and empowers you for a life of scholarship, achievement, and service. That's part of what sets us apart from other national honor societies.

*Alpha Chi provides a community with a vision of excellence.*

# Scholarship for Good

*Think a national honor society is just a great addition to your resume? Think again!*

*It's true that joining Alpha Chi is a huge boost to your academic and professional portfolio. But membership also empowers you to serve a greater purpose. In our work both inside and outside the classroom, we're motivated by a driving question:*

*What difference are we making?*

*That deeper purpose—to make our world better—drives every experiment, project, and pursuit.*



## CHANGING OUR WORLD FOR THE BETTER

Many Alpha Chi chapters embrace service as part of their mission, presenting opportunities for a variety of local and national service projects that extend members' scholarship and creativity beyond the classroom.

Our chapters often organize service activities around a central humanitarian theme, addressing issues such as poverty, hunger, illiteracy, disenfranchisement, and injustice.

What This Looks Like:

- › Organize school supply drives for local elementary schools
- › Read to underprivileged children
- › Improve the environment with campus clean-up days or Adopt-a-Highway programs
- › Collect and distribute food for the hungry
- › Tutor at-risk students
- › Build housing for low-income families through Habitat for Humanity



INVESTED IN

# Research & Creativity

*Since our founding in 1922 as a scholarship society, Alpha Chi has been deeply invested in fueling students' original research and creativity. We have always challenged students to find and lend their growing voice—or instrument, or brush, or camera—to the most pressing conversations and issues of the moment.*

*Today we carry forward that commitment through competitions, prizes, scholarships, and fellowships that reward students' scholarly and creative work at the undergraduate and graduate levels.*

*Alpha Chi gives students from all disciplines a means to participate in and celebrate scholarship and achievement.*



# FUEL FOR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

We believe not only in encouraging but also investing in student research. Our national organization annually awards 26 scholarships and fellowships totaling \$74,000, convention research and presentation prizes in the amount of \$10,000, chapter grants of nearly \$5,000, and \$65,000 in convention participation travel and housing grants. Regions award more than \$12,000 in scholarships, and chapter scholarship competitions award significant grants across the nation.



## Alpha Chi Chapters Offer:

- › Workshops on preparing writing samples, statements of purpose, and admissions packets for graduate school admissions
- › Seminars for job interviews and resume writing
- › Panel discussions
- › Academic / creative excursions
- › Keynote speakers
- › Essay contests

## *Aletheia*

Our flagship publication—the peer-reviewed journal *Aletheia*—is one of the nation's few peer-reviewed journals for undergraduate scholarship. *Aletheia* provides an invaluable springboard for student scholars to publish their original critical and creative work, often for the first time.

Undergraduate students have published:

- › Empirical quantitative and qualitative research reports
- › Novellas, short stories, creative essays, and poetry
- › Critical literary and artistic analysis
- › Methodological articles
- › Plays and film scripts
- › Theoretical articles
- › Historical analysis
- › Policy analysis
- › Case studies

THE ALPHA CHI

# National Convention

*Alpha Chi's signature event is a three-day multidisciplinary conference that brings together the best student scholars from across the country to share their original work, often for the first time.*

## Celebrating Multidisciplinary Student Scholarship

Our annual conventions are modeled on professional academic conferences, with the main feature being a program of scholarly and artistic presentations by students.

Hundreds of students present their original work each year, competing for distinguished awards including monetary prizes, scholarships, and fellowships.

Alpha Chi encourages attendance through a generous program of travel and lodging grants that can make the cost of attendance absolutely manageable on a college student's budget.



*Alpha Chi recognizes students' hard work and dedication to academia.*



#### RECENT CONVENTIONS:

- Portland, OR
- Chicago, IL
- Louisville, KY
- St. Louis, MO
- Washington, D.C.
- Nashville, TN

## One Event, A Lifetime of Benefits

By attending the annual convention, you'll also:

- Build presentation skills
- Network with schools, professionals, and mentors
- Engage and learn with students across disciplines
- Enjoy the opportunity to travel at low cost and explore a new city

## Most students identify the convention as the highlight of their Alpha Chi experience.

Not only for the joy of traveling and presenting work, but for the value it adds to their CVs, resumes, and graduate school applications.

Alumni often say they built friendships and connections at the convention that benefit them throughout their lives and careers.

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*This is why I believe we are the greatest honor society. Because we care. We are more than a seal of approval on a long list of accolades. We bring together students from across the nation to create connections and exchange ideas.*

**Michael Suarez**

Texas Alpha Xi | 2014

# Chapter-Driven, Student-Led

*Most national honor societies are top-down organizations, led by a central team at the national level who cater principally to faculty and alumni. But Alpha Chi is chapter-driven and student-led. We focus our local, regional, and national programming on delivering the richest possible experience for our students.*



## Countless Leadership Opportunities

We strongly believe that, done right, an academic honors society shouldn't be just another club. It should be a catalyst for gaining real-world leadership experience. With some 300 student-led chapters at schools across the country, you're sure to find a leadership opportunity—serve as an officer at your local chapter, run for regional leadership, or serve as a student delegate to our National Council.

## Student Governance

Work closely with faculty sponsors to lead chapters and events. As a student leader, you don't just have a voice—you have a vote. Our student delegates have full voting rights in every organizational decision, meaning you can shape what Alpha Chi is and becomes, today and tomorrow.

## Mentorship and Growth

Many of our sponsors and their colleagues play a vital role as mentors, helping you make the most of the many scholarly and service opportunities Alpha Chi offers to hone critical professional skills and shape a narrative of purpose that propels you toward graduate school and successful careers.

## Diversity

Good scholarship—like good citizenship—is rooted in an appreciation for different voices and perspectives. That's why Alpha Chi is committed to diversity and inclusivity in all our work. There is no typical Alpha Chi student, chapter, member institution, or alumnus, and we celebrate those differences even as we nurture the shared values and commitments that unite us.

# DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

1



*Our alumni include countless professors, physicians, attorneys, artists, and other distinguished professionals from every walk of life.*

2



Photo by NASA

## 1 Dr. Mary W. Gray | ATTORNEY

Founder of the Association for Women in Mathematics and recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Engineering, and Mathematics Mentoring. Gray was inducted into the Nebraska Alpha Chi chapter at Hastings College in 1959.

## 2 Clayton C. Anderson | ASTRONAUT

Selected as an astronaut by NASA in 1998. Anderson was a member of the 2007 Expedition 15 crew and spent 152 days aboard the International Space Station. He was inducted into the Nebraska Alpha Chi chapter at Hastings College in 1980.



### 3 Avery Bourne | IL STATE REPRESENTATIVE

A member of Alpha Chi from Columbia College in Missouri, Bourne's dedication to public service led her to suspend her legal education to accept an appointment followed by election in 2016 to the 95th District of the Illinois House of Representatives. Sworn in at age 23, she is the youngest member of the Illinois legislature.



### 4 Reuben Ironhorse-Kent | ARTIST

Inducted into the Nebraska Delta chapter at Peru State College in 2013, Ironhorse-Kent's **works** have appeared in collections including the Smithsonian American Indian Art Museum, the Institute of American Indian Arts, the Heritage Museum at Pine Ridge, SD, and the Southern Plains Indian Museum. He is a member of the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska.



### 5 Coleen Rowley | RETIRED FBI

Inducted at Wartburg College in Iowa, Rowley went on to become a whistleblower after the events of 9/11. She disclosed FBI failures which, after a 2-year investigation, confirmed serious pre-9/11 mistakes. She was consequently selected along with two other whistleblowers as Time Magazine's 2002 "Persons of the Year."



# Joining Alpha Chi

*You probably have an opportunity to join many different national honor societies. So how do you know if Alpha Chi is right for you?*



## IS ALPHA CHI RIGHT FOR YOU?

- More than just getting good grades, you're driven by curiosity and inspired by the academic endeavor.
- You're interested not just in building connections within your discipline, but in collaboration and conversation across disciplinary lines.
- You're dedicated to high-achievement academics and advancing your professional development.
- You believe in scholarship applied—through academics, leadership, and service.
- You want to learn and grow with a diverse group of student scholars and mentors.

Whether you're aiming for a baccalaureate degree, planning to attend graduate school, or intending to move immediately into a career, your membership in Alpha Chi will prove invaluable.

# IS ALPHA CHI RIGHT FOR YOUR CAMPUS?

Keeping your best and brightest students challenged and engaged—both in your classrooms and in the wider scholarly community—is the great challenge facing honors directors and faculty mentors. We can help.

## Enhance Your Academic Culture

A local chapter partners with your administration to support the campus mission for all academic disciplines. Alpha Chi not only recognizes superior achievement upon induction but also provides avenues for your students to present, publish, and earn scholarships for original academic work. Since students often must wait until graduate school to pursue these kinds of scholarly endeavors, membership in Alpha Chi brings a meaningful advantage.

## Built-in Opportunities for Your Students

Most campus leaders find it challenging to engage students in academic activities beyond the boundaries of your campus. Alpha Chi offers annual ready-made ways to involve your students in scholarly and civic programs, freeing time for chapter leadership. Whether your students are preparing for career opportunities or for graduate education, these engagement experiences in Alpha Chi not only create competitive resumes, they satisfy students' desires for transformative education.

## Foster Collaboration

Alpha Chi facilitates friendship and interaction among your college's highest achieving students, making for a more satisfying college experience and happier alumni. An Alpha Chi chapter can flourish within your current honors community or on its own, but it always fosters a spirit of academic inquiry and collegiality which forges bonds among faculty and students.

## READY TO CHARTER A NEW CHAPTER?

To be eligible for an Alpha Chi chapter, institutions must:

- Be an established, non-profit, four-year senior college whose work is primarily academic in nature.
- Be a member in good standing of the appropriate regional accrediting association.
- Confer degrees at the baccalaureate level or higher, such as the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science.

**To start the process or learn more, contact Alpha Chi's national office at 800-477-4225 or [office@alphachihonor.org](mailto:office@alphachihonor.org)**

**[www.AlphaChiHonor.org](http://www.AlphaChiHonor.org)**



## NATIONAL OFFICE

Alpha Chi National Honor Society  
8 Shackleford Plaza, Suite 200  
Little Rock, AR 72211  
office@alphachihonor.org  
800-477-4225

## WEBSITE

AlphaChiHonor.org

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Lara Q. Noah  
lnoah@alphachihonor.org

## SOCIAL MEDIA



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