

# Alpha Chi's 2017 Louisville convention challenged travelers but did not disappoint

Student scholars and faculty mentors overcame the travails of blustery spring travel, including dozens of cancelled flights causing missed sessions, to assemble in Louisville, Kentucky, for the annual national convention April 6-8, 2017. As more than 400 delegates registered on Thursday, many chapters dropped off cash, checks, bags of coins, and hundreds of new children's books to be distributed to children visiting pediatric facilities run by Norton Children's as part of a national program called Reach Out and Read. This service initiative, chosen by elected student representatives serving on the convention committee, as well as entries in the Collaborative Research Project competition, the



*Dr. Ed Madden, right, receiving his award from Dr. David Jones, NC president.*

keynote addresses, and individual research presentations offered compelling aspects of the convention theme of Transcending Boundaries.

Thursday evening's kick-off reception allowed attendees to network among art and research posters showcased in the Fountain Room of the historic Galt House Hotel. The next two days continued the concentration



on student scholarship, featuring close to 250 presenters from approximately 80 chapters presenting in adjudicated sessions organized by academic discipline.

Friday morning's plenary session featured sponsor service awards and the recognition of this year's Distinguished Alumnus, poet, activist, and professor, Dr. Ed Madden. Madden remarked that when he attended Alpha Chi's convention 30 years previously as an undergrad pre-

senter he never would have believed he'd one day be speaking at its national podium. Madden, an associate professor of English at the University of South Carolina and award-winning poet, soon illustrated the combination of artistry, intellect, and conviction that led to his recognition. Inducted into the Arkansas Eta chapter at Harding University, Madden wove personal stories from his career after college and the family life underlying his most recent work of poetry, motivating the students to not give up on the work they love and the people they love. He concluded his talk reading several poems from *Ark*, fully engaging the audience. The line for questions after his presentation was long, which continued at the book-signing table, with attendees eager to meet this warm, humorous, and committed alumnus.

Keynote speaker Dr. John Janovy intrigued the audience at the Saturday evening gala. His talk "Life Lessons from a Parasite" merged biological truths from



*Dr. John Janovy*

his 40-year career as a parasitologist at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, with social and cultural truths by analogy and metaphor. Incorporating humor, frequent allusions to popular culture, and scientific evidence to underscore his key ideas, Janovy illustrated why he was an award-winning faculty member and a productive writer in so many genres.

Awards capped the evening, with 26 national scholarship and fellowship winners announced, convention presentation Prizes awarded to 29 students, and the \$5,000 Nationwide Collaborative Research Prize claimed by the team from the University of

**Convention...**

*(continued from page one)*

North Texas. The culmination of the evening was when the Texas Psi chapter at Abilene Christian University, sponsored by Dr. Jennifer Huddleston, accepted the coveted President's Cup, Alpha Chi's prize for outstanding chapter in the nation.

As the delegates prepared to journey home, many were already saving the date for next year's convention, April 5-7, 2018, in Portland, Oregon.



*Linda Leavitt, Lindenwood University (left) and Kate Stewart, University of Arkansas Monticello (right) received Outstanding Sponsor awards.*



*Abilene Christian University's Texas Psi chapter of Alpha Chi won the President's Cup as the outstanding chapter of the year. Sponsors are Jennifer Huddleston, Mikee Delony, and Tracey Shilcut.*

***Distinguished Service Award winners:***

**Dr. Karl Havlak**  
Angelo State University

**Dr. Tim Lindblom**  
Lyon College

**Dr. Victoria Neagoe**  
Goldey-Beacom College

**Dr. Charles Zimmerman**  
Robert Morris University

**Dr. Jacquelyn Kegley**  
California State University, Bakersfield

## Sightseeing in Louisville, attending the Saturday night Gala



*Delegates visit Churchill Downs.*



*Anderson University delegates with chapter sponsors Blake Janutolo and Jason Parks.*



*Harding University delegates with chapter sponsor Sarah Wilhoit.*



*Sightseeing in Louisville on Friday.*



*University of Mary Hardin-Baylor delegates with chapter sponsor Jodi Pilgrim..*

## University of North Texas team claims the 2017 Collaborative Prize

With a project titled “Literacy for All Students in Denton: Methods of Transcending Boundaries to Effect Change,” the team of student researchers from the University of North Texas received the 2017 Nationwide Insurance Collaborative Research Prize at the Alpha Chi National College Honor Society national convention in Louisville in April. Competition guidelines require chapters to assemble a team of three to five student researchers from at least three different departments; this team then develops a research problem from the general topic announced in the fall—this year’s topic was Transcending Boundaries. The University of North Texas team was composed of Rosana Adams, Rachel Duffy, Sonia Gomez, Giselle Greenidge, and Brandi Webster. Using a phenomenological research design, their research focused “on the history of education, support systems in the city, and the progress towards improving literacy in both mathematics and reading, for all students.” The University of North Texas chapter sponsor is Dr. Jeanne Tunks.

Representing the diversity of majors present in every Alpha Chi chapter, as well as the breadth of the scholarship conducted by some 300 campus chapters, two other teams brought finished projects to this year’s competition. East Central University’s project was titled “Water is Life: Sustainable Water Systems for Place-Bound Communities.” Team members were Lacy Crisler, Allyson Gregory, Faith Lasiter, and Talor Stewart. ECU’s faculty sponsor was



*The many delegates from Chowan University who attended the convention with chapter sponsor Syble Shellito.*

Dr. Christine Pappas. Their team experienced extreme travel difficulties, with multiple cancelled flights due to severe weather. Ultimately only one team member, Talor Stewart, made it to the convention with Dr. Pappas, with the other members answering questions from the audience by video conference. Their research considered safety, durability, cost, and environmental impact of several water systems the United Nations might choose to enact.

Ouachita Baptist University also brought a team to the competition, with a project titled “Facing the Uncertain Future of Infectious Disease.” Team members were Jace Bradshaw, Cyntanna Coker-Hawkins, Katie Smith, and Austin White. The project considered the problem of antibiotics losing their potency, and two avenues for solving it: discovering new bacteria that produced antibiotics and the

creation of new antibiotics. It also examined the economic implications and the public’s perception towards both methods. The Ouachita Baptist chapter sponsor is Dr. Lori Hensley, professor of biology, and a recipient of Alpha Chi’s Outstanding Sponsor Award for 2016.

The 2017 Collaborative Research Prize is proudly sponsored by Alpha Chi’s affinity partner Nationwide Insurance. Nationwide recognizes the importance of groups that bring people together to celebrate common interests and academic achievement. Nationwide also recognizes there is no better way to provide outstanding service than to partner with the organizations that are close to your heart. Alpha Chi is grateful that Nationwide not only offers a useful product but also values the scholarly excellence of these students.



*The West Liberty University delegates with sponsor Linda Cowan.*

**Save the Date!**  
National  
Convention  
in Portland  
April 5-7, 2018

*Honorary Member  
Nomination Deadlines*

March 31, June 30, Sept. 30, Dec. 31

## Council gains new faculty and student members

Alpha Chi delegates elected one new regional secretary-treasurer, two new faculty members, and four new student representatives to join the National Council at the 2017 convention in Louisville. Additionally, two faculty-at-large members of the council were re-elected.

The 22-member National Council, Alpha Chi's chief governing body, is composed of 15 faculty members and seven students. The faculty, who also serve as sponsors of local chapters, generally complete four-year terms, and the students are elected by region to two-year terms. They work via committees year-round and culminate the work year in a national board meeting held during the society's annual convention.

Ana Yanes-Garcia, a student at Texas State University, was elected to represent Region I. Convention delegates elected two from Shorter University in Georgia: Dr. Kathi Vosevich, associate provost and chapter sponsor, to serve as faculty member-at-large, and Kayla Avery was elected to serve Region III as its student representative.

Dr. David Jones of Westminster College in Missouri, currently serving as National Council president, was re-elected to serve at-large for another four years. Elliot Collins, a student from West Liberty Uni-



*Newly-elected regional student representatives (left to right) are Zack Merhavy, Kayla Avery, Ana Yanes-Garcia and Elliot Collins, along with faculty members Dr. Jacquelyn Kegley, Dr. Kathi Vosevich and Dr. Agashi Nwogbaga.*

versity in West Virginia, will serve as the new student representative for Region V.

Dr. Agashi Nwogbaga, professor of mathematics and primary chapter sponsor at Wesley College in Delaware will begin his first four-year term as faculty-at-large to the National Council, and Dr. Bonita Cade of Roger Williams University in Rhode Island was re-elected to serve her second at-large term on the Council.

Dr. Jacquelyn Kegley, professor of philosophy and religious studies at California State University, Bakersfield, was

elected by Region VII to fill its vacant secretary-treasurer position until 2019. Zack Merhavy of Grand Canyon University in Arizona will represent the students for Region VII for a two-year term.

Dr. Jones also thanked outgoing student representatives Katy Maddux (Region I), Sarah Geil (Region III), and Emily Mancos (Region V) for their council work. Robyn Musick (Region VII) was unable to attend.

*Additional current news at*  
[www.AlphaChiHonor.org](http://www.AlphaChiHonor.org)



*Twenty-nine delegates received prizes for making the best presentations in their fields at the national convention in Louisville in April. Most of the presentation prize winners are pictured here.*

## Presentation Prizes awarded to 29 students

Twenty-nine members received prizes for making the best presentations in their fields at the national convention in Louisville, Kentucky, April 6-8. The cash prizes were funded through discipline-specific endowments established by supporters of the society. Among more than 250 students making presentations, the following received prizes:

**The Walden S. Freeman Prize in American History** went to Stephanie Aram Smith from Grand View University for the presentation titled "An Unwinnable War: Harry J. Anslinger and the Origin of the War on Drugs."

**The Ellen Millsaps Prize in American Literature** went to Warren Powers II from Chowan University for the presentation titled "The New Sorrow Songs."

**The Avery Grenfell Church Prize in Anthropology and Sociology** went to Maria Jimenez and Mariana Osaki from Missouri Valley College for their presentation titled "Social Interactions Between Domestic and International Students in the U.S."

**The Alexander Bendazzi/Strayer University Prize in Art/Music/Dance Papers** went to Christian Jessup from Gardner-Webb University for the presentation titled "New Music for a Galaxy Far, Far Away."

**The Robert Blake Prize in British Literature** went to Sarah Spaulding from Carson-Newman University for the presentation titled "Powering Petruchio: Building a Case for Personality Disorder in The Taming of the Shrew."

**The Gayle Webb White Prize in Business Administration** went to Tyler Martin Werland from the University of Texas at San Antonio for the presentation titled "Effective Leadership: How to Be an Effective Leader."

**The Joseph E. and Bessie Mae Pryor Prize in Chemistry** went to Gia Storti from University of the Sciences for the presentation titled "The Synthesis and Examination of the Colligative Properties of Amphiphilic Hybrid Molecular Brushes."

**The Brown's Graduation Supplies Prize in Communication** went to Gabriele Morgan from Bluefield College for the presentation titled "Keep Beach City Queer: The Language of Gender in Cartoon Network's Steven Universe."

**The Floyd Tesmer/Strayer University Prize in Computer Science and Engineering** went to Anh Quynh Pham from Indiana Institute of Technology for the presentation titled "Developing a Primary Femoral Stem for Total Hip Arthroplasty."

**The Thelma Hall Prize in Creative Writing** went to Bronte Pearson from University of Arkansas at Monticello for the presentation titled "Yellow."

**The Patricia A. Williams Prize in Education** went to Melissa Whitwood from Midwestern State University for the presentation titled "Integrating Children's Literature in Elementary Math Methods: Fostering Understanding and Connections."

**The Milton L. and Avery G. Church Prize in Environmental Science** went to Jaspal Brar from University of the Sciences for the presentation titled "Plasma Treatment of Water: A Solution for Water Conservation and a Way to Promote Growth."

**The Jeanette Wieser Prize in Exercise Science and Nutrition** went to Courtney Lynn Dees from Texas Lutheran University for the presentation titled "Effect of Expectation of Treatment on Perceived Pain in Injured Collegiate Athletes."

**The Kathryn Hoyle Bradley Prize in Health Sciences** went to John Buttross from Christian Brothers University for the presentation titled "Quantification of Amyloid Beta Plaques in Alzheimer's Disease Mouse Models."

**The Bonnie Revelle Prize in Molecular and Cellular Biology** went to Ashley Haught from West Liberty University for the presentation titled "Francisella tularensis May Utilize Iron Scavenged from Erythrocytes to Increase Survival in Low pH Environments."

**The Blake and Trish Janutolo Prize in Organismal and Ecological Biology** went to Lewis Wrenn Woodward from Chowan University for the presentation titled "Salinity Alters Behavior, Growth, and Development in *Xenopus laevis* Tadpoles."

**The Floyd and Rosana Tesmer/D.C. Gamma Prize in Original Visual Art** went to Christiana Bays from Missouri Western State University for the presentation titled "Sushi."

**The Johnny and Frances Williams Prize in Performing Arts** went to Chris Justice from Carson-Newman University for the presentation titled "Concerto No. 3, Movement I: Allegro Moderato by Carl Stamitz."

**Two Clark Youngblood Prizes in Philosophy and World Religion** were awarded to Hunter Edwards from Oklahoma Christian University for the presentation titled "Joshua and Judges: A Battle of Historical Accounts" and to Rebekah Rhea from Gardner-Webb University for the presentation titled "Are You My Lord? A Critical Analysis of Selected Religious Media for Children."

**The Ann C. and Avery G. Church Prize in Poetry** went to Amber Morningstar Byars from the Institute of American Indian Arts for the presentation titled "Don't Call Me Indian."

**The Political Science/Economics Prize** went to Danielle Casey from University of Central Arkansas for the presentation titled "Race, Republicanism, and Realignment in Arkansas: Analyzing Arkansas's Shift in Party Loyalty."

**Two Mary Waterstreet Prizes in Psychology** were awarded to Jasmine Brock from Harding University for the presentation titled "The Effect of a Scenario Autism Spectrum Disorder Diagnosis and Teacher Experience and Professional Development Training on Perceptions of Appropriate Behavior Interventions" and to Merissa Milnickel from Anderson University for the presentation titled "Stretched Thin: The Effects of Media Exposure on Body Shame, Internalization, and Emotional Disclosure."

**The Patricia Graham Prize in World History** went to Adam Lubbers from Abilene Christian University for the presentation titled "The Medicine of the Dead: The History and Causes of Early European Corpse Medicine."

**The Bill Short Prize in World Literature** went to Valerie Kocsis from Abilene Christian University for the presentation titled "To Wring Tears from the Stars: The Suicides of Emma Bovary and Hedda Gabler."

Matthew Brown from Hastings College won the presentation prize in the **miscellaneous disciplines** category for the presentation titled "Characterizing the Boundary Condition for a Water-Solid Interface under Applied Shear."

**The Dennis M. Organ Prize** for the top presentation by a Graduate Student or Alumni Member went to Giselle Greenidge from University of North Texas for her presentation titled "Altruism and Trust: Can They Predict Remittances?"

# 190 Years of Sponsor Service



Alpha Chi honored many of its chapters' valued faculty sponsors at the national convention April 6-8 in Louisville. With 35 years of sponsor service at Benedict College, Ruby Blair topped the list. For 10 years of service, sponsors are awarded a silver pin. After 15 years, a gold pin suspended from a matching horizontal bar is awarded. At 20 years, a sapphire is added to either end of the bar, emeralds upon 25 years, and diamonds at 30 years. A final ruby is added to the center of the pin for sponsors serving for 35 or more years.

In addition to Ms. Blair, nine other chapter sponsors were awarded pins for 10, 15, 20, and 30 years of service. These volunteer sponsors contributed to their students and campuses a combined total of 190 years of dedicated service.

## 10-year-pins:

**Dr. Craig Rogers**, 10 years  
Campbellsville University  
**Dr. Diane Taylor**, 10 years  
Tarleton State University  
**Misti Reisman**, 14 years  
Tarleton State University

## 15-year-pins:

**Dr. James Koukl**, 15 years  
University of Texas at Tyler  
**Dr. Michelle Putnam**, 16 years  
Lipscomb University  
**Dr. Beth Riggs**, 17 years  
Tarleton State University  
**Dr. Allan Nelson**, 18 years  
Tarleton State University

## 20-year-pin:

**Dr. Read Diket**, 25 years  
William Carey College

## 30-year-pin:

**Suzanne Pundt**, 30 years  
University of Texas at Tyler

## 35-year-pin:

**Ruby Blair**, 35 years  
Benedict College

## Sponsors Planning for 2017-2018

The checklists below for Star and Notable chapter awards can help guide your chapter to achieve the benchmarks of healthy chapter life.

### Star Chapter Criteria

A Star Chapter will fulfill the following:

- Induct and register new members
- File an Annual Chapter Report by the deadline
- Send at least one sponsor and one student to the annual national convention
- Have at least one student presentation on the annual national convention program
- Nominate a student for a national fellowship or scholarship
- Host an academic program on campus

### Notable Chapter Criteria

A Notable Chapter will achieve these benchmarks of healthy chapter life:

- Induct and register new members
- File an Annual Chapter Report by the deadline

And any three of the following:

- Send at least one sponsor and one student to the annual national convention
- Have at least one student presentation on the annual national convention program
- Nominate a student for a national fellowship or scholarship
- Host an academic program on campus

# TOGETHER, WE HELP EACH OTHER DO MORE.

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You wouldn't be involved with Alpha Chi if you weren't passionate about being part of a group that shares your values, but that's not the only reason you're proud of being a member of Alpha Chi. Alpha Chi also believes in the importance of philanthropy and in playing an active role in our community. Nationwide shares these values, too, and that's why our partnership works.

To learn more about what our partnership can do for you, call 1-866-238-1426 or visit [nationwide.com/AlphaChi](http://nationwide.com/AlphaChi).

