

# Alpha Chi National Convention

April 4 - 6, 2024  
Birmingham, Alabama



## Program of Events

### Thursday, April 4

**4:00 p.m. Sheraton Hotel Check-in-----Sheraton Lobby**  
*The convention meeting space this year will be located across the street from the Sheraton Lobby in the Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex (BJCC). We suggest you check into the hotel and take your bags to your room before coming to AX check-in in the BJCC. **You'll find adhesive feet on the ground marking the inside route from the hotel lobby to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor East meeting space.***

**5-7:00 p.m. Chapter Delegation Check-in-----BJCC East Exhibition Hall 3rd Floor**  
*One advisor or student delegate per chapter will check in at AX Central on the 3rd floor of the BJCC to receive the chapter's packet of convention materials. Alumni attending without their home chapter should check in individually.*

- National Council & Office Staff Greeters
- Donation Station for the Sock-It-To-Me Drive
- Alpha Chi Regalia & Merchandise from Brown's Graduation Supplies
- Birmingham Visitor Information Table

**Presenter AV-Testing Room-----East G**

**7:00 p.m. 2024 National Convention Opening Session-----East M**  
*Wear your college and/or chapter gear and join us for the official welcome to this year's national convention. Be ready for a chapter roll call!*

**7:45 p.m. Regional Mixers (Game – The Important Questions in Life)**

Region I-----	East D
Region II-----	East E
Region III-----	East F
Region IV-----	East G
Regions V & VI-----	East K
Region VII-----	East J

**8:30 p.m. Alpha Chi Trivia Night 2024!-----Sheraton Ballroom 11/12**  
*Instead of waiting until Friday to let your hair down, get started tonight making new friends and memories at our trivia night hosted by our Regional Student Representatives. Complete with music, refreshments, and prizes, we'll be ready for teams of up to 5 with no more than 2 advisors per team. Come as a team or join an open table, and don't forget to brush up on your Alpha Chi trivia!*

## Friday, April 5

- 7:30 a.m. Breakfast in Regional Meetings**  
*Officer elections will take place in every region. Please bring your voting materials.*
- Region I -----East D  
Region II----- East E  
Region III----- East F  
Region IV ----- East G  
Regions V & VI -----East K  
Region VII-----East J
- 8:40 a.m. Member Presentations Session I**  
*Seven concurrent rooms of student presentations grouped by academic discipline for up to four 15-minute presentations (each with at least 3 minutes of Q&A) with five minutes of travel time between each presentation.*
- Please consult the mobile app for presenter details for each section.**
- Section 1: American History ----- East E  
Section 2: British Literature ----- East F  
Section 3: Education—Research & Scholarship-----East D  
Section 4: Chemistry ----- East G  
Section 5: Psychology-----East J  
Section 6: Music----- East L  
Section 7: Political Science -----East K
- 10:10 a.m. Collaborative Student Research Competition Session -----East M**  
*Three of our nine collaborative research teams in this year’s competition will share their projects’ findings and answer judge and audience questions. (Each team competing in this session should attend the full session.)*
- Derailed: Embedded Contradictions in California’s High-Speed Rail***  
Fresno Pacific University, California Zeta
- Using Time on Bailey Mountain to Clear Minds for Focus During the Tumult***  
Mars Hill University, North Carolina Epsilon
- Finance, Faith, and Future Education: A Survey of Student Knowledge About Debt***  
University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Texas Beta
- 11:30 a.m. Keynote Speaker T. K. Thorne-----East M**  
*Author of *Behind the Magic Curtain: Secrets, Spies, and Unsung White Allies of Birmingham’s Civil Rights Days* (with Q&A and book-signing)*
- 12:30 p.m. Break for Meaningful Experiences (and lunch on your own)**  
*Visit at least one of these important historical sites: Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, 16th Street Baptist Church (30-person groups reserved as below), Bethel Baptist Church, Temple Beth-El, and Kelly-Ingram Park & Civil Rights Trail.*
- 4:30 p.m. Meaningful Experiences Debriefing-----East M**  
*Freshly back from our Meaningful Experiences, we will break into facilitated small groups to share what we knew before and what we know now about the history of Birmingham.*

## Friday continued

**5:30 p.m. Collaborative Student Research Competition Session -----East M**  
*The next three collaborative research teams in this year's competition will share their project findings and answer judge and audience questions. (Each team competing in this session should attend the full session.)*

***Revolutionizing Healthcare: Exploring Artificial Intelligence in Triage and Diagnostics***

Westminster College, Missouri Delta

***Underrepresented Stroke Victims: Increasing Awareness and Therapeutic Development***

Hawaii Pacific University, Hawaii Beta

***Healing AI So It Can Heal Us: Prospects for the Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare***

Gardner-Webb University, North Carolina Zeta

**6:45 p.m. Alpha Chi Honors Dinner ----- East N**  
*Join us for an Alabama BBQ buffet served with a side of red sauce, white sauce, or hot sauce! We'll take a few moments to express our appreciation to the many chapter advisors who so capably and voluntarily lead your home chapters and ensure that the students on your campuses have access to the benefits of Alpha Chi membership. The program will end with the presentation of region-nominated Distinguished Service Awards.*

**8:00 p.m. Collaborative Student Research Competition Session -----East M**  
*The final three collaborative research teams will share their project findings and answer judge and audience questions. The competition's two top-placing teams will be announced Saturday night. (Each team competing in this session should attend the full session.)*

***Artificial Intelligence and Selective Exposure: Generating a Public Perception***

Missouri Western State University, Missouri Lambda

***Disruptor or Accelerator? The Role of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Higher Education***

Grand Canyon University, Arizona Alpha

***Peek Behind the Pixels: Analyzing Portrayals of Refugees in Academic and News Articles Through AI Imaging***

Abilene Christian University, Texas Psi

## Saturday, April 6

**7:30 a.m. Development Sessions: Part 1 (with breakfast)**  
*Starting at 7:15, you can grab yourself a coffee and breakfast sandwich and select one of the six sessions below. If your chapter has multiple delegates, split up and cover as many sessions as you can!*

Participation in these sessions is required to qualify for housing and/or travel grants.

**Academic Honor Societies vs. Student Benefits Companies ----- East E**

There are many organizations vying for your students' attention. Are they focused more on making a profit or making a difference? Do you have questions about AX or other organizations you've been invited to join or have seen on your campus? Alpha Chi Executive Director Lara Noah will share the importance of key credentials when researching whether an organization deserves your time and money.

**Breaking Perfect: Overcoming Challenges with Resilience -----East D**

Social anxiety and stress are at an all-time high—especially among high-achieving college students. It's time to break away from our perfectionist tendencies, and instead, strive for excellence with a resilient mindset. In this breakout session, Dr. Breanna Naegeli of Arizona Alpha will discuss 7 habits of exceptionally resilient individuals and strategies on how to overcome both personal and team challenges with courage and grit.

**Grad School Application Prep ----- East L**

AX members Natalie Osborne and Ashley Larson from Arizona Alpha will be attending grad school in the fall after having recently gone through the process of applying. They look forward to sharing their resources and tips with other interested student members!

**Idea-Sharing for Chapter Service Projects ----- East G**

Come gather ideas from students for innovative service projects which leverage the talents of your chapter to meet a campus, community, or international need. The early session will be facilitated by Mica Allen, Indiana Beta’s chapter president. The second session will be facilitated by Madison Thomas, North Carolina Epsilon’s chapter president.

**Improving Invitation Acceptance at Larger Colleges----- East F**

Alpha Chi provides resources to help schools increase their invitation acceptance rates. However, a lot of those methods work better at smaller schools. In this session led by Dr. Steve Hoekstra of Kansas Delta, brainstorm ways to scale, adapt, or supplement the current list of Best Practices to improve acceptance rates for larger universities (those inviting more than 100 students per semester).

**Overcoming Hurdles to Honors for First-Gen Students ----- East I**

The California Zeta chapter will lead a session dedicated to what Honor Societies can do to attract and invite more first-generation students. It will also address some of the misconceptions and concerns first-gen students may have about honor societies that could prevent them from joining. Hear firsthand testimonies from students who will share their experience and what they wished they’d known earlier.

**8:10 a.m. 5-minute break**

**8:15 a.m. Development Sessions: Part 2**

*Select another session from the list above. Since student presentations begin in these rooms at 9:00 a.m., please fix any chairs that were rearranged during your session before leaving.*

**9:00 a.m. Member Presentations Session II**

*Eight concurrent rooms of student presentations grouped by academic discipline for up to four 15-minute presentations (each with at least 3 minutes of Q&A) with five minutes of travel time between each presentation.*

***Please consult the mobile app for presenter details for each section.***

**Section 8: American Literature and Original Poetry ----- East E**

**Section 9: Political Science and World History ----- East F**

**Section 10: Anthropology & Sociology-----East D**

**Section 11: Health Sciences ----- East G**

**Section 12: World Literature-----East J**

**Section 13: Education – Pedagogy ----- East L**

**Section 14: Psychology -----East K**

**Section 15: Molecular & Cellular Biology ----- East I**

**10:30 a.m. Member Presentations Session III (10:30 to 11:50 a.m.)**

*Eight concurrent rooms of student presentations grouped by academic discipline for up to four 15-minute presentations (each with at least 3 minutes of Q&A) with five minutes of travel time between each presentation.*

***Please consult the mobile app for presenter details for each section.***

**Section 16: Chemistry----- East E**

**Section 17: Organismal & Ecological Biology and Comp. Science/Engineering----- East F**

**Section 18: Business Management and Communication-----East D**

**Section 19: Original Fiction----- East G**

**Section 20: Education Research and Mathematics-----East J**

**Section 21: American and World History ----- East L**

**Saturday continued**

- 12:00 p.m. Lunch on your own to discover more of Birmingham!**
- [The Pizitz Food Hall](#) at 1801 1st Ave. N, is a food court with several fun and budget-friendly options. Their parking garage is free for up to 2 hours.
  - The Civil Rights Institute and 16<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church have afternoon hours.
  - There's also Vulcan Park and Museum at 1701 Valley View Dr.
- 3:30 p.m. Regional President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer Meeting-----East J**  
*Hosted by the National Council's Executive Committee*
- 3:45 p.m. Regional Student Representatives Orientation -----East K**  
*Hosted by Alpha Chi's Director of Operations and Council Members*
- 5:00 p.m. Alpha Chi National Business Meeting (Council and chapter voters required) -----East M**
- President's Report
  - Secretary's Report
  - Presentation of New Regional Leadership Teams
  - Constitutional Voting Session (bring chapter voting materials)
  - Installation of New National Council Members (time permitting)
- 6:00 p.m. 2024 Convention Dinner & Awards Gala----- East N**  
*Come decked out in Alpha Chi blues and greens and ready to cheer each other on as we put a bow on the 2024 National Convention!*
- Distinguished Alumnus Presentation & Video
  - Presentation of our 2024 National Service Leaders
  - Partner Acknowledgement: Tim Brown of Brown's Graduation Supplies
  - Scholarship Winners & Alternates Announcements
  - Member Presentation Prize Announcements
  - Presentation of the President's Cup for Outstanding Chapter of Alpha Chi
  - Collaborative Research Team Prize Announcements
  - 2024 Convention Photo Competition
  - Farewells

**Following End of Convention**

**8-10:00 p.m. National Council Plenary-----TBA**

## Convention Speakers



**T. K. Thorne** has been passionate about storytelling and writing since she was a young girl, and that passion only deepened when she became a police officer. After completing a master's in social work from The University of Alabama, Thorne served for more than two decades in the Birmingham police force, retiring as a precinct captain and then as the executive director of a downtown business improvement district focused on safety. Her books and essays include two award-winning historical novels (*Noah's Wife* and *Angels at the Gate*); two nonfiction civil rights era works (*Last Chance for Justice* and *Behind the Magic Curtain: Secrets, Spies, and Unsung White Allies of Birmingham's Civil Rights Days*); and a dally with murder, mystery, and magic in *House of Rose*, *House of Stone*, and *House of Iron*, the Magic City Stories trilogy. She enjoys traveling, gardening, martial arts, and painting and writes from her mountaintop home northeast of Birmingham, often with a dog and cat vying for her lap and horses hanging out in the yard. T. K. Thorne will deliver the keynote address at the 2024 Alpha Chi National Convention in Birmingham, Alabama, on Friday night.

Alpha Chi has named **Dr. Zac Imel**, University of Utah Professor and Chief Science Officer of Lyssn.io, as its 2024 Distinguished Alumnus. Dr. Imel became a member of Alpha Chi during his undergraduate tenure at Westminster College (Fulton, MO). He went on to receive a master's degree in counseling psychology from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 2003, and a Ph.D. in counseling psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2009. Dr. Imel's research over the past decade has focused on the efficacy of mental health treatment, and his work of late entails examining the use of artificially intelligent software in improving mental health treatments. This work led him to found his own company, Lyssn.io, where the technology underlying the popular ChatGPT is used to help scale effective, evidence-based mental healthcare.



Dr. Imel will be honored as Alpha Chi's 2024 Distinguished Alumnus during a session at Alpha Chi's national convention in Birmingham, Alabama. Delegates will hear from Dr. Imel by video after the award's presentation to the Westminster College chapter.

## Alpha Chi National Council Members

Linda Cowan, West Liberty University (*president*)  
Bonita Cade, Roger Williams University (*vice president*)  
Teddi Deka, Missouri Western State University (*secretary*)  
Lara Noah, Alpha Chi Executive Director (*ex-officio*)  
Aislinn Beak, East Central University  
Marquesa Calderon, Hawai'i Pacific University  
Teagan Decker, University of North Carolina at Pembroke  
Dennis Hall, Angelo State University  
Jessica Henry, Hastings College  
Steve Hoekstra, Kansas Wesleyan University  
Myra Houser, Ouachita Baptist University  
Jacquelyn Kegley, California State University, Bakersfield  
Ken LaSota, Robert Morris University  
Lindsey Morais, West Liberty University  
Jodi Pilgrim, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor  
Lauren Pribyl, Franklin Pierce University  
Craig Rogers, Campbellsville University  
Anthony Sarmiento, Angelo State University  
Kate Stewart, University of Arkansas at Monticello  
Kianté Stuart, Hastings College  
Bre Tonkery, Freed-Hardeman University  
Kip Wheeler, Carson-Newman University