Capitol Convention Promises a Capital Experience

Where will you be the second weekend in April? We hope you’ll be joining Alpha Chi at its 2016 national convention in DC/Alexandria!

Not only will delegates find a trip to our nation’s capitol exhilarating and rewarding, the Alpha Chi convention will provide a stimulating academic setting for all who attend. Student presentations, awards, and keynote speakers will fill the program, with an afternoon and evening set aside for sightseeing on your own. This year’s convention theme, Transcending Boundaries, will be developed as we hear from presenters with a variety of scholarly interests and backgrounds.

Located in the West End of Historic Alexandria, Virginia, the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center hotel, is just five miles from the attractions of DC and four miles from Old Town Alexandria. This location offers a very attractive room rate, with easy access via the complimentary hotel shuttle to the King Street Metro station and Capitol attractions just a few metro stops away. Alexandria, for those already familiar with DC, boasts a historic downtown, a busy waterfront, blocks of quaint shops, scrumptious seafood, and a bustling nightlife, all accessible via the hotel’s complimentary shuttle and a free downtown trolley.

Our convention agenda this year will run from Thursday through Saturday evening. Delegates will check in to the hotel and Alpha Chi Central on Thursday afternoon with welcome events for students and faculty and a reception beginning in the early evening. The first adjudicated student presentations begin soon after, with the poster forum, allowing ample time for continued networking as all delegates survey the scholarly efforts of Alpha Chi’s student researchers.

Friday morning will be pleasantly busy. In addition to roughly 150 student presentations in two sets of concurrent sessions, each region will meet to elect new leaders and discuss topics affecting their regions. The entire convention will assemble for brunch in the ballroom to meet this year’s Distinguished Alumna, Avery Bourne. You can learn more about Rep. Bourne, a recent graduate of Columbia College, at repbourne.com. By early Friday afternoon, delegates will be free to explore the riches of DC and Alexandria. Group transportation to a central location to be determined (perhaps Metro Center or L’Enfant Plaza) will be arranged for delegates wanting to quickly get to the heart of DC. Later that evening, many will return to the hotel for what’s become a popular addition to the convention schedule: Alpha Chi’s Got Talent!

(continued on page four)
24 Students Awarded Fellowships and Scholarships

Laura Kate Gonyea  
Tennessee Delta, Carson-Newman University. Now in master's program in communication at North Carolina State.  
SLEDGE

Ana Martin  
Georgia Theta, Shorter University. Currently pursuing a Ph.D in political science at Georgia State University.  
SLEDGE

Mark Alex Carver  
Tennessee Delta, Carson-Newman University. Now pursuing a J.D. at Vanderbilt School of Law.  
BENEDICT

Jessica Hauschild  
Kansas Delta, Kansas Wesleyan University. Currently majoring in statistics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, master's program.  
BENEDICT

Madison Jupitz  
Hawai‘i Beta, Hawai‘i Pacific University. Now in the master's program in biology at East Carolina University.  
BENEDICT

John Keller  
Tennessee Beta, Union University. Pursuing a master of divinity at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.  
BENEDICT

Ekaterina Kruglov  
North Carolina Omicron, Catawba College. Master's program in engineering mathematics at KTH Royal Institute of Technology.  
BENEDICT

Erin Puskar  
Virginia Iota, Shenandoah University. Major in performing arts leadership and management, master's program.  
BENEDICT

Suravi Shrestha  
Missouri Delta, Westminster College. Pursuing a master's degree in atmospheric sciences at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign.  
BENEDICT

Bryan Stearns  
Missouri Pi, Lindenwood University. Pursuing a Ph.D. in computer science with focus on artificial intelligence.  
BENEDICT

Mackenzie Sullivan  
Virginia Delta, Roanoke College. Now studying at the University of Virginia School of Medicine.  
BENEDICT

April Wright  
Arkansas Zeta, University of Arkansas at Monticello. Pursuing a master of arts degree in teaching.  
BENEDICT

The Robert W. Sledge Fellowship stipend is $3,500, the H. Y. Benedict Fellowship stipend $2,500. Benedict alternates: 1) Johnnie Sue Huddleston, Tennessee Theta, Christian Brothers University; 2) Randi Berkovsky, Texas Iota, Texas State University; 3) Patricia Suchan, North Carolina Nu, High Point University; 4) Josiah Augustine, Tennessee Zeta, Lee University; 5) Ethan Hillman, Indiana Alpha, Anderson University.
2015 Sledge, Benedict, Gaston, and Nolle Awards Provide $52,000 for Members’ Graduate and Undergraduate Studies

The Edwin W. Gaston Scholarship stipend is $2,500, the Alfred H. Nolle Scholarship stipend $1,500. Nolle alternates: 1) Christiane Miller, California Zeta, Fresno Pacific University; 2) Amanda Dicks, Indiana Lambda, Indiana Institute of Technology; 3) Kirstin Shields, Oklahoma Gamma, East Central University; 4) Ansley Ricker, North Carolina Epsilon, Mars Hill University; 5) Robbi Riggs, Arkansas Iota, Lyon College.

GASTON

Kathleen Burris
North Carolina Omicron, Catawba College. Major in psychology.

Sophia Hackney
Oklahoma Eta, Oklahoma City University. Major in cell and molecular biology.

Jessica Chellsen
Utah Alpha, Westminster College of Salt Lake City. Major in neuroscience.

Sarah Geil
Georgia Theta, Shorter University. Major in English and psychology.

Clarissa Hunter
Indiana Beta, Huntington University. Major in communication studies.

Sarah Lynch
North Carolina Zeta, Gardner-Webb University. Major in history.

Laura Mixon

Nathan Nieman
Indiana Alpha, Anderson University. Major in computer science and math.

Jackson Petty
Arkansas Eta, Harding University. Major in chemistry.

Jeremy Schmoyer
Pennsylvania Kappa, University of the Sciences. Major in biochemistry.

Zaca Wilson
Texas Alpha Eta, Wayland Baptist University. Major in religion.

Madison B. Peregoy
North Carolina Xi, Greensboro College. Major in biology.

Find more information about applying for scholarships and fellowships at AlphaChiHonor.org.
Pulitzer Prize-Winning Journalist to Keynote

Sonia Nazario is best known for Enrique’s Journey, a series of Los Angeles Times articles later expanded into a best-selling book, which explores the story of unaccompanied Latin American children immigrating to join their families in the United States. Of researching this wrenching tale, she states, “It was hard to talk to women in Mexico, on their way to the United States, who had just walked away from children, sometimes babies. Or to interview a girl who had been gang raped the previous day along the rails. Or speak with a boy who had just lost a leg to the train. My mission was to chronicle what this journey was like for these children and to do it to the best of my abilities. To take readers inside this world, to explain. But watching these human dramas unfold before my eyes, often left me feeling inadequate and useless” (enriquesjourney.com). Enrique’s Journey, adopted by more than 75 universities as a first-year or common read, will be Alpha Chi’s first winter read in 2016. Nazario will sign copies of her work at the convention in Alexandria in April.

Reared partially in the U.S. and partially in Argentina, Nazario completed her undergraduate work at Williams College and received a master’s degree in Latin American studies from the University of California, Berkeley. Mount St. Mary’s College and Whittier College bestowed honorary doctorates. She is a celebrated activist and speaker, has testified before the U.S. Congress, and spoken at more than 150 universities, high schools, and conferences. She is at work on her second book.

Avery Bourne
Alpha Chi’s 2016 Distinguished Alumna

Nominated by the chapter at Columbia College in Columbia, Missouri, where she was inducted into Alpha Chi in 2012, Avery Bourne carries the distinction of being the youngest recipient of this award. A stellar American Studies undergraduate scholar, she was accepted into law school at Washington University; however, as Dr. Tonia Compton, Columbia College chapter sponsor writes, “It is the combination of academic excellence and service to her community that truly make her worthy of the distinguished alumni award. Avery committed to a career of public service long before she arrived at Columbia College.” Ms. Bourne’s dedication to public service led her to the unusual decision to suspend her legal education to accept a unanimous appointment in February 2015 to the 95th District of the Illinois House of Representatives.

Since being sworn in at age 23, the youngest member of the Illinois legislature, Ms. Bourne (repbourne.com) has already seen her first piece of legislation signed into law. In an interview for Reboot Illinois, she offered, “…my generation as a whole is a lot less partisan. I’m able to look at things from the perspective of we just want government to work. We just want government to allow an environment where we can get a job. And I think that I’m not entrenched in any of it. I don’t owe any of my previous experience to anyone, and I can look at it with fresh eyes and say, “It doesn’t matter that this is how we’ve always been doing it, if we need to do it a different way, then we need to do it a different way.” Students and faculty alike will appreciate hearing from this young alum during the Distinguished Alumna Award session.
Your chapter could be on the list for 2015-16!

**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 at least one 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 at least one student for a national fellowship or scholarship
  - Host an academic program on campus

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**Notable Chapters 2014-15**

Dominican University, Illinois Kappa
East Texas Baptist University, Texas Alpha Zeta
Erskine College, South Carolina Iota
Faulkner University, Alabama Delta
Greensboro College, North Carolina Xi
Lipscomb University, Tennessee Kappa
Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma Eta
Peru State College, Nebraska Delta
University of Central Arkansas, Arkansas Gamma
Waldorf College, Iowa Iota

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**Star Chapters Academic Year 2014-15**

Abilene Christian University, Texas
Anderson University, Indiana Alpha
Angelo State University, Texas Alpha Iota
Belmont University, Tennessee Eta
California Baptist University, California Beta
California State University, Bakersfield, California Iota
Campbellsville University, Kentucky Lambda
Carson-Newman University, Tennessee Delta
Catawba College, North Carolina Omicron
Chowan University, North Carolina Phi
Christian Brothers University, Tennessee Theta
Clearwater Christian College, Florida Theta
Columbia College, Missouri Epsilon
East Central University, Oklahoma Gamma
Evangel University, Missouri Rho
Freed-Hardeman University, Tennessee Iota
Fresno Pacific University, California Zeta
Gardner-Webb University, South Carolina Kappa
Greensboro College, North Carolina Xi
Hastings College, Nebraska Alpha
Huntington University, Indiana Beta
Indiana Institute of Technology, Indiana Lambda
Kansas Wesleyan University, Kansas Delta
Lander University, South Carolina Alpha
Lindenwood University, Missouri Pi
Long Island University, Brooklyn, New York Sigma
Lyon College, Arkansas Iota
Midwestern State University, Texas Alpha Gamma
Milligan College, Tennessee Nu
Missouri Valley College, Missouri Sigma
Missouri Western State University, Missouri Lambda
Ouachita Baptist University, Arkansas Beta
Shenandoah University, Virginia Iota
Shorter University, Georgia Theta
Southern Methodist University, Texas Alpha Omega
St. Catharine College, Kentucky Mu
Texas A&M University – Texarkana, Texas Beta Alpha
Texas Lutheran University, Texas Alpha Delta
Texas State University, Texas Iota
University of Arkansas at Monticello, Arkansas Zeta
University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Texas Beta
University of North Texas, Texas Eta
University of Texas at El Paso, Texas Alpha Beta
University of Texas at Tyler, Texas Alpha Xi
West Liberty University, W. Virginia Epsilon
Westminster College, Missouri Delta
William Carey University, Mississippi Beta

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Forty-five students presented their research at a poster session sponsored by the Tennessee Theta chapter at Christian Brothers University. Academic events, such as this one, are an encouragement to student members and could put your chapter on track for a Star Chapter or Notable Chapter award.
Megan Hart, MaryBeth Cox, Alanah Canfield, Lynette Muhwati, Nabin Shrestha, Linzi Thompson, and Kirstin Shields who served East Central University’s Oklahoma Gamma chapter as officers in 2014-15. Being active with your chapter offers opportunities for leadership and service.