Join us in Portland for the 2018 National Convention!

by Trisha Yarbrough

Portland—City of Roses, home of the Trail Blazers, Timbers, and Thorns—will welcome the Alpha Chi National Convention April 5-7, 2018. After arriving in America’s Greenest City, delegates will make their way Thursday afternoon to the Portland Hilton Downtown, home of all convention activities; the light rail from the airport to the hotel will be a quick and safe option for many delegations, friendly to budgets while whisking them from the airport to within a few minutes’ walk of the hotel. The convention theme this year echoes our location, so our keynote address, collaborative research project, and some presentations will focus on "Our Green Planet."

One change from recent years is that our keynote speaker, Jeff VanderMeer, award-winning author, editor, and literary critic, will speak Thursday evening at a dinner to open the convention. Delegates will enjoy dessert during the following poster session. Graduate student delegates, a growing contingent of our convention-goers, who wish to network and socialize will gather after the poster session. The program Friday morning includes breakfasting by regions but is primarily devoted to timed student presentations of their work organized by academic disciplines. Chapters who regularly attend conventions appreciate the time allotted each year to explore the city. Photographers will want to be sure to pack their cameras—the bridges alone will captivate most shutterbugs. Whether it’s the Museum of Art, or the Museum of Science and Industry, the many dedicated parks (one includes an inactive volcano) and riverscapes, or Powell’s (America’s largest independent book store), everyone will surely also find time to drink some of Stumptown’s famous coffee and enjoy the bounty of this original farm-to-table city.

The program resumes early Saturday morning with student presentations, regional breakfasts, and chapter-strengthening sessions alternating through most of the day. Sponsors will gain tools to strengthen and grow a healthy chapter. Presenters will add to their experience and receive constructive feedback. The concluding Gala will include an address by this year’s Distinguished Alumnus, Dr. John Pistole, president of Anderson University.

(continued on page two)

Scheduled to speak on Thursday evening at the Portland convention is best-selling author Jeff VanderMeer. VanderMeer’s NYT best-selling Southern Reach trilogy has been translated into over 35 languages. The first novel, Annihilation, won the Nebula Award and Shirley Jackson Award, was shortlisted for a half dozen more awards, and has been made into a movie to be released by Paramount Pictures in February 2018. His latest novel, Borne, is the first release from Farrar, Straus and Giroux’s new MCD imprint and has received wide critical acclaim, including a rare trifecta of rave reviews from the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, and the Washington Post. It explores themes related to the environment, animals, and our future. The New Yorker has called Jeff “the weird Thoreau” and he frequently speaks about issues related to climate change and storytelling, including at DePaul, MIT, and the Guggenheim. He lives in Tallahassee, Florida.

VanderMeer to be Keynote Speaker

The Portland area offers many interesting sites and various activities for our convention attendees.

For 2018 Scholarship Application Information visit www.AlphaChiHonor.org
John S. Pistole
Alpha Chi’s 2018 Distinguished Alumnus

Chunhong Zhao, who is pursuing a PhD in geographic information science at Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas, and Whitni Redman, who is in the doctoral program for biomedical sciences at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, are the recipients of the 2017 Joseph E. Pryor Graduate Fellowships.

Zhao, who received a $6,000 stipend, was inducted as an Alpha Chi member in 2015 at Texas State University’s Texas Iota chapter. Redman, inducted in 2014 as an undergraduate at Peru State College, received a $4,000 stipend.

The awards, named for the society’s first executive director, are given to a doctoral student who has completed at least two years of graduate study and to a graduate student in the first or second year of study.

He went on to earn a juris doctorate from the Robert H. McKinney School of Law at Indiana University before going into practice for two years. During his undergraduate years at Anderson University, Pistole was involved in a wide range of university activities, including the Center for Public Service, Tri-S, and men’s varsity basketball and tennis teams. He and his wife Kathy recently went on a Tri-S student mission trip to Uganda.

In 1983, Pistole began his 26-year career with the FBI and served in Minneapolis, New York, Indianapolis, Boston, and FBI Headquarters in Washington D.C. on multiple assignments. After the attacks of September 11, 2001, Pistole was placed in charge of the FBI’s counterterrorism (CT) program, eventually becoming the FBI’s Executive Assistant Director for national security (CT and Counterintelligence). In 2004, Pistole was named Deputy Director of the FBI, and in March 2006, Pistole was awarded the Presidential Rank of Distinguished Executive. In 2007, Pistole received the Department of Justice Edward H. Levi Award for Outstanding Professionalism and Exemplary Integrity.

President Obama nominated Pistole as Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) in the spring of 2010. He was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate 60 days later. Under Pistole, the TSA moved from a “one-size-fits-all” approach to a risk-based, intelligence-driven agency which has changed the way millions of people fly every year. Risk-Based Security, or RBS, is best known through TSA’s Pre✓, a known and trusted traveler initiative. In his role as Administrator of the TSA, Pistole led a 60,000-strong workforce and the security operations of more than 450 airports throughout the United States.

In 2006, Anderson University honored Pistole with an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree. In 2009, he received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Robert H. McKinney School of Law at Indiana University. In June, 2015, Pistole was appointed to the Homeland Security Advisory Council. He was also appointed to the Aspen Institute for Homeland Security, and serves as an advisor to the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition. He serves on the Boards of Directors of Thomson Reuters Special Services. Locally, he serves on the Boards of the Madison County Foundation and St. Vincent Anderson Regional Hospital.
24 Students awarded Fellowships and Scholarships in 2017

The Robert W. Sledge Fellowship stipend is $4,000, the H. Y. Benedict Fellowship stipend $3,000. Two earlier announced Benedict recipients were unable to accept the award: Daniel Feiver, Bridgewater College and Tina Somchit, Waldorf University. The remaining Benedict alternates: 3) Serena Barbieri, Sam Houston State University; 4) Alycia Gilbert, Lipscomb University; 5) Ashley Duke, Goldey-Beacom College.

Michael McLawhorn
North Carolina Epsilon, Mars Hill University. Currently studying at Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Sofia Sedorgren
North Carolina Xi, Greensboro College. Currently studying political theory at City University of New York.

Victoria Morgan Bingham
Florida Xi, Florida College. Pursuing a master’s degree in medieval history at the University of Cambridge.

Jace Bradshaw
Arkansas Beta, Ouachita Baptist University. Currently studying at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Clayton Brady
New York Omicron, The College at Brockport, SUNY. Now enrolled at the University of Buffalo, Jacobs School of Medicine.

Ariana Clare Brice
Virginia Gamma, Bridgewater College. Currently studying pharmacodynamics at the University of Florida.

Madison Feldewerth
Missouri Delta, Westminster College. Now pursuing a master’s degree in social work at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Allison C. Johnson
Texas Beta Alpha, Texas A&M University, Texarkana. Now enrolled in the media studies program at the Univ. of Texas at Austin.

Tim Lindgren
Utah Alpha, Westminster College. Now studying at the University of London School of Oriental and African Studies.

Gabrielle Mistretta
Missouri Epsilon, Columbia College. Pursuing a master’s degree in linguistics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Melanie A. Smith
North Carolina Xi, Greensboro College. Pursuing a master’s degree in world comparative history at Rutgers University.

Hope Woods
North Carolina Omicron, Catawba College. Continuing studies in quantitative and computational biology at Vanderbilt University.
2017 Gaston and Nolle winners

The Edwin W. Gaston Scholarship stipend is $3,000, the Alfred H. Nolle Scholarship stipend $2,000. Nolle alternates: 1) Piper Cleveland, Belmont University; 2) Caleb Nehls, University of Texas at Tyler; 3) Samantha Camilletti, Christopher Newport University; 4) Dustin Connis, Hawai‘i Pacific University; 5) Shane Powell, West Liberty University.

2018 Fellowship and Scholarship awards will total $74,000

Application information, details about the awards, award amounts, and the 2018 deadlines can be found at www.alphachihonor.org.

Sierra Bailey Carter
Texas Alpha Eta, Wayland Baptist University. Majoring in English and British literature.

Christian Jessup
North Carolina Zeta, Gardner-Webb University. Majoring in music composition and communication studies.

Marisa Ayers
Arkansas Iota, Lyon College. Studying English and anthropology.

Audra Bahr
Texas Alpha Delta, Texas Lutheran University. Accounting and English double-major.

Jaspal Brar
Pennsylvania Kappa, University of the Sciences. Majoring in biology.

Damian DiFlorio
Pennsylvania Epsilon, Robert Morris University. Biology major with a chemistry minor.

Laura Jardine
Oklahoma Eta, Oklahoma City University. Pursuing a degree in biology.

Valerie Kocsis
Texas Psi, Abilene Christian University. Majoring in English.

Kenneth Martin
Texas Alpha Omega, Southern Methodist University. Majoring in music and English.

R. Christian Phillips
Ohio Epsilon, Capital University. Majoring in history and English literature.

Hannah M. Ray
North Carolina Zeta, Gardner-Webb University. Pursuing a degree in English.

Teresa Rodriguez
New York Omicron, The College at Brockport, SUNY. Majoring in history.

Applying for 2018 scholarships and fellowships? Go to AlphaChiHonor.org.
Your chapter could be on the list for 2017-18!

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

INFORMATION FOR 2018 SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS
ALPHACHIHONOR.ORG.

TOGETHER, WE HELP EACH OTHER
DO MORE.
Nationwide® is proud to partner with Alpha Chi National College Honor Society.

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.