

Contact: George Kantelis  
Communications Manager  
gkantelis@alphachihonor.org

Alpha Chi National College  
Honor Society

8 Shackleford Plaza, Ste. 200  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72211  
AlphaChiHonor.org  
800.477.4225



**Alpha Chi**  
National College Honor Society

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# PRESS RELEASE

## 2023 Alpha Chi Convention Presentation Prize Winners

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Alpha Chi National College Honor Society proudly recognizes the outstanding achievements of its student and alumni members in various academic fields, announcing the winners of the 2023 Convention Presentation Prizes. These awards, which include a \$100 cash prize for each winner, honor excellence in scholarly and creative work presented during the annual Alpha Chi convention. Throughout the event, hundreds of student members and alumni had the opportunity to present their work in their respective academic disciplines to multidisciplinary audiences of peers and faculty advisors.

To be eligible for the 30 discipline-specific prizes, presenters must be undergraduates in the current academic year. However, Alpha Chi welcomes and encourages presentations by graduate students and alumni members, with one overall prize for graduate student presenters and one for alumni presenters awarded for qualifying presentations, regardless of academic field. The convention presentation prizes generate excitement and elevate the convention experience, giving members valuable convention and presentation experience.

The following prizes were announced (in order by university name):

The Ellen Millsaps Prize in American Literature went to **Ashlee Reed** from **Abilene Christian University** for the presentation, “The Pursuit of Authenticity in a Technological World.” The Johnny and Frances Williams Prize in Performing Arts went to **Michaela Zimmerman** from **Angelo State University** for the presentation, “Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue in D minor, BWV 903, by Johann Sebastian Bach.” The Patricia A. Williams Prize in Education went to **Brittany Brown** from **Brescia University** for the presentation, “Project-Based Learning (PjBL) in Middle School STEM.” The Clark Youngblood Prize in Philosophy and Religion went to **Derek Ryan Driskill** from **Carson-Newman University** for “The Roman Jesus: Exploring The Gospel of Mark through Propp’s Narratemes.”

The Walden Freeman Prize in American History went to **Danya I. Gonzalez** from **Fresno Pacific University** for “Slow to Respond: The United States HIV/AIDS Epidemic Federal Response During the Reagan Presidency.” The Jeanette Wieser Prize in Exercise Science and Nutrition went to **Allyson Butts** from **Gardner-Webb University** for “Mindfulness and Motivation: A Qualitative Examination of Peak Performance in NCAA Division 1 Golfers.” The Dennis M. Organ Alumni Member Prize went to **Damian Chance Hutchins** from **Gardner-Webb University** for “Personalized Immunocompetent Tumor-on-a-Chip Platform Produces Tumor-Reactive Cytotoxic Lymphocytes.” The Milton L. and Avery G. Church Prize in Environmental Science went to **Erik P. Yost** from **Grand Canyon University** for “STELLAR Research: Taking Organic Energy to Space and Around the World.”

The Brown’s Graduation Supplies Prize in Communication went to **Sophie Rossitto** from **Harding University** for the presentation titled, “Connecting Artists to Audiences: The Role of Music Journalism in Society.” The Joseph E. and Bessie Mae Pryor Prize in Chemistry went to **Elizabeth Milner** from **Hawaii Pacific University** for “Potential Anti-SARS-CoV-2 Compounds from Marine Natural Product Extracts.” The Mary Waterstreet Prize in Psychology went to **Audrey Sineath** from **Kansas Wesleyan University** for “Exploring College Students' Beliefs and Attitudes Towards Hookup Culture.” The Margaret A. Fitzgerald Prize in Political Science went to **Edward T. Hansford** from **Lindenwood University** for the presentation “Understanding Community Perception of Lindenwood University’s Sustainability Efforts.”

The Suzanne and J.T. Pundt Graduate Student Member Prize went to **Bailey McCarl** from **Lipscomb University** for “Studying the Perception of Facial Affect and Emotional Body Language.” The Alexander Bendazzi and Strayer University Prize in Art, Music, and Dance Papers went to **Kim Ho** from **Lyon College** for “Ceramic Glaze Chemistry Documentation Using Emacs Org Mode.” The Floyd and Rosana Tesmer/DC Gamma Prize in Original Visual Art went to **Ian Crombie** from **Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts** for the presentation “Fear is a Fallacy.” The Joseph E. and Bessie Mae Pryor Prize in Mathematics went to **Priscilla Perey Ratonel** from **Menlo College** for “Covid Campus Simulation: Predicting and Modeling SIRV Populations as Preventative Policies are Implemented Over Time.”

The Avery Grenfell Church Prize in Anthropology and Sociology went to **Hannah Irving** from **University of North Carolina at Pembroke** for “Toxic Leadership and Excessive Control: How the U.S. Army's environment contributes to maladaptive coping mechanisms.” The Bonnie Revelle Prize in Molecular and Cellular Biology went to **Sai Sondh** from **University of La Verne** for “The Impact of Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals in the Production of Reactive Oxidative Species in Embryonic Thymocytes.” The Gayle Webb White Prize in Business Management went to **Autumn Paulson** from **Waldorf University** for “Can You Retire by Working at Wal-Mart in the Midwest?”

Lastly, the Thelma Hall Prize in Creative Writing went to **Hannah Meyer** from **Waldorf University** for the presentation titled, "Prison Family."

Alpha Chi is grateful for the support of friends and colleagues who have generously contributed to the establishment of these prizes, named in honor of the remarkable individuals who have made a difference in their respective fields.

Alpha Chi National College Honor Society invites membership to juniors, seniors, and graduate students from all disciplines in the top ten percent of their classes at its member institutions. Chartered on more than 300 campuses nationwide, chapters induct approximately 10,000 students annually. Since the Society's founding in 1922, Alpha Chi members, charged with upholding the tenets of Truth and Character, have dedicated themselves to "making scholarship effective for good." Alpha Chi is a certified member in good standing of the Association of College Honor Societies.

For more information on Alpha Chi National College Honor Society and its Convention Presentation Prize Endowments, please visit [www.alphachihonor.org/convention-presentation-prizes](http://www.alphachihonor.org/convention-presentation-prizes).

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