



PRESS RELEASE

Dr. Zac Imel Named as Alpha Chi's 2024 Distinguished Alumni Award Winner

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Alpha Chi National College Honor Society is proud to announce that Dr. Zac Imel, alumnus of the Missouri Delta chapter at Westminster College in Fulton, will be the recipient of its 2024 Distinguished Alumni Award. A dedicated and accomplished scholar, Dr. Imel has been recognized for his exceptional contributions to the field of mental health and his groundbreaking interdisciplinary work. As a tenured professor at the University of Utah and co-founder and chief science officer of Lyssn.io, Dr. Imel has made a significant impact on the understanding and treatment of mental health issues through his innovative research and application of artificial intelligence in psychotherapy.

The Alpha Chi Distinguished Alumni Award is the highest honor Alpha Chi bestows on an individual alumni member, and it recognizes those who have achieved notable success in their field and made significant contributions to their communities. This prestigious award is presented annually to an outstanding alumnus or alumna of the society, selected by the National Council from nominees supplied by chapters or directly by another Alpha Chi member.

An Alpha Chi member since 2001, Imel has consistently demonstrated the values of academic excellence, integrity, and service that Alpha Chi embodies. His impressive academic background includes a master's degree in counseling psychology from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Throughout his career, Imel has co-authored a book titled *The Great Psychotherapy Debate*, published 70 peer-reviewed journal articles, and contributed to eight book chapters.

According to Missouri Delta chapter advisor Dr. David Jones, "At a time in which rates of stress, anxiety, depression, and mental illness have been skyrocketing, particularly among teenagers and college students, the need for successful therapeutic techniques is at an all-time high. Dr. Imel's contributions began with a liberal arts undergraduate education that turned into exciting multidisciplinary research." As Imel says, "the intersection of cutting-edge natural language processing and mental health is pretty exciting these days, and the work we are doing is the most interdisciplinary of my career by far." Jones went on to say that "our chapter saw in him the ideal candidate for this distinguished honor." The selection committee obviously agreed.

Dr. Imel will be honored during a special session at Alpha Chi's national convention in Birmingham, Alabama in April 2024, where he will deliver a keynote address and receive his award from Alpha Chi President Dr. Linda Cowan.

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.

For more information on Alpha Chi National College Honor Society and the Distinguished Alumni Award, please visit www.alphachihonor.org/distinguished-alumni-award.

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