



MEDIA RELEASE

Presenters Recognized at the 2025 Alpha Chi National Convention

For Immediate Release: Tues., Apr. 15, 2025

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—Eleven members of Alpha Chi, the national college honor society, received prizes for making the best scholarly, creative, or artistic presentations in their fields for the Society’s national convention held virtually on Gatherly, April 4-5. The cash prizes were funded through discipline-specific endowments established by supporters of the Society.

Prizes are awarded based on criteria including focus and organization, depth and complexity of research, audience engagement, contribution to scholarship, and correctness of form. Among the members giving presentations from a variety of academic disciplines, the following received \$100 prizes:

The Ellen Millsaps Prize in American Literature went to **Destiny Forrest** from **University of Arkansas at Monticello** for “‘Beyond’ a Kiss: False Salvation in the Realistic American Novel.”

The Avery Grenfell Church Prize in Anthropology & Sociology went to **Samantha Stokes** from **William Carey University** for presenting “At Different Times.”

The Gayle Webb White Prize in Business Management went to **Hannah Todd** from **Mars Hill University** for presenting “RSM Profession Challenge: Volunteerism Solutions.”

The Thelma Hall Prize in Creative Writing went to **Emily Kledzik** from **Carson-Newman University** for her collection of poetry entitled, “Allure of Appalachia.”

The Ann Kneavel Prize in Economics went to **Leslie Osborne** from **Carson-Newman University** for “S&P 500 Market Efficiency: A Measure of the Relationship Between the S&P 500 and Presidential Election Outcomes.”

The Patricia A. Williams Prize in Education went to **Madeline Ross** from **Fresno Pacific University** for “Beyond the Right Answer: Cultivating Creativity in Math Education.”

The Blake and Trish Janutolo Prize in Organismal and Ecological Biology went to **Olivia Robbins** from **Huntington University** for “A Brief Review of the Role of Plumage Color in Bird Mating.”

The Mary Waterstreet Prize in Psychology went to **Saskia Fuchs** from **Lindenwood University** for “Trapped in Contradiction: Cognitive Dissonance and the Psychology of Climate Inaction.”

National Convention Presentation Prizes Announced

The Patricia Graham Prize in World History went to **James Seip** from **Gardner-Webb University** for “Encouraging the Empire: How British Propaganda Posters of 1940-43 Attempted to Encourage the Home Front.”

The Suzanne and J. T. Pundt Prize for the top presentation by a Graduate Student went to **Nisa Sindhi** from **Texas State University** for “PAX6 and Actin Filament Co-Localization in Hair Cells of Neuromasts of Lateral Line System in Eurycea Salamanders.”

The Dennis M. Organ Prize for the top presentation by an Alumni Member went to **Laura Hand** from **Fresno Pacific University** for original fiction titled, “I am Io.”

Alpha Chi National College Honor Society invites to membership juniors, seniors, and graduate students from all disciplines in the top ten percent of their classes. Active on nearly 300 campuses nationwide, chapters induct more than 8,000 students annually. Since the Society's founding in 1922, Alpha Chi members have dedicated themselves to “making scholarship effective for good.” Alpha Chi is a certified member of the Association of College Honor Societies.

##