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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alpha Chi Awards \$7500 in Collaborative Student Research Competition

Little Rock, Ark.—Five multidisciplinary student research teams presented their research and findings to delegates and judges on March 26 during the 2022 Alpha Chi National Convention in Austin, Texas. Guidelines for the national competition required Alpha Chi chapters to assemble a team of three to five of their student researchers from at least three different academic disciplines to develop a focused project, depending on the majors and research interests of the team members, that demonstrates they are entering and contributing something original to a scholarly conversation.

The competition is composed of multiple elements including a written research report, a formal poster for display, and a live presentation followed by teams fielding both judge and audience questions. During the convention, Executive Director Lara Noah announced that the competition had now been named for Dr. Trisha Yarbrough, the society's third executive director and the person first responsible for the idea that Alpha Chi, a multidisciplinary organization, should proactively encourage collaborative undergraduate research with an express focus on finding solutions for real-world issues thus clearly making "scholarship effective for good," the society's charge to members since the 1930s.

The student team from the Missouri Lambda chapter of Alpha Chi at Missouri Western State University received a \$5,000 prize for placing first in the 2022 competition. With a project entitled, "Past, Present, and Future Disease Dynamics: A Comparative Analysis of the Social Dynamics of the Current COVID-19 Pandemic and Tuberculosis Outbreaks of the 20th Century," Missouri Lambda's winning team members were Kylee Meehan (criminal justice), Tanner Merwin (history education), and Wanda Pearson (psychology). The team's faculty mentors were Chapter Advisors Dr. Angela Haas and Dr. Teddi Deka.

Receiving the competition's \$2,500 second place award with a project entitled, "A New Era in Genetic Modification Technology," was the student research team from the North Carolina Zeta chapter of Alpha Chi at Gardner-Webb University. Team members were Grace Burgin (biology and biomedical science), Kimberly

Cole (nursing), and Michelle Lominac (political science). Chapter Advisor Dr. June Hobbs served as the team's faculty mentor.

Other teams competing with research projects this year were:

- Franklin Pierce University, New Hampshire Zeta, "Monoclonal Antibodies and the Future of Medicine," Evan Bennett (biology), Joshua Hughes (biology), Sydney Ogongo (accounting and finance), and Lauren Pribyl (health sciences). The faculty mentor for the New Hampshire Zeta team was Dr. Thomas Bennett.
- Fresno Pacific University, California Zeta, "Agriculture in the Central Valley," Veronica Mendez (history and social work), Luke Colvard (pre-law), Luke Smith (engineering and philology), and Paola Gonzalez Mendez (applied mathematics). The team's mentors were Drs. Marshall and Pamela Johnston of Fresno Pacific University who both advise the California Zeta chapter.
- Ouachita Baptist University, Arkansas Beta, "A Re-Written Story: 'Biblical Womanhood' and Conceptions of Christian Femininity." The team members were Sydney Motl (English), Cora Saddler (English and Spanish), and Isabella Wood (psychology, Christian studies, and sociology). The faculty mentors for the Arkansas Beta team were Dr. Benjamin Utter and Chapter Advisor Dr. Myra Houser.

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 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 member in good standing of the Association of College Honor Societies, the predominant national accrediting body for collegiate honor societies.

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