

## 2020 Awards Gala Transcript

Facebook Live / Instagram Live, 4/15/20, noon CT

Good afternoon! Welcome to Alpha Chi's first Facebook and Instagram Live event! I'm Lara Noah, Executive Director of Alpha Chi, and I'll be your host for this event today. Scheduled as part of Alpha Chi's national convention that almost happened in Albuquerque a few weeks ago, COVID-19 precautions find us in an unusual situation. **Therefore, live from my dining room office, it's the 2020 Alpha Chi Awards Gala!**

For the next few minutes, let's gather around the warm glow of the internet to enjoy some good news.

We'll bookend today's event with chapter news starting with some anniversaries. Alpha Chi has its significant centennial celebration scheduled for 2022. Here are some chapters celebrating important dates *this* year:

### **Celebrating their 50th anniversary:**

- Buena Vista University, Iowa Epsilon
- Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, Massachusetts Beta

### **And celebrating their 60th anniversary:**

- Lyon College, Arkansas Iota
- Tusculum University, Tennessee Alpha
- And Wartburg College, Iowa Alpha

Chapter anniversaries are recognized each 25 years with engraved plates meant to be attached to the chapter plaque that was given to the chapter at its inauguration. Once the national office reopens, we'll get these items in the mail.

### **Distinguished Service Awards**

Alpha Chi began giving the Distinguished Service Award nearly two decades ago to honor individuals whose service to the society has been especially influential. Nominations are sought each year from regional leadership with the hope that the award remains a total surprise until presented. The award itself is a specially designed Alpha Chi clock engraved with the recipient's name, the year, and the motto, "Making Scholarship Effective for Good." We hope this will always remind them fondly of the time spent in service to their Alpha Chi chapter and thus to the region by whom they were nominated.

Region I: Dr. Jodi Pilgrim, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Texas Beta

Region II: Dr. Carol Strong, University of Arkansas at Monticello, Arkansas Zeta

Region III: Ms. Syble Shellito, Chowan University, North Carolina Phi

Region IV: Dr. Teddi Dekka, Missouri Western State University, Missouri Lambda

Region V: Dr. Joni Lindsey, Lake Superior State University, Michigan Gamma

Region VI: Dr. Shireen Rahman, University of New England, Maine Epsilon

Region VII: Dr. Pamela Johnston, Fresno Pacific University, California Zeta

### **Sponsor Service Pins**

One way Alpha Chi demonstrates its appreciation for our chapter sponsors is with commemorative jewelry starting at the 10-year mark. This year's service pins will be shipped to sponsors as soon as normal business resumes.

#### **Receiving the 10-year Sponsor Service Pin are:**

Dr. Jodi Pilgrim, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

Dr. Linda Cowan, West Liberty University

#### **Receiving her 15-year pin is:**

Dr. Christine Pappas, East Central University

#### **With 2 new sapphire blue stones added to his sponsor service pin, we have:**

Dr. Ron White, College of Mount Saint Joseph for 24 years of service

#### **And last but not least, serving admirably for 30-years as chapter sponsors and having diamond stones added to their service pins are two professors from Christopher Newport University:**

Dr. Jay Paul and Dr. Sheila Greenlee

Congratulations to each of you! I hope the next time you have the opportunity to get out and about, you'll proudly wear your service pins to proclaim your long association with Alpha Chi. Alpha Chi thanks you for investing your energy, your time, and your selves in the Alpha Chi members on your campuses. We hope the rewards will be as long lasting as our appreciation.

### **National Scholarship Competition Winners and Alternates**

At its core, Alpha Chi is invested in the academic pursuits of its student members. Alpha Chi annually awards 26 scholarships and fellowships totaling \$74,000, to members who submit their academic research and creative projects to rigorous, national competition. The Scholarship Committee has been working since mid-February to review 140 submissions in 3 different competitions.

As with all of these awards and prizes, there's a lot more information about our annual competitions, conventions, and awards at [alphachihonor.org](http://alphachihonor.org). Press releases about all of today's awards will be posted there by next week.

**LINK: [https://alphachihonor.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Schol\\_Fell\\_Winners\\_2020.pdf](https://alphachihonor.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Schol_Fell_Winners_2020.pdf)**

The Edwin W. Gaston, Jr. and Alfred H. Nolle scholarships are for the senior year of undergraduate study. For eligibility, a nominee must be a full-time undergraduate student in the fall of the academic year following his or her nomination in the spring. Two Gaston Scholarships worth \$3,000 each and ten

Nolle Scholarships worth \$2,000 each are awarded each year. All nominees automatically compete for both awards.

The Robert W. Sledge and H. Y. Benedict fellowships are for the first year of graduate study toward the master's, doctor's, or professional degree at any recognized institution. For eligibility, a nominee must plan to complete his or her undergraduate degree in the academic year in which application is made and must enroll full-time in a graduate or professional program in the fall semester of the award year. Two Sledge Fellowships worth \$4,000 each and ten Benedict Fellowships worth \$3,000 each are awarded each year. All nominees automatically compete for both awards.

Pryor Fellowships, one of \$6,000 to a student in a doctoral program who has completed at least two years of graduate or professional study beyond the baccalaureate degree and one of \$4,000 to a student for the first or second year of graduate or professional study beyond the baccalaureate degree.

Each of Alpha Chi's seven regions awards scholarships as well. Most of those competitions are still in progress, so check with your chapter sponsor or a regional officer, if you applied for one of those.

### **The 2020 Collaborative Student Research Competition**

One of Alpha Chi's most exciting opportunities for student researchers is the chance to work across the disciplines in our annual collaborative research competition. This year we had 10 collegiate teams competing on the topical theme: *Cultures of Conspiracy*. Each of these teams put in countless hours working together across multiple academic disciplines to create a project, conduct research, write a paper, prepare a poster, and make a convention presentation. This year was especially challenging as the final two components were supposed to be delivered live in Albuquerque. However, the judging team worked above and beyond to make sure the competition went forward

I'm going to start with the team chosen as runner up that will receive a \$2500 team prize. Their research paper was titled: The Impact of Social media on Conspiracies of the Future: Building an Interdisciplinary, Multi-dimensional Model. Peru State College's team included 3 student members:

Dylan George: Disease and Human Health major

Sara Vance: 7-12 Biological Science secondary education

Kaylee Gill: K-12 Art Education & Early Childhood Education major

And their Faculty Advisor: Dr. Kate Trout; Biology and Human Health

Congratulations to the Nebraska Delta Chapter!

First Place with a prize of \$5,000, goes to the team with a presentation they titled: Culturally Transmitted: Conspiracies & Controversies Plaguing the Modern Vaccine. Missouri Western State University wins first prize. Their team included 4 Alpha Chi seniors:

Breanna Hancock, Senior, Nursing

Rebecca Prest, Senior, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Devin Mattoon, Senior, Mathematics  
Becca Smith-Grantham, Senior, Sociology and Social Work  
And their faculty advisor, Dr. Angela Haas.

Congratulations to the Missouri Lambda chapter of Alpha Chi at Missouri Western State University!

Congratulations and thank you to both the winning teams and the other 8 teams that entered this competition. We commend your contributions to the important work of collaborative research. The national office will be in touch with you by email with further instructions.

The exact theme and call for 2021 projects will be announced this summer, but I can say now that the collaborative competition will be themed similarly to the 2021 convention itself which will be focused around issues of social justice.

**And, as promised, we arrive at the other bookend of chapter news with the presentation of the 2020 President's Cup for Outstanding Chapter.**

This year, three chapters were nominated by their regions and followed through with submitting materials for the President's Cup competition:

Lindenwood University  
Ouachita Baptist University, and  
Texas State University.

We thank each of these chapters, both their advisors and members, for not only being the kind of chapter that can meet the criteria for nomination but for taking the time to prepare and submit the extensive application document that covers two full years of chapter life.

The committee tasked with making this hard determination sent the following message about this year's competitors:

Each chapter in this year's competition submitted complete applications, which is a feat in itself, and they all met or exceeded the criteria for candidacy. After much thought, the committee felt one chapter stood out. This chapter documented that its campus-based activities reached a broader and more diverse group of individuals, had a more consistent record of winning Star Chapter Awards, submitted more undergraduate work to *Aletheia* for publication, sent more students and sponsors to Alpha Chi National Conventions, had more students apply for national scholarships, and presented a greater record overall of chapter involvement.

The National Council president normally has the honor of presenting the President's Cup, but this year I'll have to present it on behalf of President David Jones. So it gives me immense pleasure to announce that the President's Cup for the Outstanding Chapter of 2020 will be going to the Missouri Pi Chapter of Alpha Chi at Lindenwood University.

In addition to an honorarium of \$200, the Missouri Pi chapter will receive the President's Cup trophy to proudly display on their home campus for years to come.

Well, we've finally reached the end of this 2020 Facebook LIVE Awards Gala. If you'd be interested in us doing something like this even during years when we're not in a voluntary global quarantine of sorts, let me hear from you.

Don't forget that we have a special Instagram event going on right now. So check us out at axalphachi on Insta for how to celebrate your induction and get yourself entered to win in our drawing on May 23rd.

Ok, this is when the credits would start rolling, and so I want to thank the wonderful team at the National Office, Katie, Melinda, and Levey for all their help preparing today's event, and to the members of the National Council who serve on the committees that create, evaluate, and select many of the awards given here today, and to all the chapter sponsors who serve as professors, mentors, planners, and supportive leaders for their Alpha Chi chapters.

As you approach the end of a challenging semester, I hope you're more committed than ever to live Alpha Chi's values of Truth and Character, whether you're alone or in a room full of people, and that you'll continue making your scholarship effective for good. Stay safe out there. And remember that we're all in this together.

Lara Noah  
Exec. Director, Alpha Chi  
4/15/2020