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Alpha Chi National College
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PRESS RELEASE

Alpha Chi Student Presenters Win Prizes

Little Rock, Ark.—Thirteen members of Alpha Chi National College Honor Society received prizes for giving the best scholarly, creative, or artistic presentations in their fields at the 2021 Alpha Chi National Convention, held virtually April 8-10. These prizes, presented during the event’s closing awards gala, are funded through discipline-specific endowments established by alumni, friends, and supporters of the society. From over 60 students making presentations, the following students received \$100 prizes (in order by university name):

The Bill Short Prize in World Literature went to **Courtney Cook** from **Abilene Christian University** for the presentation titled “In Defense of the Art: How Literary Fiction Promotes Empathy.” The Blake and Trish Janutolo Prize in Organismal & Ecological Biology went to **Skadi Kylander** from **Chowan University** for the presentation titled “Breeding and Nesting Habits of Prothonotary Warblers in Hertford County and Dare County, North Carolina.” The Margaret A. FitzGerald Prize in Political Science went to **Ruth Herman** from **East Central University** for the presentation titled “The Deaf Community: Turnout in the 2020 Presidential Election.” The Mary Waterstreet Prize in Psychology went to **John Parigger** from **Freed-Hardeman University** for the presentation titled “Can Time Perspective and Self-Regulatory Fatigue Predict Social Well-Being?”

The Ellen Millsaps Prize in American Literature went to **Jewell July** from **Freed-Hardeman University** for the presentation titled “This Land was Our Land: Home and Cultural Exchange in Native American Poetry.” The Avery Grenfell Church Prize in Anthropology and Sociology went to **Veronica Mendez Garcia** from **Fresno Pacific University** for the presentation titled “The Oaxacan Community in California's Central Valley: Understanding Their ‘Homely’ Experience.” The Robert Blake Prize in British Literature went to **Kassandra Klein** from **Fresno Pacific University** for the presentation titled “‘No Living Man Am I! You Look Upon a Woman’: Éowyn's Battle Against Sexism in J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*.”

The Joseph E. and Bessie Mae Pryor Prize in Chemistry went to **Jeffrey Richards** from **Grand Canyon University** for the presentation titled “Towards Continuous Insulin Biosensing for Diabetic Patients.” The Clark

Youngblood Prize in Philosophy & World Religions went to **Lim John** from **Harding University** for the presentation titled "Hybridized Spirituality in Singaporean Christians." The Floyd Tesmer/Strayer University Prize in Computer Science and Engineering went to **Pedro Navarrette** from **Harding University** for the presentation titled "Comparative Study: MongoDB vs. Elasticsearch." The Floyd and Rosana Tesmer/DC Gamma Prize in Original Visual Art went to **Hannah Taylor** from **Huntington University** for the presentation titled "Drawing Me In."

The Dennis M. Organ Prize in Graduate Student or Alumni Member presentations went to **Jason DiStefano** from **University of Texas at Tyler** for the presentation titled "Progress Toward the Design, Synthesis, and Analysis of Paired Coiled-Coil Peptidic Molecular Building Blocks." And lastly, the Patricia Graham Prize in World History went to **Rhett Riley** from **William Carey University** for the presentation titled "The Via Vienna: How the Ottoman Empire Approached the Second Siege of Vienna."

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 only national accrediting body for collegiate honor societies.

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