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PRESS RELEASE

Alpha Chi Fosters Collaborative Student Research

Little Rock, Ark.— Four multidisciplinary student research teams presented their research to delegates and judges during the 2021 Alpha Chi National Convention that was held virtually this year, April 8-10. 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 research proposal from this year’s topic, “... and Justice for All.” The competition has multiple elements from a written research report to a live presentation and the spontaneous fielding of judge and audience questions.

The student team from California State University, Bakersfield, comprised of members of the California Iota chapter of Alpha Chi, received First Place in the 2021 competition. The team’s prize of \$5,000 was presented by Executive Director Lara Noah at the end of the national convention during the 2021 Awards Gala. California Iota chapter advisor, Dr. Jackie Kegley, beamed with pride from inside her Zoom window as the surprise announcement was made. With a project entitled, “The Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Access to Mental Healthcare,” California Iota’s winning team members were Jennifer Hart, a psychology major; Carson Vollmer, a kinesiology major; Elizabeth Wood, an English major. The team’s faculty mentor was Dr. Zachary Zenko, Assistant Professor, CSUB Department of Kinesiology.

Taking home Second Place and \$2,500 this year, with a project entitled, “Sterilization and the State: The Impact and Modern Remnants of the Eugenics Movement,” was the student research team from the Missouri Lambda chapter of Alpha Chi at Missouri Western State University. Hannah Berry (economics and English), Matthew Bobela (music education), Mackenzie Grantham (biology/health sciences), Jordan Holkesvik (history education), and Julia Stolfus (social work). Missouri Lambda’s chapter advisors, Dr. Teddi Deka and Dr. Angela Haas, served proudly as this team’s faculty mentors and were excited to see their faces when their prize was announced.

The other teams competing with research projects this year were:

- Gardner-Webb University, North Carolina Zeta, “Reproductive Health Care Injustices Against African American Women in the United States: Legal History and the Modern Effects on Clinical Outcomes and Mental Health.” The team’s members were Grace Burgin (biology and biomedical science), Ysabela Cable (criminal justice), Jasmine Dee (psychology and sociology), and Haley Pierce (biology and biomedical science). The faculty mentors were Dr. June Hobbs and Dr. Bruce Moser, both professors are chapter advisors with North Carolina Zeta.
- Grand Canyon University, Arizona Alpha, “Uncovering Injustices within the Veteran Affairs Government Healthcare System.” Team members were senior Kristen Barnett (psychology), junior Kyla Chavez (biology and pre-med), junior Colleen O’Kane (business administration and hospitality management), and senior Madison Strong (biomedical engineering, biochemistry, and molecular biology). The Arizona Alpha advisor, Dr. Breanna Naegeli of the Honors College, served as the team’s faculty mentor.

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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