



PRESS RELEASE

East Central University Students Collaborate to Win Alpha Chi Research Prize

Little Rock, Ark.—East Central University’s research team, comprised of student members of the Oklahoma Gamma chapter of Alpha Chi, received the \$2,500 Nationwide Collaborative Research Prize at the 2019 Alpha Chi National College Honor Society annual convention in Cleveland, Ohio. Competition guidelines required chapters to assemble a team of three to five student researchers from at least three different departments to develop a research problem from the general topic announced last fall—Lines of Identity, Polarizing Perspectives, and Civil Discourse.

With the research project titled “What Causes Hate and Why Do People Act on It?,” the ECU team members were Carly Heitland, education and political science double major; Pradip Poudel, computer science major; and Tyler Whitney, biology major, presented for the Oklahoma Gamma team.

Oklahoma Gamma chapter sponsor, Dr. Christine Pappas, said, “It was a pleasure working with ECU’s collaborative team. It is unusual to meld ideas from a biologist, a teacher, and a computer scientist, and the lessons they learned from each other are valuable. I am extremely proud of the paper, poster, and presentation that they created for the Alpha Chi convention in Cleveland this year.”

The following chapters’ multidisciplinary teams, representing 14 different academic majors, presented their research in Cleveland:

- Ouachita Baptist University, Arkansas Beta, 1st Place, \$5,000 prize for “Art, Age, and Apartheid: Exploring Generational Perspectives as Depicted in South African Arts.” Team members were Jessica Cook-Snelgrove, Tucker Douglass, Lesley Howard, Lauren Lovelady, and Wesley Oliver. Faculty Mentor: Dr. Myra Ann Houser
- **East Central University, Oklahoma Gamma, 2nd Place, \$2,500 prize for “What Causes Hate and Why Do People Act on It?” Team members were Carly Heitland, Pradip Poudel, and Tyler Whitney. Faculty Mentor: Dr. Christine Pappas**
- Brescia University, Kentucky Delta, presented “A Polarized Society Throughout History.” Team members were Annie Emert, Ryan Oates, Benjamin Sammett, and Caleb Tisher. Faculty Mentor: Dr. Chris Tiaht

- Gardner-Webb University, North Carolina Zeta, presented “Gender as a Polarizing Issue in the Workplace.” Team members were Callista Eckert, Taylor Hildebrand, Hope Miller, Celsea Reeder, and Kristen Wong. Faculty Mentor: Dr. June Hobbs
- Lyon College, Arkansas Iota, presented “Increased Exposure to Biased Media Suggests Polarized Political Perspectives.” Team members were Tanner Harris, Matthew Kirkpatrick, Cassidy Mitchell, Haley Reed, and Jordan Trant. Faculty Mentor: Dr. Brian Hunt

The 2019 Collaborative Research Prize is proudly sponsored by Alpha Chi’s affinity partner Nationwide® Insurance. Alpha Chi is grateful that Nationwide® values the scholarly excellence of these stellar students.

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 11,000 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 member in good standing of the Association of College Honor Societies, the only national accrediting body for collegiate honor societies.

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