



Evangel University Chapter Wins President's Cup

Delegates from Evangel University attending Alpha Chi's national convention in Indianapolis April 2-4 celebrated the announcement of their chapter's winning of the President's Cup, the prize for the society's top chapter for 2007-09. The Missouri Rho chapter, chartered only in 2000, is the youngest chapter to receive the award since it began in 1987.

Evangel's application stated that campus activities sponsored by the chapter had "fostered a heightened academic culture" at the university. The programs detailed in the application show a balance of activities that are strictly scholarly and those emphasizing campus or community service.

On the scholarly side, Missouri Rho's induction ceremony every semester features a scholarly speaker, typically from the faculty. Each fall the chapter also sponsors a public Faculty Research Forum in which invited professors make presentations on their research projects. In addition, a Student Research Forum has been developed, with professors serving as mentors and judging the work of student members who want to apply for Alpha Chi scholarships or make convention presentations. In the past three years this program has involved 16 student researchers.

The encouragement on campus has paid off in supporting the chapter's presence at regional and national conventions. The chapter hosted the 2008 Region IV convention in Springfield, with sessions held on campus. Five Missouri Rho members made presentations at that meeting, and six were on the 2009 program in Indianapolis. The chapter also regularly nominates students for Alpha Chi scholarships, with chapter members winning one regional scholarship and being named a Benedict Fellowship alternate since 2007.

The chapter has been active in securing grants to support and develop local programs, often with a service component. A chapter grant from the national office funded a Fall 2008 event featuring Habitat for Humanity, a charity the chapter has supported for several years. Representatives of the charity spoke on campus, and then students visited a housing development in Springfield to sing Christmas carols, deliver gifts, and distribute wreaths to families in Habitat homes.

Another 2008-09 project, funded by a grant from the Association of College Honor Societies, partnered Alpha Chi with the campus chapter of the Society for Collegiate Journalists. The two groups sponsored a social responsibility effort on campus called "Live Love: Get the Point," in which money was raised to build chicken coops and buy chickens for an impoverished area in Jamaica.



Chapter members have also been active in supporting a local program, the Writers Hall of Fame, which promotes writing in young students, and in serving as tutors at the university.

Dr. Laynah Rogers, chapter sponsor, credits the chapter's high visibility through such activities in helping to produce a 90 percent acceptance rate for invitations to Alpha Chi membership at Evangel.