

# Newsletter

National College Honor Society for All Fields—Box 12249 Harding University, Searcy, AR 72149-0001



Oklahoma Gamma delegates celebrate their President's Cup selection: (from left) Deborah Bailey, Alicia Ivy, Dr. John Yozzo, Janesson Long, Dr. Trisha Yarbrough and Dr. Susan Payne.

## Convention launches academic integrity effort

Signaling a commitment to the promotion of academic honesty on its member campuses, Alpha Chi kicked off a two-year project on the topic at the 2005 national convention April 7-9 with the theme "With Honor and Integrity."

The opening banquet featured an address on ethics by the 2005 Distinguished Alumni Award winner, Coleen Rowley, the former FBI agent who was one of Time magazine's "Persons of the Year" for 2002. Rowley spoke about the advantages and disadvantages of being regarded as a hero—in her case for publicly calling attention to FBI lapses prior to the terrorist attacks of 9/11.

Another plenary session included a keynote presentation on the theme of the convention and the two-year national project. Dr. Dennis Organ, Alpha Chi executive director, summarized recent research data on academic dishonesty in higher education and called on delegates to work at their institutions to combat the problem.

Finally, convention delegates turned their attention to the issue of academic integrity

in workshops in which they worked briefly on a case problem involving plagiarism, followed by brainstorming

in workshops in which they worked briefly on a case problem involving plagiarism, followed by brainstorming

on the question of how a local chapter of Alpha Chi could promote academic honesty on campus.

Alpha Chi intends to keep a focus on this theme at least until the next national convention in the spring of 2007. Alpha Chi's effort is part of a three year-national project of the Association of College Honor Societies named "A Matter of Ethics." Under this umbrella concept, member societies are developing initiatives on ethical issues most relevant to their academic and professional disciplines.

## East Central wins trophy as top chapter

Oklahoma Gamma at East Central University, Ada, Okla., took home from the 2005 national convention the President's Cup as the society's outstanding chapter for 2003-05.

About half a dozen chapters, nominated by their regions, competed to claim the traveling trophy, a silver cup that is replaced by a smaller replica the chapter keeps on campus when it relinquishes the title to a new chapter at the next convention.

Oklahoma Gamma has been in Alpha Chi since 1963 and now inducts almost 150 members each year. At both the fall and spring inductions, some 300 persons attend, including nearly half the faculty, as each inductee invites a teacher to pin him or her at the ceremony.

Of the chapter's activities, long-time sponsor Dr. Trisha Yarbrough said, "Because we are a large chapter on a commuter campus with a significant non-traditional student population, we don't meet often as a club, but instead choose to focus our efforts on campus to recognize academic achievement through two annual events."

One of those events is a ceremony sponsored by Alpha Chi before graduation each year for seniors graduating with university honors of any kind. Members of all academic honor societies, including Alpha Chi, and of the honors program receive honors regalia in a formal ceremony.

(continued on page 6)

See more convention news and photos, pages 4 and 6.

# New Sledge Fellowship added to Benedict field

The first recipient of the new Robert W. Sledge Fellowship is Josette Arvizu of New Mexico State University. She will receive a stipend of \$3,500 in honor of Dr. Sledge, past president of the National Council.

Arvizu qualified for the award when she was the top candidate among 63 applicants,

Heather Meyer of Oklahoma Christian University, was unable to start graduate study this fall and had to decline.

Nine candidates were named recipients of the long-standing H.Y. Benedict Fellowship, which carries a stipend of \$2,500. One of these, Elizabeth Comer, was originally first alternate.



BENEDICT

## Lauren Bruner Barker

Oklahoma Epsilon, Oklahoma Christian University. B.A. in English. Now in graduate school at the University of Missouri—Kansas City.



BENEDICT

## Elizabeth Comer

Kentucky Zeta, Northern Kentucky University. B.A. in history. Now in the M.A. program in public history at North Carolina State University.



SLEDGE

## Josette Arvizu

New Mexico Alpha, New Mexico State University. B.A. in English. Now in the M.F.A. program in creative writing at New Mexico State.



BENEDICT

## Starcha Cook

Alabama Eta, Alabama State University. Major in accounting. Now pursuing master's degree in accounting at North Carolina State University.



BENEDICT

## Matthew Crawford

Tennessee Beta, Union University. B.A. in Christian studies. Now in the M.Div. program at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.



BENEDICT

## Jill Hicks

Texas Gamma, Baylor University. B.A. in biblical studies. Now pursuing the Master of Theological Studies degree at Duke Divinity School.



BENEDICT

## Jennifer Holmes

Tennessee Delta, Carson-Newman College. Degree in psychology. Now working toward the master's degree in social work at the University of Tennessee.



BENEDICT

## Diana Lovelace

Tennessee Delta, Carson-Newman College. B.A. in English. Now in the M.A. program in English at the University of Tennessee.



BENEDICT

## Bethany Murray

Arkansas Beta, Ouachita Baptist University. B.S. in dietetics. Now in the master's program in dietetics at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.



BENEDICT

## Shahnaz Naeem

New Hampshire Alpha, Colby-Sawyer College. B.A. in history. Now in the M.A. program in political science at Temple University.

Benedict Alternates: 2) Teresa Earley Luckman, Tennessee Zeta, Lee University; 3) William T. Mountz, Texas Alpha Iota, Angelo State University; 4) Cecilia Bogowith, Arkansas Iota, Lyon College; 5) Sabrina E. Parris, North Carolina Pi, Wingate University. Alternates receive a stipend of \$100.

# Top Nolle applicant wins new Gaston Scholarship

The first recipient of the new Edwin W. Gaston Scholarship is Joanna Hays of Peru State College. She will receive a stipend of \$2,500 in honor of Dr. Gaston, past president of the National Council.

Hays was judged the top candidate among 44 applicants in the Gaston/

Nolle Scholarship competition for members planning to be in their senior undergraduate year in 2005-06.

Nine candidates were named recipients of the long-standing Alfred H. Nolle Scholarship, which carries a stipend of \$1,500.



**Joanna Hays**  
Nebraska Delta,  
Peru State  
College.  
Major in  
biology.

GASTON



**Daniel Angelov**  
Arkansas Theta,  
Southern  
Arkansas  
University.  
Majors in  
accounting and  
finance.

NOLLE



**Julia Barb**  
Virginia  
Gamma,  
Bridgewater  
College.  
Major in  
English.

NOLLE



**Joshua Clary**  
Kentucky Delta,  
Brescia  
University.  
Major in history.

NOLLE



**Jenny Holland**  
California Iota,  
California State  
University,  
Bakersfield.  
Majors in  
English and  
political science.

NOLLE



**Kern Lee**  
California  
Lambda,  
Dominican  
University of  
California.  
Major in  
international  
business.

NOLLE



**Don McLaughlin**  
Arkansas Eta,  
Harding  
University.  
Majors in  
English and  
psychology.

NOLLE



**Rebekah Nimt**  
Indiana Beta,  
Huntington  
College.  
Major in  
English.

NOLLE



**Patrick O'Hearn**  
Iowa Delta,  
St. Ambrose  
University.  
Major in  
marketing.

NOLLE



**Marina Salama**  
Virginia Delta,  
Roanoke  
College.  
Majors in  
biology and  
Spanish.

NOLLE

Nolle Alternates: 1) Rachel Dayton, Massachusetts Beta, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts; 2) Maria Standing Rock, Tennessee Eta, Belmont University; 3) John Deveau, Texas Omicron, Sam Houston State University; 4) Summer Hess, North Carolina Zeta, Gardner-Webb University; 5) Rebekah Bunch, North Carolina Epsilon, Mars Hill College. Alternates receive a stipend of \$100.

# 2005 National Convention



Six of the seven National Council Regional Student Representatives, 2004-05.



Gardner-Webb University's convention delegation.



Delegates were "all smiles" in St. Louis.

St. Louis, Missouri



President Youngblood and Distinguished Alumna Coleen Rowley.



Students and faculty had a great time at City Museum.



# Alpha Chi: hard to leave home without it

By DENNIS M. ORGAN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

During my summer vacation I experienced one of those "small world" moments that happen to everyone. What made this one unusual was that it was all about Alpha Chi.

My wife and I and friends from New York were spending a week in a time-share resort in the mountains of western North Carolina, and one day we paused for lunch in the charming tourist town of Blowing Rock. When I handed my credit card to the young man at the counter, he said, "I've seen that insignia before." I realized he was talking about the Alpha Chi seal on the MBNA card now available to our members. It was the first time for me that a clerk had recognized the Alpha Chi connection.

Although at first he thought he might once have gotten a membership invitation, it turns out he had only attended a two-year school. But his brother, he said, was a student at Appalachian State University and he might be a member. Since he himself was starting there this fall, I told him the university has an Alpha Chi chapter and I hoped he would strive for membership.

I'm not one who has trouble leaving work behind when he goes on vacation, so that was my one little gesture toward my Alpha Chi duties that week.

However, as I reflected on the trip to North Carolina, I realized the Alpha Chi connection was apparent all along the way. My drive from Searcy, Ark., to western North Carolina repeatedly put me within a few miles of Alpha Chi colleges and universities. Highway signs announced most of these, reminding me of the string of institutions where our members are promoting the common goals of scholarship and high character.

My starting point, of course, was my home campus of Harding University (Arkansas Eta), also the national headquarters of Alpha Chi. Two hours east, in Memphis, I passed near Christian Brothers University (Tennessee Theta). As I-40 stretched across the width of Tennessee, next came Union University (Tennessee Beta) in Jackson, Belmont University (Tennessee Eta) and



Lipscomb University (Tennessee Kappa) in Nashville, Cumberland University (Tennessee Lambda) in Lebanon, and Carson-Newman College (Tennessee Delta) in Jefferson City.

Finally, as I left the interstates and main highways to thread my way through the mountains, I passed a sign for Milligan College (Tennessee Nu) outside Johnson City. Even my resort town just across the state line was an Alpha Chi place: Banner Elk, N.C., home to Lees-McRae College (North Carolina Chi). Twenty miles north, not far from the setting of the credit card epiphany, was the larger town of Boone, N.C., and Appalachian State (North Carolina Alpha).

When I got home and checked the Alpha Chi map, I saw that I had also passed within

miles of Freed-Hardeman University (Tennessee Iota) in Henderson and Tusculum College (Tennessee Alpha) in Greeneville. I had left work for 10 days, but I had never really left Alpha Chi!

This reminded me of what a remarkable network of colleges and universities we have across the country. The string of 12 schools my travels touched could be duplicated time and again in many areas of the country.

There truly is strength in numbers. I hope we'll continue to put that strength to use in our common cause of scholarship, and also in efforts such as the national project on academic integrity.

To be sure, my summer trip reinforced my understanding of the presence and the potential of Alpha Chi and its members.

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## Presenters showcased at St. Louis

Nearly 200 students presented their scholarly and creative work at the national convention in St. Louis, which was attended by more than 450 delegates.

Announcement of student awards climaxed the three-day meeting. In addition to the national fellowships and scholarships (see pages 2-3), which do not involve convention presentations, cash prizes were awarded to nine students for their presentations in British literature, education, chemistry, history, psychology, general literature, and creative writing. (See details at [www.alphachihonor.org](http://www.alphachihonor.org).)

Already four additional presentation prizes are planned for 2007. Funding is complete for new prizes in health sciences and business, and endowments for biology and religion are well toward their goals.

In other convention highlights:

Delegates approved a revision of the Constitution that updated language and also separated the single document into a Constitution and Bylaws.

Eleven individuals, most of them current sponsors, received Alpha Chi's Distinguished Service Award.

The revised Constitution and awards details are available on the web site.

From a field of seven candidates for the National Council, delegates elected to four-year terms Dr. Clark Youngblood of Grand

Canyon University, current president of the Council; Dr. Ellen Millsaps of Carson-Newman College, current vice president; Dr. Terrell Tebbetts of Lyon College, also an incumbent; and Dr. Patricia Williams of Sam Houston State University, who has been off the Council two years after serving three terms, including one as president.

The Council is composed of the seven regional secretary-treasurers, seven student members representing the regions, and eight at-large faculty members.

## *Top chapter . . .* *(from page 1)*

The second event allows students who have presented academic work off-campus at any meeting to display and explain their work and have it judged, with winners receiving prizes and certificates and being published in the ECU Research Journal.

The chapter also gives small cash prizes in art and literature and brings guest speakers to campus. Oklahoma Gamma is a perennial Star Chapter and faithfully participates in society conventions.



*Sponsor Jeff Walz and officers of the Concordia University Wisconsin chapter advertise Alpha Chi at the university's orientation fair at the start of the fall 2005 term.*