



MEDIA RELEASE

Dr. Thomas Varkey Named 2026 Alpha Chi Distinguished Alumnus

For Immediate Release: Fri., Oct. 24, 2025

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.— Alpha Chi National College Honor Society is proud to announce that Dr. Thomas C. Varkey, alumnus of the Arizona Alpha chapter at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, AZ, will be the recipient of its 2026 Distinguished Alumni Award. An Alpha Chi member since 2015, Dr. Varkey graduated from the Honors College at Grand Canyon in 2017 with a Bachelor of Science in Biology with an emphasis in Pre-Medicine. In 2018 he completed a Master of Business Administration, and in 2022 Dr. Varkey graduated with a Master of Educational Psychology in addition to a Doctorate of Medicine.

The Alpha Chi Distinguished Alumni Award is the highest honor Alpha Chi bestows on an individual alumni member, and it recognizes those who have achieved notable success in their field and made significant contributions to their communities. This prestigious award is presented at each in-person national convention to an outstanding alumnus or alumna of the Society, selected by the National Council from chapter nominations.

In addition to his various degrees, Dr. Varkey has co-authored more than 50 peer-reviewed journal publications and has hosted more than 30 academic presentations. He is currently employed by University of Arizona–Phoenix as a resident physician in the field of neurology. Dr. Varkey also serves as an adjunct faculty member at GCU where he mentors the next generation of health care professionals.

According to Arizona Alpha Chapter Advisor Dr. Bre Naegeli, “It is evident that Varkey embodies the ideals of Alpha Chi and has devoted his personal and professional career to making his scholarship effective for good.” Dr. Naegeli went on to say, “His commitment to ethics, service, leadership, and academic excellence is superior, and I am confident he will represent Alpha Chi and the scholarly community well.” The selection committee obviously agreed.

Varkey Named Distinguished Alumnus

Dr. Varkey will be honored this coming March during a special session at the Alpha Chi National Convention in Orlando, Florida, where he will deliver a keynote address and receive the award from Alpha Chi President Dr. Linda Cowan.

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 at hundreds of college campuses nationwide. Since the Society's founding in 1922, Alpha Chi members have dedicated themselves to "making scholarship effective for good." Alpha Chi is a certified member in good standing of the Association of College Honor Societies, the only national certifying body for collegiate honor societies. To learn about chartering a chapter of Alpha Chi on your campus, visit AlphaChiHonor.org/charter.

For more information on the competition and a list of previous recipients, please visit www.alphachihonor.org/distinguished-alumni-award.

##