



MEDIA RELEASE

Two Student Teams Split Collaborative Research Prize

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LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—At its national convention March 12-14 in Orlando, Florida, Alpha Chi National College Honor Society announced that the second-place prize of \$2,500 in the 2026 Trisha M. Yarbrough Collaborative Research Competition would be split between two teams of student researchers from the California Zeta chapter at **Fresno Pacific University** and the Arkansas Beta chapter at **Ouachita Baptist University**. Each team will receive \$1,250 to be distributed directly to its student team members.

Fresno Pacific University's team was **Raymond Andrade**, a senior studying arts administration and business administration; **Judith Flores Mora**, a junior literature major; **Izaiah Ruiz**, a graduate student studying history; **Abigail Spain**, a senior biology and environmental science major; and **Victoria Stephens**, a senior studying communication, with Dr. Marshall Johnston as faculty mentor. Their project was titled "**Schrödinger's Irony**," with the team analyzing the history and concept of irony through the lens of literature and their own observational study.

Ouachita Baptist University's team consisted of **Abby Grace Hall**, a junior studying biology and Christian foundations; **Avery Smith**, a senior finance major; **Chloe Caffey**, a junior studying biomedical sciences, chemistry, and Spanish; **Chloe Harrison**, a junior nursing major; and **Faith Savage**, a junior studying nursing and psychology, with Dr. Myra Houser as their faculty mentor. With a project titled "**The High Cost of Creativity**," the team evaluated the ethical, economic, physical, and mental costs of the anti-aging industry.

This annual competition is one way Alpha Chi actively promotes interdisciplinary undergraduate research designed to focus on real-world solutions. It was judged by a multidisciplinary panel of professors who assessed three collegiate teams submitting a written research paper, a poster, and culminating with a live national convention presentation followed by questions from both judges and audience members.

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About Alpha Chi

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 its member institutions. Chartered on more than 300 campuses nationwide, chapters induct approximately 8,000 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 certified member of the Association of College Honor Societies.