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## MEDIA RELEASE

### Presenter Prizes Awarded at 2026 Alpha Chi National Convention

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LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—Eighteen members of Alpha Chi, the national college honor society, received \$200 prizes for making the best scholarly, creative, or artistic presentations in their fields on March 14 during the closing event of its national convention held this year in Orlando. The cash prizes were funded through discipline-specific endowments established by supporters of the Society.

More than 70 presenters were evaluated on criteria including focus and organization, depth and complexity of research, audience engagement, contribution to scholarship, and correctness of form. Among the members giving presentations from a variety of academic disciplines, the following received \$200 prizes:

The Robert Blake Prize in British Literature went to **Avery Morris** from **Abilene Christian University** for “‘If Women Had Written Stories’: The Wife of Bath and Janie Crawford.”

The Gayle Webb White Prize in Business Management went to **Piper Colantone** from **Lindenwood University** for “How to Develop Archery to Make It Sustainable for the Future.”

A Joseph E. and Bessie Mae Pryor Prize in Chemistry went to **Alexis Osborn and Cailey Rocquemore** from **University of Texas at Tyler** for “Investigating Methods for Small Molecule Polymerization Inside the HK97 Virus-Like Particle.” A second Pryor Prize in Chemistry went to **Merari Williams** from **Huntington University** for “Investigation of Nickel-Catalyzed Sonogashira Reactions Using Imidazolyl Sulfonates as Leaving Groups.”

The Floyd Tesmer and Strayer University Prize in Computer Science and Engineering went to **Dylan Skelton** from **Abilene Christian University** for “On the Use of Sparse Voxel Octrees for 3D Pathfinding.”

The Patricia A. Williams Prize in Education went to **Lexi Shadden** from **Tennessee Wesleyan University** for “The Literacy Crisis in America.”

The Milton L. and Avery G. Church Prize in Environmental Science went to **Savannah Stanish** from **Mars Hill University** for “Spatial Analysis of Fungi and Forest Types.”

The Kathryn Hoyle Bradley Prize in Health Sciences went to **Sophia Lee** from **Hastings College** for “Research on a CMOS-based Microfluidic Point-of-Care Testing Device.”

## Alpha Chi Celebrates Advisor Milestones at 2024 Convention

The Bonnie Revelle Prize in Molecular and Cellular Biology went to **Robbie Alatrash** from **Abilene Christian University** for “Identification of in vivo substrates for LIP-1 DUSP in *C. elegans*.”

The Floyd and Rosana Tesmer and D.C. Gamma Prize in Original Visual Art went to **Amanda Moseng** from **Huntington University** for “The Never House: How an Animated Project Goes From the Sketchbook to the Screen.”

The Johnny and Frances Williams Prize in Performing Arts went to **Jaazaniah Salehm** from **Catawba College** for “Reviving f-AI-th - Two Songs and a Conversation.”

One Mary Waterstreet Prize in Psychology went to **Averi Holsted** from **Missouri Western State University** for “Examining Athletic Burnout Through the Lens of Athletic Identity and Perceptions of Life Transitions.” A second Mary Waterstreet Prize in Psychology went to **Haley Langley** from **Southeastern Oklahoma State University** for “Exposure to Domestic Violence and Sexual Attitudes in Women: Implications for Trauma and Sexual Health.”

The Patricia Graham Prize in World History went to **Nemanja Medan** from **Lindenwood University** for “From Headlines to Homeland: The Importance of Translation in Mobilizing Bosniak Diaspora Identity through Post-War Journalism.”

The Suzanne and J.T. Pundt Graduate Student Prize in the Humanities went to **Holly Huckabee** from the **University of Mary Hardin-Baylor** for “Initial Perspectives on Cell Phone Bans in Texas Schools.”

The Suzanne and J.T. Pundt Graduate Student Prize in the Sciences went to **Mara Aucoin** from the **University of Texas at Tyler** for “Steric and Electronic Considerations of Ester Hydrolysis: Updating a Longstanding Physical Organic Kinetics Experiment.”

The Dennis M. Organ Alumni Member Prize went to **Rebekah Brown** from **Wayland Baptist University** for “‘Damaged Goods’: Portrayals of Male Victims of Childhood Sexual Abuse in DC Comics.”

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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.

For more information about Alpha Chi’s endowed presentation prizes, please visit <https://www.alphachihonor.org/convention-presentation-prizes>.