

# ΦΑΘ NEWS

APRIL 2022



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

---

In 2002, the prominent British historian Eric J. Hobsbawm published a memoir entitled *Interesting Times: A Twentieth-Century Life*, drawing on a supposed (but erroneously attributed) Chinese curse about “living in interesting times”. While the allusion is apocryphal, its sentiment made sense in the experience of Hobsbawm—whom I was very glad to hear invoked by a brilliant student in his paper at the recent Alabama Regional Meeting. Born in 1917 in Alexandria, Egypt, and rising to maturity in the collapsing Weimar Republic, Hobsbawm escaped Hitler and came under surveillance by the British security service, MI5, as was revealed when his file was released to view after his death in 2012. Hobsbawm’s life (and I would strongly recommend Sir Richard Evans’ 2019 biography of EJH, if you want to read the full story) proved that a historian’s life could be both “interesting” and “of interest” to a government.

And this brings me to something rather wonderful that has happened in the life of Phi Alpha Theta lately. At the end of last year, I was contacted by the American Historical Association—and specifically by an amazing Phi Alpha Thetan (initiated into the Dixie State University chapter in Utah) who was working at the AHA—concerning the possibility of partnering our organizations in some way. I leapt at the chance to foster those relationships, as I have been particularly impressed by the public advocacy and the public information that the AHA has offered in recent years. For a

small sample of that astonishingly high level of assistance, to all of us who love the honest, truthful, and engaged investigation of the past, see a recently compiled set of materials about the history of Ukraine, attached here: <https://www.historians.org/ukraine-russia-resources>, and a set of press releases featuring AHA Executive Director Jim Grossman's public statements on current events that affect historians:

<https://www.historians.org/news-and-advocacy/aha-in-the-news>.

My own history with the AHA is fairly extensive, as, many moons ago, I secured my first academic job due to the AHA's Career Center, and yet I had let my connections to the organization drop until last year.

Nevertheless, the AHA has now made a tremendous offer available to Phi Alpha Thetans, particularly the undergraduate students among us. As you can see from the attached flyer, by using a specific code, students inducted during the 2021-2022 academic year can now join the AHA as a student member, at a 50% discounted rate! Whether students will go on to graduate study or into some other field, a connection to the AHA, especially in our own "interesting times" is something of real value and one that might continue to be cultivated in future years.

As I mentioned in my keynote address to the superb students assembled for the Dakotas Regional Conference in Vermillion, South Dakota, a few weeks ago, it is certainly important, in an anxious, time to be a historian in our society. State laws and lawmakers, in multiple venues, seem particularly worried about how we are teaching and learning about history, at all levels of primary and higher education. This suggests that what we do is IMPORTANT, even if we, sometimes, don't recognize its importance. After all, why would historians be attacked, unless what we do poses a threat to someone? Interesting times, indeed....

I hope to see many more of you in future regional conferences and induction ceremonies of new chapters this Spring, and THANKS for this great privilege of leading you into a new century of Phi Alpha Theta!

Jonathan S. Perry

JOIN US IN  
*Albuquerque!*

January  
4-7, 2023

Join us in Albuquerque, New Mexico  
at the The Clyde Hotel for the

*Biennial Convention!*

Room Rate: \$150 + tax

[phialphatheta.org/biennial-convention-2023/](http://phialphatheta.org/biennial-convention-2023/)

Stay tuned for more details to come

CALL FOR PAPERS

for the

BIENNIAL CONVENTION

APRIL 15 - NOVEMBER 4

All paper proposals are to be submitted  
by faculty advisors via our website  
You must be a PAT member to present

# SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

FACULTY ADVISOR RESEARCH GRANT

NASH HISTORY JOURNAL PRIZE

PAT PAPER PRIZE AWARDS

BEST CHAPTER AWARDS

BOOK AWARDS

*Due July 1, 2022*

Learn more here: [phiaalphatheta.org/prizes-and-awards/](http://phiaalphatheta.org/prizes-and-awards/)

# REGIONAL CONFERENCES

ARKANSAS - Harding University - April 2

CALIFORNIA SOUTH - Chapman University - April 16

HAWAII - University of Hawaii - Manoa - April 8-9 -Virtual

NORTHWEST - Western Washington University - April 22-23

PA EAST - Mansfield University - April 30

PA WEST - Thiel College - April 2

TX NORTH/CENTRAL - Midwestern State University - April 1-2

TX WEST - Texas State University-San Marcos - April 23 -Virtual & In-Person

## HANGING AROUND IN *April*

Add the keychain & a lanyard to your cart, and you'll receive the lanyard for free!

[MyPhiAlphaTheta.com](http://MyPhiAlphaTheta.com)



# CONNECT WITH PAT



[@PATNational](#)



[info@PhiAlphaTheta.org](mailto:info@PhiAlphaTheta.org)



[@PhiAlphaTheta](#)



[@PAT\\_History](#)