ΦΑΘ NEWS

A MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL MEMBER HUTCHINSON

Greetings! I'm Daniel Hutchinson, faculty advisor for the Alpha Pi Mu chapter at Belmont Abbey College. I also teach digital history and research emerging technologies for historical teaching and research. As we embark on a new academic year, I want to explore the potential implications of artificial intelligence (AI) on higher education, and specifically, in the field of history.

The introduction of ChatGPT in November 2022 provided users with a tool that can rapidly generate prose on a wide range of historical topics. While it performs impressively in many ways (for example, acing the Advanced Placement exams in history), the imperfect data sources on which it was trained can result in misinformation. AI's brilliance and its flaws often appear side-by-side.

So, how are historians and educators adapting? Educators are rethinking pedagogies to tackle automated plagiarism and ensure that AI is used responsibly. Students are also exploring AI's capabilities, recognizing its potential to enhance learning and yet questioning its impact on their future. Scholars are likewise devising exciting ways AI can be used for historical analysis, while being mindful of its tendency toward error.

The emergence of generative AI should lead us to reflect on the importance of historical thinking. Though algorithms can quickly compose prose, crafting engaging narratives through evidence, analysis, and empathy still remains a distinctly human skill. Let us, as members of Phi Alpha Theta, engage with AI's potentials and perils while also contributing to scholarship that places AI in the context of the history of technology. Our insights will have much to offer a world seeking orientation amid the disruptions and uncertainties generated by AI.

Daniel Hutchinson

New School Year, New Opportunities!

Prizes & Awards: PhiAlphaTheta.org/prizes-and-awards/

Due March 1, 2024

Doctoral Student Scholarship
Graduate Student Scholarship
Undergraduate Student Scholarship
Gordon Morris Scholarship in Western History

Due July 1, 2024

Book Awards
Best Chapter Awards
Paper Prize Awards
Nash History Journal
Faculty Advisor Research Grant

Due September 16, 2024

Charles Redd Center Book Award

Attending a new school? Get involved in your new PAT chapter, and update your address and email address so we can stay in touch!
PhiAlphaTheta.org/change-of-address-or-e-mail/

PAT + AHA

Undergraduate PAT Members inducted in the 2022-23 academic year can join the American Historical Association for one year for 50% off!

Use code PAT23 on historians.org/joinnow to join

Important Statement from The Executive Board

In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged, and work that is presented as original must in fact BE original. While Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies such as ChatGPT will likely create significant breakthroughs in a wide range of fields, using an **AI-content generator to produce scholarly work without proper attribution or authorization is a form of academic dishonesty**. In accepting scholarly work for conference presentation, prize/award consideration or publication in the PAT newsletter or The Historian, Phi Alpha Theta expects its members to **uphold the honorable standards of our Society by researching, composing and submitting their own original work**. In this way, faculty and student members of Phi Alpha Theta can all share in nurturing and protecting the integrity and fairness of our Society's intellectual enterprise. **Submitting content to Phi Alpha Theta that has been generated by someone else, or was created or assisted by a computer application such as ChatGPT, will result in immediate disqualification from conference, award or publication consideration.**

CONNECT WITH PAT

@PATNational   info@PhiAlphaTheta.org   @PhiAlphaTheta