

# ΦΑΘ NEWS

JUNE 2023



## A MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL MEMBER GALLAGHER

The Phi Alpha Theta chapter at Boston College is headed-up by faculty advisor María de los Ángeles Picone, a Latin Americanist who specializes in borderlands, migrant, and spatial history. She is particularly interested in the history of Chile and Argentina in Northern Patagonia. Angie energetically leads Phi Alpha Theta students to promote induction of new students into the chapter each year. The Boston College chapter holds an annual induction ceremony in the fall semester for new members and elects officers annually. Phi Alpha Theta members collaborate with Professor Picone and Professor Charles R. Gallagher, SJ, a member of the PAT National Council, to organize various other activities. The Boston College chapter also confers an annual award for excellence in teaching to a member of the history faculty.

Professor Picone is popular among our students as an early adopter of the “Unessay” style of assessment in her classes. In this style of learning assessment, instead of submitting an exam, the student submits a stand-alone, original project that exhibits a breadth of learning on a particular topic or theme. One popular Unessay method that Professor Picone’s students have taken up is the group creation of a board game connected to a historical theme or subject. This lays out course material in a fun recall and content-driven style.

Unessay projects also could be a painting, a video of a culinary creation, a quilt, or a craft project on a historical theme. For these more singular and independent projects, there is a twist. Each of these projects requires a 3-page reflection paper. Reflection is a central element of student formation at Boston College and is grounded in the Jesuit spiritual concept of “discernment.” The reflection element is aimed at connecting the content of the course materials with larger values and principles.

Professor Charles Gallagher, S.J. has moved toward writing on the intersection of religion and intelligence studies. In his 2021 book *Nazis of Copley Square: The Forgotten History of the Christian Front*, Gallagher uncovered Nazi, British, and Soviet spy activity in Boston. During the warm-weather months, he takes Phi Alpha Theta students and others on a “Walking Spy Tour of Boston,” visiting a secret British short wave radio station, the former headquarters of a Nazi front organization, the Boston headquarters of the British MI6 operation intended to thwart the Nazi threat, and also the former German consulate on Beacon Hill. In the fall of 2023, Gallagher intends to organize a PAT student visit to the Nathan Hale homestead in Coventry Connecticut. While the PAT chapter at Boston College is growing, it is also hoping to become more visible on campus and among all BC students who study in this epicenter of history, the cradle of the Revolution, and the city once known as “the Athens of America.”

# 2023-2024 Prizes & Awards

[PhiAlphaTheta.org/prizes-and-awards/](https://PhiAlphaTheta.org/prizes-and-awards/)

<u>Prizes and Awards</u>	<u>Description of Prizes and Awards</u>	<u>Application Deadline</u>
Gordon Morris Bakken Scholarship in Western History	For graduate students in history researching the Trans-Mississippi West	Entries received by March 1, 2024
Doctoral Student Scholarship	For graduate student members who are actively pursuing a Ph.D. in History	Entries received by March 1, 2024
Graduate Student Scholarship	For students entering graduate school for the first time in the <i>fall of 2024</i>	Entries received by March 1, 2024
Undergraduate Student Scholarship	For students members entering the fall semester of their senior year majoring in Modern European History 1815-present	Entries received by March 1, 2024
Best Chapter Awards	Chapters are encouraged to submit their digital scrapbook showcasing their activities for the <i>2022-2023 academic year</i>	Entries received by July 3, 2023
Book Awards	For faculty to submit a book for Best First Book or Best Subsequent Book	Entries received by July 3, 2023
Faculty Advisor Research Grant	For chapter advisors who have served <i>five (5) or more years</i> to advance their research	Entries received by July 3, 2023
Paper Prize Awards	For graduate and undergraduate students who have written outstanding papers	Entries received by July 3, 2023
Nash History Journal Prize	For all PAT chapters who publish print and/or electronic journals	Entries received by July 3, 2023
Charles Redd Center Book Award	For faculty to submit a book on any aspect of the American West	Entries received by September 16, 2024



# Fun in the Sun!

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

## Become the ultimate historian

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](http://historians.org/joinnow) to join before this deal ends on June 30!

*Let's stay in  
touch, Grads!*

We'd love to stay in touch with you,  
so make sure you update your  
address and email address!  
[PhiAlphaTheta.org/change-of-address-or-e-mail/](http://PhiAlphaTheta.org/change-of-address-or-e-mail/)

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