

### A MESSAGE FROM THE GAMMA ETA CHAPTER

#### What We Deem as Important: The Trade of the History Student

In a rapidly evolving world where the present often overshadows the past, the study of history stands as a vital discipline that not only preserves our collective memory but also provides invaluable insights into the complexities of human existence. Our community of History students, both at the University of Florida and those beyond, transcending international barriers, all play a crucial role in uncovering and interpreting historical narratives, shedding light on past events, and understanding their impact on contemporary society. The University of Florida Gamma Eta Chapter is privileged to write this piece for the Phi Alpha Theta monthly newsletter, and we hope to reciprocate our appreciation for this organization while also illuminating our perspective of what it means to study history in the 21st century.

To put it eloquently, I believe History students serve as custodians of the past, engaging in rigorous academic inquiry to analyze historical phenomena, interpret primary sources, and construct narratives that offer meaningful perspectives on the human experience. Through our ability to not only engage but flourish via dedicated study and inquiry, we develop critical thinking skills, honing our ability to evaluate evidence, discern patterns, and construct well-reasoned arguments. However, this definition only scratches the surface of our analytical acumen.

Particularly, our community emphasizes the preservation of cultural heritage, safeguarding the rich tapestry of human history for future generations. In our Gainesville, Florida community specifically, we have been granted a generous and vital responsibility to preserve what we know as our home. Rich in historical importance, whether relating to the period before our University's charter or following, the abundance of historical evidence of a different time permeates every aspect of our surroundings. Our creeks are marinated with both Native American artifacts and Civil War memorabilia, settled together in a symbolic harmony that was not seen during the time of their use. This dichotomy, in our immediate community specifically, represents the diverse historical periods and societies, where it is our responsibility to foster an appreciation for the diversity of human experiences. History students play a

pivotal role in promoting cross-cultural understanding, fostering a more inclusive society, and sharing this knowledge with those who are yet to appreciate it.

Our immediate Historical community is exceptionally important, but it can only reach its full capacity with the spread of the knowledge we have gained. This is where Phi Alpha Theta enters into the narrative. While playing a crucial role in fostering scholarly excellence and promoting the advancement of historical knowledge, PAT provides a platform for all communities to engage in intellectual discourse, collaborate with peers, and showcase our experience which bridges the challenging gap between the immediate community and the broader national one. By fostering a sense of a larger audience among history students and faculty, Phi Alpha Theta cultivates a unique, supportive environment where members can exchange ideas, receive feedback, and pursue opportunities for intellectual growth which exceeds the foundation of our immediate understanding.

These contributions, via Phi Alpha Theta, introduce our national communities to broader historical discourse through research, publication, and public engagement which wouldn't have been possible otherwise. By promoting this atmosphere and encouraging professional development, this organization equips history students with the skills and confidence to make meaningful contributions to the field of history and society as a whole where we are encouraged to build upon our preconceived notions of what history should be versus what it IS.

Dalia Bronisas Dooley

President of the Gamma Eta Chapter

## **Initiate Procedure for Advisors**

It's induction season! Follow these steps to add new members to your chapter.

#### **COLLECT**

Collect \$50 lifetime National Dues from new members

#### PAY

Submit payment for your members on Apreferred MyPhiAlphaTheta.com



OR write one check that includes all new member dues to send to the National Office

### **EMAIL**



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Email a list of your initiates' names, emails, and addresses, plus your initiation ceremony date, to info@phialphatheta.org We need 3 weeks for processing, so start early!



# Regional Conferences Interested in hosting a Regional Conference? Visit: <u>PhiAlphaTheta.org/guidelines-for-hosting</u>

Feb. 22 - Dakota - University of South Dakota Feb. 24 - Oklahoma - University of Central Oklahoma Mar. 2 - Hawai'i - Brigham Young University-Hawai'i Mar. 2 - <u>Alabama</u>- Auburn University Mar. 13-15 - Midwest - Courtyard by Marriott in Columbia, MO Mar. 16 - California South - University of La Verne Mar. 22 - Louisiana - Hampton Inn Convention Center New Orleans Mar. 23 - <u>Texas West/Central</u> - Angelo State University Mar. 23 - Tennessee - Tusculum University **Apr. 5** - <u>Mountain West</u>- Utah State University Apr. 6 - Carolinas - University of North Carolina at Pembroke Apr. 6 - Florida - University of Florida Apr. 6 - <u>Mid-Atlantic</u> - Bowie State University Apr. 11-13 - Pacific Northwest - Eastern Washington University Apr. 13 - Arkansas - Ouachita Baptist University **Apr. 13** - <u>Kentucky</u> - Thomas More University Apr. 13 - Pennsylvania East - Rowan University Apr. 13 - <u>Texas East</u> - Stephen F. Austin State University Apr. 13 - Virginia - Virginia Military Institute Apr. 20 - Colorado - University of Colorado-Colorado Springs Apr. 20 - <u>New York/New Jersey</u> - Dominican University Apr. 26 - <u>California North</u> - Cal State East Bay Apr. 27 - <u>New York West/Central</u> - University at Buffalo