

# ΦΑΘ NEWS

MAY 2022



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Even though 970 local college and university chapters have already been established over the course of Phi Alpha Theta's 101 years in existence, we have the signal honor to welcome newly formed chapters into our organization every year. Among the three that have been installed this year is the Alpha Rho Eta chapter at the University of Illinois Chicago. A few weeks ago, I had the great joy and privilege to be the national representative at the initiation ceremony at UIC (home of the 'Flames', by the way, in honor (?) of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871). Dr. Kevin Schultz and a large number of bright, enthusiastic, and forward-thinking students made it an unforgettable afternoon of scholarship and community-building. Check out their brilliant online coverage of the event: <https://hist.uic.edu/news-stories/phi-alpha-theta-history-honors-society/>

When a new chapter is installed, the 'Full Version' of our standard 'Ritual' is required, and, as this was my first experience presiding over one, I eagerly pored over it in advance—particularly noting all of the Greek letters and symbolism (my extensive training in ancient history proved very useful here!). The ceremony begins with a series of statements made by the 'spokespersons' of six distinct ages of the human experience (Prehistoric, Ancient, Medieval, Early Modern, Contemporary, and Future), and then it culminates in a list of the three 'ideals of this Society', to the upholding of which the new members are invited to assent.

Each of the three ideals seems to be inspired by the three central Greek words, of which 'Phi Alpha Theta' are the first letters. (Did you know that there was an actual acronym behind our organization??) The first ideal, connected to the concept of 'Philia', or Friendship/Love/Strong Affection, depending on how one translates the Greek, is 'The spirit of respect, which inculcates a sincere regard for the rights of each individual to freedom.' The second, tied to 'Anthropos', the root word of 'anthropology' and 'misanthropic', et al. and corresponding to our word 'humankind' or 'humanity', reads, 'The belief in the community of all persons which renders abhorrent all ideas that tend to foment national hatreds, racial and sexual discrimination, and all forms of injustice.' The third, loosely connected to 'Theos'—'god', 'God', 'the divine', or some roughly equivalent term, perhaps—is, 'The need for historians to search for Truth [with a capital T on the page] and to accept the responsibility for making decisions in terms of their meaning for others as well as themselves.'

In our present moment, I would draw special attention to the second ideal of our society. Surely the past few months, if not also the substance of our individual periods of specialty as historians, provide brutal evidence of the significance of this virtue, especially in its absence? How many times in human history has injustice, predicated upon hateful ideas stemming from prejudiced beliefs, led to horrific violence? Where do the abhorrent images we see from around the world today actually begin to take shape? What can historians do to reject and counteract the unfounded and untrue historical narratives that so often fuel these hatreds?

I still believe that historians, whether scholars, students, or amateurs (in the Latin sense of the word), play a vital role in the real world. How can we in Phi Alpha Theta do more to honor these ideals, and make the 'Future Age' a better one for us all?

Jonathan S. Perry



# JOIN US IN *Albuquerque!*


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



January  
4-7,  
2023

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# CALL FOR PAPERS

for the  
BIENNIAL CONVENTION

DEADLINE FOR PAPER SUBMISSIONS  
**NOVEMBER 4, 2022**

You must be a PAT member to present  
All paper proposals are to be submitted  
by faculty advisors via our website  
[phialphatheta.org/call\\_for\\_papers/](http://phialphatheta.org/call_for_papers/)



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

## Welcome **ALPHA-RHO-ETA**



A new PAT chapter was installed at the University of Illinois-Chicago on April 14, 2022!



## Congrats Grads!

Buy an honor cord,  
get a sash for 50% off!

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



# Special OFFER

Undergraduate students inducted into **Phi Alpha Theta** during the 2021-2022 academic year are invited to join the American Historical Association at a discounted rate.

Visit [historians.org/join](https://historians.org/join) to become a member. Use code **PATNEW22** at checkout for 50% off a one-year student membership.

**Join the AHA today.**

The code is valid through the end of June 2022. Questions can be directed to Hope Shannon at [hshannon@historians.org](mailto:hshannon@historians.org).

The American Historical Association is the largest professional organization serving historians in all fields and all professions. Visit us at [historians.org](https://historians.org).

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