

ΦΑΘ NEWS

OCTOBER 2023

A MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL MEMBER CRUTCHFIELD



Hello! My name is Lisa Crutchfield, and I am currently the faculty advisor for the Alpha Beta Upsilon chapter at the University of Lynchburg and a member of the National Advisory Board. I grew up spending my summers along the shores of the Chesapeake Bay, discovering arrowheads, clay pipes, and pottery shards. This inspired my love of history, anthropology, and the study of indigenous-colonial interaction.

Although institutions and businesses may appear to be putting more emphasis on STEM over the liberal arts, know that history is a vibrant and exciting field in which to make significant contributions with lasting relevance. Perhaps surprising to many, the number of visitors to historical sites each year greatly eclipses the number of spectators at major league sporting events! People want (and recognize the need) to know their history, and cultural heritage sites and museums bring economic benefits such as tourist dollars to local areas. History is an important field, and the work you do within it—even as a student just starting out—can make a difference. To that end, you might be wondering how to make your passion for history have more of an impact. You might start by reaching out to community partners in your area who likely would be thrilled to have some help in reclaiming local history. Whether these partnerships are cultivated by advisors or student-initiated, the goal is the same. Local institutions and organizations are eager to have the help of those who practice the skills developed in the field of history—including research, synthesis, critical thinking, and the ability to clearly articulate arguments in oral and written forms. Meanwhile, students benefit from hands-on application, a broadened group to offer guidance and perspectives, and the creation of something tangible in the form of an exhibit or research that could be included in the partner's presentation. This makes these collaborations a win-win.

To offer some concrete examples, let me briefly share three community projects that the members of our chapter are currently working on.

- The Sedalia Arts Center, about 30 miles north of campus, physically occupies the building that once was Counter Ridge School. Built in 1959, the school provided public education for segregated black students for over a decade and was one of three local schools built at that time to support claims of “separate but equal” and stave off integration. Information on the school is

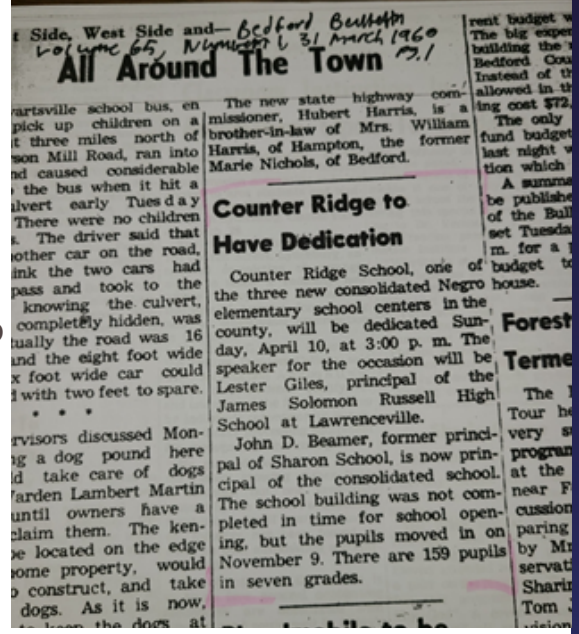
scarce, but students are working to augment the history by scouring microfilmed newspapers for articles related to the school, locating names of principals, teachers, and students, and conducting oral history interviews.

The town of Bedford is located about 30 miles west of campus and their historical society has partnered with us, also with the goal of uncovering more of their educational history. Students worked through 1890s newspapers to identify local school issues, including a controversy over the building of the Bedford High School in 1894 that resulted in a lawsuit. They also combed through business advertisements to help create a map and timeline of businesses in downtown Bedford at the turn of the century, with a future goal of mapping those with GIS and/or creating a walking tour.

A final example will, I hope, encourage you to not limit your idea of community partners to only those focused on history but to seek partners where the connection may not be as obvious. Located about 30 miles west of campus, the Claytor Nature Center focuses on environmental studies but, as stewards of the land and the 1790s farmhouse donated to them, they are interested in understanding the history of the farm and its role in the larger community historically. Recently, mid-20th-century artifacts were discovered in the attic, and the Center understood that they might be able to help tell the history of the family, farm, house, and land as part of their larger goal focusing on environmental studies. Students have been transcribing letters, researching material culture items, combing through census records and slave schedules to document the people connected with the land, researching social justice issues involving land ownership and problems of power, and digitizing all of it to help ensure preservation and accessibility.

I hope these examples serve as inspiration for both PAT advisors and PAT student members to seek out partnerships with local organizations to work on matters of historical importance. Both partners benefit from such collaboration, and the larger community will be better for it as well as more history is shared. Keep doing all the good work that you all are doing, and I hope to hear about much of it at our regional and national conferences!

Lisa Crutchfield



Regional Conferences

It's almost time for Regional season!
The Regional Calendar on PhiAlphaTheta.org/regionals is updated as soon as we hear from Regional hosts, so check back soon if you don't see a Regional scheduled for your area yet.

Interested in hosting a Regional Conference?
Find the details here: phialphatheta.org/guidelines-for-hosting

NEW SEMESTER, NEW MEMBERS

Faculty Advisors, it's almost time to submit your Fall Initiates!

Submitting initiates is easy:

🍁 Visit MyPhiAlphaTheta.com to pay the membership dues for your new members

🍁 Email info@PhiAlphaTheta.org with a list of each initiate's full name, address, and email

Remember: PAT HQ requires a 3-week processing time before your certificates are mailed to you, so start this process as early as possible!

Upcoming Opportunities PhiAlphaTheta.org/prizes-and-awards/

Doctoral Student Scholarship
Graduate Student Scholarship
Undergraduate Student Scholarship
Gordon Morris Scholarship in Western History
----- Due March 1, 2024

Book Awards
Best Chapter Awards
Paper Prize Awards
Nash History Journal
Faculty Advisor Research Grant
----- Due July 1, 2024

Charles Redd Center Book Award
----- Due September 16, 2024

CONGRATULATIONS

**CIVIL WARS AND
RECONSTRUCTIONS
IN THE AMERICAS**

Best First Book Award

Evan C. Rothera



Evan C. Rothera

**CIVIL WARS AND
RECONSTRUCTIONS
IN THE AMERICAS:
THE UNITED STATES,
MEXICO, AND
ARGENTINA, 1860-1880**

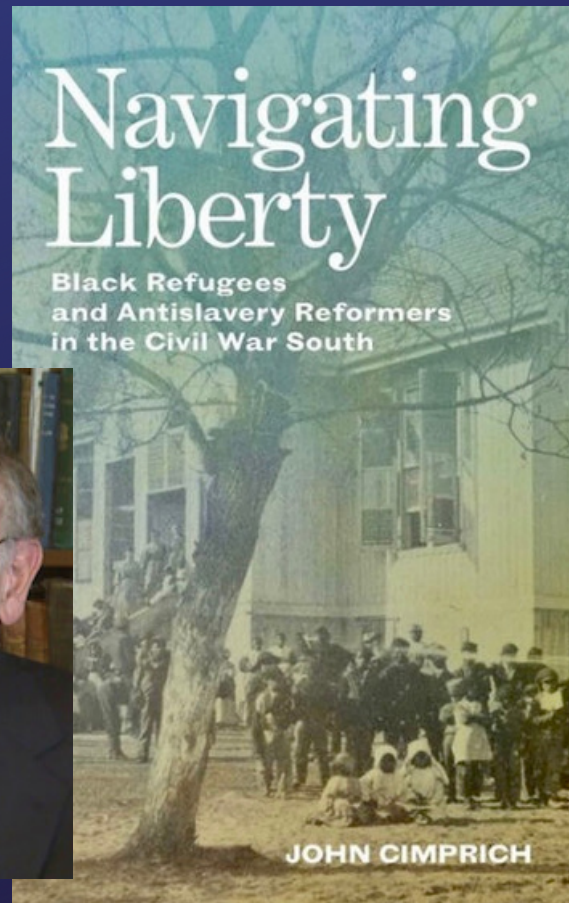
Best Subsequent Book Award

John Cimprich

**Navigating
Liberty**

**Black Refugees
and Antislavery Reformers
in the Civil War South**

**NAVIGATING LIBERTY,
BLACK REFUGEES AND
ANTISLAVERY
REFORMERS IN THE
CIVIL WAR SOUTH**



JOHN CIMPRICH

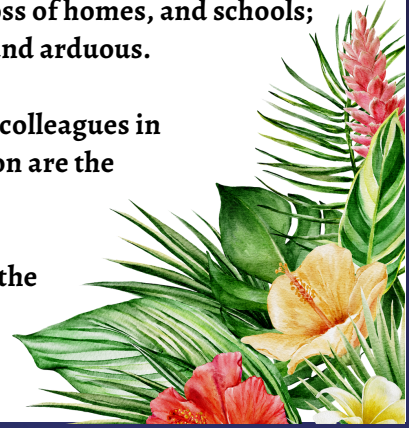


Our hearts are with Hawai'i

We, the National Office, and Executive Board of Phi Alpha Theta write to acknowledge our students and colleagues who have suffered overwhelming dislocation, the result of unforgiving wildfires that have devastated Maui and its environs. Ferocious winds and dry spells created a firestorm of activity, causing the death of loved ones, and the loss of homes, and schools; the extent of the damage is still unfolding, and the road to recovery will undoubtedly be long and arduous.

In this challenging time, we earnestly encourage Phi Alpha Theta chapters to reach out to our colleagues in Hawai'i, extending a helping hand and a warm embrace of goodwill. Solidarity and compassion are the cornerstones of our organization, and together, we can make a meaningful difference.

In order to facilitate and support the crucial efforts of various relief organizations, including the esteemed Red Cross, dedicated channels for donations have been established. We fervently implore you to consider making a meaningful contribution to this noble cause by reaching out through the following URL: www.redcross.org.



Beanie, Baby!

Keep your head cozy this fall with a PAT Beanie for 14% off!

MyPhiAlphaTheta.com

Plus...

Don't miss out - 2023 PAT Biennial shirts are 50% off!



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