Fall 2011– Spring 2012

PHI
ALPHA
THETA

Mu Chapter
Each semester, Phi Alpha Theta sends its members into classrooms to encourage students to seek membership. These classroom visitors speak about the academic, social, and professional functions of the society, demonstrating its appeal to any potential new member.

In fall, 2011, Phi Alpha Theta initiated six new members in the traditional society ceremony. At this event, former and new members shared in their respect for history, their commitment to maintaining the purity of the historical method, and their dedication to each other and the society.
One of the Mu Chapter’s goals is to educate students in the processes of historical study. To work toward that goal, we conducted a series of study skills workshops in which qualified Phil Alpha Theta members presented on topics such as note-taking, general study skills, writing good Identification terms on exams, and constructing effective essays. During and after each presentation, we opened the floor for questions from attendees. This was one of our most popular outreach programs. We hosted six workshops on September 21 – 22, November 30-December 1, and February 8-9.

Want to pass your history exams?

Come to two free study skills workshops, brought to you by UCA’s History Honor Society (Phi Alpha Theta). We will tell you all the secrets to passing your tests.*

Wednesday, February 8 @ 3pm
Thursday, February 9 @ 4pm
Irby 215

*Phi Alpha Theta holds no liability for attendees’ test grades

Study Skills Workshops
This year, Phi Alpha Theta was in charge of the history booth at the Major’s Fair. A committee of members worked to create a new display, including a presentation board and a digital introduction to the department and faculty. They also created flyers discussing career opportunities for history majors as well as socialization and professionalization groups connected with the history department. The theme of the presentation was fighting against common myths connected with history majors.
DO YOU WANT FRIES WITH THAT?

WHEN YOU'RE A HISTORY MAJOR, YOU CAN WORK IN...

EDUCATION: You could work at a public, private school, or even a college or university.


POLITICS: You could be a staff of legislator, Governor, or Mayor. You could even work at Political Party Headquarters or with a Public Interest Advocacy Group.

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS: You could work at History Museums, Historic Sites, Historical Associations and Societies, Cultural Heritage Organizations, Research and Service institutions, or Preservation and Restoration Services.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES: You could work at a Federal Agency, such as the Smithsonian Institute, the Library of Congress, or in Intelligence Services. Or maybe you would rather work in a state agency, such as state archives, libraries, or museums.

JOURNALISM: Broadcast or Print Journalism will be open to you! You could work at a TV or Radio Station. Or you could work at a newspaper.

FIVE MYTHS OF HISTORY MAJORS:

1. YOU'LL END UP WORKING AT MCDONALDS!
2. YOU MUST BE BORING!
3. YOU HAVE A RECORD PLAYER INSTEAD OF AN IPOD!
4. YOU'LL ALWAYS BE POOR!
5. YOU'RE STUDYING MATERIAL THAT ISN'T EVEN RELEVANT ANYMORE!

ASK US WHY THESE AREN'T TRUE!

Our display included flyers on rolled up yellow paper, contained in McDonalds fry boxes. This provided a talking point to draw in passerby students and an opportunity to send them away with concrete information in their hands.
Our display won Honorable Mention!

Amy committed completely to the event. She dressed up as an American frontier woman, drawing a large number of students to our display.
On October 24, 2011, Phi Alpha Theta elected Amber Westbrook to the Homecoming Court. Amber is a history education major and active Phi Alpha Theta member. Phi Alpha Theta was the only departmental honors society represented on the Homecoming Court.
Each year, Phi Alpha Theta holds a book sale outside the history office. Professors and students contribute by donating fiction and non-fiction books. In recent years, we have expanded the sale to include other forms of media such as CDs, Video Tapes, and DVDs. The book sale serves to raise funds for yearly activities and the purchase of honors cords for qualifying active members. It also provides an excellent opportunity for interaction between faculty, Phi Alpha Theta members, and potential future members.
Following long-standing tradition, Phi Alpha Theta invited a professor to choose and present a historically relevant movie at a society sponsored movie night. This semester, we invited our own Dr. Ruswick, who chose “The Day the Earth Stood Still,” a science fiction movie produced in 1951. With his guidance, we discussed the Cold War fears displayed in the movie, as well as the religious undertones of the characters.
At the end of each semester, faculty and students get together to eat, socialize and celebrate the coming break.
In January, the Mu Chapter was proud to send three of its members to Orlando, Florida to present at the Phi Alpha Theta National Conference.
In the spring, our secretary, Ty Hendricks, began his full-time teaching internship and was no longer able to serve. The society elected Garrett Wright in his place.
After the ceremony, old and new members talked and enjoyed refreshments. In the spring, we initiated five new members. Pictured above are the two new students who were able to attend the initiation ceremony.
Dr. David Welky, who focuses on twentieth century American history, showed “Casablanca” for Phi Alpha Theta’s second movie night of the year. During his brief presentation before the movie, he discussed Hollywood’s portrayal of patriotic duty, the general war effort, and male and female roles in the 1940s.
Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference, 2012
The University of Central Arkansas was honored to host the Phi Alpha Theta 2012 Regional Conference. The Mu Chapter faculty advisors, Dr. Michael Rosenow, and Dr. Brent Ruswick, put in many hours handling the planning of the event, including the paper submission process. Members lent their support by volunteering on the day of the conference. Students handled registration, technical set-up, photography and other tasks throughout the day.

The Mu Chapter had five members deliver paper presentations: Nathan Robbins (pictured), Garrett Wright, Erin Hope, Laura Choate, and James Nash.
After the presentations concluded, students and faculty enjoyed a catered lunch together, allowing time for socialization amongst chapters.

Dr. David Welky, University of Central Arkansas professor and keynote speaker at the luncheon, delivered a presentation on his most recently published book. He focused on explanation of his historical processes, offering a relatable topic to a crowd of aspiring historians.
As the school year drew to a close, Phi Alpha Theta held a forum to help students determine what characteristics to look for in a graduate program, how to apply, and what to expect once enrolled. Two Phi Alpha Theta members sat on the panel: Laura Choate, a current graduate student at UCA, and Garrett Wright, a graduating senior accepted to a graduate program in North Carolina. Joining them was faculty advisor, Dr. Brent Ruswick, and Dr. Wendy Castro, the graduate coordinator at UCA.
Dr. David Neilson, who focuses on Asian studies and has a particular interest in film, showed “Departures” for Phi Alpha Theta’s final movie night of the year. The movie, which focuses on a character who accidentally finds himself employed as an undertaker, explores age-old film themes such as the contrast between tradition and modernity. Dr. Neilson also emphasized the film’s portrayal of melding eastern and western cultures.
Mu Chapter members stepped up at history day. They helped judge papers, set up judge packets, set up refreshments, judged websites, exhibits, presentations, and documentaries, helped staff the registration booths, and tallied judges scores.
This spring’s end of the semester get-together doubled as a good-bye to Dr. Ruswick. We bestowed crazy socks, sidewalk chalk, travel game books, and a framed plaque as gestures of appreciation for his dedicated service to the society.
Phi Alpha Theta members swept the annual departmental awards, winning four out of five offered.

Erin Hope – Ophelia Fish Award
(Best Undergraduate Paper)

Garrett Wright – Outstanding Undergraduate
James Nash – Outstanding Public History Intern
Amber Westbrook – Outstanding Student Teacher
Laura Choate – Outstanding Public History Intern
Congratulations graduating Thetars! Best of luck in graduate school and in your careers!