Phi Alpha Theta

Epsilon Xi

2025-2026 School Year

This Year's Officers

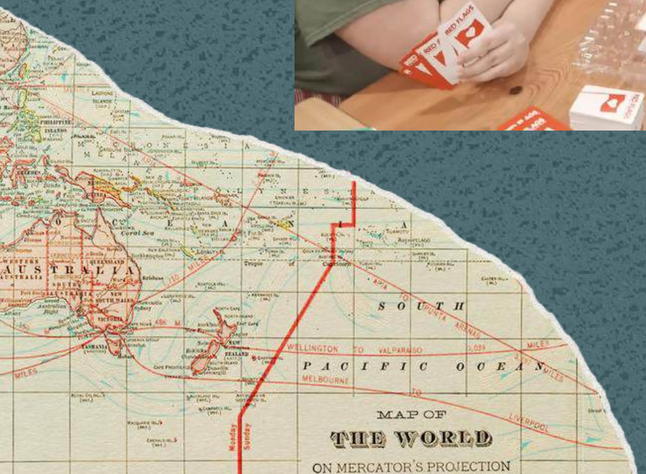
- **Ashley Birdsall**-President
- **Emma Thomas**-Vice President
- **Luca Lancon**-Treasurer
- **Ethan Campisi**-Historian
- **Kaori Rodney**-Secretary

Dr. Rob Hermann-Faculty Advisor

Game Nights



In September, we kicked off our semester events with a game night. Later in November, our chapter hosted a game night in collaboration with our university's chess club. These gatherings made for a memorable time.





Dinners with the Professors



On September 25th, we hosted Dr. Harrison at Cafe Habana City.



On October 24th, we hosted Dr. Rzadkiewicz at Deanos Pizza.

Dinners with the Professors



March 12th was when we had dinner with Dr. Beamish at La Papa Loca.



On March 23rd, we took Dr. Gautreaux to Hacienda Real Mexican Restaurant & Cantina.



On April 17th, we had lunch with Dr. Richard at the Adopted Dog.

Fundraisers



Cane's

We did two fundraisers with Raising Cane's on October 14th and March 11th in which Cane's donated 15% of the sales

Book + Bake Sale

Our chapter sold books and baked treats on October 27th.

Panda Express

On the night of November 25th, we gathered to dine at Panda Express. 25% of sales went back into our chapter.

Fundraisers



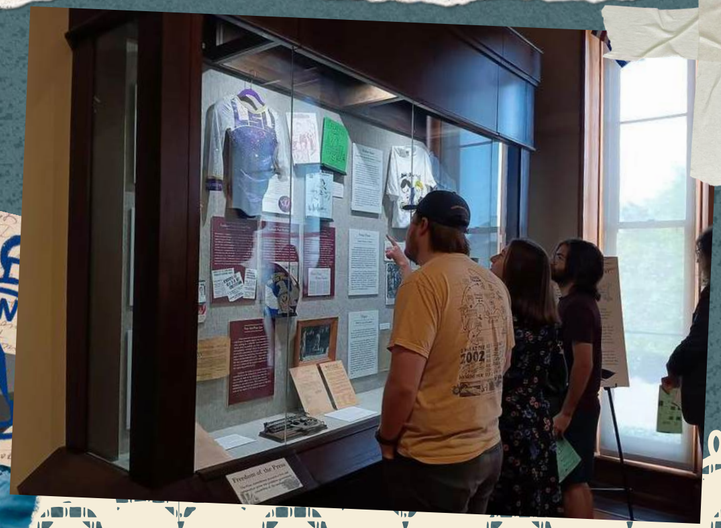
Book/Bake Sale

February 12th was our second Book & Bake sale, in which we sold books along with king cake in celebration of Mardi Gras.

Field Trips



On March 28th, our chapter went to the Old State Capitol in Baton Rouge to see the Japanese War Brides Exhibit. It was during this trip that we met up with the Imahara Family, who were one of the Japanese American families living in Louisiana.



Field Trips (2)





Afterwards, we had the opportunity to listen to Walter Imahara give the history of the Imahara family at their botanical garden in Baton Rouge.

Field Trips





Our second field trip happened on April 18th. We traveled to the Laura and Whitney plantations to compare the two in terms of how their histories are presented. The Whitney plantation was unforgettable as Dr. Ibrahima Seck gave a tour, detailing the lives and experiences of those who were enslaved at the site.

Historians at the Movies



This year, we had five Historians at the Movies, as we had our professors and graduate students share their insight on the history behind these films.

Maria Full of Grace

with Dr. Simpson, Oct. 23rd

The Return of Martin Guerre

with Dr. Hermann, Nov. 13th

The Last Unicorn

with Ashley Birdsall, Jan. 30th

Farewell My Concubine

with Ezra Jett, Feb. 27th

Sinners

with Dr. Harrison, Apr. 24th

Volunteer Work

On October 13th, we volunteered at the Cajun Village for their Treats at the Village event in the service of our town's disabled community.





Volunteer Work



On the weekend of April 25th, we volunteered for Lafayette, LA's annual Festival International. Our chapter served as hospitality for artists from around the world that came to perform at the festival.

Campus Involvment





Our chapter was also involved in Get on Board day, in which university clubs and organizations come out to create student involvement.

November 21, hosted a table at the university's Culture Fest, where students of different cultures and backgrounds get to educate people on their culture. During this event, our chapter hosted a joint table with the Southwest Louisiana LGBTQIA+ Archive.

Conferences: AHA, Chicago







In January, many of our fellow Thetans traveled to Chicago for the American Historical Association's Annual Conference. This event provided a great opportunity for us to gain professional experience, listen to the presentations of current scholars, network, and explore the city of Chicago.

LHA + PAT Regional Conference

On March 6-7th, our chapter hosted our Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference in Lafayette in conjunction with the Louisiana Historical Association Conference. During that weekend, several of our members presented papers in both conferences.









End of Semester Parties





At the end of each semester, we gathered together to relax and celebrate after months of hard work. We ended the Fall semester with our Christmas party with a round of White Elephant.

Awards Ceremony, 5/11/26





This year, the Charles B. Allen Award was given to Ashley Birdsall and Emma Thomas for their contributions to Phi Alpha Theta. The Phi Alpha Theta Spirit of Eternity Award was given to Dr. Simpson.

Inductions, 5/11/26



This year, we inducted six new members into our chapter.



Laylah Branch-King



Lindsey Forman



Sydney Harrel



Jaquala Hebert



Luke Lewis



Kaori Rodney

Elections

For our last meeting, we voted in two new officers to succeed Asheley Birdsall and Emma Thomas as President and Vice-President. The decision landed on our new President and Vice-President to be Sydney Harrel and Ezra Jett for 2026-2027.

We are excited to see what they have in store this next year!

Epsilon Xi

Thank You

2025-2026

