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The 50th National Convention Highlights

Delegates and attendees to the 50th National Convention of Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity

Amy B. Reineri, Iktinos Chapter

Not since 1917 has the Grand Council hosted a National Convention. This was discussed in detail at the Grand Council's 1996 Summer Meeting. It was felt that the time and effort exerted by the host Chapters in previous conventions had resulted in too many Active Members being taken away from their studies at school and duties to their Chapter. Since the National Convention is the annual meeting of the membership of the entire fraternity, it should be the responsibility of the Grand Council to host the meeting each year. The Grand Council decided that the office of the Worthy Grand Associate Architect should be the Grand Council Member in charge of this matter each year.

Nine months of planning and hard work by the Worthy Grand Associate Architect culminated in the 50th National Convention of Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity being held in Memphis, Tennessee, on March 28-30, 1997. The Sleep Inn at Court Square in downtown Memphis was ready for the travel weary Delegates and brothers who started arriving early Thursday, while the Grand Council held its annual meeting. That evening a reception was held before the attendees went their separate ways to sample the nightlife of Memphis.

On Friday morning the first Business Session started early with the election of Eric J. Heinsohn, GA, as Convention President and Gregory S. Pelley, WGS, as Convention Secretary followed by Chapter and Alumni Association Reports. Kicking off the convention Professional Program was Ray Brown with the Memphis City Center Redevelopment Corporation.

Ray gave an inspiring presentation about the work of rebuilding downtown Memphis. The impressive work has been done by creating separate entities: the Commission for Planning, Policy, Events and Business Recruitment; the Design Review Board for design coordination; the Development Corporation to act as developer and arrange loans; and the Revenue/Finance group for tax freezes and other financial arrangements.

The second Professional Program was by David Konweiser, Daedalus Alumni, of the Akropolis Network. He showed portions of the Internet site which
features a members’ work in a brochure format with queries for clients to view by various attributes of the project. The system is also set to contain personal portfolios and resumes for job search matching.

The Business Meeting opened with technical amendments to the National By-laws relating to convention expenses and convention locations. Theron and Metagenes were deactivated as chapters. Grand Council reports then followed. Ronald Grogan, WGAA, reported on growth in alumni membership and issuing updated documents to the chapters. Timothy Tourville, WGE, reported on progress in the rebuilding of the national finances for the fraternity. Greg Pelley, WGS reported on document revisions and publications. Appointments were made for the 1998 Nominating Committee and Chapter Maintenance Committee.

Internet-site maintenance funds were again designated (www.alpharhochi.org). Ronald L. Grogan, Xenocles Alumnus, was re-elected to the position of Worthy Grand Associate Architect and Timothy J. Tourville, Apollodorus Alumnus, was re-elected to the position of Worthy Grand Estimator, for two-year terms beginning July 1, 1997 and ending June 30, 1999.

Recessing for the evening, most of the delegates checked-out the atmosphere on Beale Street, a cross between a carnival midway and a street party with multiple bands.

Saturday, the Strategic Planning Session began. Topics included the expansion plan, chapter budgeting and finances, and rushing review with its parallels to marketing and hiring. Improvement discussions included coping with school administrations who have bad images of the chapters, improving alumni-active relations, and the desire for a second Master Architect. All of the sessions went well, delegates held open discussions on the topics and shared ideas on how issues were handled differently at the various chapters.

Activities concluded with the banquet held at Landry’s Seafood Restaurant.
AN IDENTITY FOR UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN'S SECOND CAMPUS

Guest Article by Joseph H. Owsley

Ever since the 1950's when the University of Michigan began moving its schools of Music, Engineering and later Art and Architecture and Urban Planning out of space-challenged Ann Arbor Central Campus to the wide-open acres of the North Campus, the students sent there felt isolated. They were banished from the cozy ambiance of the Central Campus, with its crowds of students and townspeople, nearby coffee shops, bookstores, restaurants, fraternity and sorority houses, bars and campus characters. Founded in 1817, the U-M had a plenitude of old buildings, some vine covered with a lot of varied architectural styles. They felt old; they looked old in a comforting sort of way. The bricks reeked tradition.

Two miles away by bike and bus, the North Campus had none of that. It's buildings were sleek, technologically on the cutting edge, premier places in which to teach. Landscaping was elegant and sweeping, but there was not a restaurant, dime store, movie theater or rooming house in sight. Thus, when day was done, most of the North's inhabitants headed back to town and its ambient comforts.

University officials have long been aware of this lack, but short of beaming the new campus back across the Huron River or reversing time for 18 decades, the North Campus was going to remain a place apart and relatively new. But the University could provide a central symbol, a focus, a gathering spot — a fertile area for new traditions.

The model for this was the center of the Central Campus — the tree-shaded lawns of the legendary "Diag," surrounded by buildings and criss-crossed by diagonal sidewalks. In warm weather, when not hurrying back and forth to class, students doze, study, snack, flirt and argue on the grass until the peals of the massive carillon bells from the nearby 210-foot-high Burton Memorial Tower remind them of places to go and things to do. The Diag also is The Place to do group things on the Central Campus: debates, speeches, demonstrations, and protests.

Thanks to a spectacular gift from a U-M Engineering alumnus and an inspired design by a U-M graduate architect, North Campus now has its own "diag," an open area next to the North Campus Commons and the College of Engineering and set off by the soaring Ann and Robert H. Lurie Carillon Tower and adjacent Lurie Engineering Center.

Major funding for both were provided by a $12 million gift designated by Mrs. Ann Lurie in memory of her husband, Robert (BSE '64 and MSE '66) who died six years ago at the age of 48. Her gift was the largest received by the University from an individual during the recently concluded Campaign for Michigan.

That Charles Moore, a noted architect,
teacher and Michigan graduate (B Arch '47, Hon Arch D '92), had already been commissioned to design proposed facilities on North Campus and that he had included a bell tower in the design, seemed to Mrs. Lurie a fortuitous coincidence when she was considering an appropriate memorial for her husband at Michigan.

In their earliest days together, she and her husband had “fallen in love” with Moore’s startlingly original Sea Ranch, the 1965 condominium complex 100 miles north of San Francisco that first brought the architect national attention. The Sea Ranch with its unpainted wood siding and slanted shed roofs, has influenced the design of American beach and ski houses ever since.

The initial architectural design for the tower and the Lurie Engineering Center — the new “front door” of the College of Engineering — was developed by Moore just prior to his death in late 1993. Design work was completed by Moore’s partner, Arthur Andersson of Moore/Andersson Architects in Austin Tex. U-M Alumni William S. Hobbs and Richard V. Black of Ann Arbor’s Hobbs and Black Associates, Inc., created all the architectural drawings and supervised construction. According to Russell Serbey of Hobbs and Black, there were special considerations in carrying out the tower’s design and construction. The 165-foot-tall structure has a very small footprint that is bisected by an arched walkway taking a new diagonal sidewalk through the building.

The tower is a poured concrete structure (1,700 cubic yards) with a veneer of 110,000 bricks, exposed architectural concrete, copper roof and cladding. Especially challenging were the flared bell chamber walls which had to be done in a single pour to ensure balance and integrity. All the carillon’s 60 bells and their mechanisms as well as the carillon’s “cabin” housing the performer and keyboard were isolated from the walls by a structural steel cage 27 feet square and 45 feet high 97 feet from ground level. To protect the structure from vibrations, the cage rests on neoprene pads. An elevator hoistway and a stairway go up the hollow center of the building. A small restroom facility and elevator access occupy the ground floor. The
basement contains the elevator mechanism.

The walkway bisecting the tower leads directly to the main corridor of the Lurie Engineering Center. Another walk crossing the expanse leads from the Pierpoint N. Campus Commons and Media Union to the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Building. New sod, new lighting, more diagonal walks and other landscape touches will give a cohesive identity to outdoor areas.

University carillonist Margo Halsted noted that both of the University's carillons are "grand carillons" in terms of the sizes of the bells and octave ranges. The Lurie Tower carillon has a five octave range. The bells are played from a traditional carillon keyboard that has wooden batons (keys which look like broom handles spaced two inches apart) configured like a piano keyboard.

When a key is depressed by the carilloni's loosely closed fist, a clapper strikes the bells. The harder the stroke, the louder the sound. Foot pedals operate the larger bells. In addition, 38 of the 60 tower bells are equipped with an outside hammer for programmed automatic play which creates a music-box-like effect for quarter hour ringing.

Lurie began his business career as a U-M undergraduate when he along with fellow student and business partner Sam Zell acquired and managed several Ann Arbor rental properties. When he died in 1990 of cancer, Lurie was president of Equity Group Investment and Great American Management Investment as well as part owner of the Chicago Bulls and the Chicago White Sox. Lurie along with Zell also was owner or major stockholder in several other companies.

The four-level Lurie Engineering Center, companion to the Lurie Tower, was designed as a welcoming point for student, faculty and visitors. The 43,000-square foot building includes space for student service programs, administrative offices, four conference rooms, a faculty lounge, and a learning resource center for engineering students operating 24 hours each day.

The Center is constructed with brick and tile, terrazzo floors in the lobby, a copper cornice and roof, stainless steel grand stair and a custom stainless steel and wood reception desk. A warm accent is provided by the use of Anigre, an African hardwood, in several locations.

One unusual feature is the placement of the building's central axis, which is angled 25 degrees to point to the Lurie Carillon Tower across the North Campus Diag. In the Lurie carillon, the largest bell is nearly 7 feet in diameter, weighs 6 tons, and is known as the bourdon bell. It is inscribed "Robert H. Lurie" with his birth and death dates. It also carries the U-M seal and a personal message from Ann Lurie. The next six bells are inscribed with the seal and the names of the six Lurie children — a memorial gift to peal for the centuries ahead, starting on the "new" North Campus.
Ricker Residence Saved

Sue Presser, Anthemos Chapter

Central Illinois preservationists recently saved a historic piece of architectural heritage from the wrecking ball, and are now in the process of restoring this historic structure. The residence of Nathan Clifford Ricker, the first American graduate in architecture, was saved from demolition when the Preservation and Conservation Association of Champaign County (PACA) purchased the house with money loaned by an anonymous donor. The 612 West Green Street, Urbana, residence, located several blocks from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) campus, was designed by Ricker, constructed under his supervision in 1892, and served as his home until his death in 1924.

A nomination to the National Register of Historic Places is currently being written on Ricker’s residence by Donna Martin, a senior in the UIUC School of Architecture. The residence is considered significant due to the prominence of Ricker in the field of architecture. Ricker’s accomplishments include designing Altgeld Hall, Harker Hall and several other campus buildings, five of which were placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986. Through Ricker’s efforts in combination with Chicago architect Dankmar Adler the Illinois Architectural Act, which licenses the practice of architecture in the State of Illinois, was passed in 1897. In addition, Ricker served thirty-seven years as a professor and Head of the Department of Architecture at the UIUC.

Ricker’s most marked achievements, however, were in the field of educating young architects. Ricker was an outstanding innovator in education. He developed the guiding principles of the UIUC Department of Architecture that direct an architect to be first, a safe and economical builder, second, a person of business capacity; and third, an artistic designer. Functional applications and sound construction technology were given priority. In addition to embedding this philosophy into the minds of aspiring architects, Ricker translated over forty volumes on architecture when English texts on certain subjects were not available, and he authored the several publications during his tenure as a faculty member at the UIUC.

Volunteers, students and hired help began initial clean-up and rehabilitation work on the Ricker residence during the summer of 1996. Graduate students in the UIUC School of Architecture conducted structural and material assessments on elements of the house as part of classroom projects. Undergraduate students in Architecture, volunteers from the community, and members of the service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega have assisted in cleaning out the house, and conducted “delicate” demolition. Finally, masons were employed to
complete much needed stabilization of brick chimneys and porch piers.

To assist in the initial stabilization of the structure, PACA and the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois pledged $5,000 and $2,500, respectively. Donations are currently being sought and have begun to flow in from concerned community members. Donations are being accepted in the form of materials for rehabilitation and monetary support to assist in the repayment of the loan made to PACA. Donations are currently being taken by PACA, though formation of the Nathan Clifford Ricker Foundation, Inc. is underway. This Foundation will eventually become responsible for repayment of the PACA loan, rehabilitation, operations and management of the historic Ricker residence. Future use of the residence is unconfirmed, though it is the intent of the Foundation to utilize the facility to promote Ricker’s legacy as an architectural educator.

Questions regarding this project should be directed to David Gamer by phone (217)328-2105(H); (217)244-5096(W), or via e-mail at djgamer@uiuc.edu. Donations are encouraged and much appreciated by PACA at P.O. Box 2555, Station A, Champaign, Illinois 61825. Please be sure to designate your gifts to the Ricker Rehabilitation project. For income tax purposes, your contributions to PACA for this specific project are deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law.

ALUMNI NOTICE
PLEASE READ THIS NOW!
GOOD NEWS - BAD NEWS

The Good news is that the Fraternity’s Computer System is being replaced with a much newer model and a new Database Program to better serve you. The Bad news is that due to this update, Alumni Dues Notices for 1997 have not yet been prepared or sent out. Only a handful of our Alumni have paid, and I do mean a handful. As an Alumni Member please do your part and send in your Alumni Dues for 1997 today!

Please fill out the form below or put the requested information on a sheet of paper and send your check for $35.00 payable to “Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity” to:
Ronald L. Grogan, WGAA
7508 Richland Road
Richland Hills, Texas 76118.
Thank you for your understanding with this delay and Thank you for paying your Alumni Dues!

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
City: ____________________________
State: __________________ Zip: _______
Chapter: ____________________________

1997 Alumni Dues - $35.00
Make checks payable to “Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity”
Alumni of Note

William D. Bradford, AIA finishes term as AIA National President

William D. Bradford, Anthemios, has served the AIA as Chapter President for Chicago, as well as being Grand Advisor and Worthy Grand Estimator for the Fraternity. He graduated with honors from University of Illinois in 1978 and joined VOA, Chicago. A principal since 1988, Brother Bradford has been with the firm for 18 years. During that time, his work has included Senior Planner/PM for the State of Illinois Center and WGN move to the Tribune Tower, both in Chicago; Project Designer for a facility replacement project at Clarke College, Dubuque, Iowa, after a fire wiped-out key buildings on the campus (award-winning project); Design Principal for the First Division Museum at Cantigny, Wheaton and the Illini Bookstore, Urbana-Champaign, and Managing Principal for both the Navy Pier Reconstruction and McCormick Place Retrofit. He also stays busy working with the Village of Wilmette, Illinois, serving on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Randall C. Gideon, AIA serves as President of State AIA - Texas Society of Architects

Randall C. Gideon, Xenocles, served in 1996 as President of the Texas Society of Architects (State AIA Chapter). Born in Dallas, brother Gideon received his BS in Architecture from the University of Texas at Arlington. He is President and CEO of KVG Gideon Toal, Inc., Fort Worth, Texas. He has also served as President of the Forth Worth AIA Chapter. He is currently a board member of Xenocles Alumni Association.

Honorary Member Homer Williams finishes his term as NCARB President

Homer Williams, Anthemios, just finished serving as NCARB President. Brother Williams was initiated into Honorary Membership by Anthemios at the 48th National Convention. He has served in various elected positions for the NCARB Board and been a member for 12 years, including chairing the committee that developed the computerized test due to be used in 1997.

He graduated in 1962 from Kansas State University, having been involved with the Student AIA and Sigma Phi Epsilon as well as honorary membership in Tau Sigma Delta and Delta Phi Delta. After working two years in Colorado, he moved back to Missouri and established his own practice in 1968.

Now a principal of WRS, a 26-person firm in Riverside, Missouri, Brother Williams is well known in the area for his institutional work, including Spelman/St. Luke’s hospital, the Northland Fountain and the Kansas City Middle School and Facility for the Performing Arts. He was won several design awards for the library and for the Performing Arts Center at Northwest Missouri State University.

Active in many civic and professional arenas, Brother Williams represents the United States in negotiations for architectural practice between Canada, Mexico and the U.S and has worked with the People’s Republic of China to create their first licensing exam, based on NCARB. His involvement in his
profession has included an appointment to the Missouri Board of Architects, Engineers and Land Surveyors. Brother Williams chaired the architectural division during the Hyatt Regency Hotel investigations. The Missouri Council of Architects honored him with their distinguished service award in 1991. In his spare time he also manages to be a member of the local Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, Boy Scouts of America and a director for an area bank. Brother Williams currently serves Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity as Grand Lecturer.

Arthur L. Kaha, AIA receives Award

At the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Professor Arthur L. Kaha, AIA, has been chosen by the AIA Illinois Honor Awards Jury to receive the 1996 Excellence in Education Award. Brother Kaha is a design studio lecturer and a faculty brother of the Anthemios Chapter.

William Keck, Anthemios, died May 25, 1995. A prominent Chicago architect, Brother Keck and his late brother, George Keck, were both members of Anthemios. They were pioneer solar-heating designers. Along with designing the first solar-heated home in America, Keck and Keck designed more than 800 buildings, including 300 solar homes in the Chicago area, Wisconsin and Michigan. Finding no research on solar energy, they developed and implemented a passive solar house in Watertown, Wisconsin that required no artificial heat during the day, even in winter. In perhaps their most publicized achievement, Keck and Keck developed the “House of Tomorrow” for the 1933 Chicago’s World Fair. They also designed a “Crystal House” for the second year, with load-bearing glass walls and pioneering use of air conditioning.

The first solar house they designed was the Wilde house, followed by the more publicized house built in Glenview in 1940 and opened to the public for paid tours. Other pioneering work included pre-fabricated houses that could be erected in three days. In 1980, the University of Illinois granted the two brothers its first Illinois Medal in Architecture. Several of their houses have been granted landmark status.

Obituary: William Keck
Andronicus’ house, part of a once-affluent Victorian neighborhood, has been granted status as an official Los Angeles cultural and historic monument. The colonial revival at 715 W. 28th Street was originally built in the 1890’s and completed in 1896 for James Shankland, a noted local attorney. Shankland had the house designed for him by Sumner Hunt, a renowned architect of the day. The North University Park Community Association nominated the building to join 600 others in L.A. because it is one of the few houses in the area that has been well-maintained, largely through the pains-taking efforts of the brothers since buying the house in 1971.

The Cultural Heritage Commission accepts nominations for review, then evaluates and sends them to the City Council with recommendations. Factors in 715’s favor were the good maintenance of the interior by the brothers, as well as their refraining from exterior modifications like volleyball courts (we know it must have hurt). Next, the Chapter intends to try for national register status to bring in grant money for badly-needed roof repairs and foundation underpinning.

NCARB News

The following news updated are from NCARB.

- Starting in February 1997, all divisions of the ARE will be available year-round, six days a week at a network of test centers across North America. The 12-hour Building Design exam will be broken into two parts - Planning and Technology in order to break the time spent at the computer.

- A degree from a NAAB-accredited program will be required starting in July 2000.

- The U.S. Department of Justice has terminated its anti-trust investigation into allegations by NSPE that NCARB and the AIA were engaged in a conspiracy in restraint of trade when trying to prevent engineers from practicing architecture.

- NCARB has published a new Architect Overseas Practice Standards with information on 57 countries.

- NCARB has a web site: http://www.ncarb.org.

- Cross-border architectural practice by U.S. and Canadian architects has become possible for the first time, now that architectural regulators from the United States and Canada have signed an interrecognition agreement.
1996 Alpha Rho Chi Bronze Medal Winners

Each year Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity awards the Alpha Rho Chi Medal to a graduating senior at each school of architecture in the U.S. and Canada, based on recommendations from the school’s faculty. We award the medal for Leadership, Service to the school and Promise of Professional Merit.

Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity maintains that our profession needs trained leaders and unselfish workers as much as we need brilliant designers, and we maintain that high scholastic achievement is not always an indication of professional merit. Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity created this award in 1931, and it is not duplicated by any other national award in the field of Architecture. We offer the Alpha Rho Chi Medal as our contribution to the professions of Architecture and Education.

Andrews University, Kurt West Garner
Arizona State University, Kricket Snow
Auburn University, Michelle Marie Gascoigne
Ball State University, Mark Scott Abbey
Boston Architectural Center, Michael Shea
Cal. State Polytechnic Univ., Pomona, Francis Zordilla
Carleton University, Tamara Anastasia Ulisko
Carnegie-Mellon Univ., Jessica Carole Kehl
Clemson University, Laura Jeanne Dulski
Columbia University, Jordana Matthews
Drury College, Louis Wayne Vandeleoehrt
Florida A&M University, Shalanda Giles
Georgia Inst. of Technology, Richard Allen Ducree
Hampton University, James R. Rhodes
Harvard University, George Takouides
Howard University, Timothy Prescott Reavis
Illinois Institute of Technology, Soo-Hyun Park
Iowa State University, Vernon R. Hanssen
Kansas State University, Carol A. Morrissette
Kent State University, Jason Carroll
L'Universite Laval, Jean-Francois Julien
Louisiana Tech University, Quentin Lee Hunter
Massachusetts Inst. of Technology, Richard Edward Stump
Miami University, Nathan S. Meyers
Mississippi State Univ., James Muse Davis II
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Rice University, Matthew Seltzer
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The APX Foundation currently funds the John R. Ross Scholarship Program, the Charles Burchard Professional Program, and, in the future, plans to help fund the Alpha Rho Chi Medal Program. Endowment funds are also being developed for other educational, professional and research programs.

You may make a charitable donation by sending a check to:

Samuel N. Douglass, Treasurer
Alpha Rho Chi Foundation P.O. Box 484
Forrest, IL 61741

$10,000-$49,999
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1995 RECIPIENT

PHILIP J. HEELAN
Philip J. Heelan was the first recipient of the John R. Ross Scholarship awarded by the APX Foundation.

Brother Heelan is a charter member of the Pytheos Chapter and has served as Worthy Architect and Worthy Superintendent for the Chapter. Academically he was frequently on the dean's list and earned his undergraduate BSAS degree with distinction. He has worked for the department of architecture as a graduate teaching assistant for two years. At the time of the award he was completing his fifth year in a six year professional program in architecture. He planned to apply the award of $500 towards his terminal project, "A Baseball Stadium for Lincoln, Nebraska."

Brother Heelan graduated in 1996 with an M.Arch. Phil also serves on the Board of Directors of the Pytheos Alumni Association.

1996 RECIPIENT

KEVIN W. TEAGUE
Kevin W. Teague was the second recipient of the John R. Ross Scholarship awarded by the APX Foundation.

Brother Teague has served as Worthy Scribe of the Anthemios Chapter. He participates in the University Honors Program and is a member of Phi Eta Sigma and Alpha Lambda Delta honorary fraternities. He is an active member of the AIAS, belongs to the Society of Architectural Historians and still finds time to play in the Concert Band. Brother Teague planned to use the award of $500 for his junior year of study abroad at Versailles, France.

1997 RECIPIENT

TODD A. ERICKSON
Todd A. Erickson is the third recipient of the John R. Ross Scholarship awarded by the APX Foundation.

Brother Erickson is a member of the Pytheos Chapter. He has served as Worthy Superintendent for the Chapter and is currently Worthy Architect. Academically he has earned a place on the Dean’s list and was duly cited as a Superior Scholar at the 1997 University Honors Convocation.

Brother Erickson is a third year student of architecture. He plans to apply the award of $500 toward his senior semester abroad on the Foreign Studies Program to London, England. Upon his return Todd will continue graduate studies in architecture and business administration.

Applications for the 1998 Ross Scholarship are currently being accepted.

Recipients of the $500 John R. Ross Scholarship demonstrate fraternal dedication and service as well as high scholastic achievement.

Inquiries and applications should be sent by February 1st to:
Ted A. Ertl, WGA, 236 ARCH, Lincoln, NE 68588-0107
The Grand Council invites you to attend
the

51st
National Convention
of Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity
in
Fort Worth, Texas.

March 26-29, 1998

For more information contact Ronald L. Grogan, WGAA
(817) 284-7087
or the APX website: www.alpharhochi.org