One of the most inspiring, motivating, and gratifying aspects of being a brother of Alpha Rho Chi is participating in an initiation of a pledge class. What is even more inspiring, motivating, and gratifying is participating in the installation of a new chapter. As Worthy Architect of Apollodorus Chapter, the sponsor for Nicon, I had that honor on July 11. However, in order to reach that morning, the brothers of Nicon had to prepare for months in advance.

The Nicon colony started strong led by their dedicated president, Xiomara Munoz. The months of Apollodorus’ sponsorship were highlighted by Nicon’s pledge ceremony at Florida International University, attended by Greg Pelley, Warees Smith, representatives from Apollodorus and of course, Nicon. Working in cooperation with Xiomara, I administered Nicon's pledge education program, ensuring they were knowledgeable about Alpha Rho Chi’s history. At the 57th National Convention in New Orleans, Nicon submitted their petition to form a chapter and it was unanimously approved by the delegates.

Those months of planning and preparation culminated in the early morning hours of July 11 when 15 colonists of Nicon were formally installed as a chapter of Alpha Rho Chi. The long hours of installation were hot and exhausting, yet Nicon endured the stresses. Apollodorus was accompanied by several of their alumni, Grand Lecturer Brian Swilling, and Regional Director Warees Smith. Everyone’s combined efforts, energies, and sweat made the night an extreme success and I thank all those who attended and helped to usher in a new chapter of Alpha Rho Chi.

Before continuing, I want to commend Xiomara’s continued determination, perseverance, and most importantly, hard work. It is no easy task to lead a chapter, much less see an unrelated group of individuals all the way to becoming a new chapter.

To the brothers of Nicon, the journey is not over; more appropriately, it has just begun. Represent Alpha Rho Chi proudly in Miami, assist Xiomara as much as possible, and most of all, have a blast! The brothers of Apollodorus and all our fellow chapters and alumni welcome you to Alpha Rho Chi.

About Nicon
Founded in 1972, Florida International University is the largest university in South Florida with 34,000 students. FIU has a highly diverse student population with 10% international enrollment. One of the newest accredited programs in the nation, FIU’s School of Architecture has programs in Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Interior Design. The school moved into the new Paul L. Cejas Architecture Building in 2003. The facility, by Bernard Tschumi Architects and BEA International, complements the architecturally distinctive campus in western Miami-Dade County. The campus was built on the site of a former airport; the tower remains a campus landmark.

Although there is no record of his work, Aelius Nicon was an architect and a builder with an interest in mathematics, logic, and astronomy. Nicon was head of a prominent family in Pergamon, known in the second century A.D. as a center of learning and for its temple of Asclepius, Greek god of healing. He intended to teach his son, Claudius Galen, philosophy or politics; but according to legend, Asclepius visited Nicon in a dream and told him to let his son study medicine. Galen would become the ancient world’s most noted anatomist and the leading authority in medical theory for the next fourteen hundred years.
Making a Difference in Many Ways, Both Big and Small
by Gregory S. Pelley, Worthy Grand Architect

One day, a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a figure in the distance. As he got closer, he realized the figure was that of a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean. Approaching the boy, he asked, “What are you doing?”

The youth replied, “Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don’t throw them back, they’ll all die.”

“Son,” the man said, “don’t you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can’t possibly make a difference!”

After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it into the surf. Then, smiling at the man, he said, “I made a difference for that one.”

— Loren Eiseley

This parable by Loren Eiseley is one of my favorites. Okay, I admit that it is a bit schmaltzy, like something you might find in the “Successories” store. But still I think it is instructive.

The prospects of leading an organization such as Alpha Rho Chi are daunting. We have about three thousand members ranging in age from 18 to 90-plus years old. Archis live in every state in the union, and many live overseas. Three thousand people spread over nearly four generations, three thousand brothers living in all parts of the country and the world. This is not exactly what one would consider a “close-knit” community.

And we are, essentially, an all-volunteer organization. That means that we are only accountable to each other and ourselves in a noble, essential, and gratifying calling. However, given our demographic and geographic breadth, it is often difficult to know that one’s efforts are making a difference. It is easy to get overwhelmed by the enormity of the task—to fulfill the promise of Alpha Rho Chi and make a difference for each of our brothers.

It is easy to fall into the cynicism of the man looking at a beach full of starfish, knowing that they can’t all be saved, and therefore wondering why anyone would even try.

But then, there is this boy. In his simple act of defiance against an overwhelming task, this kid reminds us that perhaps we cannot make a difference for everyone, at least not all at once. However with simple actions, we can make a difference for one person. The impact of the difference we make for one person echoes in ways we cannot possibly fathom.

Faced with the tragic passing of a loved one, a brother is comforted by a note received from an Archi she has never met. A new graduate is hired by a firm and finds himself sitting next to a brother from another chapter. A brother moves to a new city, and is warmly received by members of Alpha Rho Chi living nearby. A freshman in architecture sits down to a meal with a faculty brother and forms a connection unavailable in the classroom. In these simple acts of Brotherhood, the bond between us all is strengthened.

We are at an exciting time in the history of our fraternity. We are becoming known in the world as an organization unlike any other—professional, yes—but there is something more, something intangible but compelling. I believe it is because we are making a difference in each other’s lives, regardless of our generational and geographical distances.

I invite each of you to take a chance, and see how you may make a difference for a brother. Take this opportunity and contact your chapter. Take a look at the Alpha Rho Chi website. Call up a brother you haven’t seen in years. It will make a difference.

Fidelitas, Amor et Artes

2004 Leadership Conference
Houston, Texas • September 24–26

The Leadership Conference is an opportunity for leaders from Alpha Rho Chi’s chapters and colonies to meet and share ideas with each other and the officers of the national fraternity. This year’s Leadership Conference will be held in Houston, home of the Cleisthenes Chapter. In true Texas style, this year’s event is shaping up to be the largest yet, with over 60 students and alumni participants.

The Grand Council hosts this event and covers the transportation costs for one representative from each chapter as well as Regional Directors and Grand Council Officers. Additional participants are welcome, but they will need to arrange and pay for their own transportation.

Featured events:
• Keynote speaker Dr. Mari Ann Callais
• Workshops on budgeting, fundraising and events
• Breakout sessions for regional coordination

Visit alpharhochi.org for registration forms and more information about the conference’s events.
Galveston, Texas played host to Cleisthenes Chapter, participating in their second AIA Sandcastle Competition. 2003 was our first year to compete in the College of Architecture team. Our team included members of other student organizations, such as AIAS (American Institute of Architecture Students), IES (Illumination Engineering Society), and Student Council. Last year, we won the Most Lifelike and Realistic Award. We were extremely excited. I remember they were announcing the awards and all of us were just lying on the sand relaxing, not really paying attention. Then we kept hearing University of Houston. It was us! We had won!

Preparing for Battle
The competition attracts over 80 teams competing to construct the most inventive structures out of sand. This number includes participating colleges and universities from around Texas, such as Texas A&M, University of Texas, Texas A&M Prairie View, and San Jacinto College all competing for the AIA College Challenge award. Ever since last year’s competition, we could hardly wait for this year’s. Although we had a great time (and fun is the most important thing), we wanted the award, too. We joined forces with AIAS again and advertised around the school for anyone interested in participating. AIAS was able to get Concept Engineers to sponsor us, which was a huge load off our shoulders financially.

Most of us were able to stay in hotel rooms the Friday night before the competition. We went to the pre-party and some of us also went and celebrated down in Galveston that night. The rest of the team got to the beach around 7 am. It was hard to wake up that early, especially having stayed up late the night before, but we were all ready to shovel and mold some sand. This was a great way to kick-off our summer break. School had been over for a couple of weeks already, and most of us could not wait until competition day.

Building … and Adapting
Although we had a pretty big team, we all managed very well. We all took turns shoveling, pouring water, molding, shaping, etc. Our design was entered in the “Let the Games Begin” category, and it consisted of a shark busting through a pool table. It was entitled, appropriately enough “Pool Shark.” We had two main formworks, a large one at the bottom forming the table and a smaller one on top forming the shark. After we let the sand set in the form by wetting and then letting it dry, we took the top formwork off and began to work on the shark. The shark was coming along pretty well. We decided then to take the bottom formwork off and start working on the table so we wouldn’t run out of time.

As soon as we took off the bottom formwork, one of its corners started to break off. You could hear everyone exclaim “oh no!” Trying to cope, we decided to extend the body of the shark on that corner and keep going. With only one hour remaining before judging, more of the table started breaking apart. We were faced with a huge dilemma, but the thought of being out of the competition kept us going. We made do with what we had. Keeping with that theme, we did not try to fix it but tried to make the rest also look like it was cracking and breaking apart as if this huge shark was crumbling it all.

We cut it pretty close to the finish, but we did an awesome job dealing with the difficulties. To tell you the truth, I was really happy we made it and finished. Winning anything would be a bonus at this point. Unfortunately, Brother Danny Rodriguez and I had to leave to attend a Gala at the College of Architecture, so we couldn’t be there when the prizes were announced.

Getting the Big News
We called anyone we could in order to learn the results. Finally, Brother Farid Dehghan called us back and I asked, “So, how did we do…?” and he answered, “We got The College Challenge, and our category Let the Games Begin.” I couldn’t believe it. I was really happy about winning the category we had entered, but I was ecstatic about competing with all those other universities and winning The College Challenge.

Needless to say we are all very proud of our awards, which are on display at the University of Houston College of Architecture, and of the whole experience of Sandcastle. Obviously, we will be at East Beach again next year, maybe this time with a team of our own – an all Alpha Rho Chi team. We have a title to defend. All other schools had better watch out, because the Archi Cougars are fully in charge!
New Orleans Marks New Milestone for Rabirius
by Joe Henderson, President, Rabirius Alumni Association

I was asked to write about my experiences at Convention in New Orleans. For those who did not attend or don’t remember me, I graduated from the University of Cincinnati in June 2003 with a degree in urban planning and was a charter member of the Rabirius Chapter of Alpha Rho Chi. I work for a small economic development/consulting firm and am currently living in Washington, DC, where the alumni base is very strong. Since arriving, I have attended many different activities where the local APX alumni have gotten together for cookouts or for happy hours. While I was the first Rabirius alumus to move to DC, the local brothers from other chapters made me feel very welcome and comfortable.

Impressions of New Orleans
It has been a few months since Convention. Like most brothers, my memories are a little hazy, so I was sitting here thinking about what stands out in my mind from the Convention. I went back and looked at the web site that WGAA Laura Schmidt set up for the members to post their pictures. Besides noticing that the green shirt I was wearing was a lot louder then I thought it was, I noticed that the postings are from all the different chapters, but they share a common theme. Many of the pictures are of members interacting with other chapters. This one aspect about the Convention makes it so memorable. Meeting and hanging out with brothers from other chapters became a unique experience, easily justifying the time and expense. Don’t miss it.

While the principal reason for the Convention was to come together and address issues that matter for the National Fraternity, the most important thing was that we came together and exchanged thoughts and ideas, making friendships that will last forever. There are many members, both active and alumni, that I met and with whom I still keep in touch. Most of the pictures that I am in are with brothers I didn’t know until that weekend. I am glad that I had the opportunity to meet everyone. I would love to hear from all of you to learn how you are doing, so please get in touch. For those brothers that I only see once or twice a year, it was great to see you. Feel welcome to come to Washington anytime to visit.

Our Start in Cincinnati
A few years ago, twenty of us went through initiation, some at Cincinnati and the rest of us at Anthemos. Through those initiations, we became the Charter Class of Rabirius. We knew at that moment it would change our lives, and it did. While we were active in the chapter, we were also involved in many other school activities at University of Cincinnati that would take a lot of our time, but they share a common theme. Many of the pictures are of members interacting with other chapters. This one aspect about the Convention makes it so memorable. Meeting and hanging out with brothers from other chapters became a unique experience, easily justifying the time and expense. Don’t miss it.

Building Again After Graduation
Within the past two years, most of the charter members graduated, but we knew the chapter had a strong foundation and we were leaving it in great hands. The chapter reflects its alumni members and those members will continue to do their part to make sure it survives and grows stronger. After graduation, a few of us wanted to do something that would help out the chapter. After a few phone calls and emails, we decided one thing we could do was to start the wheels in motion for the Rabirius Alumni Association. With a lot of hard work and help from the Grand Council and Rabirius alumni and active brothers, we were able to get the association up and running in time for Convention. While this was an important step, it was only the first step of what will be an exciting road. Over the next few months, Rabirius Alumni Association will take this start and build a great foundation for an organization that is there to help the active chapter and its members.

At the start of Convention, the chapters and alumni associations voted to recognize the Rabirius Alumni Association as an official organization. When that happened, WGA Greg Pelley asked me to take a seat at the table. Representing the Rabirius Alumni Association, I was never prouder of everyone who worked so hard to help found the Rabirius Alumni Association. I want to thank everyone for their dedication to APX and Rabirius and their work/support to create this opportunity; specifically, Jeanne Banyes, Jason Kasperek, Cliff Heaberlin, Jay Blackburn, AJ Green, LB Wilson, Vicki Horton, Greg Pelley, Laura Schmidt, and Matt Stevenson. If I have left anyone out who helped I would like to thank you as well; so many people helped us out that I couldn’t name everyone.
The Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity would like to recognize the Alumni who have made their Alumni Dues Contribution as of July 1, 2004.

*Special thanks goes out to those who have contributed regularly for the past five years or more.

**Thank you for your support**
APX Brothers Tour
Buffalo Convention Site
by Amber Ford, Apollodorus Alumna

The weekend of July 11th-13th, Laura Schmidt (Worthy Grand Associate Architect) and Amber Ford (Marketing Director, 58th National Convention) attended a familiarization (“fam”) tour hosted by the Buffalo Niagara Convention and Visitor’s Bureau. The goal of the trip was to do a little research on Buffalo, decide on a hotel and develop a more detailed list of possible banquet sites.

What is a “Fam” Tour?
The familiarization tour, hosted entirely by the Buffalo CVB, is held once a year to introduce the city to convention coordinators interested in Buffalo as a possible convention site. The tour is a quick presentation of the wonderful and vast variety of sights, activities and accommodations in downtown Buffalo and its surrounding suburbs.

The nonstop fam tour allowed Laura and Amber to develop a relationship with the CVB representatives and local hotel managers, and gave them a comprehensive understanding of Buffalo.

The Sights of Buffalo
The night they arrived, Laura and Amber got a quick tour of the Albright Knox Art Gallery where they were given a curator guided tour of a Rodin exhibit on display at the time, and dinner was served at the gallery’s restaurant. Following dinner, they loaded a bus for the 20-minute drive to Niagara where they crossed the border into Canada and received a unique opportunity to change the colors of the lights on the falls. To commemorate the event, Laura and Amber were each presented with a certificate from the Niagara Parks Service.

Saturday morning, Laura, Amber, and two other fam tour attendees competed as a team in the Buffalo CVB’s “Road Rally” scavenger hunt. The central event of the fam tour, the Road Rally requires teams to find and learn about the city’s major sites through clues about each location. As an informational bonus, many of the stops on the Rally are hotels where a mini-tour is given of the facility including both sleeping and meeting rooms. Although their team did not come in first place, Laura and Amber had a great time and got to see nearly every area of greater Buffalo. It was definitely as informative as they had hoped.

That afternoon, Laura and Amber loaded the bus to the Allentown neighborhood’s annual art festival. The neighborhood was once home to several millionaires, and their homes still proudly line Allen Street.

The conclusion of the fam tour was a dinner cruise on the yacht Grand Lady. Touring the waterways that have helped the city of Buffalo become such an industrial power—the Niagara River and the Erie Canal, Laura and Amber got an opportunity to relax with the Buffalo CVB representatives and speak with them about what their organization can contribute to our 58th Convention.

The Buffalo Nightlife
Chippewa Street in the heart of downtown Buffalo offers several bars, clubs and restaurants, all of which stay open until 4 am.

Results of the Fam Tour
For Laura and Amber, the fam tour was a success. The two members of the convention committee established a working relationship with all of the representatives from the Buffalo CVB, most specifically with Melissa Burke who works solely with the fraternal market. In the end, the stunning architecture, the friendly people and the fascinating city washed away any doubts about Buffalo as the site for the 58th National Convention.
Expansion Notes
by Chooch Pickard, AIA, Expansion Director

When I first accepted the position of Expansion Director six months ago, I had no idea what I was getting myself into. Due to the incredible organizational skills and enthusiasm of the Grand Council over the past few years and the outstanding website that has been created for Alpha Rho Chi, we have what seems to be the largest amount of interest in the fraternity since the 1920’s. Rather than having to cold call schools to drum up interest, I’m spending most of my time just trying to organize the inquiries we receive out of the blue. Expansion seems to have taken off and if it continues at its current rate, we will easily meet Greg Pelley’s vision of 25 active chapters sitting at the table at the 2006 Convention. We currently have 14 active chapters, 5 colonies, 2 colonies-in-organization and leads at 7 or more universities across the country. I certainly have my hands full, but I’m very excited about the opportunity to be a part of helping this fraternity to grow like never before.

Design the Convention Logo!

By entering the 1st annual Alpha Rho Chi National Convention Logo Competition, you have the chance to win complementary registration to the 2005 Convention in Buffalo, New York.

Will your logo design be the one used on all correspondence and promotional materials for the 58th National Convention? Apply your creative skills for the entire fraternity to see.

Who May Enter:
Any active or alumni member, colonist, or pledge of Alpha Rho Chi may enter a logo design. One entry per person, please.

How to Enter:
All entries must be e-mailed to wgaa@alpharhochi.org by 3:00 am EST, October 1st, 2004. For design specifics and entry requirements, visit www.alpharhochi.org/convention.

The winners will be selected at the sole discretion of the 58th Convention Committee, and they may request that changes be made to the selected design.

The Grand Prize:
Your Convention registration fee is waived! That’s a value of approximately $150.00! Attendee is responsible for his or her own lodging and travel to the Convention.
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