

# Alpha Rho Chi

## Spring 2005 Letter



### Senenmut Chapter

University at Buffalo

In April 2004, a couple students of the University at Buffalo talked about starting an architecture fraternity and generated a lot of interest and excitement among their fellow architecture students. By May, the effort kicked into high gear. In the process of organizing the colony, student leaders Julianne Piecuch and Nick Wells met with WGAA Laura Schmidt and Amber Ford, who were in Buffalo scouting out the site for the 58th National Convention. A week later, the architecture department granted Senenmut official recognition as a student organization and by July, Senenmut was granted status as an official colony of Alpha Rho Chi

That summer, the Vitruvius Chapter was already busy sponsoring the Domitian Colony when the Grand Council asked them to sponsor the Senenmut Colony as well. After much conversation among the actives in the chapter, Vitruvius accepted the challenge – in the words of Worthy Advisor Tom Salaki, “Pack your snowshoes we’re going to Buffalo.” The chapter soon elected Brother Andrew Giffin as Colony Director for the Senenmut Colony.

On October 15, the Vitruvians travelled to Buffalo to formally pledge 33 members of Senenmut Colony. At that point – adding 13 Domitian colonists and 5 Vitruvius pledges – *see Senenmut, page 2*



### Metagenes Chapter

Virginia Tech

In 2003, a group of architecture students in Blacksburg looked to Alpha Rho Chi to help them in their desire to develop a close community of serious design students. It wasn’t long before they discovered that their close community was surrounded by a broader community of brothers.

In February 2004, three of the prospective colonists traveled to the White Tail Ski Resort in Pennsylvania for an afternoon of snow tubing and, more significantly, to meet several alumni of Metagenes and three other chapters for the first time. These alumni must have made a good impression – by Convention the following month, the students had petitioned to form a colony. The Metagenes Alumni Association was asked to serve as sponsor. This was the first time in memory that the sponsoring organization was not an active chapter.

*see Metagenes, page 3*

### APX Welcomes Three Chapters in the East



### Domitian Chapter

New Jersey Institute of Technology  
By A.J. Kessinger, Domitian Colony Director,  
Vitruvius Chapter

One of the most amazing aspects of being a brother of Alpha Rho Chi is helping someone grow and become a brother of your particular chapter. What is even more amazing is seeing and helping a group from an entirely different school grow into brothers and found their own chapter of Alpha Rho Chi. As colony director and pledge trainer for the Domitian colony, I got to experience the process up close. It was a process that required a lot of hard work and dedication on both sides, but the hard work put in by the members of Domitian eclipsed all others.

Led by President Mike Marvin and with a colony petition approved by the 57<sup>th</sup> National Convention, they moved forward with recruiting and preparing for their pledge ceremony. The initial six of the Alpha Pledge Class were formally pledged September 5, 2004 at the New Jersey *see Domitian, page 2*

## Senenmut

*continued from cover*

the Vitruvius Chapter was responsible for the education of 51 pledges! Through a lot of coordination and management, the Vitruvius actives were able to handle all of these pledges, with everyone having at least one "little" brother and some as many as three or four.

While pledging, the colonists worked to make a mark on their campus. To establish a presence in the architecture department, the students constructed a recycling system of reusable materials for the architecture building. They designed three plywood bins on wheels painted with the Alpha Rho Chi and Senenmut names for optimal visibility.

To help raise a little money and introduce the fraternity to freshmen and upper-class architecture students, Senenmut hosted a "Road Rally." This scavenger hunt on wheels was between the north and south campuses of the university. Teams in cars of three to four people raced to find all the hidden items that could be found with their riddle clue. A felt flag with a number flew from each car's antenna. While teams were solving riddles and finding the items, extra points were earned when a team secured another car's flag and still had it by the end of the race. The team with the most points and the best time won half the registration money.

On Friday, February 25, 2005, six car loads of Senenmut colonists caravanned for a five-hour drive to Penn State. The next day, the twenty charter members of the colony were officially installed as the Senenmut Chapter. By coincidence, February 26 was the fiftieth anniversary of the 1955 installation of the Vitruvius Chapter. There could be no better way to share an anniversary with one's brothers.

*Thanks to A.J. Kessinger and Julianne L. Piecuch for contributing to this report.*



Senenmut brothers gather around their new charter.

## Domitian

*continued from cover*

Institute of Technology. These initial colonists were determined to recruit more and quickly put together a very successful rush program, and recruited seven more students to become their Beta Pledge Class. In October, once all thirteen members of the Alpha-Beta class were pledged in, they merged into one class, the Charter Class.

Over the next few months, working in cooperation with the entire colony, I administered their pledge education program, making sure they knew all there was to know about Alpha Rho Chi. They were definitely the most determined group that I have ever seen. I made many trips out Interstate 80 from State College to Newark, mainly to administer their quizzes. In the end, all the quizzes were given to the Domitian colonists in person – most of them at NJIT and even a few when they made the trek to Penn State to visit. Correspondence among the colony, myself, and the rest of Vitruvius occurred almost daily. Communicating with one another daily and visiting each other often, the Domitians and Vitruvians developed ever stronger ties. The colonists always welcomed me with open arms. Our close relationship made my frequent trips to their campus much more than just pledge education and managing Alpha Rho Chi issues. We would hang out and watch movies, BBQ on their Archi Building green, and take side trips to New York City. I also visited them in studio to see what design projects they were working on at that time. Other Vitruvians made trips as well, relaxing and dancing the night away with their future brothers. One visit even evolved into a little road trip with myself and a few of the colonists – we headed down to Washington, DC for the night to see the sites and visit some Vitruvius and Rabirius Alumni that live in the area.



Charter Class of Domitian with Brother Thomas Navin.



### The Alpha Rho Chi Letter

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Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity

# expansion



**Dinocrates** University of Texas, Austin

The 58<sup>th</sup> National Convention accepted the colony's petition for affiliation as a chapter.

### Alpha Rho Chi Colonies

**Hadrian Colony** – Tulane University, New Orleans

**Amenophis Colony** – California College of the Arts, San Francisco

**Karpian Colony** – Miami University, Oxford, Ohio

The Domitian colony would overcome setbacks along the way to becoming a chapter. Only days before the planned installation, a few pledges decided Alpha Rho Chi was not for them and their numbers dropped below the requirement for a new chapter. The remaining nine members were initiated as brothers on December 4, 2004, and set off to find their tenth member, so that they could officially be installed as a chapter. They looked to their faculty, and after careful searching decided to offer a bid to Thomas Navin, who is the coordinator of the third-year studio. He graciously accepted, and after a short pledging period to get to know the history and purpose of Alpha Rho Chi, the entire group traveled to Penn State for his initiation and their installation. The ceremony took place on January 30, 2005, and the ten proud brothers were officially installed as the Domitian Chapter of Alpha Rho Chi.

Since their installation, the Domitian Chapter has continued to work as hard as ever. They held a successful rush period, sparking the interest of six more individuals that became their Gamma Pledge Class. Through the support of the New Jersey School of Architecture and the dedication of the Domitian Brothers, there is no doubt that they will continue to represent Alpha Rho Chi with the respect and dignity that they have thus far.

I would like to commend my brothers at the Domitian Chapter. Your hard work and dedication to become a chapter did not go unnoticed by anyone. Through your ups and downs, you never lost sight of your ultimate goal of becoming a chapter. You have reached that goal, but remember that the journey has just begun. As I know you will, represent Alpha Rho Chi proudly, and assist each other as much as possible. The brothers of the Vitruvius Chapter as well as the chapters and alumni across the nation, welcome you to Alpha Rho Chi.

## Metagenes

*continued from cover*

On May 8, 2004, the Gamma Alpha pledge class became the first at Virginia Tech in nearly a decade. A swarm of alumni came down for the weekend to participate in the ceremony and act as alumni "big brothers" to the new pledges. One devoted alumnus, Kim Clark, remained behind to ably serve as pledge master. Despite living 40 minutes from Blacksburg, Clark nevertheless managed to arrange weekly pledge meetings and quizzes, which he held after a full day of work and graduate classes at Tech.

The summer kept the colonists working hard to develop a handbook for the incoming freshmen in Foundation Studio. Titled "The Archive," it was chock full of helpful information for new design students, including where to buy supplies, the hours the shops were open, and how to draw different types of technical drawings. Besides design-specific information, the handbook also included helpful information on local restaurants, bus schedules, and ideas for fun activities. Printing costs were offset through the sale of advertising space in the handbook.

For three weeks in November, the Metagenes colonists hosted a weekly film series for students. Titled "Film + Architecture (F+A)" the series was developed as an "exploration between film and architecture." The films shown in the series included *The Pianist*, *The Fountainhead*, and *The Red Violin*. A series of posters promoted the film series and, by extension, Alpha Rho Chi. The colonists sold refreshments to offset the cost of purchasing the movies and developed previews that included architectural trivia, announcements of philanthropic events on campus, and future films.

During the year, the colonists also staged a successful rush and pledged what would become the six members of the Gamma Beta class.



Clockwise: The Metagenes Chapter above Burchard Hall, examples of F+A series posters, the new chapter admires their old charter.



On March 12, the first Metagenes initiation in more than 10 years concluded as Alpha Rho Chi welcomed nine new members into the brotherhood. Fifteen Metagenes alumni, with help from brothers representing five other chapters, held the initiation in and around Washington, DC. At times, the monuments of the nation's capital served as an architectural backdrop for the proceedings.

The tenth member of the Gamma Alpha pledge class underwent emergency surgery the day before the initiation and was unable to travel to Northern Virginia. As a result, formal reinstallation of the chapter was postponed until the final weekend in April, when Shannon Follweiler and the Gamma Betas class were initiated in the wooded hills of Southwest Virginia.

The Metagenes Chapter officially returned to the Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity on April 30, 2005 following the initiation of seven new members. With less than two months to prepare, the nine active brothers planned and organized the event held in Pulaski, Virginia. Eight alumni members, led by Alumni Association President Michele LeTourneur, were present to lend a hand with the initiation and to formally present the original Metagenes charter to the newly reconstituted chapter.





Convention tours included the Darwin Martin House by Frank Lloyd Wright and the Guaranty Building by Adler & Sullivan. Some attendees made it to the nearby Falls as well.



# convention in buffalo

by Laura Schmidt, Worthy Grand Associate Architect

The Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity held its 58<sup>th</sup> National Convention in Buffalo, NY. The “City of Good Neighbors” certainly lived up to its friendly reputation.

Friday included several professional development events. Many business cards were exchanged at the very first Alumni Showcase. Held over breakfast, it offered a chance for some of the APX alumni to share what they do for a living. Seshait Alumna Karen Williams led a successful open-forum portfolio workshop, where attendees discussed past

successes and failures, as well as shared tips on page layout, color, and useful software.

The programs included a series of speakers. Dr. Andy Sachs gave a colorful and interactive presentation on the art of public speaking. Now we know: it’s not always about what you say, but how you say it. T.J. Sullivan from Campuspeak taught us all how to confront the idiots in our chapters. But most importantly, those of us with good listening skills were able to decipher just who those idiots are.

The Annual Awards Banquet was held at the lovely Delaware Park Casino. Delaware Park is the jewel of the system of parks Fredrick Law Olmstead designed for the city. Debbie Trimble, Executive Director of the Buffalo Olmstead Parks Conservancy, generously came and shared the story of the Delaware Park’s inception, its fall into disrepair, and her involvement with the park’s recent restoration.

The convention was packed with activities, but those who managed to do some sight

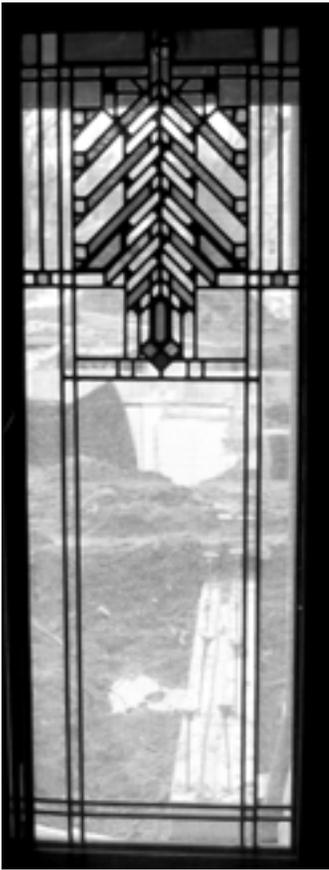
seeing were greeted with sunny skies, despite worries to the contrary. Many of us managed to take the 20-mile trip to see Niagara Falls, while others, with different priorities, went to the Anchor Bar to experience the “Original Buffalo Wing.”

The fraternity was fortunate to welcome two new chapters, Domitian and Senenmut, to the convention table. Domitian Brother Kyle Rendall noted, “Never did I know how diverse all of our chapters are, yet how we all seem as one.” This year’s convention also welcomed back



The convention banquet featured the presentation of charters to the Domitian and Senenmut Chapters.

Tom Sutton (Domitian), Karen Williams (Seshait), and Carlos Machado (Cleisthenes) make the most of the gathering.



alumni associations from Daedalus, Demetrios, and Apollodoros after several years' absence.

It was one of the most successful conventions in recent history. Upon her return home, Vitruvius Alumna Christine Brazill declared, "I came back to work and everyone asked 'So how was your meeting?' To which I had to respond that it wasn't just a meeting, it was my vacation, and it was amazing."



Brothers from Rabirius give their new Domitian brothers a photo of the Flavian Palace, a project of both chapters' namesake architects.

## Summary of Convention Business

### Old Business

**57-10** Motion to permit the WGE to collect dues on behalf of alumni associations. **Tabled**

### New Business

**58-01** Amended the APX By-Laws to formalize the position of Development Director to act as liaison between the Grand Council and APX Foundation and assist organizations in fundraising. **Passed**

**58-02** Permits the WGE to offer two manners of collecting alumni dues: (1) the current \$50 annual payment and (2) an automated monthly payment plan of \$7 per month (\$84/year). **Passed**

**58-03** Motion to amend APX By-Laws to give the Grand Council discretion to install chapters with less than ten applicants. **Failed to get 3/4 majority required to amend by-laws**

**58-04** Approved the Petition for Affiliation of the Dinocrates Colony. **Passed unanimously**

**58-05** Directed Grand Council to adopt a policy for de-pledging of colonists. **Passed**

**58-06** Motion to add an Alumni (Graduation) Ceremony to the Ritual of Alpha Rho Chi. **Referred to the Ritual Committee**

### Elections

Laura Schmidt, WGAA, and Frank Kitchel, WGE, were reelected without opposition and by acclamation.

## Next Stop: 59<sup>th</sup> National Convention Denver, Colorado March 23–26, 2006



## Design the Convention Logo!

Enter the 2nd Annual Alpha Rho Chi National Convention Logo Competition and have the chance to **win complimentary registration** to the 2006 Convention in Denver, Colorado.

Will your logo design be the one used on all correspondence and promotional materials for the 59<sup>th</sup> 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 [wga@alpharhochi.org](mailto:wga@alpharhochi.org) by 3:00 am EST, September 1, 2005. For design specifics and entry requirements, visit [www.alpharhochi.org/convention](http://www.alpharhochi.org/convention).

The winners will be selected at the sole discretion of the 59<sup>th</sup> 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.*





## Apollodorus Celebrates its 20th Anniversary

by Kirsten Walker, Worthy Clerk, Apollodorus Chapter



In February 1985, two Demetrios alumni attending the University of Florida pinned a pledge class of 60 students who would become the Apollodorus Colony. In April 1986, 29 of those students became the Charter Class of the chapter. This past February, Apollodorus celebrated its 20th year since becoming an organization at the founding of its colony.

The 20th Anniversary Formal Weekend began with a Friday night welcome party at the chapter apartment. Several alumni stopped by to see the charter and other memorabilia. Active brothers took the opportunity to listen to the classic stories and other insights the alumni had to offer. Saturday began bright and early with a tour of the new LEED-certified facility for the School of Building Construction at UF. At noon, a barbecue was held and the afternoon provided free time.

The highlight of the weekend was the banquet on Saturday night. Slide shows paid tribute to the history of the chapter's founding and everything it has accomplished since. Presentations were made including annual chapter awards and the "Archi Cup" golf tournament trophy. Brothers whose active years in the chapter range across its history spoke about how the fraternity has impacted their lives. There were even some improvisations such as Pledge Master Ryan Wicks' beautiful rendition of "I Believe I Can Fly."

It was clear that the actives hosted a memorable weekend for the alumni. By some twist of fate, exactly 20 alumni and honorary brothers were present. Among the guests were Dan Kirby and Brendan Ellis from the Charter Class, Deborah Martohue from the Beta Class, and WGA Greg Pelley. In his speech at the banquet, WGA Pelley made this essential point: 20 years ago, a group of students took a leap of faith, hoping to build something great. And now, 20 years later, Apollodorus celebrates the dedication of all its brothers who have continued this legacy.

## APX Through the Years

Help us preserve our alumni's personal stories

by Renay H. Marquez, Andronicus Alumna

Pierre Koenig had passed away only a few months before I officially met Howard Van Heuykln. It was an official Andronicus event and a lull had hit the alumni association, and Howard was telling tales of his days as a student. One particular story caught my attention – about how he and a few of his friends would ditch studio and go to the Hollywood studios to be extras because there was a shortage of men as extras due to the war effort.

As he told of all the pitfalls and excitement he had experienced while skiving off design studio, I was also reminded of yet another time a story was imparted to me by the late Pierre. He had passed on a few short stories one evening over beer and burgers, but the one that remained burned in my memory was how he described waiting out the Dean of the School of Architecture at USC at the time to be accepted into the program. Pierre waited in the Deans office for days on end after returning from Europe and WWII, before finally the Dean allowed Pierre to join the School. Now as I remember those moments when they shared their stories with me, I have a fond memory of both of them – particularly important to me since they are no longer with us.

The ultimate common thread here is this: an alumnus telling a story about his life and the subtext of how history impacted his choices. Such is the process that the Library of Congress has built on in an ongoing project known as "Living History:" taking eye-witness accounts of every major historical moment in US history and preserving them for future generations. Alpha Rho Chi is taking this opportunity to contribute to this project for not only the sake of national prosperity but for our own collective memory as well.

Our heritage spans 90 years and countless milestones not only as professionals and fraternity brothers, but also as citizens of the world. From this perspective, it is our hope that Alpha Rho Chi can help preserve memories of our history. Our initial push is for alumni from 1940-1950, but please do not feel limited to this era, as we are planning on covering every decade of Alpha Rho Chi. To participate, please email me at [rhm\\_designs@yahoo.com](mailto:rhm_designs@yahoo.com).

## Knowlton

On Friday, October 29, 2004, The Ohio State University dedicated Austin E. Knowlton School of Architecture Building. Brother Knowlton was a member of the Demetrios Chapter and owner of the Knowlton Construction Company, building more than 600 buildings in his career before his passing in 2003.

The Demetrios Alumni Association held its Founder's Day celebration to coincide with the dedication. The highlight of the Founder's Day celebration was the unveiling of the Alpha Rho Chi Classroom on the first floor of Knowlton Hall. That evening, a banquet was attended by sixty APX alumni and spouses, and by Rob Livesay, Director of the School. Special recognition was given at the banquet to "Dutch" Knowlton and Howard LeFevre for their outstanding contribution and support to the Demetrios Chapter over many years.

Photos: Nicole Dress, Vitruvius Alumna

# Fidelitas, Amor et Libris

By Debbie Chen, Andronicus Chapter

 Monday, February 28, 2005 marked the grand unveiling of the Pierre Koenig Memorial Library. Even as the library celebrates its two-month anniversary, its novelty and beauty haven't dimmed: the glowing lantern of a room beckons all who walk by the Alpha Rho Chi house, neatly recessed from the rest of Fraternity Row at the University of Southern California. Its yellow walls jump out of the double-paned windows of the Victorian house, over the lawn, and across the white rose garden until it hits you in the face, all while the room hides herself behind the mystery of sheer white curtains, keeping you guessing what treasures lie within her luminous vestal. And as most passers-by continue their stroll with a new sense of curiosity, familiar faces approach the house without hesitation. For them, the secret is out and the mystery may be lost, but the love affair that began on February 28th is still alive and kicking. On this one magical night as the curtains were drawn back, students and faculty, actives and alumni, guests and visitors alike all learned to believe in love at first sight.

The event itself was just as guilty as the library was for the many amorous hearts that evening. As the clock struck seven, final preparations were made for the arrival of the first guests. The stage was set for one to fall in love: sweet intoxication, delicious hor d'oeuvres, and the melodious music of a jazz trio. Conversation thrived as the architectural community of USC rediscovered itself, and this opportunity alone for familiar and new faces to gather would've made the event memorable. However, on the back of everyone's mind, a pleasant anticipation lingered.

The fraternity's president at USC, Alberto Lopez, eased this anticipation with his warm welcome to the guests, including Gloria and Randy Koenig, USC School of Architecture's Dean Robert Timme, and other faculty members. He also spoke on behalf of the whole chapter of the special place the library project has taken in all of their hearts, ever since its idea was first conceived as a pledge project in the fall of 2004. Lopez's

speech was followed by that of Mike Ellars, the president of the Alumni Association of the USC chapter of Alpha Rho Chi. Ellars, who had the privilege of having Pierre Koenig as a professor, stressed the importance of education in the distinguished architect's life. It was apparent to Ellars, and to those who knew Koenig, that he enjoyed being an educator as much as he did an architect. Dean Timme congratulated the fraternity on the decision to turn their study room into a library as a sign of the fraternity's continued dedication towards education and the importance of books, especially in the realm of architecture.

After the speeches were given, Gloria Koenig rightfully cut the red ribbon to the library. The thick curtains were pulled down, the lights were turned on, and a moment of observation fell over the crowd. The library, humble in size, made up for it in sheer elegance. The white trim, reminiscent of the room's Victorian roots, complemented the new carnation yellow walls. The modern touch oozed of Koenig's personal style and that of his contemporaries. In the center of the room, on top of the house's authentic wood flooring, stood a black Noguchi coffee table on a tile-patterned rug. Cable display systems delicately hung lithographs of Koenig's architecture. The crowning pieces of the room included two Eames folding sofas, one blue and one black, against the walls, and a Eames wire chair with an Eiffel base in the corner, complete with black leather cushion. To top it all off, the famous portrait of Koenig in front of Case Study 21 hung above the fireplace, as if the man himself was observing with approval the library named in his honor. Even the books were impressive, thanks to donations from Douglas Noble, the fraternity's faculty advisor, and faculty member Andrew Liang.

The room drew the crowd in at the slow pace of appreciation and satisfaction. The event was a success; the library was a success. Visitors left the house impressed and active and alumni members felt a sense of achievement. Something memorable was done in honor of someone memorable, and that is always a lovely idea.

## Hall Dedication



Sam Douglass, with his wife Jeanette, and John Hagley, with his wife, attend the dedication.

# Alpha Rho Chi

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Architecture and the Allied Arts  
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APX Letter, Spring 2005

# Alpha Rho Chi Leadership Conference

"I learned that I'm not alone in some of the issues I'm facing. I have a lot more confidence now in the future of our chapter." – Thorne Ransom, Imhotep

"The Leadership Conference reinforced the reason why I volunteered to be WA in the first place: to share the knowledge and experience gained through other brothers." – Jimmy Wall, Apollodorus

Workshops for chapter leaders and alumni  
Keynote by John Spence, Campuspeak

**Vitruvius Chapter, Penn State  
State College, Pennsylvania  
October 14–16, 2005**

LC2005

For more info,  
watch your mail  
or visit

[alpharhochi.org](http://alpharhochi.org)