



# Alpha Rho Chi

## Spring 2006 Letter

### Convention in Denver

Lori Beth Wilson, Rabirius Alumna (with greatly appreciated contributions from Laura Schmidt)

Despite the 10° weather, planning for the 59th National Convention started back in January 2005. WGAA Laura Schmidt and I visited Denver to see what APX had gotten us into by selecting the Mile High City as the location for our Convention. By Sunday afternoon, Laura had lost her voice, the weather had taken a turn for the worse, but we couldn't be more certain that Denver had the potential to be the greatest convention site ever. By July, the convention committee was in full swing. We had our hotel contract signed, and the banquet site booked. Before we knew it, Convention was only a few weeks away – but with the committee's help, no one was overburdened with work or worry. The convention committee made all the difference this year, but make no mistake; I couldn't wait for Convention to start, just so we wouldn't have to be planning it anymore!

Finally, March 22 was upon us and I made it to Denver safe and sound. The Convention Planning Committee met at the Lucky Strike bowling alley to celebrate their achievement by, hopefully, knocking down some pins, and put faces together with names after many months of conference calls. There were a few strikes and a few more gutter balls, but all in all it was a good time. It was here that I learned that Greg Pelley is not only a fine leader, but a fine bowler as well.

Just because we had all made it to Denver, that didn't mean our work was finished. We spent all of Thursday morning assembling welcome bags and the delegate binders. We worked so diligently that we had an hour to spare before registration began. This is when we invented the game "World Ball" which consisted of throwing the 40 left-over stress balls donated by our sponsor AOS all over the room.

Having sponsors was a new treat for this Convention. We had two sponsors, AOS and Prescient Inc. Their support allowed us to give away official convention bags and t-shirts to every attendee. Their support really gave our Convention the sense of larger, more prestigious events such as the AIA or APLA national conventions.

*continues on page 4*



## Congratulations!

The 59th National Convention accepted petitions from what will be one new and one returning chapter of Alpha Rho Chi.



### Hadrian

Tulane  
University



### Xenocles

University of  
Texas at  
Arlington

Chapter installations are being scheduled for this summer. Updates to *The Archi Pledge* are in development.

## And the award goes to...

These national scholarships and awards were announced at the national convention during the Annual Awards Banquet held in Denver's Coors Field.



### George "So" Whitten Scholastic Achievement Award

The **Andronicus Chapter** at USC was honored as the active chapter with the best academic record for this past year. Winner of last's year's award, the chapter is currently in possession of both "traveling" plaques.



### John R. Ross Scholarships

The Alpha Rho Chi Foundation awarded two scholarships recognizing academic achievement, fraternal leadership and support of school and community activities. The recipients were:

- **Katie Schmidt** – Pytheos Chapter
- **Jeffrey Johnson** – Imhotep Chapter



### Alumni Associations of the Year

Last year's winner, the **Daedalus Alumni Association**, tied this year with the **Metagenes Alumni Association**. The award recognizes the national dues-paying alumni from each chapter – calculated as a combined ranking of the total number and proportion of association membership paying dues. The Grand Council awarded each association \$100 towards their respective scholarship programs.



## Ubuntu ... Redux

Gregory S. Pelley, Worthy Grand Architect  
*from a speech at the Pytheos Founder's Day Banquet, 8 April 2006*

A few weeks ago, while attending the 59th APX Convention, my wife and I met up with Allison Hunter, an Anthemios Alumnae who now lives in Denver. Although we had shared many wonderful times and conversations while in school together, I had not seen nor spoken to Allison in at least a dozen years. When we saw each other in Denver, we began the process of re-connecting. She introduced me to her husband; I introduced her to my girls. We spoke of work, of our lives, and of our mutual friends – those who we have seen and who we have lost touch with. There was nothing unusual in this exchange – merely the 'small talk' between old friends reunited after more than a decade apart.

But the small talk didn't last long, and we quickly fell into the comfort and challenge of deeper conversation – the type of conversation that typically only occurs after long periods of time together when familiarity and trust have been established. We spoke of our dreams, our fears, and our hopes. Too quickly it was time to say our goodbyes. And as I walked away, I was struck by how easy our conversation went from small talk to the more substantive. And I thought about how that just doesn't happen everyday, at least not to me. How is it that, after a dozen years of no communication between Allison and myself, we could just pick up with our relationship as if we had just seen each other yesterday?

When I was in graduate school at Illinois, there were three guys I hung out with a lot that were not members of Alpha Rho Chi. We were in most of our classes and studios together, and as such we spent a great deal of time together, going so far as to make plans that once one, or all of us, were licensed we would set up an architectural practice together. Upon graduation, however, we dispersed to various jobs and parts of the country and quickly lost touch. So much so, that as I write this, I can only recall the names of two of them. I am certain, however, that if we were to meet today, that we would certainly be able to fill an hour or so of conversation with small talk, recounting the details of the last ten years or so. But then, there would come a point where the conversation would lull, and probably start filling up with awkward breaks and silences. Whatever familiarity and trust the four of us may have had a decade ago has been lost to the years and the distance.

The familiarity and trust that I share with Allison – that kind of relationship that allows us to pick up right where we left off is clearly something distinct from that which I shared with my compatriots in grad school. Many of you would recognize and name this distinction as Brotherhood – at least, that is the term we, as members of Alpha Rho Chi, use to describe that relationship to our fellow members.

A few years ago in Las Vegas, I spoke about the difficulty we have in defining the word Brotherhood. I re-read that speech the other day and wanted to share some of it with you again. I began that speech talking about how words carry not only their definition, but also a history and culture each time they are spoken:

So, in Alpha Rho Chi, we often speak of "brotherhood." But how often do you consider what that word means to you? To me? To whomever you are speaking? Or do you, like me, simply tune out the noise of that word's history and culture – somehow assuming that everyone knows what "brotherhood" means?

And when we do this, what is lost? Perhaps what is lost is the heart and soul of the relationship between you and the person you



### The Alpha Rho Chi Letter

Worthy Grand Scribe: Vicki J. Horton

APX Letter Editor: Richard L Jenkins

Associate Editors: Suzianne Battista and  
Renay H. Marquez

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are communicating with. Perhaps what is lost is a powerful call to being something greater than yourself.

Perhaps, then I can offer you a new word. One that can break the noise of history and culture that “brotherhood” brings us. And if we can ponder this ever so briefly, perhaps we can reconnect with the possibility that our brotherhood is. **Ubuntu.**

Ubuntu comes from tribal South African languages. It describes a quality of mutual responsibility and compassion. Bishop Desmond Tutu describes the notion of ubuntu in this way:

*It refers to gentleness, to compassion, to hospitality, to openness to others, to vulnerability, to be available to others and to know that you are bound up with them in the bundle of life.*

- **Ubuntu.** When you call me your brother, I know that you and I are bound by our mutual responsibility and compassion.
- **Ubuntu.** When I speak of our brotherhood, you know that we share an openness, a vulnerability, for each other.
- **Ubuntu.** When we seek out a brother, whether long lost, or whether a neighbor, it is with the knowledge that we are bound up with each other in the bundle of life.
- **Ubuntu.** Our brotherhood. A brotherhood that transcends that cacophony of history and culture of language and reminds us, as Nelson Mandela often said, “Umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu.” (Translation: “A person is a person because of other people.”)



In the last month or so I have learned that Mike Ward another Anthemios Alumnus, was diagnosed with an inoperable tumor deep inside the core of his brain. Mike is a brother that I knew for the couple of years I was in grad school – he had only initiated the year before I had returned to Illinois. As with many of those whom I knew at that time, he and I have not remained in contact. Well, we have in a way – through other brothers – those mutual relationships that keep us not overly far apart. In fact, this network of mutual relationships between our brothers is how I found out about Mike’s diagnosis. Today, I get almost daily updates, via email, about his health. These emails are forwarded back and forth through the network – from Chicago, to Boston, Memphis, Denver, Los Angeles, Phoenix, even Des Moines. I read the headers of those emails and am surprised at how many people, how many of the brothers, no matter where they are, and no matter how long they’ve been apart – have rallied around the hope and promise of Mike’s recovery. I suppose I shouldn’t be surprised, but somehow I’m not sure the outpouring of feeling for him would be as strong from people he simply sat next to in studio.

For me, Mike’s diagnosis has come as a body blow. This visceral reaction to his illness is odd to me, particularly given that Mike and I were never very close, nor had we maintained any communicative relationship over the last ten years or so. But nonetheless, there it is - this gnawing hole in the pit of my stomach that reminds me that our lives are a temporary existence ... this anger and sadness and fear of the tension between life and death ... and this ache I feel for those of us who remain.

I think I am disoriented at my reaction in part because I know that Mike is not the only person out there struggling against a difficult disease. Millions of people do so every day without me even noticing. Moreover, I know, and have known friends and family members that have fought diseases. I am certain that we all have people in our worlds that are fighting or have fought for their lives. None of these fights are easy to watch or absorb. So what is it about this

one, this particular fight that is so wrenching for me? The answer may simply be because he and I are brothers – not related by blood or marriage, but related by a commitment, an idea:

- **Ubuntu.** When you call me your brother, I know that you and I are bound by our mutual responsibility and compassion.
- **Ubuntu.** When I speak of our brotherhood, you know that we share an openness, a vulnerability, for each other.
- **Ubuntu.** When we seek out a brother, whether long lost, or whether a neighbor, it is with the knowledge that we are bound up with each other in the bundle of life.

Mike Ward and I. Allison Hunter and I. You and I.  
We are inextricably bound together in this ubuntu.

There is a long-standing and continuing conversation about “what” Alpha Rho Chi is, or should be, all about. There are about as many opinions on the matter as there are brothers. (In fact, there are probably more opinions on the matter than there are brothers.) When these questions come up, I have often wondered what the founders had in mind. Were they looking for a strictly professional organization? One that could provide them with additional educational opportunities as they developed themselves into architects? Or were they seeking more of a social outlet? Perhaps someplace with “like-minded” people that would provide instant conversation and comfort? Some have said that our founders wanted to provide students with experience in running a business, running an organization – to prepare them for the marketplace.

Our history, and our present, has shown that Alpha Rho Chi has variously served all of these purposes. But I think there was something more that our founders were after. More than an outlet for professional education. More than an outlet for leadership experience. More than an outlet for socializing. The Preamble of the Alpha Rho Chi Constitution opens with the words, “In order to secure a closer fellowship among ourselves ...”

“In order to secure a closer fellowship among ourselves...” I think that our founders were after something larger. They were looking to deepen their relationship to each other. Our very first Worthy Grand Architect, Leo Bauer once wrote:

*In the intimate fellowship that exists among you and your fraternity brethren, give some place to a heart to heart consideration of the real issues of life. Do not chill the ardor of the man whose ideals are high. Let your larger outlook on life mean to every friend, every brother, a broadening vision and a more earnest devotion to those ends of life that can be counted as truly worth seeking.*

There it is: “In the intimate fellowship...” Ubuntu. Brotherhood. It is that intimate fellowship that deals us a body blow when we discover that one of our brothers is suffering. It is that intimate fellowship that makes it possible for two people who haven’t spoken in a dozen years to “give some place to ... consideration of the real issues of life.” And I believe that it is that intimate fellowship that binds us together with gentleness, compassion, and hospitality, that provides us the space to be open to others, to be vulnerable, to be available to others and to know that we are bound up together in the bundle of life.

For all the reasons why we come together, whether it be for a meal, a meeting, a lecture, a project, a party, or simply a conversation – remember this: it is the intimate fellowship that we seek together, it is our ubuntu, our brotherhood, that is what matters – what makes a difference in our lives.



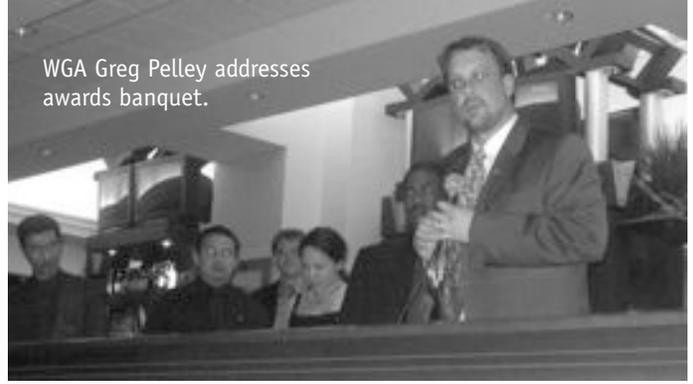
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The official Convention kick-off was held at the Paramount Café, located a block away on the 16th Street Mall. It was the first time I had seen many brothers in months or even years. It was a blast catching up, hearing about their recent successes, and discussing fraternal issues with them.

The official business meetings started early on Friday. This was the first year we nominated the convention officers in advance. This gave the nominees time to prepare for the job. With over 10 motions, election of 2 Grand Council officers, and approval of two colony petitions – we covered a lot of ground. The intense preparation by Convention President Mike Ellars shone through, for the business sessions ran smoothly and quickly.

On Friday afternoon we were joined by our keynote speaker, Nancy Collins. She is a graphic designer with over 20 years experience. She reminded all of us that life is so fast paced and impersonal that we forget that it's the simple gestures of presentation that really make you stand out. A personalized thank you note helps a client or potential employer remember you over others. Nancy went above and beyond the duties of a keynote speaker, and was actively involved in the convention events. Her genuine interest in Alpha Rho Chi and its members pushed her message across even further. It was such a delight to have her. However, she did make me feel bad for not listening to my mother all those years she tried to get me to write thank you notes.

WGA Greg Pelley addresses awards banquet.



Saturday morning began with the Alumni Showcase and APX Marketplace. The chapters and alumni associations had even more APX merchandise for sale this year. T-shirts were the most common item, but they get more and more clever every year.

In the adjoining room our alumni set up booths not only to showcase their employers but, more importantly, to showcase their successes in their careers. There were PowerPoint presentations, presentation boards, construction documents, and other promotional materials. All of the alumni were accepting résumés.

Shortly after, the Design Workshop began, led by Seshait alumna Karen Williams. Designed to be second in a series, it built on the portfolio workshop held at the 58th National Convention. The discussion centered on how to stand out in a job interview. The lively conversation was enhanced by input from alumni who are currently in the position to hire employees for their firm, and the actives and alumni alike benefited greatly from their input.

The culmination of Convention was our annual awards banquet. This year, it was held at Coors Field, in a banquet space overlooking the baseball stadium. We were lucky to be able to use the scoreboard to display special messages to welcome us to the venue, congratulate our outgoing Grand Council officers, and announce the night's attendance, which broke all previous convention records at 165. Greg Pelley gave his final speech as our WGA and passed his gavel on to Brother Vicki Horton. And I have to



convention in denver



say both their speeches got me a little choked up. Maybe it was their love and dedication to APX or their appreciation to their respective brothers/spouses – or maybe it was just the thought of having to stand in that long bar line again. But seriously, the banquet was the perfect end to another great Convention.

Before I knew it, Convention was over, and I was stuck in the Chicago airport wondering how it went by so fast. Every Convention I learn more about Alpha Rho Chi, our brotherhood, and what we need to change to make the next Convention better.

In December, Laura and I visited another future convention location, Memphis, Tennessee. In a few weeks, the 60th Convention Planning committee will begin working on plans for Convention in 2007. I am looking forward to seeing everyone next March, and I hope we can make Memphis the best Convention ever!



## Summary of Convention Business

**59-01a** Motion eliminating Grand Council delegate/vote from the Convention – deleting By-Laws Art. IV §02. **Passed**

**59-01b** Motion to give the Grand Council seconding power for motions brought to the floor. **Failed to Pass**

**59-02** Motion eliminating “sister pin, and recognition button” from Art. I §06 of the APX Constitution. **Passed** (Note that sister pin and button remain emblems of the Fraternity in Art. I §02.)

**59-03** Motion amending eligibility requirements for Grand Advisor to include members of 10 years or more. **Passed**

**59-04** Motion eliminating duplicate wording re: appointment of Grand Advisor. **Passed**

**59-05** Motion to simplify the definition of active membership (Constitution Art. IX, §01(a)) – **Referred to committee**

**59-06** Motion to modify By-Laws to establish rule for Grand Council approval/denial of colony petitions. **Withdrawn**

**59-07** Motion to establish a committee on inactive brothers. **Passed**

**59-08** Motion to establish a committee on branding strategy. **Passed**

**59-09** Motion requesting that APX Foundation make records of meetings, by-laws, financial statements, etc. available via the APX website. **Passed**

**50-10** Motion accepting the Petition for Affiliation of the Hadrian Chapter. **Passed**

**59-11** Motion accepting the Petition for Affiliation of the Xenocles Chapter. **Passed**

### Elections

Vicki Horton (WGS, Xenocles) was elected as the next WGA.

Richard L Jenkins (Metagenes) was elected as the next WGS.

## See you in Memphis March 22–25, 2007



Congratulations to Alex Estill, Rabirius Alumni, for submitting the winning entry in the Third Annual APX National Convention Logo Convention. As the winner, Alex was awarded complementary registration to our 2007 Convention in Memphis, Tennessee.

# ALPHA RHO CHI FOUNDATION

## JOHN R. ROSS SCHOLARSHIPS

The recipients of the \$500 scholarship awards for 2006 from the John R. Ross Scholarship Program of the Alpha Rho Chi Foundation were announced at National Convention in Denver, CO. The recipients, Jeffrey Jennings and Katie Schmidt, were selected from a group of seven applicants representing four chapters. Applications for the 2007 scholarships are found on the Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity web-site and are due by February 15, 2007. The Foundation encourages active members from every chapter to submit an application for scholarship consideration.

**Jeffrey S. Jennings** of the Imhotep Chapter is a second year student in the architecture program at the University of Memphis with a 3.8 GPA. He was initiated in April 2005 and was chapter delegate at National Convention. He has served as tutor for students in calculus, participated in Habitat for Humanity projects, and volunteered at the HIV/AIDS prevention center.

**Katie L. Schmidt** of the Pytheos Chapter is a third year student in the architecture program at the University of Nebraska with a 3.9 GPA in the University Honors Program. She was initiated in January 2006 and immediately elected Worthy Clerk. She has served as residence hall senator, AIAS director of information, participated in Habitat for Humanity projects, and volunteer for the Bright Lights Architecture Day Camp.

## CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

The Centennial Campaign was inaugurated to build up the Alpha Rho Chi Foundation in support of the John R. Ross Scholarship Program, The Charles H. Burchard Professional Program, and the Verle L. Annis Fraternal Endowment Program. The following individuals have already made generous pledges or contributions to the Centennial Campaign.

### \$500 Annual Level

Ted A. Ertl (SATY)  
Frank Kitchel (ANTH)  
John Melcher (ANDR)  
Jay Mock (ANDR)  
Charles Nickel (DEME)  
I.M. Pei (Master Architect)

### \$250 Annual Level

Nicole Morris Dress (VITR)  
Greg & Caroline Pelley (ANTH)

### \$100 Annual Level

William Bradford (ANTH)  
Dwight Broadneaux (ANDR)  
Kim & Bonnie Clark (META)  
J. Peter Devereaux (VITR)  
Steven Gatschet (SATY)  
Vicki Horton (XENO)  
Roy Lata (ANTH)  
Leonard Marvin (ANTH)

### \$50 Annual Level

Robert Vanderwerf (SATY)

The Foundation was established as a philanthropic organization dedicated to funding the professional growth and vitality of Alpha Rho Chi and to expand its presence in architectural education and research. To that end, the Foundation awards scholarships to members of Alpha Rho Chi; sponsors professional programs and publications; underwrites the APX Bronze Medal Program and promotes new and innovative educational opportunities for students in architecture and the allied arts.



A TRUSTED  
RESOURCE FOR  
THE ALUMNI  
AND ACTIVE  
MEMBERS OF  
ALPHA RHO CHI

## FOUNDATION

## HOW YOU CAN HELP APX

All gifts to the Alpha Rho Chi Foundation are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

- Cash donations are always appreciated. They can be unrestricted or designated for managed funds. Contributions of stocks, bonds, insurance policies, capital assets and real estate can also provide the Foundation with needed resources.
- Deferred gifts such as bequests by a will, a charitable remainder unitrust or a charitable gift annuity can all support our goals. We will be pleased to provide additional information about these and other estate planning gift programs to you and your advisors.

Please help us by making your check payable to the Alpha Rho Chi Foundation – send it today to:

### Alpha Rho Chi Foundation

Sam N. Douglass, Treasurer  
310 S. Oak Street  
Forrest, IL 61741

Additional information can be found on the Alpha Rho Chi web site at [alphanrhochi.org](http://alphanrhochi.org) or by contacting:

Chuck Nickel, President  
Alpha Rho Chi Foundation  
2101 St. James Avenue  
Cincinnati, OH 45206  
513-751-1133  
[Charles.Nickel@ncr.com](mailto:Charles.Nickel@ncr.com)

# Leadership Conference



Tempe, AZ

Satyros Chapter



## September 14-17

### Programming

- Personal leadership
- Professional leadership
- Organizational leadership
- Confronting challenging issues and people in your chapter/association
- Successful pledge education
- Risk management
- Meetings that are not boring
- Maintaining a strong chapter
- Regional planning workshops
- Applying what you learned at leadership conference to the real world.

### Fees

- Quad Room \$206
- Double Room \$315
- No hotel \$75

### Includes

3 nights at hotel, breakfast and lunch Friday and Saturday, BBQ on Saturday, all programming and materials.

### Travel Info

Each chapter and alumni association will be eligible for up to \$250 in travel reimbursement. Each participant is responsible for his or her own travel arrangements.

### Important

This year's Leadership Conference will be one day longer than previous conferences. Please make note of the additional costs. Representatives will be responsible for their own travel.

## Pre-Registration Form

Interested? Let us know by filling out this form. We'll make sure you get the latest news and details.

This form does not obligate anyone to participate or attend.

### Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
*First*                      *M.I.*                      *Last*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Chapter/Alumni Association*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Current Position (if any)*

### School Address (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Street Address*

### Summer Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Street Address*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*City*                                      *State*                      *ZIP*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*City*                                      *State*                      *ZIP*

### Phone

- Number is:  Home  
 Mobile  
 Work

### Email

\_\_\_\_\_



# Alpha Rho Chi

National Professional Fraternity  
Architecture and the Allied Arts  
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APX Letter, Spring 2006

# Alpha Rho Chi Letter Spring



Denver Convention Recap • Umbutu  
LC06 Preview • Foundation