Summer Flip
by Erin Froschheiser, Pytheos Alumna

The summer after my third year of college I had an internship with the university’s Facilities Management and Planning Department. Although a lot of what I did involved filing and running blue line copies, I was getting professional experience. I knew I would have an advantage over my classmates who did not have such an opportunity, and it would be a plus when I searched for a job upon graduation.

Nathan Holland, Worthy Architect of Pytheos Chapter at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, recently finished his third year of college in May with similar ambitions. Back in January, he purchased a five bedroom, one and half bath, 2,557 ft² house. In February, he proposed to his girlfriend. After their wedding in August, these newlyweds will not be making this house their home. Nate is flipping the house over his summer vacation. Yes, he is a traditional student, just a few years out of high school.

The Project
The house was built in 1920, and is located in the Field Club Historic District near downtown Omaha. Nate admits he was originally looking for something about half the size of the residence he purchased. However, when the prospect to buy a property in the neighborhood in which he grew up presented itself, he had to take a chance.

Nate does have some previous construction experience. He helped his future brother-in-law put an addition on his house a couple years ago. It was featured on the DIY Network program, “Sweat Addition.” Nevertheless, since this is his first flip, he does have some help. His father and uncle were there when I visited. As Nate gave me the grand tour, they interrupted a couple times. His uncle, who was off to the hardware store, asked Nate what size pipe he needed. His father inquired about a missing piece for the toilet. It was clear that Nate was the superintendent on this job site.

Construction really got underway when Nate finished classes in May. He has an aggressive scope and a tight schedule. He is moving the small kitchen to the back of the house where a bedroom had been located. It will have all new appliances, cabinets and a central island with granite countertops. The former kitchen will be set up for a laundry and mud room with ample storage. A central...
New Initiatives, New Appointments
by Vicki J. Horton, Worthy Grand Architect

Each summer as the Grand Council makes plans for the year ahead, we are quickly reminded that any plan will collapse without the support of our brothers. Thankfully, Alpha Rho Chi has been blessed with a growing number of volunteers who have contributed their efforts and enthusiasm to provide a solid base of support for our chapters and programs. Our volunteers have been instrumental in the fraternity’s success.

Their achievements have placed us in a position to address other challenges facing Alpha Rho Chi. To that end, I am happy to report that four brothers have volunteered to lead initiatives in the areas of education, risk management, marketing, and backing up the Worthy Grand Estimator.

Expanding Education
Our chapters and alumni associations have noted that training, especially with respect to true leadership skills, has not been available as often as our members would like. Sessions at the Convention and Leadership Conference cover these topics, but not everyone can regularly attend these events. This past year, the Grand Council set about implementing an education program that could be produced on a local, regional or national level. While seeking to define this program, we were fortunate to identify a brother who was not only interested in leading the initiative but who also possessed personal experience in just the sort of program we were seeking. For this WGA, it was a “no-brainer” to appoint Ryan Rosen as Education Director. Ryan has already conducted several workshops at chapters around the country, and we are thrilled with the results and feedback. Ryan will also be our featured presenter at October’s Leadership Conference, so we hope you can make it.

Risky Business
As stated in our annual report, the Grand Council is committed to protecting the interests of Alpha Rho Chi and addressing the key risks facing our fraternity and its members. The various organizations that make up Alpha Rho Chi need to be informed, from an objective viewpoint, of potential outcomes of their activities. Rob Ford (WGE emeritus) has graciously accepted to serve as Risk Management Director and is eager to begin work.

The Risk Management Director will report to the WGA and provide risk assessment counsel to chapters, alumni associations as well as national officers and appointees. He will provide guidance and recommendations in the planning of – and during – our fraternity’s largest events: Convention and Leadership Conference. This first year will likely be filled with planning and implementation of a comprehensive Risk Management program. This will require input from the chapters and alumni associations as well as outside organizations similar to APX.

Brand New Position
There has been discussion over the past several years about the need for Alpha Rho Chi to better communicate its mission and the benefits of membership to prospective members, their families, universities, and the profession. Amber Ford has stepped forward to be our new Marketing Director. She has been tasked with developing and implementing a marketing plan and is excited about this opportunity to utilize her skills on behalf of APX. Amber will work closely with the Worthy Grand Scribe, other appointees, and committees to develop a branding strategy and educate members on the best usage of that brand. She has also been asked to develop marketing materials for use in expansion as well as recruitment at the chapter level.

Worthy, in Our Estimation
For those considering national office, Worthy Grand Estimator has probably been the most intimidating Grand Council position. To the current WGE’s credit, Frank Kitchel has definitely made the job easier to manage over the past 5 years with streamlined reports, online transactions, and automatic dues payment plans. Still, the Grand Council (including the soon-to-retain WGE) feels it imperative that we have more than one member who understands the day-to-day tasks for the financial operation of our fraternity. Therefore, we created the position of Associate Estimator.

Erin Froschheiser has accepted the challenge to learn, under Brother Kitchel’s tutelage, the ins and outs of being the WGE. Serving as Associate Estimator is no obligation to run for WGE in the future (or guarantee of election), but we trust it will provide valuable experience from which to make that decision.

An Invitation
If you are interested in serving the national fraternity, please contact me at wga@alpharhochi.org. We currently have open positions at Development Director, Webmaster, and Historian; but whatever your skills or interests, APX always can always use your energy and talents.

In August, Alpha Rho Chi’s regional directors gathered in Indianapolis for a weekend of training, leadership development, and (of course) brotherhood. They were joined by WGS Chooch Pickard, Expansion Director Mara Braspennix, Education Ryan Rosen, and National Director Scott Swanson.
The fraternity just completed fiscal year 2008 on June 30. I am pleased to report that the fraternity finished the year with a surplus of $28,589, on revenues of $94,056 against expenses of $65,467, excluding convention revenues and expenses. The fraternity continues to spend over 80% of the funds it receives on programs and services that benefit the membership. Fraternal publications and the Leadership Conference comprise roughly 50% of our annual spending. I am very proud to report that for the previous five fiscal years, the fraternity has run a surplus every year yet continues to expand the services we offer to our member students and alumni.

Our convention director, Lori Beth Wilson, and WGAA Laura Schmidt continue to run an outstanding convention program. The most recent convention in Reno took in $23,555 in revenues against expenses of $23,861 for a deficit of $306. Though last years convention ran a slight deficit, Laura and Lori Beth have an excellent track record of planning and running great convention programs. Over the previous five years, convention budgets have run a net surplus of $4,120. Look for another great program in 2009 as convention heads to St. Louis on March 19 – 21.

The fraternity’s fiscal year 2009 budget proposes revenues of $97,681 against expenses of $102,364. We are budgeting of a deficit of $4,683. The proposed budget forecasts revenues to increase moderately at 4%. We will try to wisely spend 50% more than last year’s expenditures. The slight deficit and greatly increased spending is due to our aggressive plans to get greater involvement of the membership at Leadership Conference and have increased presence at chapter and alumni events. Our regional directors will be encouraged and funded to personally visit their constituent chapters and alumni associations next year. We believe that our brotherhood is greatly strengthened through personal meetings.

The fraternity has great momentum and is strong in numbers of chapters, active members and dues paying alumni members. Our key for the future is to maintain a healthy, sustainable momentum that delivers on our stated vision of developing excellence in leadership, professionalism, service, and fellowship for our members and our communities. We are looking forward to initiating our newest chapter next year, Sostratus Colony at Washington State University in Pullman, WA.

Last year marked a milestone in alumni participation. For the first time in history, we had a greater number of dues paying alumni than dues paying students or actives. Congratulations and thank you all. The financial strength we enjoy today allows the fraternity to provide communications and programs back to the membership (students and alumni) and to the universities in which we reside. Furthermore, a record number of alumni members chose to donate above and beyond the $75 annual dues. Thank you. Of particular note are the Life Members who chose to pay dues though they were not required to do so. This is extraordinary participation and we thank you all very much. Please be assured that your generosity is going to good use as the fraternity strives to build better leaders for tomorrow. And finally, I would like to thank our alumni members that pay their dues through the automatic dues payment plan. The automatic dues payment plan is a program whereby you can pay your annual alumni dues for as little as $7 per month via monthly deductions from your checking account. For more information, please visit alpharhochi.org/alumnidues.

This article is my final contribution to the APX Letter as I enter my sixth and final year of serving Alpha Rho Chi as Worthy Grand Estimator. Our constitution and by-laws require that I step down in June of 2009 and give other brothers the opportunity to grow and learn in this office as I have through the past five years. One of the things I am most proud of as serving as WGE is that over the previous five years, the fraternity has run a combined surplus of $55,550. The Grand Council has done this through careful management of funds while also increasing services to our membership. I am more pleased to tell you that, last February, the fraternity contributed $50,000 to the Alpha Rho Chi Foundation to start an endowment fund to provide for professional programs at future Leadership Conferences. The Grand Council feels very strongly that we need to honor and recognize our past, but more importantly, we need to enable and provide for our future. Endowing professional programs for future Leadership Conferences is a start in the right direction. For more information on contributing to the Leadership Conference Endowment Fund or any program in the Alpha Rho Chi Foundation, see the APX Foundation page in this newsletter.
Thank you for your support

The Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity thanks our alumni for their phenomenal response to this year’s dues campaign. Despite a dues increase, 2008 has seen even greater numbers of alumni supporting the national fraternity’s programs. APX recognizes our alumni who have made dues contributions as of August 4, 2008.

* Special thanks go those who have contributed regularly for the past five years or more

** or for 10 or more years!

∞ Contributing Life Members

Brothers listed in italics participate in the automatic monthly dues payment program.

Andronicus
Charles Lee Andrews
Dwight A. Broadneaux*
Eric Castillejos
Michael S. Ellars, AIA*
Phil Enquist
Alan C. Gasser*
Armando L. Gonzalez, FAIA*
Kurt E. Hanna*
Pearl Hung
Alberto Lopez
Renay Marquez*
Todd Miller
James Mock, AIA**
Keith Olsen
Edward F. Pearson*
Jeanette Quon
Michael Rabanera
Carl A. Raymond*
Kenneth E. Schwartz, FAIA*
Colin Smith
John Sterni*
Mark Welz

Anthemios
Brian A. Albee
Richard Albyn**
Charles E. Anderson
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William Bradford
Walter M. Briggs*
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Michael Coblenz
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Gary A. Eimerman
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Sandford Furman*
Alexander S. Garbe, PE*
Bethany A. Garbe
William M. Gaul*
Jack M. Goldman*
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Donald E. Gunnerson, AIA
Victoria (Prescott) Habel*
Peter J. Heinz*
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Steven Howlett
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Johanna James-Heinz
Dennis E. Kajmowicz*
James E. Kellogg*
Kendall Kirkpatrick
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William N. Larson
Elizabeth A. Laske*
Chris Lasky*
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Audra Lyons*
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Robert W. McCauley*
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Gerald Vincent Olen
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William Paschke*
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Caroline Pelley*
Bruce Phillips
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Donald Wald*
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Apollodorus
Coral Brandt
Alessandro DeMartini
John Donahue
Brendan Ellis*
Amber Ford*
Robert Ford*
Christopher Lee
Robert Lewis*
Deborah Martohue
Manuel Perez
Ty Thacker

Cleisthenes
Adriana Esquivel
Richard Jarvis
Lannis Kirkland
Charles C. Knapp Jr. AIA*

Daedalus
Kimberly Brown
Katherine Dunklau
Scott Gaudineer
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Shawna Upp*
Sheri Yonamine

Daphnis
Terri Brumett
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Bill Sharon
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Hadrian
Reade Nossaman

Iktinos
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Col. Richard L. Bond*
James Bowers
Mara Braspenninx*
R. James Bryden*
Dana Habel*
Peter Haddix*
Stephen Janick, AIA, NCARB*
Adrianna Jordan
Leslie H Kenyon*
David Lawrence*
Linda Lilly*
William A. Malvitz
Al Paas*
Ronald A. Rogers
Richard G. Snyder*
James E. Tomblinson*
Hans Weimer
Paul Zider*

Imhotep
Theresa Crampton
Lauren Jackson
Duane Walker*

Kallikrates
Charles T. Matheson
An air conditioning system has been added. Outdated carpet was removed to reveal beautiful hardwood floors. The windows in the sun room will be repaired and storm windows will be added to increase the energy efficiency. The upstairs will still have three bedrooms, and a bathroom will be added to the master suite. The existing upstairs bathroom has been completely redone, including the removal of six inches of concrete below the original floor. The exterior is getting a face-lift with paint and tuck pointing on the chimney and foundation.

Since the house is in a historic district, Nate is taking advantage of tax benefits through the Valuation Improvement Program (VIP). This also means the historic society has input on what can and can’t be done. Special storm windows had to be ordered, at a premium price, with mullions that aligned with the window mullions. This will directly benefit the new owner because it will lock in the tax rate for eight years.

Showing Off

An open house, held during construction in July, brought 100 interested people. I thought that was a pretty good showing for one weekend. Then Nate informed me that was just two hours on one day. The previous owner was one of the visitors. She was very nervous about seeing all the changes, but by the time she left, she was crying tears of joy.

Nate said he has learned a lot about organization and scheduling. In addition, he discovered that radiators are really heavy. His fiancé is ready for this project to be done. Nate has only had three days off this summer. I am sure their week long honeymoon will be a well deserved reward for both of them. Soon after that, they will be back to classes. Hopefully, an offer to buy the house will also be in their near future.

My internship did prove to be beneficial. I worked there through graduate school and was given responsibilities greater than filing. I know that without it, I would not have received an offer at the firm where I work today. Nate is getting the kind of hands-on understanding and architectural know-how that can’t be learned in the classroom or even the office. There is no doubt in my mind that the skills he is learning this summer will open many doors of opportunity. The professional experience he is gaining is invaluable.
THE ALPHA RHO CHI FOUNDATION:
- A NON-PROFIT philanthropic organization
- Dedicated to funding the professional growth and vitality of Alpha Rho Chi
- Dedicated to expanding Alpha Rho Chi’s presence in architectural education and research.
- Awards scholarships to members of Alpha Rho Chi
- Sponsors professional programs and publications
- Underwrites the Alpha Rho Chi Bronze Medal program
- Promotes new and innovative educational opportunities
- An independent, all-volunteer Board of Directors
- WGA and WGE participate as non-voting, ex-officio members
- Professional advisors are available to coordinate and ensure wishes of donors are achieved

Endowment funds support national programs

JOHN R. ROSS PROGRAM
- Funds tuition and/or fees undergraduate or postgraduate study
- Awarded for academic achievement, fraternal leadership and supporting school and community activities

CHARLES BURCHARD PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM
- Supports participation of professionals at academic and other venues, to expand the educational experience and the interaction among practitioners, educators and students
- Underwrites the cost of professional programs/educational experiences at the National Convention
- Provides matching funds to active chapters and colonies for professional programs

VERLE ANNIS APX ENDOWMENT PROGRAM
- Funds the promotion of professional achievement awards and research
- Underwrites the Alpha Rho Chi Medal program
- Supports for research and dissemination of knowledge through publication of professional papers and articles

Managed funds established by donors, chapters and alumni associations support individual objectives

DONATIONS

All gifts to the Alpha Rho Chi Foundation are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.
- Cash donations can be unrestricted or designated for managed funds.
- Donations of stocks, bonds, insurance policies, capital assets and real estate are also accepted.
- Deferred gifts are accepted, such as bequests by a will, a charitable remainder unitrust or a charitable gift annuity.
- Estate planning gift programs are available to you and your advisors.

Please help us by making your check payable to the Alpha Rho Chi Foundation. Send donations to:

Alpha Rho Chi Foundation
c/o Chuck Nickel, Treasurer
2101 St. James Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45206
513.751.1133
Charles.Nickel@ncr.com

For more information, go to alpharhochi.org/APXF or contact any foundation Board Member

Endowing the Future
In July, the Grand Council revised APX’s map of regional districts. The redistricting better balances the number of chapters in each region and, as a result, the workload for our volunteer regional directors. Before the reorganization, two regions had 4 chapters while three regions contained only a single chapter or colony. The chapters are now more equitably distributed across the new regions.

The boundaries of the new regions were drawn to incorporate relatively compact geographic clusters of active chapters and colonies – see the orange ovals on the map above. Additional consideration was given to targeted and likely expansion sites such as Ohio State (Demetrios), the University of Arkansas (Daphnis), in Texas, and throughout Region 7.

Although lines have changed on the map, it’s worthwhile to note that no chapters have moved; they are the same distance from each other as before. Brotherhood knows no boundaries.

The more things change…

Prior to the mid-1970s, the three officers of the Grand Council worked with chapters directly, often with the assistance of the National Inspector (now National Director), one or more Grand Deputies, and a “Grand Clerk” (an executive assistant). This arrangement severely limited the amount of communication and support the national fraternity could provide its chapters. Visits to chapters by national officers were rare events, most national contact was limited to regular letters and reports or delegates sent to the biennial National Conventions.

The late 1970s saw an ambitious program to establish 13 regions. This program was focused on expansion, since at that point, Alpha Rho Chi never had more than ten active chapters at any one time. In 1979, the Convention reduced the 13 to a more familiar 8 regions.

By 1985, the national map was divided into four broad regions: East, Central/North, Central/South and West. These regions covered a lot of territory. In one extreme example, Vitruvius and Apolodorus were over 800 miles apart within the East region.

The number of regions was raised back to 8 by 1995 with periodic adjustments made every few years.

APX regional maps over the years.
Alpha Rho Chi
National Professional Fraternity
Architecture and the Allied Arts
P.O. Box 3131 • Memphis, TN 38173
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UPCOMING EVENTS

APX Letter, Fall 2008

Leadership Conference
Austin, Texas
October 3-4, 2008
alpharhochi.org/lc08

Convention in St. Louis
March 19-22, 2009
alpharhochi.org/convention

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