With 79 members attending, the 2008 Leadership Conference held October 3–4 was APX's largest yet. For Alpha Rho Chi, Austin means the University of Texas and the Dinocrates Chapter, LC08 hosts. Austin's other attractions, the state capitol and its live music scene, also caught the attention of visiting Archis.

The night life did not prove too much of a distraction, given that both days were packed with presentations and workshops. The conference covered topics of interest to both actives and alumni including conflict resolution, managing different communication styles, and workplace issues. Administrative sessions covered perennial issues for chapters. A panel discussion on Ritual served a forum to clear up misconceptions about the secret work. Leadership Conference Director Andrea Hauber and Education Director Ryan Rosen collaborated to develop the program.

Austin-based architect François Lévy gave a presentation on using building information modeling (BIM) as a component for sustainability design. Rather than just describing the building, the computer model can also track the impact in energy use or stormwater management as design options are developed. Using examples of his own work, Mr. Lévy demonstrated how this BIM data can be employed even on small projects.

This year's featured speaker was Lawrence W. Speck, former dean of the School of Architecture at The University of Texas at Austin. Professor Speck shared lessons on leadership, ranging from Abraham Lincoln's political career to the design and marketing of the Herman Miller Aeron chair. Bringing the lessons back to the profession, Prof. Speck pointed to the responsibility of architects to lead through listening and then applying their expertise to offer solutions with clearly articulated values and principles.

Alpha Rho Chi thanks VectorWorks for sponsoring a lunch and Mr. Lévy's presentation. APX also thanks Dinocrates actives and alumni, especially Jessie Weber and Jordan Vann, for their hospitality and assistance in making LC08 a success.
Cynical observers might be tempted to dismiss the Sundance Channel series “Architecture School” as yet another reality show. However, its depiction of long hours in studio and devastating crits should convince any former design student of its accuracy. The six part documentary follows students in Tulane University’s URBANbuild studio as they design and build a prototype low-income house in New Orleans.

For APX members, architecture school wouldn’t be complete without sharing it with our brothers. This “Architecture School” is no exception. Two members of Hadrian Chapter, Casey Roccanova and Ian Daniels, are among the students featured in the series. Observant viewers may notice Casey wearing her APX Convention T-shirt on the job site. Word has it brothers from other studios were often found ducking around the cameras as they filmed in Richardson Memorial Hall.

Currently Hadrian’s Worthy Architect, Casey explains the value of the URBANbuild studio: “The program teaches you a lot about the design build process by giving students a great chance to work on a small scale project. You are exposed to a different side of architecture by forcing students to critically examine components such as structure and finished details.”

The documentary also focuses on needs of local residents and the efforts of Neighborhood Housing Services to address them. “URBANbuild opens a discussion about the housing problems, needs, and even style with the city of New Orleans and the students. It gets neighbors, students, and professors engaged in a solution for helping to address those needs,” Casey says. “This program was important to me because it showed me how prevalent of a problem this really is.”


**Domitian To Host LC09**

*Save the Date: Oct. 8–11, 2009 Newark, New Jersey*

Plans are in the works for the next Leadership Conference hosted by the Domitian Chapter at the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark.

**Volunteers Wanted.** The LC planning committee is welcoming additional members. Contact Leadership Conference Director Andrea Hauber at leadership@alpharhochi.org to get involved.

**Leadership Conferences To Date**
The first four were arranged as “WA Conferences” to pull together Worthy Architects for special training. By 2002, it was apparent that this training would benefit all actives and alumni and the event was recast as the “Leadership Conference.”

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Brothers Casey Roccanova and Ian Daniels return to the New Orleans house their URBANbuild studio built on the program “Architecture School”.

*Photos: Amber Stewart*

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**The Alpha Rho Chi Letter**

Worthy Grand Scribe: Richard L Jenkins
Associate Archi Editor: Renay H. Marquez
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Pass the Pie. Pass the Blame.
I had been writing an article for inclusion in this newsletter when a funny thing happened to me over Thanksgiving, and I decided to start from scratch. I was getting dessert when I heard my cousin say to his mom that he shouldn’t have pumpkin pie because he is allergic. His mom responded that he wasn’t and that he should just eat it. So he takes a bite of the pie. A few minutes later, his face gets all red, and his tongue begins to swell. And he says, “See mom, I am allergic! You told me I wasn’t, but I knew I was!” We quickly gave him some Benedryl, and within 10 minutes he was fine. But he kept blaming his mom, talking about how all of this was her fault.

As I write about that story, the current crisis in the housing market comes to mind. I think about all the individuals that were forced to move from their homes, because they could no longer make the monthly payments. The banks told them that the value of their house would keep going up, and of course interest rates would stay low, so they could afford the bigger house. So people listened, borrowed 100% to buy the house, and after a few years of payments, were forced to move out because they could no longer afford the house, losing everything. Unfortunately for them, there was no ‘Benedryl’ to solve this dilemma.

At the heart both stories are the same issue. My cousin and the homeowners’ look at the situations they are in and blame others for the result. They take no responsibility for the situations that were created. They are the victims. They were not at fault.

The Blame Game
We have all heard a peer or coworker say “it’s not my fault” and then go into a long explanation as to why. You sit there and listen, but all the while your trust in that person fades. The next time you are put on a team with that person, you think about that story, and you take on a little more of their share for fear they won’t finish their part.

But it doesn’t have to be this way. We can expect more of each other, but first we need to expect more of ourselves.

My cousin needed to recognize that it was his choice to take that bite of pumpkin pie. He knew he was allergic and shouldn’t have eaten it. So he should have taken responsibility for his actions and eaten one of the other desserts. Once he took that bite, he could have taken responsibility and asked for assistance. Instead, he chose to blame his mother.

Unfortunately transferring blame is commonplace. Let’s blame others for our choices. Put the responsibility on someone else, because it is easier than recognizing that we made a mistake.

Moving Forward
I argue that we can change this course. Each one of us can change the path we are on. It starts with taking responsibility for our own actions. It is an understanding of the impact of our choices, on our lives. These choices that we have to make are not always the easy ones. In fact, the most rewarding choices are the ones that are often the hardest to make.

Recognizing the power of these choices is not enough. We must take responsibility for the outcome of these choices, and learn. Learn from our mistakes and make different choices in the future. Once we take responsibility, our peers will notice. They will want to work with you – and you with them – because you know you can count on each other. They know you will ask for help when you are having trouble. You know they will offer to help because you would do the same. As trust begins to grow within your group, you will enjoy spending time with these individuals.

This is all a by-product of accepting responsibility for your choices and your actions. However, this is not something you can do some of the time. It has to be a shift in your thinking and will not be easy. In fact, you need your group to call you on it when you slip; and you should do the same for them. When you begin to hold each other accountable, and you support that principle, amazing things will happen. You will be happier, because you will be in control. You hold the power to your future through the choices you make.

Think about that. Accept it. Own it. Your life will be a happier place for it.
St. Louis, the “Gateway City”, is the location for our 62nd National Convention. As one of the most influential cities for the United States westward expansion, the city is rich in history and has remained one of the most significant midwestern cities to this day.

For more information about things to do and see in St. Louis, please visit the St. Louis Convention and Visitor’s Bureau website at www.explorestlouis.com.

**Tours**
Convention attendees will have a choice of guided tours.

**Busch Stadium**
*Saturday Afternoon*
Busch Stadium has been home to the St. Louis Cardinals since opening April 2006. With nearly 47,000 seats, the ballpark cost $365 million and will host the 2008 Major League All-Star game.

HOK and HOK Sport carried the project all the way from design through construction. Eric Ramano of HOK will lead a unique tour of the ballpark. An APX alumnus, Eric carried the project through design development and knows many of the park’s design and construction details not explained as part of the normal tours.

**Old Courthouse**
*Friday Afternoon*
The majestic Old Courthouse has remained over the past 150 years as one of St. Louis’ most prominent architectural landmarks. The Old Courthouse was the site of the first two trials of the pivotal Dred Scott case in 1847 and 1850 and is included on the National Park Service’s National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. It was also where Virginia Minor’s case for a woman’s right to vote came to trial in the 1870s.

Registration and updates at [alpharhochi.org/convention](http://alpharhochi.org/convention)
Scheduled Events

Roberts Rules of Order “Boot Camp”
*Thursday Afternoon, Crowne Plaza Hotel*

For all Convention delegates and any other interested people, an information session will teach how to how to participate in a meeting with the proper use of Robert’s Rule of Order. The business meetings are run using these rules, so this session will be invaluable to delegates and anyone interested in being an officer of the Convention. Being familiar with this process will help the business meetings run more smoothly and let all of us be able to debate the merits of the motions and discussion at hand instead of getting caught up in Robert’s Rules.

It is strongly encouraged for each chapter and alumni association delegate attend this information session on Thursday afternoon.

**Welcome Reception**
*Thursday Evening, City Museum (www.citymuseum.org)*

All attendees are encouraged to arrive in St. Louis in time to attend this year’s welcome reception which will be a unique experience in an amazing building. Make sure you are there to kick off Convention right and join us at the museum.

The City Museum is housed in the 600,000 square-foot former International Shoe Company. The museum is an eclectic mixture of children’s playground, funhouse, surrealistic pavilion, and architectural marvel made out of found objects. The brainchild of internationally acclaimed artist Bob Cassilly, a classically trained sculptor and serial entrepreneur, the museum opened for visitors in 1997 to the riotous approval of young and old alike.

Cassilly and his longtime crew of 20 artisans have constructed the museum from the very stuff of the city. As a result, it has urban roots deeper than any other institutions’. Reaching no farther than municipal borders for its reclaimed building materials, City Museum boasts features such as old chimneys, salvaged bridges, construction cranes, miles of tile, and even two abandoned planes!

**National Convention Business Sessions**
*Friday and Saturday, Crowne Plaza Hotel*

All members are invited to participate in the governance of Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity.

**“Breakfast with Bob”**
*Saturday morning*

For delegates and Convention officers there will be a private breakfast to mingle with our keynote speaker Robert Ivy. This will be a unique opportunity for the delegates and officers to interact with a leader in the industry. This breakfast will be limited to primary Convention delegates and elected/appointed officers of the Convention.

**Annual Awards Banquet**
*Saturday Evening, Crowne Plaza Hotel*

This year the Annual Awards Banquet will be held at Convention hotel. Only National Awards will be presented at the banquet. If your chapter or alumni association would like its local awards announced, please submit the winners to the Convention Director, Lori Beth Wilson, at least two weeks prior to Convention.

**High Powered Design**
*Keynote Address, Brother Robert Ivy, FAIA*
*Saturday Evening at Annual Awards Banquet*

Brother Robert Ivy will be giving the keynote address our Annual Awards Banquet.

Brother Ivy is Editor in Chief of *Architectural Record*, the world’s most widely read architectural journal. Brother Ivy is a frequent speaker and awards jury chairman, appearing in major media including network television. He has delivered numerous keynote speeches and interviews for print media and national television as well as moderated panels at the Library of Congress, the National Building Museum, Rockefeller Center, general sessions at the annual convention of the American Institute of Architects, New York’s Guggenheim Museum, the Chicago Art Institute, and California’s Monterey Design Conference.

Brother Ivy’s address will focus on “High-Powered Design”. This overview of design and its application to contemporary society looks at how design makes a difference in various aspects of our lives, from fashion to interiors to automobiles to architecture, using the winning projects from the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Awards and projects from *Architectural Record* as examples.
Registration

Register online at alpharhochi.org/convention until March 15. Onsite registrations after March 15 add $10 charge. Please note that registration does not include hotel.

Full Convention Package
Cost: $185.00
Early Bird – Before February 11: $175.00

This year, full registration includes
• Thursday welcome reception at City Museum
• Friday breakfast and lunch
• Saturday breakfast and lunch
• Ticket to Saturday night awards banquet
• Tour of either Busch Stadium or Old Courthouse
• Access to business meetings, workshops, speaker presentation, and breakout sessions

Welcome Reception Only
Cost: $65.00
Early Bird – Before February 11: $55.00

Banquet Tickets Only
Cost: $75.00
Early Bird – Before February 11: $65.00

Refund policy: Full refunds must be requested by March 5, 2009. After March 5, a $50 processing fee will be withheld.

Convention Contact
Additional details will be posted to alpharhochi.org/convention as they become available. If you have questions, please contact the Contact Convention Director, Lori Beth Wilson, by email convention@alpharhochi.org or phone 614-286-0444.

Hotel Information
Crowne Plaza, St. Louis Downtown
200 North Fourth St.
St. Louis, Missouri  63102
www.crowneplaza.com

Our host hotel is the Crowne Plaza St. Louis Downtown. Located in the heart of downtown, the hotel is right across the street from the Gateway Arch monument and blocks away from attractions such as Laclede’s Landing, Busch Stadium, Anheuser-Busch Brewery, and two casinos. Most of the Convention business will take place at the hotel.

Rates and Reservations
We have negotiated a group rate for a block of rooms. Rooms must be reserved by February 18, 2009.
• Single/Double – $124/night
• Triple/Quad – $134
(These rates do not include applicable taxes)

Call 877-270-1393 to book your room; you cannot book online for the rate. Please make sure you mention Alpha Rho Chi when making your reservation. Otherwise, you will not receive our negotiated rates.

During Convention, a hospitality suite at the hotel will be open to all attendees.

Chapter Eternal Dana Habel

Brother Dana Habel died November 22, taken by cancer. Graduate of University of Michigan in 1999, Dana was a leader in the Iktinos Alumni Association. Dana was instrumental in establishing alpharhochi.org, serving for several years as national webmaster.

Dana is survived by his wife, Torrie Prescott Habel, an alumna of Anthemios. He will be missed by all his brothers.

In lieu of flowers, Dana requested any memorials be made as contributions to the Alpha Rho Chi Foundation for the benefit of the Iktinos Chapter. Checks may be sent to: Chuck Nickel, Treasurer, 2101 St. James Avenue, Apt. 3.
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

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