The convention will take place at the historic Radisson Hotel on Canal Street, 3 blocks from the heart of the French Quarter. You can check out the hotel on the website by visiting www.radisson.com

The cost of the hotel (including taxes) will be $103/night. Overnight parking is available across the street from the hotel for $6/night, or valet parking is available for $17/day, with unlimited in and out privileges.

Please contact the hotel directly to make your reservation. Mention “Alpha Rho Chi National Convention” in order to get the specified rate. You must make your reservations no later than March 10, 2004. If you would like to come in early, a few rooms are reserved for the group on Wednesday, March 24, 2004.

Radisson Hotel, New Orleans
1500 Canal Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112
T (504) 522-4500

We look forward to seeing you there.

The state of Louisiana is filled with magnificent examples of inspiring architecture of all types. For some examples of what you might see, we recommend these websites.

www.aianeworleans.org/
www.aiala.com/
www.emerymccolure.com/
www.studioeskew.com/

and of course, you can visit the lovely campuses containing architecture schools, to find out what the south is designing.

www.tulane.edu
www.arch.lsu.edu
www.latech.edu
GREGORY S PELLEY
wqa@alpharhochi.org

As I write this it is Monday, August 11, 2003. But, as I look at my computer’s clock, not for much longer. This letter is late. In fact it is about ten days overdue to our estimable Letter editor. I could blame the fact that for the last few months, I have been really busy – raising my kids, working on a client’s house, teaching, visiting family and friends, working on Fraternity business – doing all the things that make up the substance of my life at this moment. I could say that I just didn’t have the time. And all that is true. But it probably is not why I have not completed this particular letter.

I really struggle with writing these things. I never know just what to say. While sitting here waiting for thunder to strike and the words to fall trippingly from my fingers, I am often reminded of a line by the comedian Dennis Miller. When he completed his routine, he left the stage, only to return for the obligatory “encore.” When the applause died down, he simply said, “If I had anything good to say, I would have said it already.” Whereupon he left the stage. With that in mind, I’ll offer a few notes on the coming year – decidedly not profound in any way, but some things I thought you would like to know about.

Over fifty young students at Florida International University have formed the Nicon Colony of APX. Fifty students who are committing themselves to the arduous process of becoming a Chapter. Fifty people who can see the promise of Alpha Rho Chi – and are willing to put forth extraordinary efforts to realize the promise of our Brotherhood.

And they are not alone. We receive inquiries regarding starting new Chapters almost weekly. Some are not quite ready to commit to the process. But others are. Interest in APX is building, and our breadth and influence continue to expand.

Alpha Rho Chi will be holding its sixth annual Leadership Conference this October in San Luis Obispo, CA, hosted by the Daedalus Chapter. Continuing our efforts to build this program, we have contracted with the Learning Forum to provide a customized day of training for our Worthy Architects, Regional Directors, and Grand Council officers.

The Leadership Conference has become one of the major programs that Alpha Rho Chi produces. It results in better leaders within our organizations. Stronger leaders result in stronger Chapters, which in turn result in better Architects and Designers – leadership training is woefully inadequate in our academic settings, and what Architectural practice has the resources to devote to training our young professionals in leadership?

It is our plan to grow this program – to open it up to all brothers to participate. But, like everything else – it takes financial resources. So here is my request – if you are passionate (as I am) about having the brothers of APX be the current and future leaders of our professions – then we need your help. Contact me directly for more information.

The Grand Council is always looking for ways to improve our organization. Often we will try an idea out to see how it works. To that end, this year we are creating the office of Development Director. This office will be in charge of creating and maintaining fundraising resources and methods for the Fraternity. It is our intent to have this person eventually be a resource to the Chapters and Associations.

As I write this the Grand Advisor, Nicole Morris (VITR AA, and WGAAe) as the first Development Director. If you would like to provide your ideas and insights with regard to this position please feel free to contact me.

Finally, I have charged the Grand Advisor to research and report on the possibility of Alpha Rho Chi becoming an international organization. In recent years, we have received inquiries from a university in Guatemala as to starting a Chapter. Additionally, we have often looked toward our Canadian friends (there are eight schools of Architecture north of our border) and considered the possibilities. And as more schools develop overseas study programs in conjunction with foreign schools, the thought that APX could develop our brotherhood to an even wider audience is exciting and intriguing. We are in the infancy of this idea right now…looking at the legal and financial implications, researching the possibilities… but perhaps sometime in the near future, you will be able to travel anywhere in the world and find a Brother.

It is an exciting time to be a part of this fraternity. I encourage all of you who read this to participate in APX in whatever way you can. I promise it will make a profound difference in your life.

Fidelitas, Amour et Artes
ALUMNII WHERE ARE YOU?

LAURA SCHMIDT
wgaal@alpharhochi.org

As your newly elected Worthy Grand Associate Architect, I can’t very well discuss what I have accomplished already; instead, I can express my enthusiasm for the future and the goals that I have developed. In the past few months, I have been initiated into the workings of the Grand Council, and I’m beginning to understand how this fraternity operates on a national level. What I would like to share with all of you is that, judging by the team of leaders we have at the helm, Alpha Rho Chi has an extremely bright future and that I am thrilled to be a part of it.

I never dreamed I would be lucky enough to serve on the Grand Council at such an early stage in my life. In fact, three years ago, when I finally left the safe confines of Champaign-Urbana, I doubted I’d be involved with the fraternity at all. Even though I had been to several conventions and had developed friendships with people from chapters other than my own, the general assumption was that once you’re initiated into your chapter, you are forever bound to it. Service to other chapters was out of the realm of possibility.

When I moved back to my home state of California, I coasted for a while, paid my alumni dues, frequently called all the friends who still lived in Champaign and yearned to still be a part of my chapter. It just seemed so unfair that I had so much energy and enthusiasm yet to give, and I was willing to be more to their Alumni Association than be an annual dues payer. However, geography and straight-from-college poverty made it impossible for me to make it to any of their meetings or get-togethers.

It was right about this point when I ran into an old friend from Andronicus. Camille Ganir invited me to go to an event at the chapter house. Seeing the actives interact with each other made me realize that they were just as dedicated and just as enthusiastic about this fraternity as I was. I realized that so many of us have wrongfully allied ourselves with our own chapter, as if it were a baseball team rather than a part of the same national organization that shared the same goals and aspirations.

Ever since, I’ve taken that same energy and enthusiasm, and directed it toward the Andronicus Chapter and Alumni Association. We have since been very successful. Now, the fraternity has asked me to be one of their leaders. I am eager to take what I have learned thus far and bring Alpha Rho Chi back into the lives of all the alumni out there who, like me, wish they could do more. After all, imparting our knowledge and carrying on the traditions of this fraternity does not have to stop when we leave college.

Over the next two years, I am committed to the expansion of Alumni associations. The Expansion Director, Charles Morley, and I will encourage and aid any Alumni association willing to reach out to local alumni, to expand their membership and tap into the local alumni, regardless of initial chapter affiliation.

Already, two alumni get-togethers have been held in the Washington DC and Philadelphia areas. Both were quite successful, and many brothers and their spouses attended. Great thanks are due to Michele La Tourneur of Metagenes, Gary Ehrlich of Vitruvius, Nicole Morns of Vitruvius, and Lenora Nelson of Pytheos, for opening their homes, and working so hard to plan these events. I would like all the alumni to be able to see why it is so important that they pay their annual dues and to be able to reap the benefits. These regional get-togethers will continue, and be prepared to hear about one in your area very soon.

In addition, I am working directly with some of our newest chapters to get their alumni associations up and running. Let’s hope that by the next convention, we will be welcoming the Rabirius, Imhotep and Cleisthenes Alumni Associations to the table.

So often I hear people ask what the fraternity can give to them. The truth of the matter is that you get what you give. Alpha Rho Chi is a national organization. Whether you live five miles from your initial chapter, five from another chapter or nowhere near one at all, there is inevitably a handful of brothers within your reach. Don’t be afraid to reach out and grab what all brothers truly deserve from Alpha Rho Chi, a nation of bright, inspiring, enthusiastic and lifelong friends.
Membership in this fraternity hasn’t always been a pleasant experience for me. Actually, far from it at times. Overall, though, my time in APX has been positive. I remember arriving at the Xenocles chapter house for my first Rush party and thinking, “What am I doing? I’m not the ‘frat’ type.” Fast forward through pledging and initiation, which was superb! Not long after joining the Xenocles Chapter, I was elected WA of a fast-growing chapter, and soon I was in the Active Delegate’s seat at convention, wondering what was going on, if I’d ever be able to catch up to the debates taking place. I remember looking across the table to a new friend from Daedalus, Eric Heinsohn, and realizing that this truly is a national fraternity in every sense.

The next two years were quite dark and volatile for my chapter and for me, and resulted in my self-imposed exile from APX. Not long after completing my term as WA at Xenocles, I wanted absolutely nothing to do with this fraternity, particularly on a national basis. What have I ever gotten from APX, other than grief – or just as bad, nothing at all? Until an alumnus asked for my help. He needed someone to serve as Convention Secretary. After my knee-jerk response at the time to anything related to APX, “Not only no, but…” I was persuaded by the chance to see some old friends. That convention launched my “exodus from the dark side.” It didn’t take long after seeing these brothers for me to realize that joining APX had not been a mistake after all. I began to realize that APX was probably the smartest thing I ever did in my college days. How else could I have met such incredible, truly lifelong friends, including my best friend? Over the next couple of years, I experienced perhaps one of the most valuable side effects of brotherhood: if you open your mouth long enough, loud enough, and voice your complaints, you’d better prepare yourself for national service to Alpha Rho Chi. Some of you should probably reread that last sentence, so I’ll wait.

I will never be able to fully thank the brotherhood for never giving up on me during my time away, for waiting patiently for me to return to the surface. I often wonder how many brothers have had similar experiences to mine, or are still living in exile, refusing to believe that Alpha Rho Chi is actually destined for greatness and yearning for their participation. In an ideal world, those of us who honestly believe in Alpha Rho Chi would be able to convince the skeptics. In reality, it is difficult at best to actively engage them to a level commensurate with their expectations. I know a dozen or more brothers who see the opportunities that lay ahead for this fraternity and I met with some of them recently, as we charted the course for the next fiscal year.

The next time one of you asks me “What do I get for my dues?” I hope you’re prepared for the answer. “Nothing.” At least nothing, if you choose that option. What you get for your dues is what you want to get for your dues. If you merely read the Archi and APX Letters and then forget about APX for the rest of the year because you’re busy, that’s what you’ll get for your dues: a couple of newsletters and an Archi. It takes only a few minutes to pick up the phone and call a brother, or to click on the Send button for an email. I get so much for my dues now that I consider $50 an incredible bargain, given the benefits I receive just from the interaction with brothers. You get out of Alpha Rho Chi what you put into it. What are you putting into it?

To those of you who continually pay your dues, attend conventions and other fraternity activities, APX thanks you – but you probably feel as I do that you need no thanks for sending in a $50 check. Having the chance to see old faces, make new friends, see first-hand what Alpha Rho Chi does for its members by simply being. Over the last several months and years, I have continually been inspired by the undying commitment to this Fraternity shown by our elected officers and appointees. Individuals around the country, who need no official title in order to devote their time and energy to APX, have also earned my utmost respect. The line forms behind me for those who would like to work full time for Alpha Rho Chi – and I have no doubt it’s a very long line.

The benefit of APX membership that I hold dearest is something one must experience to understand, and it is visible to those who have not yet joined our Fraternity. What is it that draws us to one another year after year? I’m not sure I can fully define it, but the term Brotherhood is the only word that comes close. So I ask you, “What does Brotherhood mean to you?” Do you still feel it? If not, it’s up to you to find it again…we’ll leave the light on for you.

A dearly departed Brother once told me that one receives from this beloved Fraternity of ours as much as one gives to it. I have carried this simple, yet profound thought close to my heart for over twenty years. In doing so, I have become enriched beyond my wildest dreams and far-flung aspirations. For most of those years I have served. Through four administrations I have been called by the few and, at times, the many of our membership to voice your concerns. None have been more recurring than that of “where have we come from, and where are we going?”

Over the years we have come to understand that old lessons ring true. Every year we must maintain what we have before building something new. Leadership conferences established continuity between chapter and national officers. A comprehensive manual on how we do what we do within our various opportunities for service is the next building block. It will provide continuity between outgoing/incoming officers, appointees, chairmen, and other positions of leadership.

Our Fraternity is celebrating a rebirth of interest. New Chapters have joined us, and recent colony interests have been started on the road to Installation. Alumni Associations of old are being reformed. Individual members, including myself, are more excited than ever before. We should be overjoyed and celebrate our success, but there is much work yet to do. Schools of Architecture outside of the US want to know more about APX and we are hopeful that soon, we might be internationally known. We continue to develop a more user-friendly method for keeping in touch with one another. Our leaders unite to serve the furtherance of the Fraternity for these betterments and more.

We are our own future. Ours is the tomorrow each of us dreams of for one another. Those days will come, and the voices of the few

continued on page 7
FISCAL HEALTH

FRANK KITCHEL
wge@alpharhochi.org

The financial health of the Fraternity is great, good and well, so-so. How can this be? How has the Fraternity arrived at a prognosis such as this? Numbers are numbers, right? Either you have money or you don’t. What is more absolute than mathematics? This is not a subjective matter like having your project critiqued before a jury. Or is it?

The Fraternity’s financial well-being of great, good or so-so depends on how you look at things. If you have the perspective from years past when APX was near financial disaster, things look great. The investment portfolio is sound and conservatively invested and there are two years of expenses on reserve in the checking account. APX runs a balanced budget and each year the Grand Council only approves a balanced budget. So as the new fiscal year began on July 1, 2003, the plan is to only spend as much as the amount collected in dues, fees and other income sources (such as donations) that can be reliably expected. (More on this later.) From one point of view, this looks great!

Let’s take another look at financial health. In fiscal 2004 (July 2003 to June 2004), APX plans to provide the same levels of services provided in fiscal 2003. APX plans to conduct a Leadership conference in October. APX will publish another great ARCHI under Karen Marker’s leadership. APX will publish two APX Letters. APX will hopefully initiate 2 or 3 more new chapters. APX will award the APX Bronze medal and continue to manage the program that supports it. APX will publish Convention minutes and pledge manuals, issue badges, pledge pins, certificates and charters. APX will continue to provide and support the APX Website which is the means for keeping you informed of Grand Council meetings, regional alumni gatherings and so forth. And to top it all off, APX will convene again at Convention in New Orleans in March. APX is providing the same services this year as last year. This is a good thing. So, from another perspective, APX must be in good financial health to maintain the level of services provided in the past.

From another point of view, the financial health of the Fraternity is so-so, or average. At the Las Vegas Convention in 2002, the Grand Council presented a 10 year plan that outlines services envisioned provided by 2011. These services range from an expanded Leadership conference, 2 ARCHI publications per year and 4 APX Letters, conduct regional retreats, visits from Grand Council members to each chapter and expanded professional services and speakers to benefit actives and alumni alike. To achieve this level of service, APX needs to collect the income in dues, fees and donations to makes this happen. APX still has a way to go to making the plan a reality. Through 2003, APX is on track with income projections. APX initiated 2 new chapters in the previous 12 months, and active membership is at historical highs. However, to move forward, APX needs to double active membership over the next 6 years and double the number of alumni that pay dues. Looking at things this way, it might seem that APX has bit off more than it can chew.

I am a firm believer in setting meaningful, realistic, achievable goals; and then breaking those goals down into manageable mini-goals or milestones. As for doubling membership in the next 6 years, this may seem overwhelming. However, if each dues-paying alumni could convince one non-paying alumni to pony up the whopping fifty bucks, APX would have the goal met quickly. If APX relies on the strength of numbers, goals are easier to achieve. If you are a dues paying alumnus, consider contacting a pledge brother and getting him/her to consider joining the ranks of contributing alumni. Better yet, conduct a contest within your chapter and/or alumni association to rouse the most number of “lost alumni”. Get the pledges involved in the process. Most alums would think it a hoot if they were “cold called” by an Archi Pledge.

If you are an active member, please submit your membership reports and dues promptly. If you are unsure of how to do this or what form to use, please call. Offer suggestions on how to make this process easier for you. APX is listening.

One final word. Recall that APX has a plan to only spend (i.e. provide services) no more than what is collected in dues, fees and other income sources that can be reliably expected to collect. The key words here are “reliably expected to collect.” Your membership reports provide crucial information to what is needed to responsibly manage the Fraternity’s finances. Help APX so that it can serve you and the Fraternity to the best of its abilities.
Greetings from your new Expansion Director, Charles Morley. As outgoing National Director, I have had the opportunity to meet or correspond with many of you. For those of you I haven’t met yet, well, there’s always New Orleans this next March!

One of the biggest concerns expressed by our membership about expansion is the fear that expansion sometimes threatens to eclipse the preservation of our current chapters and alumni associations. I want to put those fears to rest. Why do we expand? I believe we do so to further our own goals. With a larger membership and presence on many campuses, we can more effectively influence the education of our profession, and with expanded alumni membership, we can influence the profession itself.

Since joining Alpha Rho Chi, I have gained so much from this fraternity, and that is why I continue to donate my time to our organization. I believe that worthy brothers are out there everywhere and we must allow them the opportunity to not only improve themselves through the brotherhood, but improve the brotherhood by adding their unique contribution to the whole.

My goals are simple. With WGS Vicki Horton, I wish to reactivate all inactive chapters and alumni associations by our centennial convention. With 11 chapters and 10 alumni associations currently in the “inactive” category, that means we have some work to do. Alongside our newly elected WGA, Laura Schmidt, I will work on reactivating our inactive alumni associations and promote all forms of alumni interaction.

Many brothers do not realize that our expansion program is not simply focused on discovering and installing new chapters, but rather it is equally directed at expanding the membership at our existing chapters and associations. Of course, we will continue to promote new expansion and fresh opportunities because we are committed to the ideals of Alpha Rho Chi and we feel the fraternity is a welcome addition to any eligible university.

Great goals, each of them. But why, you ask? Simple. In my short time in APX I have seen many facets of brotherhood; I have been a pledge, gone through initiation, and eventually served as a Worthy Architect. I have pledged and initiated others, and have traveled the world with brothers. I have seen brothers marry, and I’ve seen others become parents. Sadly, I have also experienced what it is like to lose a brother with whom I was in school. I have seen the entire cycle of brotherhood and it is an incredible experience. What would my life have been like without APX? Would I have become the person I am today without those brothers who helped guide me? Would I be where I am today without the people who taught me that I could do things I had not thought possible, and that exceeding the possible was possible?

Recently, I have contemplated a move, involving both employer and city. I owe so much to the brothers around the country who I was able to call out of the blue, asking for their advice on firms, people, salary, or even places to live. How many other people outside of our fraternity can do that? How many “non-brothers” can call somebody they may have met only once or twice and know their plea for help will be answered without hesitation, receiving names of contacts and advice that accelerates such an endeavor? Not many!

This is why we must expand. Not only for the benefit of that next colony and its members, but also for the benefit of the existing brotherhood. Expansion allows us to amplify our influence and our own capacity to aid brothers, and increase the overall breadth of the brotherhood. I do not endorse expansion over active chapter and alumni association preservation. As a former National Director, I have a great love and attachment to each of our chapters and alumni associations and I don’t want to lose any of them. Yet we must always leave the door open and seek out those whose activities and enthusiasm would improve the overall quality and strength of the brotherhood. Expansion perpetuates our founder’s goals. Only through expanding our membership can we hope to have a truly influential effect on the profession.

Do you know any students interested in starting or restarting a chapter at their school? Or Alumni who are interested in restarting their alumni association? Would you like to see an APX chapter at your nearest university? If so, please contact the WGS at wgs@alpharhochi.org
Hello Alpha Rho Chi!!!

It is that time of year again. I am outrageously excited to announce that I am going to be your next National Director. I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to be able to serve APX on a national level. After moving to Dallas a couple of years ago, I took up the responsibility of being the Regional Director of Region 5. With a watchful eye and great patience, I have watched the region thrive. I have enthusiastically welcomed every moment with open arms. Now there are two active chapters and great potential for others in Region 5. I would like to see that happen on a national level. Over the upcoming year, I hope to maintain my level of enthusiasm and charge on.

Even though there are great hopes for expansion, there is also a great need to keep the Active chapters and Alumni Associations afloat. I think my first step to that goal is to establish a good rapport with all the Regional Directors. I personally know three of them, and I can't wait to meet the others. They obviously have some great qualities, or they would not have been chosen to represent the Actives and Alumni. I am concerned with all the chapters regardless of size and status. We all know that even the most prominent chapter can capsize with out some guidance.

In order to gain a good idea of what goes on out there, I want to fire up the RD’s, both new and old. I want them to be a driving source of information for me and in turn for national. I want them to be as enthusiastic as they were when they were new initiates. I plan to push the RD’s to be nosy and ‘in the know’. I want them to pry and prod their way into the lives of every chapter and AA and know when someone needs help. If you don’t tell us what is going on, how can we have any earthly idea when you need help or when you don’t? I would like the lines of communication to be remarkable–so remarkable that no one feels that they can’t reach out and ask for help. With the help of the RD’s I think we can make that happen.

I believe that between my enthusiasm and that of the RD’s, together, we can make our fraternity better than it currently is. It still, to this day, amazes me that whenever I meet a fellow brother I am welcomed with open arms. It is comforting to know that wherever you are there is a brother waiting for you. With that I will put this to rest. Have a great year and remember God gave us two ends, one to sit on and one to think with, success depends on which one we use the most.

Looking Forward continued from page 4

and the many will join together in a resounding chorus of, “we go in search of our future.” I believe that each of us has within ourselves an innate desire to know where we go and how we go about getting there.

I intend that, in the days to come, we achieve the desires of our predecessors, grow beyond our collective dreams, and envision a very different Alpha Rho Chi than we have come to know. I see our tomorrow and it needs our help. For as long as I am called to do so, I choose to serve. It is time to give back. Again.
Visit our website for the latest information regarding chapter and alumni contact information, forms and events.

WWW.ALPHARHOCHI.ORG

Alpha Rho Chi
P.O. Box 833432
Richardson, TX 75083

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #245
Champaign, IL