Exploring the city at Alumni Days: New York City

Marine Midland Building, New York City
Skidmore, Owings, & Merrill
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The Alpha Rho Chi Letter

Leadership Conference

“One Year to Make it Happen”
by Phil Buckberg, Metagenes
Worthy Grand Architect

The 2016 APX Leadership Conference in Los Angeles, California seemed to come and go so quickly that it’s hard to believe how much got done in between the Welcome Reception on Friday night and the Closing Dinner on Saturday night. This year, APX was pleased to host the Worthy Architects from all of our chapters and the presidents of our two colonies.

Chapter Operations

Worthy Grand Inspector (WGI), AJ Kessinger started the day with a discussion of chapter operations. Each year, most chapters elect a new Worthy Architect, who must come up to speed quickly at the start of the year on chapter reporting requirements as well as their own local executive board functions. LC is a forum to make sure that all WAs get the same message at the same time.

Risk Management

Alpha Rho Chi, like most fraternities, has a strict no-hazing policy. At LC, we discussed what actions and activities could be considered hazing: anything. In any given moment, any brother, initiate, or recruit might feel that they are being hazed. Our fraternity has faced accusations of hazing in the past, and inevitably will face them again. In our discussion, we talked about the reasons behind some of our traditional activities, their need and appropriateness in today’s world, how well they represent our fraternity, and the risk(s) they incur. Ultimately, it’s up to the chapters, led by their Worthy Architects, to make intelligent choices. Leadership Conference gives them the knowledge about our policy and its enforcement. More importantly, it opens the door to an ongoing dialogue with the GC and chapters, and between chapters, as we refine our actions and manage risk as best we can.

CampusSpeak: “One Year To Make It Happen”

For this year’s Leadership Conference, we asked CampusSpeak to deliver a message tailored to the unique role of the Worthy Architect. This year’s discussion, called “One Year To Make It Happen,” is a challenge to the chapter and colony leaders to figure out what kind of legacy they want to leave behind when their term ends.

CampusSpeak: “The Four Frustrations”

In the afternoon, Pete Mockaitus led an in-depth, interactive discussion of the four frustrations that face chapter leaders: burnout, lame meetings, event attendance, and flaking. Our WAs and colony presidents face these topics routinely, and this presentation was a good chance to open a group dialogue to share ideas and brainstorm solutions.

Discussion of Ritual

Worthy Grand Lecturer (WGL), Risa Schoenfeld began the day by collecting all chapter copies of the APX Ritual and updating them with our most recent convention-mandated changes. With our no-hazing policy and risk management policy both in place, all student and alumni brothers need to be aware that some of our local traditions are being phased out. Our students will create new traditions in keeping with our values, informed and enlightened by the world around us. We encourage and require all brothers to evolve with us as we implement national and local practices that truly reflect the organization we are today.

Thanks!

The 2016 Leadership Conference was successful because a lot of people did a lot of work. Many thanks to the team: WGI AJ Kessinger, WGL Risa Schoenfeld, and Leadership Conference directors Jorge Saravia and Rachel Harris. Many thanks to the Andronicus Chapter for their great hospitality. Many thanks to our student leaders who gave up valuable studio and class time for their Leadership training. Many thanks to Colony Director John Conway and our team of Regional Directors: Adam Rhoades, Maggie Mueller, Abby Crock, Ricky Fryer, Aaron Grant, Tommy Muchnick, Katie Zuefle, and Michelle Finan.

LC 2017

The 2017 APX Leadership Conference is scheduled for New Orleans, Louisiana.
Expansion Notes

After the recent installation of the Theodorus Chapter, Alpha Rho Chi now has one colony working toward becoming a chapter.

**Amenophis Colony**
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, Illinois
A scarab
The Annual Advisor Roundtable

Fostering stronger chapter-advisor relationships
by Catherine Berry, Isodorus,
Advisor Director

The one day event focused on fostering stronger chapter-advisor relationships, and therefore stronger fraternity-university relationships, as well as improving the communication lines between the national fraternity officers and the faculty advisors. Worthy Grand Architect, Phil Buckberg; Worthy Grand Inspector, AJ Kessinger; and newly appointed Advisor Director (AD) Catherine Berry led the faculty advisors through a typical year in the life of an active chapter, fraternity policies on risk management, and recent organizational changes at the national level. Open discussion ranged from student trust, risk management, FERPA regulations to joint university-fraternity alumni engagement, colony expansion efforts, and potential award nominees.

Over lunch, advisors and fraternity officers were treated to a tour of the UMD Architecture Building by brothers of the Olynthius Chapter, and learned from local faculty advisor Michael Ambrose about the College of Architecture, Planning & Preservation’s innovative, interdisciplinary degree programs.

Special thanks to the Olynthius Chapter and the University of Maryland College of Architecture, Planning & Preservation for hosting this year’s event.


The Advisor Roundtable is just one way that the Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity continues to build on its commitment to chapter and colony faculty advisors. Want to learn more about current initiatives to engage faculty advisors at our active chapters and colonies? Contact Catherine Berry, Advisor Director advisors@alpharhochi.org

On Saturday, September 10th, the rd Alpha Rho Chi Advisor Roundtable convened at the University of Maryland in College Park. In attendance were (from left): Michael Ambrose, University of Maryland College Park (Olynthius Chapter); Malik Benjamin, Florida International University (Nicon Chapter); Jason Alread, University of Florida Gainesville (Apollodorus Chapter), Ryan Brockett, California Polytechnic State University (Daedalus Chapter); and Lannis Kirkland, University of Houston (Cleisthenes Chapter).
Dispatches

**Polyidus Chapter**

The Polyidus Chapter has been doing as much as we can this semester to reach out and make a difference in our community. We wanted to focus on professional projects, as well as philanthropic events.

We first started the semester throwing ourselves into the participation of Home Awareness Week at our University. This event consisted of working with students and faculty members to design low-cost sustainable social housing for students that attend the University but don’t have the resources for a place to live. We ended this project by presenting it to the Vice President of Student Affairs, the VP of Fifth Bank, the Head of the Social Work Department and others.

We also did a pumpkin-carving event during the month of October to raise money for Children’s Hospital, Make a Wish Foundation. We recently traveled to Jekyll Island to help mentor at Georgia TSA, which prepares students to be successful leaders in a technological society through co-curricular activities under the subjects of Revit and the 2d form. Additionally, we traveled to high schools around our community to mentor and present to them about architecture and what it entails.

Our potential members participated in the Breast Cancer Awareness march to help raise money for more research. We lead an “architecture versus the real world” series with our alumni, and we held a Photoshop presentation for the underclassmen. Lastly we have collaborated with fellow architecture organizations such as NOMAS and AIAS to do firm tours around the Metro Atlanta area, and by the end of the semester we hope to reach at least six firms.

**Theodorus Chapter**

As this last phase of the colonization process comes to a close, Theodorus is looking toward building up our presence on top of this newly laid foundation that we have worked on for nearly two years at the University of Tennessee’s College of Architecture and Design.

The Theodorans have certainly experienced mountains and valleys over the course of colonization: however, we look forward to increasing the impact we have had on the University, the College and its students. With all current Theodorans being second and third years, our goal is to create a consistent flow of students of each class in order to keep this fire, that was birthed in the winter of 2015, alive and breathing.

We hope to continue to make Alpha Rho Chi a group of dependable, skilled students that may represent the College well and continue to pave the path for younger students in architecture and the allied arts here at the University of Tennessee.
Two Chapters, Two Milestones

Mnesicles 100 | A Celebration of Past and Future
by Natalie Rethlake, Mnesicles

On a beautiful Minnesota evening this past October, the Mnesicles Chapter celebrated its 100th year of installment. Our campus’s Weisman Art Museum – designed by Frank Gehry – provided the perfect venue to bring together alumni, current students, and pledges; friends and family; and APX brothers from neighboring chapters.

We were all able to share memories, reconnect with old friends, and realize the true impact that Alpha Rho Chi has had on all of our lives.

As a Chapter that went through re-installment just 3 years ago - after being disbanded since 1991 - we often feel as though there are parts of our history that are missing, and traditions that have been lost. Members of the Mnesicles Alumni association (from classes of ’68 and ’70) worked tirelessly with some of our most recent graduates to prepare a compressive presentation for the event. For our newer Mnesicles brothers to sit down with those alumni members and talk about how the chapter started, and what it was all like before we disbanded, meant more to us than we can put into words. This gave us the chance to bridge the gap between our original Mnesicles brothers and our recent members like never before.

Through this collaboration with alumni and actives, we were given a platform to display what APX is really all about – something that isn’t always easy to explain to friends and family. We all shared in the milestones of the last century while also discovering that our fellow Mnesicles brothers have designed some of the Twin Cities’ most iconic buildings and worked at some of the most prominent architecture firms.

Mnesicles 100 helped us not only recognize our historic foundation, but also helped us celebrate our new achievements as well! Our four recent pledge classes have lead to the initiation of 75 members since our re-installment. Those 75 members come from all backgrounds and skillsets – marking Mnesicles as one of the most diverse Chapters in APX in terms of its members’ fields of study.

Getting to those four pledge classes, however, was not an easy task. One of our re-installment “Founding Fathers,” Garret Sletten, spoke about what our colony had to overcome to achieve Chapter status.

Worthy Grand Architect, Phil Buckberg continued the evening by showing off his Mnesicles knowledge and perfectly describing Alpha Rho Chi at its core.

Mnesicles also had the honor of formally presenting the Alpha Rho Chi Gold Medal to Thomas Fisher, a former dean of the College of Design at the U of M. Tom continues to inspire us daily. His words and efforts root us and validate everything we believe in as designers.

In addition to all the celebrating, we held a silent auction to raise funds for our Chapter’s spring philanthropy project. This wouldn’t have been possible without the generous donations from both family members and local businesses. We were able to raise over $600! All the proceeds will help our chapter sponsor an art and design fair for grade-school students in May.

Mnesicles alumni, recent and less recent gathered to celebrate.
Top left to right: Garret Sletten, Jonathan Meyer, Juan Acosta, Alek Tomich.
Bottom left to right: Keith Sjoquist, Pete Sieger, Darrel LeBarron, Howard Goltz.
Two Milestones

Mnesicles 100 | A Celebration of Past and Future
by Natalie Rethlake, Mnesicles

Mnesicles actives have spent the semester volunteering at Venture Academy, a setting in which students in sixth to eighth grade can take charge of their education, aided by its “internship-like setting.” Additionally, our recent graduates have made guest appearances at Chapter meetings, filling in active brothers with all the gory details of what design is like in the “real world” (we promise the alum aren’t scaring them too much).

We are so grateful for the last 100 years with Alpha Rho Chi, and we want to send out a special thank you to all those who traveled so far to celebrate with us!

Cheers to the next 100.

Hadrian 10 | A bright future ahead
by Kyle Graham, Hadrian

On November 12, 2016, active and alumni members of the Hadrian Chapter of Alpha Rho Chi at Tulane University were joined by brothers from across the country to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the chapter’s founding.

Initially, the Hadrian Chapter’s success seemed unlikely. Founded in the tumultuous aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the chapter has overcome all of its expectations to grow to thirty plus brothers. With many great memories behind us and a bright future ahead, the chapter and friends celebrated at Acme Oyster House in the French Quarter of New Orleans.

After dining on traditional New Orleans fare, the event was capped off by words from several members of the chapter and brothers who had helped Hadrian along the way. This was highlighted by a speech from Worthy Grand Inspector AJ Kessinger and Grand Advisor Vicki Horton. Brother Kessinger and Brother Horton have both been deeply involved in the development of the chapter throughout the past ten years. Brother Kessinger served as the Regional Director for Hadrian from 2011 to 2013 and Brother Horton served as the Worthy Grand Architect during Hadrian’s initial installation.

After everyone had shared the memories of the early chapter, Brother Reade Nossaman surprised everyone in attendance by presenting Hadrian’s charter, a document long thought lost by the chapter. The charter now hangs in the library at the Tulane School of Architecture. This fantastic revelation served as a fitting end to the night’s festivities, concluding a very successful Hadrian 10.

The Hadrian Chapter and Alumni would like to thank all 55 brothers and guests who made it out to New Orleans to join us for the festivities and everyone else who has supported Hadrian along the way.
In the fall of 2016, Alpha Rho Chi held a series of events dubbed Alumni Days. Fresh perspectives among the Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity leadership introduced Alumni Days to reach a larger alumni base. The events took place in four populous cities: Chicago, San Francisco, Houston and New York City. While much of the programming was similar at all locations, each city showcased its uniqueness through urban explorations, and enabled brothers to participate in a social context. Driven by the theme, “Building Fidelity, Building Brotherhood,” Alumni Days contributed to creating a lifelong experience for our brothers, especially those beyond college years.

The first two events in the series began in San Francisco and Chicago on September 17th.

**San Francisco**

At Alumni Days: San Francisco, brothers used the City Discovery adventure Eventzee app to compete and capture team photos at designated locations. Each photo was worth points, which earned raffle tickets for prizes. Brothers discovered historical landmarks by renowned architects and hidden gems throughout the city from clock towers to embedded symbols at the popular Pier 39. Afterwards, brothers gathered at Gensler’s San Francisco Headquarters for an alumni reception. The reception featured catering by a Daedalus alumna, Eat Suite by Chae Fields. Nine chapters were represented with over eighteen attendees. The event wrapped up with a raffle drawing for gift baskets, desk chairs, and a $500 Design Within Reach gift card, all of which were donated to the event series.

**Chicago**

In Chicago, a gorgeous autumn day brought alumni together from over eight chapters. Similar to Alumni Days: San Francisco, brothers participated in the City Discovery adventure to locate stones from the great pyramids of Egypt, buildings by Alpha Rho Chi Master Architects, and new art landmark installations. After the City Discovery adventure, brothers convened at the penthouse of DIRT’s Green Learning Center for a reception with a panoramic view of the city.
view of Chicago’s skyline. With the smaller group in Chicago, each attendee went home with prizes that included lounge chairs and gift baskets from our generous donors.

Alumni Days continued the following weekend in New York City and Houston on September 24th.

**New York City**

Alumni Days: New York City was well attended with over 22 brothers representing ten chapters. In the streets of Manhattan, brothers divided up into three teams to compete for Visa gift cards. The City Discovery adventure took brothers to capture team photos with 200 country flags, hidden rooftops, and infamous jumbotrons. The adventure ended at a photography studio in the Chelsea neighborhood. Taking advantage of the venue, brothers captured the moment with the new Alpha Rho Chi photobooth and the studio’s photography equipment. All in all, the night ended with brotherhood stories and experiences from new and old acquaintances.

**Houston**

Alumni Days: Houston took a different path as the event explored the recently restored Buffalo Bayou Park. Eighteen brothers from seven chapters were present. A walking tour guided by a local Houstonian who had watched the bayou evolve for decades gave even the local attendees more insight on this upgraded development. The walking tour ended at the historic park cistern. This underground facility is the size of 1.5 football fields and used to hold a majority of the city’s water. A leak rendered the facility defunct, and it has recently been re-opened for tours and art shows. Following the cistern tour, the group made their way to the other side of the park, where a catered lunch was provided by Goode Company BBQ. Attendees enjoyed their lunch at a pavilion shelter next to a rehabilitated portion of the bayou. Many actives showed up for the event, enabling quick brotherhood bonds between actives and alumni.

The inaugural year of the Alumni Days event series has generated renewed motivation to further strengthen our Alpha Rho Chi alumni base. Alumni Days successfully brought together more than 60 alumni and 10 student active attendees to participate and connect with their neighboring brothers. With hopes of expanding the Alumni Days series, new cities will take part in 2017. Please contact the WGAA at wgaa@alpharhochi.org to learn more about volunteer opportunities or to suggest future locations. With your help, Alpha Rho Chi can continue this exciting new event series that aims to strengthen the bond between APX alumni and student members.
Theodorus chapter was installed on February 4, 2017.

New initiates
Based on reports filed with the Grand Council.

Polyidus - 5/1/16
Debora Chambers
Desiree Emery
Alexander Fashinasi
Seth Landis
Jacqueline Soto

Andronicus - 5/2/16
Osvaldo Coronado
Monica Laporte
Jesse Lopez
Junjun Wang
John Yu

Anthemios - 5/7/16
Nick Su
Alexander Sulek

Senenmut - 5/7/16
Samendy Brice
Sydney Kaplan
Andrew Korki
Danielle Kwong
Heather Leslie
Natasha Mendis

Philon - 5/8/16
Katie Englemeyer
Elvin Hu
KJ Kuang
Isabella Levethan
Gracie Liu
Sophie Olund
Matthew Rutledge
Merry Sun
Julia Thummel
Ashley Tsai
Madeline Underwood
Audry Western
Jennifer Wu
Grace Zajdel

Satyros - 5/8/16
Daniela Chavez
Joyce Choi
Bryce Copenhaver
Kevin Ibanez

Cossutius - 5/13/16
Mary Buhl
Kory Lyons
Daniel Maia
Hugo Waldern

Anthemios - 5/19/16
Zachary Borell
Darius Greenleaf
Alexis Halcomb
Ansel Sidiadino

Numius - 10/9/16
Brenda Gabbac
Abigail Hill
James Lee
Matthew West

Seshait - 11/5/16
Richard Ashley
Jayla Cash
Kenya Fanini-Lemoin
Jalin Harrington
Brandon Holiday
Devonte King
Mikal Rodgers
Nadia Ross
Ashlee Williams
Darius Woods

Vitruvius - 11/12/16
Brendan Burke
Natalie Duerr
Alexander Hopple
Nicholas Leuser
Trey Williams

Callimachus - 9/1/16
Daniel Chang
Madison Hight
Yvonne Nguyen
Bryce Pallera
Adrian Rodriguez
Jonathan Wu

Nicon - 11/19/16
Alejandro Arana
Jacqueline Blossom
Ligia Filgueiras
Christian Garcia
Austin Lilly
Alexa Molko
Katherine Rendon
Raisa Sanit
Matheus Stancati
Michael Torres
Patricia Villafane

Senenmut - 11/19/16
Rion Codrington
Alex Tran
Maami Wu

Severus - 11/19/16
Tiffanie Chau-Dang
Rebecca Curry
Denver Curtis
Julia DiRenna
Marissa George
Michael Kelly
Sydney McDonough
Olivia Morrison
Laura Neff
Michael Randza
Emily Rickenbacker
Olivia Slater

Polyidus - 12/1/16
Ian Eichensehr
Taylor Eyo
Yulithia Godley
Peter Heon
Brian Houstie
Tiana Howell
Andrew Koenings
Talya Kravitz
Nicholas Majka
Gabrielle Metzger
Alicia Moreira
Andrea Nichols
Daniela Pardo
Chan Park
Daniel Peragine
Nadiyah Pollard
Anastaysia Volkova

Rabirius - 12/1/16
Luke Becker
Margy Groshong
Elizabeth Herfel

Polyidus - 12/3/16
Amber Bennett
Shane Carroll
Zachary Chimoff
Nicole Crawford
Adam Galuki
Georj Lewis
Jack McGeehan
Deaisa McNish
Azha Parker
Garrett Plumstead
Jada Ross
Chad Sharp
Connor Smith
Nathalia Weston
Nikiya Wilder
Centennial Campaign Closeout

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity the Foundation launched the Centennial Campaign in 2004 with the primary goal of raising $100,000 to endow our John R. Ross Scholarship Fund. With the generous support from our Board and many Foundation friends, we soared past our original goal in early 2014. When we officially closed the campaign in 2016, the foundation had raised $130,639 to endow future scholarships.

With our John R. Ross Scholarship Fund fully endowed, more financial assistance will be awarded every year to deserving students working to make their mark in the world of architecture and the allied arts. Three scholarships totaling $8,500 will be awarded annually. In comparison, the Foundation was only able to award a single $500 scholarship in 2007. The success of the Centennial Campaign has made this growth possible! So often we hear from scholarship recipients that our funding was instrumental in helping them study abroad, pursue other interests, or chip away at student loan debt.

On behalf of the students' lives you have changed for the better with your involvement and support, The Foundation says THANK YOU.

John R. Ross Scholarship Winners

The Ross Scholarship Program has been helping students since 1995. Named after former Worthy Grand Architect John R. Ross, FAIA who had the vision of creating the Foundation to help students and advance education. Since our founding, your support has helped us award $54,000 through 52 scholarships to students who have excelled academically and made extraordinary contributions in leadership and service. The 2016 Scholarship winners are:

Allison Baker (Metagenes) graduated in May 2016 from Virginia Tech with a Bachelor of Architecture.

Kyle Graham (Hadrian) graduated in May 2016 from Tulane University with a Master of Architecture.

Proanne Liao (Andronicus) graduated in May 2016 from the University of Southern California with a Bachelor of Architecture.

Charles Burchard Professional Fund

The Charles Burchard Professional Fund underwrites innovative, career-enhancing programs offered at the national convention, regional conferences, and local chapters. Chapters and Alumni Associations are encouraged to submit proposals for professional education programs which might not be possible to conduct without additional support from the Foundation. The Foundation Board of Directors is actively working to increase this fund’s endowment, to be able to make more programs possible.

Annis Medal Program

The Foundation underwrites the cost of creating and distributing the Alpha Rho Chi Bronze Medal, which is made available annually to all accredited schools of architecture. The medal is given to students in recognition of outstanding achievements in Scholarship, Leadership, and Service.

For more information or to donate visit alpharhochi.org/foundation
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN
alpharhochi.org/convention

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