

Alpha Rho Chi

Fall 2005 Letter



Dinocrates Returns

University of Texas, Austin

by Richard Kresse, Cleisthenes Chapter, University of Houston

With the instillation of the Dinocrates Chapter on May 22, 2005, Alpha Rho Chi welcomed the return of a chapter that had been lost for decades. The chapter's charter class consisted of ten individuals who have shown strong brotherhood and determination through their two years as a colony – and now as a chapter.

As the Worthy Superintendent of Cleisthenes and a member of our charter class it was exciting to put the whole thing together and to see what it was like for Rabirius when we were installed in 2003. It took a combined effort from the whole chapter and a few special guests to put the initiation together. We were helped by Vicki and Kyle Horton, Xenocles alumni, and Amy Vrtiska, Worthy Architect of Pytheos Chapter. Brian Swilling came from Washington to perform his official duties as Grand Lecturer. We were rewarded for our work in the event when we were officially joined by a new Texas chapter.

Bryan Pravda, the colony's founder, flew in from New York City to be there. Bryan had been involved in the Dinocrates colonization process since 2003. In October of that year, Bryan was helping the dean clean out his office when he came across several old issues of *The Archi*. We definitely piqued his interest, so he checked out our website. Two days later, with support from his dean, he arrived in Tallahassee, Florida for that year's Leadership Conference! Although he had graduated the previous semester, Bryan made the trip to join Alpha Rho Chi as Dinocrates most recent alumni member.

After the chapter was fully installed, we had an interesting discussion with the new brothers about what their expectations were of initiation and how it unfolded for them. One of the main challenges for them as pledges was putting their trust in us; we were complete strangers to some of them. The discussion was an enlightening experience for me, and I am sure it was for everyone who participated.

I can see a bond between the charter members at the University of Texas that will serve their chapter well and with pride I call these Longhorns my brothers.



Members of the charter class of the reactivated Dinocrates Chapter from left to right: Bryan Pravda, Sapna Patel, Kathleen Truong, Zara Moore, Jenny Tran, Vilmar Morgan, Benito Lozano III, Jessy Fuller, Jordan Vann, and Niklas Koenig

Meeting Society's Expectations...and Our Own

by Gregory S Pelley, Worthy Grand Architect

Private. Selective. Secret. These three words describe the type of organization Alpha Rho Chi is – particularly in our relationship to society in general. This standing gives us particular privileges, but also comes with a great deal of responsibility and expectations. Let's first take a look at what these terms mean for us.

First of all, we are private. Generally speaking, our financial support does not come from the public via government or other public sources. In other words, the public's tax dollars do not support APX. Additionally, we are not an organization (corporation) that issues publicly traded stock. This privacy allows us, for the most part, to regulate our operations and activities with minimal oversight from the public's representatives. Of course, this does not mean, however, that we do not have to obey the laws. But, the "private" part of our organization grants us the ability to use the next two descriptive terms.

We are selective. That is, we select our members. This is not to say that we can discriminate. We select our membership based on the qualifications set forth in our constitution (ART. IX, SEC. 01), and based on a potential member's willingness to commit to the principles and ideals by which we were founded and operate. Our members are students, faculty, and professionals who share a common interest in the study of architecture and the allied arts, and who commit themselves to that fellowship.

The last term to look at is "secret." Alpha Rho Chi, as most other Greek-letter organizations, has a "secret" component – our ritual. In general, society is wary of secrecy. We tend to look at secrecy as something that is 'bad' and even potentially dangerous. Personally, I don't believe that all secrets are necessarily bad, but secrecy does come with a high degree of responsibility. Clearly, for those of you who have borne witness to our ritual, the secrets contained therein are not in any way dangerous, and are actually quite the opposite. However, it is very important to remember that by the very nature of that secrecy, society/the public will cast a very suspicious eye on our activity.

Alpha Rho Chi is granted the right to be "private, selective, and secret," but with that right comes some real responsibility and very high expectations. As a private, selective, and secret

organization, it is expected that our members will be exemplary individuals, will act in a manner far above that which is expected of "ordinary" citizenry. Some of you may think that these elevated expectations are unfair, but in a free society the trade off for freedom is a heightened expectation of responsibility.

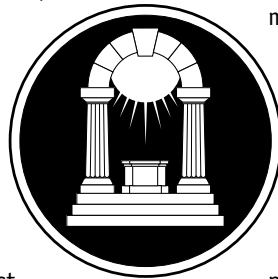
In the coming months and year, we will be entering into many conversations about these heightened expectations. During the annual summer meeting of the Grand Council, we were privileged to consult with Rick Barnes, an expert in fraternity risk management and a speaker for Campuspeak. Mr. Barnes' presentation was compelling and educational.

What we have found is that Alpha Rho Chi has, for the most part, been flying under the radar when it comes to the issues involving risk management, and to a certain extent, we have been very lucky that "nothing bad has ever happened." (I will note here that the statement that "nothing bad has ever happened" is a fiction, and I am certain that each of you could come up with several incidents in which "bad" things did happen, and we just got lucky.) In any case, the Grand Council has begun to educate itself and will be developing new risk management policies to be ratified by the Convention.

We also will begin to educate our chapters and alumni associations on the critical importance of the development and enforcement of such policies, and more generally about ways to keep our brothers safe and healthy. This is particularly important because if we are to fulfill on the promise of Alpha Rho Chi, we must have members that are safe and healthy (I hope that we don't dismiss that statement just because it is obvious.) The first part of this education will be to have Rick Barnes speak to the Leadership Conference 2005 at Penn State on October 15.

Dr. Marie Callais spoke at the last year's leadership conference in Houston and stated that when fraternities fulfill on their promises and ideals, they are the best thing on our campuses today. When they fail, they are the worst. I ask all of you to consider this idea as we enter into this necessary and important conversation about the future of our beloved Alpha Rho Chi.

Fidelitas, Amor et Artes



The Alpha Rho Chi Letter

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Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity

expansion notes

The installation of the Dinocrates Chapter in May marked the Alpha Rho Chi's fourth new chapter of 2005. This a record in the history of the fraternity. Interest in APX remains strong at other universities around the nation.

Alpha Rho Chi Colonies - Established and Organizing

Hadrian Colony – Tulane University, New Orleans

Amenophis Colony – California College of the Arts, San Francisco

Karpion Colony – Miami University, Oxford, Ohio

Xenocles Colony-in-Organization – University of Texas, Arlington

APX Financial Update

by Frank Kitchel, Worthy Grand Estimator

The national fraternity just completed fiscal year 2005 on June 30, 2005. I am pleased to report that the fraternity finished the year with a surplus of \$4,088, on revenues of \$66,642 against expenses of \$62,554. Alpha Rho Chi continues to spend over 85% of the funds it receives on programs and services that benefit the membership. Fraternity publications and the leadership conference comprise almost half of our annual spending.

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.

The fraternity's fiscal year 2006 budget proposes revenues of \$77,603 against expenses of \$80,721, which is a budgeted deficit of \$3,118. The proposed budget is aggressive as we are forecasting revenues to grow by 16% and expenses to increase by 32%. The additional income expected to be collected in 2006 is due to a greater number of actives and dues paying alumni, a slight increase in the leadership conference fee and projected donations from alumni life members. Expenses are forecasted to increase by just under \$20,000. A breakdown of the increased spending is shown in this table:

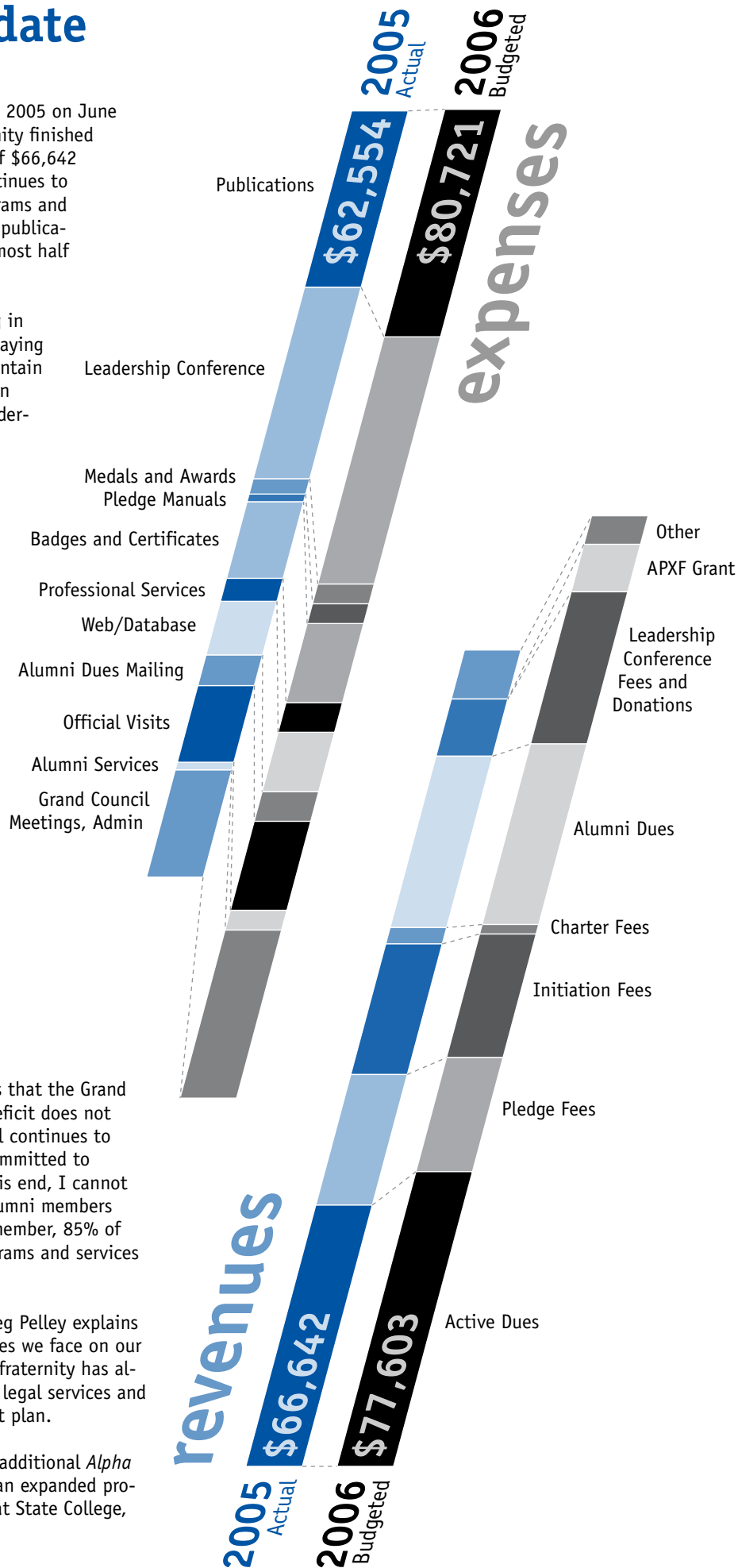
Increased spending in 2006 vs. 2005

Membership Services	\$5,156
Leadership Conference	4,032
Database Programming	880
Publications	4,217
G&A	5,348
Total	\$19,634

This fiscal year is the first year in over nine years that the Grand Council has approved a budget deficit, but the deficit does not exceed the prior year's surplus. The Grand Council continues to hold fiscal responsibility in high regard and is committed to maintaining our strong financial condition. To this end, I cannot stress enough the importance of chapters and alumni members paying their dues, and paying them on time. Remember, 85% of dues collected are used to directly fund the programs and services for you, our members.

In this issue of the *Alpha Rho Chi Letter*, WGA Greg Pelley explains how risk management addresses very serious issues we face on our college campuses today. In fiscal year 2006, the fraternity has allocated additional funds for education programs, legal services and liability insurance as part of our risk management plan.

In closing, we are pleased to be able to fund an additional *Alpha Rho Chi Letter* this year, an expanded *Archi*, and an expanded professional program for the leadership conference at State College, Pennsylvania in October.



Richard Kresse, Carlos Machado, Geri Powell, Lannis Kirkland, Matthew Zawacki, and Farid Dehghan at the spring 2005 wine and cheese reception.



Mr. & Mrs. Joe Mashburn and Ledia Osmani at 2005 white rose formal



Working Together: The Cleisthenes Way

by Amal Adi, Cleisthenes Chapter, University of Houston



The Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture in Houston, Texas is home to hundreds of devoted students guided by an accomplished faculty, ready to open the doors to a world of sleepless nights in efforts of wondrous design. Among these students, thirty-nine have been privileged enough to make their way into the Alpha Rho Chi family – with the support of the same individuals that help better their architectural education. Since the re-installation of Cleisthenes in 2002, the chapter has formed and continues to share an exceptional relationship with its faculty and university. It is these ties that help maintain the structure and stability of the up and coming group.

Making faculty part of the fraternal life

The Cleisthenes Chapter holds a series of events that are well-attended by many encouraging faculty in support of the fraternity. Invitations to the annual White Rose Formal celebrating our Founder's Day extend beyond Alpha Rho Chi members to these individuals as well.

Cleisthenes hosts a wine and cheese event at least once a year with the college's faculty as the prominent guests. It is a time to relax as students and professors casually mingle and recognize that there is, in fact, a life outside of studio. In Fall 2004, Dean Joseph Mashburn kindly offered his home as the location for that semester's wine and cheese party. Along with delicious sushi and a great turnout, the evening included the inaugural presentation of the Lannis Kirkland Award to none other than associate dean and brother, Lannis Kirkland. Established in the chapter by-laws, the award is designated "for friends of the Cleisthenes Chapter who have through their interest and actions impacted the chapter in a positive way." Mr. Kirkland graciously accepted the much-deserved award by noting the college's dependence on Alpha Rho Chi for necessary school tasks: "The college depends on APX for school projects, not because they are the only capable organization, but because they are the most organized and efficient"

Another consistent attendee of events is the popular professor Jason Logan. Initiated alongside Kirkland and the Beta Class, Brother Logan says that APX has impacted his life by "working with students. I am able to learn as much as I give to them."

Lending a hand

The dedicated individuals of Cleisthenes use their experiences as members of Alpha Rho Chi not only to benefit the brotherhood but also the college they call home. Cleisthenes plays crucial roles in supporting numerous university events. Gerald D. Hines Welcome Day is an example. Members volunteer to help with informative survival packets, t-shirt production and distribution, and tours of the college among other things. Frontier Fiesta, a Texas-style festival, is a long-standing University of Houston tradition that takes place every spring semester. Alpha Rho Chi makes a mark constructing and hosting Archi's Icehouse, a memorable site in the fiesta, which unites alumni, students, and faculty for three days of entertainment.

This valuable relationship between the brothers and the university benefits both. The Cleisthenes Chapter will continue to grow and support will continue to come. This kind of connection can make a positive difference in all chapters of Alpha Rho Chi.

Houston welcomes APX to the 2004 Leadership Conference in a big way.




Daysi Ventura and Jason Logan at the fall 2004 wine and cheese reception



alumni **Thank you for your support**


The Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity recognizes the alumni who have made their alumni dues contribution as of August 4, 2005.

*We would like to especially thank those who have contributed regularly for the past five years or more and encourage the large number of members that are just one year away from earning this distinction.


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Christine Brazill
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Ann Marie Sweet-Abshire
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 **Xenocles**
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Ghassan Hissen
Preston Horton*
Vicki Horton*

Vitruvius Celebrates Fifty Years

by Tom Salaki and Brian Traylor, Vitruvius 2005 Alumni



This past spring the Vitruvius Chapter of Alpha Rho Chi celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. In typical Penn State fashion, a proper party was in order. The year leading up to the celebration was one that we will never forget as students and brothers of Alpha Rho Chi. This date not only marked the length of time the chapter has been at Penn State, it also marked the accomplishments, the changes, and the friendships that we have formed along the way.

Preparing for the event, it was quickly decided that the occasion called for a celebration organized by both alumni and active brothers. With brothers Christine Brazill, Ryan Binkowski, and Andrea Hauber leading the charge on the alumni end of the planning, momentum was soon in full swing. This would be no ordinary White Rose banquet; instead it would be a weekend event, in which alumni, young and old, could reacquire themselves with not only Alpha Rho Chi but the university as well. Our goal from the beginning was to get as many alumni brothers to return and show them that they are still a part of this chapter.

Because many of the guests had not been to Penn State for a long time, the brothers organized events to re-familiarize our alumni with the house, the brotherhood, and the campus. Beginning with a wine and cheese reception and campus tours, the weekend culminated in the annual White Rose formal, Vitruvians enjoyed a weekend we will not soon forget. In our five years at Penn State, we had never seen so many Vitruvius alumni in one place.

The chapter welcomed an unprecedented number of guests, including over 40 alumni from a variety of generations. We were honored to have two brothers from the founding class of 1955, Lee Stauffer and J. Hubert Ream. Having so many alumni back with us – especially founding members – really seemed to have a great impact on our pledges. They, now our newest brothers, had an amazing opportunity to see what they were getting themselves into and what the fraternity was all about on a whole other level.

Recognizing the efforts of the brotherhood, Brother Binkowski suggested using the reunion to raise money for growing guest

lecture series that was initiated in 2004. Providing alumni an opportunity to donate along with their registrations, the active brothers raised almost \$400 for the next guest lecture.

All in all, this was an amazing weekend for the everyone. We all learned a little something about brotherhood from each other that we will carry with us for at least another 50 years. Here's to you Vitruvius, congratulations.



WA Linda Lewis with founding members Lee Stauffer and J. Hubert Ream.



I love the 80s. Vitruvians from that awesome decade gather for a photo.



Alpha Rho Chi Leadership Conference

October 14–16, 2005
Penn State University,
State College, Pennsylvania
Hosted by the Vitruvius Chapter

Workshops and speakers
John Spence on leadership
Rick Barnes on risk management
Rush workshop

For more information and
registration forms visit

alpharhochi.org

Message from the Alpha Rho Chi Foundation

by Charles L. Nickel, President, Alpha Rho Chi Foundation

2005 Scholarships

The Alpha Rho Chi Foundation awarded three John R. Ross Scholarships at the 58th National Convention in Buffalo. As usual, the recipients were all highly qualified, and distinguished themselves with outstanding academic credentials, leadership in their chapters, and service to the school and community. The 2005 recipients are:

- Carlos Machado, Cleisthenes
- James Wall, Apollodorus
- Alberto Lopez, Andronicus

We anticipate great potential from these brothers, who will set examples for all to follow. We had 16 nominees this year and encourage all chapters to participate so that their best members can be recognized.

Foundation Administration

During the Convention, several brothers asked me for a simple primer on how the APX Foundation works. The updated Alpha Rho Chi Foundation information sheet highlights the key facts, but how do things really work? The board of directors is a dedicated group of volunteers and contributors who serve as the general administrators for processing grant applications, monitoring financial investments and promoting general fund raising activities. They are also skilled professionals with backgrounds in architectural practice, business, financial services, education and valued service to the fraternity. We are a trusted resource for all brothers and take our fiduciary responsibilities to the fraternity and IRS seriously. We have expanded our base membership to include trustees who offer their advice and act as contacts with local alumni.

The APX Foundation has two sources of income:

- 1>>generous donations from individual contributors and
- 2>>growth (or loss) from our portfolio of financial investments.

All of the contributions received each year are co-mingled in our investments so that they receive equal treatment and experience the same risk factors. All funds are established as endowments that maintain principal and award grants from interest income only. We track over 14 managed funds separately for individuals through bequests, alumni associations and chapters per signed agreements which define the goals, use, and distribution of the available funds. These funds are established to provide stable, long-lasting benefits to ensure continued support for the professional and educational goals of the fraternity.

For these services, the Alpha Rho Chi Foundation charges each fund a 1% or less management fee annually. For example, last year our return on investments was approximately 11%, 10% of which was reallocated to each fund with grants made available in accordance with the terms of each fund's goals and agreement. The income from the management fee, plus unrestricted contributions to the Alpha Rho Chi Foundation, is placed in a general fund. This fund provides support for national programs for scholarships, profession-

al programs, the Alpha Rho Chi Bronze Medal, portions of *The Archi*, *APX Letter* and other qualified grant requests received for matching funds to the extent that the prudent use of the funds allows.

Building a Foundation for the Future

Historically, the Alpha Rho Chi Foundation has only been able to support the fraternity based upon the growth of our portfolio. In good years, we have awarded several scholarships; in lean years, some very hard decisions had to be made. To break this dependency, we are focusing on an opportunity to encourage more alumni to make annual pledges to the APX Foundation to ensure a steady income stream to enable increased support to Alpha Rho Chi as it grows. Last year, the APX Foundation embarked on a ten-year Centennial Campaign with a fund raising goal of \$500,000 to fully endow our commitments to the fraternity in time for its centennial anniversary in 2014. We invite all brothers to join us in this major campaign by making an annual pledge of \$100, \$250, \$500 (or other amount as you are able) for the benefit of Alpha Rho Chi.

How you can support APX

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

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

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

Alpha Rho Chi Foundation

Sam N. Douglass, Treasurer
305A West Washington Street
Pontiac, IL 61674

Additional information can be found on the Alpha Rho Chi web site at alphanhochi.org or by contacting:

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