

Alpha Rho Chi Fall 2007 Letter

APX Brother's Firm Honored by Texas Society of Architects as Firm of the Year

by Boyd Lundell



Leadership, hard work, professionalism, and community involvement has paid off for Alpha Rho Chi brother Randy Gideon. The Xenocles Chapter is proud to introduce you to one of its own.

An alumnus of Xenocles Chapter, Randy Gideon graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1975. Since then, he has become an award-winning architect and was elected to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects in 1999. He has also served on the board of several prominent civic organizations including Downtown Fort Worth, Inc. and Streams and Valleys, Inc. Gideon is a past president of the Texas Society of Architects as well as a past president of the Fort Worth Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Randy Gideon is a founding principal and CEO of Gideon Toal, Inc. in Fort Worth, Texas and provides project oversight for the firm's architecture, master planning and interior design projects. Randy brings his 30 years of experience in project management, government relations, and community outreach to each project. For more than two decades he has been exceptionally active on behalf of architects at the national, state, and local levels in regulatory matters critical to the profession, leading efforts to create a more stable, rich, and harmonious built environment for all citizens.

Award

Gideon Toal was recently awarded the Texas Society of Architects' prestigious honor – 2007 Firm of the Year – and will be celebrated at the upcoming TSA Convention in Austin for its excellence in several areas of accomplishment. TSA describes the award as, "the highest honor the Society can bestow upon a firm ... that has consistently produced distinguished architecture for at least 10 years. The Honors Committee focuses its evaluation on the quality of the firm's architecture and, secondarily, the firm's contributions to the profession and to the community." Gideon Toal's achievement marks the first Firm Award given to a Fort Worth architectural firm in the last decade.

"For more than 50 years, Gideon Toal has been recognized as one of the Metroplex's finest architectural-engineering and planning firms, specializing in the planning, design and management of large complex projects," writes Stephen Darrow, president of AIA Fort Worth. Aside from consistently producing distinguished architecture over a period of time in a constantly changing profession, Gideon Toal has set a very high example of community service and exemplary leadership in the Texas Society of Architects. In



Brother Randy Gideon

demonstration of Alpha Rho Chi's core values of Professionalism and Mentoring, Darrow states, "An ability to create a firm of talented associates, dedicated designers, and active AIA members has made this firm successful and worthy of recognition." Gideon Toal has a long history of involvement with the AIA at both a local, state, and national level.

Community Involvement

Taking an active role in the Community is important at his firm, and Gideon Toal is an ardent

supporter of the city of Fort Worth and is committed to serving the city not only with fine architectural quality, but also with personal involvement in non-profit organizations that benefit urban renewal and environmental protection. Gideon explained, "It is important to give back to the community and architecture has a unique ability to contribute positively to the city's environment. Volunteerism is also a vital component to the professional life of this community."

See Gideon, page 5

AUI General Contractors Office Building, Fort Worth

Building on a Foundation of Brotherhood

by Vicki J. Horton, Worthy Grand Architect

More than a year ago, the Grand Council set out to establish a new vision statement for ourselves in an effort to focus our energies on the tasks assigned by the membership of the Fraternity assembled at Convention. This reexamination doesn't take place every year ... in fact, I'm only aware of it happening one other time. However, following the 59th Convention, one question surfaced and resurfaced: how can this new slate of officers best realize our (possibly new?) vision for Alpha Rho Chi, while still paying deference to the legacy of our predecessors? We owe it to them to remember, and perhaps help them fulfill, their visions. Yet we also owe it to them and the Fraternity's electorate to realize our own vision for Alpha Rho Chi.

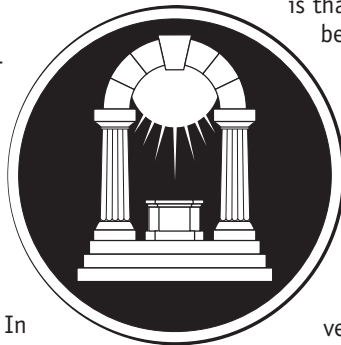
In deference to our predecessors, and with determination to chart a bright future for APX, the Grand Council painstakingly set about establishing our vision statement. It sounded like a simple enough exercise, but we soon realized that the diverse makeup of the Council meant we would have opinions just as diverse. Some opinions might bring about debate and disagreement. However, it is because of these varying opinions that Alpha Rho Chi is a strong and vibrant organization. In fact, debate and disagreement are essential to our very foundation. Envision these opinions as the churning of cement, coarse and fine aggregate, and water – three very different materials with distinct properties. Materials that, when combined, form one of the strongest elements in construction: concrete. The material essential to building a strong foundation. It is this concrete – the sharing of our diverse opinions – that forms Alpha Rho Chi's foundation. It took two days of intermittent churning and alterations to the mix before the Grand Council established our vision statement: *Building on a Foundation of Brotherhood*.

Alpha Rho Chi's foundation was mixed and poured into forms almost 94 years ago by brothers we only wish we could have met. This foundation is still curing. Perhaps more importantly, the concrete with which each new portion of our foundation is formed is ever evolving to include the ideas and ideals of all our members. Nowhere can this be seen more clearly than at the Fraternity's national convention and leadership conference. Often, the best ideas for the future of Alpha Rho Chi come when we are gathered together at these national events. Ideas that not only hold value on a national level, but ideas which present possibilities for growth at each chapter and alumni association. Ideas which typi-

cally manifest themselves in the form of resolutions presented to the voting body at Convention. Without semi-annual events such as Convention and Leadership Conference to share the collective knowledge of our members, I venture to say Alpha Rho Chi would almost certainly deteriorate as an organization. Like concrete with too little cement, aggregate or water, our foundation – our brotherhood – would begin to crumble.

Those of you fortunate enough to attend this past convention in Memphis may have witnessed the initiation of our newest honorary member, Robert Ivy. What many of you may or may not know is that some fairly incredible conversations took place before the arrival of our candidate, and while the candidate remained outside of the chamber. Several very diverse opinions and ideas were expressed during these discussions. A few brothers in attendance might even say these meetings of the minds resembled arguments more than conversations. I would humbly disagree. One of the greatest learning experiences provided by membership in Alpha Rho Chi is the knowledge that is gained when two or more brothers disagree, sometimes vehemently, yet are able to come together to resolve their differences for the benefit of the Fraternity. It is in this churning of opinions that the bonds of Brotherhood are once again congealed into a stronger, more durable foundation. In these emotionally wrenching moments, treasure may be found. Brother Ivy discovered that treasure on May 26, 2007. It is difficult to express the immense pride I felt in Alpha Rho Chi when I heard Brother Ivy say, "Thank you for giving me one of the best days of my life."

We have the opportunity – the responsibility – to bring this same experience to each and every member of our fraternity, and not simply at initiation. Our responsibility to each other extends beyond our academic lives and well into our years as alumni. We owe it to our founders, our predecessors and to ourselves to take advantage of the educational opportunities provided by our diversity and by our passionate expression of our steadfast belief in Alpha Rho Chi. As brothers, we must continue to identify and incorporate the ideas and ideals of all our membership ... the coarse and fine aggregates, the strongest cement, and the clearest water with which to build upon the foundation of this, our life-long brotherhood.



The Alpha Rho Chi Letter

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Associate Editor:
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www.alpharhochi.org



61st National Convention Reno, Nevada • March 13–16, 2008

The recently renovated Harrah's Hotel and Casino in Reno, Nevada will be the location for our upcoming national convention.

Reservations are already being accepted now at 1-800-HARRAHS. Be sure to mention Alpha Rho Chi when you call. Harrah's Rewards members are still entitled to their member perks when booking with our group.

Information will be posted at alpharhochi.org/convention and in the Winter issue of the *Alpha Rho Chi Letter*. If you have questions feel free to contact the Convention Director, Lori Beth Wilson, at convention@alpharhochi.org.

APX Financial Update

by Frank Kitchel, Worthy Grand Estimator

Alpha Rho Chi just completed fiscal year 2007 on June 30, 2007. I am pleased to report that the fraternity finished the year with a surplus of \$7,777, on revenues of \$91,716 against expenses of \$83,939, excluding Convention revenues and expenses. The fraternity continues to spend over 80% of the funds it receives on programs and services that benefit the membership. Fraternity publications and the Leadership Conference comprise almost 50% of our annual spending.

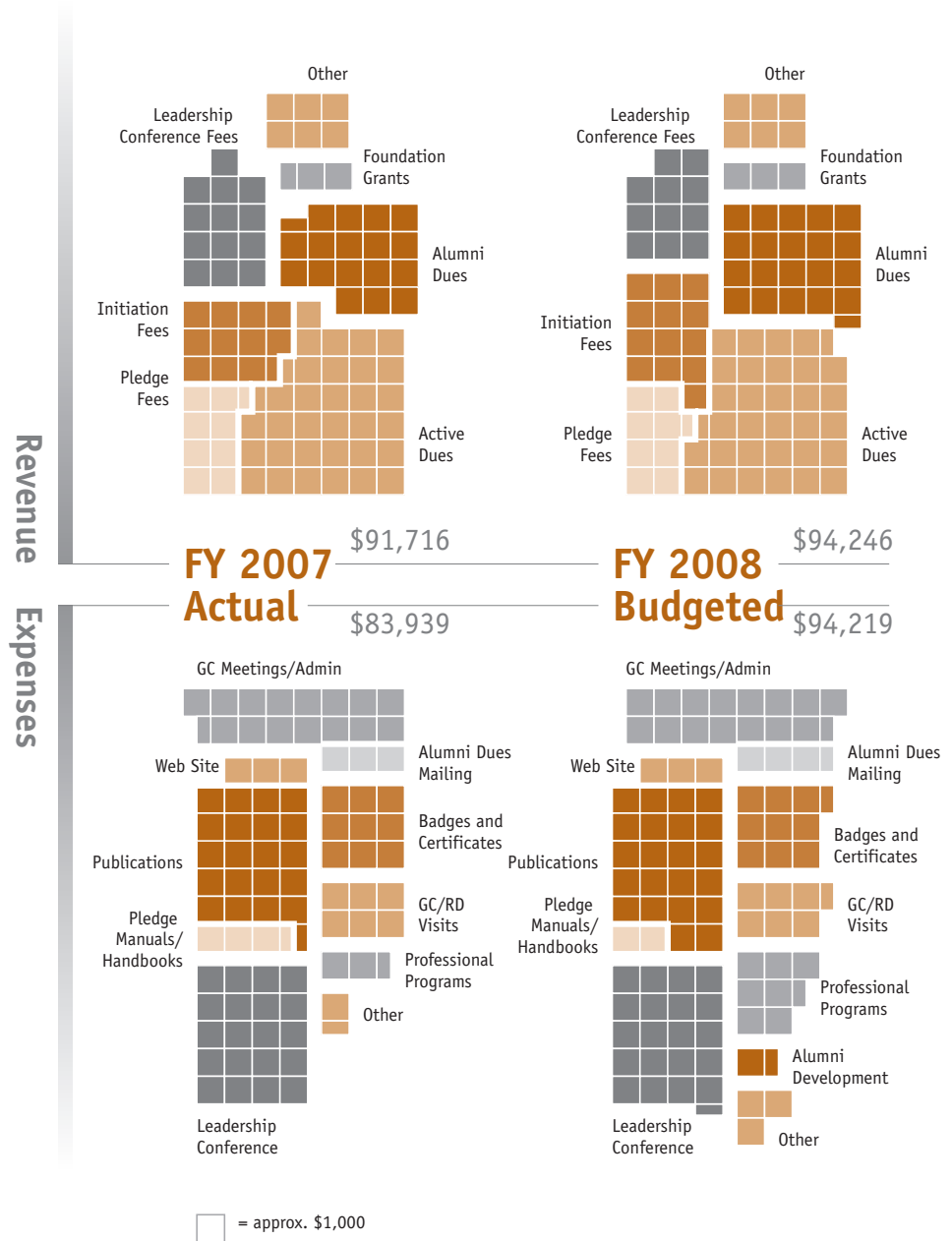
Laura Schmidt, WGAA, and her convention director, Lori Beth Wilson, continue to run an outstanding Convention program. The most recent Convention in Memphis took in \$28,512 in revenues against expenses of \$25,320 for a surplus of \$3,192. Look for another great program in 2008 as Convention heads to Reno, Nevada on March 13 – 15.

The fraternity's fiscal year 2008 budget proposes revenues of \$94,246 against expenses of \$94,219, which is a balanced budget. The proposed budget forecasts revenues and expenses to moderately grow at 3% over the previous year.

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.

Though we are financially strong, we can be stronger. Last year, 250 brothers paid alumni dues from which we collected about \$16,000 for an average of \$64 per paying alumnus. The active membership totaled 300 actives, and they paid roughly \$52,000 in active dues and pledge and initiation fees – or an average of \$173 per active. You might say that active members generally receive a greater proportion of benefit from our current programs so they should pay more than alums. However, 23% of our expense items are for printed publications (*The Archi* and the *APX Letter*) that keep you connected with the brotherhood. The Leadership Conference is attended by students and alumni members and represents 24% of our annual expenses. Nearly half of our expenses go toward programs benefiting both actives and alumni. Meanwhile, the WGAA is working with alumni across the country to aggressively promote and expand alumni programs and activities.

Let me take a moment to talk to you about alumni dues. Think back, way back, to the days when you were in school. Money was tight, I'm sure. But you somehow scrounged up a few dollars each week for that discretionary spend on a pizza and beer, a movie, or some stress relieving activity. What I am asking you, the alumni membership (that presumably have jobs that pay better than college students) to do is to pay your alumni dues for the amount of a pizza and a beer per month. The Grand Council has taken steps to make the payment of alumni dues easier and more convenient for the membership. By enrolling in the automatic dues payment plan, you can pay your annual alumni dues for as little as \$7 per month via monthly deductions from your checking account. I beg you to strongly consider this easy way to pay your dues and support for future growth of the fraternity. For more information, please see the alumni section of our website at alpharhochi.org/alumni.




Annual budgets exclude APX National Convention. Values rounded to nearest \$500. Totals may differ.

alumni **Thank you for your support**

The Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity recognizes the alumni who have made their alumni dues contributions as of September 10, 2007.

* Special thanks go those who have contributed regularly for the past five years or more
** or for 10 or more years!


 **Andronicus**
Dwight A. Broadneaux*
Robin Leslie Edwards
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Robert Johannsen
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Shelly Sang
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 Donald Williams
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 Suzianne Battista
 Katherine Binkowski
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 Christine Brazill
 Jeffrey Brown
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 Leighton Deer
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 Mark Nicholson
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 Robert Plowfield Jr.
 William Reehl III
 Patrick M. Ridgley*
 Freeman L. Russell Jr.
 Alan D. Smith
 Russell Snyder Jr.
 Daniel Steenstra*
 Anne Marie Sweet-Abshire
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Xenocles

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 Suzanne Berens*
 Tracy Fetty
 Ghassan Hissen
 Roger Hodge, AIA, NCARB
 Kyle Horton*
 Vicki J. Horton*
 Evans Lester
 James P Williams

Gideon *continued from cover*

Involvement in organizations and activities include Downtown Fort Worth, Inc., Historic Preservation Council, Tarrant Area Food Bank Construction, Business Volunteers for the Arts, Boys and Girls Club, Rotary Club of Fort Worth, Streams and Valleys, Inc., Urban Strategies of Tarrant County, Fort Worth Habitat for Humanity, and the Van Cliburn Foundation.

Another example of a community project directly involving Gideon Toal is the Paint The Town project. Randy initiated "Paint the Town" in 1996 to help bring public art into the community. Artists' paintings were transformed into 20-by-60-foot digital reproductions on vinyl and posted on the side of Gideon Toal's office at the historic Dr. Pepper Building, viewed by downtown and a main entrance to I-30. Artwork rotated every 6 months initially, the program continues today, although the firm has changed locations.

Problem Solving Services

One of the most remarkable aspects of this firm is that its personality isn't elitist, but humbly leads, responding to the diverse needs of clients in a variety of design and building programs. Throughout its history, this firm has been committed to sympathetically responding to particular needs and providing creative answers to complex questions. "Our clients are coming to us with more strategic problems and want us to help resolve those even before we get to the architectural design phase. Clients do not think of us as only architects, they think of us as people who get things done," said Gideon, "I believe our greatest achievement as a company is our reputation as problem solvers." This professional commitment to serving clients has been rewarded through many clients who continue to select the firm for their ongoing building and expansion programs. The largest firm of its kind in Fort Worth, Texas, it's commonly said that, "If anything of significance is happening in Fort Worth, Gideon Toal is probably in the middle of it."

An Example for Brothers to Follow

Through his leadership, common sense wisdom, and commitment to people, Randy Gideon exemplifies the Alpha Rho Chi tradition of professionalism, mentoring, networking, and fellowship. The firm carrying his name employs and mentors architects and designers and positively affects the success of an entire city as well as projects across the state.



Alpha Rho Chi is proud of Brother Gideon's example, not only for his talent and success, but for his personal contributions to his fellows and community.

Bro. Lundell is an alumnus of Xenocles Chapter at University of Texas - Arlington and an employee of Gideon Toal

THE FACTS

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

**FOUNDATION**

A trusted resource for the alumni and active members of Alpha Rho Chi

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.

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

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

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2101 St. James Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45206
513.751.1133
Charles.Nickel@ncr.com

DONATIONS

PROGRAMS

Endowing the Future

Foundation

Endowing the Future New leadership at the Alpha Rho Chi Foundation

A new era dawned on September 15, 2007 when composition of the APX Foundation was shuffled and new officers were nominated. The nominated brothers – soon to be confirmed by the Fraternity's Grand Council – include:

- Nicole Morris Dress, Vitruvius (President)
- Brian Swilling, Seshait (Vice President)
- James Mock, Andronicus (Secretary)
- Charles Nickel, Demetrios (Treasurer)

The new officers were nominated at the end of a successful two-day brain-storming and strategy session held in Libertyville, Illinois and hosted by the Fraternity's WGE, Frank Kitchel. Also attending the session were retiring APX Foundation board members, Ted Ertl and Sam Douglas, as well Vicki Horton, the current WGA. Ted Ertl and Lannis Kirkland will serve the APX Foundation board as non-voting directors.

Meet the new officers



Nicole Morris Dress, AIA, has been active in the fraternity since her initiation at Vitruvius in 1986. She is an alumna of the Pennsylvania State University, having graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture. She has served at all levels of APX leadership, most recently as National Development Director. Nicole is a registered architect and is currently a project manager on a large resort development in Atlantic City with the Philadelphia firm of BLT Architects. Nicole lives in Philadelphia with her architect-husband, Carl, and their young son, Jacob.



Brian Swilling is a charter member of the Seshait Chapter and earned a BS in Architecture from Florida A&M University. He has been active on all levels of the Fraternity, most recently serving as the Grand Lecturer. Brother Swilling lives in Washington, DC and works in federal programs asset management. He is currently a program manager with US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (part of the Department of Homeland Security) through the consulting firm, Bearingpoint, Inc.



James (Jay) G. Mock, AIA is an alumnus of Andronicus Chapter, class of 1976. Jay holds degrees from the University of Southern California. He has been on the APX Foundation Board since 1996, recently serving as Secretary. Jay has worked on retail and institutional projects for 28 years; the last 21 years as an architect registered in California. In 2005, Jay took a CFO position at Daves+Associates, LLC, a performance consulting business. He is married to Nancy with daughter Katie, 17, and son Daniel, 13.



Charles L. Nickel is an alumnus of the Demetrios Chapter, initiated in 1965. He holds a Bachelor of Architecture degree from The Ohio State University and a BS in Interior Design from the University of Cincinnati. Brother Nickel has served on the national level as WGA, WGS, and regional deputy. He is a charter member of the APX Foundation Board of Directors and has served as its president. He is currently employed by Jones Lang LaSalle as a Project Manager for NCR Corporation and TERADATA Corporation in Dayton, Ohio. In 2000 Brother Nickel was awarded the Alpha Rho Chi Silver Medal for his many years of dedication to the Fraternity.



Lannis Kirkland is Associate Dean of the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture at the University of Houston and is a faculty member of Cleisthenes Chapter. After receiving a B.Arch. from Auburn University, he earned M.Arch. from Rice University. Brother Kirkland is both a registered architect and interior designer. Cleisthenes Chapter recognized his steadfast support of Alpha Rho Chi when they established the Lannis Kirkland Award in his honor.



Ted A. Ertl was initiated into the Satyros Chapter in 1965 at Arizona State University. He holds B.Arch. and M.Arch. degrees from the University of Colorado. Brother Ertl is an Associate Professor of Architecture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He has served on the APX Foundation Board of Directors since 1994 and has been active in all levels of fraternity leadership. He is an active member of the American Institute of Architects, the Society of Architectural Historians, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He and his wife Carol have four children and ten grandchildren. Their eldest child is an APX brother and practicing architect.

The new board of the APX Foundation looks forward to a very productive future serving the needs of the Fraternity.

Learn more

More information regarding the activities of the Foundation can be found on the APX Foundation's web page, located at www.alpharhochi.org/APXF. Individual brothers, chapters and alumni associations are encouraged to contact board members to discuss their financial goals and how the Foundation can help them achieve those goals.

Alpha Rho Chi

National Professional Fraternity
Architecture and the Allied Arts
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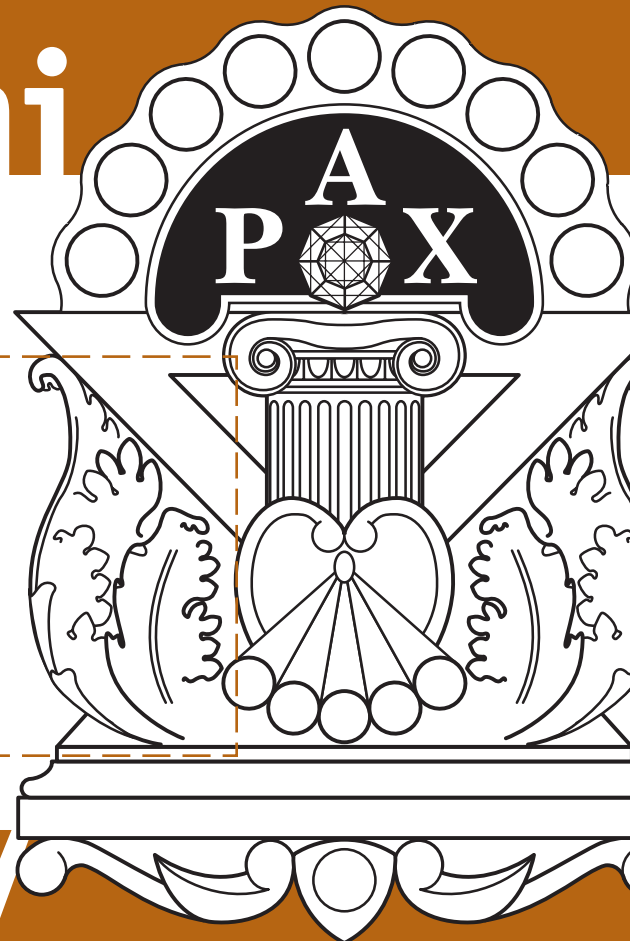
APX Letter, Fall 2007

Alpha Rho Chi



The Acornleaf, Fall also, from a Photograph.

Owen Jones, *The Grammar of Ornament* (1910)



Letter Fall 07