

Alpha Rho Chi Winter 2007 Letter

APX Welcomes Hadrian Chapter

Tulane University, New Orleans



Photo: Brian Swilling

Charter members of Hadrian Chapter of Alpha Rho Chi (*in white*): Worthy Architect Samuel Applebaum, Ian Daniels, Mihnea Dobre, Matthew Lee, Casey Leish, Andrea Martin, Reade Nossman, Casey Rocanova, Amber Stewart, Nicholas Vann, and Jeffrey Walker. Sean Kirkland (*wearing letters*) was officially accepted into Hadrian Chapter at the chapter's first regular meeting.

The Hadrian Chapter was formally installed on November 4, 2006. The installation was hosted by their sponsor, Seshait Chapter, in Tallahassee, Florida. A large delegation from Apollodorus Chapter drove from Gainesville to assist the Seshait actives and alumni with the initiation. The ceremony was presided by Grand Lecturer Brian Swilling. Bro. Swilling was a charter member of Seshait in 1994; coincidentally, three other brothers were privileged to attend both chapter installations: Regional Director Amber Ford, WGE emeritus Rob Ford, and Worthy Grand Scribe Rick Jenkins.

The new chapter was over two years in the making. Students at Tulane first formed the Hadrian Colony in the spring of 2004 – shortly after a few interested students dropped in on the 57th National Convention held in New Orleans.

The colonists were settling in for fall semester and working to assemble their chapter petition on August 27, 2005 when Tulane University closed as a precaution for an incoming storm. The next day, New Orleans mayor Ray Nagin ordered the complete evacuation of the city. The devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina forced the university to close its doors for the entire semester.

The students who had scrambled to leave the city had to find schools to accept them for the semester. The members of Hadrian scattered to multiple continents. They worked to keep their organization going through Internet communications and phone calls. One of the displaced colonists, Sean Kirkland, studying at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, joined the Domitian Chapter before returning to Tulane.

Returning to New Orleans for the spring semester, the Hadrian colonists faced the task of putting their city, school, and colony back together again. In some cases, they hosted or joined with APX members and others lending a hand to repair the damage. (See the December 2006 issue of *The Archi*.) Before the semester was over, the pledges had at last restored their organization to full strength; their petition to become a chapter was accepted unanimously by the 59th National Convention.

Eleven pledges and one non-graduate member drove from New Orleans to Tallahassee on a Friday. Sunday morning, twelve brothers returned to the Crescent City. Alpha Rho Chi congratulates its newest chapter and looks forward to its future. *Laissez les bon temps roulez!*



About Hadrian

Traianus Hadrianus was Roman emperor from 117–138. A noted patron of the arts, Hadrian sponsored hundreds of public buildings, including the reconstruction of Pantheon. Hadrian's Villa at Tibur (*left*) was a complex of over 30 buildings set in spectacular gardens. Historical accounts suggest he personally contributed designs for structures at his villa and for the Temple of Venus and Rome.

The Hadrian Chapter's cadency mark, the *tour à trois*, or three towers, can be found on the arms of Tulane University. The towers also appear on the arms of city of Tours, France, ancestral home of the school's benefactor, Paul Tulane. The towers are a nod to the history of New Orleans as well, representing the nations of France, Spain and the United States.

The Foundation was established as a philanthropic organization dedicated to funding the professional growth and vitality of Alpha Rho Chi and to expand its presence in architectural education and research. To that end, the Foundation awards scholarships to members of Alpha Rho Chi; sponsors professional programs and publications; underwrites the APX Bronze Medal Program and promotes new and innovative educational opportunities for students in architecture and the allied arts.

PURPOSE

**JOHN R. ROSS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

This Program funds scholarships for tuition and/or fees supporting undergraduate or postgraduate study at accredited schools of architecture and the allied arts in the US.

- Awarded annually at the National Convention for academic achievement, fraternal leadership and supporting school and community activities
- Over 25 scholarships have been awarded

CHARLES BURCHARD PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

This Program supports participation of professionals at accredited schools of architecture and allied arts in the US and at other venues which, in turn, expands the educational experience and the interaction among practitioners, educators and students.

- Substantially underwrites the cost of professional programs and other important educational experiences at the National Convention each year
- Provides matching funds to active chapters and colonies for a jointly sponsored professional program at their university

VERLE ANNIS APX ENDOWMENT PROGRAM

This Program funds the promotion of professional achievement awards and research in architecture and the allied arts:

- Underwrites the Alpha Rho Chi Medal program
- Support for research and dissemination of knowledge through publication of professional papers and articles

PROGRAMS

The Alpha Rho Chi Foundation is organized as an independent Board of Directors consisting of unpaid volunteers with the WGA and WGE participating as nonvoting, ex-officio members. Professional advisors are available to assist with coordinating and ensuring donor's wishes are achieved. The Foundation is registered with the State of Illinois as a nonprofit, charitable organization.

- Endowment funds support national programs with distributions limited to a percentage of annual income from an investment portfolio
- Managed funds established by individual donors, Chapters and Alumni Associations for their direct benefit for designated scholarships and programs

ORGANIZATION

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 alparhochi.org or by contacting:

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HOW YOU CAN HELP APX

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

**The Alpha Rho Chi Letter**

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Stuart performs at a poetry venue in Miami

Interview by Renay H. Marquez, Andronicus Alumna

A charter member of the Sehait Chapter at Florida A&M University, Anson M. Stuart can be described as many things: successful architect, marathon runner, triathlete, and an author. In August, Stuart released a double novel, *Runaway Love: First Born*.

Stuart grew up in the Bahamas until 1982 when he moved to Miami with his mother and sister. He credits his success to his mother and her foresight for desiring opportunity for her children. Stuart works in Miami as an architect with Judson & Partners, an African-American owned firm, and has two daughters, ages 12 and 8. In early October, Renay Marquez talked with Brother Stuart by phone to ask him about his writings and career.

RHM: Why did you choose architecture?

AMS: I didn't expect this question. It's a creative profession, everything that I studied about it. I wasn't a kid who grew up in architecture. It was a visit at my high school by a recruiter from Florida A&M who peaked my interest.

RHM: What was the best part of your school experience? The worst?

AMS: APX completely changed my academic experience. I was a third year student and I didn't see the need for student organizations. It completely changed my college experience. I've made lifelong connections. I don't know if I had any bad experiences. I didn't have that bad of a time. I did well in school; the preparation was difficult to me because I was [and am] a perfectionist. I remember my first few weeks in grad school, I had my outline and I just was encouraged to start writing. The hardest part had to be preparing and worrying about presenting my idea.

RHM: Why did you pledge Alpha Rho Chi?

AMS: Most of the people setting up the colony were my friends and I was curious as to what they were up to. I knew all of them and they were all leaders in their classes.

There are lots of similarities in each chapter all across the country. The brothers I met in Denver all reminded me about Seshait. It's like a little family with one big bond. I can't put words to it ever. At the end of the day, we're all family, that's a common thread.

RHM: What is the one thing every architect should know?

AMS: Patience. There are a million things though. Humility, you're a leader for lots of different people like engineers and clients. It's important to be really humble, be a leader in order to create something that's going to work.

RHM: Why the novel? What was the catalyst?

AMS: I've written for as long as I could remember. I was in the Bahamas in the fourth grade and there was a contest for writing

a story. I've always written, kept journals. I'm even doing poetry on the mic. In college, I ran into Brother Brian Swilling (Seshait, 1995) and he was writing. I asked him what he was writing and he told me, "A novel." I thought it was odd, I didn't know anyone who had written a novel. It spawned the idea in myself. I've written mostly about my experiences I have had since being out of school.

RHM: How much of the architecture characters are a reflection of you and your experiences as an architect?

AMS: Pretty much the first book, *Runaway Love*, was about certain experiences at that time in my life. I took those experiences and expounded on them. I reflected on what would have happened and exaggerated. The character in *Runaway Love* is my alter ego. I think we all have different sides to us in different situations. I think all fiction is based on some kind of truth.

Like my graduate thesis, I planned everything. I knew what I was going to cover, the impact the story was going to have and I wanted to write three books. The first book, *Runaway Love*, was going to be a love story. I believe love is not valued in today's society. The second book was to be about one of the character's family in *Runaway Love*, and that family's rise to fame and glory. Then the third would be about an illegitimate child. Those last two stories ended up as a double novel, *Runaway Love: First Born*.

The first book took three months to write and the last two books were three years of writing and two years of editing. It took a lot of time editing because of the timeline. It spans generations of the particular family.

RHM: Could you see yourself being only an architect or only an author? For example, would you consider writing a book looking at the history of architecture in Miami?

AMS: No. I'm not a guru who knows all the greats. Architecture is not my only passion. I also perform poetry. My poetic writings are more geared towards story telling similar to my novels. I already have my next novel in my head; the idea is already there.

I enjoy doing so many different things. I'm in the office, then I come home, run or ride my bike or go for a swim. I perform poetry in front of live audiences. All of these things, these passions of mine, help to keep me grounded. They also help to keep me well rounded because I get to associate with so many different people. They keep me happy and give me an appreciation for life to be so well rounded and have so many different types of friends.

About competing in triathlons: once you do one, you're hooked. It becomes a lifestyle. I see athletes of all sizes and ages. Last week, at the Disney Triathlon I had APX brothers supporting me. It was great because they got to see that part of me.

RHM: How do you approach design? How is it the same or different from how you approach writing?

AMS: Writing is much more free flowing. You're not as free with design because there are so many other factors involved. I've gotten to work on a wide array of projects. I'm in a small firm; we're more service oriented/directed. We think first about our client. The entire design process is a collaborative one. My writing is completely opposite. I've got no one to collaborate with really. My writing is more personal and more subjective.



Runaway Love and *Runaway Love: First Born* are available at Amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com. Preview chapters of each novel at runawaylove.com.

On January 29, 2007, Anson Stuart can be found running in the ING Miami Marathon.



Meet Us

Make your plans now to join your brothers from across the country for Alpha Rho Chi's 60th National Convention. You may remember our 50th National Convention, also held in Memphis. Well, it's been 10 years, Memphis is now the home of the Imhotep Chapter, and we believe this Memphis Convention will be better than the last by at least 10 fold.

Social Events

Thursday Activities

Many Convention attendees will arrive mid-day Thursday, March 22. If you are, join us for a fun event that will help you get to know your brothers better and explore the city of Memphis. Thursday evening, a welcome reception will kick off the Convention. The reception will be open to all attendees.

Annual Award Banquet

Alpha Rho Chi has reserved the Balinese Ballroom for the end of Convention banquet on Saturday, March 24th from 7:00–11:00 pm. The Balinese Ballroom is located on Main Street only a little over half a mile away from our hotel, and can be reached by riding the trolley that runs along the Main Street Mall. The banquet offers a delicious menu, a DJ and dance floor for entertainment and even a view of The Pyramid, Memphis' sports arena. We look forward to having everyone joining in the food, drink, dancing and overall good times as a way to end a great week for this Convention.

Business Sessions

This is your chance to help run the fraternity. At business session, the assembled Convention is the governing body of APX. Even if you are not a delegate, you will have the opportunity to voice your opinions and ideas for the future of the fraternity. Our business meetings will be held in the Kress Building. Formerly a department store, the SpringHill Suites recently completed an adaptive-reuse project to transform the building into a ballroom and meeting space.

Elections

This year the positions of Worthy Grand Associate Architect and Worthy Grand Estimator are up for election.

Memphis Tours

There are two planned tours this year. One will be for the Stax Museum and the other will be of a large-scale downtown project designed by Brother Chooch Pickard.

Stax Museum of American Soul Music

Stax began as a tiny record store in an old movie theater and soon grew to become one of the most important music recording studios in the world. When the modest Capitol Theater in the heart of Soulsville USA, Memphis, Tennessee, was transformed into Stax Records in 1959, it launched artists such as Booker T. Jones, Albert King, Otis Redding, Isaac Hayes and many more. Some familiar hits included: "Walking the Dog," "Born Under a Bad Sign," and "Sitting On the Dock of the Bay." This musical culture can be experienced by walking through the 17,000-square-foot facility. The facility has more than 2,000 cultural artifacts, music exhibits, video footage, and items of memorabilia that are designed to preserve and promote the legacy of American soul music. Don't miss this opportunity to visit the only soul music museum in the world.

Court Square Center

Court Square Center is one of the most significant development projects in downtown Memphis. Although downtown has seen resurgence in development over the last 10 years, the Court Square area and Main Street are the last significant portions of downtown to be revitalized. Court Square Center will regenerate Court Square Park, the historical economic center of Memphis, by providing pedestrian activity and interaction and by acting as a social center. The project is programmed as a unique downtown living community combining unique apartments, office, and specialty retail. Although the project is incomplete, the commitment by the developers and the City of Memphis has been a catalyst for other developers to concentrate on this important part of downtown.

The original project consisted of the transformation of three of the most architecturally significant buildings in Memphis into high style residential and commercial spaces. Unfortunately in October 2006, a fire at a nearby church spread to these three buildings. Despite the devastating loss of one of the buildings and a fair amount of damage to the other two, the delay in the project has been minimal. Construction has restarted on the two existing buildings and design is underway on a new contemporary replacement for the 7-story Court Annex building.



In Memphis

The Court Square Center tour will consist of a walk through of the 22-story Lincoln American Building (originally built as offices in 1924) and the 5-story Lowenstein Building (originally built as a department store in 1886) during construction. You will have an opportunity to discuss the project with the contractor and the project architect, Brother Chooch Pickard (Anthemios, 1992).

Professional Events

Keynote Speaker – Dr. Donald Wetmore

Dr. Donald Wetmore, creator of The Productivity Institute, will be our Convention keynote speaker. He is one of a handful of professional speakers who specializes full-time and exclusively in the topics of time management and personal productivity. Although he started speaking to college audiences, he now shares his tips with professionals worldwide. His presentations are entertaining, humorous and down-to-earth, motivating his audiences to enhance their lives on and off the job.

Workshop – “Getting Ahead”

This year’s workshop on “Getting Ahead” focuses on preparation for our professional future and continuing education. This is a workshop geared to enhance your knowledge on professional accreditations and certifications related to architecture and allied arts. Whether you have obtained a professional certification, are working towards one currently or are thinking about the possibilities, this is the place for you. Please join us at the 2007 Convention to learn more about all of our interesting fields and how to get ahead in our world of design. We will be discussing the ARE, NCIDQ, PMP, LEED and other exams/certifications. *If you are interested in helping with this workshop, please contact Lori Beth Wilson, Convention Director at convention@alpharhochi.org.*

Alumni Showcase

This year’s Alumni Showcase will be better than ever. Come see what your working brothers are doing and interact with them in a mock-interview. Look at prospective employers while practicing your own marketing skills in the safe environment of our brotherhood. And if you plan on attending graduate school instead, we will have school presentations alongside the Alumni Showcase. In short, it will be a complete post-graduate experience for every taste and need. *If you would like to represent your firm or school in this year’s showcase, please contact Lori Beth Wilson at convention@alpharhochi.org.*

Robert Ivy To Be Initiated as Honorary Member at APX Convention

At our upcoming Convention, Alpha Rho Chi will have the honor of initiating a new member into our brotherhood, Mr. Robert Ivy, FAIA.

An internationally renowned and accomplished editor, writer, and architect, Robert Ivy became the Editor-In-Chief of *Architectural Record* in 1996 and since then has led the publication to become the world’s most widely read architectural journal, as well as winning multiple awards for excellence.

Originally from the state of Mississippi, Mr. Ivy holds a Bachelors Degree (Cum Laude) in English from Southern University and a Masters in Architecture Degree from Tulane University. Previously the principal of a successful architectural practice, Mr. Ivy has gained international status as a writer with his book on the works of Fay Jones, as well as his work as the Editorial Director of McGraw-Hill Construction Media. He has conducted interviews with Pritzker Prize winners, AIA Gold Medalists, and the Aga Khan. A frequent public speaker, Mr. Ivy has been a member of many awards juries and has been a moderator at such events as the World Trade Center Conference and the AIA National Convention, and has frequently led discussion panels at such locations as the Chicago Art Institute, and New York’s Guggenheim Museum. In 2004 and 2006 Mr. Ivy served as Commissioner of the US Pavillion at the Venice Biennale of Architecture.

Mr. Ivy is currently a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, the Philippine Institute of Architects, the Institute for Urban Design, and holds the position of Peer Reviewer for the U.S. General Services Administration. He also serves on the advisory board of the architecture schools at Tulane University, Mississippi State University, and Auburn University’s Rural Studio.

This initiation will take place on Friday evening, and is only open to Alpha Rho Chi brothers. More details will be available at Convention. If you are interested in helping with the initiation, please contact the Grand Lecturer, Brian Swilling at glect@alpharhochi.org.

Archi Marketplace

Stock up on APX merchandise at Convention. Each year, chapters bring goods to sell at the Archi Marketplace – showcasing their chapter’s individuality and creativity while raising some funds. In past years, chapters have sold t-shirts, sweatshirts, glassware, frames, stickers, etc. We look forward to see what the chapters will showcase this year.

The chapters will also have the opportunity to present what their chapter has done in the past year through a slideshow (or similar) which will play while everyone browses the items for sale. *Please contact Lori Beth Wilson at convention@alpharhochi.org if your chapter plans to display a presentation.*

Convention Packages

Full Convention Package

Cost: \$175.00

Early Bird - Before February 15: \$150.00

This year full registration includes

- Friday breakfast and lunch
- Saturday breakfast and lunch
- Ticket to Saturday awards banquet at Balinese Ballroom
- Tour of either Stax or Court Center Square
- Access to business meetings, workshops, speaker presentation and breakout sessions
- Official 60th Convention t-shirt

Banquet Only Package

Cost: \$75.00

Early Bird - Before February 15: \$65.00

- Ticket to Saturday awards banquet at Balinese Ballroom
- Guest tickets may be purchased separately, limit one guest per full price banquet attendee.

Spouse/Guest Banquet Ticket

Cost: \$50.00

Early Bird - Before February 15: \$40.00

- Ticket to Saturday awards banquet at Balinese Ballroom as guest of attendee with full Convention banquet-only package
- Active members may not attend on guest ticket.

Registration

- Check, money order, and major credit cards (Visa/MasterCard) are accepted for payment.
- Checks should be made payable to Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity.
- The completed registration form must be returned along with FULL payment. Registration cannot be considered complete, and space will not be reserved, if full payment is not received along with the registration form.
- If postmarked after March 10th please follow the onsite registration instructions listed below.
- You must register a guest/spouse separately for the conference. (Please duplicate the registration form).
- Registrations are processed in the order received.
- Please review your conference registration receipt for accuracy.

Onsite Registration

- Advanced registration will not be accepted if postmarked after March 10th. After this date, you must register on site. Onsite registration is subject to a **\$10.00 service charge**.
- Due to seating restrictions, it may not be possible to purchase tickets onsite to all events.
- The registration desk will be open at the Marriott SpringHill Suites on Thursday

Hotel Information

Marriott SpringHill Suites Memphis Downtown

This year, we will be staying at the Marriott SpringHill Suites, right in downtown Memphis. This brand new facility in a premier location is very popular with tourists and business people alike. **The reservation deadline for the National Convention rate is February 15, 2007.** However, this hotel books up very quickly. Don't delay in making your reservations!!

You can call the toll free reservation number at 800-593-6415, or call the hotel directly at 901-522-2100. Make sure to state that you are attending the Alpha Rho Chi Convention to ensure you get the proper rate. The hotel's web page is <http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/MEMMP>.

Unlike previous convention hotels, The Marriott Spring Hill Suites is a "suite hotel." Each suite can hold between 5-6 people. The room rate is \$139/night, plus room and sales tax (currently 15.95%).

Each room has two queen beds and pull out sofa, as well as a small refrigerator, microwave, and pantry. The entire hotel has free wired and wireless high-speed Internet access. All guests are welcome to use the heated outdoor pool, hot tub and the fitness room.

If you choose to drive to Memphis, parking costs at the hotel are \$5/day. There is no hotel airport shuttle, but there are many independent transportation services available. Information will be posted online regarding airport shuttles.

The hotel is located in the heart of downtown across from Court Square, and directly along the city's trolley line. The famous Beale Street is a short 1/2-mile trolley ride away. Business sessions will be held in the adjacent Kress Building.

Cancellation and Refunds

- Requests to cancel or to substitute must be in writing or via email to the WGAA.
- Refunds will be issued within 60 days of receiving written or email notification.
- All refunds will be assessed a \$25.00 processing fee.
- 100% refund (less processing) if postmarked before March 16th
- 50% refund if postmarked after March 16th

Please remember that lodging arrangements must be made separately. Hotel information is provided above.

Check and money order only payable to Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity.

Register online, or mail completed registration form to:

Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity
c/o WGAA Laura E. Schmidt
12320 Texas Ave. #6
Los Angeles, CA 90025



60th National Convention

Memphis, Tennessee • March 22-25, 2007

Cut and mail with payment to: Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity c/o Laura E. Schmidt, WGAA, 12320 Texas Ave. #6, Los Angeles, CA 90025

1 Registration Information

Go to alpharhochi.org/convention to register online. This registration form is also available for download.

Last Name, First Name, M.I. _____ Chapter Name / Alumni Association / Non-Member _____
 Street Address, City, State, Zip Code _____
 Home Phone _____ Alternate Phone _____ E-mail _____

2 Registration Fees

Purchase a full registration package or purchase tickets to the annual awards banquet. Refer to page 6 for a description of what is included with each event or item. Lodging arrangements must be made separately. See hotel information on page 6.

Event/Item	Early Bird before Feb 15	Feb. 16 to March 10	T-Shirt Size	Amount Included
FULL PACKAGE REGISTRATION	\$150.00	\$172.00	S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/>	
Individual banquet tickets	\$65.00	\$75.00	Purchase separately	
Banquet ticket for spouse (limit 1)	\$40.00	\$50.00	Purchase separately	
Extra T-shirts	\$15.00 each	Quantity: _____	S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/>	
				Grand Total

Preferences

- TOUR PREFERENCE (choose one): Stax Museum Court Center Square
- I'm planning an early arrival on Wednesday.
- I prefer a vegetarian plate at the annual awards banquet.

Payment Options

Full payment must be included with completed registration form. Make checks or money orders payable to **Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity**.

Pay by credit card option (Visa/MasterCard only)

Name (as it appears on card) _____ Card type _____
 Credit card number _____
 Expiration date _____ Amount to be charged _____ Signature _____

Mail completed form to: Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity
 c/o WGAA Laura E. Schmidt
 12320 Texas Ave. #6
 Los Angeles, CA 90025

Alpha Rho Chi

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CONVENTION DETAILS



ALSO: NEW CHAPTER AT TULANE UNIVERSITY • SESHAI AUTHOR/ARCHITECT

Alpha Rho Chi Letter