

Andronicus Alumni Association Report to the 58th National Convention Buffalo, New York • March 17-20, 2005

Andronicus Alumni Association Executive Board

Michael Ellars	President
Kurt Hanna	Vice-President
Anthony McLin	Secretary
John Sterni	Treasurer
Carlos Godinez	Member-at-Large
Laura Schmidt	Member-at-Large and Special Liaison to the Grand Council

Andronicus Alumni Association Web Site

Our humble home on the World Wide Web is at <http://www.andronicusalumni.org/>. We have a number of useful things posted there, including our own message board and past copies of our Alumni Association newsletter, *The Weathervane*.

General Health Report

We are pleased to report that the Andronicus Alumni Association continues to be alive and well, both in terms of membership and finances. We expect a few more graduates to move on to the working world this May and look forward to welcoming them into the Association.

The Association finances are good and stable. This year saw considerable maintenance work done on the house. Even with these rather high costs, we sustained similar revenues of about fifteen percent above operating costs (even with the higher energy costs of 2004). Finances look good projecting through 2005 with a very positive outlook for the rest of the year. The only large expenses predicted for this year are emergency roof repair (due to the recent storms) and seed money for the Andronicus Trust (more on that below).

The Association continues to fund a number of luxury benefits, including a weekly cleaning service, landscaping services (partially underwritten by the USC School of Architecture), and co-funding of certain Chapter events (including Rush). The physical appearance of the Chapter House and grounds continue to be a valuable draw; the Chapter House has remained at nearly full capacity for over a year.

The Weathervane

The official newsletter of the Andronicus Alumni Association is *The Weathervane*. We chose this name because our Chapter's namesake is credited with its creation (or at least its first use on a building) as part of the Horologium, or the Tower of the Winds, in Athens, Greece.



The first edition arrived only a few weeks before the 57th Convention. Since then, we have continued to publish a new edition roughly quarterly, though Issue #4 was skipped due to the holiday season. We encourage all Brothers, Andronicus or otherwise, to submit articles for the newsletter. Contact the Weathervane editor, Kurt Hanna, at weathervane@andronicusalumni.org.

The Andronicus Renovated Chapter House Project Reborn

For over a year, a small but dedicated group of students from the Andronicus Chapter and the Historic Preservation program at USC have documented the Andronicus Chapter House, known historically as the Shankland House. Much of this work led to the creation of a "Historic Structures Report," or HSR, which explains the history of the building, details its current physical condition, and suggests directions for future work.

The Association recognized this valuable resource as the foundation of its restoration efforts. However, the issue of tax-deductible donations – or more specifically, the lack thereof – hindered our progress. After several months of discussions, the Association endorsed a plan to form a charitable trust to enable donations to be tax-deductible. A Board of Directors separate and distinct from the Andronicus Alumni Association was formed and has since begun the task of setting up its legal framework.

The primary purpose of the Andronicus Trust will be to solicit donations to repair, renovate, restore, and preserve the Andronicus Chapter House. Once this ambitious goal is complete, additional funds will be used to maintain the historic quality of the Chapter House. It is also a stated goal of the trust to establish scholarships for a "scholar-in-residence" program geared towards students with an interest in historic preservation.

With the HSR as a general-purpose road map, we are about to begin a massive fundraising effort to restore the Chapter House to its former glory. We believe this process will be educational both for the Brothers involved in the process as well as for the larger student body at the School of Architecture. The end product will serve as a "living laboratory" not just for historic preservation but also for the architectural profession as a whole, providing a window to an all-too-frequently forgotten past.

Alumni Helping Alumni, Alumni Having Fun

With the charitable trust established to handle historic preservation fundraising, the Andronicus Alumni Association will be free to concentrate on developing social and professional programs for Alumni. We hope to attract more alumni by offering useful benefits such as résumé workshops in addition to social gatherings.

One of the changes the Association made this year was to alternate our informal monthly Executive Board meetings with even-less-formal social events. These have included alumni barbeques and a very successful Poker Night.



Sunday April 18th saw the first ever Southern California Regional Alumni event, hosted at Andronicus alumnus Lucio Maramba's house in Westchester. The event was organized by Laura Schmidt as an attempt to capitalize on the many alumni from different chapters who currently work and reside in the Greater Los Angeles area, yet are not typically drawn to Andronicus Alumni events. Though small in numbers, the event was a great start to what we all hope to be a promising future for similar mixers to come.

Heartfelt Passings

This past year was particular hard on Andronicus' notable alumni. April began with the passing of Brother Pierre Koenig, one of the premier architects of the Modern movement in Southern California. As one of his colleagues noted at his life celebration at the USC School of Architecture, Pierre was fortunate to live long enough to be cool *twice*. He designed two Case Study houses, including the famous Case Study #22 that cantilevers over the city below.

In November, Brother Howard Van Heuklyn passed away as well. Howard is perhaps best known for his beautiful sketches that grace the pages of the Archi Pledge. His death came as a surprise to his Andronicus brethren because he had been an active participant – even at age 80 – in the Spring Semester Initiation only a few months earlier. Howard amazed us that night not only with stories of his military experience in China and fraternal escapades, but by staying up all night long to watch the entire Ritual.

The Pierre Koenig Memorial Library

As its Pledge Class project, the Fall 2004 pledges proposed to convert the library at the Andronicus Chapter House to the Pierre Koenig Memorial Library. With assistance from the Andronicus Chapter, support from the USC School of Architecture, and major funding from the Andronicus Alumni Association, the Memorial Library became a reality on February 28, 2005.

VIPs including Gloria and Randy Koenig, Pierre's wife and son, and Robert Timme, Dean of the USC School of Architecture, were on hand to dedicate the facility. The Worthy Architect of the Andronicus Chapter, Alberto Lopez, served as emcee for the event. Dean Timme and Brother Michael Ellars, President of the Andronicus Alumni Association, delivered moving speeches in honor of Brother Koenig.

Together with media coverage from the Daily Trojan (USC's student newspaper), live jazz entertainment, and Gloria Koenig's homemade brownies, the event was an inspiring success.

Fidelitas, Amor et Artes

