

Cleisthenes 2005 Convention Report

The 2004-2005 school year has been the busiest in Cleisthenes' short history. We started off with our annual rush period holding eight rush events in six short weeks. Our hard work paid off when we pledged 23 architecture students at the end of September. For the remainder of the semester the chapter concentrated on pledge retention in response to the loss of fifty percent of our alpha class the year before. This task was made easy by our terrific beta class who consistently showed enthusiasm and desire to become brothers of Alpha Rho Chi, and we ultimately ended up initiating 18 people in January. The initiation was a wonderful success considering it was the first time Cleisthenes has ever had to provide all of the materials for an initiation. Previously we have had the help of our sponsoring chapter, Pytheos, as well as Rabirius. Although we brought the resources this year, initiation could not have happened without our dear friends in the Xenocles Alumni Association. Their assistance was invaluable as they guided us through initiation and prepared us to do it all on our own in Houston next year.

The spring semester for Cleisthenes is all about brotherhood and participation within the college of architecture and the professional community. We have no pledges and we are able to concentrate fully on the goals of the chapter. This year our main foci have been getting everyone in the chapter to Buffalo for convention and taking over the reigns of Frontier Fiesta, the annual three day barbeque festival at the University of Houston. We have constantly been fundraising since the spring semester began, and we are proud to send 14 brothers to this year's convention. Frontier Fiesta planning is well on its way, and it will be as exciting as ever.

Frontier Fiesta is a huge tradition at the University of Houston and at one point in time this event was able to reach national publicity. In the past, Frontier Fiesta was enormous and it was cancelled due to the fact that few students would attend their classes. The event was brought back to campus about a decade ago and it has been growing ever since. Frontier Fiesta is a three-day festival that takes place every spring semester. When people go to fiesta they will have the chance to see variety shows (which is an amateur Broadway style show with singing, dancing, and acting;) cook-offs, live music concerts at the end of each night, a parade to kick off the event, a fiesta queen and a petting zoo, just to name a few. All of the money that is raised at fiesta goes toward University of Houston scholarships for graduating high school students.

Archis Icehouse is the College of Architecture site that is completely student run. All of the students in the building come together to fulfill all that is needed for the event from putting the front together, serving food, cooking, and volunteering their time.

As of March, Cleisthenes has 31 active members. The support that this provides has been a wonderful experience for us all and we have been able to do so much this spring semester. Not a week goes by without an APX event, and we are able to remain enthusiastic and fearless of burnout. This is a relief, considering Frontier Fiesta and White Rose Formal are both around the corner.