

## DEMETRIOS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION REPORT to the 2005 NATIONAL CONVENTION March 15, 2005

The year 2004 was again a year of challenges and achievement. Leadership and progress was achieved through a working committee of alumni which was strongly supported by a 20 person Alumni Advisory Board. Multiple meetings were held throughout the year to discuss and consider ways of re-energizing our alumni organization. By late spring it became apparent that a major opportunity was being presented that would enable us to quickly and effectively revitalize our Alumni and at the same time build a meaningful and lasting relationship with the Knowlton School of Architecture's faculty and students.

The opportunity was the School's dedication of the new Knowlton School of Architecture building which was primarily funded through a gift by Austin "Dutch" Knowlton - an alumnus of the Demetrios Chapter and a 1933 graduate of the School.

Our Working Committee and Advisory Board decided to combine our Founder's Day celebration with the date of the School's building dedication. The dedication was held on Friday October 29<sup>th</sup>. The Alpha Rho Chi Founder's Day reception and open house, also held at Knowlton Hall, immediately followed the dedication. This was followed by a social hour and a dinner banquet for Demetrios Alumni and spouses at the Blackwell Hotel (across the street from the School). Some 60 Demetrios Alumni, their spouses, and Rob Livesey, Director of the School, attended. Special recognition was given at the banquet to "Dutch" Knowlton and Howard LeFevre for their outstanding contribution and support to the Demetrios Chapter over many years. The speaker for the evening was Mike Lanese, former co-captain of the OSU football team, two time Academic All-American, and Rhodes Scholar. Mike spoke on the topic "Coach Tressel and the Art of Leadership".

The highlight of Founder's Day celebration was the unveiling of the Alpha Rho Chi Classroom on the first floor of the Knowlton School of Architecture building. The naming rights for this room were made possible through funding from the Demetrios Control Corporation, Board of Directors, and its members. The Corporation made current and future resources available for the acquisition with the intent that the fraternity will have a place for our alumni and future student members to meet.

Another highlight in 2004 was the updating of the Demetrios Alumni Association data base. Names, addresses, telephone numbers, and in many cases e-mail addresses, have been updated and confirmed for approximately 325 alumni. It is the most up-to-date listing we have ever had. This list was used for the Founder's Day mailing and will be shared with the National Office.

Plans for 2005 are as follows:

- (1) Distribute updated mailing list
- (2) Develop and carry-out plans for sustaining and expanding Alumni interest and involvement
- (3) Develop a plan for a "Dutch" Knowlton memorabilia showcase in the Knowlton School of Architecture building
- (4) Evaluate the feasibility and develop a plan for establishing a revitalized active chapter. Begin implementation, if possible.