



## Report to the 61<sup>st</sup> National Convention

Metagenes Alumni Association of the Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity

### **Founders' Day 2007**

On a beautiful Saturday afternoon last April, nearly 30 brothers of the Metagenes Chapter and Alumni Association met in a park not far from the Virginia Tech campus to celebrate Founders' Day. The original plan was for three generations of Metagenes brothers to break bread together, to renew fraternal bonds and to celebrate the success of our once-again "young" chapter. However, with the tragedy at Virginia Tech just five days earlier weighing heavily on everyone's heart, our little event seemed, on one hand, not so significant. But for those brothers present, Founders' Day 2007 will be always remembered for the strength that we gained from one another, for on that day, we learned a valuable lesson about brotherhood that isn't taught during pledge training.

Providing the highlight of the picnic, the Metagenes Chapter presented Kim Clark the Dwight Palmer "Pop" Ely award for his unflinching dedication and service to Alpha Rho Chi. It was especially significant that the chapter honored Brother Clark at that time, since he served as pledge educator and mentor for many of the graduating actives during the chapter's recent colonization.

Following our Founders' Day events, following the lead of alumni brother Ray Consoli, all of us headed to campus and presented a wreath and plaque at the altar of the War Memorial Chapel honoring those 32 lives the Hokie Nation lost earlier in the week. We visited the impromptu memorial, which would become the site of the permanent memorial to the fallen, which was dedicated last fall.

The Metagenes Alumni Association joins with our active chapter in thanking all of those across the land for their outpouring of support following this tragedy. Not unnoticed among the myriad of cards, letters, signed banners, bulletin board postings and gifts received by Virginia Tech during the following weeks, were those from APX brothers, chapters and the institutions where they reside. Thank you all.

### **Graduation 2007**

New Blood. As a result of our chapter's inactivity from the mid-1990s through 2004, we had no members graduate to the Alumni Association. On May 11, we were pleased to welcome ten new graduates to our ranks. We put many of them to work quickly, as Michelle Ringley, Brian Earle, Kent McCullough, Kristen Ruch and Matthew Williams were elected to our Board of Directors, joining veterans Michele LeTourner, Kim Clark, Ray Consoli and Jeff Kendrick. The new board was installed at our summer picnic held in Quinton, Virginia, just outside of Richmond.

## **Homecoming 2007**

The Alumni Association hosted a tailgate party before the VT – UNC game on September 29. Turnout was modest, but we did have one alum, John Cariati, make the cross-country trip to visit with brothers and catch up on the ever-changing campus. The gathering included about eight alumni and a dozen of our active members.

## **Alumni Association Strategy Session**

On March 1, 2008, our board and other interested alumni met in Alexandria, VA to start work on our visioning process. For an entire afternoon, we discussed our roles as alumni, our relationship with the chapter, and how we could best serve our chapter, and its members. Realizing that “brotherhood” is a difficult concept to sell to someone on the outside looking in, we concluded that alumni can give tangibly to the chapter by providing more in the way of lectures, resume workshops, firm tours and rush support. Sponsoring and providing these types of events for our active chapter will not only give membership in Alpha Rho Chi more tangible value, it will also reinforce the intrinsic benefits that we all treasure as brothers. Also at the meeting, we planned several regional events designed to bring more alumni back into the fold. Two committees were appointed – one to study the pros and cons of pursuing acquisition of a “home base” in Blacksburg, and what form that “home base” might take, and a professional committee to pursue those previously mentioned lectures, resume workshops, etc.

The board voted to increase alumni dues to \$25 annually, and a newsletter will be published by early May which will request payment of said dues, the first such solicitation in three years.