Alpha Rho Chi Medals Awarded in 22 Schools

The Alpha Rho Chi Medal for 1950 was awarded in 22 Schools of Architecture where the honor has been established. Three schools—Virginia Polytechnic Institute at Blacksburg, Va., Tulane University at New Orleans, and Iowa State College at Ames—were given the use of the medal for the first time this year.

The medal is bronze, from an original design by Merrell Gage, sculptor, and is awarded to a graduating senior at each school for leadership, service to his school and department, and promise of professional merit. Selection is made by the architecture faculty.

Established by Alpha Rho Chi in 1931, the medal is awarded to “encourage professional leadership by rewarding student accomplishment; promote the ideals of professional service by acknowledging distinctive individual contributions to school life; stimulate professional merit by commending qualities in the student not necessarily pertaining to scholarship.” It has been awarded annually since 1932 except in 1944 and 1945 and at those times when a faculty withheld nomination because of the absence of worthy candidates.

The Fraternity believes the profession of architecture needs trained leaders and unselfish workers as much as it needs brilliant designers and that high scholastic attainment is not always an indication of professional merit.

(Continued on page 6)

Functions of W.G.E., W.G.S. Changed At A.P.X.’s 22nd National Convention

Changes in the functions of the Grand Council Offices of Worthy Grand Estimator and Worthy Grand Scribe were made at the 22nd National Convention of Alpha Rho Chi held at the Anthemios Chapter House at Champaign, Ill., June 17, 18 and 19.

Revisions of the Constitution and by-laws necessary to make these changes effective were formally adopted. Changes were also adopted in the number and method of selecting Convention delegates.

George A. Whitten, Anthemios, of Wilmette, Illinois was re-elected Worthy Grand Estimator and James G. Lendrum, Iktinos, of Champaign was elected Worthy Grand Scribe, succeeding Verle L. Annis of Los Angeles, to whom was sent a telegram of thanks for his “many years of devoted interest and unselfish service to our Fraternity.”

Because it had been found difficult to fill Grand Council offices owing to the time-consuming duties in the absence of any paid staff, the Convention transferred the responsibility for all membership records, active and alumni, from the office of W.G.S. to W.G.E. and provided paid secretarial help for the W.G.E. That officer remains responsible for all financial affairs and is to submit a budget for Grand Council operations to each Convention. The W.G.S. will be responsible for distribution of the Alpha Rho Chi Medal and for records of the Grand Council and Convention proceedings.

In order to achieve more continuity in convention experience, it was provided that hereafter each chapter is to send two delegates instead of one. One of the delegates is to be an upper classman and the other a lower classman. Each chapter will continue to have one vote, however.

Action was taken to require each chapter alumni association to select its alumni delegates to future conventions. In the past the method of selection had not been specified. Each chapter will continue to have one alumni vote.

(Continued on page 6)
The death of Mr. Eliel Saarinen of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, last July has been widely noted in architectural publications. Mr. Saarinen was Master Architect of Alpha Rho Chi and many members of the Fraternity have been privileged to know him and have gained inspiration from his work.

Delegates and visitors at the 1948 Convention in Ann Arbor will remember his interesting talk at the Convention banquet.

President of Cranbrook Academy of Art, Mr. Saarinen had been visiting lecturer at the University of Michigan College of Architecture for a time, after his design for the Chicago Tribune competition in 1922 had brought him to America from his native Finland. In 1947 he was awarded the Gold Medal of the A.I.A. and in 1950 the Royal

Gold Medal for Architecture by the R.I.B.A. He was known throughout the profession as an architect of great talent, a creative artist, and a leading town planner.

Nineteen Hold Paid Life Memberships
Twenty Make Partial Life Memberships

George Whitten, W.G.E., reports that paid up Life Memberships are now held by 19 alumni, with 20 more members making partial payments. Life Memberships are available on payment of $25 Life Dues, at one time or in installments over 3 consecutive years. Whitten points out that the Life Memberships are an important part of the Alumni Dues program and should not be confused with Archi Life Subscriptions paid by all members at initiation. The Alumni Dues program is gaining encouraging support and its continued success will make possible important strengthening of the fraternity's national organization.

Paid Up Life Members are:

No. 1 Dwight P. Ely, W.G.A. Demetrios
No. 2 LeRoy Annis, W.G.S. Thesis
No. 3 G. A. Whitten, W.G.E. Antioch
No. 4 Myron Johnson, Mnesicles
No. 5 Anton Johnson, Mnesicles
No. 6 E. L. Tuckett, Mnesicles
No. 7 John P. Gurey, Mnesicles
No. 8 Kenneth C. Black, Iktinos
No. 9 R. E. Hampton, Mnesicles
No. 10 Wm. H. Koennig, Mnesicles
No. 11 Robert M. Meyer, Andronicus
No. 12 Warren C. Sutter, Deinocrates
No. 13 John R. Byggard, Mneme

Partial payments toward Life Memberships have been made by:

ANTHIMOS — W. R. Auable, Fred A. Rohn, Donald Schmidt, Carl R. Blum and John Pickett.


Iktinos — Sylvester J. Stepnoski, C. Mason Whitney, Chas. Taylor Miller, John H. White, Jr., Albert B. Berg, Charles G. Slater, Miguel Carlos Rosas.

Kallikrates — Ecles D. Everhart, Donald H. Beall.

POLYKLYTOS — George Dick Smith, Jr.

Annual dues of $1.00 have been paid for 1950 by:


Monroe Winslow, Jr., Denver Markwith, Jr.


KALLIKRATES — W. M. Brown, Paul C. Edmund, Donald H. Beall.


William Scheick Starts Second Year As Head of Research Advisory Group


Mr. Scheick, who recently began his second year as Executive Director of the Building Research Advisory Board, has always had the bump of architectural curiosity. Much of his professional life since graduating from Carnegie Tech in 1928 has been devoted to the search for new ideas in building and the effort to get them accepted in the industry.

A teacher for most of those years, first at Oklahoma A&M. and since 1930 at Illinois as Associate Professor of Design, he also carried on a private residential practice from 1935 until the war years. He says, “My designs look very conservative now, but I was always trying to get into each house just as many new ideas as I could sell to the client.”

Building research became his career in 1944 when, he writes, “A special committee appointed by the Dean of Engineering at the President’s request, decided to inaugurate a program of coordinated housing research at Illinois. The new agency was named the Small Homes Council, and I was made director, with a staff of one. We had the cooperation of a number of departments at the University, however—the coordination of inter-departmental work was the main idea behind the Council— and began at once to publish bulletins on various phases of house design, construction, equipment, and so on. Support for research projects was obtained as the publications brought favorable attention from many quarters.”

Illinois was already well known for home heating research by its Engineering Experiment Station. In 1947, when the Small Homes Council was formed, a main line of housing research by working on the principles of modular design and construction. More than forty experimental houses were built during these experiments, with thirty built at one time as a faculty housing project in 1949.

“My work with the Small Homes Council during the five years, 44-49, took me away to many meetings and conventions of organizations in the building industry. I was fortunate in making many friends this way, and I found after the war that more and more of the leading thinkers in the industry were looking toward research to improve building methods.

“In 1947, a group of industry men got the idea of establishing a Building Research Advisory Board in the National Research Council to form an independent agency for stimulating and correlating all kinds of research related to building. A board of about twenty-eight men was named by NRC, including individuals from industry, government, educational institutions and the professions. Walter Taylor (A.P.X., Demetrios), Director of Education and Research for the A.I.A., and I were the two architects on the first Board. I was selected, I’m sure, for my experience in housing research rather than for my (academic) record in architecture.”

In 1949 when it was decided to appoint an Executive Director for B.R.A.B., Mr. Scheick was tapped and has been on leave from Illinois since then. He writes further, “Basically the objectives of B.R.A.B. include surveys to determine what is being done in building research, what needs to be done to solve new problems, and activities to stimulate and develop research in quarters where research is lacking. These activities cut across all fields of research in the schools, in government, and in industrial and commercial laboratories. Some parts of the building industry are more research minded than others, and I must devote much time to the development of interest in research where it is lacking. The new government program of housing research by the Housing and Home Finance Agency has attracted a great deal of attention and has served to quicken interest in the subject.

“Research” probably sounds like test tubes and thermocouples to the average architect, but the new concepts of building research extend far beyond the purely technical phases of the overall subject. We recognize that the (Continued on page 4)
William Scheick...  
(Continued from page 3)  
problems of habitation and use are the basic problems for all buildings, and this concept points out tremendous opportunities for study in fundamental problems of design, engineering, and construction techniques.

Mr. Scheick has been in architecture since his high school days in Uniotown, Pa., when he worked summers in the office of J. C. Fulton and Son. As an undergraduate at Carnegie Tech he was an A.P.X., Polykittos Chapter. After getting his sheepskin, he returned to Uniotown for a year as draftsman and designer and then the urge to get more varied experience and the hope of winning a traveling scholarship took him further afield.

He found a teaching job at Oklahoma A&M under Prof. Philip A. Wilber. The next year he went to the University of Illinois and has made his home at Urbana ever since. He taught junior design and did graduate work under Prof. Arthur F. Dean, receiving his M.S. in 1934. He won the Warren Prize in 1931 and in 1932 captured the Le Brun Prize. That meant a six-month automobile trip of Europe, sight-seeing and sketching.

Two years after returning to Illinois, he married Violet Johnson of Belvedere, Ill. and “began a project of family raising which is still going on with three boys now aged 15, 13 and 3.”

L. Morgan Yost Elected Chicago A.I.A. President
L. Morgan Yost (Demetrios) of Kenilworth, Ill. is President of the Chicago Chapter, A. I. A. During the past year Mr. Yost has been editor of the widely enjoyed Chicago Chapter Bulletin.

Clair Ditchy Re-elected Secretary of A.I.A.
Clair W. Ditchy, F.A.I.A. of Detroit, past W.G.A., was re-elected Secretary of the American Institute of Architects at the 1950 Convention in Washington.
Clinton Cowgill Wins A.I.A. Fellowship, Re-election to N.C.A.R.B. Presidency

Clinton H. Cowgill

This year has brought two top-flight honors to Clinton H. Cowgill of Virginia Polytechnic Institute at Blacksburg, Va., with elevation to Fellowship in the American Institute of Architects and re-election as president of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards.

His A.I.A. Fellowship citation was "For achievement in Education". Prof. Cowgill has been Head of the Department of Architecture at VPI since 1928 and since 1949 a member of the A.I.A. Commission to Survey Architectural Education and Registration.

As President of NCARB, Prof. Cowgill has gained recognition for an outstanding job. Through the "National Architect", official publication of the Board, he has effectively promoted wider understanding of the work of NCARB. He has been active in professional registration work since 1932 when he was appointed to the Virginia State Board for registration of Architects and Engineers. Since 1944 he has worked with the NCARB as Chairman of the Board of Review, and since 1949 as President.

Prof. Cowgill was a member of Anthemothis Chapter, Alpha Rho Chi, at University of Illinois, where he received his bachelor's degree in 1916 and a master's degree in 1923. He had his first taste of teaching—the vocation to which he has since devoted many years—as instructor in architecture after ten years as instructor in teaching the vocation to the vocation of teaching. He has been active in professional organizations.

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Cohagen, deGelleke Get N.C.A.R.B. Certificates

The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, at its 1950 convention in Washington, introduced a new feature in the awarding of certificates to veteran members of state boards, for long and distinguished service. Included among those recognized for having served on their boards for 20 years or more were two Alpha Rho Chi alumni, Chandler C. Cohagen of Billings, Montana, and Gerritt J. deGelleke of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Mr. Cohagen, Iktinos, is one of the Founders of Alpha Rho Chi and was the first W.G.S. He graduated from University of Michigan in 1914. Mr. deGelleke, also Iktinos, graduated from Michigan in 1931.
Alumni delegates raised questions concerning the present Constitutional provisions limiting membership in Alpha Rho Chi to students of architecture and allied professions but met opposition to change from members of active chapters. No action was taken, but with respect to honorary membership the Constitution was altered to read, “Honorary members shall consist of members of the Faculty and others who will reflect honor to the Fraternity.”

The Committee on Expansion recommended that information concerning prospective new or reactivated chapters be circulated as widely as possible among active and alumni members to promote personal contacts with potential new groups. The delegates favored additional chapters but emphasized that careful consideration must be given to the strength and probable permanency of any petitioning group.

The Committee on Education submitted a report outlining a plan to promote better knowledge of Fraternity laws and duties among all members and to train new chapter officers in their duties. The report was adopted with the recommendation that it be followed by all active chapters.

To promote a better recognition of the purposes and significance of the medal award, the W.G.S. was authorized to conduct a competition among active chapters for a design of a proposed display incorporating the medal.

Grand Council officers discussed problems of publishing the Archi and received some suggestions from the convention although no candidate for the editorship could be found. The delegates recommended that each chapter send copies of its local newsletter to all other chapters.

The Convention thought it valuable to publish a directory with names arranged both alphabetically and geographically. George Whitten told the delegates that with the work done in the past two years on the Archi mailing list, such a directory would be possible and that he would undertake its preparation. Jack Goldman, for Anthemios Chapter, undertook to promote an Alpha Rho Chi songbook which had been proposed at the previous Convention.

The Convention recommended that each chapter establish the practice of sending one of its members to the American Institute of Architects convention. Selection of the member and financing of the trip would be left to the chapter.

The next Convention was set for June 12, 13 and 14, 1952 at a place to be decided later. A proposal to make conventions annual was discarded on the grounds of prohibitive expense.

Accredited delegates were: Geo. A. Whitten, Grand Council; Rod Lopez-Fabrega, Andronicus; Jack M. Goldman, Anthemios; Kenneth A. Smith, Anthemios alumni; John Lumatainen, Demetrius; Dwight P. Ely, Demetrius alumni; Richard C. Zimmer, Iktinos; Don Pates, Mnesicles. Officers were: Dale Benedict, President and Edward W. Sweeny, Secretary, (both Anthemios). Other members participating were: Ralph W. Hammett (Mnesicles) of the University of Michigan Faculty; Harry Wendell (Anthemios alumni) and Robert A. Blakeslee (Anthemios W.A.A.)

A.P.X. Medals...

(Continued from page 1)

ideals and professional aspiration, public service and leadership are worthy of recognition. Graduates honored this year and their schools are:

James Garrick Cheyne Jr., Alabama Polytechnic.
William Addison Cornwell, Cal.
David Alford Crane, Georgia Tech.
Albert Szabo, Harvard.
Neale Richard Skorkburg, Ill.
Paul S. Skiles, Iowa State.
Claude A. Van Doren, Kan. U.
Robert Rowland, Minnesota.
John F. Lipaj, Ohio State.
Warren H. Hall, Oklahoma A&M.
Rai Yukio Okamoto, Penn.
Harry Brown Wilson Jr., Southern California.
Raymond Fine, Syracuse.
Ernest Allen Connally, Texas.
John Guilford Warren, Tulane.
Kenneth Woodrow Cogan, V. P. I.
Wm. Henry Trogdon, Wash.
Laurence P. Berri, Wash. U.
John Henry Zoller Jr., Western Reserve.