

# The ArchiTech

The Quarterly Publication of the Metagenes Chapter

SUMMER 1983

## □ From the WGAA...

To the brothers of Metagenes,

It is a great honor to have been elected the first Worthy Grand Associate Architect of our fraternity at the 38th National Convention. As you know, this newly constituted position on the Grand Council carries a variety of responsibilities. The first, of course, is to assist the WGA in the disposition of his day-to-day duties as may be required. The second, and perhaps the most important, is to coordinate alumni activities and fund raising on the national level. And the third is to work closely with the other members of the Grand Council to strengthen existing professional programs and to initiate new ones for both the active chapters and our alumni.

As the guinea pig for this new office, I am particularly sensitive to the precedents which I may set for future brothers who will hold the office of WGAA. I am also very much aware that, as the first Metagenes brother to hold a national office, I have an additional responsibility to my chapter and to you, my brothers.

The success or failure of my efforts as WGAA will largely depend upon the support and rapport that you and I develop. I realize full well that there have been significant obstacles which have, in the past, discouraged many of you from actively contributing to the activities of our fraternity, both locally and nationally. Until recently, I shared many of those same feelings.

The fraternity now has a core group of leaders who are dedicated to making positive changes and to implementing new programs. The often counterproductive and unprofessional attitudes which have plagued our fraternity for many years are now gone. I am proud to serve you as a member of this new professional team.

We have a chapter, an alumni association, and a national organization which need our support. Our chapter and alumni association delegates made outstanding presentations at the national convention and were very vocal in representing our interests. I feel very proud to be a Metagenes brother and I look forward to the great things we all are going to accomplish starting now!

Please join with me and your other brothers in making Metagenes a dominant force in our fraternity.

In brotherhood,  
R. Wayne Burford, AIA  
Worthy Grand Associate Architect  
Alpha Rho Chi

## □ Ritual...

As you all know from the last ArchiTech and from Jim Lytle's postcards, Chuck Nickel visited Blacksburg recently as a representative from National. Chuck, Demetrios alumnus and Worthy Grand Scribe, was appointed to view our ritual and report to the Grand Council. In turn, the Grand Council will discuss the issue and make a recommendation to the 39th National Convention, and the convention will make a decision concerning our chapter's ritual.

Chuck was very impressed with our execution of the ritual as well as with our great concern for the future of our traditions. In a two hour meeting following initiation weekend we made our strong feelings evident. Chuck seemed to think that we have a good chance of being granted a waiver, allowing us to continue to do things our way, but reminded us that if we do obtain a waiver we may be challenged again at any time. His suggestion was that if we truly feel that our version is better, we attempt to change the ritual nationally. Of course this task would be far from simple. Apparently our best argument for our case is our concern for it. Chuck has promised to let us know as soon as the Grand Council reaches a decision on this matter.

## □ Logo...

Due to lack of interest the logo competition is still without a winner. A plan was devised for extending the contest, but so far we have received no more entries. As soon as the alumni association decides how to handle this situation, I will announce the outcome. In the meantime, thinking about possible designs for a logo couldn't hurt.

■ Continued...

## □ Get ready...

Although it's still a few months away, as soon as we return to school in the fall, we will begin planning for homecoming. Homecoming weekend falls on October 21 through 23 this year, and we hope that many alumni are able to attend. Our festivities will run as usual, with a Saturday morning brunch, the homecoming game, a mixed-drink party, and a Sunday meeting for alumni.

I will be including reply cards in the fall issue of The ArchiTech, so that we can find out who is planning on attending homecoming, but you may respond now if you like.

Several actives have shown an interest in having a formal dance to be sponsored by the fraternity. Some other chapters have "White Rose" balls and formals which are traditionally held in the spring. Since our Founders' Weekend is so full, perhaps we could incorporate a formal into our homecoming celebration.

Our social chairman is busily gathering information regarding the cost involved and the facilities available for such an event. We would like to hear from interested alumni so that we can decide whether or not to seriously consider a White Rose Formal. Any suggestions are welcome.

## □ Competition...

In a recent newsletter mailed from Tech's College of Architecture and Urban Studies, Dean Charles W. Steger announced a competition which is open to alumni of the college. Following is the content of the announcement as it appears in the newsletter:

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University is sponsoring an open competition for the design of a Student Services Building.

The estimated 21,000 sq. ft., 2.5 million dollar structure will serve as a comprehensive service facility to be located adjacent to Burruss Hall within the northwest quadrant of the campus. The building is to be considered as part of the University's infill plan and, in that light, will serve as a link between Burruss and Pamplin Halls as well as providing some definition to the Cowgill Plaza.

First Prize	\$5,000
Second Prize	2,000
Third Prize	1,000
Honorable Mentions	

The package of competition materials will be available from the college June 1, at a cost of \$25. Please send requests to:

Design Competition  
College of Architecture and Urban Studies  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061  
(703) 961-6415

All entries are due by 5:00 pm, Friday, September 2, 1983. The Awards Jury will convene on September 9. Winners will be notified immediately. Awards will be presented at a formal ceremony later in the Fall.

A panel of independent jurors will consist of nationally recognized practitioners and academicians.

Procurement regulations of the Commonwealth of Virginia for the employment of Architectural and Engineering firms prohibit Virginia Tech from guaranteeing an award of contract. Virginia Tech employees and family are ineligible.

Wayne Burford has informed me that Dean Steger has made a personal donation to Alpha Rho Chi National for furtherance of goals and objectives. We were pleasantly surprised to hear it.

## □ Still missing...

In the last issue of The ArchiTech I mentioned that several of our alumni are missing. With the exception of Barbara Byrnside (whose name I misspelled the last time around) addresses for these people still elude us. If anyone can help us to get in touch with any of the following alumni, it would be appreciated greatly.

Chester Crowley  
Richard Heald  
Melvin Thomas Drumheller  
Barry William Messmer  
Alexander G. Waddell  
Brian Jeffrey Backman  
Theodore Eugene Mader  
David Douglas Firestone

Dennis Wayne Hedgepeth  
Robert Craig McConnell  
Terry Eugene Holtzinger  
Robert Alan Rapaport  
Nancy Joyce Brown  
Lester Earl Long, Jr.  
Pamela Rae West (now married)  
Keville B. Ware

■ Continued...

## □ New brothers ...

Several alumni have asked that I help them to feel more in touch with the active chapter by including in The ArchiTech some personal information about our newest brothers. Here goes:

The Alpha Eta initiation in the fall brought us four new brothers. Yost Conner is a 20 year old architecture student from Alexandria, Virginia, and he has just completed his second year at Tech. Yost is active in the student chapter of the AIA and is a Boy Scout leader for a troop in Blacksburg. He is a member of our ritual committee.

Julie Kephart is a 19 year old from Ridgeley, West Virginia, and she has just finished her second year of architecture. Julie is president for the upcoming year of the student chapter of the AIA and is our social chairman. She is interested in graphics as well as housing and urban design. Julie is also working towards a minor in English.

Jenni Green is a 19 year old, rising third year architecture student from Charlottesville, Virginia. She is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and is our chaplain. Jenni is interested in working in urban design.

Also initiated in the fall is Chris McGhee, a 20 year old architecture student who has just completed his second year of school. Chris is from Orange, Virginia, he enjoys sports, and is a peer group leader here on campus. Chris worked on an animated film earlier this year and is currently our bar chairman.

Roz Cowell was initiated early this spring as the lone member of the Alpha Theta pledge class. She is from Virginia Beach, is 19 years old, and is an active member of the student chapter of the AIA. Roz enjoys music and photography.

Just a couple of weeks ago the Alpha Iota initiation left us with one more new brother, Sue Smith. Sue is a junior in interior design from Unionville, Virginia and is involved in the student chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers as chairman of fund raising. She has also been an active member of the VTU Art Committee and is interested in lighting design for interiors and the stage, as well as in furniture design and restoration of historic buildings.

## □ Archi-Preservation ...

A satellite committee of the Metagenes Chapter, Archi-Preservation is a group of brothers interested in the field of historic preservation. The intent of the committee is:

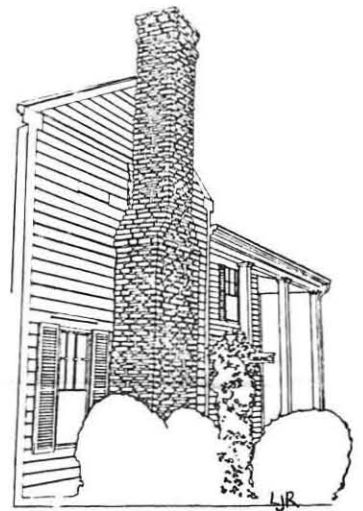
- to study and promote awareness of the significance of the historic designed environment
- to establish the character of Blacksburg by defining its past historical fabric and its present historical content, and by establishing criteria to determine the benefits and consequences of future development
- to protect the historic content of Blacksburg through historical registration

Presently a historical case study of the Nelson Price house at 107 Wharton Street is underway, moving towards registration as a Blacksburg Historic Site District. The structure is a two-story, L-shaped frame home, built circa 1840. Originally a log cabin, additions have been made to the rear of the house, and the entire structure has been covered with weatherboarding.

This spring the Archi-Preservation committee sponsored a tour of Smithfield Plantation for the active brothers. The group has also begun to get involved with the New River Valley Chapter of the Archeological Society of Virginia as it looks into some possibilities of other areas of interest.

Archi-Preservation hopes to branch out more into the community in the future, opening membership to students and the public. We look forward to the fall and hope it brings many new opportunities for Archi-Preservation's success. Any suggestions submitted to the committee would be greatly appreciated.

Allen McDonald



note: Allen McDonald and Linda Roberts are co-chairmen of the Archi-Preservation committee. The group is funded by a percentage of the proceeds generated by our chapter's annual art auction.

■ Continued...

## ☐ Etcetera, Etcetera,...

We are losing five graduating seniors to the real world this June. Congratulations to Ken Barfield, Kim Clark, Laura DeSantis, Jackson Maio, and Alex Roe. Congratulations also to Amy Carter, who will be around for another three years, as she is attending veterinary school here at Tech.

Congratulations to active brother Liz Clark whose design for a playground wall won third place in this year's Concrete Block Competition. The competition is an annual contest which is sponsored by the Concrete Masonry Association of Virginia. Liz was awarded \$200.00 for her winning entry.

## ☐ By the Way ...

The chapter needs to obtain a new keg cooler for fall rush. We have collected quite a bit of money in donations from both actives and alumni, but don't have enough to purchase what we need. Further contributions would be appreciated, and in the event that we receive more money than we need, the excess will be applied to our debt to National.

## ☐ Calendar ...

- 06.10 Commencement Exercises
- 06.10 Weeklong Excursion to Chesapeake Bay
- ? Summer House Stripping or Painting Party at  
105 Lucas Drive, Blacksburg
- ? Some Sort of Summer Bash in Northern VA
- 09.21 Classes Begin  
Rush Begins
- 10.22 Morning Brunch at House  
Homecoming Game (Richmond)  
Mixed Drink Party at House
- 10.23 Alumni Meeting at House
- 11.18 Tentative Initiation Date
- 11.19 Initiation Continues

