

metagenews

Official Newsletter of the Metagenes Alumni Association



Metagenes 40th Anniversary

by Kim Clark

Forty years ago last month, two architecture students returned for winter quarter at VPI wearing the badge of Alpha Rho Chi, but T.A. Watson and Mark David Kavanaugh had no chapter with which to affiliate. They set about colonizing a group of fellow students who would form the genesis of this new architecture organization. On March 23, 1969, T.A., Mark and fourteen new initiates were awarded a charter by the National Fraternity, and the Metagenes Chapter was officially installed.

Leap ahead to the present- 2009. During the weekend of April 4, brothers from all eras will gather in Blacksburg to celebrate the vision of these sixteen men and the contributions of hundreds of other brothers, each of whom have played a distinct role in the forty-year history of the Metagenes Chapter. The weekend will include tours of the newly renovated Cowgill Hall and Burchard Hall, as well as other local sites. But most of all, this will be a time of reminiscing, reflection and recognition that you won't want to miss. The event will kick off on Friday, April 3, 2009 and conclude on Sunday April 5, 2009, so be sure to mark your calendar!

A committee of actives and alumni are busy finalizing details for the weekend's festivities. Families and significant others are welcome, and supervised activities for children during evening social events will be provided. We are working on securing a block of rooms at a group rate. For those arriving by air, ground transportation from Roanoke Regional Airport to Blacksburg will be arranged. Check your mail in the next few weeks for more details about this milestone weekend. Details will also be posted online at www.metagenes.org.

in this issue...

birth of a chapter	2
brother bio	3
past events	4
call for nominations	4
e-mail updates	4
meta-historical project	5
upcoming events	5
dc alumni events	5



birth of a chapter

by Brian Earle

Forty years ago last month, a group of sophomore students in Olivio Ferrari's studio returned from winter break to discover flyers on the walls of Cowgill advertising a new professional organization on campus. A pair of juniors, T.A. Watson and Mark Kavanaugh, were starting a local chapter of Alpha Rho Chi at Virginia Tech. After attending an interest meeting, several of them decided to pledge. All told, fourteen young men pledged the new colony that winter under the tutelage of Watson and Kavanaugh.

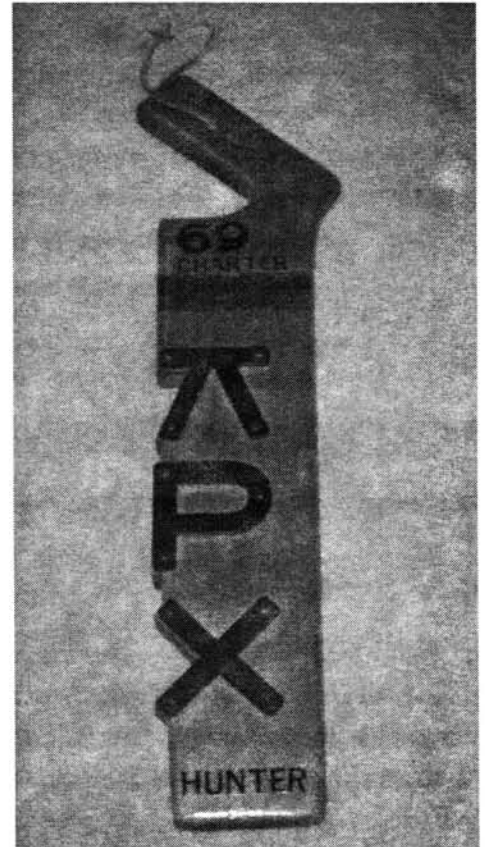
Three months later on March 23, 1969, after a lot of hard work and considerable help from the brothers of Vitruvius and Demetrios, all fourteen were initiated and the chapter was installed. For the sixteen brothers of the Metagenes Chapter, their journey was just beginning. They signed a lease on a small house on the north end of town, 104 Lucas Drive, and immediately began recruiting their next class in order to fill it. Just two short months later, the alpha class was initiated.

Recruiting new members wasn't the only challenge they faced. More importantly they had to forge an identity for themselves on campus. What would Alpha Rho Chi's identity be at Virginia Tech? "We never really put a final answer to that question" said Hunter Bristow. "We decided that we would be a brotherhood as a social outlet that everyone needs in college while at the same time making our presence known by having professional events."

This particular question is one that every generation of Metagenes has sought to answer in its own way. Over the years, the chapter's identity has been as varied as the individuals who compose it. But each and every year, the one common thread has been the bond of brotherhood that is the chapter's foundation.

charter class

Joseph A. Boggs
Hunter C. Bristow
Robert Wayne Burford
C.C.C. Crowley
C. Craig Frazier
David H. Hicks
Richard H. Heald
Mark David Kavanaugh
John A. Kudravy
Robert C. Nichols
Kenneth R. Perlowski
H. Nick Prillaman, Jr.
Dennis L. Richardson
William Eugene Upton
Troy Arnold Watson, Jr.
J. Michael Winfield





Hunter receives the Pendalton Wright award from Dean Burchard in 1971.



Hunter dressed to the nines.

brother bio

hunter c. bristow [charter]

Hunter Bristow enrolled at Virginia Tech in 1967, and is a charter member of the chapter. He graduated first in his class in 1972 with a Bachelor of Architecture, and earned his Master of Architecture two years later in 1974.

Why did I join Alpha Rho Chi?

My sophomore year, 1969, there were flyers posted in the architecture studios and word of mouth spreading of the desire to start a chapter of APX at VT. Mark Kavanaugh and T. A. Watson, both juniors, had been initiated by Demetrios for the purpose of establishing a colony at VT. A bunch of us who were friends in studio decided to attend an information session. Not being one who was interested in the AIA, and I am still not interested, APX appealed to me.

What is my most memorable experience as a brother?

This is very hard to answer because there were so many. As a whole, the development of leadership skills was very rewarding. Of course, there were all of the parties and theme nights such as "Night of the Undead". I would say that the most memorable would be co-writing the amphitheater ceremony with Ken Perlowski and having it snow the first night we did it. The snow made everything so perfect. Professionally, the chapter sponsored Buckminster Fuller for a lecture on campus, and he then came to the house for a reception.

What am I doing now?

I am the University Architect at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, VA. I have been here 10 years. I worked in private practice for 27 years prior to this, including my own business which I still have and do some private work.



past events

gamma eta initiation

by Brian Earle

On a bitter, cold Friday night this past December, a dozen actives and alumni gathered in the small town of Broadway, just north of Harrisonburg, to initiate three new brothers of the gamma eta pledge class. After a long sleepless night, Erin Casey, Chris Druddick, and Allison Miller were formally initiated into the fraternity that Saturday afternoon. After, everyone gathered at Yanni's Restaurant in downtown Broadway to watch Virginia Tech beat Boston College in the ACC football championship game!

holiday happy hour

by Brian Earle

On December 10th, a small group of alumni gathered at *Current* in Washington D.C. to share memories and drinks. Everyone was surprised when Scott Ledford, a brother we thought was living on the west coast, dropped in! He now lives in in Virginia, and we're happy he's back.

2008 dues-paying Alumni

Thanks go out to these brothers whose financial support enables the Alumni Association to exist.

Kim Clark
J. Yost Conner
Ray Consoli
David DeVerter
Mary Brady DeVerter
Brian Earle*
Rick Jenkins *
Lisa Fetterolf Jones

Susan Smith Karageorges
Michele LeTourneur *
Allen McDonald
Michelle Ringley
Kristen Ruch
J. Michael Winfield
Gary Zickafoose *

*contribution in addition to dues

the meta-historical project

Kent McCullough and Michele LeTourneur are assembling artifacts and memories from past generations.

If you have any items (photo, poster, graphic, newsletter, pledge books, etc) they would love to get their hands on it to use it for the MetaHistorical Project.

The intent is to create a historical graphic database by scanning or photographing the image and storing it for future generations.

It's an ambitious undertaking and they can use your help by sending any item you have to share!

Please send any item to:

Michele LeTourneur
2851 Marshall Street
Falls Church, VA 22042

Please let her know if you want items returned.

call for nominations

The Metagenes Alumni Association, Inc. will be holding board elections later this spring. Candidates are needed for one-year terms for the offices of President, Secretary and Treasurer, plus four at-large Board Members. Please send all nominations to election@metagenes.org or by snail mail to:

Alpha Rho Chi
c/o Brian Earle
2601 Park Center Dr,
Apt C505
Alexandria, VA 22302

upcoming events

fondue party

February 21, 6pm, Falls Church, VA

Please come join your fellow Metagenes brothers for a Fondue party at Michele LeTourneur's house. She will be moving this Fall, so it may be the last time you see her old house!

Significant others, kids and pets are welcome. Please bring something to dip for cheese or chocolate fondue, the rest will be provided. RSVP at mletourneur@gmail.com

Address: 2851 Marshall Street; Falls Church, VA 22042; 703.534.APX0

happy hour

March 12 & May 12, Washington D.C.

Come join us for drinks at the Science Club on 19th Street, NW. Happy hour runs from 5-8pm. \$3.00 Yuengling bottles and \$5.00 house wines.

fortieth anniversary

April 3-5, Blacksburg, VA

That's right, the Metagenes Chapter celebrates its 40th anniversary this year, and we're planning a Founders' Day weekend in Blacksburg that you won't want to miss. We'll be gathering in Blacksburg on the weekend of April 10th through 12th. More details will follow in the coming weeks at www.metagenes.org

summer picnic

July, Quinton, VA

Michelle Ringley has graciously opened her home once more for our annual summer gathering. Please mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

chapter listserv:

Due to complications with our existing listserv, the Alumni Association has moved our listserv to alpharhochi@listserv.vt.edu. Please be sure to add us to your spam filters, if you haven't already. If you haven't heard from us recently, it may be that we don't have your e-mail address. Just send an e-mail at btearle@gmail.com and we'll be sure to add you.

upcoming events | details inside!

fondue party
dc happy hour
chapter 40th anniversary
february 21
march 12
april 3-5

Metagenes Alumni Association
c/o Brian Earle
2601 Park Center Dr Apt C50
Alexandria, VA 22302

board of directors | 2009

president
secretary
treasurer
directors

michelle ringley
brian earle
kim clark
ray consoli
jeff kendrick
michele letournuer
kent mccullough
kristen ruch
matt williams

mringley@vt.edu
btearle@gmail.com
kiclark@vt.edu
rconsoli@bop.gov
jdkphoto@comcast.net
mletourneur@gmail.com
kent.mccullough@gmail.com
kruch@vt.edu
mrw@vt.edu

for the latest metagenes news
visit us out at: www.metagenes.org