

# 2005-2006 Archival Projects Proposal

## FOREWORD

The archivist position was proposed by the 2004-2005 administration of and ratified by the Delta Xi Cast of Alpha Psi Omega to ensure that the growing history of the cast is preserved in a responsible and accurate manner, easily accessible to current members of the cast and honoring the members of the cast who have since departed our local brotherhood. The first archivist of the Delta Xi Cast has identified three key opportunities for archival projects that will aid the cast in managing better its historical articles and artifacts. They have been outlined in this document for the examination of the cast.

Two of the projects contained herein address the overpopulation problem of the Alpha Psi Omega wall, on which pledge plaques of cast members since approximately 20 years ago have been mounted. Several have degraded and all are fondly remembered. To ensure we continue reaching the memories of cast members regardless of location, a Virtual Wall has been proposed which would reside on the Alpha Psi Omega web space, accessible by cast members with internet access. This virtual wall project serves the purpose of both providing better perspective on the nature of our cast as well as providing a convenient method of documenting the past, present, and future plaques.

The second project concerns reorganization of the Alpha Psi Omega wall itself. At present, there is no reasonable amount of space left to accommodate the upcoming pledge class. Several years have been spent discussing reasonable (and unreasonable) solutions for the overpopulation problem, none of which gained unanimous favor. Ideas were proposed to reduce the spacing between plaques to provide extra space, with the drawback that the problem would resurface in a few years' time. Other ideas were proposed to move plaques from the wall to other areas of the Playhouse, but issues arose concerning the RPI Players' own similar problem with accommodating show posters among other concerns. One solution discussed in 2004 by the 2004 Wall Committee Chaired by Adam Todorski proposed removing a certain amount of plaques from the wall, photographically documenting the removed plaques and keeping an photograph album nearby to ensure that members may still view their plaques. Additionally, the idea proposed limiting the amount of plaques that remained on the wall and continually cycling pledge class plaques until the time came for their removal. This was, out of the many solutions that have appeared over the years, the best solution namely because it was a bona-fide solution to the overpopulation problem, while other propositions were merely temporary mitigations. The Wall Reorganization project uses the principles of this proposal as a foundation, with several changes and additional details to ensure the memories of cast members who have since moved on from RPI Theatre remains honored.

The third project proposed is a buildup of the Alpha Psi Omega family tree, using the work of Jeff Victor as a basis for continuation. The tree is proposed to use the digital information kept as a result of the Virtual Wall project to aid in colorfully presenting the unique history of the Delta Xi brotherhood to all those interested. This project has been omitted from this proposal as it is out of scope until the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2005 and is not facilities-intensive.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jonathan S. Janssen '03  
DX Cast Archivist 2005-2006

## PROJECT 1: VIRTUAL WALL

### 1.1 - Objective

The purpose of the virtual wall is to create an on-line digital record of all Alpha Psi Omega plaques in the style of the current wall for perusal by either the general public and AYW members or AYW members only. The virtual wall will contain low-quality tiled photos for the wall montage, high quality photos for examination when a user clicks on one of the plaques in the overall montage, and additional high quality photos or animated GIFs for plaques that include “special features.”

### 1.2 – Included Items

- 1) Medium-quality montage of all plaques on wall with embedded HTML to allow for closer looks at each plaque, updated every Spring pledge class. Accessible as starting page of virtual wall.
- 2) High quality images per plaque, with multiple-mode configurations when accessible. Accessed by clicking on item (1) at the appropriate location.

### 1.3 - Tasks Required

- 1) Ensure building availability/Schedule work time
- 2) Photograph in digital format all plaques (300+ in count). *Time Approximation: 20 hrs.*
- 3) Transfer digital photos to webmaster for manipulation & animation rendering where appropriate. *Time Approximation: 20 hrs.*
- 4) Publish on website.

### 1.4 - Resources Required

Personnel:     Archivist, Webmaster  
Time:            At least 20 hours (non-continuous) in RPI Playhouse  
Equipment:     Digital Camera (in archivist’s possession), memory, server disk space (approx. 1GB).

### 1.5 - Risks & Issues

- 1) **Members may not want their names used or displayed online.** *Abatement: Digital images contain no text information, so there is no risk of being traced by text searching means. Additionally, if members were involved in shows, their names are already published with the programs we post each year. However, if certain members are still uncomfortable with their names being used, we can always blur out the names on the image itself.*
- 2) **May interfere with other events within RPI playhouse.** *Abatement: Repeated checking with Union Admin, Players TD, and AYW administration for building availability.*

## PROJECT 2: WALL RENOVATION

### 2.1 - Objective

The purpose of this project is to provide as permanent a solution as possible to the overpopulation problem of the current Alpha Psi Omega plaque wall. Digital and photographic documentation have become the enabling technologies by which the cast can eliminate the requirement that all plaques must be preserved and displayed while still honoring the memories of those who have come before us. This project proposes to use these technologies to document and present plaques that may be removed from the wall, as well as proposes a complete renovation of the layout of the Alpha Psi Omega wall which will include the society's colors, a new place for the Christine Quinlan (Q) Award, and memorial sections for brothers dearly departed.

### 2.2 – Primary Features

- 1) Framed space capable of housing the following:
  - a. No more than 160 plaques (16 plaques wide by 10 high).
  - b. The expanded Q award.
  - c. A photo memorial section
  - d. The old white and black AYW sign
  - e. Plaque photo archive (see feature no. 2)
  - f. Additional awards or certifications (TANYS, etc)
  - g. (Optional) – Nameplate space for donors
- 2) A detailed photo archive album with enlarged photographs of the plaques removed from the wall, including multiple photos for any plaques with “special features”.
- 3) A humidifying storage cabinet to safely house removed plaques, similar in design to a cigar humidor.
- 4) Society colors, amber and blue as motif.

### 2.3 – Tasks Required with approximate times

- 1) **Obtain necessary permissions from AYW, RPI, & Players administration**
- 2) Digital photo archive 2-3w
- 3) Construct storage cabinet, store plaques 2-3w
  - a. *Alternative: Store plaques with Library archives*
- 4) Assemble photo album 1w
- 5) Plug existing holes, re-paint wall 3d
- 6) Obtain materials 1d
- 7) Build backboard, frame, paint 2d
- 8) Assemble memorial, archive, Q sections 2d

- 9) Mount, arrange plaques, cover for unveiling 1d

Tasks 1 through 3 must be started prior to other tasks, but tasks 5 through 8 may be executed in parallel with photo archival & storage cabinet construction.

#### 2.4 – Resources Required

- 1) Wall building materials <\$100
- 2) Cabinet building materials <\$100
- 3) **Cabinet labor WILL NEED VOLUNTEER OR GOOD RATE**
- 4) RPI Playhouse time ~14d
- 5) Personnel Roles
  - i. Cabinet builder
  - ii. Photo archivist
  - iii. Wall construction crew (min. 2 persons)

#### 2.5 – Risks & Issues

- 1) **Members may not wish their plaques to be taken down.** *Abatement: This is the reality of what the society must do. Unfortunately, the cast is out of time to continue debate. Additional display areas in the playhouse, moving plaques closer together, and other ideas that avoid storage of plaques are in fact not solutions to the problem. This project requires that after each pledge ceremony where a new row of plaques is required, the top (oldest) row is stored and archived. Additionally, members will be given the option to retain their plaques as an alternative to storage within the Playhouse. The alternative to cabinet storage is storage with the RPI Library archives, where the cast may be able to negotiate display space. Nevertheless, the parallel archival projects help ensure that memories are not lost, while the renovation ensures that the overcrowding problem, which has detracted from the aesthetic qualities of the wall as of late, does not occur again.*
- 2) **Approval from facilities may not go through.** *Abatement: It is imperative to ensure that the renovation activities do not result in damage to the existing sheetrock wall. Thus, weight will be a key factor as well as proper mounting equipment. This project will require discussion with Rick Hartt, the Players TD, and a representative from RPI Physical Facilities.*
- 3) **Humidor cabinets are very expensive.** *Abatement: It is critical that costs are saved wherever possible. A skilled member, or member of the RPI Players, volunteering their time, is the most desirable solution. Otherwise the RPI Library archives will be required. Regardless of storage option, it is critical that the wooden plaques be kept in a humidity-controlled space.*

2.6 – Design Concept

