



# The Iowa State Pythagorean

Published by the Corporate Board of the Iowa State Chapter of ACACIA Fraternity

*Fulfilling the mission of ACACIA -- Making Good Men Better!*

May, 2004

Issue # 29

## Acacia Fraternity remains #1 with 3.38 G.P.A.

The Spring, 2004 semester grade results were just released, and Acacia continues to lay claim to the top academic honors in the Iowa State Greek System. Following their outstanding grade point average of 3.49 for the Fall, 2003 semester, the men of Acacia have again earned in a stellar average grade point of 3.38 for this semester. The results for the top five chapters were as follows:

1.	Acacia	3.38
2.	Alpha Gamma Rho	3.12
3.	FarmHouse	3.11
4.	Triangle	3.06
5.	Beta Sigma Psi	2.98
All Fraternity Average		2.86

Academic excellence has long been a hallmark of Acacia Fraternity. Our chapter has focused on attracting the best and

brightest young men, and then providing them with an outstanding environment in which they can develop superior academic and social skills to become effective leaders in their chosen profession. Our previous academic results are as follows:

Term	Position	GPA
Spring, 2004	#1	3.38
Fall, 2003	#1	3.49
Spring, 2003	#1	3.24
Fall, 2002	#2	3.06
Spring, 2002	#2	3.19
Fall, 2001	#2	3.12
Spring, 2001	#2	3.14

**Congratulations to the men of our Acacia Fraternity Chapter! Keep up the good work!**

## These are the Men of the Iowa State Chapter of Acacia Fraternity

*((It is not often that we have the opportunity to "see ourselves" through other peoples eyes. However, Jeremy Davis recently received an e-mail from a female colleague at Iowa State which we would like to share with you. I think you will find it informative as to the caliber of men that we seek to bring into our Fraternity. I have withheld the name of sender to respect their privacy. - Harold Zarr))*

Jeremy-

I just wanted to drop you a line and let you know about my experience this past week with the men of Acacia. As you know, Saturday during the Olympics, I lost my tennis bracelet. As I was retracing my steps, I came upon the Acacia lawn and porch. The men greeted me with a smile, stopped what they were doing, immediately offered their assistance and jumped into looking around the yard and driveway. I was amazed at their willingness to aid in the search. Michael O'Doherty was on the couch watching the basketball game and without even being asked he got up and assisted me. The other brothers were painting their paddles and set them down to look. I

asked Jeff Peil to let the men know and he said he would pass the word along. Everyone ventured out into the rain with no complaining.

The once again showed to me that once again the men of Acacia are genuine and always willing to lend a hand in a time of need. Please pass onto the men that the bracelet was found, but without their efforts we might have not recovered it.

I am also very impressed with the sense of community that the men displayed this weekend. You never know who is watching, but I was impressed with what I saw... Two of your men were cheering on and congratulating another pairing after their run at the bed race. They also opened up their home to let some women use the restrooms as well as offered one of the Greek Aids a dry place to stand on the porch instead of the rain while he watched the barricades. I was also very impressed as I watched one of the men offer a Greek aide his rain gear as she was very cold and soaked, and turned back into the house to get a dry sweatshirt for himself. The men

displayed themselves in a very becoming and gentlemanly way and need to be commended for their actions.

I appreciate the helpfulness, kindness and fraternalism that they showed to me as well as other community members. You should be proud of them!

Congratulations to you and your men on their Greek Week honors and achievements.

*((What else need we say about the men of our chapter?))*

## Board works on Improvements to Chapter House

At the April meeting, the Board worked on a number of planned improvements to the chapter house. The first project is based on the "Acacia Challenge" which focused on replacing all the windows in the house with new, energy-efficient models to help control our energy costs.

We are soliciting bids from a variety of firms, and a final decision will be made at the July board meeting. We are considering the "prairie view" style of window which will match the style of property in which our fraternity is located. With a little luck, we should have these installed in time for the Homecoming meeting this fall.

The second project that we are looking at is refinishing the wood floors on the main floor of the house. We have solicited

bids from two different companies, and we expect to have this project completed during the Christmas vacation.

Another project will be the selection of new furniture for the entryway of the house. The piano was disposed of this spring (it would have cost more to fix it up than it was worth), and we are looking at purchasing furniture that will enhance the foyer of the property.

A final project is the conversion of the basement to a library /study area for the men. If we can raise the necessary funds, this project will be completed this winter. We are in the process of soliciting bids, and should be able to have more details available to share with you in the next newsletter. We hope you will be able to stop in and see these improvements!

## ISU ACACIA Alumni Contribute \$14,984 to Acacia Challenge

Our thanks go out to all the Brothers who generously contributed to the Acacia Challenge sponsored by Brothers **Dennis McComber, Larry McComber** and **James Davis** to supply the Board with the funds necessary to make a number of needed improvements to the physical structure of the chapter house. The funds raised will be used to replace the existing windows in the chapter house with new, energy-efficient ones.

Fifty-five Brothers contributed to this challenge project. While we would like recognize each of them individually in the newsletter, I.R.S. restrictions on non-tax-deductible contributions prevent us from doing so. Please know that your contributions are deeply appreciated, and our heartfelt thanks go out to each and every one of you who so generously contributed to this fund drive challenge.

**The table that is shown lists those Brothers who have made tax-deductible contributions to the chapter so far this year!**

**We hope that you will consider adding your name to this list in 2004 so that we can continue to support the academic efforts of your Brothers in our Chapter!**

----- Alumni Contributors in 2004 -----	
<b>Pythagorean Partner</b>	<b>(\$ 2,500 - \$ 4,999)</b>
<b>Chapter Partner</b>	<b>(\$ 1,000 - \$ 2,499)</b>
<b>Silver Partner</b>	<b>(\$ 500 - \$ 749)</b>
<b>Bronze Partner</b>	<b>(\$ 100 - \$ 499)</b>
Stephen J. Casper IV	Acacia Fraternity Foundation
<b>Spirit Partner</b>	<b>(\$ 1 - \$ 99)</b>

## Active Chapter Report

*Jeff Peil, Venerable Dean - ACACIA Fraternity  
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The men of the Iowa State Chapter of Acacia have finished up another exciting semester. Every year we strive to bring credit and honor to our fraternity through the system of priorities that

have been established consisting of 1) Academics, 2) Fraternity, 3) Other campus activities. Academically, we ended this year right where we wanted to be, in 1st place. We achieved a 3.38 house Grade Point Average, best among all the Iowa State fraternities.

Our second priority is a **commitment to Acacia**. The past semester has been filled with activities to strengthen brotherhood and build leadership skills. Social functions have included movie nights, canoe trips, dinner exchanges with sororities, paintball, and many other activities. Acacia's motto is "Human Service" and we have done plenty of that over the course of the semester. Over 80% of the house donated blood in the spring blood drive. Our 7 Days of Service philanthropy was also a huge success.

We are especially proud of a project called **Pages of Promise** that Acacia started last spring. Pages of Promise are a campus-wide text book drive. **We were able to collect over 11,000 books worth an estimated \$280,000.** These books will be sent to Africa to be used at universities and in school systems there. We plan on continuing the success of Pages of Promise every semester.

When we're not studying or helping out the community, members of the house were kept busy with other campus activities. **Our intramural athletic teams had a combined record of 24-5. Members of the house also won the VEISHA basketball tournament.** Our Varieties pairing finished first this spring and our Greek Week pairing finished strongly. Many of our members also served in leadership positions in various clubs and organizations on campus.

The excitement is also building as we prepare for Conclave July 21-24. We hope to see you all there. **As always, if you are in the area, feel free to stop by the house and pay us a visit.** We always appreciate reuniting with alumni and exchanging our stories.

## President's Message

*Harold Zarr, Corporate Board President - The ACACIANS  
215 Glen Drive  
Iowa Falls, Iowa 50126-1957  
e-mail: acacia\_814@hotmail.com*

Greetings my Brother ACACIANS!

This spring semester was filled with lots of activities, and we are looking forward to completing a number of badly needed maintenance projects around the house during the rest of this calendar year.

The VEISHEA reunion was smashing success! We had nearly sixty-five brothers, parents, invited guests, and family members attend this event. My special thanks go out to **Brother Timm Wilken** for taking the time to compose opening and closing prayers for the event and then sending them off to me to deliver on his behalf.

**Outstanding Senior Awards** were presented to graduating seniors **Rob Borcharding, David Frost** and **Michael O'Doherty**. These awards are especially significant in that they are determined solely by a vote of the active chapter members and they are presented in recognition of these Brothers outstanding work on behalf of the active chapter. My congratulations again to these three Brothers!

Summer rush is now in full swing. Our rush chairmen are in the process of contacting those students who will be attending Iowa State this fall, and we are working to completely fill the house this fall with another outstanding group of future Acacians. I'll have more information available for you in the August newsletter.

That's all that I have for now. May God bless every one in your family during 2004!

## Memories of Acacia

For the VEISHEA reunion, we asked our Brothers to send in memories of the time that they had from when they lived in the house. I have reproduced some of these for you who were not able to attend the reunion celebration. Enjoy!

Walter Kobe putting his head down and running through a door. Endless bridge games with Mother Dinsmore.

**Brother Jay Quick**

The night I met my wife as a blind date arranged by Brother Hugo. She was with me 49 years and 7 months.

**Brother Kenneth MacRae**

In about 1956 Bruce Campbell was Venerable Dean. We were determined to beat FarmHouse for highest GPA. So every evening Bruce parked himself at the foot of the stairs so everyone would stay upstairs and study. I am delighted to see you have accomplished that goal this year! P.S. – Thanks, Larry.

**Brother Robert Davis**

The best memory was the Birthday Cake we built as a float for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary VEISHEA Parade. I think it was in '46.

**Brother Gordon Cook**

Traveling to Knoxville, Tennessee during the Fall Quarter Break to initiate a new chapter. Watching new color TV that

we all pitched in to buy. "Man from UNCLE" and "Batman" were some of our favorite shows.

**Brother William Anderl**

In the Fall of 1941, I had a 1929 Model A Ford at the Chapter House. One evening I took the Acacia Basketball Team to the Old Gym. When the men got out of the Model A, I counted 12 of them. The car was sagging so badly the fenders almost rubbed the tires.

**Brother George Buck**

My best memory is not any specific event. My memory is of a place that felt like home. When my Dad had a hear attack, allowances were made and help was provide so I could go home on the weekends to help on the family farm. I really felt the brothers were brothers and it was a place I was comfortable. I really appreciated that.

**Brother Larry Guthrie**

Waking up on the third floor with snow blowing across the bed from an open window.

**Brother Lynn Pendry**

Learning proper etiquette and manners from Mother Dinsmore. I also remember the bridge games going on for hours in her apartment.

**Brother Gary Ruesgsegger**

**Check out the website!!**

**[www.isuacacia.com](http://www.isuacacia.com)**

## **Corporate Board Members**

The following Brothers are your representatives on the Corporate Board. The Corporate Board is composed of both active chapter members and alumni.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact them at your convenience. **Remember, we are here to represent you**

**and to work for the best interests of the Fraternity.** Your comments and suggestions are very valuable to us, and we hope that you will share your thoughts with us.

Feel free to contact us whenever you have ideas, suggestions or concerns!

Harold Zarr	President	515-964-6696
Richard Taylor	Vice-President	
Ed Vuper	Treasurer	515-285-5218
Murray McKee	Secretary	515-287-4353
Chip Riedmann	Alumni Relations	402-895-5586

Jeffrey Peil	Chapter President	515-292-3455
Greg Janda	Chapter Treasurer	
	Chapter Representative	

Jeremy Davis	Chapter Advisor	515-291-7016
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## **Newsletter Information**

The newsletter is sent to all of the alumni, pledges and actives of the ISU Chapter of ACACIA Fraternity, and their parents. We take great pride in their accomplishments, and it is our wish that their parents learn about the activities and accomplishments of their sons within the Fraternity.

This newsletter is sent at **no cost** to all of its recipients, although donations directed towards the cost of this publication will be accepted by the Board. Should you wish to make a contribution, please make your check payable to **The ACACIANS**, in any amount.

The next newsletter is planned for May, 2004. (They are sent out on a quarterly basis, every February, May, August, and November.) If you have any information you would like to share, please send it to our alumni relations chairman **Chip Riedmann** (riedmann@tconl.com) or to **Harold Zarr** (acacia\_814@hotmail.com). Take care, and best wishes to all of the Brothers and friends of our Fraternity.