



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!

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Issue # 31

Eight Men Initiated as Iowa State Acacians

On November 13th, eight new Brothers were initiated into the Fraternity. What follows are some short biographies on most of these outstanding young men.

Collin Donahur-Oponski is from Indianola, Iowa and was a state competitor in cross country and track and field in high school. He is currently majoring in **Aerospace Engineering** and is a member of the Freshman Honors program and a **National Merit Scholar**. Collin also plays the cello and hopes to join the ISU Symphony Orchestra in the future.

John A. Kvinge is from Lino Lakes, Minnesota, a Northeastern suburb of Saint Paul. He is studying **Materials Science and Engineering**, but is thinking about adding Political Science as a second degree. A **National Merit Scholar**, John was also the National Honor Society Chapter President, Concert Choir Vice President, and Varsity Mock Trial Captain at Centennial High School in Circle Pines, Minnesota. Since he has arrived at Iowa State, John has joined the Freshman Council and is a member of the Freshman Honors Program.

Jared A. Ramthun from Indianola, Iowa and he is majoring in **Mechanical Engineering**. Since arriving at Iowa State, Jared has been involved in the Freshman Honors Program, Yell Like Hell, the Memorial Church Choir, Varieties, and he tried to walk-on the ISU cross country team in addition to participating in several intramural sports. While in high school, Jared received the following awards: Governor's Scholar Recognition, The Des Moines Register's Academic All-State Team Nomination, WOI-TV's Best of the Class Recognition, **State of Iowa Scholar**, The Record Herald's Leaders of Tomorrow Recognition, United States Marine Corps' Scholastic Excellence Award, President's Award for Educational Excellence, American Legion School Award for Citizenship, Academic All-State Cross Country Team, and National Honor Society. He's enjoying everything about college and Acacia life and he's looking forward to continue growing scholastically and fraternally.

Clark Richardson is from Sioux City, Iowa and is majoring in **Agricultural Biochemistry**. Clark was the **valedictorian** of his high school graduation class, a **National Merit Scholar**, a state debate champion, and a two-time semi-finalist in the National Debate Tournament. He is currently involved with the ISU Marching Band, the Model United Nations, the Freshman Council, ISU Ambassadors, and Varieties. Upon

graduation from ISU, he plans to attend either medical or law school.

Jonathan Andrew Roghair is from Ankeny, Iowa. Jon is majoring in **Electrical Engineering**. In high school, he attended the Des Moines Central Campus and majored in Automotive Technology. He was there for his junior and senior years and competed in and placed **first** the **Hawkeye Skills Challenge**, which is a statewide competition for automotive competency. He earned a \$1,500 scholarship and approximately another \$1,500 in tools. He also received the **Presidential Academic Award**. Outside of school, he is an active member in his church youth worship band and youth group. As an Acacia Pledge, he was involved in Yell Like Hell and was elected Pledge Class President.

Phillip Sherman is from Madrid, Iowa. In high school he participated in football, speech, drama, and was active in student government. He is a sophomore majoring in Statistics and **Economics**. He joined Acacia in the spring of 2004. He was named to the Fall, 2003 and Spring, 2004 Dean's Lists as well as the Top 2% of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Phil has one older brother, James, who is a senior in Biology at ISU. His parents and younger brother live in Stuart, Iowa.

John Thomas (JT) Vogel is from Moline, Illinois and is currently majoring in **Industrial Engineering**. His academic accomplishments include: a **National Merit Commended Scholar**, an **Illinois State Scholar**, earning him scholarships such as the Capt. Stephen Phillis Leadership Scholarship, the John O'Connor Scholar, the Catholic Order of Forrester's Scholarship, the AXA Community Scholarship, the Knights of Columbus Scholarship, a VEISHEA Scholarship, an ISU Award for Academic Excellence Scholarship, and an ISU College of Engineering Scholarship.

Since coming to Iowa State, JT has quickly become involved in number on-campus activities which include the Freshman Council, Leadership ISU, Honors Program, World Food Prize Volunteer, St. Thomas Aquinas Church and a Catholic Student Center Volunteer. Within the house, JT is involved in Yell like Hell and serves as the Pledge Class Treasurer and Philanthropy Chair.

Daniel Yoder is from Owatonna, Minnesota. He is majoring in **Theater**. In high school, Daniel was a **National Merit**

Scholar, and earned awards in theater, band and choir, and

was a champion in the Knowledge Bowl at both the sub-region and regional levels.

Alumni Continue Contributions to Scholarship Programs

Alumni, who wish to, may also support the Chapter by making **tax-deductible contributions** to the chapter's scholarship fund. Our primary fund is a part of the Acacia Fraternity Foundation, which supports scholarship programs for both our chapter and the international fraternity at large. Brothers who would like to support this scholarship fund may make their contributions to:

Iowa State Chapter Fund – c/o Acacia Fraternity Foundation.

We also maintain an account with the Iowa State University Foundation. This account was set up many years ago, and is also designed to provide scholarships to undergraduate members of the fraternity. If you would like to make a contribution to this fund, please make your check out to:

Acacia Scholarship – acct. # 0706841 – c/o ISU Foundation

If you would like to make a donation to either one of these two funds, please mail your contribution to Harold Zarr, so that we can be certain that you are recognized for your support of the chapter.

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 -----	
Refounding Father	(\$ 10,000 or more)
Board of Directors Club	(\$5,000 - \$ 9,999)
Pythagorean Partner	(\$ 2,500 - \$ 4,999)
Chapter Partner	(\$ 1,000 - \$ 2,499)
Silver Partner	(\$ 500 - \$ 749)
Robert L. Carstens - #999	Acacia Fraternity Foundation
Robert A. Ketch - #648	Capital Improvements Account
Loran E. Peil	Capital Improvements Account
Bronze Partner	(\$ 100 - \$ 499)
Steevn J. Pace	Capital Improvements Account
John C. Akins - #307	Acacia Fraternity Foundation
A. Dean Platt - #321	Capital Improvements Account
Gordon A. Cook - #390	Acacia Fraternity Foundation
Marcus A. Merriman - #446	Acacia Undergraduate Fund
John E. Schrader - #539	Acacia Fraternity Foundation
David W. Smith - #565	Acacia Fraternity Foundation
Dale H. Vanderholm - #586	Acacia Fraternity Foundation
Chris W. Knapp - #764	Capital Improvements Account
Stephen J. Casper IV - #905	Acacia Fraternity Foundation
Spirit Partner	(\$ 1 - \$ 99)
William Vogel - #620	Capital Improvements Account

Three Alumni, Two Undergraduates Initiated into Order of Pythagoras at Alumni Banquet

At the Homecoming Banquet, a number of Brothers were inducted into the **Order of Pythagoras**. As you will recall, three of our alumni stepped forward to spearhead a fund drive to replace a majority of the windows in the chapter house. Brothers **Larry J. McComber** - #535, **Dennis G. McComber** - #556 and **James H. Davis** - #489 set in motion a matching funds campaign which resulted in a total of \$26,350 being contributed by the alumni for this project. As of result of the generosity of our alumni, we were able to replace thirty-six of the fifty-two windows in the house. Our thanks and congratulations go out to these three Brothers!

For the first time in the history of our chapter, two undergraduate members were also inducted into the **Order of Pythagoras**. One of these undergraduate Brothers is **Keegan Katuzky**. Keegan's list of accomplishments is indeed

impressive. He was one of the refounding fathers of the Iowa State Chapter in 2001. In 2002 he won the Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship, the only Iowa State student to win this award. He next spent four months on a research trip to Sub-Saharan Africa working for the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry.

Returning from Africa, he organized the "Pages of Promise" that collected over 11,000 textbooks to be given to secondary schools in Africa. He then traveled to India this past summer to work with AIDS orphans.

In June, 2004, Keegan won the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship. Iowa State also nominated him for the Rhodes, Marshall and Fulbright scholarships. Keegan will graduate in

December, and hopes to work the State Department in Washington, D.C.

The second undergraduate member to be honored is **Jeff Peil**, who has just wrapped up his term as President of the Iowa State Chapter. When Jeff joined Acacia as a freshman, he was a quiet individual who really did not ever intend to become involved in substantial leadership roles. However, throughout his college experience, Jeff was involved in numerous campus activities and developed into a dedicated and devoted Brother for the fraternity. He is one of those individuals who leads by quiet example, yet is able to inspire others to achieve more

than they thought possible. This dedication to Acacia was not only recognized, but also highly respected by his fellow Brothers in the House.

As a result, Jeff developed and enhanced his leadership skills which ultimately lead him to being elected Venerable Dean. As the Venerable Dean for the 2004 year, he truly helped to lead the Iowa State Chapter of Acacia Fraternity to a higher level of success. It was because of his selfless dedication, commitment and love for the Fraternity that his fellow Brothers in the undergraduate Chapter nominated him to receive the Order of Pythagoras.

Active Chapter Report

Jeff Peil, Venerable Dean - ACACIA Fraternity
138 Gray Avenue
Ames, Iowa 50014
e-mail: jpeil@iastate.edu

The men of the Iowa State Chapter are wrapping up another successful semester. The men can be seen hard at work studying for their upcoming finals and finishing up projects and reports. We are hoping that all this hard work will pay off and we will once again sit atop the rest of the Greek system as the top academic house at Iowa State.

This year has been a very busy one as we have taken part in a variety of activities. A full house of men has made this a little easier than in past semesters, however. Our homecoming pairing, composed of Pi Beta Phi sorority and Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, finished in 4th place overall with good showings in many events and activities. A number of our men recorded significant hours building the lawn display and performing our Yell Like Hell routine. Our Varieties pairing has begun initial preparations as well.

Other activities this fall have included our Homecoming banquet, 7 Days of Service (our national philanthropy effort), our fall house party held at the Elk's Lodge in Boone, and the Pages of Promise textbook drive. Brother Keegan Kautzky and co-founder Kevin Geiken recently incorporated Pages of Promise as a tax-exempt not-for-profit organization and have expanded it to numerous campuses around the Midwest. The men of the Iowa State Chapter of Acacia look forward to helping our Brother continue the success of this fine organization by helping him out with his efforts.

We also recently initiated eight new members into the fraternity. I would like to congratulate these new members and look forward to hearing of their numerous accomplishments in future years.

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!

As I look back on 2004, I see a year filled with an impressive number of accomplishments. We have thirty-six new windows thanks to the generosity of our alumni. The Board just completed having new carpeting installed in the solarium, and we had the walls in the dining room replastered and repainted.

So far this year the alumni (as of 12/1/04) have contributed record amounts in support of the chapter. The **Acacia Challenge** raised a total of \$26,350; donations to the **Acacia Fraternity Foundation** have come to \$1,000; donations to the **Capital Improvements Account** totaled \$1,310; and \$100 has been donated to the **Acacia Undergraduate Account** with the ISU Foundation. We have high hopes that contributions to the various scholarship accounts will grow significantly between now and the end of the year.

The chapter has maintained its #1 academic ranking with a 3.38 grade point average. Over the summer, another outstanding pledge class was recruited which filled the house to capacity. This is significant in that it will enable us to be profitable for the first time since the chapter was rechartered in October, 2001. Now, we are not hugely profitable, but we are in a position where the corporate board will not have to subsidize the operation of the chapter.

Could we have been profitable sooner? Probably, yes, we could have. But to do so, we would have had to give up our goal of inviting only the finest young men we could find to be members of the Fraternity. Some of the other fraternities at Iowa State have (it appears) been more interested in attracting **quantities** of men, regardless of the quality. For example, another fraternity in the Greek System offered free housing to all of its new pledges for their first semester at Iowa State, and they ended up with a huge pledge class. At the end of the semester, most of these new pledges moved out and into the

dorms as they didn't want to pay for the "privilege" of living in that fraternity. The moral of the story? You get what you pay for.

We have always taken the opposite approach. We have carefully interviewed and spent time getting to really know potential members, and then carefully considered and selected only the finest men we could find. The results, both academically and campus involvement, speak for themselves. We have always wanted to build a chapter in which **both** the men who live there and the alumni could take great pride. I believe that we have succeeded beyond our greatest expectations.

Finally, I want to thank two more alumni who contributed to Acacia Challenge but whose names were not available at the time the last issue of the newsletter went to press. I want them to know that their contributions were certainly appreciated. These Brothers are **Daniel E. Wise - #489** and **Dr. Philip L. Baker - #540**. **Thank you very much for helping us with this Challenge!**

May God bless every one in your family during 2005!

Alumni News and Notes!

John Akins - #307
1040 South West Kimball Drive
Apartment #216
Oak Harbor, Washington 98277

Just want to express my appreciations, thanks, and KUDOS! For your keeping the Iowa State Chapter going all these years. I have enjoyed receiving the Pythagorean, and any other news of the alumni and chapter activities, but have done little to show it. Enclosed is petty cash to help with the postage, or whatever. Our address changed this summer, per the enclosed card. Mary and I have five adult children, twelve grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren, at present. We have had little idle time.

((I should say not with such a large family! My thanks to you and your wife for you donation, which I have forwarded on to the Acacia Fraternity Foundation to be used for scholarships for the members of the Iowa State Chapter. It is much appreciated! Have a great holiday season, and thanks for the letter!))

Marcus A. Merriman - #446
15 Stone Island Lane
Penfield, New York 14526-1017

Congratulations on the great scholarship and the summer rush results!

((My thanks to YOU for your generous donation to the scholarship fund! As you can see from this newsletter, this pledge class is composed one outstanding group of young men, and we are very fortunate to have them as Brothers in the Fraternity!))

Dennis McComber - #556
3136 North Rankin Street
Appleton, Wisconsin 54911

In the August issue of the Pythagorean, you stated that I would be among several people you know who would be attending the upcoming Homecoming banquet on October 9th. My wife Rita and I were definitely planning on attending, but now other things have come up that will make that impossible to do. I just wanted you to know that we won't be able to make it. I had been looking forward to it.

You state in the letter that the installation of the 36 windows is scheduled for the week of September 27th. Is that schedule still valid and will, in fact all 36 windows be replaced? I know from experience that many times schedules get slipped back, and the magnitude of the project is ultimately reduced to compensate for unexpected higher per-unit costs that always seem to crop up.

((Not to worry. The windows were installed on-schedule and on-budget. We signed a contract with the business in Des Moines that installed the windows, and everything went off just as planned with no extra costs or delays. Now, we plan to have the exterior facings around the house professionally painted next spring/summer to go with the look of the new windows. We also are planning on having "window treatments" put in to give the house a more "homey" atmosphere.))

I appreciate having had the opportunity to contribute toward something that will hopefully be of long term value to the House. I have many good memories of things that happened there during my college stint in 1956 through 1961.

And, lastly, I want to personally thank you for all the time and effort you've put into getting the house rechartered and back up and running as a viable fraternity on campus. You've done one absolutely tremendous job, Harold, and you are to be highly commended for your accomplishments. I certainly appreciate knowing there's an active chapter once again at Iowa State, and I'm sure I speak for many other Brothers.

((You are very kind, but I did not do all of it myself. I've been extremely fortunate on two counts: one is the other alumni who served with me on the Board over the years and have contributed just as much as I have to our success. The second is the men in the House. Without their talent, hard work, and drive, we would not have the respected position in the Greek System that we have today. It is I who am indebted to THEM for all that they have done!))

Brother Horst Hahn has indicated to me that he and his wife, Gabrielle, will be moving from their apartment in Stuttgart, Germany, to a newly-purchased retirement house they bought in Lincoln, Nebraska, later this year. Given the weather and driving conditions at that time of year, Rita and I may wait until next spring to drive out to visit them in their new home. If that comes to pass, we may just have to swing through Ames and stop by to see these new windows! It would be somewhat on the route between Lincoln and Green Bay.

Please stay in touch, Harold.

((Always! Brother Hahn also called me to me that he will be moving as well. If you find out what his new address is, please send it to me right away! I want to make certain that we keep him on the mailing list! Also, you and all of our alumni are always welcome to stop by the House to visit! We love giving tours and just visiting with our alumni. Let me know when you and your wife will be stopping by, and I'll take you out to supper! It is the least I can do for you have done for us!))

Who's Got Next?

Chip Riedmann #795 – Alumni Coordinator
4221 South 174th Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68135
e-mail: criedmann@conl.com

It is approaching two years when I was asked to be a part of the fraternity's Board and it is further proof to me that time is going by too fast. Much has been accomplished by the Board during this time. Not nearly as significant as when the house was closed down or, even greater, when it was started back up. During this time I have seen the Board update our constitution and by-laws, line by line I might add. This was the result of our own "hanging chad" voting dilemma that the Board had to struggle through. The Board has made a critical improvement to the house with the long overdue replacement of many of the house windows; this not being possible without the help of several of our alums. I have watched the fraternity debatably become the best place on campus to live with the highest grade point average of any fraternity or dorm, very reasonable room and board fees and a decent place to live. Add to that a fine rush effort and they have filled the house to capacity. We have also instituted a house computer policy, scholarships continue to be awarded and financially the Board was in the black this past year after running in the red the previous year.

The one thing which I feel is a nagging problem is to see our bank balance a little too low for comfort. Actually that is putting it mildly for what I really think. Last year's incident with a water sprinkler and resulting damage shows how tenuous the finances are if a real accident were to occur.

As I started out saying it has been about two years and I have really enjoyed the opportunity to help out. My time is about up and I do not plan to continue my service for another two years (too many conflicts on the home front). It is time for

someone else to step up to the plate. If you would like to give a little support to your Brothers we would appreciate your letting us know before ballots are issued this winter. The time required is not tremendous: Four meetings a year and the Board can be accommodating with a conference call if you live a fair distance away. The people are good, the business is important but casual, and the purpose is fulfilling. If you have any interest in joining the board, feel free to call either Harold Zarr or myself. Our numbers and email addresses are included in this newsletter for your convenience. Please give it some thought.

In Memoriam

We remember our Brothers with whom we were privileged to share our Fraternity and have departed from us.

Bruce D. Johnson - #348 April 2, 2003
Marvin J. Egerdal - #366 March 5, 2004

Edwin G. Drdla - #377 March 27, 2004

Edwin G. Drdla, aged 80, passed away on March 27, 2004. He was preceded in death by his parents, Otto and Lillian Drdla. He is survived by his aunt, Angela, and numerous cousins. He was a member of the John Mercer #290 Tangier Shrine, and the Nebraska Society of Professional Engineers.

Donald Vinson - #498 September 5, 2004

Donald Richard Vinson, 69, of Burlington, died at 9:20 am Sunday, September 5, 2004, at University Hospitals in Iowa City.

Born April 27, 1935, in Plano, Illinois, he was the son of James C. and June Lawrie Vinson. He married Janet Ann Halvorson on August 1, 1959, in Lake Mills. Mr. Vinson was a 1963 graduate of Oswego (Illinois) High School and received a bachelor's degree at Iowa State College, where he was a member of Acacia fraternity. He earned his master's degree from the University of Northern Iowa in 1963, and then served in the U.S. Army Reserves.

For 33 years, he taught chemistry and astronomy at Burlington High School, where he also worked on high school drama and musical productions. He retired in 1996.

He was a member of the National Education Association, Burlington Education Association, Iowa State Education Association, Boy Scouts of America Troop 8, Order of the Arrow, and the Sasaya Dancers. He received the Silver Beaver Award and worked on staff at Camp Eastman for many years. He received the Wood Badge Award and instructed in the program, completed a 10-day dream trek at Philmont Scout Ranch, helped develop the COPE course and was a member of many other committees. After retiring, he

enjoyed exercising at the YMCA, doing home improvement projects and playing computer solitaire. He enjoyed nature and being outdoors.

Survivors include his wife; one son, James Henry Vinson of St. Paul, Minnesota; one daughter, Susan Kay Vinson of Lake Mills; one sister, Janet Ross of Danville, Illinois; and a number of nieces and nephews.

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	
Craig Buske	Chapter Representative	
Jeremy Davis	Chapter Advisor	515-291-7016

Check out the website!!
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.

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 February, 2005. (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.