



# 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!*

August, 2005

Issue # 34

## Meet the New Pledges of Acacia Fraternity

Summer rush has concluded, and we are pleased to welcome five new members to the Fraternity this year. We have a limited amount of space to share with you the background of each of these men, but as you see, they come to us with a wide variety of interests and each has a number of outstanding accomplishments. Here is some information about each of our new pledges, their majors, backgrounds and interests.

**Chris Demaria** is a graduate of the Knoxville High School. While in high school he was active in the table tennis and tennis teams. He is majoring in biology and chemistry.

**Steven Garrison** is an undeclared major who is from Knoxville, Iowa. While in high school he was active in the Knoxville Science Club, harvested and donated prairie grasses to the Neil Smith Wildlife Refuge, was a member of his high school band and debate team, and was president of the student council his senior year. He was recognized with numerous high school scholarships including the Maytag Scholarship, the Elk Presidential Scholarship, the Red Rock Conservation Board Scholarship, and the ISU Academic Recognition Award, to name but a few.

**Adam Halls** is an engineering major from Indianola, Iowa. He competed as a member of the cross-country and swim teams, and was a member of the jazz band and choir. He was also the NHS president, and was a member of the Academic All-Conference Swim Team.

**Nicholas Seibold** is a graduate of West High School in Sioux City, Iowa. While in high school, he was active in the student council and band, and he was a volunteer in the Art/Splash and senior citizen dinner programs. He was a mid-term graduate from his high school, and received an ISU academic recognition award.

**Jonathan Vaage** is a pre-architecture student who is from Milford, Iowa. While in high school, he was active in soccer, debate, band, and worked with a local Watershed Protection Committee dedicated to maintaining the water quality of Iowa Great Lakes area. He also received the Presidential Distinction Award for Academic Excellence and was a member of the Academic All-State Soccer Team.

## Edwin Drdla - #377 Bequeaths \$444,272 to the Iowa State Chapter Fund

Over the past few newsletters, we have shared with you some general information regarding the bequest made by Brother Edwin Drdla - #377 to the Iowa State Chapter Fund. As the title indicates, the final amount that we received from his estate came to a total of \$444,272. Of the amount that was received, the board put \$400,000 in an endowed account. This means that the money that was placed into this account cannot be used, but the interest that is earned on this may be used for scholarships or other educational purposes allowed by the Internal Revenue Service.

The other \$44,272 was placed in the Iowa State Chapter Fund from which our scholarships are paid. Both of these accounts are under the "umbrella" of the Acacia Fraternity Foundation. The money in the chapter fund is invested in government

securities and is designed to as close to a "zero risk" option as possible.

The earnings from this bequest will be used to provide some of the funding needed to support our scholarship programs for the chapter members. Outside support from our alumni is still needed, and we hope that other alumni will continue to make donations to our scholarships program. We do know that two of our alumni are currently working on making bequests similar to the one made by Brother Drdla.

It is our hope that eventually we could have a fully self-sustaining program that would enable us to provide a top-flight scholarship program for all members of our chapter. As things develop, we will definitely keep you informed!

## Board Works to Modify Scholarship Program

## To Benefit Chapter Members

Scholarships have become a key component in the rush process over the past few years. In many cases, colleges and universities have increased their tuition and housing costs at a double-digit rate, creating a financial hardship for many high school students and their families who would like to receive a college education. We have seen that the use of scholarships has many times been an added bonus to students who are considering the option of living in a Greek House.

Recognizing that this is the environment in which we must operate, the Board is currently looking at ways to develop a comprehensive package of scholarship options for the members of the House in order to help alleviate this financial burden and to provide us with a competitive edge in attracting new members to our fraternity.

**Currently, a new member to the house could receive up to \$600 in scholarships their first year. Under the proposed scholarship agreement, this amount would increase to as much as \$900 or \$1,000 the first year.**

At the Summer Board meeting, a draft of the new scholarship program was presented and discussed. This draft provides more detailed information on how scholarships are awarded and the criteria used to award the scholarships. The Board is also given more flexibility in determining the scholarship amounts to be awarded. Scholarships may be awarded for any or all of the following categories: (1) chapter leadership, (2) residence status and, (3) academic performance.

Scholarships for **chapter leadership** are awarded to those individuals for outstanding efforts above-and-beyond-the-call

whose actions significantly added to the value and prestige of the chapter as a whole. No set amount for this award is predetermined, but will be set by a majority vote of the Board on a case-by-case basis.

Scholarships for residence status is designed to help students better afford the cost of housing. To be eligible to receive this scholarship each individual must be an undergraduate student at Iowa State, be a member of the Fraternity (either pledge or active), and reside in the Fraternity House. Every member who meets these qualifications will receive a scholarship of an amount determined by the Board each summer prior to the beginning of the academic year. At this time, we anticipate that this amount will be equal to \$100 - \$150 per semester.

The third category addresses **academic performance**. Each semester the Board has awarded a \$100 scholarship to every member who earns a 3.00 or above. If the new draft of the scholarship agreement is passed at the October Board meeting, this amount will be increased to \$200 per member.

This new agreement between the Board and the Acacia Fraternity Foundation must be ratified by both parties before it will become effective. It is our hope that the local Corporate Board will ratify the document at the October Board meeting, and that it will be adopted shortly thereafter by the Acacia Foundation Board.

If you would like to see a draft copy of this document, please e-mail Harold Zarr at [acacia\\_814@hotmail.com](mailto:acacia_814@hotmail.com) or write to him and he will send you a copy.

## \$3,000 in Scholarships Awarded to Iowa State Acacians for the Fall, 2005, Semester

Fifteen members earned the \$100 Acacia Undergraduate Scholarship based on their academic performance for the Spring, 2005 semester. To qualify for this scholarship, a member of the chapter must earn at least a 3.00 grade point in the semester. The following members earned this \$100 scholarship: **Craig A. Buske, Collin M. Donahue-Oponski, Vincent L. Fadden, Martin L. Gran, Joshua S. Haugo, Jared A. Kline, John A. Kvinge, Matthew J. Landherr, Trenton A. Norman, Jared A. Ramthun, Clark D. Richardson, Aaron S. Rosheim, Phillip J. Sherman, John T. Vogel, and Michael J. Woolley.**

One of our new pledges who became a member this past spring semester was awarded \$500 for the Acacia Leadership Scholarship. His name is **Vincent L. Fadden.**

Finally, two of our members were each awarded \$500 by the Acacia Fraternity Foundation. These members are **Jared A. Ramthun** and **Trenton A Norman.**

Congratulations to all of these members of our Fraternity!

## Mervel Wood - #344 Honored at Company

# He Founded with his Brothers

*((Mervel, Leonard and Keith Wood were brothers who founded their own agricultural equipment company in 1946. Mervel- #344 and Keith - #320 were also members of Acacia Fraternity at Iowa State University. Recently, Mervel was honored at the company when the firm recently produced it one-millionth product. Mervel sent the following article to me which I am reproducing for you.))*

Mervel Wood and his brothers built their first tractor-pulled rotary mower in 1947, a year after they opened Wood Brothers Manufacturing Company. The piece of farm equipment sold for about \$350.

On Tuesday, the 85-year-old Wood returned to his former business, now called Woods Equipment Co., to celebrate the millionth product made at the Oregon plant. That product, also a rotary mower, retails for \$11,000.

“I didn’t think I would ever see it,! Wood said after a news conference touting that millionth product – a nearly 4,000 pound mower. That’s pretty good production. It’s really a thrill to see it.” It took nearly 60 years to get there, but Wood lived to see the pumpkin-colored pied of machinery called a Batwing that has a 15-foot “wingspan.” He’s also seen Woods Equipment evolve into a national manufacturer of attachments and implements for use in the agricultural, landscape and construction markets.

His brothers did not make it. “I wish they were her to see it,” Wood said of Leonard, who died three years ago, and Keith, who passed away in November. They help him start the company in 1946.

Hundreds of Woods employees turned out for a celebration at the plant. The event also drew Oregon’s mayor, Tom Stone; Oregon Area Chamber of Commerce members; and business leaders. John Kubrik, executive vice-president for ag and turf at Woods, told employees that it may only take 10 years to produce another million product companywide. The Oregon plant produces about 40,000 products annually.

“Our future is bright because of two things,” Kubrik said, addressing the workers. “We have the history and brand equity. We also have a great future because of these kinds of people working at Woods.”

The company started with three employees – the Wood brothers – in 1946. The trio thought they would make wagon boxes, but they couldn’t find the right steel, so they decided to make concrete blocks. That led the Woods to build metal racks to store the concrete blocks. They eventually began making mower-like corn stalk shredders.

“The corn shredder created the business we have now, the company you have now,” Wood told the employees, sever of who he recognized as workers he hired. Wood and his brothers sold the company in 1969. At the time, there were 200 workers.

Since, Woods Equipment has been through several owners. In June, Genstart Capital Partners, a San Francisco investment group, bought it. Nationwide, the company employees 1,500 including 550 at its plant in Oregon and warehouse in Rockford. In 2003, the privately held company reported \$232 million in revenues, \$120 million locally.

---

## Alumni News and Notes!

Here are some general news items from our alumni and friends. Enjoy!

**David H. Fifield - #671**  
3039 Summercrest Drive  
Pearland, Texas 77584-5104  
dhfifield@yahoo.com

Please note my new mailing address. *((shown above))* The national office already has my current mailing address, and I thought I’d sent it to you earlier, until I received the May issue of The Pythagorean.

One news bit – I’m retiring this month after 33 years with the Legal Department of Dow Chemical Company.

I recently saw ISU pledge Brother Dave French and his wife from Fort Myers, Florida, when they were traveling through Texas in May. Also the May letter from Brother Takenori Aso indicating his current status was welcome, as I had lost touch with him some years ago.

Thanks for all your good efforts in keeping the Brothers in touch and informed.

*((Thank you! One of the goals of this newsletter is to enable our Brothers to keep in contact with each other and provide everyone with a common forum to share information about their lives and interests. Thanks again for letting us know about your new address!))*

## I Active Chapter Report

*Trenton Norman, Venerable Dean - ACACIA Fraternity*  
*138 Gray Avenue*  
*Ames, Iowa 50014*  
*e-mail: [norman63@iastate.edu](mailto:norman63@iastate.edu)*

[www.stuorg.iastate.edu/acacia/](http://www.stuorg.iastate.edu/acacia/)

Greetings Brothers!

We at the Koph Chapter are gearing up for another semester at Iowa State University. Attending the Acacia Leadership Academy in July has energized and prepared us for the exciting events planned for the fall.

Three members attended the Acacia Leadership Academy (ALA) in Bloomington, Indiana. This conference is held in off-conclave years and provides an opportunity for chapters to discuss challenges and successes of their house in an informal manner. The Koph Chapter members benefited from learning about such topics as recruitment and how the International Strategic Plan affects each chapter. We are looking forward to incorporating these and other lessons into our semester to continue to achieve an excellent chapter record.

The house is currently gearing up for the 2005 Homecoming events! Our pairing consists of Sigma Epsilon and Kappa Delta. The men of the house are anticipating a strong showing in activities such as Yell Like Hell, the Olympics, and the banner competition. This year it was decided that the pairing would forgo the Lawn Display competition in order to focus more energy on community service. We feel that this decision reflects the tradition of service within our chapter.

The house is in the final stages of planning our first annual Acacia Waterball Challenge to benefit the Shiners Burn Unit. The date for the event is September 17 from mid-morning until late afternoon. Everyone in the house is excited to pitch in and make this event a success for our house and greater Ames community.

Other new events for the year will include the first annual Fathers' Weekend. Currently we are planning events for the dads and are looking forward to this becoming a strong annual tradition.

The chapter will continue to strive to excel and improve in the areas we are proficient and strengthen our areas of weakness. We will work hard, as the credo commands, to better our fraternity's record. We thank you all for the guidance you have given us through the years and look forward to your continued encouragement and support.

## **New Website Address!**

The Iowa State Acacia website address has changed. Please go to the following address to see what's new at the Iowa State Chapter.

## **Board President's Message**

*Harold Zarr, Corporate Board President - The ACACIANS*  
*215 Glen Drive*  
*Iowa Falls, Iowa 50126-1957*  
*e-mail: [acacia\\_814@hotmail.com](mailto:acacia_814@hotmail.com)*

Greetings my Brother ACACIANS!

This has been one busy year in terms of improvements to the Chapter house, and the Board has just completed its work on the fiscal budget for the next year. Notable in this process is our effort to establish a set schedule of maintenance and improvements to the property. In the past, we have been in more of a "reaction mode" than in being proactive due to the tight financial situation of the Board. While we are not exactly awash in cash, we at least are in a position where we can realistically plan to make improvements.

In terms of normal maintenance, we are going to begin having all of the carpets in the house cleaned once every six months. This should extend the life of the carpeting and help to keep the property looking good throughout the year.

We have also decided not to rent out the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor during the summer anymore. Even though it brings in a good cash flow, the costs associated with renting the rooms (air conditioning, maintenance on the bathrooms, traffic on the carpets) resulted in our making very little money for the effort involved. Not renting out the rooms also makes it easier for us to perform needed maintenance and to show the rooms to potential pledges. We will only rent out the rooms on the remaining floors to members of the house or close friends of the members.

During the Christmas break, we will be having the hardwood floor on the main level refinished and coated with polyurethane. This is an item that is long overdue, and should significantly improve the look and extend the life of the floor on the main level.

The biggest project is the renovation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor bathroom. We have plans to convert all of the rooms on the second floor to ones have private bathrooms. Assuming that the estimates are reasonable, this project will be the first step in accomplishing this goal. If we can provide private bathrooms for all the members, this should be a significant "selling point" for us to use in our recruitment process.

Finally, I would like to encourage all of our alumni to attend the Fall Board Meeting and Bar-Be-Que on October 15<sup>th</sup>. We are deviating from our past practice of having the meeting on

Homecoming due to the many conflicts that have arisen with this date. We hope that this will make it more convenient for our alumni to attend, and with considerably fewer problems than trying to have the meeting on Homecoming.

We will hold the Board meeting in the morning, a bar-be-que (it's free!) for all our alumni and parents at lunch time. Following the lunch, we will have a scholarship and awards ceremony at the House. Please plan to attend and show your support for the men of our Chapter!

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

Harold Zarr	President	515-964-6696
Michael O'Doherty	Vice-President	
Jeff Peil	Treasurer	641-430-5998
Gene Lucht	Secretary	515-964-5501
Ed Vuper	Alumni Relations	641-430-5998

Trenton Norman Chapter President 515-233-0145

Jared Kline	Chapter Treasurer	515-233-0145
John Kvinge	Chapter Representative	515-233-0145
Jeremy Davis	Chapter Advisor	515-291-7016

## 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 November, 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 **Harold Zarr** at his e-mail address **acacia\_814@hotmail.com**. Take care, and best wishes to all of the Brothers and friends of our Fraternity!