



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 # 32

Brother Edwin G. Drdla - #377 Bequeaths Funds from his Estate to Iowa State Chapter Fund

You may recall that in the last newsletter (November, 2004) we reported that Brother Gary Drdla - #377 had passed away. Shortly after that, we learned that he had bequeathed a **significant amount** of money from his estate to be used for scholarships for the undergraduate Brothers in the Iowa State Chapter of Acacia Fraternity.

Approximately one-half of the funds that we expect to receive in total have been received. Once a final authorization letter from the I.R.S. has been received by the estate's accountant, the remaining portion of the funds will be disbursed to us. We are not at liberty at this time to disclose the total amount, but we can share with you that it is a six-figure amount. As per the instructions in his will, these funds have been deposited in the **Iowa State Chapter Fund** within the Acacia Fraternity Foundation.

This announcement came as quite a surprise to the members of the Board, and while we are sorry that our Brother had to pass away for this to occur, we are profoundly grateful to him for his generosity. The Board also realizes that the care of these funds is critical and it important that we "manage" this bequest so that the chapter will benefit for many years to come. Currently, the funds are held in a money market account through the Acacia Fraternity Foundation (A.F.F.) with an annual return of slightly less than 1%.

At the January Board meeting, the general consensus of the Board was that the funds should probably be invested to earn a greater rate of return. We also need to ensure that these funds would provide a benefit to the chapter for many years to come. Out of this discussion, two decisions were made.

First, Harold Zarr appointed a committee to investigate and make a recommendation to the Board at the April meeting on how best to use these funds. The members of the committee are Chip Riedmann (alumni relations), Jeremy Davis (chapter advisor) and John Kvinge (chapter rush co-chair). Second, it was decided to request input from the alumni as well. This will be done on the official ballot included with this newsletter and by providing the e-mail addresses of the committee members so that our alumni may communicate directly with them.

In order to provide everyone with a general overview of what can be done with these funds, the remainder of this article will

address the options that we have available to us. It will also describe the restrictions that are in place under the IRS guidelines in terms of using these donated funds. Please keep in mind that because the funds were designated through the estate to be deposited with the A.F.F. (a 501(c)3 corporation), the funds must remain under the **direct management** of the Acacia Fraternity Foundation.

-- Investment Options --

There are three options in terms of how to invest the funds.

Option 1: The funds could be put into a **money market account** that earns less than 1% interest, but the **principal** portion of the funds are **guaranteed against loss**.

Option 2: The second option is to invest the funds in a combined **stock and bond fund** that has a current dividend yield of approximately 6.5%. However, the **principal is not guaranteed against loss**.

Option 3: Finally, we could divide the money between the two funds in any way we deem appropriate.

-- Optional Account Types --

A second decision must be made in terms of the "type" of account to be set up. There are two options available regarding the account type.

Option 1: The money could be put into an **expendable fund** in which **all** of the money donated could be given out as scholarships or used in ways allowed by the IRS (which are defined later in this article).

Option 2: The money could be put into an **endowed fund**. With an endowed fund, **only the interest may be used** for scholarships or other IRS approved activities.

Currently, the funds bequeathed by Brother Drdla were **automatically** placed in the **money market account** with the Acacia Fraternity Foundation. This account is an **expendable fund** type of fund. The interest rate that we earn on these funds is quite low (<1% at this time), but the funds are "safe," meaning that the principal is not at risk to loss. In

addition, money in this type of account is defined as “expendable.” This also means that **all** of this money could be given out as scholarships or used in ways allowed under IRS guidelines for these types of funds. Obviously, in this type of account all of the funds could be used up within a number of years, but also gives the Board the maximum amount of flexibility in the use of the funds.

The committee that was appointed has the responsibility of preparing a recommendation to be presented to the Board at the next Board meeting. This meeting will be held on April 23rd at the chapter house. The committee will make a recommendation to the Board for both the investment option to be chosen and type of account that should be set up.

The committee members will be exchanging e-mails between themselves and others as they deem appropriate in order to come up with their recommendation. If any of our alumni would like to communicate with these members with idea’s or suggestions, a special e-mail address for the committee has been setup as follows:

Chip Reidmann	Alumni Relations	acaciafund@iastate.edu
Jeremy Davis	Chapter Advisor	acaciafund@iastate.edu
John Kvinge	Chapter Rep.	acaciafund@iastate.edu

History and Use of Chapter Funds at the Acacia Fraternity Foundation

Each chapter has a fund that was established in 1998 by the Acacia Fraternity Foundation. At that time, the Foundation Board authorized the allocation of \$1,000 to each chapter account to serve as focal point where alumni could make donations in support of a **specific chapter** instead of the Foundation as whole. This would provide a greater degree of control over the use of these funds on the part of the local Boards for each chapter.

All donations to these funds are 100% tax deductible to the person making the contribution. The money in these funds may be used for scholarships or it may be used for educational related expenses as identified and approved according to guidelines published by the Internal Revenue Service. The following are direct quotes from the AFF Chapter Account Program documentation regarding the use of funds in these accounts.

Scholarships...must be awarded on the basis of demonstrated financial need and the recipient must be enrolled in a degree-granting program. Both undergraduate and graduate students are eligible to received scholarships. Scholarship do not need to be based on academic achievement or restricted to a particular chapter and can be awarded on the basis of leadership potential, contributions to the Fraternity or other criteria established by the chapter house corporation.

Scholarships may also be awarded to non-Acacians as part of chapter scholarship/recruitment programs. The Foundation has developed scholarship applications forms for these

programs for use by chapters. Chapters may also establish named scholarship funds within their chapter account to memorialize or honor specific individuals.

Educational Programs...that can funded through chapter account include but are not limited to awards for academic achievement, training materials for drug and alcohol awareness, risk management and social responsibility, leadership and business skill development, faculty speaker honorarium and dinners, on-campus study hall reservation and rental fees, tutors, and travel to Acacia leadership academies. The Foundation should be consulted in advance to determine the eligibility of proposed educational programs.

Educational Equipment...must be used exclusively for educational purposes, with no potential for shared use. For example, the IRS will allow the purchase of furniture, books, computers, and Internet connections to the campus computer system for a chapter library, but only if the equipment and the room are used solely for study and the room(s) can be physically separated from the rest of the chapter house. However, if the room is also used as a chapter meeting room or for other non-study purposes the IRS may disallow the tax-exempt status of the contributions.

For this reason, mixed use education equipment like book shelves, computers and desks in student sleeping rooms, and "study tables" in chapter dining rooms are not typically funded through the Foundation, even though they are used part-time for educational purposes. For the same reason, Foundation chapter accounts are allowed to contribute to the purchase, construction or repair of chapter houses or to hold chapter house mortgages only under very limited conditions.

Iowa State Alumni Inquiries regarding Bequests

We have received inquiries from alumni regarding bequests to the chapter as a part of their estate planning. Obviously, we cannot reveal any names due to confidentiality considerations, but we will summarize the information that I shared with our alumni. **We want to point out that we are NOT lawyers. You must consult with your attorney regarding the exact wording and tax consequences of your bequest to your estate depending on the type of donation that you make.**

In terms of making a bequest, you have three options. One is to contribute money to the **Iowa State Chapter Fund** in care of the Acacia Fraternity Foundation. Financial contributions to this fund will be handled in the same manner as described in this article for those of Brother Drdla. If you choose to contribute money to the Iowa State Chapter Fund, we recommend that you use the following wording:

I hereby bequeath \$__ or __% of my estate to be deposited in the Iowa State Chapter Fund through the Acacia Fraternity Foundation to be used for scholarships or other approved and allowed educational expenses at the direction of the Corporate Board of The Acacians, which is

the alumni corporate board of the Iowa State Chapter of Acacia Fraternity.

Funds may also be donated to accounts that the Board set up a number of years ago with the ISU Foundation. These two funds are used to provide scholarships for the **Acacia Leadership Scholarship** (for new pledges) and the **Acacia Undergraduate Scholarship** (for house members based on grades). Wording that you could use in this instance would be as follows:

I hereby bequeath \$___ or ___% of my estate to be deposited with the ISU Foundation in the following accounts:

- Acacia Leadership Account # 0700122**
- Acacia Undergraduate Account # 0706841**

A third option is to donate money directly to the Corporate Board. While the funds donated to either Acacia Fraternity Foundation or the ISU Foundation will most likely be tax-deductible in terms of your estate, **money donated directly to the Corporate Board will most likely NOT be tax-deductible.** Money donated directly to the Board may be used for any purpose by the Board, including paying off the mortgage, making improvements to the chapter house, or for any other legitimate purpose related to the chapter as a whole.

Summary

We realize that this has been a tremendous amount of information to share with everyone. Our hope is to impart to all of our alumni the seriousness with which the Board takes addresses this topic. Our first and primary consideration is the safety and wise use of any funds entrusted to our care.

Our annual fund drives for scholarships are used for just that purpose: scholarships. The current fund drive (The \$45 Grand Club) sponsored by John Lynch - #711 and Harold Zarr - #814 is an example of how the alumni have come to believe in the future of our chapter at Iowa State. When we began this process some nine years ago, we were certain that many of our alumni were dubious of our chances of success. We would like to think that, based on the increased levels of involvement we have seen from our alumni during those nine years that we have laid those doubts to rest.

We are extremely hopeful and excited about the future of the chapter. We believe that we have the finest group of young men in the entire Greek system as members of Acacia. And we are not saying that simply because we're members of Acacia. When you look at the levels of academic performance and community involvement (on the **local, national and international levels**), you will be hard pressed to find a more outstanding group of young men.

They make us proud to be a member of this Fraternity, and we hope you share this pride. We look forward to hearing from each of you soon!

Iowa State Acacians Awarded \$7,550 in Scholarships

This semester, the Corporate Board and the Acacia Fraternity Foundation awarded a total of \$7,550 in scholarships to the undergraduate members of our chapter.

Each new member of our chapter is carefully selected based on three criteria: their moral character, their demonstrated involvement in high school and extra-curricular activities, and their academic performance. The following new members of our chapter each were awarded a **\$500 Acacia Leadership Scholarship**: Collin Donahue-Oponski, Joshua Haugo, John Kvinge, Steven Pace, Jared Ramthun, Clark Richardson, Jon Roghair, Philip Sherman, and John Vogel.

Academic performance plays a big factor in determining who will earn this next scholarship. Only undergraduate members who at least a 3.00 will be considered for the **Acacia Undergraduate Scholarship**. They must also be involved in

the activities of the undergraduate chapter and live in the house. The following members were each awarded **\$100** based on their grades for the Fall, 2005 semester: Ryan Anderson, Craig Buske, Christian Cox, Brad Deserano, Collin Donahue-Oponski, Martin Gran, Joshua Haugo, Greg Janda, Jared Kline, John Kvinge, Jeff Landherr, Matt Landherr, Trenton Norman, David Pace, Jacob Pergande, Nathan Porter, Jared Ramthun, Clark Richardson, Jonathan Roghair, Aaron Rosheim, Nathan Russel, Joseph Sloan, Phillip Sherman, John Vogel, and Michael Woolley.

Finally, our undergraduate Brothers **Jared Kline** and **Jeff Landherr** were each awarded **\$500** by the Acacia Fraternity Foundation based on their academic performance. **Congratulations to all these Brothers!**

Acacia Fraternity is #1 in Greek System with 3.39 G.P.A.

Pledge Class is #1 for third consecutive year with a 3.41 G.P.A.

The Fall, 2004 semester grade results are in, and Acacia continues to lay claim to the top academic honors in the Iowa

State Greek System. The results for the top five chapters were as follows:

1.	Acacia	3.39
2.	Delta Tau Delta	3.13
3.	Alpha Gamma Rho	3.07
4.	Phi Delta Theta	3.03
5.	Beta Sigma Psi	3.03
All Fraternity Average		2.83
All Men's Undergrad Ave.		2.83

Fall, 2004	#1	3.39
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

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:

For the **third year in a row**, the pledges of our chapter captured the top spot among all Greek Houses with an impressive **3.41 grade point average**. Their closest competitors were Alpha Gamma Rho and Triangle, who each placed with a 2.94 GPA.

Acacia remains the **only** fraternity in the Iowa State Greek System with **both** the **highest affiliated GPA** and the **highest new member GPA**.

Congratulations to the men of our chapter of Acacia Fraternity!

Term	Position	GPA
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Three New Pledges Join the Iowa State Chapter

In a pledging ceremony held Saturday, January 30th, three new pledges joined our Fraternity at Iowa State. With addition of these men, we will only need to recruit five outstanding young men to completely fill our house this fall. We have discovered that because we are a small house (with a capacity of 27 men), that we can be extremely selective in the recruiting and pledging of new members. This has enabled us to be able to recruit the finest young men to our Brotherhood.

Engineers, the Iowa State Singers, and a variety of intramural activities. He also made the **Deans List** his first semester.

Vincent Fadden is from Maple Plain, Minnesota, and is majoring in **Construction Engineering**. In addition to joining Acacia, he is a member of the Campus Crusade for Christ. He is a **National Merit Scholar** and also received scholarships for competitive excellence and engineering.

The names of our newest members are **Sam Fankhauser**, **Matt Fritz**, and **Vince Fadden**. I was able to obtain short biographies on two of the new pledges by the time this issue of the newsletter went to press. Their stories follow.

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.

www.stuorg.iastate.edu/acacia/

Sam Frankhauser is a freshman from Omaha, Nebraska and is majoring in **Mechanical Engineering**. He was the **salutatorian** of his graduating class. Since coming to Iowa State, he has been involved in the Freshman Council, Leadership ISY, the American Society of Mechanical

Alumni Contribute \$ 241,119 to Scholarship Programs \$14,665 Contributed to \$45 Grand Club in 2004

2004 was a year unmatched in terms of generosity on the part of our alumni and parents of in-house members in terms of contributions for the chapter and its scholarship programs. As of December 31st, here are the following totals contributed to the various projects in 2004:

ISU Chapter Library Fund @ Acacia Foun.	\$ 200.00
Acacia Scholarships @ ISU Foundation	\$ 10,650.00
Capital Improvements (non-specific)	\$ <u>1,310.00</u>
Total	\$ 241,119.00

Acacia Challenge (new windows)	\$ 24,944.00
ISU Chapter Fund @ Acacia Foundation	\$ 204,015.00

We are deeply grateful to the alumni and parents who have contributed funds this past year in support of the chapter.

Please know that your contributions are being put to good use to enhance the quality of the chapter house and to provide needed scholarships to the members of the active chapter.

Alumni may continue to 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 active chapter!

The table that is shown lists those Brothers who have made tax-deductible contributions to the chapter in 2004. Please accept our grateful thanks for your generosity 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)
Edwin G. Drdla - #377	Iowa State Chapter Fund – AFF
Board of Directors Club	(\$5,000 - \$ 9,999)
John T. Lynch - #711	Acacia Fund @ ISU Foundation

Pythagorean Partner	(\$ 2,500 - \$ 4,999)
Harold D. Zarr Jr. - #814	Acacia Fund @ ISU Foundation
Chapter Partner	(\$ 1,000 - \$ 2,499)
James M. Hanson - #533	Iowa State Chapter Fund - AFF
Silver Partner	(\$ 500 - \$ 749)
Robert L. Carstens - #354	Iowa State Chapter Fund - AFF
Robert A. Ketch - #648	Capital Improvements Account
Douglas R. Nelson - #652	Iowa State Chapter Fund - AFF
Loran E. Peil	Capital Improvements Account
Bronze Partner	(\$ 100 - \$ 499)
Steven J. Pace	Capital Improvements Account
John C. Akins - #307	Iowa State Chapter Fund – AFF
A. Dean Platt - #321	Capital Improvements Account
W. Leonard Neidig - #332	Iowa State Chapter Fund – AFF
Gordon A. Cook - #390	Iowa State Chapter Fund - AFF
John R. Fulkerson - #410	Iowa State Chapter Fund – AFF
Charles D. Bird - #416	Iowa State Chapter Fund – AFF
William G. Percy - #420	Iowa State Chapter Fund – AFF
Kenneth L. MacRae - #427	Iowa State Chapter Fund - AFF
Marcus A. Merriman - #446	Acacia Fund @ ISU Foundation
Joel E. Jensen - #496	Iowa State Chapter Fund – AFF
Richard W. Taylor - #506	Iowa State Chapter Fund – AFF
Roger P. Cook - #513	Iowa State Chapter Fund - AFF
John E. Schrader - #539	Iowa State Chapter Fund - AFF
David W. Smith - #565	Iowa State Chapter Fund - AFF
Dale H. Vanderholm - #586	Iowa State Chapter Fund - AFF
Philip C. Larson - #684	Iowa State Chapter Fund - AFF
Chris W. Knapp - #764	Capital Improvements Account
Stephen J. Casper IV - #905	Iowa State Chapter Fund – AFF
Jeremy N. Davis - #969	Acacia Fund @ ISU Foundation
Daniel Kvinge	Acacia Fund @ ISU Foundation
Spirit Partner	(\$ 1 - \$ 99)
A. Dean Platt - #321	Iowa State Chapter Fund - AFF
George A. Buck - #345	Iowa State Chapter Fund - AFF
William Vogel - #620	Capital Improvements Account
Gary L. Ruegsegger - #613	Iowa State Chapter Fund – AFF
Douglas C. Wallway - #625	Iowa State Chapter Fund – AFF
Robert D. Howlett - #672	Iowa State Chapter Fund – AFF

Iowa State Acacians Serve America in ROTC and Guard Programs

((Presidents Note: My daughter was a student at the University of Iowa when her Iowa National Guard unit was called to active duty last February. She is currently stationed on an Air Force base in Afghanistan. When I learned that three of the men in our chapter were also in the military, I asked each of them to write a short article about the branch of the service that they joined and their reasons for doing so. One member of our Fraternity, Andrew Nugent, is currently in training and was not able to submit an article. Here are their stories in their words.))

Aaron Rosheim - #989
Iowa Army National Guard / ROTC

I was asked to write about my military experience. One year ago, I enlisted in the Iowa Army National Guard. I took the spring semester off from Iowa State so I could attend Basic Combat Training as well as Advanced Individual Training, beginning in March. I was gone from March to August while I trained at Fort Knox, Kentucky and Fort Rucker, Alabama. I

was trained in basic soldier skills as well as flight operations, which is basically airfield management for the Army.

Upon my return, I contracted with the Iowa State Army ROTC program. It keeps my schedule rather full as I balance classes with the military commitments of ROTC and the National Guard. This summer, I will have another seven weeks of training. When I graduate in May, 2006, I will be commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army. After that, I hope to go to flight school to be trained to fly the Blackhawk Helicopter.

Questions always surround me about why I joined, especially during a time of war. There are several reasons why I joined. First, in the preamble of Acacia, there is a line that goes, "...to have a greater influence in the affairs of the community in which we may reside." Up to the day I enlisted, I had done very little for my community, let alone my country. I felt a burning desire within me to serve my country. By serving in the military, I ultimately serve my community as well.

Second, the opportunities for me in the Army are boundless. I am a History and Education major at Iowa State. I want to teach and coach high school students, and have a great impact on them. However, I like the opportunities I have to make a difference in the Army as well. That falls in line with our motto of "Human Service." It is not simply the act of serving, but the willingness to succeed.

Finally, I have a strong faith. I am confident that this is the path God has placed in front of me. My mother was, and still is, especially concerned with me joining the military. She wondered why I would ever want to do something that could put my life in danger. I explained to her that it is not up to me when or how my life will end. I believe that God has a specific day for all of us to die, and it doesn't matter what we are doing because that is our time. He is in control of everything. With that confidence, I can go into the service of my country with few worries.

Until I finish college, I can't be deployed. However, I look forward to the experiences I will have serving my country. My time in Acacia has taught me the value of Brotherhood. Likewise, the military is focused on teamwork and the bonds developed with fellow soldiers. I am glad I joined the Army, and I don't regret my decision what-so-ever. It is my hope

that one day, I can look back and be proud of the impact I had on not only my local community as a teacher and coach, but also my country as a soldier.

**Jacob Pergande - #1013
Air Force / ROTC**

My name is Jacob Pergande and I am a sophomore in Aerospace Engineering at Iowa State University. Harold asked me to write to you and tell you about my military experience. I am a member of the Air Force R.O.T.C. program. My knowledge is limited in regards to my experience with the actual military but I have had a taste of what military life is really like.

I got started with R.O.T.C. because I have always wanted to fly. My dream plane was going to be the SR-71 but the government said that the cost was too great. When I was a senior in high school I was looking for free money, like every college age student that has to pay most of there way. My parents told me that the ROTC programs offer scholarships to students. So I applied and about half way through I found out that my college tuition was going to be paid for.

My parents had no real objections to me joining ROTC. My dad was in the National Guard for seventeen years. When the second war in Iraq started my mother had a little bit of hesitation about me joining because I was willing to go into harms way when I go active duty.

When I went to Little Rock AFB this summer I got a real taste of what active duty was like. I spent a month there on a program called Rising Sophomore Program. While I was there I was able to talk to airman that have gone on deployments, been in the line of fire, and just plain experienced what I was going to be going through. I was just an immature college freshman thinking about myself...when I came back from Little Rock I had a sense of what I was getting into after I graduate. I had a better understanding of what the members of our Cadre were trying to teach us. I found valuable lessons on how, as an officer, to act and interact with my soon to be fellow airman. Even though I can't use my new found skills in the Air Force, I can use them in college and in the house to be able to interact with my fellow students and brothers.

Alumni Recall Their Days in the Fraternity

In the last edition of the newsletter, we requested that the alumni share some stories of their days in the Fraternity. The following are the submissions that we received from a variety of the Brothers. Read on, you may recall some of these events!

**ArloDean Platt - #321
3905 Oak Park Circle
Waterloo, Iowa 50701**

We landscaped the house when I was in school from our nursery and should you wish to do so again, I'll furnish the nursery stock. Send me some measurements and I'll come up with a proposal.

((Thanks for the generous offer! We will be having a Board meeting in January and I'll get some measurements and talk it over with the Board and get back in touch with you!))

John R. Fulkerson - #410
4592 Ridge Crest Road
Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin 54235-8169

They are fading fast! – But...about 1949 a group from Iowa State (I was the Venerable Dean) went to Lincoln to assist in the reactivation of the Nebraska Chapter of Acacia. About the same year several from ISU went to the National Conclave in Boulder. I recall picking up Tom Brown out in the country on the muddiest road in the state of Iowa. But we made it to Boulder anyway!

William G. Percy - #420
24362 Cardwell Hill
Philomath, Oregon 97370

Performing the prize winning VEISHEA skit based on Carmen melodies and original lyrics about the draft and going to war. Does anyone remember the lyrics? One starts "...Is this the draft board as is on the door..." and another is "...he is not tough but he is not rough, he's just my little powder puff..." If anyone remembers the lyrics, I would love to get a copy of them.

Roger P. Cook, M.D. - #513
215 Beacon Way
Santa Rosa Beach, Florida 32459

Taking 15-20 Brothers and making an excellent men's chorus out of them, then finishing in the top three at the VEISHEA competition. They learned how good they were then and no doubt still are today!

Harold D. Zarr Jr. - #814
215 Glen Drive
Iowa Falls, Iowa 50126-1957
acacia_814@hotmail.com

When I was a pledge in 1973, we went on our pledge skip to the Nebraska Chapter. At that time, each Friday evening was referred to as "pie night" as that was the one night of the week we were served pie as the dessert course. We gave up the pie that night to take the trip, but somehow (and we are not certain how this happened) a large box of powdered chocolate ex-lax was "accidentally" spilled into the filling for the pie that evening.

Never ones to let good food go to waste, the actives enjoyed two, and in some cases three, pieces of pie that evening. Before we (the pledges) returned to give the house a thorough cleaning, the actives did some "cleaning" of their own!

Michael O'Doherty - #981

611 North 147th Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68154

Riding the "Cadillac" to those intramural victories!

Active Chapter Report

Trenton Norman, Venerable Dean - ACACIA Fraternity
138 Gray Avenue
Ames, Iowa 50014
e-mail: norman63@iastate.edu

Greetings Brothers!

This is my first address to our alumni as the newly elected President of undergraduate chapter at Iowa State. I hope that you will enjoy this section as I share with all of you the activities and events that we are involved in as the academic year moves forward. Please feel free to contact us at any time and to stop in if you are in the area – we would love to meet you and show you around the house!

Through hard work and determination, the men of Acacia fraternity once again hold the distinguished honor of having the best GPA on campus. We are also very proud of our new members, who are continuing the tradition of excellence by carrying the highest "new member GPA". The men of the house are pleased with their accomplishments, but not yet satisfied as we continue to set loftier academic goals.

This semester we are extremely excited about our three new pledges. **Matthew Fritz**, **Sam Fankhauser**, and **Vince Fadden** constitute the Spring 2005 pledge class and we have high hopes for what they will accomplish for Acacia and the university.

Varieties are nearing a conclusion and the pairing of Acacia, Alpha Gamma Rho, and Alpha Omicron Pi is ready to bring home first place. This year Brothers **Christian Cox** (junior), **Jared Ramthun** (freshman), and **Clark Richardson** (freshman) performed on stage, all playing significant roles in the skit and two singing solos. Along with our thespians on stage, Brother **Craig Buske** (sophomore) and **David Pace** (sophomore) performed in the band, which is nominated for "Best Band." The pairing will compete in Sweepstakes on February 25 and 26. With such strong talent amongst our younger Brothers, expect great things from these Varieties superstars.

On March 5th Acacia will have its first Mom's weekend since we re-chartered. This is an opportunity for the men of Acacia to spend time with their families and each other. We are very excited about the opportunity to showcase the house and the brotherhood to our mothers. The men will be treating their mother to a brunch and then escorting them to Reiman Gardens. The afternoon will conclude with an optional

barbeque at the house. We are excited about the event and hope that it will become a fine Acacia tradition.

Having firmly established ourselves as a force to be reckoned with academically, the men of Acacia will strive to create a more visible name for ourselves within the Greek and Ames community. We recently approved our first major philanthropy which we hope to make an annual event. The "Acacia Waterball Challenge" will be a joint venture between the local fire department and Acacia Fraternity. The competition, one that is performed at the Firefighters Olympics, is open to all students at the university. All proceeds will be evenly split between the Shriner's Burn Unit and the local firefighter's charity.

We are also excited as several Brothers seek positions of leadership both within the Interfraternity Council and the Government of the Student Body. As the elections near we hope to soon announce the new campus positions held by Acacians.

In closing I would say that the chapter will continue this semester, as we do every semester, to strive to excel and improve in the areas we are proficient and strengthen our areas of weakness. We will work hard to, as the credo commands, 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.

Again, 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.

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*

Greetings my Brother ACACIANS!

As you can see from this issue of the newsletter, we are in the midst of a number of exciting events and projects at the chapter. First, we will be having Board elections in April. Enclosed with this newsletter is a ballot which we are asking you to fill out and send back in the enclosed envelope. On behalf of the Board, I want to send my thanks and appreciation to both Murray and Chip for their contributions to the Board over the past two years. They shared us with many good ideas and suggestions and they will definitely be missed.

We are also asking for feedback from the alumni as to their thoughts on how we should invest the funds from the estate of Brother Drdla. It is our intention to make a decision at the April meeting, and we would appreciate your thoughts. If you

would like to attend the meeting, please note it on the ballot as the active chapter will be hosting a bar-be-que for all visiting alumni and their parents. **We encourage as many of you as possible to attend and take the opportunity to meet the outstanding men who are living in the fraternity!**

We are planning a major painting project over the spring/summer break on the second floor. We will be painting the entire second floor, having the carpets professionally cleaned, and taking care of any other maintenance or improvement projects that we feel need to be done.

Our summer rush program is geared up and is already moving forward. We have begun to receive applications for the Acacia Leadership Scholarships, and we have begun having informal conversations and visits with some potential new members who we believe have the skills and ability to become worthy Brothers of our Fraternity. We only need five men to bring the house to full capacity this fall, so we are looking to have a number of pledge members live in the dorms until space can be made for them in the house. As the summer rush progresses, we will be certain to keep you updated.

I want to say a special word of thanks to all of the alumni who have been supporting our scholarship program with donations in 2005. Something new is happening. In the past, I have generally received contributions only in the fall, but this year I have been receiving donations on a weekly basis. So far this year, we have received contributions from the following individuals: **Julie O'Doherty (mother of Mike O'Doherty), Bernard J. Kolp - #456, Richard G. Wilson - #409, Charles L. Dozois - #379, Keith Chandler - #323, John G. McDonald - #494, William J. Dilcher - #576, and Clifton L. Kessler - #548.** Our heartfelt thanks go out to all of these supporters of our chapter!

I am convinced that our alumni are supporting us because we have carried through with our goals and intentions to rebuild our chapter into the premier fraternity in the Iowa State Greek System. Much of the credit for this must go to the men who have and currently are living in the house. Since we rechartered our chapter, we have focused on bringing in only those men who best exemplify the ideals of our Fraternity – and the results speak for themselves.

Please stop in and visit whenever you get the chance! We would love to see lots of our alumni come back for the April Board meeting this year and meet your new Brothers and perhaps run into some from your days at the House. A good time should be had by all!

May God bless every one in your family during 2005!

Alumni News and Notes!

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

Joel E. Jensen - #496
544 Saint Davids Avenue
Saint Davids, Pennsylvania 19087

I was sorry to learn of Don Vinson's Death. He and I roomed together for several quarters and he was the best man at my wedding in March, 1957. Marjorie and I have four children: Erik, Kristina, Matthew, and Sarah – all grown and on their own – and two grandchildren: Kyle (Matt's) and Vivienne (Sarah's). After more than forty years in the Boston area, we moved in 2000 to Saint Davids, Pennsylvania, a Philadelphia suburb.

Horst Hahn - #555
2400 Marilyn Avenue
Lincoln, Nebraska 68502

Please note my new address now that I have moved to the United States.

Richard W. Taylor
1210 Blummenfield Drive
Sacramento, California 95815-3903

Here is a donation to use anyway you feel will help Acacia the most. I was so impressed with the new members and their qualifications. Your newsletter has been so important in the recolonization. It has been responsible for bringing back alumni interest. Happy holidays!

((Thank you for the kind words and donation. I put it in the scholarship account with the Acacia Fraternity Foundation. It will benefit the men in the house and provide you with a tax-deduction as well! Thanks again for your generous support!))

Dan and Kathy Kvinge
201 Woodridge Lane
Lino Lakes, Minnesota 55014

((Dan and Kathy are the parents of John Kvinge, our rush chair and the undergraduate member of the committee appointed to make a recommendation on the handling of the funds from the Drdla estate. His parents sent me the following letter, which they graciously agreed to allow me to reprint in this edition of the newsletter.))

Enclosed you will find a check and a matching gift form from my employer. The check is made out to the ISU Foundation and references the Acacia account #0706841 as explained in the Pythagorean.

Harold, thank you for the excellent work you and others are doing with Acacia Fraternity. Our son, John (#1022), has adjusted well to life at ISU and already made some life-long

friends in the house. He likes Acacia so well he will be helping to recruit pledges for the coming year.

My wife and I really enjoy reading the Pythagorean newsletter. It's fun to get a sense of the people who have gone before and the accomplishments of those at school today. You who are still active in the chapter make real the benefits and responsibilities of brotherhood and service. We are pleased we can be a part of a great organization!

((Thank you for your very kind letter! It is good to know that you enjoy reading this little newsletter and that it is accomplishing its purpose of involving you in what we are doing. You are always welcome to visit, and I hope you wife is able to attend the "mom's weekend" that will be coming up soon! Thanks again for your donation – it was very kind of you!))

Corporate Board Election

Included with this newsletter you will find a ballot which will list the alumni Brothers who are currently running for positions on the Board. The Corporate Board respectfully requests each of you to fill out the ballot and return it in the enclosed envelope.

We are also taking a poll on this ballot and requesting the alumni to give us feedback concerning the options for the investment of the Drdla Bequest. **Your input is important to us!**

The results of the election will be announced at the April Board meeting, and we encourage all of our Brothers to attend. The undergraduate chapter will be hosting a bar-be-que at lunch time. Please stop in to visit and meet these young men and their parents and your fellow alumni Brothers!

In Memoriam

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

Charles E. Wilcox - #296
Bartlett W. Davis - #317

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

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 May, 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.