



The Iowa State Pythagorean

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

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Scholarship Program Modified by Corporate Board

There have been a number of significant changes that have affected the entire Greek System over the past few years. Most important has been the overall decline in membership for the Greek System as a whole. When I was in the house (1973-1977), joining a fraternity was a highly desired objective for many of the men attending Iowa State, and was a source of considerable pride for those who did join.

Today, many students who enter Iowa State have expressed considerably less enthusiasm when it comes to joining a fraternity. The widely reported problems associated with fraternities (drinking, hazing and violence) have caused many parents and students to view fraternities in a negative light, and have influenced many of the students to reject out-of-hand any enquiries regarding their interest in joining a fraternity.

The Greek System has also been faced with increasing competition from both the University and apartment developers in Ames. The University has considerably upgraded the dorms, and has included apartment-style units in their housing package. They have also created "learning group" environments which simulate (to a limited degree) fraternity style living by grouping students in the same major on entire dorm floors and providing them with opportunities for support (tutoring, study groups, etc.) in their chosen major.

Developers in Ames have built a considerable number of apartment's buildings during the past few years. So much so that they have created an environment in which there are more units available than people to fill them. This has lead to a "housing war" in which a number of developers are offering financial incentives (e.g., free rent for a couple of months) to students who agree to move in to their apartment complexes.

Fraternities, the University, and area developers are all in the business of making money. As a result, price competition has become a major factor in determining where a student will live. The University has responded to this problem by considerably increasing the cost a student must pay if they wish to break their housing contract. Today, if a student wants to break their housing contract after August 1st, they will have to pay **80%** of the housing cost for the **entire academic year** to break their contract. Needless to say, few students are willing to pay this price to break their contract.

Fraternities are caught in the middle in the problem. Our costs for utilities and other expenses continue to increase. At the same time, we struggle with the negative image that

fraternities have earned over the past few years. Your Iowa State Alumni Board has approached this problem from a number of different perspectives over the past few years.

The first, and most important step, has been an extremely careful and selective process that we use when deciding to offer membership to men who plan to, or are attending, Iowa State. **Our goal has always been to select men who have high academic goals, a good work ethic, and an outgoing personality.** In all respects, we have been extremely fortunate to achieve these goals with all of the men we have recruited. Our #1 academic standing speaks for itself, and has proved to be an important factor in attracting the type of men we recruit.

This has served to be an important tool in convincing parents that our fraternity is **not** the stereotypical "animal house" fraternity. If we were, we would not be able to demonstrate the academic results that the men in the chapter have achieved. This gives us the opportunity to get parents to take a look at us, which is critical in terms of getting their approval for us to pledge their son. Once we get the parents to consider us, we show them all of the philanthropic and extra-curricular activities that our chapter are involved in, demonstrating that we pursue a "well-rounded" approach to academic life.

A second approach has been to provide our members with amenities and a living environment that is competitive with the other options available to the incoming students. To this end we provide things such as **free internet and cable access** in each room, **free laundry facilities** (which no one else provides), **central air-conditioning**, and we have and are continuing to upgrade the facilities (**new windows thanks to our alumni**) and to provide **private bathrooms** for all rooms on the first and second floors. We also have apartment-style living for three of the rooms in the house, complete with their own kitchens.

The third aspect of this approach is financial. The Board has completed modified the entire financial package for both new members and actives who live in the house. Under the package adopted by the Board at their October meeting, the financial incentives available to the members, beginning in the Fall, 2006 semester, break down as follows:

Pledges Fall, 2006	\$ 400	residency scholarship
Spring, 2007	\$ 400	residency scholarship

	Spring, 2007	\$1,000	leadership scholarship
	Spring, 2007	\$ 200	academic scholarship
Actives	Fall, 2006	\$ 400	residency scholarship
	Fall, 2006	\$ 200	academic scholarship
	Spring, 2007	\$ 400	residency scholarship
	Spring, 2007	\$ 200	academic scholarship

The Board adopted a comprehensive scholarship program for members of the chapter to achieve two purposes. First, we want to help ease the financial burden on students and their parents for the cost of attending school at Iowa State. The second reason is that we want to be the most financially attractive housing option for those exception students that we believe would become outstanding Brothers in our Fraternity.

The Board also believes that the members must earn these scholarships for them to have value. For example, to earn the **residency scholarship**, each member must live in the chapter house and be a participating member of the chapter. The **leadership scholarship** is based on the high school academic,

extra-curricular, and personal qualifications of each applicant. The **academic scholarship** is only awarded to those members who earn a 3.00 or above each semester. If an undergraduate brother chooses to live off-campus, they automatically forgo the option of receiving any of these scholarships.

Thus, in the first year a new pledge of the Fraternity could receive as much as \$2,000 in scholarships. Each year after that, they could receive up to an additional \$1,200.

In the past, pledges were eligible to receive \$600 their first year, and only \$200 per year maximum, thereafter. As you can see, this new plan represents a **substantial increase** in the total financial package we are able to offer to the men who join our house.

The Board has also allocated a specified amount of money out of each semester's rent from each in-house member to our "capital improvement" account. This account will be used to fund projects related to improving the physical structure of the house to make it more attractive to potential members and a better living environment for those who are current members.

House Maintenance and Summer Renting Programs Approved by Corporate Board

At the Board meeting held on October 15th, the Alumni Board approved a new maintenance and house improvement schedule for the next year. Over the Christmas break, we will have the hardwood floors on the main level sanded and polished. This is a project that has been long overdue, and should significantly improve the look of the house when people first stop in to visit.

Second, we will have the carpets in the house cleaned twice a year. Each Christmas break, we will have the carpets in all of the common area's (solarium, 2nd and 3rd floor) cleaned. Each May, this will be expanded to include the basement and its rooms, and all of the rooms on the 2nd floor as well.

A third project involves the conversion of room #9 (middle room on the south side of the second floor) into a three-bathroom layout. This will provide the two rooms on either side of this room with a private restroom complete with a shower, and give us a public-accessible restroom as well. The room on the north side of the 2nd floor will be converted back into a study room. Then, hopefully in the following year, the existing "common" restroom will be converted into two separate restrooms for the adjoining rooms on the north side

and east sides of the current "common" restroom. We are currently waiting of bids from contractors before we begin this project.

The final issue that was approved by the Board involved the renting of rooms to non-members during the summer. Given the problems we had this past summer (cleaning the common areas of the chapter hosue, trash removal, and stolen furniture and wall hangings), it was decided that we would no longer rent to people who were not members of the fraternity. The additional income that we received did not justify the additional problems we were running into, so we decided (as many other fraternities have as well) to no longer rent out rooms to non-members.

Because many of our members now attend summer school, and because we have decided to no longer rent out rooms on the second floor (to save on summer utility costs), we believe that we can fill the house with our own members and won't have a need to rent out additional rooms in the future.

Summer Rush Program Set for 2006 - Goal is to Recruit 18 Pledges -

The last major issue addressed by the Board at their October meeting concerned summer rush. Despite the fact that the Board has enacted a generous scholarship program for new and existing members, and that we are moving to significantly upgrade the living conditions in the house, we are not losing sight of the fact that it is the recruitment of exception men that will be the key to the long-term success of our chapter.

With this in mind, the Board approved a plan to recruit eighteen (18) new pledges for the fall, 2006 semester. If successful, this will result in having the house filled to its capacity of twenty-seven men, and we will also have eight out-of-house pledges living in the dorms.

With this as our goal, the Board established an incentive program for the new rush chair (to be elected by the chapter) to compensate them for their effort. If the rush chair is successful in achieving this goal, he will receive a scholarship equal to his house bill and tuition for the fall, 2006 semester. Plus, he can earn a bonus of \$250 for each new member who is a **national merit scholar** or whose **ACT score is greater than or equal to 28**. In addition, if the rush chair recruits an additional five new members after the start of school in the fall semester, he can earn another scholarship equal to his spring, 2007 tuition as well.

Our intent to have our rush chairman work on this task fulltime. This is something we have not been able to do in the past. But, given the competition for new members among the Greek Fraternities at Iowa State, we as a Board felt that it was important for us to provide scholarship packages substantial enough to given us a competitive edge in the recruitment of new members.

The new rush chair is required to make weekly reports to designated members of the Board, and all bids must be approved by either the chapter president or the chapter advisor in advance.

We also specified the **minimum acceptable criteria** for a new pledge as follows:

1. a minimum ACT score of 23 or SAT score of 1090
2. a minimum high school GPA of 3.00
3. be assessed as personable, outgoing and well-rounded
4. demonstrated record of extra-curricular activities

Our goal remains the same – to recruit **exceptional men** to our Fraternity. We are seeking men whose **demonstrated leadership** and **academic** backgrounds clearly indicate that they will bring credit to themselves, their families and the Fraternity.

Alumni News and Notes!

Albert M. Fellows - #475
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 1-480-380-1738

I did want to let you know that my Brother-in-Law, Don Larson, just passed away. He had developed an inoperable brain tumor that they were going to try and get with chemo. Three days after his 1st session of chemo, he became very sick, dehydrated and was hospitalized. From there it went very fast, and after trying dialysis unsuccessfully, they had to disconnect all life support and he died with a massive heart attack. At this time, no arrangements have been made, except he will be cremated and a memorial service later.

I think I have written to you about Don before, but am not certain. Don had split time at Iowa State, starting, then going to the air force, then coming back. I met Don the time he came back, and I was a senior in 1955. He met my sister at the University of Iowa after I graduated, and I believe it was through another Acacian, Don Lyon.

We have just sold our home in Boise, and are sort of looking in the Phoenix area, where we have a smaller winter home.

I do keep in contact with Jim Davis, my pledge son, who actually introduced me to my wife, Jan. I also keep in contact

with Bruce Campbell, Larry Fellows, Larry McComber, and my other brother-in-law, Larry Woogahn.

Obituary of Brother Donald G. Larson - #437

Don Larson, 75, much loved husband of 48 years, adored father and “Pops” to his precious Desiree, died very suddenly October 5, 2005 after a short bout with a brain lymphoma.

Don grew up in Laurens, Iowa and went to Iowa State University. After two years in Ames, he joined the Air Force for four years. Those four years gave him the travel bug. He finished his B.S. at Iowa State where he was affiliated with Acacia Fraternity. From Ames to University of California – Berkeley, where Don completed a Masters in statistics and a PhD in agricultural economics.

Don and Nancy headed to Washington, D.C. where he worked at the Bureau of Census. Their two kids, Tracy and Eric were born there. In 1965, when the kids were very young, the family left for East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). His work was with the Census Bureau/USAID. For twenty-three years he took us too many exotic places – El Salvador, Bangladesh, Kenya and Pakistan. After retiring from the Census Bureau, he did work for the UN in Pakistan, Bhutan and Western Samoa. The whole family shared his love working and living abroad.

During the last twelve years of Don's life he had his dream job of working with his kids at their Indian restaurant, Shamiana in Kirkland, Washington.

((Editor's note: Bert Fellows sent the above obituary to me and shared the following personal note about Don. If you would like to contact Don's wife, Nancy, her address is shown below:

Don was a fantastic brother-in-law – plus a very quiet guy. Nancy's home address is:

Nancy Larson
108 – 2nd Avenue South
Apartment #407
Kirkland, Washington 98033

On behalf of the Iowa State Alumni Board, I offer our heartfelt condolences to Nancy and her children for the loss of our Brother Donald G. Larson. He lived a rich and full life, and I am certain that he made a lasting and positive impact on all who were fortunate enough to know him.))

I **Active Chapter** **Report**

*Trenton Norman, Venerable Dean - ACACIA Fraternity
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e-mail: norman63@iastate.edu*

We at the Koph Chapter are winding down another exciting semester at Iowa State University. We are preparing for elections, which take place in December. I believe that the current officers are leaving a strong legacy for those that follow.

The Acacia Waterball Challenge was a great success! We had twelve teams participate from the dorms, church groups, and the Greek Community. Everyone involved including the fireman, Acacia men and students had a great time. We have also started discussing ways to improve the Waterball tournament as it becomes a tradition and the **best philanthropy** in the Greek Community.

We had a successful homecoming with our pairing of Sigma Epsilon and Kappa Delta. We placed in several events. **Proudly, we placed first in Community Service.** Our members put their heart and soul into the Habitat for Humanity Blitz build, the campus cleanup and the walk to raise funds for a local group home. I could not be prouder of them.

Our members are now preparing to participate in Greek Week and Varieties. We are excited about our Varieties pairing with Alpha Gamma Rho and Alpha Gamma Delta. This year we have terrific participation. Phil Sherman, Steve Garrison, John

Vaage, Adam Halls, Christian Cox, and Clarke Richardson will all be performing on stage. The band members will also have strong participation from the house as John Kvinge, Craig Buske and Vince Fadden make us proud. Our pairing with be performing on February 11th and we encourage you to come support the house at this event!

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 to, 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 with the Iowa State Chapter.

www.stuorg.iastate.edu/acacia/

Board President's Message

*Harold Zarr, Corporate Board President - The ACACIANS
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Greetings my Brother ACACIANS!

Once again, this newsletter is full of items regarding the state of the chapter and the plans of the Board to improve on its success. I have some thoughts on a few items that I want to share with all of you.

First, I want to thank all of the alumni who have donated money to our scholarship fund during the past year. As you will see on the last page of this newsletter, we have already received a substantial amount from our alumni. Words cannot express how valuable your financial contributions are to our success. Given the competitive nature of recruitment at Iowa State, your help means a great deal to us. We also realize that there are many other worthy causes asking you to donate funds at this time of year. We are humbled by your generosity, and we hope that we have established to your satisfaction that we are using your gifts in a responsible manner.

Second, I want to thank all of the parents who attended the scholarship recognition dinner on October 15th. For the first time, we held a special recognition dinner for the members of the chapter and their parents at the chapter house. We had about 50 people attend the event, and we definitely

had a “full house!” Approximately 75% of the men in our chapter earned a 3.00 or above, and each one was presented with a framed certificate recognizing their achievement and a scholarship (that was applied to their fall semester tuition).

We also recognized a number of our graduating seniors with outstanding service awards to the Fraternity. While we are sorry to see them leave, we have the utmost confidence in their ability to be successful in their chosen field. We also are looking forward to working with the new officers in January. We see much success ahead of us in 2006. We anticipate that the scholarship recognition dinner will become an event that we will host each semester, and we encourage all of our alumni to attend if at all possible.

Third, we need to begin thinking about the 100th anniversary of the founding of Acacia Fraternity at Iowa State. I suspect that many of you don’t realize it, but our chapter will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding at Iowa State in **March, 2009**. We are in the very initial planning stages of this event, but if any of the alumni would be willing to help us with this project, please step forward! We want this to be a big, loud, garish, no-holds-barred event that no one will want to miss! To pull this off, we will need your help in terms of old photo’s, stories (real or made-up!), and most important of all – your being there! Any idea’s that you have that would help to commemorate the event are welcomed and encouraged! We only have three years to get this organized, and that is not really much time at all as things go, so get involved and be a part of this one-time event! I plan to be there – and hope you will as well.

We also have an opening on the Board for an Alumni Relations Director. The primary responsibilities for this position will be the organization of the 100th anniversary celebration and attending the quarterly Board meeting as a voting representative. Our next Board meeting will be Saturday, January 7th at 9:00 am at the chapter house. If you are interested in this position, please contact Harold Zarr via his e-mail address at acacia_814@hotmail.com.

Finally, let me extend my best wishes to each and every one of you during this holiday season and for all of 2006. My prayers were answered when my oldest daughter came back safely from Afghanistan this summer. So for me, 2005 was a great year. I hope that everyone in your family is well, and that 2006 brings you nothing but happiness.

Take care and best wishes to all of my Brothers and friends in and out of the Fraternity.

In Memoriam

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

Darwin D. Hook - #414
Donald G. Larson - #437

November 14, 2004
October 5, 2005

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
	Alumni Relations	

Trenton Norman	Chapter President	515-450-9808
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.

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, 2006. (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.