



The Iowa State Pythagorean

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

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Issue # 37

Acacia Remains #1 in Greek System with 3.29 G.P.A.

The Spring, 2006 semester grade results are in, and **Acacia Fraternity** 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	3.29
2.	Alpha Sigma Phi	3.17
3.	Alpha Gamma Rho	3.09
4.	Pi Kappa Phi	3.07
5.	Delta Tau Delta	3.06

All Fraternity Average **2.94**

All Men's Undergrad Ave. **2.83**

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 focus on recruiting only **exceptional men** who are **dedicated to their academic studies** and to making a **positive contribution to society** has been a primary factor in our success – and one which we will not abandon! It is our focus on academics, personality, and a demonstrated level of leadership which has enabled us to build an exceptional Fraternity at Iowa State.

Previous academic results for the Chapter are as follows:

Term	Position	GPA
Fall, 2005	#1	3.40
Spring, 2005	#1	3.43
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

Based on the results for the spring semester, a total of **\$2,600** for academic performance will be awarded to our Brothers in the active chapter. We have created a list of the Brothers who have qualified for this scholarships, and we would like to recognize the following Brothers for their outstanding academic achievements:

Craig A. Buske
Vincent L. Fadden
Jared A. Kline
Matthew J. Landherr
Jonathan A. Roghair
Joseph Sloan
John T. Vogel

Christopher W. Demaria
Joshua S. Haugo
John A. Kvinge
Clark D. Richardson
Phillip J. Sherman
Jonathan C. Vaage

Acacia remains the **only** fraternity in the Iowa State Greek System with **both** the **highest affiliated GPA** and the **highest new member GPA**. We have achieved this result for **three straight years!** **Our congratulations to the men of Acacia for their outstanding academic performance!**

Craig Buske, ISU Acacian, appointed to Ames City Council

As of May 1st, Craig Buske began a new job. He was appointed as the new Government of the Student Body representative to the Ames City Council. In that capacity, he will serve a one year term, and will have all of the rights and responsibilities of a normal councilman, except that as a non-elected official he will not be able to vote on issues brought before the council. Unfortunately, he will not receive the annual salary either! He will be provided with an opportunity to persuade other members of the Council to his point of view.

This position will also provided Craig with an excellent opportunity to represent the interests of the students at Iowa State and the Greek Community and Acacia Fraternity in particular.

Some of the issues currently before the Ames City Council include a zoning issue which will determine whether or not a large new mall will be built in Ames, an ordinance requiring all fraternities and sororities to install sprinkler fire-control systems within the next 10 years (we negotiated this up from only 5 years), and the possibility of lowering the drinking age

in Ames to 19. Craig is looking to serving on the Ames City Council with a the goal moving forward on improving the City of Ames living and working environment, and representing the students and the Greek Community, and being able to have a voice in these important issues.

Craig currently serves as the Chapter President, and is a political science major who plans to attend law school after graduation. **Congratulations on your appointment Craig!**

Summer House Improvements Progressing Well

The house maintenance projects (including a couple of new ones!) are moving forward nicely. So far, we have had new floors installed in the bathrooms on both the second and third floors, and we are having new shower doors in stalled in these bathrooms as well. All of the lighting fixtures in these bathrooms are being replaed and wiring updated as needed. The double-sink vanity on the third floor is being partially replaced and painted, as is the one in the east bathroom on the second floor. Both of the second floor bathrooms are being repainted.

The second problem that we discovered was that the line has almost completely collapsed near the junction with the City’s sewer line. In addition, many of the clay tiles are crumbling away due to age. Based on this, the current plan is to replace this line at the end of July or first of August prior to the students return for work and rush weeks. This project is expected to cost approximately \$8,000.

In addition to the work on the bathrooms, we are having a chair rail installed in the dining room on the main floor. We will be purchasing area rugs for each of the three dining room tables, and the entire downstairs in tentatively scheduled to be professionally repainted the week of August 7th.

We are also looking at having “tuck-pointing” done on the southern, exterior wall of the chapter house next summer. This should should eliminate some problems that we are beginning to see regarding seepage of water through the walls on the south side of the chapter house.

An unplanned, but not entirely unexpected project that just came up is the replacement of the sewer line from the house to the street just west of the chapter house. This has been an ongoing issue for years, and we recently had the line inspected for damange. This inspection revealed two problems. First, tree roots have penetrated the clay tiles of the line partially blocking them. This has happened in the past and that problem was addressed by periodically “drilling out” the lines thus temporarily removing them.

Our major project of completely renovating the basement has been put-on-hold for this year, but we hope to be able to start this project within the next one or two years. This project will involve “gutting” the room back to the studs and ceiling joices, removing the countertop bar, completely rewiring the room, leveling the floor, and installing new lighting and flooring. The cost for this project is expected to be around \$50,000.

Isn’t it just true that he joys of owning property never end!

Alumni News and Notes and Rememberances

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

I remember the skits we used to perform at the Memorial Union. One of the most memorable ones was the one sung to the music of the opera “Carmen,” with lyrics sung by D.I. Lee and others such as “Is this the draft board as in on the door...” I regret that I can’t remember more of the lyrics, but if anyone has or recalls them, please send them on to me.

Edmonds, Washington 98020

Some of favorite memories from living in the chapter include the time when my Acacia Brothers buried my car in the snow in the front yard. I also remember playing bridge every noon, and enjoying spudnuts and cocoa at the donut shop every night.

John J. Burnstrom - #470
2283 Edinburgh Avenue
Bishop, California 93514

Among my favorite memories were the songs we would sign at the dinner table.

John W. Sheldon - #453
1025 12th Avenue North

George J. Marrett - #517
8225 San Diego Road
Atascadero, California 93422-4807
805-466-7640

I'm a 1957 graduate of Iowa State and #517 on the Acacia roll.

My third book will be released on may 30, 2006. It is about my twenty years as a test pilot with Hughes Aircraft Company.

Thanks for your support of the fraternity!

((The three books that Brother Marret has written are entitled Howard Hughes: Aviator; Cheating Death: Combat Air Rescues in Vietnam and Laos; and Testing Death: Hughes Aircraft Test Pilots and Cold War Weaponry. If you are interested in ordering or learning more about any of these books, information can found at www.greenwood.com))

James E. Hunt - #628
72 Flax Drive
London, Ohio 43140

Among my favorite memories are serving meals at the house and working with our cook, Mel. I learned a lot and had a great time.

I also remember taking a pledge skip to the University of Wisconsin with Pete Eversole in his plane. We were amazed at how "wild" things were on that campus.

Brian B. Dubes - #735
451 Executive Meadows Drive
Lenoir City, Tennessee 37771

After ISU graduation in 1971, I spent another four years in Oregon doing graduate studies for my Doctor of Optometry. I then practiced in Indianola for thirteen years and in Oelwin for fourteen years. Since 2002, Shelly (Hucke) and I have lived near Knoxville, Tennessee to be near the lakes and the Smokey Mountains that we love. We have three boys and one girl, ages 21-30, and one set of twin grandchildren so far.

I remember our housemother Mr.s B., putting lots of ketchup on Mel's (the cook) liver specialty, and singing around the table. I enjoyed leading our serenading of sororities, and I was always proud of our choloastic ranking on campus. Ray Gustafson used to play the piano in the foyer frequently.

The foyer was a popular area for "stacks," where we would see how many of us could pile on top of each other before we all fell over, with (Jim) Jensen was frequently at the bottom.

My buddy Mark Woldruff and I shared a room in the annex our senior year – that's where the Jensen "shared hairbrush" incident occurred. You will need to ask Jensen about that if you want the details.

I'm sure it has rotted away years ago, but Mark and I built a wooden black and gold Acacia sign that stood in front of the house for several years. *((Yes, a brand new one was built this*

past year by the current men in the house and is in the front yard of the chapter house.)) Keep up the good work Acacians!

I **Active Chapter Report**

Craig Buske, Venerable Dean - ACACIA Fraternity
138 Gray Avenue
Ames, Iowa 50014
e-mail: craigbus@iastate.edu

Dear Brothers and friends,

The last semester has gone by extremely quickly for the Iowa State chapter. Our young men have been keeping busy doing all the usual things. We had our Greek week, and some of the highlights from that include placing third in athletic tournaments, third in community service hours served by members, and second in Greek Olympics, putting us at fourth place overall. We also raised almost \$500 for the Special Olympics through Polar Bear Plunge, an event in which 9 of our men solicited pledges of money for them to jump into Lake Laverne in early April.

Another example of human service that our members have been involved in this last year is the chapter's sponsorship of the non-profit organization Pages of Promise. This organization was started three years ago by one of our brother's who was traveling in Africa and saw the lack of educational materials available to students there. The Iowa State chapter organized for the collection of and raised the money to send over 10,000 books to Africa again this semester. This is something that we are very proud of.

It has been a very international year for the men of Acacia, with two brothers studying abroad in Australia, one brother on a mission trip in Chile, brothers in Costa Rica and the United Kingdom for the summer, and one brother traveling to Israel to fulfill his duties in the United States Marine Corp. These opportunities to travel allow our members to have amazing experiences, and we always look forward to their updates as well as their safe return.

Physical improvements to our chapter house are taking place this summer as well. The restrooms on the second and third floors are being remodeled, and they are already starting to look much nicer. We have put in new tile floors, new lighting fixtures, and are in the process of repainting all of them and replacing the showers. These improvements are making the restrooms much more modern, and also much nicer. Hopefully, we can continue to build on these improvements as the years go on, and we hope to be able to remodel the basement of the house next summer.

Things are going well for the Iowa State chapter. We are very proud of our house and our accomplishments, and we invite

any alumni, relative or friend of the fraternity to stop by at any time so that we can give you a tour of the house

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
215 Glen Drive*

*Iowa Falls, Iowa 50126-1957
e-mail: acacia_814@hotmail.com*

Greetings my Brother ACACIANS!

I want to start this report by thanking **Brother Gordon Sundberg - #501** for taking the time to attend the scholarship awards dinner we held at the chapter house on April 30th. He took the time to send me some information on dishwashers (we need to replace the one in the chapter house) that the Board will use to determine which one to purchase.

He also informed me that a professor of mine at Iowa State is an Acacian. Jack Shelley, noted professor and broadcaster became a member of Acacia Fraternity at the University of Missouri. In the book Jack Shelley and the News, there is a picture of Professor Shelly in front of the Acacia Fraternity Chapter house that was taken in 1935. I will make certain that Professor Shelley (who lives in Ames) is invited to all of our events in the future.

This summer has been filled with lots of special projects, and as usual, a few surprises as we work on the maintenance projects at the house. My wife volunteered her home decorating and design skills for these projects, and helped to pick out the paint combinations and accessories for use in the bathrooms and downstairs dining areas of the house.

Rush has been progressing well and we expect to have the house filled to capacity this fall. As of now, we have two new pledges to the Fraternity. They are **Brandon Behrens** from Waverly and **Lewis Pinto** from Indianola. We also extended bids to a number of other young men and are meeting with a considerable number of others as well. As you know, our evaluation process is far more rigorous than many other fraternities, and we only extend bids to the most outstanding young men who plan to attend Iowa State.

Finally, I want to extend our condolences to Anne Culver and Arlys Nelson, the wives of John E. Culver - #435 and Douglas R. Nelson - #652 who recently passed away. Our prayers go out to them and their families at the passing of their husbands, and our Brothers in the Fraternity.

In Memoriam

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

Robert E. Proctor - #314
John E. Culver - #435
Douglas R. Nelson - #652

November 26, 2005
date unknown
March 25, 2006

Douglas R. Nelson - #652
August 29, 1944 – March 25, 2006

Douglas R. Nelson, MBA, J.D., C.P.A., 61, died Saturday, March 25, at Sioux Valley Hospital USD Medical Center of heart disease.

Doug was born August 29, 1944, in Ames to Eileen and Roy Nelson. He grew up playing and winning all kinds of sports in Jewell. He graduated with distinction from Iowa State University in 1966 with a bachelor's degree in industrial administration. He taught at the University of Iowa while earning an MBA in 1968, followed by a jurist doctorate degree in 1974.

After passing the bar exam, he joined the accounting firm of McGladrey and Pullen. He worked in several of their district offices before moving to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and becoming a partner in 1981. Due to heart disease, he retired early from the firm in 1991 and went back to his first love – teaching at the college level. He taught accounting courses, tax and business law at Sioux Falls College and later at Augustana College. His teaching career included positions at Iowa State University, the University of Iowa, and Marquette University.

He was a mentor for countless students, guiding them toward career paths in accounting and law for the past fifteen years. Education was most important to him along with his family and his professional life. When he wasn't teaching, it was likely that you could find him teeing off at Prairie Green Gold Course near his home in Sioux Falls.

He married Caroly Corken in 1967 and had two boys. In 1991, he married Arlys Rath. He was the father to four boys, Andrew Nelson (Christina) of Missoula, Montana, Matthew Nelson of Minneapolis, Michael Rath of Harrisburg, South Dakota, and Jeffrey Rath of Bremerton, Washington. He has one granddaughter, Sylvie Nelson. He is survived by his wife, Arlys; his above mentioned children; one brother James (Karen) Nelson of Story City; one sister, Judy (Doug) Galles of Azle, Texas; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father. Funeral services were Tuesday at Augustana Chapel of Reconciliation with a reception following at the Stevens Center in the Augustana Commons. His online obituary and register book may be seen at www.consolingmemories.com.

Jon Roghair Chapter Representative 515-770-6816
Jeremy Davis Chapter Advisor 515-291-7016

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
Don Good	Alumni Relations	515-956-3150
Craig Buske	Chapter President	515-491-5405
Joshua Haugo	Chapter Treasurer	641-590-0804

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 August, 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.