



The Iowa State Pythagorean

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

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Brother George Gross - #343 to Write Book on the History of the Iowa State Chapter

There is a major project in the works, and it is centered on compiling a history of the Iowa State Chapter of Acacia Fraternity. This project got started based on a series of e-mails between Brother's Gross and Zarr. After much discussion, they agreed to split this project into two parts with both of them gathering as much information as they could about a variety of topics related to the history of the chapter. Brother Gross agreed to take on the task of gathering information for the period from 1930 – 1969. Brother Zarr will be responsible for gathering information from 1970 – 2009.

At this point, Brother Gross has compiled a “working document” that is about 65 pages in length. We expect the final document to be around 150 to 200 pages in length. At this point, we have not included any pictures in the working document (as we don't have any yet), but our hope is that we can fill it with lots of pictures, each one tied to its relevant decade. We will also do our best to recognize each person who has contributed a picture or story with the book.

The general format of this book is that it is going to be laid-out in terms of “decades.” Thus, we will “group” the Brothers in the house based on the date of their initiation into the Fraternity. Our decades will start with the 1930's, and continue on to the present time. One of our original intentions with this book is to try and correlate the events of the times with changes and events that occurred at the chapter. For example, our first chapter will concern the struggles of the chapter to survive during the years of Great Depression in the 1930's.

Historical information is available on the college and society, but what we are really looking for is remembrances from members who lived in the house during those years in terms of what they needed to do to keep the house going. We also are especially interested in the anecdotal events that occurred. Specially, what funny (pledge skip events, practical jokes), unusual (I will leave this up to you), noteworthy (intramural victories, Greek events), heartwarming (how did you meet your future wife), or even sad events occurred that the Brothers from that time would like to have remembered in this

book. We want this book to be “alive” with pictures and words from the members who were there at the time.

Please keep in mind that these criteria apply to **all** of the decades. I also want to point out that we are also equally interested in topics that might be considered to be more “mundane.” For example, how were meals served, what were the living accommodations like, what were the typical daily responsibilities of the Brothers living in the house? What was it like to be a pledge in the 1940's, so that we can contrast that with other times? Were you in the military or ROTC? What will enable this book “come alive” is not a recitation of names and dates, but the reporting on what it was like to live from day-to-day in the chapter house with your peers. We are hoping that both those who were officers and those who were members will equally send in their stories to be told.

We would also like to know what kinds of struggles you had to endure in order to stay in school. Did you have a job, did you receive a scholarship, and did you have to borrow money? As you can see, there are a wide variety of topics that can and we hope will be addressed in the writing of this book.

But most important of all, this book is an opportunity for you to provide a lasting record of your memories and to bring alive the days in which you lived in the fraternity. To a certain sense, it is an opportunity for you to “immortalize” your memories so that they can be passed on new generations of Brothers who can then fully appreciate the heritage and legacy that they are receiving when they join the ranks of Acacians.

We have access to lots of demographic data about the college and its students. We also have lots of demographic data about society during these 100 years. Dry statistics abound, but what we really need from you, are the following:

1. photographs that you will share with us to be reprinted in this book
2. your personal memories that you will agree to share and be printed in the book

There are also a number of things which have disappeared over the years which we would like to find. For example, we have only just a few songs of Acacia that we have available to us. However, I remember that as a pledge, we would sing songs on Saturday evenings that were not found in the "official" Acacia songbook. If anyone has copies of these songs, we would love to get a copy of them back from one of our alumni. (Not that we would necessarily print them in this book!)

Items such as this have tremendous historical value to us, and we want to include as many such items as possible in this book. To do this we are going to need your help.

One of our first tasks is to collect as many pictures as possible from all of the years. It is not necessary that we receive original photographs unless you wish to send one. The preferred method (so that nothing gets lost that cannot be replaced) is to send a copy of a photograph to Brother Gross via e-mail. The photograph can be in a ".jpg" format so that

we can download the photograph and identify the sender and topic and year in its file name. If you want to send an original you may, and we will make every effort to scan it into our database and then return it to you.

The second item that we need is your stories. Again, these can be sent via e-mail as attachments to the e-mail or included as a part of the original e-mail message itself which we will then download and "cut and paste" as necessary.

Please send your information or ask us questions by contacting either of us at the following e-mail addresses:

George Gross geol44@comcast.net

Harold D. Zarr Jr. acacia_814@hotmail.com

Thanks in advance for your help, and we will keep you updated on our progress!

Acacia Welcomes Nine New Members to its Ranks

Summer rush has ended, and we have once again recruited an outstanding group of young men who will soon become full members of our Fraternity. Our two rush chairmen, **Jon Vaage** and **Brandon Behrens**, have done an absolutely outstanding job of recruiting an impressive group of young men to become Brothers in our Fraternity. I have compiled some brief biographies of these newest members of our Fraternity so that you may get to know these men!

Jason W. Bril is from Decorah, Iowa. He is majoring in Architecture. In high school, he was a member of the varsity football and soccer teams. He was also active in the Speech, DECA and D-Club's. He was a captain of both the football and soccer teams, received the Principals Leadership Award and is a member of the National Honor Society.

Jonathan W. Buck is a freshman majoring in Engineering (undeclared). He is from Bettendorf, Iowa. He was a member of symphonic band and football team. He is a National Merit Scholar, an AP Scholar, and received the Don Johnson Outstanding Student award and the Wayne Cherang Citizenship award.

Matthew B. England is a freshman and is from Maquoketa, Iowa. He is majoring in Aerospace Engineering. In high school, he was involved in band, golf and baseball. He also competed in all-state individual speech contests and large group contests, and the quiz bowl. He received the Iowa Governor's Scholar Award, the Iowa Principal's Leadership Award, the Iowa Bar Good Citizen Award, and was valedictorian of his graduating class. Matthew is son of Jim

and Pam England. *(Ed. Note: Matt's father, Jim England, was a member of the ISU chapter in the 1970's.)*

Alexander C. Fitzgerald is a freshman from Denison, Iowa. He is majoring in Music Education. During his time in high school, Alex was active in band, choir, speech, track, football, wrestling, musicals and the quiz bowl. He was a member of the all-state choir, Hawkeye All Academic Team, and DI and FCA. He also received the Louis Armstrong Jazz Award, and was recognized as his high school's Outstanding Senior and Outstanding Extracurricular Student.

Noah J. Gullikson is from Hawarden, Iowa. He is majoring in Engineering (undeclared). He was active in football, golf, chorus, band, and the quiz bowl. He received the Governor's Scholar Award was a member of the National Honor Society.

Andrew K. Joseph is from Lenexa, Kansas. He is majoring in Electrical Engineering. In high school he was active in soccer, jazz band, science Olympiad, and was an intern for Garmin Aviation Systems and engineering intern. He received the President Honor Award, was a member of the National Honor Society, and an Aerospace & Engineering Outstanding Student.

Seth M. Nelson is from Denison, Iowa. He is majoring in Mechanical Engineering. He was active football, track, band FCA and choir. He earned awards for the Hawkeye 10 All-Academic Team, the National Honor Society, a Governor's Scholar, State of Iowa Scholar, National Honor Roll, and Football and Track All-Conference Academic Team.

Aaron Schneider is from Muscatine, Iowa. He is majoring in Management. He is a transfer student from the University of Iowa and was active in the Business Council and is a National Merit Scholar.

Kyle V. Schnoor is from Rockton, Illinois. He is majoring in Mechanical Engineering. In high school, he was active in soccer, drama, and German clubs. He was recognized as an Illinois State Scholar, the National Society for High School Scholars, and Who's Who in High School.

Acacia earns #2 academic slot with 3.15 G.P.A.

The **Spring, 2007** semester grade results are in, and **Acacia Fraternity** has captured the #2 academic spot in the ISU Greek System. The results for the top five chapters were as follows:

1.	Farmhouse	3.19
2.	Acacia	3.13
3.	Alpha Gamma Rho	3.10
4.	Sigma Phi Epsilon	3.07
5.	Pi Kappa Phi	3.01
All Fraternity Average		2.89
All Men's Undergrad Ave.		2.85

A clear sign of the increased competition that now exists for academic excellence in the ISU Greek System is demonstrated in these results as three of the five chapters listed in the top five were new to the list in this semester. Only Acacia and Pi Kappa Phi were listed in the top five academic chapters for the Fall, 2006 semester. Our chapter has focused on attracting the best and brightest young men, and over the past few years these results have paid consistent dividends, with Acacia placing either #1 or #2 every semester since we returned as members of the ISU Greek System. The primary goal of the members of the chapter is now to return Acacia to sole possession of the #1 academic spot.

Previous academic results for the Chapter are as follows:

Term	Position	GPA
Fall, 2006	#1	3.15
Spring, 2006	#1	3.29
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

Based on the results for the spring semester, a total of **\$2,200** in scholarships for academic excellence was awarded to our Brothers in the active chapter for the fall, 2007 semester. The list of the Brothers who earned a 3.00 or higher grade point is shown below, and we would like to recognize the following Brothers for their outstanding academic achievements:

Brandon J. Behrens	Daniel N. Congreve
Vincent L. Fadden	Zachary J. Klenske
Trevor E. Owens	David J. Pace
Jared A. Ramthun	Clark D. Richardson
Jonathan C. Vaage	John T. Vogel
Michael J. Vosatka	

Eleven men in the chapter earned a 3.00 or greater grade point for the fall semester.

Our congratulations to the men of Acacia for their excellent academic performance!

Chapter House Improvements Continue in 2007

Improvements to the chapter and property grounds continue to move forward. This summer, three major projects were completed that will improve the quality and safety of the chapter house and its property.

The first project involved building an enclosed entrance to the east door on one of our two basement apartments. Many of our alumni (me included) will remember that this is where the kitchen was located when they lived in the house. Today, it is a kitchen/dining room area for the three-room apartment in the basement.

The basement apartments typically goes to upperclassmen based on their service to the active chapter under a "point system" developed and followed by the undergraduate chapter. These improvements were completed to bring the facility up to code requirements for the City of Ames.

A new floor was also installed in this kitchen area. The bathroom was completely remodeled with a new shower and floor installed. The outside entrance was built with brick to match the existing exterior of the house. A new door was

installed, along with an area for plantings (again to meet city code requirements). This enclosed entrance will also ensure that rain and snow runoff won't be able to drain into the basement area and potentially damage the carpet in the bedroom or linoleum flooring in the kitchen. The total cost for all of this work was approximately \$15,000.

We also installed a new fence around our outside storage shed (again, to meet code requirements) and moved the shed in order to provide more useable space for parking on the east side of the property. Brothers **Nicholas Siebold - #1032**, **Jared Ramthun - #1019**, **Michael Webber - #1038**, **Jeremy Davis - #969**, and **Harold Zarr - #814** worked on this project

and managed to complete it in just a few hours one Sunday morning prior to the start of fall semester classes.

One other project was also completed by **Michael Webber - #1038** and his brother who owns a landscaping business in Ames. They removed the old railroad tie steps on the south side of the property and replaced them with limestone block steps. These steps look great, and should last for many, many years to come.

Our thanks to all of these Brothers for their work on improving the chapter house and property!

ISU Acacians receive \$6,100 in Scholarships from Acacia Fraternity Foundation

Four of the Brothers in the active chapter recently recognized for their outstanding academic achievements and commitment to the Fraternity with scholarships from the Acacia Fraternity Foundation. **John A. Kvinge - #1022** and **Jared A. Ramthun - #1019** each received scholarships from the **Emma C. Allen Memorial Scholarship Fund**. This fund was created by David J. Allen, International President of Acacia Fraternity in memory of his mother. John received a scholarship valued at \$3,500 and Jared received a scholarship in the amount of \$600. These scholarships are based on their outstanding scholastic performance, dedication to the ideals of Acacia, acceptance of leadership within the chapter, and dedication to community activities that signify the values of Acacia.

John Kvinge also spent the summer interning at the Acacia Fraternity Headquarters and working on a variety of projects to benefit the Fraternity.

Clark D. Richardson - #1017 was presented with the **George F. Patterson, Jr. Scholarship** in the amount of \$1,000. George Patterson was a Past President of Acacia Fraternity who devoted uncounted hours to the betterment of the Fraternity. This scholarship is based on outstanding academic achievement, campus leadership, and service to Acacia.

Two other Brothers, **Vincent L. Fadden - #1026** and **Jared A. Ramthun - #1019**, also received scholarships in the amount of \$500 each from the Acacia Fraternity Foundation for their academic and chapter leadership.

Our congratulations to all of these Brothers for earning these scholarships! It is good to see that the hard work put forward by these Brothers is recognized at the national level!

Alumni News, Notes and Rememberances

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I read the February, 2007 Pythagorean with the usual interest and much pride. There is abundant hope and real satisfaction reading the report of those ambitious plans and goals of my

old fraternity – but most especially, to be updated on page one on the honors and awards earned by The Acacia Fraternity of today. Congratulations to all!!! The world will be and is a better place, because of the determination and dedication of you, the board and officers of the Chapter and certainly the Acacia Brothers! Keep up the good work!!

My days go back to those of Dean Platt's – that old house on Gray and on to Lynn. (Special considerations were made for me to live in the house – while I served as head waiter at Oak Hall. I'll always be grateful to my good friends Chet Thompson and Walt Laidisen who were Venerable Deans at the time. My good friend Dean Pratt was close by, too.

I am most beholden to my Iowa State education, ROTC, and the Acacia Fraternity for a foundation for satisfying and rewarding life in the military, business and many years in retirement. (I turned 88 this past January.) I am truly blessed and thankful.

Now, all that said, my only support for “The Acacian’s” has been a year-end check, I’m sorry to say with sincere apology. After reading your November, 2006, “The Acacian’s” letter, I made a note to send a year-end check again this year. ***((We received you donation, and thank you very much!!))***

My best to all.

**Walter R. Kolbe - #527
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Thanks for such a great job keeping the “old timers” in touch. We have retired from the bed and breakfast business but I still do all the maintenance. It is nice only having to work eight hours a day!

Dick Taylor still comes over from Sacramento to play golf with us about four times a year. We are trying to get Bob Davis and Julian to join him. We play at Turquoise Valley in Naco, Arizona (a fifteen minute drive away) which is the oldest golf course in Arizona. We say that if you have a bad slice, you need a visa to Mexico to get your ball back. It is right on the border.

It’s a good thing I’m not at Ames – that GPA would plunge out of sight! Congratulations to the chapter!

**Gary F. Barton - #673
2208 Innsbrook Estates
Innsbrook, Missouri 63390**

((Editor’s Note: Brother Barton sent the following news article about his family along with a donation to the scholarship fund for the chapter. I think that you will find this news article recounting the life experiences of he and his wife most interesting. I have reprinted this news article below.))

Although Gary and Mary Ann Barton call Innsbrook home, they feel at home all over the world. They have traveled countless places, and even lived in Brussels, Belgium, for three years. They recently returned from a three-week trip to New Zealand. Instead of spending their nights at traditional hotels, they stayed at farm stays and bed & breakfasts, getting to know the people of the country and find the “off-the-beaten-path” places.

“I guess you would describe us as “people people” May Ann says. “Our favorite thing about traveling is interfacing with different kinds of people.”

Their children are also a source of travel – they live all over the United States. Eric (29) is a lawyer in Atlanta; Krista (27) is a MBA student at New York University; and David (24) lives in Los Angeles and is a buyer for shoes.com.

Although the Barton’s often find themselves far from Missouri, they both got their start in the Midwest. Mary Ann grew up in Lockport, Illinois, and Gary grew up in Des Moines, Iowa. They met while they were getting their Master’s degrees in Journalism and Mass Communications at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. On their first date, they saw the London Symphony perform.

After graduating and marrying in 1974, they headed to the St. Louis area. Mary Ann worked as a high school English and journalism teacher in the Rockwood school district and was honored with several awards, including Rockwood Teacher of the Year and a Gold Key Award from the Columbia University School of Journalism. Gary worked at Monsanto for more than 30 years; his last full-time position was Director of Public Affairs International. Before they met, Gary was on active duty in the U.S. Navy. He continued in the U.S. Navy Reserves and retired from the Navy with 20 years of service, with the rank of commander.

Though Mary Ann and Gary are both retired, they are incredibly busy. Mary Ann evaluates student publications for the National Scholastic Press Association and works as a freelance writer. Mostly she writes children’s stories, but currently is working on a friend’s memoir. Gary still holds a part-time job with Monsanto, hosting farmers, media and visiting dignitaries touring the Monsanto’s Chesterfield Agricultural Biotechnology Research Center in suburban St. Louis.

They originally found out about Innsbrook because Gary attended Monsanto Company retreats here. He enjoyed the environment, and they purchased a lot on Alpine Lake in July, 2001, and finished their retirement home in the fall of 2004.

Although they have been all over the world, the Barton’s are always glad to return to Innsbrook. They are involved in the Book Club, the Garden Club and the Opera Club. They love hiking, boating, inviting friends to visit them, and playing with their 10-month-old Labrador retriever, Portia. Gary also enjoys nature photography – he took the photo of Alpine Lake that appears in the October section of the Innsbrook calendar.

But their favorite thing about Innsbrook is the same reason they love to travel – getting to know different people. “There’s a great mix of people here at Innsbrook – young and old.” Mary Ann says. “Whoever you are and no matter where you are from, you are welcomed here.”

<p>New Website Address!</p> <p>The Iowa State Acacia website address has changed. Please go to the following address to see what’s new with the Iowa State Chapter. The website has been completely redesigned, and it is fantastic! Take a look!</p>

www.stuorg.iastate.edu/acacia/

I Active Chapter Report

Vincent Fadden, Venerable Dean - ACACIA Fraternity
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Dear Brothers and friends,

We've had a full spring and summer here at the Iowa State Chapter of Acacia. This past spring we were excited to be paired with Pikes and Alpha Gamma Delta for Greek Week, and even more excited when we placed third overall. In addition to our third place award, we also received awards for community service and tournaments.

We held our second annual Waterball Tournament and had an even better success than last year, raising over \$300 to donate to the Muscular Dystrophy Association. We are looking forward to holding our next Waterball tournament in the fall, and are hoping for an even better turnout for that event.

This spring we initiated one new member, Eric Milbrandt, who is an excellent addition to our house. So far this summer we have signed nine new pledges and are very excited about all of them.

July 25th-29th was the biennial Acacia Leadership Academy held at the Indiana chapter house in Bloomington, Indiana, and 4 of our members attended. We left early on the morning of the 25th to make the nine-hour drive to Bloomington. We had a great time meeting members from other chapters and learning from all of the activities and lectures that took place. The four of us arrived back in Ames late in the afternoon on Sunday the 29th and are eager to share what we learned with the rest of the chapter in the fall.

We want to thank all of our alumni for their support and we welcome any that would like to visit us or contact us at any time.

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!

First of all, I have to apologize to all of the alumni for not sending out a newsletter in May. My wife and I decided to move from Iowa Falls to Ankeny to be closer to work, and the month of May was completely consumed with activities related to buying a new home, selling our existing home, and moving...and moving...and moving... nineteen years worth of accumulated stuff! Talk about an "adventure in moving!"

And of course, once we got moved, we had to do lots of painting, redecorating, purchasing new furniture (some of which we are still waiting to receive) and so on. I just finished the work on building and installing new office furniture and then setting up my computer system at the end of August. I never realized how much I relied on having an office to get stuff done until I didn't have one!

To make a long story short, it just wasn't possible for me to get a newsletter out in May, so I held off until now to send it. I hope that everyone understands, and I promise to get back to the old schedule of getting them out on time from now on!

A new year has started, and everything is off to a roaring start! Our rush chairs have recruited an outstanding group of new men to become Brothers in our Fraternity. The formal pledging ceremony was held on Tuesday, September 4th. We look forward to great things from our newest members.

Included with this newsletter are a number of additional sheets. We are again inviting all of our alumni and parents to attend a scholarship award luncheon at the Memorial Union that will be held on October 13th. The Board hosts this event twice a year and we would like to encourage everyone who is able and in the area to attend. It provides us with an excellent opportunity to visit, share stories and keep every current with all that is going on with the chapter and its members.

We are also including another copy of our brochure describing our current fund drive to raise funds to improve the physical structure of the house. We have a critical need to complete the replacement of windows in the house with new, energy efficient models, renovation of the basement area into a chapter/study room, and renovation of the three rooms on the third floor of the chapter house.

Our goal is to complete these renovations by the time of the centennial in March, 2009. We hope that you will generously support this effort!

For members who wish to make tax-deductible contributions, you may contribute to our scholarship fund drive in addition to capital improvements fund drive. These funds are used to support the scholarship programs provided for the benefit of the undergraduate members of the chapter. Your past support has been greatly appreciated!

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	402-301-6489
Jeff Peil	Treasurer	641-430-5998
Gene Lucht	Secretary	515-964-9006
Don Good	Alumni Relations	515-956-3150

Vincent Fadden	Chapter President	515-491-5405
Mike Vosatka	Chapter Treasurer	641-590-0804
Brandon Behrens	Chapter Representative	515-770-6816
Jeremy Davis	Chapter Advisor	515-291-7019

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 November, 2007. (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.



Alumni Scholarship Donations in 2007

\$ 4,001 Contributed in 2007 by Iowa State

Acacians

The table that is shown lists those Brothers and friends who have made tax-deductible contributions to the chapter scholarship fund in 2007. Please accept our grateful thanks for your generosity! Your contributions provide vital support the academic efforts of your Brothers in our Chapter!

----- Alumni Contributors in 2007 -----	
Refounding Father	(\$ 10,000 or more)
Board of Directors Club	(\$ 5,000 - \$ 9,999)
Pythagorean Partner	(\$ 2,500 - \$ 4,999)
Chapter Partner	(\$ 1,000 - \$ 2,499)
Robert L. Carstens - #354	
Gold Partner	(\$ 750 - \$ 999)
Silver Partner	(\$ 500 - \$ 749)
Douglas R. Whitney - #627	
Philip C. Larson - #684	

Bronze Partner	(\$ 100 - \$ 499)
John C. Akins - #307	
William L. Neidig - #332	
John R. Fulkerson - #410	
Charles D. Bird - #416	
Kenneth L. MacRae - #427	
John S. Burnstrom - #470	
John G. McDonald - #494	
Daniel E. Wise - #479	
Richard W. Taylor - #506	
James M. Hanson - #533	
Gary D. Harter - #538	
Richard K. Perrin - #541	
Larry D. Christensen - #566	
Randy D. Elkin - #670	
Gary F. Barton - #673	
James K. England - #800	
David J. Kaisand - #815	
Spirit Partner	(\$ 1 - \$ 99)
George A. Buck - #345	
Charles L. Dozois - #379	
Bernard J. Kolp - #456	
Walter R. Kolbe - #527	