



# The Iowa State Pythagorean

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

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## Brother Dean Platt - #321 Helps to Beautify the Property of the Iowa State Chapter

As many of you know, the Board had a storage shed constructed to hold many of the items used to maintain the property such as our lawn mower, rakes, shovels and so on. Once we had the storage shed built, the City of Ames Building Code required that we place a fence in front of the shed (to hide it from view from the street), and then place shrubbery in front of the fence, to hide the view of the fence from the street!

Responding to our request for help with determining the correct type of plants to use for this project, Brother Dean Platt stepped forward and donated a considerable number of bushes and hosta plants to the active chapter to be used for this project. Over two consecutive weekends in October (the 13<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup>), Brother Platt and his wife took time out of their busy schedule to deliver plants that he donated from his nursery business in Waterloo for planting around the chapter house.

The first weekend, Brother Platt delivered a number of bushes for planting in front of the fence around the storage shed, and he also provided us with thirty hosta plants for use near the northeast corner of the chapter house. Brother Platt also provided us with all of the information that we would need to correctly place and plant the items. While he was there on October 13<sup>th</sup>, he volunteered to go ahead and measure the front of the house, take sketches of the property, and then prepare a new planting layout for us to use. The following weekend, October 20<sup>th</sup>, he came back and delivered another set of plants to be used in the front of the house.



*((Active chapter members Ezra Shields, J.T. Vogel and Nick Siebold are shown installing the new bushes in front of the fence surrounding the storage shed.))*



*((Brother Dean Platt-#321 and Board President Harold Zarr-#814 are shown placing hosta plants near the northeast corner of the newly built east entrance to the chapter house.))*

Following his guidelines and directions, members of the chapter planted the bushes and other plants as directed by Brother Platt. The look in front of the chapter house is simply amazing and his ideas and plants have transformed the entire look of the property.



*((Active chapter brothers Nick Seibold and J.T. Vogel are shown planting the new bushes in front of the basement entrance on the west side of the chapter house.))*



*((Chapter members are shown planting the hosta plants on the northeast corner of the house.))*

Our thanks go out to Brother Platt for helping us with this project, and for donating the plants and the time necessary to help us beautify the chapter house property!

## Alumni Respond with Generous Support for Capital Improvement and Scholarship Programs

Both the **capital improvement** and **scholarship funds** have received generous support from our alumni this year! Enclosed with this newsletter you will find the summary sheets identifying all of our alumni who have contributed to both of these campaigns. To date, we have received **\$11,930** in donations for capital improvements fund and **\$5,201** in donations for the scholarship fund. Our thanks go out to all of the alumni who have so generously contributed to these funds this year, and we hope that as you take a look at your financial situation for the 2006 calendar year, you will consider supporting either one or both of these funds this year.

Our initial goal for the capital improvements fund is to replace the remaining windows in the chapter house with new, energy efficient windows just like the ones we installed a couple of years ago. The chapter members have been very energy conscious, but we need to help them as much as we can by finishing the installation of new windows in the chapter house. We estimate that this project will cost approximately \$20,000. At this point we are right at 60% of that goal with the funds that we have raised so far. If we can raise the remaining \$8,000 we need for this project by the end of the year, we should be able to get the windows replaced in January and see some energy savings for heating the chapter house yet this year.

Our second objective is to “gut” the rooms on the third floor and completely re-wire and insulate them. You may recall that we have already replaced the windows on the third floor. We have since discovered that the exterior walls and ceilings

are not insulated. Also, the wiring on this floor is quite old, and really needs to be replaced. We estimate that the cost to renovate the third floor will also cost us about \$20,000. However, we are “selling” the naming rights to the three rooms on the third floor to any alumnus of the chapter who like to have a room named after them for a donation to this part of the renovation project for \$5,000 per room. Any alumnus (or group of alumni) who would like to contribute to this project can designate a room to be named in their honor in exchange for their contribution.

The third phase of the project is not very glamorous, but it is of vital importance to the long-term structural integrity of the chapter house. We need to tuck point the most of the building, as after all these years, much of the mortar in many places has been worn down to next to nothing. The Board had some of the work done last year on the south side of the house, but we need to complete a lot of the work on the west and specially north sides of the chapter house.

Our final objective in the capital improvements campaign is to completely renovate the basement area of the chapter house. The goal is to provide an all purpose recreation / chapter meeting room area for the men in the chapter house. To accomplish this, we plan to tear out the bar area and push back the walls to open up more space in the area as a whole. This would allow for more seating and turn the room into a multi-purpose chapter meeting and recreation room. This part of the project is the most ambitious, and the most costly. Given all of the structural work that will have to be

done in the ceiling and walls, we estimate that this phase of the project will cost us approximately \$80,000.

I want to emphasize that all of these projects are really needed in order for us to maintain the type of property that we feel is necessary to attract and support the type of men that we have recruited as members of our chapter. I also need to point out that contributions to this fund are **not tax-deductible**. Although that there have been efforts made in Congress to make donations for projects such as these tax-deductible, it does not appear likely that action on this legislation will take place anytime in the near future.

Any amount that you could contribute to this fund would be greatly appreciated!

We also want to thank all of our alumni who have contributed generously to our **scholarship fund** this year as well. The funds that you contribute to this fund **are tax-deductible** and are used to support the scholarship programs that have discussed at length in the newsletter.

These funds have proved to be a significant factor in our recruitment efforts for new members, as they are a tangible signal that we as a Fraternity value academic performance and are willing to support the members of the chapter in achieving their academic goals. I know that based on discussions that I have had with the parents of our members, that they really appreciate the fact that we consider it important to help support their sons in covering the cost of their college education. But we could not do this without the support of our alumni who make this happen.

I know that at this time of the year, you are receiving requests for contributions from many worthwhile organizations. I hope that you will think of your chapter as being worthy of your financial support this holiday season. And as always, we remain grateful for all of the support that we have received in the past. Your support has really made a difference in the success that has occurred, and we thank you for your generosity!

## Alumni and family members attend Scholarship Awards Banquet on October 13th

Nearly sixty alumni, family and chapter members turned out for an evening banquet in the Memorial Union to recognize and celebrate the academic success of the members of the active chapter. Eleven current in-house members were recognized with certificates and \$200 scholarships for earning a 3.00 or higher grade point for the spring, 2007 semester.

In addition, a number of the chapter members were recognized by Jeremy Davis, the chapter advisor, for service above and beyond the call to the Iowa State Chapter of Acacia. Those members who were recognized, and the award they received, are as follows.

The **Award for Outstanding Service** is an award given to the undergraduate brother who has worked diligently to improve Acacia. This year's recipient was **Nicholas Seibold**. As the Senior Steward for the chapter, Nicholas has invested numerous hours to help improve the physical property.

The **Award for Good of the Fraternity** is an award given to the undergraduate brother who has worked to improve the public image of the chapter within the Greek and campus communities. This year's recipient was **Trevor Owens**. During the past year, Trevor redesigned the chapter's website and has also helped to coordinate a number of social functions with a number of sorority chapters at Iowa State.

The **Award for Academic Success** is an award given to the undergraduate brother who excels in the area of academics. This year's recipient was **Dan Congreve**. Dan's commitment to academics not only is shown through his 4.0 G.P.A., but

also through servings as the chapter's academic chair where he developed and implemented an academic success program for the chapter's members.

The **Award for Leadership Excellence** is an award given to the undergraduate brother who excels in the area of leadership either within the chapter or in the university community. This year's recipient was **Clark Richardson**. During the past year, Clark has assumed a number of high-profile leadership positions within the university community and that has brought a tremendous amount of positive visibility to the chapter.

The **Award for Commitment to Acacia** is an award given to the undergraduate brother who has invested a vast amount of time and energy to help the chapter succeed. This year's recipient was **Michael Weber**. During the past year, Michael has shown a tremendous commitment to the chapter and is the brother who is not afraid to work hard behind the scene to ensure activities and events are successful for the chapter.

The **Acacian of the Year** award is an award given to the undergraduate brother who best exemplifies the ideals of Acacia. This year's recipient was **Dan Congreve**. During the past year, Dan has not only been instrumental in helping to create an academic success plan for the chapter, but also embodies academic success himself. Additionally, Dan also coordinated the chapter's waterball tournament philanthropy project and through his leadership, the philanthropy project was a success. As the recipient of the Acacian of the Year award, Dan will also receive a \$250 scholarship for the spring 2007 semester.

Congratulations to our undergraduate brothers for their hard

work and dedication to Acacia!

# More Alumni Input Needed for Centennial Book

In the last newsletter, I outline in a fair amount of detail the plans for writing a history of the Iowa State Chapter. Brother George Gross has received some replies to our request for information, but much more is needed! What we are looking for is anecdotes and stories from when you lived in the chapter house, things funny or sad, or even a recounting of the “everyday events” which made up so many of the days.

Most importantly, we need pictures, pictures, pictures! I’m certain that some of you have pictures or other bits of memorabilia that we could include in the book. Please send them directly to Brother Gross at the following address:

George Gross  
1230 39th Avenue  
Vero Beach, Florida 32960

The Cornell Chapter recently celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and one of their Brothers wrote a book on the history of their chapter. It is an outstanding piece of work, and one that I hope that we would be able to duplicate in terms of quality. But to make that happen, we need your help!

Please send any information and photos, along with as complete a description as possible to Brother Gross for inclusion in this book. Time is definitely growing short, so your help is desperately needed to make this book a reality. Every effort will be made to return items that are submitted back to their original owners, so please be certain to identify the items that you submit so that we can return them to you.

I will be providing everyone with a more complete update in the next newsletter. Thanks in advance for your help with this project!

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## 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. The website has been completely redesigned, and it is fantastic! Take a look!

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

“**Outstanding Greek Donor**” as a house for the blood drive. We are extremely proud of our accomplishments for homecoming, and hope for further success in Varieties and Greek week next semester.

Our annual philanthropy, the **Acacia Waterball Tournament**, took place in September, and we are pleased to say that it was a success. This was our third annual event, and it has grown more successful each year. It was a beautiful day, and everyone had fun as we barbecued, played lawn games and entertained the firemen with our antics as we attempted to master the fire hoses. We were able to collect over \$500 to donate to the Muscular Dystrophy Association this year, and were thrilled to have one more successful partnership with the Ames fire department.

## I Active Chapter Report

*Vincent Fadden, Venerable Dean - ACACIA Fraternity*  
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We are also very excited for and proud of our pledges this semester. We have nine pledges this semester, and all of them are outstanding individuals that will make excellent additions to our chapter. I see incredible potential for leadership in this pledge class, and our chapter is expecting great things of them. Upon initiation I will be proud to call each of them my brother.

Hello again from the Acacians at Iowa State! We are very excited about this semester especially as we have just recently finished our homecoming week and our pairing was awarded **first place overall** in the homecoming competition. We were paired with Alpha Gamma Delta and Alpha Gamma Rho for homecoming, and had a great time working with them. Our pairing’s slogan was “In it to win it,” and that’s just what we did. In addition to winning first place overall, our pairing was also awarded **1<sup>st</sup> place in lawn displays, 1<sup>st</sup> place in painting store front windows, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the blood drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Yell Like Hell, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in tournaments, 3<sup>rd</sup> place in painting victory lane**, and we were recognized as an

We are also proud to announce that our new scholarship program, which was initially created last semester, is finally in full operation after a semester of tweaking and testing to make sure that we were offering every possible aid to our members that we could. All of our members are seeing the benefits of this new program, and we expect to see our grades increase because of it. Much more important than the academic status of our house overall is the individual success of our members, and this program is specifically designed to help each member on an individual basis to perform their best. **Special thanks to**

**Dan Congreve** for all the hard work he has put into the scholarship program.

We are also excited to see some changes that are happening to the physical structure of our house. The chapter is excited to see all of the changes that will come about during the renovation process over the next 16 months or so, and we extend our sincerest thanks to all of our alumni who have contributed to the capital improvement drive. We especially want to extend our thanks to **Dean Platt** for his generous donation of plants and shrubs to help improve the landscaping of our property. All of your donations are greatly appreciated, as it would be impossible for us to live in as nice a house as we do without the generosity of our alumni.

Once again I would like to say that we could not be the successful chapter that we are without the support of our alumni. We appreciate all the help our alumni provide, and always welcome any visits or communication. Thank you!

## **Board President's Message**

*Harold Zarr, Corporate Board President - The Acacians  
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e-mail: [acacia\\_814@hotmail.com](mailto:acacia_814@hotmail.com)*

Greetings my Brother ACACIANS!

The holiday season is upon us, and as we stop to count our blessings for all that we have received this past year, I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped and contributed in so many different ways to the success of our chapter this past year. A Fraternity is more than just a group of members who happened to live together in the same location for a number of years. It is a Brotherhood of men who share a common vision and set of goals to do what is right, and to be there to support each in times of difficulty and joy. I have been blessed to have had the opportunity to live and work and share many of the joys and sorrows of life with a group of men who I can truly say are my Brothers, in every sense of the word.

I look forward to 2008 and 2009 with a level of optimism that makes me truly appreciate all of the work that so many have given since I have been fortunate enough to serve on the Board. I am especially looking forward to the 100<sup>th</sup> celebration in 2009. This will be an opportunity to truly reflect back on all that we have accomplished over the past 100 years, and to look to the future with a sense of real anticipation.

The chapter is strong, and we have an outstanding group of alumni members on the Board who have spent countless hours working to improve the Iowa State Chapter. This newsletter is filled with stories of their hard work, and I hardly need to recount them here.

Finally, I want to send out the condolences of the Board to Brothers Randy Stotts - #791 and Ed Vuper - #827 whose fathers passed away just a few weeks ago. Our prayers go out to them and their families, and we wish them well during this difficult time.

May god send his blessing on all of our Brothers and their families, and may 2008 be a year filled with all the best!

## **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 February 2008. (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](mailto:acacia_814@hotmail.com)**. Take care, and best wishes to all of the Brothers and friends of our Fraternity.