



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 # 48

Acacia is #1 in ISU Greek System with 3.21 G.P.A.

The Fall, 2008 semester grade results are in, and **Acacia Fraternity** once again stands atop all of the other fraternities in the Iowa State Greek System for top academic honors. The results for the top five chapters are as follows:

1.	Acacia	3.21
2.	Delta Tau Delta	3.15
3.	FarmHouse	3.11
4.	Alpha Gamma Rho	3.08
5.	Alpha Kappa Lambda	2.95
All Fraternity Average		3.02
All Men's Undergrad Ave.		2.74

It is well worth noting that our fraternity achieved the distinction of having the **highest affiliated grade point average**.

Academic excellence is a hallmark of the members of Acacia Fraternity. **As you can see from the table on this page, our chapter has been ranked #1 for ten out of the past eleven semesters!** Since the chapter was refounded in 1999, Acacia has held the #1 academic slot more than 60% of the time, and we have held either the #1 or #2 academic slot 95% of the time. An impressive record of achievement by any measure.

Our focus remains on recruiting only **exceptional men** who are **dedicated to their academic studies** and to making a **positive contribution to society**. This has been a core strategy which has been shown to be successful over the years. It is our focus on academics, personality, and a demonstrated level of leadership which has enabled us to build the preeminent academic Fraternity at Iowa State.

Based on the results for the fall semester, a total of **\$3,800** in scholarships for academic excellence was awarded to our Brothers in the active chapter. The list of the Brothers who earned a 3.00 or higher grade point is shown below, and we

would like to recognize these Brothers for their outstanding academic achievement:

Lucas J. Agrimson
 Pavel I. Beresneve *
 Jonathan W. Buck
 Matthew B. England
 Alexander C. Fitzgerald
 Joseph A. Kenneth
 Timothy C. Mildenberger
 Jared A. Ramthun
 Austin J. Schlatter
 Nicholas A. Seibold
 Riley B. thiesfeld
 Michael S. Weber
 Matthew P. Zylstra

Brandon J. Behrens
 Jason W. Bril *
 Daniel N. Congreve
 Michael L. Felderman *
 Adam B. Halls
 Derek M. Joseph
 Seth M. Nelson
 Clark D. Richardson
 Aaron C. Schneider
 Derek T. Tharp
 Jonathan C. Vaage
 Zhong Zheng

* out-of-house member

Previous academic results for the Chapter are as follows:

Term	Position	GPA
Spring, 2008	#1	3.29
Fall, 2007	#1	3.24
Spring, 2007	#2	3.15
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

Twenty-five out of thirty-six (69%) chapter members earned a 3.00 or greater grade point for the Spring, 2008 semester. **Congratulations to all these Brothers for their outstanding academic achievement!**

Centennial Celebration is a Huge Success!

The centennial celebration was an absolutely fantastic event, and everyone who attended had a wonderful time. Many Brothers who had not been able to get together previously showed up and renewed their bonds of Brotherhood and friendship. Pictures from the event are posted on the website at www.stuorg.iastate.edu/acacia/ if you want to see all of the pictures that were taken. You can copy, print and save pictures from this website.

The weather was absolutely perfect for the event. Lots of sunshine and warm days for the middle of March in Iowa. Together with the good times and well planned events, you could not have asked for anything better.



This picture is taken looking to south in the dining room on the main floor of the chapter house.



This first picture was taken Friday evening in the Gallery Room of the Memorial Union. This is a photo of the three authors of the history book on the Iowa State Chapter. They are, from left to right, **Harold D. Zarr Jr. #814**, **George W. Gross #343**, and **Jeremy N Davis #969**.

Every member of the chapter who attended the event received either a soft or hardbound copy of the book. All proceeds from the sale of the history book are deposited in the scholarship fund for the chapter within the Acacia Fraternity Foundation.

Saturday morning featured a continental breakfast and tours of the chapter house. These are a series of pictures of Brothers who attended this event.

If you can judge an event by the “noise level”, these gatherings were a huge hit as alumni got together, visited, and relived their days in the chapter house. They also caught up on all that they and their Brothers have been involved in since graduation. The current active chapter members enjoyed the stories from the alumni, particularly those from the Brothers who lived in the house in late 50’s and early 60’s.



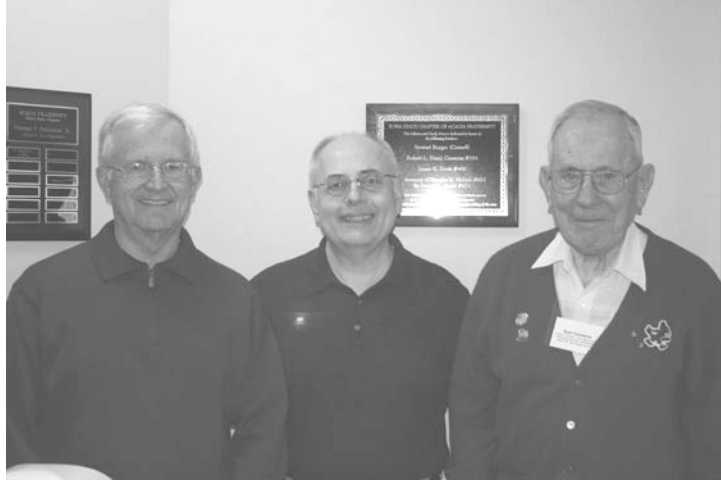
The first of the above two pictures shows the dining room looking to the southwest out into the solarium. The second is taken from the entrance into the solarium looking to the east into the dining room. As you can see, many of the wives of the

Brothers came along with their husbands to participate in this once-in-a-lifetime event.

Saturday afternoon a dedication ceremony was held for the new 3rd floor library in the chapter house. The library was filled to capacity with a standing room only crowd of Brothers while we honored the men for whom the library is named.



Following the dedication ceremony, alumni Brothers gather outside of the chapter house on the steps and behind the ACACIA sign to have their picture taken.



This is a picture of three of the Brothers who contributions to the library made it all possible. From left to right, they are **Donald L. Good #653**, **Stewart Burger** (Cornell Chapter alumnus and Iowa State Faculty Advisor), and **Robert L. "Sam" Carstens #354**. Not shown, but also a primary contributor to this project is **James H. Davis #489**. Brother Good made his contribution in the name of his pledge Brother **Douglas R. Nelson #652** who passed away in March, 2006.



Saturday evening began with a social hour in the South Ballroom of the Memorial Union. The alumni gathered to visit prior to the sale of the first five commemorative coins for the chapters' scholarship fund.



Board President **Harold D. Zarr Jr. #814** gave a brief presentation on the efforts that went into the construction of the library, the development and plans for the room, and recognized the many Brothers in attendance who contributed to the success of the project.





Shown in this picture are Brothers **George A. Buck #345**, **Robert L. “Sam” Carstens #354**, and **James K. England #800**.

The coin auction led to some spirited competition between the alumni Brothers as they bid for the honor of purchasing one of the first five coins minted for the event. Brother **John A. Kvinge #1022** assisted by Brother **Jeremy N. Davis #969** did an outstanding job encouraging Brothers to bid on these valuable coins.

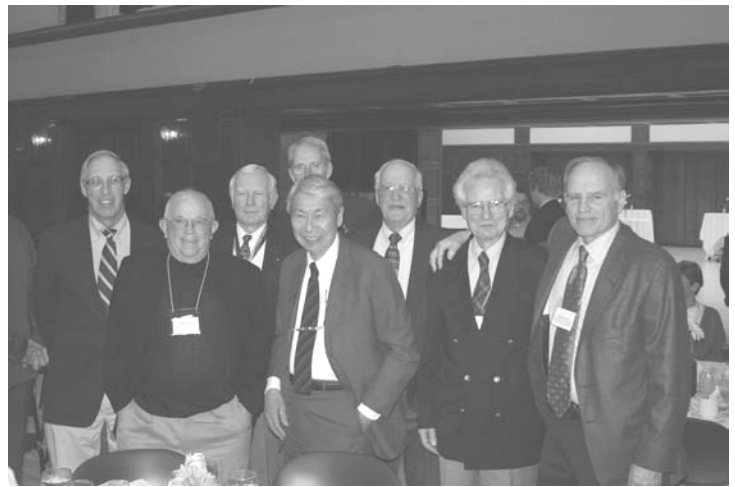


Following the coin auction, a banquet was served for the alumni and their guests in the Great Hall of the Memorial Union. Here, a group of Brothers stand together for a group photo at the event.



The first five coins (in order from one to five) were purchased by **Harold D. Zarr Jr. #814**, **Dennis G. McComber #556**, **Stephen J. Casper IV #905**, **Richard K. Perrin #541**, and **Jeremy N. Davis #969**. Together, these five Brothers contributed a total of **\$2,025** to the chapter’s scholarship fund.

The generosity of these Brothers is truly appreciated, and the Board and active chapter would like to thank these Brothers for their support of the chapters’ scholarship fund by purchasing these five unique coins.



Presiding at the event were National Officers **Rob Roberson** (Treasurer), **David J. Allen** (International President) and **Harold D. Zarr Jr.** (Alumni Board President). (See picture below.)



Also serving on dais were (left to right) **Michael S. Weber** #1038 (Chapter President), **Marc Harding** (representing Iowa State University) and **Jeremy N. Davis** #969 (Chapter Advisor).



One of the highlights of the evening was the awarding of the **Award of Merit to Stewart Burger**, an alumnus of the Cornell Chapter and longtime member of the Iowa State Board, the current chapter faculty advisor, and generous contributor to many of the projects of the local chapter.

Stewart is shown in this picture holding the framed award certificate. The others in the picture are (left to right) **Harold D. Zarr Jr.** (Board President), **Darold Larson** (National Executive Director), and in the back of the picture are **Rob Roberson** (National Treasurer) and **David J. Allen** (National President).



Six Brothers of the Iowa State Chapter were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the chapter and were presented with the **Order of Pythagoras**. These Brothers are **A. Dean Platt** #321, **George W. Gross** #343, **Robert L. "Sam" Carstens** #354, **Donald L. Good** #653, **Gene D. Lucht** #852, and **Nicholas Seibold** #1032.



This is a picture of two of the Brothers holding their Order of Pythagoras awards. They are (left to right) **Donald L. Good** #653 and **Gene D. Lucht** #852.

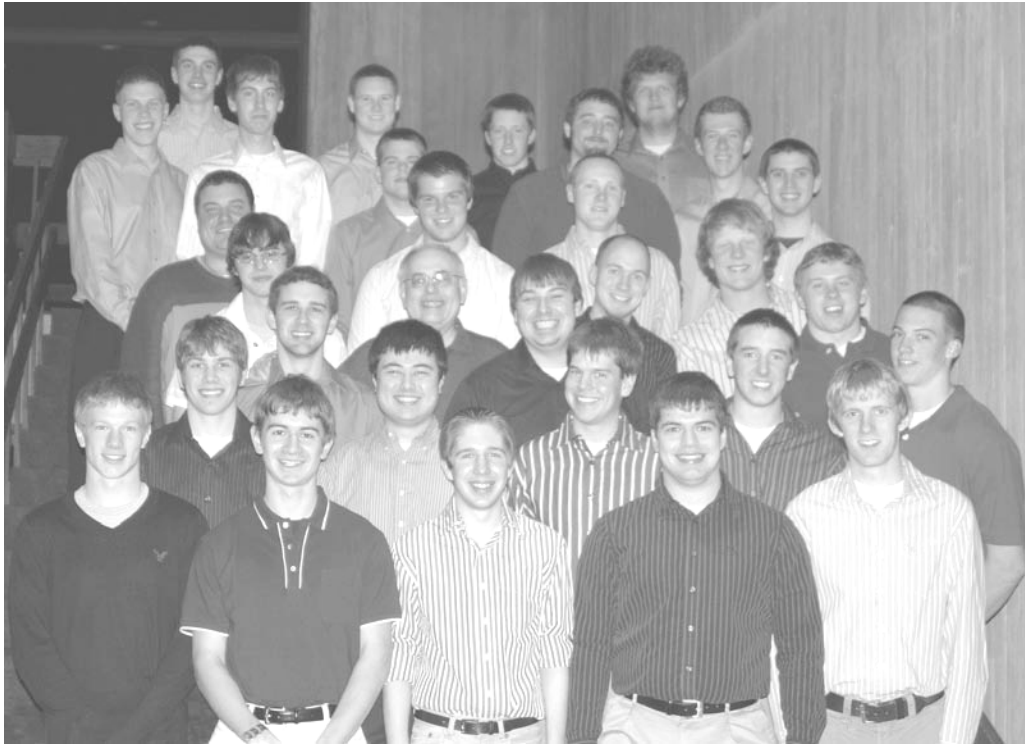


All good things must end, but on Sunday morning a final gathering of the alumni was held at the chapter house with a continental breakfast. Quite a few alumni attended this final event and had an enjoyable morning visiting with each other for final "wrap-up" of the weekends' events.

To everyone who was able to attend, we send out a big **THANK YOU!** All of our alumni should know that they are welcome to visit at any time, and we encourage you do so. Twice a year, the Alumni Board hosts a luncheon to honor and recognize those members of the active chapter who have excelled academically. All parents of chapter members and alumni are invited to attend.

The next event will be held this fall, probably in October. Be certain to look in the newsletter for more information on the event and fill out a reservation form if you plan to attend. The luncheon is free for everyone who attends, so don't be shy – show up and have a good time!

Stewart Burger hosts Chapter Members to Dinner and a Play



On February 13th, faculty advisor Stewart Burger generously took the chapter out to dinner at Aunt Maud's in Ames and to a play at Stephen's Auditorium. The dinner was delicious, and the play was filled with comedy and singing. We saw The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee; the musical follows the lives of six young people in the middle of puberty, overseen by grown-ups who barely escaped childhood themselves, as they compete in the Putnam County Spelling Bee. Throughout the Tony-Winning performance, the children, along with several participants from the audience learn that winning isn't necessarily everything and provide the audience with numerous laughs.

Fall Pledge Class Initiated into the Brotherhood of Acacia

The first group of men in our 100th anniversary year were initiated into the Brotherhood of Acacia on November 8, 2008. This is a picture of the eleven man pledge class that were initiated on November 8, 2008. These men are (front row – left to right) Tyler Ruse, Derek Tharp, lance Staley, Pasha Beresnev, Ryne Dittmer, and Riley Theisfeld. In the back row (from left to right) they are Tim Mildenerger, Matthew Zylstra, Zhong Zheng, Austin Schlatter, and Derek Joseph.

In the spring semester on March 6th, two more men were initiated. They are Michael Felderman and Kevin Wells.

Acacia now uses an eight-week pledge instruction program, considerably shorter than the instruction period that many of the alumni remember from the past. This more focused pledge instruction period has been found to be advantageous as it reduces the time away from their other academic responsibilities while maintaining a sufficient emphasis on the importance of the history and traditions of Acacia Fraternity.



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/

I Active Chapter Report

*Michael S. Weber, Venerable Dean - ACACIA Fraternity
138 Gray Avenue
Ames, Iowa 50014
E-mail: mweber@iastate.edu*

Dear Brothers and friends,

It was an amazing experience to meet many of you at the 100th celebration in March. The entire active chapter thoroughly enjoyed the stories and the generosity of all of the alumni that attended. It shows all of us that we have something to live up to in this house.

We are currently working to closing out the semester, the Brothers in the house are working hard on their final projects and gearing up for final exams. This spring has flown by, we are all ready for the summer, to take a break from classes and enjoy the warm weather.

At the conclusion of Greek Get-A-Way we will be able to start bidding new members and we already have a large list of guys that are interested in ACACIA. So meeting our chapter goal of 15+ pledges for the fall won't be an issue. We are already starting to look toward the fall to start getting things inline for pledging as well as some new challenges presented to us, with over half of a large pledge class living out of house. We have ideas already forming and being discussed to tackle these challenges head on.

We hope that all of you that attended the centennial celebration enjoyed yourselves and we hope to see all of you back very soon. Have a great summer!

Board President's Message

*Harold D. Zarr Jr.
Corporate Board President - The Acacians
834 South East Michael Drive
Ankeny, Iowa 50021-3671
e-mail: acacia_814@hotmail.com*

Greetings my Brother ACACIANS!

The two-year planning effort that went into centennial celebration all came together and it went off perfectly. A great deal of credit for this goes to Jeremy Davis #969 and the members of the active chapter who took care of all of the details for the event so that the rest of the alumni could just sit back and enjoy themselves.

I also want to say a special thanks to the national Officers who attended the event: David J. Allen, President, Rob Roberson, Treasurer, Darold Larson, Executive Director, and Eric Wheeler, Chapter Consultant. Their attendance simply made this event more special and I want to thank them for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend the event.

I think it safe to say that everyone who attended the event had an absolutely fantastic time and enjoyed themselves thoroughly. But, if you happened to miss this event, don't think that you are not welcome to visit anytime you are in the area! The Corporate Board hosts two alumni events each year, one in the fall and one in the spring at which we host a luncheon and honor the members of the active chapter for their academic achievements. These events are free to all parents and alumni and we encourage you attend. A registration form for each event is always included with the newsletter, so don't be shy – show up and have some fun!

The Board is already looking to complete two major projects to finish our improvements to the house. The first project is tuck pointing of the brick on the exterior of the house. Brother Chip Riedmann has generously sent me a considerable amount of information on this work, and I thank him for it. The Board will be soliciting bids for this work which we plan to have accomplished this summer.

The second project is the renovation of the basement. Our plan is to "gut" the entire room, remove a closet and open up the space completely so that it is one large, multipurpose room. The room will also be completely rewired so that it is brought up to code, and set up so that the home theater sound system will function properly.

Primarily it will be used to house a "home theater" and seating area with new furniture and "pub tables" for sitting, visiting and social events. It will be designed as a relaxation area for the men of the chapter, where they go and watch television, host "movie nights" social events, or just go to visit outside of their rooms. The room can also be configured for chapter meetings, ritual work and similar events as well.

The cost of this project is \$33,000 and we are asking our alumni to help us with this project. Unfortunately, donations for this project will **NOT** be tax-deductible, but as with the windows to the house, we are convinced that this project will help us to attract new members and enhance the livability of the chapter house. Donations for this project should be made out to **The Acacians** in any amount that you feel is appropriate.

Please send me an e-mail at acacia_814@hotmail.com if you need to communicate with me about anything related to the Board or the chapter.

Matt Zylstra	Chapter Rep.	712-299-0409
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	515-257-4683
Michael O'Doherty	Vice-President	402-301-6489
Jeff Peil	Treasurer	641-430-5998
Phil Sherman	Secretary	
Don Good	Alumni Relations	515-956-3150
Michael S. Weber	Chapter President	515-291-8718
Mike Vosatka	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 November, 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. Take care, and best wishes to all of the Brothers and friends of our Fraternity!



Alumni Scholarship Fund Donations in 2009

\$ 5,120 Contributed in 2009 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 2009. 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 2008 -----	
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)
Mark L. Larson	
Harold D. Zarr Jr. - #814	
Gold Partner	(\$ 750 - \$ 999)

Silver Partner	(\$ 500 - \$ 749)
Robert A. Ketch - #648	
Richard K. Perrin - #541	
Bronze Partner	(\$ 100 - \$ 499)
Richard G. Wilson - #409	
Gary D. Harter - #538	
Dennis G. McComber - #556	
Stephen J. Casper IV - #905	
Jeremy N. Davis - #969	
Spirit Partner	(\$ 1 - \$ 99)
Walter R. Kolbe - #527	
Larry D. Christensen - #566	
Rev. Timm A. Wilkin - #717	
Laury E. Decker - #910	
Mary Ann (Vorisek) Dilla - Little Sister	
Peter A. Thiesfeld - parent	

