



# 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!***

November, 2009

Issue # 50

## Major Improvements to Chapter House Completed

In the last issue of the newsletter, we discussed a number of projects that the Board had authorized to be completed during the 2009-2010 fiscal year. A number of these projects have been completed, and we wanted to share with you some photos of what has been accomplished to date. Many thanks go out to Matt England for taking the time to take the pictures used in this article.

The first project involved some considerable effort on the part of members of the active chapter. Ezra Shields and Matt England sanded down, replaced rotten wood, and repainted the handicap ramp on the north side of the house. Ezra and Matt also repainted a number of the rooms on the second floor, the wooden storage box on the front porch, the front door, and basement door. Here is a picture of the newly refinished walkway on the north side of the chapter house.



Work was started by Noah Gullikson and his father on repainting the soffits of the chapter house, but after they started it was discovered that the soffits were suffering from some serious wood rot. The repainting project was halted while we had the soffits inspected by our building contractor. It was determined that the soffits were so far damaged that the only realistic option would be to rebuild and replace them.

The Board decided to replace the soffits on the house in May, 2010.

In mid-August, a new limestone lawn edging was installed around the front flower bed, the front sign, and around the storage shed in the back of the house. A new sidewalk was also installed along the south side of the chapter house to the back lot from the front sidewalk. The cost of this project was approximately \$6,000. This is a picture of the new lawn edging around the plantings in front of the chapter house.



This is a picture of the new edging installed around the ACACIA sign in the front yard.



Here are two pictures of the new walkway that was installed on the south side of the chapter house. This walkway provides member of the chapter with an easy access to the back storage shed and parking area from the front yard of the chapter property. This view looks to the east from the front yard. The storage shed is located in the center of the picture behind the trees.



This is a view looking to the west from the parking area on the east side of the chapter property.



The tuck pointing project was far and away the most extensive and most needed project that was completed. The Board spent \$19,000 on this project, but as you can see from the pictures the project involved an extensive amount of work including the rebuilding of the front columns of the house. This is a project that had been discussed for decades, but had never been done previously due to a lack of funds. Good fiscal

management and a number of years of having the house at full capacity enabled the Board to finally have this work done.



This is a second picture of the rebuilding of one of the front columns on the chapter house.



The company that we hired to complete the work needed to use a lift to reach the upper portions of the chapter house. This picture shows this lift in operation on the north side of the chapter house.



As mentioned earlier, the soffits will be replaced and painted in May, 2010. The other major project that will be completed will either be the paving of the parking lot or the complete remodeling of the basement into a combination chapter meeting room and “theater room.”

We are awaiting a final ruling from the Ames City Council on whether or not an ordinance requiring the paving of the parking lot will be enforced or repealed. We should know by the time the next newsletter comes out which project will be done next summer. Regardless of which way the ruling goes, our plans are for both projects to be completed within the next two years, so all that remains to be determined is the “sequencing” of these projects.

## Acacia Welcomes Nine New Members to its Ranks

Our two rush chairman, Matt Zylstra and Riley Thiesfeld got an early start on summer rush this year, and their efforts have succeeded in recruiting an exceptional group of young men who will become Brothers in our Fraternity. Recruiting members of outstanding ability has become more and more competitive between the fraternities, with each vying for the finest men available. Acacia has proven to have a competitive edge in this process based on three factors. The first is the men who currently live in the chapter house. People want to be around outgoing, socially active and successful, and the men of our chapter prove to be exactly that on every level.

The second factor is academics. Our chapter has an outstanding track record of academic success for both the pledge class and the actives in the house. This proved to be an important factor to both potential members and their parents,

as they wanted to be certain that we were serious about our emphasis on meeting academic goals.

The third factor is the chapter house itself. The construction of the third floor library and the installation of new windows and the myriad of other projects that we have completed over the years demonstrated that we were doing all that we could to provide a safe and comfortable living environment for everyone in the house. Most of these improvements have been due to the generosity of our alumni, which have paid huge dividends to us in supporting our efforts to recruit the finest men possible for our Fraternity.

The chapter house will once again be filled to capacity this year, and we have a number of men whom we hope to add as members in the spring semester as well. But for now, meet your newest Brothers!



**Samuel M. Behrens**

Sam Behrens is the son of Jim and Chris Behrens of Waverly, Iowa. He was involved in quite a number of different activities in high school, including the National Honor Society, the NEIC Honor Band and Honor Choir, Jazz Band, Soccer, Pops Show, and Dance Team.



**Jacob R. Bergman**

Jake is the son of Ann and Jim Bergman from Bettendorf, Iowa. In high school, he a member of the tennis, bowling and volleyball teams.



**Corey Brown**

Corey is the son of Larry and Barbara Brown from Olathe, Kansas. As a high school student, Corey was a consistent member of the honor roll, the German Honors Program, the National Honor Society, the soccer team, and the Aerospace and Engineering Program from which he earned an Aerospace Engineering Endorsement.



**Tyler J. Cain**

Tyler is the son of Lonny and Cindy Cain from Ottawa, Illinois. He graduated with a 4.0 GPA, was a member of the National Honor Society, and was recognized as an Illinois State Scholar. He was also a member of the soccer, baseball, track, and tennis team in high school. He was also a member of the jazz band, Drama and Fine Arts Clubs.



**Zachary Jameson**

Zach is the son of Bob and Sharon Jameson and hails from Joliet, Illinois. He graduated Summa Cum Laud from his high school and received his school's Adam's Award. He was a member of the National Honor Society, the Key Club, and competed in the Scholastic Bowl.



**Andrew Johnson**

Andrew is the son of James and Stacy Johnson and he attended high school in Arkansas. In high school, he was a member of the Debate, Basketball and Baseball teams. He was also involved in the Student Congress and earned a 1<sup>st</sup> place award in the Arkansas Student Congress and a 3<sup>rd</sup> place award in the Arkansas State debate programs.



**Austin Locke**

Austin is the son of Lisa Ritchie and hails from Des Moines, Iowa. In high school, he was active in the debate and speech teams, and earned a national debate recognition award. He was also involved with the freshman council and the ISU Theater programs.



**Derek E. Robison**

Derek is the son of Doug and Melissa Robison from Richland, Iowa. Derek was a 2009 Branstad Scholar, received the Dennis and Marne Brown Scholarship, the Harold Dickey Scholarship, the ISU CHS Merit Scholarship, and the Iowa Bar Association Citizenship Award. He was also involved in a wide variety of sports including football, basketball, and track and was included on the All-State Academic Football Team, All-District football and All-Conference basketball teams. He was inducted into the National Honor Society, and served as a member of the student council.

### Zachary J. K. Walker



Zach is the son of Dave and Terri Walker and grew up in Altoona, Iowa. He was a member of the football team, student council, and student ambassador. He was also a manager for the girl's soccer team.

## Acacians "Outstanding in their Field" Gather Food for Needy Ames Families

On Saturday, August 29th Austin Schlatter, Brandon Behrens, Andrew Johnson, Sam Behrens and Derek Robison spent the morning picking sweet corn at a local farm. The gentlemen who owned the farm had decided to donate part of his sweet corn crop to Food at First, a local organization that serves free meals to anyone in need, and needed help picking and transporting the corn to the church. Despite having to track down the volunteer coordinator for directions, it was a great time with beautiful weather and we got some delicious free sweet corn!



Austin Schlatter is shown here shouting for help to find his way out of the corn field.



Brandon shows off the bag of corn he received for his help in gathering food for people in the Ames area.

## Fall Scholarship Luncheon a Huge Success

Each semester, the Corporate Board hosts a luncheon to recognize those members of the active chapter who have distinguished themselves through their academic performance and service to the Chapter. Nearly 80 guests were in attendance for the luncheon which was held on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> in the Memorial Union. As has become typical for the chapter, some 75% of the active chapter members received scholarships in the amount of \$200 for having earned a 3.00 grade point or above in the spring, 2009 semester.



There will be another luncheon held in the spring, and we would encourage all of our alumni who are able to attend and enjoy the brotherhood present in this event. You are also welcome to attend the corporate board meeting that precedes this gathering, and provide your input to the Board on the issues that are discussed at the meeting.

As you can see from the pictures in this article, the room was filled to capacity with chapter members, parents and alumni. An excellent meal was served by the Memorial Union food service, and the day ended with the chapter members singing to the guests present at the event.



Planned and completed improvements to the chapter house, upgrades to the Internet system, and the introduction of the newest members were all completed at the meeting. Following the luncheon, cake and ice cream was served at the chapter house, based on a recipe developed by Brandon Behrens.

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## I **Active Chapter Report**

*Michael S. Weber, Venerable Dean - ACACIA Fraternity*  
138 Gray Avenue  
Ames, Iowa 50014  
E-mail: [msweber@iastate.edu](mailto:msweber@iastate.edu)

Dear Brothers and friends,

The active chapter is coming to the close of a great semester. We initiated nine new brothers on the morning of October 31<sup>st</sup>.

These new brothers have a very diverse background, and each one brings a unique perspective to our chapter, and they are ready to step up and help lead this chapter.

We just held serenades for Greek Week 2010, and we will be paired with the men of Sigma Phi Epsilon and the women of Alpha Gamma Delta. This was a very sought after pairing and are excited for a great Greek Week. Varieties practice is underway and our brothers are excited and are looking at having a great show. We are paired with the women of Kappa Alpha Theta, Kappa Delta, Pi Beta Phi, and the men of Phi Kappa Psi, and Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

At the beginning of December we will be holding our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Acacia Claus at the Kmart in Ames. Last year we

collected about 130 gifts and donated them to the Women's ACCESS Shelter of Ames, and are excited to continue this serve to the Ames community. Earlier this semester we held our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Acacia Root Beer Floats philanthropy. We collected about \$1100 to help fund our philanthropy Pages of Promise, which you may recall this was started by Brother Keegan Kautzky. We send books to the organization Books for Africa, who then send these books to various locations in Africa. If you would like to help support either of these philanthropic events please send support directly to the chapter house.

During Homecoming we were paired with Delta Tau Delta, for a second year, and Chi Omega. We got first place in Tournaments and second place in Blood Drive. This was a great pairing; we made a lot of great friends and have continued to strengthen our reputation as a small house in our community.

At the time of printing this newsletter we have two pledges signed for the Spring and are hoping to have about five pledges for the Spring semester. As always if you have any names of young men that are attending Iowa State that you think would make a great contribution to this chapter, please let us know.

This will be my last newsletter as Venerable Dean of the Chapter. We will be holding elections the Monday following Thanksgiving break. This has been an outstanding year for our chapter. It seems like it was years ago that we had the 100<sup>th</sup> celebration, but the memories are still very vivid. We all enjoyed your visit to the chapter, and encourage you to do it again sometime soon. Your stories and knowledge about our chapter are so valuable to help continue the legacy of Acacia at Iowa State at 138 Gray. We have grown and are now a sought after house to be paired with for various Greek activities. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as Venerable Dean of this chapter, I thank all of you for everything that you have done for this chapter, and I'm excited to see the page turn to the next chapter of Acacia at Iowa State.

## **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](mailto:acacia_814@hotmail.com)*

Greetings my Brother ACACIANS!

Looking back on 2009, I think we can truly say that it was a banner year for the Iowa State Chapter of Acacia Fraternity. From the celebration of our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, to the many

capital improvements to the property, and our continuing academic ranking, it was a very good year indeed!

As you can see from this newsletter, the chapter and Board continue to make significant progress and build upon all of our previous success. The pictures in this issue of the newsletter do not begin to do justice to the improvements to the chapter house, but rest assured that these improvements (while long overdue) represent the tangible fruit of the generous contributions of our alumni and the frugal measures taken by the Board to establish a sound financial structure that is now paying concrete dividends.

The chapter continues to remain at full capacity, and the rush chairs have once again recruited an outstanding pledge class that we believe will maintain the proud tradition of our fraternity in terms of academic excellence and on-campus involvement. Look for updates on both of these topics in the next newsletter.

Due to the current cuts in government spending enacted by Governor Chet Culver, the University has decided to impose a \$100 surcharge on all students in the spring, 2010 semester and is planning on at least a 6% increase in tuition for the next academic year. It is difficult to determine what impact this will have on the ability of the University to recruit students for the next academic year, and how that may impact the chapter as well. The Board has striven to maintain costs at a reasonable level, and has not raised rent for quite a few years. We do not anticipate this will be necessary for us to do anytime soon, and we believe that this will give us a competitive advantage in terms of attracting outstanding new members in the future.

Our scholarship program has been, and will continue to be an integral part of our overall strategic plan for the chapter and we send out our thanks to all of our alumni who have so generously supported us in the past. Your support has made all the difference, and we cannot thank you enough.

In closing, I hope that 2009 has been a year filled with all the best for you and your family. I hope that 2010 will be even better. Take care, and enjoy the holidays with family and friends!

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

## 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	515-249-4631
Don Good	Alumni Relations	515-956-3150
Michael Weber	Chapter President	515-291-8718
Matt England	Chapter Treasurer	319-558-8085
Matt Zylstra	Chapter Representative	712-299-0409
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 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

### \$ 8,325 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 2009 -----	
<b>Refounding Father</b>	<b>(\$ 10,000 or more)</b>
<b>Board of Directors Club</b>	<b>(\$ 5,000 - \$ 9,999)</b>
<b>Pythagorean Partner</b>	<b>(\$ 2,500 - \$ 4,999)</b>
<b>Chapter Partner</b>	<b>(\$ 1,000 - \$ 2,499)</b>
Robert L. "Sam" Carstens - #354	
Harold D. Zarr Jr. - #814	
Mark L. Larson	
<b>Gold Partner</b>	<b>(\$ 750 - \$ 999)</b>
<b>Silver Partner</b>	<b>(\$ 500 - \$ 749)</b>
Robert A. Ketch - #648	
Richard K. Perrin - #541	
<b>Bronze Partner</b>	<b>(\$ 100 - \$ 499)</b>
Richard G. Wilson - #409	
Kenneth L. MacRae - #427	
Marcus A. Merriman - #446	
Albert M. Fellows - #475	

Richard W. Taylor - #506	
Jay D. Quick - #535	
Gary D. Harter - #538	
Dennis G. McComber - #556	
John L. Martinsen - #593	
Larry P. Yarham - #682	
Christopher W. Knapp - #764	
Stephen J. Casper IV - #905	
Jeremy N. Davis - #969	
David Benjamin	
Stewart Burger - Cornell	
Kenneth S. Joseph - parent	
Melissa M. Robison - parent	
<b>Spirit Partner</b>	<b>(\$ 1 - \$ 99)</b>
Percy J.C. Brown - #311	
George W. Gross - #343	
John R. Fulkerson - #410	
Bernard J. Kolp - #466	
Gordon N. Sundberg - #501	
Walter R. Kolbe - #527	
Larry D. Christensen - #566	
James D. Schlick - #708	
Ray E. Gustafson - #712	
Rev. Timm A. Wilkin - #717	
Ronald M. Larsen - #718	
Monte W. Ball - #818	

Laury E. Decker - #910  
Mary Ann (Vorisek) Dilla – Little Sister  
Linda S. Newsum

Peter A. Thiesfeld - parent