



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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Acacia lives up to its Motto of Human Service

On December 5th, 2009, the men from the Iowa State Chapter of Acacia Fraternity gathered at K-Mart in Ames to collect toys for the Women's ACCESS Shelter of Ames through the Acacia Claus philanthropy. They asked holiday shoppers to buy a toy during their visit and donate it to a great cause.



In just over four hours they collected 200 toys, several of which were donated by the men themselves. It was a great day for everyone involved, and will surely make many children's Christmas a little brighter.



From back left to back right in the photo are the following chapter members modeling the toys: **Austin Schlatter, Alex Moraniec, Zac Klenske, Derek Robison, Tyler Cain, Riley Theisfeld, Dan Congreve, and Alex Fitzgerald.**

On January 18, a group of 10 Iowa State Acacias took part in the Martin Luther King Day Service Day. They went to the ACCESS shelter in Ames and helped move furniture and clean the shelter up. The guys had a good time working together and were happy to help the shelter.

The ACCESS Shelter is the Assault Care Center Extending Shelter and Support. They provide a safe-haven for women and children suffering from domestic abuse and sexual violence, and provide a safe environment for empowerment and exploration of personal strengths. They advocate social changes, and partner with other agencies to deliver education and professional training to end domestic and sexual violence.

On February 20, a group of Acacias are volunteering at a Remembrance Day Health Fair for the families of Japanese Americans who were detained against their rights during World War II. The Acacias will be greeting families and helping out to keep the health fair running smoothly.

Over the next couple of months, the chapter will be taking part in Shelter Awareness Day. Last year, the chapter went to the local Hy-Vee and collected items such as toothpaste and Kleenex for the Ames Youth and Shelter Services. We are hopeful that this year's results will match those reported in the August, 2009 edition of the newsletter.

Our chapter also put a Relay For Life team together to take part in the Relay For Life that will be held on March 26-27. We hope to get involved with helping the Habitat for Humanity in Ames on weekends in April along with going to Food at First once or twice to help prepare and serve meals for those who are less fortunate in the city of Ames.

As you know, the motto of Acacia is human service. We believe that serving others builds leadership and character, and enables us to better understand that true leadership comes first from serving others who are in need. The members of the active chapter try to take advantage of as many opportunities

as possible to help our community – and have some fun at the same time!



This photo is of the Dance Marathon that was held on January 23rd. It is a fifteen-hour marathon that supports the kids and families of the Children’s Miracle Network and the University of Iowa Children’s Hospital.

Acacians in the back row, from right to left, are Michael Felderman, Scotty Locke, Derek Robison, Sam Behrens. The others are members of their “Morale Group,” named Team Piranha. Each Morale Group sponsors a family for the day and spends the day playing games with the children in that family, and helping to brighten their lives. This year, Dance Marathon raised more than \$180,000 and had almost 1000 participants.



This is Sam Behrens, Scotty Locke, Derek Robison, and Michael Felderman and it was taken at Dance Marathon as well.



These are the seven brothers who performed in Varieties. Our play was named, “The NOT so Wonderful World of Diznee.” We were paired with the men of Phi Kappa Psi and Sigma Alpha Epsilon, and the women of Kappa Delta and Pi Beta Phi. The members wrote and performed their own 20-minute musical, featuring songs and dance from many popular movies. Varieties took place on February 5th.

The Acacia brothers shown in this picture are, back row, left to right: Andrew Johnson, Sam Behrens, Scotty Locke, Derek Robison, Zac Klenske. Front row, left to right: Corey Brown and Austin Schlatter.



This is a picture of Sam Behrens is playing air hockey with one of the children of Dance Marathon. He lost.

Reflections on 2009 – Our Centennial Year

As we look back at 2009, we find that the alumni have once again been quite generous in their support of the chapter and related projects, and we cannot begin to thank all of you who so generously donated to the variety of projects that benefited the chapter and its scholarship program. All disbursements are subject to review by the officers of the Acacia Fraternity Foundation who ensure that any disbursement fits within the guidelines established by the Internal Revenue Service.

Donations by our alumni that were received in 2009 were divided between the following categories:

3 rd Floor Library	\$ 575
Capital Improvements	\$ 570
Chapter Centennial	\$ 5,405
Scholarship Fund	\$ 13,185

The donations that were made to the capital improvements account were used for the landscaping project on the front yard of the chapter house. Donations made to this account are **not** tax-deductible, as they are **not** used for scholarships or other related educational expenses, but are used to improve the physical property of the chapter house.

The donations made with regard to the centennial were all deposited in the chapters scholarship account and used to support scholarships made to the undergraduate chapter members. Finally, donations made directly to the scholarship fund were added to the donations made for centennial activities and together, these were added to the scholarship fund.

The Acacia Fraternity Foundation invests the funds and the earnings and expenses related to these investment activities are correspondingly added to, and deducted from, the accounts maintained by the Foundation on behalf of the Iowa State Chapter. Summarized results based on a report from the Acacia Fraternity Foundation for 2009 (which have yet to be audited) are as follows:

Beginning Balance in All Accounts	\$ 262,808.78
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+ Alumni Contributions	\$ 19,165.00
+ Earnings on Fund Accounts	\$ 66,447.09
- Disbursements from Fund Accounts	\$ <u>49,632.84</u>

Ending Balance in All Accounts	\$ <u>398,053.71</u>
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The Board maintains three accounts within the Acacia Fraternity Foundation. One account is called the **Chapter Expendable Account**, and it is from this account that the majority of the scholarships are disbursed to members of the active chapter. Funds that are invested in this account earn the prevailing rates available in money market funds.

These funds are managed by a separate committee under the jurisdiction of the Foundation, and this committee's chairman is the Iowa State Chapter alumnus, John Pugh - #442. Given today's economic climate, the current interest rate earned on these funds is quite small, so the Board maintains only a limited amount of money in this fund at any one time.

Two other funds maintain by the Board are invested in the stock market by the Acacia Fraternity Foundation. These two funds are the **Drdla Education Fund** and the **Zarr Endowed Education Fund**. As of December 31, 2009, there was \$390,731.87 invested in these two funds. These two funds are designed to provide a long-term source of revenue to support the Boards scholarship program. As you know, 2008 was a bad year for stock investments, but fortunately, the market has recovered somewhat in 2009, so the value of our stock funds has increased considerably along with the overall rise in the stock market.

Contributions from the alumni combined with earnings from these two funds are transferred on a periodic basis into the Chapter Expendable Account, and are used to pay the scholarships for the chapter members.

Over the course of 2009, a total of **\$49,632.84** was disbursed. The vast majority of this was for scholarships to members of the chapter, while a small percentage was used for reimbursement of related educational expenses such as providing Internet access to the chapter members.

2009 Project #1 – Wrapping up the Chapter Library

The major project in 2008 was the creation of a library on the third floor of the chapter house. This room was one of the central gathering points for the alumni during the centennial celebration, and the Board received a few final donations to be used for this room in 2009. Those alumni who made some final donations to this project are recognized below for their generosity to this project.

The library also features plaques that recognize alumni who were the major contributors to the room, along with those members who are recipients of the **Order of Pythagoras** and **Award of Merit**. Our thanks go out once again to Brothers **Sam Carstens, Donald Good, James Davis**, and

Stewart Burger whose major contributions to this project made this library possible.

If you happen to stop into the chapter house to visit, be certain to walk up to the third floor and take a look around – we know you will be impressed with the final result!



3rd Floor Library Donations in 2009

\$ 575 Contributed in 2009 for new Library

The table that is shown lists those Brothers and friends who have made contributions to the 3rd Floor Library fund drive in 2009. Donations to this project are tax-deductible. Please accept our grateful thanks for your help with this major improvement to the chapter house!

----- Alumni Contributors in 2009 -----	
Bronze Partner	(\$ 100 - \$ 499)
Richard K. Perrin - #541	

Dennis G. McComber - #556	
Cecil G. Williams - #929	
Michael J. Woolley - #994	
Spirit Partner	(\$ 1 - \$ 99)
Horst H. Hahn - #555	
Laury E. Decker - #910	
Tristan R. Pritchard-Meaker - #1004	
Peter A. Thiesfeld - parent	



Next to the library there is a small kitchenette available for the use for any of the members who are working in the library. It has a refrigerator, stove and microwave oven so that members can keep snack foods stored there, and cook them to enjoy while taking a break from studying.

In addition, the third floor features two other rooms for members. One of the rooms is a regular living room for two members, complete with its own private bathroom.

The other room is the Drdla Presidential Suite. This is a truly a magnificent room, complete with a small kitchen, living room, bedroom, private bathroom, and outside patio deck. It is a far cry from the cold air dorm that once existed and many of us used when we lived in the house!

2009 Project #2 – Chapter History Book

A second project that was wrapped up during the centennial was the publishing of a history book on the chapter. The feedback that we received from all the Brothers who received one was incredibly positive. The book ended up being approximately 330 pages in length, and covers the history of the chapter from the date of its inception up until the centennial celebration.

The pictures used in the book were copies of donated pictures supplied by our alumni and the little sisters of Acacia. I know that for me personally, and based on the comments from the alumni that I visited with at the centennial, these pictures and the

stories told in the book brought back many warm and wonderful memories.

Every alumnus who attended the centennial received a book for free. Copies of the book are also given to each new member of the fraternity as a part of their fraternity education process so that they can learn the history of the chapter and the men who were Acacians before them. A tremendous amount of effort was put forward by Brothers **George Gross**, **Jeremy Davis** and **Harold Zarr** who co-authored this book, reviewed and coordinated its publishing in time for the centennial.

If you did not order one, we still have a few of the hard cover books left. Not many, but there are a few if you still want one. They are available on a first-come, first served basis until we run out of copies. The hardcover books sell for \$50. If you would like one, please contact Harold Zarr via his e-mail address at acacia_814@hotmail.com.

Also, please note that the purchase of book is 100% tax-deductible to you as the funds are deposited in the scholarship account of the chapter with the Acacia Fraternity Foundation.



History Book Project Donations in 2009

\$ 2,475 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 History Book Project fund in 2009. Please accept our grateful thanks for your generosity! Your contribution made the publishing and distribution of this book possible!

----- Alumni Contributors in 2009 -----	
Silver Partner	(\$ 500 - \$ 749)
Clark D. Richardson - #1017	
Spirit Partner	(\$ 1 - \$ 99)
A. Dean Platt - #321	
George W. Gross - #343	
Richard G. Wilson - #409	
John R. Fulkerson - #410	
Charles D. Bird - #416	
James S. Hogfeldt - #431	
Dale W. Weber - #436	
James E. Weiss - #474	
Albert M. Fellows - #475	
Robert E. Davis - #511	
James M Hanson - #533	
Jay D. Quick - #535	
Phillip L. Baker, MD - #540	
Horst H. Hahn - #555	

Larry D. Christensen - #566
Jerry W. Crossett - #577
Lee R. Christianson - #601
Douglas R. Whitney - #627
Robert A. Ketch - #648
William H. Anderl - #679
Ray E. Gustafson - #712
L. Alan Lowry - #725
Bruce F. Rich - #741
Randolph W. Stotts - #791
Louis M. Riedmann, Jr. - #795
Arthur C. Metzger III - #806
Monte W. Ball - #818
Mark R. Bortle - #821
Laury E. Decker - #910
Alan D. Hoffman - #915
Cecil G. Williams - #929
Robert K. Borcharding - #978
Keegan J. M. Kautzky - #983
Tristan R. Pritchard-Meaker - #1004
Stewart L. Burger – Cornell
Mary Ann (Vorisek) Dilla – Little Sister
Emily C. (Harms) Kochanski – Little Sister
Norman P. Russell - parent

2009 Project #3 – Landscaping and Tuck Pointing the Chapter House

The Board continued to invest money in improvements to the chapter house during 2009. The biggest project involved the complete tuck pointing of the chapter house. The mortar on the chapter house literally reached the end of its usable life, and water was beginning to seep through the walls during heavy rains due to the weakness of the mortar. This was a project that had been needed for years, and the Board was finally able to complete it (and pay for it with the cash available in our capital improvements account without needing to borrow money from the bank) due to the Board's prudent financial policies.

We also completed the first step in a multi-year landscaping project designed to significantly improve the exterior view of the property. The alumni donations to the capital improvements account (which is maintained at our local bank in Ames) were used on this project. Replacing the sidewalk and front steps on the house is planned for 2009, and will be discussed in the next section of the newsletter.

Both of these projects were discussed in detail in the November, 2009 edition of the newsletter.



Alumni Capital Improvement Donations in 2009

\$ 570 Contributed in 2009 by Iowa State Acacians

The table that is shown lists those Brothers and friends who have made contributions to the capital improvement fund drive in 2009. Please accept our grateful thanks for your generosity! Your contributions will enable us to complete the renovations of the chapter house in time for the 100th anniversary celebration in March, 2009!

----- Alumni Contributors in 2009 -----	
Bronze Partner	(\$ 100 - \$ 499)
Donald G. Lyon - #461	
Richard K. Perrin - #541	
David E. Wolfe - #656	
Spirit Partner	(\$ 1 - \$ 99)
Stephen J. Casper IV - #905	
John A. Kvinge - #1022	
Martin Gran - #1002	

2009 Project #4 – Alumni Donations to the Scholarship Fund

Alumni support in 2009 for the scholarship program was strong, and at a time when universities are continuing to raise tuition and impose “special” assessments for a variety of costs, your contributions are vital to the Board being able to provide scholarships. Over the years, the Board and the Chapter have worked to strengthen the support provided to all of the members to help them in their academic studies and in helping them to pay the costs associated with attending school at Iowa State University.

Initially, the Board provided a \$100 scholarship to each member who earned a 3.00 or above grade point in a semester. However, in 2005 this program was expanded to include scholarships in three different categories. One area is in **chapter leadership**. Members who excel in providing leadership to the chapter may be awarded a scholarship in an amount to be determined by the Corporate Board. A second scholarship is awarded to each member who lives in the chapter house. Each member who lives in the chapter house is awarded \$225 per semester to help defray

the cost of living in the chapter house. The third scholarship is based on **academic performance**. Every member who earns a 3.00 or above now receives a \$200 scholarship. Over the years, literally thousands of dollars have been awarded in scholarships to members of the chapter. The amounts awarded for scholarships during the past four years are:

2006	\$ 18,657
2007	\$ 36,117
2008	\$ 26,207
2009	\$ 49,634

Our ability to award scholarships is a direct result of the generosity of our alumni. The funds donated are directly used to support the active chapter members in their pursuit of their academic degree's, and we cannot thank our alumni enough for the generosity that they have shown to the members of the chapter over the years.



Alumni Scholarship Fund Donations in 2009

\$13,185 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 -----

Pythagorean Partner (\$ 2,500 - \$ 4,999)

Harold D. Zarr Jr. - #814

Chapter Partner (\$ 1,000 - \$ 2,499)

Thomas J. Brown - #403
Robert L. "Sam" Carstens - #354
Marti Vincent - Little Sister
Mark L. Larson

Gold Partner (\$ 750 - \$ 999)

Silver Partner (\$ 500 - \$ 749)

Robert A. Ketch - #648
Richard K. Perrin - #541

Bronze Partner (\$ 100 - \$ 499)

Richard G. Wilson - #409
John R. Fulkerson - #410
Kenneth L. MacRae - #427
Dale W. Weber - #436
Marcus A. Merriman - #446
Donald G. Lyon - #461
Bernard J. Kolp - #466
Albert M. Fellows - #475
James H. Davis - #489
Joel E. Jensen - #496
Richard W. Taylor - #506
Jay D. Quick - #535
Gary D. Harter - #538

John E. Shrader - #539
John P. Bahr - #545
Dennis G. McComber - #556
John L. Martinsen - #593
Alex I. Fraser, MD - #608
Gary L. Ruegsegger - #613
Larry P. Yarham - #682
Philip C. Larson - #684
Christopher W. Knapp - #764
Stephen J. Casper IV - #905
Jeremy N. Davis - #969
David Benjamin
Stewart Burger - Cornell
Elizabeth B. Gehring - Little Sister
Kenneth S. Joseph - parent
Melissa M. Robison - parent

Spirit Partner (\$ 1 - \$ 99)

Percy J.C. Brown - #311
George W. Gross - #343
George A. Buck - #345
Gordon N. Sundberg - #501
Walter R. Kolbe - #527
Larry D. Christensen - #566
William A. Vogel - #620
Robert D. Howlett - #672
James D. Schlick - #708
Ray E. Gustafson - #712
Rev. Timm A. Wilkin - #717
Ronald M. Larsen - #718
Monte W. Ball - #818
Stephen J. Casper IV - #905
Laury E. Decker - #910
Mary Ann (Vorisek) Dilla - Little Sister
Linda S. Newsum
Peter A. Thiesfeld - parent

Many Chapter Improvements Scheduled for 2010

The Board is looking at a considerable number of improvement projects to be completed in 2010. At this point, the Board has allocated \$30,000 from the capital improvements account to be spent on property enhancement projects. We had originally intended to spend the vast majority of funds on a complete refurbishing of the basement, but the best laid plans got changed at the last minute, so here are some outlines on what we have planned at this point. Of course, there may be some minor changes as it gets closer to May, but these descriptions should be pretty accurate. Once the semester ends, work will begin in earnest!

2010 Project #1 – Replacing the Soffits

The first of these projects is the replacement of the soffits on the chapter house. The existing soffits are in quite bad condition, with most of the wood on them rotted beyond use. Once the weather clears, these will be torn off, replaced and painted to match the existing exterior color pattern of the chapter house. In addition to replacing the soffits, we will also be replacing the downspouts on the chapter house with downspouts that have a larger capacity to carry water in them.

The existing downspouts are often times too small to handle the runoff from the roof, so these will be replaced and redirected to different areas on the property. This will be done to try and avoid the potential for partial flooding in the basement due to runoffs from heavy rains or melting snow and ice.

2010 Project #2 – New Front Door

A second project involves the replacement of the existing front door with a brand new, energy efficient Anderson® door that will match the current “prairie-style” of the windows that were installed. The existing door has reached the end of its usable life, and a significant “gap” has developed between the bottom of the door and the sill plate which allows a lot of cold air to enter the foyer of the chapter house. Installing a new door will eliminate this problem, saving the Board a considerable amount of money now going to heating costs, and it will make the foyer area much more comfortable for everyone.

2010 Project #3 – New Basement Doors

The third project will be installation of a “two-door” entry into the basement from the west side of the chapter house. Currently, there is a single steel door that can be used to access the basement rec-room area from steps leading down to the rec-room on the west side of the chapter house.

This door, just like the one on the main floor, has reached the end of its useable life and allows cold air to enter the rec-room area, making it most uncomfortable in the winter. (This room is directly below the porch on the west side of the house.) The exterior door will be replaced with a new steel door, and a second door will be installed on the inside that will create an additional “dead-air” zone for added insulation and prevention

of drafts. Both doors will be “sealed” so that air penetration should be nearly eliminated. The big screen television that is currently in the area outside of the laundry room will be moved to this room, and a series of small “risers” will be installed to provide a “theater-style” seating arrangement. Supplemental heat will also be installed.

2010 Project #4 – New Front Steps and Sidewalk

The fourth project will be the replacement of the front steps to the chapter house and tearing out of the existing sidewalk from the chapter house to the main sidewalk along the street. The City of Ames enacted a new ordinance that dictates the acceptable depth of steps leading up to the entrance of a property (such as a fraternity), and since our current steps do not meet the code requirements, we will be replacing both the steps and the sidewalk leading to the street with a new sidewalk. This sidewalk will not have a “step” at the end of it, which now exists, but will slope gently down to coincide with the level of the sidewalk next to the street. We also want to do some landscaping at the point where the two sidewalks meet (removing the existing bushes that are there), but details on this part of the project have yet to be determined.

2010 Project #5 – Replastering and Painting

A fifth project will address some basic plaster repair in the dining area on the main floor of the chapter house, along with repainting of the area as well. We will also be replacing the entrance way area rug. This project is not expected to be particularly expensive, but it is a necessary “maintenance” item associated with any property.

2010 Project #6 – Remodeling 3rd Floor Kitchenette

A sixth project is still awaiting Board consideration, and may be completed if sufficient funds are available involves the refurbishing of the kitchenette on the 3rd floor. It will all depend on the cost estimate from our contractor. As you may recall, just off the library on the third floor is a small kitchenette that has a microwave oven, gas oven, sink and refrigerator. This kitchenette is available for members who are studying on the third floor and want to take a break and fix themselves a snack to eat.

The plan calls for the existing cabinetry and most of the appliances to be replaced (keeping only the refrigerator), having the walls replastered and painted, and a new countertop, sink, stove, microwave oven, and dishwasher installed (if space permits). The new cupboards would be in an “arts and crafts” style, consistent with the overall theme of the house.



This kitchenette will also allow members on both the second and third floors to eat their breakfast on this floor in the library area, or go to the main floor to eat, whichever they prefer. It would also represent the final step in completing of the renovations to the 3rd floor so that it will be a fully functional area for the chapter members to enjoy. If this project is within our budgetary allocation, it would complete the planned improvements that we have for the third floor area of the chapter house.



One of the key areas that the Board has focused on has been to keep the chapter house at its full capacity of twenty-nine men and to carefully plan and manage our budget. Reinvestment in the chapter house has been a consistent activity, and we have been fortunate in being able to make needed reinvestments in the property over the past ten years. Support from our alumni has been a critical part of this program, and we extend our thanks to all of our alumni who have contributed to these projects. Your support really makes a difference!

Acacia lives in its own Winter Wonderland!

As you can see from the picture below, the amount of snow that we have received this year has been considerable. Total snow fall amounts are in excess of sixty (60) inches, with more forecast to fall before the end of February! (Hey, where is that global warming when you need it?)

This view is from the bottom of the steps to the parking lot on the north side of the chapter house. The snow here is approximately three to four feet deep along the path to the parking lot.



Snow is piled up considerably higher along the sidewalk that leads from the chapter house to the street. To the south, it is approximately five feet deep, making for some considerable drifts. The weather has been intermittently warm enough for

the sidewalks to remain relatively clear of ice, although this can change on a day-to-day basis.



Brotherhood is where you find it. Here, eight of the chapter members pose after spending an enjoyable (?) couple of hours shoveling snow from the sidewalks around the chapter house.

This picture was taken at night, and although it might be difficult to see, snowflakes that are continuing to fall can be seen in this picture. This is just one of those jobs that (this year at least) never seems to end!



Acacia is #4 in ISU Greek System with 3.03 G.P.A.

The **Fall, 2009** semester grade results are in, and the men of **Acacia** were sorely disappointed to see their position drop to the #4 slot in the Iowa State Greek System. The results for the top five chapters are as follows:

1.	FarmHouse	3.17
2.	Alpha Gamma Rho	3.16
3.	Sigma Phi Epsilon	3.09
4.	Acacia	3.03
5.	Beta Sigma Psi	3.02
All Fraternity Average		3.08
All Greek Average		2.97

This is less than the Spring 2009 semester where we tied for first place with a GPA of 3.29. While this is a disappointment, it provides our fraternity the chance to show how much we can improve after a set-back. When faced with a difficult situation, an organization can either fall into complacency or try to assess blame, or the members can show true leadership and move aggressively to fix the problem. This is the approach taken by the chapter, to address the problem and implement positive steps so that it will not happen a second time.

To address this issue, a new scholarship plan was put into place at the beginning of the Spring, 2010 semester to help those members who have struggled during the past semester.

Although Iowa State University defines academic warning to be for anyone below a 2.0 GPA, our scholarship plan places an emphasis on helping anyone who earns below a 2.50 GPA. Earning below a 2.50 is classified puts a member in a "scholarship probation" category where the emphasis is on reestablishing their grade point to make them once again eligible to earn an academic scholarship from the Corporate Board.

To assist those who meet this criterion, every individual is paired up with an older brother who serves as an academic mentor. This mentor checks-in at least once a week with their mentee to monitor his progress with assignments and tests. In addition to being provided a mentor, each brother must schedule five hours per week to study in Acacia's library. This scheduled time allows members to set aside some time during the week to focus on their academic work without any distractions. In order to pinpoint and modify poor study habits, those on scholarship probation have been required to meet with a professional staff member from the Iowa State University Academic Success Center to create a personalized academic plan tailored to their needs.

Additionally, all Brothers of the fraternity are encouraged to get a tutor for any class they might have difficulty with. These tutors remain free for members and are reimbursed by the Corporate Board. The Scholarship Chair meets individually with every member at least twice each semester to discuss academic performance. This is a time to discuss how to seek help for a certain class during the beginning of the semester or how to handle any mid-term reports received at the mid-

semester point. Another resource put in place by the new scholarship plan is an Acacia Course Database which lists every class taken by an active member and which semester they have taken it. This allows members to network with someone who has either recently taken the course or who is currently in the same class. After all of these improvements to our academic support system, our chapter is committed to returning to the #1 spot!

Competition for the top academic slot has become more intense as time has gone by as many potential members, and their parents, use academic performance as a key criteria in deciding which fraternity to join. New members and their parents are concerned that the living environment will be one in which academic excellence will be supported and encouraged. The academic record of Acacia has been a key factor in our success in attracting only those members with truly exceptional academic potential. Returning to the number one spot is a critical goal that we have set for the spring, 2010 semester.

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.

As in previous semesters, these members will receive a \$200 scholarship from our Iowa State Chapter Account at the AFF for this achievement.

Based on the results for the spring semester, a total of **\$4,400** 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: (* out-of-house member)

Lucas J. Agrimson *
Samuel M. Behrens
Matthew B. England
Noah J. Gullikson
Derek M. Joseph
Seth M. Nelson
Austin J. Schlatter
Nicholas A. Seibold *
Riley B. Thiesfeld
Zachary J. Walker *
Zhong Zheng *

Brandon J. Behrens
Daniel N. Congreve
Alexander C. Fitzgerald
Andrew K. Joseph
Zachary J. Klenske
Derek E. Robison
Aaron C. Schneider
Derek T. Tharp *
Jonathan C. Vaage
Michael S. Weber
Matthew P. Zylstra

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.

Term	Position	GPA
Spring, 2009	#1	3.29
Fall, 2008	#1	3.21
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

Twenty-two of the forty chapter members (55%) taking classes earned a 3.00 or greater grade point for the Fall, 2009 semester. **Congratulations to all these Brothers for their outstanding academic achievement!**

In Memoriam – Chapter Eternal Acacian’s

I am sorry to share with you information on the passing of two of our Acacia Brothers. Vincent A. Votteler - #452 passed away on September 8, 2009, and Arlo Dean Platt - #321 passed away on October 25, 2009.

I received the following letter from Pauline Votteler, the wife of Brother Votteler.

Pauline F. Votteler
1115 Westwood Drive
Pierre, South Dakota

57501-5222

Dear Mr. Zarr,

It is with great sadness to report the death of my husband, Dr. Vincent A. Votteler, Acacia Fraternity no. 452.

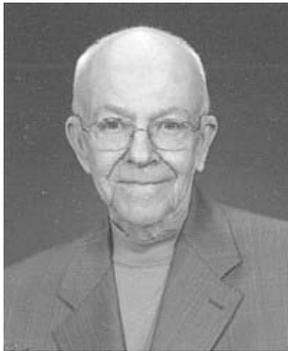
Vincent passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, September 8, 2009 in Rochester, Minnesota. Christian services and burial took place on Saturday, September 12 at Saint John’s Lutheran Church in Fenton, Iowa.

A memorial service in Pierre, South Dakota, (our home) took place at Faith Lutheran Church on September 19th. Vincent was 80 years and 5 months old at the time of his death.

Vincent graduated from Iowa State College in Veterinary Medicine in 1954.

While he was at Iowa State, Vincent was a faithful member of the Acacia Fraternity, which he was proud to be a member. We were married on December 26, 1953. Vincent always enjoyed hearing news of the Fraternity by way of your newsletter.

Sincerely yours,
Pauline Votteler



Vincent Arnold Votteler, son of Ernest and Lillian (Drew) Votteler was born in rural Fenton, Iowa on the family farm, March 23, 1929. He was baptized on April 21, 1929 and confirmed on June 1943, at the St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Fairville, Iowa. He passed away unexpectedly Tuesday, September 8, 2009 in Rochester, Minnesota at the age of 80 years, 5 months.

Vincent received his education in the Fenton Schools and continued his education at Iowa State University in veterinary medicine receiving his DVM June 1954. He was licensed to practice veterinary medicine in Iowa and California.

On December 26, 1953, Vincent was united in marriage to Pauline F. Drommer in Fort Dodge, Iowa. After their marriage and Vince's graduation, they returned to Fenton from 1954 to 1956, where Vincent was in partnership with Dr. John Waite's veterinary practice. In November 1956, Vincent purchased a veterinary practice in Laurens, Iowa. He continued to practice with large and small animals until 1967 when he began his career with the US Department of Agriculture's Veterinary Services at Ottumwa, Iowa. He retired from government service in 1993 while in Pierre, South Dakota. While at Veterinary Services he served as Acting Veterinarian in Charge, Foreign Animal Disease Specialist, and Epidemiologist.

During his life Vincent was a 4-H Club Leader in Fenton and Laurens, Iowa, served on the Laurens Fire Department and as Lions Club's Tail-twister. He enjoyed fishing on the Missouri River in Pierre. He also designed and handcrafted stained glass objects, lamps, and windows featured in many local area churches.

Vincent was a faithful member of Missouri Synod Lutheran Churches throughout his life and served as a Sunday School teacher in Ottumwa, Iowa.

Left to cherish Vincent's memory is his beloved wife Pauline of 55 years living in Pierre, South Dakota; His daughter, Vicki Myers of Saint Louis, Missouri; His daughter, Jane Bradberry and her husband, David Bradberry of Gillette, Wyoming; His much loved grandchildren, Christine Bradberry and Joshua Bradberry; Nieces and nephews, Cathy Chernausek, Dr. Elisabeth Cheney, Denise Harner, LoRee Kissner, Delana Daken, and Mike Votteler.

Preceding Vincent in death were his parents Ernest and Lillian Votteler, brothers Dr. Robert Votteler and his wife, Helen, Ervin Votteler and his wife, Lois, and Delond Votteler; nephew Tom Votteler, niece Renae Berkland, and grand-niece, Brenda Dacken and leaves many friends to mourn his passing.

Lee Platt
3720 Village Place
Apartment #6212
Walterloo, Iowa 50702

((Editor's Note: I also received a letter from Lee Platt, Dean's wife notifying me that Brother Platt had passed away. You will recall that Dean generously donated quite a few plants for use around the chapter house to improve the overall look of the property two or three years ago. I had the pleaser of meeting and visiting with Brother Platt, and we had a number of wonderful conversations. I will miss him greatly.))



A. Dean Platt, 89, died at the Friendship Village Retirement Center on Sunday, October 25, 2009. He was born November 20, 1919 in Oelwein, IA, the son of George and Hazel Horning Platt. He graduated from Oelwein High School. Dean's family was involved in the nursery business for four generations and he received his Bachelor's Degree from Iowa State University in horticulture management.

In his freshman year at ISU while attending a dance mixer, he met Lee, the love of his life. After graduation, Dean and Lee married on June 4, 1942 and began their long and wonderful life. Together, they brought his father's nursery business to Waterloo and founded Platt's Nursery in 1944.

He was a loyal and active member of Downtown Rotary Club since 1945. Dean was instrumental in the Rotary Reserve building project completion. He and Lee went to

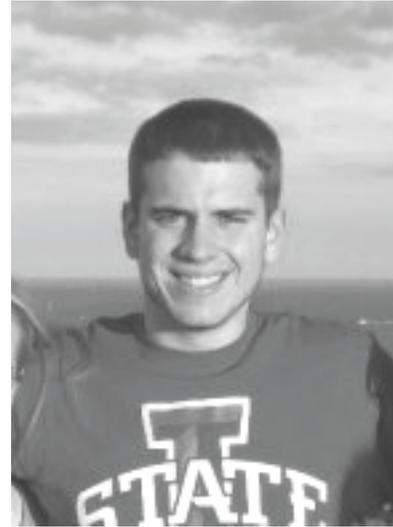
India in 2001 with Rotary International participating in the polio immunization program. He was involved in the Nicaragua Shoe Box program traveling there four times to see first-hand the program's progress. He was a member of First Presbyterian Church for 64 years where he served as an Elder, the No Name Club, Associated Investor's Club, and Toastmasters. He was named to Iowa Nurserymen's Association Hall of Fame in 1989, the **Order of Pythagoras of Acacia Fraternity in 2009**, and a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International three times.



He enjoyed sailing, hunting, fishing, reading, and traveling throughout the U.S. with his family as well as to countries such as Germany, Switzerland, Ireland, Greece, Israel, England, Nicaragua, the Scandinavian countries, the Far East and numerous times to Mexico. Dean also trademarked a sugar maple that turns completely red in the fall, calling it the Fall Red Maple.

He is survived by his wife Lee; son Richard Dean (Marsha) Platt; daughter Ann (Gary) Fergemann; five grandchildren: Brian (Katarzyna) Fergemann, David Fergemann, Caitlyn (Trever) Sittig, Allison Platt and Breanna Platt; great granddaughter Olivia Fergemann; two sisters Mae (Merv) Coover and Aris Montgomery; and his brother Robert. Dean was preceded in death by his parents and brother Lloyd. "Dean was a great role model for many and his cheery approach to life will be missed."

Acacia's Newest Brother



Acacia is always looking for men who will become exceptional Brothers. Our newest member is Daniel Schwartzstein, who is from Oregon, Wisconsin. Dan's interest in becoming Greek was sparked by a desire to become more involved on campus and in the Ames community as well as to meet more people.

Dan is a sophomore at Iowa State, majoring in kinesiology. He is interested in continuing his education to become a chiropractor, physical therapist, or athletic trainer. Currently, his is involved in Habitat for Humanity, Kinesiology and Health Club, and the ISU Tale Tennis Club. He is also helping with Greek Week 2010.

Dan has always been interested in a number of sports, including football, basketball and golf. This passion for athletics is responsible for Dan's interest in the exercise and health profession. In his free time, he enjoys working out, playing sports, and hanging out with his friends. In high school, Dan played football and basketball, and was part of the National Honor Society and Model United Nations Club.

Welcome to Acacia, Dan!

Davis Elected to Ames City Council

Jeremy Davis (#969), chapter advisor, was elected to the Ames City Council on December 1, 2009 in a run-off election to a four-year term by receiving 63% of the vote and upsetting the then incumbent. Davis was elected to represent the Ward 3 area of Ames, which is approximately the area west of Beach Avenue and south of Lincoln Way and includes the Greek Community.

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/

Elected on a platform of fiscal responsibility, promotion of job growth, and a reduction of government through streamlined processes; Davis, along with two other newly-elected council members, have "hit the ground running" during the first two months of their term. From modifying the zoning process to reducing the property tax levy by 1 cent for the upcoming fiscal year to setting six new goals for the Ames community, the future looks positive for Ames. Although there are many challenges ahead, especially with the economy and the potential for many government-funded jobs to be reduced in the Ames area, the Ames City Council recognizes the obstacles that lie ahead and are preparing to meet these challenges head-on.

In addition to Davis, current Ames City Councilman Jami Larson is an alumnus of Delta Upsilon; and having two fraternity alumni serving on the Ames City Council will be an asset to the City.

Jeremy's website is www.facebook.com/DavisForAmes and can be accessed without a "FaceBook" account. Feel free to check it regularly for updates on the Ames Community.

Active Chapter Report

*Mathew B. England, Venerable Dean - ACACIA Fraternity
138 Gray Avenue
Ames, Iowa 50014
E-mail: mattenglan@gmail.com*

Dear Brothers and friends,

This is my first update the 2010 Venerable Dean for Acacia Fraternity, and I'm excited to tell you about the state of our chapter and a little about myself. I am a junior in Aerospace Engineering, and I am from a little town in eastern Iowa called Andrew, just south of Dubuque. My father (Jim England #800) was Venerable Dean of the chapter during his time here and I am very excited to follow in his footsteps and build my own fond memories of Acacia.

We finished off the fall semester quite well. We again participated in Acacia Claus; this year we had about twenty brothers go to the local K-Mart and collect gifts for the Women's ACCESS Shelter of Story County. We collected more than two-hundred toys for the children at the shelter and helped make their Christmas a little merrier. Continuing in the Human Service spirit, we again collected used textbooks from around campus and the community to send to schools in Africa for Pages of Promise. In January, we also had several members participate in Dance Marathon, the largest student-run philanthropy on campus.

We did have a disappointing finish in the grade rankings for the fall semester, slipping to fourth place in the Greek community with a 3.03 GPA. Our active chapter did have a 3.29, which was the highest in Greek-land. We're all very disappointed with our recent performance, and have adopted a new scholarship plan to address this. Some of the measures we put in place include

weekly meetings with an academic mentor (an older brother in the house who has previously taken the same courses or similar ones), weekly study hours, and a workshop with the Academic Success Center on campus for anyone who got below a 2.50 GPA in the fall. We are confident that we can regain the top spot for the spring semester, and eagerly look forward to doing so.

This spring we have already had Varieties, where seven of our brothers sang and danced their way through their musical, "The NOT So Wonderful World of Diznee." Coming up in April is Greek Week, and we are looking forward to our strong pairing of Sigma Phi Epsilon and the women of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority. Along with Greek Week is Greek Getaway, the annual recruitment event that is tightly paired with the Greek Week events, where high school seniors come and spend the weekend in a chapter house. This is a great recruitment event; so if any of you know of any high school seniors that would make good Acacians, please let either our Rush Chairs or myself know.

The following weeks are quite busy for us with Initiation on the first weekend of March. Following that is Spring Break for which many brothers have exciting travel plans. Then it's Easter, Greek Week, VEISHEA, and then we have one empty week before dead week and then it's on to Finals.

We have quite the year ahead of us; we will work hard to regain our #1 ranking in grades, continue to be involved in community service and philanthropic events, and we are already making plans for Conclave on August 4-8 in New Orleans, LA.

And as always, if any of you would like to stop by the chapter house while you're in town, please feel free! If you get a hold of me beforehand, I can arrange a full house tour and would be happy to show you around and hear your stories from your time here. One of my favorite parts of this Fraternity is meeting you, the alumni. And of course, if you know any qualified young men who will be attending Iowa State, please let us know. We are constantly seeking new recruits, and greatly value the referrals made to us by alumni.

Here in Ames, we have had an abnormally large amount of snow this winter; we have several feet on the ground with no sign of it melting anytime soon. So finally, I wish all of you a happy spring, hopefully filled with warm weather and as little snow as possible.

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!

No doubt about it, this newsletter is setting a record for size. Talk about being busy, we are all as busy as we can be and it shows no sign of slowing down anytime soon. This summer is going to be incredibly busy with all of the projects that we have planned for improving the chapter house, and if we can bring everything together, it is going to be a big step forward for us.

But this is just the preparatory phase in our plan. Next summer, assuming nothing else gets in the way, we will complete the remodeling of the basement into a fully functional recreational area. We are planning to install a pool table into the opened up room, and we also purchase chairs and tables so that the area can be one where the Brothers can relax, play a game of pool, visit, or watch TV or play video games in the adjoining room. Exciting times ahead indeed!

Rush for new members for next year is already off to a good start. We have a considerable number of men that our rush chairs have been in contact with and we have high hopes that we will once again recruit an exceptional pledge class of new members.

Included with this newsletter is the official ballot for the Board elections for this spring. We are asking you to please return them with your vote for the members of the Corporate Board. Both Harold Zarr and Don Good are running again, but if you are interested, or know someone who would be, please feel free to write their name in on the ballot.

Also, I would like to extend an invitation to all of our alumni and parents to attend the spring luncheon on May 1st at the Memorial Union. There is an RSVP form included with this letter, and I would encourage you to fill it out and return it as soon as possible. This last fall, we had nearly 80 guests attend the event, and we all had a great time. This is a fantastic

opportunity to meet other alumni, and to get to know the new members of our Fraternity. Don't miss out!

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
Matt England	Chapter President	319-558-8085
Mike Vosatka	Chapter Treasurer	
Zach Walker	Chapter Representative	515-402-1216
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!