



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!

May, 2010

Issue # 52

Acacia is #1 in ISU Greek System with 3.32 G.P.A.

The **Spring, 2010** semester grade results are in, and the men of **Acacia** rebounded to the #1 slot in the Iowa State Greek System. Their average of 3.32 was substantially ahead of the next closest chapters who earned a 3.21 average. The results for the top five chapters are as follows:

1.	Acacia	3.32
2.	FarmHouse	3.21
3.	Phi Kappa Psi	3.21
4.	Beta Sigma Psi	3.18
5.	Theta Chi	3.06
	All Fraternity Average	2.92
	All Greek Average	3.00

This result shows how effective the academic plan was that was implemented by the men of the chapter after their disappointing grade report last semester.

Acacia's scholarship plan places an emphasis on helping anyone who earns below a 2.50 GPA. Earning below a 2.50 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 in which they are struggling. The cost of tutors is covered by the chapter and is 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.

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.

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 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
Tyler J. Cain
Ryne B. Dittmer
Michael L. Felderman
Noah J. Gullikson
Andrew K. Joseph

Brandon J. Behrens
Jacob R. Bergman
Daniel N. Congreve
Matthew B. England
Alexander C. Fitzgerald
Zachary R. Jameson
Derek M. Joseph

Zachary J. Klenske
 Derek E. Robison
 Aaron C. Schneider
 Ezra L. Shields
 Riley B. Thiesfeld
 Zachary J. Walker *
 Zhong Zheng *

Seth M. Nelson
 Austin J. Schlatter
 Nicholas A. Seibold *
 Derek T. Tharp *
 Jonathan C. Vaage
 Michael S. Weber
 Matthew P. Zylstra

Fall, 2010	#4	3.03
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

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.

Twenty-eight of the thirty-nine chapter members (72%) taking classes earned a 3.00 or greater grade point for the Spring, 2010 semester. **Congratulations to all these Brothers for their outstanding academic achievement!**

Term Position GPA

Work Begins on Chapter House Improvements

As we discussed in the previous newsletter, the Board has scheduled a number of improvement projects for the chapter house this summer. Work has begun, and here are some pictures of the work that has been completed up to this point. My thanks go out to Matt England for submitting the pictures of these various projects for the newsletter.



The first project that was completed was the replacement of the fence between our property and that of the ATO's. The old fence was a wreck as it was rotted through and ready to fall down. It was torn out, new posts concreted in place, and then the fence assembled by members of the chapter.



This is Brother Riley Thiesfeld who is working on installing the fence.

On the next page is an aerial view of completed fence. The new fence looks great and it should last for quite a few years. Our thanks go out to all who worked on this project!



The “Acacia” sign in the front yard was also repainted at the same time. This is a picture of Chapter President Matt England touching up the lettering on the sign with new paint. The letters were painted with a “high gloss” gold colored paint against a black background. This black and white photograph does not do justice to the job that he completed.



This is a second view showing where the soffit had been removed and the rafters are visible. The entire soffit along the west side of the house was removed and repainted.



Work on replacing and painting the soffits was also completed in May. We were concerned that the rotted wood might extend up to the rafters holding up the roof over the porch. Fortunately, only a very few of the rafters suffered any damage, and the damage that was found was slight, so the work required to replace the soffits end up being significantly less than was feared.

This is a picture of the rafters behind the soffit once the soffit has been removed. Nearly all of the wood was rotted through, so removing it was essential to prevent further damage to the roof. This picture is of the northwest portion of the soffit just off the porch.



Another project that was completed was putting in additional rock in the parking lot of the chapter house. Matt England and Riley Thiesfeld spent the better part of a day moving the rock and spreading it as evenly as possible throughout the parking lot so that we would have a much better surface on which to park their cars. A total of 64,000 pounds of rock was added to the driveway to restore the surface back to a more stable foundation.



Future plans call for the entire parking lot to be paved so that we will not have to bring in rock on an annual basis.

Thanks go out to our Alumni for their Support

Alumni donations are critical to the ongoing success of the chapter and in providing financial support for the scholarship and capital improvement programs that are used to improve the chapter house. Our alumni have been generous in their support so far this year, and we want to recognize them for their invaluable assistance and to thank them for their continued support.

Based on their academic performance, the Board was able to award more than \$25,000 in scholarships to chapter members this year.

Three kinds of scholarships are awarded to chapter members. One is based on academic performance. Every member who

earns a 3.00 or higher grade point receives \$200. We also provided a housing scholarship to members who live in house to help defray the cost of housing, which amount to \$250 per semester.

Finally, we provide leadership awards to new members and active members who contribute above and beyond the call to excellence in the fraternity.

All of these scholarships are made possible due to the generosity of our alumni. Our thanks to you, for your support make all the difference in the lives of the young men of our fraternity.



Alumni Capital Improvement Donations in 2010

\$ 1,400 Contributed in 2010 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 2010. Please accept our grateful thanks for your generosity!

----- Alumni Contributors in 2010 -----	
Bronze Partner	(\$ 100 - \$ 499)
William G. Pearcy - #420	
Lynn R. Pendry - #469	
Larry J. McComber - #525	
James M. Hanson - #533	

Donald L. Good - #653	
Thomas H. Elitharp - #719	
Spirit Partner	(\$ 1 - \$ 99)
Walter C. Bredbeck - #419	
Kenneth L. MacRae - #427	
Walter R. Kolbe - #527	
William H. Anderl - #679	
Ray E. Gustafson - #712	
John A. Kvinge - #1022	
Chad R. Jackson	



Alumni Scholarship Fund Donations in 2010

\$4,325 Contributed in 2010 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 2010. 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 2010 -----

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

Robert L. "Sam" Carstens - #354
Harold D. Zarr Jr. - #814

Bronze Partner (\$ 100 - \$ 499)

Richard G. Wilson - #409
Lynn R. Pendry - #469
C. Ronald Hoisington - #472
Richard W. Taylor - #506

James M. Hanson - #533
Gary D. Harter - #538
John E. Shrader - #539
Clifton L. Kessler - #548
Larry D. Christensen - #566
Wilbur G. Sandbulte - #639
Bruce C. Wight - #770
Jared Ramthun - #1019

Spirit Partner (\$ 1 - \$ 99)

Charles L. Dozois - #379
Kenneth L. MacRae - #427
Walter R. Kolbe - #527
Ray E. Gustafson - #712
Timm A. Wilkin - #717
Stephen J. Casper IV - #905

Amendment to Articles of Incorporation Proposed

A proposal has been placed before to the Board to Amend the Articles of Re-Incorporation through the addition of another position to the Board. The intent of this change is to add a second alumni relations director whose primary responsibility would be to engage members of our alumni who are under the age of 35.

We have noticed that alumni support and involvement has tended to come from alumni who are over the age of 45. This is understandable in part in that prior to this age, most of our alumni are busy building their careers and families, which understandably leaves them with little free time to attend events at the chapter house.

The person elected to this alumni relations position would be restricted to only alumni who are 35 or younger. This would bring to the Board a person who is most familiar with the newest members of the chapter and corresponding alumni during the time that they were in the chapter house. Our hope is that this personal contact will encourage more participation from our younger alumni.

In order to adopt the amendment to the Article of Re-Incorporation, the matter must be put to a vote of all alumni of the Iowa State Chapter. If a majority of the alumni vote in favor of the proposal, a second vote must be made on the issue by the Corporate Board at its July meeting. If both parties vote in favor of the proposal, it will be adopted and an alumnus will be appointed to the position by the Board.

The person selected for this position will be approved by the Corporate Board at its July meeting. Following that, this position will be up for nomination and election starting in 2012.

If you are interested in serving in the position, please note your interest on the ballot in the place provided, and plan on attending the next Corporate Board meeting on Saturday, July 24th at the chapter house. The meeting will start at 10:00 am, to be followed by a bar-be-que for those who attend.

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/

Matt England appointed to Ames City Council

On April 27th, **Matt England** started a new job. He was appointed as the new Government of the Student Body ex-officio member on the Ames City Council. He will serve a one-year term, and will have all of the rights and responsibilities of a normal council member, except that as a non-elected official he will not be able to vote on issues brought before the council. Sadly, he will not receive the annual stipend either! He will, however, be provided with an opportunity to persuade other members of the council to his point of view. He joins Chapter Advisor **Jeremy Davis** (Ward 3 representative) on the council – so Acacia Fraternity now has two voices on the Ames City Council!

In addition to regular Council duties, Matt will have GSB Cabinet responsibilities. This position is essentially the link of communication between GSB and the City of Ames, and allows the students of Iowa State to have their voice heard with a representative on the City Council. This position will provide Matt with an excellent opportunity to represent the interests of the students at Iowa State and the Greek Community and Acacia Fraternity in particular.

Some of the issues currently before the Ames City Council include northern growth in the City, which will involve controversially annexing land that is in the Gilbert School District, the planning and construction of a new \$23 million water treatment plant, and the Campustown rejuvenation project, where Lane4 Property Group has been hired as a Master Developer to work with the City of Ames and Iowa State University to revitalize Welch Avenue and the surrounding blocks. Matt is looking forward to serving on the Ames City Council with a the goal moving forward on improving the City of Ames living and working environment, and representing the students and the Greek Community, and being able to have a voice in these very important issues.

Matt currently serves as the Chapter President, and is an aerospace engineering major. **Congratulations on your appointment Matt!**

Active Chapter Report

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

Dear Brothers and Parents,

The spring semester has come and gone, and it did so in a hurried fashion. The chapter kept busy with the usual spring activities, Varieties, Greek Week and VEISHEA, as well as our own individual activities. Brother **Michael Weber** was recently named the General Co-Director of VEISHEA 2011. We're all excited by his appointment and are eagerly waiting to see what he has planned for VEISHEA next spring. I'm personally lobbying for The Rolling Stones in concert...

I'm proud and thrilled to tell you that we have regained our #1 ranking in grades after an impressive academic performance by all of the men in the house. We had 28 members over a 3.00 GPA this semester, giving us a 3.32 GPA. Our 0.29 increase from last fall was not just a coincidence; all of us worked hard and utilized our new scholarship plan. We are all quite happy with this result and will work our hardest to continue this success this fall.

Greek Week was a disappointment in the awards department, but we had a lot of fun with the women of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority and the men of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. A highlight of week was building and sailing our ten-foot battleship in the canoe race across Lake LaVerne. This fearsome frigate was complete with an air cannon, functioning smokestack and sound system, and was quite an impressive sight, despite finishing second to last! We also had six high school seniors stay at the chapter house as part of Greek Getaway, and are currently recruiting them as well.

I'm also pleased to tell you that we have five men signed thus far for our fall pledge class. Our recruitment chairs (**Sam Behrens** and **Zach Walker**) have been quite busy during the month of June, giving tours during Orientation and traveling all across Iowa and neighboring states, recruiting for Acacia. Our goal for the fall pledge class is ten to twelve men, and as you can see, we are well on our way.

Pages of Promise were again a success this semester, where we collected used textbooks from around the University and Greek Community. Our storage shed is nearly at capacity, so we will be shipping off our stored books to Books for Africa sometime this fall or next spring.

The chapter house is undergoing a large number of physical improvements this summer including resurfacing the front porch, front door and window replacement, basement fire door replacement, resurfacing the lot, repainting the front sign, repaving the front sidewalk, replacing the first floor soffits, and replacing several fences. Members of the chapter are completing many of these projects, and there's always construction/rejuvenation occurring wherever you look right now.

In the coming weeks we will be traveling to New Orleans for Conclave 2010. There are eight of us from the Chapter going, and we're all looking forward to spending time with our brothers from across the country hopefully winning some awards!

And as always, if you find yourself in Ames, please give me a call and stop by for a tour of the house; we'd love to have you and hear some of your stories and memories. Have a good summer and a relaxing 4th of July!

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!

With the summer now in full swing, we are in the midst of a variety of building and house improvement projects. The Corporate Board has worked tirelessly to constantly improve and update the physical structure of the chapter house to make it a place where all of our Brothers can experience a "home-away-from-home" atmosphere. I think we can safely say that this goal is one that, while never-ending, is constantly being achieved.

The chapter house is already filled to capacity starting in the fall semester with the current size of the pledge class that we have recruited. Our goal now is to have six or seven additional pledges living the dorms waiting to move into the chapter house as soon as an opportunity presents itself. Keeping the house filled to capacity ensures that we will be operating from a profitable standpoint right from the start of each academic year. The Board saves as much money as possible each year to ensure that we will have sufficient funds to conduct needed chapter house improvement activities each summer. It also provides us with excess funds to more quickly "pay-down" our mortgage on the property so that within just a few years we will be in a position to start saving and investing substantial amounts of money to ensure our financial solvency indefinitely.

The Board will be working on the 2010-2011 fiscal budget at the July meeting. Knowing that we will be starting from a full

member capacity situation will make that job significantly easier as we plan for the year ahead.

I would just like to remind each of our alumni to vote on the proposed amendment to the articles of re-incorporation. The Board believes that the addition of a second alumni relations director will have long-term benefits to both the Board and the chapter and I would encourage each of you to vote on this matter.

If you can attend the Board meeting in July, please feel free to do so. We appreciate all of your comments and suggestions, and we try to incorporate your wishes to as large an extent as possible. The Board exists to serve the interests of the alumni and the active chapter, and your input makes our job that much easier.

As Matt England mentioned in his report, a number of the chapter members will be attending the 2010 Acacia Conclave in New Orleans in August. Matt and Jeremy Davis are putting together the finishing touches on the submissions for the awards to be handed out at this Conclave. We hope that our results during the past two years will stand up well to those submitted by our friendly "rivals" within the Fraternity. Look for a full article on the Conclave results in the next newsletter.

I hope that everyone has a great summer. Take this time to relax and enjoy yourselves. My best wishes to you all!

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, Little Sisters and friends of our Fraternity.