



# The Iowa State Pythagorean

*Published by the Corporate Board of the Iowa State Chapter of ACACIA Fraternity*

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

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Issue # 59

## Acacia is #1 in ISU Greek System with 3.30 G.P.A. New Members are #1 with 3.45 G.P.A

The Fall, 2011 semester grade results are in, and Acacia Fraternity once again stands atop all of the other fraternities in the Iowa State Greek Community for top academic honors. The results for the top five chapters are as follows:

1.	Acacia	3.30
2.	Alpha Gamma Rho	3.27
3.	FarmHouse	3.22
4.	Beta Sigma Psi	3.19
5.	Sigma Phi Epsilon	3.09
All Fraternity Average		2.88
All Men's Undergrad Ave.		2.87

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 fourteen out of the past eighteen semesters! Since the chapter was refounded in 1999, Acacia has held the #1 academic slot more than 60% of the time, and we have held either the #1 or #2 academic slot 95% of the time. An impressive record of achievement by any measure.

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

Based on the results for the fall semester, a total of \$30,317 in scholarships for academic excellence, residency in the chapter house, and leadership were 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:

Samuel M. Behrens  
Jacob R. Bergman  
Paul D. Bundy  
Ryne B. Dittmer  
Colten W. Fales  
Ben Henke  
Derek M. Joseph  
Nicholas H. Kraus  
Gabriel J. McCoy  
Derek E. Robison  
Benjamin J. Schneider  
Drew K. Sherman  
Carlton J. Stripe  
Clayton A. Van Ekeren  
Tyler J. Zylstra

Pavel I. Beresnev  
Ian L. Bryant  
Tyler J. Cain  
Andrew D. Doherty  
Michael L. Felderman  
Tanner J. Jaeger  
Addison G. Kistler  
Wicitra Mahotama  
Thomas R. McGee  
Austin J. Schlatter  
Daniel A. Schwartzstein  
Byron D. Smith  
Riley B. Thiesfeld  
Zachary J. Walker

Previous academic results for the Chapter are as follows:

Term	Position	GPA
Fall, 2011	#1	3.30
Spring, 2011	#3	3.12
Fall, 2010	#1	3.24
Spring, 2010	#1	3.32
Fall, 2009	#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

Twenty-nine out of forty-one (71%) chapter members earned a 3.00 or greater grade point for the Fall, 2011 semester. **Congratulations to all these Brothers for their outstanding academic achievement!**

# Acacia Claus delivers Joy to Ames Area Children

For the fourth year in a row, members of the Iowa State Chapter took time out of their busy fall schedules to promote their winter philanthropy supporting the ACCESS Shelter of Story County. The toys that were donated were given to the children of mothers that are living in temporary housing provided by the ACCESS Shelter organization.



On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the men of Acacia occupied the entrances of both Wal-Marts and the K-Mart in Ames to collect toys for the ACCESS shelter of Story County in their annual toy drive, Acacia Claus. Members would ask holiday shoppers to buy a toy or two while they were shopping and then proceed to donate them to the cause. In only four hours they collected over 700 toys, an outstanding number despite the rainy weather that day. The toys were taken to the ACCESS shelter where they were distributed throughout the county to families in need. There is no doubt the chapter made a huge impact on the children of Story County during the holiday season.

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. They provide a safe environment and they advocate social changes in the community. For the past few years, the Iowa State chapter of Acacia has been holding the Acacia Claus toy drive to collect toys for the shelter, and every year they continue to increase the number of toys donated to the ACCESS shelter.

The agency has been providing services to women and their children in the Ames area since 1974, when it was originally funded by the Iowa State University Government of the Student Body.

In addition to providing temporary housing, the ACCESS Shelter also provides individual counseling, various children programs, a 24-hour crisis line, and advocacy and community education programs. Currently, the ACCESS Shelter provides services to residents of the Story, Boone, and Greene counties in

Iowa. All of these confidential services are provided free of charge to those needing their help.



Included among the many popular donated toys were Barbies, Hot-Wheels cars, basketballs, crayons and coloring books, and numerous board games including CandyLand.

Acacia Claus is not the only philanthropy that the Iowa State Acacians support. With the spring semester just getting underway, our chapter had a number of members participate in the 2012 Dance Marathon. Dance Marathon is a nationwide philanthropic event where students (in this case at Iowa State), pledge to raise \$200 per person and then spend 10 hours without sitting, at the Memorial Union dancing, playing games, and meeting the children that they help.



On January 21st, Tom McGee, Scotty Locke, Sam Behrens, Derek Robison, Andrew Doherty (above photo, left to right) took part in the event held at the Great Hall of the Memorial Union. Scotty Locke was a morale captain for the big day. Dance Marathon is the biggest philanthropic organization at



Iowa State, and this year it raised \$380,742.15 for the Iowa Children's Hospital in Iowa City. Proceeds go toward paying for medical equipment, rooms for families and even play areas for

the kids. It was a great day and the organization will begin working toward next year to raise even more money for the children's hospital.

## The Doctor is "In"

On January 29th, most of the chapter had dinner and went to a musical with our faculty advisor, Stewart Burger. They first went to The Mandarin restaurant in Ames for a delicious dinner. Afterwards, they came back to the house and went on to Stephens Auditorium to see the Mel Brooks musical, Young Frankenstein. It was a hilarious show about Dr. Frankenstein's son who goes into the family business to make his own monster.

Everybody had a great time and the show was a good way to start off another week.

Brother Stewart Burger is also going to be honored by Iowa State on April 20, 2012 with the "Order of the Knoll Faculty and Staff Award," one of the highest honors that can be given to a member of the faculty at Iowa State.



## 2011 Alumni Donations

The donations provided by our alumni to the Scholarship and Capital Improvement Funds have been vital factors in the long-term success of the chapter. We cannot begin to thank our alumni enough for their generosity in supporting these two Funds. Donations to the scholarship fund have been critical in

our ability to be able to attract men to become Brothers in our Fraternity.

Recently, a number of our alumni have asked us if we could set up a program where donations could be made directly from their

bank accounts or via a credit card, and on a recurring basis where the donation would be handled in much that same manner as the payment of insurance, utility or other bills. Utilizing this system, our alumni could set up an automatic donation payment plan, saving them the time and trouble of writing and mailing in a check. After discussing this option with Darold Larson at Acacia HQ, a link to the Acacia website was setup to allow for donations in this manner. Therefore, we can now receive online donations through the Acacia.org website at:

[http://www.acacia.org/foundation\\_giving.php](http://www.acacia.org/foundation_giving.php)

When donors go to this page, they will need to use the "drop-down" menu, select "Iowa State" and click the "Continue" button. This action will then take the donor to a specific page identifying the gift as being targeted to the Iowa State Chapter Fund through the Acacia Fraternity Foundation. Additionally, the donor can choose to either donate utilizing a credit card or e-check and can also choose to give a one-time donation or recurring donations.

On behalf of the Corporate Board and active Chapter, thanks to all of our alumni for their support!



## *Basement Renovation Donations in 2011*

### **\$14,800 Contributed in 2011 by Iowa State Acacians**

The table that is shown lists those Brothers and friends who have made contributions to the basement renovation project in 2011. Please accept our grateful thanks for your generosity!

----- Alumni Contributors in 2011 -----	
<b>Refounding Father</b>	(\$ 10,000 or more)
<b>Board of Directors Club</b> (\$ 5,000 - \$ 9,999)	
James H. Davis - #489	
<b>Pythagorean Partner</b>	(\$ 2,500 - \$ 4,999)
<b>Chapter Partner</b> (\$ 1,000 - \$ 2,499)	
William L. Neidig - #332	
Larry J. McComber - #525	
James M. Hanson - #533	
Laury E. Decker - #910	
<b>Gold Partner</b>	(\$ 750 - \$ 999)
<b>Silver Partner</b> (\$ 500 - \$ 749)	
John P. Bahr - #545	
Arther P. Roy - #588	
Paul G. Anderson - #618	
David E. Wolfe - #656	
Laury E. Decker - #910	
Jared Ramthun - #1019	
<b>Bronze Partner</b>	(\$ 100 - \$ 499)
Richard G. Wilson - #409	

Dale W. Weber - #436	
Donald W. Messer - #447	
Donald G. Lyon - #461	
Lynn R. Pendry - #469	
James M. Hanson - #533	
Gary D. Harter - #538	
Dennis G. McComber - #556	
Neil H. Woodley - #567	
Ronald D. Henricksen - #569	
Alex I. Fraser - #608	
Michael D. Walker, MD - #665	
David H. Fifield - #671	
Thomas H. Elitharp - #719	
L. Alan Lowry - #725	
John W. Bridenstine - #752	
Christopher W. Knapp - #764	
Harold D. Zarr Jr. - #814	
James E. Mueller - #868	
<b>Spirit Partner</b>	(\$ 1 - \$ 99)
Kenneth L. MacRae - #427	
John S. Burnstrom - #470	
George A. Robinson - #471	
Denton W. Ericson - #504	
Walter R. Kolbe - #527	
William H. Anderl - #679	
Ray E. Gustafson - #712	
Nicholas A. Seibold - #884	
John Kvinge - #1022	
Jonathan Vaage - #1029	



# Alumni Scholarship Fund Donations in 2011

## \$15,425 Contributed in 2011 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 2011. 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 2011 -----

**Refounding Father** (\$ 10,000 or more)

**Board of Directors Club** (\$ 5,000 - \$ 9,999)

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

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

Robert L. "Sam" Carstens - #354  
 Thomas J. Brown - #403  
 Donald L. Good - #653  
 James K. England - #800  
 Harold D. Zarr Jr. - #814  
 Laury E. Decker - #910

**Gold Partner** (\$ 750 - \$ 999)

**Silver Partner** (\$ 500 - \$ 749)

Lowell B. Johnson - #426  
 Donald G. Lyon - #461  
 John W. Tschantz - #385  
 Douglas R. Whitney - #627  
 James E. Hunt - #628  
 Peter J. Eversole - #635  
 David E. Wolfe - #656  
 Jeff Peil - #991

**Bronze Partner** (\$ 100 - \$ 499)

Albert H. Wiese - #351  
 Charles H. Dingle - #369  
 Charles L. Dozois - #379  
 John R. Fukerson - #410  
 William G. Percy - #420  
 Dale W. Weber - #436  
 Marcus A. Merriman - #446

Kenneth A. Porter - #457  
 Bernard J. Kolp - #466  
 John G. McDonald - #494  
 Joel E. Jensen - #496  
 Richard W. Taylor - #506  
 James M. Hanson - #533  
 Gary D. Harter - #538  
 Lynn R. Pendry - #469  
 Dennis G. McComber - #556  
 David Wm. Smith - #565  
 William J. Dilcher - #576  
 Jerry W. Crossett - #577  
 John R. Dick - #587  
 Lee R. Christensen - #601  
 Alex I. Fraser - #608  
 John W. Baty - #623  
 Robert A. Ketch - #648  
 Robert D. Howlett - #672  
 Larry D. Yarham - #682  
 Philip C. Larson - #684  
 Christopher W. Knapp - #764  
 Bruce A. Banister - #777  
 Daniel G. Wisner - #854  
 Christopher C. MacKenzie - #973  
 Stephen J. Casper IV - #905  
 Bernard H. Schwartze - #911  
 Robert Borcharding - #978  
 Jonathan Vaage - #1029  
 Kenneth S. Joseph - parent

**Spirit Partner** (\$ 1 - \$ 99)

Kenneth L. MacRae - #427  
 George A. Robinson - #471  
 Denton W. Ericson - #504  
 Walter R. Kolbe - #527  
 Gary L. Ruegsegger - #613  
 Ray E. Gustafson - #712  
 Louis M. "Chip" Riedmann, Jr. - #795  
 Jeremy N. Davis - #969  
 Craig A. Buske - #1009

# Iowa State Acacians Graduate to New Jobs

December, 2011 marked the date of graduation for a number of our Brothers in the Chapter. University life is ultimately a time of preparation for a “real job” after college, and these Acacia Brothers have stepped into the world of “9 to 5” jobs. This is a brief summary of what these Brothers will do now that they have graduated.



**Ryne B. Dittmer**

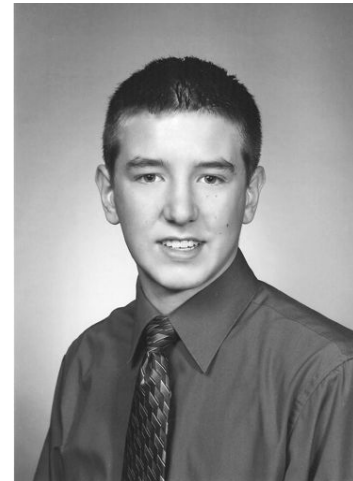
Ryne, from Liberty, Missouri joined Acacia in Fall 2008 and quickly became both active within the chapter and Iowa State community. In his first year on campus Ryne was a member of Freshmen Council, wrote for the Iowa State Daily, was the Fall 2008 pledge class president and was elected as Executive Dean beginning in spring 2009. Ryne served two terms as the chapter’s Executive Dean, also representing Acacia at Interfraternity Council meetings both years.

Ryne served in numerous other Greek event roles including being a two-time Yell Like Hell co-chair and house general homecoming co-chair. He was also a Destination Iowa State team leader for three years and served as a Greenlee School of Journalism and Mass Communication Ambassador.

In the fall of 2010 Ryne was elected to the Interfraternity Council, serving as the IFC VP of Public Relations and Communications. With this position Ryne helped create Letters Magazine, a new monthly Greek Community publication and led the Greek Relations Executive Council, and operated the Greek Community Twitter. At the end of his term, Ryne was recognized as the 2011 IFC Council Member of the Year.

Ryne says his favorite memories from Iowa State and Acacia are winning Yell Like Hell and Homecoming Overall his freshman year, representing Acacia on IFC, storming the field after Iowa State’s 2011 victories over Iowa and Oklahoma State and seeing the new Acacia recreation room in the basement finally completed.

Ryne graduated with a degree in Journalism and Mass Communication, with a minor in Sociology.



**Derek M. Joseph**

In December 2011, Derek M. Joseph graduated Cum Laude with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Derek started out as a freshman living in the chapter house and was a member of the Fall 2008 pledge class. He chose Acacia because he liked hanging out with the members and because of his older brother, Andrew, who joined a year prior. During his sophomore and junior year, Derek served as the Scholarship Chair and implemented the Chapter’s new Scholarship Plan.

Outside of the fraternity, Derek participated in the Society of Automotive Engineers. One of his best experiences was driving Iowa State’s SAE Formula car at Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) time trial events. His sophomore year, he became vice-president of the ISU Robotics Club. In this role, Derek led a team of students to build a 120lb. Battlebot to take to competition in San Francisco. Their first Battlebot competed at Robogames 2010 and was a great learning experience. The team returned in 2011 with a revised 120lb. bot and a new 60lb. bot. His favorite memories are the late nights working on the Battlebot with Brother Moraniec, Brother Gullikson, and other Acacia members who joined the team.

Derek spent his summers interning at various engineering companies across the Midwest. These include Black & Veatch in Kansas City, Caterpillar in Peoria, and Boeing in St. Louis. Derek has now moved to St. Louis and is working full-time for The Boeing Company as a Mechanism Design and Analysis Engineer.





**Mathew B. England**

While in college, Matt was very active in a number of campus organizations. Within Acacia, he served as the chapter recruitment chair, treasurer and Venerable Dean. He was also involved with VEISHEA and GSB, serving on the Ames City Council as the Student Liaison. Matt graduated from Iowa

State with a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering in December 2011, and moved to Seattle shortly thereafter.

Matt accepted a job with The Boeing Company and works as a Flight Test Engineer in Flight Test Engineering Operations at Boeing Field in Seattle, WA. His responsibilities include ensuring that Boeing test airplanes are in the proper configuration prior to ground and flight tests and making sure that the proper documentation has been recorded to ensure an on-time release. He also supports flight tests acting as the in-flight weights engineer to ensure that the airplane can achieve specific gross weights and centers-of-gravity outside the normal flight envelope through the use of specific fuel burns and water-ballast transfers.

Matt enjoys exploring the Seattle area in his free time but already misses Ames and Iowa State. He looks forward to returning to campus to visit for football games and cheering on the Cyclones from afar in Seattle.

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## Active Chapter Report

**Derek Robison, Venerable Dean - ACACIA Fraternity**  
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Ames, Iowa 50014  
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Greetings!

This is my first report as the Venerable Dean so I'll introduce myself a bit. I am a junior in Elementary Education and I am from the small southeastern community of Richland, Iowa. I'm very excited to see what the upcoming year will bring for our chapter.

The fall semester ended on a high note as chapter members took part in a variety of events. In mid-November, we held a brotherhood bowling event at Perfect Games in Ames. We divided up into teams and each team was dressed up to a theme. Several members took part as we bowled a couple of games then played laser tag.

Following Thanksgiving break, we held our annual toy drive Acacia Claus at both Wal-Marts and K-Mart in Ames on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. We stood outside the entrances of these stores for a few hours and collected toys to be donated to the Women's ACCESS shelter of Story County. We collected over 700 toys so we definitely made a positive impact and helped the children of the shelter have a happier Christmas season.

We also held our semester textbook drive Pages of Promise. Unfortunately, we were only able to collect about 300 textbooks despite our advertising efforts. With the increase of rental books, e-books and students wanting money back for

their books in today's economy, we are exploring other philanthropies. There's a potential that we could help a middle school in Des Moines with purchasing uniforms for the students there, but we are still working that out right now and I'm sure we'll have an update in the next newsletter!

A few of our men took part in the Iowa State Dance Marathon on January 21<sup>st</sup>. It was a lot of fun and kudos to Brother Scotty Locke for his efforts in a leadership position with the organization.

We also have a number of guys who have been volunteering to shovel snow for a couple of elderly folks in Ames. These guys continue to set the example of our motto of Human Service and we will be getting more involved with other events as the semester rolls along.

We are still waiting on the grade reports from last semester from the University. I am proud to announce, though, that all 14 of our new members this past fall made the 2.5 GPA mark. This is an outstanding achievement for them and we're going to make sure they keep their efforts up, as well as continuing to develop our Acacia 101 orientation program for incoming freshmen and our new member education program. We also just renovated our scholarship plan to include greater support for our brothers who are struggling with academics.

The semester is going to flash by; I cannot believe we are already entering February. Varieties will be taking place in the next few weeks, then before long it will be time for Greek Week and VEISHEA. This year we are hitting it hard to get great high school seniors here for Greek Getaway, so if you know anybody that would make a great addition to our chapter, contact our rush chairs or I!

I look forward to the semester and I hope to see us on top of the fall grades as well as this spring's grades. I also hope to get more of our men involved with community service this

year as we continue to grow and develop our relationship with the community.

We'll keep our fingers crossed for a continued not-so-snowy winter, and a happy early-spring!

**Find us Online!**

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

Find more updates, past newsletters,  
member biographies, photos, and more!

*also*



Search for us on Facebook  
Acacia Fraternity - Iowa State University  
Stay up to date with photos and  
live updates from the Chapter!

## Board President's Message

*Harold D. Zarr Jr.*  
**Corporate Board President - The Acacians**  
 834 South East Michael Drive  
 Ankeny, Iowa 50021-3671  
 1-515-257-4683  
 e-mail: [acacia\\_814@hotmail.com](mailto:acacia_814@hotmail.com)

Greetings my Brother ACACIANS!

With the completion of the basement renovation, projects at the chapter house have really “settled down” and it has been kind of nice to kick back and enjoy a fairly relaxing and non-stressful time serving on the Board. We have a few relatively minor “maintenance-type” projects set for May, but fortunately none of them are particularly significant. Nice.

The year has started off on a fantastic note with our #1 academic ranking, the #1 ranking in terms of new members as well. As was noted on the first page, their average GPA was an astounding 3.45. Our emphasis on scholarship and in particular the work of the active chapter members and scholarship committee chairman speaks for itself. Everyone in the chapter is doing an outstanding job, and deserve all the credit!

Enclosed with this newsletter is the invitation to the spring luncheon. I hope that lots of our alumni are able to make it back for the event. Good food, good fellowship, and

hopefully good weather will make this another noteworthy event in the life of our chapter.

Also enclosed is the ballot for election of alumni members to the Board. We have four people running for three open spots on the Board. I encourage all of our alumni to review the candidates and to please mail in your vote with your registration for the spring luncheon. Remember, the Board is here to represent the alumni and to work towards the welfare of the chapter. Every member on the Board serves a vital role, and your vote is important!

Best wishes to all of our alumni, and I hope to see many of you at the luncheon on April 22<sup>nd</sup>!

## 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
Matt B. England	Vice-President	319-558-8085
Jeff Peil	Treasurer	641-430-5998
Chris MacKenzie	Secretary	515-314-8236
Don Good	Alumni Relations	515-956-3150
Brandon Behrends	Alumni Relations	319-830-7620

Derek Robison	Chapter President	641-919-3913
Clayton Van Ekeren	Chapter Treasurer	913-558-9161
Drew Sherman	Chapter Representative	515-249-3531
Wicitra Mohotama	Rush Co-Chair	970-443-9620
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 newsletter is sent out on a quarterly basis, every February, May, August, and November. If you have any information you would like to share, please send it to **Harold Zarr** at his e-mail address [acacia\\_814@hotmail.com](mailto:acacia_814@hotmail.com). Take care, and best wishes to all of the Brothers and friends of our Fraternity!