



# 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 # 60

## Acacia Welcomes Three New Brothers in Spring Semester

The members of the Iowa State chapter of Acacia are constantly on the look for exceptional young men who have the potential to make a positive impact on the chapter and the Fraternity. The standards that are set for membership help to ensure that our chapter will remain at the top in all areas of comparison between our chapter and the other fraternities that comprise the Greek Community at Iowa State.

On March 3, the chapter welcomed three new brothers into its ranks. Chase Russel, Mike Hoefler, and Josh Kublie, all freshmen, joined the chapter at the end of the fall semester and went through the new member education program which concluded with Initiation. We are very excited to have them in our fraternity as they all bring tremendous leadership skills to our chapter. Josh and Mike are both serving as senators to the Government of the Student Body this coming school year and Chase will serve as our General Homecoming Chairs this fall. Again, we are excited they have joined and will continue a tradition of strong leaders at Iowa State University!



Michael Hoefler is from Cedar Rapids, IA and is currently studying Computer Engineering and Economics. He is the son of Jeff and Diane Hoefler. In high school, Michael was heavily involved with newspaper, cross country, and student government. At Iowa State, Michael has been serving as Freshmen Council President, Engineering Ambassador, and PR/Outreach Chair for Engineers Without Borders. He hopes to one day create his own engineering firm to help develop technologies for use in third world countries. He is excited about joining Acacia and experiencing the rest of college!



Chase Russell joined Acacia because he wanted a new way to get involved and meet new people. He is excited about both the academic and social environment that Acacia has to offer. Chase is currently majoring in agricultural engineering and is considering a double major in economics. After graduation, Chase plans to live and work near home in Central Iowa and travel around the world. His hobbies include golfing, skiing, and going to sporting events.



Josh Kublie joined Acacia because he got along well with the men of the fraternity and it provided unique experiences outside of normal student life. He is double majoring in Political Science

and Economics with a minor in Arabic. He plans on working in the Middle East as a political consultant someday, but in the

mean time is content with living the college dream. His favorite hobbies include reading, water skiing and working out.

## Spring Semester Filled with Activities

Acacia hosted its second annual Mother's Weekend on February 25-26. Several moms came to Ames to spend the weekend with their sons in a number of different activities.

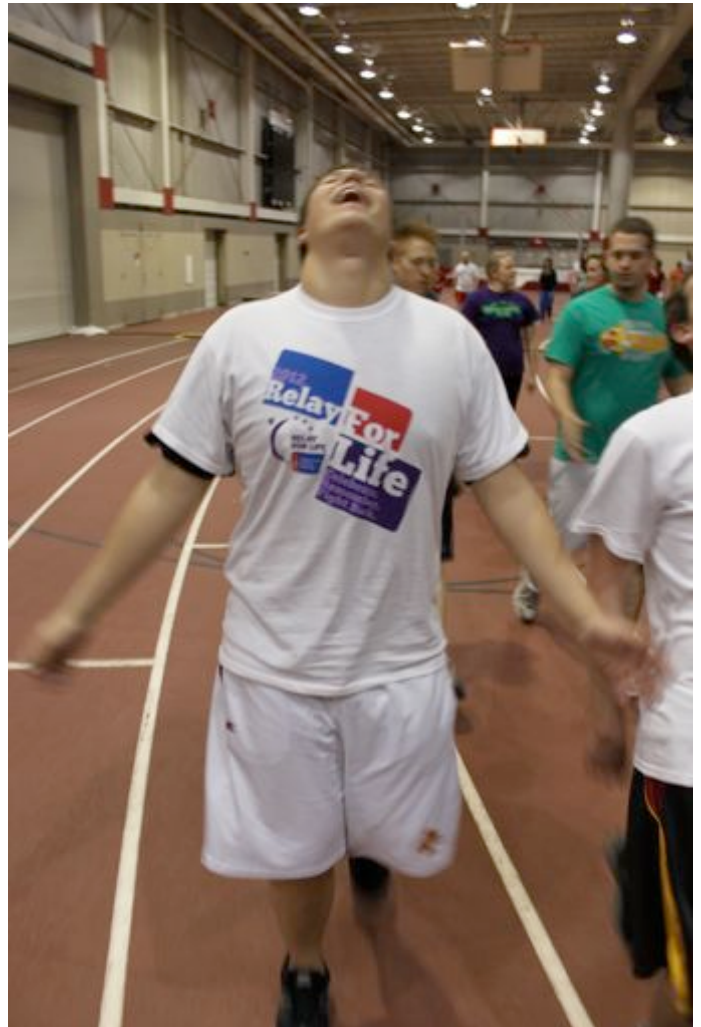


The group took part in a philanthropy project on Saturday at Harmony Clothing and then the evening consisted of a dinner at Old Main and going to the Varieties finals.



On Sunday there was a brunch and then mothers had free time with their sons. Everybody had a great time and the guys enjoyed being able to hang with their mothers for the weekend. We look forward to Mother's Weekend next year and the second Father's Weekend this coming fall!

On March 23 and 24, members of Acacia took part in Relay for Life at Iowa State. The event was held at Lied Recreational Center from 7 PM on Friday to 7 AM on Saturday. The Acacia team consisted of 12 brothers, and everybody enjoyed themselves.



Tanner Jaeger is shown enjoying his walk while Tyler Cain and Dan Schwartzstein follow.



The Acacia team huddled up, planning their winning strategy, enjoying the chance for good fellowship.

Besides walking on the track, there were several different events going on throughout the night including a Zumba workout dance, basketball knockout, jousting and much more! In the past, Greek chapters would receive points towards Greek Week by participating in Relay for Life. This year, however, there were no Greek Week points available, but a new traveling trophy was introduced to go to the Greek chapter that raised the most money.

The 12 man Acacia team raised money all night and ended up being the first chapter to receive this honor by raising over \$2,000. Acacia was also second place for all teams for their fundraising efforts. The guys enjoyed being with each other to walk for a cause that affects almost all of our members, and it was common to see an Acacian picking up a luminary bag that had been knocked over. One thing's for sure, there were a lot of sleepy Acacians on Saturday!



On April 14, a group of Acacians traveled to Des Moines to do a community service project. They were there to help an organization called Urban Harvest, a garden located at Urban Heights Covenant Church that donates all of its harvests to local food pantries. The Acacia group built a fence and compost bin, as well as doing some other general yard work for the church. Members of the church were there to provide a very tasty lunch for the guys and they had a great time working together towards a good cause.

Polar Bear Plunge is an event held every year on the Saturday of Greek Week. Participants raise at least \$50 in order to take part in the special event where they dress up to a team theme and then jump into the cold waters of Lake Laverne. All money raised goes to Special Olympics of Iowa and this year a whopping \$90,000 was raised to go the Special Olympics, over \$30,000 more than what was raised in 2011.



Our Greek Week pairing went with a theme where everybody was splattered with bright colored paint and sunglasses to jump into the lake with. Hundreds of Greek members lined the shores

of Lake Laverne for the event where the money amount was announced and pairings take turns going into the water to their theme song.



The Acacians who participated in Polar Bear Plunge pose for their group photo prior to the plunge! A stylish group, one and all!

Dakota Allen jumps in to join Tyler Zylstra and Addison Kistler. Note the perfect “form” of his dive, sure to earn a perfect “10” based on the difficulty of the technique displayed!



In terms of Greek Week, our pairing didn't have enough points to place in the top three, but most of our members agree it was a blast being paired with the ladies of Chi Omega and the men of Tau Kappa Epsilon. The pairing made finals in Lip Sync as well as performing well in events throughout the week and Greek Olympics on Saturday, which includes competitions such as a bed race around Sorority Circle, a donut eating contest, and a competition called LARP where Greeks square off with foam swords and shields.

On Sunday, April 22nd, Acacia hosted its spring family luncheon at the Memorial Union. We were honored to have Dr. Steven Leath, the new President of Iowa State University, and his wife, Janet, in attendance to the luncheon. Harold Zarr welcomed everyone and provided the invocation before a lunch of lasagna and salad.

Following the lunch Derek Robison gave a brief summary of the semester and introduced President Leath. Leath spoke about the importance of going Greek and the outstanding achievements of past Acacians at Iowa State. Awards were then presented to members who obtained a fall GPA of 3.0 or higher, as well as the outstanding achievement awards for the past year as voted by the chapter members.

After the luncheon at the Union, guests were invited back to the house to enjoy VEISHEA cherry pies donated by Stewart Burger. Stewart provides countless support to our chapter and was the recipient of the 2012 Order of the Knoll Faculty and Staff Award, a very prestigious honor.

## Acacia Well Placed in IFC Amenities Survey

A survey was recently conducted by the Greek Affairs Office in which they compared a number of the amenities and living situations for the fraternities at Iowa State. The Acacia chapter is listed as a “medium-sized” fraternity with a membership of between 31-54 members. Seven other fraternities also fall into this category. While there are quite a few ways in which the fraternities can be compared, the fraternities against which

Acacia is compared is based primarily in terms of their academic performance.

With one exception, all of the other fraternities with whom we compare are classified as “large” fraternities. Given that we are effectively competing against mostly the largest fraternities (in terms of membership), Acacia stands up exceptionally well in terms of the amenities that we offer, and in terms of the fact that

we prohibit the use of alcohol and tobacco on our property. Not all of the other fraternities in the ISU Greek Community prohibit these items.

Acacia is the only fraternity that provides a laundry facility to its members at no cost to them, other than the laundry detergent that

the members must provide themselves. Finally, all of the other fraternities utilize cold air dormitories for sleeping, which Acacia does not. In looking over the comparisons shown below, you will find that Acacia compares quite favorably in all categories with these other fraternities at Iowa State.

	Acacia	Alpha Gamma Rho	Farmhouse	Beta Sigma Psi	Sigma Phi Epsilon	Phi Gamma Delta	Phi Kappa Theta
<b>Alcohol Policy</b>	prohibited	restricted	prohibited	restricted	permitted	prohibited	restricted
<b>Laundry Facilities</b>	no cost	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
<b>Wireless Internet</b>	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
<b>No Smoking</b>	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes
<b>Parking Lot</b>	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
<b>Fire Sprinkler System</b>	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
<b>Sleeping Style</b>	suite/bedroom	cold air	cold air	cold air	suite/cold air	suite/cold air	cold air/bedroom
<b>Dining</b>	catered and kitchenette	cook kitchen	kitchen	cook kitchen	cook kitchen	cook kitchen	catered kitchen

## 2012 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. On behalf of the Corporate Board and active Chapter, thanks to all of our alumni for their support!



### *Alumni Capital Improvement Donations in 2012*

## \$ 420 Contributed in 2012 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 2012. Please accept our grateful thanks for your generosity!

----- Alumni Contributors in 2012 -----	
<b>Refounding Father</b>	<b>(\$ 10,000 or more)</b>
<b>Board of Directors Club</b>	<b>(\$ 5,000 - \$ 9,999)</b>
<b>Pythagorean Partner</b>	<b>(\$ 2,500 - \$ 4,999)</b>
<b>Chapter Partner</b>	<b>(\$ 1,000 - \$ 2,499)</b>

<b>Gold Partner</b>	<b>(\$ 750 - \$ 999)</b>
<b>Silver Partner</b>	<b>(\$ 500 - \$ 749)</b>
<b>Bronze Partner</b>	<b>(\$ 100 - \$ 499)</b>
Lynn Pendry - #469	
James M. Hanson - #533	
Lee R. McDonald - #551	
<b>Spirit Partner</b>	<b>(\$ 1 - \$ 99)</b>
Denton W. Ericson - #504	
Walter R. Kolbe - #527	
Craig Buske - #1009	
Ezra L. Shields - #1015	



# Alumni Scholarship Fund Donations in 2012

## \$5,700 Contributed in 2012 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 2012. 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 2012 -----	
<b>Refounding Father</b>	<b>(\$ 10,000 or more)</b>
<b>Board of Directors Club</b>	<b>(\$ 5,000 - \$ 9,999)</b>
<b>Pythagorean Partner</b>	<b>(\$ 2,500 - \$ 4,999)</b>
<b>Chapter Partner</b> Robert L. Carstens - #354	<b>(\$ 1,000 - \$ 2,499)</b>
<b>Gold Partner</b>	<b>(\$ 750 - \$ 999)</b>
<b>Silver Partner</b> Lowell B. Johnson - #426 Doug Whitney - #627 Peter Eversole - #635 Terry Thoem - #667 Laury Decker - #910	<b>(\$ 500 - \$ 749)</b>

<b>Bronze Partner</b>	<b>(\$ 100 - \$ 499)</b>
William Percy - #420 Lynn Pendry - #469 Richard Taylor - #506 James M. Hanson - #533 Gary Harter - #538 John Shrader - #539 Clifton L. Kessler - #548 Lee R. McDonald - #551 David Wm. Smith - #565 Jerry W. Crossett - #577 Arthur P. Roy - #588 John W. BAty - #623 Wilbur Sandbulte - #639 Randy D. Elkin - #670 Bruce C. Wight - #770 Charles R. Tass - #833 Stephen J. Casper IV - #905	
<b>Spirit Partner</b>	<b>(\$ 1 - \$ 99)</b>
John Burnstrom - #470 Denton W. Ericson Walter R. Kolbe - #527 Craig Buske - #1009	

## Introducing ACACIA Across America!

Greetings Brothers!

Perhaps many of you have seen the VISIONS Across America feature in the Iowa State University Alumni Association's VISIONS magazine. This monthly section of VISIONS features Iowa State alumni and tells their stories of what they've done with their lives after graduation and how Iowa State gave them the tools to get them where they are today. In our coming newsletters, we will be doing something similar by starting our very own ACACIA Across America!

The goal of this section will be to showcase our alumni, reconnect brothers from pledge classes of years ago, and remind our undergraduate members how special and meaningful being an Acacian can be. We all learned about the 3-4-5, but how has it

affected your life? The ACACIANs hope that this section will be a recurring feature, with ample stories of our many brothers and their post-college experiences.

So please start thinking of brothers with exciting careers, generous philanthropic work, world-class travel experiences or exotic home locations, or just friends that you've lost touch with over the years and would like to see what they're up to nowadays. If you would like to be featured in this exciting new section, or you have a brother (or Daughter of Pythia!) in mind that you would like to have highlighted, please contact The Acacian's Vice-President Matt England ([mattenglan@gmail.com](mailto:mattenglan@gmail.com)) or Young Alumni Chair Jon Vaage ([jonvaage@gmail.com](mailto:jonvaage@gmail.com)) with the name of your nomination and soon enough you'll be reconnecting and sharing stories in our exciting new feature!

# Minor House Improvement Projects for Summer

Unlike past summers, only three relatively minor projects are scheduled for the chapter house this summer. To be honest, they fall as much under the category of “maintenance” as they do “capital improvements,” but each one represents a project that is needed and will provide benefits to the chapter for many years to come.

The first project involves the replacement of the hot water boiler in the basement. The previous boiler lasted for 22 years, which quite frankly amazed our plumber (Speck Plumbing) who told us that boilers of this size (90 gallons) typically would only last from 12 to 15 years at most. Some additional, but relatively minor, wiring and plumbing work was required to install the new boiler, but this project has been completed so that the guys who are living in the house this summer will continue to have hot water for their showers!

The second project is the refurbishing of the bathroom in the east apartment in the basement. This project involves the replacement of the linoleum floor, replacement of some of the

drywall, and the resealing of the shower door and walls. The men living in the apartment this summer volunteered to perform the work and replace the needed items out of their own pocket in exchange for their summer rent, so this worked out to be a “win-win” for the both the members and the Board.

The final project in the resealing with tar and paper of the flat portion of the roof on the third floor. This project will be done as soon as a full week of dry weather is expected, so that the new roofing material can properly cure. With the weather holding as it has, this project should be finished by the time this issue of the newsletter is printed.

Our long term project remains the complete refurbishing of the second floor so that each room will have its own private bathroom. The Board has the plans all drawn up, and we are now in the process of trying to save the funds necessary to get this project accomplished. Our goal is to conduct this project in the summer of 2015. We will keep you updated on this project as it progresses!

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## In Memoriam

Acacia Brother Charles B. Oldsen #375 was born on August 23, 1924 in Newton, Iowa. He earned a Civil Engineering degree from Iowa State University in 1945, where he met Kathleen to whom he remained married for 63 years.

Chuck served as a Radiological Engineer during his service in the Navy from 1943 to 1946. He worked as a Civil Engineer for the County of San Diego Public Works Department from 1951 to 1979. During those years, he formed and constructed eight sanitation districts. He later served as their general manager. He also did some part time work as a consulting engineer after his retirement from the County.

Chuck enjoyed competitive tennis, camping, fishing and gardening. He and Kathy were active in their church and traveled to many shrines during his retirement years. His large family was the main focus of his life and he valued time spent with his children and their families. He will be greatly missed by one and all of them.

Chuck passed away peacefully on February 16, 2011 surrounded by his loving family. Besides his wife Kathy, he leaves behind his six children: Frances, Mary, Charles Jr., Barbara, Margaret and Dorothy. He is further survived by his twelve grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren

## Active Chapter Report

*Derek Robison, Venerable Dean - ACACIA Fraternity*  
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Greetings!

We have officially wrapped up another successful school year at Acacia Fraternity and Iowa State!

As the last newsletter reported, we did finish first in grades for the fall for overall GPA and new member GPA! Everybody worked very hard and the freshman class really showed their strength by achieving great things in the classroom. As a chapter in the beginning of this semester, we set our sights higher by making a GPA goal of 3.40 and I'm excited to see where we end up. All semester I have noticed the sun room always occupied by brothers studying and it was not uncommon to see a large group of freshmen working together on schoolwork in the chapter room occasionally, so I think our goal is achievable

We have our philanthropy laid out for next school year. We will be partnering with Youth and Shelter Services to help promote and run a 5K run/walk in November as well as doing donation drives in the spring for various items for the shelters. I think we can make a huge impact on the donation drives they hold with our manpower and ability to bring YSS onto campus. We will also have the opportunity to take part in GRIP mentoring through YSS. This program matches mentors with a child to work with for at least one

hour a week. This is a great chance for us to serve as positive, male role models in the lives of children.

This semester, we took part in service projects in Ames and Des Moines. On April 14, a group of Acacians traveled to Urban Harvest in Des Moines to help build a fence and compost bin, as well as doing some other general yard work for the church that runs a garden where all of the crops are donated to local food pantries. We also helped with the YSS donation drive held in April. This year at Relay for Life, a travelling trophy was created to be given to the Greek team that raises the most money. Our 12 man team won this award after fundraising the entire night and we thank everyone that helped us out!

This semester we have put a focus on brotherhood and it has definitely paid off. I have no hesitation telling people that I believe our chapter is the closest knit group of guys at Iowa State University. We held another large bowling event that was a big hit with our guys and look forward to going paintballing in the fall. We have also been participating in small tournaments since spring break. Brothers can take part in as many tournaments as they want and earn points from all of the tournaments to be accumulated at the end of the semester. Although we ran out of time to get through all of the tournaments, we had a blast taking part in the games which included a quiz bowl, basketball, and of course some old video games. I was also pleased to see the turnout for our brotherhood BBQ the Friday before finals week as a time for us to all be together before the long week of tests.

I'd like to thank all of my brothers for their hard work this year and all of the parents who have supported their sons throughout the year, whether it was helping out financially or just making a phone call to see how their young scholars were doing! I'd also like to thank the alumni who have supported our chapter this year and I look forward to seeing you stop by the house to have a look around or to chat with some of the active members, you really can make an impact on the undergraduate members through stories and advice on academics or financials.

If you're in Ames this summer, feel free to stop by! We have a dozen or so members staying at the chapter house and there is always a good chance we will be grilling! I hope you all have a great summer!

## Board President's Message

*Harold D. Zarr Jr.*  
**Corporate Board President - The Acacians**  
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Greetings my Brother ACACIANS!

Summer has come early this year, but I for one, am definitely NOT complaining about it. With the end of the spring semester, the summer rush program has begun in earnest, and the chapter members are already 20% of the way towards our goal of 15 new members. From what the rush chairs have been telling me, they have really been exceeding expectations in terms of meeting potential new members and scheduling visits at the chapter house. One of the more interesting developments is that we have begun to meet potential members who have heard about Acacia at their high schools. It appears that our years of hard work in terms of building the "Acacia brand image" are starting to pay off in terms of favorable name recognition!

Conclave is coming up at the end of July, and we hope to return to Iowa State with more awards from this event to mark the continued success of our chapter. Look for a complete update in the August newsletter!

## 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
Jon Vaage	Alumni Relations	712-330-7219

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!