



The Iowa State Pythagorean

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Iowa State Acacia Welcomes Eleven New Brothers

The strength and greatness of a chapter is not measured by how much money it has, or how large of imposing the physical structure of the chapter is, but in the quality of the members that make up the chapter. This summer, our rush chairmen assembled a group of outstanding young men who completed the formal education program of the Fraternity, and on October 6th, the active chapter welcomed eleven new members to the Brotherhood of Acacia. It is with great pride that we introduce to all of our alumni these newest members of the Iowa State Chapter of Acacia Fraternity!



Grant Albansoder is from Davenport, Iowa, and son of Greg and Lori Albansoder. He is currently in Undeclared Engineering, but is pretty positive that he's going to declare Civil soon. He went to Davenport Central High School, and spent his time being a huge nerd. He participated in Show Choir, Marching Band, theater, musical theater, Key Club, and Environmental Club. Some of his goals for college are to get above a 3.5, and to enjoy whatever major he

ends up in. Grant has joined the Freshman Council, The Engineering Ambassadors and Mentor Program (TEAM), and wants to really get involved in the available Greek activities. Also, his favorite color is orange.



Billy Dyke is from the town of Sidney, Iowa. His parents are Dean and Sue Dyke. Billy is currently Open Option, but is leaning towards Political Science and Journalism. Billy was very involved in high school with Speech and Drama, as well as Band and Choir. He was also largely involved with 4-H at the local and national levels. His goals are to have a quality lifestyle, a close family, and overall happiness. His collegiate and career goals are still up in the air. He says he likes “to

keep an open mind on just about every social and political issue.

In such a politically volatile world, it is good to keep an open mind as ideals, morals, and opinions are constantly changing. It is the people who are willing to learn and understand the world around them that can bring about the best change or enforce the best stability, and I hope that I can help lead our world in some way by exemplifying that personality in the future.”



Kevin Duhrkopf hails from Carroll, Iowa. His parents are Scott and Cindy Duhrkopf. He is majoring in Athletic Training and Pre-Med. In high school he was active in football, basketball, track, baseball, and large group speech. He also performed in the fall musicals and various plays in high school. He was a member of the Student Senate, a variety of student clubs and volunteered in local organizations. He is studying to become an Orthopedic Sports Medicine Surgeon/ Doctor. Since

coming to Iowa State, he has become involved in the Freshman Council.



Josh Foss was born in Ames, Iowa and has lived there all his life. He attended Gilbert High School where he played football, ran cross country, participated in the fall musical as well as being actively involved in FFA and FCCLA. He is currently majoring in Engineering as an Undecided student. Josh joined Acacia because he really liked the guys there, and wanted a

way to become more involved in his community while having a well-rounded college experience. In his first semester at ISU, Josh has participated in Yell Like Hell and Varieties as well as various smaller philanthropies.



David Gardner is a freshman from Marion, Iowa, just outside of Cedar Rapids. David went to Linn-Mar High, where he ran cross country and was a member of the Math Team. On campus, David is involved as the tutoring chair for the Freshman Leaders in Engineering and is a member of the Social Justice Committee of Freshmen Council. Academically, he is studying chemical engineering. David joined Acacia because it is a great support system

academically and socially and because Acacia has a strong academic and philanthropic reputation in Greekland and in Ames. In the future, he hopes to earn a job researching better ways to harness solar power for energy. In his spare time, David enjoys going for runs around Ames, doing intramurals at ISU, or watching his favorite show: Breaking Bad. David's favorite animal is the sea otter.



Jordan Griffing's hometown is Onalaska, Wisconsin where he attended Holmen High School. His parents are Rodney and Michelle Griffing. At Iowa State he is majoring in Aerospace Engineering. In high school, he competed in soccer, wrestling, and track and was a member of his local Boy Scouts and National Honor Society. His goal is to eventually work for Boeing. Since he started his education at Iowa State, he has become a member of

Acacia, and has participated in Yell Like Hell and the Dance Marathon. He plans on joining the Crew Club in the near future.



Hello fellow Acacians! My name is **Jackson Griffith**. I have lived in Ames with my parents Randall and Sue Griffith for my entire life and graduated from Ames High School last spring. I am enthusiastic about starting my collegiate experience at my hometown university and studying Environmental Science. In high school, I ran cross country and track, sang in choir, was the King of our Madrigal Dinners, played

trombone in band, volunteered through Key Club, studied French, achieved National Merit Finalist status, and traveled to Uganda with some of my peers to build a primary school. I was very involved in high school and hope to remain that way in college. Some of my other goals are to take a leadership position in my chapter, to keep active with running, to study abroad, and to enjoy my time at Iowa State. I'm already in bells and choir at Collegiate United Methodist Church and I am a member of Iowa State Singers. Also, I work as event staff at Hilton Coliseum and as an assistant coach for Ames High School Boys Cross Country. I am very glad that I joined Acacia; it has been stellar so far.



Nigel Hanson grew up in Spirit Lake, Iowa, and is majoring in Industrial Engineering. Nigel joined acacia because he enjoyed the atmosphere and it made him feel as if he were at home. The food is decent and the rooms are very nice. He's interested in learning new things about the fraternity at Iowa State and his major. In his free time he can be seen rollerblading and becoming active in various political school organizations. Nigel is the epitome

of class and sets an example for his new brothers in Acacia.



Garrett Hembry is from Glenwood, Iowa and he is majoring in Computer Engineering. Garrett joined Acacia because he was looking for ways to get involved at college and meet a bunch of really cool guys. His interests include most sports, especially tennis, reading fantasy novels, programming, playing poker, surfing the web, and playing League of Legends. Garrett hopes to find a suitable internship while enjoying his time at ISU, and then

using it to exit college with a job waiting for him. He plans on traveling as much as possible once his home is established, searching the world for beautiful cities and a place to retire with his large family.



Preston Waymire grew up in Elk Horn, Iowa. His parents are Tim and Mary Waymire. He is currently majoring in Aerospace Engineering. In high school, he played on the football and basketball teams, was a member of the student council, the National Honor Society, and served as his class President, and participated in the Fiesta Bowl parade. His goal

upon graduation from Iowa State is to work for a major aerospace company.



Joe Webb is from Murray, Iowa, and his parents are Shelly and Kent Thomas. He is studying Nutritional Science and Professional Research. He was very involved with FCCLA, Spanish Club, and running a weightlifting program for 50 students for 3 years. He also was involved with Football, Basketball, Track, and volunteering on a rural mail route. One collegiate goal is to graduate with a GPA above 3.9 while staying very involved. A professional goal is to work in a research laboratory developing healthy dietary supplements. He

is in Freshman Council, President’s Leadership Class, and Food at First.

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Philanthropy Events Start Off Fall Semester

One of the things that the Iowa State Chapter of Acacia is most noted for is its strong philanthropic emphasis and support of organizations in the Ames Community. Here are some examples of the projects that the active chapter engaged in during the fall semester.



On September 14th, the brothers held their annual Acacia Root Beer Floats fundraiser. They held the event on Central Campus to benefit the Pair Up For a Purpose 5K Run/Walk on November 4th.

The 5K is being held to support GRIP mentoring through Youth and Shelter Services. GRIP mentoring is a program that benefits the youth of Story County by pairing adults up with students for one-to-one mentoring. This year, our fraternity is co-sponsoring the 5K by providing funds as well as advertising and volunteers for race day. We have a strong relationship with the Youth and Shelter Services after having helped them in the past few years with donation drives.

beautiful September day to sell root beer floats. With the price at \$2, it was easy to get passer-bys to purchase root beer floats on their way to class. We ended up raising over \$1,000 to donate to the Youth and Shelter Services organization for the 5K run.

The Root Beer Floats fundraiser was a huge success! We were lucky to have a

We especially want to recognize and thank Fareway and A&W for donating the ice cream, root beer and cups to our cause!



boy named Troy Ramsey and his family came to our birthday decorated house for an afternoon of birthday cake and fun. Troy is a miracle child of Dance Marathon, ISU's largest philanthropic event. Now five years old, Troy has been fighting an uphill battle with toxic synovitis since he was a toddler. Brother Scotty Locke, who is very involved with Dance Marathon, has been working with the Ramsey family for a couple years and wanted to put on the surprise party for Troy. We had a pizza party before going outside to play games in the front yard. The highlight of the day, though, was Troy receiving a batman mask for his birthday. As you can see in the photo, he didn't want to take it off! It was a day full of love and smiles all around.

In addition to the Root Beer Float Project, our men have been involved in a number of other service projects as well. Some have helped FreeStore Inc. move folks from the ACCESS shelter into new apartments. This is a cause we are always willing to help at and our guys have a good relationship with the company based in Des Moines.

As a chapter, we headed down to the Story County Conservation Center to help set up for a Conservation festival in early October. We also had members go to the Heartland Senior Center to help move furniture so they could do some remodeling.

In addition to all of this, we had the opportunity to hold a very special birthday party at the house. On September 22nd, a

Fall Semester at the Iowa State Chapter Never a Dull Moment!



as well as protective masks.

Nothing says "Having a good time!" quite like going out and shooting your Acacia Brothers with paintball pellets! The intrepid hunters shown in this picture are, starting in the back row from left to right: Joe Webb, Dan Schwartzstein, Zach Jameson, Tyler Zylstra, Wizzy Mohotama, Clayton Van Ekeren, Dakota Allen, Ryan Lohse, and Preston Waymire. The front row features (from left to right) Garrett Hembry, Dan Romero, Addison Kistler, Colten Fales, Josh Kublie, Kevin Duhrkopf, and Drew Sherman.

On Saturday, August 18th, 17 brothers made the trip to a facility near Greene, Iowa to take part in an afternoon of paintball. The facility is the Sure Shooting Paintball Park, a family run business that features two 12-acre battlefields through the timber. The woods are filled with bunkers and natural blinds, as well as a "town site" of plywood buildings. The business supplies the guns and paintballs

The guys were split into two teams and played a few games of capture the flag to start. Then they began playing mission games. For example, one team had a bomb (a small briefcase) and they had to attack the other team who was defending the town. The team with the bomb had to throw it into a target building without having the carrier being "shot." The teams were fairly equal in skill throughout the day. It didn't help some who wore bright colored shirts while trying to hide in the woods. They played games for 5 hours before calling it quits. It was a satisfying day and everybody returned to the house exhausted; and covered in paint and welts!



Acacia Brothers getting ready to head out for an evening of serenading some of the sororities at Iowa State. The Brothers in this picture are starting in the front, from left to right: Kevin Duhrkopf, David Gardner, Grant Albansoder, Billy Dyke, Joe Webb, Addison Kistler, Jordan Griffing, Ryan Lohse, Tom McGee, Preston Waymire, Chase Russell, Carlton Stripe, Clayton Van Ekeren, Drew Sherman, Andrew Mann, Colten Fales, Ben Henke, Wizzy Mohotama

On the Friday before school the Acacia brothers took part in Greek serenades. Traditionally, the fraternities come up with songs and dances and perform for sororities of their choosing. Under the leadership of Tom McGee and Scotty Locke, the Acacia crew (mostly made up of new members) took to the streets in Acacia t-shirts and suit jackets. They visited most of the sororities and did a rendition of the "Circle of Life" from Lion

King. They also had flowers to hand to the ladies as well as each sorority's letters.

After the "Circle of Life," the group sang "Men of Acacia" before moving on to the next house. It was a fun afternoon and the women of Greekland absolutely loved the Acacians. If you would like to see the video of "Circle of Life," you can find it on the Acacia Fraternity-Iowa State University facebook page.



On September 29th, the dads of Acacia invaded for the weekend for the 2nd Acacia Father's Weekend. Dad's filtered into the house until midday when a grill-out was held on the porch. The afternoon was free for everybody to do what they wanted. A large group of brothers and dads began playing our new house game "two-ball" in the front yard. Some went inside to watch football or go tailgate for the Iowa State game.

A group attended the game and sat on the hillside. Unfortunately, the Cyclones couldn't pull out the victory! On Sunday morning, breakfast was provided at the house as the final event of the weekend. It was a great chance for dads to come relax with their sons for the weekend and everybody had a great time. Keep an eye out for information on Acacia Mother's Weekend this coming February!



Never let it be said that the men of Acacia do not support the Iowa State Cyclones as they go forward to win another football game! Two of the members of this group cheering on the Cyclones are members of Acacia Fraternity. As a group, they spelled out the words “Rhoads Crew” to show their support for the head coach of our football program. Chase Russell is on the far left (with the # sign on his chest). Next to Chase on his right is Acacia Brother Colton Fales and next to Colton is Chase’s younger brother, Coten Russell. The rest of the crew are friends of these brothers, but are not Acacians. A handsome group of young men if there ever was one, and stylishly dressed as well!



On October 14, 2012, the Corporate Board once again hosted a scholarship luncheon for the members of the chapter that earned a 3.00 or high GPA for the spring, 2012 semester. Approximately 100 alumni, chapter members and their parents attended the semi-annual event. Featured in this picture are thirteen of the members of the chapter that received \$200 scholarships for their academic achievement.

Shown in this picture, from left to right, are Dakota Allen, Paul Bundy, Chase Russell, Gabe McCoy, Carlton Stripe, Ian Bryant, Tom McGee, Derek Robison, Drew Sherman, Wizzy Mohotama, Sam Behrens, Pasha Beresnev, Clayton Van Ekeren.

Also receiving Outstanding Leadership Scholarships were Drew Sherman and Wicitra Mohotama. They each received a scholarship in the amount of \$3,994.

ACACIANS ACROSS AMERICA

Welcome to the first edition of ACACIAN's Across America! In this new regular feature of our newsletter, we will feature stories of some of our alumni brothers' lives after they moved on from Iowa State, both in their professional and personal lives. It is our hope to share stories of careers and families, rekindle old memories, and help our alumni brothers reconnect. In the coming months, enjoy our snapshots of some of our alumni's experiences, and if you have any suggestions of alumni whom we should feature in coming pieces, or have any other suggestions, please contact Matt England or Jon Vaage (contact info on back page of newsletter).

Dennis G. McComber - #556
3136 North Rankin Street
Appleton, Wisconsin 54911



Dennis McComber pledged Acacia Fraternity in 1956 while he was studying Industrial Engineering. In August 1961, the Army called many ROTC students into service early. Dennis reported to Ft. Monmouth, New Jersey, home of the Signal Corps, in late October for three months of Officer's Orientation. He became a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Signal Corps and was assigned to an equipment procurement agency at Monmouth to provide the technical support for procurement of the Army's new backpack frontline combat radio, a job normally held by a civilian engineer. The job required a tremendous amount of travel for extended periods and Dennis traveled to all supplier-manufacturing facilities where he tested pre-production samples of the radio to insure they met the contractual technical requirements.

After Dennis' active duty ended in 1963, he remained in the job as a Department of Defense civilian until 1966. By then, he had traveled much around the U.S. and concluded the nomadic lifestyle was not conducive to developing any meaningful personal relationships, including having a family.

Dennis then moved to Wisconsin, and started taking prerequisite undergrad classes fulltime in the School of Business at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee in the fall of 1966. He received his Bachelor's of Business Administration in 1967 and finished the MBA there in the spring of 1968. He met his wife, Rita, while in grad school in Milwaukee in 1967, and they were married in August 1973. After graduation, Dennis went to work with Kimberly-Clark (Kleenex, Hi-Dri towels, Kotex, Huggies, Depends, Scott are product brands) in Neenah, Wisconsin, after graduation. Dennis spent the next 33-1/2 years with them in what was then the company's largest consumer products production mill. Of those years, fifteen were spent in various engineering positions, eight as the Maintenance Manager, and the remainder in Management Information Systems at both the mill and corporate levels.

Dennis and Rita have two sons. Kevin (B: 1983) is a PhD graduate in Materials Science from MIT in Boston, and works at Intel in Chandler, Arizona. He and wife Eileen had a child in May of this year, a boy named Neil. Dennis and Rita's other son, Scott (B:1985) graduated as a Mechanical Engineer from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and works for the Oshkosh Corporation as a senior design engineer in their airport products snow removal division.

Today, Dennis and Rita live in Appleton, Wisconsin. Dennis has been retired for ten years. He enjoys retirement more than working but, at times, misses the daily challenges and the social interaction that work provided. Dennis and Rita travel frequently, including several tours with the ISU Alumni Association, which he highly recommends. Rita is the Board President for a local non-profit organization that trains and employs the handicapped. Dennis joined the local Lions Club, and recently finished as President of that group. Dennis exemplifies the Acacia motto of "Human Service" by volunteering his time to help build ramps for handicapped people who would otherwise be homebound. He's also Co-Chair for a large Lions fundraiser each year involving about thirty clubs around northeastern Wisconsin.

Dennis says Acacia was a defining period in his life, and was a very memorable part of his college experience. It took a number of years after graduation before he realized the opportunities Acacia presented and some of those that he had failed to take. "Every year since graduation, my pledge class has published a composite newsletter of submittals by each individual regarding what has happened to them during the past year. In fifty years, no year has been missed. I think this speaks to the bonds of brotherhood made through the Acacia experience."

Dennis' favorite memories of Acacia include the fraternity house itself, the feeling of "home" it gave him, and the relief it was to walk into the place after some hard classes on campus. At the time, Mrs. Rene ("Dee Dee") Dinsmore was the housemother. Dennis vividly remembers evening meals and especially Sunday noon when guests were invited, when she'd watch the table manners of all Brothers in attendance. Corrective actions were taken immediately after the meal for any infractions she detected. Another favorite was group singing in the foyer around the piano, with Brothers Bryce Redington, Dick Perrin, Tom Whitney, and others as leaders. "The scenes and sounds still resonate in my mind as though they happened yesterday," Dennis says.

Martin L. Gran - #1002
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Apartment #1705
Atlanta, Georgia 30305



In the fall of 2002, Marty Gran was initiated into Acacia Fraternity as a freshman in chemical engineering from Omaha, Nebraska. When Marty pledged, the Iowa State Chapter had only recently rechartered and did not have the great reputation within the Greek community it does today. Thanks to a quality group of re-founding fathers and their focus on recruiting outstanding student leaders, Marty was part of a high achieving pledge class that had a very positive impact on the chapter in its early years since recolonization. Like many Acacians, Marty was academically determined and excelled in his studies at Iowa State, but he also gave much back to the fraternity, especially by serving as senior dean before graduating with his Bachelor of Science degree in 2006.

With his eye on a PhD in chemical engineering, Marty attended the University of Texas in Austin with a full tuition fellowship through the National Science Foundation. While there, he participated in several research projects and co-authored a paper with his now-wife, Maggie on targeted nanodelivery of drugs and diagnostics. After graduate school, the couple moved to Atlanta, Georgia and was married just this past June. They both enjoy listening to live music, hiking and traveling.

Marty currently works for Georgia Pacific in Atlanta as a research engineer in their building products division. His work is focused primarily on research and development of their gypsum product line. Part of his job includes lab experimentation and coordination with production plant manufacturing to develop advanced coatings and additives for building products such as drywall. Marty still

misses Austin and all the great live music that it's renowned for, but thoroughly enjoys his work and hopes to continue doing R&D throughout his career.

When Marty looks back on his days at Acacia, he fondly remembers hanging out with all the other guys in the house, whether it was tailgating at a football game or just eating dinner and watching Jeopardy in the sun room after a long day of classes. But for him, the lasting impression of the fraternity was the high bar of personal and academic achievement set by all the quality young men in the house. It was the mutual encouragement to work hard and succeed in college and beyond that has stuck with Marty to this day and has left him with many lifelong friends.

Academic Mentorship Program Produces Positive Academic Results

Acacia Fraternity is an academically focused fraternity who holds its members to the highest standards of academic excellence. It is sometimes necessary to provide members, especially pledges, with some additional help to keep them in good academic standing. The Iowa State Chapter of Acacia provides two primary resources for scholastic help: (1) tutor reimbursement and (2) academic mentors. While members are highly encouraged to seek help from other active members in regards to their course work, it is sometimes necessary to obtain a tutor in certain classes. One thing that is emphasized to all pledges and incoming freshmen is that they should never be afraid or embarrassed to get a tutor. Tutors can be an invaluable resource and help in helping a student to grasp difficult and confusing concepts that may not be extensively covered during class due to time constraints. Tutors offer a bridge to understanding the material by being able to spend more one-on-one time with a student than what a professor may be able to provide.

Tutors at Iowa State have proven to be a highly beneficial resource to succeeding in some of the more difficult classes such as Physics 221/222, Calculus I, II, and III, and some introductory chemistry courses. One of our members described his tutoring experience as follows: "Having a tutor who has taken the class before is very beneficial. They really know how to reinforce the information taught in lecture and know what information is most important. It is also nice to work in a group setting because there are other people to ask those questions you may have never thought of." One of the deterrents for getting a tutor, however, is that there is a charge for each tutoring session. For the college student who is paying their own way through school, tutoring may seem like an unnecessary expense. To negate this, the Acacia house gives full reimbursement to any member with a tutor, provided that the member attended every tutoring session unless excused by the active chapter's Scholarship Chair.

While it is our goal as a house to have every member on good academic standing, there have been cases where some members, especially younger members, fail to meet grades. To return a member to good academic standing, a mentor is provided to any member who does not make grades. Academic mentors are typically a member in the house who is in the same

major or a very similar major to that of their mentee. The job of an academic mentor is not necessarily to provide help with course work. While this is desired, the primary job of an academic mentor is to keep their mentee focused on their course work.

Every mentor receives a copy of their mentee's syllabi and is required to meet with their mentee at least three hours a week. During this time, the mentor makes sure that his mentee is focused on course work and not getting distracted. I asked one of the mentees how his experience with his mentor has been and this was his response, "My mentor really keeps me focused on my school work and ensures a good study environment. He keeps me from getting distracted and keeps other from distracting me." Every two weeks, the mentor and mentee meet with the current Scholarship Chair to evaluate their progress. As needed, help is provided by the mentor and other members of the chapter house who have taken a particular class in the past and who are able to provide insight into the problems that the chapter member may be having in the course.

The funds provided by the alumni are an invaluable resource when it comes to paying for tutors for the chapter members. The funds donated by the alumni can be used for both scholarships and for tutors, as they are both educational expenses. The money donated by our alumni makes a definite difference in the chapter member's academic success, and we want to thank each and every alumnus for their generosity and support! Without you, our success would not be possible! Thanks again for your support!

Recognizing Our Graduating Acacia Brother



My name is Pasha Beresnev, son of Igor and Anna Beresnev. I'm originally from Russia, but have spent most of my life in Ames. I've enjoyed all my four-and-a-half years at ISU. My majors are civil engineering and French language and culture for professions, and I have a math minor.

Acacia was one of the first organizations I got involved in, and I've been a member every semester. I've also had the chance to get involved with student organizations like Engineers for a Sustainable World, The 10,000 Hours Show, and the ISU Ski and Snowboard Club.

Some of my favorite memories from Iowa State would be Acacia's Initiation Week, studying abroad my entire sophomore year in Switzerland, skiing and snowboarding in the Rockies, and going to India my freshman year.

Although I'm not sure yet where I'll be after graduation, I'm hoping to end up either in the U.K. studying offshore wind energy, or working at a structural engineering company on anything from buildings to airplanes in the Twin Cities, St. Louis, or in Seattle.

Chapter House Gets a New Roof, Refinished Floor

As most of our alumni will recall, the chapter house has three flat-roof areas above the 3rd Floor. After three years of various patch-work "quick fixes" to fix leaks and learning some portions of the flat-roof were beyond repair, we realized it was time to move forward and have the entire roof covering the third floor replaced with a brand new roof.

After much discussion regarding this at the summer Corporate Board meeting surrounding the differing proposals from contractors regarding the flat-roof replacement (various methods, materials, warranty), the Corporate Board approved the bid of \$11,000 to do a complete re-roofing of the three sections of the flat-roof portions of the chapter house. The Board did have an option to "stage" this project over two to three years by completing one section of flat-roofs at a time; however, the Board felt it was in the best interest of the chapter house to complete the project in its entirety at one time.

This project was completed in September and we are pleased with the quality of work and product utilized. Included with the contract was a clause requiring the contractor review and inspection of the roof next summer and repair any further leaks that might occur at no cost to the Board.

The chapter house is now undergoing a "plumbing inspection" that was mandated by the state to determine if there are any

plumbing issues that need to be addressed and to bring the existing plumbing system in the chapter house up to the current code requirements. The results of this inspection have not yet been received, but the Board will have 90-days from the date of the inspection to address any code deficiencies. This process has been on-going within the City of Ames for past couple of years, and the inspection department is just now beginning their inspections of the houses in the Greek System.

The final project for this calendar year will occur over the Christmas break when the hardwood floor on the main level of the chapter house will be sanded down and refinished. Our contractor has already inspected the floors and has determined that some of the boards will need to be replaced given their age and condition. All of the furniture will be removed from the first floor and then it will be sanded, a coat of oil-based stain applied, and then three coats of polyurethane applied so that it will stand up to the expected wear normal in the chapter house.

This project is done about once every five years and is expected to cost around \$5,000. As mentioned earlier, we will have this project completed during Christmas break as the house will be empty and the work can be done without disruption to the men in the chapter. Just one of those normal maintenance projects for the chapter house that we perform to keep the chapter house looking great!

Color Edition of Newsletter to be E-Mailed to Alumni

Beginning with this issue of the newsletter something new has been added, we will be e-mailing a color copy to all of the

alumni who have provided us with their e-mail address and have it on file with the national office. Staff at the national office will

send out a mass e-mail to all of our alumni communications from the chapter at our request. Because it is cost prohibitive to print color copies of the newsletter, we have decided to continue to send out the traditional “grayscale” newsletter to all of our alumni, but we will also send out the color copy to all of our alumni for whom we have e-mail addresses as well.

One of the factors that are evaluated in terms of the Malcolm Award is the use of electronic means to communicate with chapters alumnus members. This is the first step in our process of making regular use of this means of communication on a

more consistent basis. While we have, from time to time in the past made use of e-mail for special projects, this is beginning of a more formalized process for its use.

If you are an alumnus of the chapter who would like to receive a color copy of the newsletter, and you are not certain if your e-mail address is on file, just send your e-mail address to Harold Zarr at acacia_814@hotmail.com and he will make certain that the records get updated for both the local board and at the national headquarters.

Acacia Fraternity Foundation Provides Financial Support to Iowa State Chapter Members

Over the years, the scholarship program that have been funded by the alumni of the Iowa State Chapter have provided an extremely valuable and much needed financial support to the members of the undergraduate chapter. Literally tens of thousands of dollars have been made available due to the generosity of the Iowa State alumni who have and are currently supporting their undergraduate Brothers in the Iowa State Chapter. What most of our alumni do not know is that the Acacia Fraternity Foundation has also provided a surprising number of scholarships to quite a few members of our chapter as well. The Iowa State Chapter has developed a well-deserved reputation on a national level for producing a large number of academically successful members whose accomplishments are recognized by the Foundation through the gift of scholarships at the national level.

Approximately eighteen months ago, Darold Larson was offered the position of Executive Director of the Foundation to develop and lead the effort to build the financial base of the Foundation so that it can provide further support for all of the chapters of Acacia Fraternity. For some thirty-plus years, Darold served the Fraternity as its Executive Director. There is probably no one person with a deeper background or understanding of our Fraternity than Darold, and as a member of the Foundation Board of Directors, I feel quite fortunate that we were able to convince Darold to accept the position on the Foundation Board. Going back to 1996, when I first became the Board President for The Acacians at Iowa State, Darold offered me a tremendous amount of good advice and counsel, for which I have been forever grateful. His dedication to the Fraternity is without peer in the modern days of Acacia.

At the recent Conclave held in St. Louis, I had the opportunity to visit with Darold concerning the Foundation and the support that it provides all of the chapters of Acacia. As we visited, it occurred to me that the relationship between the ISU Chapter of Acacia and the Acacia Foundation is similar to that of a local public broadcasting station and the national public broadcasting corporation. Each year, a couple of times a year, the public broadcasting stations hold fund drives in which they ask for the

public’s support and also for a small donation to the national organization as well. This seems to me to be a good model for us to try and follow as well.

Everyone knows that the money that you donate to the Iowa State Chapter Fund goes directly to the undergraduate members of the Iowa State Chapter. I would like you to consider giving a small, matching donation to the Acacia Fraternity Foundation as well. For example, if you give \$100 to Iowa State Chapter Fund, consider giving \$10 to the Acacia Fraternity Foundation. If all of the alumni Brothers throughout all of the chapters were to follow this model, the money raised would enable the Foundation to do even more than it has done in the past to support the Fraternity as a whole. You will note that the enclosed contribution card has been modified to include **tax-deductible donations** to both the **Iowa State Chapter Fund** and the **Acacia Fraternity Foundation**, and also a non tax-deductible donation to The Acacians, for improvements to the chapter house itself.

The undergraduate brothers of our fraternity chapter have excelled in many ways—and much of that support is due to the generous financial support of our alumni so that we can maintain a productive and viable scholarship program. As you read the article submitted by Brother Larson, I think you will be amazed at the amount of funds our members have received from the Foundation over the years. These scholarships are funded by the Acacia Fraternity Foundation’s “General Fund”.

Please remember that our chapter’s undergraduate brothers also receive scholarship support through our Iowa State Chapter Fund at the Acacia Fraternity Foundation. Our chapter’s fund helps to fund our leadership and academic scholarships for our brothers where we provide well over \$25,000 annually to our undergraduate brothers. And so, we ask that you consider making a tax-deductible contribution to the Iowa State Chapter Fund-AFF which will allow us to maintain and enhance our scholarship programs for our undergraduate brothers. Our thanks to all of our alumni for all that they do for Acacia!

The Miracle of Acacia

By Darold W. Larson

Executive Director

Acacia Fraternity Foundation

This summer while at Conclave, Brother Zarr invited me to write an article for an upcoming issue of *The Pythagorean*. With Thanksgiving and the religious holidays around the corner, I want to remind you of another special miracle – the Miracle of Acacia.

Have you ever heard of a corporation that handled a multi-million dollar a year business, had a property investment in the millions, and had an entirely new board of directors every year whose average age was 20 years old? Have you ever heard of an organization whose total membership had a 100% turnover every three years, yet has maintained stability for over 100 years?

Has it ever occurred to you that about 1,600 students representing nearly 40 separate and distinct groups, each with its own identity, personality and leadership, direct this corporation on a cross-section of every conceivable type of college campus across the length and breadth of two countries in North America?

Perhaps you recognize this corporation as the Miracle of Acacia Fraternity! How has it survived? The miracle is they are able to not only exist, but thrive! Every one of the nearly 40 chapters and colonies of Acacia is governed by a set of executive officers that changes every year, and their average age is 20 years. Acacia chapters operate on a budget from as little as \$20,000 up to \$125,000 yearly. They maintain chapter houses ranging in values from \$50,000 to over \$2.5 million. Would you turn over an investment like that to a group of 20-year old students? Acacia does.

Has it ever occurred to you that this wondrous organization numbers among its graduate membership a former president of the United States, presidents of major corporations, United States senators and congressmen, college and university

presidents, professors, sociologists, economists, accountants, engineers, doctors, lawyers, court justices, war heroes, professional and all-American athletes, coaches, high school teachers and clergymen?

And has it occurred to you that many of these alumni and undergraduates have spent or will spend their summers in part-time jobs as laborers, farm hands, ticket takers, camp counselors, life guards and waiters in order to help pay for their college educations and membership in Acacia Fraternity?

A vital component of this miracle is our alumni. Whether it's through volunteering, mentoring or supplying financial support, our alumni help the miracle of Acacia come true every year. Acacia Fraternity will have celebrated its 50,000th initiate by the time this issue of *The Pythagorean* reaches you. Over one hundred years of success is due in part to the thousands of alumni who have loyally supported the Foundation's educational and scholarship initiatives.

The Iowa State chapter continues to shine as one of Acacia's finest! Chapters without active alumni can be good, however without an alumni presence, chances of greatness are lessened. Iowa State alumni have help to create a model fraternity experience. With a beautifully preserved fraternity house and a scholarship program that not only identifies incoming freshmen with good academic success, but also rewards the scholarship of the current actives, it's easy to understand the success coming out of Ames, Iowa.

The Acacia Fraternity Foundation has also recognized through scholarships the excellent efforts put forth by our undergraduate brethren. Since 2006 the following Iowa State Acacians have been recognized through general Foundation scholarships totaling over \$32,000.

2012-2013

Derek E. Robison (Duncan McPherson Fraternityship)	\$3,000	Michael J. D. Hoefer (AFF Scholarship)	\$1,000
Gabriel J. McCoy (AFF Scholarship)	\$1,000		

2010-2011

Matthew B. England (Duncan McPherson Fraternityship)	\$3,000		
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2009-2010

Michael S. Weber (George F. Patterson Scholarship)	\$3,000	John A. Kvinge (Emma Allen Scholarship)	\$3,000
Jonathan C. Vaage (AFF Scholarship)	\$1,000	Brandon J. Behrens (Cornerstones Scholarship)	\$1,000

2008-2009

Matthew B. England (Cornerstones Scholarship)	\$1,000	Jonathan C. Vaage (AFF Scholarship)	\$1,000
Clark D. Richardson (AFF Scholarship)	\$1,000	Brandon J. Behrens (Emma Allen Scholarship)	\$ 600
Daniel N. Congreve (Emma Allen Scholarship)	\$ 600	Jared A. Ramthun (Emma Allen Scholarship)	\$ 500

Jonathan C. Vaage (Emma Allen Scholarship)	\$ 500		
2007-2008 (Winter)			
Jared A. Ramthun (AFF Scholarship)	\$1,500	John T. Vogel (AFF Scholarship)	\$ 500
2007-2008 (Summer)			
Clark D. Richardson (George F. Patterson Scholarship)	\$1,000	Jared A. Ramthun (AFF Scholarship)	\$ 500
Vincent L. Fadden (AFF Scholarship)	\$ 500	John A. Kvinge (Emma Allen Scholarship)	\$3,500
Jared A. Ramthun (Emma Allen Scholarship)	\$ 600		
2006-2007			
Clark D. Richardson (George F. Patterson Scholarship)	\$1,500	Jared A. Ramthun (AFF Scholarship)	\$ 500
Craig A. Buske (AFF Scholarship)	\$ 500	Clark D. Richardson (Emma Allen Scholarship)	\$ 500
Jared A. Ramthun (Emma Allen Scholarship)	\$ 500		

This academic year I encourage you to continue your support to the ISU chapter. I would also like to encourage you to remember the general Fraternity's operations supported via the Acacia Fraternity Foundation. Alumni contributions represent nearly 38% of the international Fraternity's budget. Whether it's through our newest educational initiative, *Cornerstones*, our Leadership Consultant program, scholarships, or the Acacia Leadership Academies, the Foundation plays a vital role in providing the financial resources needed by the Fraternity to grow our chapter base and improve our existing chapters.

Shortly you will be receiving an Annual Fund appeal from the Foundation. By writing a check directly to the Foundation or, in conjunction with the Iowa State alumni leadership, by adding an additional donation to your Iowa State gift to be forwarded to the Foundation's Annual Fund, we will be on our way to duplicating the Iowa State experience forty times over.

On that note, I ask that you keep the Fraternity in your philanthropic giving circle by remembering the Acacia Fraternity Foundation. Let's celebrate the Miracle of Fraternity this season by making 2012-13 a most memorable year

2012 Alumni Donations Make a Difference!

With 2012 drawing to a close, the members of the active chapter and Alumni Board want to sincerely thank all of our alumni who have stepped forward to support both the capital improvement and scholarship programs of the Iowa State Chapter of Acacia Fraternity. As you have read in this newsletter, your support has made a tremendous difference in the lives of the men of our

chapter, and we cannot thank you enough for your support. The Iowa State Chapter has truly become one of the chapters that are referred to as a role model for the Fraternity as a whole, and our alumni are one of the key elements that have fueled our success. Please accept our thanks for your support as we try to build on our record of success both now and in the future.



Alumni Scholarship Fund Donations in 2012

\$8,425 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!

Board of Directors Club	(\$ 5,000 - \$ 9,999)
Pythagorean Partner	(\$ 2,500 - \$ 4,999)
Chapter Partner	(\$ 1,000 - \$ 2,499)
Robert L. Carstens - #354	
Harold D. Zarr Jr. - #814	
Gold Partner	(\$ 750 - \$ 999)

----- Alumni Contributors in 2012 -----

Silver Partner	(\$ 500 - \$ 749)
Lowell B. Johnson - #426	
Doug Whitney - #627	
Peter Eversole - #635	
David E. Wolfe - #656	
Terry Thoem - #667	
Laury Decker - #910	
Bronze Partner	(\$ 100 - \$ 499)
William H. Anderl - #679	
William Percy - #420	
Kenneth L. MacRae - #427	
Bernard J. Kolp - #466	
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	
Randyl D. Elkin - #670	
Larry P. Yarham - #682	
Bruce C. Wight - #770	
Charles R. Tass - #833	
Stephen J. Casper IV - #905	
Rob Borcharding - #978	
Elizabeth B. Gehring - Little Sister of Acacia	
Spirit Partner	(\$ 1 - \$ 99)
John Burnstrom - #470	
Denton W. Ericson	
Walter R. Kolbe - #527	
Gregory M. Janda - #990	
Craig Buske - #1009	



Alumni Capital Improvement Donations in 2012

\$ 2,150 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 -----	
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. Carstens - #354	
Gold Partner	(\$ 750 - \$ 999)

Silver Partner	(\$ 500 - \$ 749)
David E. Wolfe - #656	
Bronze Partner	(\$ 100 - \$ 499)
Lynn Pendry - #469	
James M. Hanson - #533	
Gary D. Harter - #538	
Lee R. McDonald - #551	
Lee Christensen - #601	
Spirit Partner	(\$ 1 - \$ 99)
Denton W. Ericson - #504	
Walter R. Kolbe - #527	
Craig Buske - #1009	
Ezra L. Shields - #1015	
Robin L. Lary - parent	

In Memoriam

to all of those Acacians who knew him when he was an undergraduate member of our Fraternity.

We recognize the passing of our Brother, **Charles D. Bird - #416**. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family, and

Charles D. Bird of Lower Gwynedd, Pa., died Sunday, May 13, 2012, at Spring House Estates. He was 82 years old.

Charles was born March 17, 1930, in Woden, son of the late Clarence Albert Bird and the late Mina Elizabeth Sophia Bird (nee - Ward).

He was the resident of Spring House Estates, formerly of Fort Washington. Beloved husband of Shirley for nearly 57 years; father of Amy Bird, and David Bird and his wife Katherine; grandfather of Nicholas, Anne, Robert, Caroline, Elizabeth, Margaret, and Charles; brother of Robert Bird of Woden, Dale Bird and his wife Glenys of McHenry, Ill., and the late Irma McVey.

Charlie was born, raised, and educated in Iowa. He graduated from the Iowa State University with a degree in Agricultural Engineering. Charlie was certified as an Electrical Engineer in Pennsylvania. He was employed at the Westinghouse Electric Corporation for 38 years where he worked as an Electrical Engineer and retired as a District Sales Manager. He was a long time member of Manufacturers' Golf and Country Club and the Reformed Church of Willow Grove.

Active Chapter Report

Derek Robison, Venerable Dean - ACACIA Fraternity
 138 Gray Avenue
 Ames, Iowa 50014
 Phone: 952-292-8394
 E-mail:

Hello everybody! Well, we've turned around and the fall semester is already coming to its end! This is also my last report as the Venerable Dean and I fail to find words to describe what an honor it has been to serve this chapter in this role.

We've had a very busy semester at Acacia but it has been a great time. Before school started a group of us went to Greene, Iowa to go paint balling. What better way to start the year than shooting each other! It was a lot of fun and I'm sure everybody will want to do it again as soon as possible.

Due to scheduling, we had to start the new member education program on the first day of school and we had to shorten the program from eight weeks to seven weeks. On October 6th, we initiated 11 new Acacians, and I am proud to say they are a class of outstanding young men and I look forward to seeing what they can accomplish in the coming years. To add to their record, most of them participated in Yell Like Hell this year, and they ended up winning the competition! It was great to see them having fun with it and bringing home first place. Our homecoming pairing as a whole won the overall Homecoming title. This is the second year in a row we have been a part of the top pairing, a trend we hope to continue. Pasha Beresnev (1058) was honored as the Homecoming King as well. He is still surprised he won, but he showed he has been a leader on campus in a variety of organizations, not just the Greek Community.

Our men have been involved in a number of community service projects throughout the semester, ranging from moving folks into new apartments, helping at a Conservation day, and helping at Food at First. We are also preparing to co-sponsor a 5K on November 4th with Youth and Shelter Services.

That's what we have been up to so far this semester. I wanted to take this time to write how proud I am of our men and the dedication they have for their academics, service, and helping each other. I have seen this chapter grow and change over the last three and a half years, and I truly believe we are continuing to push to greater heights. Our social structure has definitely expanded to get our parents more involved as well as doing more with a variety of sororities. We have switched our philanthropy, changed some house positions, and built our recruitment to higher standards. The two constants I have seen through these years, however, are academics and brotherhood. The men of Acacia work harder in their studies than men of other chapters, which is clearly shown by our chapter's 3.39 GPA in the spring. Read that again, we achieved a 3.39 with over 40 men. Not to mention our men are so involved with other organizations and commitments it is amazing they can even stand at the end of the day. The other, brotherhood, is the life of our chapter. As I look back on my college years some day, I have no doubt I will most cherish those Friday nights going to play basketball with the guys at Lied, or playing ball in the yard with a group, or the laughs we shared at chapter meetings, or even just nightly dinners.

It's been a fun ride and I look forward to one more semester! Acacian and proud.

Find us Online!

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

Greetings my Brother ACACIANS!

I never expected this issue of the newsletter to reach this length, but when good things happen, you just **have** to talk about them!

As you can tell from this newsletter, the members of the chapter have been more than busy this semester, but it never seems to slow them down, it just inspires them to work harder and achieve more and more. That is the kind of men that we have in our chapter of this Fraternity.

I had the opportunity to stop into a chapter meeting at the beginning of the semester, and I have to tell you – there is just something Special” about this group that I just can’t put into words. You sometimes see this on a sports field when you get a group of men together and they just simply seem to be able to accomplish the impossible, as if it were a normal thing! That is the feeling that I am getting from this group of men. There is something special and unique about these men, and I think that great things are going to happen with them.

At the same time, I am also seeing the same thing happen on the Corporate Board. In particular, the new article developed by Matt England and Jon Vaage is really something special. Too often, we don’t take the time to visit with our alumni (both old and new) and find out what has been going on in their lives. This new article affords us an opportunity to do just that, and to honor those alumni whose contributions have really gone above and beyond the norm.

One of the interesting things that always occur with me is when I go to Conclave; I am always asked how it is that we are able to be as successful as we are as a Board and a Chapter. The answer is simple, we surround ourselves with people who are winners at every step, and from that foundation good things always happen.

The men that I work with on the board have, in many cases, been on the board for years and their experience and insight is most valuable. At the same time, we have new board members and active chapter members on the board, and they bring a new perspective to our analysis of issues that we confront that challenge our perceptions of events. As a result of this blend of old and new, the board is all the stronger for it and we end up making (in my humble opinion) exceptionally good decisions on a consistent basis.

The men of the undergraduate chapter are much the same. The officers and seniors in the chapter bring a level of maturity and stability that provides the structure for the newest

members to feel at ease in contributing their thoughts and ideas and as a result, we have a chapter that is a recognized as a “model” both within our Fraternity and the ISU Greek Community.

All of our members, both alumni and undergraduate should take great pride on our chapter! I believe that 2012 is going to be one that is really going to be an exceptional year! My best wishes to all our alumni, members and their parents for a happy and safe holiday season!

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	515-664-6875
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**. Take care, and best wishes to all of the Brothers and friends of our Fraternity!