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**ENTERING OUR GATEWAY To GREATNESS**
David J. Allen, International President

In a few weeks, Acacia will convene the 54th Conclave since its founding in 1904. This Conclave marks the first of our second century and appropriately has been entitled Gateway To Greatness.

Two years ago we not only commemo-rated the centennial of our founding, we took the first step toward the develop-ment of the essential steps to strengthen Acacia to face the challenges of the 21st Century. The unanimous adoption of the Strategic Plan by the Conclave provided benchmarks for planning by our colonies and chapters. The intervening two years have seen many of our chapters step up to the challenge and begin the planning process by identifying priorities within the goals adopted. The results of this initial effort will be a part of the assessment of our progress as a fraternity and help to focus us on the next two years. The collective pressure put by Roosevelt —as each weighs its own strengths and weaknesses as identified by the plan criteria—will provide an open and honest exchange of views among all our chapters.

The evaluation of the chapter plans provides Acacia with the collective judgment of individual chapter pro-gress. The next step in the growth of Acacia begins at the 2006 Conclave, with the identification of the ways to strengthen each of us as individuals who have the privilege of membership. This Conclave will devote a great deal of time to looking at the ways in which an Acacian can become a much stronger brother and have a better understanding of our complex and inter-depen-dent world. A yet-to-be-named and announced brotherhood educa-tion program and its concepts will be brought forward and discussed in the Conclave business sessions.

It is our common bond of brotherhood that brings to each of us the opportu-nity to be an integral part of Acacia’s future. Our future brotherhood educa-tion program provides the mechanism to strengthen that bond between alumni and actively each of us, upon the taking of our membership obligation, undertook a lifelong journey. Our mutual support and understanding of the ideals of Acacia and their applica-tion to contemporary society is vital to our future. We are as one, whether our roll number is low or the last entry in the roll book of our respective chapter. We are Acacians and proud of it!

Since the last Conclave, three charter-ings have taken place: Northwestern Oklahoma State University, the Univer-sity of Missouri at Columbia, and The University of Texas at Austin. Each of these events marked another mile-stone in our progress. We were the first fraternity on the Northwestern Oklahoma State University campus, and we returned to the University of Missouri and The University of Texas at Austin after a period of absence.

The enthusiasm shown by the actives and alumni on these campuses pro-vided a spark to ignite even the most moribund Acacian. The sense of pride and dedication of all attending the banquets and the words spoken by the chapter members resonated with a spirit of achievement and purpose to excel. Additionally, the colonies at Syracuse, Western Ontario and the University of Southern California con-tinue their progress toward charter-ing. Yes, my brothers, Acacia is on the move. If we are to continue our upward climb, all of us need to renew our in-volvement with Acacia. Our strength lies in the belief that we will achieve. We achieve through a united effort. The road has not always been easy—nor will it always be in the days ahead.

The goal requires our steadfast dedica-tion to one another and to Acacia. We need to dare to achieve and never become discouraged.

President Theodore Roosevelt said it best when, in a letter to a friend, he commented:

“Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even thoughcheckered by failure, than to taketank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much, because theylive in the gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat.”

Let us move forward in the spirit expressed by Roosevelt. Conclave ‘06 in St. Louis provides all of us with the opportunity to renew our dedication to Acacia. Make plans to join your brothers; to update yourself on what we have been striving to achieve; to renew your involvement; and to re-kindle the spirit that enraptured you when you first took your membership obligation. Challenges await you and opportunities abound!

On behalf of our Fraternity, I extend a special welcome to Conclave ‘06, and hope to have the opportunity to per-sonally visit with you and share stories of our journeys as brother Acacians.
As head coach of the TCU Horned Frogs, Gary Patterson, Kansas State '80, exemplifies Acacia at its best — hard working, tenacious, committed, responsible and unwavering in his belief that giving back to the community is just the right thing to do. He’s also one heckuva coach.

There’s nothing obvious about Gary Patterson’s background that would suggest he could be one of the nation’s hottest college football coaches. There’s nothing that stands out on a life resume that starts with growing up in a small Kansas town, playing Juco ball on an academic scholarship, walking on and playing special teams for a perennial college football loser, coaching at places most college football fans have never even heard of and working his way up the coaching ladder one small step at a time.

Then one day, fans, media and other college football observers look up, and here is Patterson on national television, running, jumping, yelling, grinding, working, as his Texas Christian University Horned Frogs win yet another game, contend for conference championships and threaten to crash the Bowl Championship Series party hosted by the big dogs of college football, and wonders, “Where did this guy come from? How did he get here? What’s the deal with this guy?”

Here’s the deal: Patterson comes fully equipped with vibrant intensity, valuable professional experience, a strong work ethic, a genuine desire to raise his players the right way plus an affinity for playing the guitar and writing music, like a rugged pick-up truck with a tow winch, four-wheel drive, a loaded tool box and a decent stereo system.

He does not, however, come with his own silver spoon. He was raised without one. Never bothered to get one. Didn’t need it. Still doesn’t. It wasn’t always easy to get by in the that didn’t keep TCU from elevating Patterson from defensive coordinator and giving him his first head coaching job in December, 2000.

“You can get a job because of who are you or you can get a job because of what you do,” Patterson says. “I got a chance to be a head coach here because of what I’ve done. Now, there are a lot of coaches out there who deserve to be head coaches, but it’s always a matter of timing and opportunity. I gained a lot of valuable experiences at all those stops along the way, like doing academics and financial aid and setting up travel wearing all those hats in Division II.

“You learn administrative skills, you have to be an Xs and Os coach, you have to be a recruiter, you have to be a good coach on the field and you’ve got to be able to raise money. Those are the five basic things you have to do to be a good head coach, and I think because of all the different places I’ve been, except for working hard and being on the field, I probably wasn’t good at any of the others. Most of us aren’t.

All those experiences gave me a better understanding of all the things that go on.”

Since TCU gave him the opportunity to follow the success of former head coach Dennis Franchione, Patterson has reworked TCU’s faith by going 43-18 and earning four consecutive berths in the “New Year’s Six” in four years.

And that’s where my job comes in. I’m not a flash person. I’m not the guy who walks in the room and people say, ‘Wow, he’s the guy that ought to be running this or that.’ ‘My job is to keep people interested in TCU football, to win football games and to give people the dreams they have for the University.’

Patterson’s background that would suggest he could be one of the nation’s most college football losers, coaching at places like Texas-Permian Basin, New Mexico State, Kansas State and Abilene Christian. As Patterson said in an interview with TCU’s school paper, The Daily Skiff, “I played at Kansas State; if you would have told me 18 or 19 years ago that a kid from a one-sport football town like mine would be going to the Super Bowl, I would have been in total disbelief.”

As Patterson said in an interview with TCU’s school paper, The Daily Skiff, “I played at Kansas State; if you would have told me 18 or 19 years ago that a kid from a one-sport football town like mine would be going to the Super Bowl, I would have been in total disbelief.”

Today, Rozell holds only 187 people and Patterson’s old school, Pawnee Heights High School, played Division II eight-man football. Back when Patterson attended Pawnee Heights, the school played 11-man football, the town was a little bigger and sports kept a kid busy and out of trouble.

“You played sports instead of driving a tractor, or whatever else you had to do,” Patterson says. “Plus, that’s where all the girls were — at football and basketball games and track meets.”

Patterson also worked hard enough in school to earn an academic scholarship at Dodge City Community College, where he redshirted one year following a knee injury and played in the secondary as a redshirt freshman. He then transferred to Kansas State as a walk-on with another academic scholarship and spent two years playing special teams for the Wildcats.

Patterson’s uncle Harold had been a star at the University of Kansas and went on to become a Hall of Fame player in the Canadian Football League. Another uncle, Ray, played at Wichita State with Bill Parcells. Patterson, however, had been fortunate to play on special teams in his two seasons at K-State and decided at that point to move on with his life and spent the 1982 season as a graduate assistant for the Wildcats, witnessing something that had never happened in K-State history.

Long before coach Bill Snyder orchestrated the most stunning turnaround in college football at Kansas State, the program was one of Division I-A’s all-time biggest losers. Coach Jim Dickey, desperate to build something positive, redshirted 12 seniors in 1981 and brought them back in 1982 for a 6-5-1 season and the school’s first-ever bowl bid.
The Gary Patterson Foundation
Based on the belief that giving back to the community is one of his fundamental responsibilities, Gary Patterson has always embraced opportunities that serve to enrich the lives of others. Since coming to Fort Worth in 1998, Coach Patterson has not only led his teams to greatness on the field but also off it. The Gary Patterson Foundation was formed in 2006 with the goal of providing opportunities for young people to do great things. We want to be able to give children from all walks of life hope for a brighter tomorrow.

I was probably too young to appreciate the significance of it,” Patterson says. “Now, if you look back at it you know how big it was. But I don’t even know if they kept the trophy there, because of everything they’ve done under coach Snyder. I’ve really been happy to see how much success they’ve earned. Kansas might not be a great place to stop, unless you’re in Kansas City, but it’s a great place to live and the people there are unbelievable.”

Gary Patterson followed K-State assistant Gary Darnell (now the Texas A&M defensive coordinator) to Tennessee Tech. “I just felt like coaching was my niche,” Patterson says. “I was a guy who made some all-state teams in a smaller classification in high school and starting out from where I did, I just figured I’d be a high school coach and teacher. Then Coach Darnell gave me an opportunity. I’m just one of those guys who’s never been a quitter and I’m probably one of those guys who has outlasted my competition and been fortunate to have people give me an opportunity. They were people like Fran, who gave me the chance to be a coordinator at the Division I level, and Charlie Weatherbie, who took me with him to Navy when I was with him at Utah State.”

After two years coaching linebackers at Tennessee Tech Patterson made a decisive move to the West Coast by taking the linebacker job at California-Davis, a historically successful Division II that has produced former head coaches Jim Sochor and Bob Foster, current head coach Bob Biggs and former assistants such as Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti. University of Colorado head coach Dan Hawkins, Oregon defensive coordinator Nick Aliotti, Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarter-backs coach Paul Hackett and former NFL quarter-back Ken O’Brien.

“That’s probably one of the most instrumental moves as far as my career,” Patterson says. “They’ve won a lot of titles, put out a lot of good players, had a lot of good coaches. There was a way of doing things where I came from in the Midwest, and they taught me some different things. They were playing with some undersized guys and they didn’t have any scholarships and they were playing scholarship players and giving themselves a chance to win with their schemes and how they treated people. It was an interesting time.”

Patterson also learned the foundations of the 4-2-5 defensive scheme TCU uses today. The fundamental elements of the 4-2-5 are based on the old eight-man front, but Patterson learned to adapt and adjust to his team’s personnel and opponents.

“At Davis, it was a nickel package and passing concept and the blitzing concept,” Patterson says. “At Pittsburg State we used the 4-2 to stop the run and give us an eight-man front. You always have to alter it a little bit according to your conference. In the old WAC with BYU, San Diego State and all the wide-open offense we’re going back to in the Mountain West, we have a nickel package with the passing and the blitzing. In Conference USA, it’s more physical with a few teams that throw it around, so we’ve had to do both. It gives us the flexibility of being ready for both.”

“I’m one of those people who doesn’t want to wake up and not have any answers. I learned a lot of that at Kansas State, where our opponents had better people than us most of the time, so we had to be able to give our kids a slant, a blitz, a twist, change up coverages, give our kids a chance to compete. Some people watch us and call it a little bit crazy, but my wife calls me that, too, and she still likes me.”

From there, Patterson’s career took him to Cal Lutheran (defensive coordinator), Pittsburg State (linebackers) and Sons of Sigma Sigma State (defensive coordinator). Each stop played a part in Patterson’s growth. Even a few weeks in 1992 working without pay for the Oregon Lightning Bolts in a now defunct spring pro league taught him a valuable lesson.

“It’s one of those lessons learned,” Patterson says, laughing. “It’s like taking that one chance in the stock market on a high-risk stock and it doesn’t work so you just put it back in your pocket and say, ‘we’ll never do that again.’”

Patterson’s big break came soon after when Weatherbie hired him to coach the secondary at Utah State. He followed Weatherbie to Navy in 1995 and played a more national schedule for the first time. He then joined Franchione at TCU as the defensive coordinator at New Mexico in 1996-97 and learned to apply his system in the pass-oriented WAC/Mountain West. When the Lobos were 9-2 in 1997 and Franchione took over at TCU in 1998, Patterson came with him and helped establish a defense that would serve as the foundation for a team that rose from 1-10 in 1997 to 7-5, 8-4, and 10-2 over the next three years.

By the time Franchione left for Alabama in December, 2000, Patterson was ready to apply for the TCU head coaching job. He had come in second in the head coaching search at New Mexico under both coaches to current Lobos coach Rocky Long and learned a lot from the process that he applied to the interview process at TCU. Franchione’s coordinators didn’t also go out on the road recruiting, but Patterson still played a major role in the evaluation of defensive recruits. He also helped oversee the offseason program, directing from strength and conditioning to academics and the visits from hundreds of high school coaches that visit TCU each spring.

“Every place is different, the situation is different and the people are different,” Patterson says, “but the people who can change with the type of people and situations going on are going to be the ones who are very successful.” It’s also the coaches who can maintain a very disciplined program but still understand the needs of the kind of kids who are coming out of high school now, the kids from one-parent and no-parent families.

“You’ve got to understand your role in helping them set goals and learn time management. Those are key issues if you want to stay in the profession, because a lot of times success starts with growing your kids up and not letting them rule the assignment, but still understanding their needs are important.
“We focus on instilling and reinforcing two qualities in our players — humility and accountability. These are key to getting anywhere in life, on or off the field.”

You can win all the games you want to, but in five years if you haven’t helped a kid at least have a chance to be successful when they leaves then you’ve failed.

“You still have to win ballgames or you don’t keep your job. That’s still how we’re going to be judged as coaches, but the bottom line is if you can help players do all those other things then you’ve completed the circle.”

When TCU announced Patterson’s hiring, a lot of college football insiders had to ask “who?” Patterson understood.

“It’s always hard to get the first one, whether it’s that first assistant’s job, that first coordinator’s job,” Patterson says. “It’s always going to have your name mentioned in a positive light, it’s also an awkward situation for a head coach to try to get someplace else. I’ve always been a person who’s tried to manage it.”

Patterson and his staff were put to the test immediately. After coaching his first game as a head coach in a bowl, Patterson opened his first season as a head coach at Nebraska, without 28 seniors who had completed their eligibility the season before, including All-American tailback LaDainian Tomlinson. The Horned Frogs also moved from the WAC to Conference USA that year.

The Horned Frogs final season came together in time to beat both Louisville and Southern Miss in the season and earn a bid to the GalleryFurniture.com Bowl. Patterson’s standing with the fans and the media didn’t improve when starting quarterback Casey Printers left the following January because he wanted to pass the ball more, and the situation turned from tense to worse when the Horned Frogs opened the 2002 season by blowing a 15-point lead in a 39-36 overtime loss at Cincinnati. That week, a local newspaper columnist wrote that if Patterson didn’t win that week at Northwestern he should be fired.

“I’ve always been one who put a lot more pressure on myself than everybody else did,” Patterson says. “As a coach always know that if you’re someone who gets caught up in reading the paper, you let all that get to you and you don’t sleep, you’re in trouble.

“We knew that first year when we came back late in the season to beat Louisville and Southern Miss to go to a bowl game that it was one of the best coaching jobs I’d been around. Then to come and blow the lead against Cincinnati and lose in overtime, we understood what was going on and what we had to do.

“But at the same time, we didn’t have a lot of time to think about it because we had played at Cincinnati on a Monday and we had to travel to Northwestern to play a day game that next Saturday. We didn’t have time to worry. We just knew we had a job to do and we went out and did it.”

The Horned Frogs won that game 48-24 and went on to win their next eight games, nine of their next 10 overall, and finished with a 10-2 record, a conference championship, a Liberty Bowl victory over Colorado State and one of the nation’s top-ranked defenses.

Everybody was shocked, but we weren’t,” Patterson says. “We had eight guys off that team go to NFL camps.”

When TCU entered the 2003 season with only 11 starters and lukewarm expectations from the pre-season polls, the Horned Frogs simply went back to work and opened the season with 10 consecutive victories, climbing their way through the rankings until they reached No.10 in the national polls and forced a national debate on their place in the BCS standings. Before the debate could be answered, however, the Horned Frogs lost 40-28 at Southern Miss in late November.

“We tried to live a dream but we came up just a little bit short,” Patterson says. “If someone tells me I can be 11-2 every year, I’ll take it. I don’t think a lot of people, in this day and age with 85 scholarships, understand how hard it is just to win 10 games.”

The Horned Frogs still finished the season with an 11-2 record, and between the BCS debate and five nationally televised games, Patterson found himself being mentioned for the Arizona head coach vacancy, as well as rumored jobs at Clemson and Auburn that never came open. While Patterson admits it’s nice in some ways to have your name mentioned in a positive light, it’s also an awkward situation for a head coach with a lot to be excited about in his current job.

“My philosophy has been to leave the place better than when I got there,” Patterson says. “If it’s in the cards to get to another place that’s fine, but be happy where you’re at. Too many times too many people get someplace else, and as soon as they get there they’re trying to figure out how fast they can get someplace else, I’ve always been a person who’s tried to enjoy where I am, wherever that is.

If TCU is my last stop, then that would be awesome because of the way they treat us and the things we’ve been able to accomplish.”

Leaving TCU would take a lot more than money or the opportunity to play in a major conference to change Patterson’s mind. He’s looking for the kind of intangibles that don’t come with dollars and national prestige.
“It would have to be the right situation,” Patterson says. “Too many people jump for the wrong reasons. They pay me well here, we have good kids to coach, I have a good staff and a good administration and the people here are wonderful. Anybody who’s ever been at TCU who isn’t here anymore will tell you this place is a gold mine because of the way people treated them, so it would take a very special place to get me to move.”

Instead of worrying about other jobs Patterson is spending his time and energy trying to make the most out of his current situation at TCU.

“The biggest thing I’ve learned about that is you don’t worry about those things you don’t have control over,” Patterson says. “The only thing we can do here is just keep winning ball games, and if we keep winning ball games we’ll stay in the lineup anyway.”

Winning ball games means the Horned Frogs must continue to improve across the board, on and off the field. On the field, the TCU staff must continue to excel in the areas of player scouting and development. Texas, Texas A&M, Oklahoma and Texas Tech will continue to sign most of the obvious talent in Texas, so TCU must continue to look for undiscovered gems like 1,000-yard rushers LaDainian Tomlinson, Lonna Hobbs and Robert Merrill.

Hobbs and Merrill offer just one example out of many possibilities of TCU’s ability to replace departed and injured players. When injuries piled up early in the 2002 season, Patterson pulled the redshirt off Hobbs midway through the season and he finished with 1,029 yards in just eight games. When senior starter Ricky Madison suffered a season-ending injury early in 2003 and Hobbs got off to a slow start with his own injuries, Merrill came off the bench as a redshirt freshman and rushed for 1,107 yards.

“We feel like we’re earning a strong reputation in this state of being a great evaluation staff, finding guys outside the radar,” Patterson says. “The other part of that is the developmental phase. We still don’t put our coordinators on the road recruiting, because we want them running our offseason programs and academics. We also have a really good strength coach (Don Sommer) and we put a lot of emphasis on that. We feel like we need to grow kids up physically, but we also need to grow them up mentally, too, because some of them are going to have to play as redshirt freshmen. You have to start in January and not wait until August so we can help them through the maturity process and get them game ready.”

That process has helped send 38 players to NFL camps in the past six years, but those players aren’t the only keys to TCU’s roster.

“We try to keep the chiefs at 20 percent and the rest at 80 percent, so you always have a team that’s a blue-collar, hard working team,” Patterson says. “We like to have guys like (defensive back) Jason Goss, a guy who was an overachiever and went out to play the Arizona Cardinals.”

Patterson has also helped an underachieving football program become more marketable. Average attendance rose to 31,620 in 2000, the first time the Horned Frogs averaged more than 30,000 since the demise of the Southwest Conference, and then slipped when Franchisee and Tomlinson left. The Horned Frogs drew an average attendance of over 31,000 per game last season. Between increased ticket sales and other football-related revenue and TCU’s fund raising efforts, the football program now has a new practice field built on a foundation that could someday be converted into an indoor facility.

TCU’s private-school enrollment of approximately 8,800 students barely compares to the enrollment at Texas and Texas A&M, but TCU’s athletic department has improved its situation by reaching out to families from the Dallas-Forth Worth metropolis. The Bleacher Creatures allows kids ages 6-13 to get involved with the program at home games, even running the length of the field with the TCU mascot before the game. The group included 50 kids when it started in 2001, and approximately 1,000 participated before the Frog’s final home game against Cincinnati in 2003.

“The business side of it becomes so big that sometimes coaches forget to enjoy people,” Patterson says. “We try to enjoy people here. Besides winning, one of the reasons why we’ve raised our attendance is that we’ve allowed our community to touch us.

“In every place is different and Fort Worth is more family oriented, so that’s the direction we’ve gone. We’re seeing more kids, more young people. We’re attracting Texas or Texas A&M grad who loves football but they have a 3- and 5-year-old and they can’t get down to those games, so now they’re coming to our games and becoming season-ticket holders.”

Patterson also does his part through public speaking and music. Patterson played in bands when he was younger, still writes music and favors anything from oldies to classic rock and country. “It’s not unusual for him to be seen out two-stepping with his wife Kelsey at a Fort Worth honky tonk or show up with his guitar at a family-oriented event in the Fort Worth area so he can play and sing with the kids.” According to one media report, he’s been known to pull off an entertaining version of “Old MacDonald Had A Farm.”

“Writing and being a musician and being a football coach is kind of contradictory, but that’s kind of my release,” Patterson says. “I can go home at night, pick up the guitar and play a little bit and not think about anything.”

Of course, Patterson will also be the first to admit that all the music, good intentions, graduation rates, public appearances and marketing in the world won’t mean a thing if the Horned Frogs don’t keep winning year after year. If I was an AD out there I’d be looking for a guy who has a connection with his kids, who takes academics seriously and still wins ball games. Someone who can balance all of it,” Patterson says. “But winning is still how you judge a good coach. People want to know if you’ve been able to be successful over the test of time, like a Joe Paterno, a Bobby Bowden, those people who have been successful over the years in different situations.”

The Patterson Profile

High School: Pawnee Heights, Kansas (1978)
College: Kansas State (1983), Bachelor’s in Physical Education; and Tennessee Tech (1984), Master’s in Educational Admin.
Family: Wife Kelsey and children Josh (18), Cade (11) and Blake (7)

Playing Experience
1978-79: Dodge City Community College
1980-81: Kansas State

Coaching Experience
1982: Kansas State (Graduate Assistant)
1983-84: Tennessee Tech (Linebackers)
1986-87: UC Davis (Linebackers)
1987: Cal Lutheran (Defensive Coordinator)
1988: Pittsburg (KS) State (Linebackers)
1989-91: Sonoma (CA) State (Defensive Coordinator)
1992: Oregon Lightning Bolts
1992-94: Utah State (Secondary)
1995: Navy (Secondary)
1996-97: New Mexico (Defensive Coordinator/Safeties)
1998-2000: TCU (Defensive Coordinator/Safeties)
2000-Present: TCU (Head Coach)

“My family comes first. But, my family is a large group that contains about 100 football players. I have a feeling of responsibility with all these players and their futures. I hope they sense that, and I think they do.”

This article originally appeared in American Football Monthly magazine as “Gary Patterson: The Next Level” and was written by Richard Scott. The TRAD would like to thank Rex Lardner, the managing editor of American Football Monthly magazine, for his generosity in allowing us to reprint it here. Statistics have been adjusted to reflect current standings since this article’s original publication in August 2004.
I am often asked by colleagues why I have continued my involvement with Acacia beyond my college years. I hope it is as true for you as it has been for me that my undergraduate Acacia experience enriched my college experience, teaching me valuable skills and important life lessons that continue to benefit my personal life and career. I want to help today’s undergraduates benefit from the same life-shaping Acacia experience. Let me explain why I believe this is more important than ever.

Many of us grew up in a simpler world where we walked to school (five miles uphill through the snow, both ways!) and may have never even shared a room. iPods, and may have never even shared a room. However, a higher percentage of young men enter college today than ever before. For those young men fortunate to have chosen to attend college today they reach a decreasing percentage of today’s youth. Young men today often grow up in a world of scheduled activities, computer games and human service projects. These are life experiences and career skills that aren’t learned by simply living in a dorm or apartment and attending classes.

Acacia stands apart from many other fraternities in its emphasis on imparting values and preparing tomorrow’s community and business leaders. This is the reason why I remain involved in Acacia as an alumnus.

Acacia chapters are true learning organizations. As associations of college or university students, chapters have limited institutional memories. Our chapters must be continually renewed and Acacia’s values and programs reinforced. And from time to time, youthful mistakes and lapses in judgment occur, despite best efforts and good intentions. That’s why continued alumni involvement in our chapters as alumni advisors, house corporation members and role models is so important. Acacia’s strongest chapters have active alumni involvement.

I encourage you to get involved if you live near an active chapter or colony. Although I live a continent away from the Cornell Chapter, I’ve had the opportunity to remain involved with Acacia undergraduates and Acacia alumni from many chapters as a house corporation member at the California Chapter in Berkeley. While this may have contributed to a few premature grey hairs over the years, it has also been a source of new friendships and accomplishment. Many of my fellow board members are men with successful careers and families that I first met as undergraduates. They may not have recognized the full value of their Acacia experience when they graduated, but with age comes wisdom and they have returned as alumni to give back to Acacia.

Many alumni do not live near Acacia chapters. That’s why our continuing and increased financial support of the Fraternity through the Foundation is so important. Acacia must expand its professional staff and increase the frequency and duration of staff visits to chapters to successfully reinforce Acacia’s values and deliver its leadership programs. Elsewhere in this issue of the TRIAD, International President Dave Allen describes an exciting new brotherhood membership education initiative to be presented at the 2006 Conclave. The Foundation is pleased to help support this initiative and hope that we can count on your financial help to make it possible.

Fraternally,
William A. Utic, Cornell ’74
President
Acacia Fraternity Foundation

President’s Club ($250 - $499)
Allan Ryo Hirusaka, California
Donald Edward Jones Jr., Colorado
Timothy John Saffell, Colorado
Daniel D. Bayston, Illinois
George W. Sorells, Indiana
Michael Patrick Fogarty, Indiana
Christopher B. Carpenter, Indiana
Ronald K. Peden, Kansas

Founder’s Club ($1,000 - $4,999)
George C. Woolsey, California
Jack R. Burchfield, Central Oklahoma
Dean R. Blakens, Colorado
William A. Utic, Cornell
Larry E. Schroeder, Georgia
Scott James Houston, Indiana
Richard E. Ford, Indiana
John B. Pugh, Iowa State
Clyde E. Kendzierski, Long Beach State
Elbridge Bud Griffin Jr., Oklahoma
John W. Wedgewood, Purdue
John C. Barber M.D., Purdue
Douglas R. Horth, Purdue
Don C. Whitaker, Southern California
Ronald T. Hopkins, Syracuse
Ronald D. Hill, Washington State

Loyalty Club ($500 - $999)
Woodrow W. Mann, Arkansas
Daniel Brian Williams, California
David L. Allen, Indiana
Gordon John Duer III, Indiana
James T. Ellis, Indiana
L. Craig Fulmer, Indiana
Steven Kent Haines, Indiana
Bruce F. Garnard, Kansas State
Gregory J. Hamer Sr., Louisiana State
Jeffrey Jay Greenberger, Miami of Ohio
Clay Logan Niemeyer, Ohio State
Leonard W. Kearney, Oregon State
James E. Hayes, Purdue
William H. Strong, Purdue
Paul Van Stevens, Southern California
Lowery Lamar Tims, Texas
John B. Lane, Vermont

Century Club ($100 - $250)
John A. Ross, Arizona
P. Roger Pankey, Arizona
Ollie L. Blan Jr., Arkansas
Stephen M. Golden M.D., Boston
Daniel Allan Lee, Cal Poly/Pomona
Ernest C. Burnough, California

Loyalty Club ($500 - $999)
Geoffrey E. Hensel, Purdue

2005-2006 Foundation Membership

Michael J. Bolton, California
Randolph S. Friedman, California
Keith G. Wallace, California
Mark James Brown, California
Jonas Benjamin Miller, California
Steven Daniel Ireland, California University of PA
Gregory James Owen, Carlton
Richard W. Blowers, Central Missouri State
Howard E. Dunilson, Cincinnati
Franklin L. Pattan, Cincinnati
Robert C. Rupert, Cincinnati
John B. Skelly, Cincinnati
Donald B. Bryant, Cincinnati
Patrick Aaron Smiths, Colorado
Martin E. Hulquist, Colorado
Robert T. Treasure M.D., Colorado
Barry J. Lyfer, Colorado
Albert C. Kemper, Colorado State
Ronald F. Tesarik, Cornell
John A. Homeir, Eastern Illinois
Robert A. Wilkinson, Evanville
Thomas J. Lankford, Evansville
Edward M. Felegy, George Washington
Min Leong, Georgia
Donald P. Doherty, Georgia
Scott Michael Cummings, Illinois
Arthur Edward Martes, Illinois
Robert J. Svatos, Illinois
Robert D. Walker, Illinois

I hope it is as true for you as it has been for me that my undergraduate Acacia experience enriched my college experience, teaching me valuable skills and important life lessons that continue to benefit my personal life and career. I want to help today’s undergraduates benefit from the same life-shaping Acacia experience. Let me explain why I believe this is more important than ever.

Many of us grew up in a simpler world where we walked to school (five miles uphill through the snow, both ways!) and may have never even shared a room. iPods, and may have never even shared a room. However, a higher percentage of young men enter college today than ever before. For those young men fortunate to have chosen to attend college today they reach a decreasing percentage of today’s youth. Young men today often grow up in a world of scheduled activities, computer games and human service projects. These are life experiences and career skills that aren’t learned by simply living in a dorm or apartment and attending classes.

Acacia stands apart from many other fraternities in its emphasis on imparting values and preparing tomorrow’s community and business leaders. This is the reason why I remain involved in Acacia as an alumnus.

Acacia chapters are true learning organizations. As associations of college or university students, chapters have limited institutional memories. Our chapters must be continually renewed and Acacia’s values and programs reinforced. And from time to time, youthful mistakes and lapses in judgment occur, despite best efforts and good intentions. That’s why continued alumni involvement in our chapters as alumni advisors, house corporation members and role models is so important. Acacia’s strongest chapters have active alumni involvement.

I encourage you to get involved if you live near an active chapter or colony. Although I live a continent away from the Cornell Chapter, I’ve had the opportunity to remain involved with Acacia undergraduates and Acacia alumni from many chapters as a house corporation member at the California Chapter in Berkeley. While this may have contributed to a few premature grey hairs over the years, it has also been a source of new friendships and accomplishment. Many of my fellow board members are men with successful careers and families that I first met as undergraduates. They may not have recognized the full value of their Acacia experience when they graduated, but with age comes wisdom and they have returned as alumni to give back to Acacia.

Many alumni do not live near Acacia chapters. That’s why our continuing and increased financial support of the Fraternity through the Foundation is so important. Acacia must expand its professional staff and increase the frequency and duration of staff visits to chapters to successfully reinforce Acacia’s values and deliver its leadership programs. Elsewhere in this issue of the TRIAD, International President Dave Allen describes an exciting new brotherhood membership education initiative to be presented at the 2006 Conclave. The Foundation is pleased to help support this initiative and hope that we can count on your financial help to make it possible.

Fraternally,
William A. Utic, Cornell ’74
President
Acacia Fraternity Foundation
2005-2006 Foundation Membership (CONT.)

Richard W. Bogan, Northwestern
John W. Plattner, Northwestern
Robert Winkle, Northwestern
Edward H. Thiele, Northwestern
Frank T. Hulbert, Missouri
Dr. Richard Zehrbach, Ohio
Robert D. Betz (D), Ohio
Gary L. Standeaux, Oklahoma
Dr. Shelby D. Hunt, Ohio
James Larry Raney Ph.D., Ohio
Kevin Michael Ivers, Ohio
J. Scott Celadon, Ohio
Robert L. Hurni, Ohio State
Ray Baker, Ohio State
Keith S. Bennett, Oklahoma
Blaine H. Smith Jr., Oklahoma
L. Richard Iorio, Oklahoma
John M. Mackay, Oklahoma State
Dennis Edward Doesh, Oklahoma State
B.J. Smith, Oklahoma State
Donald W. Dauterman, Oregon State
Jim M. Lasher, Oregon State
Harrison W. Skipworth, Ohio State
Paul A. Raab, Oregon State
Michael David Mallory, Oregon State
Thomas F. Mulhern, Penn State
Robert H. Goodman, Penn State
Jack F. Bastan, Penn State
Marvin R. Dunlap, Penn State
Harold L. Moore, Penn State
Robert W. Fishburg, Penn State
Kevin R. Cheesbrough, Penn State
Paul J. Hryjak, Penn State
Scott Christopher Graham, Penn State
Alan J. Spindler, Purdue
William J. Greer, Purdue
Theodore R. Bertain, Purdue
Dr. Ernest W. Scheuer, Purdue
Robert E. Combs, Purdue
Edwin R. Key, Purdue
George E. Gillespie, Purdue
James T. Bruther, Purdue
Richard L. Pottinger, Purdue
James F. Smith III, Purdue
Kenneth Cranston, Pennsylvania
David E. Conner, Purdue
Eric A. Rasmussen, Purdue
Steven Robert Hill, Purdue
John Michael Binnie, Purdue
David John Ritz, Purdue
Brian Matthews Griffm, Purdue

Robert Richard Halderman, Purdue
Nicholas Ray Curtis, Purdue
Edward B. Knorr, Rensselaer
William C. Weaver Jr., Rensselaer
Roger G. Moras, Rensselaer
Robert V. Moel, Rensselaer
Dominic Andrew Nelson, Saint Cloud State
Walter D. Nielsen, San Jose State
James M. Spence, San Jose State
James R. Speece Jr., Shippensburg
David A. Prosser, Shippensburg
Christopher Culin Tate, Shippensburg
David B. Fischer, Southern California
Gilbert B. Siegel, Southern California
Charles L. Schneider, Southern California
Lee M. Evans, Southern California
cdb: William G. Foster USN RET, Syracuse
Donald C. Hening, Syracuse
Marshall E. Kanaake, Tennessee
Tamim A. Aboualkhalil, Texas
O. L. Moore Jr., Texas
Richard E. Holloway, Texas
John R. Gorman, Texas
Jefferson Daniel Cheshier, Texas
Joseph F. Hook, UCLA
Norman A. Stewart, UCLA
James P. Keagan, Vermont
Richard P. Milne, Vermont
George F. Fenton Sr., Washington State
Sherman C. Jensen, Washington State
John N. Hazelwood, Washington State
Diane L. Stowe, Washington State
Glenn L. Hower, Washington State
Dale A. Kjagg, Washington State
Paul B. Goodman, Washington State
Donald H. Hansen, Wisconsin
Robert C. Wheaton M.D., Wisconsin
Neal E. Anderson, Wisconsin
Scott David Kinninger, Wisconsin
Adam Lee Larson, Wisconsin
Mark Duane Cranston, Wyoming

Hypotenuse Club ($5 - $549)
A. Fraser Parillo Jr., Idaho State
James M. Waterhouse, Arizona State
James W. Crum, Arkansas
William Robert Day, Bloomsburg
Wayne G. Sharpe Jr., Boston
Robert E. Jacobsen, California
Robert L. Billin, California
Gilbert P. Mauch, California

Richard E. Lodewyke, Minnesota
George G. Gorbatenko, California
Kevin Joseph Lines, California
Jack R. Sandridge, Central Missouri State
Harold E. Heath, Central Oklahoma
Charles L. Schneider, Central Nebraska
Robert H. Purcell Jr., Colorado
Travis Carter Armstrong, Colorado State
Brian R. Sivilo, Cornell
James M. Symons, Cornell
Steven H. Prince, Cornell
Oris H. White Jr., Denver
Aaron Fickes Parker, East Stroudsburg
James L. Emnette, Franklin
Randy Ray Nepomuceno, Franklin
Pennsylvania State Univeristy
Pennsylvania State Univeristy
Pennsylvania State Univeristy
Pennsylvania State Univeristy

Burt E. Swanson, Minnesota
Robert B. Phillips, Minnesota
Douglas J. Lary, Minnesota
George L. Carlson, Minnesota
Charles B. Hall, Missouri
Richard Harold Johnston, Missouri
Edward A. Moss, Missouri School of Mines
Ronnie L. Genske, Nebraska
Van C. Wrenn, Nebraska
Eric Marvin Davison, Nebraska
Charles L. Munson, Northern Colorado
Jon A. Rogers, Northern Colorado
Arthur C. Hoelck, Northwestern
John B. Hubbell, Northwestern
Warren F. Fugis, Northwestern
Keith B. James, Northwestern
William R. Ecke, Northwestern
Cash D. Russell, Ohio
Walter L. Kutcher, Ohio
Allen R. Kinney, Ohio
John R. Finley, Ohio
Ray V. Bethel, Ohio
Howard A. Longfellow, Ohio State
Charles H. Hummel, Ohio State
George H. Wadge, Ohio State
Bradford F. Phillips, Ohio State
Paul Dennis Carnine, Illinois Wesleyan
David G. Perkins, Illinois Wesleyan
John David Ulrich, Illinois Wesleyan
Patrick Byrne McGaith Ph.D., Illinois Wesleyan
Paul Dennis Carnine, Illinois Wesleyan
Rue Kent Bates, Indiana
William T. Cunningham, Indiana
Michael D. Tucker, Indiana
James R. Guthrie, Indiana
Craig Michael Thierian, Indiana
Brian M. Hall, Indiana
Clyde A. Williams, Kansas
John W. Irwin, Kansas State
Marcus William Mountford, Kansas State
William Michael Carpenter, Kansas State
Stephen E. Mauszay, Kansas State
Scott A. Palumbo, Lack Haven
Donald E. Allingman, Long Beach State
William T. Bradford, Long Beach State
Charles R. Hutchinson Jr., Long Beach State
Stanley L. Stwart, Miami of Ohio
Warren Mark Flowers, Miami of Ohio
Thomas B. Stryer, Miami of Ohio
John Richard Keiblely, Miami of Ohio
Rollyn L. Storey, Michigan
Hugh Rose, Michigan
William A. Wiclo, Michigan
Robert S. Bristol, Michigan
Bruce J. Goll, Minnesota

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Memorial Gifts to the Annual Fund (2005-2006)

Joseph L. Prior, Cincinnati — given in memory of Gerald A. Shiffler, Cincinnati
Robert C. Trotter, Cincinnati — given in memory of George F. Patterson Jr., Cincinnati
Albott Fellows, Iowa State — given in memory of Donald G. Larson, Iowa State
Irving Field, Missouri — given in memory of George F. Patterson Jr., Cincinnati
Eugene B. Bluffshaft, Northwestern — given in memory of Donald R. Cunningham, Nebraska
Joe T. Jones, Purdue — given in memory of Clarence E. Jeter, Jr., Purdue
Lawrence D. Jones, Purdue — given in memory of Clarence D. Eyer Jr., Purdue
Robert V. Moel, Rensselaer — given in memory of Lawrence F. Schwartzs, Rensselaer
David R. Quick, Rensselaer — given in memory of Mark E. Mangels, Rensselaer
L. Kenneth Cranston, Pennsylvania
Edward L. Widener (D), Purdue
John W. Wright, Purdue
Robert Gains, Young, Purdue
Leon William Stille Jr., Penn State
James A. Hubert, Purdue
Jasen S. Butter, Purdue
Lincoln A. Peeler, Purdue
2005-2006 Scholarship Recipients

Acacia Fraternity Foundation scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of their ability to balance the pursuit of a degree with the development of leadership skills, extracurricular participation and the building of a sense of social responsibility, which are all necessary attributes for successful growth in one's life and career.

Michael Pastko, Purdue
Jason Gass, Missouri
Eric Wheeler, Northwestern Oklahoma State
Matthew Karam, Ohio State
Stephen Cooper, Syracuse
Ryan Lindell, Oregon State

AFF Scholarship (Spring 2006)
Jacob Sloan, Texas
Kevin May, Wisconsin
Michael Pastko, Purdue
Gregory Hicks, Indiana
Lane Roney, Kansas State
Simon Spogren, Syracuse
Kelsey Gingrich, Penn State
Nicholas Lawson, Indiana University of PA
Brett Eakin, Kansas State
Reg Aldrich, Central Oklahoma
Anthony Mondi, Penn State
Robert Gardner, Miami of Ohio
Luke Beamer, California
Zachary Wilson, Miami of Ohio

Iowa State Chapter Scholarship
Craig Buske
Christopher Demaria
Mark Eckman
Vincent Fadden
Martin Gran
Adam Hollis
Joshua Haugo
Jared Kline
John Kvinge
Matthew Landherr
Nathan Porter
Clark Richardson
Jonathan Rokhar
Aaron Rosheim
Phillip Sherman
Jonathan Vaage
John Vogel
Michael Woolley

Arthur D. Lautzenheiser Memorial Scholarship (Indiana)
Andrew Cvengros

Acacia’s Own Piano Man

Scott Houston, Indiana ’80, says he can teach anyone how to play piano like a professional in a matter of hours — not years! In 2003, Scott began showing public television viewers how to “play piano in a flash” through his wildly successful pledge special of the same name. Seen by millions of viewers nationwide since its debut in March 2003, Play Piano In A Flash has been a monetary windfall for stations carrying the program. Among the highest-grossing pledge specials in public television history, the airing stations have raised more than $14 million to date. His weekly television series, The Piano Guy with Scott Houston, is now in its fifth season airing on public television stations, and continues to delight, inform and entertain thousands of viewers across the nation.

A highly sought-after motivational speaker, Houston has lectured widely throughout the United States and Canada at nearly 150 colleges, universities and public television stations over the last seven years. More than 15,000 people have attended Scott’s workshops, many of whom have realized their life-long musical dream of having fun playing their favorite tunes on the piano. Aimed at amateur musicians, Houston’s highly comedic, yet extremely educational look at playing the piano is a hit with attendees.

Houston is an experienced music professional with more than 20 years in the business. A trained percussionist, Houston studied jazz at the Indiana University School of Music. During his undergraduate years at IU, Scott held Acacia leadership positions as Junior Dean and Venerable Dean. After graduation, Scott joined the National Headquarters staff as a Leadership Consultant (1985-86), travelling the country assisting chapters and expanding Acacia onto new campuses. Following his journey as a leadership consultant, Houston spent five years as president of a music publishing business, and played keyboards and percussion in rock, funk and jazz ensembles. In 1997, he began exploring effective means to teach adults who were not musicians how to simply have fun playing piano.

Scott was also elected to the Acacia Fraternity Foundation, where he served as Secretary-Treasurer (1989-91). In honor of his efforts, Scott is a deserving recipient of the Fraternity’s Order of Pythagoras and the Award of Merit. Scott is still a familiar face to Acacia and has been a guest speaker at numerous Conclaves and ALAs, most recently the 2004 Centennial Conclave, where he presented his Piano in a Flash program.
Iowa City, Iowa — The Eastern Iowa Acacia Alumni Association held its winter meeting in January 2006. A number of topics were discussed, including a return of the chapter to the Iowa campus. Any brother in the Iowa area interested in participating in the alumni group, or in receiving the newsletter, should contact Association President Aaron Morrow at: P.O. Box 497, Princeton, IA 52768; amorrow836@hotmail.com; (319) 330-1788. EAAA members include: (front, L-R) Devin Johnson, Aaron Morrow and Dan Wilkes; (back, L-R) Bryk Lancaster, Joe Wilging, Doug Wilson, Josh Nelson, Chris Berry and Jeremy Heyer.

Jericho, VT — Vermont Acacia, Inc. is proud to announce that the process to restart the active chapter in Vermont has begun. We will be petitioning the University of Vermont Greek System during the 2006-2007 school year to reorganize, and hope to begin rushing in the fall of 2007. Anyone who knows of a prospective rush at the University of Vermont for 2006 or 2007, or who is interested in helping to restart the Vermont Chapter, is encouraged to contact Ray Chamberland, President of Vermont Acacia, Inc., at (802) 343-3801 or via eMail at ray@vtacacia.com. Vermont alumni pictured include: (kneeling, L-R) Jon Kantor and Louie Phelps; (standing, L-R) Ray Chamberland, Joe Prandini, Jacob Feenstra, Abe Prandini, Randy Jorgensen, and J. DeMelo.

Bloomington, Indiana — During a recent visit to his alma mater, California resident Mike Shelby (second from right), Indiana ‘73, was joined by fellow alumni for a night of reminiscing. Seated (left to right) are 1970s Indiana alums David Ferguson, Rusty Fishel, Christopher Drossos, Kim Kehmmerer, Bud Thum, Michael Pob David Fogler, James Davis, Shelby and George “Tad” Huntington III.

Eastern Iowa Acacia Alumni Association

Illinois Chapter Prepares For Centennial Celebration

On April 28, 2006, a group of Masons inaugurated the presence of Acacia at the University of Illinois in Champaign. Another major event had just occurred in America 10 days before — the great San Francisco earthquake. But like the city of San Francisco, Acacia at Illinois was destined to prevail.

On April 28, 2006, a group of alumni from the Acacia board and other Chicago area members met for dinner to commemorate the anniversary of the chapter’s founding. It is likely that our founders were not thinking in terms of such longevity when they determined that the strong interest and desire for a new kind of fraternity on the U of I campus would result in a chapter operating continuously for 100 years.

The significance of this accomplishment has not been lost on the brothers of the Illinois Chapter. The chapter alumni board and the active membership have been planning for months to celebrate this significant milestone at U of I’s Homecoming in Champaign on October 7. The concept of Homecoming, a tradition observed by every college and university in the U.S. (as well as many educational institutions around the world) was, in fact, originated by Illinois Acacian W. Elmer Ekblaw, who was initiated into the brotherhood in 1907.

For Centennial Celebration

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A survey of the 1,410 living alumni has already produced a list of nearly 100 brothers who have indicated plans to be in Champaign for the celebration beginning arranged. Information on the chapter’s website — www.acaciaheth.org — will provide further details as they become finalized. Every Acacian is invited to attend the celebration, along with their guests. For more information, please contact the following:

Michael Conniff, VP of Alumni Relations
mconniff@usa.net
(773) 793-3757

Art Mertes, Corp. Board President
amertes@synergylawgroup.com
(312) 953-0717

Mel Rapp
mrapp2@att.net
(630) 404-4994

Matt Sokoloff, Missouri ’04, was selected to be a contestant on the number one game show in America, Wheel of Fortune, where he winded up winning $10,700 and prizes. Sokoloff says he originally tried out for the Big XII College Week show, but was selected to appear on the regular show instead. “I was really excited when I got the letter and found out I was going to be on the show!”

Matt taped the show in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, as part of Welcome Aboard Week, where a cruise was offered as the main prize. The show aired in February and Sokoloff said he hosted a watch party that was attended by over 100 people, including his Acacia Fraternity brothers and friends.

“For me it was more nerve racking to watch the show than it was to tape it,” he confessed. His friends have harassed him, about the show’s “speed up” round, in which he and the two other contestants could not correctly guess the puzzle, “Sail off into the sunset.”

“It’s a lot more difficult to guess when you’re up there and under all that pressure,” he said. “Looking at it now, it’s hard to see how I didn’t guess it.”

Mizzou Brother Seeks Fortune On “The Wheel”
California Chapter Nearly Doubles In Size

For up-to-date news on chapters not listed, please contact the International Headquarters for contact information for Venerable Deans.

Bloomsburg
This past year has been a trying time for the Bloomsburg Chapter with finances and numbers, but we are doing our best to relieve ourselves of those problems. We have completed two small fundraisers that have helped us recover finances well and hopefully we can do our best to help our brotherhood grow.

We are proud to say we are in great standing with both Bloomsburg University and the surrounding community, representing what every fraternity should be. Our volunteer involvement has helped bring a better light to the image of Greek life at our university.

We feel that we are promoting ourselves through our good name and will continue to build upon our strong reputation with hopes that more young men will wish to experience fraternity life as a brother of Acacia. We hope to bring a new attitude and energy to the fraternity in the fall that will help us grow onward and upward.

California
In recent years UC-Berkeley has been plagued with a shrinking Greek community and a decreasing number of freshman that are interested in joining a fraternity. Our rush events have had to be revamped, our strategies adjusted and our dedication has certainly been tested. The task that has been laid in front of us is arduous, but despite the bleak outlook, the brothers have been able to pool together their skills and talents to push the house through these difficult times. The work has become tougher, but the California Chapter’s commitment to maintaining the excellence of Acacia has never been stronger.

It is well known that fraternities go through cycles of good years and bad years. After the graduation of a large pledge class that had carried the house through recent years, the chapter house has always been a source of great pride for all California Acarians, and recently the active chapter has been actively improving the house to make it one of the nicest houses on campus. Brothers recently repainted the house to its traditional white and have spent vast amounts of time installing wood floors in many of the bedrooms in the house. Although our house may not be the most expensive on campus, the chapter takes great pride in maintaining a house that is known as the cleanest and best maintained here at Cal. People who come to our house are always impressed with the amount of time and effort the chapter puts into maintaining the house compared with all other fraternities.

The California Chapter has become used to being one of the few chapters on the west coast, but recently our chapter has been able to become involved with some exciting new expansions on the west coast. For example, the USC Colony have made ties with some of the brothers here at the California Chapter, and despite our bitter football rivalry (we were the last team to beat them in two years before Texas beat them for the National Championship), the chapter has been actively helping the brothers at USC. During the USC vs. Cal football game the chapter hosted many brothers from USC and helped teach them the ways of our ritual. Another new interest group in the Bay Area at Menlo College has also been actively attempting to join our ranks as Acadians and the California Chapter has been spending a lot of time helping them get on their feet. Both groups are men of character and excellence and the chapter looks forward to extending the bonds of brotherhood with them.

The chapter’s recent experiences with new interest groups on the west coast has given us our first opportunity to really interact with Acarians outside of our chapter on a regular basis and it has been a pleasure to assist these great men in becoming a part of our Fraternity. On that note, the chapter greatly looks forward to meeting and seeing brothers from all over the nation this summer in St. Louis. This year’s national convclave promises to be a great one, and one that will guide the California Chapter to excellence in the future.

Carleton

After two successful rush classes in the 2005-2006 year, the Carleton Chapter has increased its active membership to 27. We are currently recruiting new members for the fall 2006 class, and have many prospective rushers showing interest in our chapter. The fall of 2005 heralded many victories for the Carleton Chapter, including the overall campus title for the annual Greek Olympics. It was a hard earned triumph that resulted from decisive victories in the beach volleyball, road hockey and football competitions.

The Carleton Chapter also continues to lead the university community in philanthropy. With 2005-06 activities including a Remembrance Day poppy drive to raise funds for veterans, participation in the battle against cystic fibrosis through Shineroma activities, and semi-annual bottle drives to raise funds for various local charities, we continue to be a positive force in the Ottawa community.

With these accomplishments in hand, we are looking forward to a year of great academic, athletic and social achievement. However, one goal stands out with particular resonance; and that is to make a significant dent in our financial obligations. We hope to achieve this by implementing an aggressive fundraising schedule. We also hope to engage our alumni in hopes of encouraging their support during these times of financial strain. Anyone wishing to make a donation to the Carleton Chapter can contact us at acaciacarleton@hotmail.com for more details.

We have also moved into a new 10-bedroom house with two large recreation rooms, two kitchens, four bathroom rooms and a large lawn. We hope to host many of our esteemed alumni in the coming summer months. Please don’t hesitate to stop by!

We have also launched a new website! While we have yet to finalize our content and branding, it does have many useful features, including a rush calendar, blog, photos, a roster of all active brothers and directions to the house. Please stop by to peruse the new site at www.carletonacacia.com.

Central Oklahoma
On April 29, the University of Central Oklahoma Chapter hosted its annual volleyball tournament. The tournament featured 23 teams competing in the double elimination for cash prizes and pride. The tournament began at 11:00 a.m. and concluded at 6:00 p.m. with The Ballers taking the claim as champions. The team consisted of Brothers Jared McAdams, Steven Meyer, Wade Concacio, and Eddie Edmonds.

The tournament, which serves as both a great fundraiser and brotherhood event, was a true success. Along with the volleyball tournament was an annual fish fry. The grandparents of Brothers John and Mark Peters hosted the fish fry. The turnout was great with over 250 members, alumni, prospective rushers, and guests present. This event also serves as our major year-end fundraiser.

Cornell
This year has been, without a doubt, the finest year Cornell Acacia has had in two decades. It is stunning to think that 20 years ago our chapter roster had dwindled to less than a dozen members, and that Acacia almost ceased to exist at Cornell University. In stark contrast to those dark times, we initiated 18 new brothers this year, including 15 in the spring semester, the main semester of rush for Cornell students. In less than a year, Cornell Acacia will celebrate 100 years of existence, a proud feat for all members past and present.

The fall semester started off with a BBQ, had some amazing social events in the middle, and ended with the initiation of three new brothers. Our chapter worked hard to increase
Positive Changes Abound For Illinois Brothers

Brothers of the Illinois Chapter.

After a successful spring rush, with the support of a social calendar encompassing eight sororities, several brotherhood events, and over ten chapter events, we are looking forward to expanding our membership. Due to our inherent ability to remain one of the premier fraternities on campus, we will be functioning at a maximum capacity of 43 members living in the house.

Along with the amplification of our membership base, our Fraternity has been able to improve many components of our inner fraternal experience as well. The appointment of a new food service manager has resulted in a much increased cooking regimen. Working with a rotating six-week schedule of differing meals, the chapter is very pleased with the chef provided by Foudini’s Catering Service. The implementation of several new policies regarding quiet time and study hours has been set in place in order to benefit all members of the chapter. A more strict adherence to these policies will most definitely yield the desired results, such as an increase in the house cumulative GPA. Along with the food situation, our technological state of affairs has noticeably improved as well. A computer lab — complete with three new computers, monitors, scanners, printers, and internet access — has been successfully installed in the basement of the house, away from all distraction.

The Illinois Chapter has also seen increased chapter attendance and participation due to a policy attaching social eligibility to chapter attendance. Alongside the physical betterment of the chapter, the financial status of the house has advanced as well. For the fall of 2005, roughly 95 percent of all membership dues have been paid in full. The remaining five percent of outstanding dues are currently on a payment plan. We feel that this can be accredited to a new structure of house bills, which itemize every cost that is covered by the dues. On another positive note, we operated effectively within our overall budget for the semester. We were forced to cut back in certain areas to account for hidden costs. However, these costs have been noted and will be accounted for by the next Executive Board.

As you all can see, the Illinois Chapter is undergoing many internal changes that are beginning the affect the chapter itself in a positive manner. We have realized many achievements outside the house as well. In the intramural sport realm, Illinois Acacia reached the semifinals for both soccer and football in the Greek leagues. We are also looking forward to another extremely successful basketball season this winter. Philanthropy-wise, we came in second place (out of 18 teams) in Delta Gamma’s annual Anchor Splash. We also finished within the top eight teams (out of 34 total) in Kappa Alpha Theta’s annual Theta Hoops basketball tournament.

We have also completed a strategic plan for our chapter entitled Realizing Our Potential. In accordance with the national strategic plan Rising to the Challenge, our newly developed document provides the Illinois Chapter with the long- and short-term goals and assessments necessary for our success on into the next century.

April 28, 2006 marked the Centennial Anniversary for the Illinois Chapter. We are looking forward to our Centennial Celebration taking place during the Homecoming Weekend.

Chapter News

Cornell Plans For Chapter Centennial

Brothers of the Cornell Chapter.

The biggest event will take place at the end of next school year, when Cornell Acacia celebrates its centennial. Our alumni and actives have been working together to plan many events for a large alumni reunion, and several key alumni and actives have been working together on a book project about the history of Cornell Acacia. Additionally, Brother Alumnus David Fischell returned to Ithaca to inform the actives that he, Brother Alumnus Bill Utic and others were going to host a party at the house in August 2007 for alumni and actives, that “would be the likes of which the house has never seen.” On behalf of all the actives, we can’t wait!

Several actives will eagerly attend Conclave in St. Louis this summer, and hope to bring many awards home to Cornell. In the Cornell Greek community, Acacia won the award for Outstanding Facility and Financial Management, and was nominated for several others, including Outstanding Chapter. We are all very proud of our successes this year, and look forward to many more great years in the next century of Cornell Acacia.

Illinois

Upon entering the 2005-06 academic year, the relocation of the Illinois Chapter house to 211 East Daniel promised to be the catalyst needed in order to initiate a holistic house realignment. From the revised allocation of house funds to the modification of ritual education, the house is now focusing its efforts inward in order to generate the desired outward results. We, as a chapter, are proud of all that has been accomplished in the past year and we are most definitely looking forward to our bright future atop the Greek fraternal system.

Following the initiation of 30 new members from the 2004-05 academic year, the Chapter has, yet again, initiated a well-rounded class of new men who embody the teachings, principles, and ideals for which Acacia stands. There were four neophytes who were unable to attend the fall 2005 I-Week due to personal obligations, however they will return during the spring of 2006 to satisfy their pledgership responsibilities and to complete their pre-membership education. With the addition of the aforementioned new initiates, the total number of active members is brought to 84. This number is representative of a healthy level at which the Illinois Chapter is able to operate and function.

At this time, we are looking forward to kicking off what we expect will be a successful spring rush. With the support of a social calendar encompassing eight sororities, several brotherhood events, and over ten chapter events, we are looking forward to expanding our membership. Due to our inherent ability to remain one of the premier fraternities on campus, we will be functioning at a maximum capacity of 43 members living in the house.

Along with the amplification of our membership base, our Fraternity has been able to improve many components of our inner fraternal experience as well. The appointment of a new food service manager has resulted in a much increased cooking regimen. Working with a rotating six-week schedule of differing meals, the chapter is very pleased with the chef provided by Foudini’s Catering Service. The implementation of several new policies regarding quiet time and study hours has been set in place in order to benefit all members of the chapter. A more strict adherence to these policies will most definitely yield the desired results, such as an increase in the house cumulative GPA. Along with the food situation, our technological state of affairs has noticeably improved as well. A computer lab — complete with three new computers, monitors, scanners, printers, and internet access — has been successfully installed in the basement of the house, away from all distraction.

The Illinois Chapter has also seen increased chapter attendance and participation due to a policy attaching social eligibility to chapter attendance. Alongside the physical betterment of the chapter, the financial status of the house has advanced as well. For the fall of 2005, roughly 95 percent of all membership dues have been paid in full. The remaining five percent of outstanding dues are currently on a payment plan. We feel that this can be accredited to a new structure of house bills, which itemize every cost that is covered by the dues. On another positive note, we operated effectively within our overall budget for the semester. We were forced to cut back in certain areas to account for hidden costs. However, these costs have been noted and will be accounted for by the next Executive Board.

As you all can see, the Illinois Chapter is undergoing many internal changes that are beginning the affect the chapter itself in a positive manner. We have realized many achievements outside the house as well. In the intramural sport realm, Illinois Acacia reached the semifinals for both soccer and football in the Greek leagues. We are also looking forward to another extremely successful basketball season this winter. Philanthropy-wise, we came in second place (out of 18 teams) in Delta Gamma’s annual Anchor Splash. We also finished within the top eight teams (out of 34 total) in Kappa Alpha Theta’s annual Theta Hoops basketball tournament.

We have also completed a strategic plan for our chapter entitled Realizing Our Potential. In accordance with the national strategic plan Rising to the Challenge, our newly developed document provides the Illinois Chapter with the long- and short-term goals and assessments necessary for our success on into the next century.

April 28, 2006 marked the Centennial Anniversary for the Illinois Chapter. We are looking forward to our Centennial Celebration taking place during the Homecoming Weekend.
Illinois Wesleyan Brothers Bounce Back Big Time

Chapter News

of 2006. Please contact us if you are interested in getting involved.

Feel free to stop on by and say hello to all the brothers at the University of Illinois. We’d love to see you!

Illinois Wesleyan

Over the past two years, the Illinois Wesleyan Chapter of Acacia has truly flourished. Despite changing houses and changes in the University’s Greek advising staff, the chapter has persevered, rolled with the punches and come out on top.

In the fall of 2004, the school year began with just seven Acacians, three of whom were beginning their first full year as active members. Fall rush proved to be a test of each individual’s rushing capabilities, and through the hard work of every member, the chapter pledged and initiated seven new members, doubling the house in a semester. The spring marked the initiation of three more new Acacians, and another six joined in the fall of 2005. In just three semesters, the chapter tripled in size, and with the surge of new members, many other aspects of the chapter begin to improve.

Acacia’s motto is Human Service and this chapter has taken this to heart. Over the course of the last two years, the Illinois Wesleyan Chapter of Acacia has participated in the Acacia Claus Toy Drive, held a can drive, done landscaping and grounds keeping for a local hospital and a local day care center, and held a benefit concert for a friend of the house who was seriously injured in a car accident.

The spirit of human service is reflected in the chapter’s everyday life. Each member is willing to help those in need, from moving furniture to pushing stalled cars to offering a helping hand with academics.

In the preamble of our constitution, it states that we are to “prepare ourselves as educated men, to take a more active part and to have a greater influence in the affairs of the community in which we may reside.” The Illinois Wesleyan Chapter of Acacia has been striving to do just that. Recently, the chapter received an award for highest new member GPA, and exceeded the Greek average on campus. Education is a major focus for the chapter, as well as campus involvement. Currently, Acacians serve as Treasurer and Vice President of Recruitment of the IWU Interfraternity Council, president of the Radical Liberals, and president of International House. Members are also involved with student senate, several music ensembles, Copaier Club (founded by an Acacian), intramural basketball, and a local softball league. Our Venerable Dean also helped organize a Fraternity President Round Table to promote the Greek community at Illinois Wesleyan.

The Acacians of IWU are a truly unique group of young men, diverse in background, culture, major, and ideology, and yet, our brotherhood is stronger than ever. We pride ourselves on being such a tight knit chapter, where every member knows every other member on a very personal level. Our growth and success over the last two years has only inspired further advancement. We want more members, more involvement, more philanthropic endeavors, and above all, to seek the truth, and knowing it, give light to those with whom we may be associated as we travel along life’s pathway.

The recent growth of the chapter has placed us in temporary housing for the coming year, and we see this as an opportunity to grow closer to our current members, show potential members the family that we’ve become, and to hone the rushing skills of our new members. We have enjoyed great success as of late, and we show no signs of stopping now. This chapter will be diving into next semester head on, and expecting nothing but the best from each and every member.

Indiana

The Indiana Chapter had a very eventful academic year. Last August we returned to a fully renovated chapter house thanks to our generous alumni and corporation board. These major improvements assisted greatly in rush. Brothers from other chapters were the first ones to spend time in the newly renovated house during the Acacia Leadership Academy.

There were two classes initiated during the school year. In October 2005 the chapter initiated 15 new brothers. That was followed by the initiation of 27 new brothers in February 2006, which brought our chapter roll to 2213. Our philanthropy events were well received. The Toys for Tots drive was a great success and it provided the brothers with the opportunity to personally recognize just how fortunate each of us is and how much we need to do to help those less fortunate than we are. The Water Ball competition also raised funds for Bloomington groups. The Bloomington Fire Department is a great co-sponsor of this event that involves other campus organizations as well as community groups.

We continue to make strides in the improvement of the house grade point average as well as our individual efforts. This spring the annual scholarship banquet was held and $2,700 in academic recognition awards courtesy of the Indiana Chapter alumni were awarded to Brothers Michael Hart, Jason Horne, Patrick Sullivan, Matt Orschein, Jeremy Rudkin, Scott Good, Greg Hicks, and Matt Kapusta. In addition to these awards, Brother Andy Cvingnos was selected as the Arthur D. Lautzenhesier Scholarship recipient and received a $3,500 award.

Our Little 500 team continued the tradition that has been part of Acacia since the inception of that race in the mid-1950s. This event, modeled after the Indy 500, is the capstone of the school year for IU fraternities and housing units. We have won the race three times; last year and nearly done so a dozen or more times, finishing the 50-mile race in the top five. This year we finished third, one-half a wheel behind Dodds House, while our fraternity neighbor, the Alpha Tau Omegas took the checked flag nearly a full lap ahead of the other 32 teams. We owe a special debt to all of our riders: Andy Cvingnos, Carl Evelyke, Adam Mahomed, and Pat Aihberg. Andy graduated but with three veterans back next year, Acacia will be in the hunt for our fourth checked flag.

Our intramural program saw us well represented in a variety of activities. Brother Patrick Zimmerman was selected to chair the intramural program for IU this year and did an excellent job. Brother Paul Reaumond joined other spring break students and journeyed to the Hurricane Katrina devasated area to help with the clean up. The chapter also provided funds for use by LSU Chapter brothers through the special fund drive established by the Acacia Fraternity Foundation.

We would also like to thank our new House Director, Roger Kelley, for a great year. Roger came to us at the beginning of the fall semester and has been an active part of the growth of the Indiana Chapter. Thanks, Roger! We look forward to many more years with you at Acacia.

This has been a challenging year for the chapter and its alumni. We look forward to continued progress with our alumni relations program and want to thank the alumni who give freely of their time and money to assist the chapter as it strives to meet the challenges set forth in the Strategic Plan. We are Acacians and are proud of it!

Iowa State

Last semester went by quickly for the Iowa State Chapter. Our young men have been keeping busy doing all the usual things. We had our Greek Week, where we placed third in athletic tournaments, third in community service hours served by members, and second in the Greek Olympics — putting us in fourth place overall. We also raised almost $500 for the Special Olympics through Polar Bear Plunge, an event in which nine of our men solicited pledges of money for them to jump into Lake Laverne in early April.

Another example of human service that our members have been involved in this last year is the chapter’s spon- sorship of the non-profit organization Pages of Promise. This organization was started three years ago by one of our brothers who was traveling in Africa and saw the lack of educational materials available to students there. The Iowa State Chapter raised the money to send 10,000 books to Africa again this semester. This is something that we are very proud of.

It has been a very international year for the men of Acacia, with two brothers studying abroad in Australia, one brother working as Trea-Chairs in Costa Rica and the United Kingdom for the summer, and one brother traveling to Israel to fulfill his duties in the United States Marine Corp. These opportunities to travel allow our members to have amazing experiences, and we always look forward to their updates as well as their safe return.

Physical improvements to our house are taking place this summer as well. The restrooms on the second and third floors are being remodeled, and they are already starting to look much nicer. We have put in new tile floors, new lighting fixtures, and are in the process of repainting all of them and replacing the showers. These improve- ments are making the restrooms much
Chapter News

Kansas State Honors Deceased Member

Kansas State

Over the weekend of April 22, the Kansas State Chapter continued its commitment to campus leadership by hosting a seminar focused on Acacia's proud past and its promising future, while providing various leadership training sessions for nearly 60 members, alumni and friends. The chapter also honored the contributions of the late Sam Unger, Kansas State ’58.

Civic and active leadership was the central theme of each presenter, which included Professor Todd Wells of K-State's Leadership Studies and Programs Department, Chapter Leadership Director & House Mother Ann Domsch, and current members of the house. With more than 1,100 brothers initiated, our chapter offers the only in-house leadership program in the K-State Greek community, which teaches skills such as communication and teamwork.

This innovative leadership training series, called CORE (Coordinated Opportunities Resulting in Excellence), is offered several times during the semester. Partnering with K-State’s Leadership Studies and Programs Department, CORE teaches relevant, practical skills to ensure a successful campus and professional experience. Past presenters include several K-State Deans and alumni. The Kansas State Chapter also offers tuition scholarships for all members who enroll in leadership classes.

Sam joins eight other K-State Acacians who have received the Award of Merit. Acacia Fraternity has been a part of Kansas State University since 1913. The fraternity’s rich tradition includes having five buildings on campus named after Acacians.

Miami of Ohio

After several years of decreasing numbers, the Miami of Ohio Chapter has nearly doubled in size, bringing our total active roster to 25 men. This past spring’s pledge class marked our biggest class in several years and our retention rate was 100 percent for the entire year. We are very excited to see what our new members do with the house now that they make up more than half of our chapter.

We also participated in several philanthropies this past spring that we had not been able to do in recent years due to our small numbers. We competed in Delta Gamma’s Anchor Splash as well as Delta Zeta’s Puttin’ on the Hits. Our Puttin’ on the Hits team was coached by the girlfriend of one of our brothers, and they practiced every night for weeks in preparation for the event. The event went very well, with a great response from the crowd for our routine.

Over the past year our housing corporation has put more than $30,000 into renovations of our chapter house. These included new bathrooms, carpet and couches for the basement, as well as a pool table and a ping-pong table. Fall recruitment is already underway with two accepted bids for our fall pledge class and strong recruitment chairs to lead the way to a strong pledge class. We look forward to another year of growth and community involvement for our chapter when we return in the fall.

Missouri

The Missouri Chapter recently celebrated its one-year anniversary since being refounded, and we are starting to prepare for our chapter seventieth in May of 2007. We continue to be one of the most active fraternities on campus, and plan on continuing this effort for years to come. Our mission as a chapter is to help bring the perception of fraternities on our campus into a more positive light, and to have a greater impact on our local community. In the past year we have received several awards for these efforts, including the Community Leadership Award presented by Greek Life and a first place award from GAMMA (Greeks Advocating the Mature Management of Alcohol).

We were very successful in our efforts with Greek Week, taking first place in fling and programming, while placing fourth overall. Our partners were ADPi and Delta Upsilon, and we are very grateful for their efforts and support throughout the events. We are also continuing our tradition of Human Service by participating in philanthropies such as Phi Mu’s Miracle Main, Kickin’ It with ADPi, and Karnabali, a charity carnival put on during homecoming. We are going to hold our own revamped philanthropy this fall on September 17-23.

We would like to invite all alumni to return to campus and participate in our alumni weekend (October 20-22), which will coincide with homecoming.

Morningside Active In Autism Charity

Morningside

This year eight new members were initiated — four in the first semester and three in the second semester, with one Honorary. We are very excited to call them all brother. We know they will do many amazing things and create a better brotherhood not only for the Morningside Chapter, but the international Fraternity as well. Unfortunately, we are losing seven incredible brothers this year. They have really shaped our chapter to how it is today. They have worked tirelessly to keep our chapter alive, as well as bring a good name to the Fraternity and the college.

This year we were involved in many things. We have decided that we are going to continue working with area schools for our philanthropy projects. We have been working with Covington Elementary in South Sioux City for three years now. One other thing that we started last year that we are going to continue to do is participate in an autism night. One evening in December, all of us go to help out with autistic kids. We play games and do arts and crafts with them, and everyone has a good time. The night was created to allow the parents of the autistic children to have some alone time to shop or just relax. We also have
Chapter News

**NW Oklahoma Remains A Campus Leader**

Northwestern Oklahoma State
It was another successful year for the Northwestern Oklahoma State Chapter. We had two very successful rushes for the fall and spring semesters. With activities such as bowling, fajita and pilbara night, and a homerun derby, both rush weeks were fun for the whole chapter and the prospects. We brought our numbers up significantly from 12 to 21. The new members are of high character and we are all very excited to see where they will take us in the future.

In other news, our chapter won the annual haunted house room decorating contest sponsored by our Student Government Association for the second year in a row. Our annual holiday toy drive was also very successful once again this year. We raised money for the children of mothers at a drug treatment clinic in a nearby town. We then purchased the gifts, wrapped them and had Santa personally deliver the toys to the children. Seeing the looks on all the children’s faces as they opened their gifts made the toy drive well worth our effort. The chapter also raised nearly $900 for the Salvation Army by serving as bell ringers during Christmas break.

Our annual Mr. Cinderella Pageant was the best it’s been since we started hosting the contest three years ago. The pageant was well organized and the contestants were all very funny. For Greek Week, we brought in Brother Doug McCraw to perform his hypnotist show. He was very funny and we can’t thank him enough for taking the time to visit us and for giving us such a great deal.

Brother Eric Wheeler was elected as SGA president and he also ran in his first marathon in the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon in April. Brother Court Lane has joined the army and the whole chapter will miss him greatly. Our end-of-year formal was a good time for everyone and we are looking ahead to next year with much excitement.

**Penn State Wins Big At Greek Oscars**

Penn State
This year has greeted our chapter with both challenges and accomplishments. Last summer saw the completion of the much needed roof repairs to the chapter house at a cost of $27,000. Our very active Alumni Board has been working with the chapter to raise funds through several annual events, such as our alumni golf outing and silent auction. This annual event will be held this fall September 30. One of the most anticipated alumni events each year, it provides alumni and actives the opportunity to strengthen the ties while raising money for the chapter. Also underway are plans for the 30th anniversary celebration of the chartering of the Saint Cloud State Chapter. Our 25th Anniversary Celebration was extremely successful, with over 200 persons in attendance, and we plan on having twice that number at our 30-year event.

This past spring saw many of our younger brothers step up into leader- ship positions, as many of our active upperclassmen graduated. The new executive board brings a lot of new energy to the fraternity, and the chapter is gaining momentum. Chapter involvement has increased substanti- ally in both brotherhood events as well as the Greek system. The chapter once again obtained the highest GPA of any social fraternity on campus, and continues to excel academically.

This semester the chapter initiated three new, highly motivated brothers. These newly actives have been very involved in the fraternity and we expect great things of them. The chapter has been working hard on the fall rush
Chapter News

Texas Chapter Poised For Even Greater Success

(L-R) International President David J. Allen, Indiana ’57, Order of Pythagoras recipients Robert York and Jacob Sloan of the newly rechartered Texas Chapter, and International First Vice President Barry F. Baxter, Texas ’77, with the new Texas Charter.

schedule, as well as a few summer rush events. We will also be participating in a formal summer/fall rush with the IFC — an event not seen in many years at Saint Cloud State. We anticipate a very successful fall rush with all members serving Acacia to the best of their ability. With very strong brotherhood and highly motivated members, this year should be a very strong one for the Saint Cloud State Chapter.

Shippensburg

After graduating a large senior class this past year, our chapter was left with a rather young and inexperienced group of men within the house. However, the 2005-06 school year was an impressive year of transition for our chapter. While the quantity of new initiates was somewhat down, with the initiation of only six new members throughout the year, the new members are excited and eager to participate within the Fraternity, with four already having run to hold executive positions.

After being unrecognized by the university for the past four years, the chapter has recently shown a growing interest in becoming more involved in university Greek life and the community, resulting in being accepted back by the university and retaining a status of being officially on campus once again. With the spring semester also came our annual Founder Day’s celebration, which marked our 40th year as a chapter of Acacia Fraternity.

The end of the year, however, was marked with another drastic change for the chapter with a move, once again, from our chapter house. The chapter has acquired a residence on Greek Row and will be once again living among the Greek community at Shippensburg University.

Texas

The Texas Chapter is proud to call ourselves a true part of Acacia Fraternity once more. This semester we have worked hard to get our name out on campus and reconnect with our alumni. We also accomplished two of the goals set by our re-founding fathers: getting chartered and moving back into our original fraternity house. We hope that this semester will only take us further on our journey to bring Acacia back to The University of Texas at Austin in full force.

For our philanthropy this semester, we put on the first annual Acacia Dodgeball Tournament. Although we didn’t get many teams out this year, we hope to build upon this event and make it a recognized philanthropic event at UT. We donated this year’s proceeds to Any Baby Can, a non-profit organization benefiting those kids that suffer from children’s diseases. We hope to put on the second annual tournament this fall at our new house.

Acacia is now a recognizable name on the UT campus. We were recognized at UT’s Order of Omega Awards with the Vision Award. This award recognizes the fraternity or sorority that best exemplifies the qualities of its founders — in our case, leadership and distinctiveness among mankind. Andrew Chew and Evan Sylvester also received individual awards from the Order of Omega. We were the only IFC fraternity to attend and win an award.

As a result of another successfully executed recruitment, helmed by Rush Captain Evan Sylvester, we were able to rush a large group of men and narrow our selection to six outstanding pledge candidates. All six who received bids signed pledged — maintaining our good record of retention. The active brothers have been impressed from the start with this fine group. Each and every one is a great future Acadian.

Big Brother assignments came during the second week, and the fraternity family received their pledges with pride. Each pledge has demonstrated a dedication towards learning and practicing the values and motto of our Fraternity.

In the next semester, we would like to increase our involvement both at our own campus and with other chapters of Acacia. We are glad to be the newest charter of Acacia Fraternity, but we know there is still a long road ahead of us. This semester is only the beginning.

Western Ontario Colony

Greetings from the Western Ontario Colony! This past year has been an amazing time for us as we worked through achieving colony status at UW-O and went through our first recruitment period. We are currently at 17 active members and have begun working on our fall recruitment plans.

Western Ontario Colony

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After a lot of work we were finally invited to attend the IFC elections meeting and managed to elect Brother Ryan Gauss as the Public Relations Chairman on the IFC! In addition, we were assured that Acacia would have a full and active role in the IFC.

As we approach the next academic year, the future of the Wisconsin Chapter looks bright and brotherhood remains strong.

father-son fix-up was a great success, as our first floor and stairwells have been greatly improved. Current projects for the house include renovating our kitchen, thanks in part to a generous donation made by the family of alumnus Bill Andrae.

Staying true to Acacia’s motto of Human Service, our chapter participated in Wisconsin’s annual Humorology event, where members of the chapter performed song-and-dance routines with other fraternities and sororities. The event raised thousands of dollars for the Chris Farley Foundation and Camp Heartland, an organization benefiting children with HIV and AIDS.

On another note, our former philanthropy chairman, Dean Toda, put much effort into organizing a charity pool tournament at a local billiards club. The proceeds from the tournament were donated to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

As we approach the next academic year, the future of the Wisconsin Chapter looks bright and brotherhood remains strong.

On the housing front, we were able to secure a house only two blocks from campus. This five-bedroom house will enable us to have a true chapter house and we will greatly aid us in competing with our fellow fraternities. We are looking forward to hosting visitors from other chapters in the fall as we continue to visit chapters nearby.

Finally, our local alumni continue to play a major role in the development of our colony and we would like to thank them for their support. We could not have done this without them.

Wisconsin

The Wisconsin Chapter is, without a doubt, in a time of transition. Our chapter has become much younger with the graduation of many notable seniors. While there is a loss of leadership and experience with the departing brothers, the younger brothers bring a new level of enthusiasm and dedication to the house, and are already very active in the affairs of our chapter.

Fall rush looks to be promising this year. We have two very capable and dedicated rush chairs, who have already worked out plans for fall rush. They have developed several new ideas to recruit potential new members and make our name stand out in the University of Wisconsin Greek system. Under the direction of the rush chairs, the entire chapter will be making a concerted effort to work together and increase our numbers here at Wisconsin.

Our house manager, Mike McLean, has done a fantastic job making repairs to the house over the past year. Our
California
D. Brian Williams, #704 – We’re living in Cairo, now through 2007. Land of the Mem-"Utubes, Waah (2), and I am enjoying the story and sites and I’m working in the local energy industry.

Central Oklahoma
Jack R. Bunchfeld, #104 – Retired to Austin, TX, after selling television directory publishing companies in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona. Served as Founder and President since 1979.

Cincinnati
John B. Skelly, #238 – The bond with brothers Prior and Shiffer has been firmly re-established. Sadly, Brother Shiffer was killed in an airplane crash early this month.

Colorado
Charlie D. Adams, #465 – Retired from U.S. Army and federal government service. Enjoying good health while playing golf, participating in daily swim session and vigorous water aer-obics. Received Masters degree from American University. Four children and 11 grandchildren.

Cornell
Thomas J. Balcerski, #1063 – I am working on Cornell: The First 100 Years, A History of the Cor-nell chapter, 1907-2007. Desperately need copies of the “Traveler” from 1951 to 1972. Please con-tact me if you can help. Also, any correspond-ence other mentors may have saved over the years from Cornell. I will return promptly. My e-mail address is tbalcerski@gmail.com.

EastStroudsbury
Aaron W. Parker, #5 – I am enjoying working for the Department of Labor. Belong to several aquarium organizations to further my interest in fish. I am also writing in hopes that one day I will be published.

Emporia State
Vernon E. (Rock) Buck, #29 – Engenized by their successful 2005 Caribbean cruise, members of the Emporia State Acacia Alumni Association will hold their annual reunion and business meeting in Las Vegas, NV, October 19-22, 2008. All Acacians are invited to join the E-State alumni for fun on the Strip.

Franklin
John W. Milne, #536 – Ann and I have moved to a continuing care retirement community.

Illinois
Scott M. Cummings, #1679 – Married Bethany Jill Crawford on October 22, 2005, celebrated with numerous Acacists from the Herth Chap-ter. Beginning to work with the newly formed Southern California Alumni Group.

Illinois Wesleyan

Indiana
Ruek Bates, #691 – Still riding around at 83 years old, WWII, Jean, and I celebrated 61 years of marriage in January, 2006. Looking forward to 62 years.

Michigan

Northern Colorado
Charles F. Shaffrey, #182 – Recently celebrated my 34th year in business and my 10th an-niversary as the organist at Denver Scottish Rite Consistory in 2006. My wife will retire at the end of 2006 after 37 years of teaching elemen-tary education.

Ohio
Shelby A. Hunt, #215 – My Acacia pin mate, Suzanne (Emmer) Hunt and I recently celeb-rated our 43rd wedding anniversary.

Ohio State
Bill E. Medicine, #229 – My son, Clay, was initiated into the Ohio State chapter of Acacia. He is currently a senior majoring in criminology.

Penn State
Robert A. Shaw, #522 – A contingent of Penn State Acacists have sustained connections with visits, Elderhostels, ski trips and a 48 year tradition of New Year’s Eve parties in Philadel-phia since our years in Acacia (1956-62).

Peru
Thomas A. Smith, #804 – My grandson, Case Knox Colaw, is a junior at UCLA. Case’s father, Thierry Smith, is a junior at Yale and my younger brother, John, is a freshman at St. John’s University, which makes Case a third generation Bruin.

New Mexico
S. Scott Angell, #694 – Retired in 1989. I am a Commissioner in the State of New Mexico and am expecting my 4th grandchild any day.

New Hampshire

New York
Brian C. Montgomery, #229 – Retired from U.S. Army and federal government service. Enjoying good health while playing golf, participating in daily swim session and vigorous water aer-obics. Received Masters degree from American University. Four children and 11 grandchildren.

Northwestern
John W. Forbes, #196 – Recovering nicely from knee surgery.

Ohio
Tim McWaters, #1238 – My wife, Clarine, passed away March 16, 2006. She was greatly missed by her family and a host of friends.

Pennington
Robert R. Tiffen, #2407 – My wife, Claire, passed away February 26, 2006. She is greatly missed by her family and a host of friends.

Penn State
Robert A. Shaw, #522 – A contingent of Penn State Acacists have sustained connections with visits, Elderhostels, ski trips and a 48 year tradition of New Year’s Eve parties in Philadel-phia since our years in Acacia (1956-62).

Rhode Island
Ronald J. Farina, #1020 – I am a Commissioner in the State of Rhode Island and am expected to accept a Regional Manager position with another company.

Scandinavia
Ann and I have moved to Annandale, Norway, and county board. Attended 349th Green Bay chapter reunion in Durham at 2006 UNH Homecoming! Go to www.acacia-on-for more details.

Southern California

Pennsylvania
Brian M. Giffin, #1483 – Regional Counsel for KB Home, based in Indianapolis, IN.

Winston-Salem
Thomas C. Macy, #1012 – I am a Commissioner in the State of North Carolina and am a member of the “Traveler” from 1951 to 1972. Please con-tact me if you can help. Also, any correspond-ence other mentors may have saved over the years from Cornell. I will return promptly. My e-mail address is tbalcerski@gmail.com.

Wisconsin
Donald J. Hoepner, #3537 – The 74-year-old Brookfield resident regularly competes in athletics as an alumnus of the Wisconsin Senior Olympics. Over the 19 years he’s competed, this versatile athlete has amassed 153 gold, silver and bronze medals. His talent has not gone unnoticed – he was one of five individu-al athletes inducted into the group’s Hall of Fame for 2005. Hoepner, an all-around athlete, competes in volleyball, basketball, softball, track and swimming. Don isn’t the only athlete in his family. His son, Ryan, 20, and his youngest child, Meredith, is a freshman at UCLA. Case’s father, Thierry Smith, is a junior at Yale and my younger brother, John, is a freshman at St. John’s University, which makes Case a third generation Bruin.

Wisconsin
George E. Giebelle, #669 – Appointed president of Construction Metal, Inc. in Ontario, CA.

Wisconsin
Michael S. Trong, #1093 – My oldest son, Ryan, is now a second year law student at Kent Law School in Chicago. My middle child, Fletcher, competes in shuffleboard, dart ball, bowling and horseshoes. While some people slow down during their senior years, the Hoepners are enjoying their retirement years playing golf.

Wisconsin
Jack H. Maxfield, #426 – 90 years old and still kicking! Have a good year.

Wisconsin
Alvin A. Greason, #565 – Completed 12 years of retirement. Serve on both local town board and county board. Attended 149th Green Bay Packer home game.

Wisconsin
Norbert A. Bybee, #623 – My wife, Faith, and I met through Acacia on a blind date for a frater-ity house party in Madison, WI. We will be celebrating our 63rd wedding anniversary in October, 2006.
James E. Bieber, 1928-2005

Jim was a very active member of Acacia Fraternity who lived his life as the Code encourages. He was initiated in 1951 with a roll number of 138, only two years after the chapter at the University of New Hampshire opened. Over the next 54 years, Jim was a leader in the Fraternity and a fixture at many Acacia events, both in New Hampshire and across North America. With his very good friend Fred Browning, he became known as one-half of the 8 Squared, bringing joy, laughter and T-shirts with their faces on them to brothers all across the country.

I first met Jim, alongside Fred, at the Fraternity’s convention in New Orleans in 1988. I was 19. That meeting began a long friendship, which included many visits to each other’s homes and in Jim’s case, his sharing of his love of friends and family. York Beach and the Nubble Light, the odd martini, his fellowship with the Lions, lobsters supplied by Fred, and visits to Flo’s Hot Dogs in the convertible. I consider myself lucky to have had Jim as a friend and mentor, and I know many other Acacians feel the same way.

Like you all here, I have many stories of great Acacian’s history. For centuries it has been emblematic of eternal life. Though we are now deprived of the physical presence of our brother Jim, each of us shall always carry his life within us. What he accomplished and stood for cannot be taken away. He stands now, as always, with his God, and for this we must be grateful.

Brother James Bieber, by your unfaltering trust you have earned your rest and pleasant dreams. May the blessing of Heaven be ‘round about you.

“So live, that when thy summons comes to join the innumerable caravan, which moves to that mysterious realm, where each shall take his chamber in the silent halls of death, thou go not as the quarry slave at night, scourged to his dungeon, but, sustained and soothed by an unfaltering trust; approach thy grave, like the Mystique realm, where each shall take his Heaven be ‘round about you. He stands now, as always, with his God, and for this we must be grateful.

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Our founders knew that as pledges we were beginning a journey full of excitement and promise. They also knew that one day our journey on the earth would come to an end and when it did, that we should welcome the next journey without fear and knowing we had lived our lives with integrity and to the fullest.

The following is an excerpt from the eulogy delivered by International Counselor Greg Owen, Carleton ’88.

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Chapter Eternal

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Like most people, I have certain anniversaries, celebrations or life-altering moments worthy of celebration — moments to take pause and reflect upon the life I’ve lived — birthdays, my wedding anniversary and religious and national holidays come to mind.

As Acacians, we have our ritual and history of the Fraternity that give us a common bond. Our founding date, May 12, 1904, our chapter’s chartering date and our induction into Acacia are all similar events we share.

An anniversary of sorts passed me by in May that I haven’t thought about in several years. I was reminded of it one night as I watched a show called *Mega Disasters* on the History Channel. This particular episode focused on the events surrounding the eruption of Mount St. Helens.

Viewing the Mount St. Helens episode reminded me of what an impact and life-altering effect the eruption had on my life. My membership card and shingle state I was initiated on February 22, 1981, but my association with Acacia began at 8:32 a.m., Sunday, May 18, 1980.

The subsequent events surrounding the eruption led to my eventual membership in Acacia. Since I lived in a residence hall my freshman year, I wasn’t aware of the Greek traditions at Washington State. The most popular event in May for the WSU Greeks was a cruise weekend on Lake Coeur d’Alene and I was invited to attend the Kappa Delta Sorority cruise. Around 2:30 p.m. the skies quickly darkened and ash began to fall. The grayish-white ash fell like snow on an 80-degree day. Four to six inches of volcanic ash quickly fell in northern Idaho shutting down all means of transportation. There I was stranded in Coeur d’Alene for three days — enter Acacia Fraternity. As it turned out, Acacia Fraternity was also having a spring cruise and a chance meeting occurred when I met up with an old friend and future Acacia brother, Joey Homans. Joey invited me over and our chance meeting became the perfect opportunity to meet the men whom I would eventually call my brothers.

Yet by all accounts, that has indeed become the case — or has it always been the case? History has proven that fraternities’ greatest growth occurred after World War I, World War II and a social phenomenon, the movie *Animal House*. I know I would have joined a fraternity my freshman year in college, but nobody asked. Association professionals have categorized individuals into three main groups — always-, maybe- and never-joiners. Greeks do a good job bringing in the always-joiners, but overlook the maybe-joiners. Our Leadership Consultants do an excellent job of teaching the right way to recruit, overcoming the objections and creating events conducive for joining. However, opportunities of growth in Acacia would exceed epic proportions with one simple rule, “You gotta ask!”

Over 100 well-wishers, including undergraduates and their dates, alumni, parents and International Council members, joined together on May 6, 2006, at the Austin Hilton to celebrate the return of the Texas Chapter. Representing Acacia International Fraternity were International President David J. Allen, International First Vice President Barry F. Baxter, International Second Vice President Brian S. Downs, and International Treasurer Robert E. Roberson — as well as Executive Director Darold W. Larson, Assistant Executive Director Keith M. Bushey, Director of Expansion and Recruitment Robert Kameen, and Leadership Consultant Jarrod N. VanZant. Acacia Fraternity Foundation Board Member C.F.K. Cole was also in attendance.

Brother Allen was the event’s keynote speaker and also presented the charge. Brother Baxter joined in the presentation of the chapter’s original charter from 1916, which had been in safekeeping at Acacia headquarters, as well as a new charter commemorating the chapter’s refounding. The Fraternity also honored Texas Chapter undergraduates Jacob Sloan and Robert York with their induction into the *Order of Pythagoras* for their achievements as officers and leaders during this most successful re-colonization effort. The newly chartered body is the latest installment in Acacia’s long and distinguished history at The University of Texas at Austin. The Texas Chapter is going into the 2006-2007 school year with 29 active members and a new address — the recently-renovated Acacia house just west of campus, which had been leased to other fraternities while Acacia was dormant.
A PRICELESS GIFT OF LEADERSHIP, BROTHERHOOD, and CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

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Your gift to the Acacia Fraternity Foundation signals your recognition of the continuing need to maintain and expand Acacia’s education programs of leadership, brotherhood, character development and fraternity management.

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