



THE CREST

An ePublication for the Brothers and Friends of Acacia Fraternity

May 12, 2010

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Happy 106th Birthday, Acacia!

Greetings!

In conjunction with the golden anniversary of Acacia Fraternity, Brother William S. Dye, Jr., *Penn State A'09*, was commissioned by the National Council to write a book celebrating this historic event. For Acacians, *Acacia Fraternity, the First Half Century* is an entertaining, factual and comprehensive review of the founding of Acacia and our first 50 years.



The First Half Century includes a foreword by founder George A. Malcolm. It is interesting to note that Brother Malcolm was "violently" opposed to organizing as a Greek letter fraternity. "We can find a worthy place for itself without being a replica of any other fraternity. It may well be, that the type of members drawn to our organization may not be as sporty or wealthier than other fraternities. We can make a place for ourselves in University life by leading the way in *scholarship, tolerance and patriotism*." With that said, the name Acacia was selected as an outward demonstration to set us apart from "some of the besetting sins of college fraternities of its day." The fraternity that can spell, that is two to three letters better than the rest - was established.

With a touch of the send button, this issue of the Crest will reach over 7,000 Acacians on May 12, 2010, our 106th anniversary. One hundred and six years later, *scholarship, tolerance and patriotism* are now encompassed by *intellectual growth, social awareness and physical well-being*, the main tenets of our new membership program, *Cornerstones*.

Interest in fraternities is on the increase, and *Cornerstones* has created numerous opportunities for growth. Embraced by university officials, this values-based program has allowed us to plan for an aggressive expansion during the next several years.

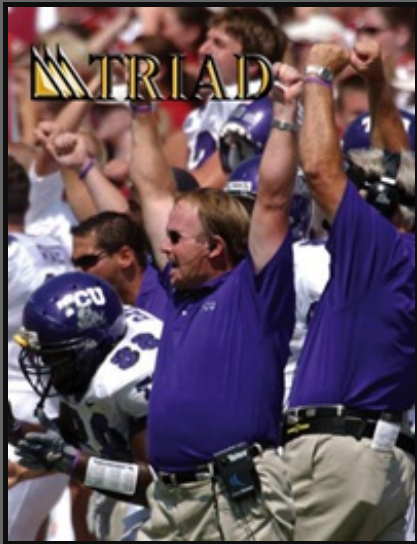
[special discounted rate.](#)

Plans are currently underway for the Conclave that will prove to be an occasion not soon forgotten. Events will be planned for brothers of all ages, including special tracks designed specifically for our alumni.

Be sure to join us for the 2010 Biennial Conclave and Leadership Academy! For further information, please visit [the Conclave webpage at acacia.org](#), informally RSVP via our [Facebook Conclave page](#) or call Acacia Headquarters at (317) 872-8210.

See you in N'awlins!

Kansas State Brother Gary Patterson Achieves Distinction



Brother Gary Patterson was recently honored as the head coach of the 2009 NIC (North-American Interfraternity Conference) All-American Football team. [View the complete list of 2009 honorees.](#)

Patterson was also named the *Associated Press Coach of the Year* for 2009. Until the 2009 NCAA football season, every coach that has been named by the Associated Press as the Coach of the Year for college football has been a coach in one of the "six power conferences." This past year, Gary Patterson exemplified the meaning of Acacia by achieving "distinctiveness and leadership" among his peer community by achieving great success at Texas Christian University.

The holder of an 85-28 (.752 winning percentage) record at TCU, Gary has now completed nine seasons as the head coach of the Horned Frogs. He was defensive coordinator for TCU from 1998-2000.

Initiated on April 4, 1980, Patterson's roll number is 830 from the Kansas State Chapter. The summer 2006 Triad featured an article about him in which he shared the following insight into his coaching philosophy. His words are relevant advice for any Acacia chapter advisor or level advisor. *"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 the time, success starts with growing your kids up and not letting them rule the assignment, but still understanding that their needs are important. 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 he leaves, then you've failed."*

For a more extensive article on Gary's career and his distinctions, visit [Coach Patterson's official TCU webpage.](#)

Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act of 2009 (CHIA)

One of the most discussed and most important issues facing the fraternity and sorority community today is the Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act of 2009 (CHIA). CHIA allows not-for-profit entities to use tax-deductible charitable contributions to build, maintain or improve not-for-profit student housing. This would greatly increase our ability to provide student housing that is modern, attractive, energy efficient, and with the latest fire & life safety infrastructure. Just imagine if your chapter house could be updated and improved by utilizing tax deductible donations. Imagine if your new colony wanted to buy a house. As of today, you would raise funds, but they would not be tax deductible, making it difficult for many alums to fully commit to supporting this aspect of fraternity life.



Fraternity and sorority housing serves more than 250,000 students annually across the nation, but this aging housing stock calls for significant capital improvement to remain safe, affordable, and sustainable. An arbitrary distinction in the tax code prevents not-for-profit student housing owners from using charitable contributions to improve the housing they provide. This results in a decline in capacity and increase in cost of safe and affordable housing for all students.

The [NIC \(North-American Interfraternity Conference\)](#) has been leading an effort to advocate for this legislation by making visits to Washington D.C., as well as asking the headquarters staff of all fraternities to inform our membership how they can help make this legislation a reality. In the past few months, if you are a member of Acacia living in Virginia, Ohio, South Dakota, Alaska, or Hawaii, you have received an email from Acacia Headquarters asking you to contact your local U.S. Senators and Representatives to inform them of your support for this act. So far, CHIA has been co-sponsored by 210 bi-partisan members of the House of Representatives and 30 Senators.

The Acacia Fraternity International Council asks that you contact the Senators and Representatives from your state and notify them of your support for this act. You can find out who to contact for your state by visiting the [Capital Fraternal Caucus website](#). Click on this link, then click on the red box which reads Petition Your Congressman, and follow the steps provided.

As our beloved Fraternity continues to grow and adapt with the new century, we need your voice to be heard. Please take a few minutes to contact your congressman today so that we can build a sustainable future for generations to come.

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