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December 21, 2009  
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## An Acacian's Carol

Dear Brother Turconi,

As Acacians, we are truly blessed for what we have had in our past, accomplished in our present and look forward to in our future. No, this isn't the Charles Dickens version of *A Christmas Carol*. In fact, it is far from it. It's a documented fact that Greeks, undergraduate and alumni alike, give back more to their communities than non-Greeks. Recently, we were requested to provide information to the North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) regarding statistics on our chapters. One area was solely dedicated to philanthropic and community service endeavors. Based on our 2008-09 academic year, it was calculated that our undergraduate chapters collectively raised in excess of \$300,000 for local and national charities.



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I would like to share with you one of our latest, and quickly becoming one of our most popular endeavors, *Acacia Claus*. During the 2004 Conclave, a new event was adopted as an international service project to be implemented for the fall 2004 semester. The Acacia Claus Holiday Toy Drive was introduced in December 2004 with a handful of chapters participating. Fast forward to 2009, our sixth annual event, and we have 19 Acacia chapters partnering with Wal-Mart and K-Mart to execute their own Acacia Claus drives.

Being a *Scrooge* is not in the vocabulary of our undergraduates today. Acacia brothers donate their time for one afternoon during the holiday season to solicit new toys for underprivileged children. Toys collected are then donated to local organizations in their respective communities. Since the inception of the toy drive, Acacia chapters have raised and donated thousands of dollars in toys to local agencies. It is estimated that our brothers will be collecting and donating over \$50,000 in toys to

their communities during this holiday season!

In a time of economic uncertainty affecting our nation, many families in our communities are not afforded the same opportunities that we have been given. For some, the holidays are a time for struggle and despair, rather than a time for celebration and cheer. This year, Acacians from across the United States and Canada have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of many families through our toy drive. Our motto is "Human Service" and the Acacia Claus Holiday Toy Drive is just one way we, as Acacians, can fulfill that motto.

Best wishes to you this holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Fraternally,



Darold W. Larson  
Executive Director

## Phillips Named to International Council

On behalf of International President Robert E. Roberson, it is my pleasure to announce the appointment of Anthony D.J. Phillips, *Carleton '06*, as Treasurer of the International Council. Tony will be filling the vacancy created when Brother Roberson assumed the position of President upon David J. Allen's passing.



Brother Phillips was elected by the International Council on November 10th at a specially convened meeting and was officially sworn into office during the Council meeting held Indianapolis on December 5, 2009.

The current International Council members are:

Robert E. Roberson, President, Illinois Wesleyan  
J. Scott Cleland, First Vice-President, Ohio  
Jeremy N. Davis, Second Vice-President, Iowa State  
Gregory J. Owen, Counselor, Carleton  
Anthony D. J. Phillips, Treasurer, Carleton  
Christopher B. Carpentier, Judge Advocate, Indiana  
Joshua J. Gannon, Undergraduate Counselor, Oregon State  
Joseph N. Psyk, Undergraduate Counselor, St. Cloud State

Tony brings a wealth of fraternal knowledge to the Council. As an undergraduate, he served as Senior Dean and upon graduation, worked at the International Headquarters as the Director of Expansion. After leaving staff, Tony remained involved with the Fraternity, including serving as a Fellow at this summer's Acacia Leadership Academy, assisting the Headquarters with chapter visits and regional retreats, and serving as an alumni advisor to his chapter. Currently he serves as

President of the Acacia Carleton Alumni Association, Senior Greek Advisor to the Greek Council at Carleton University and an assistant to our new colony at the University of Toronto.

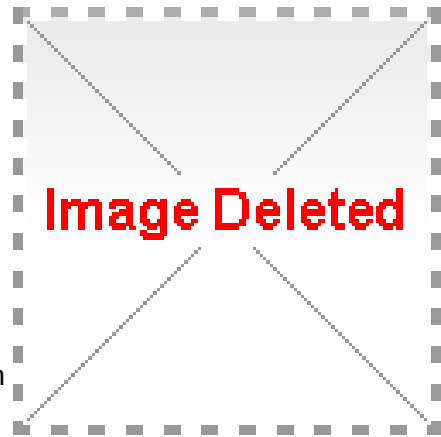
Professionally, Tony is employed by the Parliament of Canada as a Senior Legislative & Communications Assistant to a Federal Member of Parliament. Tony's responsibilities include management of the office budget, legislative advising and communication with constituents on government programs and services.

As Treasurer, Tony will be working directly with the Headquarters' staff, chapters and colonies to ensure the International Fraternity remains fiscally strong. He is looking forward to working with chapters to develop good fiscal and financial management, timely payment of dues, proper reporting and the promotion and utilization of Chapter Fund accounts for educational use, most specifically for upcoming expenses in conjunction with this summer's Conclave in New Orleans.

[Please welcome Brother Phillips in his new position as International Treasurer.](#)

## Have You Got a Second?

"Have you got a second?" is a question that we have all asked at one time or another. What can one do in a second? For our brothers cheering on the University of Texas Longhorns football team, one second is all it took to determine a championship bowl bid. And, one second is all that it took for Brother Gary Patterson, *Kansas State '80*, and his Texas Christian University Horned Frogs to narrowly miss out on playing in the BCS national championship bowl game. Still, Mountain West champion TCU (12-0) earned an automatic bid to break into the Bowl Championship Series for the first time in school history.



During this holiday season, while you are switching channels to catch scores on the 34 bowl games being played, take the time to sit back and cheer on a fellow Acacia brother. Brother Patterson's #4 ranked TCU Horned Frogs will take on the #6 ranked Boise State Broncos in the Fiesta Bowl on Monday, January 4, 2010, at 8:00 p.m. EST. Mark it on your calendar now and join the "Frog Nation" for an exciting evening!

[Read more about Brother Patterson \(click on the first search result link\)](#)

## Long Beach Acacian Honored

Major Timothy J. Bleidistel, *Long Beach '81*, received the Legion of Merit with combat distinguishing device, during a presentation ceremony Thursday, April 9, 2009, at the Reserve Training Center in Long Beach, California. The Legion of Merit is sixth in the order of preference of U.S. military decorations. The criteria are "for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements".



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The award was in recognition of his actions in support of the Iraqi army, and their American advisors, during "Operation Charge of the Knights" early last year in southern Iraq. In March 2008, the prime minister of Iraq ordered the 1st Iraqi Army Division to deploy from Al Anbar Province to Basra to assist in retaking the city and restoring order in response to the loss of government control of the city and the defeat of Iraqi security forces there.

Bleidistel, a Reserve Marine was assigned to 3rd Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company. "We arrived in Ramadi, and were a day and a half into a five-day [relief in place] when we got word that we would be moving out in 15 minutes," said Bleidistel. "It was supposed to be a four day trip; we were gone three and a half months."

Bleidistel and three members of his team would soon put their skills of planning and controlling close air support and supporting arms to good use against a well-armed and determined enemy. Upon arrival at the embattled city, the team fought its way through sustained small arms fire and improvised explosive devices in order to link up with the Military Transition Team at the command post of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Iraqi Army Division.

Several days of sustained heavy urban combat ensued. The Iraqi soldiers and their Marine advisors faced machine gun fire, sniper attacks and exploding mortar shells. "We had multiple kinetic actions on enemy positions for about five straight days," explained Bleidistel.

Early in the fighting an enemy mortar team would fire a series of rounds at the Iraqi army and then seek shelter under a city bridge. After several volleys, Bleidistel exposed himself to enemy fire so that he could effectively call-in F/A-18 jets to destroy the mortar team and their mortars, while also minimizing damage to critical infrastructure.

On the morning of March 29, the enemy began to attack the battalion command post with 120 mm mortar rounds. Bleidistel used an unmanned aerial vehicle to pinpoint the location of the enemy mortar team in the corner of a palm grove. Using precision munitions, he destroyed the mortar site and killed multiple members of the mortar crew.

According to the summary of action for his award, the insurgents decided to send a warning to the "American major who talked to the airplanes." The militia offered a \$60,000 bounty to anyone who would surrender Bleidistel. Needless to say, there were no takers on the offer.

After several more days of heavy combat, the 2nd Battalion was able defeat the enemy, clear the area, and turn over their position at the northwest corner of Basra to the local police.

"Major Bleidistel remained the complete professional despite heavy mortar, rocket, sniper and small arms fire throughout the engagement at the Basra Gates and the following operations," said Lt. Col. Charles Western, the executive officer for the 1st Iraqi Army Division MiTT at the time of the operations.

Despite the recognition he has received, Bleidistel remains modest about his award. "It's a team award as far as I'm concerned," said Bleidistel. "An individual does not accomplish anything. I couldn't have done it without my team."

"The Marines are who you are, they're not what you do," said Bleidistel.

*This is an excerpt from an article entitled "Major Recognized for Combat Valor" that appears on the Marine Forces Reserve website and was written by Captain Nathan Braden.*

## Conclave 2010 - New Orleans Style!

Mark your calendars now to join us for the 2010 Biennial Conclave and Leadership Academy to be held in New Orleans, Louisiana. The biennial meeting will be held at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel from August 4 - August 9, 2010.

The theme of the 2010 Conclave is *Recommit, Renew, Reinvent*. *Recommit* reminds us of our decision to live each day by our fraternal oath. *Renew* encourages us to approach our duties at all times with diligence and vigor. *Reinvent* grants us the opportunity to evaluate and shape the future of Acacia Fraternity.

There will be activities for all attendees, whether you are a recently initiated brother or long-time Acacian. Come join us for brotherhood, motivational speakers, group activities, a special Human Service project, the Acacia Fraternity Foundation luncheon and the Final Banquet and awards presentations. This is definitely an event you will not want to miss!

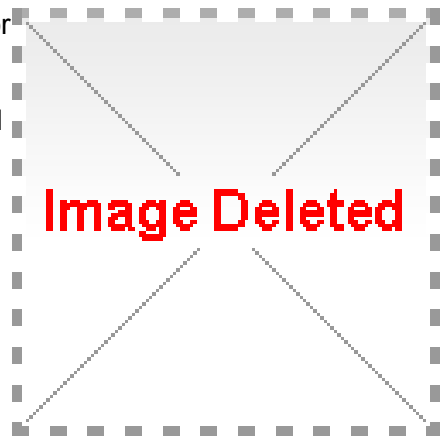
Additional information will be posted to our website at [www.acacia.org](http://www.acacia.org) after the beginning of the year. A special link will also be added for the Sheraton to secure your reservations at the special Conclave rate.

We look forward to sharing some southern hospitality and fraternal brotherhood with you all in New Orleans!

## Eureka - The Scholarship Recruitment Program

I always chuckle when I have an opportunity to facilitate a recruitment seminar with our undergraduates - they will come with a pen and paper in hand in search of the Eureka moment. Ironically, there is no magical or geometrical equation that brings success to recruitment. By virtue of university and sometimes IFC regulations, recruitment has never been more difficult.

One strategy that has brought success to our chapters is our



Scholarship Recruitment Program. Through careful chapter budgeting, many chapters provide scholarships to members and/or incoming freshmen that have demonstrated academic success and leadership in their community.

Seven Acacia chapters currently utilize the Scholarship Recruitment Program. The process starts by sending information to high school guidance counselors who then notify their college-bound students of Acacia's scholarship opportunities. A scholarship form is also posted on the chapter website to generate a strong pool of applicants. Interviews and traditional recruitment events help the chapter evaluate each applicant and consider him for membership. The end result is the Fraternity is getting a more motivated and involved member, and retention improves.

### Benefits of the program

The scholarship recruitment process sets the expectation that academics, leadership and human service are Acacia priorities and that we are willing to reward excellence in those areas. The program generates a list of potential members that might not normally consider the Greek community by overcoming two of the most common reasons for not joining a fraternity - parent disapproval and the feeling that fraternities are anti-intellectual.

This year, the scholarship program has been utilized, or will be utilized, at Colorado, Iowa State, Kansas State, Oregon State, Purdue, St. Cloud, and Washington State. It also gives opportunity for alumni involvement through mentoring and the opportunity to support the program financially through the Acacia Fraternity Foundation. If you would like to contribute to your chapter's Chapter Fund Account or direct funds toward support of your chapter, please visit [http://www.acacia.org/foundation\\_giving.php](http://www.acacia.org/foundation_giving.php) to make your donation.

With the ever-increasing costs of university life, an Acacia scholarship can be the determining factor for a young man considering joining our ranks. If you have questions or are interested in developing this program for your chapter, please call Acacia Fraternity Headquarters at (317) 872-8210.

## A Lasting Legacy, It's Your Turn...



Here is an opportunity to build your lasting legacy through the Acacia Fraternity Foundation.

**~Endow a Scholarship~**  
**~Foster Leadership and Fellowship~**  
**~Promote our Cornerstones Program~**

*"Much of the success I enjoy in life I owe to my Acacia experience. Our Credo upholds the Acacia spirit - past, present and future. Just as many Acacians have helped me get where I am today, it's now my opportunity to help, and that is why I created a lasting legacy to the Acacia Fraternity Foundation."*

*Scott J. Houston, Indiana '80*

As a result of previous legacy gifts like Scott's:

- The Foundation awarded over \$93,000 in scholarships to undergraduate Acacians
- They provided \$402,000 in educational grants and other support

to the Fraternity

- These gifts distributed \$117,000 in educational grants to chapters

One hundred percent of your lasting legacy gift is directed toward the financial support of our undergraduate Acacians and our chapters

Your legacy gift is more important than ever. A conservative estimate is that tuition and fees are increasing by at least six and a half percent at universities across the country each year.

When you make a lasting legacy gift, you become a member of **The Evergreen Society** which honors those donors who support the Acacia Fraternity Foundation through a bequest from their estate plans or through life income gifts.

There are many benefits to informing us of your plans.

1. It ensures that we understand your wishes so your gift will be used exactly as you intended.
2. It allows you to define your legacy and invest in the future of Acacia Fraternity Foundation.
3. Most importantly, it provides us with the opportunity to recognize your generosity.

**Now it's your turn...**

E-mail Ken Ayers, Director of Development:

[kayers@acacia.org](mailto:kayers@acacia.org)

Learn more online:

Visit the AFF webpage at [www.acacia.org/foundation\\_about.php](http://www.acacia.org/foundation_about.php)

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