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## Acacia Fraternity Earns Three Fs

Dear Brother Turconi,

The Acacia Fraternity Foundation recently hit the mid-point of its 2008-09 Annual Fund drive. In January, I missed a celebratory moment as I wrote a thank you letter to Randy Nepomuceno. Randy is an alumnus of the Franklin (Penn) chapter, part of a Franklin re-founding class back in the late '80s. Suffice to say, Randy and I go way back. Unbeknown to either of us, his gift and my subsequent thank you note marked gift number 20,000 to the AFF and my twenty thousandth acknowledgment letter.



A momentous occasion to be sure as I scanned the list of the thousands of brothers who have contributed to the Acacia Fraternity Foundation. The names brought back many memories of the past 20+ years since I became Executive Director of this great organization. It makes me think once more just what fraternity and fraternalism mean to all of us.

Several years ago, alumni from our Northwestern chapter started a chat group on Yahoo. I was invited to join the group but as there wasn't much activity the first few years, I didn't check it often. That has changed recently. I suppose I am a fraternal voyeur of sorts as I have truly enjoyed sitting back and reading post after post of days gone by.

The NU brothers' posts have gone from fraternal stories to lore and life - stories of brother lineage and pledge classes, little sisters, parties, initiations, and of what I like to refer to as the 'whatever happened to...?' We all can identify with 'whatever happened to...?' In short, I recognized membership in Acacia Fraternity - a very personal thing that provides for us a lifetime of memories and experiences. Yet, it is much more.

### **Acacia is Fraternity.**

When you need to talk to someone, you will always find a brother who has a genuine interest in you and really cares what happens to you. You will find a brother who offers to help before you have a chance to ask. A true fraternal experience has no room for those who seek status, power or material gain. It is a place for those who have the courage and the desire to share common goals and beliefs.

### Acacia is Family.

As a family, Acacia is a group of individuals united by significant shared characteristics. As you read this article your family lineage falls somewhere in between roll number one, James M. Cooper at Michigan, and Kevin L. Wells, the 49,200th brother just initiated at Iowa State. Since 1904 we have strived to create a family relationship among our members. We endeavor to bring together in close association a group of young men who will be congenial, helpful and loyal during some of the best years of their lives. No college institution has yet to create an extension of the home or an equivalency to home life as has the fraternity experience.

### Acacia is Fun.

Lastly, let's not forget about, or deny, that fact that the fraternity is about fun. Whether it is as carefully planned as a formal dance in another city, or as impromptu as a late night bull session during a study break, the images of our brothers sharing enjoyment together will always be imprinted on our minds and hearts. We will always remember tossing the football around on a brisk fall afternoon, talking about how our team's offense is going to run all over our rival tomorrow - there's a bonding experience happening there - and it's fun!

### Happy Anniversary.

Today, May 12, 2009, Acacia celebrates our 105th anniversary. The fraternity experience is still as relevant today as it was when our 14 kindred spirits first began our quest in search of truth. Let me be the first to toast my brethren who have helped make Acacia the fraternity that it is today. Here's to Acacia - Fraternity, Family & Fun.

Proud to be an Acacian,



Darold W. Larson  
Executive Director

### Spotlight on Brother Steve Scalise, *LSU '86*



Stephen Joseph 'Steve' Scalise is a proud member of the United States House of Representatives from Louisiana's 1st congressional district. He is also an Acacia Fraternity alumnus from the Louisiana State chapter. Brother Scalise, initiated in 1986 with roll number 890, won his congressional seat on November 4, 2008. He replaced rising political star Bobby Jindal, who is now Governor of Louisiana.

Scalise, a native Louisianan from the New Orleans area, found that a large university like LSU could be overwhelming. Being a part of Acacia Fraternity, he found an air of comfort while in the chapter.

"Going to a large campus with such a large student body like LSU can be overwhelming for some. Joining a big fraternity helped me make a lot of friends outside of the classroom to fully enjoy the undergraduate college experience." Said Scalise. "Growing up in New Orleans all my life, it was rewarding to develop relationships with so many people from around the state and other parts of the country who came from different backgrounds.

Scalise wasn't simply another Acacia brother at LSU, he was a leader. He served as Junior Dean and Social Chairman. These roles gave him valuable experience and skills he can still look back on today.

"Holding the offices of Social Chair and Junior Dean helped me learn the importance of getting involved and working with the other fraternity leaders to manage a budget and put on large events," said Scalise when asked what he had learned while serving Acacia as an undergraduate.

Academics are Acacia's highest priority, and Brother Scalise shares this same value.

"There is also a great benefit of being in an organization like Acacia on the academic side of my experience at LSU," Scalise added.

Carrying a Computer Science major with a Political Science minor, Scalise had a challenging workload. The fraternity set up a perfect structure for success. He relied on his LSU brethren for support, and likewise they to him.

"Some of my closest friends in Acacia were the ones I shared classes with. A few of us that were in computer science worked together on projects and were able to help each other succeed in some of our more challenging classes," said Scalise.

The writing was on the wall for Brother Scalise's political career. He was a leader amongst his brothers, he held a high regard for academics and he was involved in LSU Student Government. Even in college Scalise saw that he could help his home state with important issues.

"I first got involved at LSU in Student Government. I didn't like the way Louisiana was being run. Too many of Louisiana's young and bright students were leaving the state and I wanted to change the way things were done," he said.

Before Scalise made the jump to the national stage, he served on the state level. He was elected to the Louisiana State House three times, first in 1995, then in 1999, and finally in 2003. He received numerous awards and honors during this tenure, including: New Orleans Regional Chamber of Commerce's '2001 Legislator of the Year', Letter of Commendation from the U.S. Naval Reserve for support service during the Gulf War, and '1999 Legislator of the Year' by Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse.

Today, Brother Scalise is still strongly representing Acacia's core values of Virtue, Knowledge, and Truth in Washington. He has worked for comprehensive ethics reform, fought against the politically corrupted, and has placed a high importance on education.

He comments, "I am a strong advocate for the principles of fiscal discipline, low taxes, ethics reform, a strong national defense and traditional family values. I have also made hurricane recovery and flood

protection a top priority."

Scalise is also a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. No doubt in the current national climate this is a great responsibility. No matter the political view, it is a great complement to our fraternity to have a fellow Acacian on the forefront of such an important stage.

Scalise had this to say of the committee. "As a member of the powerful House Energy and Commerce Committee, I have been pushing for a strong national energy policy that increases the supply of American oil to lower gas prices at the pump and reduce our dependence on Middle Eastern oil. I have also been a vocal leader in the fight for fiscal discipline to reign in out-of-control spending in Washington."

Even with Scalise's busy schedule he still finds time to stay in touch with his fraternity. Some brothers have even lent a hand with his political campaigns.

"I stay in touch with many of the friends I made during my years at LSU and as an Acacia member. A number of my fellow Acacians have helped me during campaigns for state and federal office, and our families are close to this day," Scalise added.

Steve Scalise is a model for Acacia Fraternity. He exhibits our core values and is exactly what we hope the Acacia Fraternity experience produces. He states that he had many people that he looked up to as mentors while he was an undergraduate Acacian. Now many Acacians can look up to Steve Scalise as a mentor.

For more information on Brother Scalise, please visit [www.stevescalise.com](http://www.stevescalise.com).

## University of Iowa Recolonization Update

In preparation for a return to the University of Iowa campus, the alumni brothers of the Resh chapter have had an exciting and active year in 2008. The physical plant has seen numerous upgrades this year, including a refinishing of the chapter room floor, installation of new carpeting, replacement of old decks and the repair of the fascia around the exterior of the building. This year, we plan repairs on the two chimneys, updating of the electrical wiring (to be done in phases) and the possibility of a full size deck off the northeast corner of the house. As we move forward into 2009, we are working diligently with our current tenants to extend their lease on the physical structure. Through the remainder of the lease, the current tenants will be assisting in some of these projects. When a new generation of Acacians graces the halls of 202 Ellis Avenue, they will have a facility in which they can be proud!

The past year was also the kick off to our 3-year fundraising drive. Thus far, we have seen great success. We would ask that you consider joining our fundraising campaign. As we are only into year one, it is not too late to join in. There were 22 alumni donations made in 2008. These donations, totaling \$3,368.00 are to be used toward the re-colonization efforts. In addition, \$1,1050.00 was received in voluntary alumni dues. There have also been pledges for 2009-2010 in the amount of \$4,747.00. Funds donated to the Acacia Fraternity Foundation (AFF), earmarked for the University of Iowa Chapter Fund, are tax deductible and will be used to provide scholarships to Acacia Graduate students that will help oversee the reformation of the Iowa chapter. You can make your tax-deductible donation by sending a

check to:

Brian White  
2219 E. Court Street  
Iowa City, IA 52240

or

Acacia Fraternity Foundation  
8777 Purdue Road, Suite 225  
Indianapolis, IN 46268

Make sure to note your donation to be used for the University of Iowa chapter fund. The voluntary dues to the Eastern Iowa Acacia Alumni Association (EIAAA) are \$75.00 (non-tax deductible). The dues to the EIAAA help pay for the alumni newsletters and offset the costs of alumni events. For more information, pledge cards, newsletters and more, log onto our website at [www.uiacacia.com](http://www.uiacacia.com).

As we stated previously, we are anxiously preparing for our return to the University of Iowa. We are currently working with Acacia Headquarters in obtaining potential new member names. With the help of the Illinois and Iowa State chapters, we are composing a list of men that are currently attending the University or will be coming to Iowa City in the coming years. We have brothers from other campuses that are attending graduate school at U of I and have been assisting in these efforts. Contact has been made with a few young men and there is significant interest in this endeavor. We now need your help! We need your recommendations. Do you know a young man from your community or your church that is or will be attending the University of Iowa? What about your son, grandson, nephew or cousin? Do your friends have a young man attending school here? If so, we would like to talk with them. Please forward any recommendations to Keith Bushey, Assistant Executive Director, at [kbushey@acacia.org](mailto:kbushey@acacia.org). Even if you do not have a recommendation, we would still ask for your participation. If you are interested in assisting in this effort, please contact Aaron Morrow ([amorrow836@hotmail.com](mailto:amorrow836@hotmail.com)). We look forward to hearing from you!

Make your plans now to attend the 2nd (1st Annual!) Iowa Acacia Golf Outing. (Due to inclement weather last year, the event last year was cancelled.) You won't want to miss a great day of golf, fellowship and fun!

**Who may attend:** Any Acacia Fraternity Alumni

**What:** 2 person best shot

**When:** Saturday, July 25, 2009. Tee times starting at 1:00 pm

**Where:**

Pleasant Valley Golf Course  
4390 S.E. Sand Road  
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

**Why:** Fellowship & Fun!

A roast beef and chicken buffet dinner banquet will follow golf.

Cost for the entire package is \$75.00. This includes 18 holes, cart and prizes. Spouses or guests are invited to attend the dinner. The cost for dinner is only \$25.00.

Reservations are required and gold is limited to the first 60 players to sign up. Please send your reservation with name(s) (1-2 players),

address, phone, e-mail address and fee to:

Bryan Tabor  
7471 Commune Court  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52411

Grab your golf buddy and join us for a day of fun! If you are coming as a single player, we will pair you with another Acacia brother.

We look forward to seeing you in Iowa City on July 25th!

### Join Acacia Online!

Have you found Acacia online yet? You can find us on [Facebook](#) (over 1200 members!), [LinkedIn](#) (career networking with over 500 alumni), [YouTube](#), even [Twitter](#)! While you're catching up with old brothers and getting the latest news, please take a few minutes to update your membership record online.



The size and accuracy of our membership database grows every week, but we need you to play your part! [Update your info now!](#)

**Acacia Fraternity**  
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317-872-8210

***For more information, please visit us at [www.acacia.org](http://www.acacia.org).***

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