

FALL
2012

the Hello

ACACIA FRATERNITY *at the* UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



Move-in Edition



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More Straight "A" Students at Acacia

In the so called "old days," achieving a straight "A" record was an unusual achievement - this is no longer the case at Acacia. During the 2011-2012 school year, Acacia had eight active members achieve this lofty goal. Each of these members will receive a \$1,000 Acacia Academic Excellence Scholarship - deposited directly with the University and made possible by your alumni donations.

Acacia is extremely proud of these individuals. The University of Illinois has set higher standards for initial acceptance into the University and these men prove they have what it takes to succeed at a high level.

Impressively, six of the eight members lived in the chapter house while achieving this feat - who said you can't live in a fraternity house and make

good grades? These Acacia members certainly prove otherwise.

In addition to the Acacia Academic Excellence Scholarship, each member listed below will receive a personalized plaque at Homecoming and have their name listed on a master plaque that hangs in the new library.

Andrew Alsterda '10
Ryan Crawford '09
Connor Ekelund '09
Nicholas Gatti '09
Jonathan Gibson '11
Zachary Kromphardt '10
Kevin Langendorf '09
Connor Olsen '10

Meet Some of our Straight "A" Students

Andrew Alsterda '10 is a junior majoring in physics. He spent the summer conducting biophysics research at Loomis Laboratory in Champaign, Illinois. Alsterda serves as a teaching assistant for Phys 101 and plans to attend medical school after graduation.

Connor J. Ekelund '09 is a senior majoring in bioengineering. He served as the recruitment chair for the Spring 2011 pledge class and currently mentors engineering underclassmen. Ekelund works to finance his education; he is a snowboard instructor over winter breaks, works as a part-time bartender during the school year and has completed two full-time engineering internships over the summers. Ekelund plans to pursue his Master's Degree in bioengineering at the University of Illinois and hopes to work in the medical device industry after graduation.

Nick Gatti '09 graduated in May 2012 and is currently working for Sears Holdings Company as an inventory analyst in apparel.



It's not all study! Nick Gatti '09 (right) with his brother Tyler Gatti '11 (left) while on vacation at the Grand Canyon.



John Gibson '11

Johnathan Gibson '11 is a sophomore majoring in accounting and finance. He holds a 4.0 GPA and is a James Scholar Honors student. Gibson served as his pledge class president and is currently the chapter's environmental chair. He has completed four summer internship programs at a boutique management consulting firm in Chicago, Illinois, and plans to pursue a career in investment banking.

Zach Kromphardt '10 is a junior who completed an internship at Ambitech this summer. After graduation, Kromphardt plans to work as a process engineer in the gas and oil industry.

The Hello Editors

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Notes from President Art Mertes' Desk

New Appointments for Acacia Illinois

- **Anthony Lovero '05** has been elected as a Chapter Advisor and Board Member. His role will replace that of Mel Rapp's, who is stepping away from this role given the many hats he wears in service to the fraternity. Mel has agreed to be available during a transition period to ensure we develop the role of Chapter Advisor functionally and consistently.
- **Phil Chapman '71, Mel Rapp '49, Drew Millard '98 and Joel Winick '71** are serving on the Scholarship Committee.
- **Harrison Pappas '05** has been serving as Chapter Treasurer and Board Member for the past six months. He is working to establish a budget and house bill amounts to ensure the chapter can pay the necessary rent to the Board.
- **Ken Wagner '55**, Board Architect and Project Manager and Board Member, has been working through the improvements this summer, as well as on the House Management Committee.

Advisory Players

- **Anthony Lovero '05, David Thies '73**, and to a limited degree, **Mel Rapp '49 and Mike Duncan '74**, will serve in the Chapter Advisory capacities. Anthony will serve as Lead Chapter Advisor.
- **Phil Chapman '71** leads the Mentor Program, certain Cornerstone and Scholarship Programming, and the new initiate breakfast.
- **David Thies '73** has agreed to visit the chapter and help as needed.
- **Mike Duncan '74** has agreed to help in a Chapter Advisor capacity and be a sounding board as well as a direct line to the chapter president.

Mel Rapp '49 receives the George F. Patterson, Jr. Outstanding Alumnus Award

At Conclave, held in St. Louis on August 4, Acacia Fraternity National President, Rob Patterson, announced various chapter and individual awards including the *George F. Patterson, Jr. Outstanding Alumnus Award*.

Patterson commented, "The *George F. Patterson, Jr. Outstanding Alumnus Award* is designated not only to honor Brother Patterson's many years of service to Acacia and the interfraternity movement, but also honor, annually, one of Acacia's outstanding alumni. The criteria used in considering nominations are sustained and outstanding service to Acacia, at either the chapter or international level."

To identify the award recipient, Patterson stated, "He is currently an Acacia Fraternity Foundation Board Member serving on the investment committee, current corporation-chapter news publication



(L to R): Billy Jamie '11, Senior Dean, Mel Rapp '49 and Jyoji Morimoto '10, Venerable Dean at the Acacia Conclave banquet in St. Louis on August 4 where Mel Rapp was presented with the Patterson Award.

co-editor, corporation treasurer, chapter co-advisor, Capital Campaign coordinator, a proactive influence on the chapter, consistently attends initiation and is simply one of the finest Acacians you will ever meet, one of the best men you could ever call a brother and not afraid to get involved when things got tough for his chapter. From the Illinois Chapter, his name is Mel Rapp."

Illinois Football and Dinner at Acacia

Alumni and guests are invited to join undergraduate Acacia brothers at each of the remaining home game for the Acacia Football Dinners! This is a great opportunity to see fellow alumni, meet the Alumni Corporation board members, catch up on current Acacia happenings and meet new chapter members. The dinners will take place at the chapter house (302 East Armory) and are complimentary. Any financial support is voluntary and optional.



ILLINOIS HOME GAMES AND ACACIA DINNER SCHEDULE

10/27 vs. Indiana (Homecoming)
 11/10 vs. Minnesota
 11/17 vs. Purdue

Dinner time will vary based on the game kickoff time. If kickoff is before noon, dinner will start 1½ hours after the game ends. If kickoff is after noon, dinner will start 2 hours before the game begins. If you plan to attend a dinner, please RSVP at least two weeks prior to the game date by contacting **Mel Rapp '49** at (630) 404-4994 or mrapp3@sbcglobal.net.

See you at the house! Go Illini!

Capital Campaign Kickoff Reception at University Club in Chicago

Over 60 Acacia Illinois alumni gathered in downtown Chicago on the evening of August 1, 2012, to celebrate the purchase of the new Acacia House, located at 302 East Armyory. The event was held at the University Club and alumni from all eras were represented.

The evening provided an opportunity to renew old friendships, meet fellow alumni for the first time and to share stories that spanned decades. Capital Campaign Co-Chairmen **Dan Bayston '80** and **Mike Duncan '74** thanked those

in attendance, including lead donor **Jim Wormley '60**, for making it possible to purchase the new home. Alumni were also updated on previous fundraising efforts and the renewed push to raise enough money in the final phase of the campaign to meaningfully reduce the \$1.75 million mortgage, provide funding for completing the conversion of the house from a sorority home to a fraternity house, and replenish the capital reserves.



(L to R): Michael Rutkowski '86 and Ron Hamelberg '57



(L to R): Jim Wormley '60, Mike Duncan '74, Dan Bayston '80 and Mel Rapp '49



(L to R): Ken Wagner '55 and Gene Fickel '56



(L to R): Bill Dugan '88, Eric Kuehl '89, Rick Kenyon '88, Chris Kaczynski '88 and Michael Rutkowski '86



(L to R): Mike Conniff '93, Bill Shannon '89, Brian Thomas '93 and Mark Worman '95



(L to R): Aaron Ruswick '97, Todd Wallin '98 and Ben Galloway '98



Dan Bayston '80



Mike Duncan '74



(L to R): Scott Koch '95 and Adam Powers '98

Bob Hagemeyer '54 and Ron Maurer '54 Create Mini Reunion

It all started when **Bob Hagemeyer '54**, an Atlanta, Georgia area resident decided he was going to travel to Illinois to “inspect the farm crops.” He did and decided to make the small town of Hopedale his Illinois inspection base.

Hopedale, Illinois is just a few short miles from where **Ron Maurer '54** and his wife, Carol, live on their farm. It only took a brief conversation to conclude that this would be a great opportunity to see each other, possibly even others, and so they did.

Working quickly, the Maurer's recruited area Acacians to come join Bob for dinner and conversation. Jean Slonneger, widow of **Ron Slonneger '54**, from Peoria; **Bob Willerton '51** and his wife, Sue, from Danvers; **Don Kilby '48** and his wife, Pat, from Mackinaw; **Mel Rapp '49** and his wife, Carol, from Wheaton; **Joe Long '55** and his wife, Alice, from Urbana; and Craig Ivers, a long time school friend from Iowa, joined together for dinner and an extended dialogue with Bob.



(L to R): Bob Willerton '51, Mel Rapp '49, Bob Hagemeyer '54, Craig Ivers and Ron Maurer '54.

Bob concluded, “The crops are doing reasonably well considering the lack of rain, but I noticed a degree of aging among the fraternity brothers.”

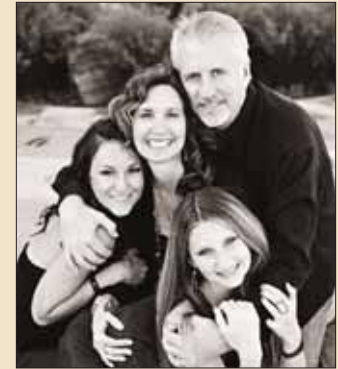
Bob's email address is bobhagemeyer@yahoo.com - he would love to hear from you.



(L to R): Jack Williams '61, Pete Dukes '60 and Jim Wormley '60 were able to get together for a day in late June. The gathering took place on Lopez Island, one of the San Juan Islands off the northwest coast of Washington State.

Brothers Eternal

Laurie Anderson



Todd Anderson's Family

Laurie Anderson, wife of **Todd Anderson '77**, passed away in June 2012. “Laurie was a lovely person who was very well connected with her church and community, and truly one of the nicest people I've ever met” wrote Acacian **Doug Anderson '76**. Todd and Laurie have two beautiful daughters, Jordan and Taylor, who are currently attending college. To view Laurie's touching blog from the last year on Caring Bridge, visit www.caringbridge.org, and enter “laurieanderson1”.

John Dahlberg

Susan Dahlberg, daughter of **John Dahlberg '42**, notified *The Hello* that John “passed away on July 15, 2012 in Arizona. He was 88. My dad always had fond thoughts of his time at the University of Illinois.”





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Help us keep our alumni records up-to-date! Parents, please forward this newsletter to your son. Alumni, edit your member profile online at www.AcaciaIllinois.com, or clip this form, place it in a stamped envelope and send to: Acacia Fraternity, University of Illinois #1151, PO Box 2187, Columbus, GA 31902.

Name _____

Roll Number _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____



**Make plans now to join your Acacia brothers at the new Chapter House for Homecoming on
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2012.**

This year's celebration will be held before and after the game at 302 East Armory - Acacia's new home.
Stop by for plenty of pre-game tailgating food, bean bag toss, camaraderie and fun.

Acacia's 40-seat alumni football block is SOLD OUT - buy early next year to expand the block!

Immediately after the football game, alumni and guests are invited to a **COMPLIMENTARY** Alumni Reception and Dinner at 302 East Armory. BBQ and refreshments will be served.

To RSVP for the reception and pig roast, or if you have questions, please contact
Adam Powers '98 at adampowers1@gmail.com or (312) 209-2326.

We look forward to seeing you and your family at Homecoming!