



## Active Chapter Renovates the Multipurpose Room

### *Excitement Builds Among Chapter Members*

Toward the end of the first year of living in the new house, active brothers expressed a desire to make 302 East Armory more unique to Acacia. With phase two of the “Man-Up” project continuing into the summer, the timing was right for a chapter driven renovation. The active chapter, who provided its own funds for the project, campaigned for help from the Corporation Board, who graciously decided to match their investment. It was quickly decided that the Multipurpose Room, an almost 700 square foot room that connects the dining area, courtyard and east wing, would be the focus of the renovation effort.

With several goals in mind to make the room more formal, durable and to distinguish the Acacia house from other fraternities, planning for the renovation began in March and construction began in May, immediately following the end of school. Renovation projects included the removal

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A custom mural, painted by local muralist Glen Davies, is the focal point of the newly redesigned Multipurpose Room.

## Corporation Board Establishes the Acacia Alumni Scholarship Award Program (AASAP)

### *Encourages a Culture of Academic Excellence*

by Eric J. Kuehl '89

As alumni of Illinois Chapter, we have much to celebrate! Between our successful capital campaign, the purchase of a chapter house and the completion of recent “Man-Up” renovations, it seems what we can accomplish when we all band together is endless. We have secured a permanent home for Acacia Fraternity at Illinois, which will shape the future of our revered chapter for many years to come. If you have not had the opportunity to visit the new chapter house, please consider doing so this fall

at Homecoming or another football weekend.

Now that we have reached this important milestone, the Corporation Board's next goal is to work with the chapter to create a Culture of Academic Excellence and establish a new scholarship program to recognize brothers for their high achievements in the classroom. The Board spent considerable time and energy in developing a program to help encourage a positive academic experience for the active chapter. With help from other Acacia chapters

around the country the Board has been able to review their successful strategies and put together a comprehensive program that will encourage our active chapter to strive for excellence in the classroom.

The active chapter continues to make large strides in its pursuit of Academic Excellence. Over the past few years, several brothers earned straight A's and the Board awarded scholarships in recognition of their achievements. Additionally, the house moved from the bottom half of the frater-

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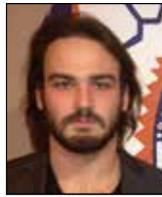


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## Venerable Dean Update

by Billy Jamie '11

Acacia Illinois hit the ground running this fall. Over the summer, we were fortunate to have various parts of the house and grounds renovated. Excitement was at an all-time high during move-in at the end of August and one of the most anticipated times of the year, fall rush, is underway. The new renovations, including our Acacia-themed mural, are making it even easier to find worthy candidates for our chapter.

This past spring, we raised our chapter's GPA ranking among fraternities on campus. With our newly-enforced GPA requirements and a new, revamped scholarship program in the making, the chapter is excited and committed to improving our already impressive academics.



## The Hello Editors

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## House Director Update

by Jeff Chandler

First let me start by saying “Thank You” for allowing me the opportunity to work, learn and grow with this Fraternity. I spent the last five months getting familiar with the property, current chapter members and the Alumni that I have been fortunate enough to meet thus far.

I began my tour of duty at the end of February and have seen many changes to the property since that time. The house was in good shape, but it needed some repairs and updates to ensure its viability in the years to come. During the summer break, the house was cleared of all unnecessary and/or unusable furniture and clutter. New carpet was installed in the west wing staircase from top to bottom and most of the interior received a fresh coat of paint. The most exciting change was the complete renovation of the Multipurpose Room. The concept for the renovation was conceived by the Chapter, approved by the Alumni Board and completed by Payan Maintenance Service who exceeded expectations.

While the interior of the house received many updates, the exterior was also improved upon. Fernando Payan and I mulched the flower beds and maintained the yard to such a level that the house was recognized by Campus Housing as an example for others to follow. I am very proud of that accomplishment and look forward to keeping the grounds in pristine shape from here on out. A new set of concrete steps were poured on the west side of the building that now connects the west exit door to the sidewalk. Residents are now able to use that door without being forced to cross the lawn, which saves the lawn from being trampled on while adding another entrance/exit for the residents to utilize.

All of the projects completed, along with those not mentioned due to space constraints, led to the house being ready for the 2013-2014 academic year. The house was turned back over to the chapter officers on August 19 in great shape, and what I consider to be a solid foundation for future growth and advancement of this fraternity.

Any alumni who would like to see the progress first hand should stop by the house and see for themselves. The future success of the house depends on the transparency of expectations from the Alumni to the current Chapter Officers, with a complete understanding of the current conditions as a baseline for the minimum acceptable standards of safety and cleanliness of the house.

## Summer Work Completed

by Ken Wagner '55

The Corporation Board executed projects this summer totaling \$45,000 to continue improvement of the house and property. Work was planned and began soon as the house was vacated for the summer.

The largest single project undertaken was the remodeling and refurbishment of the Multipurpose Room on the lower level between the East and West Wings. It was a cooperative project with the cost shared equally between the Corporation Board and the Active Chapter. *(See the Multipurpose Room renovation article on page one of this issue of the Hello.)*

Exterior work included restoration of stone and brick masonry to maintain structural integrity and weather resistance. Mortar joints were inspected and re-pointed where necessary. Joints around all windows were inspected and resealed. The brick retaining wall in the lower courtyard was cleaned and treated with water repellent to prevent deterioration from winter freeze/thaw cycles. New concrete steps were installed from the door at the west side of the house down to the public sidewalk.

Many large and small projects were accomplished in the interior of the house. Life safety work was done to comply with the most recent inspection by the city's Building Safety Department. The security alarm system was upgraded for better monitoring and more comprehensive protection. Heating system repairs and improvements were made. The Laundry Room was upgraded with shelving and a new epoxy



The brick retaining wall in the lower courtyard was cleaned and treated with water repellent.



New concrete steps were installed from the door at the west side of the house down to the public sidewalk.

floor finish. New carpet was installed in the West Wing stairwells and in the Alumni Room on the first floor. Many rooms and spaces received a fresh coat of paint and the entire house was thoroughly cleaned from top to bottom in readiness for the members return to school.

With cooperation from the Active Chapter, the Corporation Board will continue to maintain the property in the best of condition. We will strive for upgrades and improvements year after year to provide a healthy up-to-date facility that both Active members and Alumni can be proud of.

## Accolades for Acacia's "Curb Appeal"

by Ken Wagner '55

The University Certified Housing Office has acknowledged Acacia's property located at 302 East Armory as an example for others to follow with respect to the care of landscape, neatness and general appearance.

Maintenance and care of the grounds has been the responsibility of live-in House Director, Jeff Chandler. Utilizing equipment and materials furnished by our maintenance contractor, Jeff has been meticulously mowing, weeding, trimming, mulching and patrolling the grounds this summer to keep it clean and neat. The appearance has been truly exemplary. Thanks Jeff.



Acacia's home, located at 302 East Armory, has been recognized by the University Certified Housing Office as an example for others to follow.

# AASAP

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nity GPA ranking at Illinois to the top half for the last four semesters. While these are milestones we should be proud of much more progress can be done at Acacia. Implementing a Culture of Academic Excellence will ensure recent success continues into the future.

The Corporation Board is excited to announce the establishment of the Acacia Alumni Scholarship Award Program (AASAP). The purpose of AASAP is to build on past achievements and to encourage the continued growth of a Culture of Academic Excellence at Acacia Illinois. We will expand the Board's recognition of academic achievement by establishing a scholarship fund to reward excellence with scholarships applied to tuition costs. These scholarships will be directly paid to the University of Illinois to help offset the ever-increasing cost of tuition for the recipients. The Corporation Board and scholarship committee will be working closely with the university to ensure the program will encourage our active chapter to take a leadership role in the Greek system in promoting academic achievements at the fraternity. In addition, the chapter will have another powerful tool to assist with recruiting new members during fall rush.

Scholarships to be awarded to qualifying active members include:

- All straight A students (4.0 GPA)
- Most improved grades for Freshman, Sophomore, Junior and Senior
- Highest GPA (under a 4.0) for Freshman, Sophomore, Junior and Senior
- Top pledge GPA for each semester and year

The Board hopes to be able to expand the various scholarships being offered in the future and that will all depend on the success of our fundraising campaign. The Acacia Alumni Scholarship Award Program

will be funded through generous contributions by alumni, like you. The Acacia Alumni Scholarship Award Program will replace the Annual Fund Campaign many of you contributed to in previous years. This program is the one way our alumni can contribute to the ongoing academic achievements of the active chapter and help make Acacia a model of Academic Excellence at the University of Illinois.

The AASAP will be maintained as a separate account at the Acacia Fraternity Foundation. The Board concluded utilizing the Foundation for this program made the most sense as many other Acacia chapters across the country have utilized the Foundation in this manner as there are several benefits for this.

A separate account will allow the following benefits:

- The Acacia Fraternity Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. Your contribution to the Foundation in support of educational initiatives is tax-deductible.
- By establishing an account with the Foundation, we will create an endowment for future scholarship awards and other academic related expenses; ensuring these scholarships are available for many generations to come.
- Your contribution will only be utilized by the Acacia Fraternity at the University of Illinois for the purpose of providing a Culture of Academic Excellence!

Our hope is to establish a fund at the Foundation that can be utilized for generations of Acacia members to come. A solid start to this program will ensure its longevity and ability to encourage a Culture of Academic Excellence long into the future!

The Foundation account will be accepting donations through our partner, OmegaFi. A separate mailing went out in late July announcing the program. If you have not already made your contribution, please do so today, while you are thinking

about it. You can either send a check using the pledge envelope included in this newsletter or you can contribute online through the Acacia Fraternity Foundation's website at [www.Acacia.org](http://www.Acacia.org). If you visit the website, please click the "Donate Today" link in the upper right hand corner then ensure that you select "Illinois Scholarship Fund" from the drop down menu before submitting the online form.

The Foundation is also able to assist in establishing any planned giving contributions to the scholarship program. To learn more on how to make the AASAP at the University of Illinois part of your estate plan please contact **Eric Kuehl '89** at [eric.kuehl@lpl.com](mailto:eric.kuehl@lpl.com). Also: check if your employer has a gift matching program for charitable contributions. Since the Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, your contribution may be eligible for a matching gift.

In the past, many of you contributed to the Annual Fund Campaign and we thank you for your support. To establish a solid foundation for this scholarship fund, please reaffirm your support by becoming a Founding Member of the Acacia Alumni Scholarship Award Program. Your contribution of \$500 or more qualifies you as a Founding Member. Founding Members will receive a special golf shirt and memento recognizing your commitment to Academic Excellence at Acacia Illinois.

If a contribution of \$500 is more than you can manage at this time, please consider a gift of \$250, \$100 or \$50 to this worthwhile cause. Your contribution, at any level, will make a difference.

We are excited with our academic priority. We look forward to many more years of success for Acacia at Illinois and a Culture of Academic Excellence at our fraternity.

If you have any questions or to discuss the AASAP further, please contact **Phil Chapman '71** at [pchapman5152@gmail.com](mailto:pchapman5152@gmail.com) or **Eric Kuehl '89** at [eric.kuehl@lpl.com](mailto:eric.kuehl@lpl.com).



## Acacia Alumni Scholarship Award Program 2013-2014

### DONOR LIST as of September 11, 2013

- Founding Member**  
\$500+
- Mel W. Rapp '49
  - Paul E. Ruby '72
  - Jeffrey R. Smith '80
  - Kenneth A. Wagner '55
  - Joel A. Winick '71

- Patron**  
\$250 - \$499
- David L. Mari '64

- Sponsor**  
\$100 - \$249
- Robert O. Jesberg '41
  - Samuel A. Peak '52
  - Richard Kent Price '66
  - Robert J. Svatos '77

- Contributor**  
\$50 - \$99
- Giving opportunities available!*

- Donor**  
\$1 - \$49
- Michael E. Broms '94

## Multipurpose Room

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of carpet/tile floor in favor of rubber/vinyl floor as well as changing the old suspended tile ceiling with more modern, durable recessed tiles. In order to add functionality and fraternal style, drywall was replaced with MDF (micro-dense fiberboard) and decorative trim, resulting in nearly indestructible walls and a more classic appearance. A door was added between the dining area and the Multipurpose Room, dampening sound and allowing a sectioning off the room for smaller gatherings.

The most impressive addition to the room, however, was a mural painted by local muralist Glen Davies who has created numerous pieces of art for the University and around campus. The mural was custom-made for Acacia. It was designed by the active chapter as well as alumni, including input from current and former Archivists. The resulting 12' x 7' national ritual themed mural features the Acacia crest, name, founding date and numerous more subtle images that only a genuine Acacian could discern. It is nothing short of awe inspiring and has truly become the focal point of the room.

The entire renovation was planned by the active chapter and was completed



The new Acacia mural in the Multipurpose Room was designed by the active chapter as well as alumni, including input from current and former Archivists.

ahead of schedule in late July. Furniture was delivered in mid-August just before the fall move-in period. The new space provides actives with a large, durable and refined area for activities, lounging and holding chapter wide meetings. All Acacians can be proud of this newly designed space. Alumni returning to campus are encouraged to drop by the house to see it for themselves.

Custom Mural .....	\$4,000
New Flooring.....	\$5,350
Upgraded walls/trim (MDF) .....	\$1,750
Upgraded Ceiling .....	\$2,750
Painting .....	\$770
Additional Door .....	\$950
New Furniture.....	\$3,500
<b>Total: .....</b>	<b>\$19,070</b>

## Brothers Eternal

*Editor's note: We rely on members of the family as well as alumni submissions to report the passing of alumni. We apologize for any delay in forwarding this information.*

**Clint Cannon '48** passed away on April 7, 2013 after suffering a traumatic brain injury sustained in a fall on September 5, 2012. **Rolf Cederwall '51** wrote, "Clint was a mentor for me as an undergraduate; I shall always treasure his friendship and counsel" **Mel Rapp '49** added, "Clint rose in the ranks of ROTC and became the 'Cadet Colonel,' the highest rank and position of any student in the ROTC program. He encouraged another Acacian, **Chuck Wheeler '49**, who later was promoted to the same exalted position, both operating within the Quartermaster corp."

**David James "Jim" Brademas, Ph.D.** passed away on August 19, 2013, after a long battle with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. Jim retired in 2000 to Tucson, Arizona.

*The Hello* was also advised of the deaths of **James R. Pitcher '38** who passed away on March 27, 2013, **Richard L. Dickinson '46** who passed away on February 27, 2013 and **Paul D. McLoughlin '53** who passed away on February 4, 2013. We extend our sincere condolences to the members of their families, and welcome them into the ranks of Acacia Eternal.



## Special Recognition

Elsewhere in this issue of *The Hello* are articles outlining significant improvements made to the house, especially the Multipurpose Room.

This improvement would not have happened without the leadership and follow through of one individual, **Peter Guzlas '12**.

Peter shepherded the renovation project from the original concept to its completion! He clearly demonstrated that he has significant leadership talents and stands as a fine example to all Acacians as to what a leader can do.

Guzlas has certainly earned the respect and appreciation of all and we commend him. His efforts demonstrate the leadership skills all members can use as a fine example of what they too can do within the fraternity environment.

We compliment Peter as well as thank him for what will surely become a fine accomplishment on his résumé.



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Help us keep our alumni records up-to-date! Edit your member profile online at [www.AcaciaIllinois.com](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

# ACACIA

*Homecoming*  
10.26.13 ILLINOIS

Make plans now to join your Acacia brothers at our Chapter House for Homecoming on **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2013.**

This year we are celebrating before the game at 302 East Armory - Acacia's Chapter House. Stop by for plenty of pre-game tailgating food, bean bag toss, camaraderie and fun.

Tickets for our 35-seat alumni football block are available at [www.AcaciaIllinois.com](http://www.AcaciaIllinois.com) for \$50/seat. Tickets are sold on a first come first serve basis and will be mailed to you.

Because kickoff is at 2:30 p.m., all festivities will occur before the game. A COMPLIMENTARY breakfast/tailgating food & drinks and house tours begin at 10:00 a.m. Alumni and guests must be of legal age to consume any beer. The Corporation Board will hold an All-Alumni board meeting at 11:00 a.m., which will conclude at noon when pulled pork BBQ is served. Chapter Scholarships and short presentation will begin at 12:30 p.m. Be sure to stop by and hang out before the game!

Contact **Adam Powers '98** at [adampowers1@gmail.com](mailto:adampowers1@gmail.com) or (312) 209-2326 with any questions.



*Parking for disabled alumni will be available behind the chapter house on Homecoming Day.*

