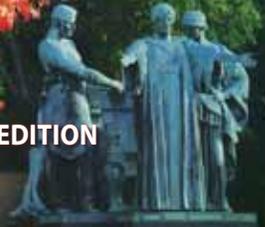


LATE  
SPRING  
2012

*the Hello*

HOUSE PURCHASE EDITION

ACACIA FRATERNITY *at the* UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



# IT'S OURS!

*April 3, 2012, via e-mail:*

“As of 2:30 today, Acacia officially owns the fraternity house at 302 E. Armory, Champaign!”

**Mike Duncan '74**  
Lead negotiator



## Chapter Officers 2012-2013

### Venerable Dean

Jyoji Morimoto '10  
jmorimoto3@gmail.com

### Senior Dean

Billy Jamie '11  
bill.jamie85@gmail.com

### Junior Dean

Anthony Michael '10  
anthonymich@gmail.com

### Social Chair

Erik Scott '11  
erikscott93@gmail.com

### Treasurer

Sam Moore '10  
smoore320@gmail.com

### Alumni Chair

Dylan Lovering '10  
dlovering97@gmail.com

### Secretary

Steve Romanelli '09  
steven.romanelli@gmail.com

### House Manager

Jimmy Turano '10  
turano.jimmy22@gmail.com

### House Manager

Ryan Ferm '10  
rmferm@gmail.com

### Risk Management Chair

Nate Schroeder '10  
nate.schroeder14@gmail.com

### Philanthropy Chair

Carson Masterson '10  
carson.masterson14@gmail.com

### Head Scholarship Chair

Mitch Lewis '10  
mitchlewis14@gmail.com

### Head Pledge Educator

Dylan Lovering '10  
dlovering97@gmail.com

### House Director

Brad Luhrsen

Communications support and  
assistance provided by:  
OmegaFi  
800.276.6342  
omegafi.com

## Chapter Officer Reports

### Jyoji Morimoto '10 Venerable Dean



An exciting part of history is currently underway for Acacia at the University of Illinois. After not knowing how to feel about different possibilities, the Chapter is thrilled about moving into a permanent chapter house. We can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Thanks to the House Corporation, and generous support of countless alumni, we will soon understand what it truly means to call a house on campus our own.

Establishing a permanent home on campus is a significant improvement for the current chapter. The most important aspect of a chapter house is the feeling of tradition. Having our own house will provide consistency and bring together the current pledge class with those of the future. We are excited to begin these traditions again.

One of the first things we suggested when asked what we wanted to do with the new house was to put "Acacia" everywhere; our letters, the crest, composites, awards, everything. We would like everyone who walks past or goes inside the house to know, without question, who lives there. We are very proud and grateful to have a beautiful new house to call our own and the active chapter looks forward to moving in at the start of next semester.

### Dylan Lovering '10 Alumni Chair, Head Pledge Educator



Over the past few years, Acacia Illinois brought back the Cornerstones mentoring program and, thus far, has seen positive results. Based on the motto "Human Service," the program has been a great way for alumni to reach out and serve the fraternity. A number of active members are currently involved in the program and have benefited greatly. Those involved in the program seek career advice, internship opportunities and/or an

alumnus role model. We have a very diverse field of majors within the active chapter such as business administration, accounting, technology management and psychology, as well as many others working within the colleges of LAS, Media and Engineering.

Sophomore **Jim Healy '11** recently met his mentor in person and said, "It was a great meeting. My mentor is willing to help with an internship in the future." Junior **Ryan Crawford '09** had lunch in downtown Chicago with his mentor, and said, "I am so grateful for the contacts provided. I will definitely utilize my mentor in the future." Other brothers have been mentored via e-mail and find it very helpful to converse with someone who is a professional.

There are many actives currently seeking a mentor and the chapter plans to grow the program. If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please contact **Phil Chapman '71** at [pchapman@highlandil.com](mailto:pchapman@highlandil.com). Alumni participation is needed to make the program a success.

### Mitch Lewis '10 Scholarship Chair



Scholarship is the backbone of any fraternity and Acacia continues to improve its standing. The chapter placed eleventh among fraternities at the University of Illinois for overall GPA, but we are not content to stop there. The chapter is working hard to break the top ten.

History has proven that chapter members typically raise their GPA over the course of their college career. To begin initiates on the right path, a mandatory study program has been implemented for the younger members. The program encourages better scholastic performance and teaches valuable time management skills.

A peer mentorship program is also available, which pairs younger members with upper classmen in the same college and/or discipline. The mentors offer guidance and advice, and the program has been successful thus far.

**What do the Illinois communities of Champaign, Chicago, Highland, Western Springs, Westmont and Wheaton have in common?**

**The answer is on page 5.**

# President's Message of Thanks and Request for Your Support for the New Acacia House!



On April 3, 2012, we reached a substantial milestone in the ritual of Acacia Fraternity at the University of Illinois - one that you all should be so proud of. We now own 302 E. Armory, a sizable piece of land improved with a 16,000 square foot facility originally built as a fraternity house and located in the "magic quadrant" of the Champaign campus. Each of you, as an alumnus of our chapter, now own a piece of this house and we will have a special area designated for Acacia Alumni to gather! I would like to thank my fellow House Corporation Board members, alumni volunteers and contributors for their unwavering perseverance, substantial contributions and high-caliber professional abilities that have made ownership of our new Acacia home at the University of Illinois a reality. I am so proud to call each of them my "Brother." A special plaque at the new Acacia House will bear the names of the governing alumni and contributors that have made this possible - their names cemented in the history of our chapter.

When I became involved with our Acacia Alumni / House Corporation 22 years ago, my goal was to apply my skills to help ensure that Acacia could continue at the University of Illinois, and, indirectly, for Acacia to own a chapter house at the University of Illinois that would never be lost. For a long time, I thought it might not be achievable but our group of brothers has managed to outmatch the impossible. Our pursuit has been categorized as "a thankless job," but with tremendous labor and effort, our goal was realized.

For those of you who have been standing back, waiting to see if it could be done, I encourage you now more than ever to get

involved and contribute. To be successful, we need to have a steady inflow of new volunteers and contributors to continually improve upon oversight, programming, membership involvement and viability. We have created a foundation upon which we must continue to build, and we must work to pay down our substantial mortgage, which will protect our long-term future. We are open to your ideas and involvement, and your contributions at whatever level, but now is the time for you to take action, give back and become an active part of something truly special. We have accomplished a tremendous amount to date, and trust me when I tell you that we have so much more untapped capability to foster great things for Acacia within our alumni ranks. Seeing what you, my brothers, have accomplished in life thus far makes me so proud. Now you can make a difference for Acacia and re-ignite your special feelings for our Fraternity and brotherhood. Please pick up the phone or e-mail and reach out to me or any House Corporation Board member to do so - you won't regret that you did!

To those who have contributed to our Capital Campaign, I sincerely thank you. To those who would like to contribute for the first time or those who would like to generously increase their prior pledge, please contact our Capital Campaign Co-chairmen **Dan Bayston '80** ([dan.bayston@cognient.com](mailto:dan.bayston@cognient.com)) or **Mike Duncan '74** ([mduncan@patcap.com](mailto:mduncan@patcap.com)).

Your Brother,

**Arthur E. Mertes '85**  
President, House Corporation Board

## More Kudos and Compliments

I am extremely excited for all the Illinois alumni. Pythagoras' trip has taught us well. It has been a "long and toilsome journey." The vision and ultimate success of a dedicated select number of alumni to this process will go down as one of the

greatest success stories in Acacia history. Many thanks for making an already good fraternity experience great for the next generation of Illinois Acacias.

Darold Larson  
Executive Director,  
Acacia International Fraternity



Source: PR Newswire 8 April 2012

## Acacia Fraternity Purchases New Chapter Home at 302 E. Armory

Acacia Fraternity announced the completed purchase of 302 E. Armory for its new chapter home at the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign. The purchase provides Acacia a permanent home on the University's campus that will enhance its ability to invest in the chapter, the physical plant, and strengthen its commitment to adhering to its standards of excellence and contributing favorably to University life through leadership, participation, scholarship, and philanthropy.

302 E. Armory's premier location lies in the area most desired by University students, with convenient access to the main Quad, Business Quad, athletic

**Gail Borden, the dairyman, was known to have said: "I tried and failed. I tried, again, and again, and again, and finally succeeded!" Seems the Acacia Illinois House Corporation Board could say the same.**

and recreation facilities, shopping and entertainment. The Theta Upsilon Omega fraternity originally built the classic structure in 1929, and Phi Mu occupied the house since 1946.

302 E. Armory is a large, well-constructed structure of two connected stone buildings on a double-lot. The building square footage includes approximately 16,000 square feet plus parking and a large outdoor courtyard.

The acquisition and financing of the property was led by the Acacia Corporation Board members **David Thies '73** at Weber & Thies, PC, **Michael Duncan '74** at Patriot Capital Advisors, **Art Mertes '85** at Synergy Law Group, LLC, **Michael Conniff '93** at Thomson Reuters, **Adam Powers '98** at Karnes Law Chartered, **Dan Bayston '80** at Cognient and **Mel Rapp '49**. In addition, the purchase would not have been possible without the support of the local Chapter Members and leadership, the Alumni Board, additional volunteers, contributors, and specifically, alumnus **James Wormley '60**.

Acacia Fraternity Corporation Board President, Art Mertes said, "On April 3, 2012 we reached a substantial milestone for Acacia Fraternity at the University of Illinois."

Mike Duncan, who along with Art Mertes and David Thies directed negotiations, said in a letter to involved Acacia Alumni, "It is my pleasure to inform you that Acacia Fraternity now owns 302 E. Armory in Champaign, Illinois. I thank all of you for your hard work over the 25 years it has taken us to realize this goal and for believing in and working for our beloved fraternity. God bless us in our efforts to provide young men a bright future through the fellowship we all enjoy."

The Heth Chapter of Acacia Fraternity, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, was founded at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign on April 28, 1906. The Heth Chapter of Acacia Fraternity organization includes a living alumni base of over 1,593 University of Illinois members. In addition, the Chapter has a strong history of success in academics, athletics, philanthropy, and student government. The Chapter ranked #11 in GPA (out of 41 fraternities), and higher than the all-men's average at the University.



### The Hello Editors

Dylan Lovering '10  
dlovering97@gmail.com

Mel Rapp '49 Adam Powers '98  
mrapp3@sbcglobal.net adampowers1@gmail.com

## Just the Facts Please

- 60 members will live in the chapter house beginning this August. In future years this will likely increase to 62 to 64.
- There will be approximately 105 chapter members living on campus overall.
- After obtaining quotes from multiple banks, terms, conditions, and interest in the U of I Champaign Urbana area prompted the acquiring of a mortgage from Busey Bank.
- The mortgage conditions include a review of the mortgage in 10 years.
- The payment amortization schedule for the mortgage is 25 years.
- Mortgage amount: \$1,725,000
- Interest rate: 4.875%

- Cash in bank after down payment: \$434,632
- 3.5 months were needed to move from signed contract to house ownership: December 19, 2011 to April 3, 2012.
- Closing was accomplished 60 days earlier than originally anticipated, projected and contracted. This secures attractive financing and leaves more time to prepare the house for occupancy this Fall.
- Overall, the property is in very good condition.
- Planning for the Capital Campaign II is well underway.
- The board has every intention of reducing the mortgage as quickly and as soon as possible, although it will remain focused on maintaining a comfortable cash reserve in the interim to deal with any unforeseen needs.

**What do the Illinois communities of Chicago, Highland, Western Springs, Westmont and Wheaton have in common?**

**Each of these cities contains a resident that serves on Acacia Illinois' House Corporation Board.**

**Why not add your town's name to the list?**





**Acacia Fraternity**  
University of Illinois #1151  
PO Box 2187  
Columbus, GA 31902-2187

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](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 \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

## Homecoming 2012

**A real reason to "Come Home"**

What a wonderful opportunity to share the past as well as our new home this fall with all alumni!

An "official" unveiling and introduction of 302 E. Armory will commence at Homecoming this fall. Mark your calendars and make reservations now - plan to be there!



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



*Join Your Brothers at*  
**HOMECOMING!**  
**October 27, 2012**  
*Illinois vs. Indiana*

11:00 a.m. kickoff  
Pre- and Post-game Festivities  
at our New Chapter Home  
302 E. Armory

40-seat football block  
\$55/seat

Tickets available ONLINE NOW at  
[www.AcaciaIllinois.com](http://www.AcaciaIllinois.com)