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A Tradition Revisited: 2011 Home Football Weekends and Complimentary Dinners at Acacia

Some of our Hello readers will recall that having dinner at the chapter house before or after home football games was not only a tradition and an opportunity to visit with fellow alumni, but an excellent way to avoid the long lines at area restaurants. Now, history is repeating itself!

All alumni, their families and guests are invited to the chapter house for complimentary dinners to be held the weekend of each home football game this fall. Chapter members and pledges are invited as well, providing alumni and actives with a chance to visit and exchange experiences. These dinners will provide an opportunity for alumni to commend the chapter on its recent accomplishments.

Dinners will be ready and available an hour and a half after the end of all 11:00 a.m. kickoff games (currently, 9/10,

Homecoming 10/1, and 10/22) and two hours before all afternoon and evening kickoffs (currently, 2:30 p.m. kickoff on 9/3 and 6:00 p.m. kickoff on 9/17). For those planning to attend, please forward your intention to have dinner with us at least two weeks prior to a particular game to **Adam Powers '98** at adampowers1@gmail.com or **Mel Rapp '49** at mrapp3@sbcglobal.net or 255 E Liberty Dr #508, Wheaton, IL 60187. Be sure to include the number of guests you plan on bringing. If you forget to contact us, or decide last minute to attend a game, do not hesitate to stop by. Contact Adam and Mel for any additional information about attending a dinner. We sincerely hope you will take advantage of visiting the house at 202 E. Daniel and relive a few memories. See you then!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR! PLAN TO COME!

Homecoming!

**October 1, 2011
Illinois vs Northwestern**



One of eight benches purchased by the Corporation for use outside in the porch area.



Mother's Weekend - The attending mothers and sons enjoyed conversing with each other as well as the provided lunch.

Chapter Officer Reports

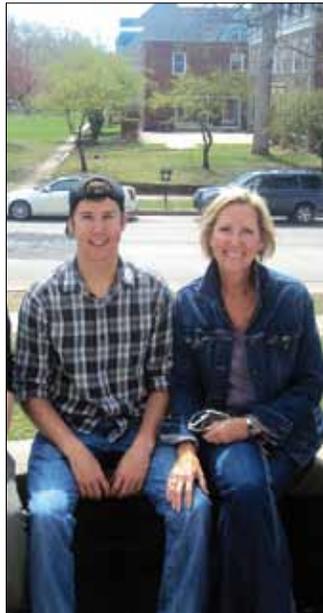
Jyoji Morimoto '10, Senior Dean



The 2011 spring semester proved to be one of the most enjoyable semesters to date for the active

members of Acacia. A highlight occurred on Mother's Weekend, when chapter brothers and their mothers socialized with one another while enjoying a Fraternity sponsored brunch. Everyone was impressed with the food prepared by the new catering company, which is also under contract for next year.

A focal point of Mother's Weekend was the silent auction fundraiser. At the end of the day, the house raised over



Mother's Weekend - Patrick Stevens '09 enjoys a moment outside the chapter house with his mother, Terri Stevens.

\$2,000. The chapter collectively decided to put the money towards items that benefit the house as a whole. The first purchase was a gas grill which has already been used by many. The remaining funds will be allocated toward the purchase of new weight-lifting equipment, among other things. We hope to continue the success of Mother's Weekend in years to come as it proved to be a great time for everyone.

Patrick Stevens '09, Scholarship Chair



Acacia Illinois' academic improvements for the Spring 2011 semester were

phenomenal! I can't begin to explain how proud I am of my brothers and their achievements. Our overall GPA increased 0.1 points to a 3.15 average. Out of the 45 fraternities on campus, Acacia Illinois' ranking improved from 24th to 11th overall. Academics are our highest priority, which is evidenced by our substantial improvements. This recent success in scholarship will not be the end to our progress as we are continually thinking of new ideas and implementing new strategies to assist our academics. Acacia Illinois' goal for the fall 2011 semester is to have an overall 3.2 GPA average and be in the top ten academically among fraternities at the University of Illinois.

Chapter Officers 2011-2012

Venerable Dean

Eric Ruzalski '09
eric.ruzalski@gmail.com

Senior Dean

Jyoji Morimoto '10
jmorimoto3@gmail.com

Junior Dean

Jack Roberts '09
jack.roberts15@gmail.com

Social Chair

Anthony Michael '10
anthonymich@gmail.com

Treasurer

Ryan Crawford '09
ryan.crawford2@gmail.com

Alumni Chair

Eric Russell '09
eric.russell13@gmail.com

Secretary

Chase Clinebell '09
Clinebell7@gmail.com

House Manager

TJ Sobczak '09
tjsobczak@gmail.com

Risk Management Chair

Kevin Langendorf '09
klangendorf@gmail.com

Philanthropy Chair

Akash Amin '09
akashamin1@gmail.com

Head Scholarship Chair

Patrick Stevens '09
patrickstevens1@gmail.com

Head Pledge Educator

Alex Swanson '09
alex.r.swanson74@gmail.com

A Perfect Spring Semester with All A's

Only a handful of alumni can remember a semester in which they had all A's! Yet, the current chapter is making a turn around. At least one brother has made all A's during every semester on campus! Below is a list of our Spring semester all "A's" brothers.

Cole Frankel - Junior
Nicholas Gatti - Junior
David Handley - Freshman
Zachary Kromphardt - Freshman
Kevin Langendorf - Sophomore
Thomas Mauro - Junior
Conner Olsen - Sophomore

In recognition of the academic achievement of these men, all chapter members and pledges will be the guest of the Corporation Board at the complimentary dinners being scheduled before or after every home football game this fall. (See related article on page 1).

Scholars Prevail – Acacia Advances

Led in part by the outstanding academic achievement of seven undergraduate members of Acacia Illinois (see accompanying article) who each achieved a perfect "all A's semester", by the emphasis being placed on high scholastic achievement by the entire chapter, recruitment with an eye on scholastic ability, supplemented by the Corporation Board's updated scholarship awards program scholarship program, and the "how to" seminars conducted by **Phil Chapman '71** with pledge class members ... the results were outstanding.

Partly due to the success of the scholars mentioned in the preceding article, Acacia Illinois rocketed to #11 among 45 fraternities on campus whose grade averages were released by the Inter Fraternity Council. To add to this scholastic success, recruitment is placing a much bigger emphasis on academic ability. In previous years, the chapter had been averaging in the "all fraternity" grade point range. The improvement meant the chapter is only one position behind being in the "top ten on campus" and well above the "all fraternity average."

On behalf of all Acacia Illinois Alumni, *The Hello* salutes all members of the chapter for their excellent accomplishment this past semester!

Acacia Illinois Participates in New Cornerstones Program

By Philip W. Chapman (Chappy) '71

Acacia Illinois will participate in the newest revision of the Cornerstones Program created by Acacia International and Brother Patrick McGovern. Cornerstones provides a framework of learning for actives outside of the classroom. Major areas of growth include intellectual growth, social awareness, physical well being and career. The Cornerstones Program affords transformational learning which empowers actives to take control of their time and their lives. Cornerstones also empowers academics, develops leadership and encourages physical fitness and wellness.

*Editor's note: Acacia International's Cornerstones program drew from many of the principles and programs developed by Brother **Philip W. Chapman '71** for his pledge and active seminars and the Illinois Alumni Mentorship program.*

Level Advisors and Career Development Mentors Needed

Acacia Cornerstones employs a structured reflection process enhanced through relationship with alumni who may serve as Level Advisors or as Career Development Mentors. Alumni are invited to assist actives to grow personally and gain insight from their University of Illinois experience. Level Advisors and Actives will use the "Gates of Samos" website (www.gatesofsamos.org), while working through the program. Level Advisors will provide feedback and help actives learn from chosen activities. Career Development Mentors will serve as resources regarding career aspirations. Mentors will provide recommendations, professional contacts and references to actives.

Contact Information

Brother Philip W. Chapman will serve as the Lead Level Advisor for a cadre of five (5) or more Level Advisors which will serve to help active participants. Level Advisors may communicate with the actives by phone, e-mail, Facebook etc. Level Advisors should commit to 30 to 45 minutes per week. Dr. Chapman will also serve to assist actives in finding Career Development Mentors. Mentors will help actives with career planning, preparing for graduate school or finding a job.

If you are interested in serving as a Level Advisor or as a Career Development Mentor please contact Dr. Chapman at (618) 654-1118 or e-mail him at pchapman@highlandil.com. Alumni now have a splendid opportunity to make a difference in an active's life and to live out their lifelong commitment to Acacia.

The Hello Editors

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eric.russell13@gmail.com

Mel Rapp '49
mrapp3@sbcglobal.net

Adam Powers '98
adampowers1@gmail.com

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

**ACACIA ILLINOIS
NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

Go to
www.AcaciaIllinois.com
today and add your
e-mail address.

Providing you with e-mail updates
about the chapter is
faster and cheaper
than traditional print mail.



2011 ANNUAL FUND

Update on the 2011 Acacia Illinois Annual Fund

A special thanks to the 32 donors who have raised \$6,115 for the current *Acacia Illinois Annual Fund*. The funds raised are used to make available a variety of services, benefits and communication activities to both alumni and the active chapter. Specifically, the donations go towards the production and distribution of *The Hello*; the alumni and active chapter websites, *www.AcaciaIllinois.com* and *www.RushAcacia.com*; the Acacia Illinois directory of all known

alumni and minor housing improvements that need to occur at the chapter house. Your financial support of efforts like this Annual Fund Campaign is what makes it possible to guarantee the future of Acacia at Illinois. If you would like to take an active part to ensure the future success of Acacia Illinois, please fill out the pledge envelope included in this newsletter. Regardless of your level of support, your gift is welcome and appreciated.

2011 Annual Fund Donor List

as of July, 21, 2011

1906 Society

\$5,000 - \$25,000

Giving Opportunities Available!

Pythagoras Union

\$3,000 - \$4,999

Giving Opportunities Available!

Masonic Counsel

\$1,500 - \$2,999

Paul E. Ruby '72

W. Elmer Ekblaw Circle

\$750 - \$1,499

Paul A. Adams '37

Patron

\$250 - \$749

Daniel D. Bayston '80

Daniel A. Clarahan '76

Joseph M. Cook '42

Stephen J. Dragich '77

Charles W. Harper '87

James M. Kurtzweil '90

Robert A. Milani '84

Mel W. Rapp '49

Sponsor

\$100 - \$249

Michael L. Biehl '78

Dennis Charles Bone '02

Philip W. Chapman '71

Mark T. Garrigus '68

Fredrick C. Garrott '68

Robert L. Hanes '54

Wayne R. Johnson '64

David L. Mari '64

Jay A. Misicka '48

Kevin O'Leary '92

Everett R. Patterson '54

Kenneth A. Wagner '55

Robert E. Walberg '65

Robert L. Willerton '51

James L. Wright '74

Other

\$1 - \$99

Joseph A. Franz, III '66

David R. Goodmon '56

Robert H. King '49

Douglas E. Klaus '74

Michael J. Mitsch '79

James R. Pitcher '38

James A. Youngquist '65

Update on the \$1.75 Million Campaign for Acacia

Through the generous support of 220 Acacia Illinois alumni, the **\$1.75 Million Campaign for Acacia** has received pledge commitments of \$1.5 million, or approximately 87%, of its goal. This generous support has enabled the Corporation Board to negotiate from a position of financial strength when pursuing a permanent housing solution for the Illinois Chapter. The Corporation Board and Capital Campaign leadership are extremely grateful to all who have supported these efforts. A detailed listing of the current donors to the capital campaign can be found on the Fraternity's website at www.AcaciaIllinois.com.



As we move closer to finding permanent housing for the Illinois Chapter, the Capital Campaign leadership and Corporation Board have begun preliminary planning for the next major phase of the Capital Campaign. This phase of the campaign will focus on reaching out to those alumni that have not

yet participated in a meaningful way. We recognize that some potential donors have been waiting to receive details on the specific property that will be acquired and we look forward to sharing this information with you as developments unfold. We appreciate your patience and support through this difficult and challenging process.

If you are interested in taking an active role in planning and executing the next phase of the Capital Campaign, or have any questions please feel free to contact the Capital Campaign Co-Chairmen **Dan Bayston '80** at dan.bayston@lbccapital.com, (312) 560-2124 or **Mike Duncan '74** at mduncan@patcap.com, (312) 953-9403.

Scholarships Awarded to Acacia Members

At the beginning of the spring semester, the Acacia board announced an opportunity for members to compete for one of four \$2,000 scholarships, and more than 20 members submitted applications. A variety of factors have prevailed in the chapters accomplishments scholastically this past semester, most of which are outlined on page three in this issue of *The Hello*. Still, the chapter can be proud that it now ranks 11 among 45 fraternities on campus, and we trust they will not stop there with the progress. For the overall chapter GPA improvement, the chapter was awarded a \$2,000 prize to be spent on a house item or project of its choosing.

The recipients for the \$2,000 scholarships are:

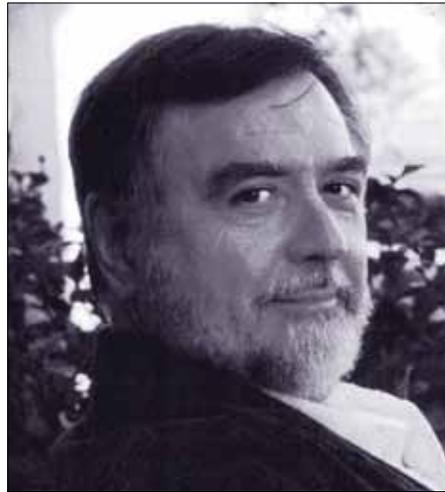
- Andrew Alsterda, Physics Major, Lincolnwood, IL
- Nicholas Gatti, Economics Major, Carol Stream, IL
- Tony Maun, Psychology Major, Lake Forest IL
- Connor Olsen, Pre Med-Kinesiology, Northbrook, IL

Brother Eternal

The Hello has been advised of the death of **Thaddeus M. Elsesser '43**, Urbana, IL, on April 16, 2011, the death of **Ralph W. Gould '43**, Lapeer, MI, on December 25, 2010, the death of **James A. Moore '47**, Greenville, IL, on April 10, 2011, the death of **William J. Ziegler '47**, Fairbank, IA on October 29, 2010 and the death of **David L. Fishel '53**, El Cajon, CA, on December 18, 2010. We extend our sincere condolences to the members of their families, and welcome them into the ranks of Acacia 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.

Focus On Alumni: James H. Davis '51



Jim Davis '51 - An alumnus you would have enjoyed knowing.

James H. Davis '51 died peacefully at his home on Tuesday, November 16, 2010. Before his death, Davis had been battling lung cancer.

Davis was born in 1932 in Effingham. He graduated from Effingham High School in 1950 where he was named an all-conference basketball player. After receiving his BA in Psychology from the University of Illinois in 1954, he spent two years in the U.S. Army. He also married Elisabeth Bachman

on June 27, 1954, in Effingham. Then, Davis began his study of Social Psychology at Michigan State University, receiving his Ph.D. in 1961. His first academic positions were at Miami University of Ohio and Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. In 1967, he moved to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Professor Davis spent three decades at the University of Illinois, where he was a preeminent researcher in the field of social psychology, specifically the study of small-group behavior. He specialized in formulating mathematical models that provide a way of expressing and making predictions for various social combination processes. The many applications of this research included studies involving mock juries and were cited in U.S. Supreme Court decisions. Much of his research was funded by the National Science Foundation.

James H. Davis was a devoted father and husband and beloved by his wife, his three children, Stephen, Kristin and Leah, and his five grandchildren. Donations in his memory may be made to the James H. Davis Graduate Fellowship Fund at the University of Illinois, in care of the Psychology Department at 603 E. Daniel St., Champaign, IL 61820.

Lost Brothers

Acacia Illinois has close to 200 alumni with invalid mailing addresses. This represents 12% of all Acacia Illinois alumni. Do you know where to find one of the brothers currently on the lost brother listing at www.AcaciaIllinois.com? We need your help! Try your luck at locating one of the brothers below. If you know where they live, send their contact information to one of *The Hello* co-editors listed on page 3.

George H. Milkwick '33
Harry L. Plunkett '37
David W. Andrews '42
Walter J. Preston '46
James P. Wishon '52
Charles O. Broughton '57
Gary L. Cogswell '61
Donald B. Dedic '65
Timothy A. Nafziger '68
Mead D. Babcock '73
Kenneth R. Besserud '79
James R. Gnaster '80
Robin R. Drassler '82
Bart K. Hedgcock '86
Richard P. Kenyon '88
Craig Questelle '89
Jarret Rackoff '93
Daniel J. Pancorvo '96
Robert J. Erickson '03
Randall A. Fox '06

Brother to Brother

Andrew Erskine '01, former Illini chapter president and U of I student-body president, is a first-year associate with Orrick Herrington & Sutcliff in Los Angeles, following graduation from UCLA's School of Law.





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, 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 _____

Luhrsen Named Outstanding House Director



Brad Luhrsen was awarded the Outstanding House Director award at the University of Illinois Greek Oscars on April 25, 2011.



The Outstanding House Director Award

Visit the Acacia Website

Visit

www.AcaciaIllinois.com,

the official alumni website, to:

- Learn more about the chapter
- Search for alumni
- Update your address, phone number and e-mail address
- Find out about upcoming events
- Post noteworthy accomplishments (a new baby, a recent marriage, a recent promotion, etc.)
- Support the fraternity's capital campaign

