



The Hello

ACACIA FRATERNITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS • WINTER 2007



President's Message

Be A Part of Your Fraternity; Your Involvement Matters

From Art E. Mertes, '85 - Corporation President
amertes@synergylawgroup.com

The tremendous accomplishments of Acacia Illinois are worthy of celebration. And that we did at this year's Homecoming Celebration marking 101 years at the University of Illinois. With these accomplishments come responsibilities. That is the message imparted to our Alumni and undergraduate members in attendance on Homecoming Day.

Critical to our mission is the continued focus by our undergraduate members on excelling in all aspects of successful fraternity life, as representatives of Acacia and stewards for future generations of Acacia members. Equally critical is the continued involvement by more and more of our Alumni members. It is with this involvement that Acacia's

accomplishments have been made possible to date. With the multiple touch-points and interactions between Alumni and the undergraduate members under the current model at Acacia at Illinois, we are proving that success without incident is possible and sustainable.

This marks a new era of change for us, and is something worthy of praise. I cannot stress enough the importance of your involvement at whatever level you are capable. Your involvement now will be something you will cherish for life as more and more of us come back into the fold. Now comes the time when your involvement can make a key difference in the future of our beloved Fraternity. Join us on this path. Connect with your brothers and take pride in our history and Acacia's accomplishments now and to come!

Active Chapter Announcement Electrifies Homecoming Dinner Guests

By Mel Rapp '49
Communications Chairman
mrapp3@sbcglobal.net

The Homecoming dinner guests were probably expecting an upbeat but routine report from Venerable Dean Joel Grachan '06. Such was not to be - even though the members and pledges had done an excellent job of being hosts for the day, the house was in very good shape, and all had gone well. The dinner audience was simply not expecting what they heard.

Joel announced that the active chapter was presenting, as he spoke, a check payable to the Acacia Building Fund to President Art Mertes '85 for \$40,000, which represents the interest and support of the active membership in obtaining a new home for Acacia. It was a surprise to just about everyone, and the announcement was met with a standing round of applause and concurrent cheers.

Joel pointed out to the audience that

during recent years the chapter has been very careful to insure that each year the house ended up with a surplus resulting from more income than expense. It has not always been that way. The surplus has been building, and the chapter felt there was no better way to demonstrate its feelings for the future of the house. They wanted to be among the first to support plans for a Capital Campaign that can make a new home a reality. Earlier the chapter had also invested in new furniture pieces for the house as well.

It was both an exciting and pleasurable highlight moment of the evening. The check will be deposited in a separate fund for eventual use in the acquisition of a house. The entire matter is just another indication of the maturity of the active chapter today. It's a group the alumni have learned to be proud of and who will surely serve the fraternity well in the future.

The Chapters action is very much appreciated and surely to be commended.

Award of Merit



Article submitted by Adam Powers on behalf of the entire Illinois Corporation Board.



Mel Rapp

At this year's Homecoming, Acacia proudly presented Brother Mel Rapp '49 with the Award of Merit. Introduced at Acacia's Golden Anniversary in 1954, the *Award of Merit* is one of Acacia's highest

honors – recognizing “brothers who have given of their time and substance unstintingly for the promotion and furtherance of Acacia, both nationally and locally, and brothers who have rendered outstanding service in their chosen fields, and have attained high position therein, thus exemplifying the motto of Acacia, human service, and the teachings of the fraternity, which constantly admonish our members to prepare themselves as educated men to take a more active part in their communities.” Since its inception, only seven Illinois Acacians have been recognized with the Award of Merit, including Elmer Ekblaw in 1962 and most recently Dan Bayston in 2006.

Mel became the 710th Initiate of the Illinois Heth Chapter in 1949. His wife, Carol, also attended Illinois and is a member of the Alpha Delta Pi sorority. Mel and Carol have two daughters who live with their husbands and children in Michigan and Tennessee. Mel and Carol make frequent trips to attend school sporting events and functions with their grandchildren. In his professional career, Mel served as managing director of Quality Chekd Dairies.

Mel's recognition comes during his second tour—the first being in the 1980's—on the Acacia Illinois Corporation Board, where he has filled any number of roles in our leadership. His planning, communications and counsel all drive, enable, and enhance the recent progress obtained by our Chapter.

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Chapter Update

by Joel Gracan '06
Venerable Dean
grachan2@gmail.com

Moving forward this semester, the chapter is focusing on the aspects of the fraternity that make it what it is: scholarship, philanthropy, intramurals and social events. In scholastics, we're focusing even more on grades this semester with mandatory study hours for pledges and members that are under a 2.5 GPA (2.67 = "B-"). Scholarship is an even bigger focus this year after seeing our average jump so much last semester. To help in the effort to bring grades up even more, the Corporation board has invested \$8,000 a year in both grade and merit based scholarships. This will produce even more drive for Acacians to excel in these areas.

In the philanthropic area of the fraternity, we just finished our 7 Days of Service with great success. We logged over 200 hours of community service and raised over \$1,000 for Habitat for Humanity. Each year there is more and more publicity and results with the 7 Days of Service, and next year we plan to extend the week out to other fraternities and sororities with events they can participate in.

We are excelling in intramurals so far this year by sending our softball and soccer teams into the playoffs, and starting our basketball season with an undefeated 3-0 record. Basketball and volleyball have just started, and we're looking to be competitive in both. I

Last, but certainly not least, our social calendar for the year is one of the best on campus. We continued the reputation of Acacia on campus socially, and next semester we have trips to Chicago, a Peoria riverboat and a trip to Windsor, Ontario, in April to say goodbye to our seniors.

The year is only half over, and we have so much to look forward to. I encourage everyone to visit our website at www.rushacacia.com to keep updated on the events we hold and news from the active chapter.

ACACIA

In Memoriam

Brother **John William "Bill" Grier '45** passed away April 9, 2007. He was owner of B P Construction Co. and assistant funeral director with Resthaven Mortuary. Brother Grier lived in Wichita, KS. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

Active Chapter Member Spotlight on...

Joe Zhu '04

Joe Zhu '04 was born on January 16, 1987, in Shanghai, China. He moved to the States when he was 2 years old, later attending Mahomet - Seymour High School and graduating in 2004.

Joe pledged Acacia in Fall 2004. He is majoring in Sports Management, and while he does not yet know what he wants to do after he graduates, he wants to go into the business side of international sports.



Joe Zhu '04

Joe picked up boxing when he got to college and now travels to China 2-3 times a year. Joe had planned to compete in the next Olympics on the Chinese team after placing in the top 16 in the trials during March. Unfortunately, due to some political issues, he will not be able to compete.

Joe is also the owner of Life&Qi. He founded Life&Qi to provide people with the finest instruction of Qi-gong possible, promote wellness, relieve suffering and restore health. It helps people that are suffering from cancer or other serious health problems feel better. The website for Life&Qi is www.lifeandqi.net if you want to learn more.

Outstanding Fall '07 Rush

By Zach Brooks
Rush Chair

This fall's rush was a great success! Of the 40 bids given out, 38 of them were accepted. On top of that, we have acquired an excellent 2011 pledge class with a lot of great guys. In the three and a half weeks of rush we had 20 rush events that included things like a Hooters dinner night, a river rafting trip and a slip'n'slide competition with a sorority. The active chapter had an excellent time during rush, and we look forward to doing more of the same in the spring.

Meet the New Alumni Relations Chair



"Shams" Lambaz

Shamseddin "Shams" Lambaz '06 is currently serving as the Alumni Relations Chair for the undergraduate chapter of Acacia. Shams is an actuarial sciences major originally from Elgin.

Shams will be serving on the editorial team of the *The Hello* and has been doing an excellent job!

Chapter Adds Historian to Improve Chapter Records

by Joel Gracan '06
Venerable Dean
grachan2@gmail.com

In an effort to restore records and pictures lost from previous pledge classes, the Chapter created the new position of Chapter Historian this past semester. Duties include updating computer files holding information of the past initiates, creating a new roll book to sign when initiated and keeping membership and pledge records. This year they will also be responsible for tracking down information and compiling a history of the 101 years of Acacia at Illinois. The three co-chairs are **Jake Samaan '07**, jakesamaan@gmail.com, **Tim Crosby '07**, tcrosby2@gmail.com and **Ed Mizera '06**, emizera2@gmail.com.

Undergraduate Officer Listing

Joel Grachan, Venerable Dean - Woodridge, IL
Tyler Smith, Senior Dean - Mazon, IL
Matt Warren, Treasurer - Barrington, IL
Zach Brooks, Rush Chair - Downers Grove, IL
Tony Perrino, Junior Dean - LaGrange, IL
Bryan Musolf, House Manager - Schaumburg, IL
Erik Stoecker, Risk Manager - St. Louis, MO
Matt Fitterer, Philanthropy Chair - Naperville, IL
"Shams" Lambaz, Alumni Chair - Schaumburg, IL

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(800) 955-ALUM (2586)
www.OmegaAlumniServices.com

Hello Co-Editors

Mel Rapp '49
mrapp3@sbcglobal.net

Adam Powers '98
adampowers1@gmail.com

"Shams" Lambaz '06
Active Representative

Chapter Housing Update

By Mike Duncan '74
Vice President, Real Estate Division
mduncan@patcap.com

Last year, I had the privilege of attending the first organized Homecoming event in recent memory sponsored by the active chapter and the corporation board with my then eleven year old son. It occurred to me that without Acacia he might not benefit from the same opportunities that I did by choosing to live with like minded young men in college. The growing success of our beloved fraternity, coupled with a place for us all to meet before and after the football game, provided the environment for brothers who had not seen each other in years to catch up and rekindle old friendships. During the dinner presentation, I challenged the current members of the house to honor the sacred trust they held to improve our fraternity and keep it growing. Reflecting back this year they exceeded my every expectation. Growing membership, community service projects, social events, intramural success, and a stable financial base. **Phil Chapman '71** established a mentor program that has consistent participation, and the group of officers reflects well on the active chapter. All in all, Acacia at Illinois is in good hands and appears to have a future we can all be proud of.

The success of supportive active membership willing to recruit back to back strong pledge classes resulted in a financial surplus in the house finances. I was humbled to learn that these young men think enough of Acacia and its needed presence at The University of Illinois to donate \$40,000 in order to re-establish a permanent home.

A year ago, there was a \$0 balance in the Illinois account from tax-deductible alumni contributions. As we stand today, this amount has surpassed \$60,000 in one short year without asking our alumni for pledges or individual contributions.

Several generous alumni have funded another \$100,000 to a non tax deductible stand alone account and a pledge of \$50,000 has been received by a very generous Acacia alumnus. The corporation board coffers have been restored to a level near where it was prior to the loss of our 501 E. Daniel property over a 20 plus year struggle for our survival.

College students investing \$40,000 to ensure that Acacia remains at Illinois is a most notable unselfish act underscoring the very real demand for Acacia at Illinois in the face of costs and expenses far greater than those you and I faced during our years at Illinois.

Your corporation board has engaged a feasibility study that was completed in November to ascertain the ability of our alumni to successfully support a capital campaign and to identify a likely amount that

we can raise. To those of you who willingly participated in this membership survey, I thank you, and given the initial amounts already given and pledged, I am optimistic that we will establish a home of many more happy Homecomings.

We are all graduates of a top tier national university, The University of Illinois, and also share our bond of belonging to the top fraternity. We have the resources among us to make this happen, but do we have the will? Said another way, who among us can we face at the end of our days knowing we did not do our share to support the opportunity of future generations of young men to belong to Acacia as our founders and many before us have? What legacy do we choose to leave the University?

Our chief has been taken away from us under the guise of political correctness. I truly hope that you choose to join the corporation board in ensuring the same doesn't happen to Acacia when the time comes for our capital campaign.

I, for one, very much look forward to seeing the results of re-establishing a permanent home for our beloved fraternity and ask you to help make this possible.

I wish you all much continued success and good health. I very much look forward to next year's Homecoming.



Award of Merit

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Mel's guidance is continuously sought by every individual on our Board, and he is always available, willing, and eager to share his advice. As fellow Acacias, we unquestionably are the beneficiaries of Mel's unyielding devotion and excitement for the essence of what is Acacia Fraternity. In all of his efforts, Mel's experience, leadership, patience, understanding, and passion have exemplified an individual that all men, regardless of fraternal affiliation, should aspire to emulate.

Mel, thank you for all that you are and for all that you give back to Acacia Illinois. Congratulations on the worthwhile and deserving tribute of the Award of Merit!

Acacia Illinois Award of Merit Recipients

1954.....	Pembroke H. Brown
1962.....	William E. Krieger
1962.....	George Elmer Ekblaw
1972.....	Ralph V. Hoffman
1982.....	Daniel V. Albano
1987.....	Fredrick C. Garrott
1987.....	Clive Follmer
2006.....	Daniel D. Bayston
2007.....	Mel Rapp

Homecoming 2007 – A Huge Success; Views of an Attending Alum

By Richard Erdmann '67

What a great weekend the Acacia house had for us at Homecoming this past weekend! From the moment I hit the first step outside the house, Ruth Ann [Erdmann] and I were warmly welcomed. Both actives and pledges scurried to attend to our every need, introducing themselves with big smiles and nametags. The hardwood floors in the foyer were polished to a high shine when we arrived Friday night, and Acacias were busily finishing the cleaning and other preparations. I expect some of them were up all night.

Saturday morning at the house, Carol Rapp (wife of Mel Rapp, who received Acacia's top honor, the Award of Merit, Saturday night at the sumptuous BBQ dinner under the well-heated tent), and Melissa Chapman (wife of Phil Chapman, outstanding and very involved '71 alum, inter alia head of our Acacia Mentoring Program) had a wonderful breakfast with lots of juices, coffee, and sweet rolls waiting for us. Bathrooms for

men and women were well marked with signs and clean. Someone has been making sure the house is attentive to the needs of the alums, and it shows. The Acacias, especially the pledges, were in clean shirts and ties to greet us. The Acacia bus from Chicago arrived in good time to take everyone at the house to the game in the bus.

The game, of course, was great fun, with alums from the 1940's to date enjoying the filled Acacia block of 75 tickets in the East main stands about rows 15-21, right on the south goal line--good seats, especially with the new video scoreboard in the south end zone giving us a great view of the plays, complete with instant replay after each play. Many of us called "Chief, chief, chief" in vain as the marching band entertained us at halftime with the "Three in One." The weather not only



Richard Erdmann

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Mentoring Program a Success

Program Expanded for 2007 – 2008 Academic Year

Philip W. Chapman (Chappy) '71
Chapter Advisor – Mentoring Program
pchapman@highlandil.com

The Illinois Acacia Program provided excellent guidance to 21 protégés from 16 mentors during the 2006-2007 academic years. **Philip W. Chapman '71**, Chapter Advisor for Mentoring, worked with the Corporation Board and the active chapter officers to provide an opportunity for actives to learn from experienced alumni and has successfully led the program since its inception.

Phase One

All pledges receive classes in Maintaining A Positive Attitude, Goal Setting, and Time Management. The Chapter Advisor for Mentoring explains the Phase Two Portion of the program to actives. Phil Chapman visited the house six times to teach and meet with actives.

Phase Two

Actives request a mentor to assist them in preparation for graduate school or the job market. Actives meet with their mentors personally and correspond telephonically or through e-mail. Many protégés maintain the relationship over long distances through e-mail and telephone with excellent results.

Visit to Fraternity Dean Ashley Dye

Earlier in the year, then Venerable Dean **Andrew Braun '05** and Phil Chapman visited with Ashley Dye to describe the Acacia mentoring program. A lively and fruitful discussion ensued.

Mentorship Breakfast

Also earlier this year, sixty actives gathered with six Illinois Alumni. **Philip Chapman (Chappy) '71, Mel Rapp '49, Mike McCulley (motorcycle Mike) '68, John Shumacher (Shoes) '73, Bruce Warren '73, David Theis (Id) '73**, supported by Patrick McGovern (Acacia National), provided tips to the new initiates of "How to Get The Most from your Acacia Experience".

Illinois Mentoring Library

The Corporation Board approved Chapman's request to establish a mentoring library at the house. The Corporation Board provided twenty books on the GMAT, LSAT, GRE, writing resumes, and job interview skills.

Career Center

Subsequently, Phil visited the Career Center to learn the many services offered to

actives. The Career Center provides valuable services to protégés.

Mentoring Highlight

Alumni and mentor **Randall Edgar '98** arranged for active **John Strode '05** to visit his law firm in Chicago and to view court proceedings. John also met business associates and reported afterwards he will have two job interviews for summer intern employment.

Given the initial success of the program, the house officers and Corporation Board voted to expand the program during 2007-2008. **Mel Rapp '49, Mike McCulley '68** and Chapter Officers met with Patrick McGovern to ensure the Illinois Chapter Program would complement the International Management Development Program (MDP). McGovern was invited to host the first MDP Retreat at the Illinois Chapter House.

The mentoring program provides an opportunity for actives to prepare for

Thank you to the following for serving as Mentors to our undergraduate Acacians

Aaron Alley '99	Mathew Neal '97
Dennis Bone '02	Jay North '87
Mike Burson '70	Kevin O'Leary '92
Dennis Dusek '68	Mike Piegza '85
Bruce Carlson '69	Mike Ray '86
Philip Chapman '71	John Redding '97
Randall Edgar '98	Torin Shear '97
Dick Erdmann '67	Tom Strickland '97
Chad Freund '98	David Thies '73
Fred Garrott '68	Doug Traxler '80
Drew Millard '98	William Vinson '67
Mark Mugerditchian '76	Daryl Woodard '75
Skip Heaver '01	Dan Zollner '76

Visit www.acaciaillinois.com the official Acacia website to:

- Learn more about the chapter
- See pictures of the new house
- Search for alumni
- Update your address, phone number and e-mail address
- Post noteworthy accomplishments (a new baby, a recent marriage, a recent promotion, etc.)

a successful life through a relationship with an experienced mentor in their field. Contact Philip W. Chapman 618-654-1118 pchapman@highlandil.com if you'd like to become involved in this effort and to be a mentor.

"Together we can accomplish great things!"

Acacians Ask...

by Mike Conniff '93
Vice President, Alumni Relations
mconniff@usa.net

Although most of you may be aware of the recent changes at Acacia Illinois, we do receive inquiries regarding the recent past as well as the current state of affairs. I will address a few of them:

Acacians Ask:

I was recently down on Campus and noticed the house on 907 S Third was boarded up and the house is chapter is now in the old ΣAE house on Daniel. What happened?

- During the Spring of 2004 school year we learned the house next door to 907, SAE, was vacant. The Board was able to seize the opportunity and was able to secure a lease in a significantly better structure and also receive more favorable terms. Board members Mertes and Duncan were instrumental in those efforts. It was a win for the Board and for the local chapter. House morale has increased dramatically as a result and recruitment has increased as well.

Acacians Ask:

Are we going to attempt to buy the ΣAE house?

- Although we are interested to bid on the property because of its location and style, we believe SAE National, the current owner, will attempt to re-colonize the chapter and thus will retain the property.

Acacians Ask:

Tell me about the current pledges and actives.

- I had the pleasure to attend the 101st Homecoming this year. Before the game I stopped by the house and I was greeted by the 2011 pledge class—yes 2011! The young men were all dressed in shirts and ties, were friendly, confident, outgoing and possessed a strong sense of camaraderie. They expressed such a level of maturity that my wife was surprised to learn that

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Alumni Spotlight on...

John Lundsten '60

John Lundsten's '60 first year at the U of I was spent at Bromley Hall, until pledging Acacia late his freshman year. Having come from a small town in northern Illinois (Loves Park, near Rockford) and not knowing from anything about fraternities or independent living pros and cons, it soon became apparent that a large percentage of the interesting people were part of the Greek system.

According to Lundsten, "one never knows in looking back on a long, and productive, pleasant life, what might have happened if I had not made the decision to join Acacia, but I've always been grateful I did for many reasons. Not only for the friendships and bonds that were forged then, many of which remain to this day, also the fraternity gave me support to explore. In addition, the fraternity gave me the place to come back to and continue exploring other careers after my music career proved to be fulfilling but not economically viable, which led to my M.Ed. and the association with both the Dean of Men's Office and the NY-based real

estate company that eventually became my full time employer. Throughout that time both the old and new fraternity associations and friends (including many from my "second time around" era) have played a sustaining part in my growth both as a person and within my profession.

"To make a long story short, I believe I am now in a position to offer some of that support, both professionally and financially, to one of the major contributors to my university experience, and to those friends and other brothers who have continued to make Acacia a place for a wide variety of guys to come to the U of I. I believe that the current group of Alumni leaders and supports and the very impressive accomplishments of the current group of undergraduates in the chapter at present deserve all the benefits we were able to partake of many years ago. We are on the right track, and the alumni leaders are taking the right steps toward the future of our beloved Fraternity."



John Lundsten

Lundsten currently spends his time commuting among condos/field offices in Fort Lauderdale (home base), New York City and San Francisco. He currently serves as Managing Director and partner in Lundsten-O'Donnell Advisory Group, LLC, the pension fund real estate specialist group within WhiteStar Advisors, LLC. Recently, his focus has been to provide real estate advice and investment advisory services to Taft-Hartley, multi-employer pension funds. He

is also active in charitable organizations, including serving as a Board Member and Director of Melodious Accord, a New York City based arts organization. He currently serves Acacia as a member of an Advisory Group to the Acacia Corporation Board of Directors.

Lundsten concluded by saying, "My cell phone follows me around and, for anyone who wishes to contact me, I'm pleased to be reached at (917) 374-1755; my personal email is Lundadvice@earthlink.net."

Acacians Ask...

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they were pledges. The chapter boasts over 140 actives and pledges which is the highest level it's been in over 17 years. Overall, the chapter has made great strides with academics, philanthropy, and campus leadership. Part of the success can be attributed to the increase in alumni involvement. If you are interested to help the active as a chapter as a mentor please contact Phil Chapman at pchapman@highlandil.com or if you are interested to volunteer with the Board please contact Mike Conniff at mconniff@usa.net or any other board member.

Words from Pythagoras

This and future issues of *The Hello* will contain "Words from Pythagoras." The first Pythagoras manual, appearing in the December 1933 issue of the Triad, was published in book form the following year. Having been considerably expanded and revised in later editions, the 14th edition is currently being prepared. Today it is referred to as the "Membership Manual of Acacia Fraternity." Members may well remember when they received their copy as a pledge, and how important would become Pythagoras' words with regard to mathematics.

What better way to begin than to share The Acacia Credo.

Credo

*I am an Acacian.
I hold a trust for all good Acacians-
those who were Acacians before me,
those who are now,
and those who will become Acacians
in the future.
In the Acacia spirit I charge myself
with responsibilities;
to better my fraternity's record
I am an Acacian wherever I may happen to be.
I gladly contribute my honest share of effort,
and wish to serve Acacia to the best of my ability.
I will always think of Acacia as
one of the best fraternities;
its rich heritage of principles
having been fostered so that
I might enjoy a fine fraternal opportunity.
I am an Acacian.
I am proud of it.*

Homecoming 2007

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held off on the rain that had been falling for a couple of days, but the sun actually came out in the second half, as Illinois was wearing out the somewhat smaller Ball State Cardinals. . . A good "W," which makes the Illini bowl eligible with 6 wins. . . It's nice to see both Acacia and the Illini in the winning column!

Speaking of Acacia being in the winning column, after a terrific post-game alumni reception at the house, both inside and out, with soft drinks and a very well-regulated beer table for those 21 and over (yes, even I

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Alumni Corporation Board Officers

Arthur Mertes '85, President
amertes@synergylawgroup.com

Michael Conniff '93, Vice President, Alumni Relations
mconniff@usa.net

Skip Heaver '01, Corporation Treasurer
skipheaver@yahoo.com

Adam Powers '98, Corporation Secretary
Adampowers1@gmail.com

Mel Rapp '49, Communications Chairman
mrapp3@sbcglobal.net

Mike Fischer '01, Social Chair
mpfischer11@hotmail.com

Andrew Millard '98, Vice President, Chapter Relations
drewmillard@hotmail.com

Michael Duncan '74, Vice President, Real Estate Division
mduncan@patcap.com

Dennis Bone '02, Chapter Liaison, Treasurer & Advisor
denniscbone@gmail.com

Philip W. Chapman '63, Chapter Advisor,
Mentor Programming
pchapman@highlandil.com

Dale Feldman '47, Board Volunteer
jeanphiltry@msn.com

Homecoming 2007

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at age 60 was asked to wear a wrist band), at the post-game BBQ dinner in the tent set up beside the house in Fraternity Park (Did I mention that it was well-heated?), alums were very pleased to hear great reports about and from the active chapter. Can you believe they have 140 actives and pledges? Certainly they don't all live in the house, but I recall when 70 was quite a large house. Acacia is attracting all those young men because of a well-rounded academic, social, intramural sports, and even community service program. The house GPA is 3.1 (that's on a 4.0 system, not the 5.0 system we had in the late '60's). Exchanges and other social events seem to be going well, and there were several very pretty young undergraduate ladies running in and out of the house from time to time (mostly Tri Deltas and Gamma Phi's, from what I could tell).

The Venerable Dean reported very successful fall service projects totaling a couple hundred service hours to local charities such as the local humane society and others. The emphasis on community service is not something I recall from the late '60's, and I welcome it as an indication of the quality of young men Acacia is attracting. The Corporation Board presented scholarships of

at \$1,000 to the sophomore, junior and senior with the highest grade point averages, a \$500 to the top pledge for each semester's pledge class, and a scholarship to the Acacian with the largest increase in GPA over this past year; it went to a brother who had really gotten with the program and brought up his GPA more than a full point! The board is funding \$8,000 annually in scholarships to continue emphasis in this critically important area. I recall a beans and steak dinner (sometimes I got beans but sometimes I got steak), but I don't recall such a big public acknowledgment of the brothers who are excelling academically. I think it's great! Such incentives must encourage others. The genuine applause from alums, spouses, visitors and the active chapter really let the active chapter men know we truly care about their success.

As many of you may know, the Corporation Board commissioned a Feasibility Study to personally interview 40 alums and send surveys to at more than 250 alumni from different eras and geographic regions to determine the feasibility of raising funds for building a new chapter house. Our lease on the present Σ AE house runs out in 2009. A few years ago, I wouldn't have been inclined to give much to a campaign, frankly. But having been at the last two Homecomings and having seen what I have seen about the way the chapter has really gotten itself

straightened out, I will gladly do what I can. While many of you have not been at the last two Homecomings and have not had the great experiences I have had the last two years, I hope you will take from this letter a sense of the renaissance Acacia Illinois is experiencing. Perhaps as good an indication as I saw this weekend was the very emotional presentation at the Saturday night dinner of a \$40,000 check from the Active Chapter to the Corporation Board toward the building program. The venerable dean said it came from a determined, business-like approach of the active chapter in its fiscal operations. These young men, and those of generations to come, deserve our support. We had the support of those who came before us. It's time for us to return the favor.

After the dinner, some of us enjoyed a leisurely stroll to one of the campus pubs, Clyborne, on 6th Street, between Green and John, which Acacia had reserved just for us. Mel Rapp, Adam Powers and the other alums and actives planning the weekend really thought of everything!

A great weekend! Thanks to the alumni, alumni wives, actives and pledges that made it so enjoyable (oh, thanks to the Fighting Illini football team, too)! I hope everyone who receives this letter will make it a point to join us at Homecoming 2008 at Acacia!

ACACIA

Name _____
Roll Number _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____

Help us keep our alumni records up-to-date! Parents, please forward this newsletter to your son. Edit your member profile online at www.AcaciaIllinois.com, or clip this form, place it in a stamped envelope and send to: Acacia Fraternity #695, University of Illinois, P.O. Box 2187, Columbus, GA 31902.

Acacia Fraternity
University of Illinois #695
PO Box 2187
Columbus, GA 31902-2187

