

2002-2003 Corporation Board Members

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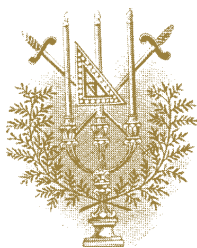
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www.acaciaheth.org

The Hello

Heth Chapter of Acacia at the University of Illinois

January 2003

Potential Opportunity For House Purchase

By Art Mertes '88

We have been presented with the opportunity to purchase the current Acacia Fraternity House at 907 S. Third St., Champaign, Illinois 61820 with seller financing at market rates.

The landlord, Doug Larson, has indicated willingness to consider a sale once or twice in the past, but has wavered back and forth. The Corporation Board sees his current expression of interest as an opportunity that should not be passed up if we can accomplish certain things. With the capital that was passed on to the current board from the prior and unfortunate sale of 501 E. Daniel, plus capital saved from operations and our Chapter Sponsor and Chapter Patron Programs, if we can raise \$125,000 toward a house purchase, we will be in a position to negotiate with Mr. Larson. The Corporation Board can share details (not in email) of the proposed structure for purchase with all interested parties, and is willing to hold one or more meetings as necessary to get the word out.

Proceeds of this (what we consider "small") fundraising effort will be used toward a down-payment, capital reserve, and certain cosmetic and capital improvements so that you can "see" some of the results of your contribution. Donors names will be memorialized on a permanent plaque located in the fraternity house. The names will be listed in the giving categories listed on the enclosed form. We hope that most of you would step forward and join us in the Square and Compass Society. At some point in the future (3-10 years) we would expect a significant capital campaign in line with Alumni input to come - BUT, that is not the purpose of our current campaign. The purpose of the current campaign is to secure a permanent home for Acacia Fraternity on University of Illinois' campus, much like some of our historical brethren accomplished many years past. Larger contributions are greatly appreciated. We would suggest gifts ranging from \$500 to \$1000, and for 2000-2002 graduates our suggested contribution level is

\$250. However, we always accept larger gifts that will benefit the fraternity and give us a permanent home. *We currently have commitments from the following individuals:*

Dan Bayston '83, Jeff Laurinaitis '96, myself and Rob Mertes '96.

Pros of Purchasing Current House

Location, Location, Location: Located on Frat Park, which effectively adds a "backyard" to the house, it is one of the best Fraternity locations on campus. This also is a great tool during recruitment phases for the active chapter and is a major benefit of the house.

Permanent Home: We currently lease the premises, and it is unlikely that the landlord would extend the lease beyond 2011 without significant increases in lease rate. Owning provides long term benefits, including ability to make capital improvements that would not otherwise be made to a leased structure.

Chapter Member Agreement: We have asked every class over the last 7 years whether this is the house that they feel can carry Acacia forward at the University of Illinois - their response has always been affirmative, acknowledging that there is significant room for improvement to the physical structure.

Future Investment: We will continue to have to make capital improvements (such as the recent investment in bathroom upgrades) that are not a great investment under a medium term lease. Land on campus continues to increase in value, and will only continue to increase.

Staying Competitive: Other Fraternities on campus are engaging in significant capital

Please visit your chapter website at <http://www.acaciaheth.org>

to read the newest

posted profiles.

Find out the latest information about brothers

**Richard Cook '53 and
Michael Delia '81.**

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Potential Opportunity

campaigns for rebuilding and improvements. This would be a significant positive step for Acacia in that regard. The house has come a long way in rebuilding the tradition and legacy that Acacia stood for on campus as a premier house. The brotherhood is as strong as it ever was, the Chapter's grades have dramatically improved, they excel at intramural sports and their social calendar is strong. Ownership of the Chapter house will allow us to invest in the future of our Chapter and remain competitive for decades to come.

We Have Considered Alternatives: Over the past 10 years, we have seen very, very few opportunities for the purchase of a chapter house from another fraternity or sorority. TKE was up for sale about 9 years ago, but was purchased by developers who knocked down the dilapidated building and built apartments. Fiji's was on the market for a short period, and the University was the front runner until Delta Tau Delta made a deal with the University so that it could purchase the property if it agreed to certain restrictive covenants. Sig Eps were kicked off campus, but their housing corporation retained the house and they are now back. We have continued to keep our eyes open for opportunities, but none as good as the current opportunity have been available. The Corporation Board is doubtful that a better opportunity will arise at any time in the near future for the purchase of a fraternity house, and if one does financing would likely be an issue. One of the biggest advantages of this opportunity is the availability of seller financing, which will simplify the financing aspects of the transaction.

New Payment is Feasible: The new payment would be almost the same or less than the current lease payment; therefore, we will be able to operate going forward under almost the same rate structure with the Chapter as before.

Cons of Purchasing Current House

Maintenance and Capital Needs: The house is a high-maintenance structure, and will continue to be one. Injections of capital will be needed in the future for renovations, systems

(including electrical) and other items. However, our rent there is currently so cheap because we are responsible for the bulk of the maintenance, other than structural, items. The Corporation Board does intend to make improvements to all the common areas on the main floor at the time of purchase to be finished by Homecoming in Fall 2003.

Membership Fluctuation: There is always the risk that membership and occupancy can fluctuate or that an event could occur that would severely impact financial operations and membership. We have seen this before. The Corporation Board has worked over the past several years to put systems and accountability in place, and to refocus on our strong values, in the hopes that we will not face these types of issues.

Cash Management: Cash management will become even more important as our reserve will be lower (anticipated at approximately \$75,000). If an event happens that wipes out our reserves, we could lose the house we worked so hard to purchase.

For more information check out www.acaciaheth.org.

We need you help in securing our future at 907 South Third Street. Join us today in making this small contribution to maintaining a stronger brotherhood on campus.

Feel free to call any of us with questions and we thank you in advance for your support. You can reach me at 312-454-0311; amertes@synergylawgroup.com. ■

Advisor Report

Growth of Young Chapter Makes Adviser Proud

By Jeffrey Laurinaitis '96
Chapter Adviser

Life as a Chapter Adviser has been full of many adventures and has brought many rewards.

Back when I initially joined the Corporation Board, my intent was to be heavily involved with alumni and bolster the activity on that end (awake the sleeping giant theory). However, my involvement with the active chapter quickly changed my perception about what needed the most work. That is not to say that our alumni network for the Heth Chapter is alive and well (there's a small heartbeat), rather I found that the active chapter was an eager, yet young group of men looking for direction. Without a strong active chapter, the legacy that we have all worked so hard over the years to build would go by the way-side. Without a strong active chapter, the alumni network would also eventually cease to exist as the new graduates continually populate our ranks as alumni.

These past 12 months I have been coaching the active chapter to look beyond the walls of Acacia in order to build relationships with our organizations to ensure future success. To that, I would like to report that the executive board, particularly the former Venerable Dean **Andrew Erskine '04**, did a great job. For the first time, to my knowledge, Acacia has reached out to the University as well as Greek Affairs, the Champaign Police Department (who comes in as guest speakers once a semester), has members sitting on important political bodies such as the Interfraternity Council, J-Board and a host of others. I am proud to say that the active chapter, though young and have some improvements to make, have maintained the Acacia status that we have come to expect. They have excelled in terms of recruitment and the quality of the brotherhood, their impeccable social calendar, their improved academics (they finished above the fraternity average as well as the All-Men's average) and now they are involved all across campus. The small steps that they take today are merely the beginning of what I expect out of them: to be the leaders on campus and future leaders of our society. ■

Alumni UpDates

William R. Wiebmer '48

(513 S. 11th St., Saint Charles, IL 60174; wrviebmer@ameritech.net) I have been married 54 years to Barbara Nicklaus, who was an Alpha Phi at Illinois. Since retiring from Ameritech in 1986, I have been an active volunteer in SCORE, which is affiliated with the U.S. Small Business Administration and is dedicated to helping small businesses succeed.

James H. Davis '51

(10 Lake Park Road, Champaign, IL 61822; j-davis@uiuc.edu) I retired from the University of Illinois in 1997, where I had been a professor of psychology for 30 years, after being on the faculties of Miami and Yale. (For most of those years, my office window looked out on the window of the room I occupied with **Don Hanes '55** during my last semester at 501 E. Daniel St.) Betty and I continue to live in Champaign, although we now spend much of our time traveling.

Rolf A. Cederwall '55

(228 Hauser Ct., New Lenox, IL 60451-1439; rolfmarilyn@earthlink.net) Thank you for publishing info on the death of **John M. Ruffner '55**. He was my pledge brother. My wife and I enjoyed spending a great time with Shirley and **Homer Koop '57** at their home in San Antonio in April. Spent a couple of days with Marcia and **Roe Walker '51** in Granbury, Tex., on the way home.

David A. Tillema '58

(9 K St., Lake Lotawana, MO 64086; drtillema@aol.com) I have recently retired after

30 years of orthopaedic surgery practice in Kansas City, Mo. One of my projects is to collect all my old slides and photos and scan them to my computer and then to a CD.

James I. Bliss '63

(8711 N. 65th St., Scottsdale, AZ 85253-1886; jbliss@blissnet.com) The sweetheart of Acacia in 1965 who I married later that year is still my sweetheart today. Just finished a two-year term as editor-in-chief of the American Bar Association magazine, *The Brief*. They still keep me around as an elected member of Section Council — the governing board of the Tort, Trial and Insurance Practice Section — and as a division chair of a series of committees generally relating to insurance law and practice. The recent annual meeting of the ABA was in Washington, D.C., where I mostly disagreed with positions taken on terrorism and the law (another "task force" in which I'm involved). Grandchild number one is now 7. Ain't it great to be "Grandpa." In light of 9/11, all should be watchful. I don't want to lose any more friends to these jackals. After 9/11, I had the sad task of preparing a multimedia program for a Kennedy Library (Boston) memorial for a colleague. It was a program I do not want to repeat. Best wishes to you all. God bless America.

Gary L. Cogswell '65

(148 Maplewood Ct., Edison, NJ 08820-1062; gary@cogswell.com) Wife, Carole, died May 16, 1999, after a long battle with cancer. Remarried July 7, 2001, to Joanne. Now retired and spending summers in New

Hampshire and the rest of the year in Edison, N.J., near Joanne's family.

James L. Crusius '66

(2907 W. Parkwood Dr., Peoria, IL 61614; crusii@aol.com) I would love to hear from (or see) any of the brothers. If anyone is in the area, give me a call at (309) 691-9296.

Frederick G. Eaton '67

(1613 Sam Dr., Monroe, MI 48162-1143; fgeaton@aol.com) I live with my wife, Mary, in Monroe, Mich., where I'm corporate affairs director for Comcast, serving much of the Detroit suburban area. Spent 20 years as a newspaper editor, first in Mt. Vernon, Ill., later in Adrian, Mich. Strayed into politics, working for Congressman John Dingell for five years, and for the past six it's been cable. We have a daughter, Ginny, who's in graduate school to be a teacher. I'd love to hear from old friends.

Richard O. Erdmann '67

(10800 Lincoln Trail, Ste. 10, Fairview Heights, IL 62208) I will remarry on Dec. 14, 2002, to Ruth Ann Wissehr. Martha (Maulding) and **Jim Eggers '68** will celebrate with us. Martha was the Acacia sweetheart in 1968 (a Chi Omega). She is in the process of becoming a charter member of the new O'Fallon Sunrise Rotary Club, which I am organizing. It's old news now, but I had a great visit in Phoenix with **Jeff Hotham '61** (that's Judge Jeffrey Hotham when he's in court) in March 2000. Jeff's parents now live in St. Louis, so we are able to get together once in a while when he and Sherry (yes, they are still happily going through life SCUBA diving together) are in St. Louis.

Gary L. Upp '68

(208 Second St., Radford, VA 24141; gupp@runet.edu) Gupp was not in the picture taken by brother **Joseph Franz '69**, which appeared in the last issue of this newsletter, because he was counting his money that he had won in the previous night's Hearts game. Some things never change ... right, hot dog?

Allen L. Novak '69

(P.O. Box 10033, Hilo, HI 96721; alnovak96720@yahoo.com) I moved to Honolulu, Hawaii, in 1976 to attend the University of Hawaii in Manoa. Then went to Hilo on Hawaii Island in 1993, where I have a psychotherapy practice.

Dennis E. Pate '71

(8605 Zoo Parkway, Jacksonville, FL 32218; pated@jaxzoo.org) Recently moved to Jacksonville, Fla., to assume position of executive director of the Jacksonville Zoological Gardens. I moved from Chicago where I had been the senior vice president of the Lincoln Park Zoo. Read about me

Undergraduate Report

Greetings from Dennis Bone, new Venerable Dean

Hello Acacia alumni, family, and friends. My name is **Dennis Bone**, the new Venerable Dean of the Heth Chapter of Acacia Fraternity. With a semester's worth of learning under my belt, I am very excited about my position over the next year.

The Heth has improved greatly over the last couple of years, and I can only see things getting even better in the near future. The new Treasurer **Matthew Bell**, new Senior Dean, **Ryan Zaremba**, and myself are all very anxious and excited about the opportunity given to us to further improve this Chapter.

Plans in the works to better the physical aspects of the house include turning a portion of the basement into a study area in order to give brothers a quiet place to study, replacing the sign in the front yard that was vandalized a semester ago, and painting the entire exterior of the house over the summer. We also hope to continue to add new furniture to the library, foyer, and cafeteria areas.

Internally I hope to continue the re-emergence of philanthropy here at Acacia. Philanthropy has been great the last two semesters and I hope to continue to help the community while bettering the name of Acacia in the Champaign/Urbana area. ■

(Continued)

Alumni

UpDates

...continued

at www.jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/070802/dsf_9857418.html.

Michael A. Burson '73

(6111 W. Pershing Ave., Visalia, CA 93291) I am in my 29th year with W.M. Lyles Co. (an infrastructure contractor), having started right out of the University of Illinois in 1973. I have been president/CEO for the last six years. My wife, Gloria, is a vocal music teacher, and we have three children: Emily, 25, who is a nutrition instructor at Pepperdine University in Malibu; Julie, 23, who is a senior at the University of California, San Diego, and will enter law school next year; and Adam, 23, starting his master's degree in communication and marketing at Hawaii Pacific University in Honolulu. We don't get back to Illinois that often but will be in the Chicago suburb of Prospect Heights this coming summer for my niece's wedding the weekend of July 19-20 and would love to see any of the brothers that lived in the chapter house on David St. when I did, 1970-73.

Paul E. Rigby '75

(851 Ash St., Winnetka, IL 60093) Managing director at Bank One in Chicago, Ill.

John H. Buchanan '78

(3808 Celeste Lane, Naperville, IL 60564) Sales manager at Blue Circle Aggregates. I have enjoyed several Homecoming football games and wish the Illini well. I've seen **Bryan Delfs '75** and his family over the years.

Paul S. Herbert '82

(2232 Broadway Lane, Schaumburg, IL 60194; psherbe@us.ibm.com) Benjamin Paul Herbert was born 4/22/02. That makes three Herbie Jrs. running around and legacy adds for the chapter in years 2015, 2018 and 2020!

Barry J. Hoffman '86

(837 Faulkner Pl., Vernon Hills, IL 60061-1418; guiltarmartian@aol.com) Please drop in on one of my bands, Rubber's; we have frequent Chicago-area shows. You can get info on upcoming shows at www.rubber-chicago.com. It would be great to see some of you again!

Stephen M. Nelson '88

(27560 Gerry Lane, Sycamore, IL 60178-8124; steven@gcarch.com) Was named principal/partner at Gilfillian & Callahan Architects in December 2001. Lovely wife, Pamela (AT at Iowa, national consultant for AT), and I have a daughter, Katelyn Loretta, age 3 1/2, and a son, Griffin Stephen, age 19 months. We took a two-week trip out to western Montana for a family reunion last July, and had a week in the Florida Keys and trips to New Hampshire, Boston and Harvard seminar. Still involved in National Interfraternity Council Association. Recognized at recent Chicago Leadership Conference (15+ years of service). Ran into **Robert Milani '87** while recruiting down at the University of Illinois and met up for lunch a few times. Rooted for

William Hurley '87 during past election ... go Bill ... keep going. Up for adjunct professor/critic at University of Illinois School of Architecture. I was involved in theory class this past semester with Professor Kathryn Anthony. Planning second trip to Europe in 2003. Travel a lot, woodworking and parenting these days. Know that **Krist Swengel '88** is doing large developments in downtown Chicago for Magellan Design Group — separated from wife, Ase, in Norway but are still friends. **Perry Dimas '88** remarried a couple of years back and is currently expecting their first child. Have been reading about **Nick Pontikes '83**, my pledge educator, with great sorrow and sympathy. Read large expose article in *Crain's Business* and was quite perturbed with poor and inaccurate reporting. I let Crain's know, to no avail, and also discussed the stereotyping and unjust reporting with executive director Darold Larson. Best wishes to all.

Edward W. Saloga '89

(448 Courtney Cir., Sugar Grove, IL 60554; edsalogabuilders@yahoo.com) I married my Acacia sweetheart, Sue. We have three boys and one girl and live in Sugar Grove, Ill. I run a custom design/build firm. I am also currently president of the Homebuilders Association of Fox Valley and occasionally work with **Todd Thiessen '89**.

Christopher A. Bombeck '90

(4318 S.W. Agate Ave., Corvallis, OR 97330; bombeck3@attbi.com) My wife, Melissa, and I welcomed our second daughter, Sarah, this year. I have joined a busy general surgery practice in Oregon, and we hope any brothers visiting the West Coast will stop by.

Kevin O'Leary '93

(1946 W. Diversey Garden, Chicago, IL 60614; euclid33@aol.com) I am engaged to Tami Brueske. I met her through a friend at work.

Neil G. Harness '94

(4 Radcliffe Road, Somerville, MA 02145-2905; nharness@partners.org) Bridgit and I have been living in Boston for three years now. Our little girl is 3, and we have a 17-month-old boy, Andrew. I will finish my residency in orthopedics in two years and will be headed to ???.

Norman R. Rivera '94

(414 S. Hatlen Ave., Mount Prospect, IL 60056; normacacia@yahoo.com) Finally finished up with pharmacy/MBA school at Drake University. Moving back to Chicago.

Steven M. Westfall '94

(9401 Sonora Ave., Brentwood, MO 63144-1011; swestfall@charter.net) Sarah and I had our second child, a boy, in July 2002. Our first, Katie, was 2-years-old in August.

Scott M. Cummings '95

(4206 Highland Ave., Manhattan Beach, CA 90266; cummingscott@hotmail.com) I am still living in southern California and recently rejoined my company after taking some time off. In April, I saw **Mike Albert '92** and his wife, who live in nearby Hermosa Beach. Also, while in Chicago, I

saw **Keith Noah '92**, **Jim Kurtzweil '90** and **Sam Midanek**. If you are ever out in southern California, don't hesitate to contact me.

Matthew F. Harmon '96

(230 Murray Hill Road, Fayetteville, NC 28303; matthew_harmon@hotmail.com) Graduated in March from the U.S. Army Special Forces qualification course and earned my green beret. Currently assigned as detachment commander of a Special Forces Operational Detachment-Alpha, composed of all Arabic speakers with worldwide regional orientation, predominantly the Middle East and Africa, in the 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) based in Fort Bragg, N.C.

Terry Singla '98

(606 Russett Ct., Schaumburg, IL 60193; terrysingla@hotmail.com) Recently moved back to Chicago after living and working in Sydney, Australia, as a financial consultant. Working for Andersen probably explains why I'm back, but it was great while it lasted. (I lived on the beach.)

Jason Pfeffer '99

(257 E. Country Ct., Bourbonnais, IL 60914-2115; jmpfeffe@hotmail.com) Hello, brothers! My life has taken a new direction over the last few years. After graduating from the University of Illinois, I took a long trip to Boulder, Colo., to do some traveling and get a little R&R. After returning home, I pursued my dream of working for a professional sports team as a communications rep. Luckily, I had the opportunity to work for a year with the Chicago Rush in the Arena Football League. Our 2002 campaign was quite successful, as we posted a 9-5 regular season record and made it to within one win of the Arena Bowl. Had a great season, met lots of great athletes and lived out a dream. However, over that time I realized my true passion was somewhere else. During my last year of undergraduate school, I was a volunteer firefighter in Urbana for the Carroll Fire Protection District. The time spent working in the community and putting on that smelly gear each week left a lasting impression on my future endeavors. I am currently a candidate for the 2003 Illinois State Police and hope to live out yet another dream as an officer. Hopefully, when I look back on my life I can say that I REALLY did something to be proud of. I know that for some of you this is a bit of a shock, but try not to be too surprised. I'd love to hear from all of you, especially my boys from '00. Drop me an e-mail and let me know how you are.

John S. Redding '00

(2196 W. Ponce De Leon Ave., Decatur, GA 30030; jshappee@netscape.net) I am very impressed that the computer room has been built and the men's room has been remodeled. I am also glad to see alumni relations are improving. Keep up the good work and good times.

We regret to inform you of the death of **Charles J. Hinger '34** (5/02), of San Antonio, Tex., at age 90. Acacia mourns his passing and extends condolences to his family and friends.
