

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Alumni Tailgating

Make plans to join each game's Alumni sponsors for food, beverages, and the full tailgating experience. See Page 5 for more details.



#### 9/1/2007 vs. Missouri

St. Louis, Mo. TBA

#### St. Louis-Area Alumni Group

**RICHARD ERDMAN ('67)**

**DENNIS DUSEK ('68)**

#### 9/8/2007 vs. Western Illinois

Time TBA

Sponsor Needed

#### 9/29/2007 vs. Penn State

Time TBA

**BOB LINCICOME ('50), MEL RAPP ('53)**

#### 10/6/2007 vs. Wisconsin

Time TBA

**TODD WALLIN ('98)**

**CHARLIE PIKUL ('99)**

**MAZ KOTHARI ('00)**

#### 10/20/2007 vs. Michigan

7:00PM

**JAY NORTH ('87), ERIC KUEHL ('89)**

#### 10/27/2007 vs Ball State

11:00AM

**HOME COMING Events All Day,  
Gathering at Chapter House**

#### 11/17/2007 vs. Northwestern

**MIKE DUNCAN ('74)**

**DAN BAYSTON ('80)**

*Homecoming*  
*October 27, 2007*

Don't miss this year's gathering. We're building off last year's success and planning many of the same events. See page 5 for more details.

The Hello Editors:

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# The Hello

Acacia Fraternity at the University of Illinois • [www.acaciaillinois.com](http://www.acaciaillinois.com) • Summer 2007

## ALUMNI PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### Alumni Committed to Sustaining the Future of Acacia *Securing a Permanent House is the Biggest Challenge on the Horizon*

By **ART MERTES '85**

If you weren't at your Centennial Homecoming at Acacia Illinois - after seeing the last *The Hello* and talking with friends who made it to Champaign - I'll bet you wish you had attended! It was something very special. We have successfully made it to our 100-year anniversary with an excellent Chapter, committed Board, improving National Fraternity, and yes, I believe I can say, a stronger base of active alumni support. These accomplishments are a direct result of a greater alumni involvement in the activities and future of the Fraternity. Our alumni volunteers are working with National and the Chapter to ensure positive leadership and continuity to the Illinois Chapter's development, operations and oversight. I am at this moment more optimistic about Acacia's future than I have been in 15 years - even without a permanent home on campus for Acacia.

Our time spent organizing events is for your enjoyment with fellow Brothers - I strongly encourage you to be a part of it because, I guarantee you, it will bring back very good memories and create many more! As alumni, we share a common bond. Our Pythagoras taught the ideals of scholarship, wisdom to know thyself and moderation in all things, brotherhood,

human service, leadership, integrity, courtesy, and that fraternity membership is "an experience in living." In living, we continue to understand, in small and bigger ways, how these attitudes and teachings we learned have shaped our lives for the better. The diversity and character of our alumni are something that you don't want to forget, and reconnecting and bonding with other class years and generations of our alumni is truly a meaningful part of your Acacia experience.

Our alumni and the Chapter members together are making Acacia history. But our biggest challenge lies ahead of us - securing a permanent home for Acacia on campus. Many have inquired how they might become more involved or to make a special gift to Acacia at Illinois. Those with interest may contact me or any member of the Board at any time, and I encourage you to do so. Your interest and support really makes a difference to all of us.

It's an opportune time for more of us to "grab a line" to help elevate our fraternity. We are hopeful that the select opportunities Acacia at Illinois will offer for you to make a difference will be met with enthusiasm. We WILL be connecting alumni across the nation. Your future involvement WILL make possible a rock solid future for Acacia at Illinois.

## CHAPTER TREASURER'S REPORT

### Online Bill Management System Being Researched *Savings Account Established for Future Capital Needs*

By **DENNIS BONE '02**

I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself to the alumni Chapter. My name is **DENNIS BONE '02**, and I currently act as the Corporate Chapter Treasurer Liaison and Advisor on the Corporate Board. I graduated from the University in May of 2006 with a Masters in Accounting, and am employed at PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP, in the assurance practice. My role on the Corporation Board is to provide the active Chapter with advice and support as to ensure the financial viability of the undergraduate operations.

During my time in this position, I have

seen the undergraduate Chapter make great improvements financially. Improved collections coupled with increased active membership have allowed the undergrads to establish a \$25,000 savings account for future capital needs. Also, the Chapter Executive Board is currently researching moving to an online bill management system to increase efficiency and allow active members to pay online via credit card, which they believe will help the collection process. I would like to thank **JOE SCAVUZZO**, Chapter Treasurer, for his hard work this past year. Please feel free to contact me at [denniscbone@gmail.com](mailto:denniscbone@gmail.com).

## Acacia Home Search Progressing

By **MIKE DUNCAN '74**

The Real Estate Committee continues to evaluate alternatives and is seeking alumni in geographic clusters so that awareness of our housing needs is spread nationally. I am pleased to say our first two years at 211 E. Daniel has increased our membership, seen community service return, resulted in improved house grade point averages, and reconfirmed to all that Acacia is on the move.

Acacia was at capacity for the 2006-07 school year and more upper classmen are continuing to choose to live in the fraternity house over moving to an apartment. The increased presence of upper classmen improves leadership from within and reduces undesirable incidents. Acacia continues

to provide young men an environment of success, and demand for our fraternity is strong. Congratulations to the class of 2007 and thank you for all you contributed in this pivotal year.

**“Acacia continues to provide young men an environment of success, and demand for our fraternity is strong.”**

The Acacia Foundation has launched a capital campaign, and for those of you who are approached, we ask that you remember Illinois in your plans. The Acacia Foundation

has been notifying me of solicitations and I thank **RALPH RHODES '73** for bringing the housing needs at Illinois to the forefront. We are working with them to advance Acacia at Illinois and I will talk more about this in the fall. We have the resources amongst us, but do we have the will to preserve our future?

We are also in the process of developing and formalizing a business plan to be used in pursuing our options for Acacia's own house. The variety of options open to Acacia makes this a significant challenge in itself.

Finally, anyone interested in helping secure a long term home for Acacia at Illinois please feel free to contact me at 312-601-7610.

## CORPORATE TREASURER'S REPORT

### Additions to the Annual Budget Stress Importance of Academics and Resources to Secure a Permanent Residence

#### *Corporate Audit Shows that Financials are in Good Order*

By **SHELTON S. HEAVER (SKIP) '01**

Our corporate financial matters are in strong order. We completed our corporate audit, and, as expected, there was no cause for concern. The auditors, Clifton Gunderson, LLP, provided constructive criticism on improving control systems, and we have implemented their suggestions. I would like to thank **DENNIS BONE '02**, Corporate Chapter Treasurer Liaison and Advisor, for his insights and expertise in the audit process.

We made a number of changes in the budget, including allocating more resources to Chapter support. This year, we have

purchased a number of books to reestablish a Chapter academic library. We are boosting the number and value of scholarships awarded to undergraduates, reinforcing the active Chapter's commitment, and further communicating the Board and alumni's view on the importance of academics. Finally, and perhaps the most significant change to the budget, is the earmarking of resources to our goal of purchasing a new permanent residence for the undergraduate Chapter. Our campaign preparations have begun, and our commitment is now measurable in dollars and cents.

While we have devoted resources to our aspiration of purchasing a new Chapter house, we have also focused on increasing invested reserves. Given the current economic environment, we have been able to grow our assets utilizing a conservative strategy of short-term certificates and high yield money market accounts. I expect this to provide a reasonable return with virtually no risk while maintaining liquidity during the capital campaign.

If there are any questions, please feel free to e-mail me at skipheaver@yahoo.com.

### ED SALOGA '86 Captures the Beauty of Acacia House

“For those of you who may not remember, this rendering was done by **ED SALOGA '86** in 1987, a year after the house at 501 E. Daniel re-opened after the fire. Eddie actually signed a number of these in person at Homecoming that fall. I have one framed and hanging here in my office.”  
- **JAY NORTH '87**

“It was indeed a beautiful building, even with the expansion/addition. My parking space of many years was in the parking garage directly across the street; my office window overlooked the back of the

house for 30 years, including the window of my last room (with **DON HANES '52**).



All told, I did not move very far away, although I spent several years elsewhere--the Army, graduate school, Miami, and Yale, before alighting a block away. Thanks for the picture.” - **JIM “DOC” DAVIS '51**

“Thanks for the very beautiful attachment of the Acacia house rendering. However, when I looked at it, it seemed vaguely familiar. Was the new house designed and built using parts of the old house that weren't damaged by the fire? Thanks again.” - **ALLEN KLEINBECK '53**

## MENTORING PROGRAM

### Acacia Mentoring Program Expanded for the 2007-08 Academic Year

*Volunteer Today to Help Actives Prepare for Successful Careers*

By **PHILIP W. CHAPMAN (CHAPPY) '71**

The Acacia Illinois Program provided excellent guidance to twenty-one protégés from sixteen mentors during the 2006-07 academic years. **PHILIP W. CHAPMAN '71** worked with the Corporation Board and the active Chapter officers to provide an opportunity for actives to learn from experienced alumni.

#### *Phase One*

During phase one, all pledges receive classes in Maintaining a Positive Attitude, Goal Setting, and Time Management. **PHIL CHAPMAN '71** explained the Phase Two Portion of the program to actives. Phil visited the house six times to teach and meet with actives.

#### *Phase Two*

During 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 email. Many protégés maintained the relationship over long distances through email and telephone with excellent results.

#### *Visit to Fraternity Dean*

On Friday, February 2, Venerable Dean **ANDREW BRAUN** and **PHIL CHAPMAN '71** visited with Ashley Dye, Dean for Greek Affairs, to describe the ACACIA mentoring program. A lively and fruitful discussion

ensued and the university was made aware of our Alumni's active role in the program.

#### *Mentorship Breakfast*

On Saturday, February 3, 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)**, and Patrick McGovern (Acacia National). The Alumni provided tips to the new initiates including, "How to Get The Most from the Acacia Experience."

*"Together we can accomplish great things!"*

#### *Illinois Mentoring Library*

The corporation board approved **PHIL CHAPMAN'S '71** request to establish a mentoring library at Illinois. The Corporation Board provided twenty books on the GMAT, LSAT, GRE, writing resumes, and job interview skills to actives.

#### *Career Center – Mentoring Highlight*

**PHIL CHAPMAN '71** visited the Career Center to review the services offered to actives. The

Career Center provides valuable services to protégés. Mentoring Highlight: **RANDALL EDGAR '98** arranged for active **JOHN STRODE** to visit his law firm in Chicago and to view court proceedings. Brother Strode also met business associates and reported afterwards he will have two job interviews for summer intern employment.

#### *ACACIA National*

Given the initial success of the program, the house officers and Corporation Board voted to expand the program during 2007-08. On February 3, **MEL RAPP '49**, **MIKE McCULLEY '68**, and Chapter Officers met with Patrick McGovern to ensure the Illinois Chapter Program would complement the National Management Development Program (MDP). We invited Mr. McGovern to host the first MDP Retreat at the Illinois Chapter House.

The mentoring program provides an opportunity for actives to prepare for a successful life through a relationship with an experienced mentor in their field. Contact **PHIL CHAPMAN '71** at 618-654-1118 or pchapman@highlandil.com to be a mentor.

*"Together we can accomplish great things!"*

## CHAPTER REPORT

### Illinois Chapter Excels in Philanthropy, Scholarships, Academics, and Rush

This year has been one full of blessings for the Illinois Chapter. The active Chapter has membership over 100 for the first time in several years. Even with increasing membership, we can still say we are a tightly knit group of young men – a foundation of new member education and a mission of our brotherhood. Our two most recent Head Rush Chairs, **ANTHONY LOVERO** and **VITO BERTOLINI**, were very proactive during rush and crucial to our recent spike in membership. For the year, we are expecting to have initiated over 50 new members! This new man power will only mean great things for the growth and development of the Illinois Chapter and the surrounding community.

Scholarship has been somewhat of a struggle as of late for the Chapter. The Executive Board created a scholarship proposal to address this issue, and we are

*"Recently, the Corporation Board released great news that they will be increasing the yearly allotted scholarship money to \$10,000!"*

taking important measures to increase our scholastic rankings. The proposal will implement minimum GPA requirements

for initiation of new members, and GPA minimums will be strictly enforced for social eligibility. Struggling actives will not be left to fend for themselves. Those struggling with grades will have to report to the Scholarship Chairs weekly on their progress and attend mandatory study hours. The Scholarship Chairs are two very dedicated individuals, **JEFF VUCKO** and **TERRY SULLIVAN**. Every week, they spend nearly 9 hours at the library holding study hour sessions and spending time with those members in need, teaching them about good study habits and time management.

Recently, the Corporation Board released great news that they will be increasing the

*(Continued on page 7)*



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT – Ralph Gould '43

*This is the second in a continuing series highlighting Acacia alumni. RALPH GOULD's '43 story is not only fascinating, but no one ever heard the story in Champaign when Ralph returned from the war to complete his education. He never mentioned it. Ralph and JACK KILBY '47 were contemporaries at the time. In preparation for this article, Ralph related how he had hitched a ride and flown to a base in Burma just to see Jack, but on his arrival learned that Jack's group had unexpectedly departed just 24 hours earlier on a mission to Manchuria.*

The following is printed with permission from *The Flint Michigan Journal* where the article appeared November 10, 2005.

### MISSION TO CHINA FRESH IN VET'S MIND LAPEER MAN RELIVES WW II BOMBER CRASH

Among the impressive World War II souvenirs collected by Ralph W. Gould Jr. is one he'd rather not have -- a bad back from his emergency bailout over China in 1944.

The fateful mission was one of 46 that Gould, an Army Air Forces first lieutenant and navigator on a B 24 bomber, flew in the China-Burma-India Theater in 1944-45.

Gould's missions often were to bomb bridges used by the Japanese for supply routes, as well as oil fields and airfields. One of his flights took him over the River Kwai of movie fame.

But his mission July 23, 1944 was especially harrowing.

Gould, now 83, and seven other crew members were flying "Paulette," an aircraft named for actress Paulette Goddard, on a "hump" mission - so named for flying cover the mighty Himalayas - out of Calcutta, India, to deliver gasoline to inland China. They flew over some of the tallest mountains and isolated regions of the world.

"Sometimes the updrafts would make you go up or drop 1,000 feet a second," Gould said. A nasty storm and an engine fire caused the pilot, 2nd Lt William J. Brenner, to order the crew to bail out. Brenner continued to try to fly the plane but was killed when it crashed on Mount Loh-She.

The airmen were about 100 miles beyond friendly lines and about 50 miles from the retreating Japanese when they hit ground.

Gould's parachute jump, the first of his life, was done in a driving rain. A last minute correction in his glide prevented him from crashing to his death on a boulder, but he injured his back.

The jump separated the crew member, but Gould found two mates. The next day they discovered the Paulette wreckage and Brenner's mangled body.

Crew members believe Brenner sacrificed

his life to continue flying the plane in a circular, level manner so they could bail out safely and stay close to one another.

Gould buried Brenner and then found the other four crewmen who came down in a deep gorge across a river. The pilot's body was recovered and reburied in Wilkes-Barre, Penn., where his wife lived.

In a nearby village, friendly Chinese-enemies of the Japanese - drew the group a crude map on rice paper that led them to safety. They began walking - 20 miles a day for 12 days in torrential rains - to an air base in Yunnanyi, China.

"We hung on to the horses or a donkey's tail on the way up the trails and we'd wrap our arms around the horse's neck on the way down," Gould said.

Along the way, they stayed in several villages, where residents fed them and let them sleep in Buddhist temples.

"Some places they had a banquet" Gould said. "The meals were good. I don't know what we ate - and that was probably a good thing - but we ate a lot."

Once they reached the airfield, they were flown back to their base in India.

In another bombing run, three B-24s in their formation were shot out of the sky near Rangoon, Burma, but Gould's bomber somehow escaped the shrapnel.

During his service, Gould said he contracted nearly every jungle disease imaginable except malaria.

Toward the end of the war, he was put on a "slow boat from China" that took him 45 days to arrive back in the States, Gould said.

Gould celebrated V-J Day, the day Japan's surrender ended World War II, in Melbourne, Australia, while the ship was in port.

In 1952, he married his wife, Marie, in Canada. The couple - who lived in Harper Woods and Oxford before settling in Lapeer - has two sons, a daughter and a granddaughter.

Gould collected and saved many of his wartime mementos, including flight plans, leave passes, receipts from Indian restaurants, and pieces of his life saving parachute.

He even has the rice paper map that led him and his crewmates to the air base. The souvenirs fill a room in his home and two

large loose-leaf notebooks.

Over the years, he has kept in contact with some of the crew members and still talks to Paulette's radio operator, who lives in Boston.

So what does Gould think about today's veterans?

As a whole, Gould believes today's armed forces are better trained and better equipped than when he served.

"I hope they keep up the same traditions and attitudes, he said.

**ALL ACACIA SALUTES RALPH  
AND THE MANY OTHER UNSUNG  
VETERANS WHO PUT THEIR LIVES  
ON THE LINE THAT WE MIGHT  
LIVE IN FREEDOM!**



Photo printed with permission from *The Flint Michigan Journal*, November 10, 2005.

Today Ralph and his wife reside at 305 Mansfield Dr., Lapeer, MI 48446

#### **RALPH GOULD JR. '43**

Flew 55 missions over the Himalayas during World War II as an Army Air Forces navigator including the one that left him stranded outside friendly lines for 12 days in 1944.

Earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, three Air Medals, China Medal, Chinese Air Crew Medal, Asiatic Theater Medal, and American Campaign Medal. His unit won a Presidential Citation.

Membership and Associations: Caterpillar Club, an association of people saved in a parachute jump; Hump Pilots Association, China-Burma-India Organization; 7<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Historical Society, B-24 Historical Society.

## SPOTLIGHT ON BEN KROP '04 – Graduating Senior

### Graduating with the Senior Honorary 100, BEN KROP '04 has Left His Mark at Acacia and the University

#### *The Active Chapter will Miss All of the Graduating Seniors*

By **ANDREW BRAUN** – Venerable Dean

This time of year is both a happy and a sad one for the active Chapter as we pay tribute and give a salute to our graduating seniors. One senior in particular who we would like to pay special tribute to is **BENJAMIN KROP '04**.

Ben comes from Lincolnwood, IL and is graduating with highest honors in Electrical and Computer Engineering. He's obtaining his minor from the Hoeft Technology and Management program – the University's most prestigious and selective minor. His resume is quite impressive; he's held summer internships with GE Healthcare, Panduit Corporation, and LOLA LLC. He was also recently bestowed with the Senior Honorary 100,



recognizing the top 100 graduating seniors from all majors.

Aside from Ben's rigorous coursework, he's also been a James Scholar, Jules D. Falzer

Scholarship recipient, member of the Cisco Leadership Diversity Program, and recently achieved 1<sup>st</sup> place at the Accenture Campus Innovation Challenge. Ben was also very involved with the Greek Community, where he served as VP of Scholarship on the IFC Executive Board last year. Ben has also been a tremendous asset to the U of I faculty, as he has been a research assistant for projects in the EM Lab under Professor Schutt-Aine and in the Lidar Atmospheric Lab under Professor Swenson. This summer Ben will be joining ZS Associates as a full-time management consultant. Best of luck to you, Ben, and the rest of our graduating seniors!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Tailgate with Fellow Acacians at This Year's Football Games



The Acacia Alumni Association is kicking off a new annual tradition with its Alumni-Sponsored Tailgates. The Corporation

Board is securing all the tailgating necessities and will set up and take down each game's event. The tailgate will include grilled food, tailgate beverages, bean bag games, football toss

and a common game day gathering for our Alumni.

We obtained a parking pass in the lot to the southwest of Memorial Stadium and due west of Assembly Hall. Our location will be marked by a 20-foot flagpole flying Illini and Acacia flags.

A special thank you goes to all of those alumni listed on the schedule on the front page who graciously volunteered to sponsor each game. Sponsorship involves a \$250-\$400 (total)

donation, which pays for the tailgate's food and beverage. Also, we hope that seeing your brothers' involvement in the tailgate will prompt you ensure your appearance!

Further information will be posted on our website and sent along with a Homecoming Invitation that will be mailed later this summer. But don't hesitate; make plans now to join us this year for the Alumni-Sponsored Tailgates!

### *Homecoming* *October 27, 2007*

Last year's Homecoming was an unprecedented success. We're keeping much of the same format with coffee, bagels, and Active-led tours of the house before the 11:00AM kickoff. The Corp. Board will again purchase a block of tickets (email Adam Powers [adampowers1@gmail.com](mailto:adampowers1@gmail.com) now if interested) for our alumni. After the game we'll gather at the Chapter House for a reception and BBQ dinner. The celebration will continue at a reserved campus bar. A chartered bus from and to downtown Chicago will provide a convenient day-of transportation.



*Alumni at the house for a reception during the Centennial Homecoming Celebration in 2006.*

## Alumni Speak Out in Response to Email

### 90% of Respondents are Satisfied with Communications about the Chapter and Upcoming Events

By MIKE CONNIFF '93

In December 2006, we sent an email survey to 536 alumni, all those with email addresses we know, regarding the overall affairs of Acacia at the Chapter and Corporation Board level. We had an 18% response rate. Thanks to those of you who participated. Your views are very important to us, and your feedback will help us better serve our fellow Acacia alumni. We will cover many, if not all, of the comments made in this and forthcoming issues of *The Hello*.

The good news is the results overall were quite positive. A handful of our dedicated alumni have worked diligently over the past two years to help strengthen Acacia both at the Chapter and corporation board. It appears many of you are seeing some of the results. On question 13 of the survey, we asked for open feedback about the alumni or Chapter. Some of the favorable comments included:

- "They did a great job at homecoming. Keep up the good work."
- "I think it has been great of recently."
- "Recent steps taken by the board to improve the Chapter are showing results. Keep up the good work."
- "Over the past few years, I feel much more informed and willing to contribute financially. The board has done a great job."
- "Very impressed with current undergrad Chapter."
- "The homecoming event was a great start...hopefully something like that will continue."
- "Keep up the good momentum."
- "The corp. board is doing a fantastic job. The recent upgrades to facilities, communications, and alumni events has been excellent. Keep up the good work and thank you for all of your efforts."

I would also like to address some of the queries that were brought forth in the survey:

*"I'd like to see the financial numbers and budget."*

**We have an open policy for our corporation budget and financials. If you are interested in viewing the results of our most recent audit, or the 07-08 Annual Budget approved by the Corporation Board, please contact our Corproate Treasurer Skip Heaver at skipheaver@yahoo.com or (630) 963-6237.**

*"The strongest message I have heard from the Chapter is 'we need your money'. This does not make me feel like giving -- giving does not result from requests or guilt letters, it comes from an ongoing relationship and you must work at nurturing that relationship. More alumni news, more that reinforces the 'we're all good Brothers' feeling. In October, I contributed some money to Heth Chapter. I got an abrupt, emailed, obligatory-type thank you, and 60 days later my name still does not show up on a contributor's list -- there has been nothing saying 'we appreciate you' and so the relationship has not been nurtured; you are now back to ground-zero with respect to another contribution."*

**We agree there is need to continue to expand our alumni news coverage. To a significant extent that is a byproduct of what our alumni share with us. We have increased both the frequency and size of *The Hellos* from 1 or 2 per year to 3 to 4. The size of the *The Hello* has also increased to up to 8 pages or more, and our last *The Hello* was almost completely dedicated to the Centennial Homecoming event which many of you attended. We also provide monthly e-letters to keep our alumni base apprised of our alumni events.**

**With regards to our solicitations**

**for donations. We attempt to keep them at a minimum. However, without donations Acacia at Illinois could easily cease to exist. We have all benefited from our experience at Acacia and we want to ensure future Acacians will be able to share in those same experiences, just as others did for us. Still, we recognize this alum has made a point and it is well taken. Thank you very much for your donation. All donations should post to our site as soon as they have been processed. We apologize for any oversight. Your donations help fund the Chapter's physical property and alumni communications as well. We also do our best to send a thank you letter to all donors. Again, we apologize for any oversight if you did not receive one. We work very hard to ensure all donations are acknowledged appropriately.**

**As an aside, let me share that one of our alums has assumed the responsibility of preparing acknowledgement letters to donors, and that effort saves your fraternity almost \$4 per response. It is obvious we are not perfect, but we are trying. In the future if you have any issues please feel free to contact me directly at mconniff@usa.net.**

Perhaps the most encouraging result on the survey was the question about the frequency and content of our communications. An overwhelming 90% of respondents felt satisfied with the communications about the Chapter and future events. We recognize the importance of communications and we are trying our best.

Again, thanks to all who were able to participate. Your opinions are valuable and we will make every effort to help incorporate your views within our future plans. The Illini spring football practice has the media buzzing (no joke) -- hope to see you all at our upcoming events this year!



## Thoughts From an Acacia Mom on Her Son's Fraternity Experience

*Carolyn Schafer is Impressed with the Social and Philanthropic Efforts of the Illinois Chapter*

Gentlemen:

My son, Matt, a member of Acacia, attends the University of Illinois. Every spring U of I has a "Mom's weekend." We had a wonderful time at the Acacia house and I want to pass that news along to you. Among other social activities planned, Saturday morning Acacia hosted a lavish brunch for members' families. The brunch was followed by the annual Mom's weekend auction. Entertainment during the auction intermission was provided by the a capella group, Xtension Chords, and was fantastic. Last year the room was filled to capacity and the auction raised over \$6,000. This year it was standing room only and attendees spilled out to the foyer. The amount raised was \$14,000!

In addition to raising funds via the

auction for needs at the house, Acacia has also been busy with philanthropic efforts. This past weekend they had an event for numerous fraternities and sororities in Frat Park. Through participation fees, t-shirt sales, and solicitations, they raised over \$2,000 for Habitat for Humanity, one of the charitable organizations they have been supporting for at

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**"Being a member of Acacia has been an integral part of my son's first two years at Champaign."**

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least two years.

Being a member of Acacia has been an integral part of my son's first two years at Champaign. These young men are dedicated

to Acacia and the past few years have spectacularly increased the membership. I wanted to let you know of the excitement I see at Acacia and my hope that it continues. I understand that currently the house is leased and there is on-going planning for a future house. I applaud your efforts and wish you the same success as I see in your undergrads! Having been in a sorority, and my husband in a fraternity, we know how central and important the House is to all activities.

Congratulations to you as your presence on university campuses continues to grow and strengthen!

Carolyn Schafer

### CHAPTER REPORT ...continued from page 3

yearly allotted scholarship money to \$10,000! This is reassurance that our alumni are behind our scholastics and dedication to Acacian ideals. The money will be split into 9 separate scholarships to provide the best opportunities for actives to be rewarded for their scholastic achievement and commitment to Acacia. Once again, the future seems very bright for the Illinois Chapter due to the quality membership and steadfast alumni support.

The past school year has also been an excellent one socially and philanthropically for our Chapter. The social calendar was filled with exchanges and impromptu events with all of the top sororities on campus, including: Kappa Alpha Theta, Gamma Phi Beta, Delta Delta Delta, Kappa Kappa Gamma, Delta Gamma, Chi Omega, and Alpha Chi Omega.

The capstone event of the spring semester was the house formal. This year the formal was held in Windsor, Canada. Nearly half the house attended as we chartered two busses for the event. The banquet was phenomenal as each senior was given a chance to say a couple words while a slideshow with pictures from everyone in the house played. Tears were shed and laughs were had making it the largest formal Acacia has had in recent history.

This year philanthropy grew by leaps and bounds from the previous years. Seven Days

of Service, our national philanthropy, took place during fall semester. Over these seven days, our Chapter *volunteered over 220 hours!* This is double the hours that the Chapter volunteered last year. Also, this year we began a fundraising letter campaign to benefit our local Habitat for Humanity. This campaign raised over a thousand dollars from Acacia families.

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**"The seniors were also honored at the last Chapter of the year with a 'Passing of the Gavel' event."**

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In addition, we hosted our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual "ACACIA Bowl" which is a philanthropy football tournament that faces different fraternities and sororities against each other on the gridiron. In conjunction with the fundraising campaign, the football tournament pushed our fundraising over the \$2,000 amount. ACACIA also hosted a blood drive with the women of Gamma Phi Beta. This drive produced over thirty units of blood for the American Red Cross.

Philanthropy efforts at ACACIA are continuing to increase each year. Next year we plan to host yet another blood drive, make

"Seven Days of Service" bigger, and open "ACACIA Bowl" to even more houses in order to maximize fundraising. Additionally, there are new ideas to better our community by hosting a philanthropy block party with the men of Beta Theta Pi, which we hope will become one of the biggest philanthropies on campus.

Instillation of the new officers took place on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Although the race was close, the newest Venerable Dean elect is **Joel Grachan**. His platform includes measures to improve scholastics, revamp pledgship, and publicize our "Seven Days of Service" philanthropy to the campus. The seniors were also honored at the last Chapter of the year with a "Passing of the Gavel" event. Each senior was able to address the entire Chapter and speak of the great memories, experiences, and what Acacia has meant to each of them these past four years. The event ended as the Chapter all rose and sang, "We're All Good Brothers."

As always, you are welcome to stop by the house when you are at campus for sporting events and we look forward to seeing you at Homecoming on October 27, 2007!

## ALUMNI UPDATES

### 70's

#### DENNIS PATE '71

(3014 Saint Johns Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32205; flangur@comcast.net)

I moved to Jacksonville, FL in 2002 to assume position of Executive Director of the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens. I moved from Chicago where I had been the Senior Vice President of the Lincoln Park Zoo. [www.jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/070802/dsf\\_9857418.html](http://www.jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/070802/dsf_9857418.html)

#### JOHN "SHOES" SCHUMACHER '73

(9 Briar Hill Cir., Champaign, IL 61822; shoes@devonshire-realty.com)

I am the president of Coldwell Banker Devonshire Realty, a regional real estate firm throughout central Illinois. Son Jack is serving in our Army in Iraq, daughter Lauren is a sophomore at Emerson College in Boston learning to become a film editor, and 5th grader Daniel lives with his mom in

Bloomington. I'm engaged to be married in October, and finishing up the MBA program at ISU (amazing how different school is when you actually show up for class!). Would love to visit - call or write if you're heading into town to cheer on the Fighting Illini!

### 90's

#### JAMES KURTZWEIL '90

(926 W. Fletcher Street, Chicago, IL 60657; jimkurtzweil@ameritech.net)

Living in Lakeview with wife Elizabeth and three awesome sons James II, Luke, and John Thomas. Left a 13 year career at GE in 2006 to start Clark Street Development, a commercial real estate firm focused on retail development.

#### MICHAEL "ALDI" ALDWORTH '99

(879 Pas Ct, Apt 202, Naperville, IL 60563; maldwort@hotmail.com)

Just wanted to say that I recently purchased a townhouse in Naperville. I'm really excited about it. It's a 3 bedroom 2 bath townhouse on the second floor. I hired some painters

and we ended up painting the 3rd bedroom, which will be my office, in Illini Orange and Blue. That's right, I have an Illini room in my new house! I'm looking forward to having some people over soon, but first I need some furniture. If anyone has something extra, let me know!

### 00's

#### MICHAEL WILLIAMSON '02

(12462 E. 150th St., Orion, IL 61273; miwill20@yahoo.com)

I was commissioned a lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps in 2004 and went on to become an infantry officer. I was assigned as a rifle platoon commander in 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marines at Marine Corps Base Hawaii. I recently returned from a combat tour in Afghanistan, where I commanded a reinforced rifle platoon and a platoon of Afghan National Army soldiers in conducting counter-insurgency operations near Asadabad from Jan to Jun 2006. I am now serving as Alpha Company Executive Officer in Haditha, Iraq and will be here until Oct 2007.

## ACACIA ESQ.

A group of Acacia attorneys have set dates for two upcoming luncheon gatherings. Each meeting has provided an opportunity for new happenings and old stories, as well as chance to learn more about the host's professional career and area of law. Thus far, alumni practicing in the Chicago Loop have hosted the luncheons. If you are an attorney and have not already received an Acacia Esq. email and would like to be added to the list, please email [adampowers1@gmail.com](mailto:adampowers1@gmail.com).

#### TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2007 AT 12:30 PM

Hosted by **CHRISTOPHER KACZYNSKI ('88)** and **ADAM POWERS ('98)** of Smith, Hemmesch, Burke, Brannigan & Guerin at 10 South LaSalle, Suite 2660, Chicago IL.

#### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2007 AT 12:30 PM

Hosted by **WILLIAM "BILL" DUGAN ('89)** of Seyfarth Shaw LLP at 131 South Dearborn Street, Suite 2400, Chicago, IL.

## Happy Belated Father's Day to all of our Acacia Dad's, especially . . .



**TOM STRICKLAND ('98)** and his wife Amy added their second child and first son Jack in May 2007. (Pictured at left.)

**AARON RUSWICK ('97)** and his wife Toni welcomed their first child Jack in December 2006.

**CHRIS KACZYNSKI ('88)** and his wife Dawn celebrated the birth of their first child Blake in October 2006.

To include wedding/birth announcements of you or your Brother(s) in the *Hello*, please email the details to an Editor [mrapp3@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mrapp3@sbcglobal.net) or [adampowers1@gmail.com](mailto:adampowers1@gmail.com).