



# Scholars Excel! "Straight A" Students

Exceptional scholarship has long been a priority of Acacia Fraternity. Last semester, the chapter again proved their academic excellence. The overall house grade point average has continued to climb. The Corporation Board has been encouraging this effort in recent years by granting a number of individual scholarships, totaling \$8,000 per year, to members who excel scholastically.

The following chapter members earned a 4.0 G.P.A. for the spring semester. That's right - six members with straight A's! Eight more brothers were very, very close with an A- keeping them just below 4.0!

Congratulations to the following scholars:

**Daniel Ashe**Sophomore

Patrick Coulture
Junior

Samuel Gallardo Junior

> Ryan Kovarik Freshman

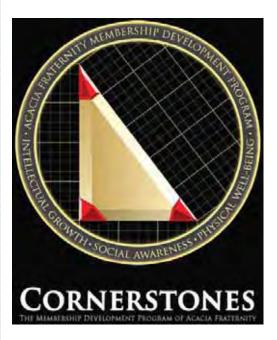
Michael Rochman

Joseph Sawa Freshman

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## **Active Chapter, Alumni Expand Successful Mentoring Program**

**Embrace Acacia International's "Cornerstones" Program** 



It was only a few years ago when **Phil Chapman** '71 decided he wanted to give more back to the fraternity that had helped guide him through his college years. Upon viewing the various needs and opportunities for the fraternity, Phil recognized the importance of supporting active chapter members throughout their college days by initiating a Mentoring Program. The goal of this program is to provide each member with access to alumni who have the perspective of not only college days, but the professional world as well. He successfully recruited about 20 alumni who agreed to mentor one or more students.

However, his idea of support went further. He began to offer specific learning opportunities for the undergraduate members by traveling to Champaign and conducting periodic Saturday classes on a variety of topics including studying efficiently, social conduct and several other topics

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# **Housing Search Status**

The Corporation Board has engaged the services of a local real estate broker to represent us as a buyer or lessee of a house for Acacia. We continue the search in earnest as our present lease with SAE expires May 31, 2010.

To date, eight properties have been evaluated, including the SAE house. Two written offers have been submitted. However, we were not able to come to acceptable terms to buy (or temporarily lease) the desired properties.

A rental proposal has been requested for a house in Urbana for the 2010-2011 school year as a contingency plan should one be needed prior to our purchase.

The Board is monitoring two (2) Champaign properties that currently have purchase agreements on them. However, the buyers have not been able to obtain financing to date. We are examining

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### **Capital Campaign Update**

The \$1.75 Million Campaign for Acacia continues to progress positively. To date, the Fraternity has raised \$1,533,976 in pledges with a total of \$535,682 collected to date. The remaining campaign commitments will be paid over the next three to five years, as was established at the time of the initial pledge.

As we all know, this past year or so has been a difficult period for many given the challenging economic environment and highly volatile financial markets. Nevertheless, our Campaign has reached 88% of its goal, which represents a tremendous level of support in these difficult economic times.

The next important phase of our capital campaign will commence once we have a property identified and under contract. We continue to diligently evaluate opportunities and are

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The Hello seeks to include a maximum amount of information in each issue regarding the active chapter. To accomplish this, the Corporation Board sought the assistance of a co-editor from the chapter, who also frequently holds the Chapter's Alumni Chairman position. During the last two years, Ryan Alberts '07 has done an excellent job in that capacity. Beginning with this issue, Jason Postlewait '08 has been appointed as the new Co-Editor. The Hello looks forward to his input along with the support of officers and chapter members.

Though I have enjoyed working with our Alumni Board immensely, it is time for me to pass on the opportunity to one of our younger members, **Jason Postlewait '08**. After two and a half years of great memories in the chapter house, I will be moving into a house with nine of my pledge brothers so that new younger members will be allowed the opportunity to live in.

I plan on finishing my molecular and cellular biology degree within the next year and applying to PA school to eventually become a physician's assistant. I am glad I could take part in *The Hello* and know that Jason will ensure that our active members will continue to work with our Alumni Board to keep all of our alumni updated on the recent activities of our great Acacia Chapter here at the University of Illinois.

We are all good brothers, **Ryan Alberts '07** Outgoing Alumni Relations Chair and *The Hello* Co-Editor

My name is Jason Postlewait (Pledge Class 2011.5), and I am the Alumni Chair of Acacia Fraternity. I attended Mt. Zion High School, just outside of Decatur,



IL, and am studying accounting here at Illinois. I am responsible for keeping close and effective relationships between active members and, of course, the alumni. I will be working hard to keep the mentorship program successful by assigning new mentors and doing what I can to improve the existing contact between actives and their current mentors.

### **New Chapter Officers Reports**

### Ryan Van Echo '08, Venerable Dean

Greetings alumni! My name is Ryan Van Echo and I am the incoming Venerable Dean of Acacia



Illinois. I will be a senior this fall and am majoring in mechanical engineering with a minor in bioengineering. I am from Hilliard, OH (a suburb of Columbus, OH), and am in the 2011 Pledge Class. As President, I plan to work closely with the executive board, our members and alumni alike in order to continue our strong traditions. We are about to begin a new chapter in the storied history that we have here at Illinois, and I am excited to lead us through it.

# Tommy Mauro '09, Philanthropy Chair

My name is Tommy Mauro, I'm a sophomore and a member of the 2012 Pledge Class. I am



honored to serve as this year's Philanthropy Chair. I've always been passionate about philanthropy, and jumped at the chance to get involved in, and improve, Acacia's philanthropy program. I was an assistant philanthropy chair last semester. I organize a weekly philanthropy event for Chapter members to participate in, as well as a few large events throughout the school year. As of right now, our plan is to participate in Kids Plus weekly, which is an afterschool program for students in the Champaign-Urbana area. In addition to that ongoing endeavor, we will organize the Acacia Football Bowl in the fall and Acacia Soccer Cup in the spring, which are tournaments involving members of other fraternities and sororities with all proceeds going to charity.

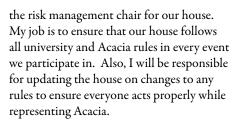
### Joey Zanghi '09, Risk Management Chair

Chair

My name is Joey Zanghi,
I am beginning my
sophomore year, and I am
a member of the 2012 Pledge Class. I am

majoring in molecular and cellular biology

with a minor in chemistry. This year I am



### Paul Warkins '09, Social Chair

My name is Paul Warkins and I am majoring in finance and international business. As an incoming



sophomore, I am very excited to serve as this year's Social Chair. This upcoming year I will be working with the Junior Dean to organize events between Acacia and sororities on campus. I am involved with planning the events in aspects such as coming up with themes, reserving the event locations and making sure Acacia maintains an active role with the other Greek organizations on campus. We also work on keeping within the social budget, ensuring that we stay cost effective while ensuring the members of Acacia have a fun and enjoyable year.

### Patrick Driscoll '09, House Manager

My name is Patrick Driscoll, I will be a sophomore (Pledge Class 2012), and am majoring in



hospitality management. In this upcoming semester I will serve as the House Manager. I work as the liaison between repair companies and the house. I handle the day-to-day maintenance of the house - including repair of light fixtures, plumbing and aesthetic problems - along with contacting the appropriate people about any functional issues we encounter.



Communication support and assistance provided by Omega Financial, Inc. (800) 955-ALUM (2586) www.OmegaAlumniServices.com

### **Alumni Profile - Jack Johnson '61**

By Scott Cummings '92

Author's note: Over the last nine years, I have had the good fortune of calling Park City, UT a second home. For years, I passed by Jack Johnson Company's beautiful building on the main drag into town and wondered what sort of business was inside. Imagine my surprise when I found out Jack was a fraternity brother, and immediately invited him to coffee on a winter morning last December. When I heard his colorful story, and the impact he has had on the growth of one of the most famous mountain towns in the United States, I asked to have it shared with the rest of Acacia at Illinois.

Editor's note: Thank you to Scott Cummings '92 for assisting with this issue The Hello! We welcome guest authors at anytime. If you would like to highlight a fellow Acacian, please let one of the Editors know.

For many of us, discovering our passion and turning that into a successful living is only a dream. **Jack Johnson '61** is living proof that in this life, you can have both.

As a sophomore in 1961, Jack pledged Acacia with **Bob Morgan '61**, a boyhood friend from their hometown of Morton, IL. At the time, Acacia was a popular fraternity, whose members were prominent in activities like Glee Club and Student Government. Academically, he remembers them as one of best, though admits, "I probably didn't help the house grade point average."

Jack earned his bachelor's degree in civil engineering, following in the footsteps of his father who was also a U of I engineering graduate. "I knew at eight years old I was going to do this," Jack noted.

After college, Jack followed Morgan to Los Angeles, taking a job with the city designing storm drains to move water to the ocean. Here he found skiing, routinely making the long drive to Mammoth Mountain. "I had a Corvette so the 325 mile drive wasn't so bad, except in snow."

At 26, he headed north to Sacramento, rejoining Bob who left a year earlier to work for the state. After a year, he moved to Lake Tahoe, where construction jobs kept him busy and further cemented his passion for the mountains. When a friend from L.A. received a call from a headhunter in 1971 looking for a "ski bum engineer" to move to Park City, Utah, Jack jumped at the chance.

Long before becoming known worldwide

for the Sundance Film Festival and the winter events of the 2002 Olympics, Park City rose to prominence for its silver mining. Founded in 1884, by the early 1970's the mines were closing and the city needed to reinvent itself. Its development into a recreational destination began.

Jack joined Greater Park City Company as head engineer. "Within six weeks, the boss who hired me left and I was running the whole design department," said Jack.

The recession of 1975 collapsed the company, leaving Jack with meager employment opportunities. It was then that Jack made the most critical decision of his life, choosing not to leave the mountains he had grown to love. He had a vision of what Park City could be, and started J. J. Johnson & Associates.

His big break came when Edgar Stern, the famous developer and owner of 1,700 acres in town, began development of what is now Deer Valley Resort - and gave Jack the opportunity to master plan it. Since then, Jack Johnson Company, as the firm is now known, has planned destination resorts around the world, branching into golf course and beach resort design along the way.

For those unfamiliar with Park City, it is home to three world-renowned mountain resorts that are consistently rated among the best in the nation. In the last 35 years, he has been responsible for the planning and development of essentially the entire modern town. "Park City is my living museum," he says.

Through the years, Jack has grown his business into a "one-stop shop" for architecture, planning, design and engineering services, with over 100 employees in five U.S. cities. He personally designed the stunning building that houses his firm, a few miles from Park City's historic downtown. Its spacious lobby and rustic offices demonstrate his love of the mountain landscape combined with his architectural talent.

In a field like planning and development, he is not immune to the economic shift taking place. When asked about this recession, Jack pondered how to deal with hard times, "Does anyone know they'll be an entrepreneur? Probably not. When I was thrown into adversity, I was forced to make a decision. I chose lifestyle, and decided to start a company." By his count, this is the sixth recession he has survived in



his business career. "The first got me into business, but this is the hardest one I have ever seen."

Jack is extremely active. With Park City Mountain Resort and Deer Valley as a backdrop, winter skiing and summer golf are part of his routine. Running a company in a mountain town, he believes strongly in the lifestyle - so much so that he put a "ski policy" in his employee manual.

"As long as my employees don't impact deadlines for clients and coworkers, we encourage them to take advantage of where we have chosen to live. I think we get better people for it - it has been appreciated, and not violated." Jack himself sets the example, seeing upwards of 100 ski days a year. "On powder days, this place can get pretty quiet after lunch."

Thinking back on his years in Acacia, he has fond memories of Illini football games, and how great the old 501 E. Daniel location was, especially for its proximity to the local watering holes, and the "Wright Street Girls" - as the sororities lining the Quad's west side were called.

In addition to Morgan, Jack keeps in touch with **James Wormley '60**. Jack resides in Park City and has two grown children. Justin and Jill inherited their father's love for skiing and the outdoors, having each competed on the U.S. Ski Team.

In a final thought, Jack shares, "I am constantly trying to reinvent myself." A fitting comment since when Park City needed reinventing, Jack Johnson was largely behind it. If the marvels he has created are any indication, we can only wait to see what's next.

### **Brother to Brother**



Richard Rayburn '52 (left) shared this photo after Bob White '53 visited Rayburn's farm home in Dewey, IL, outside Champaign. Richard noted, "Bob White had to be in Sullivan, IL and stopped here on the way back to O'Hare and his home in Irvine, CA. You will see a young, vibrant, fit, retired, Acacia Venerable Dean who seems to have avoided the miseries of old age. He apparently has no medical problems nor takes any medications."

Allan C. Campbell '61 wrote in to say, "On December 31, 2007, I retired from 34 years of dermatopathology practice, but am still teaching at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria. I am now Chair of the Dermatology Department. Three of my four children attended U of I. All four are educated and married with a total of ten grandchildren, more pending. My two boys are doctors and my two girls have master's degrees. My hobbies include reading, archaeology, sailing, diving, travel and, especially, grandchildren. I married my wife, Marlene, an Alpha Chi Omega, in 1963. She is a retired Registered Dietitian. I miss the old frat house on Daniel - too bad."

**Scott D. Dvorak '80** recently joined the Trust for Public Land as the Program Director of the Parks for People program in Newark, NJ.

Matthew A. King '90 his wife Kelly had their fourth child, a daughter named Hannah, on November 2, 2008.

Sandy Durek '96 wrote in to say, "My wife, Vikkii and I welcomed our first child on February 17, 2009, a little girl named Delilah Chloe. She weighed 7 lbs. 2 oz. I currently work as a commercial real estate lender with First Chicago Bank and Trust on the North side of Chicago."

Matthew A. Hoffman '97 his wife Jennifer welcomed twin babies in May 2008. William Allen weighed in at 6 lbs. and Elizabeth Teresa weighed in at 4 lbs. 9 oz. Will and Ellie are doing great and keeping them very busy.

**Ben Galloway '98**, and his wife Stacey celebrated the birth of their second daughter, Elizabeth Lin, on April 29, 2009.

Tony Perez '00 married his fiancé, Mandy, on May 2, 2008. They have a 20-month-old little girl named Nora. Tony is going back to school at North Central College in the fall of 2009.

From the Editors: The Hello appreciates Richard Rayburn '52 and Rolf Cederwall '51 for forwarding this photo and information. Alumni photos and comments are always welcome - just forward them to one of *The Hello* editors.

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Do you have news you'd like to share with your brothers? Post interesting information about yourself online at *www.AcaciaIllinois. com.* Did you recently get married? Have a baby? Change jobs? Retire? Let us know. Post your news today.



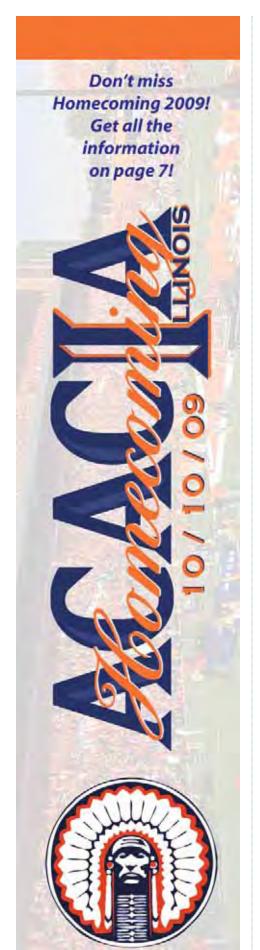
### **Obituaries**

Richard (Dick) Ewan '54 - Ames, IO Ed Miller '43 - Bradenton, FL Barbara Ann Abruzzo (Wife of Peter Abruzzo '85) - Wheaton, IL Robert M. Knourek '35 - Mesa, AZ

# A note from the family of Robert M. Knourek '35

Submitted by Julie Rayda, daughter

I am writing to let you know that my dad, Robert M. Knourek '35, passed away on December 6, 2008 at the age of 92. He spoke fondly of the fraternity not long before his death and I think he would have wanted me to let you know. Before he died, he told me he guessed it was ok - that he'd had a wonderful life and a wonderful wife and if he had to suffer a couple of weeks he guessed he'd get through it. He was a great man in my book.



#### **Cornerstones**

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related to life as a college student and fraternity member. Mentors supplemented these efforts with periodic phone contacts, e-mails and occasional face-to-face visits.

In addition to benefitting the current Acacia members, the program has also added value to chapter recruitment - further strengthening the overall benefits of Acacia membership. A special recognition and thanks goes to each of the volunteer alumni mentors and those who have supported this program over these recent years.

Enter the Cornerstones program - emerging in 2006 as the new membership model supported by Acacia International Fraternity. This fall will mark the beginning of a renewed effort toward implementation at Illinois, with support by Acacia International Headquarters Staff and continued leadership from Brother Chapman. Phil noted that, "We volunteers only have so much time to deliver, let alone develop from scratch, the numerous needed programs that Cornerstones encompasses. This program will give the Illinois chapter members yet another benefit of membership."

Phil also noted that the program will still need the ever-important support and participation of those who have been working with the program to date, and now others. He acknowledged that, "In fact, we'll need additional volunteers and I'm hoping they will readily volunteer by contacting me."

To volunteer, please contact Phil at *pchapman@highlandil.com* or (618) 402-6998.

The Hello has noted that even University officials who have become acquainted with the Cornerstones program speak favorably of it and are interested in following its progress. This is another chance for the Illinois Chapter to lead in Champaign!

In summary, Cornerstones is a four-year personnel development model, focused on: intellectual growth, social awareness, and physical well-being. It is a modernday and more extensive pledge education program that provides a framework within which members can build skills to use in

their professional and personal lives. The program sets a standard against which our members can gauge their own progress and it's a statement to the importance of continuous learning and development for all people. This is Acacia Fraternity's response to the ever-changing needs of the college students.

# Will you make the commitment to change the life of an Acacia undergraduate brother?

We are asking for volunteers to give JUST 30 MINUTES A WEEK - two hours per month - to benefit the development of an Acacia Illinois chapter member. Will you be a part of the Mentoring Program and help us embrace Acacia International's "Cornerstones" program?

Please apply to at www.gatesofsamos.org or contact **Phil Chapman '71** for more information. He can be reached at pchapman@highlandil.com or (618) 402-6998.

### Capital Campaign

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aggressively pursuing all credible alternatives. We look forward to sharing this information with you when we reach such an agreement. In the meantime, we thank those that are participating in the Capital Campaign. A complete list of current donors may be found at www.AcaciaIllinois.com.

For questions or comments about the Campaign, please feel free to contact one of the Capital Campaign co-chairmen:

#### Michael Duncan '74

mduncan@patcap.com (312) 953-9403

or

#### Dan Bayston '80

dan.bayston@lcbcapital.com (312) 560-2124

### Scholars Excel!

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The following had GPA's of 3.9 or higher, less than .1 from straight A's!

Steve Fisher	Jeremy Mandell
Junior	Freshman
<b>Michael Frumm</b>	<b>Sean McAndrew</b>
Sophomore	Sophomore
<b>Alexander Gistis</b>	<b>Mark Pollard</b>
Freshman	Junior
Paul Katsen	<b>Matthew Schild</b>
Junior	Junior

We salute each and every one of these individuals for their accomplishments and for keeping their eyes and minds on the target!

### A detailed look at scholastic results shows the following:

Chapter overall grade point average: 3.1845*	B = 3.0	A = 4.0
Active Member Average:  New Member Average (12 new members):		
Acacia Rank Among All Fraternities:	17th	
All Fraternity G.P.A	3.1052	
All male undergraduate G.P.A	3.02	
Interfraternity Council G.P.A.	3.1167	
All undergraduate student G.P.A.	3.09	

### **Acacia Grade Point Averages by Class**

	In house members	Out of house members
Freshman	2.97	2.82
Sophomore	3.089	3.32
Junior	3.45	3.23
Senior		3.15

### Number of members/pledges

	In house	Out of house
Freshman	10	22
Sophomore	18	12
Junior		
Senior	1	21
Total	40	84

Note: Figures based on information available from the University regarding number of persons for whom grades were available and may not be the exact number of members/pledges on campus.

\* Will not agree precisely with in house/out of house averages due to number of hours of class for various grade point averages.

### Housing Search Status

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all options related to these two properties and will soon be able to decide if Acacia will make a formal offer and for how much. Both facilities have been rented out for the upcoming school year.

Our broker has met with University administration personnel to identify Greek houses that have closed or are in financial trouble. Further, we have requested that the broker contact student housing apartment owners to ascertain their interest in selling, knowing in some instances we would either have to remodel or perhaps build a totally new facility. With many new apartment complexes coming on the local market we believe some of these earlier rental properties or the real estate on which they stand may no longer be as attractive to the current owner. We are trying to explore every conceivable opportunity or direction.

Another possible option may be in the Champaign Park District owned Fraternity Park, which is adjacent to and immediately west of the SAE house. We could use the assistance of any alumnus who has a high level contact with the City of Champaign to acquire a sufficient piece of land in Fraternity Park on which we could build a house.

Some further encouraging news is that another fraternity, known to Acacia, has raised less money than us, but has secured a mortgage of \$1,600,000. This chapter has rented a house for one year and will reoccupy their property after a substantial renovation.

We trust that this insight will help answer many questions about the status of our fraternity's home. The question has never been whether Acacia will acquire a property, but when. We will act quickly once a satisfactory property that meets our needs is identified. With demand high and constant for real estate in the campus area, finding just what we want and where we want it is a formidable challenge.

Questions can be relayed to Mike Duncan '74 at mduncan@patcap.com or Dan Bayston '80 at dan.bayston@lcbcapital.com.





In what has become a don't-miss event over the past three years, Acacia is again hosting a full day of Homecoming festivities. A chartered bus will depart from the Chicago Loop (returning at the end of the day) and drive directly to the Memorial Stadium parking lot. Be sure to sign-up for the bus before this year's cut-off of September 10, 2009. More bus details are online at www.Acacialllinois.com.

We're still looking for an alumni sponsor for this year's tailgate, which will be under a 25' flagpole flying Illini and Acacia flags in the grass in Lot 45 - just south of Kirby Ave., and west of Goodwin Ave. (See Map) Stop by for plenty of tailgating food, beverages, bean bag toss, camaraderie and fun. Our 50-seat alumni football block for the game against Michigan State is on the main level of the newly-renovated west stands of Memorial Stadium. Tickets are \$40 per seat.

Promptly at 2:45 p.m., (or 45 minutes after the end of the game, whichever is later) we'll kick off a Pig Roast under an outdoor tent at the Chapter House. A short presentation will highlight the Chapter's accomplishments and provide an update on our Capital Campaign. BBQ dinner tickets are \$15.

This year, our reception will occur at a campus bar AFTER the BBQ dinner and presentation. Be sure to pick up a wristband when you're at the reception and before heading to Campustown at 4:30 p.m.

Come experience a Homecoming that surpasses even Elmer Ekblaw's dreams. Make plans to be apart of Acacia Homecoming 2009!

Tickets and additional information are available online www.Acacialllinois.com. If you have any other questions, contact Adam Powers '98 at adampowers1@gmail.com or (312) 209-2326.





# **Upcoming Corporation Board Meetings**

Tuesday, August 25, 2009 Wednesday, September 30, 2009 Tuesday, October 27, 2009 Wednesday, December 2, 2009

All meetings are scheduled for 7:00 p.m. at the law offices of Synergy Law Inc., 6th Floor, 730 West Randolph, Chicago.



### **Little Known Facts**

### Did you know...

At the end of June 2009, Acacia Illinois has 592 alumni with e-mail addresses in the database out of 1484 living alumni, or 40%? If you have an e-mail address and do not occasionally receive e-mails from Acacia, why not update your contact information at www.Acaciallinois.com or send your e-mail address to Ronnie Klein at Omega Financial via his e-mail, rklein@omegafi.com?

### Did you know...

Acacia's web site can be accessed by entering www.AcaciaIllinois.com. So far this year, the site has had over 1,500 visitors! www.AcaciaIllinois.com is an easy way to check out what is happening.

### **Visit the Acacia Website**

Visit www.Acacialllinois.com, the official alumni website, to:

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

