



**"Winner of Best Alumni Publication" - Conclave 2002**

# The Traveler

Acacia Fraternity Cornell University

Fall 2003

Vol. 97 No. 1

## TO PEARL MURRAY

By Peter Rimshnick #1060

On Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, numerous Acacia alumni returned to visit Northcote as part of Cornell's 2003 Reunion Weekend. Over a dozen alumni from pledge classes ranging from '49 to '83 made an appearance, including Bill Stewart, pledge class of '78, Doug McIry '53, David Fischell '75, Bill Aman '68, Bill Burnett '53, Jerry Kreider '68, Rich Ahlfeld '68, Ladis Amatulli '68, David Pattison '83, Scott Dulman '83, Phil Schuler '79, and Stuart Hantman, M.D. '71, as well as several of the alumni's family members. Several actives were on hand to greet the alums, as well as Cornell Acacia Corporation Board President Steve Stein '73 and his family.

The actives coordinated an open house during the afternoon, which included tours for the returning alums, as well as a buffet dinner. Several alumni from the same pledge classes ended up coming, especially the classes of 1968 and 1983, who were celebrating their, respectively, 35<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> reunions of their graduations. While some alums from these classes coordinated this return together, others did not, which resulted in a great deal of "Is that who I think it is?" type questions, as well as a good bit of conversation recalling the years since their last meeting. The actives present



Acacians gather for the Pearl Murray dedication.

truly enjoyed chatting with the alums, and hearing the alums reminisce about experiences like sleeping in the dormer and eating Pearl Murray's dinners.

Speaking of Pearl, the main event of the afternoon was the dedication of the freshly renovated Northcote Dining Room to the memory of our beloved former cook. For those who were not fortunate enough to ever meet her, or at least hear heartwarming stories about her, Pearl was Cornell Acacia's cook from 1965-1985, and was considered almost as a mother to those brothers who had the privilege of knowing her. Thus, alumni, actives, family, and friends

gathered in the dining room at our traditional dinner time of 6:00 pm to remember the woman who made that  
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*The Traveler* is published two times annually by the Cornell University Chapter of Acacia Fraternity. This newsletter is mailed to alumni, fellow chapters, friends and family of active members of the Chapter. Correspondence regarding this publication (as well as all other concerns) should be addressed to: Acacia Fraternity, c/o Publicity, 318 Highland Road Ithaca, NY 14850-2303. The House telephone number is (607) 257-7055. The Chapter Website is [www.cornellacacia.org](http://www.cornellacacia.org) and the Chapter E-mail is [acacia@cornell.edu](mailto:acacia@cornell.edu). The current *Traveler*, along with past issues, can be found on our website.

*The statements made and opinions expressed in this publication are independent of the University and Interfraternity Council (IFC). The Chapter is solely responsible for the contents of this publication.*

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Publisher: Acacia Corporation Board

Alumni News Compiler: Steven L. Stein



## Fall 2003 Chapter Roster

David Rimshnick '05 (1062)  
Op. Research & Industrial Eng  
Sandyston, NJ  
[Venerable Dean]

Peter Rimshnick '05 (1060)  
Op. Research & Industrial Eng  
Sandyston, NJ  
[Senior Dean]

Thomas Balcerksi '05 (1063)  
American Studies and Economics  
Ramsey, NJ  
[Junior Dean]

Anthony Nemoto '04 (1059)  
Computer Science  
Port Washington, NY  
[Treasurer]

Zachary Weinstein '05 (1067)  
Psychology  
Forest Hills, NY  
[Recruitment]

Michael Nasatka '04 (1045)  
ORIE & Econ  
Westminster, MA

Eric Wursthorn '03 (1046)  
Chemical Engineering  
Middle Village, NY

Randy Clark '04 (1047)  
Biological & Environmental  
Engineering  
Homer, NY

Jay Ayres '04 (1052)  
Computer Science  
Rockville, MD

June-Young Hur '04 (1053)  
Economics  
Glendale, CA

Stephen Lowe '04 (1054)  
Electrical Engineering  
Jackson, NJ

Gamelin Telesfort '04 (1055)  
Biochem. and Psychology  
Kings Park, NJ

Brian Kwoba '04 (1056)  
Philosophy  
Longmont, CO

Mike Coyle '05 (1061)  
Biological Sciences  
DeWitt, NY

Tarek Banaja '05 (1064)  
Applied & Eng Physics  
San Diego, CA

Greg Chulsky '05 (1065)  
Astrophysics  
Swampscott, MA

Charles Kalter '05 (1066)  
Mechanical Engineering  
Manhattan, NY

Igor Dolgalev '05 (1068)  
Biological Sciences  
Norfolk, VA

Zachary Samuels '05 (1069)  
Materials Science  
Philadelphia, PA

Brad Ayres '06 (1070)  
Op. Research & Industrial Eng  
Rockville, MD

Hanny Carp-Martinovici '06  
(1071)  
Electrical and Computer Eng  
Astoria, NY

Roman Markh '06 (1072)  
Biological Sciences  
Brooklyn, NY

Noe Bautista '06 (1073)  
Arts and Sciences  
Fresh Meadows, NY

Whoosun Song '06 (1074)  
Arts and Sciences  
Dallas, TX

Jeff Ballyns '05 (1075)  
Mechanical Engineering  
Oswego, NY

Jared Davis '06 (1076)  
German Studies  
Ellicott City, MD

Elie Joseph Track '06 (1077)  
Electrical and Computer Eng  
Trumbull, CT

PLEDGE  
Daniel Scharfman '05  
Op. Research & Industrial Eng.  
Scarsdale, NY

## A Message from our Corporation Board President

Greetings! The 2003-2004 Academic year has started fairly well and Northcote is in excellent physical condition, considering that it is about 96 years old. A detailed, prioritized five-year maintenance plan was presented at the Annual Corporation Board Meeting in May, but we will be hard pressed to complete the plan without significant additional income (spelled DUES and DONATIONS).

The Pearl Murray Memorial Dining Room was formally dedicated on June 7 during Reunion Weekend. A beautiful portrait of Pearl now hangs in the dining room. The brief event was attended by about 30 people.

Acacia's insurance premiums continue to rise. During a severe storm early this past summer, some huge black locust trees were blown down and damaged, and threatened to do damage to one of our neighbors' property, and we spent over \$5,500 on tree removal. And, due to two water leaks (steam radiator and overflowing toilet), sheetrock repair was required in the Chapter Room and Pool Room. As part of our plan to increase security and ensure the safety of the Brothers, we had a locksmith add deadbolts and replace and/or re-key every lock so we now have one master key that will unlock everything. The Village of Cayuga Heights also required that we install a Knox Box (electronically controlled key access), which now contains a master key for emergency response teams. And, a few weeks ago, I replaced a broken shower door on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. So, before the semester began, we had already spent more than half the annual maintenance budget. As always, we need your financial support.

I am encouraged by the number of contributors (for 2002-2003, there are 77 so far, and we have raised almost \$8,700). But, the "challenge" I made in the Spring 2003 Traveler still hasn't been met. Recall that if we don't have at least 100 dues paying contributors both last academic year and this, I'll be convinced that the majority of Acacians simply don't care about our wonderful fraternity. And, if that is the case, I will abandon ship and let someone else head the Corporation beginning in the 2004-2005 Academic Year, because obviously I will have failed in my leadership role. So, if you want to keep me around as Corporation President after this year, at least 23 more of you need to send in your \$50 dues for last year, and 100 of you need to contribute this year, as well.

I look forward to hearing from you and certainly hope that I don't have to hand over the reins to someone else. The choice is yours.

Fraternally,  
Steven L. Stein '73 (0787)  
[339 E. Miller Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850; 607-277-3125; sls8@cornell.edu]

### Acacia Fraternity Foundation Donations

Tax-deductible contributions to the Cornell Chapter Account of the Acacia Fraternity Foundation can be made at any time and should be mailed to the Acacia Fraternity Foundation at 8777 Purdue Road, Suite 130, Indianapolis, IN 46268. Checks should be made payable to "Acacia Fraternity Foundation".

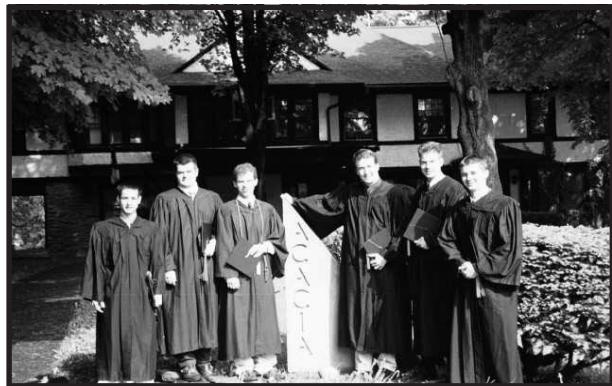
Use of the chapter's Foundation account is limited to scholarships and qualified educational expenses.

## The State of the Chapter

By Venerable Dean David Rimshnick #1062

This autumn brought with it much more than a season's change here to Northcote. Into Cornell Acacia fell 8 new members, sharing not only eagerness to contribute to their brotherhood but appreciation for the large shoes that are now theirs to fill. For, this fall, many of the faces that helped shape the character and charisma of this fraternity no longer surround our dinner table.

Josh Roth, who had been the center of the philosophical and fraternal spirit of Acacia for the past few years, took his Pathfinder from Westchester to Boston University School of Law. Scott McQuade set off with his higher-than-Top-Secret Classification to work for Miter Corporation in Virginia. Ilya Cherepakhin went pakhin' back home to New York City, where he now works in marketing. And the never-to-be-forgotten Thomas Ricketts himself is at home, living with his parents.



*From Left, 2003 Graduates Randy Clark, Tom Ricketts, Josh Roth, Scott McQuade, Ilya Cherepakhin, and Mike Nasatka*

They may have left, but their influence pervades. Every one of the brothers, new and old, each day thinks of some way in which we can carry the tradition which these noble men left to us. As actives, we have all engaged this responsibility to the best of our ability. In all aspects of fraternity life, Acacia has grown to be a leader on campus and continues to grow in reputation and stature. Within ourselves, we have all taken a greater role in our own affairs, bettering our house and our brotherhood every day. Our brotherhood is the biggest it has been in over 10 years, and we continue to actively seek new members. We have a strong fall pledge class, and hope to have a record number of new recruits in the spring. We have upgraded our home's

internet connection, and have made several substantial repairs to our aging house. We also have become strong in interfraternity athletics, where we now are playoff caliber in several sports. Although it may be autumn, all aspects of Cornell Acacia are in full bloom. As a brotherhood, we look forward to the coming year and the many ways it will present for us to better our fraternity. As a brother, and as President, I look at my fraternity with overwhelming pride. When I admire how far our fraternity has come, I am pleased in knowing that I am far from alone in cherishing the ever-more rewarding privilege of being a part of Cornell Acacia Fraternity. For, in the shoes of an Acacian, every fall is a most enjoyable, enlightening step forward.

## Human Service

By Jeff Ballyns #1075

It was my honor to serve as the Philanthropy Chairman this semester. Some goals that were set early on in the semester in order that Acacia should present itself as one of the more active Fraternities on campus in philanthropy. These goals included participating in other Fraternity and Sorority Philanthropy events, participating in Seven Days of Service, and getting more involved with the surrounding community.

This semester Acacia participated in a 5K run organized by the girls of Delta Gamma to fight hunger. Randy Clark finished 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall in the race. We also gave a fifty dollar donation so Sigma Chi to help sponsor their philanthropy event "Derby Days." Derby Days is a week of games and activities that people participated in to help a charitable cause. With our donation Acacia will be featured on the official Derby Days T-shirt as one of the sponsors.

We participated in "Seven Days of Service" starting on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Our events were competing in a tug of war contest called the Phi Tug, donating blood to the Red Cross, participating in a crop walk to stop hunger, helping Friends of the Library advertise for their book sale and also aiding them with the pricing of the books collected. We also held a question and answer session at the local Ithaca High School for seniors and parents to talk about college life today and to give advice on what things to do for scholarships and summer internships. "Seven Days of Service" ended on October 24<sup>th</sup> with participating in the local service center helping out on a local construction project for "National Make-A-Difference Day."

## Homecoming 2003

By Mike Coyle #1061

Every autumn, alumni come streaming back to Cornell on Homecoming weekend hoping to see old friends and capture memories of their college years. We here at Cornell Acacia have just had one of the better Homecoming weekends in recent memory.

In all, 8 alumni returned to stay at Acacia for Homecoming weekend, which ran from October 24-26. Attendance to Homecoming was up from recent years. Especially encouraging was that most of the graduating class of 2003 returned to see how the fraternity was doing. The alumni who attended Homecoming this year were Ray Wang '97, Paul Molnar '99, Jarett Taubman '00, Scott McQuade '03, Tom Ricketts '03, Dave Klesh '02, Josh Roth '03, Ilya Cherepakhin '03 and Dan Flippo '99 and his wife Alicia. Alumnus, Corp Board VP, and Ph.D. candidate Brad Schmidt also made an appearance at some of the weekend's events.

The alumni began to arrive in the house as early as Thursday evening and throughout the weekend there was more activity and life throughout the house. The bar room on Friday night was a sizeable crowd of alumni, brothers and friends and constant conversation and exchanging of stories was happening as alumni reminisced with each other and met the younger brothers. Conversation and laughter stretched on into the wee hours of Saturday, and it appeared that all had an enjoyable Friday evening.

Saturday morning brought the traditional pre-football game tailgating with other members of the Cornell Greek System. We enjoyed the pre-game activities with hamburgers, hot dogs, Italian sausage and chicken all grilled on a charcoal barbecue. After tailgating for a couple of hours, it was game time. Despite the general lack of excitement for football on campus this year, the game was well attended. Not surprisingly, the football team lost to Brown, 21-7. All brothers of Acacia remained in good spirits though and a group of about 30 guys went out for a meal at Rogue's Harbor in Lansing. The bill of fare was steak, chicken, pasta, or salmon and cheesecake or chocolate mousse for dessert. Everyone seemed to enjoy the food and the company during this meal and we all departed back to the house in fine humor. From there, many of the brothers of legal age went out for a night in Collegetown, while the rest stayed in for an evening of rest and relaxation. On the whole, a very memorable Homecoming weekend.



*From Left, Alumni Brethren Ilya Cherapakhin, David Klesh, Scott McQuade, Paul Molnar, Dan Flippo, Jarett Taubman, Ray Wang, and Josh Roth at Homecoming 2003*

## Summer At Northcote

By Jay Ayres #1052

This past summer I finished up my participation in the Engineering School's Co-op program by working at Autodesk, Inc.'s Ithaca, NY office. I am a computer science major and mainly did programming for a new Autodesk application that is used to view 3D geographic data. One of the best parts of my co-op was that I was able to stay at Northcote while working; I realized that Cornell is a much better place to go to school when you don't have prelims and problem sets to worry about!

I'm not sure if any of you alumni ever spent a summer living at Northcote, but I had an absolute blast staying at the house. Brothers Anthony Nemoto #1059, Randy Clark #1047, and I played a lot of golf at the Cornell golf course, and we definitely all improved our golf games. I also painted my room and did various other improvement jobs around the house.

Many other actives stayed in the house over the summer, and we were able to hold social events since there were so many of us here. We had frequent BBQs out in the back parking lot, and even held a party at the house in June! We also went on a road trip to NYC to see all the other actives living there for the summer.

Feel free to stop by the house at any point next summer if you include Cornell in your vacation plans; I'm sure that there will be brothers here to show you around the house!

## **Pearl Murray dining room (from pg. 1)**

time, and every other time when she was in contact with Acacians, so pleasant.

Steve Stein delivered a poignant speech recalling his memories of Pearl, whom he was extremely close to. He spoke of a woman who loved what she did, and who she did it for, and who was cherished in return by all those whose lives she touched. Sadly, Pearl passed away in 1999, but thanks to the donations of alumni and the work of Steve and others, she was immortalized that evening as a part of Acacia. A portrait of Pearl and plaque now hang on the wall of the dining room, forever preserving her memory and place in the hearts of our fraternity.

After the ceremony, a picture of all the Acacians present, active and alumni, was taken in front of the portrait. Most alums stuck around a good while longer afterwards, enjoying a bit more sausage and peppers and ziti, and the company of those who they had not seen in so long. Finally, the alumni had to say good bye once more to Northcote and make their way back to their homes around the country, but hopefully they'll return before long. We may have called our event that afternoon an open house, but our house and our hearts are forever open to our alumni brothers, and we hope that they will continue to find their way home to Northcote.



## **Northcote Gets A New Front Walk**

By Brad Ayres #1070

When I arrived at Northcote this August, I was eager to make improvements on the house, being the incoming Senior Steward. Only a few days later, brothers were working hard to replace part of the front walkway with aesthetically pleasing stone pavers. Initially, I was slightly worried about the project, since it required us to tear up the old walkway, level the ground, and cut some of the pavers at precise angles, all before classes started. But, showing their Acacia spirit, brothers labored selflessly to complete the job, and my fears were soon laid to rest.

As a result of the brothers' efforts, we now have a smooth front walkway that will be easier to maintain when it begins to snow in Ithaca. Although the walkway bears a few imperfections, it turned out remarkably well, especially considering that many brothers, including me, had little previous experience with projects of this nature. Hopefully, our work will remain intact for years to come so that Acacians may continue to benefit from it. At this point in time, we have no other major house improvements planned for the semester, but I would be delighted if we went through with another project. Not only does this have a lasting impact on Northcote's condition, but it strengthens our fraternal bonds by spending time together while working on our wonderful home.

The new stone paver walkway adjoining the Mail Room entrance to Northcote. Work was completed before classes began in August.

## Impressions of Cornell Acacia

By Frank Rinkevich

Fellow Alumni,

For the past year and a half I have had the distinct pleasure of being the alumni advisor for the Cornell chapter of Acacia. Accepting this position was a little awkward at first due to the fact I am from the Millersville Chapter. However, that feeling was quickly overcome by the generosity and hospitality of the Cornell Chapter and have ever since impressed me with their organization and dedication to make Acacia the best. The exec board has been functioning as a cohesive unit with the venerable Dean, Dave Rimshnick, directing traffic. Dave has made sure all decisions were made with a thorough understanding of the problem at hand and the eventual solution. Pete, the other half of the Rimshnick team has served a great term as Senior Dean by initiating the 8 members of the spring pledge class. I feel his program was extremely successful due to the dedication these new brothers have had for contributing to the house. Roman Markh has taken an exemplary initiative to redesign Northcote's network capabilities. His tasks included extensive research into finding the optimal set up as well as ordering and installing a wired network which has dramatically improved the speed of internet access. Brad Ayers and Noe Bautista have organized and performed extensive work on improving the appearance of the house. Tasks ranged from installing a new brick walkway in the front of the house as well as reorganize the pantry and weight room. Tom Balcerski has gone above the call of duty of Junior Dean. Tom is responsible for helping put Acacia's indelible mark on the social scene at Cornell. His most recent success was the annual Oktoberfest party. It was the best gathering that the house has seen since I've been here as I'm sure the pictures will dictate. Tom has been well organized with assigning simple duties to the brothers to ensure a smooth operation. Also, Tom was recently elected to serve as Venerable Dean for the upcoming year. I'm sure Mr. Balcerski will do a superior job at this prominent position and ensure the future of Acacia will be filled with much success.

Rush Chairman Zach Weinstein, put together a great rush schedule that landed some of the spring pledges and stimulated interest in Acacia with the freshmen and other members of the Cornell community. Also part of Rush, E.J. Track has advertised the scholarship awards prominently on campus. This year, we have a number of great applicants, all people who have shown great interest in pledging this upcoming spring. Anthony Nemoto's attention to the details of the financial well-being of the fraternity has been outstanding. We all know how important financial issues are to the frictionless functioning of the Fraternity. Nemo's immaculate record keeping has allowed for us to plan how to appropriate funds and purchase new items for the house. However, more donations from alumni are always appreciated to ensure financial stability and allow purchasing of necessities. The athletic prowess of Acacia is becoming known on campus through intramural competition. This semester, we have participated in soccer and volleyball and have done well in both sports. As we keep recruiting pledges with impressive athletic ability, I'm sure there will be a few intramural championships in the near future. The Brotherhood Chair has been doing great job in promoting the unifying theme. Tarek Banaja has organized such events as Monday Night Football with wings and pizza, movie nights and trips to observe local entertainment. Although I cannot mention everyone's name, I assure you that EVERY member of Acacia has been holding up their obligation to ensure the many demands of Fraternity life are satisfied.

However, there are a few issues that I see room for improvement. Attendance at chapter meetings has been somewhat spotty. Certain members don't attend every meeting and lousy excuses are getting old. At Millersville, the chapter meeting was the time of the week where we did business and made decisions that affected our direction. Most of all, it was MANDATORY. Those who missed consecutive meeting were not allowed to vote, run for office or even enter into discussion the next time they were present. It has been my experience that the brothers who consistently miss meetings are the ones who become the most apathetic. At the current chapter meetings, there is an "open forum" format. I find this to be rather inefficient as there are often meaningless discussions due to the fact anyone can say what they want at anytime. This makes the meetings longer and the directions of some discussions are lost to attempts at cracking jokes about the topic at hand.

(Continued on Page 8)

I believe practicing proper parliamentary procedure would make meetings run smoother and more productive. I feel that fall rush is unutilized. Many other fraternities fill their houses in the fall. To me, it seems that we are missing out on a large proportion of men who would be interested in pledging. I know the spring has always been the more productive of the two semesters but I think having an additional few extra members in the fall cannot hurt the situation. Although many of the brothers have leadership positions in other academic arenas, I think it is time for Acacia to have a few representatives on IFC. We are in a prime position to have a few of our own on this governing body; we are capable of having a positive impact on how IFC functions.

While these are some issues I have pondered, I assure you that the Fraternity is stronger than ever. There is always room for improvement. With the direction Acacia is heading, we need capable leadership and a house full of brothers who have an insatiable desire to serve Acacia. I encourage all of you to visit the house anytime you are in Ithaca for any reason. I know you will be impressed with the remarkable state of the chapter. It will allow you to say that you are an Acadian and proud of it.

## Athletic Report

By Jared Davis #1076

A summation of points earned in athletic competitions from the last year (2002-2003) showed our house to rank #14 among all campus fraternities. The house has made an even stronger showing in athletics so far this year. We are experiencing high levels of participation in our current activities. Volleyball season has started with one win and one loss, and we just completed the soccer season with a record or 2-3, only missing the playoffs by one game. The last game, which was a close 2-1 loss, was the deciding factor. Coming this close to the playoffs for soccer, especially being in a division with some of the other best soccer playing fraternities brought much excitement to the house as this is something that has not been done in recent years. Practice, high participation, and a fine mixture of skill and eagerness for competition allowed us to perform as well we did this season. Two pairs of brothers also entered the golf tournament and finished at 7th and 14th.

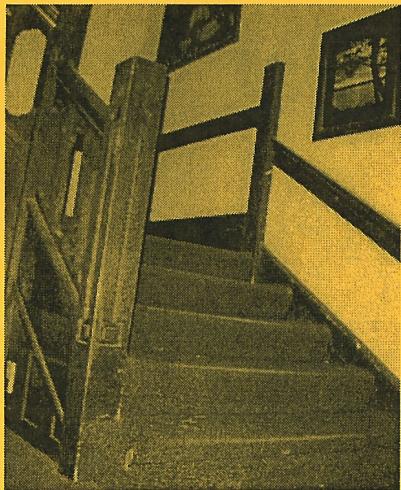
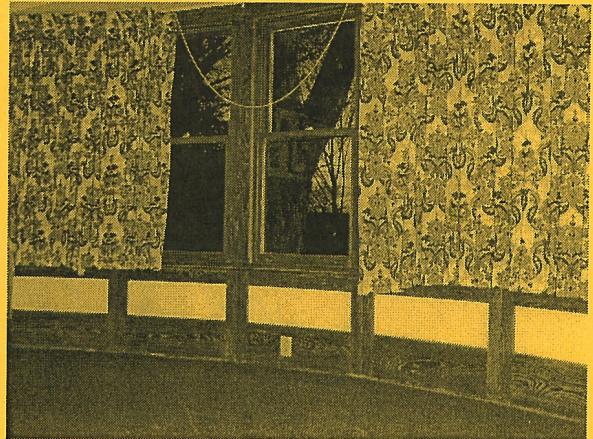
Although we did not earn any points towards the house from this event, the participants enjoyed it very much. We all look forward to bowling, which begins later this semester, as well as events coming up in the spring, including basketball, indoor soccer, and softball.



This space reserved for  
Can-Do Ad

# [remember these?]

Believe it or not, these are the very same carpeting and window shades that have been a part of Northcote for over 60 years. Following our recent election, a full renovation of the Commons has become a top priority. We plan to install new carpeting, new window shades, new couches, resurface and refinish the wood paneling, and repaint the walls. This project will be both financially and physically demanding on all of us.



The Actives and the Corporation Board extend a request for any assistance that you, our alumni brothers, can provide.

If you can help us obtain any of these materials, or can donate materials towards the renovation, please contact our House Manager, Hanny Carp-Martinovici at 607-257-7055, or by email at [hac24@cornell.edu](mailto:hac24@cornell.edu). All other donations can be sent to the house, c/o House Manager.

The Commons is in need of a face lift;  
we need your help to keep it looking young!

## The Social Scene

By Tom Balcerski #1063

This fall has been an active time for all Acacians here at Northcote. We've come back to our classes, our friends, and most importantly, our parties! Already we've hosted two smaller parties and our famous fall semester party, Oktoberfest.

The first two parties were held in September, the first the weekend immediately following the first week of classes. The house was packed early on, the windows fogging up. The bar room was crowded as it had ever been. Hopes were high for our second, lovingly named Hurri-Acacia after the recently passed Hurricane Isabel. The sequel party was a huge success! With attendance high, the party moved into the dining room, given the feeling of parties past.

But nothing compared to the grand scale of Oktoberfest. With liter mugs special ordered for the event, retro style t-shirts, and the festive atmosphere of the German-themed decorations, the dining room took on a new air as a traditional German dinner was served by Brother Alumnus Schmidt and his expert team. The bar room was packed and the party huge. Brother Weinstein provided the DJ music, while other brothers pitched in behind the bar and around the house in preparation.

Besides these parties, the social scene has included a number of brothers-only events headed up by Brotherhood Chairman Banaja. I have had the pleasure to work with Brother Banaja over the past year in shaping the social calendar of the house. The brotherhood events have only enhanced the house and our camaraderie as Acacians.

Still, we're looking to upgrade our sound equipment, our refrigeration and drink dispensing behind the bar, and improve the ambience of the bar room. Any donations our alumni brothers can spare for this purpose are greatly appreciated. Please earmark any such donations to the "Acacia Social Committee." Thank you!

Even with our hopes to improve our bar room facilities, things have never looked better. In a recent visit to the house this August by Brother Alumnus Charlie Hong, Lt. Hong was greatly impressed with the house and how far it has come since his days. And he's right, Acacia is the fastest growing fraternity on campus and our social activities have kept up with the pace. With more parties on the horizon for November and our winter formal approaching in December, Acacia is on an upward spiral. All the active

brothers are to be congratulated for their hard work in making Acacia's parties the best on campus!

Personally, these past three semesters as Junior Dean have a time of great fun for me. I've had the privilege to serve the brothers since last fall. I just know great things are ahead for this house!



*Brothers and guests enjoy the German feast prior to the huge Oktoberfest party*

## Path of Pythagoras Freshman Scholarship

By EJ Track #1077

If I could sum up this year's "Path of Pythagoras" Scholarship approach to getting first-year students looking at Acacia so that they could see the house, get to know the brothers, hopefully pledge the fraternity, pay dues and make contributions to the house, the word would be "experimental."

Yes, experimental. Having received a \$100 honorarium last year and having pledged to the fraternity, I noticed a pattern that seemed to develop. I wouldn't call it an algorithm, I would call it a pattern. Another \$100 winner and I pledged Acacia, while the \$1000 and \$500 winners did not pledge to the fraternity. So, being the scholarship chairman and all, I tried to optimize results this year. Why waste well over half the allotted budget for the scholarship on people who are in the application process solely for the money? Instead, increase the number of winners... the number of \$100 winners to be precise.

By increasing the number of \$100 winners, we hope to increase the number of students pledging to Acacia. After all, this is where 2 pledges came from last year. Simple logic, right?

(Continued on p. 12).

## The Mailbag – Alumni News

R. Stephen Hawley '43 (0403) [8249 Bank St. Rd., Batavia, NY 14020] was very proud to read of Acacia's successful pledges and honors bestowed upon the chapter. He was planning to attend his 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion last June.

John P Woodford '47 (0435) [4364 Greenwood Dr., Okemos, MI 48864] has been busy and having fun watching his 7 children, their spouses, and 24 grandchildren grow. The grandchildren keep them young!

William Pendarvis Jr. '47 (0440) [11781 SE 162 Ave., Clackamas, OR 97015-8778] has been busy establishing the Pendarvine Vineyard and the Eugene Wine Cellars.

William C Burnett '53 (0490) [11 S. Helderberg Pkwy, Slingerlands, NY 12159] and wife, Nancy, had lunch with Bob Baker '53 (0537) and wife, Janet, at Fisherman's Village in Punta Gorda, FL in February. They discussed mutual acquaintances at Acacia. Ira Youngdahl '53 (0520) wrote to him and they spoke on the phone afterwards. Apparently, Ira was misinformed that James Symons '54 (0534) had passed away, when in fact James is alive and well living near Sarasota, FL and playing golf feverishly. Bill had a hip replaced in January and is getting back to normal fairly quickly. The Burnetts attended their 50-year Reunion, and the Class of '53 broke records in attendance (over 600) and giving (over \$11 million).

Walter E. Cox, Jr. '53 (0491) [Alte Landstrasse 95, CH-8803, Ruschlikon, Switzerland; [sicox@pop.agri.ch](mailto:sicox@pop.agri.ch)] has been commuting between Ruschlikon, Switzerland and Berlin, Germany to decide where he'll finally settle down. Walter really enjoyed the Traveler article by Bill Burnett '53 (0490) and extends his wishes for a speedy recovery from hip replacement surgery. Walter suggested a list of Alumni email addresses.

Robert B. Squires '52 (0496) [41 Churchill Ave., Massena, NY 13662] enjoyed the Traveler article by his close friend Bill Burnett '53 (0490). Bob was disappointed that the Cornell Men's Ice Hockey team didn't go all the way and bring home the NCAA Championship trophy.

L. W. 'Pete' Knapp, Jr. '51 (0509) [Cambridge Place Apt. 114, 1851 Melrose Ave., Iowa City, IA 52246-1754] is still in the same nursing home undergoing therapy, which they all think is helping, according to wife, Jackie. They were delighted to read the Traveler article by Mike Nasatka '03 (1045) about Acacia's Human Service project at the Bridges Cornell Heights retirement home (403 Wyckoff Ave), which was her family home for more than 50 years!

William L. Stevens Jr. '55 (0553) [3211 Moonshadow Lane, Garden City, SC 29576-8240; [stevensatgc@aol.com](mailto:stevensatgc@aol.com)] is enjoying retirement, doing a lot of traveling both in the US and Europe. Winters are spent in Garden City (near Myrtle Beach), SC and summers at Schroon Lake, NY.

R. Marvin Townsend '55 (0555) [8008 Isaac Pryor Dr., Austin, TX 78749-1862] is still working with local governments in Texas, the last 13 in Austin directing a risk pool serving 2,300 communities. Visited with Nancy and Frank Tetz '55 (0554) last summer at their home in Silver Bay.

Martin E. Offenberger '56 (0568) [1863 Kashlan Rd., La Habra Heights, CA 90631-8455; [martin9@doctor.com](mailto:martin9@doctor.com)] is still practicing medicine and still married to Jean ('56). They have 2 children and 5 grandchildren. Life has been very good, so far.

George L. Mueller Jr. '57 (0574) [3803 Bonita Lane, Laporte, TX 77571-7320; [mueller66@juno.com](mailto:mueller66@juno.com)] still keeps in touch with Ed Mackert '56 (0579) who lives nearby in Baytown and is also retired. Toured Scotland and England with son, Mark and family. Mark is still in the Army, stationed in Germany, and is expected back in the states next year (and will hopefully be promoted to Colonel).

Carey W. Fletcher '58 (0596) [428 Kawaihae St., #304, Honolulu, HI 96825] is enjoying life at a retirement community in Hawaii. Their grandson recently won the "Cornell Book Award" as the outstanding junior in high school. Carey saw Ralph Lamar '58 (0599) in the summer of 2002.

Richard E. Brewer '65 (0687) [RR 3, Box 204, Albion, IL 62806-9550; [dbrewer@farmcredit.com](mailto:dbrewer@farmcredit.com)] enjoyed viewing the new Acacia web site [[www.cornellacacia.org](http://www.cornellacacia.org)], and says it's nice to see Acacia as one of the most respected houses on campus.

Richard K. Mc Murtry '67 (0701) [10880 Alba Rd., Ben Lomond, CA 95005-9255; [rnmcmurtry@igc.org](mailto:rnmcmurtry@igc.org)] writes that he said a mouthful in the Spring '03 Traveler, but would like his new email address to appear in this issue.

Jerry Kreider '68 (0720) [9 Narbrook Park, Narberth, PA 19072-2123; [jerrys2k@comcast.net](mailto:jerrys2k@comcast.net)] enjoyed seeing some of the Brothers (Active and Alums) during Reunion 2003. Jerry says to "keep up the good work, guys!"

Robert H. Lightfoote '69 (0731) [9 Hillcrest Ave, Queensbury, NY 12804-1973; [boblightfoote@yahoo.com](mailto:boblightfoote@yahoo.com)] has a son, Stephen, who is a freshman at Cornell, majoring in Meteorology in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Stuart S. Hantman MD '71 (0756) [28 Founders Green, Pittsford, NY 14534; [stuhantman@aol.com](mailto:stuhantman@aol.com)] reports that daughter, Melissa (Arts & Sciences '01) was recently accepted to a highly selective portfolio program at NYU Graduate School of Journalism leading to Master's degree. Son, Marc, completed his sophomore year at Univ. of Florida (pre-law Finance major/Criminology minor in Business College). Wife, Carol (HUMEC '73) volunteers for the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra.

Steven L. Stein '73 (0787) [339 E. Miller Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850-9431; [sls8@cornell.edu](mailto:sls8@cornell.edu)] recently started a new job as a Business & Technology Analyst for the Cornell Division of Financial Affairs after more than 15 years as a programmer/analyst for The Cornell Store. Steve is enjoying only having to work a 39-hour week for the first time in more than 25 years. When not looking after Northcote and dealing with Acacia Corporation duties, Steve still enjoys golf and deer hunting. Since he still has one daughter in college (junior at Ithaca College) and another in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, retirement is not something on the horizon.

Robert C. Merritt '75 (0807) [PO Box 279, Auburn, NY 13021-0279; [bob@simplexco.com](mailto:bob@simplexco.com)] donated \$100 to "keep Steve Stein '73 (0787) as Corporation President".

John C. Gammel '77 (0826) [6 Stacy Court, Birdsboro, PA 19508-9408; [john.gammel@legerity.com](mailto:john.gammel@legerity.com)] donated \$50 to "keep Steve Stein '73 (0787) as Corporation President".

Philip M. Schuler '80 (0886) [719 Burritt Rd., Hilton, NY 14468-9765; [phil71@myexcel.com](mailto:phil71@myexcel.com)] paid his dues and included a note "OK Steve – I'll meet your challenge – we don't want to lose you!" Phil also solved the "mystery" of the "Designed and Constructed by the Pledge Class of 1979" plaque, described in the Spring 2003 Traveler article by Ilya Cherepakhin '03 (1058). That pledge class (Tim Thom '82 (0887), Ethan Cosgriff '82 (0889), Lou Schwartz '82 (0891), Frank "Dean" Price '82 (0892), the late Barry Davis '82 (0888), Andrew Mercer '82 (0890), Phil Shuler, and Cosmo Leo '80 (0885)) constructed a built-in custom seating arrangement in the alcove opposite the bar. The plaque had originally been hung in the alcove, but was removed at some point (probably after the seating was removed). Phil suggests that alums be encouraged to submit photos from the glory days at Acacia for a recurring feature in The Traveler. He was one of several unofficial photographers and still has many candid shots, plus the photo (taken in the Alcove) of the Pledge Class of 1979 holding the Plaque.

Christopher P. Deane '83 (0908) [304 N. Addison Ave., Elmhurst, IL 60126-2306; [cpdeane@ix.netcom.com](mailto:cpdeane@ix.netcom.com)] has traveled all over Europe for his job as Director of Manufacturing for Freudenberg Household Products. Chris reports that Curt Alliaume '84 (0919) is going to be a first time father and is getting quite nervous. The Deanes still enjoy being close to Chicago and spending time in the Windy City. Any Acadians visiting Chicago should look him up, as they have plenty of room for guests.

David J. Sangree '84 (0917) [1052 Maple Cliff Drive, Lakewood, OH 44107] is enjoying the Cleveland area (since moving there in 2001). Dave is one of 4 people in the US Realty Consultants office and is doing a wide variety of hotel related studies. He's glad to read that membership in Acacia is up!

David M. Mazaika '85 (0924) [11226 Vandemen Way, San Diego, CA 92131-2962; [dmazaika@isecorp.com](mailto:dmazaika@isecorp.com)] and wife, Kristine, had baby boy (Henry Michael) on 1/11/2003.

John W. Carpenter III '91 (0959) [2446 Dover Ave., Fort Myers, FL 33907; [johncarp@aol.com](mailto:johncarp@aol.com)] is glad he's kept in touch with so many Acacians throughout the years. He's got two kegs of home brew on tap in his garage, and says to "come on down to Florida to visit"!

William S. Cammuso '92 (0965) [2596 Correll Dr., Lake Orion, MI 48360-2363; [wcammuso@concentric.net](mailto:wcammuso@concentric.net)] and wife, Christine, welcomed son #2 (Anthony) into the world on 6/11/2003. They were paid a visit this past summer by Andy Brenner '90 (0953). Bill occasionally gets together with Jonathon Jacoby '92 (0967) who lives in nearby Southfield (and has a 92" TV!). Bill still works in the finance department at Delphi Corporation, and is glad to see Acacia working so hard and prospering.

G. Martin Scutt '92 (0971) [272 Prince Rue, Repentigny, PQ Canada J6A-1R3; [rampage514@aol.com](mailto:rampage514@aol.com)] was married 7/2002 in Quebec, and they were expecting a son in 9/2003. Has been practicing as a podiatrist in Quebec for 6 years, and is happy Acacia is doing well

Andrew S. Regenbaum '93 (0973) [1031 Summit Woods, New Windsor, NY 12553; [aregenbaum@aol.com](mailto:aregenbaum@aol.com)] saw Mike Cvijanovich '94 (0981) and wife, Kara, in Las Vegas. Also enjoyed seeing Mike Wilhelm '94 (0982), Brian Sivillo '96 (0993), John Carpenter '91 (0959), Jason Wang '96 (0997), Paul Molnar '98 (1014), Mike Cvijanovich, Todd Peskin '95 (0994), and Kevin Slesinsky '95 (0987) at the Elite Investment Club meeting in Orlando.

Jason Wang '96 (0997) [6254 Shelter Creek Lane, San Bruno, CA 94066; [jw16@cornell.edu](mailto:jw16@cornell.edu)] is living in San Francisco and sees Derek Deich '97 (1013), Pat Yongvanich '97 (1006), and Eric Wong '96 (0998) every so often.

The Pasquinos (Al '84 (0916) and Mary Myers '85 (L024)) [496 Montauk Ave., New London, CT 06320-4615] were blessed with a baby girl, Jillian Grace, on 4/15/2003. Heard from Bill Wong '84 (0910) who is in Texas, married, and has a 4-year old daughter, Samantha.

David Klesh '02 (1037) is living in Hoboken, NJ and works as a risk analyst for Marsh + McLennan. Along with Josh Roth (1049), he attended the wedding of Brad Schmidt (1025) in June.

### Scholarship Article (cont. from p. 9)

But what was not expected was the drop in applications. There was a clear drop in applications and an increase in the stress of brothers in the house. Fall rushes are needed! Spring rushes are needed! The fraternity is in danger of going downhill! Where are the applications? Indeed where were the applications? We suspect that there was a drop in applicants due to the reduction in the value of the top prizes.

The trick is to strike a balance between the potential of getting more guys to join the fraternity by giving away more prizes and the drop in applications that comes with a reduction in the winning values. There are over 40 applications this year, to last year's 60 or so, and a few more applications are expected. The real test of this new method will be the number of pledges that surface from this.

## HONOR ROLL (2002 - 2003)

LANE J ABRAMS '84 (0915) PL'81  
 CURTIS B ALLIAUME JR. '84 (0919) PL'81  
 DAVID M BANFIELD '95 (0985) PL'92  
 ROBERT J BERGREN '50 (0443) PL'47  
 RICHARD E BREWER \* '65 (0687) PL'63  
 STEWART L BURGER \* '70 (0738) PL'67  
 WILLIAM C BURNETT \* '53 (0490) PL'49  
 MARCO A CABASSI '97 (1003) PL'94  
 WILLIAM S CAMMUSO '92 (0965) PL'89  
 MARTIN S CARDINALI '84 (0918) PL'81  
 JOHN W CARPENTER III \* '91 (0959) PL'87  
 WALTER E COX JR. '53 (0491) PL'49  
 CHARLES W DEAKYNE \* '50 (0446) PL'47  
 CHRISTOPHER P DEANE \* '83 (0908) PL'80  
 PHILIP ENGLER '70 (0739) PL'67  
 ROBERT S FASH \* '58 (0594) PL'54  
 DAVID R FISCHELL \* '75 (0800) PL'72  
 CAREY W FLETCHER '58 (0596) PL'55  
 ROBERT D FLICKINGER \* '47 (0434) PL'42  
 DANIEL J FLIPPO '99 (1022) PL'96  
 JAMES L FREEMAN '55 (0548) PL'52  
 JOHN C GAMMEL '77 (0826) PL'74  
 ADAM GOLDSTEIN '93 (0974) PL'90  
 STUART S HANTMAN MD '71 (0756) PL'68  
 ARIF HAQ '94 (0983) PL'92  
 R. STEPHEN HAWLEY \* '43 (0403) PL'40  
 BARCLAY H HERSHY '98 (1017) PL'94  
 CARL H HERZOG \* '66 (0711) PL'65  
 BYRON L HING '02 (1040) PL'99  
 PAUL C JAMES '56 (0606) PL'55  
 ALAN L JETTE '82 (0895) PL'79  
 MORRIS A JETTE JR. '80 (0868) PL'77  
 WILLIAM L KELTZ '61 (0632) PL'58  
 LAFAYETTE W. "PETE" KNAPP JR. '51 (0509)  
 PL'49  
 THOMAS E KOCOVSKY JR. \* '69 (0730) PL'66  
 JOHN D KOETHE M.D. \* '77 (0829) PL'74  
 JERRY W KREIDER \* '68 (0720) PL'65  
 ROBERT H LIGHTFOOTE '69 (0731) PL'66  
 JOHN S MALLERY JR. '52 (0545) PL'51  
 MARK F MALTENFORT '77 (0831) PL'74  
 DAVID M MAZAIKA '85 (0924) PL'82  
 RICHARD K MC MURTRY '67 (0701) PL'64  
 ROBERT C MERRITT \* '75 (0807) PL'73  
 PAUL G MOLNAR \* '98 (1014) PL'95  
 GEORGE L MUELLER JR. '57 (0574) PL'53  
 MARY MYERS PASQUINO \* '85 (L024) PL'84  
 STANLEY R NIMAN \* '73 (0783) PL'70  
 MARTIN E OFFENBERGER '56 (0568) PL'53  
 ALAN T PASQUINO \* '84 (0916) PL'81  
 WILLIAM PENDARVIS JR. '47 (0440) PL'46  
 ANDREW S REGENBAUM '93 (0973) PL'90  
 DAVID G RICKERBY '91 (0960) PL'87

ROBERT C RUDOLPH '75 (0804) PL'72  
 DAVID J SANGREE '84 (0917) PL'81  
 MARK A SCHATEN MD '84 (0923) PL'82  
 ERNEST F SCHAUFLER '48 (0500) PL'49  
 PHILIP M SCHULER '80 (0886) PL'79  
 G. MARTIN SCUTT '92 (0971) PL'90  
 JAMES C SHOWACRE '50 (0447) PL'47  
 BRIAN SIVILLO '96 (0993) PL'93  
 ROBERT S SMITH \* '42 (0391) PL'39  
 ROBERT T SNOWDON \* '39 (0364) PL'37  
 ROBERT B SQUIRES \* '52 (0496) PL'49  
 STEVEN L STEIN '73 (0787) PL'70  
 WILLIAM L STEVENS JR. '55 (0553) PL'52  
 KEITH W STONE '71 (0775) PL'69  
 JAMES M SYMONS '54 (0534) PL'51  
 RONALD F TESARIK \* '59 (0615) PL'56  
 FREDERICK W TIERNEY JR. \* '71 (0763) PL'68  
 R. MARVIN TOWNSEND '55 (0555) PL'52  
 DANIEL E TURINSKY '97 (1004) PL'94  
 WILLIAM A UTIC \* '77 (0836) PL'74  
 JASON WANG '96 (0997) PL'93  
 WILLIAM WICKHAM '51 (0450) PL'47  
 ALBERT S WOODFORD \* '45 (0436) PL'42  
 JOHN P WOODFORD \* '47 (0435) PL'42  
 HOWARD S ZWIEFEL III \* '69 (0734) PL'66

77 Donors

28 Brother Tree

Leaf recognitions

\* after name indicates Brother Tree leaf recognition

### Donations to Acacia's Cornell Endowment

Donations to the Cornell University Endowment can be directed to the Cornell Acacia Fraternity portion of the endowment through specifying the "Arthur Lee Thompson III Memorial Scholarship Endowment" when donating.

Our current Cornell University endowment share value is approximately \$450,000. Our money grows based on the performance of the endowment portfolio. The amount that brothers receive is roughly equivalent to the gain on investment for the year divided by the number of brothers on financial aid. The financial aid office administers the funds to brothers on financial aid based on the fraternity president's advisement, provided the dispersal is in sound judgement. This past year all Active brothers on financial aid received \$1000 grants, with each incoming member receiving an extra \$750.



*The active brotherhood strikes a killer pose on a Cayuga Lake Cruise in May, 2003.*



ACACIA FRATERNITY  
CORNELL CHAPTER  
318 Highland Road  
Ithaca, NY 14850-2302

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