

# Acacia Fraternity Cornell University



## The Traveler



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## The Quest to Become Acacians Pledge Josiah Pothen

I don't think any of us pledges knew what we were getting ourselves into when we came to our first pledge meeting for Acacia. We had all heard stories from friends of hazing, hell weeks, and other rituals that were involved in the mysterious process known as pledging. But as we sat in the commons at our first pledge meeting and talked with Eric Fish, the Senior Dean, our fears were allayed.

Our pledge process would involve several challenges and tests, all with a purpose: to help us learn what it would

mean to be an Acacian at a national and local level. All of us have enjoyed getting to know the house, the brothers, and the organization of Acacia. We have appreciated the laid-back and respectful stance that Acacia takes towards its pledges: namely that we are students first, and Acacians second. That priority system has allowed all of us to do the work we've needed to do while going through an intense time of learning about our new brotherhood.

So what did we do? As we look back there are quite a

few things. Pledging is full of fond memories of getting to know each of the brothers, listening to stories of Acacian exploits, exploring the house, and throwing a very successful St. Patrick's Day themed party. Every week we've been coming to dinner at the house, enjoying the delicious food and basking in the company of the brothers. Events such as late-night broomball, Pledge Olympics, and the enlightening "Delta Series" have given us a chance to hang out together.

Of course, there have been  
*(Continued on page 7)*



# Spring 2007 Chapter Roster

Editor: Brian Clapp

The *Traveler* is published semiannually 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 and comments) should be addressed to:

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The current *Traveler*, along with past issues, can be found on our website.

The statements made and the 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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[Athletics Chairman]

# A Message From Our Corporation Board President

Greetings! Overall, Cornell Acacia is still flourishing. For the second year in a row, there were few maintenance “surprises”, and the most serious of these was the demise of the 25+ year-old garbage disposal. We replaced it with the same model, hoping it will perform equally as well. Replacement windows were installed on the rest of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and the Chapter Room. The Commons windows (along the back wall) have been ordered and will be installed before the end of the semester.

Rush was again successful, and there will be almost a dozen new Brothers before long. I am somewhat amused that some Actives expressed disappointment in “only” getting eleven pledges! How times have changed (for the better)!

As always, we’re planning other future repairs and improvements, including the long overdue automatic sprinkler system throughout Northcote (about \$100,000 expense). Maintaining a century old house isn’t easy and certainly isn’t cheap. With the generous support of our Alumni, these challenges are going to be met. Please support your fraternity!

Also, please contact some fellow classmates whose names don’t appear on the honor roll and urge them to contribute. Help spread the word about our Centennial Celebration August 24-26, 2007. For those of you who are attending this historic event, safe travels and I hope to see you there.

Please let us know if you are interested in a printed copy (at a nominal cost) of a 2007 Cornell Acacia Alumni Directory. We’re planning on providing an on-line directory in the very near future, but we need to know how many paper copies we might need.

Special thanks to Holly Moore 1968 (702) [1747 Bainbridge, Philadelphia, PA 19146; HoddyMoo@aol.com] who continues to print the Travelers (and Centennial Horizons) at no cost to Acacia. We are **extremely** grateful! Check out his CanDo! ad and check out his website.

Suggestions from Cornell Acacia Alumni for stimulating interest in our fraternity are always encouraged, so please email or call me if you have ideas and want to get involved.

Fraternally,

Steven L. Stein 1973 (787)  
[339 E. Miller Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850-9431; 607-277-3125; cell 607-351-3901; sls8@cornell.edu]

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Annual Corporation Board Meeting**  
**Saturday, May 5, 2007**

The Annual Meeting of the Cornell Chapter of Acacia Fraternity, Inc. will be Saturday, May 5, 2007 at 11:00 am, at Acacia Fraternity, 318 Highland Road, Ithaca, NY 14850 (607-257-7055)

Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

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## Venerably Speaking Kyle Small-Davis

This semester has been nothing but busy for everyone in Acacia. From planning for our centennial to the 11 new pledges that we got this year, Acacia continues to progress for the better. As the new Venerable Dean, I feel as if I have the daunting task of filling the shoes that were worn before me. The precedent is set higher and higher for each incoming Venerable Dean as he deals with not only the matters of his predecessor but also new and unique matters.

This year the most important upcoming event is Acacia's centennial, happening in August. What an exciting time to look forward to where all the alumni and the actives come together

to celebrate Acacia's history. All of us actives are looking forward to meeting you alumni and finding out what stories you bring with you. None of us can wait to hear how Acacia has grown and what kind of antics the alumni got into during their time at Cornell and living in Northcote.

But aside from looking at the centennial, Acacia's active membership is growing tremendously to the point where Northcote is filled to its capacity. It's great that we have to formulate ideas for new places to house all of the brothers that want to live in. In the near future we will look at the idea of renting out an

annex to house this overflow of brothers.

What an awesome feeling to know that the most urgent matter that's pressing Acacia is expansion and innovation! Not to say that this is necessarily an "easy" problem. However, the memory of difficulty in filling Northcote is now a distant tale told by Acacia's graduating seniors to the juniors, sophomores, and pledges. May we always look into the future while still remembering Acacia's history and maintaining the respect that so many brothers before us showed to each other, to the alumni, to other Acacians, and to the community.



*Brother Andy Cox enjoys watching the action from afar as he checks on the music during our mixer with Alpha Xi Delta.*

## Letter From the Editor Brian Clapp

As Senior Steward last semester, I was often told by girls visiting the house (as well as building inspectors for various inspections we had to pass) that Northcote is cleaner than any other fraternity on campus. I did not start this trend though. The house has been clean for a long time and it is that cleanliness that makes us proud and not ashamed to show our house to friends, parents, and dates. I am glad to see that Dmitriy Migdalovich, my successor, is keeping the house just as clean and congratulate him and all the other brothers for the amazing job they did during Rush Week in keeping our house shining. The other brothers who took office in November are doing a wonderful job as well. I am proud of how the officers work together to better our fraternity's record.

I have started emailing the 2004 to 2006 alumni to let them know when we are holding parties at the house. If you would like to be notified of these events and did not receive my last email on this subject, please let me know at [bpc34@cornell.edu](mailto:bpc34@cornell.edu). Also, if you have ideas for ways that we as actives can better serve you alumni, I would love to speak with you to discuss your thoughts.

I encourage all alumni to visit the house before Centennial if you are in the area. Alumni who have recently visited include: Brad Ayres, Tom Balcerski, Marc-Andre Chimonas, Mark Elliot, Charlie Hong, Juan Ramirez, and EJ Track. We still have two parties left this semester and you are more than welcome to spend a weekend at the house.

## Pledge Class Unity *Pledge Jose Arrué*

I remember many brothers saying in the beginning of the pledging period: "Just remember...pledge unity!" Even though its definition is common sense, I kept asking myself: what is pledge unity? This semester I certainly got the opportunity to understand pledge unity. We, the Acacia spring 2007 pledges, became a close group of soon-to-be brothers who have shared many unique experiences with each other.

I can still remember when we went around campus to deliver Valentine's Day cards to all of the sororities. Although it was a cold day, two of the pledges decided to drive all of us. We had a good time.

Another event where I felt a lot of pledge unity was the pledge party that we as pledges threw. We all got together to brainstorm

a theme (St. Patrick's Day), we set up the party, worked different jobs (DJ, front door, stairs, and the bar), and then cleaned up the next day. This event brought us together because we all worked hard together. The party was successful, I believe, because there was pledge unity.

**"The party was successful, I believe, because there was pledge unity."**

Our pledge project will also be successful. We are going to build (with the help of some brothers) a new Beirut table. We have made some designs. This project will certainly bring together not only all the pledges but also the brothers.

Whether it was giving a ride to a fellow pledge or sticking around after dinner to help a fellow pledge with cleanup, the Acacia spring 2007 pledges showed a lot of pledge unity. This will, in time, transform into Brotherhood Unity.



**Brothers Andy Cox and Keith Yoder face off in the popular video game Guitar Hero II in the Center Room.**

## Rush Recap *Rob Norback*

Rush week was an outstanding success this year, and a lot of fun as well. Both brothers and freshmen were eager to participate in everything Acacia had planned. We rented out a bowling alley all to ourselves and all came back to the house afterwards with rushees to meet some more of the brothers. We hunted each other down in the dark corridors of a laser tag arena. We bought a junk car and acted as our own demolition crew, smashing it until it was even more of a wreck than when we bought it. We rented an inflatable gladiator's arena and duked it out while the rest of the brotherhood watched and cheered everyone on. We raced go-karts on an indoor slick track, and while it wasn't quite the Indy 500, it was just as fun. There were numerous other events too, but the week culminated with our trip to Garcia's Mexican restaurant in Cortland. This was followed by an epic paintball battle at Headrush Paintball in Syracuse. Everybody came back with large purple bruises on their arms and chest but it was agreed to be the best and highest energy event of the week. After a few paintballs to the face, this Rush Chair was exhausted.

I had worked all week to insure everything went according to plan, and I never had a free moment to spare, whether I was making last minute phone calls to rushees to make sure that they could get to our events, keeping all the brothers' spirits up, or sorting through all the young men who had passed through our doors that day. I had my hands full.

*(Continued on page 9)*



**Left: Acacians took part in intramural hockey games against other Cornell fraternity teams this semester. Here, Brother Jay Andersen is congratulated after scoring a goal.**

**Right: Brothers Evan Loewenstein, Joe Kovacs, Tommy Roth, and Max Kashdan attend a Big Red Hockey game.**



# Clean it and They Will Come Dmitriy Migdalovich

*“We did not regret it after seeing the fresh gleam of new paint instead of the faded coloring we had gotten used to.”*

Being elected house manager for the first time, I felt I was under considerable pressure to prepare the house for rush week. Fortunately, many of the older brothers helped me out considerably. Seniors Andrew Cox, Jay Andersen and Evan Loewenstein not only

able and thorough scrubbing that impressed many of the brothers.

The major painting project this year was the wing.

*Brothers Ben Jacoby, Kyle Small-Davis, Rob Norback, Joe Kovacs, and Chris Bostick take a break from the cleaning in mid-January.*



We initially touched it up but then decided to entirely repaint all of the walls. We did not regret it after seeing the fresh gleam of new paint instead of the faded colors we had gotten used to.

house by painting a striking old gold lettering of “Acacia” on a black background above the staircase leading to the dining room.

Though the clean up proved to be difficult and time intensive, with constant organization to make sure the deadline before the beginning of rush was met and countless trips to the hardware store, everything worked out well and the brothers were proud to present their house to prospective pledges during rush week.

The brothers helped out immensely during the clean up.



began helping out during winter break, but also proved indispensable in both their advice of how to organize the clean up and the energetic effort they put forth in their tasks.

Senior Evan Helmsorig’s knowledge and skills proved vital as he replaced many broken tiles in the barroom,

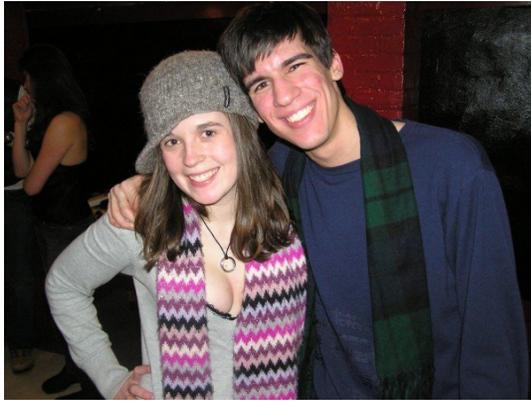
patched plaster holes in the ceiling and painted a stunning black and old gold triangle on the newly painted wing door. Junior Chris Danicic also added a touch of art to the

I had beforehand compiled a multiple page list of everything that had to be done to the house during the three days we had allocated for the clean up. Our tasks ranged from washing the walls to repainting and touching up scratched and faded areas throughout the house to stripping and putting on a fresh layer of wax on all of our tile floors. The kitchen, under the direction of sophomore John Koltz, our Junior Steward, underwent a remark-



*Brother Evan Helmsorig after plastering for an afternoon before rush week.*

*Brother Joe Kovacs hangs out with Katie O'Neill from Alpha Xi Delta at our winter themed mixer.*



## Acacian Nightlife Max Kashdan

This spring, our social activities at Acacia have simply never been better. After the buffoonery of rush week, we found the energy within ourselves to throw our first party of the semester the very first weekend. It was a great success and our pledge class was extremely impressed. One of my goals as the new Junior Dean was to have more social events with sororities. We did just that with a winter themed mixer with the ladies of Alpha Xi Delta the following weekend. As a band of “eskibros” we had an amazing time. However, we weren’t done yet as we had our annual Valentine’s Formal the weekend after that. It was held at Lucatelli’s Italian Ristorante right here in Ithaca. Our pledges, as usual, serenaded us with a daring rendition of a Backstreet Boys piece. The after-party at the house afterwards was the largest ever thrown. It was a fantastic success and created one memorable night. Recently, we had the annual pledge party in honor of St. Patrick’s Day. Our pledge class organized and ran the entire event, working hard and giving a stellar performance, whether they were DJing or cleaning up the following morning.

Of course all of these consecutive events meant a great deal of work for me as the new Junior Dean, but I am not one to complain. As our social reputation on campus expands, however, it becomes

**“The after-party at the house afterwards was the largest ever thrown”**

easier and easier to host creative and successful social events. Safety and the need to abide by all University and Inter-Fraternity Council rules and regulations still remain the top priorities which the new Executive Board and I have been diligently following. In the future, we have more parties and events with sororities planned, including our annual Night on the Nile Party, which should draw huge crowds. I look forward to the second half of the semester being just as packed with fun and exciting events as the first half has been.

*(Quest continued from page 1)*  
tough spots along the way. All of us have had to learn to make the brotherhood a priority. Personally, I have experienced a lot of forgiveness and mercy from my Senior Dean for having missed some key events. But throughout the process I (and my fellow pledges) have been learning. That’s the key. As we have learned what we need to do, we have put it into practice.

A common phrase you can hear all of us say is “pledge unity.” We have learned to work together, to live together, and most importantly, to enjoy being with each other. We have gone from being a random assortment of guys to a pledge class, a group of young men ready to take up the responsibilities of brotherhood and of carrying on the Acacian tradition. And honestly, that has been the best part of this entire process.

### 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:

Acacia Fraternity Foundation  
8777 Purdue Road, Suite 130  
Indianapolis, IN 46268

Checks should be made payable to “Acacia Fraternity Foundation.” Use of the chapter’s Foundation is limited to scholarships and qualified educational expenses.

### 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 \$460,000. Our money grows based on the performance of the endowment portfolio. The amount that brothers receive is roughly equivalent to the gain on the 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 sound judgment. This past year, all Active brothers on financial aid received \$1,100 in grants each semester.

# As We Travel Along Life's Pathway

This year, we say goodbye to nine great guys who have worked hard for the last four years to make Acacia what it is today. Some will be staying in Ithaca for another semester or two for graduate study, some are going elsewhere for schooling, while others are about to join the working world. We wish them the best of luck in whatever they seek to accomplish.

—Brian Clapp

## Jay Andersen

I am going to stay at Cornell for an extra semester to participate in the M. Eng program and receive my Masters in Mechanical Engineering. I currently do not have any employment secured but I am looking into a couple different robotics and defense oriented companies.

## Andy Cox

Andy will be graduating in May with a B.S. in Communication. He will be working in Indianapolis next year in the Management Development Program at E&J Gallo Winery. Umm, Go Colts?

## Mark Elliot

Mark graduated in January with a Bachelors of Science in Electrical Engineering degree and is currently working for Lockheed Martin Systems Integration in Owego. He still

resides in Ithaca and expects to return to Cornell in the near future to pursue a Masters of Engineering in Systems Engineering degree.

## Evan Grant

Evan hopes to attend medical school in New Jersey to pursue an M.D. / M.B.A. degree. More schooling is a definite in Evan's near future, though it need not interfere with his education and demanding party schedule. He will likely remain in the mid-Atlantic region.

## Rohit Gupta

After four years of engineering, I have realized that I'd rather work in a cubicle in NYC than a lab in the middle of nowhere. I will be joining ABN Amro as an investment banking analyst, and hope to somehow move into the private equity industry after a couple years.

## Mark Hartman

Mark is graduating in May with a degree in chemical engineering. He plans to stay around Cornell another year and get an M. Eng. Also, he wants to take some vacation this summer, since it might be his last chance for a while.

## Evan Helmsorig

Evan hopes to pursue a Masters of Science in Teaching at

SUNY Cortland. He will be living in Ithaca and will make frequent visits to Northcote.

## Paul Junek

Senior year is flying by and at present all I can do is work towards graduation and next year. The next three years will be spent in law school for me, most likely at the University of Minnesota, back near my home town. A town without my brotherhood to back me up seems daunting to me, though I look forward to the challenge of law school.

I hope to find my way back to Ithaca and to Acacia Conclaves as much as possible, and encourage my fellow seniors and all those graduating in the years to come to see Conclave as a chance for reunion. I hope to watch Cornell Acacia continue to grow and look forward to seeing people at homecomings and conclaves for years to come.

## Evan Loewenstein

Evan will be returning to Cornell for an extra semester to receive a Masters of Engineering in Applied Operations Research. Meanwhile, he will return to work for Goldman Sachs in New York for his second summer internship there. After finishing his Masters of Engineering, Evan plans to return to New York to work in the financial district.

# Santa and His Elves *Neela Sandal*

I'm happy to say that Acacia Philanthropy is getting stronger all the time. Since the creation of "Santa's College Days" by Juan Ramirez several years ago, we've had nothing but success when it comes to Philanthropy. Last semester we focused largely on strengthening our relationships with other Greeks on campus through philanthropic activities, while still keeping strong with our pre-established philanthropy traditions. The organization and preparation for "Santa's College Days" is unsuspectingly grueling, but the event remains the cornerstone of Cornell Acacia Philanthropy, and I'm sure that each successive Philanthropy Chairman will only improve upon it. This semester we added a charity raffle, using solicited donations valued up to \$400 from local organizations. The payoff was huge, and we ended up making as much money from the raffle as from the traditional fare. We netted



**Brothers John Koltz and Yu Tao Zhao race to the finish at Kappa Alpha Theta's Tip-a-Canoe charity race on Beebe Lake.**

\$640 in profit, all of which we donated to our new partners, "The Elves." The Elves are a Cornell organization created by faculty members several years ago with the purpose of assuring local underprivileged children a warm and happy holiday season. Cornell Acacia's donation was able to supply many children in the Ithaca area with coats and toys that they would not otherwise be able to obtain during the harsh Ithaca winter.

The Spring semester is always tougher for Philanthropy, as I've discovered. Few organizations are involved in philanthropy over the Spring semester, and it becomes all the more important that Acacia step up to help those in need. Because of diminished opportunities, the emphasis this semester has been on soliciting community collaboration towards philanthropy. Our current target is to overhaul the "Greek Week of Service" that had been a Cornell tradition for years and has slowly faded out of view. Hopefully, in the weeks to come Cornell Acacia will lead the Greek Community forward in the pursuit of Human Service.

*(Rush Recap continued from page 5)*

However, all of this has been put into perspective as I watch our eleven pledges proceed successfully through the pledge program. After all the tomfoolery of rush week, which truly was an amazing process to experience from a brother's point of view for the first time, it makes me proud to see how this week and all the brothers' efforts truly affect the future of this fraternity. I am extremely proud of our performance during rush week and know we will only continue to improve.



**Brother Seth Jacobson prepares to smash in the windshield of the junker car that we purchased to destroy during Rush Week in January.**



**Brothers and rushees pose for a group picture after our paintball event during Rush Week.**

# Introducing the Spring 2007 Acacia Pledges

## Jose 'Gregorio Cortez' Arrué

My name is Jose Arrué. I was born in Guatemala but moved to West Windsor, New Jersey five years ago. My major is Hotel Administration and my interests include playing soccer and volunteering. This year I live in the Townhouses and serve as Pledge Class President. Acacia is such a great house and I know I will have many good times.



## Elie 'Wonka' Bilmes

I'm Elie Bilmes and I grew up in the town of Middlebury, Connecticut,, which is near New Haven. I'm a Government major in Arts & Sciences, making me one of the few liberal arts majors in the house. I'm a huge fan of Cornell hockey and politics and I'm an active member of the Cornell Democrats, the Cornell Progressive, and the Lynah Faithful. I'm also on the Peer Review Board, which gives me the opportunity to hear great stories about residence hall rules violations. I enjoy playing tennis and watching sports in general. I am excited to join Acacia!



## Erik 'Dr. Kenneth Noisewater' Burkhalter

Hey, I'm Erik Burkhalter. I was born on Long Island, but have spent most of my life in Queens. I'm an Applied Economics & Management (AEM) major in the Ag School. When I'm not working, you can usually find me at my computer, drawing something, or improving my photography skills. I'm big on movies, especially action and comedy, and am always adding to my collection. I don't watch much television anymore but do enjoy a good episode of The Simpsons, Arrested Development, or 24. I'm looking forward to joining the Acacia family and bonding with my brothers in the future.



## Chris 'Johnny Tight-lips' Domanti

My name is Chris Domanti and I am a Mechanical Engineering student here at Cornell. In high school, I participated in Boy Scouts where I became an Eagle Scout, became active in the Order of the Arrow, and worked at my council's summer camp for many years. I also participated on a FIRST robotics team



which is where I found out that I wanted to be an engineer. Here on campus I am now part of the FSAE team. I am looking forward to all the good times I will have as an Acacian.

## Nick 'Skeleton' Hoerter

Originally from Highland Park IL, a small northern suburb of Chicago, I came to Cornell to pursue my academic passion, electrical and computer engineering. When I got here I realized that engineering wasn't really what I wanted to do after Cornell, so I started to take the coursework required for medical school in addition to my engineering major. I hope to someday become a physician or surgeon. When I'm not plowing through my ridiculous amount of coursework you can probably find me at home, listening to music, juggling, napping, or strumming on my roommate's guitar (poorly, I might add). I'm proud to be pledging Acacia and eager to see all of the new opportunities it will bring.



## Tyler 'Leftenient' Huth

Hi, I'm Tyler Huth. I hail from Norfolk, Massachusetts and have lived there for most of my life. I am an Undecided Major in



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*(Continued from page 10)*

Arts and Sciences, but am looking into a career in an environmentally-related field. Having a lot of German heritage, I decided to take German for my foreign language and am looking forward to next year's Oktoberfest. In my free time, I enjoy playing and listening to jazz and am currently the pianist for the Cornell Jazz Ensemble I. Pledging has been great so far and I can't wait to become an Acacian.

**Josiah 'RodnTodd' Pothen**

Josiah was born in Pennsylvania but grew up in Virginia. He is studying engineering and follows his father and older brother to Cornell. A seasoned traveler,

Josiah took a year off between graduating high school and entering college to travel to Europe.

While there he took part in an International Bible School program in Austria, and worked with a Church-planting team in Brussels, Belgium. After graduation, Josiah hopes to attend seminary with the goal of becoming a full-time pastor. It is his hope that being a member of Acacia will give him the opportunity to develop the leadership and communication skills necessary to achieve his goal.



**Noah 'Ernie' Santorello**

My name is Noah Santorello, and I was born on Long Island, where I have lived ever since. I plan on studying Mechanical and Aero-



space Engineering, even though when I came to Cornell I was initially dead-set on Computer Science. Although my primary interests lie in aviation, music, and computers, I try to be open to everything. I am proud to be serving Acacia and I look forward to many great memories with my fellow brothers.

**Shu 'Bert' Song**

My name is Shu Song and I'm a student in the College of Engineering studying Computer Science. I was born in China and lived there until I was 9. I then moved to Ithaca, New York,

where I still reside. I went to Ithaca High School, where I was involved in FIRST Robotics.

My team, 639, has won two regional championships and many design awards from FIRST. I'm still involved with the team today as a mentor. I love everything that is computers: hardware, software and most importantly, gaming. My other hobbies include Frisbee, baseball (especially the Yankees) and long walks on the beach.



**Andy 'Paul Wall' Yi**

My name is Hoyong (Andy) Yi. I was born in Seoul, South Korea but my family came to live in Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1997.

When I was 13, my family went back to Korea, but I stayed.

Thanks to many friends and faith, I



graduated as a Salutatorian from Father Gabriel Richard High School, having served as class president for three years. Now, I am in the College of Arts and Sciences at Cornell, as a pre-med Biology major. I strongly value family, friendship, and faith. And my belief is that there is nothing as wonderful as helping people. Hence, I plan to serve Cornell as a tutor, student advisor, resident advisor, and most importantly, as a brother of Acacia.

**Eric 'Detlef' Zatz**

Hi, my name is Eric Zatz. After growing up in the beautiful suburbs of central Jersey (Yes, central Jersey is a real region and no, Jersey is not just one giant suburb of New York City), I am now at Cornell to study Information Science. I spend a good part of my time playing

the guitar, listening to music, playing sports (mainly baseball and basketball), and just being lazy with my friends. I am a die-hard Mets fan and a proud member of the Lynah Faithful. During my next few years at Cornell I hope to make Acacia even better than it already is while forming some lifelong friendships.



## Senior Perspective Paul Junek

My four years at Cornell have been spent in a constant state of transition. College in general is often seen as a transition period; we are no longer children, but not quite living in the real world. For many, myself included, the journey to college required a couple of scary first steps. Though few in fraternities would like to admit it, one of the many benefits of a fraternity is its offer of a safe harbor. Despite my continuous movement in college, be it physically or socially, Acacia has been only safe harbor all four years.

From my first shaky steps in Acacia to my days on the exec board, Acacia and its members have always embraced me. As a sophomore I spent a lot of time separate from the house, living in an apartment and

making friends elsewhere. Early in my junior year, however, I woke up to see what I was missing at Acacia. I dove right back in and got elected as Junior Dean despite continuing to live out of house. The physical separation proved challenging, but my close contact with my fellow exec board members quickly turned into close friendships.

Since my election to the executive board more than a year ago, my connection and love for this fraternity has grown incredibly. I quickly realized my foolishness in living out-of-house and along with another member of my pledge class, moved into the fraternity for the first time as seniors. Some of my best college memories have come

from this past year; running around the house getting ready for a party on a Friday afternoon, playing pool in the barroom, basketball in the service entrance, or even mowing the lawn and shoveling the walkways.

As a departing senior, I feel my four years has given me a new perspective on the meaning of a fraternity. It's not a house or a social club, but a living and ever changing entity that survives and thrives based on the dedication of its members. Every Acacian, past and present has impacted the chapter in one way or another. I leave the challenge to my younger brothers to keep our fraternity alive and thriving.

I am an Acacian. I am proud of it.

## The Most Fun I Wish I Could Have Again Eric Fish

Pledging a fraternity is often described as “the most fun you’ll never want to have again.” We, now as brothers or alumni of Acacia, can all recall the less-than-fun moments of pledging, those that filled us with doubt, thinking, “Is this really worth it?” Maybe it was having to do a scavenger hunt across campus in pouring 40 degree rain. Perhaps it was delivering Valentines gifts to sorority houses in a snowstorm. Or maybe it was having to read extra material for the weekly pledge quizzes in addition to our heavy course loads—not an overly fun task. However, these less-than-pleasant moments during pledging, if you kept their purpose in mind, and enjoyed the company of your new friends, turned out to be a lot of fun! These moments, when you look back, were the ones that strengthened the ties of friendship between pledge brothers.

I look back on my spring semester freshman year with fondness. Pledging was a time filled with unforgettable memories. I learned a lot about Acacia, but I also learned a lot about myself. Most actives never get the opportunity

to re-visit their days as a pledge, save attending Ritual each semester. Being a Senior Dean has provided me with the unique opportunity to not only instruct new Acacians and shape their experiences, but to relive my pledge days.

**“Every time I’m  
around these  
eleven pledges  
I’m filled with  
déjà vu.”**

Every time I’m around these eleven pledges I’m filled with déjà vu. Sitting in the commons in front of all our pledges at the first pledge meeting, I remembered my first pledge meeting—feeling excited but uneasy, unsure of the strangers sitting next to me. When they stood up in front of our dates at Lucatelli’s and sang a Backstreet Boys song for the Valentine’s Formal, I was reminded of when myself and the Spring ’05 pledges sang “Afternoon Delight.”

My freshman year, I pledged with two close friends from Court Hall (Matt and Chris), but the other four pledges were strangers at the time. Over the semester I began to know them well and feel as comfortable with them as I did with brothers Meister and Danicic. I’ve witnessed

the pledges this semester also breaking down their cliques and subgroups of previous friends to join together in camaraderie. Guys who had never met each other before Rush Week began helping each other with homework, covering house responsibilities for each other, and hanging out at the house on random afternoons. I noticed they started having meals together with brothers and other pledges at the Ivy Room, and would meet up for Big Red hockey games at Lynah. Any outsider who tries to attack the closeness of fraternity brothers, especially pledge brothers, has never experienced the transformation and maturity that occurs over a short 8 weeks!

Our pledges this semester have been doing a fantastic job in all aspects of the pledge program. Whether it’s attendance at dinners and events, getting to know actives, fulfilling “particulars” tasks, running an amazing St. Patrick’s Day pledge party, or studying hard for weekly quizzes and consistently scoring high on them, the Spring 2007 pledges have been giving 110%. I couldn’t be prouder of their progress, and am happy to be able to relive some great times as their Senior Dean!



## Alumni Mailbag

Dr. Henry L. Hood 1943 (407) [7 Riverwoods Dr., Apt. C231, Exeter, NH 03833-5302; [rwhood231@comcast.net](mailto:rwhood231@comcast.net)] encourages the Actives to keep up the good work!

Charles W. Deakyne 1950 (446) [16 Severn River Rd., Severna Park, MD 21146-4658] reported the passing of Jack Carpenter 1950 (459) who was both a roommate and classmate in the CE school.

Ernest F. Schaufler 1948 (500) [337 Bella Vista Dr., Ithaca, NY 14850-5789; [efs4@lightlink.com](mailto:efs4@lightlink.com)] provided his new address. After 55 years on Turkey Hill Road, he moved to Longview (near Ithaca College). Ernie is glad to hear that Acacia is doing so well and recalls that Steve Stein 1973 (787) and Jim Showacre 1950 (447) took it through some rough times and deserve all the congratulations the members can give them.

David J. Hower 1951 (526) [187 Lookout Lane, Willow Grove, PA 19090-1633] hosted a mini-reunion at their home for Nancy & Bill Burnett 1953 (490), Barb & Dick Davis 1953 (533), Jean & Joe Wilford 1952 (497). Dave says "keep up the good work on your newsletter!"

Dr. David A. Gorelick 1968 (717) [2705 Moores Valley Dr., Baltimore, MD 21209-7413; [DGorelick@comcast.net](mailto:DGorelick@comcast.net)] writes that son David & wife Kerry gave them their 1<sup>st</sup> granddaughter (4<sup>th</sup> grandchild), Hannah Sophia, on 10/8/2006.

Stuart S. Hantman MD 1971 (756) [28 Founders Green, Pittsford, NY 14534-2165; [StuHantman@aol.com](mailto:StuHantman@aol.com)] reports that daughter Melissa (Arts & Sciences 2001) is engaged to Joshua Cheterson (ILR 2001, Harvard Law 2004). The wedding will be 7/28/2007 in Rochester, NY. Melissa is newly appointed Director of Communications for the Town of Brighton.

Steven L. Stein 1973 (787) [339 E. Miller Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850; [sls8@cornell.edu](mailto:sls8@cornell.edu)] is now on the board of directors of the Student Management Corporation (SMC). "I needed something to do when there was nothing requiring my attention at Acacia!"

William A. Utic 1977 (836) [95 Viento Dr., Fremont, CA 94536-4456; [waul@pge.com](mailto:waul@pge.com)] is looking forward to seeing everyone in Ithaca at the Centennial Celebration (8/24-26/2007).

James J. Manfredi Ph.D. 1978 (855) [One Gustave L. Levy Place, Box 1130, New York, NY 10029; [james.manfredi@mssm.edu](mailto:james.manfredi@mssm.edu)] is reportedly alive and well and living in NYC. Reports of his demise (in an issue of the Cornell Alumni Magazine) were obviously premature.

George Ramos 1979 (861) [103 River Rd., Canton, ME 04221-3210; [bfent@megalink.net](mailto:bfent@megalink.net)] has been blessed by God with a wonderful wife for 21 years. They have 5 children. The oldest is in Navy, the next 2 are in college, and the other 2 are being home schooled. George still creates artworks when able, exhibits them at the local gallery in Rumford, ME, and does pro bono artwork in the community. Some of his work can be viewed on [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) searching "George Ramos Maine Artist".

Paul C. Herrington 1981 (882) [P.O. Box 307, 37 Elm St., Niverville, NY 12130-0307] hasn't had much contact with other Acacians, but very much enjoys the Traveler. His family is doing well, the kids are happy, healthy, and growing fast. Life is good.

John M. Graham 1981 (883) [19 Rini Ct., Glen Head, NY 11545-2407; [jgraham1@optonline.net](mailto:jgraham1@optonline.net)] writes that Jen graduated a year early and is pursuing her masters of special education at Bank Street College of Education in NYC. Alex is doing well in his sophomore year at Syracuse.

David M. Mazaika 1985 (924) [11226 Vendemen Way, San Diego, CA 92131-2962; [dmazaika@isecorp.com](mailto:dmazaika@isecorp.com)] was visited by Tom Greenfield 1985 (934) and family. They all went to the Wild Animal Park and had a great time remembering old Cornell times. Dave hopes the Actives are all enjoying Cornell and Acacia as much as he and Tom did.

G. Martin Scutt 1992 (971) [625 rue Charentes, Rosemere, PQ Canada J7A-4S8; [j.scutt@sympatico.ca](mailto:j.scutt@sympatico.ca)] and wife were expecting their 2<sup>nd</sup> child in February. Martin is still practicing podiatry in Montreal. He confirms that Nick Bunning 1992 (968) really has a gun in NYC (where he is now a cop).

Tom Harp 1997 (1007) [1817 Village Oak Ct., Austin, TX 78704-5171; [tharptx@yahoo.com](mailto:tharptx@yahoo.com)] is doing very well after recovering from heart surgery in late 2005. Thanks to all the guys in the medical field who answered questions and called to check up on him. Tom got to see Derek Deich 1997 (1013) recently and they will be skiing with Bill Kelly 1996 (1000). Tom is always happy to have visitors in Austin, TX.

William J. Feth 1999 (1021) [369 Surber Dr., San Jose, CA 95123-4342; [contact@billfeth.com](mailto:contact@billfeth.com)] continues to enjoy his work at Apple Computer. The Feth's became parents in May 2006 when their son was born.

Thomas L. Ricketts 2003 (1051) [223 Elm St., Halifax, MA 02338; [thomaslricketts@hotmail.com](mailto:thomaslricketts@hotmail.com)] is pursuing a Master's at the University of Oxford and is expecting to graduate in late 2007. After that, he plans to return to his native Boston for a continued career in pharmaceuticals. Tom is quite dismayed that he will be in Europe during the Centennial Celebration.

Thomas J. Balcerski 2005 (1063) [8 Brittany Ct., Ramsey, NJ 07446-1419; [tjb36@cornell.edu](mailto:tjb36@cornell.edu)] met up with a bunch of young alumni in the New York metro area. Has been working with the Centennial Planning Committee on the alumni side to organize a fantastic 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. The Class of 2005 contributed financially as the largest single group of Acacians in 2005-2006 (thank you, all). Tom has written over 60,000 words in the Cornell Acacia book, and still has 40,000 more to go.

Hanny A. Carp-Martinovici 2006 (1071) [9615 Barrel House Rd., Apt. M, Laurel, MD 20723; [hac24@cornell.edu](mailto:hac24@cornell.edu)] writes that life after school is much nicer than he ever imagined. Undergrads shouldn't waste a single minute of fun while in school, because it is well worth it.

Elie J. Track 2006 (1077) [77 Manor Crescent, Building 23, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1686; [ejtrack@gmail.com](mailto:ejtrack@gmail.com)] has completed his 1<sup>st</sup> semester at Rutgers where he is working towards his Masters degree in Industrial & Systems Engineering. Elie is also working as an Associate Master Planner in the Logistics Department at Franklin Manufacturing L'Oreal USA. He enjoyed visiting Northcote and wants to keep in touch.

## A Review of Acacia Fraternity at Cornell: The First Century

Fellow alumni,

I asked for the opportunity to submit a piece to the *Traveler* because I have had the privilege of reviewing the ongoing drafts of Tom Balcerski's work, *Acacia Fraternity at Cornell: The First Century*, and wanted all of you to be aware of what a genuine masterpiece this is. The thousand-plus men who have called Cornell Acacia home could not have asked for a more fitting tribute to the brotherhood they have built.

Tom hasn't asked me for a plug; nor has anyone at Acacia, past or present. I'm writing to you to offer an insider's assurance that you will want this book on your bookshelf. No Cornell Acacian's home would be complete without it. Whether you're an ardent history buff, whether you're curious about things you may not have known about our fraternity, or if you simply remember your time at Northcote fondly, this book has an incredible amount to offer you.

You may have read the excerpts in the *Centennial Horizon*. These are just the tip of the iceberg. Through and through, *The First Century* is a true watershed piece of genuine academic quality, thoroughly researched and footnoted. It is not, however, a dry read. On the contrary, it's thoroughly enjoyable from cover to cover, putting you right back in the midst of Acacia's activities, development, and programming over the past century. I assure you that you will find it inspiring.

Those of you who know me know that I've never been shy about speaking my mind. I wouldn't have offered this unsolicited endorsement if I wasn't completely captivated by the quality of this history, and the value I'm sure you will find in it. It knocked my socks off.

So brothers, please take my advice and reserve your copy today! I'm reserving mine.

Fraternally,

Bill Cammuso 1992 (965)

[16344 E. 85 Street N., Owasso, OK 74055; (918) 272-1590; [wcammuso@att.net](mailto:wcammuso@att.net)]

Editor's note: To reserve a copy of the book, please visit: <http://www.acacia.org/cornell100.htm>



## Alumni Honor Roll

Donor	Roll	Class	Pledge Year
BRADLEY J AYRES *	(1070)	2006	PL 2003
THOMAS J BALCERSKI *	(1063)	2005	PL 2002
ROBERT J BERGREN	(443)	1950	PL 1947
STEWART L BURGER *	(738)	1970	PL 1967
MARCO A CABASSI	(1003)	1997	PL 1994
MARTIN S CARDINALI	(918)	1984	PL 1981
HANNY A CARP-MARTINOVICI	(1071)	2006	PL 2003
CHARLES W DEAKYNE *	(446)	1950	PL 1947
IGOR DOLGALEV	(1068)	2005	PL 2002
ROBERT S FASH *	(594)	1958	PL 1954
WILLIAM J FETH	(1021)	1999	PL 1996
PAUL B GOLDBERG *	(755)	1971	PL 1968
DAVID A GORELICK	(717)	1968	PL 1965
JOHN M GRAHAM	(883)	1981	PL 1978
STUART S HANTMAN MD	(756)	1971	PL 1968
THOMAS S HARP *	(1007)	1997	PL 1994
MATTHEW S HARRIS	(1042)	2002	PL 2000
LLOYD A HAYNER	(508)	1952	PL 1949
PAUL C HERRINGTON	(882)	1981	PL 1978
BYRON L HING *	(1040)	2002	PL 1999
HENRY L HOOD *	(407)	1943	PL 1940
DAVID J HOWER	(526)	1951	PL 1950
ALAN L JETTE	(895)	1982	PL 1979
MORRIS A JETTE JR.	(868)	1980	PL 1977
CHARLES P KALTER	(1066)	2005	PL 2002
WILLIAM L KELTZ	(632)	1961	PL 1958
LAFAYETTE W. 'PETE' KNAPP	(509)	1951	PL 1949
THOMAS E KOCOVSKY JR. *	(730)	1969	PL 1966
JOHN D KOETHE M.D. *	(829)	1977	PL 1974
ALLEN M MALE	(643)	1962	PL 1959
MARK F MALTENFORT	(831)	1977	PL 1974
DAVID M MAZAIKA	(924)	1985	PL 1982
HARLAN M MEINWALD	(789)	1974	PL 1971
DANIEL R MERRILL PhD	(907)	1983	PL 1980
ROBERT C MERRITT *	(807)	1975	PL 1973
HOLLISTER H MOORE *	(702)	1968	PL 1964
MARY C MYERS PASQUINO *	(L24)	1985	PL 1984
STANLEY R NIMAN *	(783)	1973	PL 1970
ALAN T PASQUINO *	(916)	1984	PL 1981
DONALD W PAYNE	(562)	1955	PL 1952
THOMAS L RICKETTS *	(1051)	2003	PL 2000
DAVID M RIMSHNICK	(1062)	2005	PL 2002
PETER M RIMSHNICK *	(1060)	2005	PL 2002
ROBERT C RUDOLPH	(804)	1975	PL 1972
ZACHARY A SAMUELS	(1069)	2004	PL 2002
MARK A SCHATEN MD	(923)	1984	PL 1982
ERNEST F SCHAUFLEER	(500)	1948	PL 1949
BRUCE G SCHNEIDER *	(842)	1978	PL 1975
G. MARTIN SCUTT *	(971)	1992	PL 1990
NEIL FRANCIS SHARP	(560)	1955	PL 1952
JAMES C SHOWACRE	(447)	1950	PL 1947
BRIAN SIVILLO *	(993)	1996	PL 1993
EDEN SLEGR	(788)	1973	PL 1971
ROBERT B SQUIRES *	(496)	1952	PL 1949
ELIE J TRACK	(1077)	2006	PL 2003
DANIEL E TURINSKY	(1004)	1997	PL 1994
WILLIAM A UTIC *	(836)	1977	PL 1974
JAMES WAXMONSKY *	(964)	1992	PL 1989
WILLIAM WICKHAM *	(450)	1951	PL 1947
HOWARD S ZWIEFEL III *	(734)	1969	PL 1966

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## Chapter Eternal

Dr. Wilber C. Maker 1944 (419)  
- 5/29/2006  
Charles Rickard 1967 (706)  
- 8/26/2006

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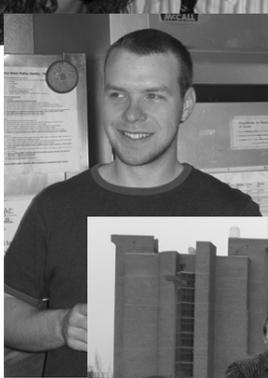
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