

# THE CENTENNIAL SPIRIT



*"An alumni newsletter dedicated to continuing the spirit of brotherhood created by the Centennial."*

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Editor: Thomas Balcerski (#1063)

## Centennial Weekend Wrap-up

David Klesh #1037

We did it. After countless phone calls, thousands of miles of travel, and many hours of planning, the Cornell Chapter of Acacia Fraternity successfully completed the most exciting event in our history. More than 120 alumni returned to campus to celebrate our first hundred years. Bill Cammuso '92 enjoyed "reuniting with so many alumni" and observed, "the turnout was spectacular." We had a reunion that was worthy of our chapter's proud history, and learned lessons that can be used by the planners of the next reunion.

We began our event on Friday, August 24 with a commemoration of the chapter's history. Ithaca's Taste of Thai catered an event in Duffield Hall that allowed brothers from different eras to meet and exchange stories. After dinner, Thomas Balcerski '05 delivered a presentation on his research for *Acacia Fraternity at Cornell: The First Century*. The question and answer session after the lecture generated plenty of memories, including stories about the chapter's cooks, social events and alcohol policy. When asked for his favorite part of the weekend, David Pattison '83 echoed the feelings of many brothers in replying, "the book and the history presentation." Robert Baker '53 commented, "Tom did an outstanding job on the book and his presentation." We concluded the evening in the Regent Lounge at the Statler Hotel, where the dedication of the brothers really hit home for me. For example, I learned that Bill Feth '99 took five airline flights that day so he could be there.

The next day, the alumni went on a house tour and saw all of the recent improvements. Thanks to the leadership of Venerable Dean Kyle Small-Davis '09 and Senior Steward John Ryan '09, the house was as inviting as it has ever been. Jim Symons '54 commented that the "visit to the house" was the highlight of the weekend. We rented two buses to take interested attendees on a campus tour, which visited the athletic facilities, including the men's hockey team locker room at Lynah Rink. We even got to hear from two hockey players who were training that day. Eric Fish '08 and Elie Bilmes '10 did an excellent job in acting as tour guides. We then had lunch at the Big Red Barn.

On Saturday evening, we gathered in the atrium of Statler Hall for a reception and enjoyed music from the a capella group the Touchtones, who sang four songs, including the alma mater. Cornell University President David Skorton also attended the reception. We spent an hour in a brothers-only meeting discussing the capi-

tal campaign and plans for the future. Preston Shimer '61 enjoyed the "brothers meeting because of the spirit and energy that developed in the room." We took a group picture, which presented a bit of challenge because of the size of the group, but the picture came out well and will soon be mailed to all attendees.

Over 250 people attended the banquet dinner that night, making it the largest formal event in our chapter's history. We heard from a number of speakers, including Cornell University Vice President Susan Murphy, Acacia Executive Director Darold Larson, and Acacia International President David Allen. Other attendees included Acacia Treasurer Rob Roberson, International Counselor Greg Owen, Assistant Executive Director Keith Bushey, and Kara Miller and Travis Apgar from Cornell's Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs. Several brothers offered toasts, including Ivan Szantograd, who explained how Acacia brothers took in several immigrant students from Hungary in the mid 1950s. The speakers all did a great job in discussing of our fraternity. Future event planners will certainly consider keeping the program shorter. We then enjoyed Paul Molnar '98's documentary on Acacia history, and danced to the music of Tom Knight and the Blue Moon. Seven brothers received the Order of Pythagoras recognizing contributions to the fraternity "beyond the call of duty" that evening, including Hollister Moore '68, David Fischell '75, David Klesh '02, Michael Nasatka '04, Thomas Balcerski '05, Bradley Ayres '06 and Andrew Cox '07.

Everyone said goodbye at brunch at the house on Sunday, but no one will forget the good time we all had. We have commemorative items, including personalized mugs, t-shirts and polo shirts, thanks to Tom Balcerski. There are so many ways to continue to give back, and none of them are too difficult. The capital campaign needs generous donations to ensure that our house will continue to be one of the most impressive on campus. We need more participation on the corporation board and with alumni advisory efforts. Many people thanked the event organizers. The best way to thank them is to get involved. There was a front page article about the weekend in the *Cornell Daily Sun* on Monday, August 27. Senior Dean Eric Fish '08 was quoted as "saying that he was lucky to 'meet the people who built this house.'" Let's see more involvement and continue building our fraternity.

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Centennial Weekend Photos: [www.cornellacacia.org](http://www.cornellacacia.org)

# CENTENNIAL CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

## CELEBRATING OUR PAST—ENSURING OUR FUTURE

Tom Balcerski (#1063) and Brad Ayres (#1070)

Our recent Centennial celebration was a remarkable occasion. Cornell Acacians spanning multiple generations returned to Ithaca to rekindle bonds with their former classmates, reminisce about their time at the chapter house, and meet members from different eras. Looking ahead, we must ensure that the chapter remains successful so that Cornellians can continue to be a part of our fraternity.

At the celebration, we formally launched our Centennial Capital Campaign, which will span the next five years. Our total fundraising goal is \$345,000, which would cover several important projects. In brief, we plan to install a sprinkler system, complete house maintenance that has gone unfunded for decades, and refurbish the library room. We also plan to grow our Acacia Fraternity Foundation chapter account to finance scholarships, leadership training programs, and other educational activities.

Since the Centennial, we have received a number of donations, noted on the last page of this newsletter. The response has been promising, but all of our alumni must participate if we are to achieve our ambitious goal. With your support of this special fundraising effort, we can make the chapter more attractive to potential new members and keep the facility in good condition for years to come.

### I. Our Goals

While there are many projects we would like to undertake, the following list represents what we would like to accomplish during the course of the campaign. To accomplish our many worthwhile projects, we have established a 70-30 split between donations to the corporation and the Acacia Fraternity. Regardless of their destination, all funds raised through the Centennial Capital Campaign will go towards projects essential to safeguarding the chapter's future.

#### Fire-Suppressant Sprinkler System: \$125,000

Despite the significant cost, the sprinkler system is a necessity. Cayuga Heights has recommended for several years that high occupancy homes install sprinkler systems. We anticipate this recommendation will become a requirement within the next few years. The safety of the active brothers justifies paying the high cost—we do not want the chapter to

**AFF Goal: \$100,000**

**Corporation Goal: \$245,000**

**CAMPAIGN GOAL: \$345,000**

experience a tragedy that could have been prevented. Additionally, our relevant insurance premia will decline after we install the sprinklers.

#### Complete Planned House Improvements: \$120,000

Several planned maintenance projects have been neglected over the years due to a lack of funding. These projects cover several areas from common room refurbishment to exterior improvements. Below are examples of the projects we now intend to complete:

- Replace Commons Carpet, Curtains, & Furniture - new in 1955
- Replace Kitchen Cabinets - new in 1962
- Repair Stucco and Re-paint Exterior
- Pave, Enlarge, and Overhaul Parking Lot
- Add a Patio outside of Dining Room
- Insulate, Carpet, and Heat Third Floor Dormitory - never has had heat!
- Replace Steam Furnace - dates from the 1970s
- Build Safety Fence for Service Entrance Ledge
- Brick Front Walkway
- Save for Upcoming Roof Replacement - last replaced in 1991

#### Refurbish Chapter Library & Dedicated Study Areas: \$40,000

The Chapter Library has had the same furniture since 1947. It is clearly time for an upgrade, and we hope to restore the room into a refined, traditional environment conducive to study. We plan to replace the current furniture with high quality wooden tables and chairs, refinish the room's wooden shelves and doors, replace the carpeting and curtains, touch up the walls and ceiling, install a glass-enclosed trophy case, and re-frame the historically

significant pictures and documents hanging on the walls. We also plan to install a stained-glass window or ornate wood carving in the door from the Commons to the Chapter Room. We hope that the revitalized Chapter Library will serve as an alumni gift commemorating the Centennial. We also intend to replace some of the furniture currently in the second and third floor study rooms and complete other modest enhancements.

**Increase Acacia Fraternity Foundation Chapter Account: \$60,000 and up**

Each Acacia Fraternity chapter has an account with the Acacia Fraternity Foundation (AFF). Funds from individual chapter accounts may be used towards educational expenses, leadership development programs, scholarships and other related activities. We hope to grow our account balance so that we may earn more through the associated investment returns, and thereby spend more on qualifying items.

**II. Reasons to Give**

**Your Fraternity Needs You!**

As we celebrate one hundred years on Cornell's campus, we should think back to all we have accomplished as a fraternity. Our time at Acacia Fraternity provided a group of friends, a place to live, and for many, a home away from home. Throughout its first one hundred years at Cornell, alumni support has been an important part of the fraternity's success. In the future, this support will only become more important, as we prepare tomorrow's leaders. Your gift to the Centennial Capital Campaign will help the chapter sustain its current success. Join the many brothers who have already contributed to the campaign, and make your pledge today!

**A Gift to Acacia is a Gift to Cornell**

Many University alumni may give regularly to Cornell, but they do not think to give to their fraternities. By giving to Acacia, however, not only will the beneficiaries of your donation be Cornellians, but they will also be brothers with whom you have a fraternal connection.

**Your Donation will be Used Wisely**

The sprinkler system is a necessity, the Chapter Library refurbishment will commemorate the Centennial, and the other planned projects have long been neglected but are required to keep the house in good shape.

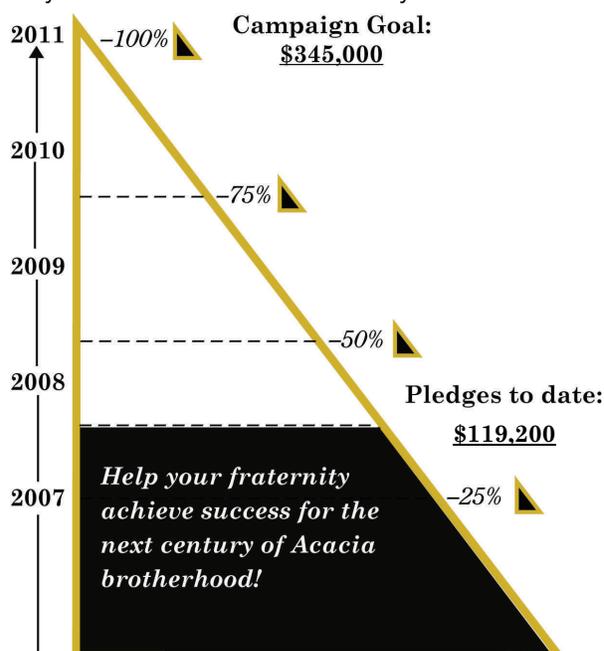
**Your Gift Will Help with Recruitment**

The rejuvenated chapter house will be of great appeal to potential members and will keep Acacia

competitive among fraternities on campus. If the Campaign funds its target projects, our active chapter will be able to tell potential new members that we have an alumni base committed to improving the fraternity.

**Join Your Fellow Brothers**

You will not be alone in your gift. We have already received pledges totaling \$119,200, or roughly 1/3 of our total fundraising goal. Many alumni have already recognized the importance of the campaign's goals and have made a contribution. The campaign organizers are committed to seeing our goal reached. Join your brothers in making Acacia Fraternity a success in its second century.



**Recognition**

All donors will have their names engraved on a plaque prominently displayed in the Chapter Library. Donors are listed on the Campaign web site (unless anonymity is requested). Donors are eligible for gifts, ranging from t-shirts to mugs. Additional recognition is available for donors giving \$10,000 or more.

Ultimately, only you can decide why you want to give back to your fraternity. Contributing to your fraternity is an investment in your memories. And, there has never been a better time than now to invest in your fraternity!

For the most up-to-date information, including recent donors, visit: [www.cornellacacia.org](http://www.cornellacacia.org) and click on Capital Campaign.

# CENTENNIAL CAPITAL CAMPAIGN HONOR ROLL

### Chapter Founders' Society

\$50,000 and above

### Corporation President's Society

\$25,000 - \$49,999

#800 Fischell, David 1975

### Chapter President's Society

\$10,000 - \$24,999

The Actives of Cornell Chapter

#434 Flickinger, Robert 1947

#738 Burger, Stewart 1970

### Centennial Benefactor Society

\$5,000 - \$9,999

#403 Hawley, R. Stephen 1943

#635 Shimer, Preston 1961

#836 Utic, Bill 1977

### Centennial Society

\$2,500 - \$4,999

#450 Wickham, William 1951

#600 Male, John 1958

#649 Ahlfeld, John 1963

#720 Kreider, Jerry 1969

#783 Niman, Stanley 1973

#1037 Klesh, David 2002

#1040 Hing, Byron 2002

#1063 Balcerski, Thomas 2005

#1067 Kalter, Charles 2005

#1070 Ayres, Bradley 2006

Anonymous

### Campaign Supporter

\$1,000 - \$2,499

#334 Bent, Clarence 1939

#594 Fash, Robert 1958

#596 Fletcher, Carey 1958

#614 Field, Charles 1959

#796 Abeles, John 1975

#842 Schneider, Bruce 1978

#959 Carpenter, John 1991

#960 Rickerby, David 1991

#970 Hayre, Paul 1991

#981 Cvijanovich, Michael 1994

#994 Peskin, Todd 1995

#1014 Molnar, Paul 1998

#1060 Rimshnick, Peter 2005

#1062 Rimshnick, David 2005

#1065 Banaja, Tarek 2005

#1069 Samuels, Zachary 2005

LS1 Kehe, Patricia Warner 1979

### Campaign Contributor

\$500 - \$999

#443 Bergren, Robert 1950

#504 Curtiss, John 1951

#590 Bills, David 1958

#632 Keltz, William 1961

#642 Krakauer, John 1962

#673 Francis, Edgar 1965

#701 McMurtry, Richard 1967

#717 Gorelick, David 1968

#887 Thom, Timothy 1982

#895 Jette, Alan 1982

Anonymous

*As of 10/24/07*

**TOTAL FUNDS PLEDGED TO DATE: \$119,200 FROM 46 DONORS**

**THANK YOU, DONORS!**

Please detach this form and return it to:

Acacia Fraternity, c/o Alumni Affairs, 318 Highland Road, Ithaca, NY 14850



## Documentary Order Form

### Documentary Now Available with Centennial Bonus Footage!

Paul Molnar #1014

The Documentary that was shown on Saturday night of the Centennial weekend is now available with special bonus footage from the weekend. Complete with a DVD-style case and cover, this video is one you will want in your collection. The price is just \$10.00 each. All money above production costs will be donated to the Acacia Fraternity Foundation. Please make checks payable to "Acacia Fraternity, Inc."

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Roll # \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address:

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Acacia Fraternity  
Cornell Chapter  
100 Years of Brotherhood



Order online at [www.cornellacacia.org](http://www.cornellacacia.org) by clicking on Alumni