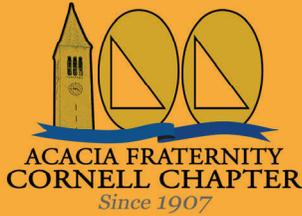


# Acacia Fraternity Cornell University



# The Traveler



VOLUME 101, ISSUE 4

SPRING 2008

## WHAT'S INSIDE

Chapter Roster	2
From the Corp. Board President	3
Venerably Speaking	4
Rush News	4
Meet the Spring Pledges	5
From the Pledge Class President	5
Philanthropy	6
Pledge Progress	7
Treasurer's Report	7
New Acacia Hub	8
Northcote	8
Brotherhood	8
Intramurals	9
Senior Profiles	9
Honor Roll	10
Alumni Mailbag	11
Chapter Eternal	11



*Spring 2008 Pledge Induction*

## Acacian Finds New Campus Philanthropy Event

Rob Norback (1114)

During the week of February 17, 2008, 315 brothers at Cornell University banded together in an arduous, impressive act of personally sowing over two million grains of rice to feed the hungry. Actually, this represented a virtual effort of brothers from six Cornell fraternities during Acacia's First Annual Charity Brawl.

Between February 17 and 24, participating fraternities competed to see which fraternity could amass the most

grains of rice to donate through a website called FreeRice.com. FreeRice.com is a sister site to Poverty.com, and uses a simple vocabulary word game to help people who are in need of food. The concept is simple: for every word you get right in the game, twenty grains of rice will be donated through the United Nations World Food Program. In fact, according to the site itself, you just "play and feed hungry people."

With 1,235,740 grains of rice donated from playing FreeRice, the winner of the

charity brawl was Phi Kappa Tau. For its part, Acacia accumulated 281,060 grains. Altogether, the totals from the six fraternities came out to be 2,655,340 grains. According to WikiAnswer, 2,100 grains will feed about two children for a day, which means the charity brawl ultimately fed around 1,200 children. While WikiAnswer may not prove itself to be the most reliable source in the world, their approximation of how many people 2,100 grains will satisfy is probably not too far off; having the rough estimate of twelve-hundred wide-

*Continued on page 7*



# Spring 2008 Chapter Roster

Editor: Seth Jacobson (1092)

The *Traveler* is published biannually 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:

Acacia Fraternity  
c/o Alumni Affairs  
318 Highland Road  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
(607) 257-7055  
Website:

[www.cornellacacia.org](http://www.cornellacacia.org)  
Email: [acacia@cornell.edu](mailto:acacia@cornell.edu)

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 content of this publication.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Elie Bilmes '10 (1118)<br>Government<br>Middlebury, Connecticut<br>[Venerable Dean]                    | Yu Tao Zhao '08 (1099)<br>Applied & Engineering Physics<br>Hyde Park, New York                            | Bob Christ '09 (1116)<br>Mechanical Engineering<br>Hillsborough, New Jersey                                   |
| Tommy Roth '09 (1115)<br>Mechanical Engineering<br>McLean, Virginia<br>[Senior Dean]                   | Chris Bostick '09 (1101)<br>Biology<br>Windsor, New Jersey  | Nick Hoerter '09 (1117)<br>Electrical & Computer Engineering<br>Highland Park, Illinois                       |
| Erik Burkhalter '10 (1123)<br>Applied Economics & Management<br>Queens, New York<br>[Junior Dean]      | Max Kashdan '09 (1102)<br>Chemical Engineering<br>Shrewsbury, Massachusetts<br>[Dean of Scholarship]      | Chris Domanti '10 (1119)<br>Mechanical Engineering<br>Fairport, New York<br>[Liaison to Capital Campaign]     |
| Brian Clapp '09 (1100)<br>Operations Research & Engineering<br>Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania<br>[Treasurer] | Ben Jacoby '09 (1103)<br>Economics<br>Moorestown, New Jersey  | Jose Arrue '10 (1120)<br>Hotel Administration<br>West Windsor, New Jersey<br>[Senior Steward]                 |
| John Koltz '09 (1108)<br>Natural Resources<br>Cortland, New York<br>[Dean of Recruitment]              | Dmitriy Migdalovich '08 (1104)<br>Biology<br>Rochester, New York  | Eric Zatz '10 (1121)<br>Information Science<br>[Dean of Brotherhood]  |
|  | Keith Yoder '09 (1105)<br>Human Development<br>Elkhart, Indiana   | Shu Song '09 (1122)<br>Computer Science<br>Ithaca, New York   |
|  | Jason Turer '09 (1106)<br>English & Film<br>Chappaqua, New York   | Erik Burkhalter '10 (1123)<br>Applied Economics & Management<br>Queens, New York                              |
|  | Rich Rothman '09 (1107)<br>Electrical & Computer Engineering<br>Woodmere, New York<br>[Dean of Athletics] | Noah Santorello '09 (1124)<br>Computer Science<br>Shirley, New York<br>[Dean of Technology]                   |
|  | Fred Liguori III '09 (1109)<br>Mechanical Engineering<br>Port Jefferson Station, New York<br>[Secretary]  | Tyler Huth '10 (1125)<br>Earth & Atmospheric Sciences<br>Norfolk, Massachusetts                               |
|  | Kyle Small-Davis '09 (1110)<br>Government<br>Montclair, New Jersey  | Josiah Pothén '10 (1126)<br>Civil & Environmental Engineering<br>Yorktown, Virginia<br>[Dean of Philanthropy] |
|  | Joseph Kovacs '09 (1111)<br>Biology<br>Potomac, Maryland  | Andy Yi '09 (1127)<br>Biology<br>Ann Arbor, Michigan  |
|  | John Ryan '09 (1112)<br>History<br>Gaithersburg, Maryland   |   |
|  | Andrew Gross '09 (1113)<br>Applied & Engineering Physics<br>Springville, New York<br>[Junior Steward]     | <u>CHAPTER ADVISOR</u><br>Jeffrey Ballyns '05 (1075)<br>Ph.D. Candidate<br>Oswego, NY                         |
|  | Rob Norback '09 (1114)<br>Psychology<br>Atlanta, Georgia  |   |

## ACTIVES

- Christopher Danicic '08 (1090)  
Materials Science & Engineering  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Seth Jacobson '08 (1092)  
Applied & Engineering Physics  
Rochester, Minnesota  
[Dean of Alumni Affairs]
- Neela Sandal '08 (1093)  
Biological Sciences  
Baldwin City, Kansas
- Drew Eisenberg '08 (1094)  
Atmospheric Science  
& Mechanical Engineering  
Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey
- Eric Fish '08 (1095)  
Animal Science  
Lockport, New York
- Yuri Sylvester '08 (1096)  
Materials Science & Engineering  
Boca Raton, Florida
- Andrew Coyle '08 (1097)  
Industrial & Labor Relations  
Fayetteville, New York
- Carlos Mendoza '08 (1098)  
Economics  
Carrollton, Georgia

## A Message From Our Corporation Board President

Just before Christmas, ground was broken on the installation of the sprinkler system. Snow was falling, but the contractors dug a trench from the sidewalk by the mailbox to the front corner of Northcote. A 4" dedicated water line was connected to the 8" main and I witnessed the installation of the valve while the main was under pressure! The final plans for the internal piping of the system were completed and approved, and inside work began in February. The basement was nearly completed, when the contractors became concerned with the possibility of asbestos being present, so installation was halted. Tests proved that some floor tiles that needed to be penetrated did, indeed, have non-friable asbestos which was removed in mid-March. The first phase of the installation (basement & 1<sup>st</sup> floor) should be completed by the end of Spring break. Thanks to some extremely generous donations to our Capital Campaign, and many smaller, but none-the-less significant ones, we are going to finish the installation of the entire system in the spring. Thanks to everyone who has pledged or will pledge. Let's reach our \$345K goal!

Acacia has been hit with more unexpected repairs, including a leaking toilet which rotted out part of the Center Room bath floor and subfloor, a worn out bathroom exhaust fan which had been venting directly into the ceiling, a leak in the Wing roof, etc. All the issues have been addressed, but our maintenance budget has been exceeded (same stuff, different year). Although we are in the early phase of our 5-year Capital Campaign, please remember that we rely on everyone's payment of their annual dues to help keep our 100+ year-old home in good and safe condition.

Please email or call me if you have comments, concerns, suggestions, want to get involved, or simply want to say hello. It would be wonderful if I heard from some of you so I know you are as concerned, yet encouraged, as I am about the future of our beloved Acacia.

Fraternally,

Steven L. Stein '73 (787)

[339 E. Miller Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850-9431; 607-277-3125; cell 607-351-3901;  
[sls8@cornell.edu](mailto:sls8@cornell.edu)]

### Annual Corporation Board Meeting Saturday, May 3, 2008

The Annual Meeting of the Cornell Chapter of Acacia Fraternity, Inc. will be Saturday, May 3, 2008 at 1:00 pm, at Acacia Fraternity, 318 Highland Road, Ithaca, NY 14850 (607-257-7055). Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

### 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 \$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 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 \$1,200 in grants each.

# Venerably Speaking

Venerable Dean, Elie Bilmes (1118)

During my first four months as Venerable Dean, I have been proud to lead a house full of committed and hard-working brothers. We were inspired by the impressive attendance and enthusiasm of our alumni who attended our Centennial celebration last fall, and that energy has carried us through a busy start to the semester.

The Cornell Chapter hosted two guests from our national headquarters in January: Brother Keith Bushey (Indiana '86), Assistant Executive Director, and Brother Matt Hamrick (University of Central Oklahoma '02), Leadership Consultant. They gave us valuable advice about recruitment and chapter operations. Keith and Matt commented on how impressed they were with the amount of painting and cleaning the actives did to prepare the house for rush.

We opened the semester with an extremely busy and successful rush week. Brothers entertained freshmen at the house until late into the evening, and then dragged themselves out of bed the next morning to clean the house and prepare for another day's activities. A highlight of the week was the trip to see the Syracuse-Villanova basketball game, after which we ate lunch at the Syracuse Acacia chapter house. The house continued to work hard to recruit members during "late rush," and our efforts paid off in the form of an enthusiastic pledge class.

Not only was rush week successful at Acacia, but it was a great success at Cornell as a whole, with no serious incidents. Cornell Greeks continue to enjoy a positive relationship with the University administration and the Ithaca community, helped in part by safe parties and community outreach.

We are starting to see the results of the Capital Campaign here at Northcote! A contractor is installing the pip-

ing in each room for the sprinkler system, and the new curtains in the commons look great. Within a few weeks, we should see some other improvements at Northcote, including a new piano. We are extremely grateful to our alumni for their generosity. Also, Corporation Board President Steve Stein '73 has been invaluable in identifying which parts of the house need maintenance and improvement.

There have been several internal improvements to Acacia self-governing system, including the revival of the committee system, which had been inactive for several years. Actives who don't hold offices can let their voices be heard by serving on the Rush Committee, Kitchen Committee, and others. Also, to better facilitate the actives' involvement in the highly successful Capital Campaign, the new office of Active Liaison to the Capital Campaign was created in December. The current officer, Chris Domanti '10, has been busy sending out mailings and thank-you gifts to donors.

The actives are committed to working hard for the good of the fraternity. We know how to throw great parties, but also keep the cleanest house on campus. We "strengthen the ties of friendship" through brotherhood events, but also look to increase Acacia's visibility on campus through social and philanthropic events with sororities. We had a fantastic Centennial weekend with alumni last fall and have been working hard to increase our membership for the future.

I am privileged to lead such an enthusiastic group of Acacians, and I look forward to traveling to this year's Conclave in Louisville, Kentucky with some of the other actives.



**Broomball Rush Event**

## Rush News

Dean of Recruitment, John Koltz (1108)

With the advent of the spring semester comes rush week. Coordinating rush week activities to attract future Acacians might be an arduous task were the Rush Chairman the sole individual to assume this responsibility. Luckily for me, and for the chapter I might add, I was supported by the current brothers of Acacia. In the fall, the chapter began a new Thanksgiving dinner tradition by hosting prospective new members. The event was wonderful and well-attended and I strongly hope it will continue in the years ahead. During several committee meetings, we prepared as a chapter for the challenges of the upcoming rush week by discussing what it was that we were trying to sell to prospective members, and what methodology we should use in selling it. We came to the realization that the brotherhood is stronger than any of us thought, and that all that we needed to do to attract new members was to be ourselves. No façade could possibly do our house justice. By being ourselves, rushees could witness for themselves the strength and unity of our brotherhood. If we give a real window into the experience of a brother in this fraternity, we know

*Continued on the next page*

**"I have been proud to lead a house full of committed and hard-working brothers."**

rushees will want to become a part of it. After this introspective reflection, we were mentally equipped to confront the onslaught of freshmen faces.

The brothers arrived a few days before Rush Week, and about ten days before the start of the semester. Under Senior Steward Jose Arrue's '10 guidance, the chapter house was in tip-top shape for the start of rush week. We were fortunate enough to host Assistant Executive Director Keith Bushey and Leadership Consultant Matt Hamrick from Acacia headquarters for the weekend. Brother Bushey gave an a rousing rush seminar on Sunday that left the brotherhood exhilarated and ready to start the week of intense recruitment.

Rush week 2008 was event-filled and slightly hectic, but the planning defi-

nately paid off. Venerable Dean Elie Bilmes, as well as past Rush Chairs in the house, provided invaluable assistance throughout the week. Our organization helped to relax the brotherhood and allow them to concentrate on the task at hand: bringing in the next class of Acacians. The brothers were encouraged to be themselves and allow the house to sell itself. Through the hard work and resolve of the brothers, we were happy to welcome eight new pledges to the ranks of Acacia.

Although eight new members is not what Cornell Acacia has come to expect from a pledge class recently, we are satisfied that we have found men of high quality to join the ranks of Acacia. We are a robust brotherhood and are confident that we will have no trouble recruiting more men of high caliber. We are continuing the trend of expansion that our chapter has seen in recent years. I am very proud to have had a hand in introducing eight new men to Acacia fraternity, and look forward to embracing them as brothers.

*Members of the  
spring 2008 pledge  
class*



## Introducing the Pledges

### Joe "Kole" Beaudette

I come from the small town of Canton, NY. I'm a Civil and Environmental Engineering major looking to change the world. I was a Boy Scout back in the day and I enjoy soccer, trail running, and singing, but I'm willing to try just about anything once. I'm proud to pledge Acacia and look forward to my future with the fraternity.

### Fred "The 8th President of the United States Martin Van Buren" Ballyns

I was born on April 4, 1989 in Oswego, New York. I am currently a

freshman planning to get a degree in mechanical engineering. My family contains a lineage of mechanical engineers, including my father and two brothers. I am interested in both the innovation and simplification of the process of problem solving. I used to participate in my high school ski club as well as to play on both soccer and tennis teams.

### Oleksander "Sputnik" Bilyk

Hello, my name is Oleksander, which is the Ukrainian version of Alexander. I'm very proud of my Ukrainian heritage, but have lived in the good ol' U.S. all my life, mostly in the Midwest. I

love the mountains here (and they are mountains for me) and especially exploring the countryside when not buried in work. I mainly study Classics, Theatre, Literature, Mythology, Philosophy and Art and am planning to combine these interests through the College Scholar program. I enjoy writing, thinking, reading, walking, napping, going to concerts and plays and of course hanging out with the multi-faceted, generally awesome guys at Acacia.

### Thomas "Deepthroat" Kozakiewicz

Hello, I'm Thomas but everyone calls me TJ and I'm currently a freshman in CALS. I'm considering a change in majors from agriculture to some form of engineering. I come from eastern Long Island where I took an interest in singing and tap dancing while in high school. Here at Cornell I'm either studying or hanging out at Acacia. In my down time you can find me sleeping, listening to music or just taking a walk. I look forward to all the good times that I have yet to experience at Acacia.

### Adam "Domanti" Brownstein

I am a freshman in the college of Arts and Sciences. I am originally from Scarsdale, New York and have lived there my entire life. As of now, I am planning on majoring in economics and psychology, but you never know. I am currently a psychology research assistant in the social psychology laboratory and hope that it will give me an idea if I would like to pursue psychology as a major. Outside of school, I love playing baseball but am basically up for any sport any time. I also enjoy watching movies and reading occasionally. I am excited to become a brother of Acacia and am sure it will give me some great experiences.

### Tory "5 Star" Farney

Hi, I am a freshman in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. My intended major is Atmospheric Science, a passion of mine throughout my life thus far. I am a member of the Cornell Chapter of the American Meteorological Society and I grew up in Castorland, New York. I spend my summers work-

*Continued on the next page*

ing at Buckingham Hardware but when I am at Cornell, I work at Bear Necessities. In my free time, I enjoy playing any sport there is, especially basketball, baseball, and soccer, and just hanging out with friends. My favorite sports teams include the New York Yankees, New York Giants, Syracuse University sports, and of course, Cornell University sports. I look forward to the coming years as a proud new member of Acacia.

#### Charles “Andy Dick” Ray

Hi, I am Charles Ray and I am a freshman in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. I am from Tyler, TX and am studying Psychology with the goal of attending medical school. I like swimming, sweet tea, orange & blue, green, music, movies, and red beans and rice.

## Letter from the Pledge Class President

Pledge Class President, Brian Cannon

I recall one moment not long into the pledge process when Tommy Roth, our senior dean, came up to me and another pledge to ask what it was that we were laughing so hysterically about. “Oh nothing,” I replied, grinning, “it’s just an inside joke.” “Damn!” he retorted, “you have those already?” Indeed, though I can speak only for myself, I’d venture to guess that Tommy wasn’t the only one surprised at how quickly our pledge class had begun to bond. Though we were first brought together under seemingly tedious requirements to further our “education” into the fraternal world – reading and memorization for weekly quizzes, mandatory chapter meetings and ritual events, university lectures on hazing and sexual health, and so forth – the obligations of pledging Acacia quickly lost their compulsory nature. They became, instead, a blast, times we began to look forward to instead of dread. And somewhere amidst that haze of fun, though they were little expected, we found opportunities for personal growth, adaptation, reliance on one another, and, most importantly, the basis for surpris-

#### Brian “Johnny Quest” Cannon

Hi, I hail from Philadelphia, PA. I’m a sophomore in the College of Arts and Sciences majoring in English and Economics. In the classroom my main areas of pursuit are late nineteenth century British literature, economic development and international relations, and languages (German and Hindi). Outside of the classroom, music occupies a large part of my life, both playing (harpsichord) and composition as well as a lot of listening to virtually every genre (except old-school country!). Additionally, I’m a proud member of Cornell’s Model UN team and the College Republicans. I’m so thankful to Acacia thus far providing an atmosphere in which to develop so many incredible friends and I look forward to the many good times ahead!

ingly strong friendships.

Like inside jokes, how do you define something such as pledge class unity for those on the outside when only those on the inside, who may not even be able to articulate such visceral connections to one another, were there to experience the action in its most meaningful context? The answer, I believe, lays in a description of the subtleties, those moments that at the time seemed trivial but, upon later reflection, become oddly significant. Pledge class unity was, for example, the many laughs we shared on Valentine’s Day evening when we sang for all 12 of Cornell’s sororities and the many reassurances I was given despite my great anxiety in still having an essay to complete later that night. It was the recounting of our pledge party’s success as we drearily cleaned into the 4 o’clock hour of the morning, despite snowy weather and other unforeseen obstacles. It was the realization that despite the endless assignments awaiting us in our rooms, a weekend filled with a party, two ritual events, a chapter meeting, and a pledge meeting was in fact not a distraction from the studies that needed to be done, but an arguably

## Philanthropy

Dean of Philanthropy, Josiah Pothen (1126)

It was late November, snow was falling, and everyone was thinking of one thing: the upcoming break from classes and homework. Helping along this general feeling of cheer was the appearance of Santa Claus himself in the Cornell Store as part of Acacia’s annual “Santa’s College Days” event.

For two days, brothers of Acacia, assisted by the women of Alpha Xi Delta and Kappa Alpha Theta, dressed up as Santa and took pictures with college students. The pictures were then sent to family and friends of the participant for a small charge, which was donated to ELVES, a charity run by Cornell faculty and staff that provides clothing and toys for local children.

Through pictures taken with students, as well as outright donations given to brothers standing on Ho Plaza, Acacia was able to raise over \$500. Now there’s a reason to be jolly!

more important opportunity for us to connect with one another. It was all of these moments, and the many in between. It was gleaming the best even from times of uncertainty and doubt about what were doing, what we thought we should have been doing instead, and who we were doing it with.

At the beginning of our pledge education, Tommy told us that pledge class unity was something that would eventually begin to work its way into our interactions with one another as more and more of ourselves became invested in Acacia. Little did one unprepared pledge know, then, jokingly responding to the question “which ideal, although impossible to define precisely, may be described as ‘brotherhood among pledge brothers?,” that his answer of “beer” would come to change so dramatically. Little did any of us know. Throughout the weeks of pledging we have, together, taken significant steps towards the ideals that guide our fraternity. May there be many unified steps ahead.

## Pledge Progress Report

Senior Dean, Tommy Roth (1115)

With spring break less than a week away and Fraternity Appreciation Week just around the corner, it is surprising how quickly these past six weeks have passed. This year's class is an amazing group of eight guys and it took no fewer than three induction ceremonies to get them all pledged! Without a fall pledge class for practice, this spring's pledge program has been a learning experience for both the pledges and the pledge educator. This was immediately evident when the fire alarm went off during the first Pledge Induction Ceremony, leaving the firemen to wonder why we were all in suits outside. Since then, however, the program has gone much more smoothly.

This year, I chose to start the Big Brother Program within the first three weeks of the pledge program. By starting much earlier, I felt that a much stronger bond could be formed be-

***"This year's class is an amazing group of eight guys, and it took no fewer than three induction ceremonies to get them all pledged!"***

tween big brothers and their respective pledge. The pledges have responded well to starting the program earlier, and so have the big brothers. They also signed a contract between each other and me, requiring they meet at least once a week and that the pledges to seek help from their big as often as possible. This contract was very effective and nearly every pair has stuck with it. I also wanted to sign up big brothers and pledges for the Cornell Ropes Course; however the weather never seemed to be on our side. In the fall, I intend to stress this with the new Senior Dean.

This year's pledge class has done very well. So far, they have scored very well on their quizzes and I believe that they will do very well on the International Exam when the time comes. I can say without a doubt that this year's pledges will make great brothers and look forward to formally welcoming them into the brotherhood in a few weeks.

## Report from the Vaults

Treasurer, Brian Clapp (1100)

Although my hard drive recently crashed and I have yet to recover the backup copy of the ledger, I can confidently report that the finances of the active chapter are in order. I am hoping to save a total of \$50,000 to be put aside for the future by the end of my term as Treasurer in November. This is definitely a plausible goal and former treasurers have done a lot already in terms of saving. Ben Jacoby and Mark Elliot, former treasurers, put a total of \$27,000 into a separate savings account prior to my election to office. I have allocated another \$12,000 from this

semester's budget to the savings account and hope that future treasurers will continue to save part of each semester's income.

The social and rush budgets were expanded this semester and we donated a large amount to the capital campaign to pay for new curtains in the Commons. The old curtains were very dated and we felt they were quite an eyesore. John Koltz and his mother selected new curtains and the brothers installed them prior to Rush week.

It is great to hear of all of the generous alumni donating to our Capital Campaign. The sprinkler system company has been here for the past few

*Continued from page 1*

## Free Rice

eyed kids fed should be enough to appreciate that the FreeRice competition helped reduce world hunger

Furthermore, in addition to feeding people, the charity brawl let its winner choose the recipients of the \$150 accrued from the competition's entry fees. Phi Kappa Tau chose to donate to Hole in the Wall, the world's largest family of camps for children with serious illnesses and life threatening conditions. Subsequently, the brawl simultaneously satisfied two causes.

What's more, as a vocabulary game, FreeRice helps improve players' English. When you get three words correct, not only do you donate 60 grains of rice, you also move up a vocabulary level, thus pushing you to learn more difficult words.



weeks installing the system in the basement. This system, and the other projects the Campaign aims to take on, is a great way to make our house more attractive to friends, dates, and rushees, and the sprinklers will ensure that our home lasts another 100 years.

We have an alumnus who is helping us to buy a new piano for the house because the old one has had a cracked soundboard since before I pledged. Venerable Dean Elie Bilmes and Tyler Huth have been actively shopping for a good piano, with Brother Bilmes calling our seller frequently.

All in all, we are in good shape and we have eight pledges that will make a great addition to our fraternity. I'm living in the house again next year and am looking forward to all of the good times that I will continue to have at Northcote.

## New Acacia Hub

Dean of Technology, Noah Santorello (1124)

Technology evolves at a rapid pace and so does the technology here at Northcote. I became technologist with a few nifty projects in mind; some of them have been completed, and others are still in the queue.

Over winter break, I worked with Tom Balcerski and Steve Stein to make modifications to the Capital Campaign section of our website. We worked out a few quirks here and there and made it a bit easier to use and a lot more intuitive.

During our rush week preparations, I was able to get a house server running. Although it is way too unreliable to host our website, we use it for various other things. We mostly use it as a central hub for transferring files between people in the house. It's a great way to share pictures of our parties and brotherhood events. Over time, we'll develop more uses for this server.

My most recent endeavor was to build a piece of software that automates house cleanup list generation. You can specify a list of brothers and tasks, and limit each task only to select brothers (for the sake of cleaning bathrooms). After choosing a due date for the tasks, simply ask the program to generate your list. It will walk through your data and randomize the tasks, pop open Excel and fill out the spreadsheet accordingly, and then you're set!

To be fair to our current junior steward, my next project entails building similar software for generating crew schedules. After that's finished, I have a few more house improvement tech projects in mind. I won't reveal what they are just yet--you'll have to wait and find out in the next Traveler!



## Northcote

Senior Steward, Jose Arrue (1120)

This semester we have had two events that have changed the house. The first was the massive house clean up we did right before Rush Week in January. The second was the installation of the sprinkler system in all the rooms.

It all started four days before Rush Week started. Thankfully, previous house managers helped me that week and gave me advice on what we should do and how we should do it. I made a list that was based on the list that was used last year. Our tasks ranged from washing the walls to repainting and touching up scratched and faded areas throughout the house. We repainted most of the second floor ceiling and part of the third floor ceiling. We also repainted many of the doors. The kitchen, under the direction of our Junior Steward, Andrew Gross, experienced remarkable change because the cabinets were painted light yellow and the ceiling white.

Every morning, our Venerable Dean (Elie Bilmes) and I would go to the local supermarket to buy breakfast for all the brothers. Breakfast ranged each day from muffins to bagels to eggs on the last day. Everyone was helpful and energetic, which made the week better for all of us. The clean up proved to be difficult and time intensive because we had to make countless trips to the hardware store and get ready before the rushees came.

Right now, the new sprinkler system is being installed all around Northcote. All the brothers definitely feel safer knowing that we now have this system that can protect our lives. We are very thankful that we have alumni who care about the house and about us. The pipes are being painted white to make them match with the ceiling. As each year goes by, Northcote is becoming better and safer. Overall, I am proud of living in Northcote because it's a clean place that I can show to my parents or friends without being embarrassed by its condition.

## Brotherhood

Brotherhood Chairman, Eric Zatz (1121)

Being a student at Cornell is no easy task no matter who you are. Exams, homework assignments, club meetings, jobs, and social lives are all every day activities that require attention outside of Acacia. As a result, it is often difficult to see all of the brothers on a regular basis, especially with a few living out of the full house. Therefore, as Brotherhood Chair this semester, I have been working to have both enjoyable and wide-ranging types of events for everyone to get together, catch up, and just have a good time.

So far this spring we have gone to the local ice rink to play the house-favorite game of Broomball. This was the first Brotherhood event for the spring pledge class to mesh with the brothers outside of the Cornell bubble. Aside from a few bruises, the night went extremely well and hopefully helped the pledge class grow closer to the house. In addition, I have helped plan our annual Superbowl get-together at the house organized movie nights, a St. Patrick's Day celebration, and other smaller events for rush.

Later in the semester, when the weather warms up, I am looking forward to holding the second annual AKAK Cup competition. This is a day-long event the house started last year where brothers are split into teams and compete in various games like basketball, baseball, and Frisbee just for the sake of hanging out and bringing everyone together. The day then closes with a giant barbeque for dinner. Hopefully, it will be another success and a tradition for all future Cornell Acacias to continue.



## Intramurals

Dean of Athletics, Rich Rothman (I107)

It's been a hell of a time being Athletics chair this semester. We've participated in events such as table tennis, badminton, bowling, basketball, and more. With each intramural event, we strengthen our brotherly bonds and reaffirm our stance on good sportsmanship and teamwork. Having lost a few of our most prominent intramural participants, it has been a bit of a struggle to maintain our formerly illustrious position in the wide world of fraternity intramurals, but through hard work and perseverance, we're certainly putting on a good show. Brother Eisenberg even sacrificed his body on the badminton court, leading to a period of crutch-assisted mobility and a handicapped parking pass. We feel for you, Drew! Brothers Zatz and Bilmes also took one (or two) for the team as they

collided heads while perilously diving for an errant basketball during the 3-on-3 intramural event. These are the type of men I would like representing my fraternity on the fields of battle.

On the lighter side of the chair of Athletics, we'll be doing some events beyond just fraternity intramurals. We are signed up to participate in the Co-Recreational Volleyball tournament with members of our house and female friends of brothers. Also, you might remember seeing a photograph in the last Traveller of Brother Norback fending off flying discs of death using an oversized waffle ball bat. This is part of a game called "Moron in the Middle", a fun event involving the "Moron" defending his life and limbs from the attackers

surrounding him. This game, brought to the house by Brothers Norback and Christ, has led to many good times at the Acacia house, which is why I plan on bringing the whole brotherhood out to the Arts quad (when the weather perks up, of course) to have a joint Athletics/Brotherhood event. It is sure to be a dynamite way to strengthen the ties of friendship, and show the campus that we came here to have some good, clean, fun!

We will participate in Softball, Flag Football, Singles Tennis, and a few others in the remaining weeks of the semester. I look forward to more good times as Athletics chair, watching my minions put forth their finest efforts, on the fields where champions are made.



*Brothers and dates at Valentine's Day Formal*

## Seniors ...

**Drew "McCracken" Eisenberg**

The past four years have been the best years of my life. Cornell, Acacia, and the people have made them unforgettable. Acacia has been at the focal point of my social life, between the parties, relaxing in the bar room, or the late night discussions with brothers. As my final semester ends, my future is very hazy but I plan to take some time off traveling and have as much fun as possible before real life begins. First, I plan to live in Las Vegas to play in the World Series of Poker, then travel Europe and Asia with friends and family,

and finally end up in California as a ski instructor. Beyond that, who knows! But what I do know is that Cornell and Acacia have prepared me as an "educated man" to "travel along life's pathway"...

**Yuri "Meatball" Sylvester**

Cornell is finally coming to an end for me, and it surely does taste sour. Even though I already have a job lined up for the fall, I feel overwhelmed about leaving my friends at Cornell, my girlfriend, and brothers at Acacia. Starting in late August, I will be in Chandler, AZ, working for Intel Corporation as a Rotation Engineer. Which is great! After all, Intel has been my dream company since I could bench 1/2 lb. (I am up to 250lb now). As with every other semester, I have loaded up with many classes and extracurricular activities, yet for some reason this particular semester feels...weird. As time goes by and I realize that tomorrow will be the next day I hear the chimes, see the gorges, stay up until 4am in Uris library, eat a "Connie brunch," or go to a Cornell hockey game, I feel like my time here has gone by really fast. I will miss the time I spent with my brothers, every party we conquered, every paddle night we spoiled, every barbecue we devoured, but more importantly, all the help, advice, and support that was given to me by a gracious Acacian while I did time at Cornell. It is my greatest hope to stay forever connected with all my brothers, especially my pledge class. I am an Acacian and I am proud of it!

**Neela "Waldo" Sandal**

I'm ready to leave Cornell but I'm sure I'll miss it! I'm graduating this spring with a degree in Biology and going on to medical school, but I'll always fondly remember my time spent with my fellow Acacians! I don't know exactly where I'll end up (my fiance and I are still trying to choose a location), but I'm looking to move somewhere warm...or at least warmer!

**Eric "Penguin" Fish**

I'm graduating in May with a BS in Animal Science and a minor in Communication. I will be spending the next four years in California at Western Uni-

*Continued on the next page*

versity in vet school. I have lived happily at Northcote for three years and think of it as my "home away from home" in Ithaca. Countless memories with Acacia brothers, whether it was watching movies at Willard Strait, catching lunch at the Ivy Room, or just hanging out in the barroom, defined my time at Cornell. I had the opportunity to serve as Scholarship Chair, Secretary, and Senior Dean during my time here, and was delighted to pass on my knowledge and history to a new generation of young Acacians. I was also involved with the co-ed service club Alpha Phi Omega, where I volunteered at the Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen and the SPCA. I always held down odd-jobs to earn some extra cash, from chemical handler at Baker Labs to tech support for CIT. I've become more adventurous than I was freshman year, growing my hair long and getting a tattoo. I've also become very active politically, and enjoy blogging and free-lance fiction writing. But if I had to sum up all of these varied recollections about my four years on The Hill, it would be that Acacia provided a welcoming community that I enjoyed contributing to, and will miss every member when I have to depart in May. "I am an Acacian, and I am proud of it!"

**Dmitriy "Rasputin" Migdalovich**

I'm graduating with a degree in Biological Sciences and concentrating in Neurobiology and Behavior. Realizing midway through last semester that I could graduate in three years, I decided to take that path and finish up my requirements this semester. I still plan to enroll in medical school in the fall of 2009 and in the interim plan to find a research position for next year to take some time away from studying and further explore some aspect of neurobiology. My years at Cornell have been filled with great memories, especially the times I spent with my brothers, which I will surely miss in the future.

**Chris "Pigpen" Danicic**

I enjoyed my time at Cornell and Acacia and wish I could keep going as a college student. This May, if all runs smoothly, I will be graduating Cornell University with a Bachelors of Science

in Material Science and Engineering and saying goodbye to freezing rain and salt-stained pant legs that come with New York winters to work in materials processing for General Electric in Greenville, SC starting this July. Over the years I have developed an affinity for traveling and plan to travel more once I can actually afford to. Best of Luck to everyone everywhere.

**Seth "Bamm Bamm" Jacobson**

I will be a PhD graduate student at MIT studying planetary science and enjoying Boston. I am an Acacian and proud of it.

**Honor Roll 2007-2008**

Donor

- JOHN ABREHAMSON
- RICHARD B AHLFELD \*
- WILLIAM F AMON III
- THOMAS J BALCERSKI \*
- JEFFREY J BALLYNS
- DAVID M BANFIELD
- CLARENCE F BENT DVM \*
- ROBERT J BERGREN
- MARTIN S CARDINALI
- HANNY A CARP-MARTINOVICI
- RANDY T CLARK
- CHARLES W DEAKYNE \*
- IGOR DOLGALEV
- DAVID R FISCHELL \*
- PAUL B GOLDBERG \*
- STUART S HANTMAN MD \*
- LLOYD A HAYNER
- PAUL N HAYRE \*
- EVAN D HELMSORIG
- BARCLAY H HERSHEY
- BYRON L HING \*
- PAUL C JAMES
- ALAN L JETTE
- MORRIS A JETTE JR.
- CHARLES P KALTER
- WILLIAM L KELTZ
- JOHN L KRAKAUER \*
- LARS A LUNDEEN \*
- JOHN S MALLERY JR.
- MARK F MALTENFORT
- ROMAN MARKH
- HOLLISTER H MOORE \*
- MARY C MYERS PASQUINO \*
- ANDREW S NOLAN \*
- ALAN T PASQUINO \*
- WILLIAM PENDARVIS JR.
- STEVEN H PRINCE
- THOMAS L RICKETTS \*
- JOSHUA D ROTH
- BRUCE G SCHNEIDER \*
- FREDERICK W TIERNEY JR. \*
- DANIEL E TURINSKY
- WARREN E WALKER
- WILLIAM WICKHAM \*
- HOWARD S ZWIEFEL III \*

45 Donors  
20 Brother Tree Leaf recognitions

\* after name indicates Brother Tree leaf recognition

*printing of the  
Traveler  
compliments of*

**Can Do!**  
**Copies & Signs**

Holly Moore '68  
1530 Locust Street  
Philadelphia PA 19102  
(215) 790-1100

— and —



**HollyEats.Com**

**Great Food. Cheap.**

**www.hollyeats.com**  
**hoddymoo@aol.com**



## Alumni Mailbag

William Pendarvis Jr. 1947 (440) [11781 SE 162 Ave., Clackamas, OR 97086-6776] is having fun with Pendarvine Vineyard and Winery. He advises “Count your blessings before you lose count.”

John S. Mallery Jr. 1952 (545) [PO Box 366, Long Lake, NY 12847-0366; [jjmallery@frontiernet.net](mailto:jjmallery@frontiernet.net)] is still enjoying the North Country in the Adirondacks. Besides enjoying their grandchildren’s visits, they play a lot of music gigs around the North Country.

Warren E. Walker 1963 (681) [Gerrit Kasteinweg 2, 2597 NZ Den Haag, Netherlands; [w.e.walker@tudelft.nl](mailto:w.e.walker@tudelft.nl)] retired from RAND in May 2007. He is now a full professor at Delft Univ. Of Technology in the Faculty of Technology, Policy, and Management. He teaches and does research in the field of Policy Analysis (particularly transport policy). Warren has 3 married children and 1 grandchild (1-1/2 old).

Howard Zwiefel 1969 (724) [1926 Glengate Circle, Morrisville, NC 27560; [hzwiefel@yahoo.com](mailto:hzwiefel@yahoo.com)] is now retired and relocated in August from California to North Carolina. On the way, he met Dave Odegaard 1970 (743) in New York and together they traveled to the Centennial. Howie asks “Are there any Acacias in my area?”

Stuart S. Hantman MD 1971 (756) [28 Founders Green, Pittsford, NY 14534-2165; [StuHantman@aol.com](mailto:StuHantman@aol.com)] writes that son, Marc, graduates from St. Thomas Law School, Miami, FL this spring. Daughter, Melissa (Arts & Sciences 2001) and wife, Carol Lee (Hum Ec 1973) recently appeared on national TV (The Morning Show with Mike and Juliet) in a segment on Matchmaking Moms, based on a new book for which Melissa wrote a chapter.

### Chapter Eternal

Owen L. French 1938 (344) - 12/18/2007  
Harold B. Spofford 1940 (368) - 7/2007  
John Woodford 1947 (435) - 10/28/2007

Lars A. Lundeen 1972 (772) [494 Crown Point Rd., Shrewsbury, VT 05738; [l157@cornell.edu](mailto:l157@cornell.edu)] relates that son, Evan, married Amy in July in Killington, VT. They are both teaching at an inner city school in New Orleans, LA. Lars was pleased that Big Brother Dave Trost 1971 (764) and his beautiful wife, Valerie, was able to attend the wedding.

Bruce G. Schneider 1978 (842) [7 Hilly Field Lane, Westport, CT 06880-2916; [bruce@schneiderct.com](mailto:bruce@schneiderct.com)] joined Moody’s Corporation last April. He’s setting up their finance and accounting for worldwide technology.

Patara Yongvanich 1997 (1006) [SAP Thailand Ltd., Liberty Square Building, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, 287 Silom Road, Bangrak, Bangkok 10500 Thailand; [patara.yongvanich@sap.com](mailto:patara.yongvanich@sap.com)] has been promoted to Managing Director of SAP Thailand and is now based in Bangkok. Doing very well with wife, Yayus, and daughter, Amanda.

Thomas J. Balcerski 2005 (1063) [8 Brittany Ct., Ramsey, NJ 07446-1419; [tjb36@cornell.edu](mailto:tjb36@cornell.edu)] has been working intently to raise \$345,000 for the Acacia Capital Campaign. Enjoys working with Brad Ayres 2006 (1070), Dave Klesh 2002 (1037), Preston Shimer 1961 (635), and Jerry Kreider 1968 (720) in addition to a number of other Actives and Alumni. Tom now bowls with Paul Molnar 1998 (1014) in a league where Paul has the high average. He sees other Acacia Class of 2005 Brothers in New York. Cornell Hockey at MSG (Madison Square Garden) was a blast!

Roman Markh 2006 (1072) [2216 E. 15<sup>th</sup> St., Brooklyn, NY 11229; [rm298@cornell.edu](mailto:rm298@cornell.edu)] is currently working as an EMT in New York City, saving lives and serving the community. “Giving Light” by helping people NOT to walk towards the light!

Evan D. Helmsorig 2007 (1079) [880 Route 376, Wappinger Falls, NY 12590; [helmsorig@gmail.com](mailto:helmsorig@gmail.com)] writes that things are good. He got a real job, somehow. Evan visited the house twice in the Fall and will visit again in the Spring. He was expecting to move again soon, so the address might not be current by the time you read this.



ACACIA FRATERNITY  
CORNELL CHAPTER  
318 HIGHLAND ROAD  
ITHACA, NY 14850-2302

Presorted Standard  
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

Ithaca, NY 14850  
Permit No. 780

Change Service Requested



**The Traveler — Cornell Acacia Fraternity**  
**Volume 101, Issue 4 Spring 2008**