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Acacia's Valentine's Day Formal 2012

Rush Week Brings in Nine, Fine Men

Aditya Ramesh

The future of Cornell Acacia looks as bright as ever. In a year in which Greek membership was heavily anticipated to decline due to new, stricter IFC policies and regulations, the active chapter was able to defy this notion and bring in nine quality men. With the addition of the two brothers we pulled in the fall semester, we end this year off with eleven new members! The word "break" was not part of Northcote's vernacular most of rush week; the only time it was used was during the carbash smoker.

For one of the most important weeks for our fraternity, Northcote had to be in tip-top shape. Daily cleanups were organized by Senior Steward Matthew Marano. Brothers Skiff and Ray had envisioned a new color scheme for the bar room. They presented their vision to the brothers of the house, and there was unanimous accord. These two brothers led the actives on the painting projects. Painting projects included the commons, dining room,

Skiff's room, and of course the bar room. Junior Steward Matthew Miller ensured that our fantastic cook Carol had a clean kitchen and the equipment necessary to impress rushees with a little taste of that Acacia cuisine we all know and love. During smokers, food was gobbled up within minutes, which can only be attributed to Carol's immense knowledge of the culinary arts.

On the Saturday prior to the start of rush week, brother alumni Richard Rothman, Brian Cannon, and John Ertl, graciously returned to Northcote to give the active chapter a rush week workshop. This organized and well-structured program set the tone for what the active chapter had to expect for the week to come. Their tips and suggestions proved to be an invaluable asset to us as we headed into rush week, which was the first rush week on the other side for me and other members of the spring 2011 pledge class. At week's end we

(Continued on page 12)



Spring 2012 Chapter Roster

Editor: Kenneth Holstad

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

www.cornellacacia.org
acacia@cornell.edu

This current *Traveler*, along with past issues, can be found in the Publications section of 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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A Message From Our Corporation Board President

The 2011-2012 Fiscal Year is nearly over, and we have completed a number of projects. Two custom bookcases/display cases were installed in the former steam radiator enclosures in the front foyer and Living Room (\$9,844 including asbestos removal, all of which has been paid from our AFF account). The Chapter Room has been completely renovated (including all new lighting (low voltage recessed lights and 3 pendant lights all controlled with dimmer switches, in-floor electrical outlets to power conference table, lighting in two book/display cases which now each have a glass shelf) and the woodwork restored to its former glory (total cost over \$30,000, all of which has been paid from our AFF account). The piano has been refinished as well (also paid from our AFF account).

Last fall we had a lot of trees removed and trimmed (some of which were for the parking lot project and others were for preventative maintenance (\$18,900). Tree stumps were removed from parking lot area (\$2,500) in preparation for expanding and paving the lot (that project is on hold). The flagstone patio outside the Living Room door was replaced (\$2,500). We had a sidewalk poured to the new recyclables shed (\$1,500). Heat tape was installed (which required 4 new electrical circuits) on the roof and in eaves troughs and downspouts (\$4,400) to prevent ice buildup. The second floor thermostat was relocated to better balance heating on the floor. New electrical outlets were installed in bar room along front wall (\$453). Picture rails (on which composite photos are now hung) were installed in Wing Hallway (\$1,650). Beginning during Winter Break, we had all five dining room tables completely rebuilt (\$2,300) and they will hopefully last at least another 20 years.

We will now focus our efforts toward sprucing up Acacia's exterior. This spring, the stucco will be repaired and painted (\$5,000) and the woodwork will be stained (\$2,000). The landscaping will be addressed, including removal of old and unsightly yew bushes, planting new shrubs, plants, and flowers, and reseeding the lawn which was torn up by heavy equipment during the tree removal project. We'll be getting estimates for the landscaping in the next couple of weeks.

Please remember that neither the Capital Campaign nor Acacia's list of capital improvements is over. Please help us reach/exceed our \$345K Capital Campaign goal! We are relatively close to reaching our goal, and if each of you contributes even a small amount, we can end our Capital Campaign on a high note.

Although we are about to complete the final year 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. Cornell Acacia has a group of extremely dedicated, caring, and generous alumni who have already contributed to our Capital Campaign. For this, we are extremely grateful. But, we need an influx of new contributors to reach our Capital Campaign goal, and those who do contribute should not forget their annual dues obligation.

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

Venerably Speaking Alex Yu

As fraternity life everywhere continues to come under attack by critics, Cornell administration has taken it upon itself to take the lead in revamping the Greek system. President Skorton, having imposed the "four-quarter" system, asks more from IFC: to fight hazing and to reshape pledging altogether, but for the better. He views the new pledging process to be one without hazing, and one with increasing respect and honor, and of course brotherhood. Perhaps President Skorton does not know that Acacia's pledging process already holds to his standard. Along with the new Executive Board, Cornell Acacia will continue to evaluate the entire process as a whole, to improve any areas that can need attention and to continue the process that shapes the pledges of today into the brothers of tomorrow.

Nonetheless, the IFC Executive Officers have responded back, and with the solid support of the many fraternities in the IFC, we took it upon ourselves to revamp our system as a whole, focusing on the judicial framework. Judicial sanctions for breaking rules have been given out more frequently and with harsher punishments, inhibiting reckless behavior. The resolutions that we initiated allowed for more awareness in the community as a whole, recognizing that the root problem was not from the Greek community, but rather from high risk behavior that occurs when individuals are not monitored. As such, the IFC has passed a 20-5-5 resolution, a resolution that focuses on punishing chapters for high-risk behavior in the third

quarter, especially actions involving hard alcohol and liquor.

Thus, it would not come as a surprise that with new resolutions and outside pressures on the Greek system, recruitment efforts were put through different mediums this year. Rather than holding functions for freshmen and sophomores like previous years, we have begun to reach out to prospective members through a plethora of other events, such as Greek-promotion events, sports activities, philanthropy functions, and more. Our efforts paid off, resulting in nine dedicated pledges for this spring. These young men bring innovation and spirit, qualities that will greatly benefit Cornell Acacia.

Acacia's Northcote continues to strive and flourish, thanks to our dedicated Corporation Board, headed by Steve Stein. Additionally, Brother Alumnus Thomas Balcerski continues his efforts in the Centennial Capital Campaign, finally having completed the newest of improvements: a hard-wood conference table accompanied by a set of ten captain's chairs. On top of these recent improvements, Northcote's Chapter Room is still undergoing improve-

ments funded by the AFF: improved lighting to encourage actives to use the room more often, and improved displays for historical documents and other items.

The Greek system continues to come under attack by critics everywhere, but I believe that we, Acacia included, are in a position to meet these challenges head-on. With the generosity and support of our alumni, and the energy and enthusiasm of the active brotherhood, I am certain that Acacia is well-set on its course for continued success. I am an Acacian, and I am proud of it!



Brothers Lin, Yu, and Cruz having a good time after Winter Formal.

Preparing Future Acacians *Wybren de Vries*



*Above: Pledges performing their song at the Valentine's formal
Below: Pledges with sisters from Delta Gamma*

Winter in Ithaca has been an odd one this year. Where usually the snow manages to pile itself in places you would never expect it, this winter's shortage in snowfall must have set some kind of record. But the distinct lack of solid state water did not disturb our chapter operations, and I'm very happy to announce that the steady expansion of Cornell Acacia has continued this year with nine excellent pledges.

When I was first elected as the Senior Dean, I was excited to implement our pledging program and educate new Acacians. What I did not realize at the time, though, was that the pledging experience as the Senior Dean is a whole new experience in itself, one that allowed me to get the closest look possible of the implementer's side of the

program our new members go through, and learn about the purpose and significance of all the events. For example, as a pledge I loved the Valentine's Day assignment of going around to all eleven sorority houses, delivering candy and serenading them. The girls loved it and it improved our sorority relations, but most importantly, it was a great way for our pledge class to bond as we prepared and rehearsed our song. It was that day that our pledge class became a tight group instead of eleven individuals. Sure enough, when our current pledge class returned from singing their beautiful rendition of *Teenage Dream* by Katy Perry (which even had its own trumpet solo) to the sorority girls, their transformation was nothing short of astonishing. In the time span of just a few days, they had transformed from a group of students who barely

knew each other into a tightly knit group that hangs out and has fun together as though they have been best friends for years.

Seeing the transition our new pledges go through made me think about this time last year, when it was a part of my duties as Pledge Class President to write an article for the traveler about my experiences and thoughts on the future of our brotherhood. Back then, I wrote about how I hoped that the diversity and different backgrounds of our pledges would enrich our fraternity and teach the brothers about what the world is like in different places. A year later, it gives me nothing but pleasure to share how happy I am with the knowledge I have shared with my fellow actives and the knowledge I have received in turn. It's clear that all of the students that pass through our house will always leave having learned about life from their brothers. With pledges hailing from as far as Singapore and as close as New York state, I am absolutely certain that this wonderful tradition will carry on, and that the future of our fraternity is a bright one.



On the Path to Brotherhood Sho Iketani

When I was asked to write an article as Pledge Class President, I was, at first, slightly lost and a bit nervous at what exactly I should write. Especially given that it was for a publication that hundreds of alumni read, I felt like I had to write it just right, or risk embarrassment. So, given my nature, I proceeded to read through several of the latest issues of *The Traveler* to find out what past pledge class presidents have written about.

As I read through the past editions of *The Traveler*, I could not help but read through the other articles as well. It was to my great enjoyment to discover that many of the brothers that I look up to started out as tiny little pledges like us (though, I suppose this is an obvious fact). Yet seeing the presence they hold now in the house, each with their own niche and role they fulfill in Cornell Acacia, it calmed me to know that we too, as pledges, will be able to eventually fill in a role required by the fraternity.

The pledge process was a bit daunting at first, but it was definitely something that we grew accustomed to, as our Senior Dean told us it would. From learning the history to memorizing what must be memorized, gathering together each week for the purposes of pledge education became enjoyable and something to look forward to. I did not believe nine men could suddenly gather together and become close, but I believe I speak for everyone when I say that we are a tight-knit pledge class. I always look forward to the next pledge event around the corner.

Going back to *The Traveler*, something else that I could not help but notice was through the many years, what did not change was the fun and sense of brotherhood present in all of the articles. It is my dearest hope that we, too, as a pledge class, can enjoy such a similar experience, and that one day, we too become an integral part of the triangle as well.

Meet the Members of the Spring 2012 Pledge Class

Sho Iketani (“Hideki”)

Cupertino, California
Biological Sciences, Economics

Hello, I'm Sho. Most people know my hometown given the fact that Apple headquarters is there, and most people know that California is a gloriously warm



and sunny place. They're right on both counts, and as such, yes, I can walk to Apple headquarters from my house in about five minutes, and yes, the snow in Ithaca is frigid and I strongly dislike it. However, despite the weather, I still enjoy Cornell very much, and I am looking forward to

my four years here. I'm currently planning on studying Biology and Economics (Why the two? You'll have to ask me). Outside of classes and the studying that I never do but I should do, I enjoy bowling, being active in JUSA, and hanging out at Acacia.

Andrew Park (“Red Solo Cup”)

Chappaqua, New York
Biological Engineering

Andrew is a freshman in the College of Engineering. He is studying Biological Engineering and pre-medicine and expects to have minors in Biomedical Engineering and Spanish. Andrew is involved with the Big Red Marching Band and Pep Band, Wind Symphony and races for the Alpine

Ski Team. He is an avid Michigan Wolverines fan (Go Blue!) and is often scolded for his lack of interest in Cornell athletics (who watches Ivy League football anyway?).

Andrew hopes to better both the fraternity and himself during his time in Acacia, and is really looking forward to the next three years in the brotherhood.

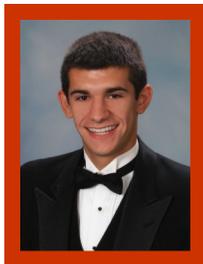


Tom Schultz (“Alan Sadar”)

Holtsville, New York
Mechanical Engineering

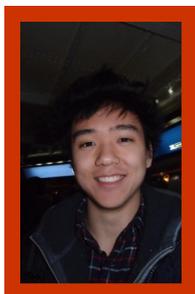
Thomas Schultz is a Freshman in the College of Engineering. He is a

Mechanical Engineering major hailing from Holtsville, New York. Some of his hobbies include working out, playing a multitude of different sports, and running. Tom is looking forward to joining Acacia as an active and making the best out of his next three years at Cornell.



Michael Wang (“Richard Nixon”)
Reading, Massachusetts
Computer Science

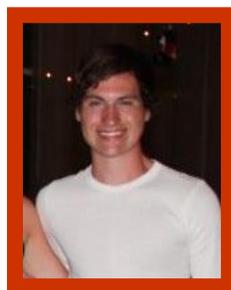
Mike is currently a freshman majoring in Computer science in the College of Engineering. He is looking to develop an understanding of AI and someday create some mind blowing technology. Having grown up near Boston, Mike has grown to love lobster, skiing, and meeting people from everywhere, even Canada. He hopes to travel the world some time and see what this humble hunk of rock has to offer, the top of the list being Australia while the reefs are still glorious. In the despairingly little free time he has, he enjoys spending time with friends, running, soccer, gaming, and playing music. Mike looks forward to fostering years of brotherly and personal growth as well as doing stupid funny stuff during his time in Acacia.



Samuel Klarich (“and Johnson”)
St. Louis, Missouri
Industrial and Labor Relations

Samuel Klarich is currently a transfer Junior to Industrial and Labor Relations from St. Louis Community College. As such, his major is ILR, so he will gladly represent any and all grievances and complaints in your workplace. Despite popular opinion, Sam is not from "the country." Yes, St. Louis is a city. Having grown up in Missouri, his loyalty lies

with Missouri athletics. His hobbies include: running (not from anything, just recreational), Cornell Debate (will argue for money), and sleeping (whenever possible). He looks forward to graduating and proceeding to Law School (thus, his lack of shame about "arguing for money"). He aspires to be happy, and wishes for everyone to join with him.



Neil Parker (“Dr. Feelgood”)
Elmira, New York
Environmental Engineering

Hey, I'm Neil Parker and I am from Elmira, New York. You may have heard of it since it's rather close to Cornell. I've just started as a freshman at Cornell studying Environmental Engineering. When I am not forcing myself to study and go to classes, I enjoy bike riding, hanging out with friends, and playing video games. I hope that Acacia will bring even more enjoyment to my college experience.



John Fan (“Midgetler, Alpha Commander of the Midget Capture and Strike Association”)
Shenzhen, China
Physics

John "MotherXXXXing" Fan is an international student from China. Well, don't make fun of his last name because "Fan" doesn't sound like "Fan" at all in Chinese. He loves lifting and hip-pop music, and still believes he plays the piano, although it's been a while since he last sat down



and practiced. He is very interested in Hans Zimmer's music recently and would love to talk about it with anyone that's interested. He loves physics, although it can be a pain sometimes.

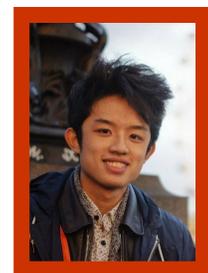
Noah Weingart (“The Help”)
Westport, Connecticut
Applied and Engineering Physics

Noah is an AEP Major minoring in either Computer Science or Theatre. Outside of his academic life, he enjoys working in technical theatre as a scene carpenter and is a member of the Violet Satellite project team. He also enjoys running and exploring different genres of music. Although he is currently a student in the Cornell's College of Engineering, he is unsure of his future plans beyond getting a Ph.D. in some sort of Physics.



Shane Soh (“Johnny Bravo”)
Singapore, Singapore
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Shane Soh is an Electrical and Computer Engineering major from Singapore. He will likely also choose to minor in Computer Science or a related field. Although he is a freshman, he is already 21 due to his mandated service period with the military. Shane is looking forward to the times at Acacia, and is excited for his next three years as a part of the brotherhood.



Farewell, Seniors of 2012

With the arrival of every new pledge class comes the departing of an established class of brothers. The conclusion of the active portion of an Acacian's career only signifies the beginning of one's journey. Let us wish these gentlemen the best as they travel upon life's pathway.

Fred Ballyns

Being part of Acacia has been a tremendous joy. Although things were different this last year with me being the only live in alumnus, I still enjoyed interacting with the active chapter. Reflecting over the years I remember how there have been sweeping waves of food fads starting with garlic bread and continuing to massive amounts of eggs, hot Five Star sandwiches, the quick rise and fall of quesadillas, the fried food addiction, the craving for a high protein diet, and now the ice coffee dependency. The details may change over the years, but the memories of enjoying each other's company lives on. "Stuff" happens, enough said.

I plan to complete my M.Eng in Systems Engineering this coming May which will conclude my five year journey at Cornell. Since it is my last year in school, I decided to take several fun courses that include Culinary Theory and Practice, Wilderness Survival Skills, Basic Orienteering, and Basic Marksmanship. As for my future career path, I am still searching for a job. I will look back on my memories here fondly.

Charles Hernandez

As a second semester senior I've been trying to take it easy and really enjoy the semester. Unfortunately I have 23 credits and it is not so easy to relax with 23 credits. I'm preparing to do the one-year MEng program at Cornell,

so hopefully the real relaxation will come next year. In either case, I'm really proud of the upcoming pledge class, and I look forward to living with them next year as a fifth year active member of Acacia, as I finish off my time at Cornell. I don't think I will be alone either. Another senior, Justin, will likely be joining me for another year at Cornell. So I will be holding off my good-byes and anecdotal pieces of senior wisdom for next year, but I'll always remember the times my graduating pledge brothers and I shared together.

Norton Wang

Despite having been a brother at Acacia for only three years, I have had an awesome time and have had many great experiences. Upon graduation I hope to have a job in software engineering, but I am still in the process of looking for one and have been for the past few months. I will most likely go where the job takes me, whether New York City or the west coast or even back to Ithaca. Until then, I will enjoy my last remaining days as an active and as a senior doing what I always do: enjoying life and making iced coffee.

Justin Burden

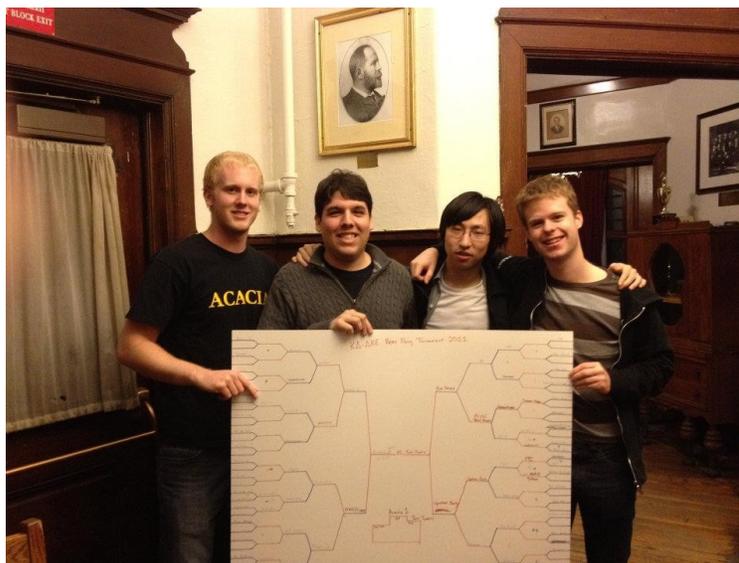
As my final semester as an undergraduate comes to an end, I am hoping to remain in Ithaca for one more year, depending on my acceptance, and obtain a Master of Professional Studies in Information Science at Cornell. It would be great to be able to help out the active chapter for one more year and to enjoy some more good times at Northcote. Regardless of whether I stay for one more year or not, I will surely miss my times as an active member.

Intramural Champions Justin Burden

The last sport of the fall semester intramural season was the no-tap bowling tournament. Alex Yu and I competed in the tournament and fell short of the championship, losing in the semifinals to ZBT. The first sport in the spring was basketball. After being placed in a difficult pool for the season, the team finished with a 1-4 record, winning against FIJI. The team roster was myself, Richard Corrales, Teddy Ni, Alex Pan, Adi Ramesh, Jet Zheng, and Tom Schultz. The bowling team in the spring took home first place overall in pool play and in the tournament. The team consisted of myself, Alex Yu, Teddy Ni, and Kenny Holstad. Brother Holstad was sick for the playoff tournament, so pledge Sho Iketani substituted for him. The championship game came down to the tenth frame, with Acacia winning by 15 pins over TEP.

We look to compete in softball this spring after having softball can-

celled completely because of rain last year, and possibly in other sports such as tennis and badminton.



Brothers Burden, Corrales, Ni, and de Vries pose with the bracket of a philanthropy pong tournament won by Burden and Corrales

Farewell, Seniors of 2012 (continued)

Richard Corrales

As a senior, I have bittersweet feelings about leaving Cornell. Sure the exams were tough and I had more stress than I knew what to do with at times, but there were so many great memories to balance it all out. I have brothers in ACACIA whom I know I will keep in contact with and remain great friends, even if we are going to be on opposite coasts (you know who you are) or in the same tri-state area. ACACIA made my college experience enjoyable, and I loved every second of it. I look forward to being an active alumnus and coming back to campus frequently to keep in contact

with the active chapter.

So what am I doing next year? Right now I'm just going through the long process of applying to jobs and doing schoolwork (hoping to end Cornell on a high note). I will be applying to jobs in NYC, Boston, and D.C., and will connect with any ACACIA alumni that happen to be in those areas. I am hoping to secure a job prior to graduation, though if that doesn't happen, I will be spending my summer job searching. I have considered graduate school, though I would take at least a year off before applying (I've had enough school for now). The future

is not certain, but then again, it never is.

Theodore Ni

When I was a freshman who had no understanding of what fraternity life was, I discovered Acacia almost by accident. Becoming an Acacian, however, turned out to be the best decision I could have made. Four years have passed entirely too quickly, during which I have gained wisdom and maturity. Most importantly, I have been able to enjoy a richness and variety of experiences at Cornell, in the company of my brothers, which will stay in my

(Continued on page 16)

Both Inside and Out Matthew Marano

I will admit that I did not particularly want to be the senior steward again. While it is a very rewarding job, at times it can be both difficult and frustrating. However, it was necessary to take the reins as senior steward once more, mostly because no one else wanted the position. Looking with trepidation at another semester of stewardship, I took solace in the fact that I had already successfully done it once. I had an entire semester of experience this time around and so I would not have to face the challenge of learning how things are done, nor would I be confounded by problems that I had already faced and solved last semester.

One of those problems had been the issue of closet space. Many of the closets had been cleaned out, and I am proud to say that they remain mostly organized and far less cluttered. Even the heavily abused first floor closet under the stairs leading to the chapter room is usually under control now. Following the theme of reducing clutter and opening up space, the new storage shed by the service entrance has been instrumental in keeping recyclable refuse out of the way. The pantry is no longer filled with cardboard boxes, and the service entrance hallway is no longer impassable due to countless cans and boundless bottles. The final notable improvement along this vein is the reclamation of the second floor office, which finally does not look like a storage closet in and of itself. It is possible to work in there now, and it makes an excellent home for important files, documents, and the extremely useful server.

Rounding out the varied improvements made to the inside of

the house, the bar room had been painted in preparation for rush week near the end of winter break. Painting the room was an enjoyable experience, especially when there were a large number of brothers helping out. The master interior design team of David Skiff and Charles Ray decided on a plan to split the room into three sections and paint the room as such with three separate colors. Now the mood in the room is more pleasant and the room feels much more open than before, which is definitely a positive change where larger gatherings and parties are concerned.

The theme of much of the recent progress, in contrast to the many interior improvements, is to work on the outside of the house. Aside from the previously mentioned shed by the service entrance, another addition to the area is a new propane powered grill to be used for barbeque events and the like during the short time of the year when Ithaca weather is actually pleasant. On the other side of the house, much progress has been made around the parking lot. Electricity had been wired to the parking lot shed and the important parking lot illumination, as well as outlets near the barbeque pit. Much of the junk in and around the shed has finally been removed in what I can only describe as the largest residential bulk trash pickup pile I

have ever seen. Upwards of thirty trees were removed in order to widen the parking lot entrance, as well as to prevent the possibility of a precariously placed perennial from plummeting onto our place of residence. The tree removal was also part of a larger plan to pave the driveway, but this endeavor had to be postponed due to budgeting constraints. I certainly hope that I get to see this project started in the future.

I greatly enjoy being a part of the continual improvement process that Northcote experiences, and it makes me happy to see my efforts paying off. Being the senior steward is stressful, but ultimately a very satisfying position. If you asked me whether or not I enjoyed the experience then I would probably tell you that I did in fact enjoy it. However, I believe that this will (thankfully) be my last semester as senior steward. I will look back upon my experiences with fond memories, but now I look forward to training and next senior steward, whoever he may be, and helping him outdo the accomplishments that took place during my tenure.

Below: Northcote's backyard in the middle of the tree clearing for the parking lot project



In Spite of Challenges, Financial Outlook Remains Positive Gabriel Torres

The previous fall brought about a change in leadership for the 2011-2012 year, and I am proud to be succeeding David Skiff as the new Treasurer of our beloved Acacia Fraternity. I am Gabriel Torres, a junior Chemical Engineer and have had my eye on this position since I was but a wee pledge. After a couple years of maturing within Northcote, I am ready to tackle the challenges of managing the chapter's finances.

The year began with a rocky start in terms of our checkbook. With the departure of a few brothers due to early graduation and other reasons, the income for this semester was lower than typically enjoyed by the brotherhood. Our savings have taken their toll from investing in improvements across the house and from vigorous rush efforts. As a result, the house budget had to be re-arranged with two goals in mind. The first obviously is to shift priorities in program expenditures to make ends meet and maintain ourselves in the black each

semester, as is traditionally done. The second is to continue to divert funds back into savings for future rainy days, new projects and ensure financial stability. A much resisted but ultimately mature and necessary decision was made to decrease social expenditures by a significant percentage to achieve these goals. Another decision was made to put investing on new projects on hold for this semester.

While to some this may seem like gloom and doom reflective of the economy at large, in reality the budget cuts have not negatively affected the actives. The restricted budget has challenged Junior Dean Jovanny Fuentes and Brotherhood Chair Jared Leventhal to continue to keep the house involved with each other and the community in which we reside in new ways. I am proud to say that they have exhibited creative leadership and teamwork; they have in fact increased social events, while still remaining faithful to their budgets. With new IFC regulations proscribing phasing

out large events with freshmen in mind, it is no longer necessary to finance such events and as a result the cuts are barely felt by the brotherhood.

Although I cannot promise large investments from the Actives' budget in big-ticket items such as the beloved ice machine or propane grill from previous semesters for spring 2012, we remain committed to seeing through our promise to completing our pledge of \$10,000 to the Centennial Capital Campaign. The radical and exciting improvements to the Chapter Room of late provide a lovely environment for check writing and bookkeeping. As tax filing looms over the horizon, I know I have the new Chapter Room as an environment conducive to proper form filing.

As us actives continue to work hard towards our school work and forming a better brotherhood, our financial situation will continue to improve dramatically under our new leadership.

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.

Brothers Reap the Benefits of Rush

(Continued from page 1)

greeted eight prospective brothers, who are reaching new heights and setting new precedents as they make their way towards active membership.

Rush week commenced on Tuesday, January 17 with Meet the Greeks, which was highly successful event and gave us the opportunity to meet countless number of freshmen and gauge interest levels in prospective Greek members. Our first smoker, Flavor Trippin' was that same night, and it was great fun for brothers and prospective Greeks alike. Rush week was only getting sweeter. The next day entailed a carbash smoker, which was the most highly attended smoker in years. There were over thirty freshmen present for this high profile event, and it created great momentum for us as the week progressed. The following day we had our annual trip to Action Sports Park for paintball, but not without keeping up with Acacia traditions and stopping at Garcia's Mexican Restaurant on the way. The pivotal Friday of rush week we brought back for the second year a fellow Acacian, professional Hypnotist Dough MacCraw. Doug performed and entertained the masses after we all had Carol's home-made brunch. Every chair that was set up in the din-

ing room was filled. Laughter ensued throughout the duration of the smoker. It was a huge success. Then on Saturday came our invite-only expedition to Syracuse and Turning Stone Casino. The freshmen put on their poker faces and went inside with high hopes. One freshman went home sixty dollars richer! After the casino, we went to Syracuse Acacia for an after party, which enabled freshmen to get a better picture for what Acacia is like in other universities. Rush week ended the following day with the Bid Dinner at Madeline's restaurant.

Rush did not stop there, however. Thanks to the vigilant eyes of brother alumnus Thomas Balcerski and brother Charles Ray, we were



Above: Brothers and rushees pose atop the aftermath of the Car Bash.

able to add one more member to the spring pledge class during the late rush period. At the end of formal recruitment, I am excited to follow nine new prospective members as they go through the pledging process. They are highly talented and motivated individuals who without a doubt in my mind will better our fraternity's record.

Human Service Richard Corrales

Our chapter has been living up to ACACIA's motto of human service this past year. Last semester we held a two-day long event "Santa's College Days" and teamed up with the sorority Pi Beta Phi. This occurred during the last week of classes. We had brothers dress up as Santa Claus; the sorority dressed up as elves; and we sold hot chocolate, candy canes, and raffle tickets. Students also took pictures with Santa,

and we emailed the pictures to them. The event was a huge success, and we raised over \$400 dollars for The Elves Program, a charity that provides Christmas presents for underprivileged families.

Our house also donated money to the school Steve Stein's wife's works at (Boynton Middle School) to provide families with a holiday dinner. Our donation was able to provide a holiday dinner for 25 students

and their families, and our chapter was happy to make the holidays of others special, especially during tough economic times.

In the coming semester we will be having our 5K for heart philanthropy in early May. Any alumni are welcomed to come back and participate in the event to raise money for cardiac care. The event was a success last year and we hope we can make it even better this year!

A Brotherhood United

Jared Leventhal

It's been an incredible experience for me to serve as brotherhood chair. I have done my best to create fun, nonalcoholic events, curtail the "clique problem," and improve attendance at the events. And I am happy to say that I have been largely successful.

One very fun event was the Harold and Kumar 3D Movie night. Almost every brother attended and quite a few rushees went as well. Another event was bowling night. Some brothers like Charlie Hernandez, Kenny Holstad, and Justin Burden were playing competitively, while others like Matt Miller, Santiago Cruz, Phil Lin, Norton Wang, and myself were troll bowling. Poker Night with 14 brothers and pledges was also quite a success. Hustler pledge Sho Iketani won first place, Sunho Seo won second place, and Ian de Vries won third place. Partying with brothers alumni Brian Cannon, Rich Rothman, and John Ertl during Rush Week was awesome. Forever, the song "Marry the Night" will be

associated with that night. The pledges threw a good social event, and Richie Corrales hosted an amazing traditional St. Patrick's Day event.

After Spring Break, there will be several brotherhood happenings. Since the weather has been nice, we will be having barbeques in our newly furnished backyard barbeque pit. Brother David Skiff will be leading daily P90X workout classes. There has been a temporary hiatus after Syracuse (per tradition) stole the pull-up bar, but Skiff announced that P90X at Acacia is back. Also, per popular request, the pool table is going to be used a lot more this semester. Brothers are quite excited about the upcoming pool bracket.

The Brother of the Month award was given to Norton Wang for greatly increased participation in the



Brothers, Pledges, and Rushees pose after an enjoyable night of bowling

brotherhood, innovative ideas for events, helping with setting up the poker tournament and pool bracket, and for creating the official Acacia lineage tree. Wang received a pocket Swiss army knife and car jumper cables courtesy of brother alumnus Elie Track. T.L.D.R. Brotherhood is Awesome! Leggo.

Acacia's Social Standing Continues to Improve

Jovanny Fuentes

The social aspect of the fraternity is going as strong as ever. We had our Valentine formal at Lucatelli's Ristorante, where the new spring pledge class serenaded brothers and their dates with their performance of "Teenage Dream" (originally performed by Katy Perry). The performance had everyone very impressed and excited to have the pledges perform this song at the sororities on Valentine's Day. The formal concluded back at the house with a dessert bar prepared

by our very own chef, which consisted of molten chocolate lava cake, a variety of cheesecakes, and even a flowing chocolate fondue fountain. All of the guests were thoroughly pleased with the musical performance, delicious food, and eloquently presented dessert. Most impressive of all, the fondue fountain was completely cleaned off for pickup the next morning.

The brotherhood also hosted a St. Patrick's day event just before spring break in order to celebrate a

strong academic performance thus far this semester.

A major event to come in the future is a wine tour of the Keuka Lakes, preceded by a brunch at Acacia, with the girls from Kappa Delta. Spring formal is also in the works, and the thoughts of a boat cruise on Cayuga lake has strong support from the brotherhood and would make for a truly exciting spring formal to match the "gorges" weather that Ithaca has been providing us so early in the year.



Alumni Mailbag

William Pendarvis, Jr. 1947 (440) [11781 SE 162 Ave., Clackamas, OR 97086-6776] keeps busy with vineyard and winery. He was also hosting music festival, PakAthon.com.

William C. Burnett 1953 (490) [11 South Helderberg Pkwy., Slingerlands, NY 12159-9742] has talked with both Joe Wilford 1952 (497) and David Hower 1952 (526) since July 4. He participated in a two day drive with the Porsche Club, NY Metro Region at The Glen. Bill had been hospitalized numerous times during the summer, but is now on the mend after excess fluid was drained from his head.

John R. Pakan 1953 (524) [334 Falesco Ln., Matthews, NC 28105-1627] is enjoying his 86th year. John and wife, Marge, enjoy the sunny south. He is glad to hear that Northcote is continuing to be improved and urges us to keep up the good work.

David J. Hower 1952 (526) [187 Lookout Lane, Willow Grove, PA 19090-1633; djhower@verizon.net] has read The History of Acacia at Cornell and feels that a major item was left out. Acacia had a great influence on the Big Red Band. In 1951, Larry Phillips 1955 (559) was the drum major, Wally Rich 1951 (523) played tuba, Richard Davis 1953 (533) played tenor sax, Jim Freeman 1955 (548) played trombone, and Dave was Band Manager and played baritone sax. The following year, Dick Davis was Co-Manager of the Band.

James M. Symons 1954 (534) [Rosedale Golf & Country Club, 4942 88th St. East, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34211-3730; dr.water@alum.mit.edu] and wife, Joan, have been traveling extensively since he retired from U of Houston in 1997. Pictures from 29 of their trips are posted on the internet at <http://dr-water.us/symonslinks/Links.html> and the home page lists the destinations of their trips. To view an image, scroll down and click on the destination. A picture of Joan and James in Moscow and their Florida home appear on the bottom of the home page.

Frank F. Tetz 1955 (554) [16 Donegal Way, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-7500; fftetz@aol.com] had a chance meeting in Saratoga Springs with Dave Riebel 1957 (588) who recognized Frank after 50 years! Since then, he has enjoyed a 4th of July outing at the fabulous farm of Dave and his wife, Joan. Dave is practicing law in Clifton Park, NY.

Dr. Roger D. Soloway 1957 (589) [2926 Dominique Dr., Galveston, TX 77551-1571] has been invited to return as visiting professor at Peking University, Beijing, China for the 7th time. Roger will be joined by his wife, Marilyn. He hears from John Male 1958 (600), Robert Fash 1958 (594), and Martin Offenberger 1956 (568).

Richard F. Heine Jr. 1961 (630) [13401 Hidden Cove Lane, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110-4211; gottlieb@comcast.net] has recently travelled to the Tetons, Yellowstone, Canadian Rockies (Jasper, Banff, Lake Louise, Revelstoke), Washington DC, and Annapolis, MD. He remains active in music (several groups, including Bainbridge Symphony and Bremerton Symphony). Cindy is very active with her artwork and recently held a show focused on 20 of her watercolors and acrylic abstracts.

Stewart L Burger 1970 (738) [2509 Camden Dr., Ames, IA 50010-3956; stewartb22@mchsi.com] has moved. He hopes to be in Ithaca sometime next Fall.

Robert C Merritt 1975 (807) [PO Box 279, Auburn, NY 13021-0279; bob@simplexco.com] added a 1935 Chrysler Imperial Airflow (Art-Deco on wheels) to his collection.

Christopher P Deane 1983 (908) [304 N Addison Ave., Elmhurst, IL 60126-2306; chris.deane@fhp-ww.com] took new role as General Manager Product Supply Asia Pacific region at Freudenberg Household Products. He now spends 75% of his time in China and South East Asia. Quite an exciting change and challenge!

Paul Molnar 1998 (1014) [232E Springmeadow Dr., Holbrook, NY 11741; pgm1014@optonline.net] is currently working as a Senior Engineer for Telephonics Corporation. He has been travelling extensively through the Southwest for his current project. Paul is engaged to the lovely Mary Joy Garcisto, and they will be married on 9/8/2012 on Long Island.

Joshua D. Roth 2003 (1049) [220 Riverside Blvd., Apt. 6C, New York, NY 10069-1004; joshual.roth@hotmail.com] and wife welcomed a baby boy, Jacob Samuel, into their family on 10/19/2011. Jake weighed in at 8 pounds, 2 ounces and is looking forward to visiting Ithaca with his parents for the Centennial+5 in August.

Peter Rimshnick 2005 (1060) [726 Willow Ave., Apt 3, Hoboken, NJ 07030; pmr29@cornell.edu] got engaged last April and is getting married this June. Pete recently got a job at IBM Research doing applied computer science and operations research work, which has been fun. Enjoyed seeing everyone at Homecoming.

Roman Markh 2006 (1072) [2216 E. 15th St., Brooklyn, NY 11229; rm298@cornell.edu] earned his masters degree in the Emergency Room. He was looking forward to the 2nd Annual Four Loko Reunion in Baltimore in October.

Shu Song 2009 (1122) [540 Main St., #138, New York, NY 10044-0115; ss559@cornell.edu] is so pleased to hear that the Chapter Room was being renovated. Shu can't wait to see the new conference table and chairs. They will make the room look more professional and should be the primary meeting place in the house.

Thomas B. Kozakiewicz 2011 (1131) [8439 Oakton Lane 3B, Ellicott City, MD 21043; tbk26@cornell.edu] got a job at RJM Engineering based out of Ellicott City, MD and was moving

Chapter Eternal

Ira Youngdahl '53 (520)
2/28/2009

Hans "Pete" Schonenberg '52 (535)
6/14/2009

Alumni Honor Roll 2011-2012

Donor	Roll	Class	Pledge
Bradley J Ayres *	(1070)	2006	2003
Kenneth Jay Ayres, Jr.	(1052)	2004	2001
Thomas J Balcerski *	(1063)	2005	2002
Jeffrey J Ballyns	(1075)	2005	2003
Tarek A Banaja	(1065)	2005	2002
Robert J Bergren	(443)	1950	1947
Christopher Bostick	(1101)	2009	2006
Andrew S Brenner *	(953)	1990	1987
Adam J Brownstein	(1130)	2011	2008

Donor	Roll	Class	Pledge Year
William C Burnett *	(490)	1953	Pl 1949
William S Cammuso	(965)	1992	Pl 1989
Brian T Cannon	(1128)	2010	Pl 2008
John W Carpenter III *	(959)	1991	Pl 1987
Hanny A Martinovici	(1071)	2006	Pl 2003
Brian P Clapp *	(1100)	2009	Pl 2006
Michael I Cvijanovich *	(981)	1994	Pl 1991
Charles W Deakyne *	(446)	1950	Pl 1947
Christopher P Deane *	(908)	1983	Pl 1980
Igor Dolgalev	(1068)	2005	Pl 2002
John M Ertl	(1148)	2011	Pl 2009
Robert S Fash *	(594)	1958	Pl 1954
David R Fischell *	(800)	1975	Pl 1972
James W Greig II	(795)	1974	Pl 1972
Arif Haq	(983)	1994	Pl 1992
Lloyd A Hayner	(508)	1952	Pl 1949
Paul N Hayre *	(970)	1991	Pl 1989
Richard F Heine, Jr.	(630)	1961	Pl 1958
Nicholas Hoerter	(1117)	2009	Pl 2007
Charles S Hong	(1043)	2001	Pl 2000
Steven R Horowitz *	(966)	1992	Pl 1989
David J Hower	(526)	1951	Pl 1950
Charles P Kalter	(1066)	2005	Pl 2002
Maxim Kashdan	(1102)	2009	Pl 2006
Patricia M Kehe	(11)	1979	Pl 1979
William L Keltz	(632)	1961	Pl 1958
Thomas B Kozakiewicz	(1131)	2011	Pl 2008
Jerry W Kreider *	(720)	1968	Pl 1965
Frederick D Liguori	(1109)	2009	Pl 2006
Mark F Maltenfort	(831)	1977	Pl 1974
Roman Markh	(1072)	2006	Pl 2003
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
Michael T Nasatka *	(1045)	2004	Pl 2000
Theodore Ni	(1138)	2012	Pl 2009
Martin E Offenberger *	(568)	1956	Pl 1953
John R Pakan	(524)	1953	Pl 1950
William Pendarvis, Jr.	(440)	1947	Pl 1946
Aditya Ramesh	(1163)	2014	Pl 2011
Juan J Ramirez	(1084)	2006	Pl 2004
Andrew S Regenbaum	(973)	1993	Pl 1990
David G Rickerby	(960)	1991	Pl 1987
Thomas L Ricketts *	(1051)	2003	Pl 2000
Peter M Rimshnick *	(1060)	2005	Pl 2002
Joshua D Roth	(1049)	2003	Pl 2000
John L Ryan	(1112)	2009	Pl 2006
Zachary A Samuels	(1069)	2004	Pl 2002
Bruce G Schneider *	(842)	1978	Pl 1975
Preston W Shimer	(635)	1961	Pl 1958
David E Skiff	(1143)	2012	Pl 2009
Roger D Soloway	(589)	1957	Pl 1954
Shu Song	(1122)	2009	Pl 2007
Whoosun I Song	(1074)	2006	Pl 2003
Ariel A Soriano	(1159)	2013	Pl 2010
Yuri A Sylvester	(1096)	2008	Pl 2005
Frank F Tetz	(554)	1955	Pl 1952
Frederick W Tierney Jr. *	(763)	1971	Pl 1968
Elie J Track	(1077)	2006	Pl 2003
Daniel E Turinsky	(1004)	1997	Pl 1994
Jason Wang	(997)	1996	Pl 1993
Zachary A Weinstein	(1067)	2005	Pl 2002
Keith J Yoder	(1105)	2009	Pl 2006
Howard S Zwiefel Iii *	(734)	1969	Pl 1966

74 Donors 23 Brother Tree Leaf recognitions
* after name indicates Brother Tree leaf recognition

(Continued from page 9)
memory forever.

There are too many examples to list: the pledging process, intramural sports, trips to Syracuse, and summer at Conclave in New Orleans being just a few. Suffice it to say, I've had an awesome time!

But now, the time has come at last for me to leave the fun to future Acacians. I will be graduating with a degree in math, economics, and

computer science. For the first time, I will be living on the west coast, in the San Francisco Bay area. I will be working at LinkedIn, programming and surfing the web (those things that computer science students are paid to do).

Though I leave Acacia for now as the semester comes to a close, I hope to reconnect frequently with all my old Acacian friends and look forward to meeting new Acacians as well. You haven't seen the last of me.

**Annual Corporation Board Meeting
Saturday, May 5, 2012**

The Annual Meeting of the Cornell Chapter of Acacia Fraternity, Inc., will be Saturday, May 5, 2012 at 1:00 pm, at Acacia Fraternity, 318 Highland Road, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850 (607-257-7055)

Refreshments and lunch will be provided.



**Brother de Vries educates pledges in
the nearly renovated Chapter Room**