

# THE TRAVELER

## Apples and State Fairs



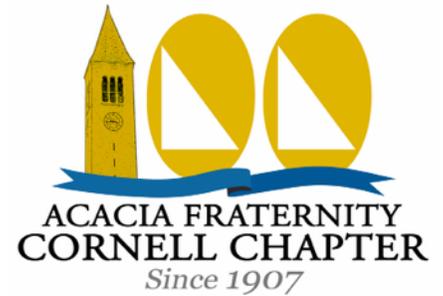
Brother Fagliarone reports on the brotherhood events that kept spirits high at the house.

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## Building a Dream

A special report on the new Fischell Band Center at Cornell University, which was brought to fruition by Brother Alumnus David Fischell.

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## Record Turnout at Homecoming



A total of 27 alumni brothers and guests returned to Ithaca, in spite of inclement weather.



Jackson Foo  
yf99@cornell.edu

As with all projects, one never knows what to expect of the end result. In the case of

Homecoming 2013, it was the sheer number of brothers who turned up -- and more importantly the immense fun they brought to the active chapter -- that took me by surprise. A whopping 27 alumni brothers and guests were here!

*(continued on page 12)*

# Fall 2013 Chapter Roll

**Neil Parker (1176)**

**Senior Dean**  
Information Science  
2015  
Elmira, NY

**Noah Weingart (1180)**

**Venerable Dean**  
Mechanical Engineering  
2015  
Westport, CT

**Aditya Ramesh (1163)**

**Junior Dean**  
Biological Engineering  
2014  
Holtsville, NY

**Thomas Schultz (1181)**

**Rush Chair**  
Mechanical Engineering  
2015  
Holtsville, NY

**Sho Iketani (1175)**

**Treasurer**  
Biological Sciences, Economics  
2015  
Cupertino, CA

**Alex Yu (1153)**

**Technologist**  
Operations Research  
2014  
Asheville, NC

**Santiago Cruz (1167)**

Government  
2014  
Baton Rouge, LA

**Shane Soh (1182)**

**Secretary**  
Electrical & Computer  
Engineering  
2014  
Singapore

**Jacob Fagliarone (1189)**

**Brotherhood Chair**  
Chemistry  
2016  
Estero, FL

**Ariel Soriano (1159)**

Information Science  
2015  
Brooklyn, NY

**Jovanny Fuentes (1168)**

Mechanical Engineering  
2014  
Paramus, NJ

**Samuel Klarich (1183)  
Co-Philanthropy Chair**

Industrial and Labor  
Relations  
2013  
St. Louis, MO

**Edward Sharood (1190)  
Senior Steward**

Environmental Engineering  
2016  
Kennebunk, ME

**Matthew Miller (1162)**

Computer Science  
2014  
Middle Village, NY

**Saugat Ghimire (1171)**

Operations Research  
2015  
Kathmandu, Nepal

**Timothy Smith (1184)  
Co-Philanthropy Chair**

Policy Analysis and Management  
2014  
Pawling, NY

**Dana Stiefel (1191)  
Mechanical Engineering**

2016  
Wendell, MA

**Wybren (Ian) de Vries (1164)**

Information Science,  
Economics  
2014  
Bloemendal, Netherlands

**Andrew Park (1177)**

Biological Engineering  
2015  
Chappaqua, NY

**David Liendo (1186)**

Biology and Society  
2014  
Bolivia

**Scott Marison (1192)  
Dean of Scholarship**

Biological Sciences  
2016  
Honolulu, HI

**Kenneth Holstad (1165)**

Material Science  
Engineering  
2014  
Long Beach, CA

**John Fan (1178)  
Athletics Chair**

Mechanical Engineering  
2015  
Shenzhen, China

**Kevin Hua (1185)**

Biological Engineering  
2015  
Flushing, NY

**Hunter Reid (1193)**

Biological Sciences  
2015  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

**Matthew Marano (1166)**

Biological Sciences  
2014  
Chappaqua, NY

**Michael Wang (1179)  
Junior Steward**

Computer Science  
2015  
Reading, MA

**Jackson Foo (1188)  
Dean of Alumni Affairs**

Hotel Administration  
2016  
Singapore

FROM THE EDITOR

# It's a Dang Good Time to be at Cornell Acacia

And boy, am I glad to be here. Since the start of the semester, the brothers at Northcote have been swept up in a flurry of activities, such as Homecoming, Brotherhood events, and general gatherings which have served to build a stronger brotherhood, both within our chapter as well as with our alumni and other chapters. We even made headway in building relations with sororities and other fraternities.

As the Dean of Alumni Affairs, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone -- that's right, *every* one of you -- for the generous and kind help you have provided me as I was frantically scrambling to piece together Homecoming 2013. I don't think I have said enough thanks, and I don't think I ever can say enough.

I have taken the design from **Brother Sho Iketani** from last semester and enhanced it according to your requests. Font sizes have been bumped up, as well as number of pages, so as to maximize readability for you. Enjoy this issue, and I hope that you find a renewed sense of brotherhood from these pages.

Fraternally,



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*The Traveler* is the official newsletter of the Cornell University Chapter of Acacia Fraternity. It is published semi-annually and mailed to alumni, fellow chapters, friends, and family of the active members of the Chapter.

The current and past issues of *The Traveler* can be found on our website: [www.cornellacacia.org](http://www.cornellacacia.org).

*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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We welcome correspondence regarding this publication, as well as any other questions, comments, or concerns. They should be addressed to:

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

Alternatively, we can be contacted via email: [acacia@cornell.edu](mailto:acacia@cornell.edu).

# A Message from Our Corporation Board President

The 2013-2014 Fiscal Year is in full swing, and we have recently completed a number of maintenance projects. Planned expenses included installing new fluorescent light ballasts in all remaining fixtures (old style bulbs are no longer available and new bulbs require new ballasts) and installing a motion-activated outside LED light in the Service Entrance. The “surprise” expenses included replacing the garbage disposal (\$1,400), replacing fourteen emergency light batteries (\$356), replacing two emergency lights with LED models (\$90), and repairing the hot water heater booster heater for the dishwasher (\$120). We’ll be replacing the light fixtures in both the Living Room (\$700) and Foyer (\$2,000, including installing 2 new ceiling boxes and removing the one existing box). And, during Winter break, the Bar Room floor will be replaced with a beautiful and durable Antigua Brown epoxy floor (\$19,400) [see photos at [www.hitechflooring.com](http://www.hitechflooring.com)].

As part of the plan to focus our efforts to spruce up Acacia’s exterior, the exterior stucco was painted and the woodwork was stained (\$20,400). Part of this project included removing all of the old Ethernet and coaxial cable that was attached to the exterior and entered inside. The holes were patched, inside and out. The porch railings were repaired and reinforced and stained to match the trim (\$1,165). Window well covers were fabricated and installed for the Pantry and Laundry Room (\$600). And, the entire house was rewired with new Ethernet cable running through conduit and terminating in wall jacks in all rooms. Where needed, cables for Wireless Access Points were installed in hallways and the Chapter Room. The entire Ethernet Wiring

Project will be paid for from our AFF Funds, so the Corporation will be fully reimbursed for the \$15,117 expense. I am happy to report that Acacia has never looked better, inside and out!

To commemorate our successful Capital Campaign (we exceeded our goal of \$345K), a plaque was installed in the Chapter Room with the names and Roll Numbers of all supporters. Please help us raise sufficient funds to take care of the rest of the necessary improvements to Northcote. If each of our Alumni simply pays his annual dues obligation, we’ll have no financial problems!

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. Also, the Mailbag column was again quite short this time because very few of you sent any news to share! And, only 66 Brothers contributed in 2012-2013. What’s up with that?

Fraternally,



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VENERABLY SPEAKING

## Excellence, in a Nutshell



Noah Weingart  
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I hope that this issue of *The Traveler* finds you well. Life at the chapter house has been fantastic. I am pleased to report that our chapter has successfully adapted to new Inter-Fraternity Council policies. As we transition away from directing our efforts toward large social gatherings for recruitment and instead toward smaller, brotherhood-oriented events, we have both strengthened our brotherhood and gained a new sense of confidence.

The most notable of changes has come from the new “Quarter System” implemented by the IFC. Prior to the end of Fall Break, which ended October 15<sup>th</sup>, we were unable to “formally or informally” engage in recruitment activities. However, this time was not spent idle.

Nearly every weekend, our officers have been working hard to schedule programming to strengthen the ties of brotherhood and to help the community in which we are a part. From apple-picking at **Brother Neil Parker’s** house to a trip to the State Fair in Syracuse, NY, our brotherhood has been spending a tremendous amount of quality time together. I’m sure the record-breaking crowd of alumni that visited during Homecoming noticed the infectious positive attitude among the brothers. On the Philanthropy front, we held a Frisbee tournament to benefit a Brother’s injured cousin, and we will be holding our annual Zombie 5K this weekend. Our Junior Dean, **Brother Aditya Ramesh**, worked hard to bring us an Oktoberfest celebration with Alpha Xi Delta—a big step after a long period of being on Social Probation. All of this combined with a visit from Acacia International Leadership Consultant, **Brother Nathaniel McKee**, have created an unbelievable energy in our house.

Now that Fall Break has finally ended, the rest of the Executive Board and I plan to direct the momentum of the Brotherhood towards our rush efforts. I find solace in the fact that while other fraternities continue to engage in risky behavior with prospective members, our Brotherhood remains out of harm’s way by following the guidelines set forth by IFC. The Executive Board believes that in addition to being risk-free, this plan will help to recruit high-quality brothers who have a genuine, vested interest in the house.

Of course, the other enormous change forced upon us concerns our pledging process. The previous and current Senior Deans have worked hard to trim our program from eight weeks to four weeks. The events contained within the program continue to be viewed with a critical lens so that we may continue to improve upon it. Although the new program has proven to be somewhat uncomfortable for the more senior brothers, I am confident the Brotherhood will learn to embrace the changes and appreciate the positive benefits they bring. Personally, I find myself appreciating the fact that we will be able to welcome our newest member, **Hunter Reid**, as a brother sooner and for a longer time than ever before. I am confident that Hunter will make a fine brother and will be an important asset to the house.

As I think about the direction of our chapter, I am excited by the possibilities the future holds. Watching the Newly Initiated Brothers begin to take leadership roles in the house, it is obvious to me that the pledge class of spring 2013 will work hard to make sure that our progress continues. They are a dedicated and intelligent group of men, and I have no doubt they will do a fine job leading the next generations of Actives.

THE SOCIAL SCENE

# Mixing It Up



Aditya Ramesh  
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My goal as Junior Dean for this semester was to increase the number of mixers that we had with sororities. Doing so required a bit of planning ahead and creativity, but I was fueled by motivation to tap into the Greek social scene.

Thus far, the social scene at Northcote has been rocking! The welcome back “Nerds and Jocks” mixer with the **Gamma Delta Pi** sorority was our first time with this sorority. This proved to be a very safe and successful event, and I am currently planning another mixer with them right before Halloween.

In September, we were lucky to have many Brother Alumni back to Northcote for Homecoming Weekend

(see *Returning Home to Brotherhood*, Page 12). We love when alumni come back to visit! Another noteworthy September social event was Cornell Concert Commission’s Ke\$ha concert. Many brothers attended this concert, which was one of the most glitter-filled events I have ever attended.

We entertained our Syracuse brothers for the weekend of October 4. This was a particularly festive weekend as we celebrated the birthdays of **Brother Cruz**, **Brother Wang**, **Brother Marison**, and my own birthday. We had an amazing time exchanging valuable information regarding rush and new member education. We plan on further strengthening the ties between the two chapters. **Syracuse Acacia** has already committed to coming back to visit us November 2, so that is something Cornell



An ingeniously built table tray for the Oktoberfest mixer.

Acacia will be looking forward to.

Northcote hosted the girls of **Alpha Xi Delta** for an Oktoberfest mixer on October 10. We impressed them with our ability to prepare five dishes and a dessert drink for approximately 40 people. I would like to extend my thanks out to **Brother Foo** for leading the cooking effort, as well as our chef **Carol** for giving us guidance and support during the entire preparation process.



Snickers

This year, the dormer occupants (Ed, Jackson, and Jake) have a fourth roommate and a four legged friend, **Snickers!** The ten-year-old lab came from Florida with **Brother Fagliarone** and is adjusting to life at Northcote extremely well. Despite her age, she loves to meet new people, especially ladies. Snickers's hobbies include chasing most things and licking everyone. She's looking forward to making new friends and experiencing her first snowfall!

# Learning as a Leader



Neil Parker  
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The summer of 2013 was a busy and productive time. I was able to stay at Northcote for the summer, but there was one week where **Brother Weingart** and I left the humble abode for **Bloomington, Indiana** to participate in the Acacia Leadership Academy. The journey truly began once I arrived at the **Syracuse Chapter**. I saw a few familiar faces, and a few new ones. I met Nick Doras and Max Herbowy, and as fate had it, I was to be traveling with these two young men.

The first guest speaker of the event was an attorney and he gave us, well, realistic advice. We broke out into smaller workshops where we listed out our problems as a chapter. I talked about the pressure that all fraternities were getting from Cornell about new membership and recruiting -- an issue that I personally had had to handle as elected Senior Dean for the upcoming school year.

The third day presented a very interesting speaker. His name was **Timothy Healey** and he talked about recruitment. He really stressed the importance of recruiting the right people, as even one bad person could potentially destroy the fraternity from within. I definitely agreed; **Brother Alumnus Balcerski** and I had often spoken about this. He also stressed discerning what people want from fraternities. Freshmen evidently all want a solid base of friends that we can be comfortable around, but as we age, we begin to worry about the future careers. Brother Healey recommended things such as holding

career workshops, which I'm currently planning for Cornell Acacia.

By the fourth day, we were all exhausted. However, we continued on a 45-minute drive south to a site where military vehicles, tents, and bunkers were set up. It was to become a battlefield, pitting brother against brother in a paintball battle. We all quickly started spraying paint at each other as we relaxed for what seemed like the first time in months.

Then began the last day, when we listened to many touching speeches from those at international. Later that same night, many



Group picture of all the brothers who attended ALA 2013

members of the esteemed **Acacia Fraternity Foundation**, who make events like ALA possible, showed up. It was at that time that I found out one of our brothers at the Cornell chapter, **Brother Ramesh** had won a scholarship from the AFF. It was a proud moment to know that someone from our own chapter had been selected. For the rest of the night, we all passed the gavel and gave touching renditions of our experiences.

The next morning, I left Indiana and we started another 13-hour journey. It was a fun ride back, and we had many different conversations and told different stories. We all planned to take the things we had learned and apply it to our chapters of Acacia, and right now, I'm doing my best to do that.



Hi everyone! First, we appreciate your feedback regarding updates from the Active Chapter. As many of you have requested, we have restarted our efforts to make frequent updates to the Active Chapter’s website, [www.cornellacacia.org](http://www.cornellacacia.org). We have posted about our various philanthropy and brotherhood events, as well as trivial things such as meals for the week. We hope you will continue to follow along with our updates as we continue to serve the community.

To help us maintain Northcote’s technological infrastructure, please donate to our chapter’s AFF! Donations to AFF are tax-deductible.

Alex Yu, Technologist

TREASURER REPORT

# This is Why We Can Have Nice Things



Sho Iketani  
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Writing an article for *The Traveler* reminds me of **Brother Weingart**’s article of the same topic from when he was Treasurer, in which he emphasized the whole new dimension of the Fraternity that a Treasurer manages. Although I have only been in this position for a couple of months, I can attest to the truth in this statement. It has been quite a growing experience, and I hope that the approach I have taken to the position has been acceptable to the rest of the brotherhood.

As with every semester, there have been problems of deficient income and over-budget expenses. However, I am proud to say that the officers and the brotherhood as a whole have been good about striving to stay within their budgets. I wholeheartedly believe that we have been able to do much more than what we have traditionally done, all the while with a smaller budget.

I have been working hard to ensure that we remain in the black and that we do not

need to dip into our savings to meet our needs, as I would like to leave such money for when the time may come that it becomes absolutely essential. Yet at the same time, we have made some purchases to improve the house. We have bought routers and an Ethernet switch to make use of the extensive Ethernet project conducted by the Corporation Board this summer. We have bought a new food processor and panini maker. And finally, our biggest purchase – we have bought four new premium leather couches and a love seat from Wayfair (see *About The New Couches*, page 11) to replace the fraying furniture in the commons.

I would like to thank the alumni who contributed to the purchase of the furniture. It would have been impossible to make such a purchase without your aid. Such donations, which can easily be made by choosing to donate directly to the active chapter when paying one’s dues, truly help the chapter.

I look forward to the coming months in my position and to the latter half of my years at Cornell as I enter my years as an upperclassman. The future is bright for Acacia as always, and I will do my best in my position to strengthen that light.



## Fall New Member: Hunter Finley Reid



Hunter F. Reid  
ahg62@cornell.edu

I was born in a Native American (Cherokee) Hospital in Oklahoma in 1992. Since then, I have spent most of my life moving between Ohio, Florida, and Oklahoma. Following my high school graduation in Ohio, I spent a short time with the United States Navy before attending a community college in Oklahoma. I graduated with three associates in Pre-Med,

Chemistry, and Physics and have recently transferred as a junior to CALS in the Biological Sciences (Pre-Med) major. I particularly enjoy my seminar on bacterial genomes and am considering concentrating in Genetics, Genomics, and Development. My interests on campus include jogging, cooking, tutoring, and going on collections with the entomology club.



Major: Biological Sciences  
Year: 2015  
Origin: Tulsa, Oklahoma

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### CLEANING UP OUR ACT

## A Joint Success



Edward Sharood  
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That good deep clean feeling is what it's all about, especially around Northcote this semester. Brothers started off the year by coming together for group cleaning before orientation week began. Our joint efforts brought life back into the house matching the beautiful lawn kept by the summer

house manager, **Brother Matthew Marano**.

The actives have kept up appearances of the house not only by cleaning up each night after festivities, but weekly clean ups as well. Even our brothers in the Syracuse chapter cleaned after their visit to Northcote. Everyone's work clearly shows and our house continues to impress our guests each week.

Real brotherhood is exemplified when everyone

comes together for the benefit of each other. Our group clean ups that many Alumni witnessed (even a few helped out!) for Homecoming and our mixers have demonstrated our true sense of brotherhood. Coming together to uphold our house has been not only strengthening Northcote, but the tie that binds us as well.

# About the New Couches



Noah Weingart  
nrw24@cornell.edu

As I hope you can tell from the articles in this issue of *The Traveler*, the brotherhood has been working hard to improve as a house on all fronts, from programming to house unity. One of the areas of focus within the past few years has been the physical condition of the house. The Centennial Capital Campaign raised over \$350,000, all of which was put into our aging house, which is now over 100 years old. During this period, the Executive Board decided to purchase new couches to replace the Commons and Living Room furniture. However, as money was (as always) tight, a decision was made to purchase inexpensive furniture to last for a short period of time. To no surprise, this furniture is on its last legs.

To meet this need, the Corporation Board and Active Chapter have agreed to purchase new couches for the Commons and Living Room. Given the short lifespan of the current couches, we decided to purchase high-quality, leather furniture of durable construction to last for years to come.

We believe this quality furniture will brighten the commons and make our house an even more beautiful place to live, making them an important asset to our rush efforts.

However, as is the case with anything else, quality is not cheap. The four couches and one love seat that were ordered normally sell for \$5936.98 from Wayfair.com. Using the employee discount **Brother de Vries** received from work, we were able to get a discount of \$1778.45, leaving a net expense of **\$4491.21**.

Thank you to those have already donated, and thank you in advance to the rest of you. As of today, a small part of the alumni has generously provided **\$716.71**. We look forward to hearing from you.

## Dear Alumni,

The couches are due to arrive very soon, and we are very excited to see how they spruce up the Commons here at Northcote.

The Corporation Board has agreed that the cost be shared equally amongst the Active Chapter, the Corporation Board, and you, the Alumni. Currently, we have raised a total of **\$716.71**, and have about \$800.00 to go to achieve our Alumni contribution goal.

As such, we are humbly requesting a kind donation from you. Every dollar you put in will push us closer to fulfilling the couch fund.

For your convenience, you can make a donation via PayPal at this link:

<http://tinyurl.com/acaciacouches>

Alternatively, you can mail a cheque addressed to "Acacia Fraternity" to:

**Dean of Alumni Affairs  
318 Highland Road  
Ithaca, NY 14850**

Please ensure that you indicate on the back of the cheque that your donation will go to the couch fund.

We thank you for your generosity! The Alumni donations will greatly help our fundraising efforts. You are very important to us, and we look forward to serving you best that we can.

# Returning Home

*(continued from page 1)*

The weekend of September 20, 2013, saw an unimaginable atmosphere of reunion and festivity. The Alumni of Cornell Acacia showed up in droves beginning on Thursday, and boy did they not stop bringing fun into our active chapter up until Sunday.

Cornell University helped a lot by providing plenty of activities and freebies for the returning alumni. Flooded with choices, some Alumni brothers chose to attend the Homecoming **Cornell v Bucknell** game, while others chose to stay at home and catch up with their old friends. Fortunately, we had

all the brothers -- both new and old -- show up for the Homecoming Tailgate, where time flew by amidst never-ending grilled food and jovial chatter. Even the inclement weather did little to dampen the strong brotherhood spirit at the Sage Parking lot!

Following that event, after everyone was well-rested and changed, we headed over to **Sumo Hibachi** at Cayuga Mall, for an exciting culinary performance by the skilled chefs. The food was similarly delicious!

All in all, Homecoming 2013 was an utter success. The event brought together more



**Brothers before downpours:** The rain and wet grounds failed to dampen the Acacia spirit. This year, we were glad to receive the following brothers: Charles Ray, Thomas Kozakiewicz, Hanny Carp-Martinovici, John Ertl, Richard Rothman, Gabriel Torres, David Skiff, Charlie Hernandez, Norton Wang, Theodore Ni, Alex Pan, Fred Ballyns, Erik Burkhalter, Justin Burden, José Arrué, Bill Zeligson, Paul Molnar, Tory Farney, Elie Bilmes, Richie Corrales, and Tommy Roth. We were also pleased to meet their friends and family.



An exhausted but happy chef, **Brother Foo** (left) was glad to have made the Tailgate as fun as **Brother Alumnus Roth** (below) found it!



# To Brotherhood

brothers than ever under one roof to bask in the Acacia revelry. The pictures below will give you a peek into the activities and fun we had over the weekend, and will provide a sweet reminder for those who were here to share that with us. Until next year, may these memories stay with you and keep you in touch with Acacia.



(top) The chef cooking up a feast; (below) Brothers Alumnus Skiff, Bilmes and Hernandez; (below right) Brother Alumnus Wang and Torres with Brothers Ghimire and Ramesh.



(above) The Venerable Dean and the Dean of Alumni Affairs give their speeches.

(below) Brother Rothman with his guest, Nancy.



(above) Brothers Alumnus Corrales, Arrué, and Burden.

WITHIN THE BROTHERHOOD

## The Way to a Man's Heart...



Jacob Fagliarone  
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The brotherhood is strong at the start of the 2013-2014 academic year, and thanks to **Brother Jackson**, you can almost taste it. We started off the year with a barbecue at Treman State Park. Brothers and rushee invites alike enjoyed a great Ithaca summer day, some amazing food (thanks to Jackson), and some friendly soccer and frisbee.

The recent release of FIFA '14, the second best game ever, (Yo, Smash?) was met with a lot of excitement amongst the brotherhood. Just three weeks later we're already consistently holding FIFA Thursdays. During this intense athletic battle, brothers gather on the imaginary soccer field for a contest that's not without blood, sweat, and tears.

The onset of the Fall Season presented the perfect opportunity to venture down to Elmira, home of **Brother Neil Parker!** It turns out that Neil never told anyone he has such an abundantly fertile apple

orchard in his backyard. On this particularly gorgeous Saturday afternoon our goal was to make a few gallons of the freshest, most delicious Apple Cider we ever tasted, and we did just that. But before we got to the apples, we were presented with a delicious meal that Neil's dad generously had catered for the brothers. After going back for seconds and thirds, we made our way to the apple orchard where we were met with thousands of fresh, ready to eat, apples. (We may or may not have eaten more than we picked for the cider). Neil's cider equipment eventually ground and mashed the surviving apples into a deliciously sweet and organically fresh cider. Everyone gathered for a taste and the first gallon was gone in just a few minutes, but we managed to make enough to take two gallons back to Northcote. **Carol** even used some of the extra apples to make some fantastic apple desserts. Acacia thanks the Parker family for providing us with such a unique and memorable experience!



Treman State Park



State Fair



Apple Picking @ Neil's Farm





**Serious Dedication:** Brother David Fischell with his wife, brother, and two daughters at the dedication ceremony.

# A Brother of Bands

*An eight-year-old dream of **Brother Alumnus David Fischell** becomes a reality with the inauguration of the Fischell Band Center.*



Jackson Foo  
yf99@cornell.edu

It was quite a sight to behold—not in its clean simple lines that housed a 6,400 sq. ft. complex, nor in the deep red that pulsed from the inside of the building, and very likely not in the glass panels reflecting the classic curvature of Schoellkopf Crescent. There was something that had to be experienced to be understood, as you stood before this monument; a testament to a Cornell Acacia

Alumni Brother's achievement and pure passion.

Just about eight years ago, **Brother Alumnus David Fischell** began the arduous process of convincing the Cornell administration that the bands, which are the largest student-run groups on campus, were in dire need of a new home. The old band room in Barton Hall was much too small for rehearsals back in 1971, and there were 110 members. The current count is 200.

Fortunately, there was no better candidate for this task, since Brother Fischell had a history deeply entrenched in Cornell's band scene. He and his future wife, Sarah Thole, both played in the Big Red Band; his brother, Tim, played trumpet there; and his two daughters, Erin and Jennifer, played piccolo and tuba respectively in the marching and pep bands.

All great achievements have their obstacles, and Brother Fischell's came in the form of new regulations surrounding funding in the wake of the 2008 recession. He quickly realized that to build the new Band Center will require fundraising from donations. The lead effort of the fundraising came from the Fischells.

When the required funds were achieved, a meeting of past and present band members was called to work with the architects to produce designs for the



**Rain Symphony:** Brother David Fischell conducts the combined alumni and student bands at half time of the Cornell v Bucknell Homecoming Game.

Center. There were specific requirements: not only did it have to be large enough for storage and offer enough ventilation, this building also had to be, at the same time, sound-proof and sufficiently voluminous. From the Cornell Daily Sun Website, University Architect Gilbert Delgado says: “[The very loud sound pressures from that emanate from a marching band] necessitate a large building volume.”

At the dedication ceremony, the glass panels slowly revealed the band who were bursting with excitement to emerge from their new building. The fans, with umbrellas and

raincoats, enthusiastically joined in with the band in their rendition of the classic Cornell fight song, “Give My Regards to Davy”. The skies were gray, but the Cornelian spirit was loud and almost visible. It was truly moving.

I am proud that I can associate myself with a Brother like Brother Fischell, who has pursued his passion and left a legacy in Cornell University. I believe I speak for every brother when I say that everyone should aspire to turn their dreams into reality, the same way Brother Fischell has.

*Thank you to Brother Alumnus David Fischell for the pictures.*

## About Brother Alumnus David Fischell:

- Spent 8.5 years in Cornell getting BS, MS, and PHD in Applied and Engineering Physics
- Manager of Marching Band for 7 seasons
- Conductor of Big Red Pep Bands for 7 seasons
- Pledged in the Fall of 1971
- Junior dean for 1.5 years (“and threw some great parties”)
- Elected to Cornell Board of Trustees in 2008
- Chairs the Academic Affairs Committee
- Participates in the Executive Committee and NYC Tech task force
- Chairman of the advisory board for the department of Biomedical Engineering
- Gives several lectures each year in the College of Engineering



# The Pledge Paddle *of* William E. Ulmer

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When **Brother Balcerski** learned about the availability of an Acacia artifact on eBay, little did he expect it to be as valuable as a pre-war pledge paddle.

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Thomas Balcerski  
tjb36@cornell.edu

The tradition of pledge paddles extends back to the earliest Acacia Fraternity Conclaves in the first decade of the 1900s. Although paddles have long been a part of Cornell Acacia history, I have never seen a paddle constructed before World War II. After a recent acquisition, I am happy to share photographs of what I believe to be the oldest surviving Cornell Acacia pledge paddle.

The paddle belonged to Brother William E. Ulmer, who pledged Cornell Chapter in June 1925. He

was duly initiated on October 24, 1925. What follows are excerpts from the February 1926 edition of the *Traveler*:

From the region of the Big City comes "Bill," "Doc," or otherwise William Ernest Ulmer, who was born in Portchester on February 9, 1893. Claridon, Ohio, was the scene of the completion of his high school work in 1911. During the Mexican campaign he saw service with the United States Navy and took part in the landing at Vera Cruz. This was not enough for Bill and when the Big Scrap opened he saw

service on a sub-chaser, a destroyer, and the battleship *Michigan*....Bill entered the Veterinary College of Cornell in February, 1924, and now is in pursuit of the coveted degree of D.V.M.

After graduating with his veterinary degree in 1928, Brother Ulmer moved to New York City to work in his chosen profession. He eventually retired to Dutchess County, New York, where he joined Chapter Eternal on September 1, 1966.

The paddle itself measures 26 inches long by 3.5 inches wide. The material is a lighter wood,

perhaps spruce. The design on the front of the paddle includes many elements that still adorn fraternity paddles. The abbreviated name (Wm. E. Ulmer) is printed in well-spaced block letters. The fraternity name (Acacia) is at the top. No mention of Cornell Chapter is evident. Finally, the year of his initiation (1925) is featured at the bottom, flanked by isosceles triangles.

On the back of the paddle, there are twenty-five signatures, a feature that I have never before seen. The signatures are separated into three sections: in the first section, six signatures from the October 1925 initiates (Brothers Cotner, Bolles, Rehmyer, Noonburg, Huttar, and Nash); in the second are the signatures of some of the actives and alumni brothers from that

“On the back of the paddle, there are twenty-five signatures, a feature that I have never before seen.”

era (Brothers Lothers, Bradley, Frederick, Jones, Larsen, Showacre Bogan, Agel, Campbell, Boyles, Thompson, Ball, Cole, Marble, Norton, Britton, and Adams); and in the third section, two signatures from December 1925 initiates (Brothers Riley and Gaines). Notably, Dr. Edward C. Showacre was the father of Brother Alumnus James C. “Doc” Showacre, who was honored at the chapter’s Centennial+5 event in August

2012. Brother Showacre’s portrait now hangs next to that of Robert Claud “Doc” Bradley, who also signed the back of the paddle.

Judging from the hole drilled in the handle, the paddle likely once hung on a wall, possibly in the chapter house. Of course, in Brother Ulmer’s day, the house at 318 Highland Road was not the chapter’s house; instead, he knew the house at 614 East Buffalo Street as home.

I want to thank Brother Alumnus **David Klesh** for alerting me to the paddle’s availability through auction on eBay. Since obtaining this historic Acacia artifact, I have returned it to the chapter house, where I hope it will one day be displayed with other outstanding examples from Cornell Acacians.



*The front and the back of pledge paddle that was carved by the late Brother William Ulmer.*

# Alumni Mail Bag

**William Pendarvis Jr.** 1947 (440) [11781 SE 162 Ave., Clackamas, OR 97086-6776] is still hanging in there with plenty to do with vineyard, winery, and 3 wine bars.

**James M. Symons** 1954 (534) [Rosedale Golf & Country Club, 4942 88<sup>th</sup> St. East, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34211-3730; [dr.water@alum.mit.edu](mailto:dr.water@alum.mit.edu)] sent a link [<http://www.technologyreview.com/article/508411/james-m-symons-sm-55-scd-57/>] to an article about his career. He and his wife traveled to the West Indies in March 2012 and took a river boat trip on the Erie Canal and St. Lawrence Seaway (with stops in Montreal and Quebec) in late September and early October 2012. This year, they traveled to South Beach, FL to study the Art Deco buildings, and to Aruba. They booked an Alaska tour for late June 2013 to celebrate their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They continued their annual tradition of lunch with Bill Burnett 1953 (490).

**Bion W. McClellan** 1955 (567) [2501 East Ave., Apt 303, Rochester, NY 14610-3148] is a resident at Wesley Gardens, a long term care facility in Rochester. His wife, Marilyn, shared the news that Bion is suffering from Dementia and thought it was time to share this news with his Acacia Brothers.

**Edward A. Conroy** 1957 (592) [407 Summit Ave., Ligonier, PA 15658-1428; [ecjcr35@verizon.net](mailto:ecjcr35@verizon.net)] survived quadruple bypass surgery in the spring, giving him many years to go.

**Dr. David A. Gorelick** 1968 (717) [3316 Old Forest Rd., Baltimore, MD 21208-3101; [DavidGorelick1@gmail.com](mailto:DavidGorelick1@gmail.com)] and his wife recently spent an enjoyable weekend in Asheville, NC. The Baltimore Estate is most impressive. The new *Traveler* is much improved – keep up the good work!

**Steven L. Stein** 1973 (787) [339 E Miller Rd, Ithaca, NY 14850-9431; [sls8@cornell.edu](mailto:sls8@cornell.edu)] has recently started a contract position with the Cornell Budget Office. He formed SLS8 Consulting LLC and is now a legitimate company. Steve is still working on the University of Maryland Quali Financial System implementation project, performing all of their data conversion. They will be going live in January 2014. In his spare time, he helps keep Northcote in good repair (which sometimes seems like a full time job).

**Robert C. Merritt** 1975 (807) [PO Box 279, Auburn, NY 13021-0279; [bob@simplexco.com](mailto:bob@simplexco.com)] suggests the *Traveler* font size be made a little larger.

**Mark Maltenfort** 1977 (831) [476 N. Legacy Trail, St. Augustine, FL 32092; [maltenfo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maltenfo@sbcglobal.net)] has retired to Florida, finally! He and Mary talked about it for years and finally did it. They traded an alarm clock and the work life for the beach and the retired life. Their son, daughter-in-law, and grandson are in St. Louis and their daughter and her future husband are in Indiana, so between visiting them and taking cruises, they still travel a lot.

**Christopher P. Deane** 1983 (908) [304 N. Addison Ave., Elmhurst, IL 60126-2306; [chris.deane@fhp-ww.com](mailto:chris.deane@fhp-ww.com)] changed jobs with his company (Freudenberg Household Products) and is now responsible for Asia region. They have manufacturing sites in India and China that keep him busy. Spends 75% of his time in Asia region. His oldest daughter graduated Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania, and is now living in NYC working as PWC management consultant. His daughter, Miranda, was accepted in the Cornell Engineering program.

**Andrew S. Brenner** 1990 (953) [1414 Hollenbeck Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94087; [Andrew@scoopman.com](mailto:Andrew@scoopman.com)] recently started a new job with Google as a Product Manager.

**Andrew S. Regenbaum** 1993 (973) [1031 Summit Woods, New Windsor, NY 12553-4907; [aregenbaum@aol.com](mailto:aregenbaum@aol.com)] enjoyed seeing Brothers **John Carpenter** 1991 (959), **Michael Cvijanovich** 1994 (981), **Arif Haq** 1994 (983), **Jason Wang** 1996 (997), and **Tom Balcerski** 2005 (1063) in Las Vegas last February.

**Michael E. Coyle** 2005 (1061) [8502 Old Sauk Rd., Apt. 113, Middleton, WI 53562-5150; [mec52@cornell.edu](mailto:mec52@cornell.edu) and [mich.coyle16@gmail.com](mailto:mich.coyle16@gmail.com)] was moving to Boston in July to start a Hem/Onc fellowship at Tufts University. Was very excited about the move and looking forward to catching up with any Acacians in the area.

**Thomas J. Balcerski** 2005 (1063) [30 Waterside Plaza, Apt 21K, New York, NY 10010; [tbalcerski@gmail.com](mailto:tbalcerski@gmail.com)] met all 7 of the NIBs shortly after their initiation last spring. As an added bonus, he bumped into **Brian Kwoba** 2004 (1056) who had only five minutes earlier proposed to his now-fiancée, Anastassia Baichorova! Tom will remain in NYC for the 2013-2014 academic year thanks to the continued support of the Cornell History Department. Kudos to Brother **Sho Iketani** 2015 (1175) and the entire active chapter on the Spring 2013 *Traveler*.

**Drew Eisenberg** 2008 (1094) [3100 Broadway, Apt. 205, Boulder, CO 80304; [dbe4@cornell.edu](mailto:dbe4@cornell.edu) and [dbeisenberg@gmail.com](mailto:dbeisenberg@gmail.com)] is working in Denmark until Thanksgiving.

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## Chapter Eternal

**Robert C. Bradley 1940 (365) – 12/23/2012**  
**Paul S. Warner 1950 (488) – 4/10/2013**

# Alumni Honor Roll



Donor	Roll	Class	Pledge Year
John R Ahlfeld	(649)	1964	PL 1960
Bradley J Ayres *	(1070)	2006	PL 2003
Thomas J Balcerski *	(1063)	2005	PL 2002
Joseph Beaudette	(1134)	2011	PL 2008
Robert J Bergren	(443)	1950	PL 1947
Elie Yakov Bilmes	(1118)	2010	PL 2007
Andrew S Brenner *	(953)	1990	PL 1987
Richard E Brewer *	(687)	1965	PL 1963
Stewart L Burger *	(738)	1970	PL 1967
Erik Keith Burkhalter	(1123)	2010	PL 2007
William C Burnett *	(490)	1953	PL 1949
Martin S Cardinali	(918)	1984	PL 1981
John W Carlson	(689)	1966	PL 1963
John W Carpenter III *	(959)	1991	PL 1987
Hanny A Carp-Martinovici	(1071)	2006	PL 2003
Brian P. Clapp *	(1100)	2009	PL 2006
Randy T Clark	(1047)	2003	PL 2000
Edward A Conroy	(592)	1957	PL 1955
Michael E Coyle	(1061)	2005	PL 2002
Michael I Cvijanovich *	(981)	1994	PL 1991
Charles W Deakyne *	(446)	1950	PL 1947
Christopher P Deane *	(908)	1983	PL 1980
John Mathias Ertl	(1148)	2011	PL 2009
Robert S Fash *	(594)	1958	PL 1954
Charles H Field Jr.	(614)	1960	PL 1956
David R Fischell *	(800)	1975	PL 1972
Robert T Franson	(636)	1961	PL 1959
Paul B Goldberg *	(755)	1971	PL 1968
David A Gorelick	(717)	1968	PL 1965
William B Hairston III *	(873)	1980	PL 1977
Matthew S Harris	(1042)	2002	PL 2000
Frank H Henjes Jr. *	(571)	1954	PL 1953
Charles W Huffine III	(931)	1986	PL 1983
Alan L Jette	(895)	1982	PL 1979
William L Keltz	(632)	1961	PL 1958
Thomas E Kocovsky Jr. *	(730)	1969	PL 1966

## **Cornell Acacia Endowment Donations**

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 the brothers receive is roughly equivalent to the gain on the investment of the year divided by the number of brothers on financial aid.

The financial aid office administers the funds to brothers on financial aid based on the fraternity president’s advisement, provided the dispersal is sound judgment. This past year, all Active brothers on financial aid received \$1,100 in grants each semester.

## THE TRAVELER

Jerry W Kreider *	(720)	1968	PL 1965
Richard S Lysle	(732)	1969	PL 1966
John Male *	(600)	1958	PL 1955
Mark F Maltenfort	(831)	1977	PL 1974
Roman Markh	(1072)	2006	PL 2003
David M Mazaika	(924)	1985	PL 1982
Bion W McClellan	(567)	1955	PL 1953
Scott B McQuade	(1050)	2003	PL 2000
Andrew H Mercer	(890)	1982	PL 1979
Daniel R Merrill PhD	(907)	1983	PL 1980
Robert C Merritt *	(807)	1975	PL 1973
Paul G Molnar *	(1014)	1998	PL 1995
David A Odegaard *	(743)	1970	PL 1967
William Pendarvis Jr.	(440)	1947	PL 1946
Andrew S Regenbaum	(973)	1993	PL 1990
Wallace M Rich	(523)	1951	PL 1950
Thomas L Ricketts *	(1051)	2003	PL 2000
Norbert H Roihl *	(669)	1964	PL 1961
Noah Kenneth Santorello	(1124)	2009	PL 2007
Daniel H Scharfman	(1078)	2005	PL 2003
Bradley S Schmidt	(1025)	2000	PL 1997
Bruce G Schneider *	(842)	1978	PL 1975
Jeffrey D Spiro MD *	(859)	1979	PL 1976
Robert B Squires *	(496)	1952	PL 1949
Frank F Tetz	(554)	1955	PL 1952
Frederick W Tierney Jr. *	(763)	1971	PL 1968
William A Utic *	(836)	1977	PL 1974
Paul S Warner	(488)	1950	PL 1948
Zachary A Weinstein	(1067)	2005	PL 2002
Howard S Zwiefel III *	(734)	1969	PL 1966

### 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.

66 Donors    30 Brother Tree Leaf recognitions  
\* after name indicates Brother Tree leaf recognition



THE TRAVELER



**The New Plaque:** “To commemorate our successful Capital Campaign (we exceeded our goal of \$345K), a plaque was installed in the Chapter Room with the names and Roll Numbers of all supporters.” Thank you so much for your donations!

(See A Message from Our Corporation Board President, page 4)

**If you can't stand the heat:** “Matt Miller, you are outrageous.” - IC Girl, upon seeing Matt Miller's outfit at a Nerds & Jocks mixer.

(See Mixing It Up, page 6)



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 Cornell Chapter  
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