The Centennial Spirit





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~FINAL EDITION-Editor: Thomas Balcerski (#1063)



How We Kick-started Our Year at Cornell Acacia Neil Parker '15 (#1176) Dean of Alumni Affairs

Centennial +5 was set to take place early in the year. All the actives were excited as the date approached; none of us had experienced an Acacia event of this scale. The first event was a dinner catered by Taste of Thai Express, inside the new Physical Science Building. At the dinner, the alumni began it pour in as the food was being laid out. The actives and alumni quickly were joking and talking together about both Cornell, and more importantly, Acacia. It wasn't long till the sight of the dinner looked almost family like, as the brotherhood

strengthened its ties to both the past and the future. From here, we were ushered into a lecture room to hear from Thomas Balcerski and Steve Stein. It was an enjoyable time seeing how the house improved over the last five years.

The next morning Northcote was looking spotless, as alumni arrived to tour the house. We showed off the sprinkler system, the air make-up handler, the recycling shed, the new heating system, and many other changes. In

my own personal tour group, we shared the new information about the house, while the alumni were able to give us interesting historical facts about Northcote's past. It was a true bonding and learning experience for both the actives and the alumni. From there, everyone gathered in the newly renovated chapter room. Some powerful words were spoken here, as Jim Showacre was commemorated for his services to the house by the addition of portrait that is now hanging in the room. Martin Scutt also made sure we honored brothers who have now passed away such as Andy Nolan, as he presented a plaque in remembrance of him. After this, everyone was united for lunch catered by Jimmy John's.

Not long after our lunch, the brotherhood was

once again together in the Statler Beck Center Park Atrium, where we enjoyed each other's company with drinks and appetizers. After we all had gathered and settled, we moved into a beautiful Statler Ballroom and enjoyed an exquisite buffet. During this, familiar faces from the first night stood in front of us as we heard more heart moving speeches from Preston Shimer, Rich Rothman, Alex Yu, and lan DeVries. Tom Balcerski and Stein Stein presented the Order of Pythagoras and the Award of Merit to deserving brothers.

On Sunday morning, we enjoyed brunch made by Carol, our cook. We ate with both the happiness of a successful weekend and some sadness, knowing that the gathering was soon to be over. After

> everyone said their farewells, the alumni took their leave, but they left the actives with new knowledge and the memories of an amazing weekend.

> For me personally, the weekend was something special, something that I actively had a role which gave me the opportunity to both orchestrate and enjoy. From the initial planning to the farewells, it was a time where I was able to structure myself and get a better grasp of the places where Acada can

structure myself and get a better grasp of the places where Acacia can help take me. Not only this, but I was also reminded of teamwork. Without the help of our alumni, I would not have been able to make Centennial+5 something that will be remembered as a weekend of true brotherhood. I hope that I'll have the opportunity to attend something similar, when the time comes for me to join the ranks of our alumni.



Actives Matthew Marano, Neil Parker, Gabriel Torres, and Daniel Moskowitz prepare for a house tour with Tommy Roth, John Carpenter, and Mrs. Sue Morrie.

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Recent Award Winners

Order of Pythagoras

Stanley R. Niman #783 - Pledge Class 1969

Brother Niman has gone above the call of duty in service to Acacia, donating very generously to the Centennial Capital Campaign. Stan is a registered Professional Engineer in Oregon, where he previously worked in electrical utility operations, but left that career to form an independent energy consulting services company. Stan also has taught at a local community college and donated his time and financial aid to the public schools in Oregon.

Rich Rothman #1107 - Pledge Class 2006

Brother Rothman served as Athletics Chair and Brotherhood Chair, but he really became involved in the fraternity after graduation. With the help of other alumni, Rich began a yearly pre-rush workshop to prepare the Actives for Rush Week. He volunteered to be the Cornell Acacia Class Officer (CACO), class of 2009, as well as a member of the Centennial+5 committee. Rich plans to continue his involvement with the fraternity by exploring creative ways to encourage alumni to pay their dues.

Richard Corrales - #1137 - Pledge Class 2009

Brother Corrales has had a tremendous impact on Acacia throughout his years of brotherhood. Serving two years as Junior Dean, Richie organized successful parties and social events, while strengthening ties with sororities. As a member of the Executive Board, he dutifully and responsibly led the house, while providing especially strong leadership during

rush. Richie ensured that all brothers had an enjoyable experience, while helping to ensure the fraternity's continued success.

John Ertl - #1148 - Pledge Class 2009

Brother Ertl joined Cornell Acacia in his junior year, and during his short tenure had a very positive impact on the fraternity. John was an active and diligent Senior Steward, who modified the protocols and procedures associated with the job to keep the house in excellent shape. Upon graduation, John volunteered to be the CACO for the class of 2010, and returned the following year to help run the prerush workshop.

Award of Merit:

David R. Fischell—#800—Pledge Class 1972

Brother Fischell has provided a great service to our fraternity, well beyond his generous financial contributions. David was very active in the planning of the Centennial celebration in 2007, and was honored with his service at that celebration with the Order of Pythagoras. Five years later, he now receives the Award of Merit to commend his extraordinary commitment to Acacia. He is also very involved in Cornell University, having served on the Cornell University Council and currently on the Board of Trustees. His professional achievements are innumerable, including founding or co-founding 10 business ventures, over 80 patents to his name, and over 50 publications. He was recognized in the 2008-2009 issue of Acacia National's Triad as one of the "Most Notable Acacians."

Compiled by Thomas Balcerski (#1063)



Award winners of Cornell Chapter present at Centennial+5 Saturday evening banquet..
From left to right: Thomas Balcersk, David Fischell, Jerry Kreider, Nathan Tommy Roth, John Ertl, Richard Corrales, Brian Clapp, Richard Rothman, Preston Shimer, John Koltz, Steven Stein, Paul Molnar, Joshua Roth, John Carpenter, Bradley Schmidt. (Not pictured: Stanley Niman, David Rickerby).

<u>Life After Centennial+5</u> Paul Molnar (#1014)

Now that the Centennial Capital Campaign and Centennial + 5 are behind us, I would like to share a few thoughts on future opportunities for alumni to interact with the Active Chapter.

The fact that we had a successful Centennial+5 celebration suggests that naturally we will want to have a Centennial+10 celebration in 2017. I would like to see us establish our 5 year cycle of having a formal gathering like the Centennial + 5 was. While a celebration like Homecoming may be difficult for some Alumni to attend annually, one every five years is far more doable. We will probably begin planning for the Centennial+10 celebration starting in the summer of 2015. If anyone is interested in joining the planning committee please let us know! Watch for announcements in the Traveler and on Facebook.

If five years is too long to wait to come back to Ithaca, by all means come visit any weekend when the Actives are in town, even during the summer. Ithaca is a great summer family destination. My wife is already asking me when's the next time we are going up! You may want to come to Homecoming

next fall. Brother EJ Track does a wonderful job every year rallying brothers to come up and celebrate the weekend together. Homecoming attendance has been growing, too.

If you have never been to an Acacia Fraternity International Conclave, there is always room for a first time. You will meet not only Cornell Acacia brothers, but brothers and alumni from all chapters of Acacia. If you want to do just one, I suggest waiting for the next one in New Orleans, which happens about every six to eight years.

Remember, Acacia is a lifetime experience and it can be what you make it. I am very encouraged by our continued Alumni support and proud to always be a Cornell Acacian!



Be sure to ask about the Acacia cinch bags the next time you visit Northcote!

Reflection on 105 Years Richard Rothman (#1107)

Like every time I visit Acacia, I had a fantastic time at our 105 year celebration. The combination of events were a great mix of formal activity and unscripted fun. Spending Friday night at the Chapter House bar in Collegetown with over 20 Acacians and friends marked the first time I enjoyed that particular bar! I was delighted to see four fellow Acacians receive recognition for their service to the fraternity, and honored to receive one myself. I find my interactions that weekend with the two older (than me) award recipients are good anecdotes regarding the spirit of being an Acacian.

In the free hours before the banquet, several young Acacia alumni and I sat outside Collegetown Bagels for a drink. Brother David Fischell was exploring the campus, and upon seeing our group, decided to join us. Among other topics, we discussed the state of the University, specifically regarding the evolving Greek system. This topic interests the younger alumni as many of our close friends are still undergrads, and Dr. Fischell as he serves as a Cornell Trustee. It also goes without saying that we all care about the continuing success of Acacia at Cornell. Brother Fischell was very interested to hear about the day to day impact of changing Greek regulation, and intended to discuss

some of the issues we brought up with other University personnel.

At the farewell brunch, with my voice barely present, I was able to talk with Brother Stan Niman, who works in a related field to me in the energy industry, with several other alumni. I greatly appreciated the opportunity to discuss some of the current issues facing the industry and hear what an experienced industry professional had to say. Stan presented some interesting facts that I wasn't aware of, both because of my recent entry to the industry, and my location on the east coast, compared to Stan in Oregon.

During our celebration weekend, I was given the opportunity to discuss University policy with my brothers, further learn about my industry with another brother who I hadn't previously met, all while celebrating our incredible 105 year legacy. I'm repeatedly impressed with the opportunities Acacia provides me.

I leave the house with my commitment further buoyed after witnessing the cooperation of the Actives with executing the events, the impressive state of Northcote, and the dedicated alumni, many of which expressed interest in getting more involved and having a Centennial style celebration more often! I wish the Actives luck in their current term, and I look forward to returning as soon as possible.















CENTENNIAL CAPITAL CAMPAIGN A MAJOR SUCCESS!

<u>Celebrating Our Past—Ensuring Our Future</u> Tom Balcerski (#1063)

After five years of relentless phone calls, letters, emails, text messages, and face-to-face conversations, I am thrilled to report that we have successfully reached our goal of \$345,000 by August 2012! On the stage of the Saturday evening banquet at the Centennial+5, I announced the final results of the campaign: \$350,000. Since that time, I have accounted for a few additional donations made during the weekend, which leads me to report the number \$354,230 as the total amount raised during the five-year campaign. On behalf of the entire capital campaign committee, I offer my sincerest appreciation and thanks to all 201 donors who contributed. You are the reason this campaign has been such a major success!

Acacia Capital Campaign History

In my mind, the origins of the Centennial Capital Campaign may be found at the Corporation Board annual meeting of 2004. At the time, I was serving as Venerable Dean of the Cornell Chapter. In that capacity, I was also an ex-officio member of the Corporation Board. As I had often been told by members of the board, the previous ten years had been very difficult financially to the fraternity, and many improvements and repairs had gone unfinished and incomplete. Part of the problem was that the Corporation had not raised the rent charged to the active chapter in nearly a decade. I took the perhaps unpopular stance to raise the rent significantly. I did so with the full knowledge that this would mean that other brothers and myself would be paying more money. But, I believed then, as I do now, that we needed to invest money into the fraternity, if we were to see the change that we all knew was possible.

I have never regretted the way I voted in May 2004, nor have I have once begrudged my subsequent involvement as an active and alumnus. The Acacia history project began in 2005 and continued through 2007. With the publication of Acacia Fraternity at Cornell: The First Century, I offered my assessment of what the fraternity experience has meant for generations of brothers. In that book, I focused a great deal on the efforts of actives and alumni to secure a lasting home for Acacia. The first quarter century of the chapter's existence was spent in such efforts. By contrast, the next thirty years was spent planning to improve upon our home at 318 Highland Road. With the construction

of the Wing in 1961, the fraternity had completed its most successful building and capital campaign project to date. Dubbed the "Keep-Acacia-Ahead" campaign, the committee successfully raised \$23,220 by 1962 (or, \$176,152 in 2012 dollars). The remaining cost of the construction of the Wing was financed through a second mortgage (the original mortgage had been paid off in 1955).

The early 1960s were heady times, and the fraternity was confident that the nearly \$60,000 mortgage would be paid off without a hitch. But, as with so many aspects of history, unforeseen events made the road bumpier than anticipated. The social revolution of the late 1960s and 1970s transformed the meaning of fraternity life forever. The chapter now talked more of consolidation than of expansion. The great boom in fraternity culture at Cornell and elsewhere had ended.

Finally, by 1982, the second mortgage had been paid off. Just in time, too, because the chapter faced a crisis in membership from which it did not soon recover. In fact, the reorganization of the chapter in the middle 1980s and the subsequent struggles of the 1990s set the stage for my own vote years later in May 2004. Whether I knew it or not, I was a product of decades of the chapter's history.

Centennial Capital Campaign Results

The stage was set for a new capital campaign. Indeed, the Centennial Capital Campaign would prove to raise more money and accomplish more even than the "Keep-Acacia-Ahead" campaign of 1959—1962. Our vision was less bold than the early 1960s, but the late 2000s were another period of retrenchment. There would be no second level built in the Wing, a perennial dream of all actives since the 1950s, but rather an intensive campaign to preserve the existing treasures of our beloved chapter house.

The first and most important project completed was the fire-suppressant sprinkler system. During my research on the fraternity, I found evidence that the original plans for the Wing included such a system. They were discarded to save money. Subsequent discussions at Corporation Board meetings mentioned the need for sprinklers, but they never amounted to anything. I knew that the chapter needed this system, as much to protect the lives of the brothers as the house itself. In 2008, the project was completed, and we have not looked back since. It was the beginning of substantial improvements around the house.

The second most important project was the upgrades to the heating system. The original steam furnace was replaced with an efficient hot-water system. The old cast iron radiators-similar units can still be found in old buildings around the country-were discarded and baseboard installed. Later, we added a new hot water maker and a hot water tank. The boiler room of the house has been transformed; the underbelly of the house is operating on twenty-first century technologies.

Last, but not least, the Chapter Room. I have had a special relation to the Chapter Room, since I was an active brother. It was always my favorite room in the house, and I could be found spending countless hours there in study. As an alumnus, I remained adamant that the room be fully renovated. Here again, we brought the room into the twenty-first century, with a new conference table, captains chairs, electrical upgrades, lighting, and wood restoration. The room maintains the best of the old and incorporates the vital new technologies of the present day. This was a project for the ages, and I am confident the room will continue to sparkle for decades more to come.

Plague and Recognition

It was very important to me that all brothers and little sisters be recognized for their contributions. To that end, I spent many hours keeping good

records. The final honor roll follows on the next page. The proposed plaque will be made of acrylic and will be wall mounted in the Chapter Room. The plaque will stand as a testament to the many alumni who contributed to their fraternity. In essence, this plaque will proclaim that the fraternity experience still matters, despite the troubling times, to all those names listed. When you return to the house next time, make sure to find your name on the plaque. If I have misspelled your name, or if any discrepancy exists, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will ensure the matter is resolved.

I am proud of what we accomplished with the Centennial Capital Campaign. With the campaign over, I will remain involved as a member of the Corporation Board. I want to ensure that our investment is protected for many years to come. It has been a pleasure being the chairman of OUR campaign, and now, I look forward to seeing what the future may hold for myself and Cornell Acacia.

Editor's Note

I have had the additional pleasure of editing the Centennial Spirit newsletter these past five years. With the capital campaign over, the time has also come to retire the Centennial Spirit as well. Updates on house improvements, alumni affairs, and future fund raising efforts will continue periodically in The Traveler. Thank you all for reading!

Capital Campaign Cent ennial

Celebrating Our Past—Ensuring Our Future

The Centennial Capital Campaign began in August 2007 at the one'hundredth anniversary celebration of the Cornell Chapter. Begun with intention of raising \$345,000 over five years, the campaign successfully ultimately raised \$354,335 by August 2012, thanks to contributions from 199 brothers and 2 little sisters.

Giving Levels:

Chapter Founders' Society (\$50,000 and above) Corporation Presidents' Society (\$25,000—\$49,999) Chapter Presidents' Society (\$10,000—\$24,999) Centennial Benefactor Society (\$5,000—\$9,999) Centennial Society (\$2,500—\$4,999) Campaign Supporter (\$1,000—\$2,499) Campaign Contributor (\$25—\$999)











Results:

The fraternity equipped the chapter house with a fire suppressant sprinkler system, upgraded the heating system, installed new windows, shades, and carpeting, and acquired a new piano. The fraternity also fully renovated the Chapter Room. Finally, the chapter raised scholarship funds for future generations of brothers.

<u> Acknowledgments:</u>

Generous financial support made possible by Lgrants from the Acacia Fraternity Foundation. AC

Campaign Chair: Thomas J. Balcerski (#1063) Fc Major Gifts Chair: Preston W. Shinier (#635) Class Officer Co-chairs: Jerry W. Kreider (#720), David J. Klesh (#1037)

Campaign Advisory Board: Steven L. Stein (#787), David R. Fischell (#800), William A. Utic (#836)











Centennial Capital Campaign Honor Roll



Chapter Founders' Society #800 David R. Fischell, 1975

Corporation Presidents' Society #635 Preston W. Shimer, 1961 #807 Robert C. Merritt, 1975

Chapter Presidents' Society #434 Robert D. Flickinger, 1947 #738 Stewart L. Burger, 1970 #783 Stanley R. Niman, 1973 The Actives of Cornell Chapter

Centennial Benefactor Society Gentennial Benefactor Society
#490 William C. Burnett, 1953
#743 David A. Odegaard, 1970
#788 Eden Slegr, 1973
#836 William A. Utic, 1977
#1014 Paul G. Molnar, 1998
#1063 Thomas J. Balcerski, 2005
#1124 Noah K. Santorello, 2009

Centennial Society
#403 R. Stephen Hawley, 1943
#534 James M. Symons, 1954
#565 Thomas H. Burrows, 1956
#600 John Male, 1958
#607 David R. McDougal, 1958
#614 Charles H. Field, Jr., 1959
#649 John R. Ahlfeld, 1963
#720 Jerry W. Kreider, 1968
#1037 David J. Klesh, 2002
#1040 Byron L. Hing, 2002
#1066 Charles P. Kalter, 2005
#1070 Bradley J. Ayres, 2006
#1071 Hanny A. Martinovici, 2006
#1100 Brian P. Clapp 2009
Anonymous

Campaign Supporter
#334 Clarence F. Bent, 1939
#450 William Wickham IV, 1951
#488 Paul S. Warner, 1950
#496 Robert B. Squires, 1952
#523 Wallace M. Rich, 1951
#554 Frank F. Tetz, 1955
#594 Robert S. Fash, 1958
#596 Carey W. Fletcher, 1958
#597 Francis M. Hugo, 1962
#603 John M. Walsh, III, 1958
#620 William B. Easton, 1960
#625 Ivan G. Szanto, GR
#630 Richard F. Heine, Jr., 1961
#636 Robert T. Franson, 1961
#632 William L. Keltz, 1961
#636 Robert T. Franson, 1961
#642 John L. Krakauer, 1962
#734 Howard S. Zwiefel, III, 1969
#796 John M. Abeles, 1975
#842 Bruce G. Schneider, 1978
#887 Timothy K. Thom, 1982
#953 Andrew S. Brenner, 1990
#959 John W. Carpenter, III, 1991
#965 William S. Cammuso, 1992
#970 Paul N. Hayre, 1991
#965 William S. Cammuso, 1992
#970 Paul N. Hayre, 1991
#973 Andrew S. Regenbaum, 1993
#981 Michael I. Cvijanovich, 1994
#983 Arif Haq, 1994
#994 Todd Peskin, 1995
#1025 Bradley S. Schmidt 2000
#1036 Kenneth B. Harris 2000 Campaign Supporter

#1045 Michael T. Nasatka, 2003 #1049 Joshua D. Roth, 2003 #1050 Scott B. McQuade, 2003 #1060 Peter M. Rimshnick, 2005 #1062 David M. Rimshnick, 2005 #1065 Tarek A. Banaja, 2005 #1069 Zachary A. Samuels, 2005 #1092 Seth A. Jacobson 2008 #1102 Maxim Kashdan, 2009 LS1 Patricia Warner Kehe, 1979

Campaign Contributor

399 Richard C. Bonser, 1939

407 Henry L. Hood, 1943

431 Frederick D. Sheldon, 1948

440 William B. Gibson, 1948

440 William Pendarvis, Jr., 1947

443 Robert J. Bergren, 1950

446 Charles W. Deakyne, 1950

447 James C. Showacre, 1947

492 Scott M. DePalma, 1953

497 Joseph I. Wilford, 1952

500 Ernest F. Schaufler, 1948

504 John R. Curtiss, 1951

509 L. W. "Pete" Knapp, Jr., 1952

535 Hans P. Schonenberg, 1952

537 Robert F. Baker, 1953

545 John S. Mallery, Jr., 1952

538 Roger D. Soloway, 1958

590 David W. Bills, 1958

590 David W. Bills, 1958

590 David W. Bills, 1958

599 Ralph E. Lamar, III, 1958

637 Laurence G. Hoard, 1961

643 Allen M. Male, 1963

647 Edwin C. Washbon, 1962

648 William L. Dearcop, 1962

673 Edgar W. Francis, III, 1965

674 Timothy I. Fullam, 1965

675 John E. Lutz, 1964

678 David D. Owens, 1965

681 Warren E. Walker, 1963

687 Richard E. Brewer, 1965

689 John W. Carlson, 1966

717 David A. Gorelick, 1968

730 Thomas E. Kocovsky, Jr., 1969

755 Paul B. Goldberg, 1971

756 Stuart S. Hantman, 1971

757 Saure R. Korf, 1974

790 Cleveland M. Jones, 1974

793 Bruce R. Korf, 1974

794 John D. Koethe, 1977

785 Jeffrey D. Spiro, 1979

787 Michael M. Pliss, 1980

8880 Christopher T. Wong, 1981

#881 David D. Nolte, 1981
#890 Andrew H. Mercer, 1982
#895 Alan L. Jette, 1982
#899 Scott H. Dulman, 1983
#907 Daniel R. Merrill, 1983
#908 Christopher P. Deane, 1983
#916 Alan T. Pasquino, 1984
#917 David J. Sangree, 1984
#918 Martin S. Cardinali, 1984
#924 David M. Mazaika, 1985
#927 John R. Cunningham, 1985
#931 Charles W. Huffine, III, 1986
#946 James E. Carlson, 1988
#964 James Waxmonsky, 1992
#966 Steven R. Horowitz, 1992
#966 Steven R. Horowitz, 1992
#987 Kevin Slesinsky, 1995
#997 Jason Wang, 1996
#1017 Barclay H. Hershey, 1998
#1035 Jarrett S. Taubman, 2000
#1039 John Abrehamson, 2002
#1043 Charles S. Hong, 2001
#1046 Eric J. Wursthorn, 2003
#1047 Randy T. Clark, 2003
#1051 Thomas L. Ricketts, 2003
#1052 Kenneth J. Ayres, Jr., 2004
#1056 Brian W. Kwoba, 2004
#1067 Zachary A. Weinstein, 2005
#1074 Roman Markh, 2006
#1075 Jeffrey J. Ballyns, 2005
#1074 Bariel H. Scharfman 2005
#1076 Jared M. Davis, 2006
#1077 Elie J. Track 2006
#1077 Elie J. Track 2006
#1078 Daniel H. Scharfman 2005
#1079 Evan D. Helmsorig 2007
#1081 Mark A. Elliot 2007
#1082 Andrew J. Cox 2007
#1085 Keith J. Yoder 2009
#1101 Christopher D. Bostick 2009
#1101 Christopher D. Bostick 2009
#1103 Benjamin L. Jacoby 2009
#1104 Dmitry Migdalovich 2009
#1105 Keith J. Yoder 2009
#1107 Richard E. Rothman 2009
#1107 Richard E. Rothman 2009
#1107 Robert J. Christ 2009
#1111 Joseph J. Kovacs 2009 #1116 Robert J. Christ 2009 #1117 Nicholas A. Hoerter 2009 #1118 Elie Y. Bilmes 2010 #1122 Shu Song 2009 #1125 Tyler E. Huth 2010 #1128 Brian T. Cannon 2010 #1130 Adam J. Brownstein 2011 #1131 Thomas J. Kozakiewicz 2011 #1140 Justin W. Burden 2012 #1148 John M. Ertl 2011 #1166 Matthew A. Marano 2014 #1175 Sho Iketani 2015 LS12 Barbara Warner Deane 1983 Anonymous (3)



Final Capital Campaign Results;