

ACACIA FRATERNITY, CORNELL CHAPTER

# THE TRAVELER



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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.

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Finally, 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.*

# SPRING 2013 CHAPTER ROLL

NAME	YEAR	ROLL	MAJOR	HOMETOWN	POSITION
Charles Ray	2013	1133	Psychology	Lindale, TX	
Charles Hernandez	2013	1142	Operations Research (M.Eng)	Atkinson, NH	
Matthew Johnson	2013	1149	Chemical Engineering	Plainville, MA	
Matthew Heller	2013	1150	Government	Houston, TX	
Gabriel Torres	2013	1152	Chemical Engineering	Quito, Ecuador	
Young Alex Yu	2014	1153	Operations Research	Asheville, NC	Dean of Scholarship
Daniel Moskowitz	2013	1157	Electrical and Computer Engineering	Bellerose, NY	
Alex Pan	2013	1158	Economics	Solon, OH	
Matthew Miller	2014	1162	Computer Science	Middle Village, NY	Secretary
Aditya Ramesh	2014	1163	Biological Engineering	Holtsville, NY	Athletics Chair
Wybren (Ian) de Vries	2014	1164	Economics, Information Science	Bloemendaal, Netherlands	Junior Steward
Kenneth Holstad	2014	1165	Materials Science	Long Beach, CA	Technologist
Matthew Marano	2014	1166	Biological Sciences	Chappaqua, NY	<b>Venerable Dean</b>
Santiago Cruz	2014	1167	Government	Baton Rouge, LA	<b>Senior Dean</b>
Jovanny Fuentes	2014	1168	Mechanical Engineering	Paramus, NJ	
Saugat Ghimire	2014	1171	Mechanical Engineering	Kathmandu, Nepal	
Sunho Seo	2013	1174	Developmental Sociology	Seoul, South Korea	
Sho Iketani	2015	1175	Biological Sciences, Economics	Cupertino, CA	Dean of Alumni Affairs
Neil Parker	2015	1176	Information Science	Elmira, NY	Senior Steward
Andrew Park	2015	1177	Biological Engineering	Chappaqua, NY	
John Fan	2015	1178	Mechanical Engineering	Shenzhen, China	<b>Rush Chair</b>
Mike Wang	2015	1179	Computer Science	Reading, MA	Brotherhood Chair
Noah Weingart	2015	1180	Mechanical Engineering	Westport, CT	<b>Treasurer</b>
Thomas Schultz	2015	1181	Mechanical Engineering	Holtsville, NY	<b>Junior Dean</b>
Shane Soh	2014	1182	Electrical and Computer Engineering	Singapore	Philanthropy Chair
Samuel Klarich	2013	1183	Industrial and Labor Relations	St. Louis, MO	Philanthropy Chair
Timothy Smith	2014	1184	Policy Analysis and Management	Pawling, NY	
Kevin Hua	2015	1185	Biological Engineering	Flushing, NY	
David Liendo	2014	1186	Biology and Society	Bolivia	

**Bold** denotes Executive Board. See our newest active members and their biographies starting on page 12!

## Letter From The Editor

Dearest Reader,

You will undoubtedly notice that this issue of *The Traveler* appears different from the previous editions. The previous format and design had been used since the Spring 2004 issue without much change, so I took the liberty of trying out a new design. This new design incorporates and follows the Graphic Standards of Acacia Fraternity. Will the next Dean of Alumni Affairs utilize this as well? I have no idea, but as we continuously build on the work of those before us in all aspects of the house, I am comforted to know that the next *Traveler* will be even better than anything I created.

As of late, there has been a decrease in communication between the alumni and the active chapter, although the time that I have been an active has been short. Such a decrease in communication has left some alumni wondering how the chapter is doing at times, as they simply do not know. As Dean of Alumni Affairs, I have done my best to maintain contact with any alumni that wishes to do so, whether it be via email or phone. I would like to strongly emphasize that I, and any Dean of Alumni Affairs to come after me, as well as any active, are always available for contact. The actives highly value our ties with our alumni and are always thankful of the strong alumni base we have. Please feel free to email me or call me at any time with any questions, concerns, or just to have a chat.

The Greek system has begun to undergo various sharp changes as it seeks to transform itself into an entity that is considered acceptable by all the parties that govern it. In the midst of such difficult times, however, Acacia is thriving, moving along on a successful path. We have had a fruitful rush, conducted a strong new member education, and maintained all other aspects of the house. I encourage you to read the other articles in this publication to hear about the specifics.

As actives, we recognize that sometimes our actions do not make any sense to the alumni. However, I personally have been very thankful of the understanding and flexibility that the alumni have, as long as communication occurs. I believe that this is a turning point in the Greek system, and for Acacia as well. As part of it, I believe that a tighter bond with the alumni can and should be formed, as our knowledge is rightfully limited given that our experience only goes so far. I would like to again stress that I, and any other active, is always available for contact. We love to hear from our alumni, and it is your support that allows us to continue to function as a chapter.

Faternally,  
Sho Iketani (I175)  
Dean of Alumni Affairs  
si75@cornell.edu, 408-417-0580

## A Message From Our Corporation Board President

I am writing this column on the eve of my 62<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Where has the time gone? Was it really nearly 40 years ago that I received my Cornell diploma? The 2012-2013 Fiscal Year is nearly over, and we have, of course completed a number of maintenance projects. Planned expenses included installing new fluorescent light ballasts in all the Dining Room, Kitchen, and Bathroom fixtures (old style bulbs are no longer available and new bulbs require new ballasts) and installing a long-overdue outside light to illuminate both the Living Room entrance door and the back sidewalk leading to the parking lot. The "surprise" expenses included replacing and renovating the Center Room bathroom (\$9,000), replacing the thermal expansion tank on the hot water heater (\$160), replacing a broken toilet tank in the Laundry Room bathroom (\$245), and installing a pressure reducing valve on our water supply line (\$474). We have had to postpone refinishing the woodwork in the Commons and Foyer/Stairwell due to lack of funds (hint!).

As part of the plan to focus our efforts to spruce up Acacia's exterior, we will paint the stucco and stain the woodwork (\$20,000) in April or May. We may even do some landscaping!

On a more positive note, the Actives really spruced up the interior of Northcote just prior to Rush with a good cleaning and lots of painting of common areas. And, they have managed to keep Acacia clean and presentable at all times.

Please remember that our Capital Campaign is over, but Acacia's list of capital improvements is not! Please help us raise sufficient funds to take care of the rest of the necessary and desired 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. We print all the "news" you tell us about, but both this Traveler and the Fall 2012 edition had very little news to share.

Finally, if you are able, please join us at our Annual Corporation Meeting on 5/4/2013 @1:00 pm.

Faternally,

Steven L. Stein 1973 (787)

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## Venerably Speaking, Matthew Marano

As more fraternities come under attack for allegations of hazing, I am proud of the fact that our chapter had already taken the steps to eliminate and restructure many of the unnecessary portions of our new member education program. However, it leaves me with a sense of concern for the entire Greek system as a whole here at Cornell University. At times it seems as though the goal of the administration is to eliminate fraternities completely, but many if not all of the changes are for the improvement of student safety and the long term sustainability of the Greek system. I am concerned because what I have seen reveals to me that many other fraternities have not fully grasped the importance or necessity of these policy changes, and continue to disregard or defy them to the detriment of their chapters and the Cornell Greek system as a whole.

Our chapter is currently in an extensive transition period, where many internal changes are being made to adequately address the external changes made by the University administration. The most important among them being changes to regulations regarding the length of the new member education period as well as changes in policies regarding what is considered acceptable in the realm of recruitment. It has been my personal goal, as well as a current goal of my Executive Board and the entire active chapter, to address these changes to university policy and regulations by reflecting them onto regular chapter protocol, and ultimately making appropriate modifications to the way that the chapter operates.

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This daunting task has only been made possible by increasing the level of communication between the active chapter and multiple alumni, as well as other resources. Many of the issues have only been properly addressed after the Executive Board participated in phone meetings with dedicated members of the Corporation Board. Regarding how to move the chapter forward in the wake of recent difficulties, I learned a great deal after many conversations with the Executive Director of Acacia International Headquarters, Brother Keith Bushey. Additionally, making the extensive and comprehensive changes to the new member education program would not have been feasible for the Senior Dean, Brother Santiago Cruz, to accomplish by himself in the timeframe given to us by the administration. It was only made possible by the dedication of Brother Thomas Balcerski of the Corporation Board and the Acacia International Headquarters Director of Membership Development, Brother Patrick McGovern.

Despite the extensive challenges that accompany such a period of dramatic change, both external and internal, I am proud of the many ways that the chapter has been improving for the future. Working through these issues together has only served to further unite the Executive Board and other officers, and I am hopeful for the continued growth of the chapter because of this. The future is also promising because, as I am pleased to announce, we recently initiated seven new brothers. I am proud of the brothers who consistently dedicated their time and effort into making sure that recruitment and new member education succeeded to the degree that they did, especially in these difficult times, for without them the achievement of initiating so many new members with such high potential would not be possible.

With the goal of improving myself for the future of the chapter, I participated in a Greek Leadership Academy program last semester along with Brother Cruz and the current Dean of Alumni Affairs, Brother Sho Iketani. I learned many valuable things about my abilities as a leader, and I have already used much of what I learned for the betterment of the chapter. To augment what we had learned, I recently attended the 16<sup>th</sup> annual A. D. White Leadership Conference with members of my Executive Board and Brother Iketani. With all of the current focus on leadership and improvement, the future looks very bright indeed.

## Social Life, Thomas Schultz

Over the course of the last semester, Acacia Fraternity has been working hard to improve social standing and enjoy the benefits of fraternal life. In October, Northcote housed the annual Fall Date Night. The event was a tremendous success, with over 50 brothers and dates in attendance. Guests were treated to vibrant music and a beautiful dinner made by our wonderful Chef Carol. Later on, in February of 2013, Acacia Fraternity hosted its Valentine's Day Formal at Joe's Restaurant in downtown Ithaca. Before the dinner, guests were treated to fancy appetizers and a beautiful arrangement of Valentine's Day decorations. Over 60 people attended the event, as brothers and their dates had a nice and romantic dinner. Our seven enthusiastic new members sang a rendition of a few different love songs to entertain the brothers as everyone had a great time. As the brothers returned to Northcote, they were treated to some lovely desserts also made by Chef Carol. A formal picture was taken to commemorate the moment, just as the Acacians before us did in the pictures lining the first floor stairwell. The picture can be seen on the last page of *The Traveler*.

Improving relationships with sororities and other fraternities has been a goal of my term as I enter my second semester as Junior Dean. Due to certain circumstances, we have not been allowed to hold many registered events but nonetheless, Acacia is continuing to hold high standards and to maintain significant relationships with others. On Valentine's Day, we continued the long-standing tradition of sending our new members to the twelve sororities on campus to sing the ladies some lovely tunes. They also brought with them some beautiful cards and chocolate. Every sorority loved the rendition, and a few sisters were excited enough to call and notify sisters in other sororities before our new members had arrived!

This past weekend, Acacia hosted our local brethren from the Syracuse Chapter of Acacia Fraternity. Around 10 actives made the hour trip down to Northcote. The night was a tremendous success, new friendships were made, and even gifts were exchanged. Although we were unable to make the trip up to Syracuse during Rush weekend as we have done in the past, I am committed to venturing out and meeting new brothers at local area chapters. This will not only help in fostering brotherly ties with unfamiliar faces, but will also allow us to learn and mature as a chapter.

In the future, we at Acacia plan to hold many more events similar to the ones described. The end of the semester will bring about the end of the year formal, where we will say goodbye to the seniors in our chapter. Other events are being planned even as you read this article. If you would like more information regarding the house or its plans, you can follow us on Twitter @CornellAcacia or join the Facebook group titled "Cornell Acacia".



## A New Chapter in New Member Education, Santiago Cruz

It's hard to believe that my term as Senior Dean is only half over, and yet so much has happened since I first took office midway through the fall semester. Essentially the minute after I was inducted into the office of Senior Dean, I was thrown headfirst into the fray of fall pledging with nothing but a folder with some instructions and a vague idea of what I had to accomplish by the end of the semester. Luckily for me, I quickly learned that no officer in Acacia is ever simply left alone to figure out how to carry out his duties; the wealth of knowledge provided by close contact with three previous Senior Deans and the tireless assistance of the Active Chapter in helping a fledgling Senior Dean allowed me to focus on what was important: giving our three awesome fall pledges a true Acacia Fraternity pledging experience. This was only practice for the real deal, however. President Skorton's initiative to "end pledging as we know it" struck the Greek community hard and fast, and as those of you who still follow the Cornell Daily Sun know, hazing allegations are piling up and many guilty fraternities are finding no mercy at the hands of the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs. Just this morning, three well-known and influential fraternities were put on interim suspension for "serious hazing allegations".

Gentlemen, I am proud to announce that Acacia is not and will never be one of those houses. With the expert assistance of Brother Alumnus Thomas Balcerski and the Director of Membership Development from National, Patrick McGovern, we have revised and rewritten an already sound new member education program into one that truly represents the standard of academic excellence and ideals of brotherhood, integrity, and service that we as Acacians seek to instill in our new members. Under the new program, new members receive a crash course on international history and tradition during the first few weeks, are formally initiated, and then spend the rest of the semester learning local chapter history and other vital bits of information at a more relaxed pace, all the while being presented with various leadership, house improvement, and service opportunities. The aim of this is to follow Cornell's example of a Total Membership Development Model, in which new members are constantly being engaged with new concepts throughout their active membership, instead of having everything confined within one shortened new member education period.

The results of this program are quite telling. When I was a pledge, I felt as if I didn't really interact with my pledge brothers until the last week of the pledging period, and even then, it was clear that there were still a few outliers. After consulting informally with other actives from last spring's pledge class, I received similar replies, so I set a goal for myself to make this pledge class the tightest, most unified pledge class in Acacia history. I like to tell myself that I pointed them in the right direction, but I have to say that the credit falls almost entirely to PC'13, as they've taken to calling themselves. After they traveled around campus to sing to the sororities on Valentine's Day, there was no doubt in my mind that these guys had exceeded my expectations, so much so that by the time they reached the teambuilding event at the Hoffman Challenge Course I had planned for the weekend before initiation, it was almost unnecessary. Back in fall semester, Venerable Dean Marano, Brother Iketani and I participated in a similar program as part of the university-sponsored Greek Leadership Academy run by Cornell Outdoor Education, and we had a blast bonding out on the Challenge Course with other leaders from various Greek houses around Cornell, so I figured that this would be an excellent new event to add to our NME calendar. Brother Marano and I accompanied six of our seven new members out to the snow-covered course for some bonding on the high- and low-ropes courses (you can see us crammed onto a tiny platform in the center of the Triangle in the photograph to the right. When our coordinator commented that we had defeated the challenge she posed us rather handily, PC'13 retorted that they indeed knew triangles). Nevertheless, the ties of friendship were strengthened that day.

Now that the official, Cornell-sanctioned period of new membership education is over, I fully intend to devote myself to bettering the fraternity in other ways. As Brother de Vries mentioned in his article in the Fall 2012 edition of the Traveler, the period of transition that occurs during officer election season is still a pressing issue. The current executive board is considering moving exec board elections from the middle of the fall semester (when Rush is in full swing) to the end of the spring semester, so that current officers get the entire summer to train incumbents on the details of their positions. I will be working closely with the next Senior Dean in further revising the NME program and taking into consideration valuable feedback from the NIBs. I also intend to reboot committees, which have pretty much died off in this house, by establishing a single multipurpose committee for motivated brothers based on the philosophy that one doesn't need an the title of an officer position to work on improving the various aspects of the house.



# Farewell to Our Seniors

*Each incoming pledge class also ties with an outgoing graduating class. We will miss these men dearly, and wish them the greatest of fortunes as they travel along life's pathway. We hope each will return and visit if they get the chance!*

## **Charles Ray**

Well. It's been about 4 years, off and on now. But I'm finally graduating. I've been applying to graduate programs, but sadly, I will be away from the hill next year regardless of where I get accepted. I've been applying to a mix of Psychology, and Prevention Science programs, so I'm not quite sure where I'll be or what exactly I'll be studying just yet. Most of the programs I'm applying to are in New England though so I won't be so far that I can't come back for a visit on occasion. Either way it's been a great almost 4 years. I just wish I could have been around more during the whole time.

## **Matt Johnson**

Although I realize this sentiment is completely clichéd, I must say that as my graduation date approaches, I feel both excitement for the start of the next step in my life, and sorrow for the end of the current one. I am currently not sure what my future holds. I know I would like to work in environmental engineering or nuclear non-proliferation, but I do not yet have a job. I would love to live in Spain or South America for a time, though have not restricted my job search with respect to location. I am hopeful, yet terrified, as I envision possible careers and apply for jobs.

Do I regret anything from the past four years? I would like to say no. That being said, I would still re-do my college experience, trying out different combinations of decisions. But I know I would not change (at least) one decision: that of joining our great fraternity, Acacia.

I admit that more recently, I have been less involved than I – and certainly my brothers – would prefer. After being Senior Steward and Venerable Dean, I began stepping back as new brothers took positions on the Executive Board.

Even since my own initiation, I have seen drastic changes in how we treat our community, our pledges, and our fellow brothers. With these changes, our current leaders, and our most recently initiated brothers, I can leave happy and calm, knowing that the fraternity is in good hands. I am proud of our brotherhood, and anxiously await my role as a brother alumnus – especially coming back to visit!

## **Matt Heller**

I am excited to be graduating this semester, but I am sad to be leaving my fellow Acacians and the brotherhood. I will be interning at a law firm again this summer and attending law school this coming fall. I will most likely be attending the University of Texas School of Law in Austin, TX, but I am still deciding between a few schools. I'm really excited for the next chapter in my life and plan to become a labor and employment attorney in the future. I have great memories of pledging and it is great to see how my fellow Acacians have developed and grown over the past 3 years. I wish the best of luck to my fellow graduates and may your futures be awesome.

## **Gabriel Torres**

Life in the fraternity ended up being way more fun than I had originally imagined as a wee freshmen. The responsibilities of Acacia have also been much greater than I had anticipated as well. During my time as technologist, I came to learn a lot about presenting the fraternity in the best possible light through the website, and how critical this is for the good of the fraternity. As secretary I learned the importance of communicating effectively with the brotherhood, and how it is of critical importance to keep everyone on the same page. My time as junior steward I learned how to coordinate brothers and the importance of keeping the house presentable. I also learned Steve Stein is saintly, and that brothers are just awful at doing the dishes. My final officer role was that of Treasurer. Keeping the budget under control over the typical crises of out-of-house brothers and overbudget expenses was a sobering experience. There have been great challenges over the course of the three years I have been here, but every time the house has pulled through when I least expected it. Though adversity, the brotherhood always comes together. I look forward to being a typical young alumni by passing on sarcastic advice and leaving a mess in the kitchen and framing the actives for it. Just kidding! I hope to be able to give back to the fraternity by continuing on as an alumni advisor, and not leave a mess when I visit. I am an Acacian and I am proud of it.

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## So Live, John Fan

This academic year has been quite eventful and challenging for all of us. Now that spring recruitment and new member initiation are over, I can't help but feel truly blessed to have our newly initiated brothers. It delights me when I think of the unparalleled fraternal experience that they are about to enjoy and the sense of community this fraternity has to offer.

Although this academic year has not been easy for the entire brotherhood, we have proven to be men that still thrive when faced with adversity. As the university is getting increasingly strict with the entire Greek system, everyone has adjusted to the new rules and regulations, which is extremely crucial to the survival of the fraternity at this time. Two fraternities are no longer recognized by the university starting this semester, and we need to prevent that from happening to us.

However, the brothers did not allow all the changes made by the Interfraternity Council to impair recruitment. Recruitment through open events has proven to be risky, so brothers recruited on a more personal level, which can be a lot more time consuming. Realizing the importance of new members, everyone contributed and went far beyond their responsibilities. Interaction with the recruits outside of open events not only gave them an opportunity to get to know the brothers better, but also provided us a chance to showcase the outstanding camaraderie that we put so much emphasis on.

The newly graduated alumni, despite their significant workload, did not hesitate to help improve recruitment. Although the closest of them live at least 5 hours away from campus, they frequently come back to the fraternity house. While some of them have become close friends with the rushees, just the fact that the alumni are still willing to visit us every once in a while shows how great a brotherhood we are, which is an important factor for potential new members.

We also changed our approach to meeting and becoming friends with potential new members. As a fraternity, we believe that although it's important to actively talk to potential new members, it is more crucial that we focus the majority of our energy on promoting brotherhood, which requires us to pay very close attention to details. Everyone is on the same page regarding this issue, and I observed a significant amount of effort made by the entire brotherhood to make changes happen. Things like organizing movie nights and doing homework together might not sound much, but I believe that it's the details that really make a difference at the end of the day.

As important as recruitment is, I was truly glad to see that everyone worked just as hard towards making the new member education program a great one after spring recruitment was officially over. I personally believe that the quality of the pledging experience directly affects how good a brother a pledge eventually becomes. Fraternity Appreciation Week often conflicts with a lot of preliminary exams, but most actives and even some alumni attended all the rituals during that week. I would like to thank the executive board for setting an excellent example for the brotherhood.

As a result of our combined effort, the pledge class this year is an outstanding one. I'm truly happy to see the sense of responsibility and unity they display. Although most of them have only known each other for a month or less, the strength of their friendship and mutual trust surprises all of us. I sincerely hope this pledge class and the rest of the brothers will keep doing their best as actives in the future. So live, my brothers.

## Keeping Northcote Intact, Neil Parker

In my short time as a brother at Acacia, I've seen Northcote undergo renovations as the brotherhood attempts to improve the house. Now being Senior Steward, it has become my task to be fully aware of these improvements that are being made and to maximize the longevity of the house as a whole. In my even shorter time overseeing these aspects of the house, I've done the small things such as organizing weekly cleanups, overseeing large-scale projects during rush week, and have even seen major renovations. Despite all of these changes, Northcote retains all of its glory and history as it acts as a haven for all of us here at Cornell.

Northcote changes on very subliminal levels as weekly cleanups go about. It changes from a dirty form to a cleaner one as the brotherhood works together to keep the house cleaner than ever. Just in the past few days, we have been thinking about setting new rules on post-event cleanups to further expedite the time in which the house is cleaned as no brother wants to spend even a minute in a house that isn't conducive to studying or bonding.

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I've also gone about implementing some new ideas; in particular, I've established a new system for the wing bathroom as the trash can had the tendency to become overfilled. Currently a brother's name is written on the bathroom mirror and it is his responsibility to replace the trash. Once the brother has completed this task, he can choose anyone else living in the wing to be the next on this task. This way it adds a dynamic cycle to the chore and has kept the trash can from overflowing thus far. With these new ideas I've been perusing, the house has, without a doubt, been changing. Nevertheless, Northcote has retained the underlying image that it has always had.

Along with these smaller changes, larger projects have also been taken on by actives. Particularly, during rush week, we took it upon us to repaint major parts of the house. We began by turning the previously yellow main stairwell in a nice calm blue/grey and the previously red bathroom next to the Davis Recreation Room from its depressing red color to a sandy green. Brother Alumnus Huth even helped by lending a hand covering room 42, next to the dormer, with a new coat of baby blue paint.

With each and every stroke we could feel us changing Northcote, as the coats of paint covered old stains created over the years. Finally, we took a preventative step as we choose to repaint many of the previous white doors grey in an attempt to have dirt be less apparent, a tactic which thus far has worked. Clearly, Northcote has been changing as new layers have replaced the old ones, however, the picture of brotherhood that symbolizes Northcote has not as even alumni continue to return and enjoy themselves. Through the plethora of changes that Northcote has undergone, it still remains the Northcote that it has been from the start. The small changes, the projects, and even the major renovations can't alter Northcote and its purpose. Northcote has transcended being a simple name for Acacia's place of residence and has become something greater. Instead of us destroying Northcote with our changes, we are constantly improving upon the old and adding our own bits of history.

## Treasurer Report, Noah Weingart

In August 2012, I had very little idea of what being an Acacian actually meant. Since then, I decided to run for Treasurer and to take an active role as a member of the Executive Board. Taking the reins from Brother Gabriel Torres was not an easy job; it was hard to follow a Treasurer with such a firm stance on financial policies. Nevertheless, I have been able to mold the position how I see fit, and as a result have been able to see an entirely new side of Acacia.

The main goal of the semester for me was to cut our costs in a variety of ways. Rather than simply encouraging brothers to reduce waste and make cost-effective purchases, I have taken a critical look at the house's financial policies and mechanics. This semester, we've been able to save a lot of money. Food ordering policies have been altered to eliminate our previous excess of food, and automatic light switches have been installed to save on the electric bill. We even changed our cable television, internet, and phone services to provide us with faster internet at a better cost. The actives can now enjoy their most prized commodity without shame! Besides just cutting costs, I've also taken steps to increase communication about our finances. Monthly budget reports have been sent out to keep officers informed of their spending. As a result, the actives are more conscious of their budgets than ever.

Despite the improvements to our chapter's financial policies, we will still need to pinch pennies come fall. Next year, we expect a relatively low number of brothers to live in the house. This will mean a lower expected income for the coming year. However, plans are in the works to allow alumni to donate directly to the active chapter. Previously, alumni could either donate to Acacia Fraternity Foundation or to the Corporation Board, leaving the actives with little say in how these donations were used. In the future, there will be channels for alumni to be able to contribute directly to the actives' discretionary spending. Look for it in the next *Traveler*!

Despite the precarious coming semester, I am optimistic about our future. The newly initiated brothers are extremely enthusiastic about being Acacians, and I fully expect next year's rush to be fruitful. Not to mention that the following year, almost all actives will be living in the house. I am confident that as treasurer, I'll be able to carefully manage our finances to bring us through the next year and into a more stable financial situation in the following one.

## In the Kitchen, Ian de Vries

This semester, as Junior Steward I have tried to take it upon me to fight for more cleanliness in our kitchen and more responsible use of our dishes, pots and pans. Over time, as pledge classes come and go, the norms with regard to kitchen etiquette and behavior that we all take for granted can change, and not always for the better. Sometimes, detrimental things will slip in – like thinking it's normal to use a pan, fill it with water to soak, then let whoever is on crew that evening take care of the rest. Changing norms isn't easy, because it's difficult to change automatic behavior we don't really think about as we go along, but in the past months things have improved significantly, and brothers are becoming more aware of how they should treat our kitchen. Everyone knows it takes a lot of energy to keep a kitchen clean – especially in an old house like Northcote – and a period of lesser vigilance near the end of last semester and the cold Ithaca temperatures outside caused a mouse problem. However, increased efforts by the brotherhood and some clever pest control made it a short-lived issue.

The increased kitchen cleanliness has been greatly appreciated by our cook Carol, who obviously benefits greatly from having a clean work environment. Dependent and available whenever we need, Carol continues to be an integral part of our house, not only by providing us with a great variety of meals every week, but also by assisting in organizing our social events. Not long ago, she cooked for our movie night brotherhood event, and for this year's Valentine's Day formal she prepared a delicious dessert buffet which was a great hit with the girls. It's clear that Carol is invaluable to our fraternity, so much that I often wonder 'what would we do without her?' Let's hope we never have to find out!

## Brotherhood Never Rests, Mike Wang

When it comes to having some brotherly fun in the company of fellow heartbreakers, champions, and philosophers, the boys at Acacia don't take any breaks. As Brotherhood chair for the past semester, I've helped to channel this fraternal love with a handful of events.

When the new Bond movie, Skyfall, came out this past fall, it seemed like the perfect way for us to "bond" over our mutual interest in classy seductive violence. A sizable portion of the brotherhood gathered to see the movie, and several rushees also attended the event. Despite the inevitability of cheesiness and some questionable plot points, which were promptly pointed out by the more incredulous brothers, everyone seemed to enjoy the movie. After all, deep down, everyone likes spies and explosions.

When the Super Bowl came around, tradition was upheld as we assembled to watch the game in our own mini theater, aka the dining room. We moved several couches into the room, streamed the game on the projector, and hooked up the speakers, to great effect. A Super Bowl event, however, is not a Super Bowl event without the proper delicious and greasy food to accompany it. To fulfill this requirement, our cook Carol made us an impressive variety of food: burgers, ribs, subs, wings, chips, and brownies. We also set up a betting game of sorts, where the winner would receive a cash prize. Ironically, Charlie Hernandez won the grand prize even though he needed convincing to place a bet in the first place.

Looking forward, I'm hoping to get the ball rolling on some new things. I want to set up a bracket for pool, so brothers can challenge one another for some friendly competition on their own time and rise in the ranks. And as always, a Super Smash Brothers tournament is a popular request that I'm looking forward to arranging. Get excited.

## Pledge Class Unity, Ed Sharood

Coming into pledging I only knew two of my fellow pledges, so I was understandably apprehensive about meeting them and the trials that lay ahead. After reading a few past Traveler articles I've found this to be a theme with most pledge classes. Nonetheless, the excellent Cornell Acacia brothers have picked engaging and welcoming men to pledge yet again. The sense of unity was quick to develop and the ties we have formed will surely only strengthen in the years to come as active brothers.

We are go-getters, we are can doers and we are in love with Acacia, guarantee. Each new member brings his own set of skills, diverse background and experiences to the fraternity. We are distinguished men, including a topnotch singer, a political activist, an Intel programmer and even an X-Pogo athlete. What I've realized over the past few weeks is that each one of us has a back story worth sharing and the drive to achieve even higher goals in the years to come.

## Meet the New Members

- Byung Hee (Tim) Chun
- Seoul, Republic of Korea
- Economics, Mathematics
- I was born and raised in Seoul, Korea until 2006 when my parents decided to send me to Honolulu, Hawai'i where my aunt and uncle reside. My parents have wished me to study abroad not only to study English but also to study in a more diverse, larger and opportunistic atmosphere and allow me to learn from many different perspectives. Learning English since then, I completed my middle school and high school in Honolulu and fortunately arrived at Ithaca to continue my education. Lamentably, I have to temporarily leave Cornell University for two years to serve military back in my home country. Despite the possibility of not returning back to this fantastic environment, brothers of Acacia will always be in my heart and I will never forget what I have experienced with them. I am blessed to be part of Acacia.



- Jackson Foo Ye Wei
- Singapore
- Hotel Administration
- Jackson is WAY old. A combination of military service and a gap year left him a 23-year-old freshman. He still tries his best to roll with the fervour of a younger man, though, which leads him to be part of many, many different student groups on campus: he plays Rugby for Cornell, he is a member of the Cornell Undergraduate Asia Business Society, he is a Guest Experience Manager for Hotel Ezra Cornell (look it up), he is on the e-board as Events Co-ordinator for the Singapore Students' Association, and now he is a proud member of the Acacia Fraternity. He absolutely loves to cook if he has the time, and you'll probably catch him singing while he's at it.



- Jake Fagliarone
- Estero, FL
- Chemistry
- Jake is a freshman in the College of Arts and Sciences; he is studying chemistry (for now, at least). As a Floridian, the weather is a huge change and snow is always something exciting for him. His first time shoveling was at Northcote. At Cornell, Jake works at Lynah Rink as one of the Zamboni drivers and is a huge Big Red hockey fan. In his free time, Jake enjoys extreme pogo sticking, or X-Pogo. He's traveled across the country and been on a few TV shows, doing flips and stunts on high powered pogo sticks, and hopes to travel to other countries in the near future.



(Continued on Page 12)

- Ed Sharood
- Kennebunk, ME
- Environmental Engineering
- Ed Sharood is originally from London, England but grew up in Maine. He is currently studying Environmental Engineering and pursuing a minor in Engineering Management. He enjoys being outside and foraging for fungi in the woods. While he is not studying he likes to listen to music, spend time with friends, longboard and ski. Ed is looking forward to bettering himself and the fraternity in his coming years in the house.



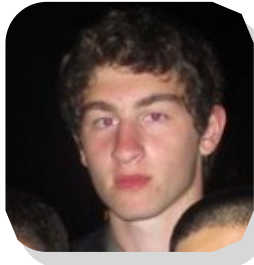
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This year's pledging process was all too short and only lasted five weeks. Yet still, these weeks were some of the best that I and many other pledges have experienced at Cornell. The first bonding experience came during the annual Sorority Serenade. Planning and practicing was never dull or boring, but rather a constant state of excitement as we got to know each other. In the end our song and cards were not the only fruits of our labor—we had truly come together.

One final highlight that stuck with me was during the high ropes course that we completed. After surpassing difficult group challenges we had to put our individual strength to the test. The final test was to climb a forty-foot tall pole and jump off (attached to a harness of course). What I struck me was when one pledge, Sid Nanda, who is admittedly terrified of heights, decided to go for it. He climbed to the top and with the support from us below, overcame his fear and took the leap. Now, as actives I know that our future will hold more chances for the support of our brothers to help us overcome our own obstacles while allowing us to help whomever we can.

- Dana Stiefel
- Wendell, MA
- Mechanical Engineering

- Dana is from Wendell, a very small town in western Massachusetts. He is a Mechanical Engineering major in the class of 2016. Dana enjoys playing video games, Ultimate Frisbee, basketball (it helps to be tall), rock climbing, and hanging out with friends. Dana is excited about the next three years with Acacia and hopes both he and the fraternity will benefit from his membership.



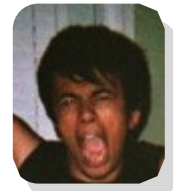
- Scott Marison
- Honolulu, HI
- Physics

- Scott is a freshman in the College of Arts and Sciences studying physics and pre-medicine. Scott is involved in the Hawaii Club at Cornell University and although he misses the warm sandy beaches of Hawaii, he also enjoys a change in scenery once and while. When Scott is not studying for his classes, he enjoys hanging out with friends, playing ping-pong and trolling John Fan. He hopes to make the most out of his next three years at Cornell and Acacia Fraternity.



- Sid Nanda
- Gaithersburg, MD
- Electrical and Computer Engineering

- Sid Nanda is a freshman ECE major who loves lamb curry, microprocessors, and Game of Thrones. He would like to point out that he was a fan of the books way before it became *mainstream*, *gosh*. In his spare time, he writes poems and lurks on Reddit. He does not yet have an account. He has made several throw-aways though. Sid is minoring in Business, as he wants to end up working for a venture capital firm at some point. He is just as confused as you are as to why he is majoring in ECE. Probably because he thinks it's badass.



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#### Dan Moskowitz

Upon graduating, I will be starting a three year Engineering Leadership Development Program with Lockheed Martin in Moorestown, New Jersey (which is ten minutes from Philly, where I will be living). I'm looking forward to getting into the aerospace and defense industry. The job requires me to get my Masters of Engineering while working, which I am also excited about – though I still have to take the GRE and fill out applications in the near future.

Although I basically joined Acacia on a whim, I am now grateful that I wandered into Northcote that fateful day back in freshman year. Sure, I have had my disagreements with certain brothers – just as any roommates are bound to – but I would not trade my experience or memories here for anything. Acacia has been a positive force in my life, and I can only hope the new brothers will get as much out of it as I have.

#### Alex Pan

Looking back on my 4 years at Cornell, I can't believe how much I have changed. I've made decisions, ones that made me take a step back from reaching my goals, and ones that pushed me to leap forward. Being a part of Acacia was one of those life decisions that I will remember forever. Three years ago, I honestly did not know where it was going to take me. I did not have Acacia or any fraternity in my ultimate scheme for things. Now, I realized how much it changed me. I would like to really emphasize my experience in leadership development and social skills. Rush and recruitment is the primary way that we continue our brotherhood. The necessary skills is not something that some of us had before college, and it's true for someone like myself. Acacia gave me the opportunity to practice and learn how to engage people I've never met before, and gave me confidence to do the same in other related activities outside of Acacia. Now, let's talk about my leadership experience at Acacia. Although I've only stepped into the role of philanthropy chair, I've learned quite a lot from other's leadership in the house. My learning came from observing others' successes and of course mistakes because we are human after all. These learning opportunities in turn helped me to develop my leadership role outside of Acacia, and I am forever grateful for that. Although I've only talked about two areas, there were many other ways that Acacia made an impact on my life. I will forever hold Acacia dear to my heart.

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**Sam Klarich**

I am graduating. Having invested 2 years of schooling in St. Louis, my hometown, and then successfully completing 2 years at Cornell University, I have a feeling of accomplishment. Why, I might even pat myself on the back. Why not?

An ILR transfer, I'm the only one of my kind among the active Brothers of Acacia. I became a member of this fine fraternity after a certain alum convinced me that to go through college life as a Brother is more significant than merely passing through as only a student. As such, my time here has been meaningful; I am now a part of something greater than a group or single friendship. The meaning of Brotherhood has more resonance and depth.

I am thankful for Acacia. My time at Cornell has been made better because of it. As I move on in the world, where I currently wait for decisions and (hopefully) acceptances to arrive for MBA programs, I know I will always have this Brotherhood. And so I am comforted. I am excited. I am graduating.

**Sunho Seo**

Here comes the graduation... I still remember my hell-like pledging semester, which I will never forget. Ever since, Acacia always welcomed me, and it's been like my second home. I have come to know each of brothers in some ways, and although there were only two years for me to share joy with fellow Acacians, it has been more than a blessing. I'm thankful for every second we, as brothers, enjoyed together. After graduation, I plan to go back to South Korea and start working. I haven't decided which company, but it'd be most likely in marketing/advertising field. In my country we often say that those who meet must part, and those who part must meet again. We will meet again. Farewell Acacia.

**Annual Corporation Board Meeting  
Saturday, May 4, 2013**

The Annual Meeting of the Cornell Chapter of Acacia Fraternity, Inc. will be Saturday, May 4, 2013 at 1:00 pm, at Acacia Fraternity, 318 Highland Road, Ithaca, NY 14850 (607-257-7055)

Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

## Alumni Mailbag

Robert B. Squires 1952 (496) [41 Churchill Ave, Massena, NY 13662] was very happy Acacia met our Capital Campaign goal. He will not forget Acacia's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Frank F. Tetz 1955 (554) [16 Donegal Way, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-7500; [fftetz@aol.com](mailto:fftetz@aol.com)] was the only Brother from his era to return for the Centennial+5 Celebration, but found it very worthwhile to see all the improvements at Acacia and meet with the current Actives – a very impressive group! They made him proud to be a Cornell Acacian.

Robert S. Fash 1958 (594) [1675 Ryder Cup Dr, Westlake Village, CA 91362-4235; [bobfash@roadrunner.com](mailto:bobfash@roadrunner.com)] keeps in touch with Marty Offenberger 1956 (568), John Male 1958 (600), and Roger Solaway 1957 (589).

William L. Keltz 1961 (632) [1403 Grand Oak La, West Chester, PA 19380-5908; [billkeltz@verizon.net](mailto:billkeltz@verizon.net)] uses the internet to keep in touch with classmates Preston Shimer 1961 (635), Bob Franson 1961 (636), and Dick Heine 1961 (630).

Dr. Norbert H. Roihl 1964 (669) [655 Concord Ave, Apt. 603, Cambridge, MA 02138] retired several months ago to Cambridge, MA after 37 great years of diagnostic and interventional radiology at Martin Memorial Medical Center, Stuart, FL. He and wife Janis now live near their son and daughter, their spouses, and their first grandchild and love the Boston metro area. Norbert still enjoys sculling and running (finished 1<sup>st</sup> in age group in a recent Boston half-marathon, and has 3 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place trophies in prior runnings of that race, plus a 3<sup>rd</sup> place age group trophy in the Tampa Bay Marathon). Enjoyed a trip to Turkey last fall and is planning trips to several other countries this year.

(Continued on Page 14)



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Dr. David A. Gorelick 1968 (717) [2705 Moores Valley Dr, Baltimore, MD 21209-1050; [DGorelick@comcast.net](mailto:DGorelick@comcast.net)] announces the birth of granddaughter Sarah Rivka Odelia on 9/6/2012 in Jerusalem, Israel. Her father (David's son) Jonathan 2002 and mother Orley Stahl 2003 are both Cornell graduates.

Jerry W. Kreider 1968 (720) [9 Narbrook Park, Narberth, PA 19072-2123; [jerrys2k@comcast.net](mailto:jerrys2k@comcast.net)] enjoyed 2 trips to Ithaca in 2012: March for the opening celebration of the new AAP building, Milstein Hall and August for the Centennial+5 where he enjoyed meeting new alums and Actives. Jerry recently returned from a 2-week adventure to Antarctica – a great trip to the White Continent.

David A. Odegard 1970 (743) [9505 Black Canyon Dr, Reno, NV 89506-2010; [odegaard385@sbcglobal.net](mailto:odegaard385@sbcglobal.net)] retired to Reno at the end of 2010. Biggest change was getting used to seasons again, after 40 years in CA. Seeing the results of the Capital Campaign in 2007 and 2012 was remarkable. Steve Stein 1973 (787), Tom Balcerski 2005 (1063), and the entire Capital Campaign team did a terrific job ensuring Acacia's future.

Daniel R. Merrill PhD 1983 (907) [3636 E. Oak Rim Way, Salt Lake City, UT 84109-3834; [dan@rppl.com](mailto:dan@rppl.com)] and Carol have returned to Salt Lake City. Dan accepted a position as Chief Clinical Scientist with a neurotechnology company, Ripple (long live Jerry Garcia!). They develop implantable neural recording and stimulation devices for underserved populations. Dan is living the dream!

John W. Carpenter III 1991 (959) [1123 NW 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, Delray Beach, FL 33444-2911; [jwc35@cornell.edu](mailto:jwc35@cornell.edu)] enjoyed seeing so many good friends at the Centennial+5. Will see you all again at the +10!

Thomas Ricketts 2003 (1051) [26 Keith St, West Roxbury, MA 02132-3117; [TLRicketts@gmail.com](mailto:TLRicketts@gmail.com)] now works for Anika Therapeutics as Sr. Process Development Engineer.

Thomas J. Balcerski 2005 (1063) [30 Waterside Plaza, Apt 21K, New York, NY 10010; [tbalcerski@gmail.com](mailto:tbalcerski@gmail.com)] thoroughly enjoyed the Fall 2012 Traveler and Centennial Spirit and hopes for continued excellence in the Spring 2013 Traveler. Tom is enjoying a fellowship year in NYC thanks to the Cornell History Department Sage Fellowship. He was also awarded the Paul W. Gates Fellowship from the Cornell History Department which he will use for research in Philadelphia. Prof. Gates was a noted CU history professor and was father of Annette Shimer 1961, spouse of Brother Preston Shimer 1961 (635).

Zachary A. Weinstein 2005 (1067) [1460 Ave Docteur Penfield, Apt. 103, Montreal, Quebec Canada H3G 1B8; [zaw2@cornell.edu](mailto:zaw2@cornell.edu)] is looking forward to completing his medical degree in May. Zach was happy to see many of his Acacia Brothers in the Poconos for Peter Rimshnick's 2005 (1060) bachelor party. Zach visited Northcote in July and was impressed by the Chapter Room renovations. Keep up the good work!

Hanny A. Carp-Martinovici 2006 (1071) [8101 Sumter Ave, Rosedale, MD 21237-2743; [hac24@cornell.edu](mailto:hac24@cornell.edu)] writes "After seeing how much good impact a handful of dedicated alumni can make, I was inspired to take an active part on the Corporation Board!"

Seth A. Jacobson 2008 (1092) [no permanent residence yet; [sethajacobson@gmail.com](mailto:sethajacobson@gmail.com)] moved to Nice, France for a new research position at the Observatoire de la Côte d'Azur. Drew Eisenberg 2008 (1094) and Seth recently went on safari in East Africa.

## Chapter Eternal

**Robert D. Flickinger 1942 (434) – 5/5/2011**

## Alumni Honor Roll

Donor	Roll	Class	Pledge	Year
John R Ahlfeld	(649)	1964	PL	1960
Thomas J Balcerski *	(1063)	2005	PL	2002
Joseph Beaudette	(1134)	2011	PL	2008
Robert J Bergren	(2443)	1950	PL	1947
Elie Yakov Bilmes	(1118)	2010	PL	2007
Richard E Brewer *	(687)	1965	PL	1963
Stewart L Burger *	(738)	1970	PL	1967
Martin S Cardinali	(918)	1984	PL	1981
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
Charles W Deakyne *	(446)	1950	PL	1947
John Mathias Ertl	(1148)	2011	PL	2009
Robert S Fash *	(594)	1958	PL	1954
Charles H Field Jr.	(614)	1960	PL	1956
Robert T Franson	(636)	1961	PL	1959
David A Gorelick	(717)	1968	PL	1965
William B Hairston III *	(873)	1980	PL	1977
Matthew S Harris	(1042)	2002	PL	2000
Alan L Jette	(895)	1982	PL	1979
William L Keltz	(632)	1961	PL	1958
Jerry W Kreider *	(720)	1968	PL	1965
John Male *	(600)	1958	PL	1955
Mark F Maltenfort	(831)	1977	PL	1974
Roman Markh	(1072)	2006	PL	2003
Andrew H Mercer	(890)	1982	PL	1979
Daniel R Merrill PhD	(907)	1983	PL	1980
Robert C Merritt *	(807)	1975	PL	1973
David A Odegaard *	(743)	1970	PL	1967
Thomas L Ricketts *	(1051)	2003	PL	2000
Norbert H Roihl *	(669)	1964	PL	1961
Noah Kenneth Santorello	(1124)	2009	PL	2007
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
Paul S Warner	(488)	1950	PL	1948
Zachary A Weinstein	(1067)	2005	PL	2002
Howard S Zwiefel III *	(734)	1969	PL	1966

43 Donors      19 Brother Tree Leaf recognitions

\* after name indicates Brother Tree leaf recognition

### 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. 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.



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Cornell Chapter  
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Ithaca, NY 14850-2302

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Top Left: Brother Schultz battles Brother Fuentes in a sumo event during rush week.



Bottom Left: (Starting at the bottom left and going clockwise) Brothers Smith, Holstad, Parker, Weingart, Fan, Cruz, Pan, and Liendo prepare for a rush week event.



Bottom Right: A group picture of Brothers and their dates during Valentine's Day Formal.