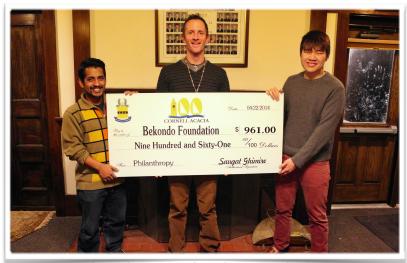
THETRAVELER

ACACIA FRATERNITY, CORNELL CHAPTER | Spring 2014 | Volume 107, Number II





Brothers Ghimire, Smith, and Hua proudly display a check to the Bekondo Foundation.

Philanthro-party!



Kevin Hua, 1185 ksh3@cornell.edu

This past semester has been a great step forward for philanthropy at our chapter. Having been inspired by the stories of Cameroon and efforts by our **Brother Timothy Smith** in his non-profit Bekondo Foundation, we decided to host a philanthropy event where the proceeds would go toward his foundation. The Bekondo Foundation has a mission to "alleviate poverty through reduced dependency upon agrochemical use while promoting sustainable farming practices. . . and facilitate a farmers co-op through financial and market education." Furthermore, Brother Smith has also brought select cocoa back from his trip to Cameroon, and has shared with us the fine chocolate bars produced by this sustainable cocoa.

(continued on p. 12)

SPRING 2014 CHAPTER ROLL

Executive Board

Noah Weingart (1180) Venerable Dean

Mechanical Engineering 2015 Westport, CT

Neil Parker (1176) Senior Dean

Information Science 2015 Elmira, NY

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 Science, Economics 2015 Cupertino, CA

<u>Actives</u>

Alex Yu (1153)

Operations Research 2014 Asheville, NC

Ariel Soriano (1159) Senior Steward

Information Science 2015 Brooklyn, NY

Matthew Miller (1162)

Computer Science 2014 Middle Village, NY

Kenneth Holstad (1165)

Material Science Engineering ²⁰¹⁴ Long Beach, CA

Matthew Marano (1166)

Biological Sciences 2014 Chappaqua, NY

Santiago Cruz (1167) Member Value Chair

Government 2014 Baton Rouge, LA

Jovanny Fuentes (1168)

Mechanical Engineering 2014 Paramus, NJ

Saugat Ghimere (1171) Co-Philanthropy Chair

Operations Research 2015 Kathmandu, Nepal

Andrew Park (1177)

Biological Engineering 2015 Chappaqua, NY

John Fan (1178)

Mechanical Engineering
2015
Shenzhen

Michael Wang (1179) Technologist

Computer Science 2015 Reading, MA

Shane Soh (1182)

Electrical & Computer Engineering 2014 Singapore

Timothy Smith (1184)

Policy Analysis and Management ²⁰¹⁴ Pawling, NY

Kevin Hua (1185) Co-Philanthropy Chair

Biological Engineering 2015 Flushing, NY

David Liendo (1186)

Biology and Society 2014 Bolivia

Jackson Foo (1188) Scholarship Chair

Hotel Administration 2016 Singapore

Jacob Fagliarone (1189) Junior Steward

Economics 2016 Estero, FL

Edward Sharood (1190) Secretary

Environmental Engineering 2016 Kennebunk, ME

Dana Stiefel (1191) Brotherhood Chair

Mechanical Engineering 2016 Wendell, MA

Scott Marison (1192) Dean of Alumni Affairs

Biological Sciences 2016 Honolulu, HI

Sid Nanda (1193)

Electrical and Computer Engineering 2016 Gaithersburg, MD

Hunter Reid (1194) Athletics Chair

Biological Sciences 2015 Tulsa, Oklahoma

Christian Choi (1195)

Chemical Engineering & Computer Science 2016 Dallas, TX

Chandeep Seth (1196)

Fine Arts 2017 Dubai

Christopher Markantonis (1197)

Biological Sciences 2016 Larchmont, NY

Vansh Dassani (1198)

Electrical and Computer Engineering 2017 Dubai

Jacob Padilla (1199)

Computer Science & Biological Sciences 2017 Denver, CO

Reuben Chen (1200)

Architecture
2017
Zhengzhou

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

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acacia@cornell.edu

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

The statements made and the opinions expressed in this publication are independent of the University and Inter-Fraternity Council (IFC). The chapter is solely responsible for the contents of this publication.

Letter from the Editor

Dearest Reader,

I hope this edition of *The Traveler* finds you well! It's been an exciting time at Acacia Fraternity since the start of the spring semester. A memorable rush week, glamorous philanthropy events, a flurry of brotherhood activities and much more have occupied the attention of the active chapter. Through this issue, we hope to convey to you what we've accomplished thus far, our hopes and goals for the near future, and the joy of being an Acacian.

As the Dean of Alumni Affairs and the editor of *The Traveler*, I hope this new design is both informative and entertaining. I have taken the very successful design from last semester's issue (thank you **Brother Jackson Foo**) and have combined it with some of my ideas in the hopes of making *The Traveler* a more enjoyable read.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your continued support. I speak for all of the actives when I say that even the smallest of contributions are greatly appreciated. I encourage you to stay in contact with us, whether it be driving up to Ithaca for Slope Day or posting on our Facebook page, we value your presence. Please enjoy this issue of *The Traveler!*

Fraternally,

Jest // MAUSIC

Scott Marison (1192)
Dean of Alumni Affairs
srm268@cornell.edu
(808) 342-3914

A Message from our Corporation Board **President**

I am writing this column on the day after my 63rd birthday. The 2013-2014 Fiscal Year is winding down, and as usual, a number of maintenance projects have been completed. Planned expenses included installing beautiful new lights in the Foyer and Living Room (they match the pendant fixtures over the Chapter Room conference table). We also removed the old bar room floor and now have a new epoxy floor (\$19,400) that should last for decades. The unplanned expenses included replacing the toilet in the second floor bathroom, repairing the plaster ceiling in Wing Room#27 (\$800), repairing the auto-flush valve in the Wing Bathroom urinal (\$100), replacing the fan motor in one of our two boilers (\$500), and most recently, having to deal with an attempted break-in where the beautiful stained glass window in the front door was smash by a rock. This will cost us about \$2,500 to replace after getting \$1,000 from our insurance. The Corporation is now putting away \$3,000/month into a capital improvements sinking fund, and we are striving toward not undertaking any such projects unless we have the money in hand.

The Actives are doing a great job keeping Northcote clean and presentable at all times. The Corporation continues to invest both time and money in Acacia's upkeep and is grateful to all of those who financially support our great Fraternity.

We still have a fairly extensive list of capital improvements we hope to

complete in the next few years, including remodeling the second floor office and replacing the tiled floors in the second and third floors and in the Wing bedrooms. Remodeling the fifty-five-year-old kitchen is another project that we'll be planning and saving for in the next couple of years. We hope the generosity of our Alumni will continue and allow us to undertake these much needed improvements.

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 this and recent Travelers have had very little news to share because Brothers aren't providing us with very much.

Finally, if you are able, please join us at our Annual Corporation Meeting on 5/10/2014 @ 1:00 pm. All are welcome!

Fraternally,

Steven L. Stein 1973 (787)

Teva J Sten

[339 E. Miller Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850-9431; 607-277-3125; cell 607-351-3901;

sls8@cornell.edu]

Venerably Speaking—Determination to Excel



Noah Weingart nrw24@cornell.edu

As another class of new brothers is brought in, I am reminded again what it means to be a true Acacian. Just a few weeks ago, Brothers Christian Choi, Chandeep Seth, Christopher Markantonis, Vansh Dassani, Jacob Padilla, and Reuben Chen were initiated. As always, the new member orientation allowed both new members and current brothers to rise to new heights and rejuvenated our collective sense of brotherhood. I am confident that the commitment displayed by our brotherhood has inspired our new members to meaningfully contribute to Acacia for years to come.

In my last article, I focused largely on how the shifting Greek environment at Cornell has forced our house to reconstruct our recruitment efforts from the ground up. This new plan flowed smoothly into a more traditional rush week. Although we recruited a comparatively small number of new members by the end of the week, I can confidently say that there was more effort and commitment put into the official rush week than any rush week I have witnessed. The ability of the brothers to socialize with potential new members and to show them what it means to be an Acacian was impressive, to say the least.

Nevertheless, it is impossible to ignore the relatively low number of new members for this spring. The trend of decreasing recruitment is frightening for

the future of our chapter. This is a fact that is not being ignored by the current brotherhood. We are actively discussing the recruitment plans for the coming year to reverse this trend. The situation is dire, and we are prepared to put in as much effort as possible to properly address it. Personally, I plan to spend the coming fall to work with the next Executive Board to make completely sure that our chapter will have a bright future in the years ahead.

On a more positive note, I have been pleased to observe the brotherhood taking responsibility for the current state of the house. On the social front, a committee has been formed to address our collective branding and marketing scheme. For a long time, we have not had answers to the questions of what we want our reputation to be and how to achieve that image. I am pleased to know there is now a dedicated group of brothers carefully examining this issue. With regards to our internal affairs, we have instituted a new chapter meeting format that facilitates communication among brothers regarding personal issues. I look forward to how this new format, which will be used sparingly, will allow us to solve problems as a group.

Looking toward next year, I am extremely excited for the new member class of 2013 to take the reins and lead the house to new heights, with the cooperation of my own new member class along with the newly initiated brothers. I believe that with the correct effort, the future of Acacia looks bright.

What's the Rush?



Thomas Schultz tws68@cornell.edu

Another Rush week has come and gone, and Acacia fraternity welcomed six outstanding new brothers into the brotherhood in late January. Planning Rush Week was a huge undertaking as usual, but I think overall it was extremely successful. We started the week out by coming to Ithaca early to clean the house. Many rooms were painted, many walls were scrubbed, and the end result was a clean house that we were all extremely proud of. Before the events could start, I hosted a two hour Rush Workshop with the help of **Brothers** Alumni Elie Bilmes, Erik Burkhalter, Rich Rothman, and Brian Cannon. In the workshop, we made sure all brothers were on the same page and knew the game plan going into the strenuous week.

Next came the most important part: the actual Rush Week. I had many events planned, most of which were a rousing success. We started off with Meet the Greeks, where we actually met one of the future new members. Following the event was a meet and greet at Northcote, complete with hot chocolate and flavor trippin'. We followed this event up with an early brunch, and had to be quick on our feet when the sumo wrestling suits that were supposed to arrive for the days event never came. Because of the new Rush Week schedule, the Saturday event was next up right in the middle of the week. We took a trip to **Turningstone Casino**, where many of our brothers's made a good fortune (and I lost a lot of money). Everyone was given

playing cards and most people seemed to have an awesome experience. We followed this up with a buffet dinner and then a trip for a few hours to **Syracuse Acacia**, who are always extremely welcoming to us. The entire trip was extremely fun.

Sunday brought in some playoff football and wings, along with the second contact period. We really had a better feel as to who was interested in the house. On Monday, the house took taxis to the local Chinese Buffet, where everyone seemed to have plenty of fun. Finally, Tuesday was spent doing Final Contacts. We handed out bids to outstanding people who exemplified our fraternal views. Those who received a bid were invited to our suit and tie bid dinner at Madeline's restaurant on the Ithaca Commons. We were treated to amazing steak and chicken dinners, as well as some of the best desserts that Ithaca has to offer.

Altogether, I am extremely happy at the effort the house put in during the Rush Week itself, in terms of making an effort to meet everyone who walked through the door. We have to remember as a house that rush does not occur only in this time but throughout the entire year. I want to thank all the Active Brothers and Alumni Brothers who helped put together the tough week. For more information regarding the new brothers please read the rest of the *Traveler*.

A New Program for New Member Education



Neil Parker nwp7@cornell.edu

As the Senior Dean, my main responsibility is new member education. This year was tough to handle with the decreased time period, which has now essentially become three weeks based on

what IFC has put upon us. Nevertheless, we still went through with the membership process. It was a rushed and short time, but we tried to instill as many values upon the new brother as possible. We taught them the history of Acacia and of the Cornell Chapter, and along with this, we did bonding exercises such as bonfires and creating Valentine's

Day cards for the sororities on campus.

Ultimately, I think we brought in a solid class of six new brother into the house. Only time will truly tell how effective the program truly was. We plan to continue to integrate the new brothers into events throughout the semester, as they start to learn the commitments of brotherhood.

One alteration I've made during my time as Senior Dean was changing pledge paddles into brother paddles. There simply is not enough time to create a meaningful paddle during the three week period new members currently have. So, to combat the issue of pledge paddles, we've gone with the idea of creating paddles soon after the initiation period. This allows greater bonds to be created with the brotherhood and also gives the brothers time to spend crafting their paddles.

Now that some of my other responsibilities have been relieved, I want to find the next Senior Dean and help restructure the program for next year. It's difficult to fit everything within 3 weeks,

and it's imperative that the next Senior Dean plans things far in advance. Further, small tweaks to the program will definitely help enhance it.

Next, with the new members, I hope to motivate and encourage them (as well as the rest

of the brotherhood) to act to improve our fraternity. I want to look at our current rush/recruitment

strategies and figure out how to do better. I want to try to encourage everyone next year to join clubs that interest them in groups of two to three. I truly believe that if we join these clubs, with an intent to enjoy ourselves, that we'll find others like us with similar interests and can then introduce them to Acacia. As I see it, there's not a good reason not to introduce anyone to Acacia. It's less of selling them a product or experience, but introducing them into life long journey that will push them down the

pathway of success.



Brothers Choi, Chen, Markantonis, Padilla, Seth, and

Saving the Best for Last



Aditya Ramesh ar539@cornell.edu

As my time as an active member of Cornell Acacia winds down, my goal as Junior Dean has been to place Acacia in an optimal position to succeed socially and improve its on-campus reputation for years to come. I am happy to say that we have made strides in many areas this year, including our sorority relations. This was aided with the induction of the spring 2014 new member class, who were sent to serenade the ladies of all twelve Cornell sororities. Their serenade medley was an instant hit with the sorority girls, who were impressed with Brother Chen's guitar chords as well as Brother Dassani's trombone solo. The rest of the brotherhood is eagerly waiting to hear the pledge class of 2014 perform at our Spring Formal, which is coming up on April 11. This year our formal will be held at Mia's Restaurant, a Eurasian cuisine restaurant that offers eclectic tastes from all over the Eastern hemisphere. The semester will be capped off with a brotherhood date night at the Moon Chinese Buffet during Slope Day weekend, which is turning into an annual Acacia tradition.

During the four week new member orientation, Acacia primarily focused on internal brotherhood events, as mandated by Cornell IFC regulations. This, however, did not prevent brothers from leaving the house and making connections with those outside the boundaries of Northcote. Brothers communicated with each other and coordinated trips to various social events

in Collegetown. The Bekondo Foundation's philanthro-party at Level B was a unique experience to raise money for a good cause in an outside social environment. The ladies of the local Ithaca College **Sorority Gamma Delta Pi** came out in large numbers to help support the event. As appreciation for their support, the ladies were invited back to our house for an afterparty mixer.

The dawn of Cornell IFC's fourth quarter signals more flexibility for social events. We have coined and held events called "medium parties", which are invite-only events in which anywhere from 25 to 50 guests attend. On the open party front, the pledge classes of Spring 2013, Fall 2014, and Spring 2014 are working together to bring back "Nite on the Nile" as our large end of the year event for the Cornell community. Our brothers at Syracuse Acacia are coming up for a visit in April, which will definitely be a great opportunity to bond with our Acacia chapter closest to us both in distance and in relationship.

Aside from that, brothers are looking forward to continue to strengthen Acacia's social reputation on campus. I am confident that the next Junior Dean will pick up where I left off and take Cornell Acacia to the next level.





Treasurer's Report - Thank You!



Sho Iketani si75@cornell.edu

I found it quite interesting looking back through previous articles in The Traveler and to see that many officers particularly those who were on the executive board - were surprised at how quickly the time passed for them. Despite being in this position for almost a year, it does indeed feel short; perhaps due to the running around coupled with the usual workload provided by Cornell. Nevertheless, I have grown significantly as a brother and as a member of society through holding this position, and I continue to be honored that I was deemed fit for the position by my peers. We have made significant strides over the past year, and I hope that those who elected me are happy with their choice.

Our biggest purchase over my term was undoubtedly the **four couches and love-seat** that we purchased from **Wayfair** last semester. Although I mentioned it in my previous article as

well, I would like to bring it up again as after the previous Traveler went out for press we met and exceeded our goal of alumni donations to support the purchase. I cannot thank enough each and every alumnus who contributed; it is truly your support that allows our functioning as a chapter. The furniture looks beautiful, and I do hope individuals are able to come by and view them when they are in town.



The new couches are a drastic improvement

We have also continued to make smaller purchases, outside of our regular expenses with the aim of improving the functionality of the house. The microwave was replaced, as the old one was beginning to rust, and

quite a significant supply of paint was purchased for repainting much of the interiors of the house. I invite you to read the other sections of this *Traveler* for further details.

Despite such purchases, we have also been working to maintain, if not improve our finances. At the end of last semester, we were able to add money to the savings account, and it has increased approximately 15%. This was made possible by the significant efforts of the past and current officers, who have all diligently worked with me to ensure that we are able to stay within our budget. Though I hope such a time never arrives, if there is ever a need, I hope that future Actives are thankful for what we have left for them as others have left for us.

I look forward to finishing up my term and guiding the next Treasurer.

Meet the New Brothers of Spring 2014

Christian Choi ("Jesus")

Dallas, Texas Chemical Engineering & Computer Science

Born in New York City but raised in a suburb of Dallas, Christian Choi is a Sophomore in the College of Engineering studying Chemical Engineering and Computer Science. Although his schedule does not allow of a lot of free



time, in his spare time he enjoys hanging out with friends, playing tennis, occasionally cooking, and catching up on sleep. He is always excited to meet new people and to learn and try new things, and he looks forward to all the memories he will share with his brothers at Acacia.

Jacob Padilla ("Sandshrew")

Denver, Colorado Computer Science & Biological Sciences



Jacob was born in Denver, Colorado and is a Freshman pursuing a double major in Computer Science and Biology. He hopes to be a doctor someday. His

favorite book is *Paradise Lost*, and he like dragons. In his free time he enjoys playing sports, exercising, playing video games, and watching movies.

Vansh Dassani ("Forrest Gump") Dubai

Electrical and Computer Engineering

Vansh Dassani is a Freshman Electrical and Computer Engineer. Born and brought up in Dubai, Ithaca has been a change for Vansh, but Acacia has helped him settle in at Cornell. As a self professed computer geek, he loves all things tech related and hopes to one day be like Steve Wozniak. With a diverse taste in music, he likes finding new artists and genres, whiles also DJing from time to time. He also likes to take pictures of pretty things, and considers himself a bit of a hipster with his 35mm film cameras. Vansh is hoping to make full use of his time at



Cornell, by taking part in the Formula SAE project team, and becoming involved with on-campus startup life. Most of all, he's looking

forward to spending quality time with his fellow Acacians and making new friends as well.

Chandeep Seth ("The Dream")

Dubai Fine Arts

Chandeep Seth is a human. He chooses not be distinguished by sociologically imposed labels for ethnicity, professional aspirations or marital status. He dislikes peanut butter and four-leaf clovers. He likes dreaming about record vinyls dipped in chocolate butterscotch. He likes chirping-bird alarm tones in the morning. He likes neon light shining upon the side of a pedestrian's face. His



religion is manhood. He sees through the perpetual third eye to find music in the cracked valley of life. He is the wonderer who knows that knowledge is limitless and that nothing can be known, or unknown. He also likes thinking big thoughts when musically stimulated. He is one. He is He.

Christopher Markantonis ("Chronos")

Larchmont, New York **Biological Sciences**



Chris is a Sophomore in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and is a premed studying biology with a concentration in General Biology, as he is wants to explore "all that biology has to offer." Chris grew up in Larchmont, NY, but since most people aren't aware of its location, he tells everyone "Westchester," which is less frustrating in small talk. In his spare time, he enjoys swimming (albeit he hasn't swam competitively since high school...don't ask), playing guitar, and listening to obscure music. He is also the nicest person you will

ever meet, and has an opinion for everything. Chris hopes to better the fraternity with his positive attitude, black humor, organizational skills, and crazy antics.

Reuben Chen ("Greyhound")

Zhengzhou, Henan Architecture

Reuben Chen is a first year architecture student. Naturally, he enjoys drawing and designing. He also likes to watch various movies with friends when he has spare time. Unlike others, Reuben dropped high school and instead took two years to set up a company. He interned in Beijing for an internet management and construction project, and he has traveled across China on his bike. He looks forward to the following years as a brother of Acacia.



(continued from p. 1)

As we planned out the type of event to benefit the Bekondo Foundation. spring was arriving with all of its festivities. We were inspired by our Brother Santiago Cruz to host a Mardi Gras philanthropy event in honor of the Bekondo Foundation. The event would mimic the original New Orleans Mardi Gras Festivals through its charismatic decorations, scrumptious refreshments, and musical flairs. We immediately took action to set the event in motion. We decided a night of fun, glitter, and dancing would not only introduce the Mardi Gras culture, but also awareness for the Bekondo Foundation, at the local club "Level B." As a brotherhood we all helped to sell tickets to the event, and manned tables

daily at several hotspots on campus, promoting the event and the Bekondo Foundation through large posters and even chocolate samples.

The night of the event was executed perfectly. Thanks to Brothers Kevin Hua, Jackson Foo, and Timothy Smith, three types of soup shooters, along with an antipasto skewer, and King's cakes were provided as delectable nourishment. Furthermore, thanks to Brother Saughat Ghimire and the brotherhood, decorations were set up at Level B and looked like an incredible festival. Furthermore, we managed to set up an inflatable jester waving an American flag above the signs of Level B, signaling the start of our Mardi Gras festival for all the party-goers at

Eddy Street to see. Starting

at 9:30, streams of friends and invitees arrived to join in on the night, enjoying specially made Mardi Gras drinks, refreshments,



A Bekondo Chocolate Bar

and the atmosphere.

Overall, the night ended successfully, as brothers helped to manage party guests and clean up after the event. We raised **\$961** from the event, the biggest sum in one event for the past couple of years, and proudly presented it as an donation the Bekondo to Foundation to further its goals in establishing sustainable cocoa farming in Cameroon.

The Bekondo Foundation goal is to build a sustainable education center for the farmers and village. If you would like to learn more about the Bekondo Foundation, please visit:

www.bekondofoundation.org

Alternatively, you may send an email to:

tim@bekondofoundation.org

An extravagant spread of refreshments at Level B



In the Kitchen

Jacob Fagliarone jjf256@cornell.edu

I've seen the level of cleanliness that we can obtain in Northcote's faithful kitchen, and I hold that as both a standard for the present and as a point of hope for the future. The actives make great efforts in maintaining our kitchen and hold it as a point of pride. Countless guests and alumni take note of Northcote's cleanliness, in the kitchen and elsewhere, and it fuels our drive to keep our house at a standard above most others.

As we put in our greatest efforts to maintain the kitchen, **Carol** reciprocates this effort with not only delicious and superb meals, but also with great diversity, ranging from Syrian to Greek cuisine. This year we enacted a voting policy, in which meals are voted on to determine the dinner menu for the following week. Additionally, Carol continues to prepare her unrivaled desserts for each brother's birthday, giving us a taste of home living that would otherwise be missed.

Further, Carol continues to be an integral and dependable aspect of Northcote, providing us with food for events outside of daily dinners. She was an essential element in our rush process, preparing huge amounts of appetizers and snacks for our various events. I'm certain that our actives will continue to uphold the cleanliness of our kitchen for years to come.

Health, Fitness, and Recuperation: Making HFR Northcote's New Priority

Hunter Reid hfr25@cornell.edu

With the support of Gannett Health Services, chapters of the Cornell Greek Tri-Council have been invited to join an initiative whose goal is to promote and maintain the health and well being of its respective members. It has been my honor to bring this service to the brothers of Cornell Acacia. In doing so, I have modified the existing Athletics Chair position to now include the new **Health and Wellness Chair**'s expectations and responsibilities set forth by Gannett. Of course brothers

have still been enjoying various intramural sports such as basketball and bowling.

It has been a hectic semester trying to incorporate this new program into our chapter, but it has been met with much approval. I have planned two events so far: a certification course for CPR and AED plus a short presentation titled Wingman 101. **Over 15 brothers have signed up** to receive training in CPR and use of an AED for infants, children, and adults provided by Cornell EMS! This is a great opportunity to gain a useful skill in emergency situations and it will be completely free. I'm excited to see our brotherhood eager to learn more and get involved in the health and wellness programs.

To Brotherhood

Dana Stiefel dcs237@cornell.edu

This semester I am tasked with maintaining and strengthening the fraternal tie between brothers. The budget allotted to me as the Brotherhood Chair has grown substantially form past semesters, indicating the fraternity's increased desire to strengthen brotherhood among its members. Such trust should not be taken lightly and I intend to make my influence as Brotherhood Chair felt on a day to day level. To accomplish this task I have taken a page from the book of Brother Alumnus Jared Leventhal. Due to popular demand, I am directly lifting the ideas of ongoing pool and video game brackets from Brother Leventhal; I have also created a Fraternity wide March Madness bracket. These activities are particularly attractive, because they offer a form of brotherhood event that can occur spontaneously every single day. My effectiveness as Brotherhood Chair is largely limited to the time I can spend in service of my brothers, and friendly competition between brothers without my direct supervision allows me to work on other projects for the brotherhood while still entertaining the bracket's participants. For various reasons, Thursdays have emerged as the optimal day to host Brotherhood events, and so my goal as Brotherhood Chair is to have an event at least every second Thursday.

My first true event came in the form of a **Big-Little "water pong tournament."** This event was particularly significant as it provided a major event for the then potential new members to fully

bond with their Big Brothers and to get to know the house in general. I particularly enjoyed this event because it was the first time, outside new member orientation, that the entire fraternity gathered to enjoy each other's company. My second event was hosting and organizing Acacia's Super Bowl party. Many Alumni came back to celebrate the occasion with Actives, as well as to watch the game on the big screen. While the brothers rearranged the dining room into a temporary theater, our cook, Carol, prepared pizza, wings, refreshments and the largest sub I have ever seen. Brother Marano managed to route our cable TV to a projector where we set up rows of couches to enjoy the Super Bowl and Carol's splendid creations in style. Due to frequent requests, my first installment of Brotherhood Thursdays took the form of poker night. Brothers gathered to the fraternity's newly rediscovered poker table in hopes of besting each other in a battle of wits and luck. A few exciting events to look forward to in the future include: Broom **Ball** at Lynah rink and my personal favorite, AKAK Cup. All accounted for, our Brotherhood is looking strong this semester and if I do my job properly it will only get stronger.



Brother Foo is excited to open his Secret Santa gift.

Photo taken by Brother Shane Soh.

Preserving and Adding Value to Northcote

Ariel Soriano aas257@cornell.edu

Having a clean home goes beyond just a pleasing appearance—it forms the foundation for order and respect. This is the philosophy we as Actives have abided by this semester in keeping Northcote as presentable as possible.

House cleanliness has drastically improved from past years under a new cleaning system implemented this semester. The new scheme gives brothers positive incentives to do regular cleanup tasks and

beyond. With an eye on the grand prize of a gift card, many have been eager to accrue as many cleaning credits as possible since the semester started. Tasks that have typically been considered onerous, such as shoveling snow and refunding cans, appear more inviting than ever with these new incentives.



This maze created by Brother Sharood lies on one of the dormer walls

This semester many brothers have taken the initiative to reimagine areas of the house. In particular the Dormer or the former attic, has had one of its walls turned into a maze with a clever design by Brother Edward Sharood. In addition to the wall maze in the Dormer, the Weight Room across the hall from the Dormer has received a complete transformation. Staying true to our house colors, the walls and ceiling have been painted black and will be

converted into a multi-dimensional mural headed by one of our newly initiated brothers, **Brother Chandeep Seth**. Although it is still in the works, the final design will include bright colors—predominantly yellow—to contrast against the dark walls. The resulting artwork will be one of the more modern art endeavors our house has undertaken and is certainly befitting of the Weight Room, a room that has historically served a multitude of functions.

There are quite a few upcoming renovations and improvements in store. One of the more exciting planned renovations is a complete upheaval of the

Office (quite literally). Our own Brother Alumnus Hanny Matinovici proposed the idea and initial designs. Essentially, the deteriorating tiles will be replaced by engineered flooring and a built-in wall organizer will replace the current dresser holding office materials. Additionally, desks will be placed as possible to allow more brothers to use the

space. Depending on how much the chapter's AFF account will contribute to the project, we could potentially see the office becoming slightly larger by knocking down the existing protruding facades (rightmost wall).

In all, the future of Northcote looks more promising by the day. With all the creative ideas and hard work provided by Actives and Alumni alike, there is nothing we can't accomplish.

Farewell to Our Seniors

Aditya Ramesh



It's quite surreal how quickly these past four years have gone by. I still fondly remember receiving my invitation to join Acacia back in the Spring of 2011, and I accepted it without looking back. At the end of four years, I am happy to say it helped me develop personally in so many ways that I didn't foresee when I first joined. I feel prepared for any challenges that may come about in the future and look forward to meeting those challenges head on. I am currently in the process of applying and

interviewing with graduate schools for business analytics and engineering management programs. While I have already been admitted to Cornell's M.Eng program, I most likely will venture outside of Ithaca's borders to learn in a new atmosphere. I look forward to coming back to visit the house I love, for whatever the occasion might be. After all, I am an Acacian, and I always will be.

Matthew Miller

College is a strange place. You go in as a teen, you take some courses, and then you're expected to come out as an adult with a job. It's not really clear what happens in the middle. Acacia is our middle. I am pleased with how college turned out for me, largely because Acacia forced me into contact with a brotherhood full of interesting people I would not have otherwise interacted with. Soon I will begin the final step of the college plan: being sad that I had to graduate and become an adult with a job. I will be working as a Software Engineer at Wayfair after graduation, along with Alex Yu



and Ian DeVries. Hit us up if you are ever in the Boston area. Until then, may your solo cups be ever flipped, your sticks picked up, your pledge class full.

Matthew Marano



While I might not know exactly what I'm going to do after graduating, the general plan is to continue my academic pursuits in graduate school, because studying evolution and ecology is my passion. I'll need to find some experience as a research technician before that can happen, however. Despite the uncertainty that the future holds, I'm confident that I can succeed, if only because I have the experiences and brothers of Acacia to support me.

When I first arrived at Cornell, my future as an undergrad was also uncertain. I was unaware of my potential, and the amount of growth that could be accomplished in four short years. I'm very grateful to Acacia for having found me, because it is the one thing I can point to that has influenced my personal growth more than anything else during my time at Cornell. From a directionless freshman to an Acacia brother, and from an unexperienced brother to the Venerable Dean, I am still amazed at the amount of growth I experienced.

I'll admit that being Venerable Dean wasn't easy. I had to make many difficult decisions and be responsible for the entire Active chapter. However, I am truly grateful for the experience, and the opportunity that Acacia provided me to truly be a leader for the first time in my life. I know that I will be able to take these experiences with me for the rest of my life, and they will help me face any future challenges, both big and small.

Santiago Cruz

Though it was almost four years ago, I distinctly remember the first time I ever tried alcohol. It was Keystone Light of course, and it was followed by my first ever game of beer pong with Brothers Alumni Tory Farney and David Skiff. Since those halcyon days devoid of worries of post-undergraduate employment, Acacia Fraternity has been an enduring fixture of my college life. When my friends back home ask me what I've been doing up in New York, I tell them of my indescribable year spent tripling the dormer with Marano and Miller (and of course, the unofficial fourth resident, Neil), my tenure as Senior Dean (helped



along the way by the awesome Fall '12 and Spring '13 pledge classes), all the brotherhood events, games of beer pong, late-night kitchen conversations, formal shenanigans, and that absolutely sick Acacia in Wonderland party my pledge class organized. Of how I learned to plan events, and how I learned to play Super Smash Bros (by losing. Losing a lot).

My future plans are fairly simple. Immediately after graduation, I'll be relocating to Louisville, Kentucky, for an organizational development internship. After that, I'll continue to build my human resource management career. I'll definitely be busy, but hopefully I'll be able to find time to visit Northcote. On a certain, chill night in April of 2011, I was asked "What is the difference between a brother and a friend?" I suspect that in the coming years, where each of us go our own way in life, I will be able to more properly answer this question as I continue to appreciate all that Acacia has given to me. Though my time as an Active will end, I will be an Acacian for the rest of my life. In closing, I want to thank all of the Actives and Alumni who made my time at Cornell so wonderful, and leave you with this:

"So live, that when thy summons comes to join the innumerable caravan which moves to that mysterious realm of post-Cornell life, where each shall take his diploma to the silent halls of gainful employment, thou go not, like the starving artist to Starbucks, scourged to his dungeon, but sustained and soothed by an unfaltering trust, approach thy career like one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him, and sits down to a pleasant post-grad life."

Alex Yu



With my last semester as an undergraduate coming to a close, I can say that joining Acacia was the best decision I have made in my entire undergraduate career. I will forever remember my time as an Active and I look forward to many more memories as an alumni of Acacia. After graduation, I will be moving to Boston with fellow Acacians, Ian de Vries and Matt Miller, where we will be working as software engineers at Wayfair, LLC. Until then, I will enjoy my remaining days as an active and a senior doing what I enjoy doing – enjoying life with my brothers.

David Liendo

When I first came to Cornell University, I did not think that I was going to find a new family of friends & brothers. Being an Acacian was not a destination, but a journey to learn in so many ways from each other. I grew and shared bonds with you all. You are all genuine, nice, and willing to offer advice at anytime. I have been blessed with brothers like you. As I leave, I take with me the great memories with my brothers, ratchetness, CHUSA and Fishbowls!



Shane Soh

It has been my privilege to be a part of Cornell Acacia. Suffice to say, my three years in Acacia have undoubtedly been too short. Nevertheless, I am greatly appreciative of the tremendous



kinship and respect that have been extended to me. My time in Acacia has been profoundly enriching and nurturing. For that, I thank every single one of my brothers — you have all made a positive impact on me in one way or another.

As my time in Cornell Acacia draws to a close, I look forward to the new opportunities and experiences in graduate school. I will be pursuing a M.S. degree in either Computer Science, Electrical and Computer Engineering or perhaps Operations Research — this is something I still need to carefully deliberate over. After that, I will very likely be working back home in Singapore. To that end, if

any of my Acacia brothers find themselves in that part of the world, look me up and I will be glad to show you around.

Kenneth Holstad

As a second semester senior, I feel like I've finally had some time to take it easy here. I think the three years in Acacia have been incredibly valuable. Especially with my current career path,

I can honestly say I've learned significantly more from my experiences here outside of my classes that will help me in the future (well, except maybe for wines class). I'll be following in Charlie Hernandez's footsteps working as a Data Analyst at Capital One near Washington, D.C., although I was fortunate enough to be able to do so without having to pay for a fifth year M.Eng. degree here. I guess that Business minor really paid off. I'm sure I'll continue to miss the weather in California, but I look forward to being around the Northeast where I'll be able to maintain connections with Brothers Alumni.



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

Travels in Indiana



Sho Iketani si75@cornell.edu

Over the course of two days early this past January, I was given the privilege of attending the inaugural Leonard W. **Kearney Venerable Dean** Summit in Indianapolis. The Summit was conceived as a means of bridging the gap created between the Acacia Leadership Academy and Conclave, which are each once a year during the summer, and was geared towards Venerable Deans as many chapters hold their elections at the end of the calendar vear. I was allowed to attend as an Executive Board member due to Venerable Dean Weingart's other obligations during the winter break.

The Summit itself involved a series of workshops given by members of International Headquarters, the International Council, and the Acacia Fraternity Foundation, as well as discussions on any topics that individuals wished to bring up and discuss. In particular, these roundtable discussions of issues that

each chapter faced were rewarding to listen and participate in, as oftentimes we face similar issues yet have rare opportunities to interact and provide ideas to each other. I think being able to take away this leadership knowledge and the sense of brotherhood on a national scale was immensely beneficial for me, and I am very grateful for the opportunity.

I would also like to note that this trip into the "Polar Vortex" (it was about -30 degrees with windchill on the day that I tried to leave, and my original flight was canceled!) was only made possible with a grant from our account with the Acacia Fraternity Foundation. Although lodging and other aspects of the Summit was paid for by the donation given by Brother Kearney (whom the Summit is named after), the cost of travel was left up to the individual chapters. Especially as a college student, paying several hundred dollars for airfare would have been quite difficult for me to pay. Thank you to those that have contributed to our AFF fund, ensuring that such travel is possible!

However, especially as we now have an additional annual event that we must travel to - in addition to ALA and Conclave - I would like to invite brothers to consider making a donation to our AFF fund. Not only is the donation tax-deductible, you can be assured that the money will only be used for educational expenses such as these. I very much enjoyed my first trip to Indiana, and I hope that future leaders of our chapter continue to have these opportunities.

<u>Acacia Fraternity</u> Foundation Donations

Tax-deductible contributions to 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 chapter's Foundation is limited to scholarships and qualified educational expenses.

Alumni Mail Bag

William Pendarvis Jr. 1947 (440) [11781 SE 162 Ave, Clackamas, OR 97086-6776] is keeping very busy in his vineyard, winery, and wine bar business.

Robert B. Squires 1952 (496) [41 Churchill Ave, Massena, NY 13662-1630] was so pleased Acacia met our Capital Campaign goal.

Doug McIlroy 1954 (519) [1 Hayfield Rd, Etna, NH 03750-4101; doug@cs.dartmouth.edul wrote that Historian Tom Balcerski's 2005 (1063) glimpse of early Acacia in the Fall 2013 Traveler as reflected by Brother William Ulmer's 1928 (266) pledge paddle was particularly fascinating. Acacia had several unusually "mature" active members, veterans of WWII, when he Doug pledged, but nothing like Brother Ulmer, who had two wars behind him when he joined at the age of 32. Among Brother Ulmer's cohort of initiates was Brother William I Noonburg 1927 (267), whom he suspects might be the father of Bill Noonburg Jr. 1953 (518), with whom Doug shared the study at the entrance to the Northcote attic dormitory in 1952. If his guess is right, Doug never realized there was any 2nd generation Acacians while he was an Active. The Traveler also carried news of Jim Symons 1954 (534) with whom Doug shared a room in the MIT Graduate House after they left Cornell. Both became members of the National Academy of Engineering. Doug also pointed out that, upon his retirement from AT&T Bell Labs 15 years ago, he became an adjunct professor at Dartmouth and still holds that title.

John R. Pakan 1953 (524) [334 Falesco Ln, Matthews, NC 28105-1627] and wife Marge are enjoying his 21st year of retirement as Purchasing Manager at S.I. Group, Inc. John has been in touch with Lloyd A. Hayner 1952 (508) and his wife Evelyn. The Pakans wish all Actives a high G.P.A.!

David J Hower 1951 (526) [187 Lookout Ln, Willow Grove, PA 19090-1633; djhower@comcast.net] discovered he neglected to mention that Don Payne 1952 (562) was also a member of the Big Red Band. David was surprised when he read in a recent Traveler that David Fischell 1975 (800) was the force that built the Fischell Band Center. He had the privilege to attend the inauguration ceremony and arranged to meet Wally Rich 1951 (523) and his wife. David stopped at Acacia while in Ithaca and found only one composite from the 1950's. He recently attended the funeral of Joseph I Wilford 1952 (497) who passed away in late February. David was impressed to read about the many leadership activities Acacia is doing and it makes him proud to be an Acacian.

Robert S. Fash 1958 (594) [417 Montebello Oaks Dr, Paso Robles, CA 93446; traveler1675@hotmail.com] spent 3 days with John Male 1958 (600) and his wife Judy at the Male home in Lunenburg, MA. Bob keeps in regular contact with Marty Offenberger 1956 (568).

Rev. Ralph E Lamar 1958 (599) [3 Heath Village, Hackettstown, NJ 07840-4008] moved into a retirement community last year. There are four ministries in his complex. He is enjoying pool, bridge, genealogy groups, and great courses. He walks about 2 miles every day.

Charles H Field Jr. 1960 (614) [1942 Observation Circle, St. George, UT 84790; cf21737404@q.com] now requires assisted living so they purchased the home next door to their youngest daughter.

Warren E Walker 1963 (681) [Gerrit Kasteinweg 2, 2597 NZ Den Haag, Netherlands; we.walker@tudelft.nl] visited Acacia during last year's Reunion in June. Saw Doug Eberhart 1963 (652). Had a tour of Acacia, which looks lovely.

Dr. David A Gorelick 1968 (717) [3316 Old Forest Rd, Baltimore, MD 21208-3101; <u>DavidGorelick1@gmail.com</u>] Naomi and I had several major life changes in 2013: Moved (down-sized) into 1-story house in March, 1 zip code west of former home of 24 years; David retired from Nida in October after 24 years and is now part-time Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Maryland in Baltimore; Two new grandchildren arrived.

William A. Utic 1977 (836) [95 Viento Dr, Fremont, CA 94536-4456; wau1@pge.com] congratulates the Active Chapter on another excellent Traveler (Fall 2013). He always looks forward to reading it. Thanks to Steven L. Stein 1973 (787) and the entire Corporation Board of Directors for their dedication to the upkeep of the chapter house. Bill remains active as a board member on the Acacia Fraternity Foundation and looks forward to working with fellow Cornell Acacian John "Chip" Brueckman III 1978 (844) who also serves on the AFF Board.

John C. Brueckman III 1978 (844) [4593 Penbrook Ct, Plano, TX 75024-2159; jdb58@cornell.edu] said it was great to see Cornell Chapter Actives at the Acacia Leadership Academy in Bloomington, IN last summer. He was proud to hear the always positive fraternity growth activities at the Cornell Chapter. It was great to see Bill Utic 1977 (836) and wife Dianne Martin the Brueckman's son's wedding in January 2013. John is proud to be serving on the AFF Board of Directors and proud to be an Acacian!

David J Sangree 1984 (917) [1052 Maple Cliff Dr, Lakewood, OH 44107-1252; dsangree@hladvisors.com] is still living in Lakewood. His son is now a high school junior and is considering Cornell. David's company (Hotel & Leisure Advisors) now employs 12 people and has had a busy year.

Mark A Schaten MD 1984 (923) [1990 Norhardt Dr, Unit B, Brookfield, WI 53045; mschatenmd@icloud.com] is working as a hospitalist in the Milwaukee Metropolitan area.

Thomas J. Balcerski 2005 (1063) [30 Waterside Plaza, Apt 21K, New York, NY 10010; tbalcerski@gmail.com] enjoyed another excellent issue of the Traveler in the Fall thanks to the hard work of the Dean of Alumni Affairs Jackson Foo 2016 (1188). Tom reports that Hanny Martinovici 2006 (1071) has fully recovered from his back surgery. Hanny gave Tom and his partner Marc Halperin 2010 a ride in his VW convertible last October when they were in Baltimore. Tom has recently seen John Ertl 2011 (1148), Peter Rimshnick 2005 (1060), David

Rimshnick 2005 (1062), Mike Nasatka 2004 (1045) [recently engaged to Rachel Silverman], Roman Markh 2006 (1072) [recently married to Anna Bushkenets), Igor Dolgalov 2005 (1068), Brad Ayres 2006 (1070), Charlie Kalter 2005 (1066), Juan Ramirez 2006 (1084), and Paul Molnar 1998 (1014) [who recently announced wife, Mary Joy, is pregnant].

Hanny A. Martinovici 2006 (1071) [8101 Sumter Ave, Rosedale, MD 21237-2743; hac24@cornell.edu] writes "My back surgery went perfectly and I'm hitting the gym again. In the meantime, I bought a convertible and am enjoying life. I'm also impressed with the work that the Corp Board is able to accomplish each year, and invite anyone who is interested to join our monthly conference call."

Richard E. Rothman 2009 (1107) [322 Bainbridge St, Unit H, Philadelphia, PA 19147; rer29@cornell.edu] is doing well in Philly, working in the exciting world of wholesale electricity markets. He brought his girlfriend Nancy to Homecoming 2013 and she was amazed at how clean the house was! "Keep making me proud, nerds! Love from a slightly older nerd."

John M Ertl 2011 (1148) [142 Whitney St, Hartford, CT 06015; <u>jme86@cornell.edu</u>] is now undertaking a Master's Degree in Labor Studies at UMass, Amherst. In his spare time, he plays rugby for the Hartford Wanderers, a local Division 2 Young Men's team.

Alumni Honor Roll

Donor	Roll	Class	Pledge Year
Lane J Abrams	(915)	1984	PL 1981
Bradley J Ayres *	(1070)	2006	PL 2003
Thomas J Balcerski *	(1063)	2005	PL 2002
Frederick P Ballyns	(1135)	2012	PL 2008
Richard E Brewer *	(687)	1965	PL 1963
John C Brueckman III	(844)	1978	PL 1976
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
Edward A Conroy	(592)	1957	PL 1955
Michael I Cvijanovich *	(981)	1994	PL 1991
Charles W Deakyne *	(446)	1950	PL 1947
Igor Dolgalev	(1068)	2005	PL 2002
John Mathias Ertl	(1148)	2011	PL 2009
Robert S Fash *	(594)	1958	PL 1954
Charles H Field Jr.	(614)	1960	PL 1956
David A Gorelick	(717)	1968	
Matthew S Harris	(1042)	2002	PL 2000
Charles S Hong	(1043)	2001	PL 2000
Alan L Jette	(895)	1982	PL 1979
William L Keltz	(632)	1961	PL 1958
Thomas E Kocovsky Jr. *	(730)	1969	PL 1966
Mark F Maltenfort	(831)	1977	PL 1974
Hanny A Martinovici	(1071)	2006	PL 2003
David M Mazaika	(924)	1985	PL 1982
Robert C Merritt *	(807)	1975	PL 1973

<u>Cornell Acacia</u> <u>Endowment Donations</u>

Donations to the Cornell University Endowment can be directed to the Cornell Acacia Fraternity portion of the endowment through specifying the "Arthur Lee Thompson I I I M e m o r i a 1 S c h o 1 a r s h i p 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

THE TRAVELER

Paul G Molnar *	(1014)	1998	PL 1995
Stanley R Niman *	(783)	1973	PL 1970
John R Pakan	(524)	1953	PL 1950
William Pendarvis Jr.	(440)	1947	PL 1946
David G Rickerby	(960)	1991	PL 1987
Thomas L Ricketts *	(1051)	2003	PL 2000
Richard Evan Rothman	(1107)	2009	PL 2006
David J Sangree	(917)	1984	PL 1981
Mark A Schaten MD	(923)	1984	PL 1982
Bruce G Schneider *	(842)	1978	PL 1975
Robertson C Spiesz	(835)	1977	PL 1974
Robert B Squires *	(496)	1952	PL 1949
Frederick W Tierney Jr. *	(763)	1971	PL 1968
William A Utic *	(836)	1977	PL 1974
Warren E Walker	(681)	1963	PL 1962
William Jacob Zeligson	(1139)	2012	PL 2009
Howard S Zwiefel III *	(734)	1969	PL 1966

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

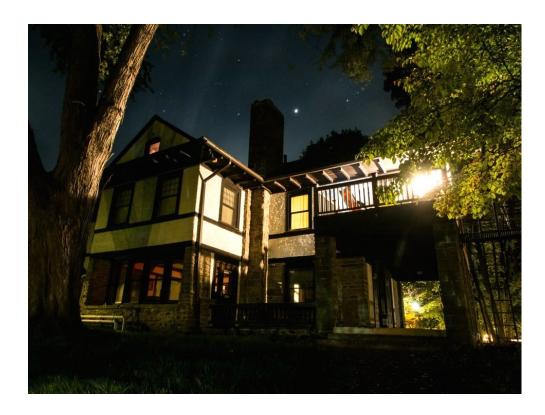
The financial aid office administers the funds to brothers on financial aid based on the fraternity president's advisement, provided the dispersal is sound judgment. This past year, all active brothers on financial aid received \$1,000 in grants each semester.

Chapter Eternal

Joseph I Wilford 1952 (497) - 2/23/2014



⁴⁴ Donors 18 Brother Tree Leaf recognitions * after name indicates Brother Tree leaf recognition



A view of Northcote's back entrance on a starry night.

This photo was taken by Brother Shane Soh.



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