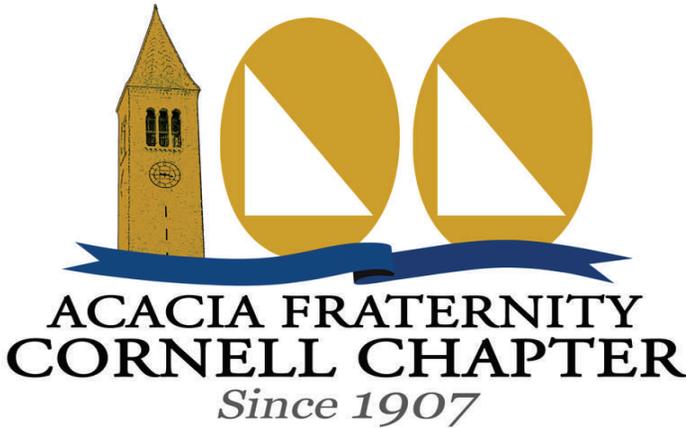


CENTENNIAL HORIZON



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Centennial Horizon Editors:
Paul Molnar (#1014), Thomas Balcerski (#1063)

Cornell Acacia Centennial Celebration August 24-26, 2007

Note from the Editor Paul Molnar '98 (#1014)

I will be very brief here so that I don't take space away from Tom, Brad, or David, who are providing important updates about the status of the Centennial planning and the new capital campaign.

I do want to mention I had the opportunity to meet with many of the brothers from the 1990s in Las Vegas last month. We were gathered there for our Elite Investment Club annual meeting, but I was given the floor for a few minutes to present a slide show with our Centennial planning status. This was a great opportunity to encourage participation in the Centennial festivities as well as to receive feedback from the brothers that will aid our planning. The group was also very pleased with the state of the Active Chapter.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the *Centennial Horizon* and hope to see you at the Centennial next August.

Centennial Celebration: August 24-26, 2007 David Klesh '02 (#1037)

Cornell Acacia's Centennial Celebration is absolutely not to be missed. It will be an exciting weekend featuring many opportunities to socialize, exciting guest speakers, top-notch entertainment, recognitions of outstanding alumni and a chance to plan for the chapter's next century. This is an excellent chance to reconnect with your fraternity, make new friends and be a part of history (not to mention the future!)

The Celebration is scheduled for the end of the first week of classes in 2007. Although not every detail has been finalized, here is the preliminary schedule:

On Friday evening, we will have a wine and cheese reception, along with a slide show featuring Cornell Acacia's rich history and the release of *Acacia Fraternity at Cornell: The First Century*.

On Saturday morning, there will be tours of both the house and the campus. Northcote and the Cornell

campus have seen many changes recently, and this is a great chance to catch up and relive your college days. We have had interest in holding either (or perhaps both) a picnic or a winery tour on Saturday afternoon.

We will hold our Centennial Celebration banquet on Saturday evening in the Statler Hotel ballroom. This will feature performances by one of Cornell's a capella groups and a live band. Susan Murphy, Cornell Vice President for Student and Academic Services, will be the keynote speaker. We will also invite members of the Acacia International Council. On Sunday morning, there will be a farewell brunch at the house.

We have reserved blocks of rooms at three hotels for Friday and Saturday. *Please understand that there is of course no requirement to stay in any of these hotels, but we have reserved special rates for your convenience.* Mention Cornell Acacia and you will be able to get these reduced rates.

- Statler Hotel (\$165 per night): 800-541-2501 (preferred choice)
- Holiday Inn (\$150 per night): 607-272-1000
- Hilton Garden Inn (\$169 per night): 607-277-8900

Several alumni have volunteered to serve as Cornell Acacia Class Officers (CACOs) to help encourage their classmates to attend. You may soon receive a message from a CACO. If you want to volunteer to be a CACO, please contact me at davidklesh@hotmail.com or 646-643-6774.

The Centennial Celebration is an excellent chance to reconnect with your classmates. If you have not yet signed up, please take this opportunity! Send in the form on page 4 to reserve your spot.

In the next issue of the *Centennial Horizon*, to be published in the spring, there will be final details on the schedule. This Centennial Celebration is for everyone, so if you have any ideas or suggestions, or you feel there is something missing, or you want to help make this a great event, please contact me.

An Excerpt from *Acacia Fraternity at Cornell: the First Century*

Tom Balcerski '05 (#1063)

The good work by the team of alumni and active brothers continues on the history project. At the time of this writing, I have written over 60,000 words with plans to write 40,000 more before completing a first draft. The effort in securing historic photographs of the house has been successful as well, and we now have one photograph dated 1910. Check out the Centennial weblog at <http://cornellacacia.blogspot.com>.

The following excerpt is from the first chapter of the book, entitled, "Founding Fathers, 1907 – 1911."

* * * * *

Cornell Acacia evolved from the fraternal order known as the Free and Accepted Masons. In the spring of 1907, a notice was placed in the *Cornell Daily Sun* requesting all Masons at Cornell meet at Barnes Hall to form an organization later known as the Cornell Masonic Club. Writing a year later for the *Journal of Acacia Fraternity*, Charles Chester Brinton, who would become the chapter's first president, recounted the formation of the club in this way: "Through the efforts of Brothers Wigley, Jessup, Pierce, [John D.] Coffman, and others a large meeting was held in Barnes Hall on March 17, '07 and an organization known as the Cornell Masonic Club was formed." George P. Jessup was elected president and Charles D. Pearce the secretary of the club. The intent of the meeting was not to form a fraternity, but this meeting in Barnes Hall was the first meeting of what became the Nun Chapter of Acacia Fraternity.

There were likely other meetings of the Cornell Masonic Club after March 17, and at one of these, the idea for a college fraternity was discussed. According to Brinton's article: "In the various discussions connected with the formation of this club, it became known, through Brother J. D. Coffman and correspondence which he and Brother Alden had with a member of Yodh Chapter [Franklin Chapter, University of Pennsylvania], that there is in existence a collegiate Masonic fraternity." This knowledge led to the logical conclusion of forming a college fraternity. Several of the club members decided to apply for a charter to the Grand Council of Acacia Fraternity, then a national fraternity of twelve chapters.

The formal application was made by seventeen men, and the Grand Secretary sent word on May 22, 1907, that Cornell's application for a charter had been approved. The date for initiation was set for May 30, 1907. On that day, National Secretary Clarence G. Hill, who in the estimation of Cornell Chapter founder Howard C. Pierce was "the most active and vitally

interested member of our fraternity today," assisted by the Honorary Brother William Homan, installed at least seventeen founding brothers. An early author of the chapter's history noted that William R. Wigley acted the part of the "goat."

As May 30 was the date of several athletic events, the men of the chapter entertained brothers Hill and Homan during the day. In the afternoon, Cornell defeated Pennsylvania in baseball. Left fielder Brother Harry Bigelow went two for three with two runs batted in. At five o'clock, the contingent transferred from Percy Field – the present day site of Ithaca High School – to the Inlet. There they watched the Cornell varsity eight defeat Harvard from one of thirty-five cars and two engines making up an observation train of the Auburn branch of the Lehigh Valley Railroad. The train paced along the lake for a mile and a quarter, providing an even view of the entire race.

While the freshman were burning their caps that evening, at least two, Allen Jayne and John McCartney, were missing from the festivities. This is because Jayne and McCartney were at the ceremony of initiation that took place on Thursday evening, May 30, 1907 in the Reading Room of Barnes Hall. The ceremony was originally scheduled for 8:30 pm, but because of the delay at the crew race, it was nearly 10:30 pm before installation ceremonies were begun. Seventeen men were brought over the "rough road in which 7 centimeters and the 12 Apostles" were an important part. The new brothers of Acacia enjoyed lunch the next day in the dining room on the basement floor. As Barnes Hall was home to the Cornell University Christian Association (CUCA), and as the Masons are affiliated religiously with Christianity, its choice for the first initiation was both practical and symbolic. Brother Everett A. Palmer was given an Acacia flag, which was signed on the back by Secretary Hill. He donated the flag to the house in 1910, but it has since vanished.

Although the Cornell Chapter's charter, framed and hanging proudly in the library of the present chapter house, contains the signatures of twenty men, it is somewhat peculiar that only seventeen were present at that installation of the chapter on May 30, 1907. The seventeen men initiated at the installation on the evening of May 30 were Fred N. Alden, Oromel H. Bigelow, Leland Brahmer, Charles Chester Brinton, Samuel H. Burnett, Gordon Canaga, John D. Coffman, Rex R. Frizzell, Arthur G. Hall, Allen Jayne, George P. Jessup, John McCartney, George McDermott, Everett A. Palmer, Charles D. Pearce, Howard C. Pierce, and William R. Wigley. The chapter held three meetings shortly after the first initiation, and at a meeting in the Barnes Hall Trophy Room on June 4, Herbert Coffman, James E. Van Derhoef, and Albert N. Smith



Homecoming Tailgate, October 14, 2006

were brought into Acacia. While these three men did not sign the petition for the charter, they probably became interested after the petition was made. Regardless, these three men are considered part of the founding fathers of Nun Chapter. The chapter's charter contains the signatures of twenty men, and from the order of these signatures, the official roll of the chapter is ultimately determined.

* * * * *

The Grand President, Francis W. Shepardson, visited the chapter for a few hours on February 26, 1911 in their "pleasant home in Ithaca." Shepardson wrote

in his "Around the Triangle" article, "The Cornell Acacia men impressed me as an earnest lot of fellows, full of ideas about the fraternity, and zealous for its growth and development. Their home looks like a chapter house and they are justly proud of the record made in scholarship, which placed them in the special list praised by President Schurman." No more was Nun Chapter the baby of Acacia. With a total of 87 men initiated in its first four years, the fledging Masonic experiment in Ithaca had established itself as a Fraternity of note on the Hill.

**Centennial Capital Campaign
Brad Ayres '06 (#1070)**

With our Centennial approaching, it's great to think back on all that the Cornell Chapter has accomplished. At the same time, we should begin looking forward to ensure that our success continues through the next 100 years.

The chapter recently began planning our Centennial Capital Campaign, through which we intend to raise the funds we need to refurbish our treasured house, Northcote, for the years to come. I am fortunate to be chairing the newly-formed Campaign committee, and hope that a few other brothers will aid in this endeavor that surely will benefit our chapter.

If you are interested in helping with the Campaign in any capacity, please contact me via email at bj27@cornell.edu or on my cell phone at (607) 731-9338. Also, if you have any ideas for improvements we could make to the chapter house, I would be interested to hear from you.

I sincerely hope that the Campaign proves a success, so that future Acacians can continue to enjoy the fine fraternal experience we have had.

CORNELL CHAPTER CENTENNIAL HONOR ROLL

Chapter Founders' Club (\$500+)

Thomas Balcerski #1063
Charles H. Field #614
David Fischell #800
Robert Flickinger #434

Chapter Historians' Club (\$250-\$499)

John M. Graham, Jr. #883
William Hairston, III #873
Eden Slegr #788
Preston Shimer #635
William Utic #835

Centennial Scholar (\$100-\$249)

Bradley Ayres #1070
Jay Ayres #1052
Kent Belvin #736
William C. Burnett #490
Robert Fash #584
James Freeman #548
R. Stephen Hawley #403
Arthur Heuser #445

Andrew Hur #1053
David Klesh #1037
Jerry Kreider #720
Robert Merritt #807
Paul Molnar #1014
Mike Nasatka #1045
Todd Peskin #984
Thomas Ricketts #1051
Bruce Schneider #842
Neil Sharp #550
Brian Sivillo #993
Ronald F. Tesarik #615
Frank Tetz #554
Fred Tierney #763

Supporting Scholar (\$50-\$99)

Stewart Burger #738
Walter Cox #491
Michael Cvijanovich #981
Charles Huffine #931
Robert Merritt #807
James Symons #534

Zachary Weinstein #1067
William Wickham #450

Contributing Scholar (\$5-\$49)

John Abrahamson #1039
Michael Coyle #1061
Igor Dolgalev #1068
Stuart Hantman #756
Charles Kalter #1066
Thomas Kocovsky #730
Andy Regenbaum #973
Peter Rimshnick #1060
Howard Zwiefel, III #734

as of 10/6/06

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED TO DATE: \$16,755. THANK YOU, DONORS!

Please detach this form and return to:
Acacia Fraternity Foundation, 8777 Purdue Road, Suite 225, Indianapolis, IN 46268

Reserve your spot today!

Reserve your spot at the Cornell Chapter Centennial, August 24-26, 2007, and your copy of *Acacia Fraternity at Cornell: the First Century* by contributing to the Acacia Fraternity Foundation, Cornell Chapter Account. Don't miss your chance to join your fellow brothers as we celebrate this exciting occasion. Remember, this opportunity only comes once every 100 years!

Name: _____ Pledge Year: _____ Class Year: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

_____ I plan on attending the Cornell Chapter Centennial Weekend with _____ guests.

_____ I also want to contribute to the Acacia Fraternity Foundation for use by the Cornell Chapter for Centennial purposes:

\$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other Amount: _____

Check (All checks should be made out to: "Acacia Fraternity Foundation" w/ "Cornell Chapter Account" in the Memo) Please send to: Acacia Fraternity Foundation, 8777 Purdue Road, Suite 225, Indianapolis, IN 46268

M/C Visa

Expiration Date / Please send to: Acacia Fraternity Foundation, 8777 Purdue Road, Suite 225, Indianapolis, IN 46268

Signature _____ E-mail _____

All donations are tax-deductible

My employer will match this donation. Employer's name: _____