

Acacia Forum



Newsletter of the Rensselaer Chapter of Acacia Fraternity

Winter 2011



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Acacia Celebrates 60 Years of Brotherhood and Leadership!

GEORGE DAVID DICKIE JR. 1924 - 2010

Rensselaer Acacia Roll #1

The Rensselaer Acacia Fraternity mourns the death of its founder George Dickie. Below is an excerpt from the original obituary :

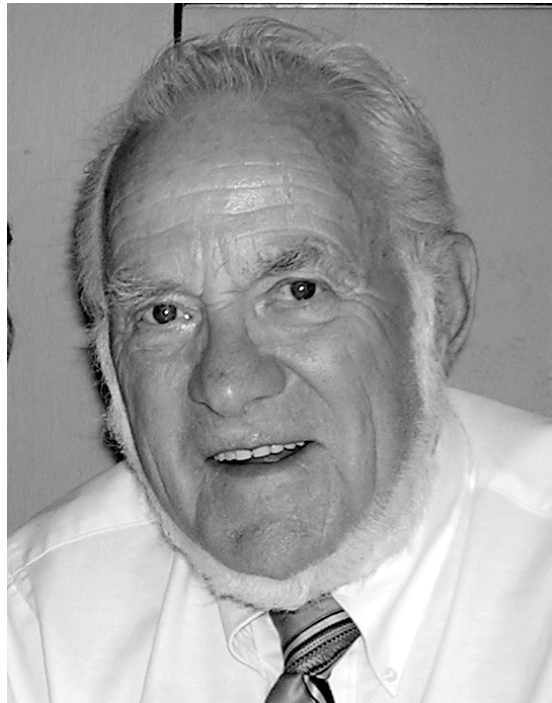
The Dickie family is sad to announce the passing of George David Dickie Jr. on April 20th, 2010 at the age of 85. George died peacefully in his sleep at the Mayflower Place Nursing Center after a brief but steep decline in health. He will be sorely missed.

George was born in White Plains, New York in 1924 to George D. Dickie Sr. and Evelyn Husted Dickie along with three siblings, Evelyn, Eleanor and Joseph. He was a graduate of White Plains High School class of 1942.

George enlisted in the Army Air Corp. in World War II attaining the rank of Lieutenant JG. He was the navigator in a B-24 serving with the 461st Bombardment Group of the 15th Air Force operating out of Torretta Field, Cerignola, Italy. He participated in the infamous Ploesti raids bombing Axis oil refineries in Romania. His service earned him the Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

After the war, George attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY where he founded the RPI chapter of the Acacia Fraternity along with his great friend Bob McCartney. He graduated in 1950 with a degree in aeronautical engineering, continuing his fascination with airplanes and the burgeoning aerospace industry.

George went on to secure employment with the world famous Pratt and Whitney Aircraft Company in East Hartford, CT (later purchased by United Technologies) where he worked until his retirement in the late '80s. Early on, he worked in the research lab wind tunnels testing prototype airframes and jet engines for commercial and military aircraft.



At P&W, he met and married Barbara Linda Jennings of Hamden, CT in 1952. They moved to Manchester, CT and raised two sons, Scott Weston Dickie and David Barry Dickie. George and Bobby were very active in the Second Congregational Church in Manchester and George eventually became a deacon. He was also involved in the Masons, The United States Power Squadron, the Boy Scouts (with his sons) and the Manchester Symphony Orchestra (with Bobby). He was an avid boater, fisherman, golfer and loved playing poker and billiards.

After retirement, George and Bobby moved to Cape Cod where George's parents had originally retired and both their sons had taken up residence. They built a house on Scorton Creek in East Sandwich, MA and joined the West Parish Congregational Church in West Barnstable, MA. George was also active in Sandwich town affairs and maintained ties with the RPI Acacia Fraternity and the 461st Bomb Group veterans association. He was editor of the group's newsletter for several years, helping to collect and organize invaluable data on their history and missions.

"After the war, George attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY where he founded the RPI chapter of the Acacia Fraternity along with his great friend Bob McCartney."

"After retirement, George and Bobby moved to Cape Cod... and maintained ties with the RPI Acacia Fraternity"

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Bobby passed away in 2000. George married Ann Zylinski in 2002. They enjoyed 7 and a half happy years together during which they moved to the Mayflower Place Retirement Community in West Yarmouth. They had an apartment together there and made many new friends. George kept busy with his various creative projects, home improvements and jigsaw puzzles.

George is survived by his wife Ann, sons Scotty and Dave, granddaughter Sarah and siblings Evie and Joe.

“Flash forward 29 years... in the foyer under the bell... it was just as clear that Roll #1 was still THE MAN.”



George Dickie 1, meets Marty Papesch III 808, Rensselaer Acacia's newest brother.

Remembering George Dickie

In the next few issues, we'd like to dedicate this regular feature to your memories of Brother George Dickie. Please send in anything you wish to share to gvanhorne@aol.com. Here are our initial responses:

Chris Minardi, 489

My first encounter with George Dickie, and probably the first for a handful of other members of the Class of '83:

It was around 9 am on a Saturday morning, about 30 years ago. We were just rolling out of bed and into the beer hall for work parties. There he was—the man we had heard so much about—looking fresh as a daisy (though he probably had just driven in from the Cape). He wanted a beer. We got him one, then we helped ourselves. At that moment we knew that Roll #1 was THE MAN.

Flash forward 29 years, to October 2009, just a few paces away in the foyer under the bell, for my final encounter with George:

George was telling me and another member of the class of '83 about his early days in the military, at RPI, and with Acacia. The words came out very slowly, and he was a little unsteady on his feet. It was clear that he had lost some of his faculties, and he was in the twilight of a long and successful life. And it was just as clear that Roll #1 was still THE MAN.

“Now, as an alumnus, when I visit the house I try to clean up ... If only we could all follow George Dickie's example. Leave the house a little better each time we pass through.”

Joe Miceli, 777

One of the first times I met George Dickie must have been 2006 or 2007. I walked into the kitchen to find him cleaning away at the actives' mess. This included my own. This must have been one of the most embarrassing times I've ever had meeting an alum from the house. Here we were, living our daily lives and being slobs, and I walk in on Roll #1 cleaning up after us, throwing out pizza boxes that must have been on the floor for a week!

Suffice to say I got cleaning. Now, as an alumnus, when I visit the house I try to clean up a little or fix a leaking pipe, always at least a little something to make the house a bit better for my passing through. While it is the actives' job to keep the house clean and in repair, I have seen plenty of alums come through, trash the house during a party, and vamoose. If only we could all follow George Dickie's example, leaving the house a little better each time we pass through. While of course adding some additional grumbling towards the actives to clean up their own damn messes on the way through!

The Rensselaer Acacia 60th Celebration



The class of 1989 dinner table.



Robert Josef 431, Class of 1979 receives one of the numerous awards given out during the dinner, this one being the Grand Prize for Over Achievement.



Brian Riggs #791 displays George Dickie's Acacia jacket to be passed down each year to outstanding members of the senior class. The first winner was John Mason #797.

The Trials and Tribulations in Troy

Joseph Flaherty, 782

“Troy’s fire department has been in an unending battle with RPI about jurisdiction arguments and responding to on campus emergencies. The Fire Chief went to the Troy Record (Troy’s main newspaper) and blamed the whole event on RPI for not policing its fraternities properly.”

This December during the Christmas holiday from RPI, a carbon monoxide detector in the basement went off. It was caused by a poorly installed ventilation system for the house heaters and a snow drift that occurred during a snow storm that night. The fire alarm company contacted the Troy Fire Department, who responded to the house and shut down the heaters. During the response, the Troy Fire Chief, unhappy at being called to an RPI fraternity at three in the morning, was involved in a fender-bender with an RPI Public Safety officer responding to the scene.

Troy’s fire department has been in an unending battle with RPI about jurisdiction arguments and responding to on campus emergencies. The Fire Chief went to the Troy Record (Troy’s main newspaper) and blamed the whole event on RPI for not policing its fraternities properly. Troy Code enforcement then got involved, and after a speedy inspection of the property, closed down the Acacia house for occupancy until the ventilation system was fixed.

It took the Corporation about four weeks to find a contractor that would do the work, order the parts, get a work permit, do the work, and get the work inspected. All of this was exacerbated when the extent of the damage done to the ventilation system during the original installation was realized. The original installer had installed all the ventilation pipes backward, crimped pipes where they shouldn’t have, neglected to support the ducts, and improperly sealed all the joints.

After a week of repairs, the contractor completed the work, after which RPI and Troy Code Enforcement completed an inspection and allowed the actives to reoccupy the house. During this incident, Rensselaer Acacia was inadvertently dragged into the argument between Troy Code Enforcement and RPI, which to date includes arguments over a fire at students’ apartments, fire hydrant maintenance, and mistakes made by RPI’s fire dispatchers.

Rensselaer and Troy are cracking down now heavily on fire code violations and safety, threatening to close down any Greek house that doesn’t follow the rules. Acacia has always been on the forefront of fire safety and before this incident has had a virtually spotless record. The recent events, though, are worrying, and it is unclear how RPI and Troy will respond to the Greek Life System in general.

“Rensselaer and Troy are cracking down now heavily on fire code violations and safety, threatening to close down any Greek house that doesn’t follow the rules.”



The original chapter house at 1932 Fifth Ave in downtown Troy. Picture taken during the Acacia 60th.

You’re Invited!

4th Annual Rensselaer Acacia
New York City Reunion

Saturday, April 9th 2011
3:00 pm

rebar
147 Front Street New York, NY
11201

Rensselaer Acacia Weddings!

Over the last year there were two Acacia weddings. The first, was when Joe Miceli (#777) married Allison Haynes, and the second was when Chris Woodworth (#792) and Heather Bowman married. Both weddings were attended by other Acacia brothers who cheered them down the aisle.

Best of luck to both couples, and may they both have a wonderful long life together!



Top left: Joe Miceli #777 and Allison Haynes-Miceli.

Top right: Ben Wright #787, Brian Riggs #791, Wunyin Au #794, John Mason #797, Michael Glazier #796, Elliot Rakestraw #798 rock out at the Woodworth wedding.



Bottom left: Justin Kwan #757, Matt Garigen #769, Mary Makowiec, Jared Seaman #778, Sarah Rosenblatt, Joe Flaherty #782, Aidan Zimmerman #774, Sphurthi Annapareddy, Santosh Vaghela #773, Marcus Griep #769, Ben Wright #787, Tess Milkove, Harlan Milkove #771, Scott Bigler #766, Joe Miceli, and Allison Haynes Miceli at the Miceli wedding.

Bottom right: Chris Woodworth #792 and Heather Bowman-Woodworth



Why We Work

George Van Horne, 479

“As sophomores, juniors, and seniors, we were probably too busy with school or making the fraternity work to realize how it worked for us. Only now, with our years of life experience, can we see—albeit with the aid of glasses—that what one gets out of our fraternity experience is in direct proportion to what one puts into it.”

“During your years at Rensselaer Acacia, you were surrounded by what was probably the highest concentration of friendly and intelligent people... How can you not personally benefit from being around those same people again?”

Somebody once asked me whether I needed Acacia. At the time, I thought it might be a trick question, so I was careful with my response. Now, years later, I know what I really need is time. It seems that when I'm not working or attending to the needs of my family, whatever time I have left is scheduled for me. In this respect, I am probably no different from the rest of you.

So why should we alumni, faced with these often overwhelming demands, consider for even a moment the possibility of contributing some of our precious time and effort to Acacia Fraternity? I'm not going to explore all of the reasons, I am only going to focus on just one. You need to contribute your time and effort because you need Acacia.

You get out of Acacia what you put into it. This is a concept which has not changed since you were there and let's pray that it never will. It was impossible for us to realize this when we were freshmen, deciding whether or not we even wanted to join Rensselaer Acacia. As sophomores, juniors, and seniors, we were probably too busy with school or making the fraternity work to realize how it worked for us. Only now, with our years of life experience, can we see—albeit with the aid of glasses—that what one gets out of our fraternity experience is in direct proportion to what one puts into it.

We all need something like Alumni Work Week. It's hard to explain to someone else—especially a wife—why this is a good idea. Volunteering to give up one of your weekends. Traveling all the way back to Troy to help fix up an old house, populated by young men you may have never even met. But it is great idea.

You need to stay in touch with what were probably the most formative four years of your life. You need to believe that there really is such a thing as a time machine, where one can move backward and forward in time.

A local Atlanta radio station recently had a call-in program where they asked people what advice they would give if they could somehow go back in time and talk to themselves when they were twenty-years-old. Think about it. It's an interesting question.

As an alumnus of Rensselaer Acacia, you have the ability to answer that question. The brothers that just got initiated this year have the same types of personalities as you and your brothers had when you were here. In your old bedroom, the same conversations, about the same topics, are being discussed today in the same manner as when you were there.

Come back to Rensselaer Acacia. Find today's twenty-year-old version of yourself and tell him what you've learned since you were twenty. You both might learn something.

My point is that you still need Acacia. Whatever your family status or position in the business world, you will always need a vacation, a revitalizing tonic. You need that reconnection with your roots—it is a psychological need of the human condition. You need to reaffirm that what was important to you thirty years ago is still important now—and will be, as well, in another thirty.

During your years at Rensselaer Acacia, you were surrounded by what was probably the highest concentration of friendly and intelligent people that you ever experienced in your life. Those guys were your closest friends, to boot. How can you not personally benefit from being around those same people again? Yes, you still need Acacia. You've just been too busy to realize it. So figure out a reason to come back by the chapter house. Get re-involved with the chapter in some small way. You'll be a better man because of it. The rest of us will be better, too, from getting to see you again.



One of the cakes brought out for dessert at the 60th dinner.



RPI's CJ Lee scores the fifth goal on an empty net with 1:13 minutes left in the game.

PBA 2011 Hockey Game Zach Alberico, 803

Continuing our tradition, the RPI Acacia chapter recently had its Pledges, Brothers, and Alumni game following the Big Red Freakout hockey tournament. RPI had an exciting win against the then ranked number one division one hockey team Yale, winning 5-2. After the game, the members of Acacia took to the ice. It was fun and interesting to talk with recent alumni about the things they were doing in their new careers and see the spectrum of members that have made up Acacia over the last twenty years.

This semester we have four new pledges initiating and it looks like we're going to have up to five more this spring. With our new academic policy the Rensselaer chapter of Acacia is continuing to grow and improve. We look forward to our future events and experiences and the insight associated with them.

"RPI had an exciting win against the then ranked number one division one hockey team Yale, winning 5-2. After the game the members of Acacia took to the ice."



The 2011 Pledges, Brothers, and Alumni hockey game team.



Current actives James Robinson-Liu #805, Jack Vickers #799, and Michael Glazier #796 enjoying pipes on the back porch of the house.

Current List of Brothers and Pledges

Roll #	Name	Hometown		Major	Year
796	Michael Glazier	Wilmington	NC	Math	2011
797	John Mason	Sourlake	TX	Physics/Math	2011
799	Jack Vickers	Melbourne	FL	Physics	2011
803	Zach Alberico	Clarence	NY	Comp Sci	2012
804	Nate Baker	Virginia Beach	VA	Mat Sci Eng	2011
805	James Robinson-Liu	Syracuse	NY	Aero/Mech Eng	2012
807	Joe Fahey	Claremont	NH	Aero/Mech Eng	2012
808	Marty Papesh III	Shelby Township	MI	Games/Cog. Sci.	2012
809	Tom Anesta	Cranston	RI	GSAS*	2013
810	James Arey	Schwenksville	PA	Comp Sci	2013
811	Jon Diehl	Clarksville	MD	Comp Sci	2013
812	Brian Furtado	Harrisville	RI	Math	2013
813	Dan Golding	Basking Ridge	NJ	Mech Eng	2013
814	A.J. Keegan	Shelton	CT	Mech Eng	2011
815	Collin Sowinski	Rochester	NY	Mat Sci Eng	2013
<i>Pledge</i>	Tripp Spivey	Raleigh	NC	Physics	2014
<i>Pledge</i>	Aakil Kadali			Comp Sci	2014
<i>Pledge</i>	Jared Salvatore	Cranston	RI	Chem/Bio Eng	2014
<i>Pledge</i>	Sean Chase	Sant Albans	VT	Comp Sys Eng	2014

* Games and Simulation Arts and Sciences

Observations of a Newbie

Joseph Flaherty, 782

Over the last ten months that I've spent as the Vice President of the Alumni Corporation, I've seen the logistics that go into organizing a Work Week, keeping the Active Chapter afloat, and fixing a major house emergency (discussed on page 5). Through my time it has become clear to me that we simply don't have enough people who can passionately dedicate time and effort.

Rensselaer Acacia simply does not have enough people who want to or can help out. It feels a lot like showing up to your favorite team's game and a three-quarters of the stadium's seats are empty. There are just too many challenges that the Alumni and the Active chapter have to overcome. The carbon monoxide incident that happened recently should have had a whole group of people handling it. Getting the contractor, talking to Troy Code and RPI, organizing inspections, cleaning the house, and shoveling snow were all done by just a couple of people. Work Week was disorganized and people simply weren't stepping up to do the tasks that were needed.

I don't want this to turn into an article along the lines of "You're not participating enough!" or "You don't care!" I know if you are reading this you do care, and maybe you live far away, or you just don't have the time. That's fine, but every little bit helps and we need people to help out in all forms. If we

had had just one person to make one phone call each week of the crisis in December, we would have been in a lot better shape. Right now we can't afford to sit by and watch the house slowly decay and shut down, but that is the route we are on.

Organizational and practical matters plague Rensselaer Acacia. The Corporation was caught on the whole by surprise when the carbon monoxide issues occurred in December. There were even hints over the last year that this would happen, leaks from the joints of the ventilation ducts were evident. I know that even I am partially responsible for that; I saw what was happening and failed to take proper action. Apathy as it were, took better hold of me, and I thought the problem would just go away.

I want to see Acacia become strong again. I want to see the Corporation work like a well oiled machine, and I want to see the Active Chapter grow. None of that will happen though without more of you, so please e-mail, call, or text me. Get involved, because we need people who are willing to work and fill the empty seats.

e-mail: thepotter782@gmail.com
phone: 518-466-7739

"Rensselaer Acacia simply does not have enough people who want to or can help out. It feels a lot like showing up to your favorite team's game and a three-quarters of the stadium's seats are empty."

2011 Calendar of Events

February 1	Rush Starts
February 12	Rush Ends
February 13	Bid Dinner
February 14 - 18	I-Week
February 19	Pledge Induction
April 9	4th Annual NYC Reunion at rebar
April 16	Black and Gold and Corporation Meeting
May 10	Classes End
May 28	Class of 2011 Graduation
August 19	Work Week Starts

Please update us with your most recent contact information and any news about yourself:

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Occupation: _____

Company: _____

Roll #: _____ Year Pledged: _____ Graduation Year: _____

Marital Status: _____ Spouse's Name: _____

News: _____

Dues Payment:

I have included my 2011 Dues Payment of **\$30** made payable to the "Rensselaer Acacia Corporation."

YES

I have included dues payments from prior years. YES

I have enclosed additional contributions. YES

I wish to receive the Forum newsletter by e-mail: YES (Make sure your e-mail is listed above)

It is never too late to submit payment for Dues from previous years that might have been missed or if you wish to make a donation.

Dues payments, contributions, or gifts to the Rensselaer Acacia Corporation are not tax deductible. However donations to the Acacia Fraternity Foundation are fully deductible. Please contact your financial advisor for additional information.

Please complete this form, include your dues payment and send it to:

Rensselaer Acacia Corporation
c/o Ian Finn
123 Summit Avenue, No. 9
Summit, New Jersey 07901

You can also pay your dues online at <http://www.rpi-acacia.org/dues.html>



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*Please visit our web site at: <http://www.rpi-acacia.org>
There you can pay dues, keep updated on Acacia news, or update the alumni directory.*

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