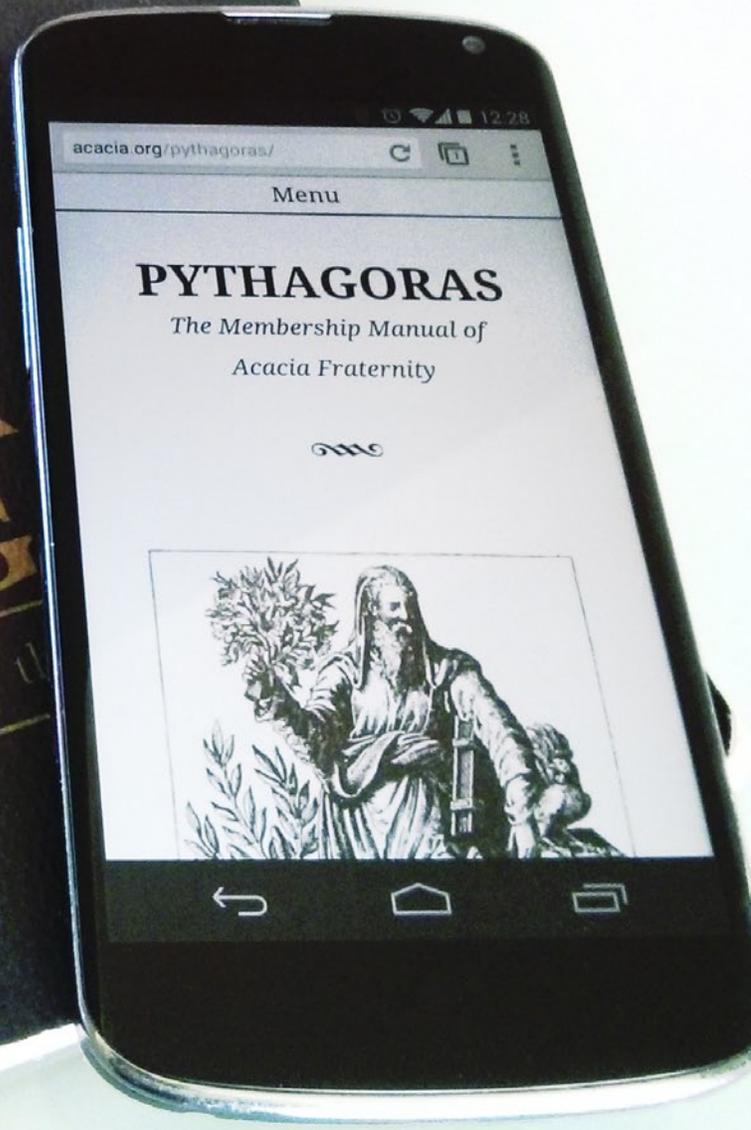


TRIAD

OF ACACIA FRATERNITY

FALL 2013





Robert E. Roberson, *Illinois Wesleyan '74*
President
Acacia Fraternity International Council

Laying the Cornerstone for Acacia's Success

The most important thing that we do is initiate new brothers in order to ensure the survival of the fraternity. Our pledge and initiation numbers over the last six years show that we are having success. I believe that the primary reason for this success is the creation and implementation of Acacia's Cornerstones program.

Cornerstones began development approximately 10 years ago and was created in order to provide a values-based experience for pledges and initiated members of Acacia. Cornerstones has been successful in chapters that have implemented it fully and in chapters that have only adopted some part of it. The program encourages our members to define their values, set goals, and seek extra-curricular opportunities like service projects and leadership seminars.

The name Cornerstones was chosen for the program because a cornerstone signifies the beginning point of a foundation for a new building. Without the cornerstone, the rest of the building may not be a sound structure. Acacia Cornerstones was developed to give our pledge members a strong foundation from which to build the rest of their fraternity experience, and a continued path of development for initiated members after pledgship. The imagery of the cornerstone also recalls Acacia's Masonic heritage. Masons have presided over cornerstone laying ceremonies for buildings for many years.

However, before the Cornerstone can be laid, the ground needs to be prepared. As much as I believe that the Cornerstones program has been successful and promises even more success for Acacia as it is adopted by all chapters and continues to develop, the ground needs to be prepared by recruiting and pledging potential members. This requires a concerted effort by active brothers and alumni.

Active brothers are on the frontline of the recruitment process year-round and should regularly invite non-members to open chapter events and Cornerstones activities like guest speakers and educational talks. Successful recruitment also requires a concerted effort by alumni. We can supply names of incoming freshmen to our chapters, and we can also provide financial support for recruitment scholarships through the Acacia Fraternity Foundation's chapter account program.

Brotherhood & fraternity are not limited by the physical walls of the chapter house.

Whenever recruitment is discussed, one of the issues that typically comes up is 'our house is at capacity' or 'we don't want to get too big and lose our brotherhood.' I recently picked up an issue of another fraternity's magazine and read that of its 250+ chapters, its largest chapter house has a capacity of 85 members. Yet more than 30 of its chapters have membership of over 85 men. *Brotherhood and fraternity are not limited by the physical walls of the chapter house.* The fact is that having more brothers in the chapter expands the opportunity for brotherhood and provides for greater opportunity to meet lifelong friends, more resources for chapter programming, and a greater impact on the community.

Acacia's membership has shown an upward trend since Cornerstones was first implemented. I believe that Acacia's Cornerstones program is a key component of this growth and promises even more success for Acacia as it evolves and is adopted by all chapters. I encourage you to read more about Cornerstones in this issue of the Triad and get involved with your local chapter today.

Robert E. Roberson

**International Council
of Acacia Fraternity
2012-2014**

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Robert E. Roberson
Illinois Wesleyan '74

First Vice President

Scott H. Meyer
St. Cloud State '89

Second Vice President

Jeremy N. Davis
Iowa State '00

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Central Oklahoma '99

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Carleton '06

Judge Advocate

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Penn State '10 *Oregon State '10*

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Scott C. Graham <i>Penn State '98</i>	Dewayne E. Ullsperger <i>Nebraska '82</i>
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Scott J. Houston <i>Indiana '80</i>	John W. Wedgwood <i>Purdue '60, Emeritus</i>
Andrew Jee <i>Oregon State '87</i>	Robert D. Wilkes <i>Iowa '89</i>
John B. Lane, M.D. <i>Vermont '57, Emeritus</i>	Harold D. Zarr, Jr. <i>Iowa State '73</i>

On the cover: Pythagoras enters the 21st century. The membership manual of Acacia Fraternity is now available online and in print, with a revised print edition slated for 2014. Read more on Page 14.

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Executive Director



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Vegas for brotherhood**

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PATRICK W. MCGOVERN NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Saturday, August 3, 2013

During the closing banquet of the 10th biennial Acacia Leadership Academy, the Acacia Fraternity International Council appointed Patrick W. McGovern, *Indiana '99* as the seventh Executive Director in Acacia's 109-year history. The announcement was met with vigorous applause by all in attendance — undergraduates representing nearly all Acacia chapters and colonies, Council members, Foundation Directors, and the Headquarters staff.

Brother McGovern's work with Acacia has spanned multiple areas of fraternity operations over the past decade. Most recently, Patrick served as Assistant Executive Director and led day-to-day operations after the resignation of Executive Director Keith Bushey, *Indiana '86* in May 2013.

Patrick also served as Acacia's first-ever Director of Membership Development from 2006 to 2013 and before that as a Leadership Consultant in 2003. Today, Brother McGovern represents Acacia in the interfraternity world as a facilitator at events such as the North-American Interfraternity Conference's UIFI and IMPACT programs.

"My vision is for Acacia to remain relevant, sustainable, distinctive, and leadership-oriented for generations to come. The pathway to that reality is by way of values-based decision-making, continual learning, and integrity."

Acacia has recognized Brother McGovern's achievements with the Award of Merit, Order of Pythagoras, and, as an undergraduate, the Roy C. Clark Award. He served the Indiana Chapter as Venerable Dean and Recruitment Chairman and received numerous chapter awards and scholarships. Patrick graduated from Indiana University in May 2002 with a B.S. in Public Affairs with a specialization in Management, and he currently lives in his hometown of Indianapolis with his wife Carrie and 15-month old daughter, Ruby.

Says Brother McGovern, "we are fortunate to have the opportunity to be a force for good in the fraternity world, in our communities, and in our relationships with others. Let's challenge ourselves to be excellent in every way possible, and let's remain humble that we may always recognize opportunities for improvement."

Patrick may be reached by email at pmcgovern@acacia.org.

ACACIA SALUTES KEITH BUSHEY FOR HIS 16 YEARS OF SERVICE

Over the course of 16 years, perhaps no Acacian exhibited a greater dedication to our fraternity than Keith M. Bushey, *Indiana '86*. If you attended a Conclave or Acacia Leadership Academy, or placed a call to the Headquarters office, chances are you

had an interaction with Keith, and chances are it was an enjoyable one. Though Acacia will miss Brother Bushey's experience and dedication, we wish him the best in his future endeavors and know we'll be seeing him at Acacia events in the future!





Patrick W. McGovern, Indiana '99
Executive Director
Acacia Fraternity

The Journey Beyond our Comfort Zone

Over the past several years, I've heard the following idea expressed, in a number of different ways: "All meaningful progress happens just beyond the limits of your comfort zone." Even though I know this intellectually, it doesn't always make it easy to extend to that place of discomfort, and eventually, growth. Yet sometimes we face challenges and opportunities which make it necessary to do so. I currently find myself in such a situation.

My appointment as the Executive Director of Acacia Fraternity evokes in me a focused sense of honor and profound responsibility. Serving in a new position, it is exciting for me personally to journey beyond my own comfort zone. I am able to do this with confidence only because of those who have already led the way for Acacia, and I'd like to say thank you specifically to two men, Brothers Keith M. Bushey and Darold W. Larson, my predecessors in this role. Today, Acacia is as strong as it has been in many years, a

testament to the leadership of Brothers Bushey and Larson.

I am able to do this with confidence only because of those who have already led the way for Acacia.

Built on our forward momentum as an organization, we have the opportunity to continue improving. Part of my approach will be to lead our fraternity beyond its comfort zone, to a place where I believe meaningful progress lies just

ahead. That approach will be reflected in the following focus areas 1.) Increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of Headquarters Staff in responding to members' needs; 2.) Increasing the size of our membership and the quality of our membership experience; and 3.) Increasing alumni involvement and alumni support of active chapters.

While the first item above represents more of the nitty-gritty details of our operation, the second and third items are largely addressed by the Cornerstones program. Data and success stories were gathered by Acacia's Leadership Consultants during the fall semester, and our findings reflect a great deal of progress in program adoption and an overall improvement in the membership experience offered by our participating chapters and colonies.

Among all Acacia chapters and colonies as of December 2013:

- 71% of chapters and colonies report using the Cornerstones pledge program or a Headquarters-approved alternative
- 47% are currently engaged in recommended Cornerstones chapter programming
- 29% report having alumni members involved in some way to coordinate, or personally facilitate continual learning opportunities for chapter members and pledges

You can read more about Cornerstones in our 2013 report on Page 11 of this Triad.

Just as an active member participating in Cornerstones must extend beyond his own comfort zone in the name of personal growth and development, so must Acacia alumni extend beyond our comfort zones to achieve fraternal growth. We must improve how we harness the collective abilities, energy, and dedication of our alumni to foster more sustainably successful chapters. Additionally, we have an opportunity to add more value to the alumni membership experience. We will continue to use Conclave as a platform for alumni programming and look to expand in that area.

Success will require us to extend ourselves.

Realizing our vision will not always come easy. Success will require us to extend ourselves personally to make progress.

I'm confident we can do it. The Acacia tree symbolizes strength and ruggedness, and the ability to survive all of the seasons that we experience here on Earth. We have all taken an oath which states that we will hold ourselves to a higher standard. That's largely what our fraternity is about - striving to be better than we are now. Let us be grateful, but never satisfied. I look forward to embarking on this journey with all of you.

Patrick W. McGovern

Expansion & Colonization Update



Illinois State Colony

The Illinois State Colony had a great fall, building off a strong spring semester that was highlighted by achieving the #1 spot in fraternity grades. Eight quality young men pledged and went through the Cornerstones pledge program which included a retreat at a local camp. The brothers led the pledges on team building activities and teamwork exercises, as well as doing some human service around the camp in compensation for the space.

The colony has made strong efforts on the human service and campus community fronts. Our colony logged more than 150 hours of human service, and more than 75% of our chapter was involved in an outside organization. We established a recruitment calendar for next semester and look forward to bringing in great new members. Officer transitions are approaching, and we look forward to passing our growing practices down to the next executive board. We're excited for the future and look forward to staying focused on our chartering goals!



Michigan Colony

Since the last Triad, growth at Michigan continues to be a slow and steady process, as the re-founding members have worked hard to get established on this competitive campus. The Michigan Colony had two attendees at the Acacia Leadership Academy, one of whom, Peter Corso, was initiated during the event. After many of the ALA attendees offered our Michigan brothers their encouragement, there is a renewed hope for success at Michigan.

This fall the Headquarters staff dispatched a Leadership Consultant, Greg J. Lary, *Ohio '09*, to Ann Arbor, Michigan to assist with recruitment. In his visits, Brother Lary focused on stabilizing the colony's financial situation and developing a revamped membership recruitment plan with fresh ideas. The colony continues to build upon its foundation of academic success and implementation of Cornerstones in both the pledging process and active membership. Acacia's roots run deep at the University of Michigan, and there is a devoted effort amongst the colony to fulfill the promise ahead of them.



Vermont Colony

The Vermont Colony is off to a fantastic start, where 13 eager young men assembled to form the Fall 2013 pledge class at UVM. Headquarters staff has been working in conjunction with the Vermont House Corporation Board and Campuspeak, Inc. to recruit and educate these young men about Acacia and Greek life at the University of Vermont. Director of Expansion and Recruitment Michael Weber spent several weeks in Burlington to plan and execute this colonization, with Leadership Consultant Nate McKee providing support.

The pledges of this young colony have already stepped into leadership positions and are developing plans for the spring semester. They have developed a relationship with the Burlington Emergency Shelter and take our motto of Human Service to heart. The alumni support shown for this group has been a tremendous help with the recruitment and development of the colony in this beginning stage. The future looks very promising for Acacia at the University of Vermont.

Vermont Acacia Fall 2013 Initiates



Rear (L-R): Jerome Marinho, Charles W. Norton III, Ryan S. Moffatt, Levi F. Brown, Steven Sanchez, Michael J. Obermayer, Dan V. Batista

Front (L-R): Roger M. DaGama, Joseph F. Maser, Samuel R. Kollmorgen, P. Brodt Taylor, Aaron L. Kraus



Texas Tech Colony

Texas Tech remains a challenge with no local alumni support. Membership in the colony has dwindled, though some young leaders remain. The efforts of the colony this winter and spring will determine its future with Acacia.

We need your help!

Do you know a young man attending or soon to attend one of these universities? Please forward his name, contact information, and a brief message about why he'd make a fine Acacian to Director of Expansion & Recruitment Michael Weber at mweber@acacia.org.



CONGRATULATIONS, TRINE CHAPTER! CHARTERED SEPTEMBER 28, 2013

When the first class of re-founding fathers was initiated at Trine University on April 14, 2012, a group of 11 men experienced a moment that might only be eclipsed by one other date in their young Acacia careers - the chapter's chartering on September 28, 2013.

Though it is Acacia's newest chapter, Trine Chapter's history actually dates back to its original founding on January 29, 1967, when it was known as the Tri-State Chapter. At that time, the private school was known as Tri-State College, later Tri-State University in 1975, then Trine University in 2008. Today, our young Trine Chapter is thriving in no small part due to the support of those Tri-State alumni, including House Corporation President Paul S. Belpasso, *Tri-State '67* and Chapter Advisor Vincent J. Arizzi, *Tri-State '67*. "Acacia is back, and we are here to stay," commented Brother Arizzi.

The re-founding members of the Trine Chapter are leaders on campus and exhibit a deep love for Acacia and each other as brothers. Senior Dean Eric R. Danz, *Trine '12* explained, "the men

that make up this chapter at Trine University are just remarkable. A lot of hard work in such a short amount of time due to the drive for success that my brothers and I have. It really all comes down to our recruitment techniques on campus. High quality men recruiting high quality men, and never settling for less than that."

Even without a chapter house, these men still eat together every day and make time to enjoy each other's company. Pledge classes develop teamwork through group activities, such as building a catapult together. Cornerstones is an integral part of pledge education and membership development. And perhaps most importantly, the Trine Chapter's dedication to and performance of Acacia's Ritual is among our fraternity's finest. Trine brothers have reached beyond their own campus to learn from other chapters nearby and perform initiations at our Michigan Colony.

Where many fraternity chapters see obstacles, the men at Trine Chapter see opportunities. On a campus of fewer than 1,800 students and deferred fraternity recruitment, the group grew to 25 men within its first year. They operated primarily out of two dorm rooms during the recolonization; this spurred the men to get out on campus for meetings, perform our Ritual at the local Masonic Lodge, and co-host social events with other fraternities. This, in turn, led to meeting more people, forging constructive relationships, and increasing their standing in the community.

The chapter has raised hundreds of dollars for Acacia Claus and other philanthropic efforts, and members have given their time to support the community, including at the Masonic Lodge. Trine Acacians hold leadership positions within other organizations on campus, as well. Says Venerable Dean Jameson B. Boblenz, *Trine '12*, "now we're a chartered chapter of one of the best fraternities, and we are changing the face of our university's Greek community and campus."



Did you know? There are many ways to get involved with an Acacia colony, and many don't take much of your time. If there is a colony or upcoming expansion near you, please contact us so that we may enlist your support. Simply knowing you're in the area is enough to encourage these young men to keep making Acacia the best it can be. Email Director of Expansion & Recruitment Michael Weber at mweber@acacia.org.

Current expansion opportunities:

EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY
INDIANA UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MISSOURI SCHOOL OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

We're all good Brothers...

2013 an ALA to Remember

Before it came time to “pass the gavel” at the Acacia Leadership Academy Final Banquet on August 3rd, 2013, it was abundantly clear that everyone in attendance had enjoyed a memorable four days together.

But as the gavel made its way around the room, and brothers expressed their love for Acacia through stories, laughter, and tears, the purpose of our brotherhood was fully realized.

We say that the ALA experience is intended to simulate a “model fraternity.” This year’s event - formally the 10th Biennial Darold W. Larson Leadership Academy - certainly fulfilled that mission. More than 80 active members traveled from across North America to live together under one roof, elect officers, maintain the chapter house, attend educational sessions, compete in the Acacia Olympics, and practice the Acacia Ritual. The brothers excelled in all areas, and whenever a minor misstep occurred -- an Olympics match-up snafu or a tardy brother -- it was addressed in model fashion.

Educational presentations by guest speakers and Headquarters staff focused on fraternity operations, Cornerstones,

and recruitment. Featured presenters at this year’s ALA included: Tom Healy of Campuspeak who spoke on recruiting high quality members; International Council 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents, Scott H. Meyer, *St. Cloud State '89* and Jeremy N. Davis, *Iowa '00*, who shared insights and practical tips for relationship building in the 21st century; Ronie Pastko, a certified holistic health coach, who discussed health and wellness for the college-aged man; and Joe McMenemon of ChapterSpot who demonstrated his company’s online chapter management application, AcaciaConnect.

Many will agree upon their favorite moment from ALA -- the initiation of new member Peter Corso, *Michigan '13*. Brother Corso was led through each Degree of Initiation by brothers from a multitude of Acacia chapters and colonies. The support evidenced by our international brotherhood towards the Michigan Colony was inspiring as Peter...



... and his colony brothers work to bring Acacia back to our founding campus at the University of Michigan.

Following initiation on the Leadership Academy's final day, brothers completed their remaining Acacia Olympics matches and enjoyed a brief presentation by the Acacia Fraternity Foundation before sitting down to enjoy a steak dinner at the final banquet. The evening culminated with scholarship presentations, the announcement of Patrick W. McGovern as Acacia's next Executive Director, and the passing of the gavel.

As brothers departed, they left with more than just practical tips and resources to bring back to their home chapters this fall. More than that, they had learned through their own efforts the meaning of brotherhood in Acacia Fraternity.



Thank you to past Leadership Consultant, Nicholas M. Montanari, Washington State '08, for creating this year's ALA participant workbook.



ALA Officers

Connor T. York, *Oregon State '13*, Venerable Dean
Alex Larsen, *Pitt/Johnstown '12*, Senior Dean
Alex G. Hunter, *Carleton '11*, Treasurer
Wicitra "Wizzy" Mahotama, *Iowa State '11*, Junior Steward
Cain C. Fouard, *Kansas State '13*, Brotherhood Chairman
Keaton C. Reed, *St. Cloud State '11*, Senior Steward
James G. Harstad, *St. Cloud State '11*, Risk Manager
Nick Loree, *Ohio '12*, Secretary



Each one the other's friend...

We'd like to wish a special thank you to our Acacia Leadership Academy Fellows for leading our active members during group discussions, Ritual exemplification, and fraternal education throughout the week!

ALA Fellows

Jeremy N. Davis, *Iowa '00*
Joshua J. Gannon, *Oregon State '07*
Jonathan A. Janoski, *California University of PA '05*
Justin M.M. Kaplan, *Carleton '07*
Scott H. Meyer, *St. Cloud State '89*

(More on next page...)



Acacia Olympics Champions: Boats-n-Bros

Int'l Council meeting recap

The International Council conducted its quarterly meeting with the Headquarters Staff on August 2nd, 2013.

- Introduction of new leadership consultants, Greg Lary and Nathaniel McKee.
- Trine Colony chartering petition approved unanimously.
- Fraternity balance sheet continues to improve with membership growth.
- Return to twice annual publication of The Triad.
- Conclave registration costs increased to \$150/person from \$125/person to help cover cost of the event, which has previously operated at a loss.



ALA sponsoring chapters

Thank you to the following chapter alumni for their sponsorship of Acacia Leadership Academy programming!

Ice Breaker Wednesday

St. Cloud State, Minnesota Alumni
 Minnesota Acacia Alumni Assoc.
 Kenneth Allen Adams
 David L. Bardal
 Brian Thomas Biddle
 Ryan A. Dawald
 Francis J. Eggert
 Matthew Sean Gaffy
 Scott Howard Meyer
 Benjamin Thomas Monson
 Randall E. Mulligan
 Dr. William A. Peterson
 Hollis W. Rademacher
 Christopher Kelly Plourde
 Kevin Michael Renslow
 Daniel J. Scheller

Ritual Friday

Carleton Alumni
 Eric C.M. Church
 Cameron G. Herold
 George A. Levesque, Jr.
 Christopher G. Martin
 Gregory J. Owens

Celebration Saturday

Washington State Alumni
*In memory of chapter advisor
 Lester N. Liebel*
 Court A. Andreas
 Patrick R. Brentin
 Barrett K. Byrne
 Kenneth A. Christenson
 Clifton L. Clark
 John T. Clutter
 Jeffrey Jay Eller
 Jeffrey M. Gagliardi
 James G. Gregory
 William A. Hammer
 Joseph A. Homans
 Darold W. Larson
 Gordon Duane Olson
 David P. Schreck
 Richard N. Skadan
 Alan S. Tai

Cornerstones Thursday

Iowa Alumni
 Iowa House Corporation
 Sterling L. Benz
 Christopher Jason Berry
 Jeremy J. Heyer
 Donald M. Nelson
 Stephen B. Turley
 Jeffrey B. Warner
 R. Daniel Wilkes



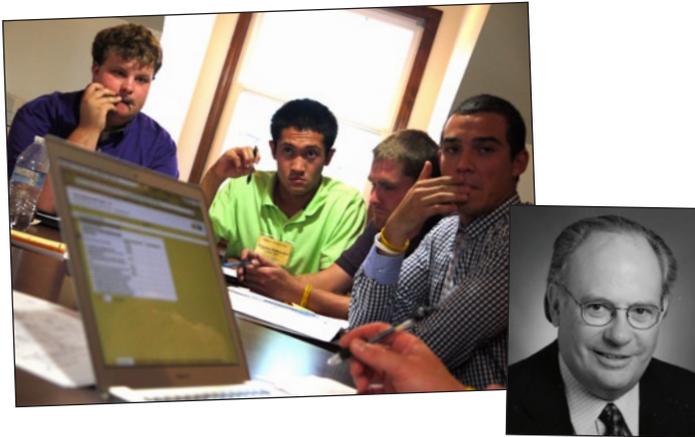
AFF Directors Amos Meyers and Brian Durst

Saturday Masonic Lodge Breakfast and
 The Knox Williams Masonic Heritage Forum
 Knox Williams, *UCLA* 50
 In memory of Drue Knox Williams

Featured presenter Tom Healy, Campuspeak
 The Provincial Grand Lodge of the Royal
 Order of Scotland

Acacia Prepares to Hold Inaugural Venerable Dean Summit in Indianapolis

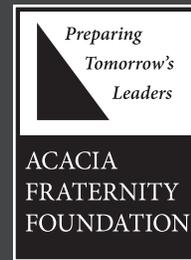
This January will mark a first of its kind gathering in our fraternity's century-old history, when a two-day leadership retreat specifically for Venerable Deans will take place in Indianapolis, Indiana. Sponsored by a generous gift from Lee Kearney, *Oregon State '59*, the **Leonard W. Kearney Venerable Dean Summit** provides a critical bridge in leadership education between Conclave and the Acacia Leadership Academy for our top chapter leaders.



The inaugural Summit will introduce newly-elected Venerable Deans to Acacia international staff and volunteers, provide valuable education on chapter operations and insights into fraternity leadership, and offer resources and planning sessions to prepare for a successful year.

Brother Kearney and wife, Connie, are already major supporters of the Acacia Fraternity Foundation and the Cornerstones program, and now the Venerable Dean Summit. "The fraternity provided me with a great laboratory to sharpen my people skills and leadership abilities," recalls Kearney, "Balancing my studies with my responsibilities as rush chairman and, later, as Venerable Dean helped prepare me for life after graduation." That life after graduation included active duty in the U.S. Army, an accomplished career in civil engineering, and leading fundraising initiatives for both his alma mater and Acacia.

The Leonard W. Kearney Venerable Dean Summit is sure to be instrumental in the continued growth and success of our fraternity, and we look forward to reporting more on this inaugural event in our next issue of *The Triad*.



2013 Scholarship Recipients

The Foundation was proud to award the following brothers with International-level scholarships based on academic performance, chapter and campus involvement, and human service during the 2012-2013 academic year.

George F. Patterson, Jr. Scholarship

Garrett A. Kennedy, Kansas State

Duncan McPherson Fraternityship

Cody J. Herald, Nebraska

Emma C. Allen Memorial Scholarship

Mason D. Grittman, Kansas State

Sabarinath Sankaranarayanan, Ohio State

Acacia Fraternity Foundation Scholarship

Christian P. Robillard, Carleton

Aditya Ramesh, Cornell

Gabriel J. McCoy, Iowa State

Thomas R. McGee, Iowa State

Andrew K. Sherman, Iowa State

Joe L. Webb, Iowa State



CORNERSTONES

2013 REPORT: MAKING AN IMPACT

Personal and professional development are not new ideas in the century-long history of Acacia. Our fraternity has long served as the foundation for college men preparing for success in the greater world. An undergraduate brother who experiences growth and learning opportunities while serving his chapter, campus, and community is a brother exemplifying the model Acacia experience.

The Cornerstones program serves as a structure to help promote and facilitate this type of membership experience. Adopted in 2006 by the 54th Biennial Conclave, the program was designed as a road-map for active members to follow during their time in Acacia.



Purdue Chapter volunteers at the local YWCA.

CORNERSTONES CHAPTER CLOSE-UPS

MISSOURI CHAPTER

Accelerating success

“Most of the brothers have defined 3 SMART goals which are posted to our bulletin board in the foyer, and we’ve tried to keep each other honest about our goals. They were a good recruiting topic, something nice to show our fathers during Dad’s Weekend, and something that the alumni have appreciated seeing.”

We have started a service hours program, the What’s Your 30? challenge, which is based off of the Iowa State Chapter’s What’s Your 20? challenge. Thirty hours per brother would add up to 1000 service hours as a chapter this semester.

Our chapter was recently acknowledged by Mizzou’s Office of Greek Life for our ‘Dedication to Columbia Community’ and ‘Outstanding Diversity Event.’ Both were great honors for the chapter to receive.”

Jackson H. Aaberg, Missouri ’12

PITT-JOHNSTOWN CHAPTER

Approaching the starting line

“Only a few of us have started the program so far, but I feel like Cornerstones would be a driving force in improving our chapter and a huge benefit to rush. Parents love that kind of academic focus, and it would also draw the kinds of men that would bring honor and the right attitude to our chapter. We will be doing more with Cornerstones next semester.”

David A. Kephart, Pitt-Johnstown ’12

KANSAS STATE CHAPTER

Firing on all cylinders

“Two years ago, a small group of brothers saw a need in our chapter for more personal development. We already had a program in place called CORE (Coordinated Opportunities Resulting in Excellence) that brought speakers and activities to chapter meetings to develop members, but we didn’t have much in the form of development on the individual level. This group decided to tailor the international Cornerstones program specifically to our chapter.”



Kansas State Chapter on the gridiron.

Cornerstones at K-State is a five-semester program that acts as a guide for members’ development in support of common goals of students in each class level. The first semester of the program begins with the spring semester of freshman year, and the program ends after junior year. The five semester themes are: Campus and Chapter Involvement, Professional Development, Project Management, Working on a Team, and Life Skills. As the semesters progress, the amount of defined content decreases, and it becomes more the responsibility of the individual to find meaningful experiences for himself related to the ideals for the particular semester.”

Mason D. Grittman, Kansas State ’11

While many of the nuts and bolts of the program have changed over the last seven years, more and more chapters are practicing the type of constructive, values-based membership experience that the program was designed to foster. Academic achievement, leadership, and social and physical development are still at the heart of the program. And while each chapter varies in its implementation of the program, each draws heavily upon components developed by Acacia professional staff, chapters, and numerous volunteers:

FOR CHAPTERS:

Cornerstones pledge program - Offered to chapters as a customizable template, this 8-week program prepares pledges for active membership in Acacia & lifelong learning. The agenda varies from week to week while serving as a comprehensive education in topics like Acacia history and teachings, local chapter history, and fraternity operations.

Activities also include goal setting, a human service project, and periodic reflection on lessons learned. All new Acacia colonies and recently chartered chapters base their pledge education on this program, while numerous older chapters have also adopted at least some aspects of the program.

Recommended chapter programming - A major impetus behind the development of Cornerstones was the opportunity to keep upperclassmen engaged by offering leadership and educational opportunities beyond pledgship. Ongoing chapter programming fosters a more valuable Acacia experience through an undergrad's entire college career:



Educational guest speakers - Hosting guest speakers on a variety of topics is a great way for chapter members to explore new interests, learn new skills, and deepen their knowledge of a topic.

Extra-curricular activities on campus - Outside the halls of Acacia, every college or university community offers a variety of activities for students to enjoy – intellectual, physical, spiritual, and social opportunities abound. Simply promoting these activities within the chapter and organizing small groups of brothers to attend will increase the overall value of membership in Acacia.

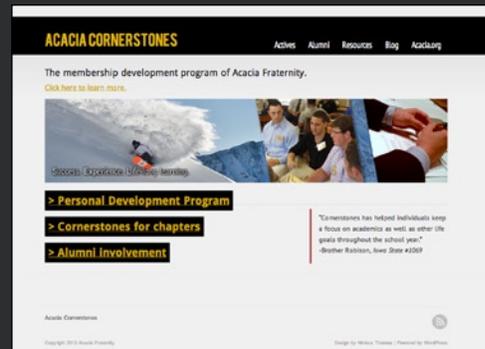
Alumni mentorship - For upperclassmen especially, making connections with Acacia alumni in the working world is invaluable. Inviting alumni to special events -- Homecoming, Founders' Day, scholarship banquets, guest speakers, etc. -- creates the opportunity to build relationships with more experienced and well-traveled brothers.

FOR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:

Personal Development Program - This is a step-by-step program that guides individual members through defining their personal values, setting goals, creating an action plan, and pursuing experiential learning opportunities. These activities are intended to build successful habits and provide a foundation for success on campus and after college.

NEW WEBSITE AT ACACIA.ORG/CORNERSTONES

In conjunction with the latest program revisions, we are excited to announce the launch of a new Cornerstones website at acacia.org/cornerstones. This is where active members can find everything they need to get started on the Personal Development Program and where chapters can find the Cornerstones pledge program, as well as ideas to promote learning and personal development within the chapter.



SUCCESS IN EXPANSIONS & RECRUITMENT

Cornerstones is paving the way for Acacia to expand to new campuses and return to institutions where our chapters once stood. While every university and IFC varies in their support of fraternity expansion, touting Cornerstones has played a significant role in getting Acacia onto the expansion calendar at Colorado, Washington State, Michigan, Vermont, and Indiana.

Recruitment efforts in existing chapters have also been bolstered by Cornerstones. The program makes it easy for active brothers to articulate the value of joining Acacia, and parents can feel comfortable knowing their sons are joining an organization that will help prepare them for success in school and in life.

ALUMNI SUPPORT

Our undergraduate brothers could use your help! Every chapter experiences a constant turnover in leadership -- it's the nature of only having 3 or 4 years to serve as an active member. Alumni mentors provide the continuity and long-term outlook that a chapter needs to find sustainable success. Even offering a few pearls of wisdom as a guest speaker is valuable to our members. Email us at cornerstones@acacia.org, and we'll work to find the right opportunity with your local chapter. Too distant to support a chapter in person? You can still make a difference by donating to the Acacia Leadership Fund in support of Cornerstones programming.

One Acacian's Journey

By John L. Cooper III, *UCLA '63*
Grandmaster of Masons in California

In 1962 I pledged the UCLA Chapter of the Acacia Fraternity at the beginning of my junior year. Two years later I served the chapter as its Venerable Dean, and then, in 1964, I graduated and left behind memories of two of the most significant years of my life.



The Acacia Fraternity has its roots in a much older fraternity, Freemasonry, and as a result its principles flow from an ancient tradition which has come down to us from the mists of time. The founders of the Acacia Fraternity were all Master Masons, and they distilled some important teachings from their experience as Freemasons into the ritual of Acacia. It might therefore be helpful to know what some of those teachings are.



The crest of our fraternity bears the Greek words for “Human Service.” Freemasonry is devoted to making the world a better place for all men and women, and a lesson constantly inculcated in a Masonic lodge is that its principles must be taken by Masons into the larger world. As with the Acacia Fraternity, Freemasonry is an initiatic society. The lessons that it teaches are unfolded to the initiate in an orderly and progressive manner. Each initiate is expected to master the lessons taught him before advancing to the next stage of learning. The underlying idea is one of a lifetime of learning – seeking “further light in Masonry,” as some of its rituals express it. That is not unlike what Acacia teaches, for it asks its initiates to commit themselves to a lifetime of the search for knowledge. A college or university education is not intended to be the culmination of all learning, but rather the opening of the doors of the mind to a passion for the search for enlightenment.

From Freemasonry, Acacia drew the figure and character of Pythagoras. The theorem which bears his name teaches us how to create a right-angled triangle. The result is a geometric square, which in Freemasonry stands for morality. The square is used to “true up” our actions so that our lives are “just and upright.” The right-angled triangle in Acacia stands for a similar commitment – another symbol derived from Freemasonry. Our ritual is replete with such symbols, and that is why Acacia can be thought of as a foundation stone in the temple of humanity that each of us is erecting.

My journey in Acacia began many years ago and now bears fruit in a larger and older parent fraternity, the fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons. But the lessons I learned long ago in my chapter have never left me. They have blossomed in a life given to “Human Service” – a commitment that Acacians share with Freemasons “whithersoever dispersed around the globe.”

John Cooper was installed as Grand Master of Masons in California in San Francisco on October 6 of this year.

Profile of a Grand Master

By Travis W.W. Kern III, *St. Cloud State '11*
Acacia Headquarters Communications Intern

Brother John Cooper has led the life of a true Acacian, always striving towards improving himself and the lives of those around him, and leading him eventually to become Grand Master of Masons in California.

At the insistence of his Sunday school teacher, Brother Cooper joined the Order of DeMolay - a youth organization based on Masonic teachings - at age 14, where he gained a great foundation of values and morals. He went on to serve as Master Councilor of his DeMolay Chapter in Orange County, California for two years before continuing his studies at UCLA. Before arriving on campus, John's research led him to Acacia because of its ties to Masonic values and traditions.

Brother Cooper was initiated into Acacia Fraternity on February 10, 1963, and he was aided in his time at UCLA by the Acacian DeMolay Scholarship which paid for his room and board and allowed him to dedicate his time to the fraternity and schoolwork. Brother Cooper served the UCLA Chapter as Venerable Dean and also served as Secretary of the Interfraternity Council while earning a political science degree in 1964. He attended graduate school at UCLA the following semester and also joined the Freemasons that same year.

When asked what he took away most from his time in Acacia, Brother Cooper described a building up of his values and morals which he had first learned through DeMolay, and an expansion of those values to become a greater and more influential person. By taking control of your life, you can not only change your future but the future and lives of the whole world around you. Brother Cooper expressed that organizations that instill values and good morals like Acacia and the Masons can really affect not only the limited number of people who join these organizations, but their families and the lives of all those they touch.

After graduating with his Masters Degree from UCLA, Brother Cooper would dive into the teaching world for the next 25 years, focusing on a variety of social science subjects and eventually becoming a school administrator. In 1991, he started full-time work at the San Francisco lodge as chief administrative officer. After years of dedicated public service and social service, Brother John Cooper would be charged with the honor of becoming the new and current Grand Master of Masons in California. He attributes much of his success in life to his commitment to become a greater help to those around him.

Another principle which Brother Cooper learned from his time in Acacia was the idea of being well-rounded. Balance is what allows you to truly grow. To find balance personally, John became involved with many other groups and organizations, ranging from church involvement to Rotary Club, Sierra Club, and Philalethes, a Masonic research and publishing organization. Today, Brother Cooper enjoys spending time in the outdoors hiking and viewing nature, reading, and listening to music with his wife. He serves in one additional capacity, as well - a fine example for all Acacians.



PYTHAGORAS' TRAVELS LEAD TO THE WEB

Have you ever found yourself stuck in the hot sands of the desert, wishing you had your trusty Pythagoras manual handy to rescue you? Well, perhaps it wasn't the hot sands of the desert, and perhaps you didn't exactly need rescue, but most of us have found ourselves with a few minutes of idle time before a meeting, stuck at the airport, or waiting to pick up the kids.

Now you can simply head to acacia.org/pythagoras from your computer or smartphone to brush up on your Acacia knowledge!

This marks the first time that Acacia's membership manual, *The Pythagoras*, is available online for your reference. The online edition resembles the print version and is designed to be easily read on your computer screen, tablet, or smartphone.

We are still publishing a print version of the Pythagoras. Work is underway to produce an updated print edition for the 2014-2015 academic year. The next print edition will include the same timeless Acacia history and teachings we all learned during pledge-ship, while saving some content — such as an always-growing list of chapters and award winners — to the online edition.

The online edition is still in its early stages of development, and we are adding content on an ongoing basis. Let us know what you think! Email us at communications@acacia.org.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL acacia.org/pythagoras/the-fraternity/. The page has a navigation menu with links for Home, The Fraternity, History, Membership, Chapter Life, and Appendix. The main heading is "PYTHAGORAS" in large, bold, serif font, with the subtitle "The Membership Manual of Acacia Fraternity" below it. A decorative flourish separates the title from the section heading "THE FRATERNITY". Underneath, the word "INTRODUCTION" is written in all caps, followed by a paragraph of text: "Having completed the pledging ceremony, you are now an Acacian. During your period of pledgship you will want to learn as much as you can about the nature, purpose and history of the organization of which you are now a part." Below this is a section titled "What Is Acacia?" followed by another paragraph: "Acacia Fraternity is an international general college social fraternity. In each of its chartered chapters on campuses across the United States and Canada, college men greet each other as brothers because, as Acacians, they share a common origin in the obligations and symbolism of the Fraternity."

An Old Tradition Tips Off Again

Illinois Wesleyan Chapter Hosts Acacia Midwest Basketball Tournament

March Madness doesn't usually begin in November, but don't tell that to the Acacians from Illinois, Illinois State, Purdue, and Trine who gathered at host chapter Illinois Wesleyan to hoop it up for a good cause this fall.

Restarting a tradition dating back to 1966 when the event was started by John H. Miller, *Illinois Wesleyan '64*, the IWU Chapter is excited to reestablish the Acacia Midwest Basketball Tournament as an annual event to benefit the V Foundation for Cancer Research. This year's event, with five participating chapters, raised over \$1,200 for the V Foundation. At its peak, the tournament drew over 20 chapters from across the Midwest, and a successful 2013 edition points toward a bright future.



The level of competition was high, and more importantly, the brothers rallied behind the tournament's charitable cause. In between games, the brothers talked about playing for the V Foundation and their enthusiasm for next year's tournament. Illinois Venerable Dean Bill Jamie was excited,

"it's great they're getting the tournament going again, and it's really cool to play for such a great foundation. We'll definitely be coming back."



Brothers rallied for lunch during a mid-tournament break at Normal, Illinois' *Meatheads* restaurant, which generously donated 10% of its profits for the day to a second worthy cause, Shriners Hospitals and the treatment of child burn victims. Numerous *Meatheads* burgers later, with appetites satisfied and some rest time enjoyed, it was back to the hard court to play the final games and crown a champion.

What about the hoops, baby? The teams entered this year's tournament with the Illinois Chapter leading the field historically with five tournament titles and Purdue close behind with three victories. The atmosphere was electric as brothers began arriving at the IWU chapter house on Friday night, where a rousing chorus of "We're the Men from Acacia" interrupted IWU brothers, Harrison Freeland and Tim Cobert, giving sleeping instructions. Tip-off was still 12 hours away, and already a swell of brotherhood and cheers ushered in the start of the 2013 Acacia Midwest Basketball Tournament.

Saturday morning, November 9, with shoes laced and game faces on, the brothers arrived at IWU's Shirk Arena ready to compete for their respective chapters. Acacians from every chapter put on an impressive display as they competed in a round-robin tournament to win the Pythagorean Cup and have the honor of handing off the check to the V Foundation.

Amidst crisp passes on the perimeter, solid team defense, a few alley oops, and a torrent of three pointers, the teams and individual competitors made it clear they came to win. During the Purdue vs. Illinois State game, a particularly good crossover drew shouts of, "break your ankles!" from the sidelines. Fortunately, no ankles were actually broken, and high fives were exchanged after the game.

With the sound of each final buzzer, the tournament standings solidified and the Illinois Chapter found itself the tournament champion by a significant margin, with Trine and Purdue rounding out the top three. With the games complete, the chapters packed it in for a group picture and V Foundation check presentation before heading back to the IWU chapter house for well-deserved sub sandwiches and pizza.

As the brothers wound down by watching football, icing knees, shooting pool, and trading fraternity stories, the atmosphere clearly reflected the other main purpose of the Acacia Midwest Basketball Tournament -- brotherhood.

With a spirit of friendly competition and Human Service at the forefront, it was obvious the brothers left excited for next year and an even more successful tournament.



Special thanks to the active members and alumni of every participating chapter for their donations to the tournament and the V Foundation for Cancer Research.

THE FOUNDATION[®]
for Cancer Research

2013 ACACIA MIDWEST
BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT



Chapter News & Updates

As submitted by chapters

No. 4) Nebraska Chapter unlacacia.acaciaconnect.org

Hello from the Nebraska Chapter! We have had a very successful year thus far, and we look to continue that trend. Our pledge class is currently at 20 men for the semester, and we are planning on initiating all 20 of them soon. We had a great summer of recruiting and have a great pledge class so I have high hopes for the Nebraska Chapter once these men initiate into the Acacian Brotherhood.

We are currently working hard on renovating our academic room dedicated to our long time chapter advisor, Keith Sawyers. We had some water issues in the room where the drywall and carpet was damaged. The room had become more of a storage area since the damage happened so we have recently decided to convert it back to a true academic room.

The holiday season is upon us, and we are moving towards our annual philanthropy, Acacia Claus. We have been handing out fliers to the people who park in our lot for football games, and we will be hosting a toy drive at a store very soon. Also, we have added another piece to our philanthropy this year and will be working with Theta Phi Alpha sorority to bake cookies and sell them along with hot cocoa at the student union. All proceeds of this event will go towards the Acacia Claus fund.

The Nebraska Chapter is working very hard this semester to show everyone that we are back and as strong as ever!

No. 6) Ohio State Chapter acacia.org.ohio-state.edu

Greetings brothers! The Ohio State Chapter is doing great, and the new initiates have been very outgoing, reaching out to various houses on campus to develop new relationships and strengthen the existing ones. To further improve and learn, we have revived the Cornerstones project and revamped our academic plan. Our Rush Chairmen, along with the rest of the brothers, has been working hard to create a strategic and effective plan for the upcoming semester to increase the quantity and quality of our members. We look forward to an exciting and eventful year and wish all the other chapters of Acacia the best of luck. Proud to be an Acacian!

No. 9) Illinois Chapter www.rushacacia.com

Acacia Illinois has enjoyed a very successful start to this school year. Although this is our second year in our new house, there were drastic changes to the house over the summer. We were fortunate enough to have our multipurpose room renovated to give the room a much nicer look. This is a very nice space to have while entertaining guests. This was all made possible by our house manager who designed and organized the entire project, and the costs of the renovation were split between the active chapter and our alumni board.

Our fall recruitment chairmen did an excellent job this fall. We currently have 33 pledges, which is the largest that our chapter has seen in several years. The pledges have done an excellent job balancing time between Acacia and their academics, and they are looking forward to their initiation later this semester. They mix very well with the active chapter, and we have no doubt that they will be an excellent addition to our house.

Acacia Illinois looks forward to continuing to improve its standing with the University of Illinois and, of course, with Acacia Fraternity.

No. 12) Wisconsin Chapter wiscacacia.acaciaconnect.org

The Wisconsin Chapter of Acacia has seen a great year so far. Through the utilization of our scholarship program, we have been able to recruit 12 amazing new pledges that we will soon be able to call our brothers. With our new and expanded budget we have been able to magnify our presence on campus and promote the ideals of human service here at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Through our Adopt-a-Highway program, Trick-or-Treat with the Greeks, and our support of the St. Baldrick's Foundation with the Alpha Chi fraternity, we have been able to prove that a fraternity of men can work together to reach a common goal.

This is just the tip of the iceberg, however, as we hosted a Rock Against Cancer concert on November 19th and are preparing for our annual participation in Acacia Claus. Both of these events have been under preparation all semester. These philanthropies, along with our end of the year social events, assures us that the Wisconsin Chapter will end this year on the right note just in time for the holidays.

No. 13) Missouri Chapter missouriacacia.acaciaconnect.org

This fall semester for the Missouri Chapter of Acacia has proven to be a lot of work but the results have paid off. In the areas of recruitment, housing projects, and human service we have made vast improvements in our chapter. Our newest 11 initiates are ready to make positive contributions for the Missouri Chapter. This is the biggest pledge class we have had since 2005, our re-founding year! They had a successful service project alongside The Boys and Girls Club, and we are excited for what they will do in the future.

During the summer, we renovated our kitchen in order to implement a fraternity meal plan with Beyond Catering. This has allowed brothers to share meals together and strengthen the chapter-wide brotherhood. We hope to continue using an in-house meal plan for years to come.

Our Director of Service and Philanthropy has set high standards for our chapter. We are determined to complete 1000 service hours as a whole chapter. We are on pace to do so, and many brothers have dedicated more than 20 hours of service. Acacia Claus is coming up, and we are partnering up with Shriners Hospitals for Children in St. Louis!

We are always willing to visit and host other Acacia chapters. Please contact us if you would like to plan an event together!



Missouri Chapter brothers display their Cornerstones goals and track their Journey to 1000 Service Hours.

The following chapters did not submit reports:
Bloomsburg, California, Central Oklahoma, Louisiana State, Louisiana Tech, Syracuse

No. 14) Cornell Chapter cornellacacia.org

Life at the Cornell Chapter has been fantastic. As the number of active fraternities on Cornell's campus continues to dwindle, we are pleased to report that our chapter has successfully adapted to new Interfraternity Council policies. From a new pledge program to a different rush system, the brotherhood has remained flexible in implementing new policies, and as a result, has grown as a whole. As we transition away from large social gatherings for recruitment and instead focus on smaller brotherhood-oriented events, we have both strengthened our brotherhood and gained a new sense of confidence. Overall, we believe the changes forced upon us have made us take a new look at what it means to be a well-rounded brotherhood.

The most notable of changes has come from the new "Quarter System" implemented by the IFC. Prior to the end of Fall Break, which ended October 15th, we were unable to "formally or informally" engage in recruitment activities due to deferred recruitment. However, this time was not spent idle. Our officers worked hard to schedule programming to strengthen the ties of brotherhood and to help the community in which we reside. From apple-picking at Brother Neil Parker's house to a trip to the State Fair in Syracuse, NY, our brotherhood has been spending a tremendous amount of quality time together. The abundance of such programming has resulted in a newfound sense of enthusiasm in the actives. A record breaking crowd of alumni that visited during Homecoming noticed the infectious positive attitude among the brothers.

On the philanthropy front, we held a frisbee tournament to benefit a brother's injured cousin, and we also held our annual Zombie 5K run. Our Junior Dean, Brother Aditya Ramesh, worked hard to bring us an Oktoberfest celebration with Alpha Xi Delta—a welcome event after a long period of being on social probation. All of this combined with a visit from Acacia International Leadership Consultant, Brother Nathaniel McKee, has created an unbelievable energy in our house.

The momentum of the brotherhood is currently directed towards our rush efforts. We have many types of events planned, such as weekly FIFA video game tournaments, all-you-can-eat buffalo wings, and others. While the Greek community adapts to new recruitment rules, our brotherhood remains out of harm's way by following the guidelines set forth by IFC. The Executive Board believes that in addition to being risk-free, this plan will help to recruit high-quality brothers who have a genuine, vested interest in the house.

The other major change imposed on us by new regulations concerns our pledging process. Previous and current Senior Deans, Santiago Cruz and Neil Parker, have worked hard to trim our program from eight weeks to four weeks. Although the new program has proven to be somewhat uncomfortable for the more senior brothers, we are confident the chapter will learn to embrace the changes and appreciate the positive benefits they bring. Many of us find ourselves appreciating the fact that we will be able to call our newest pledges our brothers sooner and for a longer time than ever before.

As we think about the direction of our chapter and watch the newly initiated brothers begin to take leadership roles in the house, we are excited by the possibilities the future holds.

No. 15) Purdue Chapter purdueacacia.org

Greetings brothers! Purdue Acacia has taken some very large steps forward in 2013 in many aspects. We held alumni events with brothers from the 1990's last spring and were visited by the 1970's alumni and many of their wives before this year's football game against Notre Dame. We really enjoyed meeting the alumni and learning more about old traditions and how the house has evolved structurally and socially through the years. We have recently installed a key pad on the front door for alumni to be able to have access to the house at all times since they were gracious enough to hand down our great house and tradition to the current brothers.

We were among the top fraternities on campus for community service hours per member during the spring. We have completed numerous volunteering activities, from working a carnival at a local school to continuing our Adopt-a-Spot on campus that we maintain for everyone to see. We are reintroducing our philanthropy Acacia Claus where we will be collecting money and toys...

to donate to the Salvation Army. We also participated in the Acacia Midwest Basketball Tournament at Illinois Wesleyan University to raise money for the Jimmy V Foundation.

Our membership is up to 32 active members that are all very enthusiastic about the house and our traditions. We have implemented the Cornerstones pledge teachings which were created by Acacia International to expand on the teaching of rituals and knowledge about our great fraternity. We are working with the university to learn about their vision for Fraternity and Sorority Life so that we may keep ahead of the curve on all aspects.



We were also excited to install our new retaining wall, thanks to generous donations from our alumni and Brother Larry Becker's landscaping company. We have also installed a new sign which is one of the largest on campus. We are currently working on house renovations to the second floor and other parts of the house to maintain a superior living environment for our members. We have many plans to update our house and keep it looking great in addition to our brotherhood keeping the house as clean as possible every day.

No. 19) Iowa State Chapter stuorg.iastate.edu/acacia

Greetings from the Iowa State Chapter! Since our last update we have continued to see growth in our human service efforts. This semester, our philanthropy chair, Brother Mahotama, has begun a "What's Your 20" campaign in which brothers are encouraged to pledge to complete over 20 hours of service during the semester. Over 60% of the chapter has made the pledge and are well on their way to completing it. Brothers have enjoyed working in the community, volunteering at school carnivals, mentoring elementary students, doing campus clean-ups, and a variety of other activities.

This past summer was a busy one for the chapter. We saw another great renovation to our chapter house as we renovated our kitchen with a new floor, cabinetry and appliances. Brothers are very pleased, as the functionality of the kitchen has greatly improved. Also, this summer we had an increased number of brothers with internships. We had brothers working all over the country in a variety of areas, including biorenewables research, manufacturing, marketing, and hospitality, among others.

After winning the past two homecoming competitions, we were excited to compete as one of the largest 13 fraternities at ISU for the first time since recolonizing. This semester we began new membership development activities such as doing a strengths finder workshop, hosting speakers from campus, and discussing the meaning of our ritual. Overall the past semester has been a successful one, and we are looking forward to a bright future ahead.



No. 21) Penn State Chapter psuacacia.acaciaconnect.org

Greetings from State College! The fall semester has brought much activity and many positives for the Penn State Chapter. On Labor Day, the entire brotherhood along with members of our alumni board held a retreat facilitated by Dr. Roy Baker, Director of Greek Life at Penn State. The goal of the meeting was enhanced communication and transparency, as well as continuing to work together to strengthen the chapter. We feel that the day was very successful and hope this will become an annual meeting at the beginning of each school year.

The rush committee continued to perform well with recruitment during the fall as 28 new members are currently working toward active membership in Acacia. We look forward to their continued growth and expect them to be great leaders of the fraternity in the future.



No year would be complete without our fundraising efforts toward The Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon. THON is the largest student run philanthropy in the world with proceeds benefiting pediatric cancer research. We have successfully completed three fundraising (canning) weekends and continue to provide much needed emotional support to our families. We look forward to our best THON ever which will take place on February 21-23, 2014.

The new Executive Board was elected in November, and the officers are looking forward to building on the success of past council members, while also implementing fresh ideas and creativity. Finally, the brotherhood has shown a renewed commitment to sustaining pride in the chapter house. Several major projects have improved the aesthetic look of the house, most notably a beautiful new entrance. The major renovation and fundraising campaign led by a dedicated group of alumni will continue during the summer of 2014. These are exciting times at Penn State, and we are very much looking forward to the future of Acacia.

No. 25) Colorado Chapter colacacia.org

Greetings to Acacians everywhere from the Colorado Chapter! The Fall 2013 semester has been one of great transition for our chapter. We recently moved into our new housing development, which is a set of apartment complexes with a private fraternity space for Acacia brothers.

This has been a five-year project since our 2008 re-founding and is a new model of fraternity living. Acacia owns the ground lease under two brand new apartment buildings, one of which holds our fraternity space in it. This private two-story space contains a large living room, dining and activity area, library, catering kitchen, and basement social space. There are no words that can describe the amount of heart and effort put in by our alumni to see this project through. This project could not have been done without them and the support of the international fraternal body in the project.

As a chapter, we are readjusting to the apartment-style living and how to incorporate a sense of community with our chapter. Additionally, there are unaffiliated tenants living in the other half of the building who were not informed of our presence by the leasing company. This situation reflects both the challenges and opportunities that we face in this new development.

We currently have 11 men in the Fall 2013 pledge class. Though short of our goal for the semester, the quality of gentlemen that we have attracted has given the chapter the drive to push through the challenges associated with our new development, and we are extremely excited to continue to move forward. Next semester we are focusing on improving our academic, human service, and brotherhood programs. Our chapter excels in pledge education and bonding amongst the brotherhood, and since our re-founding we have been an extremely welcoming and diverse chapter on campus. We hope to continue these practices while improving our programs to add value for our members...

We are extremely fortunate to have the support to rebuild what has been an incredible chapter since 1911. We've hit some road bumps, but we're continuing to accelerate towards a very bright future for the Colorado Chapter, as well as bolstering the good of the international fraternity. Our doors are open to you all, and as we grow, we would love to take any advice on program development from other chapters and encourage any brothers or alumni to come down and visit. We can guarantee a fun and meaningful visit!

No. 27) Kansas State Chapter kstateacacia.org

Another semester has come and gone, and the Kansas State Chapter is that much closer to our 100 year anniversary! [Editor's note: The chapter will celebrate its Centennial Celebration as this Triad goes to press.]

Last January, we held our Kickoff Celebration at the newly opened Flint Hills Discovery Center in Manhattan, KS. Various awards were presented, and the chapter watched our Centennial Kickoff Video at: youtube.com/ksuacacia. Later in the year, we held an Alumni Leadership Luncheon and began our video series on Acacia's Principles of Growth, Brotherhood and Service. More videos from these events are viewable on our YouTube channel. Special thanks to Br. Garrett Kennedy for his amazing work on these videos and alumni Brs. Chris Dolezal, Lucas Shivers, and Roger Brannan for co-planning the Centennial and writing our book with Garrett! Our Centennial book, entitled "Growth, Brotherhood, & Service" was recently sent to the printer and will be ready by our Centennial Celebration, December 6-8, 2013.

In addition to Centennial events, the chapter has been successful with normal operations and programs throughout the past nine months. We served the community nearly 450 hours last semester, averaging about nine hours per member. Our main Human Service initiative for the spring semester was the second-annual Civic Leadership Week, made up of seven different service projects, including distribution of an entire semi-truck of food to the surrounding community with the help of Harvesters and HandsOn K-State.



Last semester was also the first annual Paintballs Against Poverty, a new philanthropic paintball tournament for other members of the Greek Community.

Combined with our DuckRace philanthropy, also last semester, we raised over \$1,700 for Habitat for Humanity and the Manhattan Emergency Shelter. On the social side of things, we hosted our first ever Formal event at the brand-new Hilton Garden Inn, and we had a fantastic dinner swap with the beautiful ladies of Alpha Delta Pi sorority. In addition, our Greek Week pairing took home the 1st place finish last spring for the first time in many years.

As we began the fall semester, a fantastic new class of 15 members was inducted, and they are well on their way to becoming active Acacians. Prior to classes starting, a new event entitled SAMOS kicked off. SAMOS was a young man (pledge) retreat hosted at the house for three days which introduced our new members to life in the Greek Community at K-State, life as an Acacian, and life as a K-State student. The retreat was a success thanks to the hard work put in by multiple individuals.

We look forward to seeing hundreds of other Acacians from the past at the Centennial Celebration from December 6-8, 2013! This year will definitely be one to remember in the Acacia history books, and we invite any and all brothers of Acacia to be a part of the celebration!

We gotta get on the road...

Acacia HQ's Leadership Consultants add up the miles, memories

Going on the road for the first visitation is a thrilling experience that combines both excitement and nerves. Attempting to combine all of the strategic qualities I obtained during four years as an undergrad and distilling them into one week of assistance while visiting a chapter is not the easiest thing I have ever had to do.

Heading south to chapters such as Central Oklahoma, Louisiana Tech, Louisiana State, and our Texas Tech Colony has allowed me to see a part of the country I had never experienced before. While the levels of strength and cohesion of each chapter differed, the above-and-beyond level of treatment I received

was consistent at each chapter. Southern hospitality is a very real thing, whether it was taking me out and treating me like I had known the brothers for years, or simply sacrificing their own comfort so I would have a bed to sleep in.

Academics, finances, and philanthropy are my main focuses with this job, but strengthening the ties of friendship and brotherhood are the underlying rewards that come with each visitation. Life on the road has its ups and downs, but I know that I will look back fondly on my travels later in life and take away the valuable part of the experience.

- Greg Lary

Gregory J. Lary, Ohio '09, a 2013 graduate of Ohio University with a B.S. in Political Science, served his chapter in numerous roles as an undergraduate including Venerable Dean, Pledge Educator, and IFC Representative. Greg's leadership coincided with a resurgence of the Ohio Chapter which earned it the President's Award for membership growth at Acacia's 57th Biennial Conclave in 2012. Greg was recognized by his chapter as Undergraduate of the Year in 2012 and Acacian of the Year in 2013.

Says Brother Lary, "I hope to use my competitive nature to help develop strong, feasible strategies for up-and-coming Acacia chapters to reach their full potential." Greg may be reached by email at glary@acacia.org.

Greetings from the road, brothers. It's been a wild ride traveling around from chapter to chapter and meeting all the brothers. After spending the first part of my travels driving around the rather flat Midwest, it was a bit of an uphill battle getting used to the mountainous Northeast. The collection of coffee cups I often amass is a testament to the fact traveling can be exhausting. However, the opportunity to travel and work with our chapters has made the journey an unforgettable experience.

Beginning my travels August 18th, I got my feet wet traveling to Ithaca, New York to see the brothers at the Cornell Chapter. During my stay I had the opportunity to walk the ruggedly beautiful campus - standing in awe of the waterfalls particularly - and enjoy my first Leadership Consultant visit. The kindness extended to me by the actives and the alumni bowled me over. Though educating members on best practices was my focus, we had the opportunity to share a lot of laughs, meals, and chapter history. It set a high standard that has only been matched by each subsequent chapter and alumni base I have visited.

Each campus has its own unique identity and experiences to offer, ranging from the EMPAC center at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (a remarkable piece of architecture and audio engineering) to a self-contained waste water treatment facility in Vermont. Finding time to see the sights among countless meetings with chapter officers has been a challenge, but it has only reinforced the truth that everyday is an hourglass, and maximizing those precious grains of sand is imperative.

Reflecting on my experiences on the road, I can say that putting myself in a position to experience the International Fraternity has been nothing short of life changing. If I could offer one piece of advice to any fraternity brother, either alumni or undergraduate, it would be to budget time to come to Conclave this summer to share in these experiences. Too often we focus on our own individual chapters and miss the opportunities for fellowship that International events afford us. Journey out to Nashville this summer to forge and renew those fraternal bonds!

-Nate McKee

Nathaniel D. McKee, Missouri '10 is a 2013 University of Missouri graduate, where he double-majored in Psychology and English. Nate served his chapter as Senior Dean, Director of Recruitment, and Academic Chairman. The Missouri Chapter grew its membership by 50% during Nate's recruitment term. His chapter has also awarded him with the Richard Jesse Award for Academic Excellence.

Nate is an Eagle Scout and plans to earn his JD-MBA in the future. "I'm excited to go learn and help advance my brothers' efforts all around the nation. My goal is to help find a plan for every chapter that will give them a sense of pride when they become alumni." Brother McKee may be reached by email at nmckee@acacia.org.

No. 28) Texas Chapter

utexasacacia.acaciaconnect.org

The Texas Chapter of Acacia is currently in great shape. Brotherhood and community involvement are at high points since our re-founding. Most recently we have held a number of brotherhood events to strengthen fraternal ties. Events included a lock-in at the chapter house and the Texas vs. Oklahoma Red River Rivalry weekend trip in which we traveled by two charter busses to Dallas and held a formal dinner at our hotel. Future planned events for the chapter include a camping trip and an end of the year formal.

Community service efforts have been focused on Project 2012/13, an event in which a local community park and residential area is bettered and renovated. Additionally, both pledges and actives have participated in Keep Austin Beautiful, an effort to preserve the city through clearing of litter around creeks, parks, and roads. Lastly, the Cornerstones program has been very beneficial to the pledge program. The pledges have only provided positive feedback about the program and feel that it has impacted their college life in a positive manner.

The Texas Chapter is holding strong and steady. With an elevated level of brother morale and a plan being constructed to ease in the new executive officers, the spring semester looks promising for both rush and status of the chapter.

No. 35) Oregon State Chapter

groups.oregonstate.edu/acacia

The Oregon State Chapter has been busy since we won the Human Service Award at the last Conclave. We were very much honored to receive the award and are working hard to earn the award again! One of the best moments during the past year was our 2nd place finish in Alpha Phi's philanthropy: Outlast. This philanthropic competition pitted various fraternities against each other to see who could outlast the others in eating gross food, strength, and singing competitions. It was modeled after the popular TV show, "Survivor." Our whole house was involved with the various events and made sure we had a strong presence during the all-Greek philanthropy. Our chapter has also been active in Relay for Life, Delta Gamma's Anchor Splash, and Kappa Delta's Mock Rock.

Many of our chapter members enjoy playing intramural sports, and we have teams for each sport offered. Our intramural bowling team won 1st place last year, and our ultimate frisbee team also made it to the quarterfinals!

Our scholarship program continues to bring in quality men during our recruitment process. We had over 200 applicants and were very pleased to award 10 scholarships to well-deserving candidates. Currently, we have eight pledges going through education this term. We are excited to soon welcome them into the brotherhood!

No. 38) Washington State Chapter

wsuacacia.org

Greetings, brothers! The fall semester is well underway for us at Washington State. We currently have a pledge class of 10 on their way to initiation in January, as well as one more pledge who arrived late and will be in the spring class. We have passed several new academically-minded bylaws, basically stating that no individual can be initiated without providing evidence of a 3.0 semester at WSU. This should inspire the freshmen pledges to start their college tenures off on the right foot.



*WSU Brothers at the Darold W. Larson
Acacia Leadership Academy*

Over the summer, several of our members were fortunate enough to attend Acacia Leadership Academy in Bloomington, Indiana. This was the first international event for two of the three men in attendance and proved to be a great time meeting and bonding with other brothers from across the nation. We would personally like to thank all of our alumni who donated to make that experience possible...

The bonds of brotherhood are also being strengthened at home on the local chapter level. Lately, we have been having issues with our landlord, as we do not own our chapter house. Earlier in this semester, after some miscommunication with our landlord, we ended up facing an unexpected bill of nearly \$3,000 due immediately. It reached a point where the chapter had to metaphorically "pass the hat around," in order to maintain the lease on our chapter house. It was incredible to witness the dedication and selflessness which our brothers showed, as members who did not owe anything voluntarily contributed to the cause.

We are currently in the process of electing our executive council for the coming 2014 calendar year. We have a number of well-qualified individuals whom we look forward to seeing lead our chapter for the year to come. We are continuing to make progress in terms of academics, brotherhood and community involvement, and we look forward to achieving greater success throughout the coming semester.

No. 42) Ohio Chapter

ohio.edu/orgs/acacia

The Ohio Chapter started off the school year strong by having 21 bids accepted for pledging. This is the second year in a row with a fall pledge class of over 20 men, continuing the recent growth and success of the Ohio Chapter. The fall semester has been highlighted by the recent Greek Homecoming victory with Alpha Gamma Delta sorority, which included a flag football tournament championship and many great efforts in all of the other Homecoming Week activities.

The next big event for the chapter was the East Elementary School Carnival on November 8th, which was the Chapter's Community Service Project for the semester. The carnival helps raise money for the elementary school in Athens, Ohio, which allows the school to purchase the necessary supplies and textbooks for the students. This is our second year volunteering at the carnival, helping coordinate and run games and activities, and serve food to the crowd.

Planning has already started for the 6th Annual Scacia, a 5k race for pancreatic cancer research. The event is scheduled for March 22, 2014 and is expected to be the largest Scacia to date. In an effort to spread the word and raise more money for the event, the fall pledge class organized their own philanthropy event, Volley for Lustgarten, a volleyball tournament in which all funds raised will be donated to the Lustgarten Foundation, the same foundation supported by Scacia.

No. 43) Miami (OH) Chapter

The past three years have been a fresh start for the Miami Chapter of Acacia. This has led to a huge increase in involvement on the community level. In terms of the Oxford community, Acacia still adopts a local highway which we clean twice every semester. Something we started last year was reconnecting to our official philanthropy: the Shriners Hospital for Children in Cincinnati, Ohio. This hospital is nationally renowned for its burn care. Twice a year we set up a booth at our local Kroger branch and ask people to write a note on a colored strip of paper which we put together in a paper chain. Last semester we raised over \$350, but the important thing was sending a thoughtful message to sick children. We believe that we exemplify the ideals of "Human Service" now more than ever before.

Aside from our involvement with the local community, we are also significantly more involved with the Greek community. This year we have developed a strong relationship with Alpha Epsilon Phi sorority. Because we are both of small size, we can have many events together without having to partner with another fraternity or sorority. We also participated in Alpha Chi Omega-sponsored Walk a Mile in Her Shoes, a national program where men walk one mile in high heels to raise awareness to end sexual violence on college campuses.

On an organizational level, we have a new chapter advisor, Rory Driscoll. Rory is an alumnus of Miami and is working closely with the chapter on recruitment and on expanding our alumni base. The chapter is in the middle of trying to reach out to all alumni to renovate our house. We have had contractors come through the house and give us estimates. Please contact me, Michael Strong, at mikestrong45@gmail.com or 502-287-8923 for any questions about the chapter and what you can do to help.

No. 44) Rensselaer Chapter acacia.union.rpi.edu

The RPI Chapter has continued to expand its membership. The past year's new members have brought the number of in-house brothers from 14 to 21, and our fall pledge class of six pledges will maintain this number. There are also many potential pledges eager to rush in the spring semester. In light of the fact that in recent history we were on the brink of collapse, this growth is wonderful news.

There have been a number of events this semester and more in the planning. Alumni Work Week fostered alumni relations and helped fix and improve the house. We held Safari Party, the biggest party on campus this semester, which had a turnout of about 600 people. The house has recently undergone some landscaping work, resulting in an improved fire pit and a composting pile.

For Human Service, brothers volunteered to help distribute water and direct runners at the Mohawk-Hudson River Marathon. Pumpkins full of cookies were distributed to all the local sororities on Halloween. An academic dinner was held and a second one is being planned. We also enjoyed an Acacia Thanksgiving dinner and a Thanksgiving Psi Upsilon - Acacia mixer dinner.

No. 54) Illinois Wesleyan Chapter acacians.net

The Illinois Wesleyan Chapter has finally returned to its old home! After moving in and out of various residencies during the past decade, the Illinois Wesleyan Chapter is back in Adams Hall where it was located in the 1990's. Named after the fourth president of the university, Adams Hall houses 23 Brothers – a significant increase from our previous location which housed twelve. Unlike most campuses, IWU owns all of the on-campus fraternity houses and has reserved the right to move fraternities based on house capacity and membership levels. However, the university's current administration has indicated that this policy has been revised, and Acacia will no longer be shuttled from one house to another. We certainly consider this a plus looking at future recruitment efforts.

During our fall recruitment, it brought us a lot of pride to hear the incoming freshmen talk about how the guys in our fraternity are "genuine" and actually care to meet them and get to know who they are. This semester, seven men formally pledged our chapter who exemplify the values of our organization.



Last school year, we completed over 700 service hours and raised roughly \$1,000 for Shriners Children's Hospital by means of several philanthropic events. The Men from Acacia served multiple local non-profits, some of which included Home Sweet Home Ministries where we reached out and fed the homeless in the Bloomington/Normal community; VITA Tax Services, where we assisted lower-income families in getting the most out of their tax returns; Mulberry Elementary School fundraising; and American Red Cross blood drives.

Our annual Homecoming Banquet was hosted on October 12th at the Marriott in Uptown Normal – the only AAA 4-Diamond rated hotel in Central Illinois. We had over 100 attendees, many of whom met for the first time or reunited with Brothers for the first time in several years. Our devoted alumni provided sincere support of our Brotherhood's endeavors and pledged over \$10,000 to our Acacia Fraternity Foundation chapter account. We cannot thank them enough for their dedication to our chapter and Acacia Fraternity as a whole.

On November 9th, we hosted the Acacia Midwest Basketball Tournament for the first time in several years at the Shirk Center on IWU's campus. If your chapter wishes to receive more information on participating in 2014, please contact our Philanthropy Chairman, Brother Matt Piotrowiak, at mpiotro1@iwu.edu.

Our chapter is so proud to have worked in recent years to build a small, 10-man chapter into the 39-man brotherhood we are today. As we continue to develop ourselves as leaders on campus in hopes that one day we will lead our communities and the world around us, the Illinois Wesleyan Chapter will continue on its journey of growth – both in size and spirit in the years to come.

No. 67) Trine Chapter trineacacia.org

The Trine Chapter officially re-chartered on September 28th, 2013, as we hosted International First Vice President Scott H. Meyer, Executive Director Patrick W. McGovern, Director of Expansion and Recruitment Michael S. Weber, and Past Executive Director Keith M. Bushey along with many alumni and family members. The gentlemen of the Trine Chapter are very proud to have accomplished this feat within three semesters of colonization.

Taking advice given by alumni and Headquarters Staff that attended the re-chartering banquet, the chapter is taking a renewed interest in building brotherhood, recruitment, and community activities so that a "post-chartering slump" is avoided. Some activities that the chapter is involved with include: Adopt-a-Highway, participation with IFC, attending football games and tailgating with alumni, multiple mixers with sororities, and developing a biannual mixer in which the brothers cook a homemade formal dinner. We also participated in the Acacia Midwest Basketball Tournament, helped a local Halloween festival, and are currently preparing for Acacia Claus.

Eight new Associate Members (pledges) comprise the Delta Pledge Class and are showing great enthusiasm in their studies of Acacia and are developing into fine Acacia gentlemen. The future looks bright, and the brothers at Trine are striving to keep it that way.

No. 76) Pitt-Johnstown Chapter upjittacacia.acaciaconnect.org

The semester began with a seamless transition from summer into fall. We organized a blood drive, hosted an Acacia Leadership Consultant, held a Pittsburgh Steelers ticket raffle, and rushed the 2013 Gamma Zeta pledge class all within the first few weeks back at school. With things underway, we settled into our new university-allotted lodge at Heather 2 and filled it with our black and old gold colors of Acacia. It was clear that the house does not make the fraternity, but the brothers who ultimately decide on the success or failure of the organization.

One notable highlight was the visit of Nathan McKee, a Leadership Consultant from Acacia Headquarters. With Nate's help, a plan was created by Venerable Dean Drew Raezer and Treasurer Derek Dibert to tackle our debt to the International Fraternity accumulated over years of "less than perfect" operation. We created a detailed budget of our income and expenses for the year and also a payment plan so the chapter's debt could reach zero within 24 months.

The Pitt/Johnstown chapter has established many short-term and long-term goals for the next couple of years. We aim to earn \$1,200 from the Steelers ticket raffle and reinvest the money into amenities for the house, rush activities and events, as well as other fundraising ideas we intend to pursue. We aim to bring in a suitable pledge class over the next year and set a goal of at least 15 new brothers over the next fall and spring semesters. These potential new brothers will boost the number of active brothers from 23 to 38, giving us the numbers we need to regain and fill our old chapter house, while bringing in motivated young men that will carry on the traditions we have fostered. In addition to alumni support we so gladly appreciate, we are confident that we can achieve all these things and more as the next year unfolds.

No. 80) Saint Cloud State Chapter acacia-scsu.org

This fall our chapter was as busy as ever. We kicked it off with a great recruitment of a solid seven pledges for this fall and three men who plan to pledge in the spring. With the extra manpower, our philanthropies have been becoming more and more impressive. This semester we walked with the American Cancer Society and the rest of St. Cloud in the Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk which takes place around campus. We also are helping to promote and support next semester's St. Cloud State Relay for Life, and with our help it will hopefully become the first Greek-wide philanthropy on campus. On Halloween, the brothers went trick-or-treating for cans and gathered over 100 canned goods for the local Salvation Army. Finally, we are bringing back Acacia Claus to campus. We have already collected 35 toys and are aiming for over 150 total this year.

The chapter held a fundraiser in October called "Have an Acacian for a Day." The event consisted of the active men of Acacia donning suits and presenting themselves to sorority members, students, and fraternity brethren for a silent auction to be bid on. The event was both a social mixer and a fundraiser hosted at our house with live music and food...

Once again the St. Cloud brothers traveled down to Wisconsin for “freak fest” this year to hang out and celebrate with our brothers from the Wisconsin Chapter. The St. Cloud brotherhood would like to extend an extreme amount of gratitude toward the Wisconsin brothers for the amazing hospitality and great times every year. We hope to continue this and make it into a tradition between our two chapters and hopefully host them for an event, as well.

Our members continue to branch out all across campus. With two of our brothers now leading the IFC as President and Recruitment Chairman, and another brother holding a Senator position on Student Government, the Acacia name is popping up more and more around campus. With chapter elections coming up we look forward to a passing of the torch to see what new leadership will bring this chapter and hopefully continue our rising momentum.

No. 83) California University of Pennsylvania Chapter caluacacia.aciaciconnect.org

After facing some challenges to begin the fall semester, the Cal U of PA Chapter is back on track to reach the top at Cal U. For the month of October we teamed up with Domestic Violence Services of Southwestern PA, and we’ve been spreading domestic violence awareness all throughout Washington County. Groups of 3-4 brothers were assigned to towns neighboring California and had to ask a minimum of 3 businesses if we could place items (signs, ribbons, pamphlets, etc.) in their business for the month of October. One group got a record 16 businesses to display these important items. We’re maintaining this relationship with DVSSP and will be doing many more events with them in the future.

Homecoming Week at Cal U was October 6-13, and we worked for an entire week with the sisters of Alpha Sigma Tau constructing our float for the parade. The theme for this year’s homecoming was “Under The Sea,” and our float theme was the classic movie “Jaws”. Our float was fully equipped with a rocking



boat with a working smoke stack, a shark that would lunge out of the moving waves and attack the boat, and a high pressure water cannon that would spray water high into the air. The float was a resounding success, and thanks to the brothers, AST sisters, pledges, and potential new members for next semester, Acacia took first place in the float building competition!

We are also teaming up with the ladies of Alpha Sigma Alpha to hold our annual Acacia Claus toy drive at the Wal-Mart in Wayneburg, PA. We hope to beat last year’s donations of \$3,000 in toys raised for Toys for Tots.

No. 84) Millersville Chapter millersvilleacacia.aciaciconnect.org

The Millersville Chapter had a successful fall semester. We have been excelling at living by our motto “Human Service”. Our chapter is constantly striving to excel in academic achievement, leadership, fitness, and brotherhood. Two important objectives we are currently focusing on are fundraising and recruitment.



The brothers of the Millersville Chapter have been involved with numerous community service events. During late August we assisted freshmen with moving into their assigned dorms and helped parents by providing an easier and less strenuous transition. During mid-September we hosted a blood drive in conjunction with the American Red Cross. We beat our goal of 66 pints by collecting 75 in total.

We also joined the Peer Educators at their event “Take Back the Night” which was hosted by the Center for Health Education and Promotion. The purpose of the event was to help put an end to sexual violence. The men of Acacia lead the ceremonial candlelight walk around campus. Brothers also participated in the Adopt-a-Highway program by cleaning up our highway during mid-October. The Millersville Chapter will also be, for the first time ever, participating in our international philanthropic event, Acacia Claus, during the holiday season.

No. 85) Carleton Chapter carletonacacia.com

This winter, the Carleton Chapter enters its 25th year, and the brothers have been working diligently to improve every aspect of fraternal life. We kicked off our year with an amazing rush period which was one of our biggest to date. Our chapter continues to grow and has nearly reached 60 brothers.

We are also keeping true to our motto, “Human Service,” as we supported the annual Terry Fox Run in September as one of the biggest volunteer groups. We’ve kept with the plan of previous years as we strive to have every active brother complete 20 mandatory hours of human service. We also continue our efforts to clean and maintain Seneca Street which we have adopted as a chapter. Socially, our strong efforts have not gone unnoticed in the Ottawa area, as our ties with other organizations and sororities such as Alpha Omicron Pi and Xi Delta Theta have only improved this year.

We are increasing our ties to our Mayor and Honourary Brother, Mr. Jim Watson and have been working hard to reconnect with our chapter founders as we plan and finalize our 25th Founders Ball at the historic Chateau Laurier in the heart of downtown Ottawa. We also look forward to our fall road trip and to engaging with our brothers from other chapters. We are Acacians, and we are proud of it!

No. 89) Indiana University of Pennsylvania Chapter iupacacia.aciaciconnect.org

All is well for the brothers of the IUP Chapter of Acacia. Last spring we enjoyed success and a huge improvement by earning the highest overall GPA among the fraternities at IUP, as well as most improved GPA. We also earned awards for excellence in alumni engagement, excellence in campus involvement, excellence in chapter presidency (VD David Gliozzi), and outstanding Greek Senior (Jeff Bluedorn). Furthermore, we celebrated our 20th anniversary as a chapter at IUP and enjoyed the presence of our chapter’s founding fathers and all other alumni; it was brotherhood at its finest.

Currently, we are extremely focused on recruiting and growing our numbers as we currently have 16 active brothers. We pinned in 3 pledges this semester which isn’t too bad because IUP practices deferred recruitment. Next semester is looking promising for recruiting because freshmen will be able to pledge, and there is a lot of interest in Acacia. Also, we are continuing to emphasize scholarship by attending round tables and leadership by having brothers on the IFC board. For philanthropy this winter, we are holding the Acacia Claus toy drive at our local Wal-Mart, canning for treasures for children, and participating in several philanthropies hosted by other fraternities and sororities at IUP. Overall, everything is going well as we continue creating a positive image for the Acacia name. We wish all chapters good luck and hope to see everyone at Conclave.

No. 90) Morningside Chapter webs.morningside.edu/acacia

The Morningside Chapter of Acacia had four initiates spring semester and are looking to initiate more this year. Two representatives were sent to Bloomington, Indiana to attend ALA. This year we have continued our community service project with the Boy Scouts of America Pack 208. We spend an hour with them every week helping to teach and act as role models. The chapter has raised money for the local Crop Walk to donate to the hungry, and we are helping the annual Santa’s House in Sioux City.

This year we participated in the Siouxland Sleep Out by getting donated cardboard and then sleeping outdoors in it in order to raise awareness for the homeless. We won the Greek Week Trophy for the fourth year in a row and are looking forward to winning it for the fifth. Morningside Chapter



is trying to send brothers to Conclave this year by getting a grant through the Student Government. This year we participated in the school’s Into the Streets project by volunteering at the local Goodwill Industries. Since the brothers came back from ALA, they have been spreading enthusiasm throughout the chapter and making us look forward to doing more community service this coming year.

Chapter closure: *Penn State Altoona*

Last spring, Acacia's International Council was saddened by the need to exercise its responsibility to revoke the charter of Acacia Fraternity at Penn State Altoona. Through repeated investigations into chapter activities, it became clear that the chapter was not practicing the Ritual of Acacia, but rather its own local pledge education and initiation traditions. The active membership explicitly chose not to reform when presented the option to do so, and so the highest judicial authority of Acacia, the International Council, voted in the affirmative to close the chapter on May 22, 2013.

Alumni News & **Notes**

Colorado

Spencer A. Cummins, #1120 – I married Jennifer Spencer in August 2013.

Illinois

John M. Renfrow, #2362 – I may be both the newest initiated member and one of the oldest to be initiated at age 69. I was my pledge class president for three semesters at Illinois, but never made grades. I also served as the Vice-President of the Junior Interfraternity Council. At the time, Illinois was the Greek capital of the world with over 70 fraternities and sororities. That was during the Vietnam War. I lost my draft deferment and ended up serving 13 years in the U.S. Army. The Army sent me to both undergraduate school (The American University) and law school (College of William and Mary School of Law). I went in as a private and left as a Major. I retired from practicing law in Houston almost five years ago. My crowning achievement is having been married to a Missouri Theta for 45 years, who I met on a blind date. Being initiated as an active member of Acacia was one of the proudest moments in my life and sort of took care of some important, unfinished business. It is an honor I will cherish.

Illinois Wesleyan

James R. Dohren, #74 – Jim is the author of a newly published book, *Letters from a Shoebox*, published by Sunbury Press. The book is based on a collection of unique Civil War letters from soldiers in the field and those of five young women, kin and neighbors, all showing concerns for one another's welfare and most especially for news in the form of another letter. In all, there are 22 letters that have been transcribed, preserving the vagaries of grammar and spelling prevalent at the time. The letters offer insights into the daily life of military campaigns and life on the home front. Scattered throughout are prints taken from pictures/paintings of battles and places mentioned in the letters.

Indiana

Dr. David R. Parks, #1144 – My charter high school just received a passing evaluation score from the Arizona Department of Education and our graduation rate was 26% higher than the national average.

Adam F. Saad, #1809 – Partner with my father at our law firm in Columbus, Ohio. My wife, Jessica, and I celebrated our 10 year wedding anniversary this year and have 2 children, Hayden (4) and Layla (2). We look forward to visiting the Indiana Chapter house when it reopens. Special thanks to Tom DeRue, Patrick McGovern and Keith Bushey for their guidance and leadership of Indiana Acacia.

Kansas

Karl L. Scott, Jr., #432 – I am getting better each day recovering from my stroke. I was able to celebrate my 97th birthday on December 13, 2012 and eat my cake – with only one candle. Since I can no longer drive, I sold my 1967 Lincoln Continental convertible that was used in the movie "Slap Shot" filmed in Johnstown, PA in 1976.

Kansas State

Douglas W. Moore, #463 – I am a retired architect and Captain CEC USNR. I am OK with cow valve in aorta & triple bypass (December 2012).

Thomas W. Shane, #551 – Retired Hospital Chaplain. Published: *Crisis Pastoral Care: A Police Chaplain's Perspective*. Hohm Press.

Miami

Timothy P. Rose, #459 – I have just moved back to North Carolina after having lived abroad for 18 years. I am wondering if there are any brothers in the area and would like to connect. My email address is tim.rose.nc@gmail.com and phone is 919-525-6708. If there are any brothers that are also members of a Masonic Lodge, I would be especially interested in getting in touch. I am a Mason, and I am looking for Lodge to go to.

Northwestern

Dr. Charles M. Sayre, #316 – Just turned 90 and keep up my home of 50 years. In the best of health.

Pittsburgh/Johnstown

Justin Bartolomucci, #458 – Celebrated 4 years at Edward Jones and married longtime friend, Amanda. Recently finished masters coursework in finance and currently enrolled at the Wharton School of Business.

Purdue

Lance S. Cox, #777 – Received my MBA with honors, Xavier University, 1964; Juris Doctor, 1970, Chase College of Law. Managing partner – Lance S. Cox, California, PA, Attorneys, Tax and Probate Law.

Michael A. Pastko, #1843 – Married my amazing wife, Ronie Warner, on June 8, 2013 in Boulder, Colorado. Our wedding was attended by Best Man Patrick McGovern and six other Acacians.



Syracuse

David A. LaGraffe, #584 – I am retiring as a Colonel in the U.S. Army after 23 years of service.

UCLA

Knox Williams, #4 – The Water Quality Association presented Knox Williams, Carlsbad, California, with its highest honor, the Hall of Fame, at its annual convention and trade show in Indianapolis, Indiana in April 2013. The Hall of Fame Award is given for "lifetime dedication and service to the water quality improvement industry, and..."

Back to the Hot Sands of the Desert

Acacians gather in Las Vegas for brotherhood

By Steven J. Aves, *Acacia '75*

The first annual Acacia Alumni Brotherhood Conference (AABC) was held in Las Vegas from June 27 – 30, 2013. This is my story of what happened. If you want to verify it, good luck.

Sure, we had an official meeting. Yes, we gathered some money for a scholarship. But those were just serendipities for our real purpose – brotherhood.

The AABC was created as an event for ALL Acacia alumni. It's a conference that merges aspects of both Conclave and the Acacia Leadership Academy for alumni. One goal is to create a brotherhood event that transcends chapter allegiance; this is because we are Acacians first regardless of chapter, and so we can bring alumni from defunct chapters back into the fold. For this article I am deliberately including brothers' names while omitting chapter names.

After Conclave 2012, an informal poll of brothers was taken to determine the location of our inaugural event, and Las Vegas was the top location. Brother Steve Etter primarily put this conference together and got a good deal (no resort fees!) for everyone to stay at Harrah's. Brother Etter also contacted brothers in the Las Vegas area to find fun things for us and our spouses to do. So who was there? What did we do? Well, let me share.

Thursday was a travel day. Those of us who arrived early bopped around the city of sin. Brother Etter did due diligence and found the quintessential budget Acacian's entertainment – PINBALL! Yup, we found the Pinball Hall of Fame (pinballmuseum.org) in Las Vegas. Talk about hog-heaven. I got to play the exact pinball machines from my high school days in 1972. *I think.*



Friday afternoon featured a group bowling excursion. Myself and Brothers Andrew Stout and Steve Etter ventured to the Orleans hotel and had loads of fun. We even bowled. I've been asked what the scores were – all of us won.

Friday dinner was a group gathering at a real German restaurant – the Hofbräuhaus. Seriously big beers, big sausage, huge Wienerschnitzel, sauerkraut, and Jagermeister. It remained a civilized evening with spouses in attendance, and we all enjoyed a rousing cheer with *We're All Good Brothers*.

Saturday afternoon was the first official meeting of the Acacia Alumni Brotherhood Conference. Being more upstanding and adult-like due to our alumni status we found a nicer establishment, Gordon Biersch, to hold the meeting. In addition to planning our next gathering, we talked about the business of Acacia -- membership development, alumni involvement, and scholarships.

Acacians from the Las Vegas area joined with the rest of us travelers for a final dinner on Saturday at Battista's Hole in the Wall. Brotherhood fun was had by all! Stay tuned for more information on future AABC gatherings.

Thanks for attending!

Representing five different chapters:
Steve Aves, Dwyte Brooks, Steve Etter, Damon Faucher, Dustin Reischman, Rob Roberson, Mark Sherron, Andrew Stout, Hal Woo, Eric Zwigart

...extensive participation and unfailing support for the betterment of the association. WQA stated: "As the award nomination for him puts it, Knox Williams is known in the industry as one of the good guys. Knox has been a good guy for our industry – in so many ways – for more than half a century. He served on the board of directors for 34 years, until the day he sold his company. In California, Knox's colleagues made him president of the Pacific WQA. It is fitting that we all confer on Knox Williams the highest honor we have."



Jose R. Sanchez, Jr., #417 – I've had a wonderful career at MWD, having just celebrated 26 years! I'm looking forward to retirement and a new career in a couple of years, perhaps in teaching.

Washington

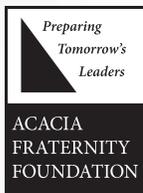
Richard W. Ekins, #391 – Met my wife, Sandy, at a DZ/Acacia exchange. Just celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary.

Donald W. Sabo, #595 – My residential design business is starting its 38th year and my construction partnership its 30th. I'm also starting my 41st season with the University of Washington Husky Marching Band as field assistant. My wife, Adrienne, has been teaching music in public schools for 30 years, no end in sight. Daughter, Paige, graduated summa cum laude in dance performance and lives in Brooklyn, NY trying to start a career on stage. Son, Stanley, is a fifth year senior studying culinary arts and playing trombone in the Husky Band.

Wyoming

Warren D. Wilson, #262 – Have retired in Windsor, Colorado. Still an active golf rules official.

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Darold W. Larson, Washington State '81
Executive Director
Acacia Fraternity Foundation

Dear Brother [LAST NAME]

"Dear Brother [LAST NAME],"

Does it ever look like my occasional letters to you on behalf of the Acacia Fraternity Foundation begin in this fashion? Modern technology and increasing demands for productivity sure have changed the way we communicate. It's an unfortunate fact that form letters often don't express the depth of the sentiment we wish to communicate.

Acacia's Headquarters staff numbers six, and that small team administers an organization that includes 37 chapters and colonies ranging the length and breadth of the United States and Canada, and maintains communication with more than 22,000 living members. Accomplishing this requires the assistance of countless volunteers who are motivated purely out of a sense of loyalty and love for Acacia.

In our ritual you will find the phrase, *unto whom much is given, of him shall much be required.* And there is abundant evidence that a growing number of alumni have accepted and exemplified that slogan in their relationship to Acacia.

To that end, this letter is an expression of profound gratitude and thanks to those who have served and continue to serve our Fraternity and who contribute to its growth and development. Some 44 alumni serve our chapters as Chapter Advisors, arguably the most rewarding alumni experience of all since it deals with the undergraduate membership on a day-to-day basis. These brothers share in the challenges, rewards, frustrations, joys and disappointments – a process that cannot be duplicated so completely in any other experiential setting.

More than 300 alumni serve on house corporation boards, and while such service may not bring the excitement in witnessing firsthand the experiences of the next generation, their value to the stability of the local chapters is incalculable. At the present time, these loyal brothers serve as caretakers and corporate managers of Acacia houses and properties valued in the tens of million.

About 200 Acacians have served the general Fraternity as international officers, foundation directors and staff members, and with rare exceptions they have continued their loyalty and support whenever called upon.

Although the aforementioned categories number about 550, what about the other 95% who by virtue of geography, profession, age or circumstance are not able to directly serve a local chapter or the general Fraternity? A growing number of these brothers are expressing their loyalty and support in another way - by contributing to the Annual Fund and the Acacia Fraternity Foundation. A decade ago, Annual Fund contributions totaled just over \$60,000. Last year that number had grown to more than \$130,000 raised in support of Cornerstones, to provide scholarships, to support expansions, and to fund our Leadership Consultant visitation program.

Alumni express their loyalty and support of Acacia in many different ways, each of which is necessary to make our Fraternity function. For those of you who express your support by donating to

the Acacia Fraternity Foundation, your gifts help activate approximately one-third of Acacia Fraternity's operations.

What's in a name? Whereas we call our yearly giving program the Annual Fund, if opportunity existed for a do-over, I would choose the name Loyalty Fund.

Form letters often don't express the depth of the sentiment we wish to communicate.

We cannot help but believe that those who contribute do so out of a sense of love and loyalty developed through an enriching undergraduate fraternal experience. These brothers can be assured that the resources they have so generously given are being used for just that purpose... to provide the best possible fraternal experience for today's collegiate members.

One of my responsibilities for the Foundation is to send a thank you to donors for their gifts. Since the establishment of the Foundation in 1987, over 26,000 thank you letters have been written in recognition of nearly \$8.5 million in donations. Modern technology allows the opportunity to produce these thank you's and acknowledgement letters faster than in previous eras, but the gratitude behind each letter is no less genuine and sincere.

To the alumni of Acacia whose continued loyalty serves a constant motivation and inspiration, we say... THANK YOU!

Darold W. Larson

Chapter Eternal

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CALIFORNIA

Michael D. Bolinger, #779
Jack Chen, #821

CAL POLY/POMONA

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Acacia is symbolic of immortality. For centuries it has been emblematic of eternal life. Though we are now deprived of the physical presence of our brother, each of us shall always carry his life within us. What he accomplished and stood for cannot be taken away. He stands now, as always, with his God, and for this we must be grateful.

Here is my gift, given in recognition of the continuing need to maintain and expand Acacia's educational programs of leadership, brotherhood, character development and fraternity management.



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*Are you an Acacia
Mom or Dad receiving
this issue of The Triad?*

If your son has recently moved, we'd love to have his new address to keep in touch with fraternity publications like The Triad. Please send us (or ask him to send us) a quick update at communications@acacia.org or 317-872-8210. Feel free to keep and read this Triad! We'll send him another copy.

Brother! Join us for the 58th Biennial Acacia Conclave!

July 30-August 3, 2014
Nashville, TN

Join us as Acacians from across North America strengthen the ties of friendship and conduct the official business of the fraternity. All Acacians are welcome to attend this event, from the youngest pledge to the most well-traveled alumnus, and significant others are welcome, too!

Get details and register online at acacia.org/conclave2014.php
or call the Headquarters office at 317-872-8210.