



Brothers Organize “Acacia Skate” Philanthropy Event

Acacia’s First Philanthropy Date Night Benefits the Little Giraffe Foundation

Acacia Illinois hosted a philanthropy date night, Acacia Skate, in March to raise funds for the Little Giraffe Foundation. The foundation, created by a chapter member’s family after the loss of their daughter, supports neonatal research and offers a support system for parents and patients of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

Ninety chapter members participated and donated money for the event. The chapter grossed \$800 and was able to donate \$400 to the Little Giraffe Foundation.

“Being able to give back is really what Acacia is all about,” says **AJ Melarky '14**, Philanthropy Chair. “I am looking forward to our upcoming endeavors and plan to further the positive work Acacia does in our community.”



Brothers and their dates skate together at the Big Pond.

You can learn more about the Little Giraffe Foundation on their website, littlegiraffefoundation.org.

ACACIA ILLINOIS UPCOMING EVENTS

We have two upcoming events this spring. The date and time for the Alumni Annual Meeting are still to be determined, so please keep an eye on your email for further details.

- **Chicago-based Active Chapter/ Alumni Golf Outing**
- **Alumni Annual Meeting University Club, Chicago**

Acacia Illinois Welcomes New Members

Twelve new members added during 2016 Spring Rush

Acacia Illinois now has 151 active brothers after Spring Recruitment due to the addition of twelve new members. Initiation is scheduled for May 1, and all alumni are welcome to attend the ceremony. For more information, please contact the current Archivist, **Bailey Moser '14** at bjmoser20@gmail.com.

Welcome, Pledge Class of 2016!

Nick Devona
Arlington Heights, IL

Paul Kahlon
Wauconda, IL

Robby O'Neill
Clarendon Hills, IL

Will Sarchet
Chicago, IL

PJ Garinger
Champaign, IL

Arya Khalili
Algonquin, IL

Tommy Polcyn
Niles, IL

Matt Szczepaniak
Peru, IL

Aron Goeken
Shorewood, IL

Joey Lincoln
Naperville, IL

Jack Reily
Mundelein, IL

Jack Wei
Glencoe, IL

Letter from the Venerable Dean

Acacia Illinois continues to focus on Academics and Philanthropy



Luke Staunton '14
Venerable Dean

2015 was a phenomenal year for the Illinois Chapter of the Acacia Fraternity. More than 40 brothers maintained GPAs of 3.5 or higher during the fall semester. We are continuing the academic team competition and will continue to enforce a standard GPA of 2.5. These two items were the foundation for last semester's academic improvements and will be instrumental for further success.

The chapter also held our first Acacia Carnival to raise awareness and

help fund research for ALS. We have three philanthropy events scheduled this semester, including the Greek Cup Hockey Game and the Acacia Vacacian volleyball tournament.

Our executive board's commitment is to focus on continued academic achievement and philanthropic endeavors. If you have any questions about our goals or have an interest in involvement with the chapter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Fraternally,

Luke Staunton '14
Venerable Dean

Acacia Alumni Scholarship Award Program

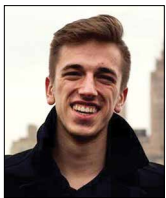
Ensuring Acacia Illinois's Legacy of Academic Success

The Acacia Alumni Scholarship Award Program is a scholarship fund designed to recognize brothers for their high achievements in the classroom. The program builds on past achievements and encourages the continued growth of a culture of academic excellence at Acacia Illinois. Alumni who have not yet supported the Acacia Alumni Scholarship Award Program are encouraged to do so today.

To contribute, mail your contribution using the pledge envelope included in this newsletter or submit an online contribution via acacia.org. Once there, click the 'Donate Today' link in the upper right hand corner and then ensure you select 'Illinois Scholarship Fund' from the drop down menu before submitting the online form.



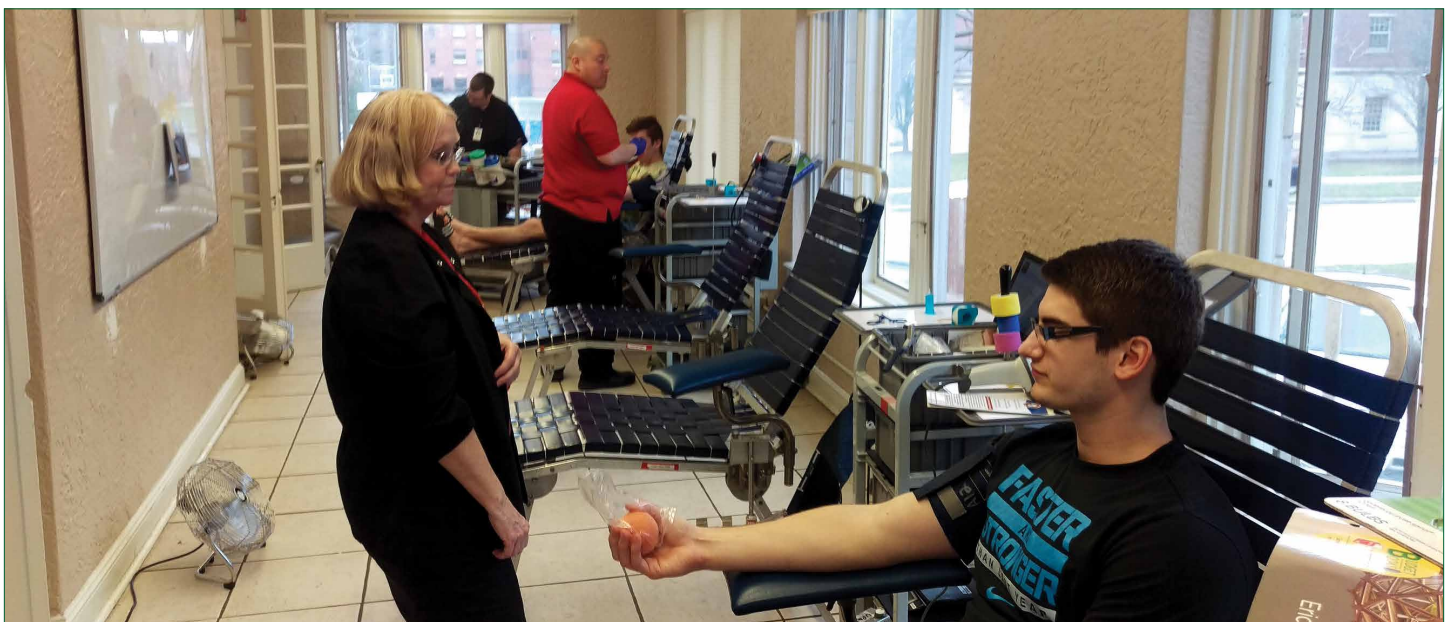
Chapter Member Elected to an Interfraternity Council Leadership Role



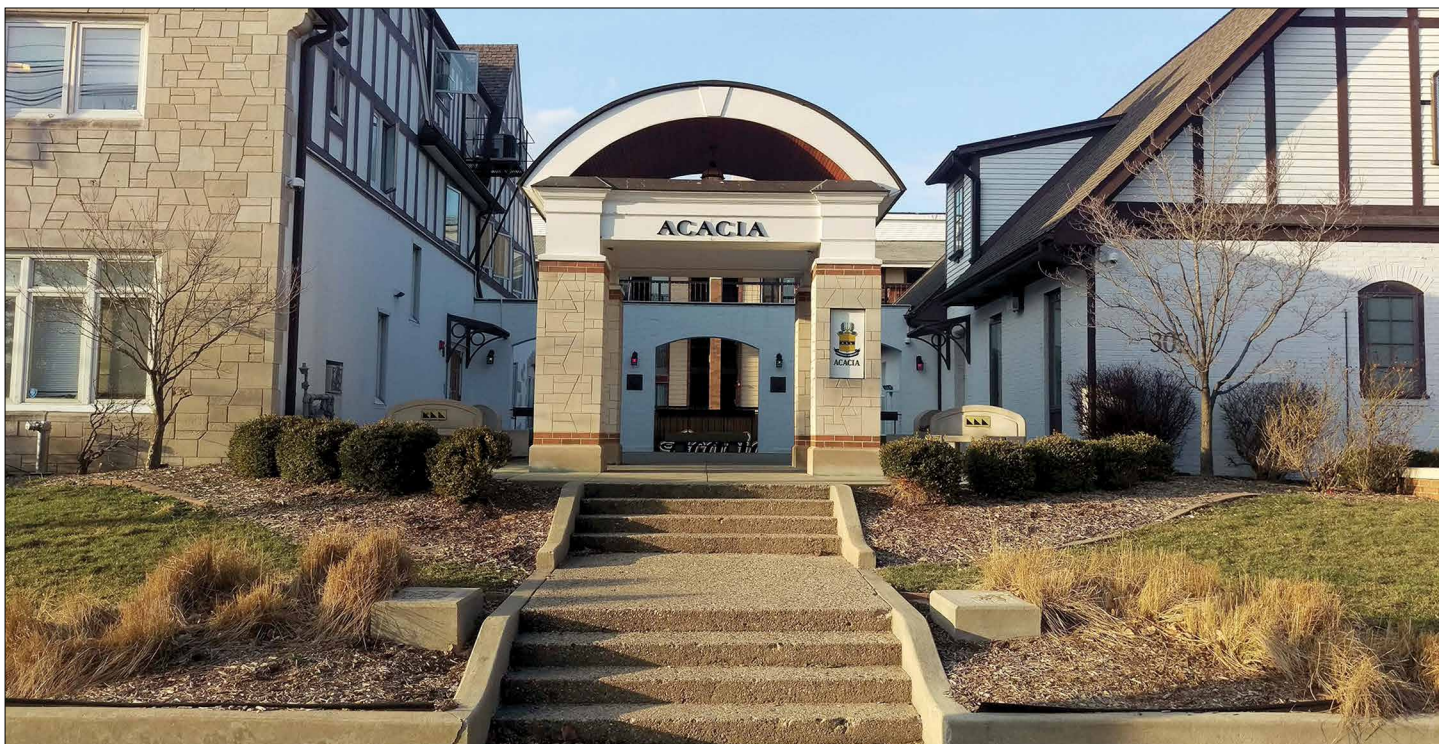
Brother Jake
Owczarek '15

Congratulations are in order for **Jake Owczarek '15**, a sophomore from Glenview, Illinois. Jake, an Engineering Physics major with a Business minor, is the newly elected Director of Kolusis, the alcohol safety enforcement of

IFC. Jake will lead the IFC in its efforts to enforce risk management policies and is in charge of educating the largest Greek Life community in the country on alcohol safety. Acacia Illinois is proud to have members who show such a strong penchant for leadership early in their college career. Congratulations, Jake!



Brothers prepare to donate blood during a community blood drive.



Acacia Illinois' house is maintained by the Alumni Housing Corporation and is a testament to the support of generations of alumni.

Acacia Illinois House Scheduled for Major Updates

A Report from Ken Wagner '55, Corporation Property Manager

Improvements to the house and property are essential to maintaining a living environment that is competitive with the many choices students have at the University of Illinois. The Alumni Housing Board (HB) continually reviews the status of Acacia's facilities to ensure they are maintained and improved to meet current demands.

In the past year and a half, the Housing Board oversaw many improvements to the Acacia chapter home. They oversaw the remodeling of the third-floor sleeping dormitory and bathroom. The dormitory now includes two new triple-occupancy rooms and the bathroom expansion provides a shower facility for the dormitory's occupants. This remodeling project increased the capacity of the house to 64 men.

The Housing Board also renovated the existing laundry room and equipped the house with three new commercial washers, three dryers and a 16-foot sorting and folding counter. Other improvements included painting the walls of the

house and cleaning the upper and lower courtyards.

Working with the chapter, the HB constructed a wall at the north end of the lower courtyard to provide greater privacy with the adjacent apartment building. A large graphic added to the wall is viewable from the lower and upper courtyards as well as from many rooms within the house.

The Housing Board is planning to renovate the east wing bathrooms in 2016. Future improvements include replacing boilers, upgrading and

modernizing the house's heating systems and adding air conditioning in 2017. Efforts to replace windows and constructing and furnishing an addition between the east and west wings will commence in 2017.

The Alumni Housing Board, House Director, student house managers and maintenance contractor (FPMS) all work together to maintain the house. Bi-weekly inspections help to identify issues that need addressing, which ensures the house operates safely, efficiently and in good condition at all times.

Right: Acacia's Privacy Wall



Meet the to the 2016 Executive Board!

Luke Staunton '14 Venerable Dean



Luke Staunton '14
Venerable Dean

Luke Staunton '14 is a junior majoring in electrical engineering with a computer science minor. He serves as Venerable Dean of Acacia Illinois. Luke is also an on-campus technical consultant with the CUBE Consulting group. As Venerable Dean, Luke focuses on increasing involvement of the entire chapter in everything from living in the house and scholarships to attendance at social and philanthropy events. Luke's success is due to him expanding the means of communication and the number of chapter-organized activities. In addition, Luke charged the Executive Council with increasing chapter activities such as new philanthropy events, academic competitions that reward hard work in the classroom, local service, professional workshops and improved systems of communication. By strengthening active involvement in the chapter and community, Brother Staunton plans to propel Acacia to new levels of greatness.

Grant Rougas '15 Senior Dean



Grant Rougas '15
Senior Dean

Brother Grant Rougas '15 is a freshman biology major. He is Senior Dean and assists Brother Staunton in his various day-to-day duties. Grant is in charge of organizing and overseeing Mom's Weekend, brotherhood events and retreats. Grant acts as the voice of the Acacia 19's pledge class on the executive board.

Walker Post '15 Junior Dean



Walker Post '15
Junior Dean

Brother Walker Post '15 is a sophomore majoring in journalism and the Junior Dean of Acacia. Walker actively involves himself on campus as well. He is the Communications Director for the Society of Professional Journalists and oversees the campus ambassadors. Thanks to his office, Brother Post enjoyed the pleasure of establishing professional relationships with businesses and representing the social aspect of the fraternity in the community. Walker is planning for an eventful year and hopes to do something similar to last year's Cubs game with Delta Delta Delta. He scheduled the chapter to block with Kappa Alpha Theta, which is exciting to the undergraduates.

Josh Kosoglaz '14 Treasurer



Josh Kosoglaz '14
Treasurer

Josh Kosoglaz '14 is a sophomore majoring in finance and pursuing a minor in Spanish, and currently serves as Treasurer. Brother Kosoglaz stated, "My time as treasurer so far was a great experience especially in planning and executing our chapter's budget with coordination from our corporate board. I look forward to continuing the strong financial work we did so far. Having the opportunity to collaborate with our local accounting firm for bill payments as well as reimbursements was a tremendous learning opportunity for myself as well, and I am excited to continue the relationship we built."

Lincoln Wang '15 Secretary



Lincoln Wang '15
Secretary

Brother Lincoln Wang '15 is a freshman majoring in political science with a minor in informatics. Lincoln's number of extracurricular activities involvement includes founding the Association of Minorities in Political Science and serving as the Voter Registration Coordinator for the reelection campaign for State Representative Carol Ammon. As secretary, Lincoln is taking the opportunity to organize various projects to streamline the work process of other executive board members. He is currently investigating new means of centralizing executive board communication through programs such as Asana and Slack.

Graham Weinberger '15 House Manager



Graham Weinberger '15
House Manager

Graham Weinberger '15 is a sophomore pursuing a degree in economics with a minor in business and serves as the current House Manager. Brother Weinberger is working to seek out improvements to the chapter house to keep active members satisfied with their home.

Jack Hayes '14 Alumni Chairman



Jack Hayes '14
Alumni Chairman

Jack Hayes '14, serving as the Alumni Chair, is a sophomore pursuing a mechanical engineering major with a minor in business. Jack is working to organize a golf outing for alumni and active brothers at the beginning of the summer and plans to expand and improve the current alumni mentorship program. Brother Hayes' focus



is also on updating the Alumni Room and plans to install a perpetual plaque to honor the top twelve Acacia Illinois donors.

Riker Tithof Steere '14 **Scholarship Chairman**



Riker Tithof Steere '14
Scholarship Chairman

Brother **Riker Steere '14** is a sophomore studying marketing and business process management. Alongside his duties as Scholarship Chair, Riker is also involved with Phi Gamma Nu, a professional business fraternity and the Social Committee, serves as the Treasurer for New Life Volunteering Society and holds a work-study position on campus. On top of the typical duties of his office, including delegating scholarships, tracking grades and working with members who need academic assistance, the Scholarship Committee will host four quiet study hours each week, one of which will contain a development workshop. These workshops will focus on resume and cover

letter building, soft-skill development, interview strategy, networking, and major exploration.

AJ Melarkey '14 **Philanthropy Chairman**



AJ Melarkey '14
Philanthropy Chairman

Brother **AJ Melarkey '14** is a James Scholar of the College for Business and is majoring in accounting and finance. AJ credits Acacia Illinois for encouraging him to become involved in campus activity. He was president of Hall Council, a co-founder of Illini Fighting ALS and is active in a variety of other campus organizations. Brother Melarkey serves as the Philanthropy Chairman, a position, he says, is a perfect match for his charitable passion. "From donating my childhood birthday gifts to Toys-4-Tots to creating an annual clothing and food drive for an inner-city parish, the transition to my current position within Acacia made sense. As the Philanthropy Chairman, I am striving to make a

large impact on the Urbana-Champaign community." Brother Melarkey scheduled Acacia Skate, Gottheil Cup (multi-fraternal hockey game), and Acacia Vacacion (sorority's beach volleyball tournament) for this semester. AJ, along with the Assistant Philanthropy Chairmen (**Markus Latoria '14**, **Alex Hartman '14**, **Salvatore LaMotta '14**, **Colin O'Kasick '15**, **Evan Lovell '15** and **Steven Gray '15**) are working to schedule additional events for the semester. They will reach out to local charities and organizations by setting up times to work soup kitchen hours, clean trash off the street and sponsor the Park District baseball program. The committee as a whole is very excited to continue Acacia's mission of human service and make a difference as fraternal men.

Eric Marcin '14 **Risk Management Chairman**



Eric Marcin '14
Risk Management Chairman

Eric Marcin '14 is a sophomore majoring in recreation, sport and tourism management, with a focus in sport management. Brother Marcin is an active member of the Sports Business Association, Sport, Tourism and Recreation Club (STAR), and Illini Fighting ALS. Eric is also interning for a startup company called SPORTalk. As Risk Management Chairman, Eric ensures the house and all active members are safe and follow the risk management policies set by the national fraternity and the university. When Brother Marcin took office, he increased the size of the risk management committee to ensure multiple men were able to oversee risk at all house, social and philanthropy events to protect the chapter and ensure policy compliance.

Save the Date for HOMECOMING 2016!



Join us on October 29, 2016 as the Fighting Illini take on the Minnesota Golden Gophers!

**The kick off time is still to be determined and plans for our homecoming celebration are underway!
Keep an eye on your email for further details!**

Communications support and assistance provided by:
OmegaFi
800.276.6342 • omegafi.com



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University of Illinois #1151
PO Box 2187
Columbus, GA 31902-2187

Help us keep our alumni records up-to-date! Edit your member profile online at www.AcaciaIllinois.com or clip this form, place it in a stamped envelope and send to: Acacia Fraternity, University of Illinois #1151, PO Box 2187, Columbus, GA 31902.

Name _____

Roll Number _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Brothers Eternal

Editor's note: We rely on members of the family as well as alumni submissions to report the passing of alumni. We apologize for any delay in forwarding this information.

The Hello received notification of the deaths of **Ross Manning '38**, **Harold Plack '43**, **Mel W. Rapp '49**, **Arthur C. Hoelck '41**, **Matthew F. Carmody '94**, **John F. Beatty '52**, **John W. Pound '58**, **Robert N. Hagemeyer '54** and **Brett K. Gorman '86**. We extend our sincere condolences to the members of their families and welcome them into the ranks of Acacia Eternal.

Save the Date: Acacia Illinois Golf Outing | May 21, 2016

The Acacia Illinois Active Chapter organized and will host a golf outing in the Chicagoland area for both active members and alumni. This is a great opportunity to reconnect with old friends and meet some of the current Acacia members! We hope you will join us!

- **Date:** Saturday, May 21, 2016
- **Time:** Lunch served at 12:30 p.m. Game begins at 1:30 p.m.
- **Location:** Deerpath Golf Course (500 W Deerpath Rd, Lake Forest, IL 60045).
- **Cost:** \$5 per player
- **RSVP:** Please RSVP to hayesjackr@gmail.com no later than **April 22**. Please include your name, graduating class and up to 3 preferred golfing partners. Please note, all members of your group must sign up individually as well.