



Twenty Members Attend the Second Annual Alumni Golf Outing!

By: Ruben Torres '15, Alumni Chairman



The second annual Acacia Alumni Golf Outing took place this past summer on Saturday, May 27, 2017, in Lake Forest, Illinois. Roughly 20 active members and alumni were in attendance. With a \$5 entry fee, participants were able to enjoy a buffet style lunch, use a bucket of balls for the driving range, and play 18 holes. "This was a great way to meet alumni professionally and socially while enjoying a nice round of golf; I really hope this event continues," said Scholarship Chairman **Francesco Mariani '15**.

While the second annual outing was successful, we are hoping to grow alumni presence for next year. The tentative date for the next annual outing is set for Saturday, March 28, so please mark your calendars. Further details will be sent out closer to the date. We look forward to seeing all alumni at **Homecoming on Saturday, October 28**, when the Illini face the Wisconsin Badgers.

Chapter Members Embracing Competition in Pursuit of Better Grades

By: Franco Mariani '15, Scholarship Chairman

With a new school year beginning, our Acacia chapter continues to make grades and academics a top priority. This is the case due to the ever-evolving scholarship system put in place. The Acacia Alumni Scholarship Award Program (AASAP) continues to reward the magnificent work the students continue to do. Another system in place is the academic grade teams created by the chapter. This is a system that rewards improvement and achievement and has paid dividends for the house.

The system has been in place for a couple of years and has been passed down, and the process continues to improve. The team is based on a tier system. The chapter is split into five tiers of GPA segments from top GPAs to bottom GPAs. So, the top tier has the top GPAs down to the fifth tier which has the lowest GPAs. Each tier is then randomized and lined up so that it makes a team of five with one member from each tier on a team together. The reason it is random is to eliminate bias and it makes it as fair as it could possibly be.

Scoring is a weighted system based on improvement. Since each team has one member from each of the five tiers, each member from each tier is competing against their tier. If you get the highest GPA for the semester in your tier, you will get the most points from that tier of people. To incentivize the fifth tier to improve, their points are weighted the most. It means more for your fifth-tier member to do the best than you first tier member. Whichever team gets the highest total of points, wins the competition.

After analyzing the results from our grade reports from last semester, the winners have been determined. They are **Daniel Grober '13**, **Scott Jacobson '15**, **Mike Jang '14**, **Paul Kalhoon**, and **Alexander Moore '13**. Due to their great achievements, they will be receiving a \$200 scholarship award from the Acacia scholarship fund.





Acacia Illinois House Improvements Continue

By: Ken Wagner '55, Corporation Property Manager

The Alumni Corporation Board continues to maintain and make improvements to the chapter house and property every year.

A major improvement this past fiscal year has been the complete renovation of the two primary bathrooms in the 34-man East Wing. The 50-year-old bathrooms were updated with new ceramic floor and wall tile, plumbing fixtures, ceiling, ventilating system, and lighting. The cost of the project was \$57,300.

The work began in May on a new heating and air conditioning system for the East Wing. The East Wing is currently heated but not air conditioned. Heating and cooling was accomplished with a mini-split, air-to-air heat pump system. The system provides all cooling (air conditioning) during hot weather and most of the heat required during cold weather. The existing hot water heating system is used to supplement heat only when needed during extremely cold weather. The new system was completed before brothers returned in August for the fall semester. Plans are in place for a similar system to be installed in the West Wing next year.

This summer was the start of a multi-year window replacement project. A limited number of the 50-year-old windows in the East Wing were replaced this year with new high efficiency windows and with more to follow in subsequent years.

The Alumni Corporation Board will continue to evaluate needs and plan improvements to provide a living environment that is best of class and competitive with the many choices that students have at the University of Illinois.

Welcome, Spring 2017 New Initiates

Initiation took place on April 30, 2017, for this year's 12 member pledge class. Alumni interested in attending future initiations should contact a member of the Board for event dates and locations. Why not join the chapter in these ceremonies and bring back some memories in the process?

Ryan Carroll
Inverness, Ill.
Economics

Juan Nino
Zion, Ill.
MCB

Jack Westerkamp
Lombard, Ill.
Business/Undecided

Christopher Healy
Sao Paulo, Brazil
Undeclared

Andrew Pierropoulos
Downers Grove, Ill.
Accounting

Ryan Williams
Lombard, Ill.
Undeclared

Malik Jackson
Chicago, Ill.
Economics

Nathan Smiddy
Chicago, Ill.
Undeclared

Matt Zarycki
Burbank, Ill.
Psychology

Kevin Keane
Naperville, Ill.
Advertising

Noah Taffel
Northbrook, Ill.
Ag. Economics

Anders Zerlang
Wheaton, Ill.
Economics

In Honor of Steve “Brick” Bartz ’76

Yesterday was a tough day for most of us remembering Steve “Brick” Bartz ’76. Steve was my pledge son, and I was always very proud of that. When he and Toni came to the house sophomore year, it was kind of like Hanz and Franz from Saturday Night Live visit.

Burly, great looking, goofy football players from St Rita. He—like most—got a nickname at the house. Brick was a name he liked, and I am sure he thought it was because he was built like a brick house. But there were many reasons for him having the name. Brick looked like he should play for the Illini football team—he was that strong.

We had many great laughs together. He was so excited to play flag football for the fraternity team. He started as a big tight end, but his hands were like bricks, so he became a tackle. He loved the game. When he came to our summer cottage to learn to water ski, it was the same thing. It was like trying to pull a brick up on top of the water; we had to stop the boat and wait for him to float to the surface.

I did not stay in touch with Brick except that DZ set up a lunch in Chicago about 25 years ago. I met him, Wills, DZ, and Foams for lunch and learned he was quickly climbing the corporate ladder at a bank and had two kids. He loved being a dad and husband. I am sure he was great at both. Brick will be missed for his humor, his positive way of approaching life; he was ever the optimist. I want Brick’s family to know that we are all very proud of him, and we know he was the real “Brick” foundation in their lives.

We all wish we had spent more time with him. A man is judged on how he treats his family, friends, and the common man. Your father and husband was the best, most outstanding “brick” anyone could have in their lives.

My sincere condolences to all of your family. Pledge dad “Homer” and hundreds of other brothers from Acacia all miss him with you.

Faternally,
John Craver ’75

A celebration of the life of Steven Michael Bartz was held on March 25, 2017, at Willow Creek Community Church, 67 E. Algonquin Road, South Barrington in the chapel. Donations can be made to the Willow Creek Association.

Steve passed peacefully at home on March 15, 2017, surrounded by family. Steve is survived by his loving wife, Kimbra; beloved daughters and son-in-law, Brittany Bartz and Courtney and Josiah Hulsey; mother, Antoinette Bartz; and brother and sister-in-law, Robert and Cindy Bartz. He is preceded in death by his father, Robert Bartz.

Steve was born on February 9, 1957, in Chicago, Illinois, to Robert and Antoinette Bartz. He graduated from St. Rita High School then the University of Illinois with a finance degree, and he received an MBA in investment finance from DePaul University. He married Kimbra Shaffer in DuQuoin, Illinois, on August 1, 1981. Steve worked at Continental Bank/Bank of America in Chicago from 1980-1996, where he was a vice president and manager in the institutional investment management division. In 1996, Steve joined with Graybill, Bartz, & Assoc. investment firm in Elmhurst, Illinois, and became president in 1998.

Steve served on the board of elders at Willow Creek Community Church for 20 years and the Willow Creek Association as an elder representative. He devoted his life to the Great Commission, to share the full freedom of Christ’s saving grace.

Steve dedicated his life to protecting the church, upholding God’s word, loving his family, and investing in others. He is remembered as a man of integrity, always with a sense of humor, able to connect and bring out the best in everyone.

Faternally,
Dave Rogers ’74

FOOTBALL BLOCK 2017

Some pledge classes call it tailgating, some call it football block. Whatever you call it, it’s changed venues over the years, and this year will be the first in Grange Grove. This fall, the active chapter is partnering up with Pi Kappa Alpha (PIKES), Delta Tau Delta (Deltas), Alpha Phi, Alphi Chi Omega, and Gamma Phi Beta for a tailgate party in the south parking lot at Memorial Stadium. Alumni are invited to stop by—you’ll see the ACACIA sign. It takes place from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the south parking lot at Memorial Stadium.

Saturday, October 14 vs. Rutgers
Saturday, October 28 vs. Wisconsin
Saturday, November 11 vs. Indiana





ACACIA FRATERNITY
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University of Illinois (1151), PO Box 2187,
Columbus, GA 31902

Name _____

Roll Number _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Join Us on October 28 for Acacia Illinois Homecoming!

The summer is coming to a close, but that means football season is upon us! Make plans now to join your Acacia brothers at the chapter house on **Saturday, October 28**, for Homecoming 2017. We are celebrating after the game at 302 East Armory – Acacia's chapter house.

Kickoff is at 11:00 a.m.; everyone not attending the game is welcome to watch at the chapter house located at 302 East Armory. Complimentary BBQ and drinks begin at 1:30 p.m., friends and family are encouraged to attend. House tours will be available as well. Alumni and guests must be of legal age to consume any alcohol. Be sure to stop by the house after the game!

RSVP by visiting <http://tinyurl.com/y8jxdtcu>. For general questions, contact Joel Grachan '06 at grachan2@gmail.com.

We hope to see you there!



SCHEDULE:

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| 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Football block at Grange Grove |
| 10:30 a.m. | Viewing party at the chapter house |
| 11 a.m. | Kickoff at Memorial Stadium |
| 1:30 p.m. | Complimentary post-game BBQ and drinks, house tours |
| 2:30 p.m. | Alumni Board Updates |

Visit the Acacia Illinois Website

Visit *AcaciaIllinois.com*, the official alumni website, to:

- Update your address, phone number, and e-mail address
- Search for other alumni
- Learn more about the chapter
- Find out about upcoming events
- Post noteworthy accomplishments (a new baby, a recent marriage, a recent promotion, etc.)
- Support Acacia's Alumni Scholarship Award Program