



A WEEKEND TO REMEMBER

HOMEcoming 2021 RECAP



Illinois' Homecoming weekend was a great success! On October 8, alumni enjoyed a dinner at Papa Del's hosted by brothers **Jim Slamp '73**, **Mike Duncan '74**, and **Dan Zollner '76**. The following day, prior to the 2:30 kickoff against Wisconsin, the chapter hosted a tailgate in Grange Grove. Alumni participated in house tours all day. Our members met Acacia alumni who returned to Champaign for the weekend and enjoyed learning where the strong roots of our Acacia brotherhood come from.

Alumni and collegiates build their bonds during Homecoming weekend!

Thank you to those who traveled near and far to be with us. It was an energetic and well-organized event.

Alumni News

Chapter Eternal

Mack Follmer '49 – March 24, 2021

Bruce Blair '67 – July 19, 2020

Alumni Update

Homer L. Koop '54 and his wife Shirley "are doing great for a couple of older folks." They reside in San Antonio, Texas. Email: hlfkoop@yahoo.com

Edward A. H. "Ed" Schmidt '55 is retired from the family-owned mechanical service and contracting corp. Ed, Sylvia, and their four sons moved to Twin Cities in 1974 for growth opportunities; Sylvia worked as an artist and interior decorator while Ed led their new firm. They now reside in Bloomington, Minn. Email: schmidtmech1@gmail.com

Morgan J. Lynge Jr. '61 is a retired professor of finance from the College of Business at the U of I. He lives in Urbana, Ill., with his wife, Brenda, and is enjoying his retirement in many ways, including golf and domestic and international travel. Email: m-lynge@illinois.edu

Larry F. Guthrie '64 has built and delivered more than 400 beds in the last 30 months through an organization called Sleep in Heavenly Peace. He also serves as a mediator for small claims court resolving issues under \$10,000. Larry is getting older and wiser and resides in Pigeon Falls, Wis. Email: lguthrie@tcc.coop

John P. Nelson '66 spent the last 50 years in the electric power engineering field and is the president of IEEE Smart Village. John would like to meet back up with brothers from the '60s. He resides in Evergreen, Colo. Email: jnelson@neiengineering.com

Joel A. Winick '71 retired in early 2017 and now keeps busy with volunteer work at his church, delivering meals and groceries for local charities, and spending time with his family. Life is good in Decatur, Ill. Email: jwinick@live.com

Paul E. Ruby '72 is retired and serves on the Illinois Acacia Alumni Corporation Board. He spends his winters at his home in Port Charlotte, Fla., and the rest of the time in Brookfield, Wis. Paul is still married to his college sweetheart, Linda. Email: peruby3@gmail.com

James B. Murowchick '74 retired from his career as a professor emeritus after 32 years at the University of Missouri-Kansas City teaching geochemistry and mineralogy. James resides in Lenexa, Kan. Email: murowchickj@umkc.edu

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ILLINOIS CHAPTER'S STATUS TODAY

Over the past two years, the Illinois Chapter has weathered significant challenges, transformed, and continued to grow. As we shared in the summer 2020 alumni letter and spring 2021 issue of *the Hello*, there was an unfortunate hazing incident involving two brothers that resulted in their removal from the Acacia brotherhood due to their selfish and irresponsible actions toward a new member—which fell short of Acacia Fraternity's high standards. The new member has received the full support of the chapter and remains an active brother and strong leader in the chapter today. While the Acacia International Fraternity has acknowledged the wrongdoing of the two deactivated members and has assisted the chapter in moving forward, the university had a different response, resulting in the removal of Acacia's standing as a recognized organization until reinstatement in 2024.

The fall 2021 semester marks the third semester in a row that Illinois Chapter has been operating without official university recognition. To be clear, Acacia International Fraternity leadership recognizes Illinois Chapter as an active group since the chapter's charter has remained intact since our founding in 1906. However, we understand alumni have questions about the impact of the university's sanction, and we would like to address those concerns. We want to make all alumni aware of the current chapter status and what this means for our brothers today.

What does this unrecognized status mean?

Being unrecognized means Acacia Fraternity no longer operates under the supervision of the Interfraternity Council (IFC) or the University of Illinois.

What impact does this have on the chapter?

Our chapter is fully functional and operational as before. The biggest change,

however, has been not having to communicate with IFC. Therefore, our chapter and executive board must be more accountable, and must self-regulate our operations on campus with the help of the Alumni Housing Corporation Board and Acacia International Fraternity. When our recognition was initially removed, our reputation on campus was up in the air as we are one of a few chapters on campus operating without recognition from the university. However, as the situation resolved and time passed, our reputation and standing within the Greek system at the University of Illinois is the same as it was before. Our social relations are still very strong, our philanthropic presence on campus is still important, and potential new members are still eager to join our brotherhood.

Can the chapter recruit?

Yes. Illinois Chapter continues to recruit and held a very successful fall recruitment. Acacia welcomed 30 Fall new members, bringing the chapter total to 130 members.

Can brothers be involved on campus and in the community?

Yes. This fall, our brothers have been participating in various philanthropy events for other Greek houses. A group of brothers participated in the men's soccer intramural league, and unfortunately lost in the semifinals. Many of our members are also active in various business fraternities, RSOs, and other academic clubs. Therefore, our presence on campus extends deeper than Acacia, and our members are doing great things for our community.

Illinois Chapter is committed to virtue, knowledge, and truth. We will grow from this experience and continue the strong legacy that alumni, like you, have built for our brotherhood. If you have any questions about the status of our chapter today, please contact our chapter advisor, **Joel Grachan '06**, at grachan2@gmail.com.

ADAPTING FOR THE BETTER RECRUITMENT REMAINS SUCCESSFUL

Recruiting new members as an unrecognized group on campus presents its challenges. Over the last two semesters, however, we have revamped our recruitment efforts and have been extremely successful in obtaining large classes of quality men.

This fall, we welcomed 32 new members who are going through the initiation process. This number is right on par with what we would produce while being recognized in the past. Our recruitment team made it clear to potential new members that our corporation board and our national headquarters



fully support the operation and success of our chapter at the University of Illinois.

This past semester, we also created a parent committee, which utilized the parents of active members in attempts to ease any doubts from parents of potential new members. With this addition and the clear support from our corporation board and headquarters, our recruitment is just as successful as it has ever been—if not more.

Welcome, Spring 2021 New Members

Moudar Dweyadari '24
Burr Ridge, Ill.

Aidan Flores '24
Downers Grove, Ill.

Rayan Nehme '24
Claredon Hills, Ill.

Rob Porter '24
Grayslake, Ill.

Charlie Salem '24
Chicago, Ill.

Luke Tamas '24
Hinsdale, Ill.



Brothers represent the chapter at Acacia's Leadership Academy in Indianapolis. They met executive members of other Acacia chapters and exchanged tips on how to best operate their chapter. From left: Noah Isaac '24, Jake Nuttall '24, Aidan Flores '24, and Mouar Dweydari '24.

Emerging Stronger Than Ever

Acacia Perseveres Through Turbulent Times

This year has been busy for the brothers of Acacia Illinois. Our philanthropy events have been doing great so far thanks to our philanthropy chairman, **Maxwell Keenan '23**, who planned multiple events over the last two semesters. Our annual blood drive on October 4 had participation from numerous brothers, as well as many members of the Greek community at U of I. We were very pleased to have hit our goal of 33 whole blood units to donate to the American Red Cross.

Another event organized by our chapter is Sinnick Block, which provides half of the proceeds from The Red Lion to the Sinnick Foundation. The Sinnick Foundation is run by the Sinnick family in honor of their son, **Jason Sinnick '13**. In April 2021, the foundation informed us that we raised enough money from our last event to give out scholarships to two Naperville North High School students. The proceeds also helped deliver Christmas gifts to a single mother with five children in Chicago and helped homeless veterans during the pandemic. Our next event will take place this November, and we are excited to see the outcome of our efforts.

Our brothers have been participating in fun intramural activities as well. Our intramural soccer team, led by **Aaron Stone '23** and **Luka Lezhava '23**, played great in a hard-fought win in the quarterfinals that closed with a 7-6 win in penalties. This led to our showing in the semifinals on October 18.

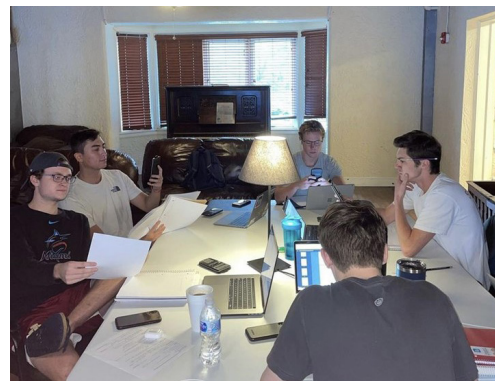
Three of our brothers, **Marco Bucciarelli '23**, **Ben Vyverberg '23**, and **Aaron Stone '23**, started the UIUC Cryptocurrency and Decentralized Finance Club. All three have a strong interest in the stock market and cryptocurrency and have been working hard to get the club up and running. They have been meeting with professionals in the business world and organizing meetings to achieve sponsorship by interested companies and firms. Their goal is to establish professional and social connections with peers and sponsors to create a collaborative environment that can give UIUC students a great experience in interests such as crypto, blockchain, DeFi, and other related topics.

I want to give a shoutout to our underclassmen who secured internships for the summer. Similarly, a large majority of our senior class secured job offers with very prestigious companies. We are proud of all our members' hard work and dedication!

Fraternally,
Nathan Reid '23, Venerable Dean



Eric Johns '23 participates in our semiannual blood drive! We hit our goal and donated 33 units of whole blood. This was a great cause and will help save a lot of lives.



School comes first for our brothers amidst midterm exams. These five brothers are members of the prestigious Gies College of Business and work hard to maintain our chapter's high GPA and scholarly standards. From left: Ben Vyverberg '23, Connor Brannick '23, Noah Savaria '23, Evan Keenan '23, and Jack Martinez '23.



Our patriotic brother, Charlie Brubaker '24, walks 2,071 steps in the honor of the 9/11 first responders.

2021 Chapter Officers

Venerable Dean
Nathan Reid '23

Senior Dean
Justin Topp '24

Junior Dean
Sushant Lala '23

Treasurer
Connor Brannick '23

Risk Manager
Gianluca Caruso '23

House Managers
Eric Johns '23
Jake Pileggi '23

Recruitment Chairmen
Braden Krumwiede '24
(630) 450-0334

Peter Pieropolous '23
(630) 310-2827

Luka Vukanic '23
(708) 310-1408

AcaciaIllinois.com

Social Chairman
Matteo Costa '24

Alumni Chairman
Evan Keenan '23

Philanthropy Chairman
Maxwell Keenan '23

PR Chairman
Marco Bucciarelli '23

Scholarship Chairman
Noah Savaria '23

Project Manager
Rocco Arcieri '23

Save the Dates

Mark your calendars for our upcoming events in spring 2022. We hope to see you there!

■ Mom's Weekend

April 1-3, 2022

■ Semesterly Sinnick Foundation Fundraiser

Late April 2022 (date and location TBD)

■ Founder's Day Event

Chicago, Ill., May 12, 2022 (location TBD)



ACACIA FRATERNITY
University of Illinois
P.O. Box 442100
Lawrence, KS 66044-2100

Address Service Requested



Alumni News

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Daniel A. Miller '78 and his husband, Jim, moved to Pelican Lake, Wis., about 10 years ago. They love the quieter lifestyle with their dogs. They are both very involved in raising money for the Alzheimer's Association—learn more at <http://act.alz.org/goto/DanMiller>. Email: dan@brustconsulting.com

Kevin J. Kohlstedt '06 published a children's book called *Bizy Buddies Explore Digestion* on June 1, 2021, with brother **Rudy Valenta '06**. They donated 150 copies to communities in need! You can see more of their books at bizybuds.com. Kevin resides in La Grange, Ill. Email: kevinkohlstedt@gmail.com

WHERE ARE THESE BROTHERS?

The brothers below are not receiving any communications from our alumni board. If you know where any of these men are, please provide us a mailing address, email, or phone number so we can reconnect. Please email updates to our database assistant at mwomble@penningtonco.com.

Roy J. Lechner '42
Floyd P. Herzog '43
John J. Williams '46
Charles K. Russell '48
Robert H. King '49
Robert W. McMackin '49
Robert C. Robinson '49
Daniel P. Brown '50
Donald A. Yale '51
Frank L. Falley '53
Robert W. Westenberg '53
Burl P. Baker '55
Robert M. Brush '55
Robert K. Rogers '55
George L. Adams '57
James B. Droste '58
Robert D. Harmon '58
Wade M. Carl '59
Joseph W. Phebus '59
John A. Kirk '60
Douglas F. Foster '61
David N. Spires '61
George M. Anthony '63
Robert B. Harr '63
Richard W. Barton '64
Donald B. Dedie '65
Daniel R. Brady '67
Timothy A. Nafziger '68
Harvey J. Worthington '69
Donald G. Clark '70
Kenneth L. Steffen '70

Richard C. Talbert '70
Gerald E. Quindry '71
Jose E. Carpio '74
Chuck S. Fisher '74
Jeffrey B. Vogelmann '75
Howard J. Laidlaw '76
Glenn C. Berg '77
Jeffrey T. Haughey '77
Philip M. Angelini '78
John B. Conroy '78
Alan R. Kastholm '78
Keith R. Besserud '79
Andre Priede '79
William M. Robson '79
James R. Gnaster '80
Donald C. Sullivan '80
James A. Tiesi '80
Daniel M. Gorman '81
Timothy R. Porter '81
Kevin T. Kirkpatrick '82
Roger W. Johnson '82
Mark E. Rigby '84
Timothy A. Stone '84
Edward J. Ulbrich '84
John Hecht '85
Paul W. Hornick '85
Jeffrey Knyal '85
Walter F. McLallen '85
Frank Vermaat III '85
Nils Albert '86
James M. Cox '86

Grant A. Feuer '86
Bart K. Hedgcock '86
Scott Hilgeman '86
Todd C. Short '86
Richard P. Kenyon '88
John M. Novak '88
Edward Pierzak '88
Rolando Izquierdo Jr. '89
Thomas Lordon '89
James A. Perona '89
Dale Stohr '89
Stephen J. Vivian '89
John G. Walz '89
Augusto Fors '92
Marc D. Lawlor '92
Timothy M. Rottach '93
David Tanny '93
Aaron C. Barr '95
Adam J. Picchietti '95
Phil Lebreton '96
Daniel J. Pancorvo '96
Mike Riley '96
Mark J. Broomhead '97
Jack Farritor '97
Todd J. Freund '97
Ryan D. Jones '97
Mike Niemitz '97
Adam Zopf '97
Jason Conway '98
Nicholas C. Czupek '98

Ben Galloway '98
Simon N. Shaner '98
Sean Heaver '99
John Huffaker '99
Jeff Sledz '99
Michael W. Williamson '99
William Broms '00
David M. Knoll '00
Anthony M. Mitchell '00
Yuri Ter-Sarkisov '00
Michael P. Heinemann '01
Danny Kim '01
Jason S. Lee '01
Joseph J. Parenti '01
Mitchell A. Sroka '01
Daisuke Tanaka '01
Adam R. Bush '02
Christopher A. Crowell '02
Rafal H. Kopycinski '02
P. Frank Alfano '03
Andrew N. Tolley '03
Omar Hassanein '04
Andrew F. Funkhouser '05
Nikhil Jayaram '05
Trevor Montavon '05
Shane Newton '05
Benjamin N. Riewer '05
Joseph M. Scavuzzo '05
Will Kruisbrink '06
Jason T. Dunlap '07

Steven J. Fisher '07
Matthew D. Schild '07
Nathan A. Chudik '08
Alex T. Flores '08
Anthony M. Mader '08
Mark R. Pollard '08
Steve C. Tapas '08
Demetrius L. Taylor '08
Amin Akash '09
Dylan A. Carrigan '09
Alexander Swanson '09
Steven Walton '09
Maximilian K. Davis '10
Tyler Donnel '10
Thomas C. Ellison '10
Stephen Humphries '10
Alexander C. Tapas '10
Edward Bahen '11
Daniel Canada '11
Brice Clymer '11
Scott Danner '11
Shane Ellinwood '11
Tyler Fred '11
Cory Goldhagen '11
Drew Hall '11
Michael Hamby '11
Brian Klik '11
Ryan Ladu '11
Nick Mastrantonio '11
Kevin McConnell '11
Bryan Mendelsohn '11

Sean Newhouse '11
Nicholas H. K. Olsen '11
Jeremy O. Orloff '11
Daniel G. Recht '11
Mouhamed Wade '11
AJ Bostrom '12
James L. Carr '12
Luke M. Coale '12
Nathan R. Fischer '12
Lucas J. Helliker '12
David A. Prentis '12
Josiah Myers '12
Sebastian Mysliwiec '12
John M. O'Shea '12
Gustavo A. Rodriguez '12
Matt Rozier '12
Andrew Stanczuk '12
Mark D. Wallner '12
Alec D. Blumberg '13
Charles J. Farren '13
Nicholas D. Genaro '13
Colton T. McClintock '13
Zachary T. Miller '13
Tre J. Howell '14
David H. Lee '14
Mitchell S. Newman '14
Riker K. Thithof Steere '14
Aaron T. Gamalinda '15
Kevin M. Johnson '15
Justin P. Peebles '15

Leading the Chapter, Serving the Alumni