

FALL
2022

the Hello

ACACIA FRATERNITY *at the* UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



PRESERVE OUR LEGACY SECURE OUR FUTURE

ACACIA ILLINOIS ANNOUNCES \$1 MILLION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

When you think of Acacia, what do you think of first? The brothers in your class, Homecoming tailgates, the date party where you met your future wife? Looking back on our own experiences in the chapter, the countless memories and forged friendships remind us of the truly unforgettable experience we shared together. We will never forget our years as undergraduates or the bonds of our brotherhood. Today, the epicenter of the Acacia experience in Illinois is our chapter house at 302 E. Armory.

HOW WE ARRIVED TO TODAY

It's been a long journey to find a permanent residence for Illinois Chapter in the new millennium. Beginning in 2008, our brothers rallied around the need to purchase a new chapter house. By 2012, we had acquired our current home at 302 E. Armory and brothers continued to support necessary renovations and updates. We are eternally grateful for the 240 men who made a commitment during this time, helping to raise over \$1.8 million in support. While our Alumni Housing Corporation Board has worked diligently to purchase and renovate the house, we continue to evaluate and plan for future improvements of our facility.

PRESERVING OUR LEGACY

To begin this next phase for Acacia, we are pleased to announce the *Preserve Our Legacy, Secure Our Future* capital campaign. This second capital campaign will help us finish the work from the previous effort while meeting the needs of the undergraduates today and position ourselves to remain competitive on campus. Our plan is to build an addition that will connect the east and west wings through a covered entryway, unifying the house. Additional funds raised will go towards renovations and house maintenance.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The Alumni Housing Corporation Board is ready to take on this vital project, but we cannot do it without you. Early commitments from 29 alumni have already raised \$430,000. This is a good start, and now we need your assistance to reach our campaign goal of \$1 million. In the coming weeks, you will receive additional information detailing the project, the campaign, and ways in which you can help.



This is a time to reflect on your Acacia experience. Remember the impact this brotherhood made on you and imagine how this chapter will affect future brothers. Acacia has given each of us irreplaceable memories; it is our duty to honor our membership and invest in the future of Acacia at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

We look forward to your support and hope to add your name to the donor list. We need everyone on board! Thank you for your loyalty to our brotherhood.

Faternally,

James T. Wormley '60

Honorary Campaign Chairman

Paul E. Ruby '72

Campaign Co-Chairman

Michael A. Duncan '74

Campaign Co-Chairman



THANK YOU, EARLY DONORS

ADD YOUR NAME TODAY!

We extend our deepest gratitude to the 29 alumni who helped kickstart the *Preserve Our Legacy, Secure Our Future* campaign. Their \$430,950 head start has made a tremendous difference in the future of Acacia at the University of Illinois. Each of us played a part in the history of Illinois Chapter, and we would like to see each brother recognized through the campaign. Every donor who contributes \$2,500 or more will be recognized on a donor plaque in the house.

Acacia Guardians
(\$100,000 and above)
James T. Wormley '60

Acacia Benefactors
(\$50,000 to \$99,999)
Paul E. Ruby '72
Daryl J. Woodard '75

Acacia Mentors
(\$25,000 to \$49,999)
Ken A. Wagner '55
Bob Walberg '65
Mike A. Burson '70
Bob Svatos '77

Legacy Society
(\$10,000 to \$24,999)
David L. Mari '64
In honor of
Autumn 1963 Pledge Class
Ward D. Hargis '65
Fred C. Garrott '68
Brian Owens '85
Mike A. Ray '86
Christopher D. Reinbold '87
Bryce D. Youngren '89

Loyalty Society
(\$5,000 to \$9,999)
Michael A. Duncan '74
Michael A. Conniff '93

Gifts of any size are encouraged and appreciated as we work together to set Acacia up for success well into the future. If you feel an error has been made in recording your gift, we sincerely apologize. Please contact our campaign coordinator at (785) 843-1661 with any corrections. Thank you for your support!

Heritage Society
(\$2,500 to \$4,999)
Roland E. Dukes '60
Charles W. Beall '64
Richard Kent Price '66
Daniel J. Zollner '76
Adam Powers '98
Andrew S. Braun '05
Joel F. Grachan '06

Brotherhood Society
(\$1,000 to \$2,499)
Rick Budde '61
Allan C. Campbell, M.D. '61
William M. Budde '65

Black and Old Gold Society
(Up to \$999)
Michael K. Yates '59
Joseph C. Miller '83
Vito F. Bertolini '05



Visit AcaciaIllinois.com
to make your gift today!

Campaign Status at a Glance

as of August 16, 2022

\$1 Million
Goal

\$430,950
in Contributions

29
Donors to Date

Preserving Greek Life at Its Finest

Why This Campaign Matters to Jim Wormley '60

What made Acacia the right fraternity for you? Who or what inspired you to join?

I rushed Acacia on recommendation of an alumnus who I respected. Even though I was a legacy of another fraternity, I found shared values at Acacia, making it clearly viable.

How did being a member of Illinois Chapter help shape you as a person?

I experienced numerous leadership and group living opportunities, which prepared me well for my postgraduate paths. I served as secretary and as venerable dean.

What are some of your favorite Acacia memories from your college years?

The singing at group meals, serenades, etc., was special to me. The house social and activity schedule was everything I expected as a member of the fraternity.

What are you most proud of in your career and family life?

My wife and I worked on the mission field for the Presbyterian Church for 15 years. Then I ran an investment practice for 33 years. Two of our sons continue that practice today.

How have you kept up with Acacia over the years?

In addition to this campaign (and reading *The Hello* and *The TRIAD*), I try to stop by the house for Homecoming each year. I also call on brothers that I'm near from time to time.



You're currently the top donor for Acacia Illinois' new capital campaign.

What motivated you to contribute, and why do you feel this campaign is worth it?

My experience at Acacia was life changing—all for the better. I firmly believe that a ritual-based group

living experience at a big campus like the U of I is needed more than ever.

Acacia at Illinois is in a position to demonstrate the positive value of Greek life. This requires support from alumni—both time and money—now and in the future.

What advice would you give to your undergraduate brothers?

Scholarship is the most important part of the college experience. Additionally, make the most of university and fraternity activities, and be sure to show your pride as a member of Acacia. Choosing to live in the house can enhance all of that.

Anything else you'd like to add?

I was a second-generation member of the Greek system. This is now extended to two more generations after me (though none at Illinois). The benefits of fraternity living continue to be evident.

Jim lives in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, and can be reached at james.wormley@comcast.net.

Leading the Chapter, Serving the Alumni

House Updates

Summer 2022 Was Full of Activity

This summer, we removed the old, decommissioned boiler, creating additional storage space in the mechanical room. Repairs were made to the hot water recirculating pump, as it had bad bearings. I also had the masonry wall on the front repointed and recaulked to eliminate damage due to water and ice; the mason did a nice job. All the yearly certifications and inspections have been completed.

Stanley Pileggi is still working with the insurance company on a \$200,000 settlement for window replacement due to hail damage. Hopefully, that work can happen next summer.

We have purchased and installed a new oven, worktable, and freezer for the kitchen. The old oven and freezer were shot and not worth repairing. This will help with the configuration of the room and give the chef some additional prep area; the culinary company was very helpful with this effort. I was trying to get new quarry tile flooring installed in the kitchen, but due to supply chain issues, the material was not available in time—so we will try to get it done over winter break.

The VCT flooring in the dishwasher area has been replaced as well as the base and damaged plaster. This way, it will look neat and clean when viewing from the dining room. We also installed new metal tables in the dining area to help keep things cleaner.

At the time of writing, I am awaiting a quote from ADT on a new camera system so we can have easier access to see what is going on.

Fraternally,
Craig Polte '84



Brothers studying abroad in the summer!



Brothers promote Acacia Illinois's annual blood drive.

Sharing Our Success

Acacia Illinois Makes an Impact on Campus

This school year was an eventful one for Acacia!

BLOOD DRIVE

In March, we hosted our annual blood drive with Impact Life Blood Center. This came at a crucial time with a great need for blood donations in our community, so we are especially proud of our work this year. Not only did we receive an amazing turnout of brothers, but we also received many donations from people across campus.

PHILANTHROPY

In other philanthropy news, Our Toys for Tots fundraiser was a huge success. We greatly exceeded our donation goal and look forward to future charitable projects. A big shoutout to Brother **Noah Isaac '21**, who has done an outstanding job as our head philanthropy chairman. Throughout the year, we like to get involved with other philanthropy events on campus. These philanthropy projects not only assist but raise awareness for the causes we all care deeply about.

BROTHERS ABROAD AND AT HOME

In international news, Brothers **Noah Savaria '23**, **Marc Buccarelli '23**, and **Ben Vyverberg '23** studied abroad in Europe this summer. From the pictures and stories they've shared with us, it's clear they had an amazing time! Later in the spring semester, we had our annual brotherhood event. Everyone enjoyed a delicious Portillo's dinner, courtesy of the Corporation board. We also had our annual Mom's Weekend, hosting our amazing mothers at the chapter house.

SPRING INITIATION AND GRADUATION

We ended the school year on a fantastic note with the initiation of our amazing spring class, as well as the graduation of our seniors. Overall, this has been another strong year for Acacia, and we can't wait to do even more in the future.

Fraternally,
Justin Topp '21
Venerable Dean

Acaciallinois.com

Chapter Officers

Venerable Dean

Justin Topp '21

Senior Dean

Marki Notardonato '22

Junior Dean

Aidan Flores '21

Treasurer

Manas Gajjala '21

Risk Manager

Jake Nuttal '21

House Managers

Michael Long '21

Joe Skokal '21

Recruitment Chairmen

Justin Cho '21

(224) 392-3717

Joey Kritz '21

(847) 624-0118

Braden Krumweide '21

(630) 450-0334

Social Chairman

Jack Lacasse '22

Alumni Chairman

Charlie Salem '21

Philanthropy Chairman

Noah Isaac '21

PR Chairman

Robert Porter '21

Scholarship Chairman

Jake Giarratano '21

Secretary

Jack Tomy '21

Project Manager

Ben Thompson '21





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**Special
Announcement
Inside!**

Visit the Acacia Illinois Website

Visit the official alumni website at
AcaciaIllinois.com to:

- Update your address, phone number, and email.
- Share updates with your brothers. Your news might appear in the next edition of *The Hello!*
- View previous editions of *The Hello!*.
- Find out about upcoming events and other ways you can keep in touch with Acacia.
- Help us locate brothers who have fallen out of touch by reviewing the lost brother list.
- Read updates on and support our fundraising efforts.

SAVE THE DATE



HOMEcoming 2022

Make plans now to join your Acacia brothers at the chapter house for Homecoming on Saturday, October 15, 2022.

Be sure to stop by the house after the game for plenty of barbecue, bean bag toss, camaraderie, and fun. We will also have an unveiling of our memorial plaque from the *Solidifying Our Foundation* capital campaign.

Complimentary barbecue and drinks, as well as house tours, begin at **2:30 p.m.** Alumni and guests must be of legal age to consume any alcohol.

Be sure to spread the word about Homecoming to other brothers you've stayed in touch with!

For general questions, contact **Joel Grachan '06** at grachan2@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you and your family on **Saturday, October 15!**

Leading the Chapter, Serving the Alumni



Acacia

In honor of the Acacians that contributed funds toward the purchase in 2012 of a new, permanent house for the 11th Chapter of the Acacia Fraternity at the University of Illinois.

Acacia Legends

James T. Wornley '60

Laurel F. Lewis '57

Michael A. Ray '86

Jeffrey J. Lee '89

Richard C. Rayburn '52

Christopher D. Reinhold '87

Donald K. Hauser '52

Heth Chapter 2018-19

Acacia Mentors

Arthur E. Mertes '85

Heth Chapter 2007-08

Timothy J. Sullivan '77

Paul E. Bully '72

Darryl J. Woodard '75

Acacia Legends

Robert A. Lincome '50

John R. Hewitt '57

Ben E. Walker '91

Michael A. Backowski '86

Robert "Lee" Mann '73

Todd B. Pender '86

John E. Beatty '52

Charles E. Rockwood '54

Kenneth A. Wagner '55

Marshall "Lew" Makie '57

Frederick C. Garrett '68

Michael K. Yates '59

Scott Mertes '84

Curtis W. Vasey '77

Robert J. Sydnor '77

Michael A. Burton '79

R. Gene Fickel '56

Douglas E. Kline '74

Howard G. Pratt '51

William M. Sankough '71

Michael Brian Owens '83

Morgan J. Lynga '81

Boger M. Cogan '81

Samuel A. Peak '52

In Memory of Al Hallen 1948

Joseph L. Long '26

In Memory of Craig R. Welker

Joshua A. Schwede '94

George R. Armstrong '82

Clive A. Fallner '56

Jeffrey B. Smith '86

James L. Backman '94

Scott M. Cummings '92

Helen J. O'Brien '87

Ben Younger '94

Douglas A. Anderson '56

Patrick A. Goughan '74

Brotherhood Society

Drew D. Winkler '28

Andrew J. Millard '98

Robert B. Smith '56

David C. O'Brien '54

Mark R. Feltner '49

Richard O. Erdmann '87

Michael R. Kautzsch '75

J. Scott Lewis '80

Chad Wilkins Freund '88

Timothy C. Kautzsch '94

Griffin R. Chattergoon '81

James A. Youngman '65

Heth Chapter 2012-13

With a special thank you to the additional 161 brothers that contributed to the campaign

Acacia Fraternity Leadership Team

Daniel D. Bayston, Michael A. Duncan,
Mel W. Rapp, Co-Capital Campaign Chairmen
Arthur E. Mertes, Corporation President

*The donor plaque for our previous and successful
Solidifying Our Foundation campaign.*