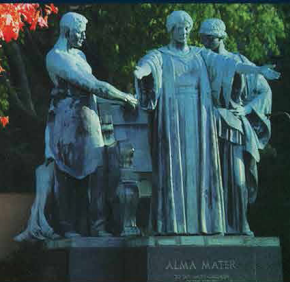


the Hello

ACACIA FRATERNITY *at the* UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



BACK IN ACTION

ACACIA ILLINOIS CHAPTER'S RETURN AND REVIVAL

Over the past year, the Illinois Chapter of Acacia has made significant progress and achieved several milestones. In spring 2024, our suspension from being recognized by the University and Interfraternity Council expired and we were officially reinstated by both in the fall. We went on to welcome our largest pledge class since 2019.

Our suspension from the University's roster of fraternities presented several challenges, including decreased interest from potential new members and increased difficulty in planning events and partnerships with other Greek organizations. However, our previous executive board, led by Vice President **Jack Wanless '23**, worked hard to successfully petition for re-recognition. One of the key goals of our new executive board is to maintain a strong relationship with both entities to prevent future suspensions or disciplinary actions.

Our most successful fall rush since 2019 was achieved largely due to the dedication of our sophomore and junior classes. Led by former Recruitment Chairman **Anthony Petan '22**, we organized a full schedule of recruitment events, ultimately securing a 37-man pledge class—bringing us significantly closer to the pledge class sizes Acacia saw before 2019!

We can't wait to keep working hard and increasing our standing back on campus, and we thank all the alumni who helped us get to this point.

Fraternally,
Tristan Hall '23
Venerable Dean



Executive Board

Venerable Dean **Tristan Hall '23**
Senior Dean **Kyle Porter '24**
Junior Dean **Parker Sluzynski '23**
Treasurer **Michael Patera '23**
Secretary **Ben Tomy '23**
Social Chairman **Luke Moen '24**
Scholarship Chairman **Bryan Pigden '23**
Alumni Relations Chairman **Jack Legan '23**
Philanthropy Chairman **Adrian Notardonato '23**
Public Relations Chairman **Charlie Schmitt '23**
Risk Manager **Braden Gutsch '23**
House Managers **Anthony Doughty '23, Josh Santaniello '23**
Recruitment Chairmen
James Divito '23, Nico Henley '23, Aditya Ved '23

Growing Stronger Together

Recruitment Review

We are extremely happy with the 2024 fall and spring recruitment results! In the fall, we were able to build a strong class of 37 initiates. A majority of them were from local suburbs of Chicago, which aligns with most of the undergraduate members already in the house. That said, we were proud to gain a significant number of members from towns *not* previously represented, including a new out-of-state member! Overall, our recruitment team felt that Acacia had one of, if not the best, fall membership classes on campus, and we are looking to carry that momentum into fall 2025.

The strong numbers from the fall allowed us the freedom to select the finest potential members to be a part of the spring 2025 class. There are just three of them, but that is congruent with previous years; we carefully selected each one, with full confidence they are a perfect fit for this house. All told, we gained 40 quality men during the 2024-25 academic year.

Fraternally,
Aditya Ved '23
Recruitment Chairman



The fall new member class gathers for a group photo!



WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

FALL 2024

Nick Barbera | Western Springs, Ill.
Colin Batelli | Elmhurst, Ill.
Sebastian Bonifacy | Park Ridge, Ill.
Anthony Ciaravino | Chicago, Ill.
Colin Cushing | Elmhurst, Ill.
Alex Farsalas | Naperville, Ill.
Jack Gervase | Naperville, Ill.
Dimitri Govas | Chicago, Ill.
Drew Hardy | Downers Grove, Ill.
Joaquin Hoeft | Peoria, Ill.
Mateusz Janowski | Elmhurst, Ill.
Jack Kevin | Elmhurst, Ill.
Patrick Koch | Woodridge, Ill.

Eliot Lynch | Peoria, Ill.
Zachary Malinsky | Park Ridge, Ill.
Ryan Martin | Deerfield, Ill.
Vincent Marini | Elmhurst, Ill.
Mike Maslankiewicz | Park Ridge, Ill.
Charlie McGlynn | Lake Bluff, Ill.
Connor Mcelligot | Batavia, Ill.
Patrick McNamara | Batavia, Ill.
Madden Mendoza | Washington, Ill.
Luke Moen | Naperville, Ill.
Lucas Noworol | Bartlett, Ill.
Chris Pomatto | Elmhurst, Ill.
Kyle Porter | Batavia, Ill.
Braden Richardson | Elmhurst, Ill.

Griffin Robertson | Batavia, Ill.
Diego Sanchez | Batavia, Ill.
Parker Sulaver | Batavia, Ill.
Joey Stephan | Elmhurst, Ill.
Lazar Todorcev | Elmhurst, Ill.
Justin Vera | Chicago, Ill.
Adam Warner | Batavia, Ill.
Shane Warren | Boston, MA
Miles White | Deerfield, Ill.

SPRING 2025

Cesar Chavez | Chicago, Ill.
Ethan De La Navarre | Park Ridge, Ill.
Joaquin Moreno | Chicago, Ill.

Leading the Chapter, Serving the Alumni

Onward and Upward

State of the Chapter Report

Acaria's Illinois Chapter is the strongest it has been in recent years. Membership is steadily increasing, and our brotherhood is closer than ever. The underclassmen's passion for obtaining leadership roles makes me confident they will continue to push for excellence in the future. This success is all a product of good recruitment, as we continue to bring in quality members to improve the state of the chapter.



Spring break is better with Acacia brothers!

Improving overall involvement has recently been a priority of the house. In the past months, participation in all-house events has been excellent. Be it chapter or social/brotherhood events, our members remain as tight knit as ever. This improves the members' passion and desire to improve the house as they are more involved in its everyday functioning.

The future of the house also looks bright because of the passion of the underclassmen. There is a strong desire, especially in our freshman class, to obtain leadership positions in the house. This desire derives from their ownership of the house and their inclination to improve it. Future leaders in Acacia will continue the traditions already in place while also pushing for change where it is needed.

Thank you for your continued support!

Fraternally,
Tristan Hall '23
Venerable Dean

Your Pledges Still Matter

Our most recent capital campaign has netted pledges amounting to \$721,000 of which we have collected \$372,000. Pledges may be paid online at acaciaillinoiscampaign.causevox.com. Payments by check payable to Illinois Alumni Housing Fund with Illinois Building Fund noted in the memo line. Capital campaign funds remain available for use as contemplated in our capital campaign. We have recently retained Reifstock, Wakefield, Fanning and Co. for preparation of comprehensive chapter house building plans for our review and consideration.



Mail checks to: Acacia, University of Illinois, Payment Processing, P. O. Box 2187, Columbus, GA 31902-218

BROTHERS REUNITED HOMECOMING 2024 RECAP

See You in 2025?

Homecoming weekend is always a great opportunity to welcome family and our alumni to campus! We were happy to host 30+ alumni, along with their friends and family. This year we hosted a tailgate in Grange Grove, followed by a lunch at the chapter house. The tailgate was a great way for our undergraduates to connect with brothers of all eras while celebrating an Illini victory!

Following the tailgate, we hosted a lunch with barbecue and music at the chapter house for all guests. Thanks to the generosity of the Alumni Board and the planning of the executive board, the events were successful in reconnecting alumni with the chapter.

We look forward to continuing this tradition and hope to see a great turnout in 2025!

Fraternally,
Jack Legan '24
Alumni Relations Chairman

Every Alumnus Journey Is a Masterpiece!

Who Should We Feature Next?



Help us hang the next extraordinary piece in our gallery of fraternal pride by recommending an alumnus you know. Please send your suggestion of who deserves to be framed and celebrated to our communications coordinator at sgrow@penningtonco.com with "Acacia Illinois Feature Suggestion" in the subject line.

Illinois Chapter history isn't just what happens when we're on campus!

Thank you for helping us curate Acacia at Illinois history and celebrate our alumni.



KEEP YOUR CONTACT INFO CURRENT WITH ACACIA ILLINOIS!

Make sure you're receiving all things Acacia at Illinois in your mailbox and inbox.

Send your preferred contact information to updatemyrecord@penningtonco.com with "Acacia Illinois Update" in the subject line.

You can also let us know of any life updates in the same email!



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Alumni Website
acaciaillinois.com



Chapter Website
rushacacia.com

Help Shape the Future of Illinois Acacia

Join the Board!

Illinois Acacia is looking for dedicated alumni to step up and help guide the chapter by filling open board positions. Your involvement is crucial to ensuring the continued success of our brotherhood.

Current Board Members:

Arthur Mertes '84	Paul Ruby '72
Adam Powers '98	Craig Polte '84
Daniel Zollner '76	Michael Duncan '74
Paul Herbert '82	Joel Grachan '06

We are currently seeking alumni for the following roles:

- **Co-Chapter Advisor** – Work alongside Joel Grachan to mentor the chapter's leadership, ensure deadlines and requirements are met, and report to the board on the state of the chapter.



Members enjoy a relaxing lunch during spring break.

- **Board Secretary** – Attend four board meetings per year, contribute to discussions, and keep our records organized by creating agendas and meeting minutes.

Your time and expertise can have a lasting impact! If you're interested or want to learn more, contact **Joel Grachan '06** at grachan2@gmail.com.

Leading the Chapter, Serving the Alumni