

the Hello

ACACIA FRATERNITY *at the* UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



Fostering Brotherhood

Membership Expands and Branches Out

This academic year has been especially successful for the Illinois Chapter of Acacia. Our recruitment team kicked things off with a strong fall class of 37 men. The brothers clearly conveyed the true nature of our brotherhood, selecting new members who embody what it means to be an Acacian.

Fall academics went swimmingly! Thanks to the leadership of **Drew Hardy '28**, the chapter achieved a GPA of 3.51, which is one of the highest fraternity scores on campus. Meanwhile, **Alex Farsalas '28** has worked tirelessly to increase our service opportunities. One event we added this year was a holiday toy drive, which involved setting up a drop box at the chapter house to donate items to charity.

Looking ahead, we are planning a philanthropy golf outing for summer break. Acacia undergraduates and alumni are all invited, along with families and friends. There will be donations and specific milestones to support various charitable organizations in our community.

Overall, this year has been monumental for Acacia Illinois and has helped us progress as a chapter in multiple goals. Our success has been rooted in our strong recruitment, academics, and philanthropy, as well as your alumni support, for which we are always grateful.

Fraternally,
Kyle Porter '28
Venerable Dean



(Top right) A delicious birthday dinner to celebrate Drew Ligotti '26 (back row, fourth from right)!

(Right) Members participate in a campus blood drive.

(Below) Brothers show Acacia pride at the chapter house.



CHAPTER GOALS



- 1 Achieve at least 60% participation in philanthropic events and increase funds raised from last semester.
- 2 Keep our chapter house clean and well run to maintain pride in our brotherhood.
- 3 Secure at least 75% attendance for chapter meetings and required events.

Help Shape the Future of Illinois Acacia

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.

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

Chapter Officers



Venerable Dean
Kyle Porter '28

Senior Dean
JD Barrios '29

Junior Dean
Dimitri Govas '28

Treasurer
Jack Kevin '28

Secretary
Diego Sanchez '28

Social Chairman
Brady Lee '29

Scholarship Chairman
Drew Hardy '28

Risk Manager
Michael Maslankiewicz '28

Alumni Chairman
Chris Pomatto '28

Philanthropy Chairman
Alex Farsalas '28

Recruitment Chairmen
Colin Cushing '28
ccushing51@gmail.com

Luke Moen '28
ljmoen2@gmail.com

Braden Richardson '28
bradenrichardson819@gmail.com

House Managers
Sebastian Bonifacy '28
Joey Stephan '28

PR Chairman
Colin Batelli '28

Head Pledge Chairman
Tristan Hall '27

Head Merch Chairman
Eliot Lynch '28

Project Manager
Mateusz Janowski '28

WHO WILL CARRY THE TORCH?

SEND US YOUR MEMBER RECOMMENDATIONS

From one generation to the next, our brotherhood endures through those willing to continue our Acacia Illinois traditions. Who do you know with the resilience, leadership, and honor to carry our brotherhood's torch into the next generation?

Help us find the young men who will honor our past and shape what comes next. Send their info, including how we should contact them, their hometown, high school, and graduation year, to **Joel Grachan '06** at grachan2@gmail.com.

Leading the Chapter, Serving the Alumni



Thank You for Your Support

We extend our gratitude to the Acacia Illinois alumni who have financially supported our chapter scholarship fund since October 2025. To join them this year, please see the giving instructions below.

Richard D. James '59

Dennis A. Dusek '68

M. Brian Owens '85

Give to Honor Scholastic Success

In this issue, we celebrate our brotherhood's continued growth and progress in the classroom! Financial support makes a difference, and you can help build momentum through an annual gift to the scholarship fund.

To make a tax-deductible gift, visit acacia.org/donate and choose "Illinois Scholarship Fund."

To make an unrestricted, non-tax-deductible gift, visit acaciaillinois.org.

Thank you for your support of our brotherhood!



Alumni News

Richard Erdmann '67 still practices law part-time, primarily in estate planning and administration. He lives in Belleville, Ill., and is highly active with the Rotary Club of Fairview Heights and Rotary District 6510 of Southern Illinois. As a four-time cancer survivor, Dick is doing well and remains in contact with **James Eggers** and **Jeffrey Hotham '66**. Email: richard.erdmann@yahoo.com

Dennis M. Young '71 and his wife travel extensively. They've been to Iceland, Amsterdam, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, Paris, Versailles, London, the Canadian Rockies, Yellowstone, Jackson Hole, Arctic Circle, Alaska, and many other places. Dennis has gone paragliding in the Swiss Alps, ziplining in Costa Rica, seen lava flow in Iceland, and gone level 4 whitewater rafting, to name

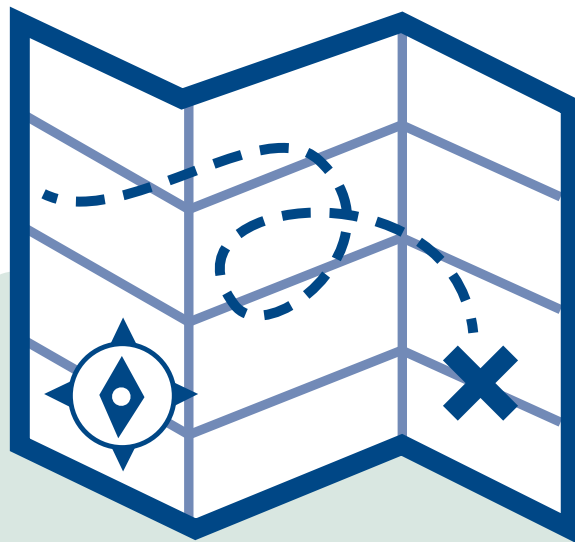
a few activities. He lives in Chesterfield, Mo., and enjoys visiting Acacia friends. Email: dennisyoung8090@gmail.com



Linda and Ron Schmitt '74 (left) enjoyed a nice lunch with Cindy and Jim Slamp '73 at the iconic Lobster Pot in Provincetown, Mass., during a visit to the Slamps' new house on Cape Cod. The seas were rough and boisterous that day.

120 YEARS AT U. OF I.

In its spring 2026 alumni newsletter, the University of Illinois Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs acknowledged a major milestone for our fraternity! Illinois Chapter of Acacia was founded in 1906, celebrating 120 years on campus this year. Alpha Gamma Rho and Delta Gamma's chapters are also turning 120. We can't wait to build on this rich history for decades to come.



HELP US FOLLOW HIS Adventure

From our Acacia beginnings, every brother has embarked on a journey worth following. Do you know a fellow alumnus whose adventure inspires you? Share his name to sgrow@penningtonco.com with "Acacia Illinois Spotlight Suggestion" in the subject line and, together, we'll celebrate the path he's taken!



What's Inside:

- See how members are excelling in recruitment, academics, and service.
- Meet the officers guiding Acacia's future.
- Help shape the next generation by recommending a future Acacian.
- Support scholastic success through the Illinois Scholarship Fund.
- Reconnect with brothers and their latest milestones.
- Celebrate 120 years at the University of Illinois.
- Nominate an alumnus and share his story.



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

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★ Chapter Website: rushacacia.com

ig [@acaciaillinois](https://instagram.com/acaciaillinois)

Send Us Your Photos!

Illinois Chapter wants your help to create a “Blast from the Past” segment for a future issue of *The Hello!*

Do you have treasured pictures from your undergraduate years? Email them to our communications coordinator at sgrow@penningtonco.com with “Acacia Illinois Blast from the Past” in the subject line for a chance to be featured in a future issue. Be sure to include any necessary caption information, such as event and alumni names.

