



THE CREST

An ePublication for the Brothers and Friends of Acacia Fraternity

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â€¢ Another successful ALA in the books

â€¢ HQ staff transitions

â€¢ Acacia Alumni to gather in Memphis next month

â€¢ One Acacian's chance to win \$1,000,000



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ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL ALA IN THE BOOKS

Now two decades since its inception by its namesake, Darold W. Larson, *Washington State '81*, the Darold W. Larson Acacia Leadership Academy again served as the highlight of summer for nearly 100 Acacia undergraduates from across North America earlier this month.



2015 Acacia Leadership Academy attendees

Over the course of four days, this year's ALA featured regular favorite events like the Acacia Olympics, Ritual exemplification, and Final Banquet dinner and awards presentation, and also unique presentations such as "Are You Invincible?" on the topic of responsible decision-making, a presentation from

Phired Up on today's leading fraternity recruitment methodology, and "Stress Management for the College Man" to address the number one issue facing today's college students. Attendees left this year's event better equipped than ever to bring successful strategies back to their chapters and personal lives.



Low ropes challenge course at Bradford Woods

Acacia welcomed a number of ALA Fellows as volunteers at this year's Academy, including Past Executive Director Keith M. Bushey, *Indiana '86*, and Past International Treasurer Anthony D.J. Phillips, *Carleton '06*, along with several current International Council and Headquarters Staff members. The Fraternity expresses its thanks to all who made this year's event possible, including the generous donors of the Acacia Fraternity Foundation.



Acacia Olympics Champions with ALA Fellows Jonathan Veres (trophy L) and Keith Bushey (trophy R)

Also taking place during this year's ALA was the regular quarterly meeting of Acacia's International Council and the annual meeting of the Acacia Fraternity Foundation. Appointed to the International Council as Undergraduate Counselor was Jackson R. Wolfe, *Colorado '12*, filling the spot vacated by Drew K. Sherman, *Iowa State '11*, who joined the Headquarters staff earlier this summer as Expansion Coordinator for the Indiana Colony. The AFF at its annual meeting welcomed a new Foundation President, Amos D. Meyers, Jr., *Shippensburg '66*, and thanked outgoing President Donald W. Solanas, Jr., *Louisiana State '68*, for his service.

Brother Solanas' lifetime of service to Acacia was also recognized by the entire Fraternity with the creation of a new prestigious award, the Donald W. Solanas, Jr. Lifetime Service to Acacia Award, to be awarded periodically at the International Council's discretion to those unique few members who have dedicated an unfailing amount of time and leadership to better our Fraternity's record. Congratulations are due to Brother Solanas for his immeasurable contributions to our dear Fraternity.

[> View the 2015 ALA photo album on Facebook.](#)

As the 2015 ALA came to a close, the feelings of brotherhood were as strong as ever in the halls of Acacia. The quality of our membership — from our youngest undergraduates to our most seasoned alumni — manages to grow year after

year. With a fresh wave of enthusiasm for all things Acacia and numerous re-colonizations on the horizon, 2015/16 is shaping up to be a banner year for Acacia.

PASTKO DEPARTING ACACIA HEADQUARTERS STAFF

Drawing to a close a successful tenure with the Acacia Headquarters staff, Michael A. Pastko, *Purdue '04*, is stepping down from his position as Director of Communications to pursue new opportunities in the New York City tech startup ecosystem.



Acacia Headquarters staff with Brother Pastko pictured rear center

Brother Pastko has been responsible for a number of projects including The TRIAD magazine, Crest eNewsletter, digital media, internal communications, and other initiatives. The Fraternity has recognized Brother Pastko for his work with the Award of Merit (2014) and Order of Pythagoras (2008) and again would like to thank him for his service.

Said Michael, "While I am leaving the day-to-day operations of the Fraternity after eight years on the staff (five in a full-time capacity) and will be fully focused on next endeavors, I intend to keep Acacia a priority in my life and look forward to continuing the Fraternity's work with you in the coming years. My wife and I are

incredibly excited for our move, and we truly appreciate the outpouring of support voiced by you, my Acacia brothers."

Michael's responsibilities are currently being transitioned to the rest of our capable Headquarters staff. Additionally, the Fraternity is fielding inquiries from qualified candidates interested in a communications role with the staff; the position is based at the International office in Indianapolis. Please contact Executive Director Patrick McGovern at pmcgovern@acacia.org or 317-872-8210 for more information.

ACACIA ALUMNI BROTHERHOOD CONFERENCE - SEPTEMBER 25-27

Beale Street, Graceland, Rock 'n' Soul Museum, the Gibson guitar plant, Sun Records, BBQ and BROTHERHOOD. The next Acacia Alumni Brotherhood Conference (AABC) – a growing informal gathering of Acacia brothers from a myriad of chapters – will be held in Memphis, Tennessee from September 25-27, 2015 at the Holiday Inn Memphis-Downtown (Beale Street).



Come see the sites of Memphis and enjoy the opportunity to get together with fellow Acacia alumni and strengthen the ties of brotherhood. There are planned activities scheduled as well as time to see the city on your own. Wives and

significant others are welcome.

The Holiday Inn is only one block away from Beale Street. Standard room rate is \$169 per night plus taxes. *There are **promotional rates** available that require prepayment.* Contact Steven J. Aves, *Illinois Wesleyan '75*, at 309-663-6327 ext. 1 or steve@tairtravel.com for more hotel information.

For any other questions, please contact Steven R. Etter, *California (PA) '92*, at acaciaalumniretreat@gmail.com.

SUPPORT PENN STATE ACACIAN'S BID TO WIN \$1,000,000

A childhood on Long Island and a career in the food industry inspired one Acacia brother to enter the Lay's "Do Us A Flavor" potato chip contest with a flavor idea from home. Jeffrey M. Solensky, *Penn State '91*, submitted his suggestion, New York Reuben, and was chosen from over 7,000,000 submissions for the Final Four and a 1-in-4 chance of winning \$1,000,000.

You can support Brother Solensky's bid with a quick vote in one of four ways: 1) Visit www.dousaflavor.com and vote Reuben; 2) Tweet using #VoteReuben; 3) Text "VoteReuben" to 24477 (CHIPS); 4) Post on Instagram using #VoteReuben.

REFER A YOUNG MAN TO ACACIA FRATERNITY

Do you know a young man starting college this fall - perhaps a relative, neighbor, or family friend - who might make a fine Acacian? We would love to hear from you. Please fill out this short [member referral form](#) or email Director of Expansion and Recruitment Jerod Miles at jmiles@acacia.org.

CONCLAVE - SAVE THE DATE!

Acacia's 59th Biennial Conclave takes place on **July 27-30, 2016**, at the historic Brown Hotel in downtown Louisville, Kentucky. Join us as we celebrate Acacia

and conduct the official business of the Fraternity. All Acacians and significant others are welcome and encouraged to attend. Details to follow.

READ THE TRIAD ONLINE

Have you read the latest issue of The TRIAD magazine? Check it out online: http://acacia.org/about_triad.php. Reply to this email and share your feedback – we'd love to hear from you!

CHAPTER ETERNAL - GLENN E. LAVERING, *UCLA '49*

Acacians were saddened to learn of the passing of Brother Glenn E. Lavering, *UCLA '49*, earlier this summer. Brother Lavering served as President of the UCLA Chapter house corporation board for nearly 30 years, and as a Director of the Acacia Fraternity Foundation from 2000-2003. He was awarded the Order of Pythagoras in 2000 for his efforts.

A memorial service is tentatively scheduled for mid-September. Please contact Glenn's niece, Susan Fitzpatrick, for more information: fitz0714@gmail.com or (760) 451-9554.



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