



# THE CREST

An ePublication for the Brothers and Friends of Acacia Fraternity

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## FEBRUARY 10, 2015


â€¢ 2015 Venerable Dean Summit a success

â€¢ Cal PA Chapter excels through Seven Days of Service

â€¢ Brothers gather in Las Vegas to strengthen the ties

â€¢ Shop for LOVE this Valentine's Day



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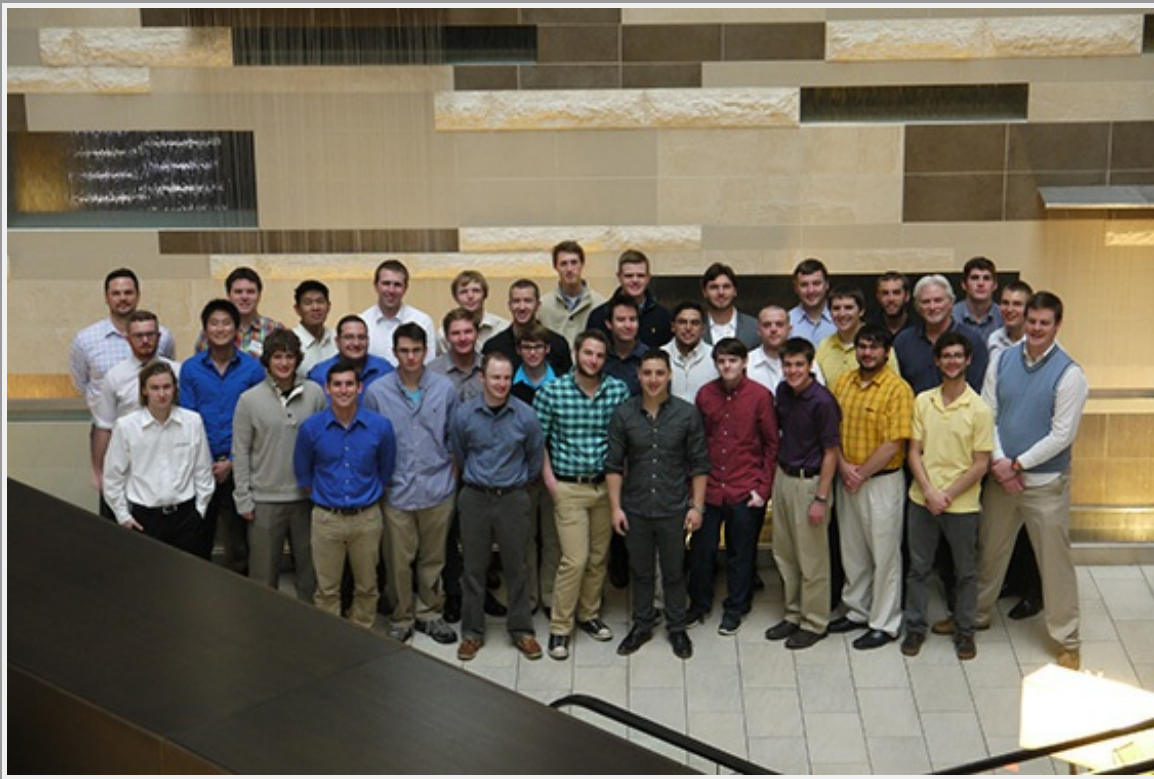
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## VENERABLE DEAN SUMMIT BRINGS TOGETHER TOP CHAPTER LEADERS IN INDIANAPOLIS

Venerable Deans from the furthest geographic reaches of Acacia gathered last month in Indianapolis, Indiana, for the 2015 Lee Kearney Venerable Dean Summit. This year's event - now in its second year - was held at the Hyatt Regency Downtown and was by all accounts a success in preparing our Venerable Deans for the year ahead and strengthening the ties of friendship among Acacia's top leaders.

*â€œWithout the Summit, I feel as if my term as VD would have been a lot harder and way more stressful.â€*



Educational sessions included foundational principles and duties & challenges of the Venerable Dean, risk management and crisis management, fraternity finances and budgeting, reporting and administrative responsibilities, alumni relations, and productivity tips and tools.

*“As a newly formed colony, it was extremely valuable for us to have attended the Summit.”*



*“I really appreciated the time we spent evaluating problems within our chapters and collaborating. It is very helpful to run*

*situations by objective third parties to get their take.*

Shared meals and evening downtime provided plenty of opportunities for one-on-one and small group interaction, and surely these informal conversations provide some of the best insights for Venerable Deans and staff and volunteers alike.

*“Establishing deep meaningful relationships with the other Venerable Deans and the staff for our international organization was the most valuable thing I gained through attending.”*

With its initial success, all indications point to this event becoming a mainstay in Acacia’s lineup of leadership programming. Special thanks are owed to Lee Kearney, *Oregon State ’59*, and other Acacia Fraternity Foundation donors for their support of this worthwhile event.

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## CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA FULFILLS MOTTO THROUGH SEVEN DAYS OF SERVICE

The California University of Pennsylvania Chapter has long exhibited dedication to Human Service through events like Operation Snowflake and Acacia’s International service event, *Acacia Claus*. So it should come as no surprise that the chapter was among the first to take up Acacia’s call to revive another International philanthropy event, *Seven Days of Service*.



Philanthropy Chairman Zachary J. Linkenheimer, *California (PA) ’12*, organized

the events of Seven Days of Service to offer chapter brothers the chance to fulfill their required philanthropy hours and "to show our university and surrounding community that we care."

The event which drew the most participation during the week was the Heart Walk in Pittsburgh. Not only did the majority of the chapter attend, but they were also joined by the women of Alpha Sigma Tau and Delta Zeta. The Pittsburgh American Heart Association later reached out to the chapter to express their appreciation for Acacia's participation.



Smaller events the chapter held were to simply clean up the campus and surrounding streets. "We had good attendance for each cleanup, with between 6-10 brothers helping." The chapter also set up a station in front of the student union in which passersby could pay \$1 to throw a water balloon at a brother; nearly every brother sat for at least an hour over the course of two days, and proceeds were used to benefit Toys for Tots. "The small events were designed for brothers that needed to meet service hours requirements, and we also had a large amount

of brothers participate that had already completed their hours."

"Overall, our first Seven Days of Service went over very well, and I can't wait to see what it becomes in future semesters."

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## BROTHERHOOD THRIVES IN THE HOT SANDS OF THE DESERT

January generally brings cold weather to many Acacians every year, but warmth and sunny skies befell many Acacia alumni who attended the second annual Acacia Alumni Brotherhood Conference in Las Vegas the third weekend in January.



The event was created for all alumni across the country that furthers the topical discussions of Conclave while at the same time enjoying the social benefits of brotherhood. The event continues to evolve and future events are still in discussion including content, dates, and locations. Many thanks for the alumni leadership of Steven R. Etter, *California (PA) '92*, and Andrew J. Stout, *Cal Poly/Pomona '90*, for organizing this event.

The weekend began with Foundation Director Mark R. Guidry, *Louisiana State '57*, hosting an alumni gathering for local Las Vegas alumni and spouses, along with early arrivals for the AABC. This is the third event that Mark has hosted, and

we thank Brother Guidry for his warm hospitality. Twenty-three Acacians - representing 12 different chapters - and wives were in attendance.



Award of Merit recipients in attendance (L to R): Jack Wedgwood (Purdue), Mark Christiansen (California), Andrew Stout (Cal Poly/Pomona), Mark Guidry (LSU) and Darold Larson (Washington State).

The Las Vegas gathering included the presentation of Acacia's highest honor, the Award of Merit to Brother Andrew Stout. A Venerable Dean as an undergraduate, Andrew has remained an active alumnus in both the Bay Area and Southern California. As a former Foundation Director, he continues to nurture support from alumni and friends of the Fraternity and has established a Growth Fund within the AFF to encourage expansion on the west coast. With \$50,000 in gifts to date and commitment for future donations on behalf of the International Council and Directors of the AFF, we thank you for your continued loyalty and dedication.

## THE "ACACIA GATHERING"

Through the generosity of alumni throughout the country, the Acacia Fraternity Foundation has been holding events to introduce fellow alumni to current programs and trends in Acacia and the interfraternity world. This includes Acacia's membership development program, Cornerstones, and other leadership programs such as the Acacia Leadership Academy and the Lee Kearney Venerable Dean Summit. These gatherings are also a focal point for discussion of Acacia expansions.

To date, we have held twelve of these alumni events. And, where applicable, we aim to promote the creation of a local alumni association to foster ongoing networking and further brotherhood activities. If you are interested in hosting a gathering in your area, please contact me for more details at [dlarson@acacia.org](mailto:dlarson@acacia.org) or 317-872-8210.

On behalf of the Directors of the Acacia Fraternity Foundation, many thanks to all our alumni who continue to make a difference for the next generation of Acacians.

The Acacia experience “not four years... but for life.”

**Fraternally,**

Darold W. Larson  
Executive Director  
Acacia Fraternity Foundation

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## SHOP FOR LOVE THIS VALENTINE'S DAY

Are you still shopping for the perfect Valentine's Day gift for your Acacia Sweetheart? Now you can do so while benefitting Acacia's International philanthropic partner, Shriners Hospitals for Children. Please use this link to [Shop for LOVE](#), and for every order placed, \$10 will be contributed to Shriners Hospitals for Children.



**Shriners Hospitals  
for Children®**

**Love to the rescue.™**

The annual Love to the Rescue campaign is part of an ongoing commitment to raise awareness for the hospitals' mission to provide advanced medical care to children with special health care needs regardless of the families' ability to pay.

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