



THE CREST

An ePublication for the Brothers and Friends of Acacia Fraternity

AUGUST 15, 2014

â€¢ 58th Biennial Conclave in Nashville a Success

â€¢ Acacia Sings!

â€¢ New Leadership Consultant Joins HQ Staff



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A SUCCESSFUL CONCLAVE IN MUSIC CITY!

Nearly 200 brothers (and a few pledges) representing 40 Acacia chapters assembled this summer in Nashville, Tennessee, to work and play in concert at Acacia's 58th Biennial Conclave & Leadership Academy.

Taking place from July 30 - August 2, 2014, Acacians reviewed the past biennium, elected new International Council officers, discussed policy matters, recognized award-winning chapters and individuals, and looked ahead to the next several years of Acacia's ever-unfolding story.



Conclave delegates seated around the triangle

With a Conclave theme of *Finding Our Rhythm*, brothers also enjoyed the sights

and sounds of Nashville “Music City” along the way. With a Friday night outing to see The Funky Meters (and phenomenal opening act, DeRobert & the Half Truths) play at the Mercy Lounge night club, brothers enjoyed an authentic Nashville experience. Other nights found brothers making their way to the neon lights and music of Broadway to such watering holes as Robert’s Western World and Honky Tonk Central. And at the end of each night of business and brotherhood, the DoubleTree by Hilton Downtown Nashville played a wonderful host.



Brothers enjoy the George F. Patterson Society Alumni Reception

The Leadership Academy portion of this year’s event featured three guest speakers. Acacia’s International Council brought in Taylor Deer of [Phired Up Productions](#), who spoke on member retention; [Jessica Pettitt](#) used humor and an off-beat style to connect with undergraduates on the topic of diversity and social justice; and this year’s John F. Hoffner Leadership Series speaker was Wade Garard of [Upper Networks](#) whose presentation, “Relationships Matter,” addressed the how-to’s of networking and relationship building.



Brothers listen intently to one of our featured speakers

Official business opened on Thursday, July 31, with the chartering of the Illinois State Chapter, an occasion that called for celebration amongst all brothers in attendance. Following was a review of the 2012-2014 Biennial Report by Executive Director Patrick McGovern and a presentation of the 2014 Strategic Plan by Director of Communications Michael Pastko; both documents are linked below this article.



Congratulations to the Illinois State Chapter on receiving their charter!

Friday was largely comprised of committee work, as Conclave delegates evaluated and fine-tuned the fraternity's budget, proposed minor corrections and updates to the Laws of Acacia, and offered numerous resolutions for the good of

the fraternity. Friday was also a day to celebrate the success of our undergraduate brothers and chapters during the William A. Utic Acacia Fraternity Foundation Scholarship Luncheon. AFF Scholarship winners were announced, and the Spirit of Excellence Awards were presented to chapters for their outstanding performance in specific areas of chapter operations.

[View the full list of 2013-2014 scholarship recipients on the Acacia blog.](#)

Saturday, August 2, was our final day of official business. Conclave committees presented their work, resulting in a new two-year budget approved by the Conclave, adoption of the 2014 Strategic Plan, and the passing of several Conclave resolutions. The final order of business was the election of new International Acacia officers. We are excited to introduce our new and returning International Council officers:

Jeremy N. Davis, *Iowa State '00*

International President

jdavis@acacia.org

Scott H. Meyer, *St. Cloud State '89*

International First Vice President

(Elected in 2012 to a 4-year term)

smeyer@acacia.org

Justin M.M. Kaplan, *Carleton '07*

International Second Vice President

jkaplan@acacia.org

George A. "Chip" Ray, *Penn State '10*

International Counselor

gray@acacia.org

Robert W. Mickam, *Texas '85*

International Treasurer

rmickam@acacia.org

Maximilian J.B. Hopkins, *California '80*

International Judge Advocate

(Appointed by the International President)

mhopkins@acacia.org

Drew K. Sherman, Iowa State '11

Undergraduate Counselor

dsherman@acacia.org

Jonathan C. Veres, California (PA) '10

Undergraduate Counselor

jveres@acacia.org



The International Council of Acacia Fraternity - August 2, 2014

(L-R) Veres, Ray, Mickam, Hopkins, Davis, Sherman, Meyer, Kaplan

Saturday night concluded our official programming with the Conclave Final Banquet & Awards Ceremony. A formal sit-down dinner was enjoyed by all in attendance, followed by the swearing-in of new Council officers and the presentation of Acacia's top individual and chapter awards.

The winner of the Founders' Achievement Award (also known as the Malcolm Award) as the top chapter of the 2012-2014 biennium is... **Iowa State!** Congratulations to the Iowa State Chapter for this well-deserved recognition. Receiving the Superior Chapter Award is **Kansas State**, our previous Malcolm Award winner which continues to excel in all areas. Finally, the **Penn State** Chapter is recognized for their success over the biennium with the Outstanding Chapter Award.



The Malcolm Award-winning Iowa State Chapter - August 2, 2014

[View the full list of 58th Biennial Conclave award winners.](#)

Save the date for Conclave 2016!

We'll see you all again in Louisville, Kentucky, from July 27-31, 2016!

2012-2014 Biennial Report

The 2012-2014 Biennial Report documents the fraternity's operations over the last two years. Inside you will read about trends in Acacia membership, alumni engagement, membership development and programs, fraternity communications, vastly improved finances, and more.

[Download the 2012-2014 Biennial Report \(PDF\)](#)

2014 Strategic Plan, *Playing in Rhythm*

International Acacia leaders spent several months collaborating over the spring and summer to create the next Strategic Plan for the fraternity. With input from alumni and undergraduates alike, the 2014 Strategic Plan, *Playing in Rhythm*, was adopted by the Conclave delegation and outlines the fraternity's vision, objectives, and goals over the next six years.

[Download the 2014 Strategic Plan \(PDF\)](#)

ACACIA SINGS!

Do you remember singing Acacia songs during chapter events? Everyone sitting around the piano in the chapter house, or going through campus serenading sororities? Enjoy those songs again today – order an *Acacia Sings!* CD featuring 15 Acacia songs including: *We’re All Good Brothers*, *Bless Now*, *Acacia* (the doxology), *We’re the Men from Acacia*, *Acacia Dream Girl*, and more. A great gift for fellow Acacians to recall some good memories, or for active chapters to learn old classics today. [Make a \\$10 or greater contribution to the Acacia Fraternity Foundation Annual Fund right now](#) and reply to this email requesting we mail you a CD. *Here’s a cheer to Acacia!*



NEW LEADERSHIP CONSULTANT JOINS HQ STAFF

Jerod K. Miles, *Central Oklahoma '09*, joins the Acacia Headquarters staff as a traveling Leadership Consultant after graduating with a B.A. in Interpersonal Communication and serving his chapter as Venerable Dean, Senior Dean, Junior Dean, and Membership Development Chairman. Brother Miles also served on his campus IFC as President and Internal Vice-President and was the Director of Central Oklahoma's New Student Orientation. Jerod was recognized as the University of Central Oklahoma 2013 Man of the Year and 2012 IFC Man of the Year and is an Acacia Fraternity Foundation scholarship recipient.

Says Brother Miles about joining the Headquarters staff, "I am excited by the opportunity to grow and strengthen our fraternity. I see the impact Acacia has had on me personally, my chapter brothers, and my community, and I want to do my best to ensure others have the opportunity to enjoy a similar experience."

Acacia would also like to recognize outgoing Leadership Consultant Gregory J. Lary, *Ohio Á'09*, for his service over the 2013/14 academic year.

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS IN *THE TRIAD*

The next issue of *The Triad* magazine is due to hit mailboxes at the end of fall, and for the first time we are offering the opportunity for alumni to advertise their relevant businesses and services to fellow Acacians. For more information on placing an ad, please email Director of Communications Michael Pastko at mpastko@acacia.org.

Donate Online



Acacia needs your support. [Make a contribution to Acacia Fraternity today](#). Your gift makes a lasting impact and may be tax-deductible.

Update your Membership



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New email? Family or career news?
[Update your info](#) to keep us and your fellow Acacians informed.

Order Acacia Gear



[Order Acacia gear online](#), from apparel to jewelry to gifts. Your purchase directly benefits Acacia Fraternity.
