



# THE CREST

An ePublication for the Brothers and Friends of Acacia Fraternity

**MAY 12, 2014**

☞ Happy Founders' Day!

☞ Acacia's two-sport champion

☞ The Triad is coming soon!

☞ Shop at amazon.com to benefit Acacia



Send us an e-mail: 

[> ONLINE GIVING](#)

## Greetings!

The image of the Acacia tree so ingrained in the minds of most Acacians is likely that of the mature evergreen. Known for its ruggedness and ability to withstand harsh conditions, it is second nature to envision that weathered tree. All the more fascinating to remember that it began its life as a mere sapling.

It was on this day 110 years ago – May 12, 1904 – that members of the University of Michigan Masonic Club filed articles of incorporation as "The Aleph Chapter of the Acacia Fraternity." News of this budding new fraternity spread to other Masonic clubs on university campuses across the country. Within six months, Acacia added its second chapter. Two days later, its third.



Within a year, Acacia chapters were chartered at Stanford, Kansas, Nebraska, and California. In June of 1905 the first National Conclave was held in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and during that second year, chapters at Ohio State, Dartmouth, Harvard, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, and Wisconsin were chartered.

The young sapling was growing roots, as 27 chapters were founded during Acacia's first decade. Those roots proved strong enough to weather difficult seasons, including depression and world war. Acacia branched out steadily during the 1950's and 60's, while the 70's were a time of both expansion and contraction of numerous chapters. The 1980's saw Acacia's reach grow internationally with expansions at Carleton and Western Ontario in Canada.

Acacia grew in other ways during the 1990's and 2000's, including in the area of major programming initiatives. The first Acacia Leadership Academy was held in 1993, the Cornerstones membership development program was born in 2006, and Acacia's newest program, the Leonard W. Kearney Venerable Dean's Academy, launched in January of 2014.

Membership in Acacia continues to grow, too. Even through losing four chapters over the last biennium, membership numbers are slowly rising. Twelve chapters have grown by more than 20% in the past two years. New colonies are emerging, and there are multiple recolonizations on our roadmap.



At 110 years old, Acacia is both a mature yet ever-growing body. Unlike the Acacia tree, however, our fraternity is reinvigorated regularly by new life in the

form of new leaders – chapter officers, alumni boards, and the International Council and Headquarters staff all experience this phenomenon at varying frequencies. And as we approach our 58th Biennial Conclave this summer, these leaders come prepared by Acacia’s new programs and backed by membership growth that reflects a building momentum within our fraternity.

It is only fitting that Nashville, Tennessee – “The Music City” will play host to Conclave for the first time as a merry band of Acacians are *Finding our Rhythm*.

Join us for Conclave this summer from July 30 to August 3. [Register online](#) and [reserve your hotel room today](#) and come celebrate 110 years of Acacia brotherhood! Read more about this year’s Conclave at <http://acacia.org/conclave2014.php>. We look forward to seeing you in Nashville!

***Happy Founders’ Day, Brothers!***

---

## ACACIA’S TWO-SPORT CHAMPION

When it comes to identifying Acacia’s most prominent alumni in the area of athletics, there is no doubt you’ll see Brother Gene Conley, *Washington State* ’49, at or near the top of the list.

If you turn on the television tonight, you might find NBA Champions LeBron James or Tim Duncan dominating on the hardwood, or World Series Champion Tim Lincecum strike out the side, but only Conley can claim championships in both basketball and baseball. In fact, Conley remains the only athlete to win championships in two of America’s four major sports.



Read more about Brother Conley’s life in sport with this article, [Wayback Machine: Two-Sport Ace Gene Conley](#) by David Eskenazi and Steve Rudman at SportspressNW.com.

---

# THE TRIAD IS COMING SOON!

Acacia's Triad magazine will be hitting the printing press soon! If you do not currently receive the Triad by mail, or if you have moved or changed mailing addresses in the last six months, please reply to this email with your full name and current mailing address so we can be sure you receive your copy.

---

## RAISE MONEY FOR ACACIA BY SHOPPING AT AMAZON.COM

Do you shop at Amazon.com? If so, or if you would like to give it a try, you can now support the Acacia Fraternity Foundation simply by pointing your browser to <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/35-1778332> and shopping Amazon.com like usual. The AmazonSmile Foundation will automatically donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the AFF. Just return to smile.amazon.com for future visits, and it will remember the AFF as your designated charitable organization. Time to buy some new athletic shorts or tees from your alma mater as summer approaches!

---

### 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



Change of address? 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.

---