



THE CREST

An ePublication for the Brothers and Friends of Acacia Fraternity

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ACACIANS BEAR SUB-ZERO TEMPERATURES AT INAUGURAL VENERABLE DEAN SUMMIT

With a 'Polar Vortex' bearing down on the inaugural **Leonard W. Kearney Venerable Dean Summit** and the entire midwestern U.S., the scene in Indianapolis was a far cry from the hot sands of the desert to which Acacians are accustomed. But as evidenced during that first weekend of 2014, it doesn't take much more than brotherhood to stay warm.

Two days of programming began with the arrival of thirteen Venerable Deans and four alternate chapter officers to the Embassy Suites in Indianapolis, just steps away from the Acacia International Headquarters office. Joined by International Council volunteers and Headquarters staff (many of whom are past Venerable Deans themselves), attendees arrived ready to learn more about the role of the Venerable Dean â€” from daily fraternity operations to personal time management to leadership techniques.



Conceived over the last biennium by international Acacia leaders, the Summit is supported by Acacia Fraternity Foundation donors, led by its namesake, **Leonard W. Kearney, Oregon State Â'59**. This new program bridges the yearly gap between Conclave and the Acacia Leadership Academy " and takes place immediately after most chapters and colonies have completed officer elections. This provides ideal timing, as constructive relationships are formed between chapter leaders and the International office from day one, and new officers are able to learn valuable skills with their entire terms still ahead of them.

Attendees agreed that the experience was a great launching pad for their coming terms in office. "I learned that I was not alone in my worries about the position," commented one Venerable Dean. "It was very beneficial to talk with the other Venerable Deans about problem areas and how other chapters handle certain situations," stated another.

Educational sessions included a topic-by-topic overview of the Venerable Dean's duties led by Executive Director **Patrick McGovern, Indiana Â'99**, a time management seminar led by International Council Second Vice President, **Jeremy N. Davis, Iowa State Â'00**, an alumni relations talk from AFF Executive Director **Darold W. Larson, Washington State Â'81**, and presentations by other Headquarters staff on fraternity finances and budgeting, risk management, and online communications. These sessions were accompanied by open discussions, shared meals, and a visit to the International Headquarters office.



As the second day of programming reached its halfway point, Headquarters staff announced that the remainder of the schedule would be abbreviated to give attendees an opportunity to head home before the looming winter storm hit. Brothers 'Passed the Gavel' after lunch, and after a final afternoon session, attendees who had driven from nearby locations in Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Ohio said their goodbyes before the arrival of the arctic front.

With fingers crossed for clear weather and plans for Sunday travel, the remaining Venerable Deans, Council and Headquarters staff spent an evening watching college football bowl games, playing cards, and talking fraternity. This informal time together fostered even more intimate discussion of chapter issues which might not have arisen in a larger group setting, such as dealing with 'problem brothers' or disciplinary issues.

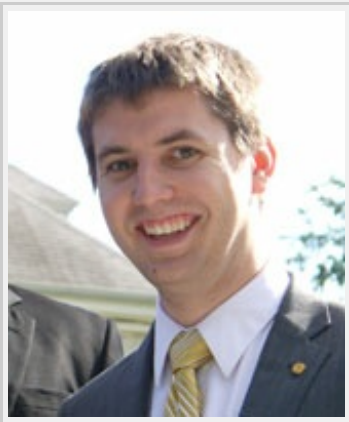
When morning came, the weather still appeared to be fair and favorable. Thus it was all the more disappointing when the would-be travelers were all greeted by the same news "flight cancellations across the board. Some would trek to the airport in search of alternate flights only to find more cancellations, while others remained at the hotel. Fortunately, with several days before the beginning of classes and the abundant camaraderie among fellow Acacians, these stranded brothers would make the best of the situation.

"I was one of the brothers stranded in the Embassy Suites for a couple nights after the Summit, although stranded is maybe not the best choice of words given our nice accommodations. It was a lot of fun to get some time with the other VDs in a completely informal setting where we talked about our similarities "much talk of Ritual " and our differences, as well," stated **J. Dylan Cook, Colorado '12**.

Added **Sean J. Foster, *Bloomsburg A'11***, "I feel that we were able to build off of one another. It wasn't an authority figure telling us what we do wrong, it was just a bunch of guys with similar interests all devoted toward the same goal of building up Acacia."

After a two-day deep freeze, roads slowly began to open and planes were again cleared to fly. Equipped with new tools and strategies for a successful spring semester and bolstered by a feeling of International brotherhood, Venerable Deans left the Summit ready for the year and excited to reconvene this July in Nashville, Tennessee for Acacia's 58th Biennial Conclave.

MICHAEL S. WEBER, *IOWA STATE A'06*, PROMOTED TO DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS



Acacia is excited to announce the promotion of **Michael S. Weber, *Iowa State A'06***, to Director of Operations. In his first 10 months of service as Director of Expansion & Recruitment, Brother Weber demonstrated excellent work in areas beyond that of his job title.

Said Executive Director Patrick McGovern, "Michael continues to bring a very valuable skill set to the Headquarters staff, and it is time to recognize his vital contributions to Acacia operations in areas beyond expansion. As a past Venerable Dean and Undergraduate Counselor, Michael sees clearly how all parts of international fraternity operations fit together and knows how to best utilize our resources to complete projects and achieve our goals."

During his undergraduate tenure, Brother Weber served as Venerable Dean, Undergraduate Counselor on Acacia's International Council, Chapter Secretary, Chaplain and Junior Steward. Michael also led the Government of the Student Body as Speaker and Vice Speaker of the Senate. Acacia has recognized Brother Weber's achievements with the 2011 Roy C. Clark Award, the Order of Pythagoras Award, and the George F. Patterson, Jr. Scholarship.

"Michael's work in the areas of accounting and bookkeeping have been specifically crucial. He is an ideal team player who is willing to dedicate long

hours of work on difficult tasks, and his work is of top quality. Simply put, he gets it," added McGovern.

Brother Weber is originally from Ames, Iowa and graduated from Iowa State University in May 2011 with a B.S. in Family, Finance, Housing and Policy.

Says Brother Weber, "I'm excited to continue to serve the fraternity and develop our day-to-day operational practices, and to grow the fraternity."

Send Michael a note of congratulations at mweber@acacia.org.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE FALL 2013 TRIAD?

The Fall 2013 Triad magazine hit the mail in December, and brothers across North America are catching up on the latest news and fascinating stories from the world of Acacia.

Didn't receive the Triad by mail? Reply to this email with your full name and current mailing address, and we'll make sure to add you to our mailing list. You can also [read the Triad online and download a digital copy at acacia.org](#).



We'd love your feedback! Let us know your thoughts on the fall Triad, and we may print your comments in our summer issue! Please send your comments and story ideas for future Triads to communications@acacia.org.

JOIN US IN NASHVILLE FOR CONCLAVE!

Join scores of Acacians this summer in Nashville, Tennessee for four days of business and brotherhood! Acacia's 58th Biennial Conclave and Leadership Academy will take place from **July 30th to August 3rd**, where brothers will conduct the official business of the fraternity, learn new skills to benefit ourselves and Acacia, and strengthen the ties of friendship. All Acacians are welcome to attend this event, from the youngest pledge to the most well-traveled alumnus.



Conclave registration is now open! Event registration is \$150 per person and includes lunch at the William A. Utic Acacia Fraternity Foundation Scholarship Luncheon, a formal dinner at the Conclave Final Banquet, and numerous educational and entertainment activities.

[Register now for Conclave 2014](#)

Acacia has reserved a block of rooms at discounted rates at our host hotel, the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Downtown Nashville. Book online at the link below, or call 615-747-4806 with Group Name "Acacia Fraternity" and Group Code "ACF."

[Book your hotel room online](#)

We are very excited for our first Conclave in Nashville, the Music City! While our schedule will feature full days and a variety of programming, there will also be time to get out and explore the city.

Hundreds of up-and-coming bands play virtually every night in local establishments and city parks, with nightlife centers around the neon lit strip of Broadway. Are you a country music lover? The Country Music Hall of Fame might be on your must-see list. The city is about more than music, too. Nashville is home to a great array of museums and historical sites, including the First Center of the Visual Arts and the Tennessee State Museum – next to the Conclave hotel – which holds one of the largest civil war exhibits in the country.

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