



# THE CREST

An ePublication for the Brothers and Friends of Acacia Fraternity

October 20, 2015

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## Note from Executive Director Patrick McGovern

Brothers,

As the fall months begin to change the appearance and altitude of the leaves (at least in the Midwest...), and as the nip in the air steadily increases, our chapters are on-campus working to do credit to the Acacia Fraternity in ways big and small.

Many chapters have celebrated Homecoming on their campus and have re-connected with alumni of their chapter who returned to campus for the big day. I would remind chapters and alumni to start planning now to have some of those same alumni return to be observers of the Ritual of Acacia during initiation. If you haven't seen the Ritual performed in many years, it is a wonderful experience to witness the ceremony and reflect on the meaning therein.

I am pleased to announce that you are reading this Crest courtesy of Brother Benjamin Turconi, *California '12*, who continues in his role of Associate Director of Operations for Acacia Headquarters, with some redefinition of the role itself. Benjamin is responsible for overall fraternity communications at this point and is making good progress on the next edition of the TRIAD, set to hit mailboxes in late fall.

One way that you can support Acacia is through the Amazon.com/Smile program. With the holiday shopping season just around the corner, this is an easy way to support Acacia's educational and scholarship programs. Be sure to spread the word to your significant other, friends, and family. As we begin to get closer to the holiday season, take 60 seconds to set this up on your Amazon.com account, and encourage your family members and friends to as well (see more information below)!

Best wishes to all of my Brothers for a successful next few months!

Fraternally,

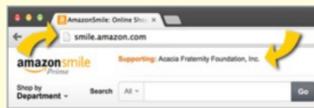
**Patrick W. McGovern, Indiana '99**

*Executive Director*

*Acacia Fraternity*

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Now you can support the Acacia Fraternity Foundation (AFF) through your regular online shopping at amazon.com by instead pointing your browser to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com).



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On your first visit to smile.amazon.com, you will need to select the Acacia Fraternity Foundation as your charitable organization before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make on AmazonSmile will result in a donation.

## Acacia Headquarters Hires New Leadership Consultant: Michael Moore, Central Oklahoma '11

Michael is the most recent addition to staff. He graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma in Spring of 2015 with a Bachelors of Arts degree in strategic communications and minor in journalism. A Fall of 2011 initiate, he was the 718th member to be initiated at Central Oklahoma.



He served as president of the Interfraternity Council from 2013 to 2014 and external vice-president from 2012 to 2013. Michael undertook the responsibilities of membership development and public relations chair at his home chapter from 2012 to 2014. A frequent volunteer, he was involved in on-campus organizations Winterglow (annual charity event) and the Student Programming Board throughout his years at UCO.

A big sports fan, Michael had the opportunity to intern in the Marketing Department with the Oklahoma City Thunder for the 2013 to 2014 season and looks forward to bringing the skills he learned to the Headquarters staff. Michael also could not be more excited about this year's baseball postseason as the Cubs look towards their first World Series appearance since 1945!

## Recruitment News

Recruitment at the beginning of this school year has gotten off to a tremendous start. Carleton, Central Oklahoma, Illinois, Ohio and Wisconsin chapters have recruited some of their largest classes dating back to their founding/re-founding classes! Indiana colony has gained enormous traction, inducting 44 pledges that are reminiscent of the original 44 founding fathers of that chapter. Expansion at Iowa has begun, with 12 members already inducted into the Founding Pledge class. Fall 2015 shows tremendous promise for our organization's future.

Expansions are currently planned at other campuses and we are excited to announce that Acacia is officially set to expand to Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona! Director of Expansion and Recruitment, Jerod Miles, will be visiting the campus on October 25-29 to begin laying the groundwork for a spring expansion. Officially, the expansion will begin on the ground in January. Look for more details regarding the Expansion in November.

If you have any connections to the Arizona State community, or would like to be a part of this new process, please email Brother Miles at [jmiles@acacia.org](mailto:jmiles@acacia.org). From recommendations of students to being involved in the advisory board, all help is welcomed to get this new group started.

Additionally, if you have any campuses or universities in mind at which you think Acacia could build a strong colony, please send any information to [Brother Miles](mailto:Brother Miles) regarding the campus and why you think it will be a good campus for Acacia.

**Scholarship Recipient Spotlight: Joseph L. Webb, Iowa State '12**



At this past ALA, the Acacia Fraternity Foundation (AFF) gave numerous scholarships to well-deserving Acacians. One of those Acacian Scholars was the Venerable Dean of Iowa State Chapter, Joe Webb. A Nutritional Science Major with Minors in Spanish and Genetics, Joe intends to go to Medical School after his undergraduate studies are complete. This summer, Brother Webb was selected from a pool of 300 applicants to be one of 70 interns at the prestigious Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, Arizona. We checked in with Joe to see how things went and how Acacia has played a role in his college career. Over the Summer, Joe worked in a research lab performing biomedical research on Obesity and Diabetes, specifically, the breakdown of fat tissue. His ten-week internship culminated in a presentation to working scientists and doctors concerning his research and its implication for future pharmaceuticals and clinical applications. Joe took a class in immunology, volunteered and even went hiking in scenic Arizona all while working full-time on this cutting-edge research. After a full summer, Joe now has the opportunity to publish his first scientific paper!

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*"I attribute my involvement with Acacia to shaping me into who I am today, equipping me with the necessary skills to communicate and collaborate effectively in any career field." - Joe Webb, Iowa State '12*

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While Brother Webb was certainly a leader before becoming an Acacian, he believes that his Acacia experience has refined his skills. When asked how Acacia prepared him for this experience, Joe remarked, "Soft skills are often undervalued, and there is far less formal training provided for them than hard skills. When I first showed up for work, I was expected to know how to behave on the job and my experiences in Acacia prepared me perfectly to surpass my supervisors expectations."

Joe has advice for fellow pre-med students as well as anyone reaching their Junior year and is, therefore, looking for internships to round out their college experience. On this topic, we will quote our brother directly who says, "No matter what opportunities you are preparing for, ask yourself, 'Am I who I need to be in order to get to where I am going?' I ask myself that phrase every day and try to live my life accordingly. I believe that failing to plan is planning to fail, so do what it takes to outline where you want to go in life and take action to make your vision become your reality." It is this spirit that can be found in many successful individuals: the prioritization of planning.

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*"Overall, this experience clarified two things: one, my love for my fraternity, and two, my love for serving others through research. I only hope that in the same way my life was touched through this series of events that I can reciprocate the favor and give back to the next generation of Acacians in a similar manner."*

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Brother Webb actively shared news of his pending internship with alumni of his chapter and made a stronger tie with a chapter alumnus. He was fortunate to find an alumnus that lived near the Mayo clinic! Joe was invited to stay with the alumnus during his internship and stated that having a place to call 'home' over 2000 miles away from family gave him a different outlook on his summer.

To close, we will leave you with the words of our Scholarship Spotlight himself, Joseph L. Webb, *Iowa State '12*: "Overall, this experience clarified two things: one, my love for my fraternity; and two, my love for serving others through research. I only hope that in the same way my life was touched through this series of events that I can reciprocate the favor and give back to the next generation of Acacians in a similar manner."

Acacia Fraternity looks forward to all that this outstanding young man will go on to accomplish!

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**Heart and Soul: Fundraiser for the New Edition of the Pythagoras**

Whether it's Hoagy Carmichael's rendition in 1939 or Tom Hanks exploits in the movie *Big* in 1988, most of you have probably played or heard the song "Heart and Soul." If the *Ritual of Acacia* is the soul of our Fraternity, then the *Pythagoras* manual is at the heart of who we are! Well, the *Pythagoras* needs your help!



***As a member of Acacia, we are requesting your support for a special project.***

In January, Acacia will be issuing a new and revised fourteenth edition of our cherished manual. The *Pythagoras*, first appearing in the December 1933 *Triad*, has been a guide to over 42,000 brothers. First issued as the *Pythagoras Handbook*, then published in booklet form the following year, our membership manual has been considerably expanded and revised through the years.

The year 2016 represents the next chapter in the written history of Acacia. As William S. Dye, Jr., *Penn State '09* (as in 1909!) wrote in the first edition, "I have chosen to write for the new members not a history of Acacia in dates and accompanying facts, but rather an Epic...a record of the evolution of a fraternity...an epic of development."

If you would like to contribute to the new iteration of our old friend, the *Pythagoras*, please consider a thoughtful donation online by visiting [www.acacia.org/donate](http://www.acacia.org/donate) and selecting '*Pythagoras Manual Fund*' from the giving menu. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation and supports the Fraternity's leadership training, educational endeavors, and grants scholarships to deserving student Acacians. As a donor to this request, your name and chapter affiliation will be listed in the preface of the manual, a vivid reminder to the newest generation of Acacians — the epic of Acacia continues!

Fraternally,

**Darold W. Larson, Washington State '81**

*Executive Director*  
*Acacia Fraternity Foundation*

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#### Acacia Water Bottles and Notebooks for Sale!

This year, ALA Delegates received these wonderful, metal water bottles and embossed hardcover notebooks with the Acacia Crest.

For all those that missed the opportunity to receive these as a gift at ALA, have no fear, for they are for sale directly from the International Headquarters! These make wonderful gifts for Secret Santa events or just to show you care to an Acacian or Friend of Acacia that is close to you.

They are **\$10 each** and can be purchased by contacting Director of Operations, Michael Weber, at [mweber@acacia.org](mailto:mweber@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



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.

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