



THE CREST

An ePublication for the Brothers and Friends of Acacia Fraternity

May 12, 2016 - Founders Day

- Founders' Day Message
- Foundation Spotlight: Amos Meyers Jr., *Shippensburg '66*
- The Triad is Coming Soon
- Amazon Smile

Dear Brother ,

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 112 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 1995, the Cornerstones membership development program was born in 2006, and Acacia's newest program, the Lee 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 112 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 59th 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 Louisville, Kentucky — The Derby City — will play host to Conclave as the next generation of Acacians "Take the Lead."

Join us for Conclave this summer from July 27th to the 31st. Register online and reserve your hotel room today and come celebrate 112 years of Acacia brotherhood! Read more about this year's Conclave at <http://acacia.org/conclave>. We look forward to seeing you in Louisville!

Happy Founders' Day, Brothers!

Share your Acacia Story: #BecauseAcacia

The legacy left by our founding fathers is a foundation on which each member places the brick of his experience. Each of us as Acacians helps to build the stories of our fraternity. Share your Acacia story with everyone by posting to social media with the tag **#BecauseAcacia**. Perhaps you met your wife at a fraternity formal or you were presented with a scholarship that enabled you to focus on your studies, **#BecauseAcacia** your college experience changed for the better, and we want to hear about it!

These stories will not only inspire a new generation to "walk the desert," they will share the good works of our fraternity with the world at large.

Contact Benjamin Turconi at bturconi@acacia.org for any questions or to share your story without using social media. *A future Triad article may feature your story.*

Foundation Spotlight: Amos Meyers Jr., Shippensburg '66

Our founding fathers left their legacy by founding the fraternity we all called home during our college years. Today, Acacians leave their mark by ensuring that the Acacia experience is preserved for generations to come. It could be argued then, that the modern stewards of our fraternity - those that have taken the mantle of responsibility for our founding fathers - are those that support the Acacia Fraternity Foundation. The AFF provides supports the fraternity in many ways, most notably in the form of scholarships to its members and grants supporting fraternity operations.

None of this support would be possible without the dedication of its board members. This Crest, we talked with the President of the AFF, Amos Meyers Jr., *Shippensburg '66*, to discuss his Acacia experience and why he has stayed involved.

Let's see what Brother Meyers had to say:

1. Why did you join Acacia?

Amos: A college classmate and [DeMolay](#) brother told me a new fraternity was organizing and recommended I look into it.

2. What has kept you involved?

The continuing friendship and brotherhood with Brothers from my chapter.

3. What does Acacia mean to you?

A: Continuing friendship of those Brothers you know and meeting new Brothers who become new friends

4. If you could tell your freshmen-self something, what would it be?

A: Get involved!

5. What is the value of Acacia?

A: It can serve as a guidance and support system through your college life and extend into your whole life.

6. Where do you see the organization in 10 years?

A: For me, there is a sense that our Fraternity is on the move in a good direction and that programs we undertake currently will make us a leader for exemplary programs in the fraternity world.

7. Anything else you would like to add?

A: In what ever form these comments take, if a Brother takes the time to read these comments they have enough interest to become more involved in today's life of the Fraternity and Foundation.

We thank Brother Meyers for his time, not only for answering our questions, but for all the time and dedication he has given to our fraternity over the years. An example our founding fathers would have been sure to have appreciated.

To learn more about the AFF and how you can help, visit acacia.org/foundation today!

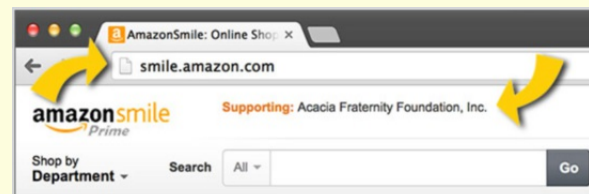
The Triad is Coming Soon!

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.



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