



THE CREST

An ePublication for the Brothers and Friends of Acacia Fraternity

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Dear Brother ,

Minnesota Expansion

It has been more than two decades since the undergraduate men at the University of Minnesota pledged to strengthen the ties of friendship, but **in 2016 one of Acacia's oldest chapters will be returning to campus.** Over 100 years ago the University of Minnesota Acacia Club brought together Masons from the University's campus, operating independently until it joined the National Fraternity in 1908 and received the Hebrew designation of Kaph. For 60 years the Fraternity produced leaders until the apathy brought about by the Vietnam War led to a lack of members and the chapter's closure. From 1983 to 1991 Minnesota saw the brief return of the Black and Gold, but again the chapter closed due to lack of membership.

This fall Acacia is recolonizing the University of Minnesota, giving a fresh face to a Minnesota tradition. The expansion is being led by **Brother Kieran Edstrom, Colorado, '12** and supported by alumni from Minnesota and the Saint Cloud Chapter. As the fourth week of school kicks off the recruitment process is in full swing and the first bids have been handed out. Kieran's first efforts will be focused on creating a strong core group of young men, able to live up to and exemplify the ideals of Acacia. From this core group, recruitment will continue until the chapter has reached a self-sustaining size. For this expansion, the International Fraternity has adopted a new policy. The members recruited will not be initiated into as full Acacians until the start of the Spring of 2017 semester, allowing the new members to spend the whole semester focused on recruitment. Although this project will not be an easy one, the time is right for Acacia to return to one of its original homes.

[Minnesota Colony Facebook Page](#)

If you are in the Minnesota Twin Cities area and would like to help with the expansion, or if you know any young men attending the University of Minnesota who might contribute to Acacia's growth, please contact **Brother Kieran Edstrom**, kedstrom@acacia.org.

Be more involved through the Cornerstones App

Cornerstones is Acacia Fraternity's **lifelong member development program**. It represents our philosophy of preparing tomorrow's leaders, pursuing lifelong learning, and exemplifying our motto of human service.

Cornerstones provides a foundation upon which to build habits for a life full of learning. The program does this by integrating traditional classroom learning with other experiences a member may have with brothers such as forming a professional network throughout their time as an undergraduate; completing a high ropes course with a team of brothers, or simply being able to study in the comfort of their own home in the chapter house library.

With the addition of the new **Cornerstones iOS application**, members of all ages can now manage key relationships with each other. Making it easier for members of all generations to stay involved with Acacia. The video below gives a brief description of the app.



Here're three easy steps a member searching for professional advice must take in order to utilize Cornerstones for iPhone to its full potential.

- Download [Cornerstones](#) for iPhone from Apple's App Store
- Create your profile on Cornerstones
- Follow the tutorial under the More tabs at the bottom of the page

Here are two easy steps a member looking to give professional advice must take in order to completely utilize Cornerstones.

- Go to acacia.org/update, scroll down and check the box **"are you interested in mentoring an undergraduate member?"**
- Be on the lookout for communications from our Director of Membership Development Benjamin Turconi. He will further assist you connecting with an undergraduate member to mentor.

[Download Cornerstones for iPhone here.](#)

If you have any questions or concerns about Cornerstones or the new iPhone application, then contact Headquarters at (317) 872-8210 or via email at communications@acacia.org. You can also visit Cornerstones345.org for more information about Cornerstones.

Foundation Spotlight: Robert E. Roberson, *Illinois Wesleyan '74*

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 a current Director of the AFF **Robert E. Roberson, Illinois Wesleyan '74**, to discuss his Acacia experience and why he has stayed involved. Brother Roberson is a recipient of both the Order of Pythagoras and the Award of Merit and was the recipient of the George F. Patterson Jr. Award in 2005.

Here's what Brother Roberson said about the influence that Acacia has had on his life:

1. Why did you join Acacia?

The reason may be different each time I am asked. It was an opportunity to not be restricted by a dorm's rules, to live with guys who had more similar interests to mine than my roommate's, to make an independent decision about something in my life, and to mildly rebel against the perceived defined path that I was on. I joined because I was told that it was a bad idea. Mostly, I think I joined because the brothers in the house showed an interest in me and asked me to join.

2. What has kept you involved?

I have stayed involved with Acacia, because of brotherhood, friendships, acceptance, love, and fun. Staying involved has allowed me to experience all of these things in an ever expanding circle of fraternity brothers.

3. What does Acacia mean to you?

Acacia means opportunity. Participating in the ritual provides each member with the common bond to build relationships that can cross over all of the artificial boundaries in society. Each of these relationships made through Acacia provides opportunities for experiences that may otherwise never come your way. Just taking the step to join Acacia and be a part of something bigger can provide you with the support to take chances in your daily life that may not have otherwise been taken.

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

"It ain't no big thing."

4. What is the value of Acacia?

The true value of Acacia is in its members. Each and every one makes the whole stronger. Each year when awards are presented at Conclave or ALA, I am always impressed by the accomplishments of brothers within the fraternity, their chapters, their careers, and their community.

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

I see Acacia continuing to grow and improve in the next 10 years. I think there can be 40-50 active chapters and 5-10 alumni chapters. With this growth, the staff will need to expand as well with 2-3 more full-time members. With this growth, I think Acacia will still retain its core values and be a leader in the Greek community for a values-based undergraduate experience.

6. Anything else you would like to add?

I encourage everyone who reads this to make an annual donation to the Acacia Fraternity Foundation because without the financial support of our alumni Acacia will not be an opportunity for future generations.

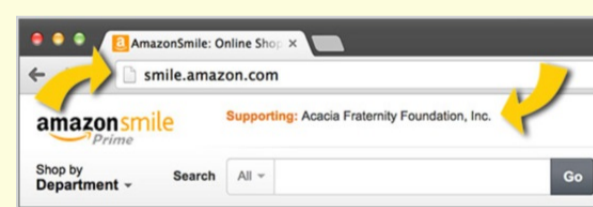
Share your Acacia Story: [#BecauseAcacia](#)

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 hashtag [#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!

Contact Michael Moore at communications@acacia.org or any questions or to share your story without using social media. *A future Triad article may feature your story.*

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