

MALCOLM AWARD SPECIAL ISSUE

ACACIA FRATERNITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS • SPECIAL EDITION: ACACIA ILLINOIS WINS THE MALCOLM AWARD

Acacia Illinois Named Top Acacia Chapter in the Country

Acacia Fraternity at the University of Illinois has had a lot to be proud of over the years. Today, however, that pride reaches a whole new level. During the 2008 Acacia Conclave held in Lexington, Kentucky on August 6-10, Acacia Illinois received the Founders Achievement Award (better known as the Malcolm Award) for the first time in our chapter's history! This award only reaffirmed what so many alumni and actives already knew – Acacia Illinois is the best of the best.

The now International Fraternity first presented the Founders Achievement Award at the 1956-58 biennium, when the award was presented to the Oklahoma State Chapter. The concept of the award – recognizing the top Acacia Chapter – emerged some time after the Golden Anniversary Conclave. The Acacia National President at the time was **William E. Kreiger** of Illinois '17, who served as president of the Fraternity from 1954-62. The International Fraternity continually notes that the concept of honoring Acacia's best chapter occurred during Bill's tenure.



FOUNDERS ACHIEVEMENT MALCOLM AWARD

The official name of the award is the Founders Achievement Award. As inscribed on the plaque, the award is “conferred by the National Council at the Biennial Conclave on the basis of maintenance of the Fraternity’s – Traditions – Activities – Scholarships.” During the first several Conclaves, the award was presented by Founding Brother **George A. Malcolm**, thus earning the designation as “the Malcolm Award.”

Criteria for the Malcolm Award has evolved over the years, as the judging is now based on Acacia International's Chapter Standards program, entitled “The Spirit of Excellence.” The purpose of the Spirit of Excellence is to help chapters analyze their functions, diagnose areas for improvement, and highlight their successes, all to maximize and fulfill the

chapter's potential. The Spirit of Excellence is broken down into 19 different categories, covering everything from academics to social development. And while chapters are also awarded separately for excellence in the individual areas, the Malcolm Award recognizes all-around excellence across the board. Illinois was recognized at the Friday Foundation Awards banquet for the following individual areas: Membership Recruitment, Human Service Programming; Alumni Programming and Advisory; and Communications and Technology.

Applications are submitted to the International Fraternity Headquarters by the chapters and judged by an independent panel of individuals from the interfraternity world. Those recommendations are passed on to the International Council for final approval. This year

the Fraternity received 16 full applications and six partials applications for the individual area awards.

Through the years the Malcolm Award has evolved to honoring three levels of excellence. Like the Olympics' Gold, Silver and Bronze, the Acacia International awards the Malcolm,

Superior and Outstanding Chapters. The Illinois Chapter has been recognized numerous times with the silver and bronze as a Superior and Outstanding chapter, but never before with the golden Malcolm Award. Congratulations to our Actives, Board, and Alumni for achieving the all-around excellence for which this prestigious award is bestowed.

Malcolm Award Final Standings

Malcolm - Illinois
Superior - Iowa State and Penn State
Outstanding - St. Cloud State, Cornell and Central Oklahoma

Capital Campaign Update

The next milestone for Acacia is within our grasp. At the time of printing, \$1,341,496 has been raised from 124 donors toward the \$1.75 Million Campaign for Acacia Illinois. Visit www.AcaciaIllinois.com today to learn more about the campaign and how you can get involved.

Contributions of Alumni and Chapter Achieve Milestones

By **Art Mertes '85**, President

I've addressed various themes in my *Hello* addresses over the years and months leading up to the Acacia Capital Campaign. I hope this one really strikes a chord. I ask that you take a moment to reflect on those earlier thoughts, the trials and tribulations, and the dedication and teamwork that these themes have highlighted and which have brought all of us to this important time in Acacia history.

It has been over 50 years since the Malcolm Award was established with the first winner announced in 1956. Never, ever, since the Awards inception has the Illinois chapter been the winner... until now. Acacia at Illinois has now been recognized at the Conclave in August for the very first time as the top chapter among all chapters. In addition, Illinois won four other specific individual awards, demonstrating

that your Illinois chapter is a top house not only on the Illinois campus but nationally.

This level of achievement could not have been achieved without the teamwork, effort and dedication to excellence of both young men with strong character and a desire to better themselves and the Alumni volunteers and contributors who

continued on page 3

Chapter Members React to Winning the Malcolm Award

Winning the Malcolm Award is an honor that can be shared by both undergraduates and alumni. Below, Acacia undergraduates react to winning the award and share their perspective of this great accolade.



Matt Schild '07

Attending Conclave was truly a great experience. It was wonderful to meet our Acacia brothers from different chapters throughout the nation.

In addition to excellent leadership, recruitment, and philanthropic seminars, Conclave was a great way for all of the Undergraduate leaders to share ideas. As the current Venerable Dean, it was a great way to not only share successes, but also discuss past and potential issues for our fraternity. I came away with many great ideas and a passion to fulfill my fraternal responsibility of Venerable Dean.



Tony Perrino '06

Being a senior, I have seen major strides since the time I started pledging Acacia. Through great leadership and a talented run of Executive Boards, this fraternity has improved in all aspects, from

philanthropy to membership development and everything in between. Winning the Malcolm Award and getting the recognition we deserve is a huge compliment to all the effort and hard work that many, active members and alums, have put into Acacia.

I'd like to thank the past chapter officers and brothers that made it possible for us to have a shot at winning the Malcolm and I have faith in the current officers to keep up the tradition of greatness. Our goal in the next 2 years shouldn't be anything less than bringing it home again.



Sean McAndrew '07

Achieving the Malcolm Award denotes a far greater amount of success and distinction than indicated by the two year period that the award recognizes. It provides credence to the outstanding work of past undergraduate

Acacians who labored to continue our trend of excellence and leadership on campus so that future generations might enjoy a fine fraternal opportunity.

The award honors the tireless efforts of alumni who remain dedicated to ensuring the chapter's success far beyond their time at the University of Illinois. Furthermore, the Malcolm Award recognizes active members who gave light to

our house throughout the past several years and encourages current members to carry on this practice. Simply put, "I am an Acacian, I am proud of it."



Ryan VanEcho '08

Attending the 2008 Conclave was a great experience for me. It was nice to meet all of our brothers from across the nation, and to find out more about how Acacia National works.

On the last night it was a great being there to win the Malcolm Award. It is an honor to win, however I also know there is still room for improvement. I am one of the younger members of the house, and I now know more of what I have to do in order to help our chapter improve even more and try to continue the success that our older members have had.



Steve Tappas '08

This year I attended the 55th Conclave. Having just joined the house, the prospect of learning about ideals like leadership and brotherhood seemed like a great opportunity. The first day at

Conclave I realized that the support and scope of Acacia extends past the Illinois chapter itself.

The most important thing I got out of Conclave is realizing the size and strength of our chapter. When Illinois won The Malcolm Award, it made me realize the importance of the contributions of the upper classmen and made me realize how much they did for the house. The Award, which was won by the work of alumni and elder brothers in our house, made me realize how much one can do to help Acacia - and what it means to be a good brother. As one of the largest chapters in the country, our chapter has a strong membership base with many contributing active members. Through meeting some chapters who get excited about a pledge class of only 10 members or has 6 members holding up the weight of a whole chapter, Conclave made me realize just how important it is to participate, contribute and respect the house.



Joel Grachan '06

Conclave 2008 was an experience I will never forget. Throughout the weekend, everything was done professionally and elegantly. Although I arrived in Louisville on Friday,

everyone who was there since Wednesday was focused toward the awards banquet on Saturday to find out if we would win the Malcolm Award. The Brown Hotel was beautiful, the food was excellent, and I will certainly be going back to Conclave in two years to see a repeat.



Nikos Lioutas '07

While attending Conclave, the members of our chapter were able to share ideas with the members of other chapters of Acacia Fraternity. It was a fantastic opportunity to learn ways

to better our own chapter, as well as provide methods used in our own chapter that could be implemented elsewhere.

At Conclave, the University of Illinois chapter was awarded the Malcolm Award, which was extremely exciting and rewarding for me and my brothers. Having been a leader in the house for the past two years, it was great to see that the outstanding work that was put in during Rush and other house functions was recognized. Our house has made leaps and bounds in the past few years, and winning the Malcolm Award is a great sign that we've been making strides in the right direction. I'm confident that our younger members that will continue improvements on our house in the following years and am excited to see the progress that our house is sure to see.



Ryan Alberts '07

Not only was Conclave an unbelievable experience because I was given the opportunity to meet and learn from various Acacians from across the nation, but I was also fortunate enough to witness our older members receiving the Malcolm award.

Witnessing this accomplishment achieved by their hard work only furthered my respect for the members who were the very reason that I pledged and initiated into the Illinois chapter.

With the older brothers as an example, the next generation of Acacia leaders hope to continue to improve our fraternal brotherhood - not only because we would love to hold on to this prestigious award, but also because we owe it to them to continue the work that they began.



RAISING THE STAKES
CONCLAVE 08
 AUGUST 6-10, 2008 ■ LOUISVILLE, KY

Acacia Illinois Recognized for Excelling in Philanthropy, Communications Technology, Membership and Alumni Relations

In addition to winning the Malcolm Award, Acacia Illinois was also recognized for accomplishing excellence in several specific areas.

Philanthropy

Over the past three years, Acacia philanthropy has experienced tremendous growth in active member participation and chapter involvement. Through the past six semesters, Acacia philanthropy has developed from a bare minimum philanthropic participation to one of Illinois's largest, most out-reaching philanthropic fraternities. In this short period of time, the Acacia Illinois has created its own unique philanthropy (the Acacia Bowl), has adopted its International Fraternity's philanthropy (Acacia Claus) and continues to strive to actively extend itself into the greater community.

Communications Technology

This award was something Acacia never dreamed of getting even five years ago. *The Hello*, an integral part of our alumni outreach, has improved greatly over the last few years. Multiple publications in a year make sure that alumni stay in the loop with chapter accomplishments and events.

Along with *The Hello*, another medium used constantly is *acaciaillinois.com*. This website is a constant reminder of how far Acacia Illinois has come as a chapter. A superior database of all 2100+ alumni, up to the minute updates on the capital campaign and the ability to access past publications are all features that contribute to excellent communication.

Finally, the chapter website *rushacacia.com*, created by **Joel Grachan '06**, is the place to get all the information, pictures, and news about the chapter. The website was originally created for recruitment, and still serves that purpose today. It remains an excellent tool to share information with prospective members.

All these factors contributed to success at Conclave 2008 with the Communications Technology Award. Some might say this is one of the most important aspects of the fraternity; outreach to those who have graduated from Acacia Illinois. For this reason the chapter and alumni take pride in this accomplishment and will continue to improve the way information and news is communicated.



Steve Tappas, Darold Larson, Nikos Lioutas, Drew Millard, Matt Schild, Joel Grachan, Mel Rapp*, Dan Bayston*, Sean McAndrew, Tony Perrino, Ryan Alberts, Ryan Van Echo, Adam Powers*. (*Alumnus)*

Membership

Over the years, Acacia Illinois has seen a significant amount of growth in the quantity of quality men. In 2007, the house grew by almost 50% due to a staggering 54 new initiates in the spring and fall classes alone. That year was no fluke and the Class of 2011 followed with another strong Rush class. As membership numbers have grown so too has the need for new positions and activities. Beyond just numbers, our growth has provided multiple new leadership opportunities within our Chapter. In the years to come Acacia Illinois will strive to continue pledging students who are motivated, intelligent and positive to insure success continues into the future.

Alumni Relations

This award can be directly attributed to hard working alumni and to programs such as the mentorship program. With the successful capital

campaign and recent Homecomings, it's no surprise that such recognition was given to Acacia Illinois. Many thanks to the work of so many volunteers whose contributions led to this award.

Contributions – continued from page 1

make the existence of the Illinois Chapter possible.

Each and every one of you - Alumni and Active members, should take great pride in not only this accomplishment but also in your contributions to Acacia's history. However big or small, your involvement has made it possible for Acacia and its good name to not only survive through history, but to excel in achieving this milestone in the 2008 Malcolm Award.

I urge you to become a Key Contributor to the next Milestone in Acacia's history - ownership of our own Chapter House. You will be proud that you did!



Current and Past Venerable Deans Share Acacia Pride



Left to right; Steve Tappas, Ryan Alberts, Nikos Lioutas, Joel Grachan, Matt Schild, Ryan Van Echo, Sean McAndrew, Tony Perrino.

Joel Grachen '06, 2007-2008 Venerable Dean

As the 2007-2008 Venerable Dean, I can say that although much work still needed to be done, the foundation was laid far before I entered office. The precedents established for each Executive Board position were smoothly transitioned from year to year and experienced members became and stayed involved. As shown by the Malcolm Award, chapter operations are at their finest, but they were not always that way. It took years of improvement and hard work to discover the best procedures and planning.

The most significant area of improvement is membership recruitment, for which we won an award for at Conclave 2008. The last two Fall pledge classes were the biggest Acacia pledge classes in the country. Since four years ago, we have more than doubled the size of the chapter. In Fall 2006, we rushed our current Junior class of over 40 outstanding men. This catapulted our confidence and set the tone for the year to be an amazing one. Our social calendars over the past four years have been getting better and better, setting us atop the fraternities on campus. Events like a Cubs game, riverboat cruise and an array of yearly events like formal and Night on the Nile, have all contributed to the superior social status that we have gained on campus over the recent years.

Our current Executive Board is beginning to carry the torch. The leaders of the fraternity are extremely capable of leading our chapter into the future and accomplishing great things. All the hard work contributed by so many paid off this past summer. As we have all heard and witnessed through participating alumni, the benefits bestowed by Acacia during undergraduate continue well past graduation and into the rest of our lives. Now is the time to get excited and interested, because now that Acacia Illinois is on top, we want to work to stay here for a long time.

Matt Schild '07, 2008-2009 Venerable Dean

As the current Venerable Dean, attending Conclave and winning the Malcolm Award was the greatest moment to date in my Acacia experience. This award is the greatest recognition that an Acacia Chapter can receive. Over the last four years, Acacia Illinois has experienced an unbelievable turnaround due in part to the hard work by the undergraduate members.

After winning the Superior Chapter Award two years ago at the last Conclave, our members focuses on winning the Malcolm Award. After just two more years of tireless commitment, we finally did it. Winning this award truly signifies the renewal of Acacia at the University of Illinois.

As the current Venerable Dean, this award has really helped me appreciate all the hard work invested over the past several years to push Acacia Illinois to where we are today. I am honored to be following in the footsteps of the great Acacians that have brought this award to our chapter. Winning this award creates an even higher standard of excellence that I must fulfill. The current Executive Board views this award not only as a culmination of the past success of Acacia Illinois, but as a launching pad for even greater achievement in years to come.



Going around the table clockwise starting on the left: Matt Schild, Dan Bayston, Ryan Alberts, Drew Millard*, Ryan Van Echo and Nikos Lioutas. (*Alumnus)*

Below: More photos from Conclave.



Alumni React to Winning the Malcolm Award

Alumni can all share in the pride of winning the Malcolm Award. Without the foundation being laid by generations of Illinois Acacians, this honor would not be possible. Acacians from throughout the history of the Illinois chapter share their pride below.

Matthew Conway '04

To me, the Malcolm Award represents the culmination of years of hard work by many dedicated members and alumni. Everyone involved realized that there was tremendous opportunity for growth and untapped potential. As a result of years of determination we were able to reach that potential and grow beyond what any of us could have imagined. I am honored to have been a part of it.

Matthew Kump '05

In my four years as an active member of Acacia Illinois I had the opportunity to be a part of something special. With the hard work and dedication of all members we were able to double the number of our active members, increase our service to the community and lay a path for the future success of this Fraternity. This award reflects years of hard work and positive changes of which every member should be proud.

Andrew Braun '05, 2006-2007 Venerable Dean

The recent accomplishments of Acacia Illinois have been a long time coming. As a member of 2005 pledge class, we were the last to experience pledgship at the dilapidated house we called home at 907 S. Third St. Since pledging in the fall of 2004, I've witnessed and been a part of the doubling of our active membership, the improvement in our living situation, the revival of our own campus-wide philanthropy, scholarship improvements, and **Chris Bader '06** being the first Illinois Acacian to win the Roy C. Clark "Mr. Acacia" award at Conclave 2006. Now Illinois has achieved another great accomplishment and claimed the Malcolm Award for the first time.

As Illinois has the largest Greek community in the nation, bringing the Malcolm Award back to Champaign is a huge honor. But winning the Malcolm also means we must now push ourselves even further to become the best chapter in our own backyard. In my last semester on campus, I saw the demolition of 907 S. Third St. first hand, and I wrote to the Corporation Board as I saw this as a metaphor for things to come. Our old house is gone and with the capital campaign in full swing we will now be looking to have a new home. The brotherhood at Illinois is strong, and I look forward to the day when I can come back and see the active chapter living in their very own house. Congratulations to all the actives and alumni that made the Malcolm Award possible.



From left to right; Drew Millard, Nikos Lioutas, Matt Schild, Steve Tappas, Sean McAndrew, Ryan Alberts, Adam Powers*, Tony Perrino, Ryan Van Echo, Joel Grachan. (*Alumnus)*



Visit
www.acaciaillinois.com
the official Acacia website
to:

1. Buy tickets for Homecoming 2008
2. Link to the Active Chapter's website
3. Search for alumni
4. Update your address, phone number and e-mail address
5. Post noteworthy accomplishments (a new baby, a recent marriage, a recent promotion, etc.)

Do you have interesting information you'd like to share with other alumni? Post it on the website by visiting www.acaciaillinois.com and clicking on the alumni links then "Brother to Brother."

A Few Among Many

By Mel Rapp '49, Adam Powers '98 and Ryan Alberts '07,
The Hello Co-Editors

As President **Art Mertes '85** has noted, the winning of the Malcolm Award is the result of the effective commitment of many – active chapter members and alumni alike.

However, as is frequently the case, there are those leaders in the organization who truly do make the difference. Leading the effort in this momentous award warrants the naming of those people. Even at the risk of missing the name of one or more who were significant parts of the effort, we are compelled to insure that those who were in the forefront are duly recognized. Should any oversight have occurred, we apologize.

Still, our Acacia hat is off in particular to the following that were indeed among those in the forefront, who frequently did the heavy lifting, encouraged others to achieve and participated in preparing the award winning description of Acacia-Illinois activities and accomplishments.

A Few Among Many
 – continued from page 5

The following are truly “a few among many” that deserve to be congratulated on this accomplishment (listed alphabetically):

Christopher Bader '03 for his work as a former Venerable Dean and Roy C. Clark “Mr. Acacia” Award winner. His guidance of the younger active members helped all realize the top two priorities as an undergrad; academics & Acacia and who mentored many active chapter board members over the past three years.

Andrew Braun '05 served as the Venerable Dean who initiated efforts to get the chapter organized so that the directions could be established and accomplishments achieved.

Matthew Conway '04 also a former Venerable Dean whose leadership, as well as his skill in recruiting outstanding men to Acacia, helped the chapter grow through many promising initiates. Matthew was the recipient of the Order Of Pythagoras award and recognized at Conclave on Aug 9, 2008.

Ross Dubinsky '03 is a former treasurer who laid the groundwork for the current fiscal management of the chapter. His efforts enabled the chapter to operate in the black with consistent zero balances of accounts payable to National and the Corporation since 2005.

Brian Duffy '06 served as an Archivist (Ritual Chair) who was fundamental in the updating and revamping of much of the local and National ritual practices. Without his contributions, the fundamental ties of brotherhood would not nearly be as strong - especially now with a chapter of 130 + members.

Joel Grachan '06, immediate past Venerable Dean, who successfully and diligently led the members to accomplish and then to properly place their accomplishments in focus.

Mathew Kump '05, as Junior Dean and **Vito Bertolini '05** significantly improved Acacia's social program. Together, they created a house image that was a strong factor in the decision making of prospective pledges and who literally put Acacia “on the social map” at the U of I over recent years.

Anthony Lovero '05, served as Rush Chairman and led a successful recruitment of a pledge class of 37 new Acacians. This Rush led to an even stronger active chapter filled with intelligent, competent, high achieving members who contributed collectively to the image of Acacia at Illinois.



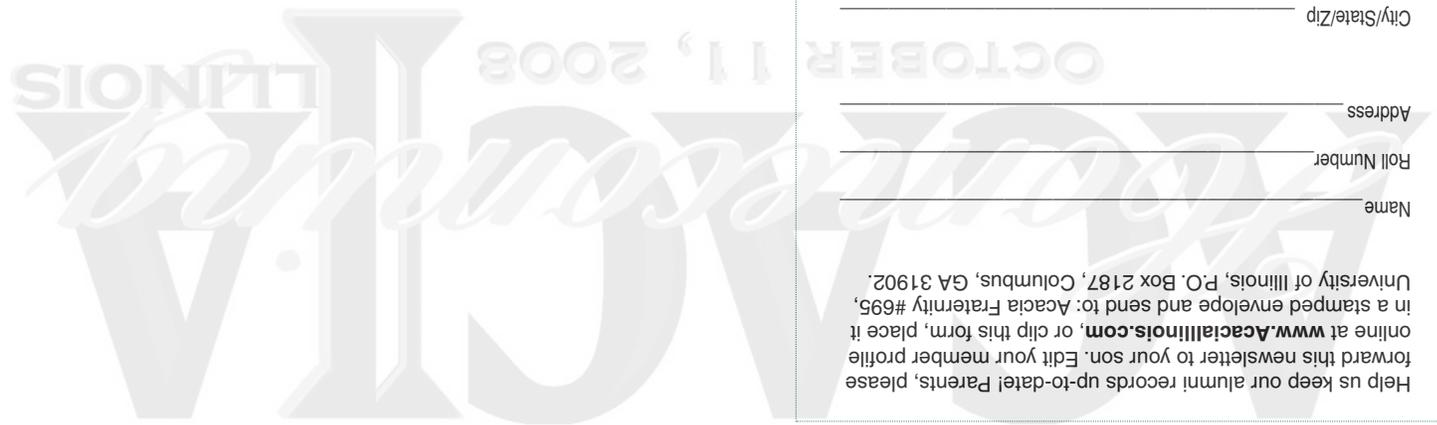
**FOUNDERS
 ACHIEVEMENT**
 MALCOLM AWARD

Joe Scavuzzo '05 was the house treasurer and 2008 graduate who spoke those prophetic words two years ago at Conclave and then saw to it that Illinois would return to win. Joe was a key contributor in helping motivate the chapter.

Matt Schild '07 serves as the current Venerable Dean. He now leads the chapter forward to even more accomplishments with this award as a testimonial; recognizing that Acacia is not all talk and whose leadership characteristics resulted in the chapter naming him as Venerable Dean during this new high profile era.

Thank you to those chapter members who followed through and attended Conclave to insure that Illinois was significantly represented at the awards ceremony and during the Conclave. In addition to many of the above and the 225 other Acacians from all over the U.S. were: **Ryan Alberts '07** (*The Hello* Co-editor), **Nikos Lioutas '07**, **Sean McAndrew '07**, **Tony Perino '06**, **Steve Tappas '08**, and **Ryan VanEcho '08**.

Alumni and corporate board members who have consistently worked with the active chapter and are contributing relentlessly must be recognized. Thank you for your efforts: **Denis Bone '02**, **Phil Chapman '63**, **Michael Conniff '93**, **Mike Duncan '74**, **Skip Heaver '01**, **Art Mertes '85**, **Drew Millard '98**, **Adam Powers '98** and **Mel Rapp '49**. Additionally, **Dan Bayston '80**, though not a Board member, has been a consistent supporter and serves as the Capital Campaign co-chairman.



Help us keep our alumni records up-to-date! Parents, please forward this newsletter to your son. Edit your member profile online at www.AcaciaIllinois.com, or clip this form, place it in a stamped envelope and send to: Acacia Fraternity #695, University of Illinois, P.O. Box 2187, Columbus, GA 31902.

Name _____

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