

the Hello

ACACIA FRATERNITY *at the* UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



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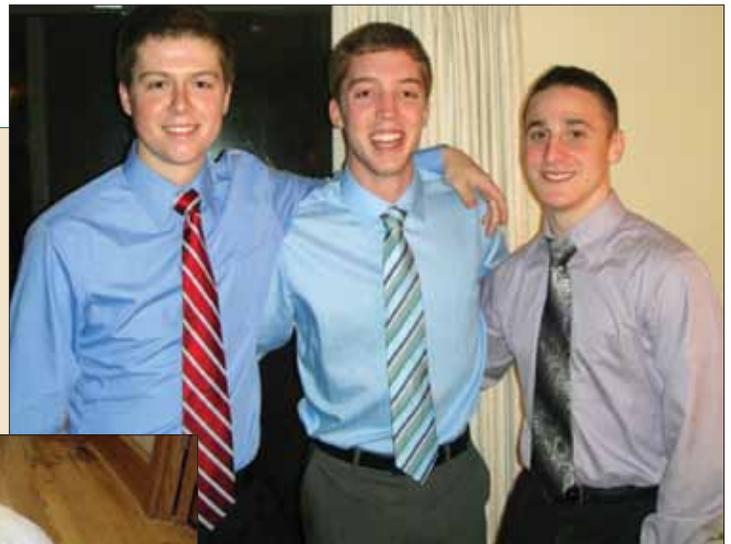


Sam Moore Elected Executive VP of the IFC

Sam Moore '10 was recently elected the Executive Vice President of the Interfraternity Council, the governing body of all fraternities at the University. His duties include serving as the treasurer for the IFC and keeping track of all financial transactions. Moore is in charge of creating budgets and predicting how much the IFC will be spending over the course of each semester. He will use Quick Books to categorize every expense, asset acquisition, etc. as well as write reimbursement checks and authorize purchases by other IFC VPs.

Moore will also serve as the secretary for the IFC, keeping track of attendance at President's Council meetings, taking minutes

at these meetings and ensuring that everyone on the council is on the same page. As the Executive Vice President, Moore is in the position to step in as interim President and fulfill the President's responsibilities should he be unable to attend a meeting or accomplish his duties. Lastly, he will manage various other responsibilities such as reserving rooms or spaces for events, sending out weekly announcements and updating chapter rosters to make sure the IFC can continue to run smoothly. Moore expects that his involvement in the IFC will help Acacia Illinois stay better informed and represented in the Greek Community.



Above (L to R): Chase Clinebell '09, Ryan Crawford '09 and Frank Frasco '09 at the Delta Gamma Improptu.

Left: Wrigley, the house dog.



UPDATE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

At the time of publication, Acacia Illinois had 688 e-mail addresses in the database, representing 43% of all living alumni. We need your help to increase this figure! Visit www.AcaciaIllinois.com today and add/verify your e-mail address. While you are there, make sure we have e-mail addresses on file for Acacia Illinois alumni with whom you stay in contact.

Chapter Officer Reports

Eric Ruzalski '09 Venerable Dean



The 2011-2012 school year had a successful start for the brothers of Acacia Illinois. With academics always being a top priority, the brothers set a goal to achieve a Top 10 Ranking for Chapter GPA by the end of the fall semester. As Venerable Dean, I plan on bringing in a guest speaker to present a topic to the Chapter that will boost outside-of-the-classroom learning and personal development.

Over the past year, some of the key successes for the Chapter included: a large rush effort which resulted in a large pledge class; a beneficial and influential Chapter Retreat held at the Chapter house; a successful Homecoming event including a scholarship presentation; and general chapter improvements, such as the new food service and new Lazy Boy couches for the chapter living room.

Overall, the mood and mindset of the Chapter are right where they need to be - with the focus on academics, brotherhood and moving in a positive direction. I have faith in our active Chapter and alumni that this trend will continue at Acacia Illinois.

Jyoji Morimoto '10 Senior Dean

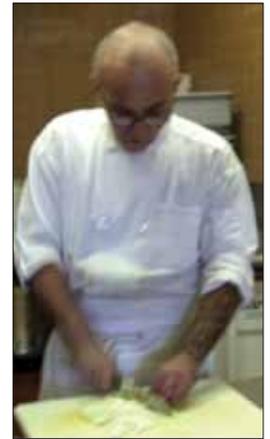


This semester, Acacia Illinois has been graced with many new additions such as luxurious furniture in the living room, new members living in the house and new chef, David Craig, in the kitchen. Through his thick Scottish accent, the brothers are all getting to know him.

After working as the opening chef under culinary icon Jean Louie Palladin, Craig opened his own restaurant in Maryland. He left the East Coast and moved to Champaign to spend more time with his children. The Washington Post recently released

an article about Craig stating, "David Craig is a chef whose name might not immediately sound a gong with food lovers but whose work over the years has certainly made the area a better place to eat." Since his arrival, house moral and attendance at meals has increased - all due to great food shared with brotherhood.

Right: New chef, David Craig.



Ryan Crawford '09 Treasurer



Acacia is now using the help of OmegaFi to improve the efficiency of the chapter's financial health. As many members and parents already know, this system allows for regular online bill payments and financial communications for upcoming dues or past due payments. Parents and active members can set up accounts through OmegaFi to always keep track of their financial status with the chapter.

Throughout the first eight weeks of the semester, the Chapter has been making many upgrades within the house using the \$2,000 scholarship awarded by the Corporation Board to the entire Chapter for its collective academic improvements. To date, this money funded improved workout facilities and new athletic equipment, such as a punching bag for the gym in the house basement.

Overall, the Acacia finances are in a healthy position for the continued success as a fraternity in the future.

Eric Russell '09 Alumni Chair



Driven by an Illinois victory over Northwestern and a delectable dinner catered by Acacia Illinois' new chef, David Craig, Homecoming weekend was a great success. Many alumni and families returned to campus to celebrate one of the best turnouts in recent memory. Most everyone began the celebration bright and early, tailgating outside Memorial Stadium or preparing for game day at the chapter house.

Among other points of merriment were a few postgame words from Brother **Mel Rapp '49** and the presentation of scholastic awards to those who maintained a 4.0 GPA during the 2011 spring semester.

TJ Sobczaj '09, House Manager



As the chapter moves into the second year living in the new house, the brothers are continuously making improvements to better the living conditions for all resident members. Before the fall semester began, House Director, Brad Luhrsens, resealed the floors to better resist daily wear and tear. Also, new furniture, including two large sectionals and four chairs, were purchased for the common room and receive frequent use, particularly during sporting events. The addition of a washer/dryer set has also been well-received by the chapter.

Ongoing improvements include the repairs of the balcony as well as sealing a leak stemming from the second floor showers, which had been an ongoing issue for some 20 years. The chapter has also made

Chapter Officers 2011-2012

Venerable Dean

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Alumni Chair

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Secretary

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House Manager

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Risk Management Chair

Kevin Langendorf '09
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Philanthropy Chair

Akash Amin '09
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Head Scholarship Chair

Patrick Stevens '09
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Head Pledge Educator

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Communication support and assistance provided by:

OmegaFi
800.276.6342
omegafi.com

a concerted effort to help with day to day maintenance, led by the example of active brothers **A.J. Castillo** and **Tom Mauro**. Overall, the house has seen continuous improvement throughout the fall semester for the direct benefit of all members.

Kevin Langendorf '09
Risk Management Chair



The duties of the Risk Management chair are to ensure the safety of all those involved in exchanges as well as enforcing the campus guidelines. The brothers of Acacia Illinois are starting the year by putting forth a concerted effort to mitigate incidents of disorderly conduct. Risk Management has enforced a plan to monitor chapter events to ensure the perfect balance of safety and fun for the Acacia brothers.

Patrick Stevens '09
Head Scholarship Chair



In addition to the recent success in academics for Acacia Illinois, the Chapter has set a goal to become one of the best fraternities scholastically. The brothers are currently ranked number eleven in GPA rankings for Illinois fraternities. The goal is to be in the top ten with an overall GPA average of 3.2 by the end of the fall semester. With a renewed emphasis placed on academics, these goals are very attainable. One of the strategies to assist brothers who are struggling with their grades is scheduled study hours held four days out of the week. These study hours are mandatory for those under a certain GPA. With the new scholastic strategy in effect, the brothers of Acacia Illinois should be able to reach the desired academic goal.

Frank Frasco '09, Kevin Alsterda '09 and Jimmy Turano '10, Rush Chairs

The Fall Rush at the University of Illinois was a very successful start to the 2011-2012 school year. The Chapter was able to successfully recruit 30 pledges that possess the fine qualities of a young Acacian. The Chapter had on average three to four rush events per week throughout the three weeks of rush. The events included softball games, 3-on-3 basketball tournaments, flag football games and bags tournaments that were usually followed by a barbeque at the chapter house. One of the most exciting events that both the active chapter and rushes enjoyed was going paintballing at a range called Saltfork.

Ryan Ferm '10
Ritual Chair



Ritual is one thing for which all Acacia brothers - both active and alumni - hold in high regard. It is a tie that binds generations of Acacia brothers together. As Ritual Chair, I am very excited for this year's introduction and initiation for the pledge class of 2015. I was very involved in last year's initiation due to my position as Assistant Ritual Chair, and I plan to keep much of the logistics the same. By this, I mean presenting the pledge class with their Pythagoras Pledge Manuals, explaining to them the importance of ritual for all active members and alumni and steering the pledges in the right direction for studying the history of our fraternity. Additionally, I will book the Masonic lodge for the initiation ceremony that will take place this winter.

One of the issues that will be addressed this semester is emphasizing the importance of active attendance and proper attire for the ceremony. While I do not feel the brothers need more than a friendly

reminder, the chapter has discussed implementing a rewards or penalty system to ensure that every active member is in attendance and in formal dress. After getting to know the newest pledge class more and more as the semester goes on, I am very excited to induct a spectacular group of new brothers into our great fraternity.

Spring 2011 New Initiates

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Joe Coyle
Charleston, IL | Sandip Pal
Downers Grove, IL |
| Conor Healey
Park Ridge, IL | Rogelio Rincon
Chicago, IL |
| Jim Healy
Downers Grove, IL | Mike Rottar
Arlington Heights, IL |
| Adam Held
Charleston, IL | Damian Skalak
Norridge, IL |
| Kevin Hoem
Wheaton, IL | Josh White
Fox Lake, IL |
| Mike Jarzabek
Chicago, IL | Dave Zaccaria
Glen Ellyn, IL |
| Adam McDermont
Lexington, KY | |

Fall 2011 Pledges

- | | |
|--|--|
| John Brush
Naperville, IL | John Leigh
Glenview, IL |
| Hayden Burchard
Chicago, IL | Kyle Molskow
Winfield, IL |
| Arman Castillo
Chicago, IL | Patrick Moran
Mt. Prospect, IL |
| Merrick Cloete
Perth Western, Australia | Chinedu Nwoko
Oak Park, IL |
| Josh Cocagne
Champaign, IL | Nick Olsen
Northbrook, IL |
| Scott Danes
Winfield, IL | Jeremy Orloff
Chicago, IL |
| Tyler Gatti
Carol Stream, IL | Matthew Pahl
Hoffman Estates, IL |
| Grant Gaughrin
Skokie, IL | Dan Recht
Arlington Heights, IL |
| John Gibson
Hinsdale, IL | James Rendall
Manchester, England |
| Kevin Hubner
Algonquin, IL | Nick Samaan
Lombard, IL |
| Billy Jamie
Wheeling, IL | Erik Scott
Bethany, IL |
| Ross Johnson
Downers Grove, IL | Sam Scully
Claredon Hills, IL |
| Andrew Keehn
Schaumburg, IL | Dillan Torres
Chicago, IL |
| John Knudson
Schaumburg, IL | David Van Vlierbergen
Algonquin, IL |
| Michael Leahy
Downers Grove, IL | John Vetter
Champaign, IL |



Pains and Views of a Volunteer Alumnus

Perhaps this story replicates experiences you have had. Or perhaps it relates to you in one fashion or another.

There are lots of things to say about what motivates a volunteer. Perhaps the number one thing is “belief in the cause” involved. Those who volunteer on Acacia’s behalf certainly do believe in the cause.

Somewhere it has been written: “Acacia: Making good young men even better.” Other similar phrases have been coined over the years, each with its own truisms contained.

Most Acacia volunteers say they want to give back something to the fraternity in return for that which they received. Recognition of that gift or benefit strikes different alumni at different times and often times in different ways.

Some give of their time, some of their views, some of their constructive criticisms

(more generally recognized and appreciated when they are active volunteers themselves and have “walked the walk”) and some choose to make financial contributions when such is the most practical way to support the cause.

Good volunteers recognize that not everyone or everything will reach their own personal expectations. That the “contributions of others,” financial or otherwise, are what they are, and all should be thankful for what has been done that benefits the cause. Far better to applaud the progress made, than to complain that it was not more, or could have been done more effectively. (The glass half-full analogy).

To where is this leading? A recognition that to date we volunteers do sincerely appreciate the time and efforts of those who are helping Acacia continue to succeed at Illinois (along with a strong active chapter),

those 219 alumni among others who have collectively contributed \$1,512,886 already toward Acacia’s new home in Champaign and those who give that precious commodity of limited time.

Yes, I hope (can I “suppose”) those volunteers will continue to work for Acacia, that those who contribute time and or money are REALLY appreciated and that Acacia will in fact to continue to have a strong record and presence at Illinois.

Want to be a part of the effort? Some way? Some how? I suspect everyone who reads this far will know who to contact to get behind the effort ... and if not, my Hello Editor or Corporation Board member will be happy to hear from you!

– Anonymous

Cornerstones Moves Forward!

Cornerstones Classes for Pledges

Cornerstones Chairman, **Phil Chapman '71**, met with the new pledges and taught the following classes: *How to Make Straight A's*, *Time Management* and *How to Maintain a Positive Attitude*. Discussion proved lively with thirty pledges in attendance. During a recent survey conducted by **Mel Rapp '49**, actives reported the classes proved important in acclimating them to their University experience and in making higher grades. Chapman considers teaching the classes a great honor and is pleased the classes set the tone for excellence at Acacia Illinois. Actives report the classes help with the surging house GPA.

New Initiates' Breakfast

Early in the semester, in conjunction with the Board and House Officers, Phil Chapman hosted the New Initiates Breakfast entitled: *How to make the Most of the Acacia Experience*. Dr. Chapman moderated the breakfast attended by Spring Initiates and Board Members. Board Members shared memorable experiences in Acacia Illinois and provided tips on how to make the most of the University experience. In addition, alumni fielded the new initiates' questions about the alumni participation at the university and the house. The breakfast helped strengthen the bonds of understanding and friendship between actives and alumni. The Board intends to host another in the spring. If you are interested in attending, contact Phil Chapman at pchapman@highlandil.com. Alumni in attendance included President of the Corporation Board **Art Mertes '85**, Chapter Advisor **Drew Millard '98**, Chapter Advisor **Mel Rapp '49**, Corporation Board Secretary **Adam Powers '98** and Corporation Board Member **Mike Conniff '93**.

Cornerstones Career Advisor Program

Dr. Chapman received fifteen applications for the Career Advisor Program. Three actives received career advisors as of November 8. Career advisors were placed in the field of dentistry with **Joe Main '73** and in accounting with **Todd Wallin '98**. Brother Chapman met with active **Eric Ruzalski '09** to complete additional pairings late in the fall semester. It is still not too late for alumni to volunteer. Career advisors will help actives network, find internships and provide helpful advice for entering graduate school or the work force. If you are interested, please contact Phil Chapman at pchapman@highlandil.com.

The Hello Editors

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Adam Powers '98

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Lost Brothers

A little more than 200 Acacia Illinois alumni do not have a valid mailing address in the database. This represents close 13% of all living Acacia Illinois alumni. Do you know where to find one of the brothers currently on the “lost brother” listing at www.AcaciaIllinois.com? We need your help! A sampling of the names currently appearing on the lost list is provided below. If you know where one of the brothers on this list lives, send their contact information to one of *The Hello* co-editors listed above.

Burl P. Baker '55

Wade M. Carll '59

John C. Whitmire '61

Thomas A. Flanders '64

James V. Wertsch '66

Bruce A. Shook '69

Richard M. Ireland '71

Howard J. Laidlaw '76

Sean O. Hardiman '79

Daniel M. Gorman '81

Thomas Denison '84

Grant A. Feurer '86

John M. Novak '88

Edward R. Jurinek '89

Jason T. Todd '90

Timothy R. Rottach '93

Adam J. Picchietti '95

Mark. J. Broomhead '97

Jason Conway '98

Benjamin N. Riewer '05

The Acacia 2011 Annual Fund Comes to a Close

At the end of 2011, the Acacia Illinois chapter would like to thank the 69 donors who generously pledged \$10,210 for the Acacia 2011 Annual Fund. The Chapter boasts one of the best alumni relations programs because of the ongoing donations of supportive alumni. The Annual Fund supports many different aspects of chapter and alumni relations including the maintenance of the chapter and alumni websites, the production of *The Hello* newsletters, the awarding of four \$2,000 academic scholarships to outstanding undergraduate students and various other chapter improvements such as new materials for initiation. Without generous donations from alumni, the brothers of Acacia Illinois would not be able to function as successfully as a brotherhood. The 2012 Annual Fund will kick off in the coming months. Details concerning the new campaign will follow.



2011
ANNUAL
FUND

2011 Annual Fund Donor List

as of December 27, 2011

Pythagoras Union

\$1,500 - \$5,000

Giving Opportunities Available!

Masonic Counsel

\$1,200 - \$1,499

Paul E. Ruby '72

W. Elmer Ekblaw Circle

\$600 - \$1,199

Paul A. Adams '37

Mark Jasper Ladd '90

Patron

\$300 - \$599

Daniel D. Bayston '80

Daniel A. Clarahan '76

Joseph M. Cook '42

Stephen J. Dragich '77

Walter D. Gruenes '78

Charles W. Harper '87

James M. Kurtzweil '90

Robert A. Milani '84

Mel W. Rapp '49

Sponsor

\$100 - \$299

Steven J. Anderson '63

John F. Beatty '52

Michael L. Biehl '78

Dennis Charles Bone '02

Michael A. Burson '70

Roger M. Cagann '83

Allan C. Campbell '61

James A. Carr '84

Rolf A. Cederwall '51

Philip W. Chapman '71

Michael Albert Chiappetta '96

Michael A. Conniff '93

Mark C. Fialkowski '85

Mark T. Garrigus '68

Fredrick C. Garrott '68

Robert L. Hanes '54

Wayne R. Johnson '64

Joseph A. Kuhlman '85

Morgan J. Lynge '61

David L. Mari '64

Douglas V. McKinnon '83

Gregg R. Mecherle '76

Arthur E. Mertes '85

Joseph E. Meyer '79

Jay A. Misicka '48

James E. North '87

Kevin O'Leary '92

Michael Brian Owens '85

Everett R. Patterson '54

Samuel A. Peak '52

Richard Kent Price '66

John S. Redding '97

Terry Sarantou '79

Robert L. Simon '50

Douglas J. Sury '92

Kenneth A. Wagner '55

Robert E. Walberg '65

Daniel T. Walker '63

Michael Wickersham '92

Robert L. Willerton '51

James L. Wright '74

Other

\$1 - \$99

Aaron Alley '99

Richard J. Budde '62

Richard J. Dominetta '48

Joseph A. Franz, III '66

David R. Goodman '56

Jeremy Anthony Hrynewycz '99

Robert H. King '49

Douglas E. Klaus '74

Robert A. Lincicome '50

Robert J. Mertes '93

Thomas L. Mitchell '67

Michael J. Mitsch '79

James R. Pitcher '38

Howard G. Pratt '51

Douglas A. Saloga '87

James A. Youngquist '65

Brother to Brother

Attorney **Michael Wickersham '92** joined Forchelli, Curto, Deegan, Schwartz, Mineo, Cohn, & Terrana LLP as counsel. Wickersham concentrates his practice in the Corporate and Commercial group advising and assisting entrepreneurs, small business and corporations with issues ranging from fund raising, corporate governance, mergers and acquisitions and the preparation of agreements necessary for the successful operation of a business. Wickersham also focuses on entertainment, sports and intellectual property issues and has been counsel to a number of motion pictures, theatrical productions and athletes.



Phil Chapman '71 wife his wife, Melissa, tailgating prior to an Illinois football game.

Want to be in the next edition of *The Hello*? Submit your newsworthy information in the "Brother to Brother" section of www.AcaciaIllinois.com.

Brother Eternal

The Hello has been advised of the death of **William H. Schroeder '48**, Ingleside, IL, on December 17, 2011 and the death of **Timothy C. Butler '80**, Monmouth, IL, on November 24, 2011. We extend our sincere condolences to the members of their families, and welcome them into the ranks of Acacia Eternal.

Editor's note: We rely on members of the family as well as alumni submissions to report the passing of alumni. We apologize for any delay in forwarding this information.



Acacia Fraternity
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Columbus, GA 31902-2187

Help us keep our alumni records up-to-date! Parents, please forward this newsletter to your son. Alumni, edit your member profile online at www.AcaciaIllinois.com, or clip this form, place it in a stamped envelope and send to: Acacia Fraternity, University of Illinois #1151, PO Box 2187, Columbus, GA 31902.

Name _____

Roll Number _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Visit the Acacia Website

Visit

www.AcaciaIllinois.com,

the official alumni website, to:

- Learn more about the chapter
- Search for alumni
- Update your address, phone number and e-mail address
- Find out about upcoming events
- Post noteworthy accomplishments (a new baby, a recent marriage, a recent promotion, etc.)
- Support the fraternity's capital campaign

