

Alumni Converge on Champaign for Homecoming 2016

By: Mike Duncan '74

Jim Slamp '73 and **Patrick Gaughan '74** suggested we hold a 70's reunion at Homecoming 2016 welcoming Lovie Smith in his inaugural season. "Show Lovie the love" and "the boys are back in town" were our themes. The response was overwhelming. We sold about 80 tickets to the football game and more than 90 alumni and related guests made it over to the Chapter House following the game.

A special thanks to **Mike Kastholm '75** who contributed 40th anniversary hats for those old enough to wear them. **David Thies '73** and his wife, Jodie, were kind enough to open their Urbana home for an open house around a Chicago Cubs World Championship quest. Yes, Hades froze over. Illini are landing a good football and basketball recruiting class for 2017, Trump won the election, and following a 108 year wait, the Cubs actually won the World Series.

On a more serious note, we had much good news to share and celebrate with the active chapter. We all enjoyed a great meal while sharing an adult beverage or two. Brother Thies led the alumni choir as we showed the active chapter how to properly serenade a sorority.

The celebrated good news included:

- The Alumni Board paid off the Phi Mu second mortgage on 302 East Armory
- House grade point averages have improved each of the last three years
- Our active chapter has demonstrated time and time again respect for the house
- The Alumni Board, under **Phil Chapman's '71** Scholarship committee, awarded \$17,000 in academic achievement scholarships for the 2015-2016 academic year

These monies are paid directly to the University Bursar for the spring 2017 semester except for the graduated seniors and those men whose tuitions are paid from a prepaid tuition investment fund.



Contingent from the graduating class of 1976.

A letter on behalf of each man's scholarship goes to the Chancellor, parent(s) or guardian, and Dean of Students in recognition of the vital role Acacia plays in the academic excellence of the University of Illinois at Champaign Urbana.

Venerable Dean **Luke Staunton '14** spoke of the state of Acacia at Illinois and

all of us expressed our pride at what they accomplished these last two semesters.

Dan Bayston '80 donated two posters that recognized all contributions to the successful \$1.75 Million Capital Campaign which were strategically located in high traffic areas. An added benefit of a permanent location for Acacia is that we

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Remembering Mel Rapp '49



Mel Rapp '49

Mel Rapp's second tenure of service to the Acacia Illinois Alumni Board began following a call for help to all alumni in the summer of 2004. Numerous alumni attended the meeting, but within months, Mel was one of only a few committed alumni to then join the Alumni Board, which he continued to lend his time, talents and expertise up until he joined Acacia Eternal on June 10, 2014.

Mel mattered. He positively and profoundly affected those who were fortunate enough to be involved in his life. Acacia Fraternity – both the Illinois Chapter and the International

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First Annual Acacia Golf Outing – A Success!

By: Jack Hayes '14

The first annual Acacia alumni golf outing was held this past summer on May 21, 2016 in Lake Forest, Illinois. Over 20 actives and 15 alumni were in attendance. Lunch, a bucket of driving range balls and 18 holes of golf were provided at the low cost of \$5. Throughout the course there were various games like longest drive or closest to the pin, for which prizes were provided - all won by actives.

The success of the spring golf event, coupled with the great turnout at Homecoming, allowed the dates to be set for **Acacia's second annual alumni golf outing**, tentatively scheduled for **Saturday, May 27** and **Sunday, May 28, 2017**. This will surely help to grow the event and allow alumni to reconnect, as well as interact with active brothers. Further details will be sent out closer to the date of the event.



(L to R): Graham Weinberger '14, Nikita Rodgers '15 and Justin Peebles '15

Remembering Jason Sinnick '13

By: Ben Belford '13

It is with profound sadness that the chapter commemorates the passing of Brother **Jason Sinnick '13** to Chapter Eternal on August 11, 2016. Jason, a native of Lisle, Illinois was entering his senior year at the University of Illinois. Jason joined our chapter during his freshman year in the fall of 2013. Jason was beloved by every one of his brothers for his kindness, humility and magnanimity. Jason's presence alone brightened any room, and his quiet but gregarious manner made him a friend to all. Jason was a star football player at Naperville North High School and an avid fan of the Chicago Cubs and the Miami Dolphins.



Jason Sinnick '13

Our chapter will never be the same after the loss of Jason, but the outpouring of support by the fraternity following this tragedy shows us the true strength of the ties that bind us together in brotherhood. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project (woundedwarriorproject.org), a cause which was near to Jason's heart. The chapter continues to mourn deeply, and our thoughts and prayers are with Jason and his family.



Thanks and Congratulations from the Alumni Board

The Alumni Board thanks the outgoing Active Chapter Executive Board for their hard work and dedication to leading the chapter over the last year. The Alumni Board also congratulates the newly elected Executive Board, thanks them for serving Acacia and looks forward to their future successes.

2016 Executive Board (outgoing)

Venerable Dean

Luke Staunton '14

Senior Dean

Grant Rougas '15

Junior Dean

Walker Post '15

Treasurer

Josh Kosoglaz '14

Secretary

Lincoln Wang '15

House Manager

Graham Weinberger '15

Alumni Chairman

Jack Hayes '14

Scholarship Chairman

Riker Steere '14

Philanthropy Chairman

AJ Melarkey '14

Risk Management Chairman

Eric Marcin '14

2017 Executive Board (incoming)

Venerable Dean

Cristopher Herrera '15

Senior Dean

Connor Durkin '16

Junior Dean

Owen Bloomfield '15

Treasurer

Lorenzo Mariani '15

Secretary

William Herbert '15

House Manager

Atilican Malak '15

Alumni Chairman

Liam Connelly '15

Scholarship Chairman

Francesco Mariani '15

Philanthropy Chairman

Evan Lovell '15

Risk Management Chairman

William Sarchet '16

Recruitment Chairmen

Ryan Lennon '15

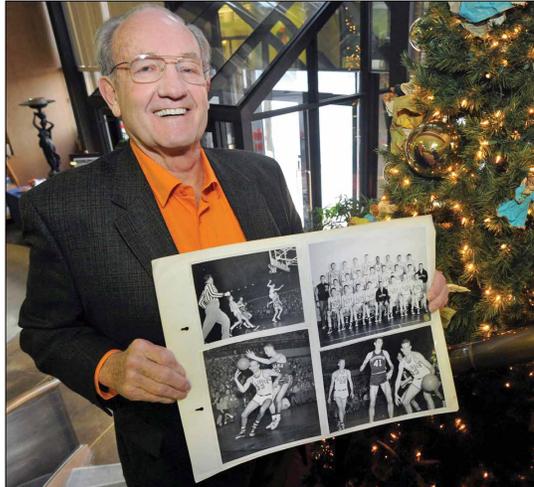
Grant Rougas '15

Clive Follmer '50 – A Good Acacian

By: Daniel Zollner '76

It was with great sadness that I learned **Clive Follmer '50** passed away on Sunday, August 14, at the age of 84. Many of you may remember Clive from your alumni visit to his house during initiation week. Others may remember him for his years of service on the Acacia Alumni Board. I was fortunate enough to have worked for Clive as a law clerk for two years while I was in law school, and to be able to call him friend.

I knew Clive to be generous, loyal and hard-working. He was an honest and innovative attorney, a shrewd businessman, an entrepreneur and the embodiment of Acacian ideals. When I needed experience during law school, he gave me an opportunity to work for him. When I did not have enough money to finish my last year of law school, Clive arranged a loan for me from the National Bank of Urbana. When I was interviewing for permanent positions in Chicago, Clive made



Clive Follmer '50

telephone calls to his law school contacts up here.

Clive taught me many things about the practice of law, but the most important lesson he ever taught me was the value of loyalty, honesty and integrity. I still remember the day he conducted my character and fitness interview for the bar exam. After we had finished the formal interview, Clive told me the most important thing in law and in life is to be honest and “to always be able to look yourself in the mirror the next morning.” Clive was a good man, and a good Acacian. He will be missed.

Clive Follmer '50 attempting a layup in a game against Northwestern in 1952.



Homecoming 2016

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now have a place to congregate at homecoming that is worthy of our prestigious alumni. I announced we will launch a new capital campaign this spring to air condition the house and replace inefficient boilers.

We also announced that a scholarship fund had been established and a letter was forthcoming by the end of 2016.

Your response was truly overwhelming and to those I have the privilege of calling brother, I am most grateful. To those I have failed to mention, I apologize as my old brain is not as sharp as it once was.

I will begin with those who reached out and sent their regrets: **Victor Babarskis '74, Steve Bartz '76, Al Bonini '75, Dana Drysdale '76, David Friend '75, Garry Gutgesell '72, Steve Hoffner '72, Andy Kmetz '74, Tony Pirih '76, Ralph Rhodes**



(L to R): Doug Anderson '76 and Todd Anderson '77

'73, John Sullivan '73 and David Winship '73. They all wish much continued success for our beloved fraternity.

Those present to the best of my recollection were: **Doug Anderson '76, Todd Anderson '77, Mead Babcock '73, Fred Brightbill '71, Rick Burd '71, David Cole '73, John Craver '75, Steve Davidson '71, Mark Delfs '76, Mike Duncan '74, Chuck**

Alumni Board

Capital Campaign Co-Chairman
Dan Bayston '80

Chapter Advisor for Cornerstones and Mentor Programming
Phil Chapman '71

Vice President for Alumni Relations
Mike Conniff '93

**Capital Campaign Co-Chairman
Chapter Advisor to the Venerable Dean
Co-Board Liaison for House Manager**
Mike Duncan '74

**Chapter Advisor
Hello Editor in Chief**
Joel Grachan '06

Alumni Board Treasurer
Ron Hamelberg '57

Director & Archivist
Paul Herbert '82

**Scholarship Committee
Volunteer Director**
Eric Kuehl '89

President
Art Mertes '85

**Chapter Advisor
Chapter Liaison Treasurer**
Harrison Pappas '05

Alumni Board Secretary
Adam Powers '98

Volunteer
JD Strode '05

Chapter Advisor
David Thies '73

**Physical Structure Chairman
Co-Board Liaison for House Manager**
Ken Wagner '55

Scholarship Committee Volunteer
Joel Winick '71

Fisher '74, Patrick Gaughan '74, Paul Herbert '82, Al Johnson '78, Jeff Jones '74, Alan Kastholm '78, Mike Kastholm '75, Doug “5.0” Klaus '74, Bob Kmetz '74, Rick “Rico” Levan '74, Dr. Joe Main '73, David O'Sadnick '74, Bob Pfister '75, Todd Porter '73, Mark Read '73, Rusty Reed '76, Paul Rigby '72, Dave Rogers '74, Scott Rogers '75, Paul Ruby '72, Ron Schmitt '74, John Schumacher '73, Jim Slamp '73, Chuck Spelman '73, David Thies '73, Dr. John Wessner '73, Dave Wetzel '74, Joel Winick '71, Daryl Woodward '75, John Woodyatt '75 and Dan Zollner '76.

A shout out to the many wives present as well and many thanks for letting us gather while we all still recognize each other.

A great time was had by all and we look forward to more attendees at Homecoming 2017 on October 27 and 28.

Remembering Mel Rapp

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Council – were true beneficiaries of the man initiated in 1949 under Chapter Role #710.

Mel was born on March 19, 1930 in Peoria, where he lived until attending U of I and was a member of the local Masonic Lodge. During his Senior year at U of I, Mel met his future wife, Carol Linde, on a set-up, double date between Acacia and Alpha Delta Pi. Mel and Carol married on August 14, 1954 in Rockford, while Mel served in the US Army, and they had two daughters (Lynn White and Shelley Wolf, who added seven grandchildren to the Rapp family). Mel earned his MBA at Bradley University and he worked as an executive in the dairy industry for Borden before retiring from Quality Checkd Dairy Association in 1990.

The driving and motivating force behind our Alumni Board's and Active Chapter's successes within the more recent past is due in large part to Mel's direct efforts and those of other volunteer alumni members that Mel assisted and inspired through example or with friendly reminders when needed. Mel shared his expertise and wisdom through more in-person touches, meetings and communications with chapter members and alumni than probably any other alum, individually or combined, during his tenure. Equally as important, when Alumni Board members stepped down, or if personal or professional obligations prevented serving board members from completing roles or tasks, Mel stepped in with a laboring oar.

After serving on the Acacia Alumni Board for several years, Mel gave a fellow member a Xerox copy of piece of paper, with a personal note on the back. The front side include the following quote:

"There is a single reason why 99 out of 100 never become leaders. That is their unwillingness to pay the price of responsibility. By the price of respon-

sibility, I mean hard driving, and continuous work ... the courage to make decisions ... the scourging honesty of never fooling yourself about yourself. You must travel the road of leadership heavenly laden. While the nine-to-five o'clock worker takes ease, you are toiling upward through the night. Any new effort, the psychologists say, wears a new groove in the brain. And the grooves that lead to the heights are not made between nine and five. They are burned in by the midnight oil." -- Owen D. Young



Mel Rapp '49 and his family at one of many Homecomings at the Chapter House. (L to R): Mel Rapp, Tate Wolf, Lynn (Rapp) White, Jillian White, Tara Wolf, Tory Wolf, Carol Rapp and Shelley (Rapp) Wolf

The reverse side read:

"This message was found in the wallet of my father, Karl, at his death in 1948 and was carried conspicuously and continually by me for 50 years throughout my business career lest I forget the message.

To my very good friend [] 8-19-08 with my very best wishes." -- Mel Rapp

Mel burned the midnight, morning, afternoon and evening oils for his family, his friends, his profession, his fraternity and other volunteer organizations. Mel helped **Art Mertes '85** (Role #1533), Alumni Board President and board member since early 1990s) secure his first job as a lawyer. Mel counseled **Adam Powers '98** (Role #1852) to still pursue his now wife and mother of his two kids after the two broke off their engagement. **Mike Duncan '74** (Role #1243) affirmed "it was my privilege to have known Mel and that his moral compass and ability to look forward when things are so different from the past are something I will attempt to emulate the rest of my life."

Mel's twenty-one year old granddaughter, Taylor Wolf eloquently eulogized Mel, and the man so many Acacians loved and respected:

"Since we're gathered here today to celebrate [Mel], I figured this talk should begin with ice cream. There are families who bake, families who prefer salt over sweets, and families who don't eat dessert. None of those are us. We're a family that loves ice cream.

I couldn't tell you the date, but as a little girl I remember attending a party to recognize [Mel]'s work at the dairy company, Quality Checkd. The commencement was a bit over my head, but I knew that my Grandpa was a man who knew ice cream. We always enjoyed it together. The freezer always had at least 3 flavors and we ate at least 2 scoops... one when [Grandma] was looking...and one when she wasn't.

Last summer, I remember eating ice cream outside Sherman's in Michigan with Grandpa. He had a cone and enjoyed it lick by lick. Everyone had already finished theirs, so we were just waiting and eyeing his. He always got a cone if he had that option, and asked if I knew why. Grandpa told us that the ice cream was actually better in a cone. The temperature of your hand melted the cream at the perfect rate bringing out the optimal taste. And using your tongue beat using a

spoon. Sure, it took longer, but it helped you savor.

At the time, I just took his tips as advice on how to eat ice cream, but now I see it applied to how he lived life. He valued traditions, the old fashioned - the cones. He took his time. Grandpa never seemed to be in a rush. He always took the time to say hello, to tell a story, to hear about your day. He would walk instead of drive, write instead of email. He mailed letters to each of his grandkids nearly weekly. As his handwriting began to fail, he'd type the notes, print, sign and use a stamp instead of using the internet. Grandpa took his time with his words, with his chewing, with his hugs. Time is valuable and Grandpa savored every day minute by minute - just like he savored his ice cream, lick by lick.

At my mom's funeral [for Mel's daughter], [Mel] spoke and had particular people who really helped my mom stand to be recognized. I considered doing something like that, but then I realized the much more powerful angle would be to have those who were helped by Grandpa to stand. Y'all, however, can remain seated because I know a prompt like that would have everyone in here on their feet. That was the kind of man Grandpa was. He was thoughtful, patient, wise. He treasured those he called family, loved those he called friends/brothers/sisters and he cared for those he just met. He gave out pieces of his heart out much more often than he gave pieces of his mind.

When I think of adjectives to describe [Mel], the words of 1 Corinthians 13 come to mind. Patient, kind. Doesn't envy or boast, is not proud or rude, is not self-seeking or easy to anger, and keeps no record of wrong. Grandpa embodied love.

[Mel] would be a joy to see in the mornings. Black coffee and newspaper in hand, I don't think he ever started the day as anything but upbeat. He would enjoy breakfast outside with us at the lake and he would set my day up to be wonderful.

Warm. Inviting. [Mel] was hard working even when working on small tasks became hard. During the summer he would set a tent up on the beach for all of us to enjoy. It had a bunch of pieces and the walk carrying it through the sand was wearing. But he set it up and took it down for us every day anyways.

Thoughtful. Patient. [Mel] would come to Nashville for a visit and would request to-do lists of tasks to be a helping hand. Even if Mom refused to give him one, he would take it upon himself to wash the windows at the barn or brush the dogs on the deck.

Selfless. Helpful. Every Christmas he would unpack his train set. He carefully hooked up the cars and lined them up on the tracks. He would lay across the floor and tuck himself under the tree to get it set up for our enjoyment. The trains accompanied us for many Santa visits, Masterpiece tournaments and snowy evenings snuggled by the fireplace at [the Rapp home].

Playful. Giving. [Mel] shared wonderful years of marriage with his lovely wife. We, as grandkids, took a liking to calling him "Hunk" because he was so good-looking and such a catch.

Loyal. Handsome. Grandpa pumped bike tires, oiled the hammock chair and continued to give back to his fraternity long beyond graduation. He didn't need people to ask for help though, he was always one step ahead. Problems would be fixed before we even knew they were there.

Caring. Generous. When I would leave places upset at the things I didn't get a chance to see or do, Grandpa would put a pleasant spin on it. He would remind me that "it's something to look forward to next time" and "a reason to come back." His smile would convince me and his snug bear hug would settle my heart. He could even always get the kite in Michigan to fly.

Optimistic. Wise. He was willing to give his all for us. He never turned a blind eye to a need and kept his arms wide open. He never complained of his own pains, griefs or needs. He was so others focused. I'm glad he had [Grandma], Lynn and Mom to pour back into him.

Loving. As painful as it is to envision earth without Grandpa in the flesh, I rejoice at the reunion he experienced in heaven. Life treated Grandpa well, but I'm sure heaven will be even more worth savoring. Reunited with so many loved ones and in the presence of God, I can only imagine the joy he feels today and for all of eternity. I'm sure the ice cream cones aren't half bad either.

Acacia Alumni Scholarship Award Program Continues to Achieve Results

Acacia Illinois remains a top tier fraternity in academics, largely due to the Acacia Alumni Scholarship Award Program (AASAP) and the incentive it provides undergraduate brothers to strive for Academic Excellence.

The Alumni Board established the scholarship program in 2013 with the vision it would generate positive results on the academic front. The program continues to achieve results and positively impact the character of our members.

Thanks in part to funds raised during the 2015 Acacia Alumni Scholarship Award Program, the Alumni Board was able to fulfill its mission of creating a Culture of Academic Excellence.

At this year's Homecoming, the Board granted 15 monetary awards for a total of \$17,000!

The AASAP currently honors brothers, who fulfill the live-in requirement, in the following categories:

- All straight A students (4.0 GPA)
- Highest GPA (under a 4.0) for Freshman, Sophomore, Junior and Senior
- Most improved GPA for Freshman, Sophomore, Junior and Senior
- Top pledge GPA for each semester and for the year

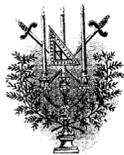
All funding for this very important and worthy program comes from committed alumni. With your support, we can foster a Culture of Academic Excellence and develop more of tomorrow's leaders.

If you have not yet made a gift to the Acacia Alumni Scholarship Award program, please do so today. You can contribute online at acacia.org. Simply click "Donate Online" in the lower right hand corner and ensure you select "Illinois Scholarship Fund" from the drop down menu.

Your gift will be placed in a special account with the Acacia Fraternity Foundation - a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization and only utilized by Acacia Fraternity at the University of Illinois to support academic and educational initiatives.

Every gift makes a difference and every gift is *tax-deductible!*





Acacia Fraternity
 University of Illinois (1151)
 PO Box 2187
 Columbus, GA 31902-2187

Help us keep our alumni records up-to-date! Edit your member profile at 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 _____

Email _____

Brothers 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.

The Hello received notification of the deaths of **Clive A. Follmer '50, Benjamin W. Pugsley '51, David R. Goodman '56, Robert A. Morgan '61, William F. Hurley '85 and Jason Sinnick '13**. We extend our sincere condolences to the members of their families and welcome them into the ranks of Acacia Eternal.

2016 Scholarship Recipients

Mel Rapp Memorial Award (Tie)

Edward Frank Bava '14 - \$3,000
 Alexander J. Melarkey '14 - \$3,000

Straight A Scholarship Award

Luke Staunton '14 - \$2,000

Senior

Top Rank: Gabriel R Manning '13 - \$1,000
 Most Improved: Andres M Villareal '12 - \$750

Junior

Top Rank: Daniel J Gryzlo '13 - \$1,000
 Most Improved: Benedek B Dibuz '13 - \$750

Sophomore

Top Rank: Eric Bryant Marcin '14 - \$1,000
 Most Improved: William J. Moore '15 - \$750

Freshmen

Freshmen Overall:
 Lorenzo Kenneth Mariani '15 - \$1,000

First Semester Pledge:
 Lorenzo K. Mariani '15 - \$1,000

Second Semester Pledge:
 Nicholas J. Devona '15 - \$1,000

Most Improved:
 Grant T. Rougas '15 - \$750

Visit the Acacia Website

Visit AcaciaIllinois.com, the official alumni website, to:

- Learn more about the chapter
- Search for alumni
- Update your address, phone number and email address
- Find out about upcoming events
- Post noteworthy accomplishments (a new baby, a recent marriage, a recent promotion, etc.)
- Support Acacia's Alumni Scholarship Award Program