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## UNIVERSITY OF IOWA ACACIA

*Building on Tradition - Creating Excellence Today - Ensuring our Future*

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## Iowa Colony Update

Conclave, the national biennium conference that binds together every chapter of Acacia together for the purpose of moving our 100+ year old fraternity forward. As a first time undergraduate attendee, I can say that the experience was as rewarding as it was humbling. Riding to this thing, with my fellow undergrad members and chapter alumni, I didn't know what to expect at all. I had been to the Lee Kearney Venerable Dean Summit this past winter and was able to connect with other undergraduate chapters through their respective chapter presidents there, but by no means had I met with alumni outside of my own chapter or even with just regular members of the other chapters. Coming to Conclave, I was prepared to see a few familiar faces as I met back up with another Venerable Dean or two, but for the most part, my brothers and I were clueless as to what would be going on that week.

When we did finally arrive, we settled in quickly at the president's reception where we were able to break some ice and kick back with the alumni who were able to come. The stories were as endless as the laughs that came with them. Honestly, I'm actually surprised that not only half of these guys aren't dead or in jail, but that they are thriving, successful, and productive members of society. All jokes aside, the tall tales and advice that they offered was taken in with eager ears. Having just re-colonized, the Iowa chapter hasn't hosted one of our own Night on the Nile parties yet, but after hearing from UC Berkeley alumni about how they literally turned their house into a sphinx with papier-mâché we can't wait to try our hand at it.

The scholarship luncheon, the physical embodiment of alumni support, was also eventful. I had applied for Acacia Fraternity Foundation scholarships. After hearing nothing back from the foundation prior to the announcement of the winners, I figured that I was passed over. Sitting with my brothers at the front of the room, I was just as shocked as the rest of our group when they announced my name for the George F. Patterson award. Receiving that scholarship, I didn't know how to feel. Grateful of course, but continuing to see how the fraternity continues to give back, it reaffirmed my decision to stay dedicated to Acacia despite the abundant difficulties that come with starting a chapter from scratch. It made me proud to be an Acacian and it gave me the motivation to try even harder in proving our chapter's mettle this fall to make sure that I was worthy of receiving such an award.

As for the business side of things, undergrad members were put through the wringer discussing in small groups problems within our individual chapters, how to engage members on a deeper level of brotherhood, recruit larger pledge classes with higher quality men, and how to personally develop and grow members at a personal level. The speakers were fantastic and the connections we made across our chapters to help ensure a better experience for all brothers are already being used in meaningful ways. In fact, we now have the opportunity this fall to help our Illinois Wesleyan chapter in a Midwest regional Acacia basketball championship. The event supported the Jimmy V. Foundation. Of course having recruited 3 men with an average height of 6'6 and some pretty decent support men, we're already talking smack about taking home the championship title but we'll just have to wait and see how that turns out.

As we sat down for the final banquet, it no longer felt like a “conference” but rather a gathering of old friends. Alumni Brother Aaron Morrow was surprised with his Award of Merit (yes, there were tears and we took pictures), the Iowa colony was given the largest delegation award, the ultimate honor in participation based awards, and we were all left with a deeper understanding of what it meant to be an Acacia Fraternity man and an experience that I, nor any of the other active Iowa members, would trade for the world.

James Cory #882

Venerable Dean

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## **The Iowa Corporation Board Update**

Fall is a great time of year, and I am not just talking about the return of “Pumpkin Spice” everything. I am sure all of my brothers have the same fond memories of the fresh start fall brought with academics, football, and recruitment. With the colony hitting the one year mark of being back on campus, this fall has an even larger sense of revival. Over the past year, this group of young men has built an impressive student organization and my excitement, for them and our group as a whole, can hardly be contained.

Because of the success of the colony, our Corporation Board is facing some critical decisions this fall. Our current lease with PKP runs through July of 2017. When Acacia re-colonized in the fall of 2015, we planned to sign a lease extension through 2019 with PKP with an expectation the colony would need four years to reach a point of fiscal responsibility and stability to move back into our structure. But the recruitment success and fiscal efforts put forth by the colony have moved this timeline up so that we will be making a final evaluation in October to either extend our lease with PKP or enter into a new lease with the colony starting on August 1, 2017.

With the possibility of the colony moving back in to the chapter house, our list of projects that we thought we had 2-3 more years to complete, now may need to be completed much sooner. This list include routine maintenance such as painting, new carpet and some electrical work, along with some major upgrades including new windows, doors, and the final phase of the kitchen remodel that started 10 years ago.

Always remember we are looking for expanded involvement with our alumni and the annual elections for the Corp Board and EIAAA will happen at the quarterly meeting in October. If you have any interest in obtaining any position please feel free to contact me at [scmorgan1982@gmail.com](mailto:scmorgan1982@gmail.com)

--Shawn Morgan, #846

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## **Pledges, Shiny Pins, and Tailgates....Oh My!**

We are kicking off our second fall back on campus and the formal recruitment process has begun in earnest. The Undergraduate Chapter has set a goal of 15 pledges for the fall semester. In addition, they have set the schedule for the pledge class.

The Pledging Ceremony will take place on Friday September 23rd, and the pledge education class will run through the week of November 7th. We will be performing the 2nd (Travels) on Thursday November 10th. Friday November 11th will be the 1st and 3rd along with a final exam. That means by Saturday morning we'll have a fully initiated class of Shiny Pins!

We are planning an Acacia Family tailgate including: Alumni members, Active members, and family of our Active members for that same weekend, Saturday November 12th. This will be an opportunity for our

alumni to interact with the Active Chapter along with their parents and families, and to celebrate the newest initiates.

The game that day is against Michigan and is a night game. The tailgate will be held at Roosevelt Elementary (Along Benton St. and Greenwood Dr.). Parking spaces can be reserved for \$25 by contacting April at [rooseveltfootballparking@gmail.com](mailto:rooseveltfootballparking@gmail.com). You'll need to tell her that you are with the Acacia tailgate to get a spot near the rest of us. I recommend reserving your spot in advance, but some game day spots may be available. Payment for the spot can be mailed to:

April Armstrong  
2511 Hwy 1 SW  
Iowa City, IA 52240

The lot opens at 8 A.M. and we will be there and setup by 9 A.M. We will have coolers with soft drinks and water. We will also have a grill along with Hot Dogs and Hamburgers and will have Chips and Cookies. Any other food/drink that you would like to bring is welcome.

If you want to make sure you get any updated information, update your email address with Byron Tabor ([btabor12@mchsi.com](mailto:btabor12@mchsi.com)) and join our Facebook group [www.facebook.com/groups/169362849817376/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/169362849817376/).

Lastly if you are interested in helping with or attending the initiation ceremonies please contact Aaron Morrow at [amorrow836@hotmail.com](mailto:amorrow836@hotmail.com).

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## **Alumni Spotlight: Aaron Morrow #836**

On July 30, 2016 in Louisville, KY, I was witness to one of the proudest moments as an Acacian as I watched Brother Aaron Morrow receive his Award of Merit. For those keeping track, that is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Conclave in a row an Acacian from the University of Iowa has been a recipient of the Award of Merit with Brother Byron Tabor being a recipient in 2014. With Brother Morrow receiving his Award of Merit, we thought we would take this opportunity to keep everyone up to date on what he has been up to since graduating in 2004.

After graduation, Brother Morrow was hired by Johnson Manufacturing in Princeton, IA and has steadily moved up the ladder to his current position as Vice President of Sales. While advancing his career at Johnson Manufacturing, Brother Morrow pursued his MBA at the University of Iowa and graduated with distinction in the Spring of 2015. This master's degree was paid for and endorsed by his company, which is an illustration of the skills and promising characteristics Johnson Manufacturing sees in Brother Morrow as a cornerstone of their future success as a business.

All of us are well aware of the contributions Brother Morrow has made to both the Iowa Acacians and the EIAAA. He has held multiple positions on both boards and is currently serving as VP of the EIAAA and heading up the Colony Advisory Board. However, his philanthropic endeavors are not limited to Acacia. This past year Brother Morrow became a Master Mason with Eureka Lodge #69 in Milan, IL. The Lodge immediately saw the leadership skills Brother Morrow possessed and appointed him to the position of Junior Deacon. Brother Morrow has already parlayed his new designation as a Mason to advance Acacia at the University of Iowa by pairing the new Acacia Colony with his Masonic Lodge to work together and gather donations for the Shriner's Hospital.

Brother Morrow also has a growing family. On May 26, 2016, Brother Morrow and his wife Lisa welcomed their first child, Lucy Victoria Barbara Morrow. Watching Aaron tackle the adventure that is fatherhood has been entertaining to say the least.

Even though Brother Morrow's life has expanded on all facets, he has always kept Acacia at the forefront of his priorities and we are forever grateful for that.

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## **Acacia Fraternity's 59th Biennial Conclave**

On Wednesday, July 27th almost 200 Acacia Fraternity Brothers descended on downtown Louisville, KY at the Brown Hotel. Amongst them were 11 brothers from the University of Iowa; including 6 undergraduates from the colony that was recently started in the fall of 2015.

The undergrads, along with Iowa alumni Aaron Morrow, Shawn Morgan, and Chapter Advisor Byron Tabor loaded up into a 15 passenger van and started to trek from Iowa City to Louisville at 6am. In Louisville the group met up with alumni Brothers Stephen Ries and Jeremy Fortier. With 11 brothers in attendance the University of Iowa was recognized as having the largest delegation, but this wasn't the last award or recognition of the trip.

Conclave is held every two years and the location moves around the U.S. At Conclave the business of the International Fraternity is conducted. Each Chapter or Colony is represented by their Venerable Dean and their Chapter Advisor. During the business sessions the Laws of Acacia can be amended, the per capita dues can be adjusted, the budget for the next 2 years is approved, and the strategic plan is reviewed, updated, and added to if necessary.

But business is not the only thing that happens during these 3 days. On Wednesday evening the brothers took a walk down 4th street to the Louisville Bats stadium, the AAA affiliate of the Cincinnati Reds. The night was perfectly gorgeous, no rain even though it was threatening, some humidity, and pretty good baseball. Other events included touring the Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory. The highlight was watching a run of bats being made for Giancarlo Stanton the reigning HR Derby winner.

After the Slugger museum all the Iowa Brothers met for dinner at Doc Crow's for some great southern BBQ. Following dinner the group moved onto 4th street live, a ped mall like area a few blocks from the hotel. Those of us of legal drinking age enjoyed some adult beverages at "Howl at the Moon" including a bucket-o-hurricane in a tribute to Brother Michael "Doc" Morris and also to the upcoming 60th Biennial Conclave to be held August 1st through August 5th 2018 in New Orleans, LA. Mark your calendars and start making your plans!

On Friday night, the Marketplace bar next to the hotel held bourbon tasting for 50 Acacia Brothers. We sampled six different bourbons and some great brotherhood over the course of a few hours. Saturday night, saw a return to 4th Street Live where we took in the large weekend crowds, shared more brotherhood, and a few more adult beverages.

During the days, the Acacia Headquarter Staff put together a series of roundtable discussions for the Undergraduates and a separate track for Alumni. These roundtables allowed the Undergrads to communicate

with brothers from across the country about issues that are facing them at their respective Universities. The alumni track was similar, but was focused on leading and mentoring from a board or advisor perspective.

We also got to witness the 3 degrees of Acacia be performed, we had an undergrad member participate in each of these degrees. It's always a great reminder that these rituals are performed by every chapter and that every brother in Acacia has travelled the hot sands of the dessert and was presented with the 47th problem of Euclid before being initiated.

On Friday afternoon the AFF Scholarship luncheon was held, and we were treated to a Hot Brown, a signature dish of the city invented at the Brown Hotel. During this luncheon the Venerable Dean of our Chapter, James Cory #882, was presented with a \$3,000 scholarship from the Acacia Fraternity Foundation. A large number of chapter honors were presented at this banquet as well. The colony has set their sights on a number of these awards for the 2018 Conclave.

On Saturday evening the final banquet was held. At this banquet the newly elected officers of the International Council are installed, the top chapter awards are presented, as are the top individual awards.

During the banquet Brothers Dan Stence #598 and Thom Powell #611 were honored with the Order of Pythagoras. This award is presented to active or alumni members for service above and beyond the call of duty to service in Acacia. These two brothers have been key cogs in our re-colonization. They have served on the corporation board, helped with the annual golf outing, attended scholarship interview dates and recruitment events and have served as a voice for the undergraduates from the alumni in addition to the many hours of service they have given since their days as Officers when they were undergraduates.

Lastly, Brother Aaron Morrow #836 was presented with the Award of Merit. This award is presented for a continuing service to Acacia above and beyond that recognized by the Order of Pythagoras. Brother Morrow joins Byron Tabor #644, Dan Wilkes #761, Jacob Wegmueller #290, Marvin Logan #286, and Everet Lindquist #266 as AOM winners from the Iowa Chapter.

We look forward to winning more scholarships, chapter awards, individual awards, and having the largest delegation in New Orleans, LA, August 1st-5th, 2018. Please mark your calendars and consider joining us for brotherhood, fun, and amazing experiences two years from now.

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## **Iowa Colony Senior Spotlight: Jared Popplewell #885**

As a celebration of the colony's first senior member transforming from member to alumni we want to shine a spot light on their time as an undergraduate member.

1. *When is your graduation date?*  
I will graduate May 13, 2017.
2. *What degree will you achieve?*  
My degree is in Marketing from the Tippie College of Business
3. *What is your favorite Acacia memory?*  
My favorite memory from Acacia was going to conclave this summer. The road trip with the guys

and hanging out with them in between sessions was the highlight of my summer. I really felt closer after that trip and made me truly proud to be a part of this organization.

4. *What are your plans after graduation?*

Currently my plans are to enter the work force. I have toyed with the idea of going to Grad school to get my MBA, but as of now I think that I am ready for a break from school and want to get some good experience. I do not know where I will end up, but I know that I will keep in touch with all of the actives and continue to watch as they grow the fraternity. I know they can do great things if they keep the values of Acacia in their minds as they move forward.

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## 2016 Acacia Golf Outing Recap

We had quite a dramatic contest at Pleasant Valley on August 13th. 6 alums and 2 actives chose up sides and went head to head across the soggy fairways. The team of Dan Stence, Don Jones, Byron Tabor, and Senior Dean and cleanup hitter, Jared Popplewell started off with a string of pars that forged a 3 stroke lead at the turn. The highlight was a par on the 6th hole with a penalty stroke. Now some could wonder how you can possibly have to take a penalty stroke in a 4 person best shot. Let's just say it can be done and leave it at that.

On the back nine things turned ugly for our leaders. They gave back 2 strokes on the 10th hole and their lead was gone after the 15th. The final three holes would determine the winner. The team of Jeremy Heyer, Brian White, Thom Powell, and Venerable Dean, James Cory had the added advantage of thinking they were totally out of it after comparing scores in the club house at the turn. They were relaxed and played the last 3 holes even par. Our early leaders on the other hand were in full crash and burn mode and finished 2 over on the last three. So our champions put on a great comeback (much like our chapter) and will have bragging rights until next time.

We were joined by a few others and some spouses at Thom Powell's house afterwards for our steak fry. Thom and Brenda were their usual great hosts and everybody was well fed. The highlight of the after party was the presentation of the Order of Pythagoras to Thom Powell and Dan Stence for their continued support of Acacia. Congratulations to the two of them!

On a final note, this is the last golf outing I'm going to organize for the foreseeable future. Aaron Morrow is taking over as our social chair. I just want to thank everyone for participating over the years and keeping the spirit of our fraternity alive during our absence over the last decade. I would really like to thank Thom and Brenda for throwing great parties after the outings. That really made these golf outings fun. Now that we have an active chapter again I am enjoying being the Chapter Advisor and will be concentrating more on the Actives than on my golf game (although my golf game needs more help than the Actives). I look forward to Aaron's efforts to bring our Alumni and Actives together on a regular basis to strengthen the ties that bind.

Byron Tabor #644

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## Important Upcoming Dates for Fall 2016

- Saturday October 29<sup>th</sup> – Corporation Board & EIAAA meeting
  - Thursday November 10<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree
  - Friday November 11<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Degrees
  - Saturday November 12<sup>th</sup> – Acacia Family tailgate: actives, alums, and their family members
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## NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

This newsletter is sent to all of the alumni of the University of Iowa Chapter of Acacia Fraternity. This newsletter is sent at *no cost* to all of its recipients, although donations directed towards the cost of this publication will be accepted by the EIAAA Board. Should you wish to make a contribution, please make your check payable to **The Iowa Acacians** in any amount. If you have any information you would like to share, please send it to Devin Johnson at [devin\\_e\\_johnson@hotmail.com](mailto:devin_e_johnson@hotmail.com) or 904 Queen Street, Columbia, SC 29205

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## Donations

The annual voluntary dues are used to help pay for the mailing cost of The RESH newsletter and are also used to help offset the costs of social events. For 2015 voluntary dues are once again set at \$75.

As a reminder of ways to submit dues and/or donations:

- Use the enclosed contribution card for your 2015 voluntary dues as well as for your donations to the Iowa chapter fund and/or the EIAAA.
  - Submit donations to the Iowa Chapter Fund with Nationals via [http://acacia.org/foundation\\_giving.php](http://acacia.org/foundation_giving.php). Once at the website select the Iowa chapter from the drop down box labeled "Target your gift" and follow the instructions on the screen.
  - Submit voluntary dues and/or donations to the EIAAA via PayPal by going to the donations link on the EIAAA website – [www.uiacacia.com](http://www.uiacacia.com).
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## CONNECT WITH YOUR BROTHERS

Look for them online at Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/169362849817376/>. Or you can search for the group "Acacia Fraternity - The University of Iowa." We are 120 members strong and growing.

You can also find us on LinkedIn. Our group is called "Iowa Acacians" on LinkedIn.

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