



THE RESH

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA ACACIA

Building on Tradition - Creating Excellence Today - Ensuring our Future

*Published by the Corporate Board of the Iowa Acacians
and Acacia Fraternity International Headquarters*

SUMMER 2018 | VOLUME 13 NUMBER 2

Venerable Dean's Report, Summer 2018

The Iowa Colony of Acacia Fraternity ended our first year with the house positively and strong with great momentum that will carry us into the upcoming term. After having the first year with the house, we were able to host recruitment events and be able to come together more as a chapter. Thanks to the help from many alumni and actives, we have been able to overcome challenges that come with having the house. With the help from our Recruitment Chair (Jordan Dingman) we were able to initiate 5 great men this last spring which brought our total for the academic year to 20 new initiates. Thanks to our Social Chair (Brian Kearney) and Director of Programming (Richard Sahkarouk) we were able to continue our growth with the Greek community by having more and more socials with sororities on our campus!

Our cumulative GPA for the spring term was 2.993, which did fall short of our GPA goal of a 3.1. With the assistance of our Academic Chair (Jackson Solsma), as a chapter we have the utmost confidence in our ability to get that GPA to above a 3.0 as a chapter. While we may have fallen short of our goal in terms of GPA, one huge bright spot for us was human service. With thanks to our new Philanthropy Chair (Anthony Gamino), we were able to implement a new volunteer system that put our men into groups, because at the end of the day volunteering with your brothers is a significantly better experience compared to volunteering alone. We were able to have the highest service hours per member out of an IFC chapter at 13.3 hours per member, which goes to show our ongoing commitment to better our community.

Another focus we had this last year was on Dance Marathon, in which we were able to be the chapter with the fourth most money raised in the IFC community at \$8488.53! After having around half of our members participate this last semester, we are looking at having an increased involvement with that as well. One huge event that happened this semester is one that we as a chapter had all been working towards, and that was us getting chartered. With the constant help from our alumni and international, we were able to accomplish that goal and continue to prosper as a fraternity, so a huge thank you to anyone who contributed to that effort!

Overall as a chapter (no longer a colony and it feels great saying that), we feel like we are in a great position to continue growing on campus and enhancing the Acacian name on campus, so we are all very excited to see what this next semester holds for us!

Fraternally,
Tyler Costello
#903

The Night on the Nile and The Iowa Acacia Chartering Ceremony

The Iowa Acacia second annual “Night on the Nile” took place on the weekend of May 14th, and while attendance was looking to have increased from the previous year, mother nature had different plans for us. Heavy rains hindered most of our activities, but with some great help from the undergrads, we were able to find some alternatives. The traditional friendly round of best ball with the undergrads and the alumni was not able to happen due to inclement weather, which also canceled the Alumni vs. Active softball game. Because of this, the actives still have reign of the coveted Pythagorean Cup. Instead of these usual activities, everyone was invited to go to Colonial Lanes and have a few rounds of bowling. Our thanks to both the Zeta sorority for allowing us to take over their reservation last minute and to Brother Kearney for helping us set up the transfer.

Following our impromptu bowling, the moment that the actives and alum have been working for years to accomplish was finally here, the Iowa Chapter Chartering Banquet. In attendance was nearly the entire class of actives, our Brothers from the Iowa State Chapter, over twenty alumni, members from the University of Iowa IFC, Executive Director Patrick McGovern, Assistant Executive Director Michael Weber, and Director of Expansion Jerod Miles. Jerod was instrumental in the rebuilding of the Iowa colony. Current President, Tyler Costello, accepted the charter on behalf of the undergraduates.



On behalf of the EIAAA, the Iowa Chapter of Acacia, and all the alumni that made this possible, our sincerest thanks goes out to everyone who assisted in this process. We could not have gotten to where we are today without the countless man hours given by so many over the years. We hope to see many more faces at next year’s event as we continue to grow!

Parents’ Weekend

Iowa Acacia’s 2nd Annual Parents’ Weekend was a success. With a dinner, nightlife experience, and picnic included, active members brought their parents to Iowa City to take a tour of the new house and meet other members of the fraternity.

Dinner took place at Wildwood Smokehouse and Saloon, a barbecue joint in Iowa City. A rather casual location, the venue had darts and pool for entertainment in addition to interacting with others and was big enough to hold the growing fraternity and the members’ families. The food included brisket and pulled pork, along with beans, macaroni and cheese, and coleslaw. A soft drink was also included, as was a cash bar.

After the dinner, many groups elected to go experience the Iowa City nightlife downtown, which includes many bars and restaurants, or at Big Grove Brewery. Big Grove ended up being a perfect place to take parents. With a spacious indoor and outdoor area that is not too far from campus, families could get the best of both worlds, whether sitting outside by a fire with bag sets close by or inside surrounded by games of shuffleboard and table tennis.

Finally, the weekend closed with a nice picnic at City Park on a bright day full of sunshine. There were plenty of burgers, hot dogs, chips, and desserts to go around when people got settled in after tossing a football around, playing cornhole, and socializing. An 80-plus person shelter with grills allowed for an efficient setup, execution, and cleanup, and the weather could not have been much better. After having to cancel the grill out last year due to weather, the fraternity was very fortunate to have a great day.

We look forward to hosting the event again next year!

Acacia Fraternity's 60th Biennial Conclave – NEW ORLEANS, LA

Every two years the Acacia Fraternity holds its International Conclave. This is a chance for Alumni and Active members to come together, build brotherhood, and help shape the future of their own chapters as well as the International Fraternity.

The 60th Biennial Conclave is being held on Wednesday August 1st through Saturday August 4th in **NEW ORLEANS, LA!!** at the Loews Hotel, room rate is \$135.00 per night and registration for the week is \$225.00.

Details about registration can be found at www.acacia.org/conclave. We hope to win the award for Largest Delegation at the banquet on Saturday night, please check your calendars and make an attempt to join us and a large group of Actives in the French Quarter for Brotherhood and fun.

In addition to the business sessions, awards banquets, and ritual presentations that are held at Conclave, there is also a series of lectures and round table discussions geared towards Undergraduates and Alumni. These sessions are designed to discuss some of the biggest hurdles faced by either group and help spark ideas across our organization.

New this year, are rumors of a beefed-up Alumni track that will be geared more to the networking, brotherhood, and social events that alumni have been seeking at these biennial events. Make your reservations now and help us celebrate the Re-Chartering of the Iowa Chapter with Acacians from across the country.

If you would like to help support the Active Chapter in attending Conclave, you can make a tax deductible donation to the Acacia Fraternity Foundation – Iowa Chapter fund at www.acacia.com/donate and selecting “Iowa” from the drop down fund menu.

Officer Contact Information

Corporation Board

President – Steven Ries, stevenries@hotmail.com
Vice President – Jeremy Heyer, jerhey@msn.com
Treasurer – Patrick Hewitt, Patrick.d.hewitt@gmail.com
Secretary – Jared Popplewell, jared@johnsonmfg.com
Facility Manager – Rob Samples, robsamples1@gmail.com

Eastern Iowa Acacia Alumni Assoc.

President – Jeremy Fortier, Forbidden_Dohnut@hotmail.com
Vice President/Chapter Advisor – Byron Tabor, btabor12@mchsi.com
Treasurer – Brian White, btwhite72@hotmail.com
Secretary – Aaron Morrow, amorrow836@hotmail.com
Activity Chair – Jared Popplewell, jared@johnsonmfg.com

Chapter Executive Council

Venerable Dean – Tyler Costello, tyler-costello@uiowa.edu
Senior Dean – Connor Swim, connor-swim@uiowa.edu
Junior Dean – Brian Kearney, briankearney17@gmail.com
Treasurer – Jordan Stieb, Jordan-stieb@uiowa.edu
Secretary – Joey Modica, joseph-modica@uiowa.edu

Scholarship Program

This year's scholarship program was a success. We renamed the scholarship after Thomas H. Macbride, a former Acacian, Iowa alumnus, and University President. It was hosted at our chapter house for the first time, and we gave away over \$7,000 to future Iowa Hawkeyes who demonstrated excellence in leadership, academia, and extracurricular activities. In addition, I firmly believe that we met a few future brothers in the process. I hope that the rest of this article will provide a synopsis for how the scholarship program went this year, and what we hope to improve upon going forward.

Having the opportunity to run this year's Acacia Scholarship program was a privilege. As a first-generation college student, I understand the importance and impact that scholarship money can have on an incoming freshman's future education. This year, the scholarship committee and I narrowed down the list of applicants to 16 individuals who all came to our chapter house on April 21/22 for interviews. It was the first-time hosting interviews at 202 Ellis, and I believe it was a perfect set up. It also broke down many stereotypes regarding what a fraternity house may look like.

The interview day was split up into three sessions. The first session consisted of a lecture on the background of Acacia, the Iowa Resh Chapter, and how it all ties into the University of Iowa. After the introduction we had half of the group interview in our library at four stations. These consisted of questions regarding the applicant's prior leadership experience, future goals, extra-curricular involvement, and a "think on your feet" portion as well. The other half talked to our alumnus and leadership consultant, Thom Powell, as well as two other brothers about transitioning to college. This section of the interviews allowed for informal and informative conversation regarding how to approach the college experience.

At the end of the interviews applicants exchanged contact info with each other and we networked with them informally. I speak for everyone when I say that the fraternity was impressed with the caliber of character in the applicants. After deliberation, we chose seven individuals to receive a total of \$7,000. We will also host a BBQ and sand volleyball grill out when school gets back in session, in hopes of getting to know the scholarship recipients better and having them go through the recruitment process.

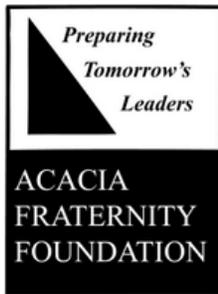
Going forward, Connor Swim will be heading up the program. He and I are in the process of implementing an online application process, moving the interview day up, and increasing our engagement with high schools in and out of the state of Iowa. We believe that these changes will increase the number of quality applicants, and provide for less scheduling conflicts when it comes time to interview at our chapter house.

All in all, the scholarship program was a success and I was honored to have the opportunity to interview and give away money to future Iowa Hawkeyes, and possible Acacians. I look forward to seeing next year's wave of applicants.

If you would like to help support the scholarship program, tax deductible donations can be made to the AFF - Iowa Chapter fund at <https://www.acacia.org/donate>. Additionally, if you'd like to participate in next year's interviews, please email Connor at connor-swim@uiowa.edu.

Brian Kearney | Junior Dean | #894

Acacia Fraternity Foundation



My last article covered Ted Schnormeier's (#375) wonderful gift to our chapter fund. To say thank you we packed up Kyle Leininger (#912), Tyler Kamp (#919), and Dylan Newbury (#924) into a Ford F-150 and headed east to Ohio the Monday after finals. Ted hosts an open house at Schnormeier Gardens in early June every year. In four days he will be visited by 8,000 to 15,000 people from all over the world to this unadvertised event. Ted employs three guys to maintain the landscaping and they get very busy in May preparing for the tidal wave of visitors. The guys and I were going to help clean out the woods, but the late spring made spreading mulch a higher priority. Our guys got paired up with each of the employees and were handed pitch forks. For a day and a half, they spread a couple of semi loads of mulch around the multitude of trees in the Gardens. I was handed a string trimmer and trimmed around the pole fence and trees along the road. Twelve hours of trimming got me through about 20% of all that needed to be done. It was crazy, but the weather cooperated, and we were treated to a nice breeze, limited rain, and reasonable temps.



I rented the F-150 for the trip because Shawn Morgan (#846) had a great idea last year. He knows a guy with some serious metal skills and a good artistic auto paint guy. The Corporation Board authorized the commission of a fantastic crest to give to Ted as a token of our appreciation of his generosity. This thing was a significant piece of stainless steel. I didn't weigh it, but 60 pounds wouldn't be too far off. We packed it into the truck and



presented it to Ted at lunch the first day. He was quite surprised by our gesture and even though it was built to live outside he had a spot on the wall behind his desk picked out. He better have some strong hardware to hang it.

Ted is a wonderful brother that had many stories for us. He is also a Grill Master. We had some great burgers for lunch the first day and some excellent BBQ ribs for dinner. The guys had a lot of questions for him about what life was like in Acacia in the 50's. Suit and tie for dinner every night was compared to the McDonalds on the couch. Dues, Room and board were \$78 per month and tuition was \$88 per semester. Kyle, Tyler, and Dylan had a hard time wrapping their heads around those numbers. I totally spaced off a Foundation conference call scheduled for that night because Ted was just too entertaining. Ted needed to get a couple other things done and clean up, so we took the opportunity to visit the park Ted built next door in Mt. Vernon, Ohio. (<http://arielfoundationpark.org/>) We did a quick look around before sundown, punctuated by climbing the smokestack and taking some pictures.





The next morning we were working hard again until lunch. Once again great hamburgers and the couple of racks of ribs we didn't finish the night before. Ted then took our guys on the full tour that Julie and I got the year before. We got back in the truck and drove to Indianapolis where we had dinner with some of the HQ guys and then toured the office the next morning before heading back to Iowa City. I would love to turn this into an annual pilgrimage and I think Ted really liked the extra help.

In other news we are still at 100% for the 1904 Society! Four of our guys graduated this spring. Danny Peterson (#889), Alex King (#902), Alex Gudenkauf (#879), and Gerrit Van Maanen (#878) all went through the alumni ritual at our last chapter meeting and signed up for the 1904 Society. Thank you, gentlemen, and welcome to the Wonderful World of Alumni.



You can join these men in the 1904 Society for the betterment of our chapter and fraternity. For more info drop me an email.

Byron Tabor #644
BTabor12@mchsi.com
Acacia Fraternity Foundation



The active members of the University of Iowa Chapter of Acacia along with the newly initiated members of the Spring 2018 pledge class.

Acacia Family Tailgate

With another Hawkeye football season quickly approaching, we wanted to inform you all that we will be continuing our tradition with the Acacia Family Tailgate. We will be hosting it Saturday, September 22nd when the Hawks face Wisconsin. This will be right after fall recruitment is ending and is a great way for alumni, actives, and future Acacians to get together and catch up. Parents and family members are more than welcome to attend! We will have a grill going with burgers and hotdogs for everyone, as well as soft drinks and water. Any other food or drink that you would like to bring is welcome.

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. 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 set up by 9 a.m. If you have any further questions or need any additional information, please contact Jared Popplewell at js.popplewell@hotmail.com.

If you want to make sure you get any updated information, you should update your email address with Byron Tabor via email at btabor12@mchsi.com and join our Facebook group www.facebook.com/groups/169362849817376/.