

Acacia Fraternity

Iowa Chapter

Est. 1907



This Year's Exec Board

Venerable Dean

Junior
Engineering
Mount Vernon, IA



Jacks Ossenkop

Senior Dean



Brandon Coble

Junior
Exercise Science
Onawa, IA

Sophomore
Business
Waukee, IA

Junior Dean



Chase Wuebker

Recruitment Chair



Brendan Forrest

Sophomore
English Education
Park Ridge, IL

Sophomore
Economics
Chicago, IL

Risk Manager



Santiago Muñoz

Treasurer



Nong Press

Sophomore
Micro-biology
Hermosa Beach, CA

Sophomore
Mass Communications
Tipton, IA

Secretary



Caleb Jedlicka

VENERABLE DEANS



Jack Moran #947

As outgoing Venerable Dean, I would like to begin by just saying I am grateful for some of the best years of my life being in the Iowa Acacia chapter.

I have been on the executive board for three years now, and through stressful and relaxing times, I regret none of my experiences. Being in Acacia has not only given me opportunities in the classroom and career world but has also provided me with some of the best guys I will ever meet in my life. Now to discuss my term, we began the year with around fifty members and looking to get bigger. Between both the spring and fall we added 17 new brothers, which made us the largest we have ever been. This was a goal of ours heading into the year and we are glad we accomplished it. Also, for both the spring and fall semesters, we got a 3.21 and 3.24 GPA respectively as a chapter. This shows how much we value academics and the brothers know how to get things done in the classroom. Lastly, we capped off the year with raising over \$10,000 for Acacia Claus which is our new record high. All these accomplishments could not have been done throughout the year without the hard work of all the brothers and the dedication each member puts in. Overall, Acacia has blessed me with the best memories of my life and there is no other way I wish I spent my college years. This chapter has gone through more than any other chapter in my four years here, and I hope we can continue to push through adversity and thrive. I want to thank the chapter for letting me serve for as long as I did.

So live.

VENERABLE DEANS

Incoming



My name is Jack Ossenkop, I'm a Junior with Computer Science-Engineering major. Last year, I was Junior Dean of our chapter, but I was fortunate enough to be elected Venerable Dean for this year and I am very excited to start working.

We've had a lot of great successes this year all around, good social events, fantastic philanthropy work, and great work all around in our members academics. We've got a lot of exciting stuff coming up and it's feels good to see our chapter thriving and showing people how great Greek Life can be. Currently, our chapter is the biggest and most successful it's ever been, and we are all ready to keep pushing on our momentum to maintain our prestigious status of a great Fraternity.



We're All Good Brothers!



Chair Positions

Philanthropy Chair: Jake Tanquilut

Cornerstones: Jacob Smith

Sorority Relations: Conner Schimmel

Intramural: Alex Epstein

Diversity and Inclusion: Emilliano Paz

Formal: Andrew Corona

Apparel: Eric Young

Academic: Daniel Fitch

Alumni relations: Tristyn O'Connor

House Manager: Weston McMann



Dads Weekend

This fall brothers had the pleasure of inviting their fathers to Iowa City to meet everyone they choose to call their brothers. The weekend consisted of watching football and getting to know the people who raised the young men of the active chapter. It was a great time to bond and make more memories for all who attended. We continue to keep this as a staple of the chapter to meet family members of current and future members and reinforce the



FALL INITIATION

NEW MEMBERS

The fall season brings another round of recruitment for the Resh Chapter. With the amazing effort from the previous recruitment chair Josh Wolf and his committee, this fall we had the honor of initiating 11 new brothers. (Left to right) Robbie Kapacinskas, Cole Garver, Erice Young, Brayan Riveras, Armondo Torres, Tom DiBrizzi, Colin Pick, Ethan Berkovich, Brandon Baccam, Conner Schimmel, Jack McIntyre. With these new members, Iowa Acacia reaches a new peak for the biggest we have ever been!



Acacia Clause!

The annual Acacia Clause event is a multi-week long period where Acacia Chapters across America raise money and donations for a charitable cause of their choosing. The Iowa Acacia Chapter raises toy and money donations for the Stead Family Children's Hospital in Iowa City. This year we raised over \$9,000 in cash donations and over \$1,500 in toy donations. The brothers have the honor to give toys to families and children going through a tough time during the holiday season.



Along with Acacia Clause, brothers spent time in other philanthropic ways. This included picking up trash around the community, volunteering time for a youth baseball league over the summer, and giving time to various food pantries across Iowa City.



ADVISOR'S CORNER



Byron Tabor #644

Hello Brothers. Another semester is in the books. We have new officers fired up about their new positions. The Covid craziness is starting to drift away and I'm taking stock of where we are and what the future looks like. This past semester we managed a good pledge class. **We have continuously been able to find good guys with a lot of diversity.** I catch myself wondering about what we are going to do when Brother X isn't an officer or is going to graduate. But then his replacement takes over and does an impressive job and those fears disappear.

I am proud of how we've managed to not only survive the University's suspension but have thrived. The leadership through this transition has been top tier. We are now at a point where being non-affiliated is almost a selling point. We continue to identify solid young men and shy away from the "frat boy" image. **Our chapter has grown to 65 and our GPA was a 3.24 for the fall.** Both are outstanding accomplishments. The 345 Dinner, where guys with a 3.45 GPA or above get treated to a beef tenderloin dinner, will have a record 30 brothers invited.

Activation continues to be a great (and surprising) experience for our shiny pins. I try to stay on top of all the activities to keep everything inside the guard rails. The guys have been **accepting of the tweaks** that need to be done each semester as we continue **to improve the experience** for our newest brothers.

The library doors were replaced after finals week. Everyone probably remembers those glass French doors leading into the library (or dining room for us lower roll numbers). This should be a big improvement to **making the library a study conducive room.** They should be able to keep the noise from the chapter room in the foyer.

Acacia Claus was off the charts this fall. Those of you that know me well can agree that Human Service is not just a logo for me. It is a way of life. I was very pleased when our guys started collecting **toys for the Children's Hospital** a few years ago. It has grown in popularity over the years although COVID threw us a curve for a couple of Christmases. This year it really took off. **We raised over \$10,000 in cash and toy donations.** That is probably double the most I remember. A big thanks to all of you out there that chipped in on the online donation portal.

We have a private Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/169362849817376>) that some of you are members. Recently I started a private group for family members of our guys (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/435064182174188>). A few parents have joined. I think it is a good idea to involve the parents to reassure them that their sons are in good hands. This also allows them direct contact to me if they have any questions or concerns.

Fall Semi-Formal

Every semester, we try to save a portion of our budget and put it towards a formal event/evening for everyone to dress up and experience a "fancy" dinner. This fall, brothers of the fraternity had the joy of attending a formal dinner with a date of their choosing. This was an opportunity for everyone to relax, enjoy a wonderful meal, and embrace each others company.

A New Chair Position!

During the Spring semester of 2022, the exec. board decided it was time to add a new chair position. This being the Health and Wellness chair. It was a unanimous decision by the chapter to have recent alum and senior Zach Taylor hold this position. Zach is a psychology major and did an amazing job being someone brothers could turn to when they were struggling with anything mentally (school, home-life, etc.). Zach brought a bright smile and great insight to everything he did.

Thank you Brother Taylor!



3.45 DINNER



The 3.45 dinner was held October 16th to honor those brothers that achieved a 3.45 or higher GPA for the spring semester in 2022. Our Chapter Advisor, Byron Tabor grills beef tenderloins marinated in his secret sauce. He has a friend, that owns a local restaurant, supply all the fixings and fabulous desserts.



A new addition to the event is a commemorative plate and special dinnerware. The group has grown to the point it was hard to find enough clean plates and we had to move it into the chapter room to accommodate everyone. This event is paid for by our chapter fund at the Foundation.

Thank you. Your contributions help support this dinner. The results are in for Fall of 2022 and it was another record breaking year. There will be 30 invitations sent out this semester.



Foundation Update



We're all good brothers. Each one the other's friend. In many of our rituals the pledges, actives, and alumni form the three sides of the triangle. All three need to be actively engaged in our fraternity for it to survive and thrive.

Recruiting is the first step. We need to be able to identify and invite the best possible students. Young men that are future leaders. Young men that are driven to help their communities. Young men willing to give their best effort. When we find them, draw them into our brotherhood, train them to be their best versions, and initiate them into our fraternity.

Active involvement is the second step. Here we give these young men the opportunity to discover their real talents, lead, and learn the skills that will serve them well after graduation. When do you compromise? When do you stand firm? What are the consequences of both? I would bet you can name a few things life in the house taught you. Life can be very challenging and unarmed men are quickly broken.

The third side of the triangle is the alumni. You received your diploma. The road in front of you rolled out into your future. Jobs, marriage, family. If you're lucky you work toward, and achieve, your dreams. Along the way maybe you stay close to your brothers. Maybe an occasional football game in Kinnick or golf outing with the guys. That was my path.

If you look at those three, I see something missing. What is the group you're in doing to help the brothers behind you? Actives are very busy recruiting and training their younger brothers. As Alumni it is too easy to just think "that was a college thing". In all actuality Acacia succeeds when the Alumni stay engaged. There are many ways to help your younger brothers.

Donors

Lifetime Giving Totals

\$100,000 +
Ted Schnormeier

\$10,000 +
Market Returns
Byron Tabor

\$5,000 +
Lee Kearney

\$1,000 +
Aaron Morrow
Dan Wilkes
Brian Kearney
Jeremy Fortier
Jeremy Heyer
"Wild Bill" Tomson
Devin Johnson
Jose Sanchez
Jeff Vroman
Chris Berry
Shawn Morgan
John Ebensberger

- **Join the corporation board** if you have real estate skills. Our house is a stately building that needs a lot of maintenance. If your input could be valuable, please share it.
- **Join the advisor committee** if you live in the Iowa City area. Our Actives are great kids but are still kids for the most part. Guidance is useful and welcomed.
- **Mentors in different industries** are a very valuable resource for guys trying to chart a future and find jobs after graduation. Reach out to the Alumni Relations chair to see if you can help.
- **Donate to the Foundation.** College is expensive. Many graduates are buried in debt. I cringe when I hear what things cost and the dues our guys must collect to stay afloat. Scholarships are appreciated by our Actives. "Appreciated" is an understatement. I get their undivided attention when I mention scholarships. Phones go down and ears perk up. YOUR donations, large and small, make this happen.

Foundation Update cont.



I hear the exec board struggle with the big question of the day. Should we punish bad behavior? Should we reward good behavior? Sometimes the answers are obvious. Breaking the rules must have consequences. But what about a question like attendance. If a member drifts away, what do we do? Sanctions that just encourage more disengagement? Or do we reward continued involvement?

As they were pondering this question at a chapter meeting the thought struck me that we could **offer scholarships as a reason to stay engaged**. If you think this is a good idea, please consider donating to the cause.

At the beginning of 2022 our balance was \$152,269. At the end of September (last update available) the balance was \$102,868. Donations added \$1,836. We gave out \$12,755 to the actives through the Acacia Scholarship Program (ASP), 345 Dinner, and Conclave reimbursements. The market took \$38,484 away from us this year but we are still \$27,438 ahead overall. We are slowly expanding our scholarship programs. We are really living on the market gains over the long run. Survival and growth are very dependent on you. "Selling low" to cover current expenses makes it much harder to recover in the future. Having donations cover the \$12,000 annual outlay would go a long way to bridging this bear market.

Acacia is getting known on campus for our innovative scholarships.

To continue that we can't rely solely on Wall Street to keep us ahead.

Thank you to all the brothers that are listed along the right.

Reach out to me to find out the many ways to help.

Our brothers depend on you for the support they need.

The future is in your hands.

Be a Good Brother.

So Live!

Byron Tabor #644

Acacia Fraternity Foundation

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Donors

Lifetime Giving Totals

\$500 +

Alex Taylor
Jeff Warner
Brayton Fisher
Jeff Peterson
Hal Schimmelpfennig
Kevin Lapham
Thom Powell
Dale Hulsing
Tom Hart
John Johnson
Joshi Nirmal
Peter Miller

\$201 +

James Carter
John Gust
Ken Anderson
William Coghill
Ron Sterns
Mike Johnson
John Nevins
Daniel Peterson
David Hall
Steve Berggren
Jack Savage
Russ Carlson
Toliff DeJong
John Winga
Andy Adair
Roscoe Alexander
Brett Lovrien
William Null
Peter Pardubsky
Joe Willging
Pat Hewitt
Dan Stence

WHAT'S NEXT?

As the Spring semester approaches, brothers prepare for another round of recruitment and continue the growth of our chapter. This semester we look forward to brotherhoods, Spring Formal, and a chapter favorite, Mom's Weekend.

The Exec. Board has a special event planned for the chapter's Founders Day! As alumni, be on the lookout for email invites as we would like to see as many Alumni there as possible. This will be a great opportunity for current members to bond and hear all the great stories the Alumni have to offer! *(Byron says don't be giving these guys any bad ideas)*

