



# THE RESH

*Iowa Acacian Newsletter*



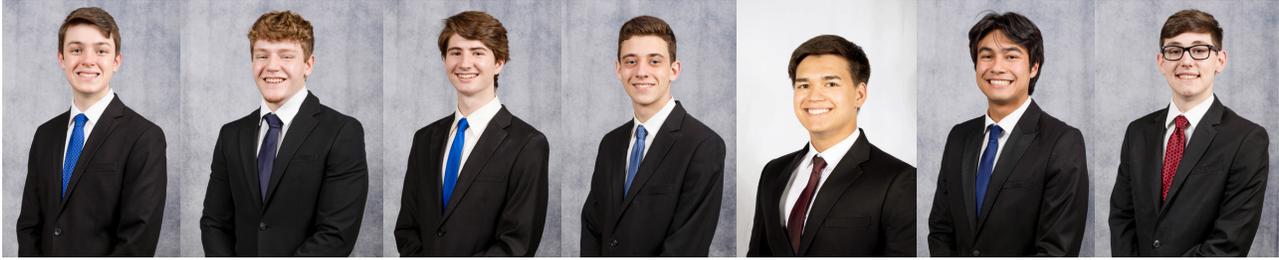
## Acacia Claus

Over the week of December 8th through December 15th, the Iowa Resh Chapter held our annual fundraiser and toy drive in support of the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital. Former philanthropy chair, Jacob Smith (#973) set up a website where members of the community could directly donate. This cause is especially meaningful to us this year because, as students, we all see and know how much the hospital does for the children and their families. We wanted to be able to give back. We feel that donating toys is one way we can do that. With these funds, we were able to purchase items off the hospital's wish list on Amazon. While still taking all necessary COVID-19 precautions, we held our in-person events at our local Hy-Vee grocery store and Coral Ridge Mall. This year Acacia Claus raised \$3,371 consisting of \$2,130 in online donations, \$804 worth of toys, and \$237 in cash donations. We are so proud of our community and gracious to everyone that donated and supported this cause, **especially our alumni donors!**

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# EXECUTIVE BOARD SPOTLIGHT



**Treasurer**      **Secretary**      **Junior Dean**      **Venerable Dean**      **Senior Dean**      **Recruitment Chair**      **Risk manager**  
**Jacob Smith**      **Brandon Coble**      **Jack Ossenkop**      **Jack Moran**      **Ryan Yuson**      **Joshua Wolf**      **Kayle Fairchild**

## Venerable Dean - Jack Moran #947

My name is Jack Moran and I am currently a Junior here at the University of Iowa studying Mechanical Engineering. I joined Acacia because I felt like it was a place where I fit in well with the brothers and everyone cares about each other in the chapter. I wanted the role of Venerable Dean because I came into this chapter during a time of struggle, and throughout my years here, have seen the chapter grow to become a better version of what it was when I was a pledge. I wanted to give back to the chapter and try to continue that growth and development within the brotherhood. Acacia has helped me in many ways since coming to college whether it be with school, or just a support system of brothers whenever I needed. I want to make sure other brothers feel the same when they enter and one day leave our chapter. By the end of my term, my goal is to make sure the chapter is as healthy, if not healthier than it is right now and grows in size. This year is a great opportunity for our chapter to grow due to a lack of seniors graduating. Overall, Acacia is something I will never regret and I cannot wait to see where this year takes us.

## Junior Dean - Jack Ossenkop #972

I joined Acacia the fall of my freshman year. I was just coming into the university without knowing a whole lot of people, but I was excited to meet lots of new people. I eventually found Acacia and met everyone in the chapter. I remember being so impressed with how close everyone was and how much I enjoyed being around them. I wanted to be in the position of Junior Dean because of how much I enjoy working with people to set up events for our chapter. Previously, I held the intramural chair and I had a great time figuring out different kinds of competitions to set up for our fraternity. It also helped me get a lot of experience in a leadership position before my current role as Junior Dean. I've met many incredible people through Acacia and am looking forward to giving back to the fraternity through my position of Junior Dean.

## Secretary - Brandon Coble #985

My name is Brandon Coble, and I am from Onawa, Iowa. I have been in Acacia for about a year now. I first joined Acacia because I really enjoyed the people of this chapter and the support that came with it. The best thing about Acacia is having a group of guys that support me and never cease to put a smile on my face. I wanted my role as an executive board member to add more responsibility in my life and to help the chapter as much as I can. In the future, I fully plan to run for a higher executive board position to keep the chapter growing and make it the best environment possible. Acacia has given me a community of fine, young men that I can call brothers. The support within our chapter has made college a much more enjoyable experience and I wouldn't trade it for anything.

## Senior Dean - Ryan Yuson #963

My name is Ryan Yuson and I'm currently a junior studying Finance and Business Analytics. I wasn't really interested in formally rushing as a freshman but, as a military brat, I moved to college from overseas not knowing anybody. Shortly after moving to Iowa, I felt an immediate connection with the members I had the opportunity of meeting in Acacia. I decided to pledge, as it was obvious that this group was willing to invest in and produce well-rounded, driven individuals. I love how active and involved our members are, and it makes me really happy to see younger guys step up and do what they can to continue growing the chapter. Acacia has held me to high academic standards throughout college and has given me better friends than I could have asked for. Looking ahead, I'm excited to educate our incoming pledge class on the values our fraternity holds, as well as being a mentor to help prepare them develop themselves and the chapter as a whole after I graduate.

## Recruitment Chair - Joshua Wolf #952

My name is Josh Wolf and I am from Lockport, Illinois. I am currently a third-year in mechanical engineering. I joined Acacia because I was striving for leadership opportunities and a brotherhood that would push me to be the best I can in my academics, career, and life in general. Given that the members appreciated the same ideals and goals as I did, I felt that I could fit in Acacia. Not only did Acacia show me the importance of professional development, I saw that the strong bonds and ever-lasting friendships that the members had with each other was paramount to anything else. This significantly gave me comfort to know that someone will always be there for you whenever you need it. Being Recruitment Chair has made me excited to introduce new individuals that will learn and hold the same values as we all do.

## Risk Manager - Kayle Fairchild #961

I joined Acacia because from the first moment I came to the house and got to know the chapter, I was immediately impressed with the strong brotherhood and selflessness present in every member. Acacia is a place where members are constantly putting others before themselves, and philanthropy is very important to everyone in the chapter. I knew that Acacia was where I belonged, and was a place I could positively contribute to the communities around me. Being elected Risk Manager allows me to serve this chapter that has done so much for me, as well as positively contribute to the betterment of the chapter. I hold the safety of the chapter incredibly highly, and I'm excited to work with the rest of the executive board to keep the house and the chapter safe and free from unnecessary dangers or risks.

## Treasurer - Jacob Smith #973

My name is Jacob Smith and I am a sophomore majoring in Marketing. I was born in Iowa City and have lived in North Liberty my whole life. When I first came to Iowa, I didn't have any interest in joining a fraternity. However, after meeting many of the guys and coming around the house, I quickly wanted to become a part of Acacia. This chapter has done so much for me and given me a place to call home. I wanted to run for Treasurer so I could give back to my brothers. Previously, I held the position of Philanthropy chair which was very fulfilling. I wanted to continue holding a leadership position for the chapter, and I felt running for Treasurer was the way to do this. I am looking forward to the upcoming year and all that our chapter will accomplish.

## NEW INITIATES

Last spring and this fall, we had the opportunity to initiate two pledge classes. The Spring 2021 pledge class was activated in April and the Fall 2021 pledge class was just recently activated in November.

Through this, we welcomed 21 new active members. Thank you to those who came to see the initiation of our new brothers! Acacia is the largest It has been since the 90's!

### Spring 2021

Alex Epstein #978  
 Blake Arends #979  
 Emiliano Paz #980  
 Keegan Nagle #981  
 Brendan Rodatz #982  
 Shray Patel #983  
 Joseph Laera #984  
 Brandon Coble #985

### Fall 2021

Brendan Forrest #986  
 Cody Hotman #987  
 Travis Thomas #988  
 Santiago Muñoz #989  
 Daniel Fitch #990  
 Weston McMann #991  
 Chase Wuebker #992  
 Tristyn O'Connor #993  
 John Vandervort #994  
 Nate Fritz #995  
 Nong Press #996  
 Brandon Kane #997  
 Alex Guzman #998

Congratulations to former Recruitment Chair, Maximus Gonzalez for recruiting 21 new actives to Acacia!



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Anthony Gamino #886

Hometown: Addison, IL

Major: Enterprise Leadership

Graduation: December 2019

Following graduation, I stayed in Iowa City for a couple of months trying to figure out what the next steps in my life/career would be. I ended up finding a position in San Diego and made a plan to move there around the Spring of 2020. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic started and the position that I interviewed for was cut due to the halting of any new-hires. I ended up staying in Iowa City until May, but still planned to move to San Diego since I had initiated a transfer from my National Guard unit in Iowa to a unit in California. During the time I was in Iowa City, I decided to get a dog (@chancethepupperr\_) and sold everything I couldn't fit in my car. I ended up getting to San Diego and working a temporary job until I found an Active Duty Army position working as an Assistant Operations NCO in San Diego. I held that role until August of 2021 and now work remotely as an Operations Analyst for a E-Commerce company based out of Colorado. I really enjoy what I do and love spending time at home with my girlfriend and dog. During my time in Acacia, I held the role of Homecoming Chair, Secretary, and Philanthropy Chair. I also had the opportunity to be in the first class of Re-Founding Fathers back in August 2015. Throughout my time in Acacia, I met some of the best friends I still hold to this day. My fondest memories include Sunday night Chapter Meetings and the multiple pre-games where I got to know my brothers. My favorite, however, would be the Skeet-Sheets Solsma story being told at Chapter. Don't think I've laughed that hard since and hope legendary tales of debauchery are still being shared in the Chapter room today.



## ADVISOR'S CORNER

Hello Brothers. As 2021 ends I thought I would share some insights on the chapter. The year started with the promise of vaccines. Weren't here yet though so I was stuck zooming most chapter meetings. Until it got warm enough to sit outside the French doors and listen in, chapter meetings were mostly online audio distortion. When I got my first shot, I masked up and braved the house a little more. 345 dinner and activation were a little less stressful. That was the backdrop for what I can easily call a banner year for our chapter.

Caleb and the exec board did a great job of dealing with all the crap the world was throwing at us (Covid, UI suspension, etc.). A special shout out to our rush chairman, Max. We inducted eight guys in the spring and thirteen in the fall. I am really impressed with the quality of the recruiting. I am convinced that our scholarship programs are moving the needle and the Chapter Builder online tool provided by HQ is being utilized well to gather potential new members, vetting them, and signing great pledges.

Our activation of these guys has been improved also. The chapter accepted with practically no grumbling the things that we needed to change based on our discussions with HQ. Thom Powell and I took things a little further with this last activation with the addition of silence to the proceedings. When the pledges were waiting for their turn, they were told to sit in silence. No phones and no talking. Now I know this sounds like hazing to anyone under 25 but it had a very powerful effect. We impressed upon the Actives that activation needs to be about the pledge's experience. Focus on them, not on some of the goofing around that creeps into the degrees. Very proud of our performance. Although our Venerable Dean, Caleb, did seem to work out some family issues when his younger brother was in the spotlight.

Last spring's class gave us one exec committee officer. Brandon Coble was elected secretary. The fall class had several guys run for exec positions. The ONLY thing that kept some from actually winning was that fact that they had been Actives for only 48 hours. We have a lot of leadership potential in our chapter now. So many guys were running for offices that it took five and half hours to elect the seven exec positions. Last year it took a couple of hours to do all the positions. I have great expectations for the next couple of years.

When the University pulled our recognition, it was an uncertain time. HQ was behind us. They saw through the fabrications of our accusers. Would we wither and die without the overlords at the Union recognizing us or would we circle the wagons and prove to the University, HQ, and the world that we are better than that? We are doing the latter by being laser focused on what we do well and fixing what we don't. Their commitment to move on and get it right is impressing me. The fathers' day event had a great story. One father said he had reservations about us after the suspension coverage but mentioned, before he left that weekend, that this was the best bunch of guys he could imagine for his son.

Volunteering as the Chapter Advisor has been very rewarding. There have been ups and downs, but it has brought us to where we are right now, and I like what I'm seeing.

I am an Acacian, and I am Proud of it.

Byron Tabor #644

[BTabor12@mchsi.com](mailto:BTabor12@mchsi.com) (319) 743-7886



## Acacia Membership Experience: Prepare Ourselves as Educated Men...

When asked about the greatest benefits gained from Acacia, 76% mentioned brotherhood, and the two things mentioned next most often were personal/professional development and leadership experience. Similarly, when asked what benefits are emphasized to potential new members, brotherhood came first and the next two were academic success and workplace skills. Acacia helps us pursue academic and professional development and wellbeing.

The International Headquarters staff, members of the International Council, and other alumni and undergraduate volunteers are developing Acacia's next strategic plan. The mission includes fostering individual growth, wellbeing, community engagement, and leadership development to support meaningful fraternal experiences. The three major areas of focus are Membership Growth, Engagement, and Development & Wellbeing, and subgroups are working on each.

Several leaders from the Iowa Chapter participated in the Lee Kearney Summit for Officers held in Indianapolis January 3, 4, 5. During one session members brainstormed hundreds of activities that build competencies such as Development, Direction, Collaboration, and Innovation; and which foster many types of wellbeing such as Academic, Career, Purpose, Financial, Social, Community, Mental, and Physical. The activities are beneficial, meaningful, engaging, and fun.

Chapter officers and members will be reviewing, building on, and elaborating activities to use for experiential learning and in programming for many areas of operation. Some have been and will be used in international events such as Conclaves, Acacia Leadership Academies, and Summits, and some in Chapter Retreats and Officer Transition Workshops. Some are particularly appropriate for new member education, but most are great for actives too.

Many activities are educational, and experiential learning is a vital for supplementing what's taught in college classrooms. Some are inspirational and some involve human service to our communities. All activities are social, and the interactions help build brotherhood among undergraduates (including recruiting potential new members), and with alumni members. Some may be useful for building relationships with members of sororities and parents.

Below are survey responses related to these activities and the Acacia Membership Experience:

- "Leadership, group accountability, academic resources, and close friends" (Caleb Fitch #942)
- "Building character with group accountability and shared responsibility" (James Cory #882)
- "Weekly chapter events, brotherhoods, philanthropies, and formals" (Konnor Douglas #945)
  - "Opportunities for developing and using leadership values and skills" (Alex Taylor #671)
- "The opportunities and growth provided by Acacia are unparalleled" (Jonah Blondino #928)
  - "Innovative and determined brothers brought out the best in me" (Christian Hicks #888)
    - "The Iowa Chapter values and promotes academics and diversity" (Dylan Glawe #917)
    - "Incorporating the new members into active chapter activities" (Aaron Morrow #836)
      - "Group activities, being in the house and interacting easily" (Dan Stence #598)
        - "Professional development advice from brothers" (Ethan Hahn #936)
        - "Good study habits, and goal achievement" (Lawrence Mohr #526)
          - "Networking with alumni (James Trainor #923)
          - "Treasurer experience" (Byron Tabor #644)



Thom Powell #611  
Chapter Advisor Team

## HOUSE WORK DAY

Last spring, the brothers of Acacia participated in their annual House Work Weekend. House Manager Sullivan Gregory planned and organized two days in April to complete some projects that were proposed by the chapter. First, the attic was fully insulated with the help of Corp Board President Steven Reis and many brothers. Additionally, the basement was painted and touched up to give it a more finished look. The Cloud (the room between the two attics) had new flooring put in. The previous carpet was removed and vinyl flooring was installed. Also, the retaining wall outside of our house was cleaned up and plants were added. Finally, both inside and outside of the house were cleaned up and debris was thrown away. Thank you to all the brothers who participated in making our house look better!



# BROTHERHOOD AND EVENTS

This October we had our first ever Alumni Pancake breakfast. While only a few alumni showed up, it was great to see the younger guys interacting with the alumni and exchanging information. October was a busy month for Iowa Acacia. In addition to our Alumni breakfast, we also had our Semi-formal. This year we had it at Wilsons Orchard, which had a scenic background. There were also competitive games that brothers and their dates could play, with prizes for the top winners. Overall, it was great to get out and spend time with great people at a great venue. The brothers also organized a dad's weekend in October. The turnout was great, and many dads showed up. Friday night we watched the Iowa v. Maryland game at the house, where dads got to meet each other and hang out. The following day was left for the brothers and their dads, with some going golfing, shopping, or exploring Iowa City. It was a great weekend for the brothers to spend quality time with their dads and a great networking opportunity! As many know, we were not given a spring break this past spring semester. However, the brothers decided to take a weekend for themselves and headed down to the Ozarks in Missouri. The four-and-a-half-hour drive was well worth it. The weather was nice, and it was a relaxing weekend where the brothers could escape the semester for a little bit, as well as enjoy the weather warming up. We look forward to going back in the future.



# ACADEMIC SUCCESS

## Fall 2021 3-4-5 Dinner Recipients:

**Connor Peterson, Dylan Glawe, James Trainor, Jonah Blondino, Jon Teitelbaum, Zach Taylor, Caleb Fitch, Cole Hillier, Tim Mumm, Joshua Wolf, Nicholas Downey, Sullivan Gregory, Hunter Utsler, Kayle Fairchild, Ben Price, Cole Belcher, Emiliano Paz, Keegan Nagle, Brendan Rodatz**

Congratulations to our 3-4-5 Dinner recipients from Spring 2021! These members were able to attain at least a 3.45 GPA for the previous semester. Over a third of our chapter was able to accomplish this feat. Thanks to our Chapter Advisor, Byron Tabor (#644), a secret recipe grilled beef tenderloin dinner was generously prepared for the recipients' hard work and success. Congratulations again to these outstanding brothers!



# THOMAS H. MACBRIDE SCHOLARSHIP

The Thomas H. Macbride Scholarship for Fall 2021 has officially been completed.

Congratulation to all of our recipients! At Acacia, we believe in giving back to the community that has given so much to us. In honor of the late Acacia alumnus, the Thomas H. Macbride Scholarship awards up to \$10,000 to deserving first-year students in the allotments of \$250 to \$3000. We choose recipients on the basis of scholarship, leadership, and service; and it's independent of one's decision to join a Greek organization. If you have a son, or know someone who does, that is looking to attend the University of Iowa, encourage them to fill out an application for Fall 2022. **Apply at [www.iowaacacia.com/scholarship](http://www.iowaacacia.com/scholarship)**

# ACACIA FRATERNITY FOUNDATION

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.**

- 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.
- If you live in the Iowa City area, join the **advisor committee**. 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.

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 the year our balance was \$149,354. Latest numbers for this calendar year market gains less fees have added \$8,737 to our fund. Donations added another \$2,293. We gave out \$9000 to the actives through the Acacia Scholarship Program (ASP). Finally, we spent \$3,800 on the Macbride scholarship and the Pythagoras dinner. We are slowly expanding our scholarship programs. **Survival and growth are very dependent on you.**

Market gains and donations are just a little short of our scholarships this year. We are really living on the market gains. Acacia is getting known on campus for our innovative scholarships. To continue that we can't trust Wall Street to keep us ahead. 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  
[BTabor12@mchsi.com](mailto:BTabor12@mchsi.com) (319) 310-7821  
 Acacia Fraternity Foundation



# FAREWELL LETTER FROM FORMER VENERABLE DEAN, CALEB FITCH

When I first walked through the door of Acacia Fraternity in August of 2019, I had no idea what an impact it would have on my college experience and my life. Over the last two years of serving on the executive board, I have grown in ways I never expected. I have been faced with situations where there is no good outcome. It was not always easy, but it was always worth it.

A year ago, I ran for Venerable Dean because I wanted to serve the chapter. I was motivated by my passion for Acacia and my love for my brothers. During my presidency, the chapter has accomplished so much. During an unprecedented global pandemic and the suspension of university recognition, no one would have been surprised if the chapter declined. Expectations from the Iowa community were slim. Instead, we have thrived. We have hit new peaks for membership, increased our recognition on campus, and grown as a group.

Over the last year, I did all I could to make Acacia better. I was not always successful. There were plenty of times where things did not go as planned. The success of the last year would not have been possible without the hard work of both the executive board and the chapter. Konner, Jack, Max, Josh, Hunter, and Cole truly sacrificed so much of their time and energy to better our record. To them, I am thankful. Nothing would have been possible without them.

To my brothers, I hope you are proud of what we have accomplished over the last year. I hope you are even more excited over what we are yet to accomplish over the next year under our new leadership. The Iowa chapter of Acacia will continue to grow, prosper, and flourish. We will continue to pass on our values of brotherhood, human service, and academics for generations to come.

So Live,  
Caleb Fitch #942  
Venerable Dean

# Lost Brothers

304 Ralph C Thompson  
306 Walter T Hanson  
324 Charles L Johnston  
328 Ray J Allen  
332 Orville R Schroeder  
366 William P Scott  
426 Dwight H Finken  
472 Alan A Wyckoff  
501 Patrick E Rogers  
507 Daniel J Brunt  
518 William D Sawyer  
520 Frank J Swinehart  
560 Marc Potter  
571 Dennis D Young  
577 Timothy C Miller  
626 John M Lucas  
635 Russ E Hill  
648 James J Dwyer  
696 Robert A Strunk  
711 Mike M Hofmann  
733 Robert J Brennet  
736 Brian W Thomson  
780 Justin M Schall  
782 Ken W Dohrn  
812 Chris J Parker  
816 Travis Kain  
825 Samer Yahyaw  
826 Dan R Edmonds  
852 Justin Frentress  
854 Jason Kielty  
861 David Rast