



THE CREST

An ePublication for the Brothers and Friends of Acacia Fraternity

NOVEMBER 19, 2012

[The Ultimate Expression of our own Humanity](#)

[Blues-rock in Champaign-Urbana](#)

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Greetings!



In our latest Crest, we recognize the changing of seasons as a call to Human Service, celebrate the music coming from the Illinois Chapter, and share a quick note on the new look of the Crest and the Acacia blog. We hope you like the new design and enjoy reading this issue of the Crest.

[Send us an email](#), we'd love to hear from you.

Fraternally,

Keith M. Bushey

Executive Director

Acacia Fraternity

HUMAN SERVICE - THE ULTIMATE EXPRESSION OF OUR OWN HUMANITY

As another winter approaches and the last autumn leaves fall to enrich our mother earth, our thoughts turn again to the celebration of holidays and time spent with family and friends. These seasonal rituals serve to remind us of both the present and the everlasting, and no matter where we may happen to be, evoke feelings of home.

For so many of us, Acacia has served as a home away from home. Thanksgiving dinners at the chapter house, invitations to Christmas dinner, the lighting of Chanukah candles, or just a shared car ride to our hometowns – we've all been reminded at this time of year of just how fortunate we are. Such blessings also bring into focus those who are not so fortunate. And so, as Acacians, it is a special time for us to give light to our fellow man and exemplify our motto, *Human Service*.



This season finds Acacians serving our local communities and traveling far and wide to help others. The 9th annual Acacia Claus holiday toy drive is already underway at a number of chapters across North America, with more and more Acacians participating every year. This month, the **California University of Pennsylvania Chapter** worked with Alpha Sigma Tau sorority to collect over \$2,000 worth of toys for Toys for Tots. The brothers of the CUP Chapter serve their community year-round, and this is only one example of their efforts.

In Philadelphia, three hundred miles east of California, PA, **Brother Konstantinos A. Fotiadis, Purdue Â'98** saw the devastation wrought by Hurricane Sandy and took it upon himself to make a difference. What began as an effort to raise a few hundred dollars for relief goods from friends on Facebook resulted in a loaded semi truck full of 25 lb. food kits, cleaning kits, water, and diapers to supply 400 families, plus Brother Fotiadis' own truck and U-Haul trailer full of supplies, and a 15-volunteer effort to distribute it all in Holmdel, New Jersey.



Meanwhile, the devastation in Haiti from the 2010 earthquake is still severe. This coming January, **Brother Brandon M. Nordhoff, Indiana Â'04** is traveling to Carrefour, Haiti to assist in relief efforts. He and his volunteer group will deliver needed supplies and provide medical aid to those who need it most. You can make a contribution to support Brother Nordhoff's efforts here: <http://www.indiegogo.com/p/276104>.

FROM THE RITUAL: *It is a measure of their wisdom that the men who shaped Acacia in its early years selected Human Service as our guiding principle. To those men of thought and vision, human service was the profoundest Truth upon which we can base our lives. For they knew that in serving our fellow man we find the ultimate expression of our own humanity.*

ACACIA'S THE ARS NOVA ROCK THE PRAIRIE CROSSROADS BLUES SOCIETY

What's that sound radiating outward from Champaign-Urbana in downstate Illinois? It's blues-rock band *The Ars Nova* from the **Illinois Chapter** of Acacia! The four-piece ensemble competed on October 20th in the Prairie Crossroads Blues Society's International Blues Challenge. The guys played an energetic set to a full house, with original songs featuring a heavy rock beat and some excellent guitar work. Though *The*



Ars Nova missed out on first place and a trip to Memphis, their tight play after only one year playing together shows promise for a bright future.

REVAMPED CREST DESIGN & ACACIA BLOG

If you're a long-time reader of the Crest, you'll notice that we've brightened things up in this issue! With this redesign, our main objective is to make articles easier to read while sticking to the same overall format you're used to. This new design also compliments our recently redesigned [Acacia blog](#), which is also easier to read and easier to navigate. [Let us know what you think!](#)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

This Thanksgiving week and throughout the entire holiday season, we celebrate the things that matter most and keep close to our hearts the Acacia motto, *Human Service*. Warm wishes and safe travels to Acacians everywhere.



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