



THE CREST

An ePublication for the Brothers and Friends of Acacia Fraternity

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Greetings!

Coming off a fantastic Acacia Leadership Academy earlier this month, the energy is palpable throughout our Fraternity. With a new Executive Director named and Acacia leaders engaged from coast-to-coast, an exciting 2013-2014 academic year is upon us. Please forward this issue of *The Crest* to other brothers in your email contacts, and be on the watch for another edition soon.

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NAMED

On Saturday, August 3, 2013, during the closing banquet of the 10th biennial Acacia Leadership Academy, the Acacia Fraternity International Council appointed **Patrick W. McGovern, Indiana Á'99** as the seventh Executive Director in Acacia's 109-year history. The announcement was met with vigorous applause by all in attendance -- undergraduates representing nearly all Acacia chapters and colonies, Council members, Foundation Directors, and the Headquarters staff.



Brother McGovern's work with Acacia has spanned multiple areas of fraternity operations over the past decade. Most recently, Patrick served as Assistant Executive Director and led day-to-day fraternity operations after the Executive Director's position became vacant in May 2013. Patrick also served as Acacia's first-ever Director of Membership Development from 2006 to 2013 and before that as a Leadership Consultant in 2003. Today, Brother McGovern represents Acacia in the interfraternity world as a facilitator at events such the North-American Interfraternity Conference's UIFI and IMPACT programs.

"My vision is for Acacia to remain relevant, sustainable, distinctive, and leadership-oriented for generations to come. The pathway to that reality is by way of values-based decision-making, continual learning, and integrity."

Acacia has recognized Brother McGovern's achievements with the Award of Merit, Order of Pythagoras, and, as an undergraduate, the Roy C. Clark Award. He served the Indiana Chapter as Venerable Dean and Recruitment Chairman and received numerous chapter awards and scholarships. Patrick graduated from Indiana University in May 2002 with a B.S. in Public Affairs with a specialization in Management, and he currently lives in his hometown of Indianapolis with his wife Carrie and 11-month old daughter, Ruby.

Says Brother McGovern, "we are fortunate to have the opportunity to be a force for goodness in the fraternity world, in our communities, and in our relationships with others. Let's challenge ourselves to be excellent in every way possible, and let's remain humble that we may always recognize opportunities for improvement."

Patrick may be reached by email at pmcgovern@acacia.org

AN ALA TO REMEMBER

Before it came time to "pass the gavel" at the Acacia Leadership Academy final banquet, it was already clear that everyone in attendance had enjoyed a memorable four days together. But as the gavel made its way around the room, and brothers expressed their love for Acacia through stories, laughter, and tears, the purpose of our brotherhood was fully realized.



We say that the ALA experience is intended to simulate a "model fraternity." This year's event - formally the **10th Biennial Darold W. Larson Leadership Academy** - certainly fulfilled that mission. More than 80 active members traveled from across North America to live together under one roof, elect officers, maintain the chapter house, attend educational sessions, compete in the Acacia Olympics, and practice the Acacia Ritual. The brothers excelled in all areas, and whenever a minor misstep occurred -- an Olympics match-up snafu or a tardy brother -- it was addressed in model fashion.

Educational presentations by guest speakers and Headquarters staff focused fraternity operations, Cornerstones, and recruitment. Featured presenters at this year's ALA included: [Tom Healy of Campuspeak](#) who spoke on recruiting high quality members; International Council 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents, **Scott H. Meyer, St. Cloud State '89** and **Jeremy N. Davis, Iowa '00**, who shared insights and practical tips for relationship building in the 21st century; Ronie Pastko, a certified holistic health coach, who discussed health and wellness for the college-aged man; and Joe McMenemon of [ChapterSpot](#) who demonstrated his company's online chapter management application, AcaciaConnect.



Many will agree upon their favorite moment from ALA -- the initiation of new member **Peter Corso, Michigan Â'14**. Brother Corso was led through each Degree of Initiation by brothers from a multitude of Acacia chapters and colonies. The support evidenced by our international brotherhood towards the Michigan Colony was inspiring as Peter and his colony brothers work to bring Acacia back to our founding campus at the University of Michigan.

Following initiation on the Leadership Academy's final day, brothers completed their remaining Acacia Olympics matches and enjoyed a brief presentation by the Acacia Fraternity Foundation before sitting down to enjoy a steak dinner at the final banquet. The evening culminated with scholarship presentations, the announcement of Patrick W. McGovern as Acacia's next Executive Director, and the passing of the gavel.

As brothers departed, they left with more than just practical tips and resources to bring back to their home chapters this fall. More than that, they had learned through their own efforts the meaning of brotherhood in Acacia Fraternity.

Look for more on Acacia Leadership Academy in the next issue of the Triad Magazine.

ACACIA ADDS NEW LEADERSHIP CONSULTANTS TO STAFF

When classes begin this fall on college campuses across North America, Acacia will have two new Leadership Consultants the road to visiting our chapters & colonies to help each one perform at its best. Leadership Consultants' primary responsibilities are to evaluate, educate, and motivate our chapters during 3-4 day in-depth visits with each group. Both of

this year's LCA's bring strong resumes to the table and a zeal to better our fraternity's record.

Gregory J. Lary, Ohio Á'09, a 2013 graduate of Ohio University with a B.S. in Political Science, served his chapter in numerous roles as an undergraduate including Venerable Dean, Pledge Educator, and IFC Representative. Greg's leadership coincided with a resurgence of the Ohio Chapter which earned it the President's Award for membership growth at Acacia's 57th Biennial Conclave in 2012. Greg was recognized by his chapter as Undergraduate of the Year in 2012 and Acacian of the Year in 2013.

Says Brother Lary, "I hope to use my competitive nature to help develop strong, feasible strategies for up-and-coming Acacia chapters to reach their full potential." Greg may be reached by email at glary@acacia.org.

Nathaniel D. McKee, Missouri Á'10 is a 2013 University of Missouri graduate, where he double-majored in Psychology and English. Nathan served his chapter as Senior Dean, Director of Recruitment, and Academic Chairman. The Missouri Chapter grew its membership by 50% during Nathan's recruitment term. His chapter has also awarded him with the Richard Jesse Award for Academic Excellence.

Nate is an Eagle Scout and plans to earn his JD-MBA in the future. "I'm excited to go learn and help advance my brothers' efforts all around the nation. My goal is to help find a plan for every chapter that will give them a sense of pride when they become alumni." Nathan may be reached by email at nmckee@acacia.org.

Acacia would also like to thank outgoing Leadership Consultant **Nicholas M. Montanari, Washington State Á'08** for his service over the past year. Brother Montanari is pursuing a Master's Degree at the University of Idaho beginning this fall.

CONCLAVE 2014 - NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Mark your calendar! The 58th Biennial Acacia Conclave and Leadership Academy will be held in *The Music City* - **Nashville, Tennessee from July 30 through August 4**. Join with Acacians from across North America for brotherhood, official fraternity business, educational sessions, and entertainment! All Acacians are welcome to attend Conclave in its entirety or for any days you are able, and spouses are welcome at numerous events. Hotel and registration info to follow soon.



Alumni: Be a mentor



Undergraduate Acacians need your support. [Volunteer to be a mentor today](#), and have a meaningful and lasting impact on a young brother's journey.

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