



# THE CREST

An ePublication for the Brothers and Friends of Acacia Fraternity

**JUNE 16, 2015**


â€¢ Headquarters staff takes shape

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## HEADQUARTERS STAFF TAKES SHAPE FOR 2015/16 ACADEMIC YEAR

The final days of spring have been busy for the Acacia Headquarters staff, with new faces arriving and others moving on to the next phase of their respective journeys.



(L-R) New staff members - Jackson Aaberg, Drew Sherman, Benjamin Turconi

Joining the Headquarters staff as a Leadership Consultant for the 2015/16 academic year is Jackson H. Aaberg, *Missouri '12*. Brother Aaberg served his chapter as Senior Dean, leading the chapter's largest pledge class since their 2003 re-founding. He also served the chapter as Director of Service and Philanthropy, cultivating a relationship with the St. Louis Shriners Hospital. Jackson is an avid swimmer and served as President of the Mizzou Swim Club

before graduating with degrees in Political Science and Psychology.

Also new to the International Fraternity staff is Drew K. Sherman, *Iowa State '11* who will be serving as Expansion Coordinator for the Indiana University re-colonization. Brother Sherman served his chapter as Recruitment Chairman and Public Relations Chairman. He served two terms on the Interfraternity Council in recruitment and leadership development positions, and founded the Alpha Mu chapter of the Fraternal Values Society at ISU. Drew was also involved in numerous service projects at Iowa State, where he graduated with a B.S. in Economics and International Studies. (*Editor's note: Drew will also be stepping down from his position as Undergraduate Counselor on Acacia's International Council, a position to which he was elected at the 2014 Conclave.*)

Jackson and Drew join recent hire Benjamin B. Turconi, *California '12* (highlighted in our last *Crest*) as our new staff members for the year.

We are also excited to announce the promotion of Jerod K. Miles, *Central Oklahoma '09* to Director of Expansion and Recruitment. Brother Miles recently completed his first year on the Acacia staff as a Leadership Consultant – a successful year in which he led the University of Washington expansion. Jerod will be coordinating multiple expansions in 2015/16 and is working to develop a robust expansion pipeline.

Finally, we offer best wishes to Leadership Consultant Nathaniel C. McKee, *Missouri '10* who will be departing the Headquarters staff after two full years of service and countless miles traveled and hours devoted to working with our undergraduates. Brother McKee was recognized with the Order of Pythagoras in 2014 for his efforts. Nate will be starting at the University of Missouri School of Law in the fall.

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## LETTER FROM JEROD MILES, DIRECTOR OF EXPANSION AND RECRUITMENT

Dear Brothers,

I write this letter to you to introduce myself formally. My name is Jerod Miles. I was initiated into this prestigious brotherhood on December 5, 2009 as a member of the University of Central Oklahoma Chapter. During my undergraduate years I

fully took advantage of everything this fraternity has offered, while also doing my part to give back to the brotherhood that has given me so much.

One of my proudest moments during my undergrad experience took place during my time as Venerable Dean when my chapter had the pleasure of initiating Acacia's 50,000th member. This experience was the first time I thought about Acacia's growth on a larger scale, Internationally. Instead of only focusing on UCO's growth, I realized I wanted to see 50,000 more become Acacians.

Less than two years after this experience, I started on staff for Acacia as a Leadership Consultant. This May, I was officially given the title of Director of Expansion and Recruitment. In this new role, I plan on doing my best to grow our fraternity, but I write you this letter today saying I cannot do it alone. I write you this letter today to personally invite you to take part in helping Acacia flourish and grow.

We have expansions planned this fall at the University of Iowa and Indiana University. If you know of any young men attending either of these universities and feel they would be a great fit to our re-colonization, please fill out either the [University of Iowa Recommendation Form](#) or the [Indiana Acacia Recommendation Form](#). Additionally, there are four more campuses we have the opportunity to expand to in the upcoming year through interest groups. These campuses are Arizona State, University of Pittsburgh, University of Tennessee, and Pace University in New York City. If you know of any young men at these universities, or any other campus in which Acacia already has a presence, please send a recommendation to me at [jmiles@acacia.org](mailto:jmiles@acacia.org).

Additionally, I would also love to hear any recommendations for future colonizations. Currently we have 10 campuses listed on our map to go along with the six previously mentioned. If you live in a community that has a college or university that would suit Acacia, please send me the university name, and we will research to gauge the potential for an expansion. Additionally, if you know a young man with the leadership traits or network to help start a chapter, please send me his information, and we can assess if there is potential at their university or college.

The future for Acacia is bright, and I am excited to begin this journey as Director of Expansion and Recruitment and to work with you to build our Brotherhood!

Fraternally,  
Jerod Miles  
Director of Expansion and Recruitment

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## ACACIA WEBSITE SURVEY

The fraternity is in the planning stages of building the next version of Acacia.org, and we want to hear from you on how we can best meet your membership needs online: [Take the Acacia website survey.](#)

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## SPRING TRIAD HITTING MAILBOXES SOON

The spring issue of The TRIAD is at the printing press now, and we have plenty of positive stories coming from our chapters as they closed out the 2014/15 academic year. Academic excellence, Human Service projects, and stories of brotherhood abound. In fact, we didn't even have room to include every great story. Here is one from the cutting room floor:

### **St. Cloud Brothers Take the Plunge**

During the month of February, actives from the St. Cloud State Chapter volunteered to help run the local 'Polar Plunge' which raised nearly \$100,000 for Special Olympics Minnesota. Some of the bravest brothers bared the subzero temperatures and gusty winds to make the plunge themselves, including Venerable Dean Dylan Tafuri:



"We raised \$1,209 for the Special Olympics as a chapter - we were the number one organization on our campus in how much we raised - and we volunteered to help run the event. We had eight brothers jump through a hole in the frozen lake (I was one of them, and it was -5 degrees that day), and to top off the entire thing, one of our brothers, Erik Stroman, interned for the event and actually planned, did public relations, and worked on the event for weeks leading up to it."

The chapter's efforts were recognized by local media. An article from the website of AM1240 WJON stated, "Plungers like Alex Nipp from Acacia Fraternity at St. Cloud State had a great time. Nipp and his fraternity helped in setting up the event before taking the plunge themselves. 'Yeah [the plunge is] something, your body kind of shuts down a little bit,' Nipp says. 'It was cold, [but] it was fun, though, and for a good cause.'"

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## STAFF APARTMENT IN NEED OF GENTLY USED FURNITURE AND HOUSEWARES

Are you located near the Indianapolis area and have any gently used furniture or housewares that you would like to donate? Coinciding with our new Headquarters staff configuration for 2015/16, the staff apartment is moving across Indianapolis and could use some additional furnishings. Please email Director of Operations Michael Weber at [mweber@acacia.org](mailto:mweber@acacia.org) if you have any items that

may be suitable.

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## STUDENT LOAN DEBT? ACACIA PARTNERS WITH SOFI FOR REFINANCING

Acacia has partnered with SoFi, a company specializing in student loan refinancing, to offer its services to Acacia brothers. SoFi helps ambitious professionals accelerate their success with student loan refinancing, MBA loans, mortgages, and personal loans. Their nontraditional underwriting approach takes into account merit and employment history among other factors to provide unique financial and investment products.

[View a one-page PDF from SoFi for more information.](#)

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### Order Acacia Gear



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