

THE TRAVELER

Acacia Fraternity, Cornell Chapter

Turning the Tide: A Plan for Our Fraternity's Future



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Venerable Dean



The first time the actives met the current Live -in Advisor



Brother Zaharioudakis and his group of student mentees

Spring 2023 Chapter Roll

Executive Board

William Salcedo (1244) Treasurer

Electrical Engineering '23 Jersey Shore, New Jersey

Gabriel Davilla (1255) Senior Dean

Industrial Labor Relations '25 Amherst, Massachussets

Vasilios Zaharioudakis (1242) Venerable Dean Corp Board Secretary

Hotel School '22 Ioannina, Greece

Nathan Francis (1262) Co-Junior Dean

Biology '25 Los Angeles, California

Jacob Siboyeh (1254) Recruitment Chairman

Computer Science '24 Austin, Texas

Kevin Rivera (1261) Co-Junior Dean

Biology '25 Chicago, Illinois

Manuel Cortes (1259)

Animal Science '25 La Ceiba, Honduras

Antony Kariuki (1257)

Electrical Engineering '25 Nairobi, Kenya

Alec Galin (1260)

Computer Science '25 Santa Cruz, California

Victor Huggett (1264)

Economics '23 Arlington, Virginia

Eraclis Hristodoulou (LIA)

Masters Geology '23 Rochester, New York

Haoyang Chang (1258)

Economics '25 Beijing, China

Byung Joon (1233)

Economics '23 Queretaro, Mexico



Derek Lao (1263)

Biology '25 Queens, New York

Message from Our Corporation Board President

Greetings!

You are reading only the 2nd printed edition of The Traveler since the pandemic. Cornell Acacia is still in survival mode, and our future is uncertain. Formal Rush was ineffective, but the Actives are still attempting to recruit new members from the list of those Cornellians who expressed an interest in Greek Life but did not join any fraternity.

Acacia National has provided some assistance in the form of a visit in early February from Kelsey Gomez-Morrissey, Director of Chapter Development. She determined that Cornell Acacia lacked an identity and some of the Actives had no pride in Acacia. There was a lack of Brother connection, leadership, and motivation. The focus was more on the physical house and less on Brotherhood. She recommended a 3-pronged plan for Acacia:

- 1. Build brand (who we are)
- 2. Intentional Brotherhood
- 3. Recruitment the PhiredUp/Acacia National Headquarters way

While this won't be easy, a successful recruitment can still occur before the end of this academic year. The Corp Board will likely provide whatever financial assistance it can (e.g. reduced rent and other subsidies, investing in projects to make Northcote more attractive to new members, etc.) to keep Northcote open. We are in agreement that we should use our current funds to insure the future of our great Fraternity.

The aging Northcote still receives much TLC. The Live In Advisor's bathroom was painted (by yours truly) over Winter Break. A number of light fixtures were replaced, and we finally got our chimney work done. Both operating fireplaces now have a mechanical damper, and the hot water maker flue now has a stainless steel liner to eliminate backdrafts which allow potentially fatal carbon monoxide to build up in the Boiler Room. The frostproof sillcock (outside hose bib) recently burst and was replaced.

Beginning in August 2021, Cornell University mandated that every Greek living unit hire a Live-In Advisor. The LIA is compensated with room and board along with a \$2,000/semester stipend. The job responsibilities are a work-in-progress, as Cornell provided virtually no guidance, training or support of Live-In Advisors.

This Academic Year continues to be a challenge, but I believe that we will survive and succeed if we continue to make intelligent choices and decisions. We are all in this together

Acacia is still not completely filled this academic year, and probably won't be next fall, either. Although there are no empty rooms, most of the double rooms are only occupied by one Brother. Acacia still relies on Alumni financial support which has been quite strong lately. However, I continue to be perplexed and bothered by the fact that the majority of our 600+ alumni choose to NOT even pay their annual dues (which can be done via snail-mail, PayPal www.paypal.com to AcaciaCorpBoard@cornell.edu), or VENMO venmo.com (@Acacia-Fratnerity-13). Also, please check out the Cornell Acacia website

(https://www.cornellacacia.org/) which has undergone a major overhaul.

We need your financial assistance, and we need it now. I realize some percentage of you might have financial, personal, or health issues, but not most of you! To those alumni who generously financially support Cornell Acacia, our thanks!

Please email or call me if you have comments, concerns, suggestions, want to get involved, or simply want to say hello. It would be wonderful if I heard from some of you so I know you are as concerned, yet encouraged, as I am about the future of our beloved Acacia. The Mailbag column once again has news to share, so please share your news with us!

Stay safe.

Fraternally,

Steven L. Stein 1973 (787)

[339 E. Miller Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850-9431; 607-277-3125; cell 607-351-3901; sls8@cornell.edu]

The Mailbag Alumni News

Wallace Rich 1951 (523) [12904 County Hwy. 18, Hobart, NY 13788-2014; wallyrich2@gmail.com] is curious if there are any Big Red Band members in Acacia (there were several when he lived there.

John Walsh III 1958 (603) [296 Watercure Hill Rd, Elmira, NY 14901-9233; jmwii9@hotmail.com] "28 art quilts from my art collection are on display at the International Quilt Museum, all on the subject of water. Check out the museum's website, click on exhibitions, then click on "Now Showing", and finally Water Featured: the John M Walsh III Collection."

Preston W Shimer 1961 (635) [217 Thornberry Cir, Pittsburgh, PA 15234-1024; pws25@cornell.edu] passed along the sad news that Robert C Pfahl, Jr 1960 (634) passed away in November 2021 (see Chapter Eternal). Preston also was happy to read that current Venerable Dean Vasilios Zaharioudakis 2023 (1242) is a fellow Hotelie and notes there have been very few Hotelies to hold that position (Kent Belvin 1970 (736) was another).

Richard McMurtry '67 (701) [8769 Bower St, Sebastopol, CA 95472;

RMcMurtry@baymoon.com] "After 16 years of advocating for new water management procedures at the Santa Clara Valley Water District in order to restore the steelhead trout and chinook salmon populations is San Jose and Santa Clara streams, I had to acknowledge that the political and environmental awareness conditions at the local political level are not ripe for the needed changes. So, I worked for 2 years trying to get state legislation introduced that would require the State Water Resources Control Board to mandate minimum stream flows to sustain fisheries. But the Governor's office was adamantly opposed to such action. So, in December 2022, the non-profit corporation that had been the vehicle for that advocacy was dissolved. I am taking a new direction in my life, taking training to be a small group facilitator with a human awareness organization that has been operating in CA for the past 35 years. Grandchildren turned 10 and 15, have changed their names and their pronouns; and I marvel at their creativity and fluidity and the openness of their hearts. There was something about the Fall '22 Traveler that made me want to send a small donation. Not even sure what it was I read, but I wanted to express support – even if in a small way."

Carl H Herzog 1966 (711) [38 Wishbone Ln, Charlotte, VT 05445-9412; cherzog@gmavt.net] writes that it is good to learn that Acacia has come back from Covid in such good condition. He likes the new Traveler format. Anyone know how to contact Larry Smith '65 (694)?

Dr, David A Gorelick 1968 (717) [3316 Old Forest Rd, Baltimore, MD 21208-3101; DavidGorelick1@gmail.com] still enjoys retirement: visiting grandchildren, while working part-time in clinical research at the University of Maryland and serving as editor-in-chief of the Journal of Cannabis Research.

Jerry W Kreider 1968 (720) [200 Price Ave, Unit 2, Narberth, PA 19072-1953; jerry22k@comcast.net] stays in touch with Rich Ahlfeld 1968 (713) and Sam Roberts 1968 (722). Sam has new book, The New Yorkers – check it out.

Steven L Stein 1973 (787) [339 E Miller Rd, Ithaca, NY 14850-9431; sls8@cornell.edu] still works full-time for Cornell, but does this from home. He just celebrated his 72nd birthday with family and friends. He recently began a complete kitchen renovation at his home (which has been neglected while he spent countless days working on Acacia maintenance projects), and is nearly done with the demolition phase. Electrical rewiring will be followed by the installation of spray foam insulation, a new window, new LVT floor, new cabinets, quartz countertop, wall tile (only the ceiling will ever require paint), new appliances (induction cooktop, convection oven, counter depth refrigerator), new lighting, and maybe even a solar tube. Hopefully, the kitchen renovation will be complete before the weather becomes too tempting to resist heading to the golf course!

Dale A La Shomb 1973 (781) [407 W 52nd St, Apt 6R, New York, NY 10019-5671] shared that 2022 was a MUCH better one that the prior when his father passed away from COVID and Dale had his own health issues. There was very little travel due to the pandemic. In 2022, after recovering from gout and a severe case of poison oak, he did a lot of traveling (UK, West VA, Kentucky, upstate NY, Ohio, Alaska, San Francisco, Italy, and Connecticut. Dale is taking a break this year from AARP (where he has volunteered for 14 years straight) and was planning on visiting Los Angeles in February/March where he will see J. Richard (Rick) Fontanetta 1972 (776). Dale with then head to Vietnam for 2 weeks and later this year to Dubai. "Time is shortening and we all should make the best of it whle we can. Just saying."

Philip M Schuler 1980 (886) [719 Burritt Rd, Hilton, NY 14468-9765; phil71@rochester.rr.com] "Retired after 40 years in 2020. I highly recommend it! Glad to hear of all the progress at Northcote – many great memories there."

Mark A Schaten MD 1984 (923) [S4W31227 Hidden Hollow, Delafield, WI 53018-3264; mschatenmd@icloud.com] was glad to read the chapter is recovering and thought the last Traveler was great. Saw David Sangree 1984 (917) for dinner when he was in the area last summer. Mark's daughter, Allie, is now in 11th grade. Mark is now mostly retired from medical practice.

Daniel E Turinsky 1997 (1004) [30 Marion Ave, Short Hills, NJ 07078-2138; dturinsky@hotmail.com] had a great time catching up with Patara Yongvanich 1997 (1006), Ray Wang 1997 (1009), and Dan Davidson 1997 (1012) over dinner in NYC last summer.

Michael Nasatka 2004 (1045) writes "Great Traveler! Happy to see the Commons looking so nice."

Thomas L Ricketts 2003 (1051) [26 Keith St, West Roxbury, MA 02132-3117; TLRicketts@gmail.com] is a Director of the Cornell Acacia Fraternity Corp Board. He now works for CRISPR as a Senior Engineer.

Thomas J Balcerski Ph.D. 2005 (1063) [475 48th Ave, Apt 2609, Long Island City, NY 11109-5524; tjb36@cornell.edu] is the Ray Allen Billington Visiting Professor of U.S. History and a Long-term Fellow at the Huntington Library for academic year 2022-2023. Any Acacians in Los Angeles, please say hi!

Chris Bostick 2009 (1101) [PO Box 372, Windsor, NJ 08561-0372; cdb35@cornell.edu] – Traveler looks great!

Andrew Gross 2009 (1113) [20 Riverview Ave, Tarrytown, NY 10591; andrew.w.gross@gmail.com] thanks Steve Stein 1973 (787) for hunting him down to make sure he got the Traveler.

John M Ertl 2011 (1148) [313 Huntley Ave, Charlottsville, VA 22903; jme86@cornell.edu] and wife, Serwa, now have a two-year old son, Huxley (a future Cornell Acacian).

Honor Roll

Donor	ROll#	Class	Pledge Year
John M Abeles *	(796)	1975	PL 1972
Thomas J Balcerski Ph.D). * (1063)	2005	PL 2002
Elie Yakov Bilmes	(1118)	2010	PL 2007
Christopher Bostick	(1101)	2009	PL 2006
Andrew S Brenner *	(953)	1990	PL 1987
Stewart L Burger *	(738)	1970	PL 1967
Martin S Cardinali	(918)	1984	PL 1981
Christian Choi	(1195)	2016	PL 2014
John R Cunningham	(927)	1985	PL 1983
Scott H Dulman	(899)	1983	PL 1980
Philip Engler	(739)	1970	PL 1967
John Mathias Ertl	(1148)	2011	PL 2009
Robert S Fash *	(594)	1958	PL 1954
Paul B Goldberg *	(755)	1971	PL 1968
David A Gorelick	(717)	1968	PL 1965
Andrew Wintress Gross	(1113)	2009	PL 2006
Matthew S Harris	(1042)	2002	PL 2000
Carl H Herzog *	(711)	1966	PL 1965
Nicholas Alexander Judson Ho (1117)		2009	PL 2007
Charles S Hong	(1043)	2001	PL 2000
Alan L Jette	(895)	1982	PL 1979
William L Keltz	(632)	1961	PL 1958
John D Koethe M.D. *	(829)	1977	PL 1974
Jerry W Kreider *	(720)	1968	PL 1965
Dale A La Shomb	(781)	1973	PL 1970
Mark F Maltenfort	(831)	1977	PL 1974
Richard K McMurtry	(701)	1967	PL 1964

Honor Roll Continued

Donor	ROll#	Class	Pledge Year
Harlan M Meinwald	(789)	1974	PL 1971
Andrew H Mercer	(890)	1982	PL 1979
Daniel R Merrill PhD	(907)	1983	PL 1980
Robert C Merritt *	(807)	1975	PL 1973
Paul G Molnar *	(1014)	1998	PL 1995
Michael T Nasatka *	(1045)	2004	PL 2000
Stanley R Niman *	(783)	1973	PL 1970
Todd Peskin *	(994)	1995	PL 1993
Wallace M Rich	(523)	1951	PL 1950
David G Rickerby	(960)	1991	PL 1987
Thomas L Ricketts *	(1051)	2003	PL 2000
Mark A Schaten MD	(923)	1984	PL 1982
Bruce G Schneider *	(842)	1978	PL 1975
Philip M Schuler	(886)	1980	PL 1979
Preston W Shimer	(635)	1961	PL 1958
Eden Slegr	(788)	1973	PL 1971
Timothy Smith	(1184)	2014	PL 2012
Robertson C Spiesz	(835)	1977	PL 1974
Earl L Stone III	(725)	1968	PL 1965
Frederick W Tierney J	r. * (763)	1971	PL 1968
Daniel E Turinsky	(1004)	1997	PL 1994
William A Utic *	(836)	1977	PL 1974
John M Walsh III	(603)	1958	PL 1955
Howard S Zwiefel III *	(734)	1969	PL 1966

Summary

51 Donors

19 Brother Tree Leaf recognitions
* after name indicates Brother Tree leaf recognition

Chapter Eternal

Let us now honor and acknowledge the lives of the brother alumni who recently passed away into the Chapter Eternal.

Robert A Vanderhoek '53 (521) - 12/5/2022

David W Bills '58 (590) - 7/29/2022

David R McDougal '58 (607) - 3/3/2020

Robert Phahl Jr. '60 (634) - 11/16/2021

Earned 3 degrees from Cornell in the minimum time (BME 5 years, Masters & PhD in 3 years). As Acacia pledge, he created a beautiful pledge paddle with inlaid wood. Member of Cornell Big Red Band and was Drum Major for 2 years. Had significant career in Engineering. Survived by wife, Nancy 1960, and daughters Elisabeth and Rebecca.

Allen M Male '62 BEE '63 (643) - 9/16/2022

Keith L Hering '68 BS Ag '69 (718) - 8/22/2022

Annual Corporation Board Meeting Saturday, May 13, 2023 at 1:00 pm

The Annual Meeting of the Cornell Chapter of Acacia Fraternity, Inc. will be Saturday, May 13, 2023 at 1:00 pm, at Acacia Fraternity, 318 Highland Road, Ithaca, NY 14850.

Join Zoom Meeting https://cornell.zoom.us/j/99593278671?pwd=cmNhQldUbDdUeU1uUW1DUjl2bFRjQT09

Meeting ID: 995 9327 8671
Passcode: 425406
One tap mobile
+16468769923,,99593278671# US (New York)
+16465189805,,99593278671# US (New York)

Dial by your location

- +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
- +1 646 518 9805 US (New York)
- +1 470 381 2552 US (Atlanta)
- +1 651 372 8299 US (Minnesota)
 - +1 786 635 1003 US (Miami)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
 - +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
 - +1 470 250 9358 US (Atlanta)
 - +1 602 753 0140 US (Phoenix)
 - +1 669 219 2599 US (San Jose)
 - +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
 - +1 720 928 9299 US (Denver)
 - +1 971 247 1195 US (Portland) +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
 - +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Find your local number: https://cornell.zoom.us/u/aiKmH2WgC

Join by SIP 99593278671@zoomcrc.com

Join by H.323
162.255.37.11 (US West)
162.255.36.11 (US East)
115.114.131.7 (India Mumbai)
115.114.115.7 (India Hyderabad)
213.19.144.110 (Amsterdam Netherlands)
213.244.140.110 (Germany)
103.122.166.55 (Australia Sydney)
103.122.167.55 (Australia Melbourne)
149.137.40.110 (Singapore)
64.211.144.160 (Brazil)
149.137.68.253 (Mexico)

69.174.57.160 (Canada Toronto) 65.39.152.160 (Canada Vancouver) 207.226.132.110 (Japan Tokyo) 149.137.24.110 (Japan Osaka)

Venerably Speaking



VASILIOS ZAHARIOUDAKIS (1242) '22 Venerable Dean



As the current president of ACACIA fraternity, I regret to say that I have failed in my duties to the organization and to the alumni who have supported us throughout the years. Our fraternity is currently struggling, and we have not been able to recruit a single new member this semester. I have found myself as a one-man army, taking on multiple roles just to keep things afloat. Despite my best efforts, I have not been able to inspire new members to join our organization or provide the leadership and guidance that our members need to thrive.

I take full responsibility for this failure. I have not been able to inspire our members to take action, and I have not been able to provide them with the resources, training, and support that they need to succeed. Moving forward, I am committed to doing better. I believe that the first step towards addressing our challenges is to acknowledge and take ownership of our failures. I am doing this now by apologizing to our alumni and acknowledging that I have not been able to provide the leadership and guidance that our fraternity needs. As the current president, I have learned that leadership is not just about taking charge but also about empowering others to take action.

When I first assumed the role of president, I was faced with a significant challenge: the fraternity was in debt. We had outstanding bills that needed to be paid, and we were struggling to make ends meet. On top of that, the COVID-19 pandemic had made it even more difficult to recruit new members, as we were unable to hold in-person events and activities. As a result, we went through three consecutive semesters without a single new recruit. All of this has been incredibly frustrating and disheartening, especially because I feel a deep sense of responsibility for the success of this fraternity.

I am facing significant challenges managing the members who seem to lack initiative and contribute little to the organization. I'm actively searching for a job, working as a full-time student, and serving as a Teaching Assistant for a restaurant management (Establishment). Additionally, I have the added responsibility of mentoring new students, which leaves me with limited time to address the fraternity's issues. It's frustrating to see the members neglect their duties and contribute to damages to the house through their negligence while I struggle to balance all of my responsibilities.

To me, ACACIA is like a child that I am losing, and it pains me to see it struggle. However, I am committed to doing whatever it takes to turn things around and ensure that our fraternity not only survives but thrives. I will not stop trying until the last student in Cornell rejects Acacia.

There is a bond between members of a fraternity that cannot be easily put into words. We are more than just brothers; we are a family. And when one member of our family is in need, we all come together to support and help them in any way we can.

I still remember the day when I found my fellow brother, unconscious on my couch. He had gone into a coma due to an acute autoimmune attack, and his life was hanging in the balance. In that moment, I knew that I had to act quickly to save his life. It was a harrowing experience, but one that brought our brotherhood closer. Thankfully, our brother pulled through, but the experience left a deep impression on me. It reminded me of the importance of brotherhood and the power of human connection. We are not just a group of individuals; we are a family that supports each other through thick and thin. It is this bond that I hope to strengthen as we work to overcome the challenges that face our fraternity.

I believe that it is important to acknowledge and celebrate our successes. Despite our current challenges, I know that ACACIA has had many successes over the years. We have built a community of like-minded individuals who share our values, mission, and vision. We have supported each other through difficult times, and we have contributed to our communities in meaningful ways. These successes are worth celebrating, and they can serve as a foundation for our future growth and success.

In conclusion, I want to express my commitment to doing better and to working with our members and alumni to build a stronger, more sustainable organization. By acknowledging our failures, learning from our mistakes, and focusing on our strengths, we can overcome our current challenges and achieve our goals for the future.

Together, we can create a legacy that we can all be proud of.

Fraternally, Vasilios V Zaharioudakis (1242) School of Hotel Administration '22 318 Highland Rd | Ithaca, NY 14850 | 774-464-8849 | vvz4@cornell.edu



Kevin Rivera & Nathan Francis Co Junior Deans

KEVIN RIVERA (1261)

Hello everyone, my name is Kevin Rivera, and I am one of the social chairmen for this spring 23' semester. This is my second year at Cornell, and my first semester as an Active brother for Acacia. While spring semester can be long, my brothers at Acacia have allowed for the fun times to make it go by fast. A part of being at Acacia is about making family and getting through our college experiences with life long friend and memories to cherish forever. While this cannot be done everyday, Acacia has allowed every moment to have value and impact in my day to day life. Acacia is home, and there is no place like home.

Nathan Francis (1262)

As one of the social chairs for the spring semester, I am responsible for creating a vibrant and engaging social schedule for Acacia's members. This includes planning events, preparing the house to look presentable, and ensuring everything runs smoothly. I prioritize the safety and well-being of all attendees so that everyone can thoroughly enjoy our events.

Throughout the semester, I have had to learn how to be organized, including working closely with other members of the fraternity to ensure that events are well-attended and meet the needs and interests of the brothers.

Overall, my social chair experience has been challenging yet rewarding. Taking up the role of social chair for this semester was an excellent opportunity for me to practice my leadership and organizational skills while also creating a sense of community amongst the brothers and other Cornell students.



How to Contribute

Northcote has been and will continue being the home of all 1264 of us brothers. If you would ever like to make a contribution to the house, it could be done so in 3 simple ways!

Through Mail



STEP 1: Make a check out to the **Acacia Fraternity Inc**

STEP 2: Mail the check to: Cornell Acacia
318 Highland Rd, Ithaca, NY 14850

STEP 3 (Optional):

Say Hi! Attach a short letter about yourself and what you've been up to lately; we will make sure to add it in the alumni mailbag section of the next Traveler!

Online

PayPal:

Step 1: Choose the 'Send to friends and family in the US' option

Step 2: Address the payment to: AcaciaCorpBoard@cornell.edu

Venmo:

Step 1: Address the payment to: @Acacia-Fraternity-13



The Dishwasher



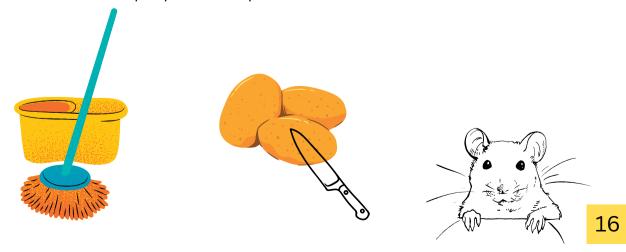
Byung Joon Kang (1233) '23 Junior Steward

Maintaining the cleanliness of Northcote's kitchen has always been a top priority for our fraternity. Dave's dinner at 6:30pm is a beloved tradition that many of our brothers look forward to every day, and we do our best to ensure that our kitchen is neat and tidy. However, this semester, with a lack of members, keeping the kitchen clean has become a struggle. Some members are performing crew duties multiple times a week while others are not bothering to help at all. Despite our efforts to emphasize the importance of this responsibility from day one, it seems that some brothers do not have the will to keep Northcote safe and clean. While cleanliness has been a challenge for our fraternity, life in Acacia has remained ordinary as we continue to navigate endless problem sets, prelims, recruitment, and figuring out what to do after our college years. As we support each other through study sessions and plan for spring breaks, I am grateful that Acacia has been a part of my college journey.

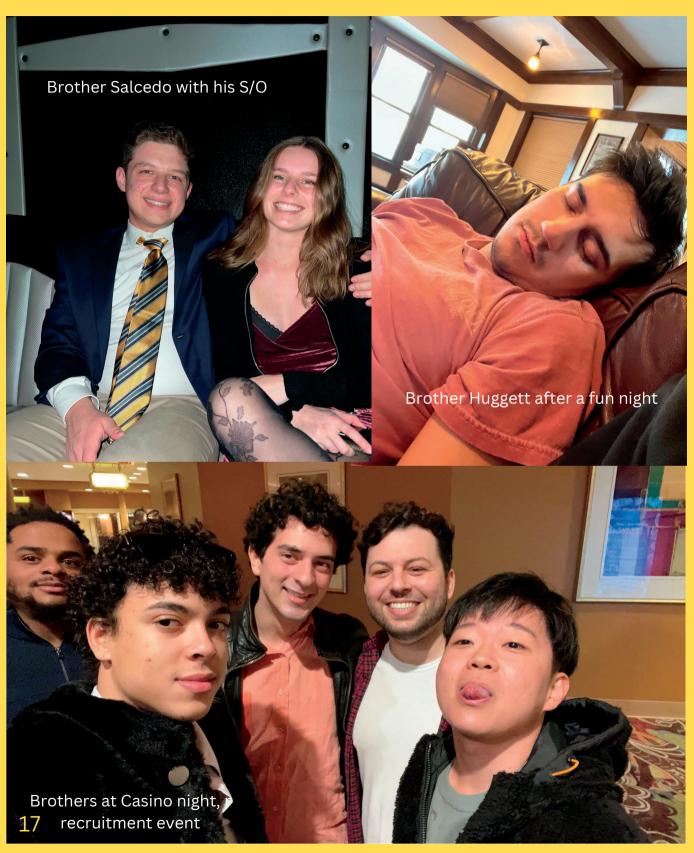
Fraternally, Byung Joon Kang #1233

Derek Lao '25 (1263)

The house is in better cleanliness than it was last semester. I have been more involved cooking with Dave for the brothers of the house, and am still enjoying playing the piano of the house a lot. I look forward to helping with the rush effort next semester. We will need some help optimizing the house's facilities, such as the pool table, to host events and get the attention of people on campus!



Family Moments



Cornell IFC Acacia Organizational ScoreCard

Chapter at a Glance

Nicknames: Acacia

Cornell Chapter Name: No. 14 Cornell

CU Founding: 1907

National Website: acacia.org

Cornell Chapter Website: cornellacacia.org

Instagram: @cornellacacia



Organization Scorecard

Fall 2022 Members: 13

Fall 2022 New Members: 3

Fall 2022 GPA: 2.81

Fall 2022 Service Hours: 150 Fall 2022 Philanthropy: \$1,000

Rates for Spring 2023

Live-in Housing & Dining: \$5,500 Live-out Housing & Dining: \$800

Initiation Fee: \$300

Other Chapter Dues: \$600

Recognition Status: Full





A heartfelt farewell

William Salcedo '23 (1244) Treasurer

As I near the end of my final semester at Cornell, I can't help but feel a mixture of emotions - excitement for the future, but also a tinge of sadness at leaving behind the people and places that have become my home over the past few years. One of the biggest parts of my experience at Cornell has been my involvement with Acacia Fraternity, and I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on the impact this organization has had on me.

When I first joined Acacia, I was excited to be a part of a community that was diverse in its values and beliefs. Over time, I realized that this fraternity was so much more than just a group of individuals - it was a family. From late-night study sessions to epic parties, I have made some of my closest friends through Acacia, and I know that these relationships will last a lifetime.

Beyond the social aspect, Acacia has also given me incredible opportunities for personal and professional growth. I am proud to have contributed to the growth of our chapter, and to have been a part of various initiatives that allowed me to develop new skills and perspectives.

Of course, it's not all been smooth sailing. We have faced challenges as a fraternity, including the current need to consider recolonization in the face of changing circumstances. But I believe that Acacia has the strength and resilience to face whatever challenges come our way, and I know that I will always be a part of this brotherhood.

I am attending Stanford for an M.S. in Computer Engineering this fall, and as I prepare to say goodbye to Cornell and Acacia, I want to express my gratitude to everyone who has made this journey so special. To my brothers, thank you for being my family and for always having my back.

It's hard to say goodbye, but I know that the memories and experiences I have gained here will stay with me forever.

Farewell, Cornell and Acacia - I will always cherish the time we spent together.





Cornell Acacia 318 Highland Road Ithaca, NY, 14850 Presorted
Standard
U.S Postage Paid
Ithaca, NY, Permit
No. 780
Change Service Requested

