



Fall 2024  
Volume 119 | Number 2

# THE TRAVELER

Acacia Fraternity, Cornell Chapter

## Brothers on New Horizons



# In this volume

**Message From Our Corp Board President**  
Addressed by President Steven Stein

**The Mailbag – Alumni News**

**Honor Roll**

**Chapter Eternal**

**Venerably Speaking**

**A Word From the Brothers**

**How to Contribute**



**Brother Davila and Brother Ali looking their best for Berlin**



**Brother Francis busting out the leather and striking his best pose**

# Fall 2024 Chapter Roll

**Gabriel Davila (1255)**

**Senior Dean**

ILR '25

Amherst, Massachusetts

**Nathan Francis (1262)**

**Venerable Dean**

Biological Sciences '25

Huntington Beach, California

**Hasan Ali (1265)**

**Treasurer**

Dyson (AEM) '25

Indiana, Pennsylvania

**Justin Gage**

**Live-In Advisor**

Medical Student

Brooklyn, New York

**Kevin Rivera (1261)**

**Junior Dean**

Psychology '26

Chicago, Illinois

**Joseph Yoo (1266)**

**Philanthropy Chair**

Dyson (AEM) '25

Alpharetta, Georgia



# Message from Our Corporation Board President

What a year! We have a new Live-In Advisor, Justin Gage, who hit the ground running. Acacia looks fantastic, inside and out. Almost single-handedly, he transformed the grounds to their previous park-like appearance. Justin has been working feverishly to motivate the Actives so they will have a successful Spring Rush. Note that Fall Rush was a tune-up, and the Actives had several events, that generated the interest of potential new members (PNM), and should be well-prepared for the January festivities. The Corp Board purchased windbreakers and golf shirts for the Actives who proudly wear them on campus to help get Acacia's name out there.

Northcote has only four Actives living in this semester with a fifth coming for meals. And, although our goal was to rent all 8 Wing Rooms to non-members, only 3 rooms are currently rented to what we now refer to as Auxiliary Members. They are encouraged to help with Rush. The Village of Cayuga Heights objected to calling them "Boarders", as that is not permitted under Village ordinances. It's always something...

Quite recently, the Corp Board was informed by Acacia Fraternity Headquarters that, effective 10/1/2024, Acacia Fraternity Incorporated ("AFI" or "HQ") will no longer provide \$250,000/Occurrence and \$500,000/Aggregate of General Liability cover to Housing Corporations through AFI's National Policy. The bottom line is, Housing Corporations and Alumni Associations need to evaluate their individual insurance needs based on their individual situations and assets. Some Housing Corporations purchase their GL coverage from a third party while others have chosen to purchase their coverage through Omni Insurance. There are very few underwriters/carriers willing to insure a fraternity property for GL, especially when the advising and operating of the fraternity house are not separate and distinct. Active members in good standing, Chapter Advisors, and Financial Advisors are covered as they have always been from the per capita dues paid by the chapter. Alumni Associations in good standing will continue to be covered from both a GL & D&O perspective as always. Housing Corporations in good standing will continue to be covered for D&O purposes, but no longer are covered for GL purposes. We just paid \$14,780 for a year's coverage through Omni.

On a sad note, Brother James C. Showacre '50 (#447) passed way on 8/20/2024 at the age of 97. Jim was my mentor and role model and we worked together for many years when he was Corp Board Treasurer. At his memorial service, I caught up with Sam Morrie '77 (#833) and his wife, Sue.



I've been Acacia Corp Board President since 1982 and the past few years have been extremely stressful for Acacia and this year will be no different. Cornell Acacia is still in survival mode. The Corp Board has provided financial assistance (e.g., reduced rent and other subsidies, investing in projects to make Northcote more attractive to new members, etc.) to keep Northcote open. As I mentioned in the Spring 2024 Traveler, we will decide in March 2025 whether or not to continue operations or shut down Northcote. Should the Corp Board decide to shut it down, we need to decide whether or not a recolonization is a viable option. These decisions will be both financial (it will still cost at least \$60,000/year to own an empty house) and how many Actives are living in Northcote since numbers are vital to have a successful recruitment. Also, if we were to sell the Northcote, would a recolonization result in the loss of Alumni support? A different chapter house would not be part of the memories that almost all existing alumni have. These will be difficult decisions to make.

The Corp Board is cautiously optimistic that Cornell Acacia will rebound from continued setbacks. The small, yet enthusiastic Brotherhood is still in recruitment mode, and all seem intent on turning things around.

Acacia still relies on Alumni financial support which has been quite strong lately. However, I am always perplexed and bothered by the fact that the majority of our 600+ alumni choose to NOT even pay their annual dues (we are actively researching methods of payment which are not subject to fees (PayPal and Venmo do charge almost 3%). Also, please check out the Cornell Acacia website (<https://www.cornellacacia.org/>) for the most current information. 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!

My sincere thanks to the other Cornell Corp Board members, without whom Cornell Acacia would not survive:

Elie Bilmes '10 (1118) - Director  
Tom Ricketts '03 (1051) - Director  
Bruce Schneider '78 (842) - Director  
Christian Choi '16 (1195) - Director  
Tom Schultz '15 (1181) - Director  
Jerry W. Kreider '68 (720) - Ex-Officio

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 very little 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; cell 607-351-3901; [sls8@cornell.edu](mailto:sls8@cornell.edu)]

**Brother Yoo and Brother Francis enjoying Brother Lao's Michelin Star cooking**



# The Mailbag Alumni News



**Martin S Offenberger 1956** (568) [1863 Kashlan Rd, La Habra Heights, CA 90631-8455; [martin9@roadrunner.com](mailto:martin9@roadrunner.com)] visited Bob Fash 1958 (594) and his family over the summer. Acacia memories are very important to us both.

**William L Keltz 1961** (632) [1403 Grand Oak Ln, West Chester, PA 19380-5908; [WilliamKeltz@gmail.com](mailto:WilliamKeltz@gmail.com)] keeps in touch with Preston Shimer 1961 (635).

**Dr, David A Gorelick 1968** (717) [3316 Old Forest Rd, Baltimore, MD 21208-3101; [DavidGorelick1@gmail.com](mailto:DavidGorelick1@gmail.com)] and his wife had an exciting October 2023 visiting Israel and Switzerland.

**Steven L Stein 1973** (787) [339 E Miller Rd, Ithaca, NY 14850-9431; [sls8@cornell.edu](mailto:sls8@cornell.edu)] is happy to report that their kitchen renovation was finally completed last month after 18 long months. Although it is a small kitchen, it looks fantastic. Hard to believe it took 6 times longer than Acacia's kitchen renovation!

**Paul C Herrington 1981** (882) [PO Box 307, 31 Elm St, Niverville, NY 12130-0307; [paulherrington1759@icloud.com](mailto:paulherrington1759@icloud.com)] and wife, Lisa, are living the good life in Niverville! They celebrated their 38th wedding anniversary in June and in September, Paul will roll over 38 years of employment with Farm Credit East. It is a farmer-owned cooperative that provides all kinds of financial services (mainly loans) to farmers. Retirement is on the horizon at the end of 2025. Then, they hope to do the snowbird thing in Florida for the winter. Paul got to see the Cornell Men's Ice Hockey team play 2 games in the National tournament last winter, winning 1st game but losing 2nd. The games brought back lots of great memories. Paul stays in touch with Linda Kane 1984 (L16) and had a long phone call with John Friedlander 1981 (877) earlier in the year.

**Philip M Schuler 1980** (886) [719 Burritt Rd, Hilton, NY 14468-9765; [phil171@rochester.rr.com](mailto:phil171@rochester.rr.com)] has been retired for over 4 years and loving every minute of it. One grandchild with 2 more on the way. Many fond memories of the years at Northcote. Wishing Cornell Acacia the best for its future.

# Honor Roll

Donor	Roll #	Class	Pledge Year
Lane J Abrams	915	1984	1981
Thomas J Balcerski PhD *	1063	2005	2002
Andrew S Brenner *	953	1990	1987
Stewart L Burger *	738	1970	1967
Martin S Cardinali	918	1984	1981
James E Carlson	946	1988	1987
John W Carpenter III *	959	1990	1987
Christian Choi	1195	2016	2014
Michael J Ciaraldi	778	1973	1970
Jared M Davis	1076	2006	2003
Lorenzo Julian de Alba	648	1962	1960
Peter S Eisenhunt	664	1965	1961
Philip Engler	739	1970	1967
John Mathias Ertl	1148	2011	2009
David R Fischell PhD *	800	1975	1972
Paul B Goldberg *	755	1971	1968
David A Gorelick	717	1968	1965
John M Graham	883	1981	1978
William B Hairston III *	873	1980	1977
Matthew S Harris	1042	2002	2000
Paul N Hayre *	970	1991	1989
Paul C Herrington	882	1981	1978
Carl H Herzog *	711	1966	1965
Charles S Hong	1043	2001	2000
Steven R Horowitz *	966	1992	1989
Alan L Jette	895	1982	1979



# Honor Roll

Donor	Roll #	Class	Pledge Year
William L Keltz	632	1961	1958
Thomas E Kocovsky Jr. *	730	1969	1966
Dale A La Shomb	781	1973	1970
Allen M Male	643	1962	1959
Mark F Maltenfort	831	1977	1974
Roman Markh	1072	2006	2003
Daniel R Merrill PhD	907	1983	1980
Robert C Merritt *	807	1975	1973
Stanley R Niman *	783	1973	1970
Martin E Offenberger *	568	1956	1953
Thomas L Ricketts *	1051	2003	2000
David J Sangree	917	1984	1981
Mark A Schaten MD	923	1984	1982
Bruce G Schneider *	842	1978	1975
Philip M Schuler	886	1980	1979
Thomas W Schultz	1181	2015	2012
James M Skiff	879	1981	1978
Eden Sleg	788	1973	1971
Robertson C Spiesz	835	1977	1974
Earl L Stone III	725	1968	1965
Frederick W Tierney Jr. *	763	1971	1968
Daniel E Turinsky	1004	1997	1994
William A Utic *	836	1977	1974
John M Walsh III	603	1958	1955

Brother Ali, Francis, Davila, and Rivera enjoying Homecoming



# Chapter Eternal

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

James C Showacre '50 (447) – 8/20/2024 –

Longtime Corp Board treasurer and a true  
legend in Cornell Acacia's history

# Venerably Speaking



**Nathan Francis (1262)**  
**Venerable Dean**



Dear Alumni,

As I reflect on my time in our fraternity, I cannot help but feel grateful for the countless ways it has shaped me into the person I am today. I knew this brotherhood would be a defining part of my college experience from the moment I joined, but I had no idea just how transformative it would be. Over the years, I've built relationships that feel more like family, and the memories I have made with my brothers will stay with me forever.

One of the most cherished memories was our spring break trip to Berlin—a week filled with adventure, exploration, and unforgettable memories. Walking through the streets of a city so rich in history with my closest friends was a surreal experience, and it solidified just how special our brotherhood is. Beyond that, our trips to NYC and Canada added layers to our bond, allowing us to step out of our everyday routines and enjoy new experiences together. Each trip brought us closer, reinforcing the idea that the fraternity is not just about the house we live in but the moments we create together wherever we go.

As president, I have been honored to lead this incredible group of men and have learned so much about leadership, teamwork, and perseverance. The challenges we have faced together have taught me resilience, and the support of my brothers has kept me grounded. Whether organizing events, planning trips, or simply being there for one another, I have grown in ways I could not have imagined.

Looking ahead, I am filled with excitement about what the future holds. I will be applying to medical school and gaining clinical work experience, using the skills I have developed during my time in the fraternity to navigate the next phase of my journey. The leadership and camaraderie I have experienced here will undoubtedly serve me well as I take on new challenges.



Thank you for being a part of this incredible journey. I am forever grateful for this brotherhood and the impact it has had on my life.

Fraternally,

Nathan Francis  
Venerable Dean

# Acacia

# Senior Dean

Gabriel Davila (1255)

Being a part of Acacia has shaped who I am in more ways than I can count. Reflecting on my time in the fraternity, from being Vice President, Social Chair, and President, to now serving as Vice President again, I've grown not only as a leader but as a person. The responsibilities and challenges that came with each role pushed me to develop leadership skills, patience, and a deep understanding of what it means to be part of a brotherhood.

One of the most valuable lessons I've learned from Acacia is the power of community. Through countless house events, late-night talks, and shared goals, I've experienced firsthand how much stronger we are when we support one another. Whether it was organizing social events, leading meetings, or dealing with unexpected challenges, these moments helped me build relationships and taught me the importance of trust and collaboration.

Many of my most cherished memories have come as a result of planning and executing some of our larger events as Social Chair, where I saw how much joy and unity a well-thought-out event could bring to our brothers. I've also grown from being a mentor to the newer members, seeing them step up and contribute to the house. These experiences have been a reminder of how crucial it is to foster a supportive environment where everyone feels valued.

As I step into my final year at Cornell, I'm taking all these lessons with me, ready to make the most of this year, not only for myself but for all of us as a brotherhood, ensuring that our shared experiences continue to strengthen the house.

Acacia has been my home for the past few years, and it's been a privilege to contribute to the house. I look forward to making the most of my last year, carrying the values and experiences of this brotherhood with me wherever I go.

## Hasan Ali (1265) '25

As a member of Acacia fraternity, I have had the unique opportunity to fully experience the meaning of brotherhood. Acacia is more than just a fraternity; it is a community where members come together, support one another, and grow both personally and professionally. I have encountered a wide array of individuals within our fraternity, each with their own distinct passions, interests, and life experiences. Whether it's strategy games, table tennis, or cooking, these interactions have significantly enriched my college experience and contributed to my personal development. Engaging with people from various backgrounds has expanded my worldview and taught me the importance of empathy, understanding, and acceptance—qualities that I now see as essential for effective leadership.

One of the most fulfilling aspects of my leadership experience has been serving as the fraternity's treasurer. This role has offered me hands-on experience with financial management and allowed me to develop practical skills that will be useful in my future career. From managing the fraternity's billing processes to overseeing budgets and financial decisions, I have gained a deeper understanding of how to maintain fiscal responsibility within an organization. This experience has also shown me the importance of strategic planning and careful financial oversight, which are critical in ensuring long-term success for any organization.

Inhabiting a leadership role within Acacia has also helped me develop strong skills in time management, communication, and balancing multiple responsibilities. Managing fraternity duties alongside my academic commitments has forced me to prioritize effectively and manage my time wisely. These experiences have helped prepare me for the challenges I will face in the professional world, where balancing different responsibilities is key to success.

In conclusion, my time in Acacia fraternity has been a transformative journey, shaping me into the person I am today. The bonds of brotherhood, the challenges of leadership, and the lessons in finance have all played a vital role in my growth. I am grateful for the opportunities that Acacia has provided, and I look forward to continuing my personal and professional development as part of this exceptional community.

## **Joseph Yoo (1266) '25**

Being a brother at Acacia Fraternity during my senior year at Cornell has been such a blast. It wasn't just about living with a bunch of guys—it was about all the late-night hangouts, the random Nintendo Switch game marathons, and just kicking back and relaxing at the house whenever we needed a break from classes.

Hosting events with the brothers was always a highlight, especially when we'd get our friends involved and have a great time together over BBQ, Dave's beautiful cooking, or Sunday Night Football. Whether we were throwing a party or just chilling at the house, it always felt like we were making memories. The house became my go-to spot to unwind, and the guys truly became like family. Looking back, I couldn't imagine my senior year without Acacia—it really made everything that much more fun and memorable!

## **Kevin Rivera (1261) '26**

Returning to Cornell this semester after a year away was everything I had hoped for and more. After some time off, I knew it would be an adjustment to dive back into the academic and social energy of campus. But thanks to my brothers at Acacia, this transition has been as smooth as it's been rewarding.

Stepping back into Acacia felt like coming home. The camaraderie I missed was immediate as we reconnected, swapping stories and experiences from the past year. It's clear I wasn't the only one who felt the bond grow even stronger. This fall, social events have become a prime opportunity not only to meet new faces on campus but also to strengthen old friendships. Whether it's been the adrenaline of game days or the laid-back vibes of house events, each moment has brought new energy to my days.

Of course, adjusting academically was another part of the equation. Cornell's rigorous pace doesn't pause, and after some time away, I had to quickly adapt to the rhythm of classes, assignments, and the pressure that comes with being back at an Ivy. Thankfully, Acacia has been more than just a social outlet—it's been a support system. From group study sessions to advice on professors and classes, my brothers have kept me grounded and focused.

Reflecting on this semester so far, I couldn't be more grateful for my fraternity and the experiences we're sharing. Being back at Cornell with Acacia beside me has brought renewed excitement and purpose, making every event and every day feel like a new chapter in my journey.



# How to Contribute

Northcote has been and will continue being the home of all 1266 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

**Brothers Davila, Ali, and Rivera before an absolute rager night**



**Brothers Ali and Francis with Alumni Brother Siboyeh blending with the people of Berlin**



Candid photo of Brothers Rivera and Yoo during the Brothers and Friends Dinner





Brothers Ali and Davila meeting up with Alumni Brothers Kang,  
Zaharioudakis, and Siboyeh

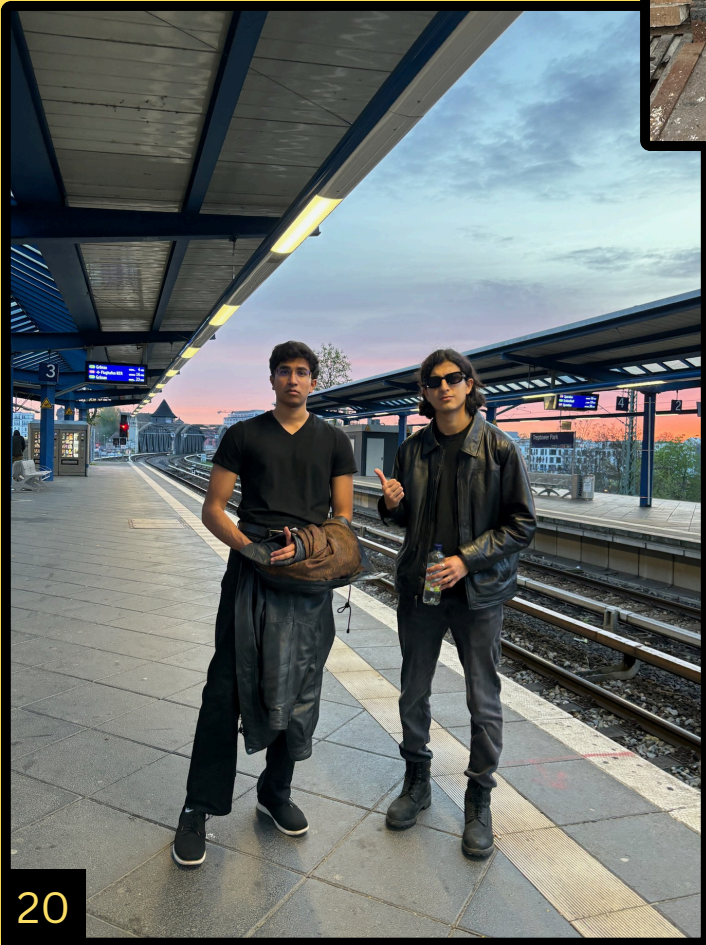




Brother Francis stricking his best  
model pose



Brother Ali and Davila bathing  
in the sunset





**Brother Ali scaling the mountains**



**Brother Davila getting some culinary education from Chef Dave**



**Brothers Ali and Davila with Alumni Brothers Lao and Siboyeh enjoying the Berlin cuisine**



**Brother Francis in front of the Brandenburg Gate**





**Cornell Acacia**  
**318 Highland Road**  
**Ithaca, NY, 14850**

Presorted Standard  
U.S Postage Paid  
Ithaca, NY, Permit  
No. 780

Change Service Requested