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THE TRAVELER

Acacia Fraternity, Cornell Chapter

Passing On the Torch



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Addressed by President Steven Stein

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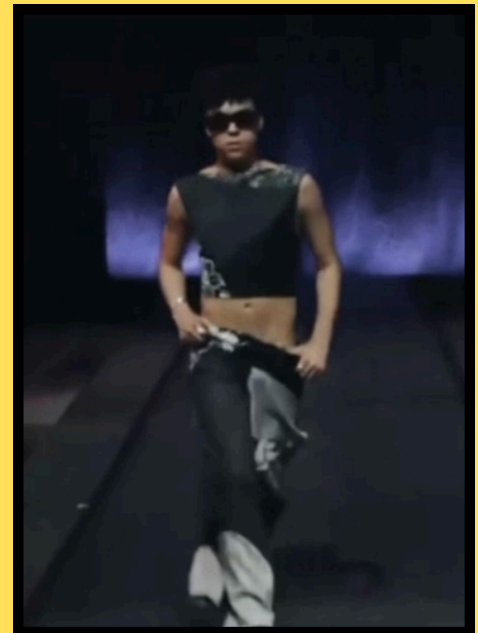
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**Brother Francis and Alumnus
Brother Ali enjoying a game
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**Brother Rivera modeling for
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Spring 2025 Chapter Roll

Gabriel Davila (1255)
Senior Dean
ILR '25
Amherst, Massachusetts

Nathan Francis (1262)
Venerable Dean
Biological Sciences '25
Huntington Beach, California

Joseph Yoo (1266)
Philanthropy Chair
Dyson (AEM) '25
Alpharetta, Georgia

Justin Gage
Live-In Advisor
Ithaca, New York

Kevin Rivera (1261)
Junior Dean
Psychology '26
Chicago, Illinois



A Message from Our Corporation Board President

The 2024-2025 Academic Year was interesting, to say the least. Our new Live-In-Advisor, Justin Gage, has been a tremendous asset. The Corp Board has had many meetings to discuss the future of Cornell Acacia. Formal Rush did not meet expectations. We unanimously voted to remain in operation for 2025-2026. As of 3/23/2025, the Continuous Open Bidding (COB) Rush “season” has resulted in three (3) Potential New Members (PNMs) signing bids, and currently three (3) PNMs who are still deciding on their bids. This was partly due to an almost unbelievable membership incentive of \$600/month for room & board for members! This has certainly generated interest in Acacia. The Actives continue to hold events and dinners to encourage additional members, with an outdoor event with a local Reggae band in April.

Acacia has only three Actives living at Northcote now (2 of whom are graduating in May), along with 2 Auxiliary Members who pay room and board. One of the Auxiliary Members signed a bid and will become a full-fledged member. We continue to face unexpected maintenance expenses, with the most recent being a \$1,000 repair (fan and swirl plate) on one of our two boilers and a \$7,400 replacement of our hot water storage tank (which has started to leak). These repairs will have been completed by the time you read this. Also, the 10-year-old kitchen refrigerator/freezer compartment does not maintain the proper temperature and may need to be replaced.

Insurance costs continue to rise, and it is costing us a fortune to carry the mandatory insurance. We have a \$10,881 Commercial Property Insurance premium due at the end of March.

Acacia still relies on Alumni financial support, which has been inconsistent lately. We are seeing fewer donors, but their donations are higher than normal. We need the continued financial support of ALL Cornell Acacia Alumni. 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 (which can be done via snail-mail, PayPal www.paypal.com to AcaciaCorpBoard@cornell.edu), or VENMO [@Acacia-Fraternity-13](http://venmo.com)). We can now also accept payments via CashApp with a fixed \$3.50 transaction fee. Please check out the Cornell Acacia website (<https://www.cornellacacia.org/>) for details on payment options. *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 have survived:

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

Our Annual Meeting is May 10, 2025 @1:00 pm. Brunch will be available. Zoom participation is also an option. Please see the details in this edition of The Traveler.

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]

A Message from Bruce G Schneider '78

As we approach our Cornell Acacia annual meeting, I am concluding my first year as a Director of the Acacia Corporation Board. I joined the Board following my retirement from my Financial and Risk career. It has been quite the experience working with the Board to try our best to pull our beloved Cornell Acacia from becoming another house that left Cornell. The dedication that I have seen from the Actives, our Live in Advisor, Board, and other alumni has been amazing.

The goal was clear: to recruit the needed number of quality pledges to sustain the chapter and bring it back to health. Working together, we planned and funded several recruitment initiatives that look like they will pay off with the recruitment of a good strong pledge class. Several recent alumni have traveled to Northcote to assist in recruitment events. Beyond new pledges, the Board has secured some Auxiliary Members that help us financially but also have added critical mass to some of the recruitment events.

We are not out of the woods yet, but I am beginning to feel somewhat optimistic. We need the momentum to continue. To that end, I strongly ask that our alumni rekindle their relationship with Cornell Acacia. There are many ways to help. First is financially, since at the end of the day, decisions on continuing Cornell Acacia will be financially based. Please consider a contribution – it is really needed and appreciated. Next is participating in Board meetings run virtually on the second Tuesday evening of each month. If you visit Ithaca, stop by Northcote. Finally, if you, your friend, or your family has young men who will/are attending Cornell, talk up Acacia. Although it has been about fifty years since my initiation, my memories are positive and strong, and as a result, I am committed to have the Chapter thrive.

Fraternally,

Bruce G. Schneider '78 (#842)

The Mailbag Alumni News

Dr. David A Gorelick 1968 (717) [3316 Old Forest Rd, Baltimore, MD 21208-3101; DavidGorelick1@gmail.com] travelled very little in 2024 due to health issues. They were able to see the newest granddaughter, who was born in November. Brother Gorelick wished the Actives success in rebuilding the chapter.

Stanley Niman 1973 (783) [6620 SW Preslynn Dr., Portland, OR 97225-2662; sniman@ipinc.net] has participated in some Cornell Acacia Corp Board meetings recently.

Steven L Stein 1973 (787) [339 E Miller Rd, Ithaca, NY 14850-9431; sls8@cornell.edu] celebrated his 74 th St. Patrick's Day birthday. He met up with Todd Peskin '95 (994) and his son, Jason, at Lynah Rink last month. He was planning to make a visit to Northcote while in town.

Mark A Schaten MD 1984 (923) [S4W31227 Hidden Hollow, Delafield, WI 53018-3264; mschatenmd@icloud.com] retired last summer and is enjoying life with wife Vicki and daughter Allie (who is a high school graduate now). Brother Schaten is spending quality time playing and tuning up his pinball collection. He is concerned with the struggles of Cornell Acacia and was saddened to learn of the passing of Big Brother Ethan Cosgriff '82 (889), He has fond memories of a "beer run" with him to Niagara Falls, Canada, in 1982 to buy some Molson Brador beer (a malt liquor no longer produced).

Acacia

Honor Roll

Donor	Roll #	Class	Pledge Year
Lane J Abrams	915	1984	1981
Stewart L Burger *	738	1970	1967
Brian T Cannon	1128	2010	2008
Martin S Cardinali	918	1984	1981
Christian Choi	1195	2016	2014
Robert Joseph Christ	1116	2009	2006
David J De Young *	699	1966	1964
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
Matthew S Harris	1042	2002	2000
Charles S Hong	1043	2001	2000
Steven R Horowitz *	966	1992	1989
William L Keltz	632	1961	1958
Dale A La Shomb	781	1973	1970
Mark F Maltenfort	831	1977	1974
Harlan M Meinwald	789	1974	1971
Robert C Merritt *	807	1975	1973
Stanley R Niman *	783	1973	1970
Martin E Offenberger *	568	1956	1953
Todd Peskin *	994	1995	1993
Alan J Pue	785	1973	1970
Peter M Rimshnick *	1060	2005	2002
Joshua D Roth	1049	2003	2000
Mark A Schaten	923	1984	1982
Bruce G Schneider *	842	1978	1975
Thomas W Schultz	1181	2015	2012
Devin T Van Zandt	962	1990	1989

29 Donors and 11 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.

Richard G Elmendorf '50 (478) – 10/1/2024

Edmund M. Mackert '56 (579) – 1/12/2025

Ethan Hall Cosgriff '82 (889) – 4/27/2022

Venerably Speaking



Nathan Francis (1262)
Venerable Dean



Dear Alumni,

As my time at Cornell—and as an active brother of Acacia—comes to a close, I’ve been reflecting on everything this chapter of my life has meant to me. It’s surreal to think how quickly it all flew by. When I first joined the house, I never could have imagined how deeply this brotherhood would impact me. Now, looking back, I’m leaving not just with a degree, but with lifelong friendships, unforgettable memories, and an overwhelming sense of gratitude.

Serving as president this past year was one of the most rewarding roles I’ve ever taken on. It wasn’t always easy, but I’m proud of what we accomplished together as a brotherhood. I’m incredibly proud that we recruited three new brothers this semester—an achievement that speaks to our brothers' resilience and dedication to securing our house's future.

As I prepare to take my next steps beyond Cornell, I carry everything Acacia has taught me about leadership, loyalty, and the importance of showing up for each other. Though I’m stepping away from the role and the university, I’ll always be proud to call myself a Cornell Acacian.

Fraternally,

Nathan Francis
Venerable Dean

Senior Dean

Gabriel Davila (1255)

Brothers,

It's wild to think that this is my last semester in the house. My last pledge class. The last time I'll get to see a group of wide-eyed new members step through those doors, not fully knowing what they just signed up for. And this time, I get to be the one to show them.

Being Senior Dean isn't just a position to me. It's a responsibility, a privilege, and, honestly, a little bit of a personal mission. Because I don't just want to teach these guys the history, the rules, or the technicalities of membership—I want to make them love this house the way we do. I want them to understand that this is more than just a place where we hang out, more than just a group of guys you happen to call brothers. This house is alive, built on years of loyalty, tradition, and an unspoken understanding between everyone who's ever worn our letters. And now, it's their turn to become a part of it.

I remember my own new member process vividly — we often say pledgship is a period of transition and instability, but for me and the young men around me, joining Acacia put wind in our sails and smiles on our faces. I remember the upperclassmen who made sure we felt welcomed, the celebrations after learning the Greek alphabet, and the nights when I looked around and realized this place had become my home. And now, at the end of my time here, I have the honor of making sure these new guys get that same experience.

But let's not sugarcoat it—this isn't just a sentimental reflection. It's also a transition. Educating, and leaving. Teaching, and stepping away. This semester, I'm not just bringing in a new class; I'm making sure I leave behind brothers who are ready to carry on what we've built. That's the real job. Because when we graduate, the house doesn't stop (yay!). The traditions don't pause. The meaning of brotherhood doesn't change just because we're no longer the ones holding the torch. We pass it down, and we trust the next generation to carry it forward.

I couldn't be more excited for the semester ahead, to teach these guys, to see them grow, and to watch them find their place here. And at the same time, I'm keenly aware that this is my last run. The last period of not only my active membership, but of this chapter of my life. My last semester living under this roof. There's a weight to that, but more than anything, there's gratitude. Gratitude for this house, for this brotherhood, for everything it's given me. And for the opportunity to give back as an active one last time.

Fraternaly,
Gabriel Pumawari Davila Bustamante

Brothers Yoo, Davila, Francis, and Rivera joined by friends of the house to celebrate Gabriel's 21st birthday



Joseph Yoo (1266) '25

Looking back on my time here, Acacia has easily been one of the most meaningful parts of my college experience. From day one, it was more than just a fraternity—it became a second home. Whether it was late-night hangs at Northcote, spontaneous conversations in the living room, or big events with the brotherhood, Acacia gave me a space to be myself without the constant weight of pre-professional stress or academic pressure. It's where I met some of my closest friends, like Brother Davila and Brother Lao, and where I stayed connected with my freshman roommates, Brother Rivera and Brother Francis. These bonds have meant the world to me. Northcote has been a place of laughter, support, and unforgettable memories, and I genuinely can't imagine my college journey without it. I'm incredibly excited to see the Cornell chapter continue to grow and evolve, and I have full confidence that the new pledge class will carry on the legacy and spirit that makes Acacia so special.

Kevin Rivera (1261) '26

This semester at Acacia has been all about reshaping the house and bringing the Acacia light back to life. It's been a time of growth, renewal, and brotherhood—and I have had a blast being a part of it. From house improvements to late-night talks, every moment has been a step toward building something stronger and more meaningful. One of my favorite events this semester was our snowboarding trip with the alumni and PNMs. Sharing this with brothers of the past and future was unforgettable. There's something special about bonding through a shared love for adventure—it reminded me that the foundation of this house has always been mutual respect and connection. As we look ahead, I'm proud of the direction we're heading. The Acacia spirit is alive and well, and I'm grateful to be part of the journey. I'm excited to see what's next for this resilient house.

Derek Lao (1263) '24

It's been a great year here in Ithaca—living the post-grad life, spending time at Acacia, and staying connected to the brotherhood. One of the highlights was seeing so many alumni return at the start of the spring semester. Their presence brought a renewed energy to the house, and the momentum carried us through the rest of the term. This semester is especially exciting as we welcome a new rush class. I've really enjoyed getting to know the new members—whether we're watching *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, playing pool or Catan, catching a UFC fight, or just hanging out. These everyday moments have reminded me what brotherhood is all about. I'm proud to call each of them my brother.

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 and Francis with Pledge Vinamr Jain



**Left:
Brothers Davila and Yoo at Four
Seasons**

**Right:
Brother Rivera and Alumnus
Brother Lao at Greek Peak**





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Ithaca, NY, 14850

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