



# The Iowa State Pythagorean

*Fulfilling the mission of ACACIA*

**MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER**

**ACACIA**

August 2016 | Issue #77

## Iowa State Chapter Earns “Outstanding” Ranking at 2016 Conclave

Shown in this picture are members of the Iowa State Chapter who attended Conclave. They are (left to right) Michael Weber (Acacia Fraternity Assistant Executive Director), Harold Zarr Jr. (alumni board President), Ben Dirks (chapter president), Jeremy Davis (chapter advisor and International President), Drew Sherman (advisor to the Indiana Chapter), and Nick Siebold (advisor to the Arizona Chapter). Brother Drew Sherman has lead the recolonization effort at the Indiana Chapter, which received their charter at the 2016 Conclave. Brother Nick Siebold is the chapter advisor for the brand-new chapter at Arizona State in Tempe, Arizona.



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### Focus on: Undergraduate

#### Grant Albandsoder

Ever since I was little, I’ve always loved traveling. It’s weird, because I feel like most kids hate long car rides and sitting still in general, but it never really phased me very much. My family drove to Michigan every summer, and in 2002, we even drove to Maine. In fourth grade I made the goal to “visit every state and 5 countries before age 40,” which is an oddly specific SMART goal when you think about it. But by the time I got to college, I’d actually visited five countries and checked around 35 states off the list.

#### Benjamin Dirks

This past Spring Semester I had the excellent opportunity of working in the Iowa State Capitol! In Spring of 2015 I was assigned to write a research paper on water quality in Iowa which was a major topic both then and now. I spoke with my local legislators about the issue, wrote the paper, and learned a lot. However, in Fall of 2015 my State Representative, Representative Hein, asked if I would serve as his clerk in the Iowa State House of Representatives.

(both continued on page 3)

### Foundation Spotlight: Harold Zarr Jr., Iowa State ‘73

Our founding fathers left their legacy by founding the fraternity we all called home during our college years. Today, Acacians leave their mark by ensuring that the Acacia experience is preserved for generations to come. It could be argued then, that the modern stewards of our fraternity - those that have taken the mantle of responsibility for our founding fathers - are those that support the Acacia Fraternity Foundation. The AFF provides supports the fraternity in many ways, most notably in the form of scholarships to its members and grants supporting fraternity operations.

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## CORPORATE BOARD MEMBERS

The following Brothers are your representatives on the Corporate Board. The Corporate Board is composed of both active chapter members and alumni. Feel free to contact us whenever you have ideas, suggestions or concerns!

Harold Zarr	President 515-257-4683
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Don Good	Alumni Relations 515-956-3150
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Brett Niemann	Chapter Treasurer
Kevin Chng	Chapter Representative
Ben Danielson	Chapter Representative
Jeremy Davis	Chapter Advisor 515-291-7016

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The newsletter is sent to all of the alumni, pledges and actives of the ISU Chapter of ACACIA Fraternity, and their parents.

This newsletter is sent at **no cost** to all of its recipients, although donations directed towards the cost of this publication will be accepted by the Board. Should you wish to make a contribution, please make your check payable to **The ACACIANS**, in any amount. The next newsletter is sent out on a quarterly basis, every February, May, August, and November. If you have any information you would like to share, please send it to **Harold Zarr** at his e-mail address **acacia\_814@hotmail.com**. Take care, and best wishes to all of the Brothers, Little Sisters and friends of our Fraternity!

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of the Iowa State Chapter of  
ACACIA Fraternity**

## Earns “Outstanding” Ranking at 2016 Conclave

The 59th Biennial Conclave of Acacia International Fraternity was held July 27 to July 31, 2016 in Louisville, Kentucky. Over the course of week, undergraduate and alumni brothers from across North America convened to discuss the future of Acacia, our priorities going forward, and setting a course for the future of the International Fraternity. In addition to the Conclave, the Acacia Fraternity Foundation Board of Directors also convened their annual meeting to discuss their short and long-term fundraising goals the operational structure of the AFF going forward, and developed a plan to increase its support of educational programs and scholarships for the fraternity going forward.

In addition to the business transacted at Conclave, undergraduate attendees participated in a number of ‘roundtable’ discussions to identify best practices as well as to discuss areas which chapters are struggling by developing plans to improve/enhance operations. Additionally, a number of presenters discussed topics from risk management to recruitment to enhancements for Acacia’s operations going forward. As some have heard, the North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) has been restricted over the course of the past year, and NIC Executive Director Judd Horras attended Conclave to discuss the changes to the NIC and how those changes will impact Acacia going forward. Additionally, through Acacia’s Cornerstones personal development program, the International Fraternity launched its Cornerstones Mentoring App (available in the Apple App Store). We’re excited to begin implementing these updates with our chapter going forward!

At this biennial Conclave, the Iowa State Chapter was represented by Chapter Venerable Dean Ben Dirks; along with alumni brothers Jeremy Davis (Iowa State Chapter Advisor and current Acacia International President), Harold Zarr, Jr. (Corporate Board President and Investment Chairman for the Acacia Fraternity Foundation), Mike Weber (newly-appointed Acacia International Fraternity Assistant Executive Director), Drew Sherman (Acacia International Fraternity’s Expansion Coordinator) and Nic Seibold (Chapter Advisor for the new Arizona State colony). Unfortunately, our undergraduate participation in Conclave was limited this year due to summer internships, study aboard program participation, and summer classes at ISU. In the weeks since Conclave, we’ve been updating the undergraduate chapter on the discussions from Conclave and the decisions made by the delegate body; which has led to an updated discussion at the Chapter after the first week of the Fall semester to update our Chapter’s goals and our plans to enhance our academic and personal development going forward.

Once again, the Iowa State Chapter was recognized for its many accomplishments during the most-recent biennium. The Iowa State Chapter was recognized with the Outstanding Chapter Award, which is presented to the 3rd-ranked chapter of Acacia. Since 2008, the Iowa State Chapter has been consistently recognized as one of the Top 3 chapters of Acacia Fraternity at each Conclave, including having earned the Malcolm Award in 2010 and 2014. Additionally, the chapter was recognized for its accomplishments in three specific award areas, including: The G.K. Nelson Award for Academic Excellence, the Excellence in Communication Technology Award, and the Good of the Fraternity Award. As alumni, we should all be very proud of the accomplishments that our undergraduate chapter continues to strive toward; and the updated goal-setting recently completed by the Chapter in the weeks following Conclave is an indicator that our chapter desires to continue to improve itself going forward.

From an individual perspective at Conclave, Brother Joe Webb (2015 Chapter Venerable Dean, who graduate from Iowa State in May 2016), was recognized as the recipient of the Roy C. Clark Award, which is presented to the top undergraduate brother of Acacia International Fraternity. Brother Webb’s academic achievement and chapter leadership, combined with his leadership on-campus as part of the President’s Leadership Class, as a V.P. on IFC, and in various campus organizations, lead to Joe being recognized as the outstanding undergraduate brother for 2015-16 academic year for Acacia. Additionally, Brother Dillyn Mumme was awarded an AFF Scholarship in recognition of his exemplary academic record in Aerospace Engineering and for his on-campus leadership with Dance Marathon.

One unique aspect of this Conclave was the presentation of a Charter to the Indiana Colony. Five years ago, the Indiana Chapter was closed. After diligent work by the International Fraternity and the Indiana Corporation Board in conjunction with Indiana University, a recolonization effort began during Summer 2015. The recolonization effort was led by Iowa State Brother Drew Sherman, who after graduating from Iowa State in May 2015, began working for the International Fraternity as its Expansion Coordinator and based in Bloomington, to lead the recolonization at Indiana. Through Drew's hard work, the Indiana Colony recruited and initiated 84 undergraduate brothers this past year, which is likely the largest and most successful recolonization Acacia has ever achieved. As a result of Drew's efforts to identify and recruit an outstanding group of undergraduates at Indiana, the Colony literally hit the ground running and achieved a number of successes in its first year, including earning a colony GPA of over a 3.2. We are all very

proud of Drew's work and look forward to him continuing to work with the Indiana Chapter in the coming year as they move back into their house and continue to grow.

At the Conclave's Closing Banquet, Acacia's Executive Director Patrick McGovern (Indiana) announced that Brother Mike Weber (Iowa State) would be promoted to the position of Assistant Executive Director for Acacia International Fraternity. This is great honor for Brother Weber and we're all very proud of him for his work with Acacia and we look forward to his continued fulltime employment with the Fraternity.

As the week of brotherhood and fellowship came to close at Conclave, the brothers from across North America departed Louisville with a commitment to grow the Fraternity and we look forward to the Acacia Leadership Academy next summer in Bloomington, Indiana.

## Focus on: Undergraduate Grant Albandsoder



So I guess what my roundabout introduction is trying to say is that from the second I set foot on Iowa State's campus, studying abroad was something I was passionate about doing. I'd always assumed maybe sophomore year, to Australia or the UK or something. But sophomore year came, and I was so involved in Dance Marathon and GREC and co-chairing and TAing and tutoring and a civil engineering course load and all those other things that college kids do that I just didn't have the ability to be gone for an entire semester. This always disappointed me, but that's life. When you plan things, sometimes they don't work, and when you stop trying, sometimes they do.

I'm graduating in December this year (2016), and was planning on doing research in Transportation Engineering for the summer. And the professor that I work for (and invited to Acacia's professor dinner last semester), Dr. Peter Savolainen, told me that I should take CE 395, Advanced Topics in Transportation. Which just

so happened to be offered during the first two weeks of summer. In Rome. Of course, what better way to learn traffic safety than watching Italians drive? Agreeing to this opportunity was one of the easiest decisions I've made in my life.

So May 11-26, eight civil engineering students and three faculty flew to Rome. We stayed in an Iowa State College of Design apartment, one floor above the classroom that we studied in. Most days, we would wake up for class around 9 am, have a lecture or two until around noon, go on a trip somewhere lasting until maybe three, and then have free time for the rest of the day. Lecturers were either industry professionals or professors from local Roma Tre University. Our [American] professors primarily gave us assignments that were due once we returned from the trip, because they didn't want us wasting our abroad experience sitting in rooms working, and the students were extremely grateful for that decision.

Additionally, weekends were absolutely free for us to do anything we wanted. The first Saturday, May 14th, we had an optional field trip to Naples and Pompeii. It was amazing seeing the ruined city, but also really cool having a tour that tailored to a lot of the engineering aspects of it. The following day was free, and some of us wanted to go hiking. So I googled "places to hike around Rome," and ended up discovering Anzio, a smaller city south of Rome with some pretty cool beach ruins, and only a \$4.00 train ride away. So six of us checked that out on the 15th.

The second weekend was also free, so our group of eight split into smaller groups and adventured. Three of the guys flew to a beach in Sicily, and two girls visited Pisa and Venice. My decision became easy once the father of my old high school German exchange student saw some of my Facebook pictures and reached out to me about visiting him. So the remaining three of us flew to Munich and stayed with his family on the 21st. The following day, his family drove us to the Austrian Alps for a picnic and hiking, and I think that that day was definitely one of my highlights.

Thinking back on the trip, I had tons of great memories and saw plenty of amazing sights, but when I try to think of a favorite part, it isn't anything specific. The best aspect for me was the

fact that we stayed there for a long enough amount of time that I really didn't feel like a tourist anymore. We made a point to walk everywhere we could, so after half a week or so we didn't even need GPS to find our way around; because of this, by the end I felt like I actually lived there. That feeling was one of the coolest things I've ever experienced.

It was tough leaving at the end, but it also reaffirmed that passion I've always had for travelling. I even tossed a coin in the Trevi Fountain to be sure that I get to come back one day. So even though it was later than I may have wanted, I'm so extremely grateful that Iowa State gave me the opportunity to go out there and live, however briefly, in a city as fantastic as Rome.

## Focus on: Undergraduate Benjamin Dirks



Many of the clerks are college students from Des Moines area universities and colleges. A vast majority of those students are studying either political science or law. Every day I was asked, "What are you doing here?" when I shared that I was studying Agricultural Business and Finance. Representative Hein serves as Chair of the House Standing Agriculture Committee. Therefore, given my area of study and interest it made sense for me to explore public policy in agriculture. Given that Representative Hein was the Chair of the Committee I served as the Committee Secretary. Each meeting I would bring my government issued laptop to the assigned room and take the minutes. It was a great way to stay engaged in the meetings and be a part of the legislative process. I am proud to say that what I wrote has become part of the official state records.

I had a couple of really neat experiences in the Capitol as well. I was able to attend an official bill signing that affected water quality

in Iowa. This bill gave a body of water in my own district (as well as Representative Hein's) a voice when it came to Watershed Management Authorities. It was interesting to watch how something done in Des Moines would change things in my area. One day, Representative Hein was busy in a meeting. This day also happened to be when the Manitoba Pork Producer Council out of Canada was presenting to the Agriculture Committee. Thus, it fell on my shoulders to receive the delegation as a representative of my boss and to an extension the state of Iowa. I spent the entire morning prior to the meeting googling Canadian business practices and customs. I also spoke with some employees of the Governor's Office on different tricks of the trade when it came to receiving delegations. Talk about a baptism by fire!

All in all, the very best part of session was the people. Iowa has an interesting legislative process. The majority of the year legislators are regular people just like you and me. Iowa's legislators live with their decisions and bring their personal experiences to the Capitol. I had the opportunity to meet people from across the state and across the globe. Thanks to my experiences in Des Moines I was able to interview confidently for the Senior Director of Governmental Affairs on Iowa State's Student Government Cabinet. It was a tremendous honor that I was offered the position which I gladly accepted. It is now my job to serve as a liaison between the Board of Regents, the Iowa General Assembly, and the student body. I also keep track of various developments as they affect students.

Without Acacia I never would have had the opportunity to apply for the Cabinet. Fortunately for me, my freshmen year I befriended a gentleman in the Iowa State Chapter who became Vice-President of the Student Body, Michael Hoefler. His friend, who was also the President at one time, suggested I apply for the Cabinet. If I had not been a brother of Acacia I never would have had the idea, nor the encouragement, to step out, try, and succeed in any of these opportunities. I am an Acacian. I am proud of it.

# Acacia is #4 in ISU Greek System with 3.23 G.P.A.

## 67% of Members earn 3.00 GPA or Higher

The Spring, 2016 semester grade results are in, and Acacia Fraternity is in the #4 spot in the Greek Community for academic honors. The competition is fierce for this honor, as reflected in the results for the top five fraternities.

1.	FarmHouse	3.43
2.	Tau Kappa Epsilon	3.30
3.	Kappa Sigma	3.29
<b>4.</b>	<b>Acacia</b>	<b>3.23</b>
4.	Triangle	3.23
All Fraternity Average		3.07
All Men's Undergrad Average		2.95

Academic excellence is a cornerstone of the Iowa State Chapter of Acacia Fraternity. As you can see from the table on this page, our chapter has been ranked #1 for sixteen out of the past twenty-three semesters! Since the chapter was refounded in 1999, Acacia has held the #1 academic slot 69% of the time, and we have held either the #1 or #2 academic slot 91% of the time. An impressive record of achievement by any measure!

Our focus remains on recruiting only exceptional men who are dedicated to their academic studies and to making a positive contribution to society. This has been a core strategy which has been shown to be successful over the years. It is our focus on academics, personality, and a demonstrated level of leadership which has enabled us to build the preeminent academic Fraternity at Iowa State.

The list of the Brothers who earned a 3.00 or higher grade point is shown below, and we would like to recognize these Brothers for their outstanding academic achievement:

Dias Abeygunawardena	Michael J. Holmes
Dalton L. Adams	Richard A. Korneisel
Grant L. Albansoder	Wyatt N. Lauer
Jack A. Bass	Andrew Martin
Keven Chng	Brian R. Mozey
Nolan L. Dickson	Dillyn A. Mumme
Bemjamin M. Dirks	Aditya S. Navale
Joshua J. Foss	Brett B. Niemann
William D. Gardner	Dylan D. Pratt
Holden Greenberg	Carter H. Reed
Jordan A. Griffing	Devin M. Shields
Jackson P. Griffith	Juwon I. Toluwalase
Garrett M. Hembry	Joe L. Webb

Each one of these Brothers will receive a \$200 academic scholarship this semester for exceeding the 3.00 grade point average for the fall semester.

Previous academic results for the Chapter are as follows:

Term	Position	GPA	Term	Position	GPA		
2016	Fall	#16	3.00	2008	Fall	#1	3.21
2015	Spring	#2	3.36		Spring	#1	3.29
2014	Fall	#1	3.31	2007	Fall	#1	3.24
2013	Spring	#2	3.17		Spring	#2	3.15
2012	Fall	#2	3.28	2006	Fall	#1	3.15
	Spring	#1	3.39		Spring	#1	3.29
2011	Fall	#1	3.30	2005	Fall	#1	3.40
	Spring	#3	3.12		Spring	#1	3.43
2010	Fall	#1	3.24	2004	Fall	#1	3.39
	Spring	#1	3.32		Spring	#1	3.38
2009	Fall	#4	3.03	2003	Spring	#1	3.24
	Spring	#1	3.29				

## Foundation Spotlight: Harold Zarr Jr., Iowa State '73

**((Editors Note: This article originally appeared in the July, 2016 Edition of The Crest, an electronic publication from the international office of the Fraternity.))**

None of this support would be possible without the dedication of its board members. This Crest, we talked with a current Director of the AFF, Harold Zarr Jr., Iowa State '73, to discuss his Acacia experience and why he has stayed involved. Brother Zarr is a recipient of both the Order of Pythagoras (1999) and the Award of Merit (2006) and was the recipient of the George F. Patterson Jr. Award in 2014. Let's see what Brother Zarr had to say:

### 1. Why did you join Acacia?

When I joined the chapter, nearly everyone who attended Iowa State from my hometown joined Acacia Fraternity. For me, joining Acacia gave me an instant support group of friends that I knew from high school. This was a tremendous advantage to me when I entered college, as the "culture shock" of going from a small town to the "big city" Ames was at first overwhelming for me.

### 2. What has kept you involved?

Being a part of the chapter literally keeps me "young" in spirit. For those who are not actively engaged with an undergraduate chapter, it may sound strange to say that after I come back from a meeting at the chapter house, I feel as I did back when I went to Iowa State. Now, you should not assume this to mean that I am trying to "relive" my days in the chapter by compelling the men who live there today to engage in the same activities that I enjoyed. For me, it is just the spirit of Brotherhood that I feel when I see how close the members of the chapter are to each other, and how they look out for each other. They are building the memories and friendships that will last a lifetime, and it is fulfilling to see this happening as much today as it did when I was a member of the undergraduate chapter.

**3. What does Acacia mean to you?**

Acacia is a Brotherhood of men whose ultimate goal is to enrich the lives of those with whom they come into contact. We try to set an example by deeds, of how a responsible citizen should act when interacting with other people. Honesty, morality and sincere desire to help others achieve all that they can be is, in my mind, the qualities that set Acacians apart from other people that I know and have known. We do these things not for recognition for ourselves, but simply because they are the right things to do if we want to build a better society.

**4. If you could tell your freshmen-self something, what would it be?**

Focus, first and foremost, on your academics. Learning the skills in the classroom are essential to building the technical skills that you will need to succeed in whatever endeavor that interests you. Equally important is learning the “soft skill” of successful interaction with other people. Of these skills, listening is the most critical. You must learn to listen without allowing preconceived ideas to “filter” what you hear. Your objective is to fully understand what is going on, or how the other person is perceiving a given situation. Finally, you must use critical thinking to evaluate and determine if what you have heard and seen makes sense. If it does, apply it. If it does not, how do you change it in such a way as to make it useful and productive in your life.

**5. What is the value of Acacia?**

The Acacia of today is vastly different from the Acacia that I knew when I attended college. As an organization, we have grown and adapted to today’s environment and have focused more attention on developing our Brothers to better prepare them to be engaged within the Fraternity and for life after college. Through Cornerstones, we have developed a systematic approach to the development of the men of the chapters at each stage of their college experience. There is a much greater emphasis on the growth of the individual so that they see how they can make a positive impact as a part of the “group” we call Acacia in their life during college and beyond. The true value of Acacia is that we are interested in developing the “entire individual” to maximize all of their skills and abilities so that they can lead full and productive lives with dignity and success. They can be secure in the knowledge that the skills we so readily shared with them can in turn, be shared with others to achieve the same results.

**6. Where do you see the organization in 10 years?**

I see two different organizations of Acacia. I serve on the Acacia Fraternity Foundation, and my dream is to see it as a foundation with assets of at least \$30 million dollars in ten years. I believe that if we design and implement outstanding programs that make sense to our alumni, they will support us in our goal and help this to become a reality. With this financial base, we can then use those funds to build the educational, scholastic and chapter building programs that “grow” the Fraternity into the premier organization that it has the potential to become.

On the Fraternity-side of this question, I would like to see the number of chapters increase. But this growth must be measured so that the goal is not to build a fraternity with the greatest number of chapters, but those chapters that all excel in the quality of the men and what those men accomplish at their respective universities. You do not have to be the largest organization to accomplish great things, but you must have the quality of men involved in the organization to set the foundation so that great things can be accomplished.

The Foundation can provide the financial resources to help the Fraternity achieve great things, and as the Fraternity achieves these things, greater support will flow back to the Foundation. In this sense, the organization is like a coin, and both sides must exist for the coin to have weight and value.

**7. Anything else you would like to add?**

I have been incredibly blessed to have been able to know and work with the some of the giants of our Fraternity. I have tried through my modest contributions, to build on the legacy established by those Brothers who are currently serving or have served in the past. I try to always keep in mind that I am responsible to continue the work of building a solid foundation so that our Fraternity will have a bright future and be able to inspire those who follow after me. To the extent that I am successful in accomplishing these things, no recognition is required. All that is important is that I know that I have done all that I can to continue the legacy established by the founders of our Fraternity.

## In Memoriam



**Robert L. “Sam”, Carstens - #354  
3108 Northwood Drive  
Ames, Iowa 50010**

It is with great sadness that we must share the news that Brother Sam Carstens (Roll #354) passed away on August 1, 2016. A regular attendee of our biannual scholarship luncheons and significant contributor to our scholarship and educational programs, Brother Carstens will be deeply missed by many in the Acacia brotherhood. On April 17, 2011, Brother Sam Carstens was awarded Acacia’s highest honor, the Award of Merit. Shown in the picture to the right is Jeremy Davis (chapter advisor), Sam Carstens, Michael Weber, and Harold Zarr (board president).

Dr. R. L. (Sam) Carstens died Monday, Aug. 1, 2016, at age 94. He was the son of Ava E. Kulow and Fred A. Carstens. He graduated from Iowa State College in 1943 with a degree in civil engineering. Serving with the U.S. Army in World War II, his engineer battalion built 40 tactical bridges in France and Germany. He was awarded five campaign stars for this service.

After almost five years of working in Iowa in the construction industry, he was recalled to active military service in 1950 and served in Korea. There, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for exemplary service as well as four campaign stars.

Following his military service, he worked in Saudi Arabia as an engineer for the Arabian-American Oil Company, 1954-61, and as an engineer for USAID in Bolivia, 1962-63. He received graduate degrees from ISU

in transportation engineering in 1964. In 1965, Dr. Carstens was appointed professor in charge of the transportation engineering section of his department and served with distinction as a teacher and researcher until he retired at the end of 1986. He was especially active in outreach activities, presenting many short courses, workshops, seminars and papers to widely varying audiences during his tenure at ISU.

From 1975-91, Dr. Carstens also served as a consultant in transportation engineering. Many of his projects were in connection with litigation. He appeared as an expert witness in 97 trials. Of these, 19 were on behalf of the Iowa Department of Transportation, and 30 were in defense of other public entities.

Among the many honors and awards to Dr. Carstens was the Faculty Citation for “long outstanding and inspired service on the faculty of Iowa State University,” the Out-Standing Educator Award from the American Road and Transportation Builders Association for a “remarkable contribution to transportation education,” the Special Service Award from the Iowa County Engineers Association for “many contributions to the engineering profession,” the Distinguished Service Award from the Iowa Engineering Society for “outstanding service to the engineering profession,” and the President’s Award from the Iowa Traffic Control and Safety Association for “exemplary contributions to highway safety.” He also received the Award of Merit from Acacia Fraternity for “significant contributions in time and effort in the advancement of the ideals and objectives of Acacia.”

He was a member of First United Methodist Church in Ames, the Ames Noon Kiwanis Club, the Iowa State University Alumni Association and the Cyclone Club. He was a dedicated follower of ISU athletics.

Dr. Carstens is survived by his son, Michael Carstens (Lisa), of Littleton, Colo.; by his step-sons, Lloyd DeMoss (Helen), of Sioux City, and Ron Jordan (Kyla), of Surprise, Ariz., and Cody, Wyo.; by step-daughters, Sheila Burdett, of Pearland, Texas, and Janis (Richard)

Cross, of Davis, Calif.; and by step-daughter-in-law, Kim Jordan (Dean Miller), of Ames. He is also survived by his two granddaughters (Hannah, Cayla); 10 step-grandchildren; and 14 step great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Marian; by his second wife, Lenita; by his parents; by his brother, John; and by his step-son, Craig Jordan.

Below is the story, along with the award nomination to the International Council of Acacia Fraternity, which was printed in the May 2011 edition of The Pythagorean:

### **Brother Sam Carstens Receives Award of Merit**

Introduced at Acacia’s Golden Anniversary celebrations in 1954, the Award of Merit is one of Acacia’s highest honors. The criteria that stipulates who is entitled to receive this award requires the following:

“...Brothers who have given of their time and substance unstintingly for the promotion and furtherance of Acacia, both nationally and locally, and brothers who have rendered outstanding service in their chosen fields, and have attained high position therein, thus exemplifying the motto of Acacia, human service, and the teachings of the fraternity, which constantly admonish our members to prepare themselves as educated men to take a more active part in their communities.”

Brother Sam Carstens, a long-serving board member and a Brother who has supported several of Acacia’s educational programs, including the lead gift for the 3rd Floor Library, is a highly deserving recipient of the Award of Merit. During the Parent/Alumni Scholarship Luncheon on April 17, 2011, International Second Vice President Jeremy Davis, International Undergraduate Counselor Michael Weber, and Alumni Board President Harold Zarr presented Brother Sam Carstens with the Award of Merit.

Brother Carstens joins a very small and select group of men from the Iowa State Chapter who have received this award.

In our 100+ year history, only seven men have previously been accorded this honor. Brother Carstens is now the eighth man from the Iowa State Chapter to receive the Award of Merit. Previous winners of this award include Frank R. Mendell - #198, John B. Pugh - #442, Darrel S. Metcalfe - #455, Walter R. Kolbe - #527, H. Keith Sawyers, - #542, Calvin O. Hultman - #638, and Harold D. Zarr Jr. - #814.

**Nomination for the Award of Merit for Robert L. "Sam" Carstens - #354**

Few Brothers of the Fraternity have had as distinguished a career of service to the Fraternity as have had Brother Carstens. Initiated on January 30, 1942, Brother Carstens was one of four groups of men initiated during the early years of World War II into Acacia Fraternity. After serving in World War II, Brother Carstens returned to Iowa State where he earned advanced degrees in Civil Engineering and served as a member of faculty at Iowa State College (later University) from 1964 until 1986, when he was appointed Professor Emeritus, Civil and Construction.

Brother Carstens was elected to serve on the Corporate Board in 1967, and served in a variety of positions, including that of Board President for the next ten years. Brother Carstens was also one of the principle participants in, and supporter of, the campaign to build a new chapter house in the 1967-1970, even though the campaign failed to reach its goal of building a new chapter house. During these ten years, Brother Carstens continued to serve on and lead the Corporate Board as it worked through the many negative issues that confronted fraternities in general during that time period. Following his retirement from the Board in 1977, Brother Carstens returned in 1985 to manage the Masonic Loan Fund for the Board which was designed to assist members of the fraternity cover the cost of their education by providing them with low-interest loans to attend Iowa State.

When the project to build a new library on the third floor of the chapter house was announced in 2008, Brother

Carstens was the very first person to step forward with a \$5,000 donation to get the project moving forward. One of the reasons the Burger-Carstens-Davis-Good Library exists on the 3rd floor of the chapter house is because of his early involvement in this project. He has also been one of the most significant contributors to the chapters' scholarship and capital improvement funds since the chapter was recolonized in 2000. Beginning in 2002, Brother Carstens has been recognized for his generosity by receiving awards as a Bronze Partner (scholarship fund) in 2002, a Bronze Partner (scholarship fund) in 2003, a Silver Partner (scholarship fund) in 2004, a Chapter Partner (scholarship fund) in 2006, a Chapter Partner in 2007 (scholarship fund), a member of the Board of Directors Club (library fund), a Chapter Partner (capital improvements) and a Silver Partner (scholarship fund) in 2008, a Chapter Partner (scholarship fund) 2009, and a Chapter Partner (for both the scholarship fund and capital improvements fund) in 2010. His financial support has helped to ensure the success of the scholarship program and has been instrumental in helping our members meet the financial burden of attending Iowa State. Most importantly, during his forty plus years of involvement as an alumnus of the chapter, Brother Carstens has never sought recognition for his work. Yet, his support and tireless efforts on behalf of the chapter have helped to ensure the success that enjoys today. This is a long overdue recognition of, and reward for, all of the many years of support provided by Brother Carstens.

**Bruce Banister - #777  
16504 East 32nd Street  
Independence, Missouri 64055**

Bruce Banister was born Oct. 29, 1951, in Cherokee, Iowa. He graduated from Aurelia high school in 1970, and obtained a bachelor of science in civil engineering from Iowa State University in 1974. Bruce worked proudly for Burns & McDonnell for 35 years, retiring at the end of 2009. He died suddenly on August 6, 2016.

Bruce was preceded in death by his mother, Marcella Banister. He is survived by his father, Leslie Banister of Aurelia, Iowa; his life-long friend and former wife Debbie Banister; their son Scott Banister and his wife, Cyan Banister; daughter-in-law Theresa Luevano; two grandchildren; and his end-of-life love and companion Deidre Chasteen and her son Craig Chasteen. Bruce loved biking and swimming.

# Alumni Support Scholarship and Chapter House Funds

The financial contributions of our alumni are absolutely vital to long-term success of the chapter and the viability of our scholarship program. Without the support of our alumni, we simply could not provide the scholarships and other financial support needed to keep the chapter operating at the level of success that we are currently enjoying.

Our emphasis on academic performance and high moral character of the members that we recruit has never wavered, and has led to the building of a chapter that is well respected within the Iowa State Greek Community. But this alone is not the key to our success. The generosity of our alumni in being willing to financially support the scholarship and house renewal funds are equally critical to our success. Without the hard work of the chapter members, and the active support of our alumni, our success simply would not have been possible. We recognize all of our alumni who have so generously contributed to the financial well-being of the chapter, and we hope that as you examine the record of success of the chapter in the chart shown below, you will see that your investment has been well placed. We sincerely hope and respectfully ask you to continue your financial support of the men of the Iowa State Chapter of Acacia.



# ACACIA

## Chapter House Improvement Fund

### \$625 Contributed in 2016 by Iowa State Acacians

#### Bronze Partner (\$ 100 - \$ 499)

Donald W. Messer - #447  
Lynn R. Pendry - #469  
James. M. Hanson - #533  
Lee R. Christensen - #601

#### Spirit Partner (\$ 1 - \$ 99)

Richard B. Barnard - #649

Other categories for contributions

**Refounding Father (\$ 10,000 or more)**  
**Board of Directors Club (\$ 5,000 - \$ 9,999)**  
**Pythagorean Partner (\$ 2,500 - \$ 4,999)**  
**Chapter Partner (\$ 1,000 - \$ 2,499)**  
**Gold Partner (\$ 750 - \$ 999)**  
**Silver Partner (\$ 500 - \$ 749)**

The table that is shown lists those Brothers and friends who have made contributions to the new chapter house improvement fund in 2015. Please accept our grateful thanks for your generosity!

## Iowa State Chapter Scholarship Fund

### \$2,350 Contributed in 2016 by Iowa State Acacians

#### Chapter Partner (\$ 1,000 - \$ 2,499)

Robert L. "Sam" Carstens - #354

#### Silver Partner (\$ 500 - \$ 749)

Takenori Aso - #660

#### Bronze Partner (\$ 100 - \$ 499)

Lynn R. Pendry - #469  
James H. Davis - #489  
Richard W. Taylor - #506  
John F. Shrader - #660  
Stewart L. Burger

#### Spirit Partner (\$ 1 - \$ 99)

Walter R. Kolbe - #527

Other categories for contributions

**Refounding Father (\$ 10,000 or more)**  
**Board of Directors Club (\$ 5,000 - \$ 9,999)**  
**Pythagorean Partner (\$ 2,500 - \$ 4,999)**  
**Gold Partner (\$ 750 - \$ 999)**

The table that is shown lists those Brothers and friends who have made tax-deductible contributions to the chapter scholarship fund in 2014. Please accept our grateful thanks for your generosity! Your contributions provide vital support the academic efforts of your Brothers in our Chapter!