



The Iowa State Pythagorean

Fulfilling the mission of ACACIA

MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER

ACACIA

February 2017 | Issue #79

Building a Cornerstone for Our Future:

An Update on the New Chapter House Campaign

It's an exciting time to be an Iowa State Acacian as we continue to finalize details regarding our plan to build a new chapter house which will meet the needs of our undergraduate chapter for many decades into the future! While we will miss our current chapter house, we know the time has come to plan for the future housing needs for the Iowa State Chapter of Acacia Fraternity. Over the past several months, the Corporate Board and undergraduate chapter, along with our chosen architectural firm, SB & A, and fundraising consulting firm, Pennington & Co. have developed a plan for building, fundraising, and financing for a new chapter house.

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This is an artists view of entryway foyer in the new chapter house. The solarium is off to the left.

Focus on: Undergraduate

McDaniel Foley

This May, I will be graduating with a degree in Management Information Systems, from the Gerdin College of Business here at Iowa State. After I graduate, I will be starting my working career as an information technology associate at Land O'Lakes in Minneapolis. I will be living in the Minneapolis area, where I grew up and went to high school.

Wyatt Lauer

My name is Wyatt Lauer, and I am graduating this year with a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering with an emphasis in Power. Coming from Edina, a suburb of Minneapolis, Ames was a big change in scenery for me. I was fortunate enough to get in contact with Kevin and Joe who recruited me before my freshman year, and it has been one of the best decisions of my college career.

(both continued on page 7)

Chapter Seeks to Establish Alumni Advisory Team

As we look to the future, our chapter seeks to maintain the tradition of excellence that has been established by our predecessors. A crucial part of ensuring this happens is the input of our alumni and our advisors. Currently, our chapter has just two primary people to look to for guidance- our Chapter Advisor Jeremy Davis and our Academics Advisor Stewart Burger.

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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
Matt B. England	Vice-President 319-558-8085
Jeff Peil	Treasurer 515-664-6875
Chris MacKenzie	Secretary 515-314-8236
Don Good	Alumni Relations 515-956-3150
Tanner Jaeger	Alumni Relations
Jakob Croghan	Chapter President
Scott Beard	Chapter Treasurer
William Mengler	Chapter Representative
Jeremy Davis	Chapter Advisor 515-291-7016

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!

**Published by the corporate Board
of the Iowa State Chapter of
ACACIA Fraternity**

Building a Cornerstone for Our Future:

We call this plan, "Building A Cornerstone For Our Future" and are looking forward to sharing this plan with our alumni brothers. Through initial meetings alumni by our campaign committee, we've already secured more than \$830,000 in contributions and pledges toward the new chapter house project fundraising goal of \$2.9 million.

Following this newsletter, in approximately 3 weeks, you will be receiving a mailing that includes finalized details about this exciting project to that will completely re-develop and transform our existing property into a truly state-of-the-art fraternity house that will offer an outstanding living and learning environment for our undergraduate brothers. We know this endeavor to build a new chapter house will be challenging; and we'll need the support of all our alumni brothers to turn this vision into a reality.

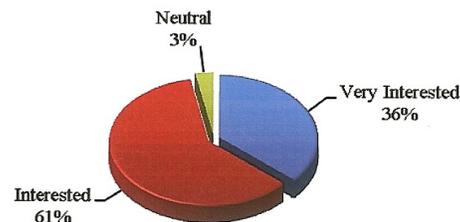
As we proceed with our campaign to build a new chapter house, we'll be providing regular updates in future mailings, and we will be contacting each brother directly. Your support today will help to ensure our future as a vibrant, growing, and successful Iowa State Chapter of Acacia Fraternity!

Results of the Project Feasibility Study

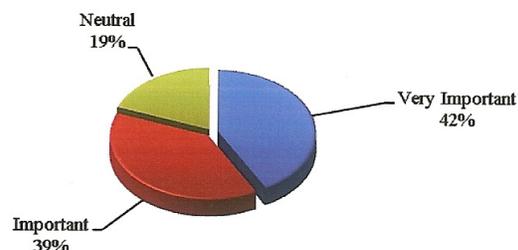
Building a new chapter house is a tremendous undertaking, and although the corporate board has been extremely fiscally responsible over the years, we simply did not have the internal financial resources to build a new chapter house on our own. We knew we were going to need the help and support of the alumni of the chapter if we were going to make this dream a reality. To determine if the alumni would be willing to support us in this project, the board hired the firm of Pennington & Company to conduct a survey of our alumni to determine the extent to which they would be willing to support this project.

The board supplied Pennington with a list of alumni that we felt would be a representative sample of our total alumni population. The alumni were located throughout the entire United States and Pennington contacted a number of these alumni either by personal or telephone interviews, depending on the individual situation. The results of the survey provided us with some interesting and positive information.

We have an active alumni population of 580 men, and we have accurate mailing addresses for more than 90% of our alumni. A limited number of our total alumni could not be located. Based on the survey results, 97% of our alumni are interested or very interested in the chapter and its future, which is a high level interest when compared to other fraternities that have been studied.



An important survey question addressed the extent to which building a new chapter house would be critical to the future of the chapter. Some of the alumni expressed sorrow at the fact that the chapter house needed to be replaced, but at the same time stated that they fully understood that no structure lasts forever, and that the time has come to replace our "traditional home" at Iowa State. Of the alumni surveyed, 81% felt that the project was needed to secure the future of the chapter. A 1950's alumnus stated that "This is necessary if the chapter is going to survive. There is tough competition from the other fraternities and what the college had done with its housing."





Given that the alumni recognize the need for a new chapter house, we needed to determine whether or not our alumni would be interested in, and most importantly, be willing to support a fundraising campaign to build a new chapter house. When we spoke to alumni about these two topics, 82% stated that they would be willing to financially support the building of a new chapter house.

Admittedly, at that stage only some preliminary design drawings and overall layout schemes had been available to share with the alumni. However, based on the preliminary designs, interest and approval was high among the alumni surveyed. A 1960's alumnus stated that: *"It's ingenious the way the building sits on the property, but turning it we get more parking."* A 2000's alumnus commented that: *"This allows us to again have the nicest facility on campus, which is a huge recruiting tool."*

Some of the specific strengths of the design were identified as well, which included (from a 1960's alumnus) *"... increasing the capacity, providing modern spaces, and not keeping the old structure."* An alumnus from the 1980's stated that *"It's a beautiful looking building, and it's nice to have the kitchen back in the house."* Finally, an alumnus from the 1960's said that *"It is a sensible plan – good – but not extravagant."*

Based on the very positive results of the alumni survey, the board felt very confident in proceeding with the project to build a new chapter house. **If this project is to be successful, it is critical that we gain the support of all our alumni, to the extent that they are able to financially support this project. We know that the financial resources of our alumni vary considerably, but it does not matter if your support is large or small. All contributions to this project are equally vital if we are to be successful in raising the funds needed to build a new chapter house. The alumni on the campaign committee are respectfully asking you to carefully consider and support this project in any way and in any amount that you can.**

And so, the story continues...

How You Can Support the Project to Build a New Chapter House

A group of dedicated alumni on our campaign committee have been contacting their Brothers in the house to raise awareness and gain financial support for the construction of a new chapter house. At this time, the total amount contributed and pledged for the new chapter house has exceeded \$830,000 which means that we are off to an excellent start! Enclosed with this newsletter is pledge form, and we are asking you to seriously consider filling it out and mailing back to us so that we will know who is contributing, and how much each of our Brothers will contribute to support this project.

The total amount that we need to raise is \$2.9 million, as the board is going to assume a mortgage loan of \$1 million. So one of the questions becomes, how can our alumni make donations to support this project that is vital to survival of our chapter? The first thing we have to recognize is that to make this project a reality, we will need both tax-deductible and non-tax-deductible donations.

The reason for this is that due to the current IRS guidelines, only those parts of the house that can be clearly classified as "educational" in nature, can be supported with tax-deductible dollars. Thus, when we designed the house, we tried to strike a balance between the purely "educational" portions of the house, and those that clearly could not meet that classification. We believe that the final design essentially "checks all the boxes" in terms of the needs of today's college students and the need to provide tax-deductible opportunities for our alumni.

I will admit in advance that trying to put this information in a "readable format" is not the easiest thing in the world. In many cases, reader's eyes tend to "glaze over" when dealing with numbers, so please bear with us as we endeavor to explain the differences in the giving methods. To do this, we are dividing this discussion up into four parts:

- 1) non-tax-deductible donations,**
- 2) tax-deductible donations,**
- 3) direct donations from retirement accounts, and**
- 4) direct donations of stock investments.**



1) Non-Tax-Deductible Donations a.k.a. writing a check out to “The Acacians”

The bottom line is simply this: to build the new chapter house, we will have to receive some non-tax-deductible donations. One goal is to raise a total of \$1.85 million in “hard” dollars (i.e., non-tax-deductible donations) in order to build the new chapter house. With these dollars, we can make this project a reality.

We recognize that tax-deductibility is important for some of our alumni, and while we are not able to finance this solely through tax-deductible donations, we encourage our alumni to **consider making both a tax-deductible AND a non-tax-deductible gift** toward our new chapter house fund.

When choosing to make a non-tax-deductible donation, you **simply write out a check in an amount of your choice**. You can make these kinds of donations as either one-time donations or sixty monthly payments (a five-year pledge) if that works better for you. Some of our alumni are already making monthly payments, some are making annual payments, and some have made large, one-time payments. Whatever method that works best for you will work for us!

1. Make your check payable to:
The Acacians

2. Just mail your check to:

Harold D. Zarr Jr.
Corporate Board President – The Acacians
834 South East Michael Drive
Ankeny, Iowa 50021-3671

2) Tax-Deductible Donations

Tax-deductible donations can be handled in one of two ways. If you are “computer-savvy” and like to handle your finances on-line, you can make donations directly via the web to an account that we have set up with the Acacia Fraternity Foundation. Funds donated through the Acacia Fraternity Foundation are restricted to covering the costs to construct the “educational” portions of the chapter house, plus other allowed fees. To make this donation, you simply need to log on the [acacia.org](http://www.acacia.org) website and proceed as follows:

1. Visit the AFF donations webportal at **<http://www.acacia.org/donate/>**
2. On this webpage, choose “**Iowa State – New Chapter House**” from the drop-down menu located on the page and click ‘**continue**’
3. This will take you to the screen shown below:

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Billing Information". It contains two columns of input fields: "Billing Contact" and "Billing Address". The "Billing Contact" fields include First Name, Last Name, Email Address, and Phone Number. The "Billing Address" fields include Street Address Line 1, Street Address Line 2, a zip code field (pre-filled with 50010), a state dropdown menu (pre-selected with Iowa), and a city field (pre-filled with Ames). A green "CONTINUE" button is located at the bottom right of the form. Below the form, there are sections for "Order/Transaction Information", "Payment Information", and "Review & Submit".

4. On this screen, simply fill out the information that is requested to set up a direct transfer of funds from your bank account or from a credit/debit card **to the Iowa State – New Chapter House fund account under the AFF.**
5. As you move through the remaining screens, additional information will be requested and you can choose to make one-time or recurring donations according to a schedule that will work for you.
6. At the end, review and then submit the instructions!

If you would prefer to send in a check, no problem! Just follow these two simple steps.

1. Make your check payable to:
Acacia Fraternity Foundation – Account #19.3

2. Just mail your check to:
Darold Larson – Executive Director
Acacia Fraternity Foundation
8777 Purdue Road, Suite 225
Indianapolis, Indiana 46268

As a donor, you will receive a receipt from Darold Larson acknowledging your charitable donation for tax purposes. This method also produces benefits for the chapter. The funds donated to the AFF earn interest while they are “on deposit” at the Foundation, and the low annual maintenance fee (3%) is covered in large part by the earnings on the funds. Thus, we are able to maximize the benefits for Acacia as a whole by utilizing this donation program.

Making Tax-Deductible Donations through the ISU Foundation

Some of our alumni have told us that they would like to make tax-deductible donations through the ISU Foundation. Funds donated through the ISU Foundation are also restricted to covering the costs to build the “educational” portions of the chapter house, plus other allowed fees. If this is your preference, no problem!

A number of years ago the board established the Acacia Fraternity Building and Renovation **Fund** with the corresponding account number #2702338. When you write out your check, be certain to reference this name and account number on your check. If you would prefer to make deposits to this account due to a “matching program” where you work, or due to an existing agreement with the ISU Foundation, you may make your deposit your donation directly to this account. **If your employer has a “matching fund program” where you work, this is an excellent way to “double up” the value of your donation to support the construction of our new chapter house!** Here are the steps you will need to follow when you donate funds to the ISU Foundation.

1. Make your check payable to:

**Acacia Fraternity Building and Renovation
Fund – Account #2702338**

2. Just mail your check to:

**Iowa State University Foundation
2505 University Boulevard
P.O. Box 2230
Ames, Iowa 50010-2230**

You will receive a letter from the ISU Foundation recognizing your charitable contribution for tax purposes.

3) Direct Donations from your IRA

The bottom line is simply this: to build the new chapter house, we will have to receive some non-tax-deductible donations. One goal is to raise a total of \$1.85 million in “hard” dollars (i.e., non-tax-deductible donations) in order to build the new chapter house. With these dollars, we can make this project a reality.

We recognize that tax-deductibility is important for some of our alumni, and while we are not able to finance this solely through tax-deductible donations, we encourage our alumni to **consider making both a tax-deductible AND a non-tax-deductible gift** toward our new chapter house fund.

When choosing to make a non-tax-deductible donation, you **simply write out a check in an amount of your choice**. You can make these kinds of donations as either one-time donations or sixty monthly payments (a five-year pledge) if that works better for you. Some of our alumni are already making monthly payments, some are making annual payments, and some have made large, one-time payments. Whatever method that works best for you will work for us!

A few basic rules apply:

- You must be 70.5 years of age.
- You can donate a maximum of \$100,000 in total per person per year to charity.
- You must transfer the funds directly from the IRA to the eligible charity. It cannot “pass through” the donor to the charity.
- You cannot donate the funds to a donor-advised fund or private foundation.
- It cannot be used for transfers from 401(k) accounts.
- IRA sponsors don’t have to include IRA donations on the 1099-R tax form, so you must keep your own record when compiling your tax documents.

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So how do you make this type of gift to Acacia? It's easy! Just follow this a simple four step process.

1. Contract the IRA administrator where your funds are located and tell them you want to make a direct transfer of funds to a charity.

2. Ask your administrator to make the check payable to:

Acacia Fraternity Foundation – Account #19.3

3. Give your administrator the AFF tax-identification number:

35-1778332

4. Ask your administrator to mail the check to the following address:

**Acacia Fraternity Foundation
8777 Purdue Road, Suite 225
Indianapolis, Indiana 46268
Attn: Darold Larson**

Additionally, while the donation itself is not tax-deductible, it is also not a part of your adjusted gross income. This may well effectively reduce your taxable income and it may help you to lower or avoid the 3.8% surtax on net investment income, payments for Medicare premiums, or possibly taxes on Social Security payments. As always, you should always discuss this type of transfer with your tax advisor to ensure that everything is done correctly. Paying attention to the details is important! That being said, a number of our alumni have already opted for this procedure to make their donations for the new chapter house fund, and it has worked smoothly in all of the cases where it has been used, so it really is an easy process. If you are retired, with an IRA, this is an ideal method to support the tax deductible portion of your effort to build a new chapter house for the Iowa State chapter of Acacia!

4) Direct Donations of Stock Investments

Some of our alumni have stock investments that they have donated instead of contributing dollars. You can donate an entire investment, or just a portion of it. The decision is up to you, and is easy to accomplish. The steps in the process are as follows.

1. Contact your stock broker and tell them you want to make a direct transfer of an investment to a charity.

2. Ask your administrator to transfer the investment to:

Acacia Fraternity Foundation – Account #19.3

3. Give your administrator the AFF tax-identification number:
35-1778332

4. The “receiving firm” where the stock is sent to is:

**Charles Schwab & Company, Inc.
101 Montgomery Street
San Francisco, California 94104
Phone: (800) 536-4274**

5. DTC-eligible securities will be delivered to:

**DTC Clearing 0164, Code 40
For deposit to Acacia Fraternity Foundation
Account 1018-3550**

Just as with a contribution from an IRA, you should always discuss this type of transfer with your tax advisor to ensure that everything is done correctly. Paying attention to the details is important! A few of our alumni have donated stock investments to support the new chapter house, and it has worked very smoothly, so it really is a very easy process.

Some Final Thoughts

When the process to recolonize Acacia on the Iowa State campus began back in 1996, our goal was a simple one. To build a chapter with men who would make fine Acacians and give our alumni a group that they could be proud to call their Brothers. At the same time, we were determined not to make a big push to solicit funds from our alumni to get the process started or to keep it going from the start. We believed that it was essential that we be able to prove to our alumni that we could build a financially and ethically viable chapter from the ground up, and to populate it with men who would bring distinction and credit to the Acacia Chapter in both the Iowa State Greek Community and within the Acacia family of chapters as a whole.

Over the years as the chapter has grown, and we have often reflected back on the advice of Brother John Pugh that we should only recruit men of “high moral character.” In all of our work with our rush chairmen over the years, this thought has ever been in the back of our minds, and we set in place a set of high academic and moral standards from which we have never deviated. The end result of these guidelines and hard work is evident by the national recognition since our rechartering in 2000. It is no exaggeration to say that the Iowa State Chapter Model for Recolonization is being emulated when a new chapter is brought back into being within the Acacia family. It is our own Iowa State Brother, Drew Sherman, who led the successful recolonization of the Indiana Chapter in the Fall, 2015 semester using the Iowa State Model.

Our record of success over the past ten years at the national level is impressive. It is a testament to the men of the chapter and their hard work and dedication to the principals of our Fraternity that they have been able to achieve so much success since the refounding of the chapter just sixteen years ago.

As we all know, nothing remains the same forever. Our success today is no guarantee of success in the future. But we believe that if we continue to follow the practices and principles that had given us success in the past, there is no reason to believe that we cannot continue to be successful well into the future.

The time has come for us to bid a fond farewell to the only home for Acacia that many of us have even known. While we will feel sadness at the passing of our much beloved home, we can look forward with hope and anticipation and a renewed spirit of Brotherhood as we work together to build a new chapter house for our Brothers who are yet to join our Fraternity. To make this dream a reality, it will require each of us to make a small sacrifice, but together, the result will be the creation of a new home in which we can all take pride knowing that each one of us had a hand in its creation!

My thanks and best wishes to all of our alumni, and we thank you for your support for this project. With your help, this dream of a new chapter house can become a reality!

Focus on: Undergraduate McDaniel Foley



(Continued from page 1)

During my time at Iowa State, I was able to participate on campus and in Greek life in organizations like Freshman Council, Emerging Greek Leadership Council, and the Management Information Systems Club. I can confidently say that if I had not joined Acacia, I would have not joined any of these organizations. My Acacian brothers pushed me to get involved on campus, and grow as a leader through campus and Greek organizations.

As an Acacian, I was able to help the house through leadership positions within the chapter. I was lucky enough to be elected to positions such as secretary, homecoming co-chair, and Lip Sync co-chair. Although I loved holding all of these positions, my fondest memories as an Acacian didn't come from holding leadership positions, they came from growing friendships with my brothers. Whether it was getting to know the upperclassmen and my big brother as a freshman, or creating bonds with my own little brothers, I've loved making great friends within Acacia.

As I look back on my time in Acacia and at Iowa State, I would say the most important decision that I made, and the first thing I would tell an underclassmen, is to get involved. Involvement within Acacia and within the university opened doors and created connections that truly helped me grow as a student and as a leader.

Focus on: Undergraduate Wyatt Lauer



(Continued from Page 1)

I started off small-time in the house. As a freshman, I was elected to be Brotherhood Chair, and that was my first venture into world of officer positions in Acacia. I had no idea what I was getting myself into, but I was very fortunate to have a lot of support from Jackson, who was the previous Brotherhood Chair. He showed me the ropes and answered all the ridiculous questions that

I had. After brotherhood, I became Junior Dean. That was probably the most rewarding position I have had in the house. It was highlighted with a formal at Drew Sherman's aunt and uncle's vineyard. We had the highest participation rate in recent history for the night and it was one of the best events we have had while I have been in the house. The only moment that could top formal would have been winning Geek Week as one of our co-chairs. Grant Albansoder and I put a lot of hard work and time into it, and to be rewarded with a victory was amazing. On campus, I have been a part of a couple different organizations that have made me very proud. The first was my freshman of sophomore years when I was on the committee that organizes

Engineers' Week. It gave me a chance to meet a ton of people right away at school, and have an immediate impact on my college. I helped a lot the last day making sure that the high school seniors we hosted had a good experience and did things that they would remember. I gave a tour of the engineering buildings that day because we were short a tour guide- something I will never forget, but also something I should never be allowed to do again. After that I spent two years as a peer mentor for undeclared freshmen in engineering. I led twenty freshmen and helping them acclimate and succeed their first year of college. It was seeing them succeed, and how thankful they were for the experience that made me want to do it a second time.

Some of my favorite memories at Acacia are the weird things we did. Going to Dew's family vineyard to camp, our spring break trip to meet alumni and explore Arizona, and then Greek Week which is a week I look forward to each spring. Looking forward, I will be working for Burns & McDonnell as an engineer designing power plants in Kansas City. They are a great company and I am excited to have the opportunity to work full time for them after being an intern there for two summers. My advice for the younger guys is "The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. He is the one that gets the people to do the greatest things." Ronald Reagan. I firmly believe that you can have a much bigger impact by getting others to do stuff instead of trying to do everything yourself.

Acacia Undergraduates Christmas Season Activities

This article summarizes many of the activities of the active chapter from the middle of November through the start of the spring, 2017 semester in January. Read on, and hopefully these events will bring back some warm memories of your time in the chapter house!

ACACIA Claus Supports Children and Families in Need



The foyer of the chapter house filled with toys, Acacians, and a spirit of giving after a successful 2016 ACACIA Clause.

The Acacians at Iowa State University got busy on Saturday, December 3rd, 2016 doing the work of Santa's elves. ACACIA Fraternity ACACIA Claus was held throughout the city of Ames to bring the community together around a toy drive for the local Assault Care Center Extending Shelter and Support (ACCESS), as well as the Boys and Girls Club of Story County.

A variety of businesses were key partners this year, including The Loft, Duck Worth Wearing, The Pumpkin Patch, Main St. Magic Miniatures and More, Random Goods, Books-A-Million, and Mayhem Collectibles. Acacians in twos and threes stood outside of these businesses and invited customers to purchase an additional item or two for the toy drive. The donated toys were then organized and delivered to each organization. The Boys and Girls Club of Story County used the gifts for a Santa Claus event and for two families in their adopt-a-family program; ACCESS used the gifts for specific families and kids they regularly support.

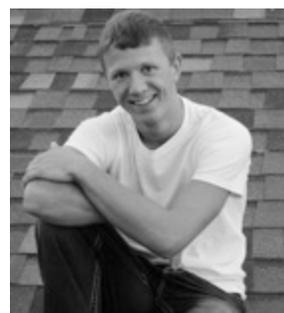


In the midst of studying for finals, the brothers of ACACIA Fraternity showed the community our holiday spirit and the philanthropic spirit of our fraternity. Acacians Zach Westerlund and Dillyn Mumme collected toys outside of Duck Worth Wearing on Main Street in Ames.

From the Office of the Venerable Dean

As I write this article for the newsletter, I find myself continually distracted by the view from the top of Greek Land, outside the many windows in the Edwin Drdla President's Suite. I am sure my predecessors can attest as to how enticing this view can be. If you are not yet familiar with this view, I would like to invite you to stop by to see it for yourself. This view is just one of the many great benefits that I have begun to experience during my term as Venerable Dean. I am extremely thankful to have the opportunity to serve in this position and for my brother's support in this endeavor. They are constantly challenging and inspiring me to continue to grow and develop personally and as a leader.

VD Summit



In early January, I had the opportunity to attend the 4th annual Lee Kearney Venerable Summit. Held in Indianapolis, Indiana, this gave me a chance to cross another state off the list of 50 to visit. This was just the first of the many things I gained from the VD Summit. I was able to meet numerous different brothers from our other international chapters and colonies. From them, I have seen how we are all able to hold the same values and ideals despite how diverse our fraternity is internationally. Over the course of three days, we were able to develop ourselves as leaders. We covered topics ranging from alumni engagement to our chapters financials to recruitment to motivating our chapters. Each one of these sessions allowed us to share what our chapter did and how we would like to improve this. From my fellow brothers, I came away with a number of great ideas on how to improve our chapter across the board. I was truly inspired when I heard about how our chapter has impacted our fellow brothers internationally. Overall, this Summit was a fantastic experience that I am extremely thankful to have been able to attend and I would highly encourage our future Venerable Deans to attend.

Chapter Seeks to Establish Alumni Advisory Team

As we look to the future, our chapter seeks to maintain the tradition of excellence that has been established by our predecessors. A crucial part of ensuring this happens is the input of our alumni and our advisors. Currently, our chapter has just two primary people to look to for guidance- our Chapter Advisor Jeremy Davis and our Academics Advisor Stewart Burger. We are extremely grateful for these individuals, but there is still several areas that our chapter would like input on. Our international fraternity's staff has recommended we restructure our advisors into a Chapter Advisory team composed of six different individuals:

1. Chapter Advisor to provide advice at our weekly chapter meetings, function as a key contact when issues arise, and oversee the following advisors
2. Academics Advisor to provide guidance and advice for our members and Scholarship Chairman relating to our education and our scholastic achievement
3. Cornerstones Advisor to serve as a resource for our Cornerstones Chairmen and the cornerstones membership development program
4. Financial Advisor to provide guidance for our chapter Treasurer on financial and budgetary matters that arise
5. Recruitment Advisor to help our Recruitment Chairmen recruit the right guys ensuring the future of our fraternity
6. Ritual Advisor to educate our members about our ritual processes and ensure they are properly carried out

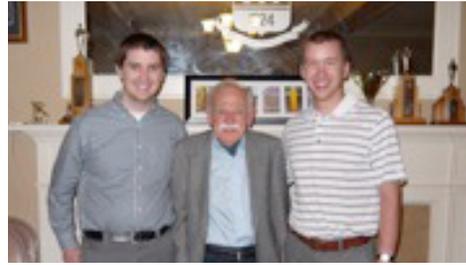
We are actively seeking individuals to fill all of these positions, except for the Academics Advisor as Stewart has graciously agreed to continue in his role. Jeremy Davis, our chapter advisor for the last 15 years, has asked the chapter to search for a replacement for him. He is no longer able to commit as much time as he previously has due to his new role with the National Pork Producers Council and his increased involvement as the International President of ACACIA Fraternity. The Chapter Advisor would ideally live within an hour of Ames, due to their close relationship with the chapter. With the exception of the Chapter Advisor, these advisory positions would not require a significant time commitment or the individual to live close to Ames.

These positions would provide the individual with a chance to directly influence the success of our chapter and provide a way to better connect to the undergraduate chapter. The main purpose of this team is to help ensure that each aspect of our chapter is functioning smoothly and working well the others. This will allow our chapter to not just continue to operate, but to reach new levels of excellence and to achieve a greater level of success. If you are interested in one of these advisory roles, please contact **Jakob Croghan** at isu19@acacia.org or **Jeremy Davis** at jdavis@acacia.org.

ACACIANS ACROSS AMERICA

In this section of the newsletter, we take the opportunity to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of the alumni of the Iowa State Chapter who have contributed above and beyond in their lives after leaving Iowa State. Here, are their stories.

Dale W. Weber #436



Brother Dale Weber has had a storied career in agriculture and academia since he first graduated from Iowa with a degree in farm operations. After graduating from Iowa State with his

undergraduate degree, he returned home to farm in Illinois, then he taught high school in Bettendorf, Iowa following which he worked as an Ag loan officer in a bank. He realized that his passion was in teaching, so in 1967 he returned to Iowa State where he earned both a Master's and a Ph.D. in Animal Science, graduating with his advanced degrees in 1974 with an emphasis on beef cattle nutrition. During his time at Iowa State, he continued to maintain strong ties with the Iowa State chapter of Acacia where he served as its faculty advisor.

Following his graduation from Iowa State, he and his wife traveled first to the University of Wisconsin at River Falls, where he taught for two and half years when he was offered a teaching position at Oregon State. From 1977 until his "retirement" in 1999, he taught in the Department of Animal Sciences at Oregon State University. He continues to teach part-time for the University to this day, as he instructs a freshman orientation class where he teaches new students the fundamentals of how to successfully make the transition from high school to a university environment.

Looking back on his time at Iowa State, some of his most lasting memories were of the late night serenades to the girls in the sororities. Most of the time, these serenades would occur around 1:00 am in the morning! He also has very fond memories of Mother Dinsmore, who he described as "the glue that held the chapter together." She knew everyone, had kind words for all the Brothers in the chapter, and was a constant, positive influence on the young men of the chapter. She taught him the manners, social graces, and etiquette that was an essential part of learning to be a positive role model to others. He also learned the importance of responsibility while serving as senior steward and junior dean in the chapter.

He remembers with great fondness the many late night "talk" sessions on Friday and Saturday nights after the week was done and the members could relax at the chapter house. These served to be important bonding sessions where you learned the true character of the Brothers in the house, and developed the life-long friendships that he enjoys to this day.

A modest man, Dale never forgot his ties to Acacia, and for decades has served as the academic advisor to the Oregon State chapter of Acacia. In 2016, Brother Martin McKnight - #769 of Oregon State Chapter, nominated Dale Weber to receive the Order of Pythagoras. What follows, is the nomination letter submitted by Brother McKnight.

An Iowa State Acacia alumnus has long served as a faculty member at Oregon State where he was honored with the 2013 Dan Poling Service Award. His nomination for this award is as follows. Professor Emeritus Dale Weber joined the Department of Animal Sciences in 1976 and served as an outstanding teacher and adviser for 22 years. Among other innovations, he instituted a self-learning center, helped launch the Steer-a-Year program, and led the formation of the college's internship support program. He served as president of the National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture, which named him the outstanding teacher in the western region in 1982. In 1995, he received the American Society of Animal Science Distinguished Teacher Award. He was honored as a 2003 Diamond Pioneer by the College of Agricultural Sciences. Since his retirement, "Doc" has continued to teach classes, counsel students, and volunteer thousands of hours to the university and community. He and his wife, Mary Jane, live in Corvallis.

In 2016, Brother Weber was honored with the Order of Pythagoras following his recommendation for this honor by Brother Martin McKnight of the Oregon State Chapter. Brother Weber is shown in this photograph following the presentation of the award by Iowa State Acacia's Michael Weber (left) and Drew Sherman (right). A copy of the recommendation letter penned by Brother Martin McKnight of the Oregon State Chapter is reproduced below.

Dale Weber (Iowa State #436) is the current Faculty Advisor for the Oregon State Chapter. Dale is extremely popular and universally respected in the Corvallis community. Undergraduates, particularly those in our fraternity, speak of Dale in glowing terms seldom heard from 18 and 19 year old young men. Dale is a truly remarkable and exceptionally positive mentor. Every Acacia Chapter should be so lucky to have Dale involved.

- Brother Weber makes a point to learn the pledges names each fall and he closely mentors the chapter leaders. (Regular meetings for coffee are common for Venerable Deans.)
- Dale attends formal dinners and demonstrates by his actions, what it is to be a gentleman and an Acacia.
- He has undergraduates work around his place – undoubtedly helping students who could use the money.
- As an emeritus professor he enjoys and excels at teaching introductory courses designed for new students.
- He is an award winning professor and volunteer.

Smart, respected, thoughtful, helpful, kind, inquisitive, determined, happy, positive, moral – these are the words that quickly come to mind when I think of Dale Weber. It is possible that there are mentors equal to Dale Weber but I know there are none better!

Congratulations and our thanks go out to our outstanding Brother, Dale W. Weber!

Nicholas Seibold - #884

Nick is Iowa State alumnus who has gone on to become an influential leader in Acacia Fraternity. When he was a member of the chapter, Nick was the individual who created the design of the new third floor library that was constructed in the Iowa State chapter house. Upon his graduation, he moved to Phoenix and became the advisor for the recently created Arizona State Chapter of Acacia. Here are his reflections on that process.



Who contacted you about becoming the chapter adviser at Arizona State?

Initially the AFF held an alumni gathering in Scottsdale, AZ to get everyone in the area

together. It was announced at that gathering that Acacia had contacted ASU about starting a colony in the spring semester of 2016. A few months later during the fall of 2015 another gathering was held to let the area alumni know that the ASU colony was officially approved and Acacia would be recruiting during the spring semester. The Director of Expansion and Recruitment Jerod Miles (Central Oklahoma '09), Expansion Coordinator Drew Sherman (Iowa State '11), and the AFF Executive Director Darold Larson (Washington State '81) were at the gathering to make the announcement, answer any questions and gather support for the colony. (Nick is the second person from the left in the second row of this picture.)

In what way were you involved in the colonization at Arizona State and who did you work with from the National office and describe the process that you went through to get approval to create the colony?

I was not involved with the colony until the pledging ceremony, Brothers Miles and Sherman did the leg work to get the colony on its feet. They worked with the ASU Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life and contacted area alumni about interest in helping with the colony. In addition to that, they presented too many sororities on campus and got a list of names from them to get a start on the recruitment process. After the recruitment process was under way, Jerod and Drew reached out to me and other alumni brothers in the area attend and help with the pledging ceremony at which point I met the guys in the colony. After that, I started going to their meetings to continue getting to know them. A few meetings later, the colony executive board officially asked me to be their chapter adviser and I accepted.

What have been the biggest hurdles that you have faced in this process?

My biggest hurdle in this process has been watching the guys go through the growing pains of starting a colony and letting them make mistakes so they can grow as men, leaders and Acacians. It is very hard to sit back and not tell them exactly what to do and how to do it, as I don't want to see them fail and it can make for some very long meetings. But, at the end of the day, I know it is for the best; that they are growing closer together through the process and learning how to do things better and/or different the next time it comes up. Brother Davis (Iowa State) has been a great resource to me during this time as well. Just knowing that I can reach out to him to get suggestions and ask questions has been very helpful, as he has been through it before.

What support did national provide and how did that process work?

Acacia provided on the ground support from the international office for the colony including recruitment, pledging, and initiation. Jason Loehnert (Central Florida) and I helped with the new member education process for a few weeks while Jerod and Drew were off campus. We held weekly pledge education meetings with them and helped them learn our fraternity's history using the Pythagoras and the Pledge Manual that was provided to them by the international office. (continued page 12)

In Memoriam

Ronald Arlie Christensen - #531



Born November 29, 1937 in Plattsmouth, Nebraska to Arlie and Elinore (Smetana) Christensen, Ron was the eldest of four children. He grew up in Mason City, Iowa and graduated from Mason

City High School as valedictorian. He went on to earn a B.S. in electrical engineering from Iowa State University, M.S. in mechanical engineering from California Institute of Technology, J.D. from Harvard Law School, and PhD in theoretical physics from University of California at Berkeley. He worked for IBM in Germany, Rand Corporation, U.S. Department of Justice newly created Science and Technology section during the Johnson Administration, and Arthur D. Little in Cambridge, Massachusetts before establishing the statistical analysis consulting firm Entropy Limited.

He was a true Renaissance man with an insatiable curiosity about the world around him. Scientist, writer, teacher, artist, piano student, avid collector of thousands of coins, books, movies, and music CDs. Later in life, he traveled the world. He was on the board of the Whale Institute. He enjoyed monthly meetings of like-minded friends in a science club held at a Chinese restaurant in Cambridge. He also enjoyed attending concerts of the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Symphony Hall and Tanglewood. A highlight of each year was the annual Tuba Christmas performance at Faneuil Hall in Boston.

Ronald loved playing chess, GO and pool with his grandsons whom he adored. He also enjoyed spending time up in Maine. His infectious enthusiasm had an impact on all around him wherever he went. Many tell stories of how he encouraged them to believe in themselves and pursue their interests, literally changing their lives. He was a gentle soul, loved by many, always fun to be with.

He is survived by his beloved longtime companion and best friend, Barbara Hogan, his children Shaun Cutts and Joanna of Allston, MA and Shannon

Cutts and Timothy Hudyncia of Coventry, RI, his grandchildren Morgan and Oliver Cutts, his brothers Dennis Christensen of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Larry Christensen of Victor Idaho, and sister Mary Lou Christensen and John Swenson of Medford, MA as well as many nieces and nephews and dear friends.

Christopher P. Browning - #774



Chris Browning, 64, reached the end of a remarkable life on June 15, 2016 at Marley House, the beautiful hospice he designed for Prescott area families and their loved ones. He had lived with metastatic pancreatic cancer for 16 months. He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Abbie Roses; children Casee, Ashley, Corin, Isaac and Nora; parents Paul and Norma Browning; siblings Ceri, Tim and Greg; grandchildren Gabriel, Aurora, Saul and Leona; a circle of close friends and many colleagues in the building industry.

Raised in Iowa, he was a member of Acacia Fraternity and a graduate of Iowa State University. Chris was a gifted architect whose historically-inspired work enhanced people's lives in Vermont and Arizona over a 40-year career. He formed The Prescott Building Company in 2005 so he could take a project from vision to completion for his clients who loved being part of the creative process. Hands on by nature, he did much of the building himself, crafting the details that made his work so exceptional.

In addition to being passionate about his work, Chris loved traveling in the U.S. and abroad, sports, reading, country western music and hiking with Wanda and Nelli, the family dogs. He was understated, quietly brilliant and funny, kind-hearted, strong and principled, never shying away from a good debate. More than anything in this life, he adored being a dad to his kids who are heartbroken but resilient thanks to his example. His family has donated his body to scientific research in the hope of finding a cure for this devastating disease.

Upcoming Events

Over the course of the next year, I hope to use the experiences and knowledge gained at the VD Summit in all of the events that our chapter will participate in. Already almost half way over, our semester is rapidly becoming busy. Our chapter currently has the following events scheduled:

March 25, 2017
Spring Initiation

March 26-April 2, 2017
Greek Week

April 13-14, 2017
ACACIA Root Beer Floats Philanthropy

April 21, 2017
Spring Formal

April 23, 2017
The Acacians Scholarship Dinner

Our chapter would like to invite all of our alumni members to come to Ames to help us initiate our spring new members on Saturday, March 25th. The initiation ceremony will start at 8:00 am. If you would like to know more about our initiation or any of these events, please feel free to contact me, Jakob

How big is the chapter at this point?

Currently the colony is sitting at 17 active members, 2 honorary members, and 12 pledges. Initiation will be held at Oriental Lodge #20 in Mesa, AZ on Saturday Oct. 29th, where we will be welcoming those pledges into active membership. They are a great group of guys and I can't wait to see what they will do to grow the chapter in the next few years.

What were the impressions of the guys from Arizona State who attended Conclave?

We had two members attend Conclave this past summer and they were very excited to see the great things that are happening with Acacia. They were able to network with other chapters as well as alumni and are excited for the future of ASU Acacia. They have been passing on what they learned from many workshops and presentations to the colony members.

What are the plans for a chapter house, or is that even possible?

Currently there are no Greek houses at ASU. They are in the process of building a Greek Village on campus to house 27 chapters in separate secure units, which will be managed by students, housing corporation boards and the office of fraternity and sorority life. The guys are hoping to be selected to live in one of these units, which will be a townhouse style setting with common areas on the main level and bedrooms on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th stories. They will be accepting applications next semester and it is planned to open in the fall of 2018.

What are your plans for the chapter over the next couple of years?

I would like to see the colony get chartered within the next year and continue to grow to be comparable in size to other fraternities on campus. They were among the top five chapters at ASU for GPA last semester so I would like to see that continue and I want to see them develop traditions and programming that can be passed on to future members.

Did anything that you learned at the Iowa State Chapter prove helpful for you in this process?

My whole experience at the Iowa State Chapter has proven useful in this process. I draw from that experience every time I meet with the group. They are going through a lot of the same stuff and I am able to provide them with examples of what the Iowa State Chapter did to overcome obstacles or provide them with a basic framework to start working from.

Tell us something about yourself, your job, how long you have been in Arizona, future plans, and so on.

I moved to Phoenix, AZ shortly after graduating from Iowa State in 2010, and have been here ever since. I enjoy the weather here the majority of the year and love that I can go hiking or just be outside nearly every day. I recently went on a 3 day backpacking trip in the Havasu Canyon to the Supai Village and camped near the waterfalls past the village. If you ever get the chance to go, it is beautiful, and I highly recommend it. I am currently a Merchandise Supervisor for J.C. Penney in Tempe, AZ and hope to go to grad school within the next few years. Right now I'm in the very early stages of that process looking at ASU and researching the different programs available, as I'm not exactly sure what I want to do. Ultimately, I'm thinking it will be in something related to my undergraduate field of study which was Architecture.

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.

Chapter House Improvement Fund

\$900 Contributed in 2016 by Iowa State Acacians

Bronze Partner (\$ 100 - \$ 499)

- Donald W. Messer - #447
- Lynn R. Pendry - #469
- James H. Davis - #489
- James. M. Hanson - #533
- Dennis G. McComber - #556
- Lee R. Christensen - #601
- Jeanine M. Dirks - parent

Spirit Partner (\$ 1 - \$ 99)

- Walter R. Kolbe - #527
- Richard B. Barnard - #649

Other categories for contributions

- Refunding 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

\$3,725 Contributed in 2016 by Iowa State Acacians

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

- Robert L. "Sam" Carstens - #354

Silver Partner (\$ 500 - \$ 749)

- Douglas R. Whitney - #627
- Takenori Aso - #660

Spirit Partner (\$ 1 - \$ 99)

- Walter R. Kolbe - #527

Bronze Partner (\$ 100 - \$ 499)

- Dale W. Weber - #436
- Lynn R. Pendry - #469
- James H. Davis - #489
- Richard W. Taylor - #506
- James M. Hanson - #533
- Gary D. Harter - #538
- Dennis G. McComber - #556
- John F. Shrader - #660
- Daniel G. Wisner - #854
- Stewart L. Burger

Other categories for contributions

- Refunding 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!