



# The Iowa State Pythagorean

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

*Fulfilling the mission of ACACIA -- Making Good Men Better!*

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## 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."



((Shown in this picture are (left to right) Jeremy N. Davis - #969, Robert L. "Sam" Carstens - #354, Michael S. Weber - #1038, and Harold D. Zarr Jr. - #814, Board President.))

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## Dan Congreve and Matt England Receive Order of Pythagoras

Established in 1962, The Order of Pythagoras recognizes contributions to Acacia Fraternity by those "serving beyond the ordinary call of duty." Election to the Order of Pythagoras is by the International Council and may include alumni, undergraduates and, occasionally, non-Acadians. This is the second highest award that may be given to an Acacian.

At this luncheon, we recognized the achievements of two of our undergraduate brothers, and we were proud to present these two undergraduate brothers Dan Congreve and Matt England with the Order of Pythagoras during the Parent/Alumni Scholarship Luncheon on April 17, 2011.



**Nomination for the Order of Pythagoras  
Daniel N. Congreve - #1036**

As a member of the Iowa State Chapter, Brother Congreve has served in a number of roles, including Senior Dean, Scholarship Chair and Philanthropy Chair. While serving as the Scholarship Chair, Brother Congreve created and implemented a formal academic achievement plan for the chapter (first since recolonization) to assist those members who were struggling

academically. Through his leadership, the chapter has been recognized with having the highest GPA among all fraternities at Iowa State for several semesters. As Philanthropy Chair, Brother Congreve has exhibited the ideal of human service in many ways, most notably by coordinating the chapter's Pages of Promise philanthropy and collecting a record-number of books for donation to students in Africa during his tenure.

From an academic perspective, Brother Congreve has repeatedly excelled. Recently, he was accepted into a PHD program at MIT. Additionally, Brother Congreve has also been selected as a recipient of a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, which is a three-year \$120,000 grant to assist him with his research.

**Nomination for the Order of Pythagoras  
Matthew B. England - #1047**

Few members have the time, energy and dedication to excel at all activities in which they are engaged, but we have within the chapter a member who meets this high standard of performance.



Within the chapter, Matt England has distinguished himself by holding three chapter offices of importance. He has served as the chapter treasurer, recruitment chair and most recently was the chapter's Venerable Dean. As treasurer, he along with the corporate board treasurer instituted a new system of accounting designed to provide more accountability and tracking of expenses to improve the financial operations of the chapter. As a recruitment chair, Matt was instrumental in recruiting an outstanding group of young men who have since gone on to distinguish themselves both in chapter activities and on-campus work. As Venerable Dean, he led the effort to improve chapter operations and took the lead in developing the materials that enabled the Iowa State Chapter to receive the Malcolm Award at the 2010 Conclave. During his time in these positions, he has also served as a member of Corporate Board, where his keen insights, observations and contributions on behalf of the chapter members have served to make him an invaluable member of the Board.

With regard to activities external to the fraternity, Brother England has been an outstanding leader and has represented the Fraternity with honor and distinction. During his time at Iowa State, Brother England has served as Co-Chair for the Homecoming Central Committee for Greek Activities and as the Assistant Business Manager for the VEISHEA celebration where he managed a \$400,000 budget. Currently, he is the ex-officio student liaison member on the Ames City Council. He is the second Iowa State Acacian to hold this position, following in the footsteps of Craig Buske.

Academically, Matt has earned a more than 3.60 grade point average, and is a member of the University Honors program. While doing all this, Matt has also worked part-time at The Knoll (The Residence of the University President) during his entire college career.

## Recognition of Graduating Seniors

(Shown in the picture below are graduating seniors, left to right, Andrew Joseph, Alex Fitzgerald, Matt Zylstra, Dan Congreve, and Michael Weber).



Each year, the Chapter and Board say "good bye" to a group of graduating seniors, and this year is no different. During the Parent/Alumni Scholarship Luncheon on April 17, 2011, we recognized the six graduating seniors for their accomplishments and dedication to the Fraternity. Presented with a Certificate of Recognition for their efforts as an undergraduate, we have no doubt each of these brothers will go on to accomplish many great things in their lives. We are proud to call each a brother and look forward to their future successes. A brief look at what each of these Brothers have accomplished during their time at Iowa State is presented below.

### Andrew Joseph - #1048

Andrew is graduating with a degree in electrical engineering and a minor in bioengineering. During his junior year, he served our fraternity as the chapter's secretary. His academic achievements include induction to the Tau Beta Pi engineering honor society and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. During college, Andrew completed flight training and received his private pilot's license.

Between his semesters at Iowa State, Andrew interned at Garmin as an Aviation Systems Engineer and twice at Sprint as a Network Engineer. He also worked with his bioengineering professor as an undergraduate research assistant in the Department of Electrical Engineering. Andrew will begin employment in June as an Aviation Systems Engineer at Garmin International and will reside in Olathe, Kansas.

### Alex Fitzgerald - #1046

A music education major, Alex plans to teach in a high school music program right out of college. Eventually, he plans to pursue at least a master's degree in choral conducting, voice pedagogy, music composition, or musicology.

While at Iowa State, Alex was in the top 2% in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and made the Dean's List every semester. In 2010, he led an Alternative Spring Break trip to West Virginia where he spent a week helping families move things out of their home and businesses in the wake of the flooding that occurred that spring. He was the chapter's lip sync co-chair and Brotherhood chair. He is a re-founding member and four-year member of the men's acappella group "Shy of a Dozen" on campus and has performed at regional and national music conventions as a member of the Iowa State Singers. He has also been active composing and arranging music for this group and the women's acappella group, Count Me In. Both groups performed arrangements composed by Alex.

For the past two summers, he has spent his time working at the Interlochen Center for the Arts. This summer, he will co-manage the Front of House Department and will be in charge of coordinating the staff for approximately 270 concerts over a six-week time period.

**Alex Moraniec - #1043**

During the past two years, Alex has been very involved in the Iowa State Robotics Club and worked on a project where he designed and built two battle bots. Alex was also instrumental in setting up the wireless Internet system in the chapter house. This summer, he will be moving to Cedar Rapids to start his career with Terex Corporation.

**Matt Zylstra - #1061**

In his three years at Iowa State, Matt has served as Acacia's Recruitment Chair, Treasurer and chapter representative on the Corporate Board. He has also been involved with on-campus activities including the VEISHEA Public Relations Liaison, the Homecoming Central Alumni Relations Co-Chair, the Greek Representative to Jamie Pollard, a Student Advisor to the NCAA Re-Certification Committee, has volunteered his time as an Assistant to the Director of Football Operations, and he is a member of Order of Omega. Following graduation, he will move to St. Louis to take a Business Career Foundation Program position with Boeing.

**Dan Congreve - #1036**

Dan is graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in electrical engineering this past December, and will be earning his master's degree this summer. During his five years at Iowa State, he has served as Acacia's Vice-President, Scholarship Chair, Waterball Chair, and twice as its Philanthropy Chair. In addition, he was involved in Dance Marathon, ISU Ambassadors, IEEE, and the Honors Program.

He has interned at John Deere and Micron Technology Inc., where he holds a patent for inventing a new way to texture silicon. He has been heavily involved in research at Iowa State on topics ranging from solar cells to autonomous helicopters and has produced four publications.

Dan will be attending MIT this fall to pursue his PhD, working in the area of organic photovoltaics. He was recently awarded the \$120,000 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship.

**Mike Weber - #1038**

Mike has served in various leadership positions in the chapter as well as on campus. In the chapter he has served Secretary, Chaplain, Junior Dean, and Venerable Dean. He currently serves as one of two Undergraduate Counselors on the International Council. He received the Order of Pythagoras and the George F. Patterson Memorial Scholarship. He also earned the "Above and Beyond" Award from the Department of Student Affairs for his dedication to organizations at Iowa State, one of the highest honors that can be bestowed on an undergraduate student at Iowa State.

His on-campus work included a member of Philanthropy Committee of the Freshman Council, Dance Marathon, Government of the Student Body senator, speaker and vice-speaker. He has also a member of the VEISHEA Catering Committee (2007), Operation Committee (2008), Business Manager (2009 & 2010) and General Co-Chair in 2011.

## Board Authorizes Basement Remodeling Project

At our last board meeting (held on April 17<sup>th</sup>), the board voted to proceed with the remodeling of the basement of the chapter house. There are a number of reasons why we decided to go forward this project (which I will explain shortly), but I wanted to share with you an observation that Don Good #653 made at this meeting. Don lived in the house back in 1964, when the chapter first won the Malcolm Award. He said that at the time, the living conditions were terrible, the annexes and that chapter house all needed a lot of work, but there was an attempt to raise money to build a new chapter house, and morale in the house was at an all-time high. Unfortunately, the effort to build the new chapter house fell through, and he noticed that with its failure, the chapter seemed to lose energy and go downhill. He felt that the situation for the chapter right now, is almost identical to that when he was in the house, and he did not want to see the chapter suffer the same fate. Therefore, he was going to back the effort to renovate the basement.

I also just received a letter from Brother W. Leonard Neidig #332, who lives in Red Wing, Minnesota. Leonard is 92 years old, but he sent me a check for \$1,000 to be used for the

basement renovation project. He also sent me a letter with his donation, which read in part:

**...We (Leonard and his wife) wanted to be a small part in supporting another great project to bring 138 Gray Avenue up to a standard you all deserve – the best...I joined the year the house was purchased. The location was and still is the best – but the structure was OLD then. Keep up the great work in putting you best foot forward. So proud.**

**W. Leonard Neidig**

I was touched and deeply grateful that a Brother who is 92 years old still has such warm and positive feelings for our chapter of our Fraternity that he would take the time to send us a check and to write me a letter and thank me (though really it the Board who deserve the credit) for keeping the chapter moving forward. I've been the Board President for fifteen years, and I can honestly say that it has been one of the most rewarding things I have even done. Every time I visit the chapter I am "re-energized" by the enthusiasm and quality of the men that we have recruited. It is truly a rewarding experience each and every time I visit. The

Board does not want that to be lost, and that is why we are undertaking this project.

In a recent letter, Jeremy Davis provided you with some broad outlines as to why the project is needed, but I wanted to share with you some more details that were not included in his earlier letter, so that you will have a better understanding as to why this project is so critical at this time. I have formatted this letter in a kind “question and answer” system that I thought would be an effective way for me to explain to you what we are trying to do and why. I do hope that you will take just a few minutes to read it. If you have questions, I hope that you will call (515-257-4683) or e-mail ([acacia\\_814@hotmail.com](mailto:acacia_814@hotmail.com)) Harold Zarr and ask.

### Why is this project needed now?

The answer to this is simple and can be answered in a single word: **competition**. When our chapter was recolonized back in 2000, we really had one of the premier locations and facilities in the Iowa State Greek System. A chapter house with private apartments for upper-classmen, in-room mini-refrigerators and microwave ovens, free laundry facilities, air-conditioning and private bathrooms were unheard-of luxuries that other fraternities simply could not and did not offer. We had a facility that was so far “ahead of its time” that we were often able to pledge men that we (and other) fraternities wanted simply because our facility was that exceptional.

That was ten years ago, today, things are different. Phi Kappa Psi just completed a **\$2.25 million** renovation to their chapter house where every two rooms now share a private bathroom, and all of the public areas of the chapter house have been renovated to modern standards. Sigma Phi Epsilon literally removed all of the interior walls and floors of their chapter house (leaving only the exterior shell), and are completely rebuilding the inside of the chapter house from start to finish – and will have private bathrooms throughout their facility. Just last summer, Alpha Gamma Rho did much the same thing to the interior of its house. Two other fraternities (Delta Upsilon and Pi Kappa Alpha) are also starting \$1 million renovations of their facilities as well. Our neighbor to the north, Sigma Chi, is starting a \$2 million capital campaign to build a brand new chapter house right next to us. Why? Because they have to if they are going to survive and compete for the best incoming students.

In 2000, Acacia set the standard, but we are now falling behind other fraternities because of renovations that we have held off on doing while we completed other work (tucking pointing the house, new doors and windows, new boiler, and so on) that needed to be done. The entire basement and electrical system needs to be upgraded. The two main rooms that comprise the basement have been living on borrowed time for quite a while – and their time has finally run out. They look old, tired and “trashy.” The electrical system was antiquated when I lived in the house in the 1970’s, and it is for all intents and purposes, a dangerous hazard now. The electrical contractor that I spoke with on April 22<sup>nd</sup> was simply amazed that it still functioned.



((Picture of the area behind the bar, as it appears today.))

When potential new members visit, they really have only **two factors** that they can evaluate when trying to choose between the competing houses, **the men they meet** and **physical facility of the chapter house**. Acacia just lost a potential new member who would have been a great Brother to Phi Kappa Psi because their house was “newer” than ours. Our men were just as good as theirs, but their house was “brand new” while ours is showing its age. We no longer have a choice – we have to renovate the basement area or it will negatively impact our ability to recruit the same quality of men that we have pledged in the past.

### Why not just get the alumni back together for a couple of “work weekends” to get this project done?

This is a fair question that has been posed to me by some of our alumni. I know that over the years, many projects in the house have been done by guys in the house when they were underclassmen, or have come back for short projects that could be accomplished in a couple of weekends. This project is different, and times are different. The City of Ames is incredibly aggressive in terms of their requiring permits on construction projects and that only licensed individuals will be allowed to perform the work.

This project will involve gutting the basement back to the studs, leveling the floor and installing new flooring, moving the sprinkler system, moving the fire alarm system, moving a steam heating line, and rewiring the main electrical panel system and the two rooms in the basement. These are all things that simply cannot be done by well meaning alumni in the space of a couple of “work weekends.”

This renovation project is slated to take 60 days, utilizing a full-time crew who will be working five to six days a week in order to get it done before the start of the next school year. Having alumni perform this work is simply not an option. That is why we must use licensed contractors to do the work.



## Basement Renovation Donations in 2011

### \$12,925 Contributed in 2011 by Iowa State Acacians

The table that is shown lists those Brothers and friends who have made contributions to the basement renovation project in 2011. Please accept our grateful thanks for your generosity!

----- Alumni Contributors in 2011 -----	
<b>Refounding Father</b>	<b>(\$ 10,000 or more)</b>
<b>Board of Directors Club</b>	<b>(\$ 5,000 - \$ 9,999)</b>
James H. Davis - #489	
<b>Pythagorean Partner</b>	<b>(\$ 2,500 - \$ 4,999)</b>
<b>Chapter Partner</b>	<b>(\$ 1,000 - \$ 2,499)</b>
William L. Neidig - #332	
Larry J. McComber - #525	
James M. Hanson - #533	
<b>Gold Partner</b>	<b>(\$ 750 - \$ 999)</b>
<b>Silver Partner</b>	<b>(\$ 500 - \$ 749)</b>
Arther P. Roy - #588	
David E. Wolfe - #656	
Laury E. Decker - #910	
Jared Ramthun - #1019	

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

Richard G. Wilson - #409  
 Dale W. Weber - #436  
 Donald G. Lyon - #461  
 Lynn R. Pendry - #469  
 James M. Hanson - #533  
 Gary D. Harter - #538  
 David H. Fifield - #671  
 L. Alan Lowry - #725  
 John W. Bridenstine - #752  
 Bruce A. Banister - #777  
 Harold D. Zarr Jr. - #814  
 James E. Mueller - #868  
 Stephen J. Casper IV - #905

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

Kenneth L. MacRae - #427  
 Denton W. Ericson - #504  
 Walter R. Kolbe - #527  
 William H. Anderl - #679  
 John Kvinge - #1022  
 Jonathan Vaage - #1029

#### How will the cost of the project be covered?

During my fifteen years on the Board, I have always striven to keep as conservative a financial structure as possible in place for the Board. Fortunately, the Board members over the years have been equally supportive of this goal, so the Board does have some financial resources at its disposal that we can use.

At the present time, the Board has money in two accounts at the bank. The mortgage account has \$42,800 and the capital improvements account has a balance of \$32,600. We have always striven to maintain a balance in the mortgage account equal to at least 12 months worth of mortgage payments. Thus, at the end of our fiscal year in July, we will have the amount need to make the mortgage for the entire next fiscal year (2011-2012). We have always done this to ensure that in the event of a "poor rush" in one year, we would always be able to make our mortgage payment on time. In an emergency, we can take some of the funds from this account to use for some other purpose.

Our capital improvements account is used for major improvements to the property, such as the tuck pointing, new doors, flooring, new steps on the front of the house, and landscaping projects that the Board has accomplished the past few years.

The Board also has a third source of funds which we have tried to avoid using, but it appears that we will now have to utilize. When we had the centennial celebration back in 2009, the Board picked up the cost of the event and did not turn it in to the Acacia Foundation which could and would have legally been able to reimburse us for some \$25,000 in costs that were incurred. The Board wanted to keep the funds in the scholarship account to be used for that purpose if at all possible, but it now appears that we may have no choice but to request those funds which can then be used for this basement renovation project.

Our contractor has given us an estimate of \$54,000 for the renovation, but the upgrade to the electrical service (which we believe the City of Ames is going to require) is estimated to cost

another \$30,000. Thus, we are looking at a total cost for this project of somewhere between \$84,000 - (worst case) \$100,000. This is a far cry from the \$1 million plus that other fraternities have been spending on their chapter houses, but it is still a lot of money.

We have been fortunate so far in that a number of our alumni have generously donated funds towards this restoration project, and we cannot thank them enough. However, we desperately need the support of more of our alumni if the Board is to remain financially solvent in this process. If you would like to join with your Brothers in the Fraternity and support this project, we would

## Thanks to our Alumni for 2011 Scholarship Donations

The donations provided by our alumni to the Scholarship and Capital Improvement Funds have been vital factors in the long-term success of the chapter.

Many of the fraternities at Iowa State now offer scholarships to new members and active chapter members as means of both attracting new members and helping to defray the cost of

attending school at Iowa State. These funds have been tremendously helpful in our being able to attract the "best and the brightest" to our fraternity. As these donations are tax-deductible, the benefits extend to both the donors as well as our members. Our thanks go out to all of our alumni who have been loyal supports of our scholarship program this past eleven years, and we hope you will continue to help us into the future!



### *Alumni Scholarship Fund Donations in 2011*

## \$5,750 Contributed in 2011 by Iowa State Acacians

The table that is shown lists those Brothers and friends who have made tax-deductible contributions to the chapter scholarship fund in 2011. Please accept our grateful thanks for your generosity! Your contributions provide vital support the academic efforts of your Brothers in our Chapter!

----- Alumni Contributors in 2011 -----	
<b>Refounding Father</b>	<b>(\$ 10,000 or more)</b>
<b>Board of Directors Club</b>	<b>(\$ 5,000 - \$ 9,999)</b>
<b>Pythagorean Partner</b>	<b>(\$ 2,500 - \$ 4,999)</b>
<b>Chapter Partner</b>	<b>(\$ 1,000 - \$ 2,499)</b>
Robert L. "Sam" Carstens - #354	
Donald L. Good - #653	
<b>Gold Partner</b>	<b>(\$ 750 - \$ 999)</b>
<b>Silver Partner</b>	<b>(\$ 500 - \$ 749)</b>
Lowell B. Johnson - #426	
John W. Tschantz - #385	

Peter J. Eversole - #635	
David E. Wolfe - #656	
Laury E. Decker - #910	
<b>Bronze Partner</b>	<b>(\$ 100 - \$ 499)</b>
Albert H. Wiese - #351	
Kenneth A. Porter - #457	
Bernard J. Kolp - #466	
James M. Hanson - #533	
Lynn R. Pendry - #469	
David Wm. Smith - #565	
John R. Dick - #587	
Harold D. Zarr Jr. - #814	
Stephen J. Casper IV - #905	
Jonathan Vaage - #1029	
Kenneth S. Joseph - parent	
<b>Spirit Partner</b>	<b>(\$ 1 - \$ 99)</b>
Kenneth L. MacRae - #427	
Denton W. Ericson - #504	
Walter R. Kolbe - #527	

## In Memoriam

**George A. Buck - #345**  
**March 21, 1917 – March 26, 2011**



George Andrew Buck was born March 21, 1917 in Boone, Iowa and passed on at the Veterans Administration Hospice on March 26, 2011, Des Moines, Iowa.

He was married to Eleanor Strack. He was a member of Acacia Fraternity while at Iowa State College, and graduated with a degree in forestry from the College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts.

George was a [World War II](#) combat veteran (artillery forward observer), [Purple Heart](#) and [Bronze Star](#) and [Korean War](#) veteran (EOD explosive ordnance disposal), and a retired Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army. He was a retired High School Science Teacher (Van Meter, Iowa), longtime adult Boy Scout Volunteer, trainer of BSA adults and scouts, and Woodbadge holder.

**John W. Sheldon - #453  
February 5, 1928 – January 29, 2011**



John passed away January 29, 2011 in Edmonds, Washington after a courageous battle with heart and kidney disease. He was born February 5, 1928 in Clarence, Iowa and graduated from Clarence High School in 1945. After graduation, he worked with his father as a carpenter before being drafted into the US Army. On the GI bill, he attended Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa graduating in 1951 with a BS degree in Civil Engineering.

His first employment was with Exxon Petroleum as a Civil Engineer in Venezuela for over 10 years. In Venezuela, he met Lee Krumm of Tacoma, Washington. They married in 1956 and their first two children were born while they lived in Venezuela.

They returned to Washington State in 1961, where John was employed by Constructors Pamco for 27 years. The company specialized in tunneling and construction of pumping stations for Settle metro. He was then employee by Guy F. Atkinson as a project estimator until his retirement in 2008 at the age of 80.

His early years as a carpenter came in handy when they built their house in Edmonds. He spent many weekends finishing the basement, as well as helping his children with their home projects. John was the ultimate handy man; he never threw anything away if there was a chance he could fix it (which most time he could). He enjoyed going to plays and the opera with his wife Lee. They were long-time season ticketholders to the Seattle Opera and the Edmonds Driftwood Theater.

John's faith and family were most important to him. He cherished the time with his family and was always there to give a hug to anyone who needed it or rock a grandchild to sleep. He will be deeply missed.

John is survived by his wife of 54 years, Lee Sheldon; his son and daughter-in-law, Doug and Carol Sheldon of Edmonds, WA; two daughters and son-in-laws, Lynn and Jeff Wilson of Edmonds, WA; Kay and Frank Gallo of Puyallup. Three grandsons, Scott Sheldon, Brent Gallo, and Alex Gallo. Five granddaughters, Kayleen Wilson, Shannon Wilson, Danielle Sheldon, Madison Sheldon, and Regan Gallo. Two brothers, Gilbert Sheldon and Donald Sheldon, and one sister, Shirley Blake, all of Iowa.

*((Editor's Note: The following is a letter from John's wife, Lee, that she sent with the notification of John's passing.))*

April 27, 2011

I'm sorry to report that John is no longer with us on this earth, but he had a wonderful, fulfilling life. The Acacia Fraternity group and his many memories of his time there was always dear to him. I'm sure his experience there was a foundation for his whole life. He was very proud of your high scholarship standings and high morals. His life-long friendship with Richard Shultice, was very special.

No. 1 – he was an engineer and loved his math figures. He recalled that college to him was playing bridge at lunch and going for (can't remember the name – like maple bars or "speed nuts") every evening, or to a movie, then back to the house to study. (Wow! College was never like that for me!)

He recalled the time the fella's there completely buried his car in snow. He would go home weekends and work for his dad – carpentry, etc.

We had a fine life, like most other families, raising three children and taking pride in them. No engineers – one business major, one insurance agent and an elementary school principal. I spent many years in the education field – we met when I was teaching school for the oil company in Venezuela.

John was on dialysis for seven years, and had bypass surgery ten years ago. He needed a new aorta valve, but the surgery was too risky and it finally calcified. His whole body was "all worn out."

Thanks you for all your work and like – keeping the Fraternity up to the high standards. I always was interest and proud to read about all the activities and the ongoing pride – so don't forget me! Thank you!

Lee Sheldon

# Active Chapter Report

**Riley Thiesfeld, Venerable Dean - ACACIA Fraternity**  
138 Gray Avenue  
Ames, Iowa 50014  
Phone: 952-292-8394  
E-mail: [rileyt@iastate.edu](mailto:rileyt@iastate.edu) or [rileytd@gmail.com](mailto:rileytd@gmail.com)

Dear Brothers and Parents,

As you read this, the undergraduates all are done with their finals, however before then; the chapter has been quite busy this spring semester. One of our newest and most notable events that our chapter hosted in February was an Acacia Mom's Weekend. Although it has not been held in quite some time, it turned out to be a great success. We had about 15 moms show up for a fun packed weekend. The event took place on Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> and Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup>. On Saturday, starting around 10 am the group went to a local clothing shelter in Nevada to put our motto Human Service to work. There everyone helped sort, fold, and organize clothing for the organization in preparation for the early spring months. The group then had an option to go bowling or watch an Iowa State Basketball game. The night concluded with a great dinner at Pazzesco in west Ames and all of the finalists in Lip sync performances where our pairing took first place in. Sunday morning the chapter had a large brunch for the moms and their sons, after they were free to leave. The chapter is planning on hosting another Mom's Weekend so be looking for an email from us.

As the weather warmed Greek Week activities started to commence. This spring we were paired with the men of Phi Delta Theta and the women of Chi Omega. As always our chapter and the pairing had a ball participating in the tournaments, service opportunities, and Olympics. For this year's Greek Getaway, where high school students have a chance to come stay at various chapters around Greek land to see what Greek life is like, we had five possible new members stay with us. It is really quite fortunate that Iowa State's Greek Community puts on this event every year as it is a tremendous help to our recruitment process for the following summer and semester. Each year Greek Week is concluded with a VESPERS ceremony to congratulate and award individuals, chapters, and pairings on their successes for the previous year.

I am pleased to say that one of our members, Derek Robison, took home the "Unsung Hero of Philanthropy Award". Derek was well deserving of this award as over the past year of 2010, he has taken our philanthropy chair position to new heights. Our chapter was also able to take home some academic awards including Best IFC Chapter GPA for 2010 and Best IFC Chapter Scholarship Plan for 2010, and the "Gold Circle of Excellence Award", and award that is based off of an overall performance of the chapter for the previous year of 2010.

However these were not the only awards that our chapter has received this past semester. A few weeks ago our chapter was awarded a certificate of appreciation from the Story County Youth and Shelter Services in thanks for all the work we have done with their organization over the past couple of years. In addition our chapter also received a "2011 Story County Youth Service Award" for our age bracket. Each year this award is presented to specific age brackets, college age for ours, by Governor Terry Branstad and I'm pleased to say that we were able to achieve this award over the service fraternity here on campus.

We held our annual spring scholarship luncheon at the close of VEISHEA weekend where we presented more awards than ever, including honoring those members who will be graduating. Most notably, Matt England and Dan Congreve were both awarded the Order of Pythagoras awards in lieu of their efforts and commitment towards the chapter over the past years.

As you read through this newsletter you can probably see that our chapter is growing ever stronger in leadership, academics, and human service. It is truly is a testament to the commitment that our active members have towards the chapter. I am pleased to say that we will be renovating our outdated basement this summer! In this newsletter you can see some pictures that speak to the need for the renovation to happen. Lastly be sure to stop by the chapter house during Alumni Days, May 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, for classes of '61; there will be events on campus hosted by the Iowa State Alumni Association as well as house tours at the chapter house.

If you are ever in the Ames area, stop in! We would love to show you around and fill you in all that is going on!

**Find us Online!**

[www.stuorg.iastate.edu/acacia](http://www.stuorg.iastate.edu/acacia)

Find more updates, past newsletters,  
member biographies, photos, and more!

*also*



Search for us on Facebook  
Acacia Fraternity - Iowa State University

Stay up to date with photos and  
live updates from the Chapter!

## Board President's Message

*Harold D. Zarr Jr.*

**Corporate Board President - The Acacians**  
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Greetings my Brother ACACIANS!

Once again, the newsletter is at 10 pages in length. I consider this a positive sign of just how involved and successful our chapter has become over the past eleven years since we returned to the Iowa State Greek System. As you know from reading the bio's on the graduating seniors, Acacians at Iowa State are incredibly busy and successful on a variety of fronts, be that on-campus, off-campus or volunteer work. Human service is our motto, and your Brother Acacians live that motto to the fullest.

I also want to emphasize how important that it is that you vote for new members to the corporate board. We have two positions open, and four candidates running for these positions. Please take some time and read carefully the bio's submitted by these candidates and vote for those whom you feel would be good additions to the Board. Your vote is important, as the Board will be facing some major issues in the next few years, including additional remodeling work that will need to be done to the chapter house. With only two positions open, and four people running, every vote is critical! This is your fraternity, and the corporate board represents you, please take the time to vote!

Summer rush is now fully under way, and we are looking to once again fill the house with a 15 man pledge class. We have traditionally had men living in the dorms waiting to move in, and we expect to be much the same this year as well. Our selection process is tough, as we have very high standards for admission to our fraternity, but as you have seen, the accomplishments of our members more than justifies the extra work that is taken to identify and recruit new Brothers to our fraternity.

Have a great summer, and look to the August newsletter where we will have full information on the basement renovation project!

## 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
Michael O'Doherty	Vice-President	402-301-6489
Jeff Peil	Treasurer	641-430-5998
Phil Sherman	Secretary	515-249-4631
Don Good	Alumni Relations	515-956-3150
Brandon Behrends	Alumni Relations	319-830-7620
Riley Thiesfeld	Chapter President	952-292-8394
Tyler Zylstra	Chapter Treasurer	515-306-8272
Andrew Doherty	Chapter Representative	507-779-0788
Jeremy Davis	Chapter Advisor	515-291-7016

## Newsletter Information

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 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](mailto:acacia_814@hotmail.com)**. Take care, and best wishes to all of the Brothers and friends of our Fraternity!