Finding Pythagoras in Music City

It’s funny how a song can trigger memories from our past.

I believe that my fraternity experience was similar to many brothers in that many of the memories from my active years can be recalled through songs that served as the soundtrack of certain events. My first trip to another Acacia chapter was to Indiana University for the Little 500 bicycle race as a freshman pledge; to this day, whenever I hear The Doobie Brothers’ Black Water, I think about playing Frisbee on the front lawn of the Acacia house at IU.

Born to Be Wild by Steppenwolf was played every year for the Illinois Wesleyan chapter’s Hell’s Angels party. Ridin’ the Storm Out by R.E.O. Speedwagon and Radar Love by Golden Earring would come blasting out of room 5 late at night at the IWU chapter house. And anything by Sly and the Family Stone would get people dancing at exchanges.

In addition to popular music, there was also the Acacia songbook that all members learned. We used to serenade sororities, close out most chapter events with We’re All Good Brothers, and sing some off-color songs that were composed by brothers or learned from sororities.

Brothers who lived in the house had favorite bands or genres of music that reflected their personalities and their tastes. Still, almost all of the music collections also had great variety, showing that individual members could not be so narrowly defined. This openness to new music is emblematic of what the Cornerstones program is trying to instill in our current members — personal development through willingness to try new experiences.

Cornerstones is meant to play a role throughout the active member’s college career, and our hope is that the openness to new experiences and learning will continue on throughout his life. For me, this even extends to writing this letter about Conclave in The Music City. For instance, I learned that Pythagoras studied the relationship between music and math and is responsible for our modern major and minor music scales. His discoveries established the basis for future music theory work. Little did we realize that fact as pledges singing We’re the Men from Acacia to our favorite sororities!

Even though I did not know Pythagoras’ contributions to the field of music at the time, I did recognize that my interest in music was a common bond that I found with brothers as I was going through rush and was one of the factors that made me consider joining Acacia. After my initiation, finding common interest in music became one of the ways I formed relationships with potential new members during their recruitment, too.

Many of these relationships have lasted to this day. Some brothers I see regularly and some only at major Acacia events. This summer will be one of those events, as our fraternity will hold its 58th Conclave from July 30th to August 3rd. The theme of Conclave this year is Finding Our Rhythm, which is appropriate given the host city of Nashville, Tennessee – The Music City.

It’s only taken me 40 years, or 20-some odd Conclaves, to learn of the synchronicity between my interests in music and Pythagoras. Surely musical interests will permeate the conversations amongst brothers. I hope that you will make time this summer to join us in Nashville to experience Conclave, discover your own connections with fellow brothers, and enjoy some of the music.

Fraternally,

Robert E. Roberson
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Rhythm’s Role in Making Music

The theme for our 58th Conclave this summer in Nashville, Tennessee — Finding Our Rhythm — holds special significance to me as a bass guitar player. In teaching myself how to play over the past nine years and having played with five different bands, I’ve learned first-hand how crucial rhythm is to the quality of any given piece of music.

Rhythm can be defined as “a strong, regular, repeated pattern of movement or sound,” or “the systematic arrangement of musical sounds, principally according to duration and periodic stress.” Another definition states that rhythm is “the arrangement of sounds and silence in time.”

In your prototypical 4-piece band, each player has a different role in creating the music. The drummer’s job is to set the overall tempo or beat for the song, while the bass guitar serves as the link between rhythm & harmony and provides the “feel” of a song. The rhythm guitarist plays chords in regular patterns to contribute to the rhythm, and the lead guitar emphasizes specific notes in the arrangement and typically provides the melody of the piece.

Great music doesn’t happen without rhythm. Similarly, the quality of our experience of brotherhood in Acacia is also built upon rhythm. Think of the fraternal aspects that align with our definitions of rhythm.

The first definition mentions a “strong, regular, repeated pattern,” and we exemplify this by way of our educational programs like Conclave, the Acacia Leadership Academy, the Venerable Dean Summit, and the Leadership Consultant chapter visitation program. Other parallels can be drawn to our regular communications such as The Triad magazine, Crest eNewsletter, and chapter eNewsletters. Consistency in these areas contributes to our organizational rhythm and helps build trust and credibility amongst all of our stakeholders.

The second definition of rhythm mentions “systematic arrangement,” something to exemplify in recruitment, membership education, and practice of our Ritual. Our most successful chapters are intentional and systematic in their approach to recruitment — identifying and communicating with potential new members, selecting the best candidates for membership, and setting proper expectations for the commitment to join. These chapters take the same approach to new member education and performance of the Ritual — applying consistent, non-hazing educational practices which equip our members to positively impact their communities, and through dialogue on Acacia teachings both esoteric and practical. When member recruitment, education, and initiation are properly performed, our rhythm in this area can change the course of a man’s life.

Our final definition suggests rhythm to be the “arrangement of sounds and silence in time.” This idea is best demonstrated by the approach to lifelong learning embodied in the Cornerstones program. Cornerstones emphasizes the pursuit of real world experiences (“sounds”) and personal reflection and self-awareness (“silence”) to support the continual growth of our members throughout their lives.

Acacia Fraternity is far more complex than a 4-piece band, and so the task of playing in rhythm is all the more challenging. We are a brotherhood of thousands of drummers, guitarists, and bass players. We feature vocalists, keyboardists, and horn players, too. It takes a lot of dedication to make music with so many band members and such diversity. Fortunately, organized around our shared values and mission, our efforts to play together and find our rhythm are succeeding. Acacia is creating better and better music, and we are increasing our ability to have a positive impact in the world.

Fraternally,

Patrick W. McGovern

Sources:
Growing Chapters
Even through losing three chapters and one colony over the last biennium – Louisiana Tech, Northwestern Oklahoma State, Penn State Altoona, and Texas Tech Colony, Acacia’s membership numbers are slowly rising. Numerous chapters have grown by over 20% in the past two years – Bloomsburg, California, Carleton, Illinois Wesleyan, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oregon State, Rensselaer, St. Cloud State, Texas, and Wisconsin – and new colonies are emerging – Trine (chartered in 2013), Illinois State, Michigan, and Vermont – with multiple recolonizations on our roadmap.

New Leadership
Turnover in leadership is common in our chapters — new officers are elected every year, even every semester for some positions. Just as successful officer transitions are a key component of success for a chapter, the same holds true for the International Headquarters staff. This biennium sees Acacia led by a new Executive Director, a new Director of Operations, and two new Leadership Consultants. The Acacia Fraternity Foundation is led by a new President, and the Conclave will elect a new International Council President and other officers this summer, as well. All of these individuals have come together for successful and efficient transitions, and the trend toward increased collaboration and success is likely to continue.

New and Updated Programs
Earlier this year, Acacia held its first-ever Leonard W. Kearney Venerable Dean Summit, providing a crucial opportunity to forge relationships among Acacia leaders and provide leadership and operational training to Venerable Deans, most of whom are freshly elected at the time of the Summit.

Communications from the International Fraternity to chapters have also been bolstered by the creation of the Venerable Dean Bulletin, a bi-weekly email newsletter containing important news & information that is sent to all Venerable Deans, Chapter Advisors, House Corporation Board presidents, and International Council members. Additionally, a Venerable Dean’s Facebook Group and a shared Google Drive are enabling discussion and resource sharing among our chapters.

Other programs have seen revisions, as well. Cornerstones has been made more accessible to all members through a streamlined program available at acacia.org/cornerstones, the Leadership Consultant program has been revamped to ensure every chapter and colony is visited during the academic year, and the Triad Magazine has returned to a twice-annual publication.

Join us in Nashville, Brothers!
The players are ready, and the stage is set. All Acacians are welcome to attend the 58th Biennial Conclave & Leadership Academy, and just as chapters and colonies are encouraged to send as many actives as possible to share in the experience, we invite all alumni to join us, as well. Spouses and significant others are welcome to join for evening receptions, scheduled entertainment, and the William A. Utic Acacia Fraternity Foundation Scholarship Luncheon and Conclave Final Banquet & Awards Ceremony.

This summer’s Conclave will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton in downtown Nashville. Festivities will begin at 3:45 p.m. on Wednesday, July 30th and run through Saturday evening, August 2nd. While our schedule will feature full days and a variety of programming, there will also be time to get out and explore Nashville. The Country Music Hall of Fame, the Tennessee State Museum and its impressive Civil War exhibit, the General Jackson Showboat (pictured on the cover), and countless watering holes and music venues await your exploration.

To register, book your hotel room, or get more information, please visit acacia.org/conclave2014.php. Or call the International Headquarters office at (317) 872-8210. 

See you in Nashville!
Pythagoras would feel right at home in this year’s Conclave host city, Nashville, Tennessee. While typically remembered for his discoveries in geometry, Acacia’s Mentor found that numbers and mathematics played an even greater role in the universe, including in the realm of music.

It is said that Pythagoras was one day walking past blacksmiths at work when he noticed that hammers of various weights produced varied pitches when striking iron together, thus indicating a relationship between numbers and music and leading to the discovery of a musical scale. While this story has been proven more legend than fact, Pythagoras does deserve thanks for musical discoveries that still impact the music we enjoy today.

Much of what we know of Pythagoras’ teachings is secondary information – mainly from the writings of Pilochaus in this case – as none of Pythagoras’ own writing survived. Therefore, the relatively common story above of how the musical ratios were discovered is probably the stuff of fantasy. It is more likely that Pythagoras experimented with a stringed device called a monochord, attaching to it various weights and playing the strings at various frequencies. He discovered that the intervals between harmonious musical notes have whole number ratios, and so the octave (1:1), the perfect fifth (3:2), the perfect fourth (4:3) and the major third (5:4) are all based off Pythagoras’ notation. It turns out that the music we enjoy is not only based on the ability of musicians to communicate together, but also the mathematical relationships among the notes themselves.

Of course, these tenets of musical theory would probably have developed without Pythagoras. Music is universal to the human experience. Inevitably, someone would have discovered the harmonic intervals. But the fact that Pythagoras was able to develop such an idea that has survived approximately 2500 years speaks to how amazing a discovery it is. And while the blacksmith story is likely false, it is a keen reminder to listen closely and find inspiration in the smallest of things.

And so Pythagoras would surely enjoy the vibrant music scene in Nashville that will provide the perfect backdrop for Acacians to conduct the business of brotherhood and fine tune our Fraternity’s score. The Music City will be an enjoyable venue for post-meeting tunes and serve as a reminder of Pythagoras’ musical discoveries and our own commitment to discovery. Amid the official business sessions, the discussion groups, socializing and brotherhood – let each brother reflect on what notes he can play for our Fraternity, so that Acacia never hits its coda, but rather adapts, evolves, and plays on for centuries to come.

Contributions to this article by Leadership Consultant Nathaniel D. McKee, Missouri ’10
With a “Polar Vortex” bearing down on the entire midwestern U.S., the scene at the inaugural Leonard W. Kearney Venerable Dean Summit in Indianapolis was a far cry from the hot sands of the desert to which Acacians are accustomed. But as evidenced during that first weekend of 2014, it doesn’t take much more than brotherhood to stave off the cold.

It had all started calmly enough, with an unusually cold winter front having been forecast throughout the Midwest. Yet, seeing double-digit negative temperatures predicted on a television screen and stepping outside and feeling them are different matters entirely. And so with the opportunity to kick off the year with a new leadership retreat specifically for our top chapter leaders, Acacians were ready to bear the temperatures and get down to business.

Two days of programming began with the arrival of fourteen Venerable Deans and three alternate chapter officers to the Embassy Suites in Indianapolis, just steps away from the Acacia International Headquarters office. Joined by volunteers from the International Council and Headquarters staff — many of whom are past Venerable Deans themselves — attendees arrived ready to learn more about the role of the Venerable Dean, from leadership to daily chapter operations to personal organization.

The event kicked off with an introduction from Acacia Fraternity Foundation Executive Director Darold Larson, Washington State ’81, who elaborated on the inspiration for the Venerable Dean Summit and recognized its founding donor, Leonard W. Kearney, Oregon State ’59. Acacia Executive Director Patrick McGovern, Indiana ’99, followed by sharing the story of his own election as Venerable Dean and a quote from long-time Indiana Chapter Advisor and Past International President, the late David J. Allen, Indiana ’57,

“Congratulations on your election as Venerable Dean. You have now reached the peak of your popularity as a member, which will do nothing but plummet from this day forward.”

Thus began an open dialogue among attendees about the responsibilities of the Venerable Dean, common issues faced in chapters, and characteristics of effective leaders. With each point added to the discussion, many nodded along in agreement. “I learned that I was not alone in my worries about the position,” commented one Venerable Dean. “It was very beneficial to talk with the other Venerable Deans about problem areas and how other chapters handle certain situations,” stated another.

With introductions and the first session already in books, brothers made their way to the International Headquarters office for a tour of the modest space, packed from floor to ceiling with Acacia memorabilia. Brother Larson regaled attendees with Acacia lore, while Brother McGovern explained some of the details of the Headquarters operation. Meanwhile, with temperatures holding steady at cold but typical winter levels, the brothers headed back to the hotel for that most timeless of fraternal traditions — dinner! A sit-down meal capped off by apple pie à la mode satisfied appetites and provided energy for a full night of activity.

Evening programming included a review of the Venerable Dean Gold Book officer manual, a time management presentation by International Council Second Vice President, Jeremy N. Davis, Iowa State ’00, a dialogue on the importance of timely communications with the International office, and discussions on recruitment, pledge retention, and risk management and crisis communications. As the clock approached 9:00 p.m. and scheduled activities came to a close, Venerable Deans were left to socialize and talk late into the night about Acacia.

(Continued on page 8...)

A Blizzard of Brotherhood
Acacians meet for first Venerable Dean Summit
Ohio Brothers Race to Success

By Ryan S. Connelly, Ohio ’13

This spring marked the 6th annual 5cacia: A 5k for Pancreatic Cancer Research, and it was one of the most successful 5k’s the Ohio Chapter of Acacia has ever put together. Starting from small beginnings, 5cacia began with a few men and an idea. Today, as recognition for our efforts, the 2014 5cacia was awarded Ohio University’s Greek Life Outstanding Philanthropy/Human Service Event of the Year.

The 5cacia run was conceived of by alumnus Justin O. Baldinger, Ohio ’06, six years ago when his grandmother, Harriet Jackel, unfortunately passed away due to pancreatic cancer. In her memory, Justin and a handful of other Acacia members decided to organize 5cacia and unknowingly started one of the single most important events in the Ohio Chapter’s history. Through their dedication and the continued commitment from the active chapter and alumni, 5cacia is now the largest student-run philanthropy event on Ohio University’s campus and has generated over $100,000 in donations to the Lustgarten Foundation Pancreatic Research since the race’s inception in 2008.

This year’s event took place on March 22, 2014, and was a culmination of a full year’s worth of effort, beginning at the end of the 2013 event. Organized and coordinated this year by Philanthropy Chairman Michael Hamby, Ohio ’11, this year’s 5k was the largest Ohio Acacia has seen yet and also the most successful, with the chapter officially raising $17,000! Stated Brother Hamby, “The 5cacia was such a huge success this year due to alumni and sorority support. Over 50% of the participants were sorority women. Additionally, Founders’ Day for our chapter was on the same date, and we actually had underestimated the number of alumni that were coming in that day for the 5cacia.”

This year’s run featured the greatest number of participants and sponsors, ranging from local Greek organizations, Athens-area businesses, family members of the actives, alumni, and businesses from out of town, as well. A few of our sponsors included Pepsi Bottling Company, Pillar Technologies, and Campus Quad, local favorites like Brenan’s Coffee and Café, Dave Rave, and Peking Express, and sororities Alpha Xi Delta, Delta Zeta, and Chi Omega. One of the biggest
leaps from past events was the incredible support of our more recent chapter alumni.

“This year was a huge breakthrough for us because many of the active members did not personally know Justin Baldinger or the fellow founders of the event on a personal level,” added Brother Hamby. “We were still able to set a record in the total amount of donations, and I can tell the event is close to all of our hearts at the Ohio Chapter of Acacia. The amount of passion that fuels this event will continue to grow and make this event continuously successful.”

5cacia is the most important event in the Ohio Chapter’s recent history and is what has led to the chapter’s current growth and success. Due to the entire chapter and recent alumni consistently giving their honest shares of effort, the 5k has risen to heights the chapter never even imagined and is still growing today. In the coming year, our goals as a chapter are to raise $20,000 in donations and gain a corporate sponsor — goals very attainable if the same work ethic continues. The Ohio Chapter could not be prouder of what we have accomplished so far, and we continue to be motivated to improve on what Brother Baldinger started and make next year’s 5cacia better than ever.

(...Continued from page 6)

Brothers reconvened on Saturday morning with a full agenda ahead of them. Brother Larson opened the day with a talk on alumni relations, record-keeping, and lifelong brotherhood. In trademark Larson fashion, the presentation was made with a brotherhood stein in one hand and a pledge paddle in the other. Other members of the Headquarters staff led educational sessions on fraternity finances and budgeting, risk management and liability insurance, and online communications and social media best practices.

With bitter cold temperatures and snow approaching overnight, Headquarters staff announced that the remainder of scheduled programming would be abbreviated to give attendees who traveled by car the opportunity to head home ahead of storm. Brothers “Passed the Gavel” after lunch and enjoyed a final presentation by Brendan Finke of ChapterSpot, an Acacia technology partner that provides our chapters with online chapter management tools. Attendees who traveled from nearby locations in Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Ohio said their goodbyes and drove off before the arrival of the arctic front.

With fingers crossed for clear weather and Sunday travel, the remaining Venerable Deans, Council and Headquarters staff spent an evening watching college football bowl games, playing cards, and talking fraternity. When morning came, the weather still appeared to be fair and favorable. Thus it was all the more disappointing when the would-be travelers were all greeted by the same news — flight cancellations across the board. Some would trek to the airport in search of alternate flights only to find more cancellations. With temperatures dipping to -14 degrees Fahrenheit and a windchill of -34, the city of Indianapolis declared the roads closed to all non-emergency vehicles. And so the brothers did the only thing they could do — wait. Fortunately, with several days of winter break remaining and the camaraderie of fellow Acacians, these stranded brothers made the best of the situation.

“I was one of the brothers stranded in the Embassy Suites for a couple nights after the Summit, although stranded is maybe not the best choice of words given our nice accommodations. It was a lot of fun to get some time with the other VD’s in a completely informal setting where we talked about our similarities — much talk of Ritual — and our differences, as well,” stated Dylan Cook, Colorado ’12.

Added Sean J. Foster, Bloomsburg ’11, “I feel that we were able to build off of one another. It wasn’t an authority figure telling us what we do wrong, it was just a bunch of guys with similar interests all devoted toward the same goal of building up Acacia.”

After a two-day deep freeze, roads slowly began to open and flights were cleared for departure. Venerable Deans left the Summit equipped with new tools and strategies for a successful year and bolstered by a feeling of International brotherhood, already excited to reconvene this July in Nashville for Conclave.

2014 Venerable Dean Summit attendees:

Sean Foster, Bloomsburg
Jesse McQuillan, California PA
Cody Beat, Central Oklahoma
Dylan Cook, Colorado
Sho Iketani, Cornell
Steven Wuthrich, Illinois
Ryan Ferguson, Illinois State
Derek England, Illinois Wesleyan
Gabe McCoy, Iowa State
Ross Allen, Kansas State
Matthew Cassidy, Missouri
Ciaran Riley, Nebraska
Nick Loree, Ohio
Vaibhav Grover, Ohio State
Thomas Freije, Purdue
Austin Dean-Cross, Trine
Adam Rowe-Johnson, Wisconsin
No. 4) Nebraska Chapter
unlacacia.acaciaconnect.org
Venerable Dean Ciaran Riley, rileyciaran@yahoo.com

Hello to Acacians everywhere from the Nebraska Chapter! Looking back at the past year, it is safe to say we have come a long way! We have just initiated 5 more brothers into our chapter, bringing our yearly total to 25 new Acacians. As we have expected, the new brothers have exhibited great leadership as a number of them have been elected to executive positions, while others have stepped up to be leaders in their own way. We are excited to see what is in store for the upcoming years!

This February we successfully coordinated our first Acacia Leadership Scholarship process, as made famous by our brothers at Kansas State. Alumni Justin Cardisco first contacted us in December, and with the help of the active brethren, we successfully interviewed over 70 candidates and distributed $2,000 in scholarships to incoming freshmen. This kicked off a great start to rush, as we expect another great pledge class for fall semester!

No. 5) California Chapter
berkeleyacacia.acaciaconnect.org
Venerable Dean Benjamin Turconi, bturconi@berkeley.edu

Greetings from Berkeley! The brothers of California Chapter continue to rebuild the chapter towards our eventual goal of fifty members or more. In the midst of negative press about fraternity life, the Greek community in Berkeley is fighting to rebrand fraternities as more than just drinking clubs. Acacia Fraternity is at the forefront of the movement to prove that we are “Preparing Tomorrow’s Leaders.”

Acadians from California Chapter have recently become more active in school groups and activities. Two members were elected to serve on IFC (VP of Risk Management and VP of Philanthropy), two members are helping to restart GASA (Greeks Against Sexual Assault), and various members have joined other social and service groups on campus. The chapter also participated in the Berkeley Project as our semestery service project, giving over 100 man hours to the cause over two separate days. Acacia also placed second in the annual IFC Bear Tug (tug of war), raising money for philanthropy in the process.

The house is getting as much attention as the chapter itself, as recent renovations have led to a vastly improved upstairs bathroom/shower room combo. In addition to this, roof repairs have been taking place in preparation for an eventual roof deck, and a new boiler system was installed. The best of all though: a neighboring fraternity removed two large trees from their yard, granting a spectacular view of San Francisco from our roof that was previously blocked. We also ripped out carpet and installed Pergo flooring all throughout downstairs; the new members and actives could not be more proud of our work.

Along with the improved view of the landscape, Acacia Fraternity looks forward to the future when news outlets will again praise fraternities for the good we are doing, rather than pointing out the bad seeds who are determined to be a detriment to our Greek community as a whole. We look forward to holding our first Nite on the Nile event in a number of years as well as hitting our goal of 50 members next semester. 2014 has been and will continue to be a year of success.

No. 6) Ohio State Chapter
acacia.org.ohio-state.edu
VD Sabarinath Sankaranarayanan, sabarinath.sankara@gmail.com

Greetings from the Ohio State Chapter. This semester, we organized our reputed 7 Days of Service program and contributed over 150 hours of community service. We also received Outstanding Community Service and Diversity and Greek Interrelations Awards from the Sorority and Fraternity Life office at Ohio State. Our advisor, Jeff Harmacek, won Chapter Advisor of the Year, and our President, Sabarinath Sankaranarayanan won Living the Ritual Award and has been selected to be on Ohio State’s Homecoming Court for 2014.

No. 9) Illinois Chapter
www.rushacacia.com
Venerable Dean Steve Wuthrich, stevewuthrich10@gmail.com

This past spring has been a busy yet successful time for Acacia at The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. It began with major support by the chapter in the recruitment process, ultimately leading to a pledge class of 10. These gentlemen worked hard this semester to understand Acadian principles and are really becoming a part of the chapter. The actives were excited to initiate them into our ranks in April.

Our philanthropy chairman, Samy Darwan, has increased the opportunity for service and implemented a new major philanthropy event called “Acacia Vacation” which was held on April 26. Six teams competed in a sand volleyball tournament in the courtyard of the chapter house, with all proceeds going toward cancer research.

Another major accomplishment by the chapter is our recent academic success. The minimum GPA requirement was raised, and many scholarships have been created and rewarded to chapter members. The scholarships include a Straight-A award for those with a semester GPA of 4.0, a scholarship for highest GPA below 4.0 for the top member from each year in school, and a scholarship for the most improved semester GPA for a member in each year in school. There is even a scholarship for the newly initiated brothers who earned a GPA of 4.0 during their pledge semester, and for the pledge with the highest GPA below 4.0. Scholarships range from $1,000 to $2,000.

No. 12) Wisconsin Chapter
wiscacacia.acaciaconnect.org
Venerable Dean David Pearson, dmpearson@wisc.edu

It has been a busy semester for us here at the Wisconsin Chapter in Madison. We have had the privilege of adding three great young men to our ranks, bringing our chapter total to 39 actives. In the past seven years, we have grown the chapter from 14 members to 39 and hope to continue building upon that number. Each member has excelled in academics and within the fraternity as a whole.

We held our philanthropy event, Dogs for Dogs, for the second year and raised $2,000 for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). Our goal was to not only raise money to support the ASPCA but to also bring the entire Greek system here at Madison together. Many other fraternities and sororities have shown support to this event which only further inspires us to continue this fantastic way of supporting the community.

As the semester came to an end, our brothers were focused on their studies and preparing for finals as we hope to add to our academic achievements. Our chapter was proud to have two Greek Academic Achievers for the Greek Community here by achieving a GPA of 3.8 or above, and each semester for the past two years we have increased our chapter GPA, and we now stand above the fraternity average. Our continued success in academics, as well as our philanthropic achievements, have made this semester another great one here in Madison!
No. 13) Missouri Chapter  
missouriacacia.acaciaconnect.org  
Venerable Dean Matt Cassidy, mfc8c8@mail.missouri.edu  
The Missouri Chapter of Acacia has seen fantastic improvements right from the start of 2014. The current official roster consists of over 40 members. Since formal recruitment in January, the chapter is looking forward to the initiation of 16 new members, the largest number the chapter has seen since its re-founding. In addition to success in recruitment and the increased presence of Acacia on the Mizzou campus, there have been improvements in both chapter finances and service and philanthropy. By implementing stricter and more concise conditions for financial collections and payment plans, Treasurer Logan Hughes was able to reduce the chapter’s debt, which was over $30,000, by about 80 percent. This has enabled the chapter to enjoy a larger budget for various house improvement projects, as well as a larger budget for the 16 member pledge class.

In regards to service and philanthropy and campus presence, the brothers have been working diligently to rack up a commendable amount of service hours, the highest amount coming from Senior Dean Jackson Aaberg at over 70 service hours. Service & Philanthropy Director Dillon Schmidt has implemented various incentives and a plaque system to recognize the brothers ranking in the Top 10 of service hours contributed.

The chapter is pleased with how the new exec board has handled the growth of the chapter, as well as all the logistics work with Mizzou’s IFC. The exec board was able to complete IFC’s foundation requirements in one semester, gathering speakers from all over campus to talk to the brothers about important issues such as alcohol, sexual violence, and business topics. All presentations were well received, and the brothers continue to raise themselves to higher standards in the hopes of setting an example for young and incoming brothers. Venerable Dean Matt Cassidy states, “I can see that ‘the fire’ has truly been strong in the brothers this semester, and I am very much looking forward to all the great things to come. Our chapter’s future here at Mizzou is looking very bright.”

No. 15) Purdue Chapter  
purdueacacia.org  
Venerable Dean Tom Freije, trfreije@aol.com  
We enjoyed a successful recruitment season this semester, riding on the coattails of an active rush committee consisting of the recruitment chair, Evan Fisher, and newly initiated brothers. Eight devoted and hard working individuals became brothers in early April.

In congruence with our motto of Human Service, all brothers are expected to participate in 30 hours of community service over the course of the semester. As of the time of this writing, we are on track to accomplish this goal. The chapter had the 7th highest Fall 2013 GPA in the IFC with a 2.96, which resulted in the acquisition of an award for GPA improvement at the annual Greek Gala.

Brothers were excited to cheer on Brother Chris Lanza in the Purdue Grand Prix go-kart race, an opportunity we have not had for several years. Brother Patrick Kennedy, the work horse of the house, deserves a great deal of credit for our ability to participate in Grand Prix. We would love to see alumni back at the chapter house. There will be multiple alumni events during the fall semester. The local alumni board president is Brother Marty Wagner, and his e-mail address is mwagner@talktotucker.com.

Risk Management Corner

Chapter discipline: Penn State

International Council members and Headquarters staff were disappointed to learn about a November 8, 2013, incident in which two members of Acacia’s Penn State Chapter performed a reprehensible act of vandalism. Charges of ethnic intimidation, criminal mischief, and disorderly conduct were filed against both men for spray-painting cars outside of the Beta Sigma Beta and Delta Sigma Phi fraternities. Cars were spray-painted with anti-Semitic slogans, swastikas, the initials K.K.K., and sexual pictures and phrases. The Beta Sigma Beta fraternity, which is recognized as a Jewish fraternity, appeared to be the main target of the anti-Semitic vandalism. Local Acacia leaders encouraged the two men to turn themselves in to local authorities, and both were subsequently suspended by the International Council on November 22 and expelled on November 25 for acts unbecoming of an Acacian. The chapter also faced sanctions from the International Council which included social probation, required educational sessions on bystander intervention and cultural sensitivity, and a forthcoming presentation at Conclave about the lessons learned from this incident. Discrimination of any kind has no place in our fraternity, and activities that blatantly run counter to our core values will be met with a serious response.

No. 19) Iowa State Chapter  
stuorg.iastate.edu/acacia  
Venerable Dean Gabe McCoy, gjmccoy@iastate.edu  
Greetings from the Iowa State Chapter! In the time since the Fall 2013 issue of The Triad was published, we have seen many positive accomplishments in academics, new member education, and Human Service.

At the beginning of the Spring 2014 semester, ISU released Greek Community grade statistics, and we are proud to announce that we have once again achieved the highest average GPA of any Iowa State fraternity. We owe our success to every single brother’s dedication to his academic endeavors. Our scholarship chair position is highly respected, and members are rewarded for outstanding performance on tests and projects, as well as for completing the scholarship chair’s weekly challenge. Additionally, we have been working to expand our brothers’ learning outside of the classroom. We have set aside several minutes before some of our chapter meetings to allow brothers to present on topics that interest them. We’ve dubbed the presentations “Acacia Talks,” after the popular TED Talks. We also highlight ISU’s campus lecture program at our chapter meetings, and brothers enjoy attending lectures in groups.

This spring also marked a major milestone for us in regards to recruitment and new member education. On March 8, we initiated a spring class of four men, which is our largest spring class in recent memory. These men went through our revamped new member education program which utilizes discussion and personal reflection to place greater emphasis on understanding Acacia’s values and ideals, and less emphasis on rote memorization. The Spring ‘14 pledge class has already begun taking leadership roles in the chapter, and we are excited to welcome them into our brotherhood.

The chapter has also seen exceptional growth in our Human Service efforts. We recently launched a program entitled “What’s Your 20?” to encourage brothers to volunteer twenty hours per semester. The program has been incredibly successful. Compared to Spring 2013, our chapter volunteered 44% more hours in the fall, corresponding to an average of 17 hours for each member, up from 10.5 hours the previous semester. We’ve been working closely with other organizations in the Ames community, including the beneficiary of our major philanthropy, Youth and Shelter Services. Our brothers’ volunteer efforts range from helping victims of domestic abuse, to community beautification efforts, to mentoring challenged youth in Ames schools.

As the semester winds down, we are looking forward to sunshine, internships, travel, and further learning. We’re excited about what lies ahead. See you at Conclave!
No. 21) Penn State Chapter
psuacacia.acaciaconnect.org
Venerable Dean Jonathan Woods, jyw5308@gmail.com
As we wind down from an eventful semester, the brothers of Penn State Acacia eagerly look forward to next year. Always a highlight of our spring, this year’s THON marked yet another fundraising record for the brothers of Acacia and our partners in Gamma Phi Beta sorority, an incredible $238,829 for the fight against pediatric cancer. At a school of over forty fraternities, we were also proud to have achieved the third highest grade point average on campus, with an average of 3.28, and 41 of 90 brothers made the Dean’s List. But perhaps our proudest achievement was our first ever alumni networking dinner, held this April in the chapter club room.

Beginning in May, our chapter house is scheduled to receive its first major renovation in over fifty years. The two million dollar remodeling project aims to repair underlying structural issues in the aging chapter house, as well as improving the kitchen and dining areas. With seventy brothers living in the house this upcoming fall, it is shaping up to be a historic time to be an Acacian here at PSU.

No. 25) Colorado Chapter
colacacia.org
Venerable Dean Dylan Cook, jondylancook@live.com
Greetings from Boulder! The Colorado Chapter is finding its groove this spring, as we are really starting to make our brand new house feel like a home. We moved into the space completely unfurnished in September and since then we have raised money among actives and alumni to buy things like a pool table, furniture, a dart board, DJ booth, and a projector. This has all helped turn the place into something really cool, and we are very happy to have a permanent home.

But housing isn’t the only thing we are trying to improve on. We have made an effort this semester to give back to our community in new ways, like cleaning the trash in our neighborhood and giving out free hot chocolate to students on cold days. We are planning our first large scale philanthropy this fall since our re-founding and are looking forward to hosting the Scacia run.

We have had brothers visit us from Missouri, Nebraska, and Iowa State in the last few months, and we always enjoy showing everyone some Colorado Acacia hospitality. We have plenty of couches, so please consider that an open invitation to get out here and see the mountains! So live, Brothers.

No. 27) Kansas State Chapter
kstateacacia.org
Venerable Dean Ross Allen, kstateacacia@gmail.com
After years of anticipation, December 6-8, 2013, marked a weekend in which brothers flocked to Manhattan, Kansas, to celebrate the 100 years of Kansas State Acacia. The event was planned by a Centennial Committee which spanned several generations with Brothers Roger Brannan ’58, Lucas Shivers ’01, Nate Mentzer ’04, Christopher Dolezal ’09, and Garrett Kennedy ’11. On the evening of Saturday December 7, 2013, more than 300 generations of K-State Acacians gathered at the K-State Alumni Center to celebrate 100 years of brotherhood.

The chapter achieved two major feats which speak to our history of academic success, garnering a 16th consecutive top quartile finish in fraternity GPAs for the fall 2013 semester and posting a 3.40 or greater chapter GPA for three consecutive semesters. Those achieving a 4.0 GPA for the fall 2013 semester were Brothers Ross Allen ’12, Zev Allen ’14, Jonathan Broeckelman ’11, Dalton Funk ’14, Jeremy Goering ’11, Ethan Graham ’11, Mason Grittman ’11, Ryan Haefke ’14, Garrett Kennedy ’11, Ryan Luder ’13, and Jordan Strickler, ’14...

No. 38) Washington State Chapter
wsuacacia.org
Venerable Dean Dan Watson, dwat.watson@email.wsu.edu
Greetings from Washington State! The school year is drawing to a close, and we are keeping our noses to the grindstone to finish out strong on our finals. Academics have been the major focus of the chapter this semester as we continue striving to improve our chapter GPA. At the beginning of the semester, we instituted a new scholarship policy which has helped us proactively monitor members’ progress, rather than reactively punishing their shortcomings.

We are already looking ahead to next semester and envisioning new, even better methods for our chapter to operate. One priority for the fall will be further incentivizing positive behavior and activities instead of responding punitively to disruptive behavior. Our hope is to create a positive, energized buzz within the chapter to help strengthen our brotherhood and revitalize recruitment.

We are also currently in the process of reorganizing our scholarship recruitment methods to provide a greater return on our investment. We are striving to create a system which not only attracts potential academic minded students to the name of Acacia, but also gives them a greater incentive to actually join the fraternity. We will be working hard over the summer to make sure our program is a success this coming fall. Prayers and best wishes to all! We look forward to meeting you at Conclave!

No. 42) Ohio Chapter
ohio.edu/orgs/acacia
Venerable Dean Nick Loree, nl520610@ohio.edu
The Ohio Chapter wrapped up the semester by initiating 11 new Acacians which represents 100% retention from the bids given out at the beginning of the semester. The chapter accomplished many other milestones this semester, as well.

This year, the 6th Annual Scacia: A 5k to Benefit the Lustgarten Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research, raised over $15,000 and received more alumni support than ever. In the 1st Annual Greek Awards at OU, the Scacia took home best Greek Philanthropy. We held Scacia in sync with our Founders’ Day luncheon at the OU Inn over 30 alumni attended, more than ever for our events. We are continuing to emphasize alumni relations and are planning a golf outing for the fall.

Acacia and its members were awarded several more accolades at the Greek Awards. Acacia and the ladies of Alpha Delta Pi and the men of Kappa Alpha Psi took home the Greek Week Trophy, while Venerable Dean Nick Loree took home the award for Outstanding Scholar in Greek Life.

We are so thankful to our alumni for their participation this semester and look forward to more events and continuing to enjoy your unwavering support.
No. 43) Miami (Ohio) Chapter  
www.ohio.edu/orgs/acacia  
Venerable Dean Michael Strong, mikestrong45@gmail.com

Spring semester served as a continuation of our fresh start here at the Miami Chapter of Acacia. The brothers supported the local Oxford community this year by continuing the fraternity’s adoption of a local highway which we clean twice every semester. We have also begun to expand upon our original philanthropic efforts for the nationally renowned Shriners Hospital for Children located in Cincinnati, Ohio. In years past, we would set up a booth at the local Kroger grocery store and ask students and the town’s residents to write a note on a colored sheet of paper which we would form into a paper chain. This semester, we have focused on broadening our reach for this philanthropy by collecting donations in several locations on and off campus. Finally, this semester saw the proud men of Acacia participating in Relay for Life. We worked diligently for over 18 hours at our booth at a campus-wide fundraiser, and we raised over $1,000 for cancer research, exceeding our goal. We strive to live our motto of “Human Service.”

Within the Greek community, we have continued to stay involved by further strengthening our relations with the local chapter of Alpha Epsilon Phi sorority, as well as with other members of the Interfraternity Council. We are being proactive with rush this semester, and with our smaller, more close-knit group of brothers, we can offer a unique fraternity experience that cannot be acquired elsewhere on campus. Our strengthened ties of friendship within and outside Acacia instill confidence within the brothers that our future at Miami is bright.

No. 54) Illinois Wesleyan Chapter  
acacians.net  
Venerable Dean Derek England, djengland54@gmail.com

This past semester has been an exciting one for the men of the Illinois Wesleyan Chapter of Acacia. On April 12, we had the honor of initiating our newest member, Brian Yager, into our cherished fraternity, and we are all looking forward to seeing the great ideas and drive that he will bring to our chapter.

On March 25, our chapter was awarded with the “Outstanding Civic Engagement in a Fraternity or Sorority” award from Illinois Wesleyan’s Civil Engagement Committee. We received this award due to our many philanthropic involvements in the community. This semester we spent several weekends at Home Sweet Home Ministries preparing and serving meals to those who needed it, hosted a “Bring a Can to Shake Your Can” social event where we collected canned food and donations for Home Sweet Home Ministries, adopted a street, and partook in several other philanthropic events in the community.

This fall we are hosting the Acacia Midwest Basketball Tournament again, where we will raise money for The V Foundation for Cancer Research during a weekend of basketball and brotherhood. The dates of the event are being finalized, and more information will be sent to the Venerable Dean of each chapter and colony in the coming weeks. We invite teams from all chapters and colonies to participate, and we hope to see you there!

No. 61) Central Oklahoma Chapter  
Venerable Dean Cody Beat, cbeat@uco.edu

Greetings, Brothers! We have been very busy down in Oklahoma this semester. We started the year off by participating in a service event on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day at our local food bank. We have also participated in the nationwide “Big Event” and had the most attendance out of any fraternity on campus. We also held our carwash philanthropy benefiting testicular cancer in April.

We have also seen a rise in campus involvement this semester. We currently hold four positions on IFC: President, Vice President of Internal Affairs, Director of Recruitment, and New Member Education. We also have multiple brothers on executive boards in other campus activities...

...For the first time since 2011, we will begin the Fall 2014 semester in a new house. We will be moving in to a property in June that was owned by our alumni in the 1990s. Lastly, we have received the Outstanding New Member Education Award from our Greek Life office for the past year.

No. 67) Trine Chapter  
trineacacia.org  
Venerable Dean Austin Dean-Cross, akdean-cross@my.trine.edu

The spring semester started out with a bit of a hiccup at the Trine Chapter. Due to some very serious snow fall, school was officially closed for the first week of classes. Additionally, spring semester marked the introduction of formal rush to the Greek system at Trine University. The combination of these two events put our spring pledging process into a bit of a hiatus. But after a rough start to the semester, we are proud to have added five new brothers to our ranks, bringing our current numbers up to 36 as the spring semester winds down.

Since our chartering we have been staying active both on campus and in the community. We have continued to be a driving force for an annual community haunted house and have also participated in philanthropic events sponsored by other Greeks including Strikes for Riley and Relay for Life. We have also worked to form and improve relations with sororities on campus. We host multiple informal mixers each semester and have had two very successful formal mixers. We will have a group of brothers attending Conclave this year and look forward to meeting other chapters. So Live!

No. 73) Illinois State Colony  
ilstuacacia.weebly.com  
Venerable Dean Ryan Ferguson, rfergu@ilstu.edu

This spring, the Illinois State Colony had a busy schedule to keep weekly. For the third consecutive semester we took home the Academic Excellence trophy for the #1 spot for fraternity grades on campus. We were also proud to initiate one young man into the brotherhood of Acacia. Additionally, this semester was filled with an abundance of Human Service. Our colony logged over 300 hours of service, averaging over 14 hours per brother. One event we took part in was the annual Bring it Back to Normal day of service helping out in the local community. Some brothers took on the role of site leader and helped to plan the event. We have established recruitment and social calendars for Fall 2014 and are eager to announce we have begun the petitioning process for chartering this summer.

No. 76) Pitt-Johnstown Chapter  
upjpittacacia.acaciaconnect.org  
Venerable Dean Andy Sullivan, acs114@pitt.edu

Another academic year is in the books for the Acacia brothers at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. While the chapter had both ups and downs throughout the year, we are working with the university and members of the International Council to get our chapter back into good standing. Members of the executive board at UPJ are determined to address and correct the issues at hand in order to get the chapter back at our best. Four members are looking forward to attending Conclave this summer in Nashville.

The chapter organized and conducted two blood drives during the spring semester through the American Red Cross. Each blood drive had anywhere from 30 to 50 blood donors which resulted in great success for both the chapter and the Johnstown community. In the fall, the brothers volunteered at a Christmas basket raffle party for The Christian Home of Johnstown. Acacia was a huge help selling tickets at the door, handing out lunch, calling raffle ticket numbers and delivering the baskets to winners. We plan to make this an annual event.
We pledged 11 men in the spring and initiated 8 of them on April 11. This was our second semester incorporating Cornerstones into the pledge process and it seems to be working well. We look forward to having these new young men be contributing members in our chapter.

No. 80) Saint Cloud State Chapter
cacacia-scsu.org
Venerable Dean Taylor Block, btla1001@stcloudstate.edu

The St. Cloud State Chapter of Acacia Fraternity is doing great things this year! We have steadily been growing as a chapter and initiated eight pledges in April. This is the biggest spring pledge class we have had in recent memory, and our active chapter and alumni are motivated to continue to work hard as a result.

We have also accomplished a lot in our community lately. This semester we participated in the Polar Bear Plunge where four of our members jumped in for the cause, as well as Relay for Life. We raised close to a combined $1,000 for the occasions, along with volunteering at both events, as well. Other successful events of the spring included Greek Week and mixers with all of the sororities on campus. We look forward to moving towards the future with all the enthusiasm, support, and dedication we can commit!

No. 83) California University of Pennsylvania Chapter
caluacacia.acaciaconnect.org
Venerable Dean Jesse McQuillan, mcq6125@calu.edu

Human Service was a main focus of ours this semester at California University of PA, and our hard work has been paying off. We were recognized for our human service efforts by the university and the town for our project, Operation Snowflake, in which we help those who can’t help themselves when the weather is bad by shoveling sidewalks for the elderly, pushing cars out of the snow, etc. We are also working very closely with Domestic Violence Services of Southwestern PA and raised nearly $2,000 for Easter baskets for children protected by DVSSP. As a chapter we contributed 400+ man hours of human service for the spring!

Other events of the semester included our alumni golf outing, Greek Week, Nite on the Nile, more philanthropy projects, and the initiation of eight new members. This kept us very busy while we finished the semester strong! So live!

No. 84) Millersville Chapter
millersevilleacacia.acaciaconnect.org
Venerable Dean Colin Herbine, colin.herbine@gmail.com

The Millersville Chapter had another successful semester this spring. During the 2013-2014 academic year we initiated ten new brothers into our ranks and received recognition from Millersville University regarding our community service on numerous accounts. A huge accomplishment for our chapter was satisfying Millersville University’s Greek Chapter Assessment Tool (GCAT). The chapter was evaluated thoroughly and received 4 out of 4 stars on the GCAT. As a result, our chapter will be allocated money for on-campus events, will be advertised in the school’s newspaper and website, and will have a plaque dedicated to Acacia Fraternity placed in the Student Memorial Center.

One objective we are constantly striving for is strengthening the ties of friendship with our local Masonic Lodge, Millersville University, and our Alumni Chapter, which is better known as the Central Pennsylvania Acacia Alumni Chapter (CPAAC). We believe that the friendship and communication has greatly improved with all three organizations and will continue to grow in the future.

Our elections have already taken place and our elected officers for the 2014-2015 academic year will be going through an officer transition workshop to better prepare them for their respective positions. Over the summer, the Millersville Chapter will be focusing on fundraising and exemplifying our motto, “Human Service.” The chapter will be assisting our local Masonic Lodge, Charles M. Howell Lodge No. 496, with a blood drive and recruiting potential blood donors. We are looking forward to attending this year’s Conclave in Nashville, Tennessee, as we will be sending a few members to represent our chapter.

No. 88) Bloomsburg Chapter
bloomuacacia.org
Venerable Dean Sean Foster, sjf18689@huskies.bloomu.edu

Bloomsburg Acacia is proud to say that we are currently working to better our pledging process, community service, and dig our way out of debt. This year we participated in 5k runs for cancer research and the Wounded Warrior Project. We are big fans of donating blood and participated in five different Red Cross blood drives and one Geisinger blood drive. Furthermore, we had a great turnout for “The Big Event” in which we helped older folks in the community with lawn work, household help, and cleaning up local parks. Just recently we helped the Masonic Blue Lodge at the renaissance fair by cooking fries, hot dogs, and helping to clean up. It was a great experience to finally establish a relationship with the Freemasons of Bloomsburg, and we are looking to build a trusting relationship so that one day our chapter can practice the Ritual in a Masonic Lodge.

We are proud to say we have re-established our connection with our old advisor and established new connections with alumni. Allan Schappert and Dave Rodgers have helped guide the Bloomsburg Chapter to have more efficient meetings, incorporate better participation for active brothers, and helped us reduce our debt by half. We are incorporating new ideas such as updating our website and making promissory notes to help get and stay out of debt. We can’t thank the International Headquarters enough for helping our chapter with our financial and recruitment problems. Without the dedicated staff of the headquarters, the Bloomsburg Chapter wouldn’t be making the progress we are now.

We can honestly and wholeheartedly say our recruitment and pledging process is better than ever. We are now recruiting more self-motivated individuals who work towards success to better Acacia Fraternity and themselves. Our pledging process is much more structured with community service, teambuilding exercises, building better relationships with the community and school, and truly getting to know and understand what Acacians are all about. We strive to teach the brothers of Acacia that we didn’t join this organization to be in it for four years and graduate, but to be lifelong members of Acacia and to always conduct ourselves as proper Acacians wherever we may happen to be.

No. 89) Indiana University of Pennsylvania Chapter
iupacacia.acaciaconnect.org
Venerable Dean Jonathan Palumbo, jon.t.palumbo@gmail.com

It has been another exciting semester here at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania Chapter of Acacia. We have really taken a step forward in our participation in the community along with supporting other Greek-led philanthropy events. We have done canning to help feed people in need here in Indiana and helped Alpha Xi Delta with an event to help raise awareness for autism. We will also be doing some spring cleaning at the Masonic Lodge in the upcoming weeks.

We are excited to see how our grades will turn out this semester as we have implemented a new study hours program which seems to be a success. Another thing we are proud to announce is the initiation of six new brothers. We are hoping to reach 30 active brothers after the Fall 2014 semester. I believe this is an achievable goal even with deferred recruitment which forbids us from pledging incoming freshmen in the fall semester. We look to become even more involved with the community next year as our manpower increases.

The following chapters and colonies did not submit reports:
Cornell, Syracuse, Texas, Oregon State, Rensselaer, Louisiana State, Carleton, Morningside, Michigan, Vermont
This year the Carleton Chapter celebrated its 25th anniversary, and it did so in style. A formal gala was held on February 8, 2014, at the historic Chateau Laurier in downtown Ottawa, seconds away from the Parliament Buildings and the locks at the Rideau River. The night began with a reception and cocktail hour, providing a wonderful opportunity for active brothers and pledges to engage with alumni — some of whom were shaping the direction of Carleton Acacia before most of the active brothers were even born. After the reception, a grand five-star feast followed in the ballroom, featuring steak, salmon, and a variety of other delicious foods.

During the dinner, a number of outstanding speeches and historical lectures occurred. Founding Father Eric C.M. Church, Carleton ’88 and chapter roll #1, gave an inspiring speech about what it means to be an Acacian and about the beginning of the Carleton Chapter’s history. Brother Church, along with Order of Pythagoras and Award of Merit recipient George A. Levesque, Jr., Carleton ’89, outlined for those in attendance the importance of brotherhood and human service, two cornerstone values that the chapter looks to build upon for the next 25 years.

Ottawa Mayor and Honorary Brother James Watson, Carleton ’99 also attended the event and surprised the Executive Board with The Mayor’s City Builder Award from City Council. The award is given “to recognize an individual, group or organization that has, through their outstanding volunteerism or exemplary action, demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to making our city a better place today and for the future.” The award will hang in the Carleton Chapter house as a testament to Acacia’s values and goals.

The awards ceremony was especially memorable for those brothers honored with awards. Christian P. Robillard, Carleton ’12, and William J. Marsden, Carleton ’08 were both bestowed with the Order of Pythagoras this year, having served Acacia beyond the call of duty. They continue to shine as beacons of guidance and inspiration to the Carleton Chapter. A number of local awards were also given out, honoring those brothers who exemplified outstanding Leadership, Brotherhood, Human Service, and overall outstanding actions for the chapter. The first-ever Carleton Chapter scholarship was given to Brother Robillard for his leadership in both philanthropy and academics.

Carleton’s 25th Founders’ Gala was a celebration that will stay in the hearts and minds of all Acacians who attended for the rest of their lives. It marked a major milestone for the chapter, while at the same time setting the tone for things to come. This begins the wonderful journey for the next 25 years of the Carleton Chapter, and it is in good faith and with strong conviction that the Carleton Chapter moves towards a bright future. The chapter challenges itself to continue to grow, and benefit our community and our Fraternity’s record. Our Founders’ Gala reminds us that there is nothing that can stop a group of truly remarkable, determined, and dedicated Acacians.
Cal Poly/Pomona
Mark L. Renfrow, #89 – I served the U.S. Army in Afghanistan where I created the very first Governor and Police Chief Conference for the entire country, through the Afghan Ministry of Interior. I went on to command a CAT-B Team out of Gardez Province, a 12-man team that works closely with a host nation in civil military operations and is a fixture in the Army’s humanitarian aid to impoverished civilians. I returned home with the rank of Major and was awarded The Bronze Star Medal. I went back to the L.A. Sheriff’s Department on April 15th, 2007, where I’m currently a Watch Sergeant at East Lost Angeles Station. My message? Acadians contribute daily in all walks of life and public service. Be PROUD of your fraternal heritage, as it helps make you who you are.

Central Missouri State
James A. Newman, #202 – Retired from State Farm Insurance after 40 years.

Central Oklahoma

Cornell
Thomas J. Balcerski, #1063 – Making the move to Chicago in June. Plan to attend the Conclave this summer; defend my Ph.D. and graduate from Cornell in May.

Indiana
David R. Parks, #1144 – All is well in sunny Arizona. Hoping for some great sports out of IU this school year.

Scott R. Chakan, #1731 – Recognized by the IU School of Public Health with the John R. Endwright Distinguished Alumni Service Award.

Iowa
David R. Novak, #442 – The latest issue of the Triad arrived at Christmas – a time that the late Michael Irwin (Iowa, #463) really excelled in bringing cheer to the Children’s Hospital. Weeks before in the cold, dark night, Mike and a few brothers obtained trees and a quarter mile of garland evergreen rope to decorate our House. I, and the sweetest girl on the campus, Marilyn Coors, borrowed a 30-foot wood ladder from the University for the project. Just before Christmas break, Mike would take everything down and re-hang it up at the Children’s Hospital.

Iowa State
Christopher W. Knapp, #764 – Retired from U.S. Bank after 35 years as a Trust Office, June 2013.

Matthew B. England, #1047 - Named a 2014 Iowa STATEment Maker. Matt is a flight test engineer on the Boeing 787 Dreamliner and is president of the ISU Alumni Association Club of Seattle.

Kansas
Dr. Robert G. Travnicek, #704 – Honored by the Harrison County (Mississippi) Board of Supervisors and the City of Gulfport with a designation of a portion of 45th Avenue as Dr. Robert Travnicek Boulevard.

Long Beach State
Joseph K. Goria, #349 – Working for 14 years now for AT&T in Orange County, CA in Network Services. Would like to meet up with brothers from Cal/Berkley and Long Beach State.

Louisiana State
Donald P. Moriarty, #5 – Publication of my new book has been announced: A Fine Body of Men, the Story of the Orleans Light Horse, Louisiana Cavalry, 1860-1865. To be released Summer 2014 by the Historic New Orleans Collection (www.hnoc.org), New Orleans.

Nebraska
Harold D. Peck, Jr., #999 – Recently joined H.D. Smith Pharma Wholesaler, as Corporate V.P. Strategic Pricing.

Northern Colorado
Bruce E. Smith, #117 – Experienced a below knee amputation of left leg in November, 2013. Recovering well. I remain a proud and pleased Acadian.

Ronald Wunsch, #204 – I’ve completed 40 years of ordained ministry; including more than 22 years as an active duty Army Chaplain.

Purdue
Bradley A. Smith, #1059 – Completed doctorate in PT. Fellowship in orthopedic manual physical therapy, and APTA Board certification in Sports PT in 2013.

William H. Strong, #1093 – Retired from Morgan Stanley in May 2014 after 34 years of service, most recently as Co-CEO for Asia-Pacific Region. I also relocated to Chicago from Hong Kong in early May.

John F. Beering, #1494 – Honored by the Purdue University School of Industrial Engineering as an Outstanding Industrial Engineer, one of only 115 alumni to be so honored out of more than 8,000 graduates.

Shippensburg
Robert B. Able, #232 – Graduates from Shippensburg of about 1980-1984 had a reunion on October 5, 2013. Great time had by all.

Syracuse
Robert L. Smith, #630 – Past Venerable Dean published a book, Closets, Combat and Coming Out on his experience coming of age as a gay man in the “Don’t ask, Don’t tell” Army. www.robsmithonline.com

Washington
Gerald L. Gould, #462 – Following 21 years of pushing USAF airplanes around the world, I settled down as a CEO of a photo store near Santa Barbara, CA. Now fully retired in Washington State.

Washington State
John H. Ray, #118 – Florina Reynoso and I were married in Alexandria, Virginia on October 12, 2013. I retired from U.S. General Services Administration on January 3, 2014 after 42 years of federal service including two years with the U.S. Air Force.

Acacia Fraternity March Madness
Acacia held its first-ever international March Madness bracket challenge this year. Congratulations to the winners!

1st Place - Bryan W. Dowd, Morningside ’02
2nd Place (tie) - Jeremy N. Davis, Iowa State ’00
2nd Place (tie) - Blake J. Hutchison, Wisconsin ’97
Advertise your business here!

Beginning with our next issue of The Triad, we will be offering advertising space for brothers and select Acacia partners to promote their businesses and generate revenue to help offset the cost of Triad publication.

For our pilot issue, a limited number of advertising slots will be available at a cost of $500 for one-quarter page and $300 for one-eighth page. Custom artwork services may be available for an additional charge.

The Triad reaches an audience of approximately 21,000 Acacians.

Please contact Director of Communications Michael Pastko for more information at mpastko@acacia.org.

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Consider this...
Not your stereotypical frat man

By Robert M. “Ken” Davis, East Texas State ’70

I was in a small fraternity in college, Acacia at East Texas State University. During those Viet Nam era days, fraternities were on the decline. Ours was not made up of jocks and rich young preppies. It was a collection of Viet Nam vets, young high school graduates that probably didn’t fit in most other fraternities, and a collection of very diverse backgrounds and interests. But we had one brother, Richard Calahan, that was just different. In the days of Led Zeppelin, the Beatles, and the Eagles, he listened to older rock and roll. He was an expert in 50’s music. I don’t ever remember him drinking, smoking, cussing, playing sports, or trying to carouse. He made good grades and was a nice young guy. I don’t think anyone in the fraternity ever really got too close to him, but he was a brother, and we called him Ram. That was short for rambunctious... he was anything but. He was laid back, calm, and generally unexcitable. An introvert.

Over the years some of us have stayed distantly in touch, and Ram was included. He lived most of his life behind the eight ball. His health was never really too good, and he never got many breaks in life. Several years ago he began a gradual decline that ended on December 7th, 2013.

As we tried to get information on the arrangements the family was making for his services, it became apparent that they really didn’t have many resources for the funeral expenses. So began an email campaign between men that had not really been in contact for 40 plus years. These men are spread all over the U.S. and had gone their separate ways. They have children and grandchildren, some have retired, some have been laid off, some still working. Once word got out that Ram had died and the family was having trouble paying for the funeral, these guys stepped up to the plate. We were able to pay the funeral home, give money to the church, and provide some for the family.

What a great end to a story that had such a nebulous beginning. One line in our fraternity song says, “We’re all good brothers until all the world shall end.” For Ram, the world ended last December. He would be so proud of how his brothers acted on his behalf. If he ever had any doubt that he was really a fraternity brother, that would have answered it in the great affirmative. It was confirmation that he was a Good Brother. Rest in Peace, Ram!

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Of Black and Gold and stories old
And even those left still untold
We gather here to keep our vow
To seek the light and share it now

From Egypt came our brother’s bond
And thus it traveled far beyond
Its voyage long across the sea
Until it found both you and me

And in this night the truth unfold
These brothers here our love doth hold
With brothers near to me this night

And those afar our hearts hold dear
In just remembrance by us here
Take drink in hand to raise your glass
As students of Pythagoras

To toast the lives of brothers past
And those afar at this repast
So say with me that word we speak
When brothers are what we do seek

Pythia

By Antonio M. Goncalves, Rensselaer ’88

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Advertise your business here!
Ponce de Leon should have been an Acacian

You probably remember the Spanish explorer, Juan Ponce de Leon, for his association with the search for the Fountain of Youth. His exploration came about 400 years too early, because - Eureka! - I have found the Fountain of Youth in Acacia Fraternity.

Did you ever stop to wonder how you could slow down the aging process and arrest the receding hairline or protruding waistline by recapturing your elusive youth? Advertisers bombard us with the quick fix – the exercise gym, the latest diet craze, teeth whiteners, Rogaine, Lasik eye surgery and, dare I say, Viagra. But really, the answer is simple... go back to campus! Reach out and call a brother. When is the last time you visited your chapter, or called a brother and really talked? You’ll find it rewarding.

I had the opportunity to meet up with an old pledge brother from Washington State in Indianapolis recently where he stated, “Darold, you’re staying young.” I didn’t take the comment patronizingly - just said, “thank you.” But upon further review, my response should have been, “trying to keep up with today’s college student and younger alumni intellectually, philosophically and ideistically keeps me young.”

At a recent Founders’ Day celebration, I was somewhat taken aback as my introduction implied that I am an old-timer. I never thought of myself in that manner, but based on my years of service I suppose I am. I have met old-timers who told me that today’s generation has much to learn from the older generation, but I have found we, too, have much to learn from them. The pages of this Triad demonstrate that what you read in the main line press about the impending demise of civilization is just the opposite; this generation (of Acacians) is smarter, more driven and more concerned about the world around them.

What can this mean to the typical old-timer (anyone who graduated prior to 2013)? The 15th Governor General of Canada John Buchan stated, “The task of leadership is not to put greatness into people, but to elicit it, for greatness is there already.” You can Serve and Support!

Serve! Whether it has been 2, 20 or 40 years, those who can serve are needed. Volunteers are like hugs - you can never get enough of them. You can serve on the local level (as an advisor, local board member or mentor) or on the international level via the International Council or Acacia Fraternity Foundation and their many committees.

Support! I was at an Acacia event on the east coast this fall and an alumnus informed me that all I ever do is ask for money. My response was, “Well, that’s my job.” As Acacia’s biggest cheerleader, I shared a review of last year and the needs of Acacia. We have boundless opportunities for growth (3% a year for the past four years), but with the ever-increasing cost of education, the need to support our undergraduates by way of grants and scholarships ($105,000 in scholarships were awarded in 2013) and to provide appropriate upgraded chapter housing and leadership programming is crucial. Fulfilling our mission, Preparing Tomorrow’s Leaders, is our goal.

Working and supporting today’s Acacians is exciting, stimulating, heart-warming and, at times, heart-breaking. You’ll discover concern, idealism and love just as we old-timers did in our undergraduate days.

Like peeling away the skin of an onion, meeting, working and motivating others seems to slow down the aging process. Take a trip back – you’ll roll back the years, and you’ll like what you see, learn and hear.

Fraternally,

Darold W. Larson
Chapter Eternal

ARIZONA
George B. Settlemyer, #54

ARKANSAS
Edgar F. Henley, #129

CALIFORNIA
Bern R. Swarts, #268
Hiram N. Bishop, #274
Harry D. Finch, #277
Roney A. Noonan, #279
Frank Lewis, #284
Harry J. Cartwright, #285
Neal F. Peek, #453
C. John Loring, #484

CENTRAL MISSOURI STATE
Jerry J. Holdeman, #72

CINCINNATI
Frederick W. Helfer, #248
Charles R. Scott, #256
Richard C. Messinger, #361

COLORADO
William D. Eaton, #441
Charlie D. Adkins, #605
Oscar J. Armstrong, #675

COLORADO STATE
Edwin K. Tanaka, #64
Harold C. Shephard, #183

CORNELL
Joseph C. Curtis, #462
Lloyd A. Hayner, #508
Albert J. Hoyt, #525

DENVER
Frank C. Tabor, #99

EAST TEXAS STATE
Richard K. Calahan, #36

EMPORIA STATE
Marvin P. Geist, #10

EVANSVILLE
Philip W. Seibert, #105

FRANKLIN (PENN)
Charles A. Shermier III, #447
Joseph A. Wintz, #448

GEORGE WASHINGTON
Joseph R. Grille, #236

GEORGIA
William W. Wise, #24
Jeffery F. Booker, #46

ILLINOIS
Harold J. Plack, #609
Roy T. Terp, #669
John W. Wishart, #771
Ralph (Rolf) E. Monteen, #951

INDIANA
William P. Detroy, #470
Richard E. Ford, #694
L. Craig Fulmer, #773
John J. Malone, #2465

IOWA STATE
James V. Kemmiss, #367
Donald L. Beachler, #376
Hugo S. Bliss, #430

KANSAS
Wallace E. Lumb, #391

KANSAS STATE
Max S. Sheehey, #305
Clifford H. Ukule, #327
Mark A. Chapman, #559

LONG BEACH STATE
Paul L. Moine, #140

MIAMI
Edward M. McCartney, #105

MICHIGAN
Russell J. Baster, #461
Wilmer G. Pierson, #464
Richard P. Nyberg, #565
Charles R. Wickman, #575

MINNESOTA
David L. Anderson, #620
George W. Meyer, #629
David R. McPherson, #723
Bruce V. Moore, #815

MISSOURI
Donald P. Maddox, #666

NEBRASKA
Eugene G. Fischbach, Jr., #502

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Robert J. Cohen, #290
Peter Y. Lovejoy, #343
James C. Edie, #432
George H. Meeker, #516

NORTHEAST LOUISIANA
Dr. Beryl Franklin, #34

NORTHERN COLORADO
Karl W. Schaefer, #16

NORTHERN COLORADO STATE

NORTHWESTERN
H. Verne Loepert, #297
Raymond W. McNamara, #476
Royce C. Haddad, #571
Lawrence P. Hawley, #869

OHIO
Paul E. Dornbusch, #16
Richard D. Randall, #113

OHIO STATE
Dean R. Keller, #579
Marvin E. Rothhaar, #605

OKLAHOMA STATE
Dawson B. Nail, #328
Donald L. Branscome, #349

OREGON STATE
Richard M. Slagle, #625

PENNSYLVANIA
Donald C. Sims, #364
John M. Gilbert, #580
Thomas M. Hollembuck, #790

PURDUE
Paul T. Homsher, #488
Albert J. Graumlich, #513
Russell E. Bainbridge, #551
Peter P. Pincura, #726
Oren W. Mann, #834
Edwin R. Key, #850
Donald R. Lowes, #861
Gregory A. Major, #1053
David R. Lowman, #1128

RENSSELAER
Richard G. Hirko, #194

SHIPPENBURG
James H. Woland, #29
Frank T. Hoffman, #211

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
William D. Juenger, #71

SYRACUSE
Franklyn N. Linton, #241
Richard V. Peer, #282

TENNESSEE
Frank L. Bartley, #5
Phillip A. Jones, #96

TRI-STATE (TRINE)
Stephen A. Ruffalo, #117

UCLA
Franklin G. Chapel, Jr., #62
Keith A. Lowry, #226
Robert M. Wright, #71

VERMONT
Carl A. Peabody, #76

WASHINGTON
Bobbie Val Thrp, #335
William C. Grayum, #339
Sidney R. Buckley, #358
Bennie F. Dotson, #363
Henry H. Damus, #455
Richard M. Slagle, #625

WASHINGTON STATE
Mark A. Chapman, #625

WHITMAN
Mary L. Branscomb, #625

WISCONSIN
Florence N. Jabas, #591

John J. Malone, Indiana ’12
It’s never easy to turn to the Chapter Eternal page in our Triad magazine, seeing the names of Acacians we’ve lost in the last year (and those who passed longer ago and news has just reached us). The number of memories, good deeds, and accomplishments represented by these names is immeasurable. So many lives fully lived. And sometimes, a life cut short.

Brother John J. Malone was heading home to River Forest, Illinois for the summer on May 4th last year when the SUV he was riding in with fellow Acadians blew a tire and the driver lost control, sending the vehicle rolling three times and taking Brother Malone’s life.

John is remembered by his chapter brothers and friends and family as a gentle soul, funny, and a leader who looked out for those around him. John is survived by his parents, Jack and Cathy Malone, and sister, Ciara.

The International Headquarters staff apologizes for its error in not including John’s name in the Chapter Eternal section of our Fall 2013 issue.

Richard E. Ford, Indiana ’58
Acadians saddened to hear the news of Brother Richard E. Ford, Indiana ’58 passing to Chapter Eternal on April 16. Brother Ford was a great supporter of Acacia Fraternity, Indiana University, his community, and the arts.

Brother Ford’s contributions to the Indiana Chapter and Acacia Internationally extend far beyond his generous financial support. Many have fond memories of the summer rush functions Brother Ford hosted at his lake house in Northern Indiana. Others recall Brother Ford took great care of the grand piano in the formal of the chapter house, often paying to have it tuned — on at least one occasion he had it shipped to Indianapolis for a full restoration.

Marvin E. Rothhaar, Ohio State ’54
Marv Rothhaar was initiated into Acacia on November 14, 1954 as roll number 605 of the Ohio State Chapter, and his commitment to Acacia lasted throughout his lifetime. Brother Rothhaar was instrumental in bringing back the Ohio State Chapter after a five-year lapse and served for many years as Chapter Advisor. He also served multiple terms as an Acacia Fraternity Foundation board member.

Brother Rothhaar was recognized for his efforts with the Order of Pythagoras (1974), Award of Merit (1984), and George F. Patterson, Jr. Outstanding Alumnus Award (2004).

Marv is remembered for his stories of U.S. Army service, where he was awarded the Silver Star, and his hard-nosed but gracious nature. He will be deeply missed.

“To take a more active part and to have a greater influence in the affairs of the community” — nobody lived the ideals found in Acacia’s Preamble more than Brother Ford. He served as chairman of the Indiana University School of Music Endowment Campaign, Board of Overseers for the Honeywell House, trustee for the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites, chairman of the Ford Meter Box Foundation, president of the American Pianists Association, and held countless other leadership positions in his communities.

Brother Ford was recognized for his service with numerous awards. Two governors named him a Sagamore of the Wabash. Acacia awarded him with the George F. Patterson, Jr. Outstanding Alumnus Award, Award of Merit and Order of Pythagoras.

“...”
Are you an Acacia Mom or Dad receiving this issue of The Triad?

If your son has recently moved, we’d love to have his new address to keep in touch with fraternity publications like The Triad. Please send us (or ask him to send us) a quick update at communications@acacia.org or 317-872-8210. Feel free to keep and read this Triad! We’ll send him another copy.