



THE CREST

An ePublication for the Brothers and Friends of Acacia Fraternity

APRIL 22, 2015


â€¢ Darold Larson receives NIC Gold Medal

â€¢ Kansas State Chapter award winners

â€¢ #BecauseOfAcacia

â€¢ Benjamin Turconi added to HQ Staff



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DAROLD LARSON RECEIVES NIC GOLD MEDAL

Acacia is excited to announce that AFF Executive Director and past Acacia Executive Director Darold W. Larson, *Washington State '81*, has been awarded the prestigious North-American Interfraternity Conference Gold Medal for his years of service to Acacia and the fraternity movement. Brother Larson received his award at the NIC Annual Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri on April 19 with several Acacia brothers and dozens of interfraternity leaders present. George F. Patterson, Jr., *Cincinnati '42*, is the only other Acacian to receive the Gold Medal.



From the North-American Interfraternity Conference:

The NIC Gold Medal was first presented in 1940. The medal is presented in recognition of lifetime service to the fraternity movement. Past recipients of the Gold Medal are models of selfless service, visionary leadership, and courage of conviction. When considering nominations, the awards committee take into account tenure of service, interfraternal leadership, and a dedication to advancing the fraternal movement.

Visit [the North-American Interfraternity Conference website](#) for a full historical list of award winners.

Darold's nomination was submitted by several Acacia leaders including International President Jeremy Davis, Executive Director Patrick McGovern, and three past International Presidents.



Brother Larson (far right) with Acacia International Presidents (L-R): Gerald C. Cook, Robert E. Roberson, Jeremy N. Davis, Donald W. Solanas

Brother Larson's dedication to Acacia is unsurpassed and his achievements many. Past International President Gerald C. Cook, *Shippensburg '66*, sums it up best in his nomination: "Volunteer leaders come and go, but long-tenured staff are the glue, vision, and institutional memory that help organizations, especially fraternities, survive and succeed. I am sure that Acacia's present and future would

not be as strong and optimistic as it is without Darold's many and diverse leadership contributions."

Darold has served Acacia as Executive Director and AFF Executive Director and is a past president of the Fraternity Executives Association. He began his tenure on the Acacia Headquarters staff as a Leadership Consultant in 1984. Since then, he has been recognized with the Order of Pythagoras (1985), the Award of Merit (1990), and the George F. Patterson, Jr. Outstanding Alumnus Award (2002). Darold is also the creator of the Acacia Leadership Academy which dates back to 1991, and as such the International Council has named the event in his honor, the Darold W. Larson Acacia Leadership Academy.

Please congratulate Brother Larson by way of email at dlarson@acacia.org.

KANSAS STATE CHAPTER HONORS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS AND ALUMNUS BILL RILEY

Earlier this month the Kansas State Chapter continued its tradition of hosting the K-State Acacia Leadership Scholarship banquet. In another successful year, the chapter received over 130 applications from high school seniors around the state of Kansas, and from these applications 72 were invited to interview at the chapter house in Manhattan. Applicants participated in a house tour, a leadership activity with the chapter housemother, and a formal scholarship interview. This year's Acacia Leadership Scholarship recipients were David Turpin, Dean Klahr, and Waylon Sheetz, each of whom exemplify the core values of our fraternity and influenced their respective communities with their commitments to Leadership, Scholarship, and Service.

The banquet also featured the presentation of the George F. Patterson, Jr. Outstanding Alumnus Award to William M. Riley, Jr., *Kansas State '60* for his years of dedication and service to Acacia. Brother Riley has demonstrated leadership in our fraternity as Acacia Fraternity Foundation President and House Corporation President of the Kansas State Chapter, as well as past Executive Director of the Kansas 4-H Foundation. Brother Riley was presented with this honor by fellow Patterson Award winner Harold D. Zarr, Jr., *Iowa State '73*.



Brother Bill Riley (right) receives the George F. Patterson, Jr. Award from fellow award recipient Harold Zarr

#BECAUSEOFACACIA

Who are you today, where are you today, because of Acacia Fraternity? That is the question we've been asking brothers over social media for the last month, and we'd love to hear from YOU if we haven't yet. What valuable experiences have you had in life â€”#â€”BecauseOfAcaciaâ€”-â€”-â€”-? Whether it is leadership or professional development, Human Service, or simply enjoying the fruits of brotherhood, we want to hear from you. Reply soon and your response may be published in the spring issue of The TRIAD. Email us at communications@acacia.org, and send pictures, too!

Have you recently moved or otherwise changed your mailing address? Reply to this email with your new address to be sure you receive the spring TRIAD.



ACACIA ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH SOFI

We are excited to announce a new partnership with SoFi, a company specializing in student loan refinancing, to offer its services to Acacia brothers with student loan debt. SoFi helps ambitious professionals accelerate their success with student loan refinancing, MBA loans, mortgages, and personal loans. Their nontraditional underwriting approach takes into account merit and employment history among other factors to provide unique financial and investment products.

[View a one-page PDF from SoFi for more information.](#)

SoFi is a leader in marketplace lending, with over \$2 billion in loans issued. For more information and to qualify for a \$300 welcome bonus, please visit sofi.com/Acacia or call directly 7 days a week at 855-456-SOFI.

BENJAMIN TURCONI HIRED AS ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

February 2015 saw the addition of a member to the Acacia Headquarters staff,

Benjamin B. Turconi, *California '12*. Benjamin is a past Venerable Dean, a Master Mason of Windsor Lodge #181 and a member of the San Francisco Scottish Rite. Benjamin's primary responsibilities as Associate Director of Operations include supporting Acacia's educational programs and chapter services, as well as administrative support for the Foundation.

Before his time in Acacia, Brother Turconi was involved with DeMolay, a character building leadership organization with its basis in Freemasonry for young men between the ages of 12-21. During his time with DeMolay, Benjamin served as the Santa Rosa chapter president, the Northern California President, International President of the DeMolay International Congress, and served on the Board of Directors for DeMolay International.

Human Service is what brought Benjamin to Acacia and has been a driving force in his choice of activities and memberships. For the past decade, he has been actively involved in charitable organizations including Make-A-Wish, Relay for Life, Shriners Hospitals, Sierra Services for the Blind and more. A Rhetoric and Art History major, Benjamin is an avid reader and appreciator of the arts. He loves live music and has been to more concerts than he can count. Welcome Benjamin at bturconi@acacia.org, where you might ask him about Photography, Baroque art, Indie Music, EDM, and Tupac Shakur.

ROBILLARD AWARDED BY GOVERNOR GENERAL



Brother Christian Robillard, *Carleton '12* was recently named a recipient of the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award. Created in 1995, the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award recognizes individuals who volunteer their time to help others and to build a smarter and more caring nation.

Christian serves numerous community organizations and is the Executive Director of the Student Philanthropy Council at Carleton University and a past staff intern for Acacia Fraternity Headquarters and Foundation. He is a 2014 Order of Pythagoras recipient and past chapter Philanthropy Chairman.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ACACIA'S MARCH MADNESS WINNERS!



Acacians from across North America competed this spring in our second annual March Madness bracket challenge, and the winner was decided at the conclusion of the exciting Duke national championship game victory over Wisconsin.

1st place: Jerod Miles, *Central Oklahoma '09*

2nd place: Aditya Ramesh, *Cornell '11*

3rd place: Blake Hutchison, *Wisconsin '97*

Our first place winner received a \$150 donation in his name to the AFF fund of his choice, while our second and third place winners received Acacia neckties. Jerod will be directing his contribution to sponsor an active member to attend the Acacia Leadership Academy. Congrats, Brothers!

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