



# THE CREST

An ePublication for the Brothers and Friends of Acacia Fraternity

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## July 20, 2016

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*We are need of your help! Due to a mailing snafu by our mailing vendor, the 59th Biennial Conclave and Leadership Academy letter was dropped in the mail later than anticipated. For many of you, a letter encouraging a gift of support and request for your vote by proxy arrived at your home last week. Please review the letter below and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Darold Larson directly at [dilanson@acacia.org](mailto:dilanson@acacia.org) or 317-695-3142. Enjoy the latest version of The Crest and thank you so much for helping make 2015-16 a record year in many ways.*

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### Dear Brother

Did you know that all active, alumni and honorary members in good standing with the Fraternity who have contributed to the Foundation in the past year are voting members of the Foundation? Your vote is needed — either in person or by proxy — at this year's Annual Meeting to be held during the Acacia Leadership Academy at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 30, 2016, at the historic Brown Hotel, 335 W Broadway, Louisville, KY 40202.

**At least ten percent of the Foundation's members must attend the Annual Meeting in person or by proxy**, so I urge you to [complete the online Proxy Vote Form](#) by July 26 if you have not completed the paper form mailed to your home address.

To read a short biography on each of this year's nominated brothers, please visit <http://www.acacia.org/blog/aff2016>.

As of June 30, for the fiscal year 2015-2016, over one thousand two hundred contributors have donated to the Foundation in support of the Foundation's Annual Fund, chapter fund accounts and scholarship programs. With the help of these generous contributions, the Foundation is able to continue to support the educational activities of the Fraternity such as Cornerstones, our nationally recognized membership education program, Leadership Consultant visits to chapters, primary prevention efforts, and an aggressive expansion policy in the coming years. Your gifts also helped supply over 181 scholarships to worthy Acacians and fund the educational portions of chapter houses.

With the 59th Biennial Conclave and Acacia Leadership Academy right around the corner, now is a great time to support the Foundation if you have not contributed recently.

[Donate online](#) today to support the educational endeavors of the fraternity!

We thank you for supporting the Acacia Fraternity Foundation and again ask you to complete the [online Proxy Vote Form](#) for our upcoming Annual Meeting.

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### Conclave 2016

The 59th Biennial Conclave is just around the corner! It is only fitting that Louisville, Kentucky — The Derby City — will play host to Conclave as the next generation of Acacians "Take the Lead."

Join us for Conclave this summer from July 27th to the 31st. Register online and reserve your hotel room today and come celebrate 112 years of Acacia brotherhood! Read more about this year's Conclave at <http://acacia.org/conclave>. We look forward to seeing you in Louisville!

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### Share your Acacia Story: #BecauseAcacia

The legacy left by our founding fathers is a foundation on which each member places the brick of his experience. Each of us as Acacians helps to build the stories of our fraternity. Share your Acacia story with everyone by posting to social media with the tag **#BecauseAcacia**. Perhaps you met your wife at a fraternity formal or you were presented with a scholarship that enabled you to focus on your studies, **#BecauseAcacia** your college experience changed for the better, and we want to hear about it!

These stories will not only inspire a new generation to "walk the desert," they will share the good works of our fraternity with the world at large.

Contact Benjamin Turconi at [bturconi@acacia.org](mailto:bturconi@acacia.org) for any questions or to share your story without using social media. *A future Triad article may feature your story.*

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

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

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

Let's see what Brother Zarr had to say:

### **1. Why did you join Acacia?**

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

### **2. What has kept you involved?**

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Acacia of today is vastly different from the Acacia that I knew when I attended college. As an organization, we have grown and adapted to today's environment and have focused more attention on developing our Brothers to better prepare them to be engaged within the Fraternity and for life after college. Through Cornerstones, we have developed a systematic approach to the development of the men of the chapters at each stage of their college experience. There is a much greater emphasis on the growth of the individual so that they see how they can make a positive impact as a part of the "group" we call Acacia in their life during college and beyond.

The true value of Acacia is that we are interested in developing the "entire individual" to maximize all of their skills and abilities so that they can lead full and productive lives with dignity and success. They can be secure in the knowledge that the skills we so readily shared with them can in turn, be shared with others to achieve the same results.

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

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

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

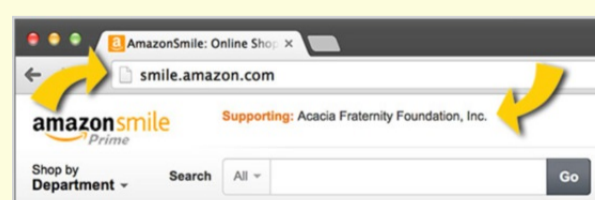
The Foundation can provide the financial resources to help the Fraternity achieve great things, and as the Fraternity achieves these things, greater support will flow back to the Foundation. In this sense, the organization is like a coin, and both sides must exist for the coin to have weight and value.

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

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

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On your first visit to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you will need to select the Acacia Fraternity Foundation as your charitable organization before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make on AmazonSmile will result in a donation.

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Acacia needs your support. [Make a contribution to Acacia](#) [Fraternity today](#). Your gift makes a lasting impact and may be tax-deductible.

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#### Order Acacia Gear



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