

# THE BENCHMARK

February, 2016

CONNECTING UC TRIANGLE ALUMNI AROUND THE WORLD

## Homecoming Float Takes 1<sup>st</sup> Place!



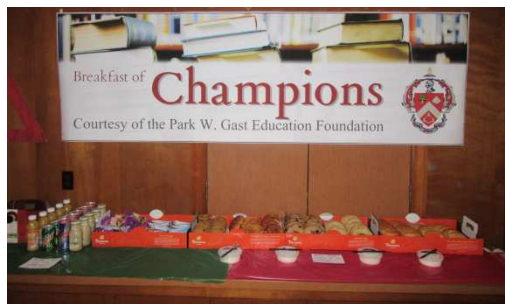
The new Cincinnati Triangle Chapter has been full of firsts, but this was our first year of building a homecoming parade float and it couldn't been more of a success! We partnered with the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and Rally Cats, hosting a variety of social events at our house and float building with these organizations. Competition was fierce with over twenty floats entered into the parade from every fraternity/sorority on campus, and many other organizations. Triangle's float, took first place among Greek life and second place overall! Not bad for our first year! This was quite an impressive feat with little to no experience building floats, but hey - we are engineers, architects, and scientists!



Joe Willie Frees  
Cin '12  
Recruitment Director,  
Active Chapter

## Alumni Serve *Breakfast Of Champions* During Finals Week

To get everyone's day off to a strong start, Alumni set up a wholesome and filling buffet breakfast at the house each morning during finals week. Made possible by generous donations to the Park W. Gast Education foundation, the event was greatly appreciated by all.



## A Message From The Active President

It's incredible how far we've come as a chapter in just a few short years. We've come from a colony of just ten men to a fully re-chartered chapter with a fantastic chapter home and over fifty active members – and yet, there's still plenty of room for growth. The momentum of these recent years has been driven by the need to succeed - the need to attain high enough membership to obtain our charter and to fill our chapter home. Now that these milestones have been reached, the question that remains is: What's next?

As the new chapter President, I'm focusing our efforts on improvements to our members themselves. We'll build better men from the bottom up starting with an overhauled New Member Education process, which will put a heavy emphasis on building brotherhood between pledges and older Brothers from the very start. Additionally, Brothers and pledges of the Cincinnati chapter will benefit from our newfound emphasis on hosting diverse and original events, which will encourage participation and build unique memories that will stand the test of time.

We've done a fantastic job re-establishing Triangle at the University of Cincinnati, and we must certainly celebrate the successes of these past years. However, it is now time for us to change directions and emphasize the growth of our members. As Herb Scobie minn32 said, "In order to have a better world, we must first have a world of better men."



Derek Busdiecker  
Cin '12  
President, Active  
Chapter

## Chapter Plans Additional Philanthropy

Over the course of the next semester we are making steps as a chapter to reemphasize the importance of philanthropy and community service and how it aligns with our values. Our goal is to provide regular opportunities for brothers to volunteer while still keeping things fresh and exciting. In addition to the typical annual events, we will be volunteering at a new organization, First Robotics. First Robotics is an organization that promotes STEM skills to ages K-12 by teaching and holding competitions focused on robotics. At this event we will be helping to guide children on their path towards an exciting and successful profession.

Along with volunteering we will be getting more involved in the Greek community through philanthropy events. We will be continuing to show our support by attending other Greek organizations' events, but we also have plans to hold our first major philanthropic event. This event will increase our presence and image on campus and in the Greek community, but most importantly it will also be raising money for a great cause!



Spencer King  
Cin '14  
Public Relations Director,  
Active Chapter

## Chef Caleb Teaches Brothers To Cook

Last fall Caleb Amstuz began teaching fellow Active Brothers the ins and outs of cooking. Starting with the basics, like how to dice onions and what spices to use, Caleb taught several Brothers different cooking techniques.



The program calls for learning how to cook grains, vegetables, and meats. It is a new addition to member education, complementing the Alumni-Led Member Education program and will continue this Spring.



Dan Nolan  
Cin '14  
Vice President,  
Active Chapter

## “Let’s Have Lunch”

Don’t forget that all Triangle Alumni and Actives are invited to gather for lunch the **third Monday** of each month at noon at the Montgomery Inn Boathouse, 925 Riverside Dr. in Cincinnati. It’s an informal gathering. Everyone orders from the menu, pays their own way, enjoys seeing old friends and making new ones. Please join us!

## Help Wanted

The Alumni Board has way more projects – both underway and planned – than people to help. With only a few hours each month you could make a huge difference! A list of tasks, many of which can be done from home has been posted at [www.uctriangle.org/helpwanted](http://www.uctriangle.org/helpwanted) with instructions on how to contact us to volunteer. Please check it out and consider contributing your time and talent. Here’s an example:

### Assistant Secretary – Mailing List Manager

Work from home to enter address updates from the Post Office and periodically generate mailing lists. Time requirement: about 1 hour per month

## Lost Brothers – Can You Help?

Please help. We have lost touch with several Alumni. If anyone has a “snail mail” or email address for any of the following Brothers, please notify the Benchmark editor at:

[benchmark@uctriangle.org](mailto:benchmark@uctriangle.org) .

Charles Betscher  
David Bowman  
Lee Coburn  
Josiah Evans  
Bradley Hedden  
Charles Hickox  
Robert Lawlace  
Jeffrey Matthews  
Roy Spahr

Thanks in advance for your help! Please remember to notify National or the local Alumni whenever you change addresses.

## 5in5 Campaign Update

Alumni continue to show their generous support by contributing to the 5in5 fundraising campaign.

As of February 1st, exactly half way into the 5 year campaign, the effort has achieved 30% of its \$500,000 goal.

Campaign funds have had a huge impact on the Chapter and the house. Funds helped us get through our start-up year. They have been used for scholarships, training, and various items that support academic success like computer networking equipment and study desks. They have helped buy beds, mattresses and dressers and have helped with many house repairs and improvements.

A heart felt THANK YOU to all contributors! You are changing lives. To become a contributor, visit:

[www.uctriangle.org/5in5](http://www.uctriangle.org/5in5)



## Alumni Panel Discussion Brings Back Great Memories

The Chapter was thrilled to host a small, impromptu reunion, sparked by a visit by San Diego resident Ed Wedbush. The highlight of the evening was a panel discussion led by several of the visiting Alums in which they talked about life as a Triangle both then and now. It was an inspiring session, greatly enjoyed and appreciated by all.



Panel Participants (l to r): Don Cox (cin’52), Ed Wedbush (cin ‘50) Park Gast (cin’49) and Mike Kocheck (cin’54)

## Chapter Continues to Strive For Academic Improvement

The Fall semester saw a drop in the Chapter GPA from a 3.19 last Spring to 3.099. The Chapter was 12<sup>th</sup> among UC Greeks.

This year, there are several new initiatives that the academic program is taking to increase our academic performance. One of these initiatives is to create a system that partners members who are struggling academically with an older Brother who has already taken the same class and can provide assistance with homework and test preparation.

We have also teamed up with Phi Sigma Rho, the social engineering sorority, to host tutoring and study sessions focusing on the core classes that most freshman engineers take: Calculus, Chemistry, Physics, and Biology. Both groups will provide older members to tutor new members and even students that aren’t in either organization. This program should build our relationship with Phi Sigma Rho, improve our academics, and be a recruitment tool all in one!



Nick Stelzer  
Cin ‘14  
Secretary,  
Active Chapter

## Brother Jim Fay Coaches Chapter On Recruiting And More

Jim Fay, is ‘70, has accomplished much. He is an inventor, consultant, and entrepreneur that has lead the Development, Marketing, and Sales course at Leadership Training Weekend for two years. To help the Cincinnati chapter improve recruitment, our local Park W. Gast Education Foundation flew Jim in. Over three days and six workshop sessions, Jim gave the Cincinnati Chapter a crash course in Strategic Planning, Marketing, and Sales. After Jim left, a group of Brothers started a strategic planning committee. They have been leading events for the Chapter to understand who we are, where we want to be, and how we should get there. Jim’s seminar, along with the hard work of the Actives, will result in an improved recruitment and marketing strategy to help continue building the Cincinnati Chapter.



Max Inniger  
Cin ‘13  
Active Chapter