

THE BENCHMARK

January, 2018

CONNECTING UC TRIANGLE ALUMNI AROUND THE WORLD

A Message From The Active President

When I took the time to reflect on the past year, it is hard to believe we accomplished so much in such a short amount of time. Since our return to campus 7 years ago The Cincinnati Chapter of Triangle has been on a steady course towards success. I am proud to say that even after facing many decisions and updates to the goals of the chapter, we are still accelerating that path. Thanks to the constant support and help of our active members and gracious alumni we have accomplished many innovative programs and awards this year.

When considering recruitment, the life blood of fraternity's, we have achieved three major successes. This past spring our pledge class size was top 4 of all IFC fraternities. During that semester we did not just have quantity but also quality, our new members had a GPA (Grade Point Average) which was 0.1 higher than the All Greek Average. The following semester is another attest to the quality men that are joining Triangle. For the first time since our re-founding we have had 100% new member retention, due to ensuring that every new member upheld the values of Triangle.

Another success we have made to ensure the longevity of the chapter and its brotherhood was the state of the Chapter House; the goal was to make our home an elite spot for our members to live. We have done this by organizing and initiating a house improvement program that pairs active members with alumni to complete a task and build a bond of brotherhood. Along with this we provide 2 meals a week for our members along with the grocery essentials our in-house brothers use on daily basis. All of these initiatives have caused house occupancy to rise.

Last but not least is the improvement that I am most proud of. After reviewing the grades of the active chapter for the Fall of 2017, you can find Triangle Fraternity as the fraternity with the #1 highest GPA at the University of Cincinnati. This accomplishment came after a significant improvement over the past year showing that Triangle is continuing to produce the highest quality Engineers, Architects and Scientists. Much of the motivation for success has come from the newly improved scholarship program sponsored by the Park W. Gast Jr. Education Foundation, which is driving our members towards obtaining A's.

As my time as president has come to a close, I could not be more proud of the state of our chapter and the direction it is headed. If you have any interest in helping out in any of the areas I mentioned please reach out the Cincinnati Chapter's Alumni Board.



Spencer King
Cin '14
President, Active Chapter

PWG Awards First 4.0 Gold Medallion

At the fall Academic Awards Banquet, the Park W Gast Education Foundation was proud to award Matt Steinkirchner the first gold 4.0 medallion in recognition of his Spring 2016 straight A report card. Matt also received a scholarship check for \$425. In total, \$8,000 was awarded to 31 Actives. Congratulations to Matt...and kudos for leading the way.



Matt receiving his awards



Coveted 4.0 gold medallion

Triangle Earns Top Fraternity GPA

For many members of the active chapter, the Fall 2017 semester was stressful and work intensive. All of the hard work paid when it was announced that the UC Triangle chapter averaged a 3.41 GPA, the **highest among fraternities at UC**. The GPA ranked third among Greek life as a whole. The 3.41 average is great improvement from the Spring 2017 average, a 3.2.

During the most recent executive board retreat, the past and new eboard members discussed why the GPA had improved so much. While much of the success comes down to individuals studying hard to improve their own GPAs, the eboard members identified key factors that helped the chapter as a whole. Some factors are the feasible things the chapter does to assist members. Things like test banks, study table, and members helping other members with course material. Another overlooked factor is the chapter's culture, which puts a high emphasis on academics. The last big factor is the new scholarship program. The program awards members \$25 per credit hour for every class in which the student earns an A. We believe this program incentivizes members to work harder for a higher GPA. The chapter is celebrating the success and will continue to improve academic resources.



Jacob Briede
Cin '15
Risk Manager, Active Chapter

Another Big Homecoming Success



The Delta Phi Lambda/Triangle float with Queen Bearcat

This past fall, the Cincinnati Chapter of Triangle once again participated in UC's Homecoming celebration. We partnered with the women of Delta Phi Lambda for a week full of socialization and float building. This theme for this year's Homecoming was "The Queen City," in honor of the beautiful city that we call home. Our float, which is pictured above, included a city skyline, the names of both organizations, the theme, and "Beat SMU," who were the Bearcats' opponent for the game. We also had one of our members dress up as the 'Queen' Bearcat using a homemade Bearcat head, a crown, and a pomped dress of sorts. We had a lot of fun and are looking forward to next year's Homecoming, where we will be partnering with the women of Phi Sigma Rho and the men of Phi Delta Theta.



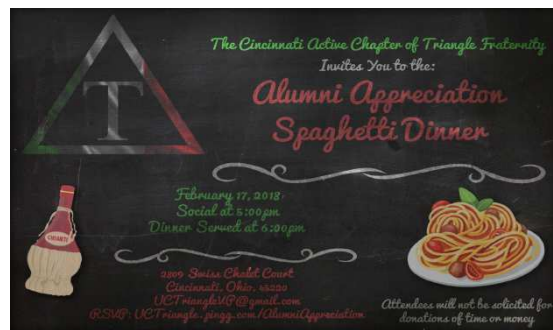
Nick Olsin
Cin '15
Social Director, Active Chapter

Please Join Us!

The Spring semester is packed with activities and the Active Chapter is hoping for great Alumni participation. Please plan to join us for as many of the events below as possible

Saturday, February 17th – Alumni Appreciation Dinner

Five years ago, the Actives hosted a Spaghetti Dinner to honor Alumni and thank you for helping us re-found our chapter. A lot has happened since then, and the Actives decided that a second Spaghetti Dinner and Alumni Appreciation Night was long overdue. The event will be held at our Chapter house and be a chance for Alumni to tour the house, meet the actives, see what we have been doing recently, and reminisce. Of course, we will provide only the finest spaghetti dinner! We will not be soliciting donations of time or money, we simply want you to share an evening with us, and let us say “thanks”. We hope lots of you will attend.



Event invitation created by Nick Poole



Previous work session and Beef & Beans

Saturday, March 3rd - Work Session and Beef & Beans

Spring cleaning time is right around the corner and the Active Chapter is asking Alumni to participate in a work session on March 3rd to help spruce up the house. As in the past, each Alum will be teamed with an Active to tackle a project. Alumni have told us that they have found these events to be both rewarding and enjoyable, and we plan to continue that tradition. We look forward to seeing as many Alumni as possible.

Following the work session, we will hold our annual Beef & Beans Challenge. This event is a competition between the brothers and the most recent pledge class to see who can get the highest combined GPA the previous fall. The winners of the competition are awarded with a nice steak dinner and the losers eat hotdogs and baked beans with a plastic spork. In addition, the Park W. Gast Jr Education Foundation will be distributing scholarships based on the Fall 2017 grades. This a fun and greatly appreciated event, and we would love the Alumni that participate in the work session to stick around and celebrate with us.

Sunday, April 15th - Founder's Day

We will be holding our annual Founder's Day celebration on April 15th. We will start with a reception at the house, invite those interested to join us for a guided tour of campus highlighting recent changes and improvements, then gather for brunch, presentations and awards in the newly remodeled Nippert Stadium Press Lounge. We will begin in the late morning and conclude early in the afternoon. Please mark your calendar and plan to celebrate 111th anniversary of Triangle's founding with us.



Founder's Day brunch 2017

Making the House A Great Place to Live

It was a great year for the chapter house at the University of Cincinnati.



A new front door was the biggest project of the year

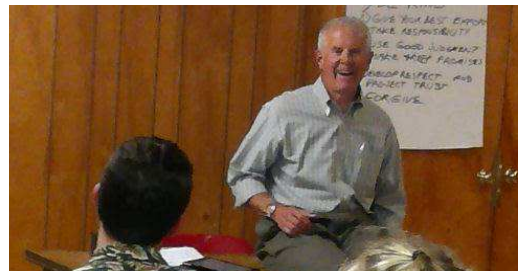
We started by organizing projects by priority and feasibility so that tasks can be easily understood and delegated to teams of actives and alumni. Pairing an Active member and an Alumnus has been a fantastic strategy for making the house a better place to live. This method is beneficial on many levels from helping to build closer relationships between the actives and alumni through teamwork and camaraderie, to dividing and conquering house repairs to see improvements in a timely manner, to seeing actives take more pride in their chapter home. Some major improvements completed this year include installing a new front door, resealing the house's parking lot, enhancing indoor and outdoor lighting for better living conditions and safety, replacement of smoke detectors for improved fire safety, and many others! We look forward to more progress in 2018!



Austin Porter
Cin '15
House Manager, Active Chapter

L.E.A.P Education Sessions Very Helpful

Triangle offers many avenues of self-improvement. At the request of the Active Chapter, Alumni have been organizing educational sessions to complement what is learned in the classroom. We call this the Lifeskills Education Alternative Program – LEAP. Sessions are presented by an Alum or an associate of an Alum in an area of expertise or special interest.



These sessions are easily some of the best times I've had with my brothers. They can be about anything, but the ones about personal finance and job interview preparation have really stood out, and helped me for my future in ways that are still compounding. With the help of these sessions I've managed to graduate with a job, and have a budget planned to allow me to pay off all of my student loans within 6.5 years

We are always looking for Alumni with a skill or interest to share – please contact any of us (Active or Alum) if you have an idea and want to contribute.



Chris Carroll
Cin '14
Secretary, Active Chapter