

THE BENCHMARK

CONNECTING UC TRIANGLE ALUMNI
AUGUST 2023



UC Triangle Celebrates 100th Anniversary at Chapter House with Actives and Alumni

Centennial Celebration Success!

Last fall, UC Triangle held its Centennial Celebration on October 8, 2022. The University of Cincinnati Chapter of Triangle Fraternity was installed on Saturday, August 6, 1921. Because of the Global COVID-19 Pandemic, we could not gather to celebrate in 2021; nevertheless, the 2022 event was a momentous occasion featuring a day full of activities, bringing together Actives and Alumni, young and old. The celebration was held at the Chapter House and featured a variety of activities and events.

The festivities began as the Actives participated in UC's Homecoming Parade, "Down the Drive," for which the Actives built and entered a Homecoming float with Phi Sigma Rho Sorority. The House opened to Alumni at 1:30 PM with a reception, a memories table, and a photographer. Alumni brought memorabilia, stories, and photos for the Centennial Time Capsule, which will be opened on UC Triangle's Sesquicentennial, August 6, 2071!

Throughout the afternoon, Brothers had the opportunity to reconnect with old friends, network with other Alumni, and meet current members. The day's highlight was a "watch party" and barbecue dinner as the UC Bearcats defeated the South Florida Bulls, 28-24!

Overall, the Centennial Celebration was a resounding success, bringing together generations of fraternity members to celebrate UC Triangle's rich history and promising future. Congratulations to the Fraternity on this milestone achievement! A special thanks to Alumni Engagement Committee members Brother Jake Fedders (cin15), Brother Robert Folz (pur81), and Brother Alan Shirley (pur80), who also photographed the event, for their hard work in making the event possible!

Alumni Board President's Report: Call for New Board Members – We Need Your Help!

As we enter the second half of 2023, there are big changes on the horizon for your Alumni Board: the three oldest, and longest-serving Board members will "retire" from the Board at year end (including me, the current Board President).

We are convinced that this transition - which has been in the works for two years – is in the best interest of the Board and the Chapter. Retiring Board members have been serving for between 12 and 40(!) years, and although experience has value, so do fresh, new ideas and perspectives. We believe a new team of leaders will foster innovation and strengthen the connection with Actives...and help the organization flourish.

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Park W. Gast Jr. Education Foundation - In Memory of Brother John McCall and his wife Barbara

The true extent of the reach of a scholarship can be difficult to measure.

Brother John McCall passed away on March 3, 2021 and at the time, his family asked that in lieu of flowers, that memorial contributions be made in his honor to the Park W. Gast, Jr. Education Foundation. Sadly, the Foundation was recently notified that Barbara McCall, John's wife, passed away on June 3, 2023. The McCall family once again asked that memorial contributions be made to the Park W. Gast, Jr. Education Foundation in honor of both John and Barbara.

At the time of the notification, John and Barbara's daughter Jean shared the special reach of a scholarship her father received. Jean stated that her father received an Armco Steel Scholarship and without the scholarship, her dad would have worked in the steel mill and never met her mother. Jean further noted that her parents had a good life because of the educational opportunities that prepared them and that it was important to her father to contribute to the same opportunity for other young people. It is the hope of the McCall family that in some small way the donations made to

the Park W. Gast, Jr. Education Foundation in memory of John and Barbara will help other persons widen their horizons and meet the love of their life.

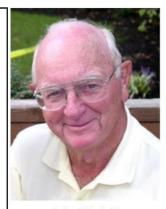
On behalf of the Cincinnati Chapter of Triangle Fraternity and the Park W. Gast, Jr. Education Foundation, we wish the best for the McCall family in their time of mourning and will cherish the story of the unique circumstances that aligned in order for John and Barbara to meet and spend their lifelong journey together.

To support the Park W. Gast, Jr. Education Foundation, you may donate by credit card or bank check. Use the following secure website link for credit cards and select the PWG option: https://secure.qgiv.com/for/ccotfi

Or mail bank checks to:

Park W. Gast Jr. Education Foundation PO Box 42232 Cincinnati, OH 45242-0232

For donations in memory of John and Barbara, please indicate in the comments section of the Qgiv online form or the memo line of the check.



John McCall



Barbara McCall

Active Leadership Team Updates

To improve academic standing, we assigned mentors to Brothers who are struggling in classes and organized weekly study hours and updated our Google Drive to store study materials from prior semesters. Our Chapter GPA is now a 3.329!

We have also updated the alumni section of our Chapter website with a contact form which allows better connection between Alumni and Actives. During Spring, we hosted several successful recruiting events and initiated 5 new Brothers, who have already completed House improvement projects.

And we donated more than 350 hour of community service and raised \$550 for FIRST Robotics and Engineers Without Borders. We are excited for Fall recruitment and look forward to the next semester with combined events for both Actives and Alumni!



Active Brothers at summit of scenic hiking trail during camping trip to Lago Linda in Red River Gorge, KY



Active Brothers volunteer for Kentucky Special Olympics "Polar Plunge" fundraiser

Gary Bodnar, President gbodnar@colorsavvy.com

John Phillips, Secretary JHP@PhillipsLawFirm.com

Robert Folz, Treasurer RobertFolz@aol.com

Jake Fedders, Chair **Alumni Engagement** jafedders@gmail.com

Park W. Gast, Jr Foundation Brian Jansen, President Brian.Jansen@Woolpert.com

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Alumni Board President's Report

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You can help! I am privileged to know many Alumni who could step in and instantly become extraordinary Alumni Board officers. If that is you, there has never been a better time to step up and serve as the President, Secretary or Treasurer as none of these highly coveted roles has been snapped up yet. If that's not you, we fortunately also have several current Board members ready to lead, but just like when we were Actives, they will be most effective if they are surrounded by smart capable, people (like you) who are willing to help.

Serving is both easy and enjoyable. Working side-by-side with Brothers - like we did when we were Actives - is still just as fun and rewarding. Everyone can focus on activities of most interest to them because our efforts are organized into committees. The time and travel requirements have been greatly reduced as most of our Board meetings are via Zoom videoconference, which we try to limit to about one hour every other month (Individual Committees generally meet every month). The bottom line: ANYONE can make a meaningful contribution to the Board, regardless of how busy they are with work and family. All it takes is the genuine desire to do so.

-Gary Bodnar President, Alumni Board



It is common knowledge among Greek organizations that the strength and success of a Chapter is directly correlated to the strength and effectiveness of the Alumni supporting that Chapter. We have a capable Chapter of excellent Men, who Triangle can make even better. They deserve to grow as much from their Triangle experience as we did when we were Actives. Please contribute some of your time and talents to help make that possible.

We will be assembling a slate of Board members in October for the election that will take place at our annual meeting in November. Now is the time to learn more, and perhaps attend the next scheduled Board meeting on September 7th. If you are willing to "give back", please contact any Board member or send me an email at gbodnar@colorsavvy.com so we can arrange to chat. I will reply within 24 hours. Thank you in advance for your continued support!



Stay Connected

Chapter Website:

UCTriangle.org

Alumni-Active Networking

Email: uctrianglesec@gmail.com

Donate:

https://secure.qgiv.com/for/ccotfi/

Upcoming Events

Sept. 7, 2023

- Alumni Board Meeting
- Attend and consider joining Board!
- email Gary Bodnar for details

Sept. 9, 2023

- Active Resume/Interview Workshop
- Alumni volunteers needed

Oct. 14, 2023

- Homecoming
- Save the date; details to follow

Nov. 2, 2023

UC Triangle Alum Annual Board Mtg.



Triangle Fraternity, University of Cincinnati Chapter 2809 Swiss Chalet Ct.
Cincinnati, OH 45220

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Thank you to all of the alumni who volunteered at the July work session! You made a huge, positive impact on the appearance and utility of the house. It was a great day of working, catching up, eating burgers, and watching sumo wrestling.



Spring 2023 Initiation Celebration



Alumni Board and Active Leadership Dinner - January 2023