



## In Search of Scholarship Excellence

By Jeff Oboy, '04, Undergraduate Vice President

In order to enhance the opportunities available to each member, the men of Triangle Fraternity have created a system in which grades can be improved. Our plans are best outlined in three main categories:

- The availability and use of a quality study environment
- Programs for grade improvement, and
- The encouragement to get help from one's peers.

To maintain a quality study environment, Triangle has provided a study area with an atmosphere similar to one that would be found in a library. The area, located behind the living room, is separated from the rest of the house by a locked door to keep disturbances at a minimum. The area offers access to computers and a printer for those who may not have access to a computer of their own. Lecture notes from previous classes can be found, along with ample desk space for members to spread out and concentrate on their work. Also in the study area are academic awards, newspaper articles, and plaques to remind members of the importance of their scholastic efforts. Just this year, Triangle Fraternity refurbished another room in the study area. It is slightly distanced from the main study area to provide a comfortable environment for group work and projects, and provides Internet connectivity to ensure students ability to research or work on projects online. The study area offers quiet hours at all times.

Designated quiet hours in the rest of the house are enforced only during finals week. Members of the fraternity are encouraged to keep an open and considerate relationship with one another, and inform someone if an action is impeding their ability to study. Should a brother need more privacy, the house is conveniently located across the street from campus buildings that are open for use during all times of the day or night.

Triangle has initiated many programs for grade improvement. Each semester, the chapter receives the scholastic indexes of each of its members. The scholarship committee uses these numbers to keep track of the academic progress of individual brothers. Any brother whose semester grade or overall grade point average falls below a 2.5 is required to attend mandatory study tables.

Study tables are supervised study sessions conducted by a member of the Scholarship Committee. The amount of time required is dependent on the severity of the brother's situation, requiring more hours of study time the farther a brother has fallen below a 2.3.



In addition to mandatory study tables, struggling brothers are required to meet with a scholarship chair to discuss time management. A copy of the struggling brother's schedule is to be brought to these meetings, and the empty spaces of the schedule are filled in with periods to study, eat, and participate in extracurricular activities. Study periods are encouraged to be placed right after classes or during periods of free time between classes. This helps to provide a plan for improving one's grades and time management skills.

Each semester Triangle contemplates its house goals and directions for the following semesters. Recently, Triangle Fraternity set a house goal to have an overall house GPA of 3.0 or higher. The brothers have planned rewards for the house for when it achieves this goal to encourage its pursuit.

To encourage hard work and effort in studies, every semester a scholarship dinner rewards the highest semester GPA for the age class and also an award for the most improved GPA for each class. Each award winner receives a twenty dollar gift and their name engraved on a plaque listing previous winners. These plaques are hung in the living room for future winners to see.

Triangle recently started to make available lists of difficult classes and the names of brothers who either have already taken each class, or are currently enrolled. This makes locating an individual with prior knowledge of the subject much simpler, and encourages brothers to find help when problems arise. Also, times for university review sessions are made available for the more difficult classes, as well as open hours for the various libraries on campus throughout the year.



"Triangle Fraternity continues to stress its commitment to academic excellence, and constantly looks for ways to improve each brother's success scholastically. Triangle will continue to update its goals, policies, and programs to best ensure opportunity and success for its members." - Jeff Oboy

## 2005 National Convention

By: Andrew Hampton, '05, Social Director

The biennial National Convention was held July 28 – 30 this year in Lisle, IL, which is located just outside of Chicago. Brother Jeff Oboy, '04, and I had the pleasure to attend along with Alumni representative Rick Overman, '65. The Convention was a great opportunity to network with Triangles across the country as well as with Alumni from Purdue.



The weekend consisted of several legislative sessions separated by fun activities with the ladies of Phi Sigma Rho, the national engineering sorority that originated at Purdue. Phi Sigma Rho scheduled their convention in conjunction with Triangle to take advantage of group rates and help provide an enjoyable social atmosphere for both groups.

During the legislation sessions we were able to pass some Constitution and Bylaw amendments that will allow the fraternity to adhere to the newly adopted National Inter-fraternity Conference standards. They included defining minimum grade standards for pledging and for overall chapter GPA, as well as supporting expansion of other fraternities onto campuses where Triangle chapters exist.

Another major resolution that was passed calls for National Council to allow the Approved Courses Advisor latitude in approving students in non-standard courses for membership. The increasing complexity of course content and naming on some campuses was preventing recruitment in largely scientific/technical majors when existing strict definitions are applied.

A highlight of the Convention was the unveiling of the Triangle Wall of Fame plaque presented to Purdue Brother Dr. Bill Young, '64. A last-minute schedule change prevented Brother Young from being there to personally accept the award, but his Purdue brothers celebrated none the less.

Outside of the business area of the National Convention, we also had plenty of time to socialize with brothers from across the US. I personally had a great time meeting some very distinguished Alumni and their families. I strongly encourage anyone that is interested to try to attend the next National Convention to be held in Indianapolis in 2007, the year of Triangle's centennial. It promises to be an incredible experience and I hope that I see you there!



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Undergraduate Editor ..... John Berlakovich, '05  
Alumni Editor ..... Rick Overman, '65

We share address changes with the Triangle National Office.

## President's Corner

The House seems to be "on-board" this year. The brothers have a genuine care for the direction in which the house is going. The atmosphere in the house is very open. I see the brothers going to class together, relaxing in rooms besides their own, and going to the Co-Rec together. I feel the brotherhood in the house is as strong as ever. People are listening to each other's opinions at chapter meetings, and more brothers are coming forward to the whole house with new ideas to improve our fraternity.

Our focus this year revolves around Rush and Academics. These are the areas that need the most improvement, and we've done a great job so far with working towards a higher house GPA and a large pledge class.

The BOD members have really all been doing a fantastic job. Not only is each doing their job quite well, but every member is helping other aspects of the house. Our BOD brainstorms together and gets opinions from one another, which is a testament to their ability to work together as one Board as opposed to eleven men doing a job on their own.

My goal in this next year will be to create more leadership opportunities for the brothers in and out of the house, and to encourage our younger members to step up into the leadership positions of the House and in other organizations that they are a part of.

In FS&C,

Dan Campbell '03, Chapter President

### Undergraduate Board of Directors

|                 |                    |  |
|-----------------|--------------------|--|
| President       | Dan Campbell '03   | <a href="mailto:dkcampbe@purdue.edu">dkcampbe@purdue.edu</a>   |
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|                |                      |  |
|----------------|----------------------|--|
| President      | Rick Rezek, '78      | <a href="mailto:rrezek@btlaw.com">rrezek@btlaw.com</a>       |
| Vice President | Rick Overman, '65    | <a href="mailto:rickloman@aol.com">rickloman@aol.com</a>     |
| Secretary      | Dr. Mark Bowman, '71 | <a href="mailto:bowmanmd@purdue.edu">bowmanmd@purdue.edu</a> |
| Treasurer      | Jim Marshall, '65    | <a href="mailto:jrm@purdue.edu">jrm@purdue.edu</a>           |

Website: [www.Purduetriangle.org](http://www.Purduetriangle.org)



## CHAPTER HOUSE IMPROVEMENTS

By Brian Larson '04, Operations Director

The house saw a couple of necessary improvements this summer. A security system was installed to minimize the risk of theft or damage during periods when the house is unoccupied. Also, the fire alarm system was quickly repaired after suffering damage from a small water leak. Finally, the electrical system was checked to ensure that all the wiring was still in good condition. All of these improvements have made the house a much safer place to live.

We are currently planning the house improvement projects for this year. A major goal of the chapter is to bring heating and air conditioning to our sleeping quarters, the rack room. While some of our alumni might have fond memories of frigid nights under layers of electric blankets, the current chapter feels like it is time for a change. In fact, in a recent discussion with the Alumni Board about physical structure changes that would help recruitment efforts, climate control in the rack room was judged the most important issue.

The Parents' Club has already pledged \$2000 toward this project. The Alumni Board is in the process of receiving bids and studying options for location of the air handling equipment. With many of Purdue's dormitories, other fraternities, and area apartment buildings being equipped with air conditioning, this will help Triangle better compete as a housing option. We are looking forward to sleeping in our climate-controlled rack room as early as the spring of 2006.

### PIANO IN NEED OF RESTORATION

By Brian Larson '04, Operations Director

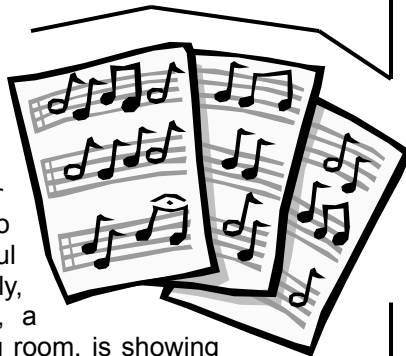
Many of you remember playing or listening to someone play our beautiful grand piano. Unfortunately, our beautiful grand piano, a timeless fixture in our living room, is showing its age and is in need of a restoration. Northside Music, which has taken care of the piano for years, examined the piano last spring and determined that the soundboard and strings have worn out over time.

Our piano is a Mason and Hamlin 6'-2" traditional grand piano. The serial number on the piano corresponds to a manufacture date of 1907, most likely making the piano older than the Purdue Chapter. Mason and Hamlin was, and still is, considered America's top piano maker. Their pianos from the beginning part of the century are considered by some to be better than highly touted Steinways. A new Mason and Hamlin piano, same model, would cost \$54,350; used models, including some from the early 1900's, are valued between \$30,000 and \$60,000.

Our 1907  
Mason and Hamlin  
Grand Piano



A full restoration, including case refinishing, soundboard restoration, full string replacement, necessary adjustments and a matching bench, pulls a price tag of \$6,720, which is currently outside the budget of either the house or the Alumni Board. However, because of the age and value, both monetary and sentimental, of the piano, we feel restoring it is worthwhile. Furthermore, the last restoration of the piano was over 25 years ago, and it is likely that this restoration would last us longer than that. According to Northside Music, "This piano is well worthy of further restoration as it was one of the best pianos ever made." Our current plan is to begin incorporating money from our budget into the restoration, as well as gaining contributions from our alumni and Parents' Club. Any help or input on the restoration would greatly be appreciated. Contact me at [btlarson@purdue.edu](mailto:btlarson@purdue.edu).



### THE BOTTOM LINE

By Tom Speca '05, Financial Director

So far this has been a great start to what should be a good year at Triangle. Rush is going well, with new people showing up for every event, social events with other Fraternities and Sororities are happening more than in the recent past, and the overall attitude of the house is positive and ready for a year of fun and improvement.

Although all these things are going well, we do have a lower number of people living in the house this year which has brought some challenges to our budget. The lower numbers and high gas prices have had an effect on our budget and are forcing us to have to watch what we spend. Trying to keep an eye on the budget and spend money wisely will bring us to realize how important it is to be successful in our rush. That will enable us to keep a large member base in order to keep our house financially stable and our traditions running for a long time to come.



**Send Us Your News!**  
**[TCNWS@aol.com](mailto:TCNWS@aol.com)**



**Congratulations to Purdue Alumnus**  
**Dr. William D. (Bill) Young, '64**  
**Upon his election to the Triangle Fraternity Wall of Fame**

Triangle Fraternity  
2920 South Lafayette  
Bloomington, IN 47402-3437



## Moving In...

*By John Berlakovich '05, Undergraduate Editor*

Moving into Triangle has been a quite an experience. I had worried that being here would distract me from classes and work, but it has been quite the opposite. I can honestly say that I haven't been as far ahead in my classes, or as dedicated to academic success as I am right now. It isn't the academics that have made this year memorable for me, or even the social events. It has been the people.

When I began pledging in the fall of last year, I was convinced that I would never find friends that I would be as close to as my high school friends. After everything the house has done for me, I have found that to be totally untrue. I feel like I have a family that grows larger with each alumnus that I meet and each person that decides to pledge. Even in my short time living in the house this year, I feel closer with all the Brothers. There is always someone to help you with your homework, and always someone to sit and watch a football game with you.

Before college, I had never considered joining a fraternity. All I knew was the "frat" stereotype -- a 24/7 party with no possibility of graduating. I arrived at Purdue and found out that wasn't the truth. Triangle has a perfect balance of academics and social life for me, and I am grateful to be here.

When I was rushing Triangle, one of the brothers asked me why I wanted to become a pledge. I told him that of all the places I had been, Triangle felt like home -- a place that wanted me and that I wanted to be a part of. That is truer now than it has ever been.

***John Berlakovich is a new member of Triangle who moved into the House this fall. Welcome, John!***

## Chapter Eternal



**'30 Brother Paul W. Emler** entered Chapter Eternal on January 17, 2005. A native of Coshocton County, OH, he graduated from Purdue in Electrical Engineering in 1931. In addition to Triangle, his Purdue affiliations included Tau Beta Pi and Eta Kappa Nu. After graduation, he went to work for Ohio Power Company and was subsequently transferred to the parent company in New York in 1948. He retired in 1975 as Senior Vice President of Commercial Accounts for American Electric Power Service Corp. in New York City.

He was a leader in the United Methodist Church in every town in which he lived, which included leading the Building Committee for a new sanctuary at the church in Chatham, NJ. He was also a long-time member of the Kiwanis Club and was active in many other community activities as well.

Brother Emler is survived by his wife of 71 years, Mary E. (Miskimen) Emler of Winston-Salem NC, two sons, Paul Jr. of Richland WA, and John Michael of Hingham MA, and one daughter, Sarah Straub of Malibu CA.

Our sympathy and thanks go to his wife, Mary, who sent us a copy of the obituary.

**This is your issue of the Purdue Triangle Newsletter. Parents, your son's issue is sent to his home address until graduation so you will be aware of happenings at the Chapter House. We hope you enjoy it!**