



# Transit Club News

Volume 09, No. 1

Purdue Chapter of Triangle Fraternity

Fall 2009

## Chapter Plans Centennial Celebration


The Purdue Chapter of Triangle Fraternity is officially 100 years old this year! The undergraduate Chapter has planned a celebration to be held on the day of Purdue's Homecoming, October 3, 2009.

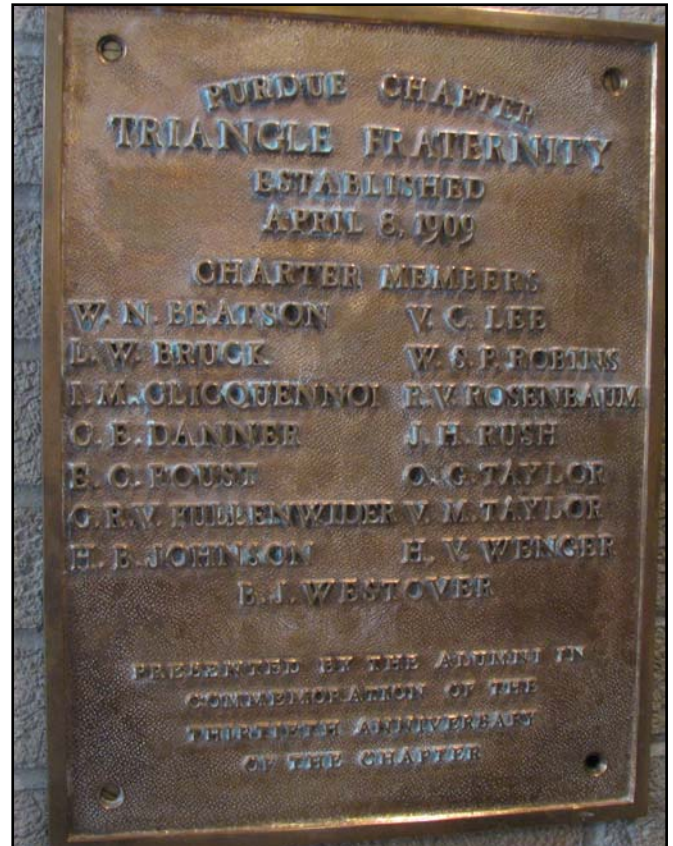
A hog roast banquet will be held at the chapter house after the Northwestern game on that day. Dinner will be served at about 5:00 p.m. A guest speaker is planned, along with a presentation by the Triangle National Office of the Onizuka Outstanding Alumnus Award to Brother Ted Rappaport, *pur80*.

Undergraduate Brothers **Stephen Kelley**, *pur07*, and **John Berlakovich**, *pur08*, sent an invitation to all Triangle Alumni earlier this summer, asking for RSVP's and a \$20 per person donation to cover the cost of food. They are also accepting Centennial donations to cover the cost of a brass plaque to be installed in the House entry way commemorating our 100 years as a chapter.

Time is getting short, so to make last minute reservations please call Brother Kelley at 317-828-7690 or e-mail him at [skelley@purdue.edu](mailto:skelley@purdue.edu). Payment should be sent to:

Triangle Fraternity Centennial Officer  
103 University Street  
West Lafayette, IN 47906


You may inquire about game day tickets by calling the stadium ticket office at 800-497-7678. **Boiler Up!** 



The Founders' Plaque located inside the front door of the Chapter House shows the date the Chapter was established – April 8, 1909. Quick, how many of the founders can you name without looking at the list?

## Chapter Room Crest Repaired

You may remember that a while back we reported in this newsletter that the helmet had been removed from the large wooden crest that hangs in the Chapter Room at the House. The crest had been custom made and donated by a pledge class that was initiated in 1961. The part was apparently removed as a prank by someone from outside the house. After waiting a while to see if someone would own up to removing the piece (which didn't happen) we wondered if any of our alumni would be willing to help get the part remade.

The first responder was **Brother Ted Tarr**, *pur58*, an experienced wood carver who offered to remake the missing piece. With the help of then undergraduate president Brian Larson, *pur04*, drawings were prepared and sent. Before long, a beautiful rendition of the helmet arrived and was quickly installed. Thanks, Brother Tarr, for your amazing work! 



Above left, the repaired Chapter Room crest. Above right, Brother Ted Tarr, *pur58*, holds his rendition of the crest helmet.

### Triangle Improves House Safety by Installing a Whole-House Sprinkler System

Universities and insurance companies continually work to increase safety requirements for student housing, and for good reason. The Alumni Board of our Purdue chapter determined that it was just a matter of time until the requirement to have an automatic sprinkler system in our Chapter House would be in place. When the Triangle Education Foundation began offering grants to be used by chapters in installing such systems, it was decided that Purdue should be one of the first chapters to take advantage of the available funds.

A company was hired to do the installation and, while students were gone for the summer in 2008, the work was done. Our property manager, Dick Cypherd of Dick's Property Management, quarterbacked the installation. First, the old (and no longer used) 9000 gal. fuel oil tank was removed from the alley so that a new 4" water line could be brought along the side of the House from the city main under University Street. Excavation for the new line then took place. That excavation revealed part of an old basement still under the alley that caused some extra expense to fill the hole.

Piping was installed in all areas of the house. In the study rooms, metal soffits were installed along the inside walls to hide the pipes. Sprinkler heads protrude from those soffits. In other areas of the house such as the living room and chapter room, the ceiling tiles were removed and the pipes embedded in the ceilings. New ceiling tiles were then installed. A central monitoring system was installed. That system automatically notifies the fire department if a sprinkler is activated in the House.

The first test of the notification system came during winter break when the newly installed pipes in the ceiling above the upstairs conference room froze and burst during extremely cold winter weather. The leaking pipes caused the fire department to be automatically notified, and they in turn notified our property manager. The water was turned off in fairly short order, but not until it had caused considerable water damage. Our property management company quickly called in disaster clean-up services to limit the damage to the house. The damage was covered by insurance, and the sprinkler installation company has replaced the broken pipes and properly insulated the problem area. The cleanup and repair of the water damage is now mostly complete.

The overall cost of the sprinkler system was \$200K. Funds from the Triangle Education Foundation could be applied to the cost for the study areas of the house based on square footage, and \$48K was approved. The balance of the project cost was financed through a \$150K loan from the Triangle Building Loan Fund, along with some money added from cash on hand.



### Chapter to Use Brotherhood Criteria

The Undergraduate Chapter is currently using a recruitment plan developed by Matt Mattson of Phired Up Productions and adapted and taught by Brother Leo Glass, *neb03*, of the Triangle National Office. The plan centers around recruiting members by developing meaningful relationships (i.e., making friends) with prospective members in a values-based approach before extending a bid.

A part of the approach includes telling rushees up front what the values of the fraternity are and what is expected of an

active Brother. This helps their understanding of what we are about and, just as importantly, what we are not. This brings the need for a set of written, objective criteria that brothers are expected to adhere to.

The Undergraduate Board of Directors (BOD) took on the task of developing the written list. Based directly on the Code of Ethics, the list puts in writing what has often been handed down for years only by word of mouth. It adds objective criteria to be measured and establishes a minimum composite score that each member is expected to meet. The house officers have committed to make available the records that will enable evaluations, noting that most of the data is already available.

The Alumni Board has reviewed the criteria and is supportive of the effort. A review board with undergraduate and alumni members is being formed. The review board will interact directly with brothers whose objective scores do not meet the minimum. Although it sounds harsh, the criteria are being set at very reasonable levels and are meant to be constructive and not punitive. For instance, Brothers would receive an acceptable rating for their GPA if they maintain at least a 2.3. They will receive extra points for having a GPA of 3.1 or more. There are about 9 criteria being set up for the evaluation.

The recruitment of new members who will be successful in their college careers depends in large part on having them recruited by successful brothers who understand and demonstrate their fraternal ideals.



### Undergraduate Board of Directors Fall 2009

		e-mail
President	Steve Murphy '07	<a href="mailto:murphysj@purdue.edu">murphysj@purdue.edu</a>
Vice President	John Rogers '07	<a href="mailto:rogersjc@purdue.edu">rogersjc@purdue.edu</a>
Exec Secretary	Stephen Kelley '07	<a href="mailto:sdkelley@purdue.edu">sdkelley@purdue.edu</a>
Financial	Ben Goldman '07	<a href="mailto:bgoldman@purdue.edu">bgoldman@purdue.edu</a>
Membership	Greg Moss '07	<a href="mailto:gamos@purdue.edu">gamos@purdue.edu</a>
Operations	Matt Osborn '09	<a href="mailto:madosborn@purdue.edu">mdosborn@purdue.edu</a>
Operations	Zach Shelton '09	<a href="mailto:zshelton@purdue.edu">zshelton@purdue.edu</a>
Social	Edward Lugo '07	<a href="mailto:elugo@purdue.edu">elugo@purdue.edu</a>
Social	Chris Peck '07	<a href="mailto:cwpeck@purdue.edu">cwpeck@purdue.edu</a>
Risk Manager	Jared Parris '09	<a href="mailto:jparris@purdue.edu">jparris@purdue.edu</a>
Rush Chair	Chris Tebow '08	<a href="mailto:ctebow@purdue.edu">ctebow@purdue.edu</a>

### Alumni Board Officers 2009-2010

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:jrmarshall27@comcast.net">jrmarshall27@comcast.net</a>
At large	Brian Jarman '01	<a href="mailto:brian.jarman@btlaw.com">brian.jarman@btlaw.com</a>

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

**Transit Club News** is a publication of the Purdue Chapter of Triangle Fraternity. It is distributed to alumni and undergraduate members, parents, and friends at no charge. News items, photographs of interest, and changes of address should be sent to:

Purdue Chapter of Triangle Fraternity  
c/o Fraternity Management, Inc.  
3427 Woodhaven Trail  
Kokomo, IN 46902

You may e-mail us at: [TCNWS@aol.com](mailto:TCNWS@aol.com)

Undergraduate Editor..... Stephen Kelley, '07  
Alumni Editor.....Rick Overman, '65

We share address changes with the Triangle National Office.

## Alumni Notes



'62 Brother **Kenneth Cook** received the Crown Circle Award for leadership and distinguished service in aviation and spece education. He has served for 4 years as the president of the National Coalition of Aviation Education.

'64 Brother **Ron Yates** retired from Procter & Gamble Co. in Cincinnati after 40 years of service. He now makes his home in Greensboro, GA.

'65 Brother **Ed Niemann** retired from Nova Chemicals, Inc., Monaca, PA, in December 2007. He and wife Ann reside in Beaver, PA.

'65 Brother **Rick Overman** retired from Delphi Corporation in October 2007. After building and moving to their dream retirement home on a lake in northern Indiana, he and wife Toni now reside in North Webster.

'75 Brother **Rick Pizarek** was promoted in 2007 to General Manager of Asia Operations for Affinia Group, an aftermarket manufacturer of automotive brake, chassis and filter products. The assignment was in Shanghai, China.

'91 Brother **Karl Vanevenhoven** and wife Carol are event co-chairmen for the 2009 Fresh Hop Ale Festival in their hometown of Yakima Washington, to be held on October 3, 2009. Karl advises that it is a charity event featuring several local brews made using non-dried hops – a truly magnificent hop experience. If you are in the area you can find more info at [www.freshhopalefestival.com](http://www.freshhopalefestival.com).

'97 Brother **Matthew Miller** is Senior Director, Government Affairs at Financial Executives International in Washington DC.

'98 Brother **Charles Bradley** accepted a position with Case New Holland in Burr Ridge, IL. He and wife Indra welcomed their first child, a son, Grant Everett, in July of 2007.

'99 Brother **John Schlicht** joined the US Army in November '07. Following basic training at Fort Jackson, SC, he attended Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, GA, and is now a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. He has a San Diego, CA, address.

'04 Brother **David Westbrook** is working as a software developer at IBM. His address is in Rockford, IL.

## Chapter Eternal



'33 Brother **Robert L. Kessel** entered Chapter Eternal on June 1, 2006. He was retired from Bell Labs where he had been an Electrical Engineer.

'39 Brother **Alphonso Axel Tropp Jr.**, US Army Colonel (Ret), passed away at his home in Los Osos, CA, on January 20, 2008. He was 87. A native of Indianapolis, he was an alum of the Purdue ROTC program and graduated in 1942 with a BS

in Chemical Engineering. He married his Purdue sweetheart, Mary Catherine, in 1942. After fighting in WWII in Germany, the Army sent him to UCLA where he earned his MS degree in Applied Physics. Trained in field artillery and an expert in special weapons, he served 15 months in Korea during the Korean War and was decorated with 3 awards of the Bronze Star Medal. He also served tours of duty in Japan, Germany, and Iran, as well as 3 tours at Sandia Base in New Mexico. Upon his retirement from the military in 1970, he was awarded the Legion of Merit in recognition of his distinguished service. Following retirement he worked in the Environmental Improvement Agency for the State of New Mexico in Santa Fe, retiring again in 1984. He is survived by his wife Mary Catherine and ten children, along with 15 grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

'44 Brother **James M. Crothers** entered Chapter Eternal on November 27, 2008. He retired from McDonnell Douglass as a Senior Project Manager.

'48 Brother **Don R. Steinberger** passed away on January 1, 2008. He graduated from Purdue with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. He had been a teacher with Seymour Community Schools in Seymour, IN.

'53 Brother **William R. (Bill) Barnes** passed away on December 4, 2007. He was 72. He resided in Athens, GA, and worked for Wellington Leisure Products. He was preceded in death by his wife Kathryn and is survived by his two children, Greg and Doug.

'70 Brother **Bruce E. Ficke**, died of leukemia at Jewish Hospital in Montgomery, AL, on July 1, 2007. He was 56, born in Cincinnati on Mar. 4, 1951. He graduated from Purdue in 1970 with and went on to obtain an MBA from the University of Cincinnati. In 1978, Bruce started his own company in the basement of his home. That company eventually became International Public Access Technologies. IPAT played a major role in state child-support enforcement by enabling parents to access case informatioOn using the Internet or telephone. In 1985 he married wife Vicki, who survives.

'78 Brother **Matthew D. McManaman**. passed away unexpectedly at the age of 49, at his Tucson, AZ, residence on Sunday, February 15, 2009. Matt was born in Marion, IN, and claimed Sweetser as his hometown. He is survived by his wife Nancy, daughters Amber and Nicole; step-daughters Melissa and Tiffany; his parents and a brother and sister. He was a program manager and worked in the aerospace industry for more than 25 years after graduating with an Industrial Engineering degree from Purdue. He was successful, driven, well-respected, and admired. He was a sports lover and a true fan of Purdue and University of Arizona, the Colts, and especially NASCAR. Matt dedicated his life to establishing a safe, secure, cohesive home for his wife and children.

## Congratulations!



...to Brother **Don Knebel**, *pur65*, upon his election to the Board of Directors of the Triangle Education Foundation. Don has a BSEE from Purdue and a JD from Harvard. He is a partner in Barnes & Thornburg LLP, resident in the Indianapolis office. He is a fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers and has been listed in the Best Lawyers in America for commercial litigation and intellectual property.

## Purdue Chapter Representatives Attend Triangle National Convention

**P**urdue Chapter was well represented at the National Convention held in Denver in July, 2009. Purdue Brothers gathered for a picture on College Night when all attendees were invited to show their school spirit by wearing apparel with school logos. Shown at right are, first row left to right, Brothers Jim Marshall *pur65*, Don Knebel *pur65*, and Mel Chiogioji *pur58*. Second row l to r, Brothers Rick Overman *pur65*, Matt Osborn *pur09*, Chris Tebow *pur08*, and Brian Jarman *pur01*. Brother Knebel is holding a Growth Award certificate that was presented to the chapter for recent increases in the number of undergraduate members.

Among other things, Convention passed legislation covering reimbursements to members for recovering Triangle badges from sources such as e-bay, auctions, antique stores, etc., and returning them to the National Office. Many older badges were customized by Brothers to include precious stones such as opals, pearls, and even diamonds and rubies, making them valuable to jewelry collectors and elevating prices. The National Bylaws simply provided that members recovering such badges would be reimbursed. The Bylaw change provides that the National Council will set

a maximum dollar amount that can be reimbursed. Related to that, wording was passed to allow members to personally possess more than one badge and stipulate that the member must report the additional badge serial number(s) to the National Office for tracking purposes. Members who wish to collect badges on their own are now allowed to do so. Members are reminded that their Triangle badge is just "on loan" from Triangle National and should be returned to the National Office when the member enters Chapter Eternal or no longer wishes to keep the badge.



**Parents! Your son's issue of Transit Club News is being sent to his home address so you can be aware of things happening at Triangle. We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter. If you ever have questions about the chapter, please feel free to contact any of the undergraduate or alumni officers listed on page 2.**

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