

# Sine of the imes

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*Newsletter of the Tri-State University Chapter of Triangle Fraternity*

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## Being the New President

Coming into this semester, I felt I was ready to be the best Vice President I could be. With the help of the Leadership Workshop and the winter break to focus on my goals, I felt I could do this. However, a Gerald Ford situation occurred, and now I'm the new President, which forced me to reevaluate my goals.

I am focused on improving several aspects of the House: increasing the number of brothers, improving the condition of the House, eliminating our debt to national, and increasing our GPA. In the fall and winter, we initiated four new brothers. This spring, we have three new pledges. Seven brothers is a good accomplishment and helps us lower our costs.

There are several house projects that I would like to accomplish, funds permitting. These projects include painting the basement, getting a new furnace, getting new windows and doors, getting a tool shed so our tools and lawnmower are not outside, and re-stoning the driveway. Hopefully, I can work with our brothers and alumni to complete one or more of these projects.

Another goal is eliminating our debt to Triangle headquarters. We are very close to achieving this goal and we're going to make sure that we never encounter this problem again.

Finally, I want the House to get better grades. We took great steps this semester but finished fifth out of eight fraternities. To improve this, I challenge all the Brothers to obtain at least a 3.0 GPA for spring semester. If we can accomplish this, our House GPA will be right at the top.

*See Mike Utley, page 2*

## New Study Buddy Policy

I was voted the new Scholarship Chair for this semester and I have a goal that I know is going to be hard to reach, but I want everyone in our Fraternity to get a 3.0 or higher. If I had the money I would offer a little scholarship of my own to get people motivated. But I don't have the money to do that. So, instead I'm implementing a Study Buddy Policy, where everyone is paired up with someone else that has the same class and they do all of the homework and projects together. If we can't pair them up with someone, then they are responsible for letting me know how they are doing in the class on exams, and if they are getting below a C on any exam, we are going to get them a tutor through the school for that class. I know I'm doing a lot of micro managing, but I think it is a step that has to be taken in order to get people out of their rooms, off the X-Box's, Game Cube's, and PS2's\*, and hitting the books to do what they came here to do!

This past semester we did have two Brothers do exceptionally well in their classes. Brother Kyle Whitenack got a 4.0 for this semester and has a 4.0 cumulative. He made the President's List. Then we have Brother Thomas Kehres who got a 3.7 this semester and made the Dean's List. Way to go Education Major!!!!

Donald Lahnum Jr. tsu03

\* This is merely the opinion of the writer, and does not reflect the opinion of The Sine of the Times. The Sine of the Times staff encourages the obscene over-use of these fine gaming consoles.

**Mike Utley**, *continued from page 1*

In conclusion, please feel free to let me know about any ideas you have to help our chapter of Triangle. Whether it is advice to improve our House or ourselves, please feel free and stop by to talk to us or contact us in whatever way is easiest for you. Hopefully, we can accomplish these goals by the end of the semester, which will make Pig Roast more special.

Thomas "Thome" Kehres tsu02

## Brotherhood Day

Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> was the first brotherhood activity day that I've attended here at the chapter. At noon that day, a workshop was held to inform all of us about the proper responsibilities of the officers and the best way to transition people into these offices. I found this to be very informative and will definitely help me if I ever receive a position with such responsibilities.

After the workshop was over, we all traveled down to Fort Wayne in hopes of attending a Fort Wayne Komets hockey game. Thirty minutes after leaving, we were there and walking through the front admission gates. The seats were in the top section, but it did not matter - we still had fun. We cheered for the Zamboni as it entered and exited the ring and got noticed by some staff at the arena. They said they noticed our enthusiasm and invited a few of us to sit right down by the ring. Brothers took turns in the seats, enjoying the front row for all the action and fights. The Komets won, making our visit even better.

We worked our way through traffic and our way back home. It was a day of learning and fun at the same time. Memories formed on this day will not be forgotten and told to new members to show them the fun times had at Triangle.

John Smith tsu04

## My Weekend at PLA

Triangle's national Presidents Leadership Academy took place on Jan 16-18 at the Flat Rock River YMCA Camp located in beautiful St. Paul, Indiana. After a 3-hour plus drive through the "exciting" state of Indiana, I arrived just in time for dinner and had a chance to talk to other active presidents one-on-one. Brother John Storm of Purdue gave a presentation on how much he benefited from Triangle. This was a must see for racing fans as he talked about his work with the IRL and his love of NASCAR. He handed out replica cars to all the presidents of his company's car, which raced in the Indy 500 last year.

We took time to make sure we knew everyone that was present and small group meetings were held to learn about other chapters and each other. Reflection was stressed, and participants spent up to thirty minutes reflecting on the day's events. Afterward, stories were shared with the key phrases being "You have our clock" and "Hey, our house wants that back." Euchre was played into the wee hours.

The next day, time was taken to develop purpose statements, expressing Triangle's purpose and developing our chapters' values. We had team-building exercises, including playing a variation of baseball which taught teamwork...and showed how weak the southern Brothers are due to their mild weather. After dinner, Paul Lambert from Ohio State described his work with communication companies. Finally, the presidents learned to develop skills for vision. The night ended with more socializing and euchre.

On Sunday, we compiled what we learned. This involved creating a development plan. We heard about other chapter's problems and how they solved them. After that, I hopped into the Shad, reflected on the entire weekend, and headed for home (to see those hated Colts lose to the Patriots). Hopefully, I can use the ideas from PLA to help Triangle grow...and to help myself grow as president. Special thanks to Paul Lawson who set up the program, Brian and Dan for running the program, and the other presidents who offered great insight...and told me that they have stuff they have taken from our house. Presidents, expect a visit from the TSU chapter to reclaim our prized possessions.

Thomas "Thome" Kehres tsu02

## A New Semester

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and that none of you made too many "hasty" New Year's resolutions. The fall semester is over and spring classes are underway. This semester I am the new active Secretary and have been busy with lots of paperwork. Also keeping me busy, besides the already heaping piles of homework, is serving as TSU's ASME chapter treasurer and Student Senate representative. I have many hopes and visions for our Fraternity as well as myself for the upcoming year. Even with the two to three week post-semester start deadlines creeping up for much of the "transition" paperwork, I feel confident that all paperwork will be completed on time. I have been actively reminding those who have not yet finished forms.

Also on the slate for the upcoming semester, Brice Jiamachello and I plan on sifting through much of the old paperwork being stored at the house (especially in the pledge room), reorganizing what needs to be kept, and disposing of everything that is outdated.

Over the Christmas holiday, I constructed a door-jam for the basement door, which I plan to install shortly, to keep cold air and water from flowing underneath, hopefully helping to keep the basement slightly warmer and stopping cold air from leaking up through the floor vents. Goals that I have for myself this semester include finding either an internship or co-op and keeping good grades. Adios and have a great 2004.

Kvle Whitenack tsu03

## Active GPA at 2.721

The grades for the fall semester are in. Triangle Fraternity improved to fifth among the eight fraternities with a house GPA of 2.721. The brothers scoring a 3.0 or better were:

- Kyle Whitenack 4.000
- Thomas Kehres 3.700
- Josh Sefchek 3.441
- Don Lahnum 3.294
- John Smith 3.250

## A New Brother

My name is David Scott and I'm a Computer Science major. When I was initially asked if I was interested in pledging Triangle, I was not sure whether I actually wanted to do it mainly due to previous biases that I had about fraternities and pledging. This changed, however, after I spent time around the Brothers for most of the fall semester this year and learned that they were all really cool guys that I wanted to call my brothers. Now, I look forward to spreading my joy to future pledge generations.

David Scott tsu04

## Board Notes

**Mark Your Calendar!** The spring pig roast will take place on Sat April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2004 at Pokagon State Park and will be co-hosted by Zeta Theta Epsilon (<http://www.tristate.edu/organ/ZOE/Sisters.htm>).

The festivities will start around 1:00pm with food being served around 3pm. We have reserved the Apple Orchard shelter. There's a playground next to the shelter for the kids. There will be a volleyball net set up for some friendly competition. After the roast, we will head back to the house in the evening for more socializing.

**Minor Bathroom Repairs:** Repairs to the bathroom have been completed. New floorboards, new tile, and caulking have been added.

**Mortgage Refinanced:** The mortgage has been refinanced and a \$10,000 loan was taken out for fire safety repairs as required by our insurance provider. Even with the new loan, the refinancing saves us about \$150 per month.

**Fire Safety System:** A new fire safety system will be installed during spring break, March 1-6. The cost of the materials and labor is approximately \$8,000.00.

**Annual Donation Request:** The annual donation request letter will be mailed in a couple of weeks. Alumni donations help pay for alumni events, newsletter mailings, scholarship incentives, and house repairs and purchases.

## Announcements

Congratulations to:

- Ben Duerk on his new job at Generic Systems.
- Eric and Kym Biehl on their January 10th wedding
- August Antol on his engagement to Sarah – the wedding date is not set.
- Brice Jiamachello for surviving his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.
- John Wellet on his new job with Fifth Third Securities as a Retail Investment Consultant working at branches in Hillsdale, Jonesville and Battle Creek, Michigan.
- Josh Sefchek for surviving a bout with ringworm.

*If you have an announcement to share, please send an email to the chapter email list at [tsutriangle@yahoogroups.com](mailto:tsutriangle@yahoogroups.com).*



*Alumni Chris Merritt and Chris Denton enjoying the Homecoming Football Game, fall 2003.*

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## Alumni Profiles

Wondering what your fellow alumni are up to? Well, we can tell you about a couple of them. Once again, here are the Alumni Profiles ...



**Andy Kavc** (Triangle)

**City/State :** Oxford,MI

**TSU Degree:** BS in Mechanical Engineering (BSME)

**Year Graduated:**1993

**Other schooling since TSU** Master of Science – Engineering Management

**Professional memberships :** SAE ([www.sae.org](http://www.sae.org))

**Current Employer:** DaimlerChrysler ([www.daimlerchrysler.com](http://www.daimlerchrysler.com))

**Current position/title:** Supervisor – Truck Exterior Systems Engineering

**Areas of expertise:** Bumpers, Lighting, Wiper, Mirror Systems and Plastics

**Family information:** Wife – Danielle, married 7 years in August

**Personal Interests:** Golf, NASCAR, and spending summer weekends at the lake in Northern Michigan

**Favorite fraternity memories:** Pledging with a great group of guys, infinite black points for being Shaw's little brother, Pig Roasts, road trips, spring breaks at Fort Myers, all the stories about my 21<sup>st</sup> b-day which I still can't remember, having the "Sponge Award" renamed in my honor, eight Brothers in my wedding party....the memories are endless!!!

**What I've been up to lately:** Danielle and I recently built our new home which has a long list of projects to keep our time plenty occupied (landscape, deck, basement, etc.) for the foreseeable future. We're looking forward to settling down to start a family. Professionally, I've recently completed the launch of the new Dodge Durango in Newark, Delaware and have since taken over responsibility for the current and next generation Dodge Ram for all of the Exterior Systems. This has lead to many pre-launch meetings in St. Louis and Saltillo (Mexico) as well as reviewing supplier source opportunities in China. From a TSU standpoint, I'm currently working with the TSU Career Placement Office and Dr. Finley (Dean of Engineering) to create a summer intern position in Truck Engineering for TSU students who aspire to gain experience in the automotive industry.



**Chuck Bunnell** (NuPi)

**City/State :** Chardon, OH

**TSU Degree:** BS in Aerospace Engineering (BSAE)

**Year Graduated:** 1983

**Current Employer:** ZIN Technologies, Inc. ([www.zin-tech.com](http://www.zin-tech.com))

**Current position/title:** Lead Mechanical Engineer

**Areas of Expertise:** Mechanical design of space experiments for micro-gravity on-board the ISS, space shuttle, sounding rockets or the KC-135 vomit comet. We take a scientist's idea for an experiment, and design and repackage it to meet the rigors of space flight. Reduction of weight/power/volume is pretty much the main goal along with meeting all of the verifications from NASA to qualify for flight. We take payloads from cradle to grave at ZIN and get to wear just about every hat in the process.

**Family information:** Recently divorced without children. Would prefer to find someone new before I have to get a lot of cats. Biggest trick will be to see if I really learned anything the first time.

**Personal Interests:** Kart racing is pretty much my lifestyle, it's not just a hobby. In addition to my own racing, I'm an officer in the local sprint track and volunteer many hours to help run the club and races. The space program is important to me though being immersed in it at work, I don't know as much about what's happening as I think I should.

**Favorite fraternity memories:** I might have inadvertently killed those brain cells but I recall what seemed like a constant social life, there was always something to do or people to hang out with. A never-ending variety of volleyball games with a continuing list of new rules. Quarter nights and killer fruit. Building the motor for my car during my junior year in the basement of the annex. Pig Roasts and strange alumni returning from the time of the dinosaurs. Good times.

**What I've been up to lately:** Getting older and starting to notice it more and more. I don't recommend it, but it beats the alternative. Last year was a rough year for me so I'm basically trying to get my head back on straight and the best way I know to do that is go racing. I've been racing karts since the 1982 Tri-State Grand Prix and now concentrate on the big tracks for the enduro races where speeds are well over 100 mph. Fun stuff. Am currently building a custom trailer with a pneumatic lift gate to get the kart in and out. And then it's going to be a busy season with 9 or 10 races over the year.

## Sefchek's Complaint Corner

For years, engineers have made fun of Business majors. Comments such as "Business is a major are for people who couldn't handle engineering," have freely been said. However, the business people at a certain electronics store have humbled me and to them I said "touche".

This store, which I will call "TBest Bought", recently scammed me quite effectively. Earlier this month I was looking for a new TV to replace my aging one. After going to many different stores I happened to stumble onto the perfect TV for me. It was a 27" flat screen for less than \$300. I found it on TBest Bought's website and to my great joy I saw that I could get free shipping.

I quickly ordered the TV and upon checkout I was told in an e-mail that it would be shipped to my house in one week (Jan 17). I was very happy with my purchase and could hardly wait to see that truck drive up and the delivery guy bringing that huge TV box with him. However, three days after I placed my order I received another e-mail from TBest Bought saying that my package was now scheduled to arrive Feb 9<sup>th</sup>. Needless to say I was outraged. I quickly called TBest Bought and asked what was going on. They informed me that my TV was delayed and that was all they could tell me. Luckily, they had some great options for me. I could pay \$250 and have it delivered within the next 3 days, \$400 and I could have it tomorrow, or I could pick it up for free in Ft. Wayne.

I told the rep that the only reason I had bought the TV from TBest Bought was because of the free shipping offer. The reply was simply, "Oh." I asked them if they would ship from Ft. Wayne to my house and I was told they couldn't and that they could only ship from their main HQ. I argued my case for another 15 minutes but then gave up defeated. I agreed to pick up the TV in Ft. Wayne and hung up.

Those businessmen at TBest Bought got me good. They realized that by offering free shipping on items like TVs, they could sell more than usual. Then when the customers order, they give them a delivery date that is only a few days away. They wait a few days, until the customer has made plans to have the item by a certain date, then they move the delivery date by almost a month. This forces most people to either pay the high rush delivery charges or pick up the item. Both of these are more cost effective than the Free Shipping offer that persuaded the customer in the first place. TBest Bought sells the items because they offered to ship it for free, but then never actually has to come through on that deal. They got me and my money. My hat goes off to the businessmen who came up with that one.

Josh Sefchek tsu00

## My Close Call

The return to Tri-State included for me an approximately **425 mile** drive from Nunda, NY to Angola, IN. Notably the temperature was 60 degrees until I went to a higher altitude where it quickly started snowing. The ride was fairly uneventful until I was half-way through the toll road and it started hailing and sleeting onto a road where there was already about a half inch of ice. I didn't notice until I tried to turn into one of the exits and I continued going straight. So I readjusted my wheels so I was going straight. My car then started to slide over into the left lane. I then started pulling the steering wheel like my life depended on it. When my car stopped I had made a one hundred and ninety degree turn, so I was facing oncoming traffic. Luckily it was about 9 o'clock at night and the only traffic was about half a mile behind me. I quickly did a 3-point turn and finished my journey back to Tri-State uneventfully, and going quite a bit slower than I was originally.

Nathan Willey tsu04