



EVENT HORIZON

***Winter 2024 – TRIANGLE FRATERNITY
OKLAHOMA CHAPTER***

FOREWORD

Gregory Maddra, 250ok17

As we approach the end of another year, we wanted to reach out and provide updates on the alumni organization for those of you who haven't been able to keep up to date through attending our board meetings. This newsletter contains updates from our National Convention delegation, and we'll soon be following up with a Part 2 containing details from both April and November's Founders' Day activities.

In addition, we're coming up on elections for our next Board of Directors. Copies of candidate statements, including those submitted by write-in candidates and those after the original deadline, are included for those of you who have not seen them in other communication channels.

Information on how to vote if you haven't received the emailed ballot & instructions follows the candidate statements.

In F, S, and C,
Br. Gregory Maddra, 250ok17
Director of Alumni Correspondence

CHAIRMAN CANDIDATES

Steven Powers, 126ok03

I'm looking to run for the board of directors because I believe having a University of Oklahoma Chapter of Triangle is a good thing. It's been a positive influence in my life in a lot of ways and I want others to have that experience. We are at a cross roads where we have an opportunity to dig in and do the work to make that possible again.

We need to reach out to our alumni both through events and personally. We need to have social events at locations where our local chapter brothers are. Although it's a difficult topic, we need to fundraise. If we want an active chapter to succeed they are going to need resources. The national organization will likely invest a lot in an initial push be we need to be there with the follow through to bring a resilient chapter back to campus. I intend to do everything that I can to make these things happen.

Joe Scaggs, 224ok15

Brothers, as we navigate through the haze of continued alumni organization development and reconstruction of possible active chapter status, it stands as important as ever that we continue to have leadership that both represents our fraternal ideals and fosters our sense of community. Our current executive officials have done a studious job at ensuring the needs of our chapter have been fulfilled through this turbulent time and I believe have provided a bedrock from which our chapter can experience regrowth. It is within that belief of regrowth that I run for office.

Having been on this current cycle of Board of Directors, I have had opportunity to gain a close insight into the inner workings and interactions common in the duty of chairman. Watching our current chairman have to deal with the post-deactivation turmoil has been like a crash course in the involvement needed to rightfully fulfill this office and has taught invaluable lessons in how to deal with the Triangle fraternal structure. It is upon this insight that I would like to add my leadership experience from professional roles, such as engineering project leads and CFO of a small investment company, to assist our chapter in its future endeavors.

To be chairman takes not only the astute knowledge of the procedures and orders of our current governance, but the ability to cultivate brotherly discourse within our organization. That is why I intend to promote new social routes to open the flow of dialogue between different generations and professional levels within our chapter. For strengthening our social cohesion is the only way for our chapter to flourish in this trying time.

There is no doubt that this position is a serious undertaking given the road ahead of us, but it is one that I would be privileged to take. As always brothers, in F, S, & C.

Andrew Runyan, 185ok11 (Write-In)

Brothers,

There is a lot of work to be done here!

I look towards the Chairman to provide the direction and vision for us as an organization, while also bringing us together to achieve those goals as a brotherhood. The balance between its administrative responsibilities and leading in organizational culture is key for the success of the position. I want to offer my services and support to the organization as Chairman. My education and professional experience in project management and leadership give me confidence that I can take up this role.

I was part of our alumni group that fell into the dark over the years, where I retained only a small circle of brothers with whom I regularly maintain contact with. News reached me later about what happened to our local chapter, and I found it unfortunate that I could not provide support when the timing was critical. I am passionate about seeing us become more connected and more organized as both an organization and as a brotherhood. We must personally reach out to our brothers who remain disconnected to bring them back into the loop.

My involvement will not be limited to the position as chairman, as I am eager to involve myself more in all areas within our alumni organization. It is going to take all of us to rebuild and reinforce our organization towards eventual growth and stability. I look forward to meeting and reconnecting with all of you as we work together to strengthen our alumni organization.

For the Brotherhood!

In F, S, and C,

Andrew Runyan

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE CANDIDATES

Steven Powers, 126ok03

I'm looking to run for the board of directors because I believe having a University of Oklahoma Chapter of Triangle is a good thing. It's been a positive influence in my life in a lot of ways and I want others to have that experience. We are at a cross roads where we have an opportunity to dig in and do the work to make that possible again.

We need to reach out to our alumni both through events and personally. We need to have social events at locations where our local chapter brothers are. Although it's a difficult topic, we need to fundraise. If we want an active chapter to succeed they are going to need resources. The national organization will likely invest a lot in an initial push be we need to be there with the follow through to bring a resilient chapter back to campus. I intend to do everything that I can to make these things happen.

Putnam Franklin, 269ok18

One of the key points that I would like to press on as Director of Finance is transparency. Being an Alumni organization without an active chapter means that the board inherently should be transparent with those whom it represents. Doing so will provide the members of the organization not on the board a more clear view of what the pathway is for the organization in the future. For the Director of Finance, this means detailed reports on funds- where everything is, what is being done with it, and how much there is. As one of my goals as a board member would be to get this chapter back on campus and into a house, I think the best course of action that can be made by the Director of Finance would be to reinvigorate investment into the Oklahoma Triangle Permanent Fund as outlined in Article 9. Weather or not this currently exists, I am not sure, as regular reports on the state of it have not been included in the meeting minutes, but regardless of the state of it, I don't see why we shouldn't get regular updates on the state of it and updates on when funds are added to it via donation. I would provide regular updates on this fund, which would serve to inspire confidence in the board as they work towards the (hopeful) reestablishment of the Chapter on campus. I believe that one of the most important aspects of this is to have a house to foster brotherhood, and if TBHC won't do that, I think it's best that we start working on our own contingency plan- though I may lobby to amend Article 9 Section 3 since government bonds aren't exactly the investment strategy they used to be.

Joe Scaggs, 224ok15

Brothers, the progress we've made in the continuation of our chapter is in no smaller part due to the fiscal responsibility of our previous finance chairs. Through their ceaseless effort, they have established a trajectory that will allow our chapter to remain financially solid regardless whatever path we choose to go. It is in my firm belief that this financial path be maintained and expanded upon that I choose to run.

Within the last several years as a Board of Directors member, I have been afforded the opportunity to closely interact with our current finance chair and watch him thoughtfully maneuver through day-to-day needs and long-term goals of the chapter. I believe he has set a high standard that needs to be followed as a minimum for any future finance chairs. I would like to note the handling of organizational finance is not foreign to me as I have been a CFO in a small investment company, but the specifics of our fraternal structure were new to me and I'm glad I've gotten an insight into them.

As for my ideas for expansion on top of the set standard, I have some short- and long-term objectives I wish to follow through on. Short term, I would like to focus on the standardization of practices and forms for both donations and spending requests, such as events and charitable contributions. Long term, I'd like to continue securing our economic well-being through prudent investment so that we are free to pursue whatever ambition without the worry of any insolvency. Especially if we pursue an ambition such as restarting our active chapter which would incur a heavy financial toll.

This position requires a proficient level of financial literacy which I believe I've experienced through my time on the Board of Directors and spending nearly three years as CFO of a small company. I would be ecstatic to serve in this role if so chosen and would give it the time it fully needs. As always brothers, in F, S, & C.

-Joe Scaggs

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CANDIDATES

Marcos Stocco, 74ok93

Brothers, Thank you for allowing me to serve you & the rest of our Chapter these last few years on the Board of Directors. As the incumbent Membership Development Director – I plan to continue more of the same: Posting opportunities for our members' benefit, whether professional development (Techlahoma, ThunderPlains Conf., OU Research presentations, LinkedIn resources, etc.), philanthropic (giving back through oppy's to serve, whether at Science Fairs, Career Days, Engineer's Week, etc.) or supporting our alma mater (Board of Advisors, E-Club, OU Giving Day), or in the community (Tinkerfest, Career Closet, etc.); or personal development through exposure to enrichment in the arts and culture (Hispanic Heritage Month events, Museums, Opera, Ballet, Masala World Music Series), or the Arts (Flight Lines, Drama, Sooner Theatre, Painted Sky, OUMTOG, etc.), or even just entertainment (Concerts ranging from Weird Al to Barry Manilow to Flaming Lips to Coheed & Cambria), or spiritual development (Canterbury Voices, Collegium Musicum, Organ Symphony, performances at McFarlin Church, St. Thomas More, classics like Handel's Messiah or Mendelssohn's Elijah) or opportunities to engage your "inner" Triangle like at TokenCon, Meetups at Wizard's Asylum, Medieval Faire, BrickFest Lego Con, OK State Fair, Fathom Events, Movie Anniversary screenings like for Transformers, Back 2 The Future, The Matrix, Dune, etc.; or even "sportsball" like gatherings for OU Athletics, E-Club Burger Feed pre-kick for Football, etc.; or even our OWN social gathering (I'm hosting a Cookout at my house for the upcoming Local Founder's Celeb).

The point is – there are a great MANY ways to connect with your brothers, and a great many happenings in Triangle, OU, the OKC Metro, and surrounding environments, including virtual events for those remote & displaced from campus – my hope is that all these events come to your attention for awareness, so that you can re-connect, engage, and grow in your own way through exposure to broadened horizons. To me, that's

how we become better men, and I hope I can continue to facilitate that for you. If there's some area you're looking to develop yourself, please let me know, and I will pass it along, and try to coordinate Triangle gatherings, esp. when there's mutual shared interest.

I'm open to feedback, and consider myself a continuous learner – so if there's something you feel I've been neglecting – just reach out to me directly. The benefits of Triangle membership are life-long, and need not be limited to relationships established in College, or the events you recall with nostalgia from that time. We should all get together whenever we can, and all these various opportunities are out there for our personal growth & development, as well as to develop new, and deeper bonds with our brothers.

Lastly, I'll say that I recently saw the play "Go, Please, Go!" performed at OU – and it was riveting, but it also made me consider Legacy. I would hope we all consider our own personal Legacy, and what ways we've been shaped by our Triangle experiences, and how we can continue to be, as Alumni later in life, and use those lessons even in raising our own families, as well as fostering an environment and culture where these same values and wisdom may be passed on to others, leave a Legacy of Triangle for potential future members to enjoy and grow beyond what we had.

In F, S, & C,

Marcos "chessman" Stocco 74ok93

TLDR: Vote for me! I like to share opportunities for connection and engagement, personal member development as well as gatherings that can be mutually beneficial for our growth as people, as Brothers to one another, and as stewards of Triangle and Alumni of OU.

ALUMNI PROGRAMMING CANDIDATES

Tyler Toth, 187ok11

My Brothers,

In these unique times we face and the challenges therein, I find myself tossing my hat in the ring not only to help rebuild the chapter that I love so much, but also to remind others of why they joined. Before I pledged for Triangle, I had absolutely no desire to join a fraternity. Years later, as I look back, I realize how empty my life would have been and would be without you all. As an active, I took the mantles of Recruitment Chair and even Pledge (now Candidate) Educator because I wanted to share that new love with others and teach them the values of our organization - what it means to be a Triangle.

Now years removed from my undergraduate days, I realize more than ever that those bonds not only still exist, but still need to be nurtured. In the past years, I have played games with Brothers on Discord, caught Brothers when they were in town, and even traveled out of my way to visit a Brother I hadn't seen in years. I find that these moments when we come together again are just as important as ever. Amidst the friction and chaos and uncertainty, it is critical that we remember the bonds we share and remember the precepts of our fraternity in order to move forward.

I see a mission ahead of me - bring us all together, the way things should be. All of us. Young and old, eager and jaded, regardless of the miles between us. We are all Triangle Brothers. My goal is to find all of the far-flung alumni, all the cliques, all the islands and silos, and connect us all together. I will endeavor to create active social channels online, build the networks for communication that best suit each member, and update contacts so that no Triangle is left behind. My hope is to set up activities for us all to share a meal, play a game, or simply enjoy one another's company - because being a Triangle shouldn't end at graduation. We can always rush our own alumni all over again.

In the end, we are a family. We may fight and bicker sometimes, but we chose one another, and I find strength in that choice. I want us to remind our fellow Brothers what that strength looks like again.

I love you all and there's absolutely nothing you can do about it!

In F, S, & C,

Tyler "Heemeyer" Toth 187ok11

ALUMNI CORRESPONDENCE CANDIDATES

Gregory Maddra, 250ok17

Brothers,

Over the past two years I have worked hard to get the Chapter's communications back into working order. I have made many tweaks to our mailing lists in order to get reliable delivery for those of us on the list, and have lead a push to move our Board of Directors elections to a more reliable system (the one you're hopefully reading this on). We once again have timely notifications for our meetings and a reliable method for electronic attendance; it has been great to see the higher attendance at several of our meetings versus those I attended in 2021 and 2022.

I look forward to continuing to work on improving our communication frequency during this next term, and hope that you all will trust me again with doing so.

In F/S/C,
Gregory Maddra 250ok17

HOW TO VOTE:

We are using an electronic ballot this year. You will have received an email from invitations@mail.electionbuddy.com with your ballot and instructions. If you have not received this email, please contact BoD@lists.outriangle.org as soon as possible.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Brandon Bagwell, 133ok04

My Dearest Brethren –

I am happy to report that the 2024 Convention was a great success. Brs. Toth, Maddra, Stocco, and I had an excellent time catching up with familiar names as well as meeting with fresh faces while celebrating another year. As promised, this year's convention was both a productive, and positive turning point for us as a chapter, and I am very happy to report some of the findings from this year's grand get together.

Let me start by saying that our delegation was warmly received, and there was an incredibly positive vibe permeating throughout the event everywhere we went. My experience is that this isn't always the case for a chapter which is suspended, and in fact, I would describe our presence as very welcomed.

There was a strong feeling that the Oklahoma Chapter as we collectively know it is sorely missed, and that Oklahoma's return is something to look forward to. There was some serious discussion about Triangle's growth prospects in the Midwest region, and I had a strong sense that we, along with TAMU, are among the top 'warm

restarts' to be considered in the next few semesters and years to come.

No ifs, no yets, and no buts. We are considered a great candidate for a warm restart, full stop. But we must understand that being a great candidate does not mean we are going to be top priority. The national fraternity has several things it's working through, including the retirement of our executive director (Tom Pennington), as well as building connections with outside organizations which could prove beneficial to our overall strategic plan.

Thus, the criteria we must assume for a restart needs to be remain flexible. Even in a cookie-cutter idealized example, timelines may slip, and include several phases of initial market research and advance teams/conversations. Any sub-optimal result, however unwelcome, wouldn't be viewed as a failure per se, but may readjust the calculus in how we fair in terms of a restart in the next few years to come.

So, I know everyone is eager for us to restart as soon as possible, but because of this I ask only that you trust us in shepherding the fraternity through this process. For whatever questions you may have brewing regarding our return, I can almost entirely assure you that the answer is going to be, "well, it depends."

And it will stay that way all the way through our return.

But we have a lot working in our favor. Triangle's national staff is at present the largest of its history (and while I have concerns about the general trend of our national payroll growing out of control), these extra hands, feet, and eyes are going to come in handy as we slate into Triangle's growth calendar. Our staff is youthful and energetic, and yet quite accomplished with growing on other campuses. **I fully anticipate HQ staff to lead the return to campus using the methods they are most comfortable with such as traditional 'IFC-style' recruiting methods and working with the University as a whole.**

Much of the standard 'campus start' process involves not only recruiting an amazing set of initial members, but also teaching them the tools necessary to replace themselves at a very early stage of development. I anticipate HQ staff to take the lead on this type of training as well, especially if our founding class is heavily freshmen orientated.

In conjunction with these items, the local alumni board will not be idle bystanders, but active participants running feeder operations into these larger processes. This will include us driving several key items, such as:

- Reorganizing ourselves as "The Oklahoma Triangle Alumni Association", where we are to execute to our new joint-mandate. One, to provide on mentoring, advising, and support operations for a fledgling active organization, and two to provide social opportunities for alumni (regardless of original chapter affiliation) in the Oklahoma area. Neither part of this joint-mandate is more important than the other, and the new model will identify individuals and create positions for those who can actively drive either, or both, elements of our purpose.
- Advise the national fraternity regularly of our experiences with 'traditional IFC rush', provide our own best practices learned from nearly four decades of experience rushing 'our way', and ensure we are not singular in our approach to returning to campus life.
- Leveraging existing connections (within both the University and greater community) to supply prospective names for a brand new founding class alongside their methods.
- Provide accessible and useful mentoring opportunities to our new

founding class, at appropriate times in their journey.

- To remain open-minded and open-hearted to healthy changes that may develop within our chapter's character.

With these items in focus, I am confident that a valiant restart attempt will be soon at hand.

As for the traditional convention programming, having Br. Toth as our voting delegate was a true delight. He immediately championed an amendment to alter 'pledge' to 'candidate', which passed with wild support, and helped immortalize his will into Triangle's founding documents forever. He also drafted a key amendment that limits National Council's ability to award alumni status to members only after consultation with local chapters. This second item was particularly sweet, as it not only helps ensure that chapters maintain their rights to their own membership records, but also offered some wonderful photo opportunities (vis-à-vis, a Triangular version of 'The Last Supper', see attached).

The convention itself was held in Milwaukee, at a local point of interest. The Hyatt Regency hotel which hosted us was the site of the attempted assassination of President Theodore Roosevelt, which given the recent attempt on former President Donald Trump, it made the event feel even more like history was in the making. And when I reflect on it today, I feel very much so like it still is.

FSC,
Brandon Bagwell



Br. Tyler Toth (187ok11), conferring with members of National Council on amending Proposal 4.

STAY IN TOUCH

Publicity Committee

Do you have photos or videos of an event? Have something you want to see published in a future newsletter? Or just want to chat with your fellow Triangles? Well, we want to hear from you as well! Please feel free to reach out at any time:

Email:

Alumni List – alumni@lists.outriangle.org

BoD List – bod@lists.outriangle.org

Newsletter Items – webmaster@outriangle.org

On The Web:

<https://outriangle.org/contact-us/>

Through Slack

Contact Br. Tristan Hull to join –

tristan.a.hull@gmail.com

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Triangle

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