Although most NFL scouts had reservations about Jason Kelce’s size, no one ever questioned his heart. The Cleveland native excelled as a linebacker in high school however he did not draw much interest from BCS programs. Kelce was recruited by Coach Dantonio to join the Bearcats as a walk-on.

Kelce’s relationship with Coach Dantonio lasted only one year, and it was actually the next UC staff, and in particular its veteran strength coach, that put the senior on track to playing in the NFL. Soon after arriving at Cincinnati, Paul Longo felt the “Scout Team Defensive Player of the Year” was playing out of position. Longo wanted the walk-on linebacker to move to the offensive line. Kelce initially resisted the move as no self-respecting linebacker wants to go to the O-line. The new Philadelphia Eagle is now glad he finally bought into the plan.

Kelce addressed the change by saying, “Would I be going to the NFL as a linebacker? I have no idea, but without Coach Longo, I doubt I’d be looking at being a Philadelphia Eagle today. I wanted someone to just give me a chance, but they eventually sold me on the idea.”

Not long after his name appeared on television as draft pick No. 191, Kelce’s phone blew up with calls and text messages from well-wishers, many of them were his football teammates and Sigma Sigma brethren.

Kelce has taken the same “walk-on” mentality with him to Philadelphia that created success for him at UC. On a team that was the talk of the offseason with quarterback Michael Vick and the free agent signings of Nnamdi Asomugha, Vince Young and Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, the talk of camp has been the play of a rookie center out of Cincinnati and how he is challenging two veteran centers to be the starter on the first Sunday of the regular season.

“Before Sigma Sigma, UC was all about football. The majority of my friends were my teammates. It’s the main reason I was here. Once I became a part of Sigma Sigma, I was opened up to everything UC had to offer as well as the other people who were making great things happen in other areas of campus. These people have now become my best friends. I was opened up to the experiences of alumni and what they continue to contribute to UC.”

“Sigma Sigma will tie me to the University for the rest of my life. It provides continuity in a life that is rapidly changing. I look forward to coming back for events and seeing my best friends and I look forward to continuing to contribute to the University of Cincinnati and Sigma Sigma.”

Kelce’s experience is another great example of what it means to be a Sigma Sigma. We look forward to watching his NFL career flourish and could not ask for a better representative.

Letter from Alumni President

By: Neil Van Uum ’81

Football season is here! Not sure exactly why, but I am really looking forward to this year. Maybe it is getting to know the five actives and recent alums who have built the program to its now lofty level. Maybe it is having an approachable coach like Butch we can relate to. Or perhaps it is just that all seems well at the University – President Williams, a new AD coming, our footprint further established with the Bearcat Statue, revitalization of the campus perimeter getting going again, etc. All good…and the football team provides my best connection to all that goodness.

On the other hand, we have faced some security challenges at the house recently. We have had the house broken into three times in the last two years. And more seriously, JK Schaffer ’10, our middle linebacker and house tenant, was robbed at gunpoint a few weeks ago right outside the house. He was not injured but clearly we have had to take some action. We are

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Communication support and assistance provided by:
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2011 Sigma Sigma Legacy Fund Campaign

Thank you to the 103 donors who have raised over $18,000 for the Sigma Sigma Legacy Fund Campaign. Funds donated go towards fixed house expenses and alumni communication items. If you would like to help ensure the future success of Sigma Sigma by donating to the annual campaign, please visit the chapter website at www.sigma-sigma.com.

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as of August 29, 2011

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Active Chapter Update
By: Andrew Oyedeji ’09, Chapter President

As these hot summer days come to an end, the anticipation for Thursday nights around the coffin and Bearcat football is here. With our brothers on the gridiron, JK Schaffer ’10 and Zach Collaros ’09, working hard this offseason, I am sure we will see many Bearcat victories this season.

Carnival this past year was another huge success thanks to the hard work of Carnival Chairman Cory Sims ’10. An estimated 8,000 people attended the 72nd version of the event and the group was able to raise approximately $9,000 dollars to be put to good use for the betterment of our alma mater. Maybe most impressively were the 41 kegs drank throughout the evening.

This past year the brothers have redefined excellence. Brothers cleaned house in campus and athletic awards and honors including Mr. Bearcat, College of Business Student Of The Year, Student Organization President of the Year, Big East Conference Player of the Year, Jimmy Nippert Award, and BIG EAST Champion – Cross Country. Our graduating brothers are seeing early successes including being selected to play professional football for the Philadelphia Eagles and Chicago Rush, professional soccer for the Cincinnati Kings and starting careers with P&G, GE, TQL, Johnson Investment Counsel, and Western & Southern Financial...just to name a few.

We have all come to know Huck Hall as a “diamond in the rough.” Well this year we have experienced numerous break-ins. We are working diligently to properly secure the house for this fall. These activities have not affected our plans as we prepare to get the lines up and flowing in the Danny Dell Bar to keep spirits high as we undergo Fall selections. The active chapter is excited about the start of a new quarter and as always welcomes all brothers to stop by Huck and enjoy a drink during meetings.

We look forward to seeing you all this fall, especially at Homecoming vs. Louisville. Torch & Hammers!
Class Notes

1960s
Robert Fee ‘64 is still working for UC in an unbroken string since hired by Bill Nester and then by Charles “Kipp” Weichert. Including his days as a student, this fall will mark 53 uninterrupted years in harness, surely a record!

Dennis Woodruff ‘65 is enjoying semi-retirement in Sanford, NC, just 30 minutes from the Pinehurst Golf Resort area. He volunteers his time to help coach football, basketball and baseball. He also helps organize several charity golf tournaments in the area each year. He and his wife, Cindy, hope to make it to Cincinnati for a football game this fall.

1970s
Tyrone Yates ‘75 is currently a Hamilton County Municipal Court Judge. He is also working on a book about the Kennedy Administration and like JFK said, “the pace is very slow.”

1980s
Shawn Stiver ‘83 has three children. His oldest daughter just graduated high school and is attending Dayton this Fall. His son will be a Senior in high school this year and his youngest daughter is 14.

Gary Todd Spencer ‘89 is living in Carmel, IN and has served over 20 years in the US Army. He and his beautiful wife have two sons (11 and 8).

1990s
Robert Lyons, III ‘93 is currently serving in Kabul, Afghanistan.

2000s
Zorya Kluska ‘00 has two children and began a new job in July with P&G as the North American Financial Analyst for the Eukanuba pet food brand. His new office is fully dog friendly - including leash hook-ups and a dog park. Plus, Brother Sean Lee ‘08, who works on the IAMS brand, is within spitting distance of his new office!

Scott Oyler ‘00 changed jobs from CBRE to Coldwell Banker West Shell and had twin girls in August 2010.

Darren Tolliver ‘01 recently moved to Charlotte, NC and continues work at Fifth Third Bank as Financial Center Manager.

Kyle Neumann ‘02 is newly engaged to Victoria Bailey (sister-in-law of Jay Hummel ‘00). He is looking forward to starting this next chapter of his life with an amazing woman.

Andrew Barton ‘03 had his first child in June 2011.

Jeffrey Keenan ‘03 moved to Germany in May 2011 for three years.

Justin Gibson ‘04 is expecting his first child in October 2011.

Matthew Yung ‘05 and Brandon Zureick ‘07 recently passed Level 2 of the Chartered Financial Analyst exam. They only have one exam left.

Grant Miller ‘06 is living the dream in Santa Monica, CA!

Dave Sullivan ‘07 is newly engaged to Amanda Starr. They both graduated with their Master’s degrees from Florida State University and recently moved to Murfreesboro, TN. Sullivan is currently working as the Coordinator of Greek Affairs at Middle Tennessee State University.

Nathaniel Smith ‘07 got fed up with his previous job in NYC/VA and moved back to Cincy. He couldn’t be any happier!

Samuel Walston ‘08 recently started working at UC with the Alumni Association.

Johnathan Moor ‘08 is pursuing his MS in Environmental Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Campaign. He facilitates technology transfer from academia to utilities and specializes in drinking water.

Sean Sullivan ‘08 is newly engaged to Allie Burton.

Sean Lee ‘08 left PNC Bank and started a new job at P&G last year. In October 2010, he completed a 100-mile cycling ride through Death Valley, CA to raise money for JDRF. He also recently started his MBA at Xavier University.

Russell Best ‘08 is getting married on September 24, 2011.

Ryan Pontsler ‘09 was recently married in December 2010 and is starting his career.

Letter from Alumni President
continued from page 1

putting bars on the back windows; we have increased the lighting around the house, and will be arming the house burglar system from here forward. You will need the code to enter the house now. We have had conversations with the police but there is not much more that can be done. Hopefully there won’t be further incidents.

On a brighter note, I want to again thank the 103 brothers who donated to the Legacy Fund. We have collected over $18,000 in donations and the treasury is in solid shape! As you know, it costs quite a lot to keep the house in good shape and we now have funds to make some improvements to secure the house. We also hope to discount the price for the Spring Picnic, so there will be no excuse for not attending now!

Hope everyone and your families are well. There is a great fall ahead…..hope to see you soon.
Upcoming Events!

Saturday, September 3 - Football
Tailgating at Huck Hall
UC vs Austin Peay @ Nippert Stadium

Saturday, September 17 - Football
Tailgating at Huck Hall
UC vs Akron @ Nippert Stadium

Thursday, September 22 - Football
Tailgating at Huck Hall
UC vs NC State @ Nippert Stadium

Saturday, October 15 - HOMECOMING!
UC vs. Louisville @ Paul Brown Stadium

Friday, November 11 - Fall Initiation Banquet
UC Alumni Center
Cocktails start at 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 3 - Football
Tailgating at Huck Hall
UC vs. Connecticut @ Nippert Stadium

Thursday, May 17 - Old Grand Dad Toast
Details forthcoming

Friday, May 18 - Spring Picnic
Details forthcoming

Saturday, May 19 - Sigma Sigma Carnival
Details forthcoming

Notes: There will be Sigma Sigma Open Houses for alumni and friends after each game with the exception of the Homecoming game on October 15. Gary Lessis ’82 will be hosting the brothers at his place in Mt. Adams immediately following that game.

Tailgating for the UC games at Nippert Stadium will take place at a NEW location on the campus GRID tailgate area on Sigma Sigma Commons. Look for the Ultimate Tailgate Trailer near the Sigma Sigma Tower.

Tailgating for the UC games at Paul Brown Stadium will take place in at the Longworth Hall Lot. Again, look for the tailgate trailer.