



NEWS

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For Immediate Release

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Students from Miami, UC, Xavier, and NKU to compete for ACG Cincinnati Cup honors

FEBRUARY 25, 2008 – CINCINNATI, OH -- Graduate business students from four Cincinnati area universities will engage in their own version of "March Madness" when the winning teams from the four schools face off in the final round of the 2008 ACG Cincinnati Cup, a case study competition that tests the students' ability to assess a complex business case requiring a combination of corporate strategy, finance, and valuation skills; formulate recommendations, and present the recommendations to "management."

"Management" in this case is a panel of judges from the business and academic communities.

In first round competitions, held between January 30 and February 13 on the campuses of the University of Cincinnati, Xavier University, Miami University, and Northern Kentucky University, between three and six teams from each school vied for the right to participate in the championship round on March 5 at Kenwood Country Club.

The team of David Beckett, Noah Osterhage, Jon Blackham, and Haifang Huang will represent Xavier in the final round. Coaches and advisors for the Xavier teams were Dr. Ali Malekzadeh, Dr. Raghu Tadepalli, Jennifer Bush, and Ann Marie Whelan. The judges for the Xavier competition were Dr. Shelly Webb, Xavier University; Prof. Joe Carter, Xavier University; Andrew Hawking, Integra Bank; Tom Cooney, Cooney Faulkner & Stevens; Elizabeth Horton, Advanced Testing Laboratory, and Keith Dale, Duke Energy.

Representing the University of Cincinnati on March 5 will be the team of Riley Dugan, Shashank Saxena, Omkar Shara, Anima Jain, and Matthew Hug. Coaches and

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advisors for the UC teams were Dr. Will McIntosh, Dr. Robert Dwyer, Dr. Chris Allen, Dr. Andrea Dixon, Dr. Michael Ferguson, Dr. Tim Sale, Dr. Steve L. Slezak, and Dr. Jens Stephan. The UC judging committee was Dr. Will McIntosh, University of Cincinnati; Dr. Robert Dwyer, University of Cincinnati; Jon Dill, AMPAC; Crystal Faulkner, Cooney Faulkner & Stevens, and Peter Kubasek, The Malibu Group.

Miami University will send the team of Eric Doan, Aleksander Wowro, Marnie Banting, and Andrew Martin to the final round. The Miami teams were coached by C. Brad Bays. The judges at Miami were Todd Fister, MeadWestvaco Corporation; Jack Lucas, Procter & Gamble; Jerry Zobrist, CapTec Corporation; Krissi Barr, Barr Corporate Success, Mary Svitkovich, Fidelity Investments and Todd Pfister, Strategic Employee Benefit Services.

Eric Teegarden, Daniel Silbert, and Jared McCombs will represent Northern Kentucky University. Dr. Stephanie Hughes and Dr. Greg Farfaring coached the Northern Kentucky teams. Judges for the first round at NKU were Laura Lyons, Atech Training; Tim Downard, Grant Thornton LLP; Jon Dill, AMPAC; Greg Neal, Advanced Testing Laboratory, and Todd Pfister, Strategic Employee Benefit Services.

In the second round each team will start from "scratch" with a new case. As in the first round team members have two weeks to assess the case, develop recommendations, and prepare their management presentation.

According to Todd Pfister, who chaired the ACG Cincinnati Cup Committee, the competition offers many benefits for the participating schools and all the teams.

"It's an excellent real world learning experience that provides a constructive review of team members' critical thinking and presentation skills," he said. "It also represents an opportunity for participants to meet and network with industry professionals who want to hire talented individuals. There are cash prizes for every team that competes in the second round. The first place team will receive \$4,000, with prizes of \$3,000, \$2,000, and \$1,000 for the second through fourth place teams."

The ACG Cincinnati Cup competition is conducted by ACG Cincinnati, a chapter of The Association for Corporate Growth, the premier global organization for

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professionals involved in corporate growth, corporate development, and mergers and acquisitions. ACG Cincinnati was formed in 1993 and has more than 250 members from corporations, accounting and law firms, financial institutions, consultants, and other enterprises dedicated to corporate growth.

GE Commercial Finance is the presenting sponsor for the competition with Gold Sponsorship by Advanced Testing Laboratory, Cooney Faulkner & Stevens, Duke Energy, The E.W. Scripps Co., Fidelity Investments, and KeyBank. The Malibu Group is the Award Sponsor. Recruiting Sponsors are Comstock Advisory Group, Merrill Lynch, PNC Bank, and Strategic Employee Benefit Services.

Second Round competition in the ACG Cincinnati Cup is open to the public. Presentations begin at 3:00 p.m. March 5 at Kenwood Country Club. There will be a reception and announcements from 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. The cost of the event is \$25. To register call AAGC Cincinnati at (866) 500-2242, send an e-mail to info@acgcincinnati.org or register on-line at www.acgcincinnati.org.

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