



# NEWS

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Kimberly Fantaci  
info@acgcincinnati.org  
(866) 500-2242

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

MARCH 7, 2008 – CINCINNATI, OH -- Graduate business students from four Cincinnati area universities engaged in their own version of "March Madness" when the winning teams from the four schools faced 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 represented Xavier in the final round and took fourth place and \$1,000. Coaches and advisors for the Xavier teams were Dr. Ali Malekzadeh, Dr. Raghu Tadepalli, Jennifer Bush, and Ann Marie Whelan.

Miami University sent the team of Eric Doan, Aleksander Wowro, Marnie Banting, and Andrew Martin to the final round where the team collected third place and a check for \$2,000. The Miami teams were coached by C. Brad Bays.

Eric Teegarden, Daniel Silbert, and Jared McCombs represented Northern Kentucky University well with a second place finish and \$3,000. Dr. Stephanie Hughes

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and Dr. Greg Farfsing coached the Northern Kentucky teams.

Representing the University of Cincinnati on March 5 was the team of Riley Dugan, Shashank Saxena, Omkar Shara, Anima Jain, and Matthew Hug. The finalists from UC took first place, the "Cup" trophy and \$4,000. Coaches and 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.

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

Judges for the final round included Wouter van Kempen, President of Duke Energy Generation Services, Mary Svitkovich, Inbound Sales Director with Fidelity Investments, Gene Fugate, City President of KeyBank, Crystal Faulkner, Partner with Cooney Faulkner & Stevens LLC, David Jackson, Senior Vice President with GE Commercial Finance, Rich Boehne, COO with The E.W. Scripps Company and Greg Neal, President of Advanced Testing Laboratory.

According to Todd Pfister, who chaired the ACG Cincinnati Cup Committee, the 2008 competition offered many benefits for the participating schools and all the teams.

"It was an excellent real world learning experience that provided a constructive review of team members' critical thinking and presentation skills," he said. "It also represented an opportunity for participants to meet and network with industry professionals who want to hire talented individuals. There were cash prizes for every team and the winning school will have the opportunity to proudly display the Cup for the next year."

The ACG Cincinnati 2008 Cup competition was conducted by ACG Cincinnati, a chapter of The Association for Corporate Growth, the premier global organization for 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

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enterprises dedicated to corporate growth.

GE Commercial Finance was 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 was the Award Sponsor. Recruiting Sponsors were Comstock Advisory Group, Merrill Lynch, PNC Bank, and Strategic Employee Benefit Services.

If you are interested in participating in the ACG Cincinnati 2009 Cup competition, contact ACG Cincinnati at (866) 500-2242 or [info@acgcincinnati.org](mailto:info@acgcincinnati.org).

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**ACG Cincinnati**

136 South Keowee Street

Dayton, Ohio 45402

(866) 500-2242

[info@acgcincinnati.org](mailto:info@acgcincinnati.org) | [www.acgcincinnati.org](http://www.acgcincinnati.org)