

# FRATERNITY OF MEN, NOT BOYS.

Sigma Nu's Risk Reduction Newsletter

January 13, 2010



Issue 5

## ***Sigma Nu Institutes***

### **Why should a chapter attend a *Sigma Nu Institute*?**

-The Sigma Nu Institute is an opportunity for positive learning where participants can grow and improve as officers and more fully understand the organizational structure of the General Fraternity. Its purpose is to give participants the knowledge and skills to effectively run their chapters and allow for the interaction and exchange of ideas with other collegiate officers

### **Who should attend?**

- Commander, Lt. Commander, Marshal, Recruitment Chairman, LEAD Chairman and corresponding Alumni Volunteers (i.e. Chapter Advisors, Division Commanders and Alumni Advisory Board members).

### **When and where will the *Institutes* take place?**

January 30: Penn State; State College, PA  
January 30: Iowa State; Ames, IA  
February 6: Colorado; Boulder, CO  
February 6: California, Irvine; Irvine, CA  
February 6: Stephen F. Austin; Nacogdoches, TX  
February 13: Vanderbilt; Nashville, TN  
February 13: Indiana; Bloomington, IN  
February 20: Missouri; Columbia, MO  
February 20: Georgia Tech; Atlanta, GA  
February 27: Headquarters; Lexington, VA  
March 6: Washington; Seattle, WA

More information is available online at [Sigma Nu Institute 2010](#).

## **Phase I – Candidate Education the Right Way**

Do you struggle to develop a good Candidate education program? With all of the resources available to each chapter, it shouldn't be a struggle at all. [LEAD Phase I](#) is designed to help Candidates develop in all aspects of life. We always try and think of great ways to implement educational programming for Candidates, often unnecessarily. Take a second to think about what a Candidate should know by the time he is ready for initiation. Likely, it includes the following: knowledge of Fraternity and history; a thorough understanding of the organizational structure and potential risk to the Fraternity; leadership; civic engagement; time management; importance of the Ritual; values and ethics; and project management.

Take a look below to see the sessions offered through Phase I:

- *Session 1: Fraternity*
- *Session 2: History*
- *Session 3: Leadership & Working in Groups*
- *Session 4: Sigma Nu: International Organization & Chapter Operations*
- *Session 5: Risk Reduction*
- *Session 6: Values*
- *Session 7: Ethics*
- *Session 8: Leadership: The Basics*
- *Session 9: Project Management*
- *Session 10: Ritual: The End...The Beginning*
- *Session 11: Community Service (Optional Session)*
- *Session 12: Time Management (Optional Session)*

As you can see the LEAD sessions correspond with concepts Candidates need to know to be good brothers. So, what now? Simply set up your LEAD program to be interactive, engaging, and discussion-based to take full advantage of the great things LEAD can do for your Candidates. Use LEAD to enhance your Candidate education program and begin to do Candidate education the "right way." Further details and information regarding LEAD can be found [here](#); additionally, your Leadership Consultant can be utilized to assist the chapter in creating an effective and educational candidate program.

## Risk Reduction in Action

Do you find yourself wondering what more you can do to promote safe and healthy behavior from your chapter members? Below you will find a great example of proactive risk reduction produced by the Mu Chapter House Corporation President. The following email is sent to all undergraduate members of the Mu Chapter prior to the annual University of Florida vs. University of Georgia football game. However, the larger message is applicable at any time of the year.

“Gentlemen,

We know that many of you are eagerly looking forward to the rapidly approaching Fall Break. We know that many of you are headed south and will participate in the Georgia-Florida game. We are hopeful that you will be able to return with a win for the Dawgs. Or at least, with great memories from a great break.

Wherever your travels lead you, please keep the following in mind:

1. Regardless of your geographical location, you represent Mu Chapter, #4 of Sigma Nu Fraternity. Your brotherhood (and pledgship) is not an association merely tied to Athens, Georgia. As you travel from Athens, you carry the name, reputation and obligations of Mu Chapter.
2. Carry yourself as you want to be regarded by others. It is more than likely that many of you will meet Mu (and other) UGA alums over the course of the coming days. Govern yourself accordingly. When you meet a brother, family member of a brother, or others, carry yourself as you want your chapter to be remembered by that brief interaction - a firm handshake, positive eye contact and a confident introduction. Each year we are proud to receive calls / emails from Mu alumni and UGA alumni who say that they have met an active from Mu Chapter and were impressed with the conduct, maturity and presence of the men who are Sigma Nus. How you carry yourself this weekend has a direct impact on rush prospects for next fall, parental support for next semester and alumni interest in further supporting you and our chapter. In a brief 3 minute dialogue with a Mu alum, parent, rushee or UGA alum, your actions can either add to the terrific traction, growth and reputation that many before you have worked to develop, or your actions can push the Chapter back years in terms of its credibility and reputation among others. Your choice. We are confident in your decision.
3. Be a thankful guest. Many of you may travel to homes of your brothers and receive the benefit of a gracious host. Treat their home better than you treat your own. Put yourself in the position of being able to THANK your host(s), versus being in the position of having to apologize to your host(s). (See "The 77".) Your choice. We are confident in your decision.
4. Watch out for each other. Every year, thousands travel to Jacksonville and many end up making poor decisions which ultimately end up with injury, or worse. Have fun, but keep an eye on your brothers. Alcohol induced altercations quickly lead to the ER. It's not worth it. Many of you have been to Jacksonville and we should look to you to guide the actions of those who will make this their first journey to the "World's largest cocktail party." If we are unwilling to watch out for our brothers, then what do we have? Your choice. We are confident in your decision.

Fall semester is off to a great start. It's been good to see many of you on our several visits to Athens this semester. We are proud to see that the Chapter has tackled this semester with great gusto and interest in continuing to carve out a unique position of leadership and respect at UGA, and beyond. Your actions are commendable. Keep up the great work.

Travel safe. Have fun.”

Use this example as a starting point. What message could you deliver to your chapter members to promote sound, healthy decisions that reflect well on the Fraternity? If you have any examples of proactive risk reduction, please share those with Fred Dobry, Director of Risk Reduction, at [fred.dobry@sigmanu.org](mailto:fred.dobry@sigmanu.org). Maybe your example will be used in an upcoming issue of the *Fraternity of Men, Not Boys* newsletter.