

# FRATERNITY OF MEN, NOT BOYS.

Sigma Nu's Risk Reduction Newsletter

January 18, 2011



Vol. 2 Issue 5

## Risk Reduction Affidavit

At the beginning of every semester, the chapter officers and applicable alumni volunteers are expected to execute the Fraternity's "Risk Reduction Affidavit" affirming they understand, and agree to comply with, the [Risk Reduction Policy and Guidelines](#). This also ensures the *Risk Reduction Policy and Guidelines* is reviewed by the chapter at least every six months. Note: Members are encouraged to review the *Risk Reduction Policy and Guidelines* and applicable University policies regularly, especially in relation to planning and holding social events.

The "Risk Reduction Affidavit" will be sent with your first chapter billing statement for the spring semester/quarter. If you need a copy immediately, please click [here](#). Each chapter is expected to submit an executed "Risk Reduction Affidavit" by the end of January 2011. If your chapter expects difficulty meeting that deadline, please contact Fred Dobry, Director of Risk Reduction, at [fred.dobry@sigmanu.org](mailto:fred.dobry@sigmanu.org).

## Sigma Nu Institutes

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

The curriculum is designed to assist with the officer transition process and learning curve that accompanies taking on new positions of chapter leadership. Both newly elected and mid-term officers will benefit from the program through increased exposure to, and education on, the knowledge and skills necessary to perform their duties.

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

January 29: Penn State; State College, PA  
January 29: Vanderbilt; Nashville, TN  
February 5: Georgia Tech; Atlanta, GA  
February 5: Missouri; Columbia, MO  
February 12: Eastern Michigan; Ypsilanti, MI  
February 12: Headquarters; Lexington, VA  
February 19: UC Berkeley; Berkeley, CA  
February 19: UC Irvine; Irvine, CA  
February 26: Iowa; Iowa City, IA  
February 26: Florida; Gainesville, FL  
March 5: Stephen F. Austin; Nacogdoches, TX  
March 5: MIT; Cambridge, MA

More information is available online at [Sigma Nu Institute 2011](#).

## Recruiting New Members Without Alcohol

Most chapters know that alcohol in the recruitment process is prohibited, per the Fraternity's *Risk Reduction Policy and Guidelines* and most college/university risk management policies. However, does your chapter know *why* alcohol should not play a role in the recruitment process?

First, think of the kind of members your chapter would retain if they recruited only using alcohol. Did these members join Sigma Nu because they believe in the values of Love, Honor and Truth and are interested in a leadership development opportunity? Or did they join because they like the girls that hang out at Sigma Nu and the Sigma Nu parties are the best on-campus? (*continued on page 2*)

## Drinking Games Aren't The Only Risky Behavior Out There

Over the years, we've heard a great deal about the risks of drinking games. Today, just about every Greek organization prohibits such activities for its members. However, there is another dangerous drinking behavior prevalent among college students that poses a greater risk and is much more difficult to define or engage in safely – pregaming. According to a recent study conducted by [Outside the Classroom](#), pregaming is defined as, “the practice of drinking alcohol in a private setting prior to attending an organized event or social function.”

This same study goes on to explain that BAC levels of students at an event where pregaming has occurred are far higher than the BAC levels of students at an event where drinking games had occurred (.215 versus .171, respectively). Furthermore, pregaming is more prevalent among Greek organizations due to the strict regulations placed on their events, which likely means pregaming is popular among members below the legal drinking age. Therefore, it stands to reason that stakeholders in Greek life should be focusing on preventing pregaming behavior just as much, if not more, than preventing drinking games. Unfortunately, this proves to be a difficult task, as pregaming most often occurs within the private confines of a dorm room or off-campus residence.

Clearly, campus administration and national headquarters need to begin developing ways to help chapters prevent this risky behavior. In the meantime, chapters are in the best position to prevent pregaming among their members immediately. If hosting an event, be sure to inform members that admittance will not be made to any member or guest appearing to be intoxicated upon arrival. Additionally, be aware that the later an event is scheduled to begin, the more likely it is for attendees to pregame.

Finally, continue to educate your members on safe and healthy alcohol behavior, as that is the best way to ensure your members make the right choice. The General Fraternity, in partnership with Outside the Classroom, continues to offer the outstanding GreekLifeEdu program which provides alcohol abuse and misuse prevention education, among other topics. More information about this program can be found [here](#).

## Values-Based Recruitment Works *(continued from page 1)*

More often than not, members who join solely for the social aspect are the same members who fail to attend chapter meetings and other non-social chapter events; refuse to serve as an officer or on a committee; and do not pay their dues on-time. While some chapters may have a small percentage of members who fit this description, chapters that recruit with alcohol experience an increased percentage of members who fail to fulfill the basic expectations of membership. Why would they? They joined because they liked the parties. They aren't really into the “other stuff.”

Are social events a *part* of your chapter experience or the focus? Whatever your chapter chooses to focus on during recruitment, potential new members assume that's what the chapter is all about. Most intelligent college students realize they can party and make friends without joining a fraternity. Therefore, your chapter must convince potential recruits that membership in Sigma Nu has far superior benefits than just the social aspect. And this argument has to go beyond a rush pamphlet. Recruitment events are your biggest opportunities to show recruits what the chapter is all about. So plan events that leaders would want to attend.

For event ideas and other ways to succeed in recruitment without using alcohol, check out the “50 Ways to Success” resource at [http://www.sigmanu.org/documents/vbr\\_50\\_ways\\_to\\_success.pdf](http://www.sigmanu.org/documents/vbr_50_ways_to_success.pdf). Also, *The Recruitment Bluebook* provides a step-by-step guide to developing an effective values-based year-round recruitment plan. You can find this resource along with several other recruitment resources at <http://www.sigmanu.org/programs/vbr/index.php>.