

# FRATERNITY OF MEN, NOT BOYS.

Sigma Nu's Risk Reduction Newsletter

April 5, 2011



Vol. 2 Issue 8

## Recommended Summer Reading

With summer quickly approaching we will soon find ourselves with more time to pursue interests of leisure. A great way to take advantage of this time is reading books we wouldn't normally have time to read. As an officer in Sigma Nu, the General Fraternity has compiled some summer reading that may help you in your role next semester. We hope you find time to enjoy some of the following books covering leadership, organizational dynamics and hazing prevention:

1. The Story of Sigma Nu by John C. Scott
2. Emotionally Intelligent Leadership: A Guide for College Students by Shankman and Allen
3. The Tipping Point by Malcolm Gladwell
4. The Student Leadership Challenge by Kouzes and Posner
5. Wrongs of Passage by Hank Nuwer
6. Sway by Ori & Rom Brafman
7. The Lucifer Effect by Philip Zimbardo
8. The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen R. Covey
9. Building Leaders the West Point Way by Major General Joseph P. Franklin
10. Exploring Leadership: For College Students Who Want To Make A Difference by Komives, Lucas, and McMahon

## Pursuit of Excellence Submissions Due April 30

This year's Pursuit of Excellence Program documentation is due no later than April 30. Each chapter should plan to submit their completed [Chapter Self-Assessment Booklet](#) and any supporting documentation to [pep@sigmanu.org](mailto:pep@sigmanu.org).

You can assist your chapter in completing this year's submission by reviewing the [Self-Assessment Guide](#) and helping to schedule and/or facilitate the self-assessment session. Instructions and facilitator guidance notes for the self-assessment session can be found within the [Self-Assessment Guide](#). Completing the self-assessment session as a chapter will create all of the raw data and answer the questions necessary to complete the [Chapter Self-Assessment Booklet](#).

Additional self-assessment resources can be found here: [http://www.sigmanu.org/programs/pep/chapter\\_self\\_assessment.php](http://www.sigmanu.org/programs/pep/chapter_self_assessment.php)



## End of Year Chapter House Maintenance Checklist

*Adapted from "Summer Break Checklist" by Bobbi Larsen, Educational Consultant for Willis North America*

We are quickly approaching the end of yet another academic year. With that, chapters and House Corporations around the country are developing strategies to maintain, and possibly improve, the chapter facility. Think about it – the summer is the time when you can get a lot of minor and/or major house improvement projects done without worrying about working around residents, since few to no chapter members will be living in the facility.  
(continued on page 2)

# To Tag or Not To Tag- The Potential Risks of Social Media

*Written by Dr. Jamison Keller (Cal. St./San Bernardino), Southwest Alpha Division Commander and Fraternity & Sorority Advisor at California State University, Northridge*

Recently, I was reading a news report detailing the numerous corporate efforts being made to protect brand values and company images. I wasn't surprised to learn that almost all companies have introduced strict social networking policies for their employees. In fact, most companies now try to alleviate any PR nightmares by screening out the "ethically questionable" job candidates well before making an offer of employment. According to Careerbuilder.com, over 35% of employers reported they have found content on social networking sites that caused them to not hire a candidate.

This has direct relevance to Sigma Nu. We also have a brand to protect, and with hundreds of thousands of representations online, we are challenged with fighting that "frat boy" stereotype every time a brother posts. Since I work with college students all across the country, I can understand how tagging photos of you and your brothers' beer ponging the night away on Facebook can serve as a "badge of honor" which documents your journey into manhood. However, as Sigma Nus we have a greater Badge of Honor to protect. Our brand of brotherhood has taken hundreds of years to build and it scares me that a few picture tags have the potential to destroy that heritage almost overnight. I can just see the very confused looks on hiring managers' faces all across the U.S. expressing their confusion when we tell them Sigma Nu builds ethical leaders for society when our online profiles suggest a very different scenario.

We simply must think before we post. I urge you all to be careful about how you are portraying the Sigma Nu experience. Chapter members should not identify themselves with Sigma Nu in usernames, titles, captions, pictures, clothing, etc. if they are participating in any behavior against our values of Love, Truth and Honor. This will not only protect Sigma Nu, but will also protect each brother's integrity through a hiring process.

## Chapter House Checklist *(continued from page 1)*

The following is a list of items you should consider having done during the summer break to help the house recover from another academic year of residency while also preparing the facility for the 2011-2012 year:

- Inspect all rooms/suites, document damage and collect payment from security deposits
- Repair all broken windows and doors to prevent damage; ensure that doors latch completely
- Inform the host institution (college/university) as to whether the residence will be occupied or not and provide proper contact information for the facility

If members will be attending school and living in the facility over the summer period:

- Have each sign a housing agreement, specific to the summer period
- If the appropriate chapter officers will not be living in the facility, appoint someone to oversee daily maintenance, collect rent and pay bills

If the chapter facility is unoccupied over the summer, make sure the following is completed:

- Securely lock the property and limit access to only designated alumni and/or undergraduates
- Have a responsible alumnus, undergraduate or professional property-management company check the property daily. A consistent daily presence will deter thieves and vandals
- Inform local police and/or campus security the property will not be occupied. Provide them with a key/code for access to the facility and ask them to patrol frequently
- When not in use, remove all hoses and store in an appropriate place, preferably inside the facility. Many vandalism claims involve placing a running hose near or in the house

The above list provides a sample of items you should do to prepare the house for the summer break. For the complete "Summer Break Checklist," visit the [Willis North America website](#).