

# FRATERNITY OF MEN, NOT BOYS.

Sigma Nu's Risk Reduction Newsletter

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## Pursuit of Excellence

Listen up Risk Reduction and Social Chairmen! The Pursuit of Excellence [Self-Assessment Booklet](#) is due April 30<sup>th</sup>.

This means you need to start preparing appropriate supporting documentation to attach to your chapter's Pursuit of Excellence submission, as well as begin asking the appropriate officers what other resources they need from you. Some items you should be preparing are your chapter's Social Calendar, Risk Reduction Implementation Plan, and Crisis Management Plan.

This is also a great opportunity to engage the membership in a conversation about the chapter's risk reduction policies and plans. Be sure the chapter utilizes the [Self-Assessment Session](#) so that you can discuss the chapter's programs and progress in all areas this year.

## Relationship Agreements

Increasingly, colleges and universities are requiring student organizations, primarily fraternities and sororities, to execute a relationship agreement – also referred to as a recognition statement – as a condition to be recognized by the host institution. In most cases, that university recognition allows chapters to reserve university rooms, market events on-campus and participate in IFC functions, among other benefits. Needless to say, university recognition has a lot of benefits so chapters are more than willing to sign these recognition agreements when asked.

While most recognition agreements outline reasonable expectations and policies, some of these agreements contain inequitable requirements related to insurance and legal liability. In many cases, our insurance policy cannot meet the insurance-related requirements outlined in the relationship agreement. To ensure your chapter is not agreeing to requirements the General Fraternity cannot meet or to expectations that are unreasonable or unfair, you should email the recognition agreement immediately upon receipt to Fred Dobry, Director of Risk Reduction, at [fred.dobry@sigmanu.org](mailto:fred.dobry@sigmanu.org) for review.

Your chapter should never execute a relationship agreement and/or recognition statement until it has been properly reviewed by the General Fraternity. In almost all situations, the General Fraternity is able to work with the host institution to make mutually agreeable changes to the recognition agreement so that all parties are comfortable with the terms.

## Facebook's Role in Risk Management

Many of us enjoy the benefits of being a member of Facebook. From keeping up-to-date on your friends' latest status updates to making sure you remember your chapter members' birthdays, we all use Facebook to some degree to keep our social life in order. Over the last several months, chapters are increasingly using Facebook to keep their social calendar in order too.

There have been several instances brought to the General Fraternity's attention of chapters creating Facebook event pages to market their social events. While we encourage chapters to take advantage of social networking opportunities, our members must be aware that Facebook invites are considered open social functions—a practice that could void the chapter's insurance coverage. *(continued on page 2)*

## Spring Breakdown

The month of March brings with it several welcome and new additions to the lives of many college students across the country. Basketball tournaments, the coming spring weather, a turning point as graduation approaches or the academic year comes to a close, and of course Spring Break. A time when many undergraduates will depart campuses in exodus to different locations across the country for various reasons; but, most of the time, none of them include academics. Let's think about two aspects of Spring Break on which every college male needs to be educated.

First of all, alcohol is often the central theme for everything. Spring Breakers will drink ten drinks a day on average as opposed to six per week during school. Ninety-two percent of respondents for one survey stated that alcohol was relatively easy to get despite age. I can think of no other situation that is primed for poor decisions, or even fatality, than one in which individuals are consuming alcohol at such rapid rates, not to mention a portion of them being under the legal age for consuming alcohol.

The second key theme of Spring Break unfortunately is sex. No not sex in the sense that two star crossed lovers enjoy a night of intimacy. According to a national survey by the American Medical Association, 76% of male college students who go on Spring Break plan on sleeping with someone. Surprise, surprise, only 19% of females share that same plan. On top of all of that, only half of sexual encounters are protected, according to the survey data. That means memories with your friends might not be the only souvenir you bring back with you from Spring Break.

So we've got plenty of alcohol with dangerous behaviors, unprotected sex, and differing expectations between genders when it comes to sex. Sounds like a civil litigator's dream scenario and a parent's worst nightmare. That being said, I would argue that a fairly good sized proportion of Spring Breakers enjoy a safe and responsible vacation. And if you're traveling with your fellow Brothers keep in mind that you are your Brother's keeper. For helpful tips on having a safe spring break, check out the latest resource from Outside The Classroom – creator of GreekLifeEdu – at [http://www.outsidetheclassroom.com/upload/boosters/GLE2\\_201011.html](http://www.outsidetheclassroom.com/upload/boosters/GLE2_201011.html).

Better yet, do we publicize alternative options during our chapter meetings? Many campuses offer alternative Spring Breaks to destinations such as Savannah, GA, or even Guatemala for students participation.

So as March continues on, be conscious of the facts and figures regarding Spring Break and at the end of the day always remember that your actions reflect Sigma Nu whether you are wearing your letters or not.

(Sources: <http://www.imagebath.com/aziz/springbreak/> and [http://www.alcoholpolicymd.com/press\\_room/Press\\_releases/SpringBreakPollingRelease.htm](http://www.alcoholpolicymd.com/press_room/Press_releases/SpringBreakPollingRelease.htm))

## Open Event Page = Open Party *(continued from page 1)*

The Fraternity's [Risk Reduction Policy and Guidelines](#) prohibits chapters from hosting "open" parties. Each chapter social function where alcohol is legally present is to have a guest list that is pre-approved by the chapter. Also, the overall maximum guest-to-member ratio for these events is not to exceed 2:1. There are two primary reasons for this:

1. Guests who are not friends with any chapter members may not respect the rules the chapter has in place for the event and/or the venue at which the event is being held. They have no reason to keep the chapter's welfare in mind since they have no true connection to the chapter.
2. A social function exceeding this ratio has been deemed unsafe due to the inability a chapter may have in maintaining proper oversight and crowd control should a fight or other similar incident occur.

So talk with your Social Chairman and ensure that the next chapter social event does not make its way onto Facebook. After all, don't you have more fun with your friends rather than random strangers?