



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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"Sisterhood Starts Today": Sigma Sigma Sigma Puts Sisterhood First
Renews Interfraternal Commitment to Support the Fight Against Hazing

National Headquarters - Woodstock, VA — August 27, 2010 – To support the most significant influx in new members during the beginning of the 2010-2011 academic year, Sigma Sigma Sigma ("Tri Sigma") sorority recommits to an organizational culture rooted in authentic friendship, strong womanly character, and ethical conduct. When a woman officially accepts an invitation to membership in Tri Sigma, a commitment is unilaterally made to immediately extend to that woman a bond of friendship, a new member experience rooted in human dignity, with a focus on mutual and equal respect. To put it simply, on that special day when a woman commits herself to Tri Sigma, *sisterhood starts immediately*. We are focused on educating our members on hazing, helping them prevent cultural elements of hazing, and providing resources for them to hold others accountable.

Tri Sigma is aware of the larger culture that still struggles to hold people accountable to hazing behaviors. According to HazingPrevention.Org, in 95% of cases where students identified (their) experience as hazing, they did not report the events to campus officials. 36% of students said they would NOT report hazing primarily because "there's no one to tell." Tri Sigma is committed to providing cutting edge education, resources, and relationships rooted in equality. Marcia Cutter, Executive Director, said "There is no place for hazing in Tri Sigma and to participate in any hazing activity contradicts our core values of wisdom, faith, hope, power and love and our ritual. Every Tri Sigma has a responsibility to ensure our members are treated with the love and respect that our Founders envisioned so very long ago."

Tri Sigma sorority has pioneered in its commitment to end hazing, introducing a resolution focused on a "zero tolerance policy" in 1981. Hazing has no place in Tri Sigma, and we are committed to offering resources, education, and real-time support for those committed to ending hazing. This commitment extends to members at every phase or degree of membership, including advisors, alumnae members, and our newest members.

September 2010 offers an entire month of committed dialogue, with the most significant conversation culminating in Hazing Prevention Week, September 20 – 24, 2010. Tri Sigma volunteers at every level, collegiate members, alumnae and headquarters staff are participating in a variety of educational activities, resource development opportunities, and discussions to find the solutions to eliminate hazing. This September, we offer a number of resources and a "call to action" for our members. Tools for members include:

- **Gold Level Sponsorship of HazingPrevention.Org** – A unique and resource based partnership in support of the efforts of this solutions-focused organization.
- **1-888-NOT HAZE** – This phone hotline is available to those who think they, or students they know, have been or may become victims of hazing. All calls are anonymous, with the opportunity to provide information that allows organizations inroads for follow up and support.
- Webinar Series - **Hosted by HazingPrevention.Org** -

Women and Hazing

Wednesday, September 1, 2010 – 2 PM EST

Presented by: Lorin Phillips, Tri Sigma Director of Chapter Services, Patty Disque and Beth Stathos

Removing Barriers to Bystander Behavior

Wednesday, September 8, 2010 – 2 PM EST

Presented by: Kim Novak

Hazing & Masculinity

Thursday, September 16, 2010 – 2 PM EST

Presented by: Brandon Cutler and Zach Nicolazzo

Thinking About Crossing The Line

Wednesday, September 22, 2010 - 2 PM EST

Presented by: Eli Ker

Read more and register here:

http://www.hazingprevention.org/page.php?page_id=109708

*there is a cost associated with the webinar. If interested in participating, please email cwallace@trisigma.org

- **Crowdsourcing to End Hazing: #40Answers Twitter Campaign** - Tri Sigma joins the interfraternal Twitter crowdsourcing campaign to provide a comprehensive list of swift and reasoned arguments against the 40 most common excuses for hazing. Tri Sigma will tweet responses to a different excuse each day using the Twitter hashtag "#40Answers".

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Sigma Sigma Sigma was founded in 1898 at Longwood College in Farmville, VA. Tri Sigma strives to prepare women for life after college by advocating bonds of friendship, developing strong character in its members, and promoting the highest standards of conduct. Currently, there are over 100,000 members and over 200 alumnae and collegiate chapters. The Sorority supports play therapy for hospitalized children and assists in providing playrooms for hospitalized children in Chapel Hill, NC and Dallas, TX through funds contributed to the Sigma Sigma Sigma Foundation.

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