



# **HAZING:**

## **WHAT IS IT AND WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?**

**Fraternal House Directors Conference 2017**

**Burlington, Vermont**

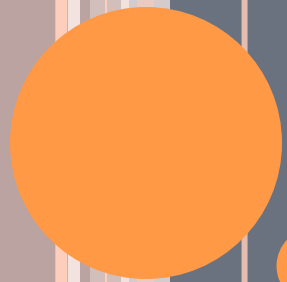


**SUNY PLATTSBURGH 2013: WALTER DEAN JENNINGS**

[Unless a Death Occurs: Hazing Examined \(Mountain Lake PBS\)](#)

<https://vimeo.com/108841140>





# WHAT IS HAZING?

# DEFINING HAZING

- State Laws
- College/University Policy
- Inter/National Organization Policy
- HazingPrevention.Org Definition:

*“Hazing is any action taken or any situation created intentionally that causes embarrassment, harassment or ridicule and risks emotional and/or physical harm to members of a group or team, whether new or not, regardless of a person’s willingness to participate.”*

- Federal Hazing Legislation: REACH Act of 2017



# HAZING DEFINITIONS: COMMON FACTORS

- Seeking or maintaining membership in a group
- Activity humiliates, degrades, abuses or endangers an individual or group of individuals
- Willingness to participate does not absolve responsibility
- In short, hazing is intentional and it is about power.





# WHAT DOES HAZING LOOK LIKE?



PENN STATE 2017: TIMOTHY PIAZZA

[http://  
www.cnn.com/  
2017/05/05/us/  
pennsylvania-frat-  
death-charges/  
index.html](http://www.cnn.com/2017/05/05/us/pennsylvania-frat-death-charges/index.html)





BARUCH COLLEGE 2013: CHUN HSIEN DENG

[https://  
www.nytimes.com/  
2017/05/15/  
nyregion/baruch-  
college-hazing-  
death-pi-delta-  
psi.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/15/nyregion/baruch-college-hazing-death-pi-delta-psi.html)







# SUNY ALBANY 2016

[http://  
www.nydailynews.  
com/news/crime/7-  
albany-students-  
accused-making-  
sorority-recruits-  
eat-mud-  
article-1.2868892](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/crime/7-albany-students-accused-making-sorority-recruits-eat-mud-article-1.2868892)



# NATIONAL STUDY OF STUDENT HAZING: ALLEN & MADDEN (2008)

- More than half (55%) of college students involved in club, teams and organizations experience hazing.
- Nearly half (47%) of students come to college having experienced hazing.
- Nine out of 10 students who have experienced hazing behavior in college do not consider themselves to have been hazed.



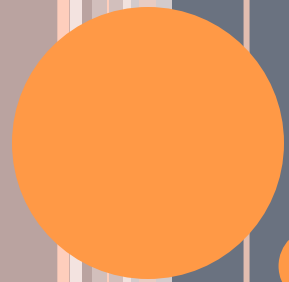
# EXAMPLES OF HAZING

- Physical
- Mental
- Humiliation/De-Humanization
- High Risk Activities

*Alcohol consumption, humiliation, isolation, sleep deprivation and sex acts are hazing practices common across student groups.*

(Allen & Madden, 2008)





# WHY DOES HAZING OCCUR?



# WHY THE STUDENT DISCONNECT?

- Many students can't articulate a definition of hazing.
- There are conflicting definitions.
- Downplaying harm because the activity is supposed to be fun.
- Wanting to be hazed/need for a rite of passage.
- Rationalization
- Pop Culture/High School or Campus Culture
- Desire for Belonging/Fear of Being Outcast





# WHAT DO I DO IF I SUSPECT HAZING?

# WARNING SIGNS

- Seclusion of new members
- Expectations different for new members
- Changes in behavior/abnormal behavior
- Alcohol is involved
- Changes in demeanor
- High emotions
- Sudden appearance of alumni
- Disruption by other fraternal organizations.
- IF IT MAKES YOU UNEASY THEN IT IS WORTH PURSUING!



# STEPS FOR ACTION

- Know the hazing definitions for your state, college/university and inter/national organization.
- Determine ahead of time who to contact with concerns.
- Know when the new member period is supposed to begin and end each semester. Be present and observant during that time.
- If you are uneasy, pursue it. Do not brush it off as none of your business/"kids being kids"/irrational concerns.





## CASE STUDY ONE

It's Homecoming Week and the chapter is expecting a big crowd of alumni to arrive tomorrow at the chapter house. Each year, all of the new members are expected to clean the house, top to bottom, in preparation and to serve as the staff for the chapter's Homecoming event.

*Is it hazing? Why or why not?*

*What would you do in this situation?*



## CASE STUDY TWO

During Initiation Week, all of the new members are expected to spend the entire week at the chapter house, including sleeping in the living room to build camaraderie and unity.

Throughout the week, new members are expected to carry cigarettes, gum and pens for any active member who may request them. In addition, they are expected to carry a match, a rock and three keys to symbolize the fire of loyalty, the strength of brotherhood and the three founders.



## CASE STUDY THREE

On the night of the formal pledging ceremony, it is tradition for big brothers/sisters and little brothers/sisters to participate in a chapter beer pong tournament. The active member of the winning team is awarded free social dues for one semester and the active member of the losing team is required to be the “sober” brother/sister at parties for an entire semester.





# QUESTIONS?

Allison Swick-Duttine, SUNY Plattsburgh  
[swickan@plattsburgh.edu](mailto:swickan@plattsburgh.edu)

William Cangialosi, SUNY Plattsburgh  
[wcang001@plattsburgh.edu](mailto:wcang001@plattsburgh.edu)