



Background & Current Progress • June 2004
Newsletter to Project Partners

NIF-NASPA Hazing Research Initiative
*Examining and Transforming the Hazing Culture:
A National Study of the Nature and Prevalence of Hazing*



This is the first installment of a semiannual newsletter/status report we will be providing to organizations and associations who have signed-on as Research Partners for the National Hazing Study. In this newsletter we provide a synopsis of the project history, notes on its current status, an up-to-date list of research partners and advisory committee members, and an overview of on-going work related to the study.

Background

Project History

In March 2003, the North American Interfraternal Foundation (NIF) convened a meeting at the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) annual conference in St. Louis, Missouri to discuss broad-based support for a national research initiative to examine hazing in postsecondary education. The NASPA President and Executive Director, NIF Board members and representatives from the National Collegiate Athletic Association, and the Association for Student Judicial Affairs were present at the meeting. Dr. Elizabeth Allan, Assistant Professor of Higher Educational Leadership at the University of Maine described her vision for the study.

Project Summary

The study will investigate the nature and prevalence of hazing practices across a range of student groups within colleges and universities in the U.S. By addressing the lack of empirical data related to hazing, this study will provide foundational data from which to assess campus climates and to inform best practices for hazing intervention and prevention. The research is designed to generate breadth of knowledge and promote more in-depth understanding about hazing in postsecondary educational institutions with applications to other populations including middle and high school students.

More specifically, **goals of the study are to:**

- ▶ Investigate the prevalence and nature of hazing behaviors among students in U.S. colleges and universities.
- ▶ Offer research-based strategies for responding to and preventing the problem of hazing among college students with transferability to middle and secondary schools.

A more detailed Research Prospectus for the study can be found at: <http://www.stophazing.org/hazingstudy.htm>

Notes on Project Status

Funding

- ▶ Estimated total budget for the 3-year project is approximately \$1.2 million.
- ▶ The NIF has sponsored the costs of a professional grantwriter to assist with proposal writing.
- ▶ Proposal for partial (\$200,000/year one) project funding is currently under review with the Balfour Foundation. For more details see: www.stophazing.org/balfourcomplete.pdf
- ▶ The Lumina Foundation proposal is nearly completed. Proposals for NCAA, and NASPA Foundations are in development. A number of other foundations and agencies are under consideration as potential funding sources.



Meetings & Communication

- Some members of the Research Advisory Group attending NASPA, met in Denver on Sunday, March 28, 2004. Discussion at the meeting focused primarily on the current challenge at hand; securing external funding to implement data collection and analysis.
- Website Development: hazingstudy.org and hazingstudy.com have been purchased for the project and a website is being designed. This site will be exclusively devoted to this research initiative and will provide general information about hazing and the national study. It will also serve as the home for the web-based survey instrument to be used to collect data for this study. Eventually, the site will serve as vehicle for disseminating our research findings including best practices for hazing prevention.
- A Listserv for the Research Advisory Committee is underway. This electronic list will be used to share information and solicit input from the advisory committee on research design, data analysis and interpretation and other research-related issues.

Research Design

- Background of the project, research prospectus, research partner list, and grant proposals have been posted on the StopHazing.org website: <http://www.stophazing.org/natlresearch.htm> and is linked from the NIF webpage: <http://www.nif-inc.net/> A brief description of each research partner and links to each respective website is provided. (StopHazing.org averages over 500 visitors daily).

Partners/Collaborators

- To date, 11 national associations have signed on to this project as research partners. We are grateful for your support—thank you!!
- We are currently in contact with representatives from the Board of Directors for the American College Health Association (ACHA) to explore a possible collaboration. The ACHA would be a particularly helpful alliance as it would strengthen our ability to

position the project/hazing as a health issue (which it certainly is). This would open up new funding venues (e.g., NIH).

Current Research Partners

The NIF has generously granted start-up funding for the project and has invited other groups to collaborate by becoming research partners. As of June 2004, the following groups have joined the NIF to become partners for this national study:



- National Association of Student Personnel Administrators:** NASPA provides professional development, promotes exemplary practices, and is a leader in policy development in student personnel administration.
- National Collegiate Athletic Association:** NCAA is a voluntary association of about 1,200 colleges and universities, athletic conferences and sports organizations devoted to the sound administration of intercollegiate athletics.
- Association of Fraternity Advisors:** AFA is an international organization providing resources, recognition and support for campus fraternity/sorority advising professionals.
- American College Personnel Association:** ACPA fosters college student learning through the generation and dissemination of knowledge, which informs policies, practices and programs for the higher education community.
- National Association of Campus Activities:** NACA links the higher education and entertainment communities in a business and learning partnership.
- National Orientation Directors Association:** NODA provides education and leadership in the fields of college student orientation, transition and retention.
- National Consortium for Academics and Sports:** The mission of the NCAS is to create a better society by focusing on educational attainment and using the power and appeal of sport to positively affect social change.

- **National Panhellenic Conference:** The NPC is an umbrella organization for 26 international women's fraternities and sororities. Each member group is autonomous as a social, Greek-letter society of college women and alumnae. Members are represented on over 620 college and university campuses in the United States and Canada and in over 4,600 alumnae associations, making up over 3.6 million sorority women in the world.
- **Association for Student Judicial Affairs:** ASJA facilitates the integration of student development concepts with principles of judicial practice in a post-secondary educational setting, and promotes, encourages and supports student development professionals who have responsibility for student judicial affairs.
- **Fraternity Executives Association:** FEA operates to further the common interests of member organizations by promoting, supporting, and encouraging the free discussion and exchange of ideas relating to college fraternal organizations.
- **Center for the Study of the College Fraternity:** The CSCF was formed in 1979 to encourage and support research of the highest quality and educational significance on the role of the fraternity and sorority in higher education.

Research Advisory Committee Members

This group includes appointed members of each Research Partner Organization as well as others who have expertise related to hazing. The group has been established to inform and guide project design and assist in obtaining project funding. Members currently include (in alphabetical order):



- **Jessica Bartter**, Communications Coordinator, Representing National Consortium for Academics and Sports (NCAS).
- **Dr. Ron Binder**, Associate Director of Residence Life for Greek Affairs, Bowling Green State University. Representing the Association of Fraternity Advisors (AFA).

- ♦ **Timothy Clark**, Assistant Director of Education and Outreach, National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).
- ♦ **Dr. Gwen Dundy**, Exec. Dir., National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA).
- ♦ **Dr. Debbie E. Heida**, Vice President for Student Development, Dean of Students, Wittenberg University
- ♦ **Dr. Terence Hogan**, Dean of Students, Ohio University, Past Chair of NASPA Knowledge Community on Fraternity/Sorority Affairs.
- ♦ **Dr. Richard McKaig**, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs & faculty member in Student Affairs & Higher Education, Indiana University. North American Interfraternal Foundation (NIF) Executive Board member.
- ♦ **Hank Nuwer**, nationally recognized hazing expert, author of three books on hazing, member of the advisory committee to the 1999 NCAA hazing study, Adjunct Professor at Indiana University-Purdue University and Faculty member at Franklin College (IN).
- ♦ **Laura Osteen**, Associate Faculty Director of the College Park Scholars Public Leadership Program, University of Maryland. Representing the American College Personnel Association (ACPA).
- ♦ **Dr. Judith Ramalay**, Assistant Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) and past-President of the University of Vermont.
- ♦ **Dr. John Schuh**, Distinguished Professor and Chair, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, Iowa State University. Representing the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA).
- ♦ **Dr. William Smedick**, Special Assistant to the Dean of Student Life, Johns Hopkins University, Representing the National Association of Campus Activities (NACA).
- ♦ **Dr. Stephen Sweet**, sociologist, statistician, and author of several articles about hazing, Professor of Sociology, Ithaca College.
- ♦ **Nona Wood**, Associate Director of Student Rights & Responsibilities North Dakota State University. Representing the Association for Student Judicial Affairs (ASJA).

- ◆ **Louise Kier Zirretta**, past President of the North American Interfraternal Foundation (NIF) and professional researcher.

Looking Ahead

- ▶ A pilot study design is in development and will be executed in the coming academic year '04-05. The purpose of the pilot study is to test a range of design issues including access to student sample, research instrument (web-based survey) and interview protocols. NCAA and NASPA Foundations are possible funding sources for the pilot study.
- ▶ Feedback on the project design and/or funding prospects is welcome at any time. Please email Elizabeth Allan, Principal Investigator for the study at: elizabeth.allan@umit.maine.edu. Input on specific items will be solicited via the Research Advisory Group Listserv in August/September 2004.
- ▶ Look for the new hazingstudy.org website—we plan to “go live” with it by the end of the summer.