

PRESS RELEASE

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Five Named Anti-Hazing Heroes by HazingPrevention.Org: 2078 Anti-Hazing Heroes and Essay Contest Winners

Denver, Co., Jan. 10, 2008 -- Three students and two professionals have been named Anti-Hazing Heroes for their stands against hazing on college campuses across the country. These courageous individuals stood up to hazing in their organizations and helped educate others about the dangers of this practice.

Hazing is defined as any action taken or situation created intentionally, whether on or off campus, that causes embarrassment, harassment or ridicule, and has the potential for mental or physical harm. Actions can fall under the hazing definition even if victims agree to participate, and even if they are no longer considered "new" members of a team or organization.

Phi Delta Theta fraternity sponsored the 2008 Anti-Hazing Hero Awards for which cash prizes were given to each recipient.

The 2007 Anti-Hazing Heroes are:

Chad Ellsworth knows the negative impact of hazing first-hand. He was hazed as an undergraduate member of a fraternity at the University of Nebraska. Rather than go along as so many do, Chad stood up against hazing, left the fraternity and was ostracized for his actions. He found another fraternity home, however, and ended up having a positive Greek experience – one that led him to a career in fraternity/sorority advising. As a graduate student, Chad wrote his thesis on hazing, and has written articles and presented workshops on hazing since then. Now, as the Greek Advisor at the University of Minnesota, Chad has the opportunity to impact his students and this issue everyday. Contact: 612- 624-7659 ellsw017@umn.edu

Adrian Herrera is the IFC president at the Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo campus. He attended a workshop at the Western Regional Greek Leadership Conference (WRGLC) last spring where he shared his frustrations with his chapter's hazing during a workshop. That same day, he made the decision to report his chapter to his fraternity's international headquarters. Already ostracized by the chapter for his stance against hazing, after reporting it, he received hate mail from his brothers in Tau Kappa Epsilon. After a membership review, his chapter returned this year with only 14 members, but all of them committed to being a no-hazing fraternity, they recruited 18 new members this fall to join them. Adrian credits his experience at the Undergraduate Interfraternity Institute and his WRGLC facilitator, David Stollman, with helping him take the

stand that he knew was needed to end the hazing in his chapter. Contact: 443-858-4150
cplaxguy@gmail.com

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Nick Lindsey was nominated for this award by his Theta Xi chapter president, Randy Riffle. Randy was impressed that [in addition to quitting](#) the Bradley University fraternity that had hazed him, [Nick](#) wrote about his experience anonymously for the school paper. [Nick then participated](#) in recruitment a second time and [joined Theta Xi](#). “He shows great character and a love for the Greek system as well as his new chapter,” Randy says. In his second semester of membership, Nick now serves as an officer of his fraternity. Randy reports that Nick has stepped up and taken on important roles for the chapter as scholarship chairman and also planning for a recent comedy show. “I am thankful everyday that he gave Greek life a second shot because I gained a new quality brother in the process.” Contact: jnlindsey@bradley.edu or RRiffle@bradley.edu

Matt Modansky holds numerous leadership positions, and values those roles because they afford him a platform to lead by example and educate others about what it means to be a leader as well. As a founding member of his chapter of Sigma Alpha Mu at West Virginia University, Matt was instrumental in [ensuring](#) the organization would have zero tolerance for hazing. Matt has been recognized by his national organization for his leadership, and last year was asked to plan an educational session on hazing for the [fraternity’s](#) national convention. He also helped bring an anti-hazing speaker to his campus. Matt hopes his example will allow others to stand up to hazing in their own organizations, and as IFC president, he wants to be that “someone to tell” when students don’t know where to turn. Contact: matthew.modansky@mail.wvu.edu or Andy Huston, Director of Educational Programs & Risk Awareness, Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity 317.846.0600

Allison Swick-Duttine was galvanized by the death of Walter Jennings on her campus from hazing he endured in a non-recognized fraternity. Already a strong opponent of hazing Swick-Duttine became a highly sought-after presenter determined to help other campuses avoid the same fate. She has presented numerous times about hazing and underground fraternities, and written much on the subject as well for various publications. Allison is the Director of Fraternity/Sorority Life at the State University of New York Plattsburgh campus. Contact: (518) 564-4825 swickan@plattsburgh.edu

The **North American Interfraternity Conference** sponsored the Essay Contest for which cash prizes were given to the winners.

2007 Essay Contest winners are:

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|-----------------------|--|
| 1 st Place | Hank Nuwer Franklin College Professor of Journalism
Contact: 317-902-7937, hnuwer@franklincollege.edu |
| 2 nd Place | University of Virginia student who wishes to remain anonymous |
| 3 rd Place | Matt Modansky West Virginia University Student
Contact: 845-548-9044, matthew.modansky@mail.wvu.edu |

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The Anti-Hazing Hero Awards were presented on November 4, 2007 at the National Hazing Symposium held on the campus of Purdue University. Marc Mores, Associate Executive Vice President of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity, said, “Our organization is proud to help recognize these students and professionals who are making a real impact on the issue of hazing. Their courage in standing up to the problem is commendable.”

Applications for 2008 Anti-Hazing Heroes and Essay Contest submissions will be available in March 2008 and due anytime before October 1, 2008.

HazingPrevention.Org is a new non-profit organization whose mission is to empower individuals to expect and create hazing-free environments. The mission is accomplished through recognition of the heroes who are fighting the problem, general awareness-raising efforts and sponsorship of several annual educational programs including: The National Hazing Symposium – generally held in the fall; National Hazing Prevention Week – taking place on campuses the last week of September each year; and a new summer training program for professionals & volunteers to be held June 4-7, 2008 on the campus of North Carolina State University. For more information, go to: www.hazingprevention.org

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