FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 17, 2015

SUBJECT: SUSPENSION AND CLOSURE OF U. OF MICHIGAN CHAPTER OF SIGMA ALPHA MU FRATERNITY

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Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity’s International Board of Directors voted to permanently suspend the charter of our University of Michigan chapter, and to disband the group. All members of the chapter have been placed on alumni status and some may face individual disciplinary action from various authorities as a result of vandalism that occurred at the Treetops Resort over the weekend of January 16-18, 2015.

The Fraternity’s Board regrets having to take this action. The action was necessary as a result of:
  a) the lack of cooperation by those responsible for the damage in not coming forward,
  b) the chapter officers refusal to identify the members who damaged the hotel property,
  c) the lack of action to stop the vandalism by bystanders was also an important factor.

Sigma Alpha Mu’s values and standards of conduct were violated by the actions of those members whose behavior was abhorrent.

When the incident first occurred, the Fraternity’s Board took immediate and decisive action by suspending the chapter from all activities until a full investigation could be conducted. As a result of that process, a membership review was conducted and most of the senior members of the chapter refused to participate.

It is regrettable that these vandals, as well as the officers of the chapter decided that avoiding personal accountability and/or university sanctions took priority over the welfare of the entire chapter; their lack of cooperation led to the university’s withdrawal of recognition of the entire chapter for a four-year period. Sigma Alpha Mu worked in cooperation with university officials and regretfully agreed with their request to close the chapter.

About Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity, Inc.

Sigma Alpha Mu was founded in 1909 at the College of the City of New York as a fraternity of Jewish men; the organization has been inclusive since 1953. With Executive Offices located in Indianapolis, IN, the fraternity currently has 54 collegiate chapters and colonies and over 48,000 living alumni throughout the United States and Canada.