Statement from the College of William and Mary  
Closure of the Epsilon Alpha Chapter of Lambda Chi Alpha  
April 30, 2013

The College of William & Mary announces the closure of the Epsilon Alpha Chapter of Lambda Chi Alpha. The College has worked closely with the international office of Lambda Chi Fraternity during the investigation(s) that have led to the decision to suspend the organization.

In late March, Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity, Epsilon Alpha Chapter was placed on an immediate interim suspension following an incident of a serious nature involving alcohol and a new member of the organization. The investigation of that incident resulted in a lengthy term of probation, the chapter’s loss of on-campus fraternity housing for academic year 2013-2014, and a review of their new member education program and their policies related to alcohol use. The interim suspension was lifted April 3rd with the resolution of the underlying student conduct charges.

On April 4th, the Office of Student Conduct received information establishing that additional allegations of serious improper conduct had occurred involving Lambda Chi Alpha which corroborated a report received earlier this academic year. The chapter was again placed on interim suspension while those allegations were under investigation. This week the chapter resolved these charges administratively and accepted responsibility. In response, the College suspended the chapter through at least the Spring 2018 semester. In addition, the Director of Chapter Services for Lambda Chi Alpha met with the undergraduate members on April 29th to inform them that the international organization was closing the chapter as well.

The hazing behaviors that led to the second investigation included activities and events that were psychologically and physically abusive to new members, and the information gathered established that these hazing activities were a long-standing practice of the chapter. A series of organized hazing activities were a prominent component of the new member experience with (among other things) forced calisthenics and a “marathon” run lasting six hours and throughout the night. Activities for new members endangered their health and safety and included misuse and abuse of alcohol and/or other drugs in several planned events. The fraternity was held responsible for the following code of conduct violations: hazing, causing and/or threatening physical harm, and violations of the alcohol beverage and drug policies.

The decision to suspend an organization is not one that the College or the Fraternity takes lightly. It is a step that is necessary when the health and welfare of new members is in question and/or the organization demonstrates limited capacity or desire to change an entrenched tradition of significant hazing and degrading behavior.

Director of Chapter Services for Lambda Chi Alpha stated, “The current state of the chapter does not reflect the core values of Lambda Chi Alpha and there is no proof that the current officers can influence a change within the chapter and maintain the minimum operating standards of the Fraternity. Lambda Chi Alpha is hopeful that we will have a future at the College of William & Mary that brings forth the truest interpretation of our traditions, principles, and teachings.”

Vice President of Student Affairs, Ginger Ambler stated, "William & Mary is dedicated to being a home without hazing for all students -- no student should be demeaned or exposed to harm in order to
belong, whether to a fraternity or to any other student club or organization. We are proud to be the birthplace of the American college fraternity, and the College seeks to advance the highest and historic values of fraternity and sorority life. Acts of hazing are wholly inconsistent with those values and have no place in our community."

The Epsilon Alpha chapter was founded on the W&M campus in 1927 and had been in continuous operation since that date. The College and Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity look forward to outlining a timetable to reestablish the Epsilon Alpha chapter with new membership (no earlier than 2018).