

February 2007

University of South Carolina Alcohol & Drug Programs



Mark Your Calendar:

A&D Programs Substance Abuse Task Force

The monthly ADPAC meeting will be held in the SEC room (201) in the Russell House, 10 – 11:30 am, every 2nd Thursday of the month

All are welcome to come and participate in this open forum of discussion regarding substance use on campus.

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Local News

• Late Night Carolina (LNC)

Our next Late Night Carolina will be held in March. Normally February would be host to one, but since the Dance Marathon and LNC fell on the same evening this year, we decided it would be right to yield to the efforts of Dance Marathon, instead of competing for participants. So, on March 30th, 2007 The University of South Carolina will play host to Zack Galiafanakis, a nationally known comedian who has appeared on Comedy Central as well as Jimmy Kimmel Live. He will be accompanied by Annuals, an up and coming band from North Carolina. So come check everything out on Friday, March 30th. Hope to see you there.

• GAMMA Highlights

Send your **sweetheart** a valentine invitation to join you and the GAMMA Crew at "The Day After Valentine's Day Dance." E-vites will be available at the Russell House 2nd floor lobby on February 13th and 14th. We're going to have a blast with cupcake decorating, cutest couple contest and refreshments.

GAMMA participated in Unity Week with Late Night Carolina entitled "Bringing Culture Back." The goal of the January Late Night was very successful with its goal of having a more diverse crowd to participate in the "unitea" and desserts, name certificates in English/Espanol as well as post cards from around the world. We would like to thank all the USC students who helped to make the Late Night Carolina a success.

Want to become apart of an elite organization on campus? Join us on Tuesday evenings at 7 P.M. in the Russell House Room 305

• CORE Alcohol and Drug Survey

It is the time of year that the Office of Alcohol and Drug Programs sets out to gather data for the annual CORE Survey. The surveys purpose is to gather a cross section of USC students alcohol and drug use. It is our plan to survey nearly 2000 students in dozens of different classes, representing many different demographics including race, year in school, affiliations, and several more. This information is used to identify new trends in alcohol and drug use among college students, as well as identify the highest risk groups for dangerous behaviors relating to substances.

Alcohol crime down on local campuses

By [John Hilton, Sentinel Reporter](#), January 21, 2007

Last updated: Sunday, January 21, 2007 1:15 AM EST

Drinking has long been part of college life -- but students at Dickinson College and Shippensburg University are realizing that maybe they don't need to get arrested to have a good time.

Statistics from the federal Uniform Crime Reports filed by both schools show a sharp decline in alcohol-related arrests in all categories. For example, public drunkenness arrests dropped by 50 percent from 2003 to 2005 -- the most recent year arrest data is available (see accompanying chart). The same is true for DUI and underage drinking arrests.

Officials at both schools interpret the declining arrest reports as evidence that efforts to offer alternatives to drinking are finding an audience.

"We are seeing a healthy increase in 'dry' parties, even for those of drinking age, and our Greek organizations have shown increasing levels of awareness," says Christine Dugan, director of media relations at Dickinson.

"We have worked closely with our Parents Council and students on this issue and encourage all parents to address drinking behaviors with their student both before and after their arrival on campus."



National Update

On-campus alcohol ban may be lifted at Ole Miss

Chancellor considers task force's recommendations that also would stiffen punishment for underage drinkers.

Lifting the campuswide ban on alcohol seems counterintuitive when you're trying to stop bad behavior caused by drinking.

"I know it does," said Robert Khayat, longtime chancellor at the University of Mississippi.

But that's exactly what Khayat, spurred by recommendations Tuesday from a campuswide group of experts, is thinking about doing. The recommendations include ending the ban on alcohol while stiffening punishments for underage drinkers or those who break the law.

"The goal," he said, "is to help students become adults."

Last fall, following high-profile, alcohol-related incidents, Khayat formed the Alcohol Task Force and charged it with finding a better way to deal with alcohol issues on campus.

It followed the death of a university police officer during a confrontation with a student who authorities said was driving under the influence of alcohol and illegal drugs.

That came weeks after university officials announced a crackdown on alcohol during tailgating events in the Grove, a popular location for partying at home football games.

The task force issued its final report to Khayat on Tuesday.

Lifting the alcohol ban is a key point, but there's much more to the recommendations the group made.

Among the other suggestions Khayat and his vice chancellors and other university officials will consider in the coming days:

- Making permanent a "two strikes" policy inaugurated last fall, which says students caught violating alcohol policies twice can be suspended.
- Requiring all freshmen to undergo alcohol education.
- Requiring Friday classes, making Thursday one less "party night" for students.
- Revoking campus parking passes for students convicted of driving under the influence.
- Clearly indicating on student ID cards who is and is not at least 21.

The University of South Carolina is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution.

- Working more closely with local, off-campus officials to identify students who violate alcohol laws.
- Issuing harsh punishments to nonstudents who violate on-campus alcohol policies, such as revoking season tickets to sporting events or banning them from campus.

Khayat said it is a near certainty he will make the two strikes policy permanent. Though he did not have figures on hand Tuesday evening, he said there's been a "marked reduction" in alcohol violations on campus since its inception in November.

Since then, the university said, one student has been suspended under the new rule.

The policy also has helped cut down on alcohol violations in residence halls, Lorinda Krhut, director of student housing, said in a news release.

Although the number of possession cases has risen since an initial decrease, vandalism and other behavior-related violations have decreased, she said.

Roun McNeal, the student body president, said none of the policy recommendations is groundbreaking, except perhaps lifting the ban on alcohol.

"Toying with the idea of abandoning the policy of prohibition is revolutionary for our campus," he said. Lifting the ban was a contentious issue among the task force members, with 20 voting for it, 15 voting against it and three choosing not to vote for either, according to the final report.

Word of that recommendation was just filtering its way to the students, said McNeal, who was a member of the task force and helped draft the recommendations.

"It's uncertain at this point how they'll take it," he said. "It's hard to say whether they're going to accept it or whether it's going to remain contentious."

He said other changes - more education, stricter enforcement of existing rules, Friday classes - are all working at other universities.

Khayat agreed that many of the task force's recommendations seem like common sense and likely will be adopted without much fuss.

Prohibition, however, is a tough one.

Indeed, every other public university in Mississippi officially bans alcohol from campus, though students, law enforcement officials and university leaders admit the bans are mostly in name only.

"You can make a strong case for prohibition," Khayat said, "and you can make a strong case for saying, 'If you're 21 the state law says it's legal, so we will, too.'"

GAMMA Highlights

- GAMMA has decided to go to bi-weekly General Meetings and bi-weekly Executive Board Meetings for the Spring.

Get Involved

- Encourage new students to join GAMMA and engage in substance free activities by:

→ Promoting Late Night Carolina's

→ Promoting Great Gamecock Tailgate Parties or

→ Call 7-7716 or e-mail -

adprog@gwm.sc.edu for more information

A & D Highlights

- Alcohol and Drug Programs is working on a submission for the Department of Education grant in the next month.