Alcohol and Other Drug Education Service

Substance abuse is a major problem on American colleges and universities. A recent survey showed that 86% of KSU students drink alcohol beverages. Of greater concern, however, is that as many as 20% of KSU students report having significant negative consequences as a result of their use of alcohol. The KSU Alcohol and Other Drug Education Service is designed to provide the Manhattan and K-State community information on the physical effects and social issues related to alcohol and other drug use. A variety of services are available to students, faculty, staff, and Manhattan residents. Some of these services include, but are not limited to:

- Educational presentations on alcohol and other drug issues
- Basic assessment and intervention assistance
- Professional referral resources (campus and community)
- General education information (posters, handouts, flyers, etc.)
- Consultation on special activities
- Free video checkout (i.e. drunk driving, alcoholism, and other titles)
- Local DUI regulations
- Responsible party hosting information, consultation, and promotion
- NAB (Non-Alcoholic Beverage) recipes
- Sponsorship of the KSU GAMMA organization

**AODES 1993-1996 Survey Results**

In an attempt to identify trends of KSU students' alcohol and other drug usage and attitudes, a yearly survey is administered by the Alcohol and Other Drug Education Service. This is an anonymous and voluntary survey administered in KSU classrooms. Generally, 200-300 students participate in the survey each year. Special attention has been given to four questions; the results are found in the graph shown below.

1993-1996 KSU Student Surveys
GAMMA

GAMMA (Greek Advocating the Mature Management of Alcohol) is a relatively new KSU organization. Chartered in the Spring of 1996, Kansas State University GAMMA is one of 700 charters at colleges and universities who comprise the national BACCHUS and GAMMA Peer Education Network. The philosophy of GAMMA is that it neither condones, nor condemns the use of alcohol. Rather, it promotes responsible use among those who choose to drink, as well as actively supports those who do not drink. Alcohol education and alcohol related issues (ranging from alcohol poisoning to sexual assault prevention) form the core of the KSU GAMMA chapters' primary focus.

Presently, GAMMA has 40 members, representing 12 Greek chapters. Membership is slowly growing towards the desired goal of representation by every Greek chapter. Full membership will aid in promoting educational programming within the Greek system, as well as facilitate the sharing of alcohol education resources among chapters.

Although special activities occur throughout the year, KSU GAMMA focuses much of its energy on two major promotions: National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week (NCAAW) and Safer Spring Break. NCAAW is designed to increase campus awareness regarding alcohol issues. A recent memorable activity during NCAAW 1996 was “24 Seconds of Silence.” During the 1996 KSU vs. Oklahoma football game, Coach Bill Snyder gave a short message and asked the entire audience to stand and observe “24 Seconds of Silence” in remembrance of the 24 college-aged persons killed in drunk driving accidents in Kansas during 1995. Safer Spring Break is designed to remind students to take precautions and be careful before heading out on their Spring Break activities. The Safer Spring Break activity for this year was passing out Safer Spring Break Care Kits. These free kits contained a safety check list and several items useful for Spring Break.

With the help of the Alcohol and Other Drug Education Service office, GAMMA plans to develop an alcohol and other drug education training program for the representatives of each Greek chapter. Chapters that send representatives to the training program will receive a manual containing useful alcohol and other drug information. GAMMA will train these representatives to become educational resources for their respective chapters. In essence, GAMMA is evolving into a fun and educational arena in which Greeks take an active part in risk management.

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