

Improving Communication Involving Alcohol Concerns at UD

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ENG 373: Section 1: Dr. Bloom Pojar

The Health Concern:

- Alcohol Poisoning
- High Blood Pressure
- Liver Disease
- Heart Disease
- Neurological Damage
- Risky Behavior
 - Unintentional Accidents
 - Risk of STIs and Pregnancy
- Alcohol Dependency
- Alcoholism

Current Resources at UD:

- UDPD/ UD EMS
- Fellows and RAs
- Flyer Host
- REAL Programming
- Health and Counseling Centers
- Green Dot Training
- Sober Flyers (AA)
- Club 6



Analysis of Emails:

March 2017
Dear Kelly,

I hope your midterm exams went well and you are enjoying the warmer days of spring as we enter into the second half of the semester. That brings me to St. Patrick's Day — my first as president.

Over the course of this year, I've grown to cherish, as you do, the strong sense of community on campus. We have something very special here that we treasure, even brag a bit about because it's part of what makes us such a strong Catholic, Marianist university. As we approach St. Patrick's Day, I'm asking for your help in safeguarding the community we love.

My expectation is that you will make responsible decisions, look out for your fellow students, listen and be polite to public safety officers, and, above all else, treat yourself and others with respect.

As a reminder, underage drinking, high-risk drinking and public intoxication are not behaviors that will be condoned and will result in disciplinary action. The Student Development division, working with students, has planned a number of alcohol-free activities throughout the day and weekend to help encourage smart, healthy choices when you are not attending class.

I appreciate your support in our efforts to build our community in a way that's reflective of our shared values and mission. Blessings and grace to each of you,

Eric F. Spina
President

Dear Kelly,

While it's only mid-February, there's no question that spring is in the air. As the days are becoming warmer, there has been an increase in large crowds and gatherings in the student neighborhood on Saturday afternoons.

Such gatherings have traditionally been respectful and responsible. However, in recent weeks, we have observed increased instances of high-risk drinking, lack of civility with University staff, police officers and each other, damage to property, disorderly conduct and personal injury.

Your health and safety is of the utmost importance to us, and each of us plays a role in keeping our community safe. Do your part by acting responsibly; treating yourself, others and property with respect; and following the law and University policies. For more information on these expectations, please review our [Commitment to Community](#) and [Standards of Behavior](#) in the [Student Handbook](#).

Please be aware that there will be an increased staff and police presence in the student neighborhood tomorrow. To ensure your safety, the police will be dispersing large gatherings, citing underage drinking and enforcing occupancy limits. We ask for your cooperation as we work to provide a safe environment for all community members.

If at any time you have questions, need help or have a concern, please contact us — or the Department of Public Safety at [937-229-2121](tel:937-229-2121) (911 for emergencies). We are here to support you.

Sincerely,

William M. Fischer
William M. Fischer, J.D.
Vice President for Student Development

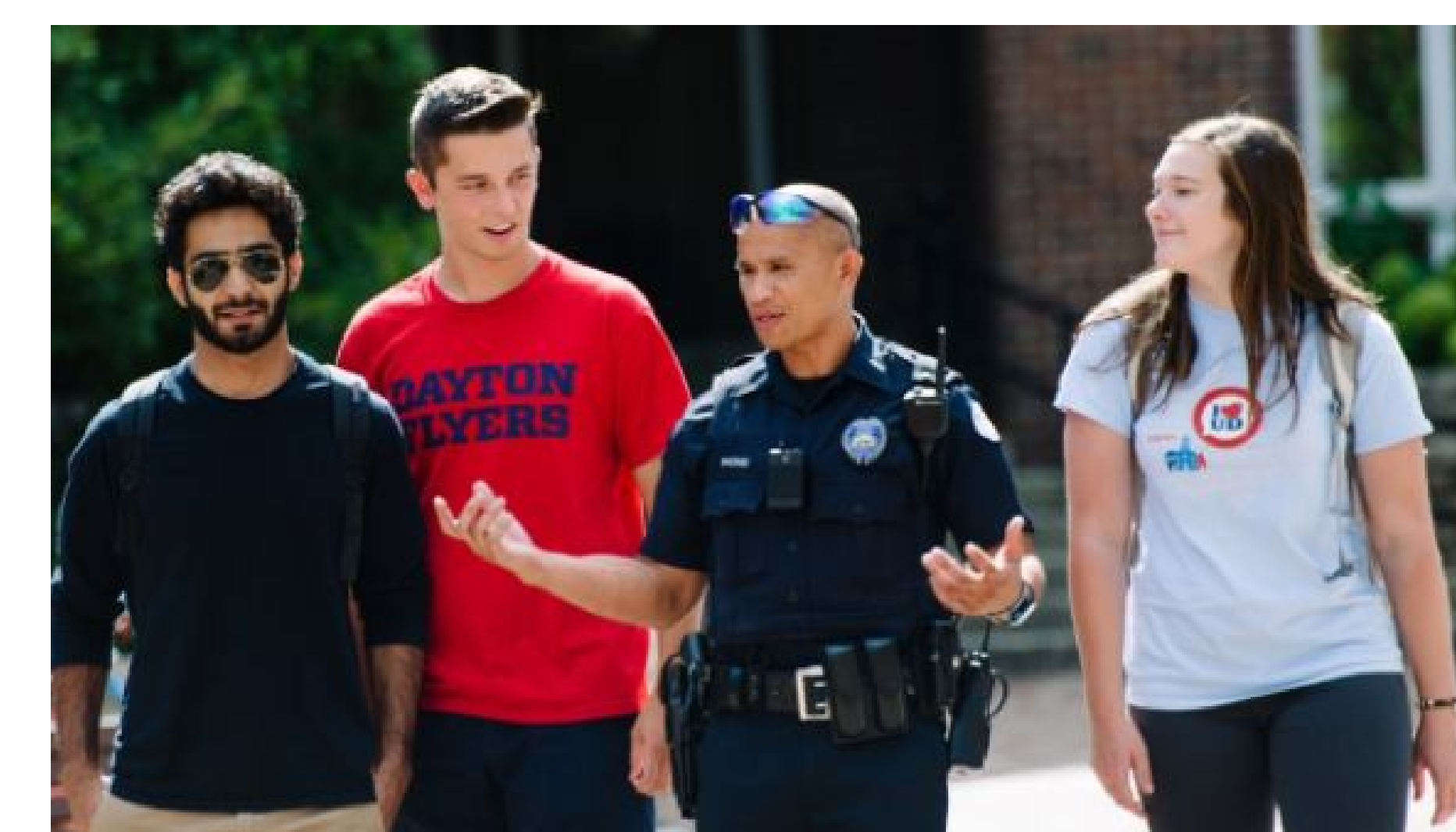
Rodney Chatman
Rodney Chatman
Executive Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police

Interviews:

- UD students reported having 20-30 drinks per week
 - National Average: Men = 13 Women = 4
- Holidays, sporting events, friend's birthdays, hosting visitors, social events, and warm weather influence students to drink more on any given weekend
- Students showed a preference of emails sent out during St. Patrick's Day week over other non-holiday weekends

Our Recommendations:

- Increase the number of alcohol-free events offered throughout the year
 - Reds games, zoo trips, movies, dinners, weekend trips, retreats
- Better promotion of on-campus resources year round, not just on holiday weekends
 - Resources listed in emails
 - HRL promotion
 - Other University Staff
 - Health and Counseling Center



•It is important to convey an interest in preserving the health and safety of the students, as opposed to using a scare tactic to change behavior. Students would be more likely to respect authority and drink less aggressively if they understand that the University cares more about their health than getting them in trouble.

References:

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McMurtrie, Beth. "Why Colleges Haven't Stopped Binge Drinking." The New York Times. The Chronicle of Higher Education, 14 Dec. 2014. Web. 13 Mar. 2017.

"St. Patrick's Day." University of Dayton: Student Development. Dean of Students, 28 Feb. 2017. Web. 13 Mar. 2017.

"Substance Abuse and Addiction - Topic Overview." WebMD. WebMD, n.d. Web. 13 Mar. 2017.

Public Safety: 937-229-2121
Student Escort Service: 937-229-2124