September 2013

Dear Student,

I am writing to share information with you about the Office of the Dean of Students and other resources available to you on campus. I want you to take an active role in your education, involvement and safety while you are a student at the University of Delaware. Faculty and staff are committed to your personal and academic success. The well-being of our community rests with each individual member. It is everyone’s responsibility to take steps towards personal safety, to speak up if you see something that is not right, and to seek help for yourself or others when needed. If you would like to learn skills to more effectively intervene, please contact Student Wellness & Health Promotion.

I know you are busy and have lots on your mind, but I urge you to read the following information outlining a few of the resources available at the University to assist you and your friends with having a successful college experience.

The Office of the Dean of Students provides students with the support, resources, and referrals they need to succeed at the University. The office assists students having difficulties due to reasons beyond their control, whether they are medical, emotional, psychological, familial, or financial in nature. If you have a question, a concern, or a problem to solve and you are not sure where to begin, the Office of the Dean of Students is a great place to start. Our staff is available to answer your questions, advocate on your behalf, or point you in the right direction to get the information you need.

The illegal and/or dangerous use of alcohol presents a serious safety and wellness concern. The Medical Amnesty Protocol stipulates that in the case of extreme intoxication, if medical attention is sought in a proactive way for either yourself or someone else (meaning you call 911 or seek other sufficient help proactively), the Office of Student Conduct will not pursue disciplinary sanctions against you or your friend for a violation of the University’s Alcohol Policy. This protocol has one goal in mind -- to get you and your fellow students the help they need immediately.

Student Wellness & Health Promotion (formerly Wellspring) provides opportunities for students to engage in wellness check-ups regarding their own or their friends’ drinking choices as well as other health concerns. Students can self-select to take an online evaluation program called ECheckUpToGO, and/or they can request an appointment at Student Wellness & Health Promotion. These check-ups are designed to meet the needs of any student, regardless of whether they choose to drink or not; and, oftentimes, one meeting is all that is needed to assure one’s future success at avoiding the common pitfalls related to college student drinking.

Sexual harm is a real concern for college-aged persons and it most often is linked to the use of alcohol. Women ages 16 to 24 experience rape at a rate four times higher than the assault rate of all women (Humphrey and Kahn, 2000). If sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking is experienced, we strongly encourage you to call Sexual Offense Support (S.O.S.) and ask to speak with a trained victim advocate. Victim Advocates serve as powerful allies to support and guide victims through the various options available or to report the crime.
Additionally, each student should be aware of the Missing Student Notification Policy and Procedures (Section 488 of the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008). This Act requires that each student attending UD identify the name and contact number of the individual(s) whom UD will notify within 24 hours of the determination that a student is missing.

There are hundreds of opportunities for student involvement in clubs, organizations, social programs, educational seminars, and leadership development activities. I encourage you to take advantage of the wide range of opportunities to learn, have fun, meet other people, and to positively contribute to the UD community. Check out the StUDent Central website for more information.

We are a community that cares for each other and we urge you to reach out for assistance if you or a friend is having any difficulty while here at the University. Thanks for your continued efforts to keep our campus safe. Go Blue Hens!

Sincerely,

José-Luis Riera, Ph.D.
Interim Dean of Students
DeanofStudents@udel.edu
302.831.8939
www.udel.edu/studentlife/deanofstudents.html

RESOURCES:

- Office of the Dean of Students: http://www.udel.edu/studentlife/deanofstudents.html
- Student Wellness & Health Promotion: http://www.udel.edu/studentwellness/
- Sexual Offense Support (S.O.S.): http://www.udel.edu/studentwellness/sos/ Phone: 302.831.2226
- Center for Counseling and Student Development: http://www.udel.edu/Counseling/
- Health Services: http://www.udel.edu/shs/
- Public Safety: http://www.udel.edu/PublicSafety/

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Medical Amnesty Protocol: http://www.udel.edu/amnesty/
- Alcohol overdose: http://www.udel.edu/studentwellness/drugs_alcohol.html#911
- Open Letter to UD Students regarding drugs or alcohol: http://www.udel.edu/stuguide/12-13/letter.html
- Frequently-asked questions regarding sexual assault: http://www.udel.edu/sexualassault/
- Missing Students Policy: http://www.udel.edu/PublicSafety/missing.htm
- Registered Student Organizations: http://studentcentral.udel.edu/