

## GLAC position paper on DePauw Student Safety and High Risk Alcohol Consumption

In the United States in 2008, 1825 college students between the ages of 18 and 24 died due to alcohol poisoning and alcohol related accidents. 599,000 individuals of the same cohort were injured in alcohol related incidents while 696,000 students were physically assaulted and 97,000 were sexually assaulted or raped (Hingson et al, 2009). All indicators suggest the upward trend in these numbers over the last decade has continued to climb from 2008 into 2011.

Our DePauw community is showing similar trends towards increased high risk alcohol consumption among students. Recent data released by DePauw Public Safety and the Office of Student Life supports the assumption that high risk drinking on DePauw's campus has increased from 2002 through 2010. Over the last three semesters, there have been 49 reported hospital transports of DePauw students or guests to local emergency rooms for treatment from alcohol poisoning. Of these 49 reports, equally distributed between men and women, 61% were first year students or guests, and virtually all of the incidents reported the consumption, at some level, of hard liquor.

While we are encouraged by our students' increased willingness to call for help in these dangerous situations, it is difficult not to be alarmed by the quantity and content of these visits. The blood alcohol levels of students are generally spiking at higher BAC levels. Out of these 49 incidents, 6 individuals recorded a blood alcohol level of .30 or higher. Alcohol poisoning has been lethal below .30, with levels above .30 demonstrating significant and consistent risk of death. Over 83% of cases with BAC levels above .40 are lethal; Of the 49 reported emergency interventions, one was above .40 BAC.

We, the members of the Greek Life Advisory Council, believe it is our duty to play a significant role, both independently and in partnership with the DePauw administration, in attempting to educate, manage and enforce policies and procedures that will help to keep DePauw students safe. While we do not condone the unlawful consumption of alcohol by minors and acknowledge that a certain percentage of our student body chooses not to consume alcohol, we also must accept the reality that high risk alcohol use is prevalent on our campus and its aftermath is creating unacceptable risk to drinkers, bystanders and the institutions in which it occurs whether it is Greek housing, university residential living units, or off-campus facilities.

**Therefore we plan:**

To consistently work with our chapter membership to foster and support strong risk management practices in our individual units.

To work hand-in-hand with the University administration in developing pilot interventions geared towards safekeeping the health of DePauw Students.

To willingly provide venues for the piloting of these programs and to share the results openly for purposes of improvement and replication on our campus and beyond.

To be in a position to launch pilots of new interventions on or before February of 2012.

Signed by the House Corporation and or advisors of the following living units,

Beta Theta Pi  
Alpha Chi Omega  
Phi Delta Theta  
Kappa Alpha Theta  
Phi Kappa Psi  
Delta Upsilon  
Phi Gamma Delta  
Sigma Chi  
Alpha Tau Omega  
Alpha Phi  
Delta Delta Delta  
Delta Tau Delta  
Delta Zeta  
Sigma Nu  
Delta Gamma  
Sigma Epsilon Alpha  
Pi Beta Phi