Responding to Crisis and Supporting our Campus Community

As we thaw out after a long cold winter at GW, I am confident we will see great energy and warmth continue to emerge this spring as we head toward the conclusion of the academic year. While this year has been another incredible year at the university, with many unprecedented milestones including two winning basketball teams, monumental philanthropic gifts, and the rapid completion of a number of important academic and administrative buildings, it also has been a time of challenge in our community.

As our community has continued to respond to the death of four undergraduate students that took place this semester, I would be remiss if I did not compliment the Student Affairs team for your tireless efforts to support our students as they grieve the loss of their peers and help manage the emotional toll of these recent incidents in our midst as they affect us all deeply. Personally I have been inspired by your ability to support our campus, our students, and each other, but I encourage you to access the support you need as you continue to provide care to others.

As I have noted on several other occasions, the sign of a strong community is not only its ability to celebrate our successes but also the way in which we work to address our challenges and come together to mourn our losses. From my perspective, I can say the team of student leaders and professional staff working on the front lines in Student Affairs played a critical part in supporting various communities across our campuses, offering a wealth of important support services and clinical assistance to those struggling with loss over the past few weeks and months.

Coupled with a coordinated, university-wide response that has tapped into the expert, interdisciplinary resources in our School of Medicine and Health Sciences and Milken Institute School of Public Health, we have been fortunate to build a framework that we believe will further supplement many of our existing models of crisis response. Joining counseling on call, after-hours assistance, and our CARE Network are several additional and redundant lines of student, staff, and expert assistance, all at a time when the need for concern and support has been highest for our student community.

We also, as a learning organization, have continued to comb the research and connect with experts in the field to ensure that our approach is grounded in relevant literature and best practice. Engaging with these experts and comparing our efforts to those of our peer and market basket institutions ensures we are learning the most we can about how to best structure our response and are informing that structure with the expertise others have in the realms of grief, loss, and crisis response.

I know all of us have been deeply moved by the various incidents this spring. I also know that our community is resilient and has already begun to further explore how we can continue to evolve our approach to elevating the conversation around asking for help and working to end the stigma associated with seeking our mental health services, all at a time when we are committed to fully aligning our resources to best meet the support needs of students across our campuses.
Center for Alcohol and other Drug Education

By Anna Mahalak, Planning and Outreach (amahalak@gwu.edu)

The Center for Alcohol and other Drug Education (CADE) educates students so they can make informed and responsible decisions regarding substance-related behavior. Through collaboration with other service areas and departments on campus, CADE provides programs, services, and resources that encourage students to recognize that their decisions impact not only themselves but also the greater GW and District of Columbia communities.

CADE Staff
CADE’s primary staff consists of Alexis Janda and Emily Kane. Alexis became the Associate Director of CADE in January 2012. Prior to her tenure at GW, Alexis was the Assistant Director for Programming and Coordinator of the Alcohol and Other Drug Education Program at the Lincoln Center Campus of Fordham University. Emily Kane, Program Coordinator, earned a Masters of Education at Clemson University, specializing in student affairs, before coming to GW, and has previously worked with a campus ministry at the University of Tennessee, advising student leaders and assisting with programming for students.

CADE Workshops and Educational Tools
Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students, aka “BASICS,” is a harm reduction approach to alcohol use and aims to reduce harmful consumption and negative consequences associated with high risk drinking. Students who participate in BASICS agree to meet with the CADE staff for two sessions. As one student described the program, “It was a great experience, not solely because it changed my behavior, but (because it) provided me with a new perspective and a different way of thinking about drinking.”

“George’s Heroes” is CADE’s bystander intervention programming and training workshop that is held throughout the school year. Partnerships with student organizations, specifically Greek organizations, have helped CADE increase outreach and grassroots connections with students. Past George’s Heroes participants will often come back to the trainings and explain to the group how what they learned through the program was utilized in their every-day actions and life.

One of CADE’s newest educational tools is called “The Drinking Game” – a unique, interactive board game that sets the stage for college students to think actively and talk candidly about their drinking. Staff can also play the game to help them gain an understanding of the student experience as it relates to alcohol use.

Transforming Youth Recovery Grant
CADE was recently awarded a $10,000 grant by Transforming Youth Recovery (TYR) and the Stacie Mathewson Foundation to build on campus support services for students recovering from substance misuse and addictive behaviors. This will link GW to a network of 48 universities that have developed outreach programs and resources to help students maintain their sobriety. “This generous grant will move GW into the national conversation on ways to serve this emerging college student community,” Alexis Janda said. “We will focus on raising awareness of the experience of students at various stages of recovery through education and activities.”

It Takes a Village
CADE offers a variety of resource materials to staff such as pamphlets, informational brochures, books and DVDs regarding issues related to alcohol and other drugs. CADE can also direct students to local resources for additional services. CADE is here to serve the entire GW Community, including faculty and staff. One of the most important ways is through providing basic alcohol and other drug intervention education to our colleagues.

Alexis Janda added, “While CADE does meet with many students to discuss their substance use, we often only see those students who have been identified through a policy violation or trip to the hospital. Our colleagues who see students for other aspects of student life; student involvement, career advisement, roommate conflicts, volunteer service, etc. have the ability to impact students decisions and talk about responsible consumption more often the CADE staff can. We welcome any and every opportunity to partner with colleagues to educate them on some basic AODE facts so they are prepared to address student’s questions and provide helpful tips to students.”

You can like CADE on Facebook or follow CADE on Twitter.

Department Highlights:
- CADE was recently awarded a $10,000 grant by Transforming Youth Recovery (TYR).
- Approximately 1,200 students every year go through the Responsible Alcohol Manager (RAM) Training certification workshop, offered to any GW student who would like to be trained on the GW policies and procedures regarding alcohol.
- In collaboration with the University Counseling Center (UCC) and the Community Counseling Services Center (CCSC) CADE organized a screening event for National Alcohol Screening Day in April. Over 30 students and community members stopped by for confidential, 10-minute alcohol screenings with a representative from CADE, UCC, or CCSC. Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) cards and alcohol information were given out, and the first 25 students were given movie passes for participating.
- This semester CADE has offered intentional on campus programming to encourage healthy behaviors around celebrations such as the Olympics and St. Patrick’s Day.
- Mix-Off takes place each spring in Kogan Plaza. Student organizations enter a custom “mocktail” in the competition.
Staff Spotlight

Emma Stone (emma924@gwu.edu)
International Admissions Coordinator
International Services Office

Number of years at GW: Eight (including undergraduate years)

What is a typical day (or week) like for you in the International Services Office? Right now I am fully focused on incoming international students for fall 2014. I work with admissions staff in every department of the university who submit admissions documents to the ISO, and I review them to see if they comply with government regulations for international students, and send back materials that the student needs to apply for their student visa. For the fall semester we will have over a thousand new international students, and the number increases every year, so I am always busy!

Tell us about a memorable moment in your life, a time you will never forget. Getting married in DC in October 2012 was very memorable, especially since it was the day that Hurricane Sandy hit.

What is your favorite class or learning experience so far in the GSEHD (Higher Education Administration master’s) program? President Emeritus Stephen Joel Trachtenberg spoke to my class recently - he had some unbelievable stories.

As a soon to be GW double alumna (BA and MA), and staff member, how has your relationship with GW changed over the years? What has surprised you? What has stayed the same? These days I’m surprised by all of the new construction going up! GW is a huge part of my life and has gone from being just my college to my home. I live, work, grocery shop, and now attend classes on campus!

What is your favorite #onlyatGW #onlyinDC activity? Michelle Obama speaking at my graduation was my #onlyatGW moment.

What don’t most people know about you? I ran a marathon, and I love Broadway musicals.

DSA Staff Updates

Staff Transitions

Jovanni Mahonez has transitioned to the Center for Student Engagement as their Department Operations Manager.

Staff Departures

We wish this former DSA staff member well in her future endeavors: Ellie Hansen has transitioned to her new role as an Academic Advisor in CCAS.

Around DSA

Positive Vibes

“Positive Vibes” are a quick, convenient, and effective way to appreciate a staff member near you! These messages are posted publicly on the homepage of the Colonial Community website, and Positive Vibes recipients receive special cards in campus mail and a Positive Vibes lapel pin.

Visit the Positive Vibes page to check out some of the DSA staff members who have recently been recognized, including the following ones. Great job!

Sarah Montgomery,
I really appreciate how you jumped right into your position and look at every task as a learning opportunity. Thank you for all that you do for our office and our students. - Kristen

Karen Dyches,
Thank you for all the hard work and extra time you have put into our transition to Mercury and making iHousing go as smoothly as possible. - Kristen

Kevin Gates,
Thank you for all of your hard work during assignment release and helping students to understand the housing process! Your positive attitude is contagious to everyone in our office, especially on our more challenging days. - Kristen
The Center for Student Engagement (CSE) is wrapping up the spring semester with a number of new programs, including weekly Happy Tables, university-wide CandyGrams, and Sunshine Boxes. A number of GW student organizations are supporting the CSE in these efforts, including the Residence Hall Association and the GW Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, among others.

For the remainder of the semester the university community can find CSE Happy Tables from 11:00 am-1:00 pm as follows:
- April 30 (Foggy Bottom - Kogan) & May 1 (Mount Vernon - Quad): Recess – childhood games, including four square and jump rope
- May 7 (Foggy Bottom University Yard & Mount Vernon Quad): TrailMix ReMix – make your own trail mix

Later this month, the CSE will be passing out CandyGrams across GW’s Foggy Bottom, Mount Vernon, and Ashburn campuses. Students can also be on the lookout for CSE Sunshine Boxes — boxes filled with yellow toys, gifts, and snacks — that will be hidden in locations across the Foggy Bottom and Mount Vernon campuses. Students who find the boxes are invited to take the whole box and share with friends or take something for themselves and leave the rest for someone else to find.

If you have availability to staff a “Happy Table” or assemble CandyGrams for students, please click here to sign up.

Excellence in Student Life Awards 2014
By Christine Batterson, Administration & Hallmark Programs (cbatterson@gwu.edu)

On April 16, GW honored students, organizations, staff, and faculty for their commitment to enhancing student life at the Excellence in Student Life Awards on Wednesday. In its 29th year, Excellence allows us the opportunity to shine a light on the fantastic achievements of our students, faculty and staff and celebrate their accomplishments. It allows us the opportunity to come together as a community and reflect on the many things that make GW a great place to be.

The program was hosted by emcees Chelsea Lenhart, Matt Scott, and Omeed Firouzi who kept the audience laughing, cheering, and reflecting throughout the event. Students chose GW Balance as the Performance Group of the Year, performing against the GW Vibes, who also delivered a stellar rendition of ‘Jesse’s Girl’ during the ceremony.

Some of the accomplishments celebrated at this year’s event included those of professors and staff who’ve had an inspirational impact on the lives of students and through that inspiration, pushed the students to achieve greater things. This year’s event celebrated students who have performed at the National Cherry Blossom festival, students who coordinated grassroots education projects in DC middle schools, students who developed innovative academic achievement programs for their peers, students who have given thousands of hours in community service, and raised thousands of dollars for philanthropy.

Following the awards, participants enjoyed a dessert reception ‘Hollywood Style,’ serenaded by James Pritchard’s jazz band. The event was a collaborative effort, at which 23 awards were given out by nine campus organizations: the Center for Student Engagement, the Joint Committee for Faculty and Student Scholarship, the Multicultural Student Services Center, Alumni Relations, the Center for Career Services, the Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service, Campus Recreation, and the Division of Student Affairs. It is truly a group effort to plan this event and we appreciate all our wonderful partners who are so dedicated to celebrating the accomplishments of our community. Thank you to so many members of the Division of Students Affairs community who presented, were recognized as nominees or winners, volunteered, and offered words of praise and support throughout the process! It was a fabulous night of celebration!

To find out more about this and other Hallmark Programs, like us on Facebook (check out the Excellence photos) and follow us on Twitter.
Around DSA (cont.)

**Professional Development @ GW**

**Save the Date! Upcoming DSA Forum**

Thursday, May 29 at 9:30am – Mike Kohn will be joining us to discuss the upcoming Performance Review process.

Please watch your email for more information about these great events!

**Webinar Watch**

**Law & Policy – Fundamentals for Student Affairs Professionals**

Tuesday, April 29, 4:00-5:00pm

Sponsored by **NASPA**

This program will give a brief, foundational overview of relevant laws and policies that impact professionals working in student affairs and higher education. The program will cover FERPA, Title IX, Missing Student Policy and The Clery Act. The program will present these policies to the audience in such a way that they will be able to apply this information to their current roles as students and their possible future roles as professionals in Student Affairs.

Register online and learn more about this and other upcoming webinars!

If you are interested in advertising future webinars to the DSA in the monthly Webinar Watch section of the newsletter, email **Anne Moore** or **Kristen Franklin**.

**LEAD Coffee Break:**

“**LEADing your Professional Development at GW**”

Monday, April 28, 2:00-3:00pm

Marvin Center 403

Take the LEAD in planning your career at the university: join us for LEADing your Professional Development at GW. By attending, you will gain insights and tips on how to use your unique skills to drive your professional development at GW. Enjoy coffee and snacks with your

**Around GW and Beyond**

**Green Move-Out**

Green Move-Out, a major university initiative, makes the residence hall move-out process more environmentally- and community-friendly through a multifaceted donation drive. During move-out, students drop items such as bedding and linens, cleaning supplies, food, clothing, and books in boxes in residence halls labeled with a Green Move-Out sticker. These items are then bagged and donated to local charity partners. This initiative is only made possible through the support of an unprecedented partnership of students, staff, faculty, and sponsors.

We rely solely on our faculty and staff for the final shifts of Green Move-Out as most students have moved out of their residence halls. Thank you for signing up!

**Education Advisory Board (EAB) Resources**

“**Navigating Successful Campus Transitions for International Students**” Webinar

Supporting International Students on Campus: Part I

Thursday, May 15, from 2:00-3:00 pm

International student enrollment in North American institutions continues to grow, a fact that brings with it a unique set of challenges for both these students and the institutions hosting them. This session, the first of a three-part series, will outline current trends in international student enrollment and offer strategies to ensure a successful transition from acceptance to orientation and beyond.

Register Here.

Any member of the GW community can sign-up for an account on the EAB website, which provides access to EAB’s Insight Centers, vast library of best practice studies and custom research reports, webinars and other training resources, all of which are included in DSA’s membership. To create your account, visit **Register for Education Advisory Board** and complete and submit the form.

For more information about accessing EAB’s programs and services, including Custom Research requests, email **Robert Snyder**.

**Green Move-Out Staff**

**Volunteer Form**
In Case You Missed It: DSA in *GW Today*

**University Counseling Center Offers Additional Hours at West Hall**

**Grant Boosts Support for Students for Recovery**

**University Honors Dedicated Alumni**

**Gabriel Felder Chosen as 2014 Commencement Student Speaker**

**Innovation Task Force Awards Scholarships to Two Students**

**'No Need to Struggle in Silence': SMHS Dean Discusses Mental Health**
Philanthropy Day Honors Donors, Volunteers

University Counseling Center to Have Ongoing Presence on Mount Vernon Campus

One Year Later, GW Grads Excel After Graduation

Students Kick Off the Season with Spring Fling

Honoring Excellence in the University Community

CARE Network Helps to Identify and Support Students in Need

Rachel Lesniak Named Regional, State Student Employee of the Year
The New York Times explores the factors that create a positive student experience in “What Makes a Positive College Experience?”

The Chronicle of Higher Education

The importance of online civility in higher education is discussed in “Civility in Academe, and the Lack of It.”

Reclaim productivity in your group meetings by reading “Regrouping the Group Meeting.”

To curb binge-drinking on college campuses, more universities are using late night programming involving food, as discussed in “At Night, Burgers Beat Beer.”

“Anxiety Over Anxiety” examines the pace of hiring in college counseling centers in response to student mental health problems.

“The Anxiety Crisis” explores examples of mental health programming on college campuses.

Requests for Contributions/Feedback

Request for Contributions/Feedback

As the DSA Communications Committee considers enhancements to the format of the DSA Newsletter to bring it closer to a “GW Today” style, we are looking for your input on additional improvements/suggestions. Please complete our quick survey by Wednesday, April 30.

When submitting general articles, please follow the new and improved DSA newsletter guidelines developed by the DSA Communications Committee:

- Be less than 350 words.
- Use short paragraphs.
- Highlight specific programming/activities of various DSA departments that occurred the past month since last newsletter.
- Highlight the newest or most recent initiatives.
- Incorporate best journalism practices such as:
  - Quotes from individuals
  - Inclusion of a relevant picture
  - Adherence to the GW Style Guide

Interested in contributing to the DSA Newsletter? Have feedback to offer? Email Anna Mahalak (amahalak@gwu.edu) with story ideas, events, etc. The next deadline for submissions is Wednesday, May 21.