Campaign against binge drinking shows success

Fewer Bowling Green students are engaging in high-risk drinking compared to two years ago, a new survey has shown. And the University's program to combat this dangerous behavior has garnered a 2003 Ohio Exemplary Prevention Program Award from the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS).

The BGSU Wellness Connection and Student Health Service were presented the award in December at the annual Ohio Prevention Education Committee meeting in Columbus. Co-investigators on the ODADAS grant that helps fund the program are Barbara Hoffman, health promotion coordinator and Wellness Connection interm director, and Terry Rentner, journalism. Both have been involved with the program for several years.

Rentner said that the difference is evident in last fall's American College Health Assessment survey of all current BGSU students shows high-risk drinking has declined by 2.3 percent since the survey was last administered in fall 2000.

Other changes from 2000 include:

• Among BGSU students, 4.3 percent more reported not having drunk at all in the previous 30 days;
• A 2 percent increase in those who chose not to drink the last time they socialized and, of those who did drink, a 4 percent decrease in the number who consumed five or more drinks at a time;
• A 2.8 percent decrease in students' letting alcohol affect their academic performance.

However, while the percentage who drank actually decreased, students' perceptions of how much drinking was going on increased by 4 percent. Correcting these erroneous impressions of typical drinking behavior at BGSU in order to keep the perception from becoming reality is the crux of Bowling Green's prevention program, Hoffman said.

High-risk drinking, defined as consuming four drinks on a single occasion by women or five in the same period by men, is implicated in many other undesirable incidents such as sexual assault, injury and low academic achievement. Research has shown that two of the contributing factors to binge drink-
The University is also seeking to "bridge the gap between high school and college" by reaching out to area high schools to begin the social norming before students arrive on campus, Rentner said. The ODADAS award "gives kudos to everyone involved," said Jewel Neely of ODADAS's Division of Prevention Services. "One of the things we look for in our higher education prevention programs is that they have strong collaboration with community partners so everyone feels a sense of concern and responsibility."

Muego (Continued from front)

such organizations as the Heritage Foundation, the World Bank and the Carnegie Endowment, along with the State Department and Defense Department. The author of Spectator Society: The Philippines under Martial Rule, Muego has contributed more than two dozen book chapters and articles on political and regional security issues in Southeast Asia. He is a former International Relations Fellow at the East-West Center in Hawaii. In the summers, he leads student groups around the United States on a Vietnam field study program, during which they study at Hanoi University of Education and tour the country. This summer the trip will include for the first time visits to noted Vietnam War battle sites. Khe Sanh and Quang Tri, as well as the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Currently chair of Faculty Senate for the second time, Muego previously held the position in 1993-94, as well as twice serving as secretary of the senate.

Drinking (Continued from front)

peer pressure to binge drink, in addition to educating them about the laws regarding underage drinking.

The campaign is waged in the residence halls, through UNIV 100 classes and in peer education programs, which have been very successful, Rentner said. Students entering Bowling Green hear the message along with their parents in orientation and registration sessions and again in their freshmen orientation programs.

Faculty, staff and parents have been brought into the campaign, as have local tavern owners and civic leaders.