

Center encourages 'natural high' Organization offers drug prevention, education presentations

By Sharon Gilmore
The Battalion

The Texas A&M Center for Drug Prevention and Education provides students with service programs for drug prevention and education and encourages them to "celebrate life through natural highs."

Dr. Dennis Reardon, coordinator for the center, said counselors use communication as their main tool.

"Students are welcome here, we are happy to talk to them, evaluate their situation, educate them or assure them that they don't have a problem," Reardon said. "Some people come in scared and we can set their minds at ease."

The center provides directional and service programs for prevention by going out to student organizations and also through outreach efforts, he said.

"Faculty, staff or other students who notice inconsistent behavior among friends can contact the center for advice in talking with

them," Reardon said.

As a licensed chemical dependency counselor, Reardon diagnoses students who come in for evaluations, and he also does follow-up work with them. Reardon also speaks to classes about preventing drug use.

"I am more than willing to talk about drugs and alcohol as a topic of interest or as part of a lecture," he said.

Reardon, a member of the Board of Directors of the Council on Alcohol and Substance Abuse, also teaches a class in risk management for students in responsibility positions.

The center, part of the Department of Student Affairs, was established in January 1988 with the passage of the federal Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Act, which states that universities accepting financial aid must have a drug and alcohol prevention program. The center is funded through student services fees.

The center also offers intervention and referral, research and evaluation, training and consulta-

tion and materials from their resource library. Interventions and evaluations conducted by the center provide assessments of students' problems with drugs or alcohol.

The center sponsors annual events like the National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week in the

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Dr. Dennis Reardon, coordinator for the A&M Center for Drug Prevention

fall, the National Collegiate Drug Awareness Week in February, the TAMU Health and Wellness Fair in the spring and Safe Break before spring break.

Students committing alcohol violations are referred to the center, which offers two programs on alcohol education.

Alcohol 101 is for students with minor infractions. The Alcohol Education Workshop is more serious. This workshop is for people who have been identified as hav-

ing a problem and are worked with more intensely.

Graduate students present many of the drug and alcohol prevention programs to residence halls, student organizations, sororities and fraternities. Many student service organizations advised by the center's staff work with drug and alcohol prevention on campus and in the community.

The Designated Driver Program operates in the Bryan-College Station area and encourages groups to use designated drivers so members will get home safely, Reardon said. Aggies Advocating Designated Drivers also works to see that students have rides when they have been drinking.

"We are basically the hub of that program," he said.

Another organization, Lights, Camera, Action, consists of a group of students who perform skits dealing with drug and alcohol situations and perform them on campus and at area schools.

Some groups help others deal

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Program puts forth student perspective to 'potential Aggies'

By Matori Jones
The Battalion

A new program designed to showcase the best the Texas A&M Honors Program has to offer will also assist high-achieving high school seniors by presenting information about classes, scholarships, leadership roles and extracurricular activities.

The Honors Invitational Peer Leadership Program — known as HIP — offers potential Aggies a student perspective which is more accurate and more direct, executive committee member Daniel Olson said.

"This is the first year that HIP has been implemented on a full scale and at this intensity," he said.

Olson said he expects over 1,000 high school seniors-to-be

to visit Texas A&M and participate in one of the five two-day-long Summer Honors Invitationals held in June and July.

"HIP is an extension of the Summers Honors Invitational program whose duties were originally held by orientation leaders," said Dylan Stafford, a staff assistant and advisor to the committee.

Skits about college life, presentations on housing, tours of the campus and a mixer will highlight this summer retreat. The students will be housed in Lechner Hall.

There also will be a question and answer session that will provide an opportunity for more interaction with the high school students, Olson said.

Applications for leadership positions still are available in Room 103 of the Academic Building.

Military Weekend includes sessions on sexual harassment

By Gina Howard
The Battalion

Cadets from military institutions around the country will discuss sexual harassment and cadet discipline systems in the military at a four-day conference at Texas A&M.

A&M's ninth annual Military Weekend involves over 50 cadets — one-third of them women.

The event, which runs today through

Saturday, was planned by cadets from A&M.

In the past, the weekend has attracted representatives from all over the country. This is the first year that all service academies and all institutions with seven-day uniformed cadet programs will attend the conference, said senior cadet Scott Phelan, chairman of the Military Weekend Committee.

"There is a pretty even male-female ratio, plus some plain cadets," he said.

"Cadets who were seen as the sharper ones were chosen, especially those with a special interest in the subjects. I think most schools picked their delegates the same way."

Lt. Col. Michael McDannel of the U. S. Military Academy will moderate the weekend's round-table discussions.

Sessions on sexual harassment and discrimination start at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27.

Discussions on cadet discipline start at

9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28. Smaller discussion groups will also be held throughout Thursday and Friday.

Other activities for the weekend include a welcoming reception, campus tours, demonstrations by various specialty units from A&M's Corps of Cadets, and several social events like the "Combat Bash" and the Military Banquet and Ball.

A military review will be held Saturday afternoon on Simpson Drill Field, if weather permits.

In the case of rain, the review will take

place on Kyle Field.

Colleges and universities expected to participate in the Military Weekend include Texas A&M, the U. S. Military Academy, U. S. Naval Academy, U. S. Air Force Academy, U. S. Merchant Marine Academy, U. S. Coast Guard Academy, Virginia Military Institute, Citadel, New Mexico Military Institute, North Georgia College, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Norwich University, Auburn University, University of Notre Dame and the University of Puerto Rico.

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