

Concordia's New Alcohol Policy: How's It Going?



By Nikki Hertel



As many students are aware, Concordia University's new alcohol policy has been up and running since the beginning of this year. The policy requires those individuals 21 or older who desire the privilege to consume alcohol on campus to participate in an alcohol awareness program called AlcoholEdu. Although many students participated in the program, only 70 students currently have alcohol privileges. In addition, only 15 rooms on campus have alcohol privileges and can host events – a private party in a designated room after filling out an event registration form. The “Big Three” – Heidi Goettl, Jason Rahn, and Mike Mulso – are the senior authorities that have been evaluating Concordia's new alcohol policy.

According to the test results from the AlcoholEdu program, it would appear that the new alcohol policy is not creating any negative backlashes. Results show that after completing the course, the behavior trends of students in regards to drinking have indicated a positive intention to reduce the number of drinks they consume per occasion as well as reduce the number of times they drink per week.

Mike Mulso, Director of Security for Concordia University, states, “Overall, the documented alcohol incidents have not significantly increased or decreased. The severity of the alcohol incidents is down. People are making better choices with their alcohol consumption.”

The policy shows some promise in continuing in the future. Jason Rahn – Associate Vice President for Student Life and Conference Services – states, “We need to include an evaluation of the program in annual reports to the Board of Regents for them to evaluate and see if the policy would stay in place. So far, our preliminary statistics have supported that this change has provided our students an opportunity to get education on issues related to drinking and make responsible choices here on campus. AlcoholEdu has also given us the opportunity to make a positive impact on our first-year students during their FYS classes.”

The future is looking bright for the new alcohol policy at Concordia. Residence Life Manager Heidi Goettl says, “I have no concerns about this policy. The campus community has adapted well, and I am looking forward to continuing educating our students on responsible choices.” If any student would like to give feedback on the policy or has suggestions on improving the policy and/or process, please feel free to contact Heidi Goettl at goettl@csp.edu.

As of right now, the policy will continue next year and will hopefully produce the same positive results it has this year. The “Big Three” have recognized that there have been no registered events this year and will most likely revisit this part of the policy to see if something else should be used in its place. Other than that, students will still be able to continue consuming alcohol on campus so long as they have met the requirements. There is still time to complete AlcoholEdu this year and should be done so by any students wishing to receive alcohol privileges for summer housing. If students wish to obtain their alcohol privileges, the steps include the following:

1. Go to: <http://college.alcoholedu.com/login.aspx>
2. Under New User, enter the following Login ID: 8C173328U
3. Click “Sign Up”
4. On the registration page, you will have the opportunity to create your AlcoholEdu for College account using your email address and a password of your choice. At this time, you will also need to enter your 9-digit Student ID, which you will find on your Student ID card. If you do not enter your official Student ID, you will not receive credit for taking this course.
5. You may log in and out of the course at the end of each section. Section ends are marked with a “Next” button. DO NOT log out until you click the “Next” button or you will have to repeat the section you have just gone through.
6. When you return, log in as a Returning User and enter the same email address and password you created when you first logged into the course.

2009 Woodrow Wilson Fellow Visits Concordia

By Kama Johnson

On Wednesday March 18, Concordia held its 3rd Convocation of the year in the Buenger Educational Center. In correlation with previous convocations held here at Concordia, such as, The Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas and the Immigrant and Refugee Artist Exhibition; March 18's convocation endowed the opportunity to hear Anil Singh-Molares's personal story about Immigration, Identity, and Global Citizenship.

Mr. Singh-Molares was born in Holland to parents from Spain and India; one from a Roman Catholic faith and the other from a Hindu tradition. Mr. Singh-Molares is fluent in Spanish, French, and English, and is a citizen of both Spain and the United States. His diverse experiences, such as, multiple degrees in the liberal arts and being an apprentice Zen monk, led him from working with a Microsoft foreign language team of translators and terminologists to actually architecting Microsoft's international outsourcing program called the Strategic Partner Program.

This Woodrow Wilson Good fellow is now the CEO for an international services firm, EchoMundi LLC, that helps corporations do business abroad. He is also Co-chair of Seeds of Compassion, an initiative which attempts to focus world attention on our communities needing

thoughtful, creative adults who are actively engaged citizens and equipped to communicate across cultures and address differences through understanding and collaborative problem solving.

The importance and relevance of a liberal arts education was one of his main points expressed during the Convocation. His various liberal arts degrees in philosophy, Buddhist literature, and in theology are an example of what this type of education can render. He also emphasized students studying foreign languages, studying abroad, and in general studying the world. He finds engaging in liberal arts colleges one of the best processes for discovering one's self, due to the broadness of their programs. Applying your degree(s) to what makes you happy and to what moves you will be of an extreme benefit to yourself and humanity. Finding a career path that you can identify with is essential to staying positive because you can be more helpful to the world by engaging in a career you love to do every day.

Analogous to Concordia Saint Paul's book of the year and theme of the year, Mr. Singh-Molares spoke personally on the topic of Immigration and Identity. Being a professional immigrant from a multi-cultural upbringing and from living all over the world, immigrant accommodation and understanding is an important issue that he feels should be addressed. He told me he was pleasantly surprised at how diverse Concordia Saint Paul is, stating that President Holst told him diversity is a major focus Concordia is trying to achieve.

Political Science and Multi-Cultural Studies are some of the courses in the colleges Mr. Singh Molares has visited. Mr. Singh-Molares came into my Social Psychology class I have with Professor Bransford to speak about compassion. His visit and topic of discussion, compassion, correlated to the Chapter we were presently studying (Attitude and Attitude Change).

Mr. Singh-Molares's presence that day for me personally was inspiring, because it enabled me to be able to see where I could be in the future, while pushing me to work harder in the here and now.

