No Alcohol Issues at Dance

BY KATIE BODGER
News Editor

For the first time in at least eight years, no student was hospitalized due to alcohol-related incidents during the annual freshman semi-formal.

Last weekend's dance was held at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History, as has been the tradition since 2007. More than 86 percent of the freshman class attended the event, totaling more than 1,000 students, the average for the traditional dance, according to Director of Residence Life Andy Wilson.

Wilson said that on average, four to five students are hospitalized during the course of the event and an additional four to five students are seen by Emory Emergency Medical Services (EMS) on site without being transported to the hospital.

While Wilson said he cannot know the exact reason behind the lack of alcohol-related incidents, he said this year's more intentional programming may have played a role.

"The staff really invested a little more time and a little more energy than before, so there was more preparation than in the past when it came to programming," he said.

Wilson said that like years past, resident advisors (RA) were required to plan a hall event as well as participate in a building event after the dance.

Some halls organized fashion shows, while others provided an outdoor "yurt."
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First Months

To research drugs manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), a company received $300,000 in fees from GSK throughout the 6-year period. Per NIH regulations, receiving more than $10,000 from GSK would be a violation of conflict-of-interest policies.

In the summer of 2003, Nemeroff served as the principal investigator of the Collaborative Disorders Initiative, a five-year, $1 million joint grant between GSK and the National Institute of Mental Health. Grassley said that Nemeroff’s conflicts of interest may have sullied his credibility.

In October 2008, the NIH warned that it would be imposing conflict-of-interest guidelines for ongoing and future grants to Nemeroff’s university and asked for the approval of the Center for Ethics and Conflict of Interest. However, the President’s Advisory Commission (PAC) on Research and Professional Conflict of Interest did not consider the Nemeroff case.

RA Programs Aim to Provide More Options

Continued from Page 1

soda and mocktails.

Camille Bullock, a returning RA who lives in Complex Residential Center, said she used a bed sheet as a background to take prom-like photos and incorporated an alcohol education element to pre-dance programming.

Bullock provided shots of Coca-Cola to her residents and also provided a late-night meal.

Wilson said that most buildings provided a pancake or midnight breakfasts after the event in order to offer an alcohol-free activity when the students returned after midnight.

Bullock said she attributes the lack of alcohol-related incidents to the organization and planning of the event as well as the responsibility of the freshman class.

“I’ve found that this particular freshman class is very responsible,” she said. “In my experience, they tend to make good decisions more often.”

Matt Hall, residence hall director in Trimble Hall and the theme houses, said he did not see a large difference between the programming this year and in years past, but that Residence Life programs do facilitate freshman bonding in an alcohol-free setting.

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of interest may have sufficed his research.

In October 2008, the NIH announced that it would be imposing tighter conflict-of-interest guidelines on all ongoing and future grants to Emory.

Emory responded to national scrutiny in part by creating a University-wide office to oversee conflicts of interest in research headed by the Director for the Center for Ethics Paul Wolpe.

However, the President’s Advisory Commission (PAC) on Research Integrity and Professional Conflict did not consider the Nemeroff case.

“The President’s Advisory Commission didn’t decide anything about the Nemeroff case because we were explicitly directed not to consider Nemeroff,” Wolpe said. “It was about using the experience of the Nemeroff case to examine the University’s policies and procedures and see how they could be strengthened or changed.”

The PAC has since submitted several suggestions to the University on conflicts of interest issues.

Goldschmidt said that while Nemeroff has undergone scrutiny over the past year, he believes Nemeroff will bring a level of expertise to UM.

“Individuals like Dr. Nemeroff are very important to help us move the knowledge of medicine forward, but I have no tolerance for conflict of interest,” Goldschmidt said. “I can’t change the past, but I think I can help with the future and providing patients with the opportunity to have someone like Dr. Nemeroff engaged in research and engaged in making progress for patients.”

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Freshman Complex resident Elyse Albert said she enjoyed the residence hall programming, but she does not think it deterred people from drinking.

“Generally, people are just going to drink it they’re going to drink. The programs are a nice idea, but I think it’s hard to prevent people who have a plan to deter them from what they’re going to do,” Albert said.

Freshman Dobbs Hall resident Olivia Farley disagrees.

“Most people would have pre-gamed before, but since we were all doing stuff together as a hall in the parlor, I don’t think as many people pre-gamed,” she said.

Farley said she attended the programming because there was a lot of promotion surrounding the events and her friends were attending.

“After the dance, they had pancakes, so it was an obvious choice to go get food,” she said.

Others, like freshman Dobbs Hall residents Judith Yi and Lydia Popp, chose not to attend the semi-formal.

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“I thought it was just another dance, so I chose to go watch ‘300’ instead,” Popp said.

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Harris Speaks On Meaning of Diversity

Continued from Page 1

address and to do to acknowledge our current state of affairs?” Harris asked as a challenge to the audience.

Harris then recounted the first experiences that he had as a child with issues concerning race.

“I remember a black woman at