



eweemakiki is a Miami Tribe word that loosely translates to "my relatives" or "my community"

Dear Miami Family,

On college campuses, there is a culture and environment that allows for the accessibility of underage drinking. Miami University is no exception to this culture, and is looking for a solution to combat this culture and create a safer campus. The NIAA agrees, "The Answer: Change the Culture. The Question: How?" (A Call to Action, pg. 2). Besides having students complete the Alcohol Edu online courses and placing Resident Assistants (RAs) in the dormitories, what more can the university do to ensure the safety of your student?

From a current resident standpoint, the most improvement in the safety on campus can be gained by requiring the Office of Residence Life (ORL) to audit RAs on situations in which they need to take action as well as record the consistency that RAs report underage drinking of students in the dormitories. With RA auditing in place as well as better year-round training, there will be more consistent reporting of underage drinking and your student will ultimately be saved from some of the consequences of alcohol.

Love and Honor,
Fellow Student at Miami University

Safety First Corner: Underage Drinking

Miami University RAs accept the commitment of maintaining a safe dormitory for your student to live in for the entirety of their first and second year on campus. This places a great amount of trust and responsibility on RAs to act appropriately in every situation where alcohol may or may not be involved. Therefore, the importance of RA training can't be stressed enough so that your child is protected.

Practice is important and that is why the ORL should require year-long extensive training and auditing of the RAs ability to take action with what they've cultivated from their training. Thomas Dennis, affiliated with the University of North Texas Health Science Center, along with other authors affiliated with other universities came to the conclusion that, "Innovative training programs of this type need to involve follow-up training sessions that take place throughout the academic year. Training sessions based on observational learning can: (1) maintain gains in self-efficacy, (2) rebuild confidence following an unproductive attempt at helping a resident, and (3) further enhance referral skills in increasingly challenging situations (McAlister et al., 2008)" (Thombs, pg. 436). Therefore, the more training RAs receive, the more likely they will consistently report incidents of intoxication.

The consistency that RAs report underage drinking is linked with the amount of training they receive and whether or not they are audited on such training. So in order for the university to better improve the safety of your student in relation to underage drinking, more RA training and auditing is a necessity for Miami University. The list below provides you with many safety measures to talk about with your student such as:

- Have a buddy to accompany you, and make sure you leave with this buddy and that both of you get safely back to the dorms
- Create a game plan with your friends before you go out for the night and stick with that game plan
- Pay close attention to your surroundings and those around you at all times
- Leave no friend behind and make sure that everyone is safe
- Never drink something that you are unsure of what is inside, and never drink something that you didn't watch someone make said drink
- Ensure that your student has emergency information such as [Miami University Police](#) (513) 530-0000 as well as [Oxford Police](#), Fire, and Medical number (513) 523-0000.
- If the situation calls for it use [BCRTA Safe-Ride](#), which is available Monday-Saturday 10pm-3am and on Sunday 10pm-1am. Number is (513) 785-0000.
- If in a situation that requires assistance in relation to alcohol, always ask an RA for help and deal with the consequences of getting in trouble for drinking later.
- Report any suspicious activity to either Police listed above. If either of those numbers are not known in a situation of emergency, call 911.

The Oxford Police, Fire, and Medical unit offers [additional prevention tips](#).

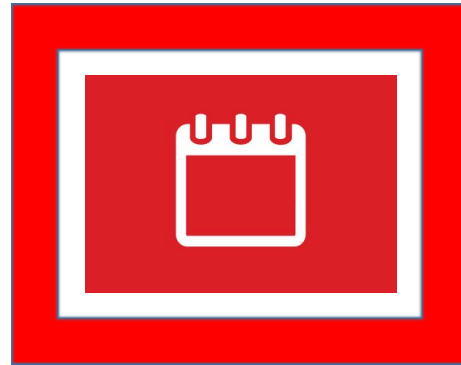


Study Abroad Opportunity

Resident Assistants lead only trip to Mt. Everest and some of the tallest mountains in the world during summer of 2017. Activities include touring, hiking, skiing, and fishing.

Can count as capstone, global experience or IP experience. Possible courses: KNH 500, KNH 450, SOC 500. In total 3-6 credit hours.

For more information, contact RA Mark Roberts robmar@miamioh.edu



Dates and Deadlines

2017-2018 Resident Assistant Application

Free room and board as well as single room with little monitored work required. App available on [Miami Career Services](#). Registration closes on January 5, 2017, at 11:59 pm.

Deadline to Apply for Housing 2017-2018

Housing here at Oxford goes fast with the limited space for on campus and off campus living arrangements. Necessary [housing selection](#) due February 21st, 2017 at 11:59 pm.

FASFA Priority Application Deadline

The [2017-2018 FASFA](#) application determines student's eligibility for financial aid. Miami's priority deadline for returning students is fast approaching. This year's FASFA priority due February 1st, 2017 by 11:59 pm. Miami's Federal Code is 000001.

Student Resources

We encourage Miami University parents to be aware of the resources available to their students. Miami parents can then ensure that their students are taking full advantage over what is available. Some of the resources are:

Counseling Services

Call (513) 529- 4600 anytime from 8am-5pm Monday through Friday to set up an initial consultation. If your student is feeling overwhelmed, concerned about their safety, lost, or even homesick, this is a great resource to have at their disposal.

Academic Advisor

Your student's academic advisor information can be reached by logging on to myMiami account and viewing the Academic Advisor information listed under the Student tab. Your student's advisor is important, because they can make sure your student is on track to graduate on time as well as provide your student with additional academic resources or contact information.

The Hub

Visit <https://muhub.collegiatelink.net> and explore the multitude of clubs and organizations that your child can be a part of. Make sure that your student feels involved on campus and has activities to participate in rather than feeling the only thing to do on campus is go out and party.



Homecoming for Winter Break

Talk to your child about any concerns you may have and questions regarding their safety and RA supervision when they return home. When your student comes home for the holiday season, remember that, “Parents who expect that everything at home will return to the way things were before your student left for college may be caught off guard and will have difficulty” (Nelson, par. 3). It’s good to ask your student about their college experience, but be careful to not bombard your student with questions. You miss your student and the last thing you want is for them to feel interrogated and then become distant during the duration that they’re home for the holidays.

Try your best to understand that, “Your student has been independent at school. He [or She] has not had to report to anyone” (Nelson, par. 6). Therefore, “Your student may or may not feel like talking about her [or his] life at school. She [or He] may feel that she wants to keep that portion of her [or his] life private” (par. 10). Your student is finally home for the holidays, so attempt to keep an open-mind in order to keep the peace and adjust to new changes in behavior, schedule, opinions, etc.

It is also suggested for the health of everyone in your family that you and your family, “Remember that everyone may be feeling the normal stress of the holidays in addition to the transition of readjusting. Try to encourage everyone to have patience with each other” (Nelson, par. 4). Patience is key for the holidays and Miami wishes everyone a safe and happy holidays.

Voicing Concerns

Please voice your concern by reaching out to the Office of Residence Life. The ORL can be reached at residentlife@miamioh.edu or by phone (513) 529-0000. Feel free to use the following template to mail your complaint to 222 Warfield Hall Oxford, OH 45056.

Dear Office of Resident Life,

My name is _____ [Insert Name]. I am the _____ [Relationship] of _____ [Miami University Student’s Name]. I am writing to voice my concern of the safety of my student. I propose that the ORL needs to _____ [Proposal], because this will better improve the safety of Miami’s campus and the safety of its students. To ensure that this change occurs I am prepared to _____

_____ [Dramatic Measure Willing to Take].
I look forward to hearing back from you and working together to create a safer environment for
my _____ [Relationship], _____ [Miami University Student's Name] and
all other students at Miami University.

Sincerely,
_____ [Insert Name]

Miami University Family Issue 12
Photos from @Miami University Facebook page. All rights reserved to Miami University.

Works Cited

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RA Auditing Writer's Reflection
Kacie Dellecave

For Inquiry III my argument was that Resident Assistants (RAs) should have year round training and auditing on how well they enforce the school code of conduct in relation to incidents involving alcohol. My targeted audience was the Office of Residence Life (ORL). For Inquiry IV I decided that it would be most effective to change my targeted audience to Miami University parents. I would then persuade the parents that they should reach out to the ORL themselves and demand RA auditing. **This would then create a multitude of complaints and the ORL would have no choice but to respect the parents' wishes in order to keep the peace and maximize the safety of their children.**

One of the ways to reach out to Miami University parents is through the monthly newsletter (*eeweemakiki*). I decided to mimic the format and sections of these newsletters and write a proposal for the December monthly issue. The introduction of my newsletter addresses the families of Miami University students and informs the families of the RA auditing and the importance of having this auditing to improve the safety of their student. By using "your student" throughout the newsletter, I am using ethos to my advantage because the phrase "your student" is more personal, and since parents want the best for their student, they will be highly motivated to do anything that would improve the safety of their child.

The next section of the newsletter is the Safety First Corner. The Safety First Corner: Underage Drinking is there to reinforce that RAs need to be audited and have year-round training to improve RA consistency and confidence in reporting incidents involving intoxication. I then go and list safety measures that should be taken if your student is involved in a situation with alcohol. This list is similar to the October safety measures and tips offered to Miami family and students.

The study abroad opportunities and dates and deadlines section serve to demonstrate that RAs are not supervised and that it pays to be an RA. The study abroad to Mt. Everest trip, which is listed as led by RAs, is meant to show that RAs have little supervision. For the dates and deadlines, I am providing the RA application deadline as well as the Housing and FAFSA application deadline. This works to show that there is limited housing at Oxford and advantage of becoming an RA is that RAs get their own room and have guaranteed on-campus housing. The FAFSA deadline proves to reiterate that college is expensive and to receive money (free room and board) you could be motivated to apply to be an RA. Overall, these sections argue that RAs have little supervision and are paid with free room and board, which could arguably be some RAs only reason for applying for their position.

The following two sections--Student Resources and Miami Detox Center Coming Soon--both serve to promote usage of resources. **The student resources more specifically are for the parents to be aware of these resources and encourage their students to take advantage of these resources.** The counseling services provides students with a resource on

campus where they can talk about concerns of their safety if such concerns are not immediately dangerous. Also, your academic advisors are listed because they can point you in the right direction to obtain additional resources and contact information. The Hub is also listed because it promotes activates and clubs that provide students with an outlet other than going uptown and feeling like the only thing to do on campus is drink and party. Next, the Miami Detox Center resources is creating concern and possibly even outrage for the parents because that most likely doesn't reflect how they want their money and the school's money being spent, and **it is meant to create concern of how safe their children are and the value of their education.**

The final two sections of Homecoming of Winter Break and Voicing Concerns were used to encourage the parents and families to communicate with their students and with the ORL. The Homecoming of Winter Break section was meant for parents to gain more of a perspective of RAs through what they learn from their student. And with what they learn through communication with their student, being that RAs have arguable free reins, is meant to give the last push of persuasion to reach out and voice their concerns with the ORL about the safety of their child. The Voicing Concern section is the argumentative newsletter's call to action and the most significant piece of the newsletter.

Lastly, the design choices throughout the entire newsletter were to use Miami colors such as red, black, and white, as well as include pictures of the university when appropriate. This newsletter was meant to look professional and like something that the administration made and sent out to Miami University friends and families.