State of University Judiciary Address

Amanda Ruckel

I am so excited that so many alumni are interested in hearing from University Judiciary. We hope that the combination of the alumni newsletter and our new alumni listserv will allow you to keep up with Judiciary news and events.

First, I want to give you a brief update on where we stand as an organization. Hearings have picked up quite a bit in the last couple of years and many of you may be surprised to learn that by the end of November, we will have had 106 hearings this year.

Due to the increase in case load, we have had to implement a few changes. I am proud to announce that we have 26 new trainees set to begin 50 hours of training in January. Also, to help members stay up-to-date on the Code of Conduct and hearing procedures, we now conduct continuing education sessions at each general body meeting and have guest speakers or members of UJ discuss important issues that relate to our process.

Furthermore, we have improved our outreach program by creating a variety of new JOTs, including “The True Costs of Alcohol.” Not only have we had great success in presenting it to organizations across campus, we were also awarded the Student Organization Achievement and Recognition (SOAR) Award for “Best New Program” last spring.

Once again, we are so glad that you are still interested in what is going on in University Judiciary. We hope all of you will keep in touch!

Hometown: Leesburg, GA
Major: International Affairs
Career Goals: Undecided, but very open to suggestions.
Something silly: When I was 4, I really wanted to be a two headed baby-sitter. Apparently I thought that having a second head would be helpful when looking after a lot of kids.

RECRUITMENT & DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Heather Mahaffey & Vinuta Naik

This year, R&D worked to recruit people from as many diverse groups as possible in order to broaden the membership for University Judiciary. We worked aggressively to spread the word about UJ by handing out cards at Tate, reaching out to a variety of majors, and papering the campus with our flyers. We had 80 individuals apply and after general body had graded the essays, we had 44 individuals who were offered interviews. After an intense and rigorous selection weekend, 26 wonderful trainees were selected. We chose to increase the numbers of the training class as the amount of hearings has drastically increased from years past. We are very excited about training this year and are currently working on updating the training materials and preparing the syllabus so that we are ready to roll by spring. Following last year, we plan on teaching the trainees about both Justice and A/A positions which has been a change from previous years. For the most part, we aim to keep the same spirit of training present but with more emphasis on hearing procedure.
From the Advisor • Cara Simmons

My name Cara Winston Simmons and I serve as a Coordinator in the Office of Judicial Programs. With that comes the responsibility of advising the best student organization on campus - University Judiciary. I started in January 2008 and it’s been an amazing, challenging and rewarding experience. I’m a two time graduate of the University of Georgia and previously worked in the Department of Campus Life.

University Judiciary continues to be one of the leading organizations on campus as they continue to conduct formal hearings, educate the community and review parking appeals. As of November 2008, University Judiciary has heard almost 100 formal hearings! Our students are actively involved in University Judiciary as well as other campus and community organizations. They manage to do all of this (and more) while maintaining excellent GPAs. So many changes have occurred over the last few years I can’t even begin to list them all.

Kimberly Ellis is in her 7th year as Associate Dean. Brandon Frye, former IFC Advisor in UGA’s Greek Life Office, serves as Assistant Dean. Bryan Rush serves as the other Coordinator with an emphasis on assessment. Terri Hatfield is our Administrative Assistant and Jill Putman is our Graduate Assistant. We also have three student workers – Alec, Fabian, and Beth.

New member training will start in the spring with 26 potential members. They’ll go through 50+ hours of training which will include guest speakers, activities, discussions, mock hearings and an exam.

It’s been a pleasure serving as the advisor to such an amazing group of students. I hope this newsletter serves as an avenue to establish relationships and networking opportunities between past and present University Judiciary members and the Office of Judicial Programs.

This newsletter is just the first step in renewing our relationship with alumni and I hope you enjoy the newsletter.

True Cost of Alcohol • Patrick Dever

Thousands of students on the University campus are disillusioned to the risks and costs they face when they drink alcohol. Since current alcohol educational programs have focused on the slim chance that the student could be involved in an extreme or tragic event, many students feel that they are invincible to any negative consequence of alcohol. This use of “scare tactics” only leads students to learn preventative measures for these high risk behaviors. Furthermore, students who always drink in a “safe” manner find nothing applicable in alcohol education to their own situation. The “True Costs of Alcohol” program attempts to change that viewpoint by highlighting costs that directly affect any student who decides to drink alcohol. The crux of the entire program is that it does not matter if a student always drinks in moderation or always binge drinks; there are always costs to drinking alcohol. The “True Costs of Alcohol” program can help students who are underage, of-age, binge drinkers, moderate drinkers, even students who are deciding whether or not to drink alcohol make better decisions.

The purpose of the program is to highlight costs that students do not consider when drinking alcohol, so the first of these costs are the monetary costs. Audience members are asked how much they think that they spend on alcohol and then are asked to fill out an anonymous alcohol sheet that chronicles their drinking habits. We then use an Excel spreadsheet embedded in our PowerPoint presentation to show people how much they actually spend on alcohol based on their admitted drinking habits. Sometimes, this number is shocking to people. Even people who drink moderately spend $1000-$1500 a semester on alcohol. Next we show what types of fun activities can be done with an extra thousand dollars a semester to help counteract the notion that “spending this money is worth it because drinking is the only way to have fun in Athens.” The next costs that we highlight are the caloric effects of alcohol, a cost often not considered by most college students. We then discuss some of the short term costs (judicial consequences, unsafe sex, health consequences), long term costs (alcoholism, body damage), and academic costs.

Finally, we end the presentation with a discussion of costs to your reputation and the legacy students want to leave behind. Nobody wants to be forever tied to an embarrassing article on the front page of the Red and Black.

Our hope for the program is that by providing this information to students that they will begin to factor in some of these costs into their decision making, which will hopefully help them to make informed decisions in the future.
We, the University of Georgia Judiciary, seek to foster respect within the University Community through adherence to the Code of Conduct, by utilizing proactive education and a fundamentally fair judicial process.

If you’re interested in giving to University Judiciary, please copy and paste the link below. Giving is tax deductible and will go towards UJ outreach initiatives, Relay for Life and the annual recognition banquet.

https://www.externalaffairs.uga.edu/os/makegift?extacc=30982100&amount=50