Dear New Students,

I hope your first week at Stony Brook has been enjoyable. I had the chance to meet many of you at Orientation and I hope to meet more of you in the course of your years here.

I’m writing today because the recent alcohol related death of a freshman at Indiana University reminds us of the consequences of toxic drinking. Now that campus mourns the life of one of its own. Perhaps most tragic, classmates of the student did not seek help for several hours.

Every year, a few of our own students have been rushed to the hospital as a result of an alcohol overdose. The blood alcohol content for some of these students was so high that the initial prognosis was grim. Fortunately, they beat the odds and survived. A response even slightly delayed could have resulted in a much different outcome.

This most recent incident in Indiana and the near-death experiences on our own campus send an important message: exercise caution and watch out for one another. At Stony Brook, you are surrounded by a community of peers, faculty and staff members who care for your well-being.

And, what is most important is that you care. You are in the best position to stop the toxic drinking of your fellow students. Every second counts.

At Stony Brook, we are very aware of the dangers of toxic drinking. More than 1,000 of your peers participate in the Red Watch Band – a program conceived at Stony Brook that is being implemented at campuses throughout the nation. As a bystander intervention program, it aims to prevent alcohol overdose deaths by teaching students how to respond to alcohol emergencies and summon professional help.

To talk to a counselor in confidence or to find out more about the Red Watch Band or other safety initiatives at Stony Brook, you can consult the resources below.

Be Smart and Be Safe,

Dean Stein

**Resources:**

*Office of the Dean of Students*
http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/dos
Phone: (631) 632-7320

*Center for Prevention and Outreach (CPO):*
Phone: (631) 632-2748
http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/cpo

*Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS):*
Phone: (631) 632-6720
http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/caps

*Red Watch Band:*
http://www.redwatchband.org

*Other Resources:*
http://www.stonybrook.edu/sb/safety