Registration for LMU’s Alert System (LMU Alert) will now be required for all students enrolled at the University in the Fall 2012 semester, according to Cantrell’s email, “is a system that allows the University to send important information and instructions during a campus or area-wide incident or emergency.” A system like LMU Alert for sending messages (through texts and emails) to students in case of emergency is required of all universities due to the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act), which was passed in 1989.

Officials behind the change consider the greater reach of the system to be imperative. “We believe students being aware of an immediate crisis to campus is helpful to them in order to protect themselves and to keep them out of harm’s way,” said Cantrell in an interview with the Loyolan. “We have about 50 percent that are signed on to Alerts,” he said.

Students must register for emergency alerts

Ensuring all students receive alerts is “imperative” for officials behind the change.

By Kevin O’Keeffe
Managing Editor

Registration for LMU’s Alert System (LMU Alert) will now be required for all students enrolled at the University in the Fall 2012 semester, according to a letter sent out Tuesday morning by Chief of Public Safety Hampton Cantrell.

The recently mandated system, which was first discussed late in the 2010-11 school year, will require students to sign up before registering for classes in the Fall 2012 semester. According to the message students received, the compulsory registration is designed “to promote safety and security.”
One student continues use, one maintains sobriety

Addiction from Page 1

alcohol use, to him, is now just about “relaxing and it’s an activity me and my friends enjoy doing together.” He added that the key to his recovery was learning from his own experiences, rather than being told about the harmful effects of drug and alcohol abuse.

“I’m a pretty big believer that … it would take somebody saying something pretty special for an addict to change their mind if there weren’t a personal tragedy,” he said of how others can seek recovery.

He sees LMU’s drug and drinking scenario as different than that of any other school he has been to. While everyone appears to be more common in Los Angeles than his original home in the Midwest, he would “say LMU is any more extreme or any less extreme than any other school. If a person wants to find the drug scene, they’ll find the drug scene,” he said.

Following graduation, he hopes to get into investment banking, either in the Los Angeles or Orange County areas.

“Youh . . . I’m interested in stopping,” he responded when asked whether he would like to be sober again or continue drinking and smoking. “I mean . . . both paths I can see, both paths I can be satisfied with.”

Story Two: “I know who I am now”

“By 11, I was closer to 11, and that’s around the same time I started drinking. It became a daily problem in high school.”

When she was 14 or 15, she began using cocaine and Xanax as well — although her daily use of those two drugs stopped prior to entering the treatment center.

“I used it recreationally at LMU,” she said of cocaine and Xanax. “If I was at a party and someone had it, I would [use], but my main issue was with alcohol and smoking weed.”

In the beginning, the use of alcohol and marijuana was about fitting in for her. She had older friends, and she saw using as the way to make sure “they wouldn’t step on my friends,” she said.

But shortly after reaching 18, her addiction took a turn.

“When I was around 18, the beginning of being 18, I started to drink on my own . . . it was no longer about fitting in,” she said.

From there, two major incidents shaped her transition from user to LMU’s drug and alcohol Free Life.

“One of them was before I came to LMU, and I was living in my parents’ second home by myself,” she said. “One time, my mom came in, and I remember her telling me that – I don’t exactly remember the day – she came in and I was just passed out on the floor with a bunch of empty alcohol bottles, some I had taken from them, some my friends had gotten for me, and hearing that I couldn’t imagine what she had to go through just seeing that and not knowing if I was alive or dead, just passed out on the floor at noon.”

This prompted her to try and become sober, and she was for her first two weeks at LMU. She attended Alcoholics Anonymous meetings off and on for a few months, but she found that she couldn’t stay sober.

“I tried to be sober, and then that didn’t work so I tried controlling it, and then that’s when I ended up in the coma,” she said.

The coma, which she labels as her biggest turning point, happened on a school night about four months after the accident at her parents’ house. She drank herself into an alcohol-induced coma that she stayed in for two to three days.

“That’s when I really knew I had to go,” she said, adding that it took a few weeks for her to stop drinking completely.

The day after she woke up from the coma, she met with an LMU staff member and he laid out a plan that detailed her ability to stay at LMU for the rest of the semester, as long as she remained sober and sought treatment at the end of the semester. When summer came, she entered sober living for eight weeks as a part of an intensive out-patient program. The experience was so positive that she continues to visit the center at least once a week, and she hopes to work there and go into counseling following graduation.

“I don’t know exactly what I want to do, but I know I want to be involved with helping people who are like me,” she said. “I want to work at the treatment facility that I went to. They are like family to me. There’s a special bond with the people you got sober with. I want to keep that going.”

Part of her work includes helping newcomers at the treatment center.

“Told like, in general, drinking and using drugs is glamorized, especially in our generation,” she said, adding that she thinks there should be more student concern at LMU for the hospitalizations due to excess alcohol intake.

She continued, “I think it should be upsetting how many people are transported to the hospital every semester, but people think it’s funny. I haven’t heard too many people laugh today laughing to her friends about how cool it was that she had to be taken away in an ambulance, and I was just sitting there, silently, thinking this girl has no idea what this really means.”

I heard one girl the other day laughing to her friends about how cool it was that she had to be taken away in an ambulance, and I was just sitting there, silently, thinking that this girl has no idea what this really means.”

And, of course, sobering and making it to Sunday, the one-year anniversary of her drug-and-alcohol Free Life, is another priority for this student.

“It’s nice to be 100 percent drug free of any kind,” she said, stating that she hopes participants in “Take the Challenge,” which lasts through Sunday, realize that sobriety is not a bad lifestyle.

She added, “Some people think sober people are very judgmental of people who aren’t, but it’s just as easy for them to judge us. We still have fun, we’re still good people.”

Despite everything, she doesn’t regret her life experiences.

“I’m so glad I went through all of this,” she said. “I am a different person now. I never thought I would be, but I’m not lost anymore. I was constantly lowering my standards before I came here, and now I keep my standards and I feel like I respect myself so much more. I know who I am now.”

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