Welcome to Santa Clara University!

I hope you are enjoying the summer and looking forward to beginning your college experience at Santa Clara University. As a college-bound student, you will have the opportunity to learn to manage new freedoms and the responsibilities those freedoms entail, including navigating relationships and making decisions about whether or not to drink alcohol or use drugs.

Many students at Santa Clara University choose not to drink alcohol or use drugs. Other students consume alcohol responsibly, and some make poor decisions and misuse or abuse alcohol and drugs. Last year, 150 students at SCU received medical attention due to the misuse of alcohol, and 54 of those students were transported to the hospital. Complying with the law by abstaining from the use of alcohol until you are at least 21 years of age is the most responsible choice. However, if you choose to use alcohol now or some time in the future, learning more about alcohol can help you to make decisions that keep you on a path of success and good health.

Sexual violence including sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking is another issue that greatly affects the entire campus community. Studies have shown that nationally, one in five female college students will experience some form of nonconsensual sexual activity by graduation, and that 75 percent of reported sexual assaults on college campuses across the country involve alcohol. Santa Clara University is committed to fostering a culture in which students are empowered and effective when they witness or suspect any kind of sexual assault or relationship violence.

To help create a safe environment for you and other students, you are required to complete an online course at CampusClarity called Think About It. It is an innovative, engaging, and informative course created with students for students. In the course, you will examine the interconnected issues of hooking up, substance abuse, sexual violence, and the importance of bystander intervention in a college setting. You will also learn about healthy relationships, the importance of consent and being a good communicator, how to report incidents of sexual violence on- and off-campus, and the many ways you can help create a safe and respectful campus. This course is just one of many ways the University works with students throughout the year to raise their awareness and prevent alcohol and drug abuse and sexual violence on campus.

The week of August 10th, you will receive an email sent to your Santa Clara University email account from CampusClarity with instructions on how to complete the course. Think About It takes about two to two-and-a-half hours to complete. You can work at your own pace from any computer (requires Flash player.) You can leave and return to the course at any time and pick up where you left off. You are required to complete the course by September 7, 2015. If you do not complete Think About it by the due date, you will be fined and a hold will be placed on your student account. This means that you will not be able to register for, add, or drop classes until the courses are completed.

CampusClarity protects student privacy by removing identifying user information from the responses they provide. All survey responses are strictly confidential; Santa Clara University will only receive information about the student body as whole and will never see an individual student’s answers. You can feel confident that providing truthful answers—no matter what they are—will not put you at any risk for repercussions.

We encourage you to talk to your parents or guardians about the Think About It course and how you will approach situations while at Santa Clara University.

Again, congratulations on your acceptance, and we encourage you to consider this course as an investment in yourself as well as your fellow classmates.

Matthew Duncan
Associate Dean for Student Life

Belinda Guthrie
EEO and Title IX Coordinator
Resources for College Students

Internet
The Partnership at DrugFree.org  www.drugfree.org
Wellness Center – Santa Clara University  www.scu.edu/wellness
What Parents Need to Know About College Drinking  www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov
National Sexual Violence Resource Center  www.nsvrc.org
Love is Respect.Org  www.loveisrespect.org

Books
From Binge to Blackout: A Mother and Son Struggle With Teen Drinking
by Chris Volkmann and Toren Volkmann (2006)

Smashed – Story of a Drunken Childhood
by Bethany A. Teachman (2004)

Recovering My Kid: Parenting Young Adults in Treatment and Beyond
by Joseph Lee (2012)

Buzzed: The Straight Facts About the Most Used and Abused Drugs from Alcohol to Ecstasy
by Cynthia Kuhn, Scott Swartzwelder, and Wilkie Wilson (2008)