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## PRESS RELEASE

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# National alcohol, drug conference includes UMass Amherst prevention experts

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AMHERST, Mass. – Experts from UMass Amherst’s Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Prevention (CADAP) and School of Public Health and Health Sciences are sharing strategies for reducing high-risk behaviors at a high-profile national conference this week.

Team members are presenting three sessions at the U.S. Department of Education’s 20th annual National Meeting on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse and Violence Prevention in Higher Education, Oct. 19-22 in Arlington, Va. The event attracts top prevention professionals, campus leaders, college students, community coalition members and others concerned with substance abuse and violence prevention.

The three presentations are:

- “Cops, Campus and Community Partners: Communication, Collaboration and Consistency in a Newly-Formed Coalition,” to be presented by Sally A. Linowski, associate director of University Health Services and CADAP director, and Captain Michael R. Kent of the Amherst Police Department. Linowski is co-chair of the Campus and Community Coalition to Reduce High-Risk Drinking, and Kent is the group’s town police representative. The coalition unites campus and community leaders in prevention efforts, using tools including policy and enforcement, retailer relations and changes to the normative environment.
- “Putting Research into Practice: Using BASICS for Adjudicated Students” will be presented by Diane M. Fedorchak and Gloria T. DiFulvio, focusing on a new intervention program. BASICS (Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students) helps UMass Amherst students explore their alcohol and drug use in a non-judgmental environment, with the goal of reducing risky behavior. Fedorchak is the

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## Alcohol and Drug Conference, Page 2

project's director; DiFulvio is its' evaluator. BASICS is supported by a three-year grant through the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

- In "Making Smart Choices: Using a Small Group Norms-challenging Model to Correct Student Athlete Misperceptions about Alcohol Abuse," graduate student John H. Kleschinsky examines the university's Smart Choices program. Funded by the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the project targets alcohol abuse among student athletes.

Linowski, a researcher and educator, has spoken nationally on substance abuse topics and is director of UHS' health education, community outreach and marketing department.

Fedorchak, a health educator specializing in alcohol and other drug prevention, is responsible for implementation and supervision of the BASICS program. In addition, she leads the university's Not Ready for Bedtime Players, a student theater troupe blending health information and entertainment. DiFulvio is a research assistant professor in the School of Public Health and Health Sciences at UMass Amherst. Kleschinsky is pursuing a master's degree in health policy and management from UMass Amherst's School of Public Health and Health Sciences, and is a graduate assistant at CADAP.

Created as part of the university's efforts to address student substance abuse, CADAP unites a variety of prevention programs and initiatives. It is based in the health education department at University Health Services, UMass Amherst's fully accredited health center.