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For Immediate Release

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UMass experts featured at alcoholism research conference

AMHERST, Mass. – Substance abuse prevention experts from UMass Amherst will share findings and experiences with scientists from throughout the world, at the Research Society on Alcoholism annual conference, June 20 – 24 in San Diego, Calif.

Sally A. Linowski, Ph.D., director of the Center for Alcohol and other Drug Abuse Prevention (CADAP) and Diane Fedorchak, M.Ed., director of the school's BASICS alcohol screening and brief intervention (SBI) program will join colleagues from the State University of New York at Albany, the University of Arizona, the University of Washington and the University of Memphis for a session on using SBIs with high-risk student drinkers.

Their presentation, "Taking Research to Practice: The Effectiveness of BASICS with an Adjudicated Student Population" includes data from more than 2,000 students charged with violating school alcohol policies. Linowski, Fedorchak and study co-authors Gloria T. DiFulvio, Ph.D. of the university's Commonwealth College and Janet Mazziotti, M.S., L.I.C.S.W., from the School of Public Health and Health Sciences found significant decreases in drinking among students taking part in BASICS, compared to a non-intervention sample.

The session represents "the first major dissemination of results from four universities across the nation implementing SBI in their primary healthcare settings," according to organizer and presenter M. Dolores Cimini of SUNY/Albany, Albany, NY. During the two-hour workshop, presenters will discuss theories and research supporting the approach, share campus-specific findings, explore research and clinical implications and offer implementation guidance.

UMass Amherst launched CADAP and the BASICS program in 2004, as part of a multifaceted approach to substance abuse prevention. Since then, binge drinking on campus has decreased 33%, frequent binge drinking is down 30% and the binge drinking rate among underage students has dropped 27%. CADAP is part of University Health Services, the campus' fully accredited health center. For more information, visit www.umass.edu/uhs or call (413) 577-5181.