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Prescription stimulant abuse worsens

BRITTANY GOLDMAN
bgoldman@unca.edu - Contributor

Partnership for Drug-Free Kids reported academic pressure among college students increases the demand for prescription stimulants, and their illegal distribution.

"Students take stimulants that are not prescribed to them because they perceive that it generally improves their ability to focus and makes them more productive. Therefore, it allows them to complete papers and study for exams during periods of heavy work loads," said Jay Cutspec, director of the Health and Counseling Center at UNC Asheville.

In 2010, the National Survey on Drug Use and Health found 11.4 percent of young people ages 12-25 used prescription drugs non-medically within the past year. The study also found full-time college students between the ages of 18 and 22 were twice as likely to abuse prescription stimulants than those of the same age and not in college.

"The benefits for students who are legally prescribed stimulants by a physician is that it generally improves their ability to focus and maintain attention and reduces impulsivity and may also improve overall mood," Cutspec said.

Partnership for Drug-Free Kids estimates nearly two-thirds of college students who report abusing prescription stimulants indicate that doing so helped them obtain a higher grade, improve work performance or gain a competitive edge.

Rodney Coulston, 24, a senior at UNCA, said he took the prescription stimulant Adderall since third grade.

"I got higher grades and felt more motivated and more productive. I felt no desire to be social and I got all



Photo illustration by Brittany Goldman - Contributor

A's that semester when I was prescribed it. Since being off of it I have gotten B's and a C but I definitely did better for sure," Coulston said.

Adderall includes a combination of amphetamine and dextroamphetamine and is used to treat Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and narcolepsy.

The NSDUH reports approximately one-third of college students have used stimulants non-medically. Partnership for Drug-Free Kids found 1 in 5 college students report abusing prescription stimulants at least once in their lifetime, compared to 1 in 7 non-students.

"Students buy medication from other students because it's simple and easy. It would be much more difficult and costly for students to make appointments with a physician and get the medication in the usual manner," Cutspec said.

A study conducted by the Journal of Addictive Diseases revealed out of 81 college students with ADHD, an alarming 62 percent diverted their medication to someone without a prescription.

"I have never had to buy stimulants. I have sold mine because it is so readily avail-

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Photo by Leslie Frempong, Contributor.

(from left to right) Fran Teplitz, John King, John Pierce, Dan Pungello, and Carolina Arias discuss the topic of divesting UNC Asheville's endowment from fossil fuels.

Student led movement fuels environmental discussion

EMILY RIES
eries@unca.edu - Multimedia Editor

UNC Asheville's Divestment Coalition urged UNC system leaders to divest from fossil fuel companies and reinvest in sustainable green technologies during panel discussion on Feb. 12.

"We started as a bunch of student leaders from various student organizations. Once we came together, our focus was on building student and administrative support and educating our community about these issues," said Dan Pungello, panelist and co-director at UNCA's Student Environmental Center.

Concerned investors, both individual and institutional, are aligning and realigning their assets to meet social and

environmental goals alongside their financial goals, according to environmental professionals.

"While I understand the divestment may not be what brings down the fossil fuel industry, they are responding, and they are responding with fear, and they are responding with anger and that makes me happy," said Carolina Arias, panelist and environmental studies student.

According to university officials, UNC Management Company controls the university's total endowment fund of more than \$38 million, along with 14 other schools in the UNC system.

"We want to be a positive contributor, we just don't think divestment is the way to do it," said Jona-

thon King, president and CEO of UNC Management Company.

The board of trustees of Chapel Hill passed a resolution in September 2014 requesting UNC Management Company to research targeted investments for the university's endowment assets that advance environmentally-friendly clean energy strategies, according to university officials.

"UNCA is in Appalachia, which means that the fossil fuel industry, coal extraction specifically, operates in our backyard," Arias said. "Mountaintop removal has been used for decades as a strategy for taking out coal and then bringing it to Asheville and burning it in local coal-powered plants. This issue is not a distant is-

sue, it's a personal issue."

According to the U.S. forum for sustainable and responsible investing, more than \$6 trillion is under professional management in the U.S. and engaged in at least one form of a socially responsible investing strategy.

"You see change, and you see seeds of change and you start to see things happening. This is a wonderful beginning of a long, long road, but it's a very, very important road for society to go down," said John Pierce, vice chancellor for finance and operations at UNCA.

Professors at the University of British Columbia voted to urge the university's board of governors to sell the school's fossil fuels stocks over a

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Students still discontent with parking conditions

EMMA ALEXANDER
nalexand@unca.edu - News Staff Writer

Students, faculty, staff and visitors experience parking frustrations, especially in the beginning of the semester. Although still a problem, the number of parking spaces has increased in past years, according to campus police.

"At first I felt confident in the parking at UNC Asheville, but that didn't last long," said Joan Mandeng, sophomore resident. "I realized that there doesn't

seem to be enough parking for everyone. Sometimes I don't like parking down hills, walking in the dark and cold, because my dorm is far away."

UNCA has 2,629 total parking spaces for faculty, staff, visitors, residents and nonresidents. In the fall semester, 2,763 applicants applied for permits and the police department issued 3,030, said Eric Boyce, assistant vice chancellor of public safety.

"The reason applicant and issued numbers are higher than the amount of parking spaces available

is because people don't always come at the same time," Boyce said. "Parking ebbs and flows. For the university environment, some come in the morning and some in the evening."

The police department will sell applicants a permit, but that will not guarantee them a space. Typically the campus provides enough parking spaces for everyone, Boyce said.

As of Nov. 21, the department of public safety issued 2,018 citations during the fall semester. Of those citations, students, faculty and visitors ap-

pealed 398, and the board of trustees waived 52 percent of them, Boyce said.

"Our employees encourage students to appeal tickets so they have an opportunity to be heard in the process," Boyce said. "We like to apply the good-faith standard. If a student makes an effort to park in a space, not illegally, we try to get the ticket waived."

Boyce said many students think his department is trying to get money for the police department or university. However, 80 percent of the money collected must go to the

K-12 public school system. The rest goes to police department operations.

"The money students pay for parking permits are kept for the police department, which are still only a fraction of what we need," Boyce said. "Citations are not a big revenue generator for us. We carefully allocate any money we get."

During the first week of school, many students try to figure out locations of classes, buildings and parking lots. Sometimes they do not have the time to pick up their parking decals, Boyce said.

"It seems like there are more parking permit given out than there are spaces available," said Alison Widner, senior resident.

"I think we could add more parking or give out less permits and give upperclassmen first access to buying them."

Of the four parking decks around campus, contractors did not build them with the capacity to hold more tiers, Boyce said. He said he was unsure why they built them that way, but that Asheville residents prefer green space. SEE PARKING ON PAGE 6