

The **Ranger** online

The "National Save a Life Tour" made a stop at this campus March 2 to educate students on the dangers and consequences of drinking and driving.

"My hope is that when we go to a location, we are able to affect at least one person," 26-year-old Chris Geysbeek said.

Geysbeek, who is a native of Grand Rapids, Mich., began working for the "Save a Life Tour" after his friend Dan was killed by a drunken driver seven years ago.

"He was 18 years old and was hit by a drunk driver who ran a red light at 55 miles per hour," Geysbeek said.

Geysbeek explained that the accident happened at 11 p.m. and that the 19-year-old drunken driver survived the wreck.

"The drunk driver was charged with vehicular manslaughter, and only served six years out of a possible 12-year sentence," Geysbeek said.

Now, Geysbeek travels cross-country in the "National Save a Life Tour" rig, which transports the exhibits used to promote awareness toward drinking and driving.

The tour features a simulator with an LCD screen, a driver's seat and a fully functional Ford Taurus dashboard designed to mimic the slowed reaction time of a drunken driver.

"When you drink, you will experience a delay that goes from the eyes to the brain, and eventually affects your motor skills," Geysbeek said.

Geysbeek went on to explain that the simulator also takes blood alcohol content into account, gradually increasing the content throughout the demonstration.

"It is programmed to increase the blood alcohol content of a 165-pound individual, and it increases all the way to 0.34 BAC," Geysbeek said.

A blood alcohol content of 0.4 is considered alcohol poisoning and is potentially lethal.

Nursing freshman Brenda Treviño, who participated in the drunken-driving simulation in the Fiesta Room of Loftin Student Center, found it to be accurate.

"Even though I've never really drunk and drive, the delay in the car's reaction time seems pretty accurate, especially on the part when you aren't able to brake right away at the stop sign," Treviño said.

Treviño said that when she goes out with friends, there is always a designated driver.

"A lot of people don't realize that even if you have just one beer, you can still hurt someone," she said.

Throughout the event, two TV screens showed graphic emergency room footage of those involved in drinking and driving accidents, along with the HBO documentary "Smashed: Toxic Tales of Teens and Alcohol."

"We have visited thousands of locations, high schools, colleges and bases in every branch of the military," Geysbeek said.

"Students in high school tend to take it more seriously, but I hear a lot of college kids joke about it by saying things like, 'I've done this before,'" he said.

For more information on the "National Save a Life Tour" visit <http://www.savealifetour.net/>.



Media Credit: [Vincent Reyna](#)

Jon Wilson from Edu-tainment's Kramer Inc. shows Interpreting sophomore Rachel Vargas how to run the drunken driving simulator March 2 in Loftin. The ride is designed to simulate slower reflexes and can be set to different times and weather conditions.