**Consent Form**

The following study involves research into how social norms, personality factors, and religious beliefs and attitudes affect drinking levels among college students. The study has been approved by the Texas State Institutional Review Board (IRB). You are being asked to participate in this study, because previous research has shown that college students between 18-24 years of age are a high-risk group for binge drinking. This is a serious problem in our country, as alcohol related problems now cost the United States over $180,000,000 annually. This study is being conducted by James Sliwinski, a graduate student in the health psychology department here at Texas State. This study is being carried out under the supervision of Dr. John Davis. Any questions can be directed to James Sliwinski at [jsliwin03@gmail.com](mailto:jsliwin03@gmail.com), or at (330) 845-3812.

This is a survey based study, and completion of all surveys is expected to take approximately 15 minutes. Although there is minimal risk involved in this study, some participants may be sensitive towards some of the religious based questions. An example of the type of questions you will be asked includes “My religious beliefs are really what lie behind my whole approach to life. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?” There are four surveys total the largest of these being 44 questions long. Participants may choose to end their participation in the study at any time without risk of penalty. Participants may decline to answer any questions without penalty.

Benefits to participants in this study include an increased understanding of your own beliefs and traits that may influence your drinking behavior, as well as firsthand experience with the research process, which may prove helpful later if you plan on conducting your own research. Expected risks for this study are minimal. Your anonymity will be protected, as surveys will remain anonymous. Your name will only be asked for on the consent form, which is not tied to any of the surveys. The researcher, Jim Sliwinski, as well as a small group of research assistants, will be the only people who see your consent form. Your surveys will be destroyed after data collection has been completed, which will be by the end of the Spring 2011 semester. During data collection your surveys and consent forms will be kept by the researcher or his group of research assistants. No one else will have access to them. Following completion of the study, participants will receive a summary of the study’s findings upon request.

As noted earlier, risk is expected to be minimal. However, if you are feeling emotionally distressed, counseling services are available at the Texas State Counseling Center. These services are free for registered Texas State students, though the number of sessions may be limited. Any other pertinent questions about the research, participant rights, and/or research related injuries should be directed to the IRB chair, Dr. Jon Lasser (512-245-3413 – [lasser@txstate.edu](mailto:lasser@txstate.edu)), or to Ms. Becky Northcut, Compliance Specialist (512-245-2102).

Participant’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Researcher’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_