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PIRC Newsletter

Prevention Innovations Research Center (PIRC)

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Fall 11-5-2019

### PIRC News

Prevention Innovations Research Center

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news & research from the



Ending Sexual and Relationship  
Violence and Stalking

Fall 2019

## Message from the Directors



We were delighted to present Lynda Ruel, director of the New Hampshire Attorney General's Victim/Witness Assistance Unit, with the 2019 Mary Mayhew Practitioner Award. This award, named in honor of Prevention Innovations Research Center founding member, Mary Mayhew, recognizes individuals for their remarkable vision and leadership in ending gender-based violence. Lynda's tireless advocacy and unwavering dedication to the victims of crime and their families make her the perfect choice for this award. Lynda's work embodies Prevention Innovations'

commitment to honoring practitioners and recognizing their important contributions to creating a violence-free world. UNH President James Dean and Governor Chris Sununu attended the event where Lynda was praised for her direct positive impact on the people of New Hampshire. Click [here](#) for more details.

Lynda's dedication to victims is unparalleled and she is a true champion for victims of crime and their families. Many members of the UNH community as well as Lynda's friends and colleagues were on hand as she accepted the award named for her friend, Mary Mayhew. The ceremony was a wonderful opportunity for all of us at Prevention Innovations Research Center to highlight both of these inspiring women for their commitment and compassion.

- Jane Stapleton and Sharyn Potter

## PIRC in the Spotlight

In the PIRC spotlight for this month is Dr. Nicole Fox. Dr. Fox has completed outstanding work in the prevention and response to sexual and relationship violence and stalking. Dr. Fox is a faculty fellow at Prevention Innovations and an Assistant Professor in the Division of Criminal Justice at California State University Sacramento. Dr. Fox recently returned from Rwanda where she and her colleague (Dr. Hollie Nyseth Brehm) interviewed people who saved others during the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi. Her previous research in Rwanda focused on the aftermath of atrocity by interviewing survivors of genocide and genocidal rape.



This past summer, Dr. Fox led a study abroad course on comparative criminal justice for 12 undergraduate students in Ghana. During the course, students met with local criminal justice stakeholders as well as representatives from prisons, police headquarters and courts, as well as powerful feminist criminal justice leaders, including her Ladyship the Chief Justice. Together, they visited the domestic violence and sexual assault unit and recently met with the International Federation of Women's Lawyers (FIDA). Students from the program wrote a blog about the visit and FIDA's services to impoverished clients in custody as well as legal assistance in the court system. The organization has launched several projects, such as SAFE, a program that empowers women against gender-based violence, and GIVES, a program that focuses on persons with disabilities and women with HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Fox's publications include "I Decided to Save Them": Factors that Shaped Participation in Rescue Efforts during Genocide in Rwanda, published March 2018 in *Social Forces*. Her article analyzes the case for collective action in Rwanda, where people worked collectively to save Tutsi people from violence in 1994. Fox's work emphasizes the social factors that shaped Rwandan's decisions and abilities to save persecuted individuals. Dr. Fox attended the 25th anniversary of the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi and published two subsequent articles. In [Lessons of the 25th Anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide](#), Fox brings together the voices and narratives of individuals who rescued others being persecuted. During this event, Fox spoke with prosocial and active bystanders that had saved others during the genocide. Fox and Brehm's publication highlights the importance of stories of rescue and how these narratives can inform policy decisions relating to bystander intervention, violence prevention, and education. Dr. Fox and Dr. Brehm are the recipients of the Harry Frank Guggenheim Grant for their exemplary research of Rwandan rescuers and bystander intervention during genocide. We are honored to have Dr. Fox represent Prevention Innovations Research Center and are looking forward to her future work and continued dedication to bystander intervention and prevention of sexual violence at a national and international level.





### PIRC Spin-Off Honored by UNHInnovation

Soteria Solutions, UNH's first female-founded research-based startup, was honored at a recent event at the University of New Hampshire, UNHInnovation. Founders Jane Stapleton and Sharyn Potter created Soteria Solutions as a non-profit spin-off of Prevention Innovations Research Center. Named for the Greek goddess of safety, deliverance, and preservation from harm, Soteria Solutions employs evidence-based solutions to create safe, respectful learning environments and workplaces.



### uSafeUS Version 4 has launched!

The uSafeUS mobile safety app has just released a new version, uSafeUS v4, which offers enhanced and expanded prevention features to help protect students as well as new resources to support victims of stalking and dating violence. This upgraded version includes improved interactive prevention features such as newly streamlined

interfaces and GPS tracking for increased safety and usability, as well as instant access to emergency and support resources. Please visit the [uSafeUS](#) website for more information.

## ATSA Releases Policy Paper



The Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) is an international professional organization dedicated to making society safer through sound research and effective practices approaches to prevent perpetration of sexual violence. The organization just released a new public policy recommendation [paper](#) addressing campus sexual misconduct. ATSA offers a unique perspective in addressing campus sexual misconduct due to its focus on the effective assessment, treatment, and management of individuals who have sexually abused or are at risk to abuse. The paper discusses the need to identify evidence-informed policies and practices that: 1) hold individuals who perpetrate sexual assault accountable for their behavior; 2) provide safety and support to individuals who have been harmed to facilitate healing; 3) provide services for those who have caused harm with the resources necessary to stop their harmful behavior; and 4) prevent sexual misconduct from happening in the first place. To achieve these goals, this paper discusses what is known (and not known) about individuals who cause sexual harm. The paper also addresses the relationship, community, and societal factors that contribute to, rather than inhibit, these behaviors (McMahon, 2000; Letourneau, Eaton, Bass, Berlin, & Moore, 2014; Shields & Feder, 2016; Tabachnick, 2013), with an emphasis on how to prevent sexual misconduct in the first place.

The paper offers a short summary of the research and best practices with this diverse population as well as three key recommendations: 1) Provide Access to Local Expertise on the Perpetration of Sexual Misconduct; 2) Appropriately Sanction and Provide Treatment to Those Who Cause Harm; and 3) Include a Perpetration Prevention Lens to Prevention Programs.

**Upcoming Conference:** MASOC (Massachusetts Society for a World Free of Sexual Harm by Youth) and MATSA (Massachusetts Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers, Inc.) will host a joint conference April 13-15 in Marlborough, MA with a focus on preventing campus sexual misconduct. The keynote this year will be Shamus Khan, one of the authors of the forthcoming book, *Sexual Citizens: A Landmark Study of Sex, Power, and Assault on Campus*. *Sexual Citizens* is based on years of research interviewing and observing college life—with students of different races, genders, sexual orientations, and socioeconomic backgrounds. For more information visit the website [www.masoc.net](http://www.masoc.net).

## PIRC Shoutout



PIRC Faculty Fellow **Dr. Kelsey Medeiros** has taken a new position as an Assistant Professor of Management at the University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO) where she researches issues related to creativity, ethics, leadership, and gender in the workplace.

- PIRC Faculty Fellow **Amy Vorenberg**, Professor of Law and Director of Legal Writing at the UNH School of Law is working on a book with fellow UNH law professor Jessica Durkis-Stokes entitled *Sexual Violence and the Law*. It will explore the

racist and sexist bias underlying laws governing sexual assault crimes. The book traces the history and progress that American society has made in recognizing and criminalizing such behavior and is slated for publication in late 2020. Listen to a [podcast](#) about the book.

- PIRC co-director **Sharyn Potter** presented “Developing A Common Language for Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Metrics” at the 2019 Discussion on Sexual Assault & Sexual Harassment at America’s Colleges, Universities, and Service Academies hosted by the State University of New York and the Department of the Navy in September. She and Dr. Christopher Krebs discussed how decision makers can compare rates of sexual violence across different metrics.
- PIRC Faculty Fellow **Dr. Alan Berkowitz** is an independent consultant with over 25 years of experience in higher education as a trainer, psychologist, faculty member, and Counseling Center Director. He developed one of the first rape prevention programs for men in the U.S. Check out Dr. Berkowitz demonstrating bystander intervention techniques in a variety of [scenarios](#).
- PIRC Faculty Fellow **Dr. Maddy Coy** and a team of U.S. and U.K. scholars including Professor Julie Libarkin, Dr. Anna Bull, Dr. Tiffany Page, and Dr. Heidi Lockwood hosted an NSF funded conference at the University of Wisconsin-Madison on Faculty and Staff Sexual Misconduct. The conference featured workshops on experiences of sexual violation by faculty and staff, the inadequacy of institutional responses, and how to translate the needs of survivors into policy and action. Keynote speakers included Dr. Kate Clancy (Illinois) and Dr. Purna Sen (UN Women). Briefing papers and journal articles that share the knowledge and insight from the conference can be found [here](#).
- PIRC Practitioner Fellow **L.B. Klein** has a publication posting soon: Klein, L. B. & Martin, S. L. (2019). [Sexual harassment of students on college and university campuses: A systematic review](#). *Trauma, Violence, and Abuse*. Advance online publication. doi:10.1177/1524838019881731. She is also starting data collection in November for a new study entitled “Campus Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Advocacy Practices: A National Benchmarking Study.”
- PIRC co-director **Sharyn Potter** published an article on leveraging consumer protection laws to reduce on-campus assaults. In [Using Lemon Laws to Curb the Campus Sexual Assault Epidemic](#), Dr. Potter suggests that college students and their families should be entitled to protection under consumer product safety rules, similar to the purchase of any other consumer product.

## PIRC New Employees and Interns

**Elizabeth Moschella, Ph.D.**, is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Prevention Innovations Research Center (PIRC). She graduated with a Ph.D. in Social Psychology and a M.A. in Justice Studies from the University of New Hampshire. Elizabeth first joined PIRC in the Fall of 2018 as an Adjunct Research Assistant, working on the evaluation of the Community College Sexual Assault Policy and Prevention Initiative. She is currently assisting with data collection and analysis for several research projects, including a project funded by the National Science Foundation to develop a mobile app for high school students. Elizabeth also assisted with the development of a youth-specific survey to measure attitudes toward healthy relationships and with the creation of relationship violence and stalking content for the uSafeUS mobile app (Version 4). Elizabeth has spent



over eight years working in the field of violence prevention and response. She spent her graduate career conducting research on outcomes of bystander intervention in situations of interpersonal violence and factors that promote resiliency and growth in survivors of trauma. She has utilized mixed-method designs in her research and has expertise in measurement development. Elizabeth serves as the Secretary on the Board of Directors for a non-profit organization, Resilient Retreat, Inc., which is dedicated to empowering survivors of trauma and abuse through self-care and community. She also volunteers as an advocate at HAVEN, the largest crisis center in New Hampshire. Elizabeth is excited to be a part of the PIRC team and continue to explore her passion for ending sexual and

relationship violence and stalking.

**Matt Moschella** is a graduate research assistant at PIRC. He earned his B.A. at Stonehill College and is currently enrolled in the Master of Justice Studies program at the University of New Hampshire. Matt began working for PIRC this July. Since then, he has helped prepare the uSafeUS mobile app for deployment and contributed to the development of a healthy relationships measure for adolescents. His primary focus is implementation research for a high school relationship safety app, funded by the National Science Foundation. This project includes leading high school focus groups in dialogues about safety and app utilizations, collecting qualitative and quantitative data, and distributing a mobile app prototype as a product of this research.



Matt's interests in trauma prevention and treatment solidified in 2018 when he began working with adolescent trauma survivors as a residential counselor. He is enthusiastic to be working as a researcher in this field while attaining his M.A. He further hopes to extend his education and eventually work as a clinical psychologist with a trauma focus. Outside the office, you can catch Matt exploring the great New Hampshire outdoors or practicing swing dancing at UNH.



## INTERNS

At PIRC, our interns are valuable members of our team and contribute greatly to our work. This fall, we welcome six new interns who are working on a variety of projects:

- **Melissa Clivio-Wentrup** - uSafeUS Marketing and Outreach/Sharon Murphy Scholar
- **Alexa O'Leary** - uSafeUS Marketing and Outreach
- **Julia Bobeck** - Communications
- **Monique Ricard** - Communications
- **Hannah Nordstrom** - Undergraduate Research
- **Yosita Thanjai** - Undergraduate Research
- **Tony Nguyen** - Communications





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