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Research-to-Practice, PIRC's Spring Newsletter

Prevention Innovations Research Center

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Prevention Innovations Spring 2021 News

A Note from Our Directors

Dear Friends,

In honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, we invite you to join us in recognizing survivors along with the many allies, individuals, and organizations working tirelessly to create safe and respectful communities.

Recent hate crimes and racism-based violence underscore the work still to be done to ensure justice and safety for everyone. Our work must address systems of oppression including racism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, and economic inequality. To build our vision of a world free from sexual and relationship violence and stalking, we must address systematic violence with a comprehensive approach. PIRC staff members are working to strengthen our knowledge and skills to center our work in an anti-oppression framework. In the coming months we'll share our learning and our efforts to integrate these lessons into our work.

We are grateful for PIRC supporters who recently donated to *UNH's 603 Challenge*. With matching donations, we raised \$2,000 for the PIRC Intern program!

Thank you for your continuing support of Prevention Innovations Research Center. We are motivated to continue our work because we know that evidence-based prevention and response can shift attitudes and behaviors. We believe that together, we can create a safe and respectful world for everyone.

Best regards,
Jane and Sharyn

New *Insights for Practitioners* Research and Learnings to Support Prevention



We're excited to announce the launch of a new series of articles designed to make research, evaluation information, and learnings more accessible to our practitioner community.

In our first edition, *Prevention and Response Support for Community Colleges*, our team shares publications and key takeaways from research which targets prevention and response on community college campuses. Our next edition will share learnings from the evaluation of a sexual violence prevention program.

[Find *Insights for Practitioners* on our website.](#)

Student-Initiated Survivor Legislation Expands Across the U.S.



In June 2020, New Hampshire became the first state to pass the *Every Voice* Legislation (bill NH RSA-188), which aims to transform campus sexual violence prevention and response efforts to support survivors in a trauma-informed manner. [The student-led *Every Voice* Coalition](#) is working to pass similar legislation in every state; Massachusetts recently passed their version of this bill and efforts are

underway in eight additional states. We're so proud of these students and their successes!

Our Directors Sharyn Potter and Jane Stapleton co-chair New Hampshire's RSA-188 Task Force along with Department of Education attorney, Diana Fenton. The taskforce, made up of students as well as campus, crisis center, and law enforcement professionals, was formed to support implementation of the new legislation.

Recently Sharyn spoke with the [NH Concord Monitor](#) about the importance of standardized procedures for the administration of campus climate surveys, one of the requirements of the *Every Voice* Legislation.

uSafeUS® Helps Colleges Amplify Prevention and Response Efforts



As uSafeUS approaches the end of its third year, 22 colleges in three states are using the mobile app to strengthen and amplify their college prevention and response programs. By making resources, guidance, and prevention tools available on student phones, uSafeUS is able to extend support to students whether on or off campus.

The COVID-19 Pandemic provided opportunities for the uSafeUS team to develop new strategies to engage students including download contests, sports team challenges, and student ambassador programs. As NH and other states continue to pass and implement the *Every Voice* legislation, uSafeUS is being used to make it easier for schools to comply with a number of elements of the legislation. uSafeUS ensures students have immediate access to campus sexual assault policy information, as the legislation requires. It also requires colleges to designate "Confidential Resource Advisors" for students; the May 2021 release of uSafeUS will add this new resource category to its "Find Help" feature.

[Contact Sharyn Potter](#) to discuss bringing uSafeUS to your campus.

Welcoming Author Sohaila Abdulali

We were delighted to welcome [Sohaila Abdulali](#) to PIRC to discuss her book [What We Talk About When We Talk About Rape](#).

At age 17, Sohaila survived a gang rape in Mumbai. Outraged over the lack of conversation around rape, how



it is perceived, and how we talk about it, she wrote a groundbreaking piece for a women's magazine. Thirty years later, in the aftermath of a deadly gang rape in Delhi, that article went viral, placing Sohaila at the center of an international conversation around rape. In 2012, she wrote an op-ed New York Times entitled [“After Being Raped I Was Wounded; My Honor Wasn't”](#). She followed that up with her thoughtful and deeply personal book.

What We Talk About When We Talk About Rape explores complex questions such as “is rape always a life defining event?” and “how does one rediscover joy after rape?”. Sohaila offers a starkly honest and surprisingly optimistic take on the complicated topic of rape and we are grateful for her thought provoking discussion with our PIRC staff.

News from PIRC Fellows & Researchers



Congratulations to PIRC Fellow LB Klein, who successfully defended her dissertation at the University of North Carolina School of Social Work. Additionally, she won the LGBTQIA Advocacy Award from UNC-Chapel Hill's LGBTQ Center and published an article in the [Journal of Social Work Education](#). Dr. Klein has accepted a faculty position in the University of Wisconsin-Madison Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work. After

one year to focus on her research as an Anna Julia Cooper Post-Doctoral Fellow, she will become an assistant professor in August 2022.

Congratulations to 2020 PIRC intern, Mari Tarantino, who has been admitted to the Virginia Tech doctoral program in Human Development.

PIRC Fellow Dr. Nicole Fox and her colleague Dr. Alexa Sardina won the [American Sociological Association Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline](#). Their proposed research project, *Remembering Rape: America's First Memorial to Sexual Violence Survivors*, will explore how the [Survivors Memorial](#), which was constructed to be an accessible and visible space acknowledging sexual violence survivors, impacts visitors. This memorial will honor the courage and strength of survivors, and it will

bring awareness to the prevalence of sexual violence.

PIRC Fellow Dr. Alan Berkowitz was quoted in the New York Times article titled "[Would You Jump In to Stop an Assault?](#)" He suggests that race could play an unconscious role in determining whether people intervene to help a stranger in need.

PIRC Directors Jane Stapleton and Dr. Sharyn Potter participated in the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine April 20 & 21 workshop, [Developing Metrics for Sexual Harassment Prevention Efforts](#). Proceedings will be published this summer.

Sharyn also presented on April 20th at the quarterly *In Focus* seminar, sponsored by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy Manpower and Office of Reserve Affairs, Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment & Suicide Prevention and Response Office. In her "Treasure What You Measure" talk, Sharyn explained strategies for identifying, adapting, implementing, and measuring prevention programs in a military context.

Honoring the 20th Anniversary of Sexual Assault Awareness Month



The National Sexual Violence Resource Center is marking the twentieth anniversary of Sexual Assault Awareness Month with their "[We Can Build Safe Spaces Online](#)" campaign.

The internet has become a central platform for many social connections, from friends and romantic partners to family members and even strangers. Sadly, it is also a place where bullying, threatening, and harassment run rampant. SAAM offers an opportunity for all of us to highlight the importance of safe online spaces and to support survivors of sexual harassment and abuse.

UNH's Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention Program (SHARPP) has a number of special [programs](#) planned during SAAM to raise awareness and facilitate discussion around sexual violence prevention and supporting survivors.

Mentoring the Next Generation of

Practitioners and Researchers



Our intern program enables us to work one-on-one with UNH undergraduate and graduate students to build their understanding of and experience with hands-on research, giving them the opportunity to learn effective prevention and response strategies.

These students participate in every aspect of our work, from data collection and research to prevention strategy development and dissemination of publications and prevention solutions.

Our Spring 2021 interns are currently working on a wide range of projects to support PIRC's social media reach, uSafeUS campus implementations, using uSafeUS to implement Every Voice legislation, data analysis and visualization for our evaluation of Dartmouth College's Sexual Violence Prevention Program, and transcribing qualitative data for an adaption of Bringing in the Bystander® for engineering students, faculty, and staff. Internships will culminate with presentations at UNH's Undergraduate Research Symposium on April 23.

We are fortunate to be able to offer one sponsored internship each year, funded by the **Sharon B. Murphy Scholarship Award**, and are excited to announce that the **Fall 2021 recipient is Macy Broderick**, Women's and Gender Studies, Education Studies and Social Justice Leadership.

We are thankful for all of our interns' efforts to support Prevention Innovations Research Center projects; we benefit from their hard work and commitment to furthering PIRC's mission. We recently asked them to share what they have learned from their PIRC experience, here's an example:

"I've learned... valuable information about the issues of sexual harassment and violence, and the development of research projects to prevent these offenses from occurring."

Read what all our interns had to say on [our Instagram channel](#).

Don't miss the latest in prevention and response research and practice.

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