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PIRC Newsletter

Prevention Innovations Research Center (PIRC)

Winter 2-8-2022

Research-to-Practice, Prevention Innovations Winter Newsletter

Prevention Innovations Research Center

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Recommended Citation

Prevention Innovations Research Center, "Research-to-Practice, Prevention Innovations Winter Newsletter" (2022). *PIRC Newsletter*. 17.

https://scholars.unh.edu/pirc_newsletter/17

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A Note from Our Directors

Dear Friends,

We hope that 2022 is off to a good start and that you, your loved ones, and colleagues are healthy and well. We are excited to share some of Prevention Innovations Research Center's 2021-2022 projects with you. We have launched several new research, evaluation, and practice projects this year. We have also welcomed two new staff members, Leandra Smollin and Lynn Levey, as well as our Sharon B. Murphy student scholar, Macy Broderick, and undergraduate interns Nicole Kramer and Takisha Griffin. We have built new collaborations with national partners and are leading a statewide legislative initiative with New Hampshire institutions of higher education, community-based practitioners, and the New Hampshire Department of Education.

Like many of you, we have learned a great deal over the past two years as we have adjusted our research and work strategies to accommodate pandemic responses. It is clear that the need for sexual and relationship violence, sexual harassment, and stalking prevention and response remains constant and we are thankful for our partners' and staff members' willingness to reimagine how we do our work to develop the most effective tools and strategies to ensure safety and respect.

Thank you for your continuing support! We are honored to lead such an amazing research center and to have the opportunity to work with so many practitioners, survivors, and those impacted by violence.

Sharyn and Jane

Prevention Innovations Co-Directors Chair NH RSA 188-H Legislation Committee



Since February 2021, PIRC Directors Stapleton and Potter have been co-chairing the committee overseeing statewide implementation of the NH RSA 188-H legislation, the [Every Voice Legislation](#) aimed at preventing and reducing sexual misconduct at institutions of higher education (IHE). NH was the first state to pass this legislation and since then the legislation has been passed in Massachusetts and Connecticut with active student-led chapters around the country.

Additionally, under the direction of Stapleton, PIRC will provide New Hampshire IHEs with a fee-based central administration of NH RSA 188-H's baseline campus climate survey, data analysis, and compilation of a climate survey report, providing IHEs with the mechanism to comply with the RSA 188's campus climate survey requirements. PIRC will facilitate the online administration of the baseline campus climate survey and work with partner IHEs to customize responses to match campus resources, analyze the data, and provide partner IHEs with campus-specific reports.

Pilot Implementations Continue for PIRC's Safe Student App, uSafeHS™



Developed with funding from the National Science Foundation, PIRC's uSafeHS safe student app addresses the continuum of negative school behaviors — like cyberbullying and harassment — which can ultimately lead to violence if unaddressed.

Using a social emotional learning framework (SEL), uSafeHS offers gamified micro-learning modules which teach students how to respond safely to these behaviors. uSafeHS also offers prevention tools to support students in risky situations, immediate access to school, community, and online resources, a new communication channel, and (optional) anonymous reporting.

We're excited that PIRC's newest research colleague, Dr. Leandra Smollin (read more about Dr. Smollin below) is leading the effort to evaluate the app in pilot high schools.

Now in its third pilot phase, we're seeking additional high schools to trial the app in the Fall of 2022. As students face social and emotional learning challenges from the pandemic, early pilot users are seeing the benefits of this SEL-based app. Learn more [on the uSafeHS website](#) or [Contact Sharyn Potter](#) to explore signing on for our Fall cohort. Participation is free.

News and Publications from Prevention Innovations' Researchers and Fellows



Congratulations to PIRC Fellow **Dr. Jennifer Griffith** who was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure at the Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics at the University of New Hampshire, where she teaches Organizational Behavior and Management. Dr. Griffith was named the [2021 UNH Outstanding Assistant Professor](#) and received a [Gold UNH Sustainability Award](#) for her work on gender and workplace inequity.

PIRC Fellow **Meera Seshadri** has been hired as a Research Designer with [Start By Talking, LLC](#) for the [Cambridge Domestic and Gender-Based Violence Prevention Initiative \(DGBVPI\) Survey Project](#). Start By Talking, a national initiative and partner of the Swan Center for Advocacy & Research, is an anti-racism educational media company that supports leaders and institutions with interrogating their relationship with anti-blackness and white supremacy. It was founded by PIRC Fellow **Wanda Swan**. Meera will be conducting ethnographic research with sexual and gender-based survivors of color and evaluate their user experience of Cambridge city advocacy resources.

Dr. Sharyn Potter, Executive Director of Research at Prevention Innovations Research Center, was a panelist on the Bipartisan Task Force to End Sexual Violence Roundtable on Military Sexual Trauma. The [task force](#) is chaired by Reps. Kuster (D-NH), Jackie Speier (D-CA), Dave Joyce (R-OH), and John Katko (R-NY). Dr. Potter was invited to present at the [virtual roundtable](#) which addressed actions that Congress can take to support survivors and end sexual violence in the military.

PIRC Fellow and Research Scientist **Dr. Elizabeth Moschella-Smith** is leading a collaboration with the UNH College of Engineering and Physical Sciences, the Dartmouth College Department of Theater, and the University of Connecticut to examine the Impact of an Interactive Theater Program to Reduce Gender-based Bias and Harassment Among Engineering Students. She also is the lead investigator on a Collaborative Research Excellence (CoRE) grant entitled "Thriving with Theater".

Dr. LB Klein, PIRC Fellow and Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, published "[Sexual Harassment of Students at Institutions of Higher Education: Variations in Students' Experiences, Knowledge, and Perceptions Across Institutions](#)" in *Feminist*

Criminology. Dr. Klein and Taylan Stulting recently presented *Overcoming LGBTQ+ exclusion in alcohol-facilitated campus sexual assault prevention education*. This presentation was based on research funded by a PIRC Innovative Research Award.

PIRC staff **Drs. Elizabeth Moschella-Smith and Sharyn Potter and Second Lieutenant Cheyenne Quilter**, a graduate student at the King's College of London, authored the paper "Comprehensive policies for victims of sexual assault returning to the campus classroom: Lessons from university sports-related concussion policies", which was [published in the *Journal of American College Health*](#). The summer before Second Lieutenant Quilter's senior year at West Point, she interned at PIRC and was a researcher on this paper that compares sports-related concussion and sexual assault policies (e.g., academic and financial accommodations, and health referrals) at the 50 flagship universities in the United States. The research findings indicate that universities offer more comprehensive academic accommodations and physical and mental health resources to students who suffer sports-related concussions, compared with students who are sexually assaulted. These findings highlight the need for universities to implement comprehensive sexual assault policies that would improve student health and academic outcomes and increase survivors' likelihood of graduating college.

PIRC Fellow **Joan Tabachnick** published the blog post [Preventing Perpetration: Promising Advances in Situational and Developmental Approaches](#), for the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART). The article focuses on two prevention approaches, situational crime prevention and developmental crime prevention, as complements to traditional criminal justice and public health strategies. Registration for the 2022 MASOC/MATSA Joint Conference on April 6-7, 2022 is now open and details can be found [here](#).

Looking ahead, PIRC Fellows Dr. Elizabeth Moschella-Smith, Dr. LB Klein, and Dr. Elyse Lopez are editing a special issue of the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* titled "Bridging Interpersonal Violence Prevention and Intervention Research and Practice". This special issue features articles describing innovative ways that practitioners and researchers are collaborating to improve sexual violence prevention and response. **Additionally**, a subcommittee of PIRC Fellows is creating a sexual violence prevention syllabus that highlights researchers, practitioner organizations, and consultants who experience structural barriers to getting their research published and having their work recognized, read and known. The working title for the syllabus is "Decentering Dominant Sexual Violence Discourse" and is planned for completion in 2022.

New Faces at Prevention Innovations

Meet **Dr. Leandra Smollin**, a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at PIRC. She completed a PhD in Sociology in 2014 and a Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies in 2007, both at Northeastern University. Prioritizing community-engaged research with direct policy



and program implications, Leandra's research examines how race, ethnicity, social class and gender intersect to shape adolescent health and experiences with violence. Leandra partnered with a community organization and collected multiple forms of qualitative data for her dissertation examining LGBTQ teen dating violence. Committed to mutually beneficial partnerships, Leandra collaborated with practitioners to secure a \$20,000 grant for her partner organization. Recognition of her scholarship and community-engagement led to her appointment to the Massachusetts Commission for LGBTQ Youth, where Leandra generated evidence-based policy for MA state legislators.

After completing her PhD, Leandra assumed research positions with the Gaston Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy at UMass Boston and Northeastern University before joining the faculty at SUNY Potsdam as an Assistant Professor of Sociology. Leandra's approach to prevention research is enriched by the diversity of her work with youth and reflect PIRC's prioritization of researcher/practitioner collaboration and use of evidence-based tools to end violence. Leandra joins PIRC with fifteen years of experience in the field of sexual and relationship violence, and she welcomes the opportunity to engage research on youth-focused anti-violence initiatives at PIRC, including the uSafeHS safe student app.



Also new to PIRC is **Lynn Levey, JD**. Before joining Prevention Innovations Research Center, Lynn was the Title IX Coordinator and Assistant Dean of Prevention Education at Clark University. Lynn has taught courses on Violence Against Women at Syracuse University College of Law. She was also part of a technical assistance team that set up domestic violence courts throughout New York State. Lynn joins us to support colleges in their implementation of uSafeUS.

Meet Our Sharon B. Murphy Scholar, Macy Broderick



Each year Prevention Innovations Research Center awards one sponsored internship through the Sharon B. Murphy Scholarship. We're delighted to introduce you to this year's winner, Macy Broderick, a junior at UNH with dual majors in Women's and Gender Studies and Educational Studies and a minor in Social Justice Leadership. This past semester, Macy has been actively involved in supporting the implementation of our new uSafeHS Safe Student app. Macy has honed her skills as a researcher-in-training and will be

staying on with PIRC during her senior year.

Outside of PIRC, Macy also does research with a professor in the Education Department that is focused on Anti-Racist education in K-12 schools, and she served as a Teaching Assistant for the course Gender, Power, and Privilege. An intern in the honors program, she has facilitated discussions on social justice issues with incoming honors students. In the future, Macy plans to become an educator, focusing on education policy to make schools safe, equitable, and positive environments for all students.

Apply for Fall 2022 Internships at Prevention Innovations Research Center



The Prevention Innovations Research Center mission includes mentoring the next generation of researchers and practitioners, which we do through our intern program. Interns work within the framework of the Susan Schechter Domestic and Sexual Violence Social Justice Laboratory (the Schechter Lab), named in honor of the visionary in violence prevention and developer of “The Greenbook”, Susan Schechter.

This interdisciplinary research lab, where students earn credit for their role as research assistants, engages students, faculty, researchers, and practitioners in research that focuses on intervention and prevention strategies for eliminating sexual and relationship violence. We also offer one funded position to an outstanding student through the Sharon B. Murphy Scholarship.

[Visit our Intern page](#) to learn more and apply.

The graphic features a hand holding a smartphone displaying the uSafeUS app interface. The app screen shows various icons for 'Campus Safety', 'Health Services', 'Campus Police', and 'Campus Health'. The text on the left reads 'Amplify your college's prevention and response programming.' and the uSafeUS logo is below it. The text on the right reads 'In support of Healthy Relationships Month our evidence-based college prevention & response app is available with a special offer.'

Evidence-based uSafeUS®, used by 25 colleges in five states, places prevention and response resources directly into the hands of students and faculty. Prevention features like *Time to Leave*™, which lets students send themselves a fake text or call if they need a reason to leave a

risky situation, help keep them safer. Response resources like *Find Help* and *Helpful Answers*, are easily customized and provide extensive resources and guidance for survivors. Coupled with information for faculty and staff plus push notifications for students, uSafeUS amplifies your prevention and response programming.

In support of February's Healthy Relationships and Teen Dating Violence Awareness months, we're offering six free months with a three year subscription to this easy-to-implement app. [Email Sharyn Potter](#) for an overview of the app, or to discuss bringing uSafeUS to your campus.

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

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