

Rape: Advocacy, Prevention & Education Center

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Office of Prevention Services
Division of Student Affairs

Spring 2007

No More Silence

Take Back the Night 2007

The Syracuse University R.A.P.E. Center would like to invite the entire Syracuse University campus and surrounding community to come together and end the silence at this year's Take Back the Night march and rally. Come together as one unified community and shout loudly and clearly that all types of violence will not be tolerated. Stand up and proclaim, "There will be no more silence!"

Take Back the Night 2007 events will be held in various locations on the Syracuse University campus from April 9 – 18, 2007. Take Back the Night is an international event that started in England in 1877 as a protest against the fear women encountered walking the streets at night. In 1978, the first Take Back the Night march in the United States was held in San Francisco to protest violence against women—particularly sexual assault. Since then, Take Back the Night has spread across borders and oceans, cultures and languages, cities and towns, increasing community awareness and educating millions about the issues of violence against women, as well as urging each and every one of us to take a stand against all types of violence.

Come join the Syracuse campus and community members this year as they come together to break the silence, take a stand against all violence, raise awareness about attitudes that perpetuate violence, and talk about ways to work together to make the night-and the day- safe for all community members.



For more information contact Amanda Tommell at aetommel@syr.edu



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Take Back the Night 2007

Schedule of Events

April 9, 2007:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm - 7:30pm: E5M presentation -- "Imagine a World Without Sexual Violence" 500 Hall of Languages, open to the public
April 11, 2007:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm - 8:30pm: Interdisciplinary panel discussion -- "Violence Prevention: It's Never Too Early", Kittredge Auditorium HBC
April 12, 2007:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - 3pm: Clothesline Project T-shirt making workshop, Off Campus Student Services
April 13, 2007:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm - 3pm: Clothesline Project T-shirt making workshop, Winnick Hillel Center
April 16, 2007:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2pm - 4pm: Clothesline Project T-shirt making workshop, LGBT Resource Center (RC) 6pm - 8:30pm: Hands Against Violence, Goldstein Student Center, South Campus 7pm - 9pm: Take Back the Night Sign Making Party, Hendricks Chapel Atrium
April 16-18, 2007:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - 3pm: Hands Against Violence, Schine Student Center
April 17, 2007:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - 3pm: Clothesline Project T-shirt making workshop, Off Campus Student Services 7pm - 9pm: Take Back the Night Sign Making Party, 228B Schine Student Center Got Consent? T-shirt Campaign, sponsored by Office of Judicial Affairs, University Judicial Board/Peer Education Team
April 18, 2007:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Day of Silence, sponsored by the LGBT (RC) 4:45pm - 5:45pm: Loud and Proud Rally, Hendricks 6pm: Clothesline Project, Hendricks Chapel Noble Room 7pm: Take Back the Night March, Rally and Speak Out, Hendricks Chapel

Syracuse Partnership for Violence Prevention

In June 2007, the Syracuse University R.A.P.E. Center and Office of Student Life joined the Center for Court Innovation (CCI) and Vera House in the Syracuse Partnership for Violence Prevention. This program, funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, is a unique community and university partnership aimed at reducing gender violence through a training program led by student facilitators. Through this program, fraternity and sorority members from Syracuse University and the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry are trained in the Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Program. MVP, developed at Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in Society, is a gender violence prevention and education program that motivates student leaders to become involved in reducing sexual violence, abuse, and harassment. The MVP Program is designed to raise awareness among students about their potential role as empowered bystanders who can intervene in situations that could lead to violence. Students discuss options for intervention. The training acknowledges that the option for action that each individual chooses is based on their own unique set of circumstances. Students



are encouraged to determine the option that is most acceptable to them. Student trainers who complete the MVP Program training will facilitate trainings with other fraternity and sorority members. Chris Stevens and Katherine Friedman, two student peer educators, share their reflections on their experiences with this program.

Mentors in Violence Prevention

By: Chris Stevens

My name is Chris Stevens, and I am a junior at Syracuse University. During the spring semester of 2007, I have been participating in the Syracuse Partnership for Violence Prevention. Through involvement with this project, I have had the opportunity to go through training in the Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Program. The reason I decided to get involved in preventing violence against women is I have a little sister who I would do anything to prevent any form of violence from happening to. I would do the same for any other man's sister, since I can empathize with such a situation. My sister and I are really close, and she often shares her experiences with me. Having had these experiences, she often tells me that violence against women comes not only in the form of physical abuse, but I was never able to fully understand her. When I was presented with the opportunity to take part in this program, I saw an opportunity to obtain a better understanding of what my little sister has been through. I thought of her and signed up.

The MVP Program provided a structured environment that was ideal for extremely valuable inter-gender dialogue. Group discussion proved to be extremely eye opening, enabling a male to better understand the threats and feelings that our female counterparts confront on a daily basis. Once both the men and women became more comfortable and began to open up, the results were nothing short of incredible. Sorority women shared their feelings, perspectives, and experiences with fraternity men while also informing us of ways to make them feel safer both on campus and in chapter houses. Men attentively listened and asked great questions that would allow us to better understand the new perspective we were being fully informed of for the first time. Honest opinions were shared, resulting in the toppling of gender barriers that would normally hinder such sensitive conversations, and we each left more aware and more enlightened. I am confident that I speak for anyone who took part in the program when I say that without having done so, it is probable that we never would have had the chance to engage in such priceless dialogue.

Personally, I can honestly say that the MVP Program made me a better person. Immediately upon leaving the first day of training, I noticed myself hearing commonly said things – things that I had failed to take notice of before – differently. I began to think about some of the ways that men commonly tend to treat women – things I had never thought twice about before – in a totally new light. This was hard for me to get by, hard for me to deal with, and at first I was ashamed, then angry, and then I retreated to a false sense of apathy in an attempt to comfort myself. But after the second day, I began to realize the value of what I had been taught. I was able to see that I had achieved a new level of awareness that will allow me to be a better man. I finally fully understand what my little sister was talking about when she would vent to me about controlling boyfriends, gawking guys, and men who verbally harass women.

We engage this program as a unified Greek system, collectively dedicated to preventing all violence against women on this campus. In doing so, we are doing more than simply advancing a truly great cause on our own campus. As the first Greek system in the country to

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tackle this crucial issue in this manner, we are blazing a trail that will be followed by other Greek systems nationwide. We have been presented with a rare and incredibly valuable opportunity to lead the fight to stop an inexcusable, entirely preventable behavior. We shoulder the responsibility for leading Greeks nationwide in the honorable task of preventing violence against women, in all its forms. Having participated in the Mentors in Violence Prevention Program with several of my peers, and knowing that many more will soon share in this experience, I am 100% confident that we will succeed.

Mentors in Violence Prevention By: Katherine Friedman

My name is Katherine Friedman and I am a member of the Pi chapter of Phi Sigma Sigma. I am a participant, along with 55 other members of the Greek community, in the Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Program as part of the Syracuse Partnership for Violence Prevention. MVP is a program aimed at working with student leaders to engage them in playing a central role in solving problems that have commonly been considered "women's issues." In the past, the MVP Program has been oriented towards working with student athletes. This is the first time that this program is being implemented within a Greek system at a university. It is a truly innovative program and we, as members of Greek life, were very fortunate to have this opportunity to participate in such a program.

The program began with a talk from SU alum and active promoter of MVP Don McPherson, who discussed the importance of both men and women being concerned with issues of domestic violence and gender identities, as well as other related issues. The peer trainers, 2 to 4 members from participating chapters, engaged in a 12 hour training program during which we discussed important issues including gender roles, alcohol issues, and homophobia. After completing this, each individual trainer became certified to train other students in fraternities and sororities who participate in the program.

The program was so valuable for me personally because I am a women's studies minor, and I often have a difficult time complementing my social sorority life with that of feminine discourses I learn in the academic world. Through the MVP Program, I witnessed a distinct change in the attitudes and viewpoints of many of the male and female trainers regarding issues of domestic violence, homophobia, and other issues that concern women. I would like to commend the trainers for their extremely honest participation, which was not in any way hindered by the differences between chapters. I was truly impressed with the extent of the dialogue, and I honestly feel there will be a noticeable change within the Greek community once we complete our training. I think this program will truly change the common stereotypes that are associated with members of sororities and fraternities. I am proud to say that I am a member of such a dynamic organization, and I can now relate the passion I have for my academic work to the passion I have for my sisterhood.

**TO THE SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY R.A.P.E. CENTER
GRADUATING VOLUNTEERS**

CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU!

Bridgette Ames • Ashley Anderson • Greg Baker
Ainsley Bartholomew • Maggie Beckwith • Maria Cartaya
Brenna Downing • Ebony Frazier • Annie Iles • Rachel Lear
Mandy Lipka • Jodie Mustin • Jenn Noone • Melanie Rosenberg
Nichelle Rothong • Emily Steakley • Kristin Swanton • Lilly Testa
Virgie Townsend • Sarah Weiner • Lauren Williams

from the Syracuse University R.A.P.E. Center

~ Your impact on the SU community is a lasting legacy ~

Rape: Advocacy, Prevention & Education Center

<http://students.syr.edu/rapecenter/>

Syracuse University R.A.P.E. Center

Free, confidential services, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

Advocacy:

Medical, Legal/Judicial, Counseling, Academic, Residential

- Provide support to survivors of sexual assault
- Discuss all available medical, counseling, legal, criminal, and judicial options with survivors
- Accompany students to area hospitals
- Accompany students to area police departments and/or the Syracuse University Department of Public Safety
- Accompany students to the Office of Judicial Affairs
- Facilitate referrals for follow up health care and counseling
- Contact academic deans for academic assistance
- Facilitate referrals to the Office of Residence Life and/or the Housing Office regarding residential concerns
- Assist friends and family members of survivors.



Prevention and Education:

Education about sexual assault, human sexuality, relationships, and communication. Workshops and programming provided for the campus community.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Students volunteer in many capacities, including staffing information tables, administrative help, joining e5m (the peer interactive theater troupe), participating in Sex-Esteem (the peer education group), and helping to organize special events.

Office of Prevention Services R.A.P.E. Center Staff

Janet Epstein, Associate Director
Jill Sneider, Sexual Health Coordinator
Melinda Stoffel, Administrative Asst.
Amanda Tommell, Graduate Asst.

Contact Information

On Campus Resources

Emergency- Dial 711
University R.A.P.E. Center-443-7273
University Health Services-443-2666
Public Safety-443-2224
Counseling Center-443-4715
Faculty & Staff Assistance Prg- 443-1087
Hendricks Chapel-443-5044
Psychological Services Ctr.-443-3595
Goldberg Couple and Family
Therapy Center-443-3023
Judicial Affairs-443-3728
LGBT Resource Center- 443-3983

Community Resources

Emergency-Dial 911
Upstate Medical University-464-5611
St. Joseph's Hospital-448-5101
Syracuse Police Department-442-5111
District Attorney's Office-435-2470
Vera House, services related to
Domestic and Sexual
Violence-422-7273
Onondaga County Sexually
Transmissible Disease Clinic-435-3240