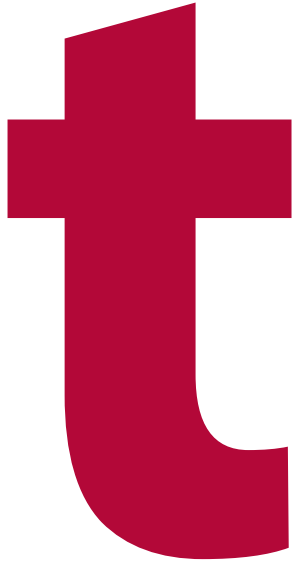


*Campus
Community
Tackles
Relationship
Violence with
Proactive Training*

Empowerment Though Education



through its mission statement we understand that Molloy College is dedicated to providing transformative education, promoting a lifelong search for truth and developing ethical leadership. While other colleges simply focus on instilling academic values in their students, the Molloy experience goes far beyond the limits of the classroom walls seeking to strengthen both mind and spirit.

Most recently, the College's Division of Nursing and the Department of Public Safety partnered in a unique interdisciplinary approach to a significant societal problem – relationship violence. Both disciplines share a concern for the whole person and approach relationship violence from dynamic and complementary perspectives.

The partnership began during the spring 2012 semester when a Molloy student, whose personal life was tainted by relationship violence, visited the office of Teresa Aprigliano, Ed.D., R.N., Associate Dean and Director, Division of Nursing. Once the situation was discussed, and the student's needs were assessed, Aprigliano reached out to John Amodeo, M.A., Assistant Director of Public Safety, for assistance. The situation was addressed successfully, and the necessary tools were provided to properly empower the student. However, both Amodeo and Aprigliano realized that more could be done to educate and prepare Molloy community members to manage similar situations.

Their conversation continued, and they began to research the issue further. They primarily focused on data representative of the college-age student population. The findings demonstrated the importance of addressing the subject on Molloy's campus:

- *Women ages 17-24 experience the highest rates of intimate partner violence.*
- *One in five college-age women will be a victim of relationship violence*
- *70 percent of victims do not disclose their victimization to anyone.*

It was during the course of this research that a unique program was identified – *Bringing in the Bystander*. "We are all educators and have a responsibility to address the student's academic needs as well as issues that affect the quality of their lives," said Amodeo. "The program has the ability to assist students in realizing their potential," added Aprigliano.

Bringing in the Bystander™ is a workshop that was created at the University of New Hampshire, and was designed to establish a community of responsibility. The program incorporates predictors of successful bystander intervention: recognizing inappropriate behaviors, skill building, requesting a commitment to intervene, and role modeling. It empowers participants to shine a light on relationship

A Facebook page, The Partner Project, has been developed and is dedicated to those individuals who have suffered, in silence, from relationship violence. Also, a Twitter feed, The Partner Project (@partnerproject1) has been created. Both venues will be used to educate, create awareness, stimulate conversation, and provide resource information as we begin the process of addressing this societal issue. The ultimate goal of The Partner Project is to end the silence associated with relationship violence and empower men and women to embrace personal development, growth, and healthy relationships.

violence and underscores the importance that everyone has a role to play. The program was identified as successful largely because of its ability to demonstrate changes in behavior.

With the support of President Drew Bogner, Ph.D., and in consultation and collaboration with Robert Houlihan, Vice President for Student Services, Molloy College contracted to bring the *Bringing in the Bystander™ - Train the Trainer Series* to Molloy College for one day. "We believe that relationship violence is an important issue for young people to be aware of," said Houlihan. "We believe there is substantial value for Molloy's students participating in this transformative educational opportunity."

The ultimate goal is to break the silence associated with relationship violence and to break the barriers which cause victims to not disclose. "We hope to create an awareness and sensitivity about the topic and empower all members of our community to speak up" said Amodeo.

Professor Robert Eckstein, co-author of the program and Professor Caroline Levya, a research assistant for Prevention Innovations at the University of New Hampshire, visited Molloy's campus and facilitated the program on September 27th. "Having this program at Molloy demonstrates that the College is a 'community' where all members work together to understand, and respond, to end the silence associated with relationship violence," said Amodeo.

A core group of students and employees were selected to participate in the workshop, which is designed to train future facilitators. All resident assistants were invited, and representatives from both Molloy Student Government and Student Athletic Advisory Committee were asked to participate. These student leaders will ultimately become trainers in the program themselves. The program will be brought to students via club and athletic team meetings, with attendance being optional but encouraged.

Employee attendees were chosen based on their visibility on campus, and even balance of male and female participants was sought. Participants from Student Affairs, Student Counseling, Campus Ministries, and the Department of Athletics were invited. Faculty were drawn from very various resources, the Siena Women's Center, the Department of Social Work, and the Psychology and Counseling Department to name a few.

Equally important was to have a representative number of Public Safety Officers (PSO) at the session. PSO are highly visible on campus, get to know all constituents, and are present at College functions/sporting events.

Eckstein and Levya presented the program, which provided the tools necessary to develop a community of people who can recognize unhealthy relationship behaviors. "It was very informative and made you look at situations in a different light," said Ife Oshikanlu, Resident Assistant.

The day concluded with a better understanding and comfort level with the topic. "Being an RA is a difficult job," said Stephanie Meyers, Resident Assistant. "The training helped me become more prepared and confident."



John Amodeo, Assistant Director, Department of Public Safety, and Dr. Teresa Aprigliano, Associate Dean & Director, Division of Nursing, conduct a training session.

Upcoming events for the spring 2014 semester:

Red Flag Campaign – in conjunction with Siena Women's Center
<http://www.thered-flagcampaign.org>
Week of March 24 – begins the campaign

Week of Mar 31-April 3 – all the red flags are displayed – actual posters are put up on campus

Take Back the Night April 4, 2014 – with MSNA, Woman's Trafficking Club, and Siena Women's Center
<http://www.takebackthenight.org/>
Our event has been registered with Take Back the Night. Molloy's event name is *Take Back the Night: Together as one* <http://www.takebackthenight.org/events?page=11>