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The Partner Project

Works to Inform
and Protect

On January 29 The Partner Project, an organization that was founded at Molloy in 2012, hosted a screening of the HBO documentary *A Private Violence*. The mission of The Partner Project is to end the silence that surrounds domestic, dating and relationship violence through education, research and responsible action. Hosting informative and thought-provoking events for the community is just a small part of working to accomplish that mission.

The documentary depicts the story of domestic violence through the eyes of two survivors. The first is Deanna Walters, a mother who sought justice for the crimes committed against her at the hands of her estranged husband. The second is Kit Gruelle, an advocate who strives for justice for all victims. The film demonstrates the complicated and complex realities of intimate partner violence. The individual experiences challenge long-standing assumptions and provide a lens into a world that is largely invisible.

The screening was followed by a panel presentation which featured Gruelle. She was joined on the dais by mental health professionals and domestic violence advocates. The panelists answered questions from the audience about the film and about the fight against abusers. Through interaction with the panel the audience learned about processes, resources and methods to assist those living with violence.

On April 22, The Partner Project hosted the second annual *Together as One: Relationship Violence – Love, Loss and Breaking the Silence Forum*. The keynote speaker for the event was Jillian Loyden, CEO of The Jillian Loyden Foundation and former goalie of the U.S. women's soccer team.

Loyden started her foundation in honor of her sister, Britton, who was murdered by her boyfriend and left behind a young son. Loyden works tirelessly to bring awareness to the issues of relationship and domestic violence in the hope that what happened to her sister never happens to another person.



Jillian Loyden with the Molloy College Women's Soccer Team

During her touching speech she shared details about her sister's life, helping the audience understand not only who Britton was as a person, but also how her life took a tragic turn. Loyden detailed some of the red flags of relationship violence indicating someone is in an unhealthy relationship. She also discussed her relationship with fellow soccer goalie Hope Solo, and how Solo's return to the U.S. women's soccer team with an unresolved arrest for domestic violence still pending was a catalyst for Loyden's early retirement from the team.

As recognition for the work Loyden is doing to end the silence that surrounds domestic violence, The Partner Project honored her with the Partner Award. Loyden was the second recipient of the award. The first recipient was Sharon Love of the One Love Foundation, who received the award in 2014.