April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM)! Project Safe will be observing the month with programs and activities all month long. We encourage you to stop by our tables in Sarratt Promenade and Rand Wall to get a sticker, pin, or other teal swag to help raise awareness all month long. Please see the attached flyer for a list of upcoming events, or like us on Facebook and check us out on Anchor Link, where we have all the event info you may need. To learn about the history of National Sexual Assault Awareness Month, check out this timeline.

On Saturday, April 1, Vanderbilt Student Government’s VSAP subcommittee hosted its first-annual mini-conference on April 1 in the Student Life Center. The theme of the conference was “Underrepresented Narratives of Sexual Violence” and featured keynote speaker, Dr. Luoluo Hong, PhD, MPH. Throughout the day, VSAP, Project Safe, Lambda, and Go Figure presented break-out sessions that explored the conference theme. Over 60 students attended and participated throughout the day. Great job, VSAP!

Project Safe is participating in #30DAYSOFSAAM, hosted each year by the National Sexual Violence Resource Center. Join us by sharing your teal, your awareness-raising efforts, your bystander intervention strategies, or simply repost our pics. NSVRC makes it easy by providing prompts for each day throughout the month.
Graduate and Professional Student Focus Groups

This semester Project Safe and the Provost’s Task Force on Sexual Assault have been engaging graduate and professional students through focus groups designed to help the University learn more about how we can best serve these student populations. All graduate and professional students are welcome to join in the upcoming open focus groups:

Friday, April 7, 2-3 PM, Student Life Center Lower Level Meeting Room 3 (No RSVP necessary)

Please share this announcement with your graduate and professional student connections!

March VU Community Partner of the Month: Plant Operations

Again this year, Plant Operations committed staff learn about Project Safe and our Green Dot Bystander Intervention program. Over 300 staff members participated in 9 Green Dot overviews and 2 full-length bystander trainings. Thanks to Gloria Smith for coordinating the many Green Dot workshops and to Pamela Dowden for coordinating Supporting a Survivor for your staff! Thank you to Green Dot committee members Sara Muren, Kerrie Turney, Carrie Johnson, Andrea Ramos-Lewis, Bryan Masters, and Catherine Weiser for helping Project Safe #livethegreendot in our campus community.

Add any of these images to social media to raise awareness!
**Upcoming Programs**

**SAAM 2017: Tabling**
Stop by for candy, stickers, and activities! Monday-Friday along Rand Wall during the first two weeks of April.

**SAAM 2017: Escalation: Dating Violence Workshop**
April 4 | 5 PM  KISSAM MPR

**SAAM 2017: Supporting a Student or Colleague Survivor**
April 5 | 11 AM-12:30 PM  Sarratt 325/327
(Program designed for faculty and staff. Feel free to bring your lunch, come late or leave early, if needed; dessert provided)

**SAAM 2017: The Language of Violence**
April 6 | 5 PM  KISSAM MPR

**SAAM 2017: Green Dot Bystander Intervention Training**
April 7 | 1 PM  SARRATT 112

**SAAM 2017: Understanding Effective Consent**
April 12 | 5:30 PM RAND 308

**SAAM 2017: Prevention Procession**
April 13 | 7 – 9 p.m. | Library Lawn
The procession will begin on Library Lawn and end in the Kissam Multipurpose Room. The Prevention Procession is a time to raise awareness about sexual assault and show solidarity to survivors of sexual violence. All survivors and supporters are welcome to join. There will be a discussion at the end of the procession where survivors will have the opportunity to share their experiences. This is intended to be a safe space for all, and Project Safe staff will be available for anyone who may need support.
SAAM 2017: Thistle Farms: A Message of Hope and Resilience
April 17 | 5:30 – 7 p.m. | Alumni Lounge

Project Safe is excited to welcome Shelia Simpkins, a graduate of the Thistle Farms Magdalene Program, to speak out about her path to healing. Shelia will share how she has learned to turn her past experiences into the driving force behind her desire to help those who are victims of trafficking.

Thistle Farms is a local organization that houses the Magdalene project which provides homes for women survivors of trafficking, addiction, and prostitution. To learn more, visit: https://thistlefarms.org/pages/our-model.

RSVP for programs via Anchor Link. To request a program, please visit https://www.vanderbilt.edu/projectsafe/programs/ to learn more.

We’re excited about...

Women’s and Gender Studies Intersections Conference
| Thursday, April 13 | 10 AM-4 PM | Buttrick 123

Now in its ninth year, the Intersections conference advances the professional development of budding scholars and provides faculty members, graduate students, and undergraduate students with an unparalleled opportunity to come together to explore the intersections of the social roles and classifications that shape people’s everyday lives.

Submissions for the conference have closed, but we welcome all members of the Vanderbilt community to attend the conference in part or in whole to see the multidisciplinary work of undergraduate and graduate students. Learn more here.

Students will present on a panel of three undergraduates for 10 minutes each. The panels will be chaired by a graduate student who will introduce the presenters and moderate the discussion that follows.

Lavender Celebration | Wednesday, April 19 | 7 PM | SLC Ballroom A

The Lavender Celebration exists to recognize the achievements and contributions of graduating students (in May and this upcoming December) who have been involved with LGBTQI Life, the Vanderbilt LAMBDA Association, or any other LGBTQI and ally related activities and experiences throughout their time at Vanderbilt.

You are welcome to attend the Lavender Celebration and/or be recognized during the ceremony. To be recognized, please fill out this form.

LGBTQI Life also gives out two awards during the Lavender Celebration (with two recipients each— one faculty and/or staff member and one graduating student). These awards are titled Advocacy of the Year
and Allyship of the Year. Please consider taking five to ten minutes to complete this form to nominate yourself or another person whom you believe has contributed widely to advocacy or allyship efforts toward the LGBTQI community.

Tomorrow!

#ItsOnUs Call with Joe Biden | Wednesday, April 5 | 12 PM |

VSG and Project Safe continue the University’s partnership with It’s On Us this week, coinciding with our Sexual Assault Awareness Month programs and events. If you’ve taken the pledge, joining this call is a good way to honor that commitment and learn how to keep taking action and standing against sexual violence. If you haven’t yet signed the pledge, join us and do so now!

Click on the picture at left to add your name (and your phone number) right now to join us for a call with Joe Biden about how you can keep working with It's On Us to change the culture of sexual assault in your community.

It’s On Us released a new video, “Autocorrect,” last week, highlighting the harm and realities of rape culture, victim-blaming, and retaliation that is far too often a part of campus communities. Watch it to learn how to move beyond awareness-raising and begin making small changes that can have a big impact on our culture.

Get to Know Our Staff

Sarah Watson, M.Ed.
Prevention Educator and Victim Resource Specialist
sarah.c.watson@vanderbilt.edu

Sarah earned her Masters in Higher Education degree from Vanderbilt’s Peabody College and holds a Bachelors in Science and Chemistry from Wittenberg University. Upon graduating from Wittenberg, she joined the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission Program. Commissioned in the small city of Wolverhampton, England, Sarah served as a community advocate tasked with connecting people from differing faiths, ethnicities, and backgrounds to community resources. Sarah joined the Project Safe staff in May 2016 as a Prevention Educator and Victim Resource Specialist after serving as the Graduate Assistant for two years.

Sarah coordinates the dating violence awareness program Escalation, and leads Project Safe’s branding and promotional efforts.

#SAAM2017 Recommended Reading & Viewing

“The Anti-Rape Movement Without Latinas?” blog post by Laura Zárate, Arte Sana Founding Executive Director & ALAS Facilitator (March 2006). Arte Sana’s internationally recognized website serves as an
Internet resource-sharing platform for Spanish-speaking communities and offers a growing collection of bilingual information on sexual assault and intimate partner violence issues as well as activist survivor art.


*NO! The Rape Documentary*, Aishah Shahidah Simmons, (2006). *NO! The Rape Documentary* is the 2006-released Ford-Foundation funded award-winning, internationally acclaimed, groundbreaking feature length film that explores the international atrocity of heterosexual rape and other forms of sexual assault through the first person testimonies, scholarship, spirituality, activism, and cultural work of Black people in the United States. *NO!* also explores how rape is used as a weapon of homophobia. Produced, written, and directed by Aishah Shahidah Simmons, *NO!* is subtitled in Spanish, French, Portuguese and English. It is also closed captioned in English. Alice Walker, the Pulitzer Prize winning author of *The Color Purple* said of *NO!*, “If the Black community in the Americas and in the world would save itself it must complete the work this film begins.”

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Free. Available for iOS and Android in the App Store

Connect with us!

PROJECT SAFE
CENTER FOR SEXUAL MISCONDUCT PREVENTION AND RESPONSES

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