

Guest Columnist: Tiff!

In my short time as an advocate, and my even shorter time as an employee at the SAAFE Center, I have come across several definitions that I or others around me didn't know. I have started a list in hopes to broaden the views of all the advocates. Some of the definitions don't exclusively pertain to sexual assault, but they pertain to populations at risk or greater vulnerability of sexual assault: namely the LGBT population. The definitions that follow are a reflection of my research – including my attendance of several FORGE webinars – and personal experience. These definitions are not absolute and I recognize that they do not necessarily reflect every mind set.

Transgender vs Cisgender: A transgender person is a per-

son whose self-perception of their gender (their identity) does not match the sex they were assigned at birth (what's in their pants). A transgender person may be going through gender reassignment surgery, but also may opt not to. This person may simply choose to dress and identify as the opposite gender. Cisgender is a person whose self-perception of their gender does match the sex they were assigned at birth. So, someone with a vagina that identifies as a woman is cisgender, while someone with a penis who identifies as a woman is transgender.

Gender binary: This is the thought that people only identify as one of two genders (male or female). It represents some of the prejudices which stigmatize

intersex and transgender people, and people who are genderqueer – that is, they don't fit nicely into the binary. Many people find that they do not fit into the gender binary, whether it be because they move fluidly between the two (genderfluid), they feel they are neither man nor woman (nongendered), or they consider themselves othergendered (which includes those who choose not to name or label their gender).

Because of the stigmatization of trans or non-binary people, they are among the most un-reported sexual assaults. Regardless of sex or gender, SAAFE Advocates are available and highly trained to work with any victim of sexual assault.

Mythbusters!

Sexual assault is a result of sexual desire. People rape because they want sex

- **False. Sexual assaults are crimes of power. People rape because they want to control a victim.**

But what if two people are messing around and one says no, and the other is still really turned on?

- **The turned on person does not *have* to have sex. If this person continues without the partner's consent, it is sexual assault. Being turned on is not an excuse to assault someone.**
- **Furthermore, if the person continues, it is because that person wants power over the partner. Power to do whatever s/he wants, regardless of the partner's wishes.**



Advocate of the Month: Rob!!!!

We are pleased to honor Rob with the Advocate of the Month award! He finished his summer internship with SAAFE in August and provided so much over those months--Core Leader Enhancement training; a full afternoon of Service Learning/education with a group

of young incoming BGSU students; writing the 2014 Bowling Green Community Foundation grant; excellent client care and advocacy; and remaining positive throughout the whole time in anticipation of graduation!

Congratulations, Rob, on this award!

www.victimsservices.org
[Facebook.com/theSAAFECenter](https://www.facebook.com/theSAAFECenter)
Twitter: @SAAFECenter
Myvoicemyturn.weebly.com

If you need an advocate,
call the Link 24/7.
419/352-1545

Fall Volunteer training starts this month! Interested
in changing lives by becoming a SAAFE Advocate?

Visit our website!

www.victimsservices.org/getting-involved

Applications must be turned in by:

Thursday, Sept 5 at 5:00pm

Training: September 9—November 7

Mondays and Thursdays; 6:00pm-8:30pm

(No class Oct 10th)

September Birthdays!

Join us in wishing these advocates a happy birthday!

Lauren
Rob
Tiff

Women's Center Drop In:

Starting September 4th, the SAAFE Center will be hosting drop in hours at the Women's Center (107 Hanna Hall) **Wednesdays from 4:00pm—5:00pm.**

This is an open invitation to stop in and speak with a highly trained advocate about any concerns or questions you have about a specific sexual assault issue or just the crime in general.

Upcoming: Keep your eyes peeled for the fall date of **Women in Comedy**: a BGSU group of women dedicated to breaking comedy stereotypes while raising money for the SAAFE Center!

The SAAFE Center has created a blog for survivors of sexual assault to anonymously submit their account of what happened to them.

Myvoicemyturn.weebly.com

Hello Lauren and Rob!

A big warm welcome to our newest employees! Rob has joined the SAAFE Center as a Victim Advocate/Volunteer Supervisor. Rob's idea of a perfect day includes a good night's sleep, good food, a good workout at the gym, and reading/talking about exciting topics with others.

Lauren joined the SAAFE Center as a Victim Advocate/External PR Supervisor. Her perfect day involves laying in the sand on a beach somewhere, feeling the hot sun on her skin, and not having a care in the world!

We are excited to have these wonderful additions to our office.

Welcome Lauren and Rob!

Review and Renew Gatherings provide an opportunity for advocates to check on the status of At-Home Books, turn in time sheets for the month, receive a special training session, and get to know one another better! **All advocates must attend at least one R&R per month** (unless you are on LOA or are a Senior Advocate). Each month there will be an email sent with the dates that are available.

Email Rob by September 13th to RSVP

September dates:

September 15:

1pm-2pm

3pm-4pm

September 19:

7pm-8pm

In the SAAFE Office!



The SAAFE Center
Sexual Assault Awareness For Empowerment