

SAAFE Center News

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WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?:

What's up with this song, *Blurred Lines*? Why is it offensive?

This song is a prime example of rape culture. The lyrics insinuate that the singer knows the "good girl" wants it, even though she never said so. He has no evidence of consent. He is merely assuming. Having sex with someone without consent is not sex, it is rape. In fact, the title itself refers to the fact that he THINKS she wants sex, but he doesn't know (hence the "blurred" lines).

Many of the lyrics are actually words that rapists have said to their victims (see link below). Some examples are:

"I know you want it"
"You know you want it"
"You're a good girl!"

<http://thesocietypages.org/socimages/2013/09/17/from-the-mouths-of-rapists-the-lyrics-of-robin-thickes-blurred-lines-and-real-life-rape/>

Guest Columnist: Rob!

I am an advocate! I have been so proud to say these words since becoming an advocate in August 2012, but what is advocacy? For me, my experience with the SAAFE Center over the last 13 months paints a picture about what advocacy is, as well as some of the exciting opportunities available for volunteers at the SAAFE Center.

Sexual violence is an issue I chose to learn more about to better advocate for the victims of sexual violence. After completing the training and education required by the SAAFE Center, I began to work with my own clients. I have worked with those who have been assaulted, and friends and family of those who have been assaulted. I have advocated on their behalf to medical

and legal staff. I have spent time in court rooms, emergency rooms, police stations, and even the State House in Columbus. I have also had the opportunity to train other advocates, and present and educate a Bowling Green State University (BGSU) fraternity, and hold other trainings on BGSU's campus. This past year has included many hours sitting in the SAAFE Center's on campus office and by my phone while taking 3 on call shifts a month. In addition to all of these opportunities I volunteered with the SAAFE Center to complete 60 hours of field work required by my BGSU Social Work degree, I interned in the Summer to complete many more required hours, and then had the chance to join the SAAFE Center as a

part-time staff member.

So, what is advocacy? Advocacy is an educated outreach on behalf of issues and people you choose to lend your voice to. Advocacy often involves lending a voice to those who have had their voice silenced by a larger part of society. My experiences as an advocate with the SAAFE Center have involved many forms of advocacy for the same issue. No matter what you are comfortable with (on-going clients, public speaking, creating art, group training, etc.), there will be amazing opportunities to reach out and help those in need, while at the same time building your own education and resume. I love advocacy, and I **am an advocate!**

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

Myvoicemyturn.weebly.com

September Advocate of the Month: Tiff!

By Julie

I'm pleased to announce that Tiff is being honored as Advocate of the Month for her work on behalf of the SAAFE Center in Sept. We have been very lucky that in addition to being a passionate advocate for sexual assault vic-

tims, Tiff is also very savvy regarding social media. While we had a good website to begin with, Tiff has taken it to another level and included great new features to the site. She also posts regularly on our public Facebook page and keeps everyone in the know about trending

sexual assault issues. And, she has brought us into the twitter age with our own account. Look for new SAAFE Center brochures and business cards soon. Thank you, Tiff, for your branding of our program to help increase awareness of our services. Congratulations!

**Here to empower,
support, and advocate.
24/7.
419/352-1545**

Silent Witness Project:

The Silent Witness Project honors girls and women from Northwest Ohio whose lives have ended violently at the hands of those who were supposed to respect them: husbands, boyfriends, life partners. Organized by BGSU's very own Women's Center, the Unveiling is a unique and moving experience.

The Unveiling Ceremony is:

Monday, October 7th
7:00pm

Islamic Center of Greater Toledo

25877 Scheider Road
Perrysburg, OH

The fall training class of 2013 has begun!

A class of 4, these trainees are hungry for knowledge. They're dedicating two nights of their week, outside of school, to come to training sessions. Way to go, trainees! Keep up the excellent work!

Women's Center Drop In:

The SAAFE Center is 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.

The Psychology building, **room 355**, is also hosting On Campus Hours for any student to come in and speak with a trained advocate.

Monday: 10am to 11am
Tuesday: 11am to 12pm
Wednesday: 8am to 9am
1:30pm to 2:30pm
Thursday: 1pm to 2pm

We are proud to welcome two more part-time advocates to the SAAFE Center staff!

Ashley and Bethany have both joined the SAAFE Center as victim advocates/external PR supervisors. While they have been volunteer advocates with SAAFE for awhile, they are now getting paid for some hours of office work each week. They will be splitting the external PR position this semester.

Here's a little bit about them:

Ashley enjoys canoeing, kayaking, camping, bike riding, going to concerts, thrift shopping, and playing with her cat, Sierra.

Bethany's perfect day involves lounging around, watching movies, and eating junk food.

Welcome to the office, ladies!

Welcome new staff!

On November 5th, abduction survivor Elizabeth Smart will be speaking to students at BGSU as a part of the BGSU Library's series, *Ordinary People, Extraordinary Stories*.

Elizabeth was only 14 when she was abducted from her home in Utah. Now, Elizabeth tours the country and speak about her experience. She says she strives to empower people with her story.

She will be on BGSU campus on:

November 5th
Wolfe Center for the Arts
2:30-3:30 pm

Admission is free.

The SAAFE Center will be providing a **Safe Room** for this event: a quiet place for audience members to go if the topic is triggering or upsetting to them in any way, where they can speak confidentially with an advocate. The SAAFE Center provides this service free-of-charge to any organization requesting it. Just call 419/352-1545 and ask for SAAFE.

Elizabeth Smart