

## SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE & PREVENTION CENTER

*CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF SUPPORTING SURVIVORS*

### IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER...



GET TO KNOW OUR  
NEWEST STAFF MEMBERS  
AT SARP: IZZY AND BO!



LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORY  
OF SEXUAL ASSAULT  
AWARENESS MONTH  
(SAAM)



LEARN ABOUT THE  
DIFFERENT EVENTS WE  
WILL BE HOSTING THIS  
MONTH

### OUR MISSION

The Sexual Assault Response & Prevention Center (SARP) compassionately responds to survivors of trauma and prevents interpersonal violence through awareness and education. SARP provides free-of-charge counseling and advocacy to Boston University students who have experienced a traumatic event. We respond to traumas such as sexual assault, dating violence, and other types of interpersonal violence.

# MEET THE NEW STAFF!

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## BO VAN ARMSTRONG

My name is Bo Van Armstrong, I am the new Assistant Director at SARP. I am a graduate of UMass Lowell where I studied psychology and theatre. After college, I worked in Colorado and California as an outdoor educator and ropes course manager for youth. Based out of Chicago I toured as both actor and educator in a program on sexual violence prevention on college campuses. I moved back to MA to work at an RCC in Lowell as Community Educator and Engaging Men and Boys Advocate. I am elated to now be a member of the BU Community and bring my passion to SARP. When not working you will find me spending time with my amazing wife and pets, cooking up new food or magic the gathering decks, telling spooey stories, playing ultimate frisbee, teaching archery, and rock climbing anywhere possible.



## IZZY DEMONTIGNY

My name is Izzy Demontigny and I am the Administrative Coordinator for the SARP Office. I have my undergraduate degree in nursing from Boston College and am hoping to complete a masters program in my future. A fun fact about me is that I have an old, diabetic cat named Sticky!

# What is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM)?

## History of SAAM

Historical records show us that while open discussions about sexual and domestic violence was limited at the time, the work to raise awareness began in the 1940s/50s. In 1971, the first rape crisis center was founded in San Francisco. The passing of the Violence Against Women Act in 1993 was a major change that highlighted the need for sexual violence prevention. The advocacy continued, awareness grew, and in 2001, SAAM was officially recognized. Each April, organizations across the world recognize and honor April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month through many different events.

## 2023 SAAM

This year is the 22nd anniversary of Sexual Assault Awareness Month! According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC), the theme for this year's SAAM is "Drawing Connections: Prevention Demands Equity." NSVRC states that this theme "calls on all individuals, communities, organizations, and institutions to change ourselves and the systems surrounding us to build racial equity and respect." In order to end assault, harassment, and abuse, NSVRC believes we must end all forms of oppression.

# Why is teal the color for SAAM?

Teal was chosen as the official color of Sexual Assault Awareness Month because teal is associated with trust, devotion, and healing.

As a way to raise awareness, people wear the color teal or display it to show their support for survivors of sexual violence.

# APRIL EVENTS

Help us build awareness about sexual violence by joining these activities



## THE CLOTHESLINE PROJECT

Use the link below to access our Clothesline Project website where you can learn more about the project and see past installments here at BU.

<https://express.adobe.com/page/16FC2N5kKXGaB/>

## INCARCERATED SURVIVOR LETTER WRITING

**APRIL 3RD**

Join the SARP ambassadors in community as we write letters together in support of incarcerated survivors



## 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY EVENT

**APRIL 7TH 4-7PM**

Join us in celebrating ten years of the Sexual Assault Response & Prevention Center. On this night, we will reflect on SARP's past, present, and continued growth. Food and Drinks will be provided



# APRIL EVENTS

Help us build awareness about sexual violence by joining these activities



## SPEAKER SERIES EVENT

**APRIL 10TH**

Jyreika Guest is an actor, dancer, poet, and intimacy director/coordinator based in Chicago, IL. Her philosophy, as both an Actor and Intimacy Director, is advocating for the culture to change for, not only the performers, but for the industry of artists as a whole. We're the theatre-makers of today. We must set the stage outside of the patriarchy and continue to dismantle white supremacy forward. This work ain't done yet.

## I WILL WALK WITH YOU

**APRIL 13TH**

SARP ambassadors will lead the way and spray chalk the path from campus to the SARP office, encouraging passing students to participate.



## /200 RECEPTION

**APRIL 14TH 4-7PM**

Ali Waller is an artist who completes casts of survivors of sexual violence. Come to the BU Arts Initiative to view the casts that Ali did of survivors in the BU Community.



# APRIL EVENTS

SARP is offering a host of different events this SAAM



## VIGIL WITH IT'S ON US

**APRIL 19TH**

It's On Us @ Boston University is excited to be holding the University's first Survivor Vigil to honor survivors of sexual violence and those we have lost to the issue during Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

## SPEAKER SERIES EVENT

**APRIL 24TH**

Alexandria Onuoha (she/her) is a Ph.D. student in Applied Developmental Psychology in the Youth Equity Sexuality (YES) Lab at Suffolk University. She is the Director of Political Advocacy at Black Boston and works with community members and elected officials to bring forth change in the Greater Boston Area. She has worked closely with organizations such as Transition House and BARCC to create resources on violence prevention in schools and communities.



## DENIM DAY

**APRIL 26TH**

SARP will be tabling all month to promote "Denim Day and Donuts". Fight against victim blaming and bring a denim patch with a message to survivors to earn receive a donut.