CounterACT Violence Campaign Launched in April

CounterACT Violence is a media campaign designed to combat myths about sexual and interpersonal violence, to increase awareness of strategies to prevent violence, and to promote campus resources. This campaign was initiated by Abby’s House student advocates and Director, Dr. Mary Ellen Dello Stritto who received a grant from the WOU Foundation last year. The campaign launch took place in April during Sexual Assault Awareness month.

The campaign contains three components:

- A poster series that focus on how we can speak out and act against many forms of violence.
- A video series that focuses on myths about sexual and interpersonal violence.
- A smart phone app for Abby’s House that contains information about seeking help. The app also incorporates information about myths and strategies for preventing violence.

The posters and the videos can be viewed on the Abby’s House website and the Abby’s House mobile app is available through iTunes.
Spring 2015 Programs

Equal Pay Day: Inequality Bake Sale and Rally

On Tuesday, April 14th, Abby’s House gathered on the WUC plaza to promote Equal Pay Day. We held an “Inequality Bake Sale” to bring attention to the gender wage gap where women get paid 78 cents for every $1 a white man earns. Volunteers from the AAUW Salem Branch tabled with advocates throughout the afternoon and Micki Varney, AAUW Co-President of AAUW Salem, spoke during a noon rally.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month
The Hunting Ground

On April 16th, Abby’s House, with the support of ASWOU and Green Dot, screened the provocative documentary The Hunting Ground that addressed the prevalence of sexual assaults on college campuses. The film screening was coordinated with several other colleges, across Oregon, in an effort to bring awareness to this issue. With nearly 60 people in attendance, the event spurred conversation about what is occurring on WOU’s campus and how our community can support survivors of sexual violence. Several key administrators were in attendance who were willing to respond to student questions about the status of sexual assaults at WOU and what types of sanctions perpetrators receive. Student activism was a strong theme in the film which provided an ideal platform for the kick-off of the CounterACT Violence campaign (see page 1) that was presented after the film.

Students Advocating for Healthy Masculinity

On April 23rd, Students Advocating for Healthy Masculinity (SAHM) had an inaugural event! The group ate pizza while critically viewing the movie, Fight Club. Group members discussed issues of toxic masculinity and its connection to sexism and rape culture. Another event took place in May where members hosted a “push-up contest” as an opportunity to encourage men to think about what it means to be a man in our culture and ways to challenge those ideas.

S.W.A.T.
(Sexual Wellness Advocacy Team) from the U of O

For the third year, S.W.A.T. provided a sexual wellness workshop to students at WOU. The event took place as part of ASWOU Diversity Week on May 11th. Through peer theater education, students learned about sex positivity and the importance of consent.

*Stay tuned for information about the development of WOU’s very own sexual wellness team!

Women in STEM Banquet

Abby’s House, SLCD, and ASWOU held an event on May 28th to recognize women in STEM and provide an opportunity for students to network with women currently working in those fields. The event featured a catered dinner, a panel of guest speakers, and a networking opportunity for students interested in STEM fields.
Community Outreach

A total of 5 outreach presentations were given spring term. At these presentations advocates explained resources that are available to students at Abby’s House in addition to providing timely information about upcoming events and ways to get involved through SPEAK, our student club.

This spring, Abby’s House welcomed Rian Gayle, Accommodations Coordinator from the Office of Disability Services, as part of ongoing advocate training. During his presentation, we learned about a variety of services that ODS offers students with disabilities. Students were impressed by the range of options offered to students such as interpreter services, note taking, alternative testing and book formats, and helpful communication tools for Deaf/Hard of Hearing students like the UbiDuo. Rian was also helpful in explaining ways to serve and work with the large Deaf/Hard of Hearing population on our campus. This training expanded our knowledge of services offered at WOU and ultimately enhanced our advocacy skills as well as our developing framework of intersectionality.

CounterACT Violence Poster Distribution

Are you interested in having one of our posters in your office, meeting room, or bulletin board? As one component of the CounterACT Violence campaign, these posters focus on the pervasiveness of power-based personal violence. The posters focus on how we can speak out and act against many forms of violence and inform about where to go if you or someone you know need help. If you are interested in receiving one of these posters, email us or stop by Abby’s House. There is no cost for posters.

There are ten poster designs available (not all poster options are featured below).
2014-2015 Awards

Woman of the Year
Charisse Loughery
Student Conduct Coordinator
Abby’s House congratulates Charisse Loughery as the 2015 Woman of the Year! Charisse is responsible for assisting survivors of sexual misconduct incidents as they go through the reporting and adjudicative process relative to student conduct cases. Charisse exemplifies a survivor-centered approach in serving students in this process. She works tirelessly to assist others and consistently demonstrates a commitment to addressing violence on campus. Thank you for doing this important work in our community, Charisse!

Jeanne Deane Abby’s House Scholarship Recipient
Mayra Mendoza
Junior, Criminal Justice Major
Mayra is an active and engaged student at WOU. She has been involved in MSU, MECHA, Kappa Delta Chi Sorority, the Discover Leadership Program, and our very own SPEAK. Next year Mayra will assume the position of Secretary of SPEAK in addition to her dedicated hours as an Abby’s House Advocate. This year she worked as an ASWOU intern for the Director of Multicultural Advocacy and played a key role in the programming responsibilities of Diversity Week. Her recommenders described her as “an amazing leader and an exemplary representative of WOU” and “Mayra would represent Abby’s House well and will fight for what it stands for.” We welcome her as a wonderful addition to Abby’s House!

Abby’s House Graduating Advocates
Congratulations to our graduating seniors! To recognize their service to Abby’s House, advocates receive a special honor cord to wear during commencement. Pictured from left to right: Yazmin Alvarez, Jenny Baltazar, Kevin Kronenfeld, Alheli Tica-Figueroa, and Kevin Gutierrez. (Advocates not pictured: Emily Easton-Mace, Devin Lowery, Lisandra Mesa-Falcon, Marissa Onshus-Womble, and Carolina Reyes-Ayala.)
Thank you for your service and commitment to social justice, seniors!
Abby’s House Advocate Awards

Senior Leadership Award

Alheli Tica-Figueroa has been involved at Abby’s House for two years. This year she worked as one of our Advocate Staff Leaders as Program Development Coordinator, she served on the Abby’s House Board of Directors, and she was a SPEAK club officer. Alheli dedicated significant time to Abby’s House in the way of program planning and event execution. Alheli’s leadership extends into the community as she spent numerous hours volunteering and interning at Family Building Blocks this year, one of our many referral agencies. Over the past two years, Alheli has proven to be a reliable, self-sufficient, and diplomatic leader among her peers.

Advocate Leadership Award

Samantha Hughes has been an outstanding leader among Abby’s House Advocates this year. Her shining qualities are many, but above all, we love her critical feminist lens (and her excellent baking skills). Over the last year, Sam has willingly taken on the task of analyzing our event data. She has contributed significant time to enhancing our educational materials by creating well-researched info-graphics and brochures for our visitors. Sam presented at our Stalking prevention workshop in January, just one term after joining us and later in the year she was a presenter in the Abby’s House Academic Excellence Showcase panel. Her leadership among all advocates was evident throughout the year.

Social Justice Award

Jessica Fontaine joined Abby’s House as an advocate this fall. Her passion for all things feminism was evident from day one. She co-produced this year's production of The Vagina Monologues, which is no small feat. She currently sits on the Abby’s House board of directors, and she has participated in classroom outreach presentations. Jessica seeks to empower those around her through information, compassion, and laughter. She takes initiative to complete additional trainings in order to enhance her advocacy skills, which also demonstrates her commitment to social justice.

Check Us Out For Some Summer Reading!

The Resource and Gender Studies Library at Abby’s House is a FREE resource available to students, faculty, and staff!

Come check out books on various topics including: Family Studies; Women and Violence; Women’s, Gender, and Masculinity Studies; Reproductive Health; Women’s History, and much more! Whether you need resources for a class assignment or for personal use, the Abby’s House Library can help!
A student-led club partnered with Abby’s House.

**DROPP THE F-BOMB!!**

As part of ASWOU Diversity Week, SPEAK hosted this event for students to show their support for feminism and equality. Students were educated on the topic of feminism and took a picture ‘dropping the F-Bomb.”

**DENIM DAY**

SPEAK members hung a display outside of Abby’s House on the 29th of April. The story of Denim Day was shared and the WOU community was encouraged to wear jeans to show their support for survivors of sexual assault.

**SPEAK**

(Students Promoting Equity Activism and Knowledge)

A student organization sponsored by Abby’s House and open to ALL students. SPEAK’s mission is to promote activism by providing educational programming that addresses a wide range or social issues, both current and longstanding. We aim to foster equality, tolerance and understanding by providing a safe environment where all people are free to gather and express their ideas.

If you want to get involved with Abby’s House or just meet new people, come to SPEAK meetings! Stay tuned for meeting times for Fall 2015 at Abby’s House.

SPEAK is pleased to announce incoming 2015-2016 club officers!

Co-Presidents: Jessica Fontaine & Samantha Hughes
Treasurer: Erika Gutierrez
Secretary: Mayra Mendoza
Director of Public Relations: Marisol Monroy

Get L’eid and Get Yourself Tested!

In collaboration with Peer Mentors, SPEAK participated in the “Get L’eid Luau” on Friday, May 29th. SPEAK members provided information about STI’s and local resources for getting yourself tested. A fun cupcake walk was featured at the SPEAK table.
Mission Statement:
To provide the WOU community with educational programming, information, and referral services designed to promote equity and non-violence. We embrace a feminist model that empowers all people to actively stand against all forms of violence, harassment, verbal abuse, discrimination, and hatred.

We can help you find resources for a variety of issues:
- Sexual Violence
- Relationship Violence
- Sexual Harassment
- Stalking
- Child Abuse
- Stress and Anxiety
- Depression
- Suicide
- Women’s Health
- Breast Cancer
- Contraception
- STD Testing
- Substance Abuse
- Eating Disorders
- Gender Identity
- And Much More

Our Name:
The name Abby’s House was chosen in honor of Abigail Scott Duniway, who fought for women’s right to vote and own property predominantly in Oregon. She was the first woman to register to vote in Oregon.

On the web:
www.wou.edu/abbyshouse
facebook.com/wouabbyshouse
https://twitter.com/WOUAbbysHouse

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