Dear Students,

On Friday, I had the distinct privilege of attending the Fearless Conference in New York City organized and hosted by Madeleine Lippey ’14, founder of The Do Write Campaign. I joined seven students, one colleague, and over a dozen PA alums in the audience. We heard from a wide range of speakers, experts, activists, volunteers, and students who work tirelessly to combat sexual assault, support survivors of sexual violence, and develop strategies to create safer campuses for all students.

The conference provided an awesome opportunity to examine, connect, think, be inspired, learn, and prepare. It served to further my conviction that the issues of healthy relationships, sexual education, and sexual violence deserve our immediate and ongoing attention. In the most simplest terms, we would like to do all that we can to make PA a SAFE place for every student. We have done important work in these areas for several years, and we will collaborate with students and colleagues to keep the momentum going. To that end, these are the specific strategies we hope we can employ:

- Create a consent culture.
- Teach about and emphasize healthy relationships.
- Challenge gendered expectations/norms. Promote healthy masculinity and healthy femininity that honors the humanity of every individual.
- Breakdown stigma around sex, sexuality, and intimacy so that students feel safe discussing these important topics.
- Continue to advocate for sexual education every year for every student.
- Promote dialogue with each other—make sure students feel part of policy decision-making and educational strategies.
- Make sure support and resources are readily available to students.
- Offer bystander education.
- Develop and celebrate upstanders.
- Support victims.
- Promote self care.
- Make this language known, used, understood: bodily autonomy, intimacy, and consent.

Here are a few resources that you might want to check out to join the conversation:

Short, simple, and straightforward presentation of CONSENT: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fGoWLWS4-kU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fGoWLWS4-kU)

Our expectations around consent are highlighted in our Blue Book. Check them out! Read them and discuss with as many people as you can!

Compelling examinations of gender: “Miss Representation” and “The Mask You Live In” by The Representation Project (Both are on Media Space).
Beautiful reflection on expanding our traditional perception of masculinity (as a mother of four boys, makes me cry): "Man Prayer" written by Eve Ensler: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nj7Zw4P8LPo

Hilarious, provocative, and compelling examination of sexual education in U.S. John Oliver and his team make it clear that a lack of comprehensive sexual education is a national issue. We need to rethink how we approach, teach, and make time for this essential programming. Heads up: there is some inappropriate language contained in this sketch. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L0jQz6jqQS0

Josy Jablons ’13 has launched a photo campaign at NYU to generate conversation and raise awareness of the need for better sex education. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/07/14/student-better-sex-talk_n_7795466.html She presented at the Fearless Conference and was outstanding. We hope to bring her to campus this year.

Over 50 PA students began a bystander training program yesterday through Mentors in Violence Prevention. Find a student who has signed up and ask him/her all about it.

We have made policy information and support services available through our “Crisis Manager” app. We have also drafted a guide which we will begin posting in dormitories and public areas so that students are aware of their support options on and off campus. (We also will post this resource on the Parent Portal.)

Our health and wellness teams have developed a comprehensive, scaffolded, age-appropriate sexual education program. We are currently implementing parts of this program in PACE classes and PE classes. We are working with our student leaders so that they feel prepared to facilitate these conversations with their peers. We discuss many of these topics in dormitories and advising groups, and we are working to make sure that these conversations are more frequent, in-depth, and consistent. We need to find time in our daily calendar for these conversations and education during the class day. We would like students and faculty members to initiate conversations regularly in safe contexts and spaces.

Tomorrow (September 22), Mr. Palfrey will address our entire community on this topic at ASM. On October 7, during ASM, we will continue to have conversations in small groups. If you would like to be part of the conversation about policy and programming, please contact me.

Best,

JKE