

SAPA NEWS



Domestic Violence Awareness Month & SAPA

Written by Katie Miller

October was Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and SAPA held numerous events to honor the strength of survivors and to raise awareness.

- **October 4th-8th: The Clothesline Project** was displayed in the Volunteer Center and featured survivors' stories and messages. This was a partnership with RISE and Mid-Michigan College.
- **October 10-17:** We held a **social media week** to spread awareness and to educate our community. SAPAs shared their support and stories on our social media (check them out at @sapa_cmich).
- **October 20th: Solidarity** was held this month and featured spoken word, songs, and stories about experiences surrounding sexual aggression. It was a night to come together in heartfelt support of survivors.
- **October 21st:** The CMU community participated in **Wear Purple Day** in support of survivors of domestic violence and to raise awareness of the issue.
- **October 26th- November 1st:** Domestic Violence Display was set up across from the University Center to increase awareness for the statistics of domestic violence prevalence and to support survivors.
- **October 27th: The Walking Clothesline Project**, similar to our Clothesline Project held earlier in the month, the Walking Clothesline Project served to honor survivors of sexual aggression through an interactive and educational display across campus.



Recent SAPA Programming

Written by Emily Finley

This semester, our programming committee has been able to have some wonderful partnerships with new and old groups on campus.

In September, the committee partnered with Sigma Lambda Beta on campus for a presentation on the stigma around sexual assault in the Latinx community. Our programmers were one of a few presenters, and they focused on an overview of SAPA and how services can help on campus. SAPA Cindy said that this opportunity helped to show how sexual assault education and topics can be enhanced when applied to specific cultural lenses. The programming committee hopes to partner again for this event in the future and hopes this is the beginning to a successful journey of our programming reaching more marginalized groups of people in our community.

Later this semester, we will continue the tradition of partnering with Dr. Latty's class on human sexuality to provide educational resources and information for students.

Fall Training Overview

Written by Colleen Baur

Every semester, new and old SAPAs come together to complete 52 hours of training over two weekends in September. Our training ensures advocate competency and knowledge on evolving laws and policies. During this training, we focus on the tenets of confidentiality, commitment to survivors, and crisis intervention. The most important of these is confidentiality -- SAPA is an organization that takes contact privacy very seriously. Confidentiality can only be broken under specific circumstances. Other than confidentiality, this training also educates SAPA on the different forms of sexual aggression, including IPV, DPV, Stalking, Harassment, Sexual Assault, and Sexual Exploitation), cultural humility, privilege and oppression, de-escalation, and how to work as an advocate.

This training was also an opportunity for advocates to apply the many skills they learned through scenario-based practices. Additionally, our training was only possible due to the contributions of many from the CMU/Mount Pleasant community, who showed their support and provided resources, including CMU PD, the Office of Global Engagement, RISE Advocacy, the Office of Student Conduct, and the Office of Faculty and Personnel Services. Many SAPA alumni also donated time and resources to this training, and special thanks are given to presenters Paul Carabini, Erica Shultz, Kevin Carmody, Tangela Smith, and Jayna Jones.



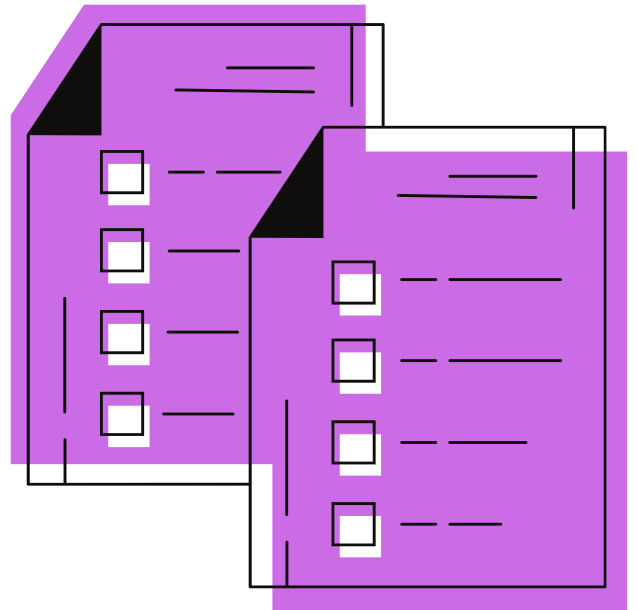
Semester Updates & What's Next

Written by Rachel Riebow

This semester, SAPA has been able to be heavily involved with the campus community. Beginning back in August with our "No Zebras, No Excuses" shows for incoming CMU students, SAPA's presence has been felt by faculty, staff and students! We are excited to continue to partner with CMU departments and organizations to support survivors of sexual aggression, further expanding our reach within the community to increase awareness.

We want to say a special thank you to our campus partners and alumni volunteers whose valuable contributions and time made our advocate's fall training possible. Additionally, many of our Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities were enriched by the support and presence of our campus and community partners.

SAPA will focus on our outreach and recruitment strategies as we are now accepting applications for SAPAs to begin volunteering next Fall. Applications are due **February 5th, 2022**. More information can be found at sapa.cmich.edu.



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