

Spartan

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI MAGAZINE

SPECIAL ISSUE 2018



Finding Our Way

Sexual assault and harassment allegations have rocked our community to its core and changed how we thought of ourselves as Spartans. In our quest for answers, we will build a path to a better future.



Spartan

SPECIAL ISSUE 2018

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Communication Arts and Sciences students put their creative talents to work to support survivors. See pg.22

A LETTER TO OUR READERS

Among the items my predecessor Bob Bao left in this office was a 2012 issue of the *PennStater*, *Our Darkest Days*. Its black cover represented the dark stories within: page after page of news, reactions and analyses of child molester and former football coach Jerry Sandusky's sickening crimes.

Thank goodness, I thought as I filed it away, MSU will never have to produce a magazine like that. But last January, just days before the winter issue was due to be printed, the horrifying details and extent of sexual assaults committed by Larry Nassar—a former MSU and USA Gymnastics doctor—against young women and girls were revealed.

In this issue, we've done our best to share the diverse voices, responses, insights and recommendations beginning to emerge from this tragedy. Our hope is to contribute in some small way to healing—for survivors, the university and our Spartan community. We will continue to follow this story and its impact and effects in future issues.

Paula M. Davenport, Editor

LOOK TO THE FUTURE

Investigations are limited to looking at what HAS happened. Wise leaders look at what MUST happen in the future. MSU must clean out all the cobwebs of carelessness and mediocrity. The (interim) president must meet with every department and college leader and make sure ... they perform at the highest levels to produce the highest quality graduates, research, athletes—all with unwavering trust.

Yes, we need to find what happened and hold people accountable. But we must overcome the stigma of what has happened by insuring that the future is secure and is backed by every person who can advance the success of our great university.

Richard A. Baynton, '49
ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

LEADERS BLINDED BY PRIDE

I love MSU and all it has given my childhood, my college education, my parents, my adult life.

But MSU was guilty of at least pride and maybe one or two other of the seven (deadly sins). (It seems) some at MSU were focused on a thing they wanted—to hang out under the halo of Olympians, success, and fame. This is fully understandable.

Larry Nassar's criminal mind understood the blinding effects of Klieg lights all too well and sleazed through an unlocked door at MSU (and elsewhere).

I'm now asking MSU's leaders to find the strength to come to terms with this. I'm gutted.

Randy Rentschler, '83
ALAMEDA, CALIFORNIA

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MSU is an affirmative-action,
equal-opportunity employer.

NO LONGER A SPARTAN

It is a black day to be a Spartan.

After reviewing MSU's policies for resolving the crisis by putting the university's reputation and finances first instead of the victims, the results will be quite the opposite. I hereby disassociate myself from being an alumnus.

This is being handled shamefully and I want no part of it. I am 72 and I doubt this will be resolved in my lifetime. Fortunately I have two other degrees to reference. Please remove me from any membership/ mailing lists.

David Beglinger, '73
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

FACEBOOK POSTS**SPARTANS MUST HELP HEALING**

The culture of avoidance MUST NEVER happen again on the Michigan State University campus. Please remember MSU is an institution with thousands of quality professors, students, employees, coaches, and alumni living across the globe and WE are MSU. Individual people do not define MSU.

WE are Spartans and WE reclaim what it means to be a Spartan. Let's show the world WE are more, WE care, WE listen and WE SPARTANS WILL be part of the healing.

Go Green.

Los Angeles Spartans Board

TOGETHERNESS INSPIRES PRIDE

The fact that our community, the Spartan family, is doing the right thing & reacting out of love for our fellow Spartans who have been hurt, is THE reason I still stand proud

to be a product of Michigan State University. We are banding together, healing together, owning this devastation together, that's the definition of what I have always believed it means to be a true Spartan.

Bridget (Quigley) Chamberlin, '10
WILLOWBROOK, ILLINOIS

TWITTER POST**THE WORLD IS WATCHING**

If we ever needed #SpartansWill, it is now. Finding new leadership for @michiganstateu will be critical. Hopeful we can come out of this better, stronger, and as a leading advocate for changing the culture that allowed it to happen. The world is watching us. @MSUAA #Spartan4life

@MarkMorris39, '83
FAIRFIELD, OHIO

LINKEDIN**WE OWE REAL CHANGE**

This is so hurtful on so many levels, and we owe it to both the children and women who were harmed and the institutions that have been sullied, to make real change.

Kathleen Valentine, '80
LANSING

MSU CAN SET NEW STANDARD

I love this university, and I am proud to be a Spartan...The world is watching our every move and we should be setting the standard for how universities deal with sexual violence moving forward. Please, keep the conversation going. That's how change occurs.

Olivia Vaden, senior
EAST LANSING

LETTERS FROM DEANS**VICTIMS' STRENGTH
A MODEL FOR ALL**

The example set by these women and girls stands as a model of inspiration and right action for all of us. May we, as a university community, emulate their bravery and resilience as we seek to forge a culture of responsibility, respect, and mutual support at MSU.

Cheryl Sisk, Associate Dean
COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCE

LET COURAGE, HONESTY ENDURE

Let the courage and power of the women who have spoken so publicly and eloquently stand as a model for us. Let us continue to learn. Let us remain open and honest so we can create the university we expect ourselves to be.

Christopher P. Long
DEAN, COLLEGE OF ARTS & LETTERS

SUPPORTING SURVIVORS IS VITAL

Like many of you, I am shocked and saddened by the abuses that the girls and women suffered. It is unacceptable that their voices went unheard or unaddressed, at all, let alone for so many years. I share in your outrage and heartbreak that even one life, let alone so many lives, was impacted in such a devastating manner. The outpouring of support for survivors and the community they're building amongst themselves is an important part of the healing process.

Cynthia Jackson-Elmore
DEAN, HONORS COLLEGE

TO SUBMIT LETTERS Email daven125@msu.edu. Or send mail to: Editor, 535 Chestnut Rd., Room 300, East Lansing, MI. 48824. We reserve the right to select and edit letters for length and clarity.



STUDENT SENTIMENT

A passerby channels solidarity with survivors, whose names were emblazoned on the Rock last year.

1



STANDING GUARD

A teal ribbon plastered to John Hannah's statue symbolizes support for survivors.

2



LEST WE FORGET

Survivors and their families tied 250 teal ribbons on trees across campus after Nassar's sentencing.

3



TAKING IT TO THE STREETS IN 2018

Marches and rallies at the Rock brought the MSU community together to call for changes in the wake of the Larry Nassar sex abuse scandal. Images 4-7 and 10

4



5



6



7



#GOTEAL

Students created their own campaign to raise awareness of survivors and to urge their peers to report sexual assault and harassment.

9



8



10

PHOTO CREDITS

Photos 1-3: MSU.
Photos 4-7, 10: Dave Wasinger
Photo 2: Rodney Sanford
Photo 9: #GoTeal.

A Time to Listen and Learn

Over the past few months, abuse survivors and Spartans have spoken bravely and passionately. Now as we join together as a campus community to process what has happened, and how it happened, we can help light the way forward.

BY PAULA M. DAVENPORT

Never before in our alma mater's 163-year history has it faced such pain, such turmoil and such scrutiny.

Alongside our most celebrated moments—the incredible research and teaching, the great scholarship and the academic successes—lurked a predator who settled in as a trusted sports medicine doctor in 1996. Under the guise of medical treatment and shielded by highly regarded credentials—including a position with USA Gymnastics—Larry Nassar gained access to those under our care.

As scores of women bravely came forward to share their stories, the news ignited our shock, shame and anger. Their faces and voices are seared in our collective memory.

Adding to the pain, Nassar's actions were not the only problem.

Allegations surfaced that some of our officials mishandled abuse claims, policies and procedures—leaving our community outraged and demanding to know who knew what, and when.

Our faculty and students protested. And you expressed your disgust in countless phone calls, emails, social media posts and letters.

Former President Lou Anna K. Simon resigned. Athletics Director Mark Hollis retired. The Board of Trustees (BOT), an elected body, changed course. And a former dean was arrested.

Three criminal cases called into question our institutional procedures and triggered fury both at home and around the world. Nassar pleaded guilty to federal child pornography charges, then pleaded guilty in two

state courtrooms to charges of first-degree criminal sexual assault. In addition, numerous civil lawsuits have been filed by Nassar's survivors.

At press time, multiple investigations and inquiries are underway. The NCAA is seeking information about any rules violations, and, at the BOT's request, the Michigan Attorney General's office is conducting an investigation of events surrounding the case.

Reflecting on its failings and its future, MSU's interim president, John Engler, a former Michigan governor and Spartan alumnus, has pledged to right the ship.

In late April, MSU returned to mediation in hope that survivors' lawsuits will be settled out of court.

Engler is also looking at MSU's organizational structure, taking steps to change where necessary, and examining how we failed.

To be certain, this is only a beginning, not a conclusion. We believe that, with decisive action and open dialogue, MSU can emerge from this tragedy as a leader and a model for safer campuses and workplaces across the country.

In this special issue of *Spartan* magazine, we embrace this opportunity to reflect as a community. You will find personal essays from alumni, faculty and students. Their words offer perspective. They provide insight into what happened.

If we listen, if we choose to hear what is being said, we will see the path forward.

We believe
that, with
decisive
action and
open
dialogue,
MSU can
emerge
from this
tragedy as a
leader and a
model
for safer
campuses
and
workplaces
across the
country.

For more information
msu.edu/ourcommitment

IMBALANCE OF POWER

Even after the passage of Title IX and decades of women's activism, a culture of gender inequality remains. The disproportionate power and influence of men in sports and beyond has helped enable sexual abusers to often go unpunished.

The Long Fight to Be Heard

Decades of female activism have been building toward this historic moment of cultural reckoning.

BY STEPHANIE J. NAWYN

The history of organizing against sexual violence in the United States goes back further than most people realize. Shortly after the Civil War ended, black women began protesting the gang rapes of other black women by white police officers and civilians during the Memphis Riot in 1866.

Black female leaders such as Anna Julia Cooper, Ida B. Wells and Fannie Barrier Williams were at the forefront of early organizing to stop sexual violence.

Since that time, women have continually spoken out against sexual victimization, but it was not until the 1960s and 1970s that significant improvements in laws and policies were realized. The first rape crisis centers in the United States opened in 1972, the same year as the passage of Title IX, which prohibits sex discrimination in publicly funded educational institutions.

Title IX has been an important piece of legislation. It requires educational institutions to respond to sexual violence against women. In addition, it defines sexual assault and harassment as forms of sex discrimination that impede women's equal access to education.

During the 1970s and 1980s, organized efforts against sexual violence picked up steam, with such phrases as "no means no" becoming more recognizable. Meanwhile, American attitudes slowly started to shift in the direction of seeing rapes committed by acquaintances, romantic partners or spouses as legitimate crimes.

In 1994, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) passed, which greatly increased the resources available to combat sexual assault and intimate partner violence, while also creating policies and funds to serve and protect victims of such violence. VAWA was renewed several times, with some expanded protections for Native

American women, female immigrants and the LGBTQ population.*

This history demonstrates that while people have been speaking out against sexual violence for over 150 years, progress has come in fits and starts. Social movement experts point out that people can toil away attempting to create change for years, but they will see the fruits of their labors only during particular historical moments.

We are seeing something similar at MSU. Our campus has a long history of serving survivors of sexual violence and of taking actions to prevent sexual assault. Our first anti-sex-discrimination policy was implemented in 1955, well ahead of Title IX.

In 1980, the MSU Sexual Assault Program was created, providing counseling specifically for sexual assault survivors. We are one of the few universities with a domestic violence shelter on campus, MSU Safe Place. And the MSU Research Consortium on Gender-based Violence is a collaboration of some of the top gender-violence experts in the world.

However, these efforts have not resulted in continuous improvement. Despite the efforts of numerous faculty, staff and students, we still struggle with sexual violence on campus, both in our inability to prevent it and in our inadequate response when its occurrence comes to light.

The depth of knowledge on campus about gendered violence and how to best address it is not uniformly shared across the university.

I see a university
faced with
the incredible
opportunity to
challenge the
culture that
exists on college
campuses across
America and
students ready
to meet it
head on.

Liz Schondelmayer, junior
MSU Today

Many of us have been toiling for a long time, without seeing the needle move in the way that we had hoped.

But this is how social change happens; many people work for it over a long period of time without seeing much progress, and then the right historical moment comes along that provides fertile ground for that work. With the larger culture engaging with #MeToo and Time's Up, with powerful men finally being held accountable by the people whom they have abused for far too long, this is a historical moment that could nurture change in many facets of society.

And now, because of the bravery of numerous women who spoke out publicly about the abuse they experienced from Larry Nassar, MSU is in a historical moment that makes change not just possible but inevitable.

The voices of survivors are being heard in ways that they have not been in a long time. The voices of our scholars and service providers are now guiding the changes that we as a university community must make.

And MSU supporters, especially our alumni, also have an important role to play in these changes. Alumni showing their support for anti-sexual violence work is essential for those changes to happen. When alumni call or write MSU to encourage bold action to address sexual violence, when they make gifts in support of that action, they become part of the process of making MSU a safer place for all of our students and employees.

It is through collaborations of alumni, faculty, staff and students that we will make MSU into the university we know it can be, and people will look back at this moment in time and point to those collaborations as the catalyst that put MSU on the path of becoming a world leader in addressing campus sexual assault.

Stephanie J. Nawyn

*Associate Professor, College of Social Science
Center for Gender in the Global Context*

*At press time the federal funding for VAWA had expired and was being discussed by Congress.

Speaking up

From a visit by the founder of the #MeToo movement to teach-ins, and from workshops to townhall meetings, the MSU community is openly talking and working to remove the stigma around sexual misconduct. The goal is to increase understanding, educate the public and improve campus culture.

Among the efforts was a free presentation by Tarana Burke, founder of the #MeToo movement. She spoke April 19 in the Wharton Center.



Leading the Way

New campus advisory group brings together experts to gather input and recommend responses regarding sexual violence.

During his first month in office, Interim President John Engler created a special workgroup to formalize recommendations drawn from the input of survivors, students, faculty and staff from across campus.

The Relationship Violence and Sexual Misconduct Expert Advisory Workgroup will help plan the implementation of immediate changes and formulate decisions for longer-range changes affecting responses to reported incidents.

It also will sharpen the focus on sexual assault prevention, which aligns with Engler's mandate to ensure a safe and supportive campus.

"I've met with many MSU community members and groups and they've given me feedback on weaknesses in our current approach, as well as very constructive suggestions to improve our response to someone who has been the victim of a sexual assault," Engler said.

The workgroup is comprised of leaders throughout the MSU community with recognized expertise in handling issues of sexual misconduct and who are committed to prompt action.

The group continues to solicit suggestions from campus organizations, committees and individuals to ensure diverse viewpoints are being considered and that the voices of students, faculty, staff and alumni are heard.

Rebecca Campbell, a professor in the psychology department, is directing the group.

"Our work group consists of people who have been addressing issues with relationship violence and sexual misconduct for their entire careers," she said.

"They have worked in the fields of prevention, drug service, research, intervention and advocacy their entire careers.

"We have a lot of substantive knowledge at the table and we're working with a lot of other groups

throughout campus and throughout the broader region, our state and our nation to get other ideas, to get other suggestions so that what we're thinking about in terms of how to move this university forward reflects our knowledge, our experience, but also the knowledge and experience of a lot of diverse groups as well," Campbell said.

She brings a wealth of experience to her new task.

For the past 25 years, she has conducted community-based research on violence against women and children, with an emphasis on sexual assault.

Her research examines how contact with the legal and medical systems affects adult, adolescent, and pediatric victims' psychological and physical health.

In addition to chairing the workgroup, Campbell also conducts training for law enforcement and multidisciplinary practitioners in civilian, military, and campus community settings on the neurobiology of trauma.

In 2015, she received the Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime, Vision 21 Crime Victims Research Award.

Campbell earned her master's and doctoral degrees at MSU in 1993 and 1996, respectively.

Advisory Workgroup

Rebecca Campbell, '93, '96

Professor, Dept. of Psychology

Tana Fedewa, '05

Dir., MSU Sexual Assault Program

Carrie A. Moylan

Assistant Professor, School of Social Work

Det. Lt. Andrea Munford, '96, MSU Police, Special Victims Unit

Jessica Norris

Dir., Title IX and ADA Compliance and Education Programs; Dir., MSU Sexual Assault Program

Holly Rosen, '81, '87

Dir., MSU Safe Place

Jayne Schuiteman, '85, '90

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Kelly Schweda

Coordinator, Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence Prevention Program

Cris M. Sullivan, '82, '85, '88

Professor, Ecological/Community Psychology; Dir., Research Consortium on Gender-based Violence

PAIN AND SHAME

Abuse survivors not only have to overcome the hurt of their own experience. Those brave enough to come forward often also face authorities who are unwilling or unable to hear their difficult truth.

‘It’s Not Your Fault’

The psychological impact of sexual abuse can take years to overcome, as survivors internalize blame for their suffering. The damage is worsened when others invalidate or dismiss their stories.

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON AND JULIA FELTON

One of the most insidious things about sexual abuse is that it alters a victim’s sense of self. Wanting to believe that the world is fair and that bad things do not happen to good people, both those who have experienced abuse and those around them sometimes look for things the victims must have done (or not done) to cause what happened.

Abusers often encourage this perception, suggesting that the victim deserves what is happening or that the abuse is not really abuse. In turn, victims internalize this message and start to perceive their abuse through this lens.

As licensed clinical psychologists, we have talked with hundreds of people who have survived sexual or physical abuse to try to help them heal from their experiences.

Many of our patients do not initially recognize that what happened to them was physical or sexual abuse. As a result, one of the greatest risks of any kind of abuse is that victims incorporate it into their sense of who they are. And they start to believe they deserved these damaging experiences and are unworthy of being believed, validated or protected.

Psychological abuse is thought to underlie almost every other form of maltreatment. The dynamics become even more intense and the pressure to minimize or deny abuse becomes even stronger when there is an ongoing, intimate relationship, or when there is an imbalanced power dynamic between the abuser and the abused (e.g., parent, partner, relative, teacher, doctor, boss).

This power dynamic can strongly affect how others respond if the abuse is brought

to light. In many cases we have worked on as therapists, the reaction of others after the abuse (i.e., whether the abused are believed and protected, or blamed and invalidated) has had more effect on long-term psychological well-being than the original event.

The reaction of others either underscores or contradicts the message of the abuse: that the person deserves to be hurt and neglected, or deserves to be protected and helped to heal. The responses of those with power or authority (parents, supervisors, teachers, mentors, doctors and clergy) are especially influential.

Unfortunately, the people hearing about the abuse may be distressed by it and have reasons to hope that what they are hearing is not true. They may feel guilty for failing to protect the victim, or they may be close to or even related to the accused perpetrator. For example, reports of sexual abuse of daughters by fathers or stepfathers disclosed to mothers are especially challenging, and especially damaging if the daughter is not believed.

These challenges can impede those who are hearing reports of abuse from believing them and responding appropriately.

Furthermore, abusers may be charismatic, popular and persuasive, behaving differently in public than in private settings.

“If we recognized how difficult it is for survivors to tell their stories, every piece of information they provide would be treated with diligence and care. And every voice would be given equal weight.”

Elizabeth C. Tippet
Associate Professor of
Law, University of Oregon
First appeared in *The
Conversation*.

However, 95 percent of all campus rapes go unreported, according to the Center for Public Integrity. In the U.S., an estimated 63 percent of sexual assaults are not reported.

Therefore, if a child, student, patient, friend or anyone else tells of abuse or assault, the listener's default response should be to believe and protect that person. The fact that Larry Nassar was not held accountable, nor his many victims' reports believed, makes what happened particularly horrific.

It is especially difficult for victims to come forward with their stories if their abuser has cultivated a popular public persona. In addition, the potential for internalizing blame is a barrier to reporting.

It can take time, from months to even years, for people who have experienced abuse to process their feelings about it and regain normal functioning.

Family and friends can unintentionally make things worse by urging the person to "get over it," because they don't know how to respond to a person's pain.

This is not helpful.

What is helpful: protecting the person from the perpetrator and putting boundaries in place to prevent continuing abuse, validating that what happened is wrong and undeserved, hearing and empathizing with the person's pain, and encouraging the person to seek professional help if needed.

The sooner boundaries are put in place to end the abuse, and the sooner the person experiencing abuse gets support, the sooner she or he will start to heal.

Survivors of abuse need to know that what happened to them was wrong, and that it's never justified. They need to understand—and believe—that they did not deserve what happened, and that it has nothing to do with who they are or their value as a person.

No one can take another person's value and worth from them.

"Have we lost sight of a reality that by saying nothing, when seeing something very wrong, we are condoning victimization of innocents because no one cared enough to courageously speak truth to power?"

Rich Sternberg, '65
Member, College of Arts
& Letters National Alumni
Board

What happened to them was the fault of the person who did it.

As for those who did not believe or protect them, that is their failing—it's not the survivor's shortcoming.

Martin Luther King Jr. said that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. Those who use relational or positional power to hurt, demean, belittle or take advantage of others must be told that this behavior is unacceptable.

And they need to be stopped.

A powerful way to do this is for those who are being hurt to speak up, as difficult as that may be.

And those who are given the sacred trust to hear these painful stories must listen and respond appropriately.

Moving forward, it's important that MSU be open to hearing the truth, no matter where it comes from.

Be willing to question the popular and the powerful, as well as ourselves; be willing to sit with the distress of those around us and not try to avoid it; and be willing to do the right thing—even when it is difficult.

We must and we can do better.

Both authors are affiliated with the MSU College of Human Medicine's public health division in Flint. Jennifer Johnson is one of the university's C.S. Mott Endowed Professors of Public Health, and Julia Felton is a clinical psychologist.

**CHILD VICTIMS
OFTEN KNOW
THE PERPETRATOR**

Among cases of child sexual abuse
reported to law enforcement

93%
ARE KNOWN TO
THE VICTIM

7%
ARE STRANGERS

59%
ARE ACQUAINTANCES

34%
ARE FAMILY MEMBERS

National Sexual Assault Hotline
800.656.HOPE or online.rainn.org

Please visit
rainn.org/statistics/children-and-teens
for full citation

Hiding in plain sight

‘Nice-guy’ child sex offenders are much more prevalent, effective, and prolific than the stereotypical ‘stranger danger’ type offender. In fact, the vast majority of children who are sexually victimized (fall prey to) someone they know. We call those ‘acquaintance offenders.’

These are offenders who are friendly, normal, helpful, giving, loving people who no one would suspect are harboring sexual attractions to children. These cases are very difficult to investigate because a number of these offenders have high social status or are authority figures such as: ‘teachers, camp counselors, coaches, clergy members, law-enforcement officers, doctors, judges.’

Such offenders are in a better position to seduce and manipulate victims and escape responsibility. And, equally important, ‘they are usually believed when they deny any allegations.’

*James T. Clemente, Education Guide to the Identification
and Prevention of Child Sexual Victimization*

SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS

News of the extent of
Larry Nassar's crimes
touched off an outpouring
of anger and sadness,
and left many asking,
"How could this happen?"
With wounded hearts,
the Spartan community is
demanding change.

Diminished

After being dismissed and silenced for years, survivors of Larry Nassar's abuse deserve answers. Until we take action to right this wrong, all of MSU's achievements feel tarnished.

BY LOUISE KNOTT AHERN, '96

The handling of the Larry Nassar case has sparked a particular rage among MSU alumni, me included. We're angry that it took so long for our alma mater to act. I believe it led to a steady stream of prey being fed to a predator.

Unfortunately, such lack of action is something sexual assault survivors recognize all too well.

It's a process of silencing. Of shaming. Of dismissal.

It's the uniquely destructive process of diminishing.

That's what sexual assault does. It shrinks you. It reduces you to a mere object, a body to use. It strips you of the things that make you you—the thoughts in your mind, the things you enjoy, your right to consent to a life of your own choosing. When those things are taken away, you are instantly smaller in a world that believes your pain is insignificant compared to him and what he could stand to lose if you report what he did. And it takes a long time to fight your way back, to reclaim your rightful size and space.

In that context, it has been painful to learn of the many ways officials contributed to the diminishing of the women and girls victimized by Nassar.

When former MSU gymnastics Coach Kathie Klages told one young athlete that her life would be ruined if she went forward with her accusation against Nassar—a conversation Klages says she doesn't recall—all survivors were silenced.

When the MSU Title IX investigator's 2014 report claimed that a young woman simply didn't understand the "nuance" of Nassar's

medical procedure—determining that she mistakenly attached sexual overtone to something clinical—survivors were essentially shamed for having been assaulted.

When the Board of Trustees insisted that former President Lou Anna K. Simon had its full support despite her lack of leadership in the Nassar investigation, all survivors were dismissed.

And when MSU Trustee Joel Ferguson went on the radio and said there were other things going on at MSU than "just this Nassar thing," survivors were cruelly, coldly diminished.

"This Nassar thing" is the most important thing going on at MSU. And the survivors of Nassar's crimes deserve, at long last, to be bigger. Bigger than our fandom. Bigger than championships. Bigger than a president and the trustees. Bigger than construction projects and research breakthroughs and stadium expansions. Bigger than us all.

Nassar's survivors deserve to have alumni stand with them and demand answers. How could university officials not know that what he was doing was wrong? Why was Nassar allowed to continue seeing patients while under investigation? Why did that investigation include interviews with his own friends and colleagues? When the full, horrifying scope of his crimes was revealed, why didn't university leaders realize that normal operations

"We need to come together and make the necessary changes to protect all members of our community, and restore trust. I believe that this should start with strengthening transparency and accountability."

Leo Kempel
Dean, College of
Engineering

needed to stop immediately? No more solicitation calls. No more cheerful Facebook posts. No more business as usual at Board of Trustees meetings.

On behalf of survivors, we must demand to know: How did MSU get this so, so wrong?

Part of the answer lies outside MSU, to be fair. The university officials, athletic trainers, coaches, and even police officers who initially dismissed the accusations against Nassar did so in part because they brought to the investigation a deeper cultural bias that automatically grants male perpetrators the benefit of the doubt in sexual assault cases.

That's not unique to MSU. Society primes us—even women—to give greater weight to his side of the story, to worry about what he stands to lose rather than what she has already lost.

Yet MSU appeared seemingly determined, above all else, to protect reputation and institutional brand.

So, we're angry, to put it simply. Angry, and sad, and ashamed that our alma mater in which we took pride is now synonymous with sordid failures, sexual assault, and unchecked abuse.

One of the responsibilities we now have as alumni is to understand that our beloved campus will not feel like home again until we insist that the university's leaders engage in a transparent, deep cleansing. We must

also be willing to acknowledge that multiple things can be true at the same time.

It's true that MSU has built one of the most successful and exciting athletic programs in the nation, and, damn, does it feel good to cheer for those talented student athletes. It's also true, however, that too much focus on reputation and brand allowed someone like Nassar to become too important, too trustworthy, too big to be considered a predator. That can't happen again.

It's true that alumni are under no obligation to stop wearing their green and white. But it's also true that for many, the sight of a Spartan helmet on a T-shirt is now a symbol of something dark and painful. We need to be aware of that.

It's true that membership in the Spartan Nation means being part of something special. But it is undeniable that our something special is tarnished.

It has been diminished.

And until we right this wrong, restore the justice and humanity that Nassar stole from the survivors, and take the necessary steps to ensure this can never happen again, it will remain so.

Louise Knott Ahern, '96, spent nearly 20 years in journalism before becoming a freelance writer and author.



RODNEY SANFORD

The Danger of Unquestioned Authority

The news of Larry Nassar's predatory behavior shocked many who knew him. The doctor had groomed an entire community, carefully cultivating an image of trust and kindness.

BY ALLISON BERTRAM, '19

Women are told to look out for predators at night, to carry a flashlight, and always take note of our surroundings. We're never told what to do when a predator is right in front of us, in our community, telling us he's our friend.

I knew Larry Nassar. I knew the person he fooled us all into believing he was. As a pillar in my hometown community, he manipulated people into trusting him, caring for him, and defending him. He spent countless volunteer hours helping my high school classmates by assisting with injuries and helping athletic trainers at sporting events. He groomed us to believe he was Superman.

When Nassar was arrested in the fall of 2016, I was taken by surprise. How could someone who appeared to be a positive example of the community inflict so much harm?

As more women started speaking out, it was clear that his facade was crashing and burning.

The age-old saying still rings true: 'Where there is great power lies great responsibility ...' and great danger of abusing power. Abusers like Harvey Weinstein, Matt Lauer, and Jerry Sandusky had power and influence, and they hid their predatory behaviors behind credentials.

Larry Nassar was cut from the same cloth. He had a protective inner circle of professionals, countless young athletes who relied on him, and a gentle appearance that made everyone think he wouldn't hurt a fly.

The women that Nassar abused were told he was the best of the best; they were lucky to be in his presence. Their predator did not attack them in the middle of the night. He gave them gifts, wished them good luck, and rooted for their success.

There's great power among the authority figures that many of Nassar's survivors tried to report to, and they completely failed. There's also great power among those who were in charge of Nassar's professional positions, and they, too, failed to uphold their responsibilities. Nassar's former boss, Dr. William Strampel, disgustingly abused his power and took advantage of women as well.

Students deserve better. Women deserve better. We shouldn't have to wonder, "Is this the professor who's going to stalk me? Is this the boss who's going to sexually harass me? Is this the doctor who's going to abuse me?"

This is not paranoia. This is real, and it's in every town, city, state, and workplace.

There are so many people at MSU and in our communities from whom we can draw inspiration: survivors who courageously come forward; students who strive to solve problems facing our society; and the staff, faculty, and professors who care deeply about doing the right thing.

Our school colors shouldn't represent shame, abuse, and poor leadership. I want to be proud of MSU and the positive opportunities I've been given through my education and community.

My hope is that, in the not too distant future, I will be able to be proud of the positive strides MSU will take. MSU should be a good example. Not a horrible warning.

"We need to come together and make the necessary changes to protect all members of our community, and restore trust. I believe that this should start with strengthening transparency and accountability."

Leo Kempel
Dean, College of
Engineering

OUR NEW REALITY

Like the survivors, our campus
and our society can never go
back to the way things were.
But we can use this painful
moment to find a better
version of ourselves,
to create new safeguards
and to forge new attitudes
to help fight abuse.

The Power of Speaking Up

As women find their voices—and their numbers can no longer be ignored—they also find their way toward security, validation and, most importantly, healing.

BY RUTH STERNAMAN AND CINDIE ALWOOD, '97

The recent #MeToo movement started an avalanche of new and never-before-reported claims of sexual harassment and abuse. As survivors ourselves—and staff members who help other survivors through the Greater Lansing Women's Center—we're intimately familiar with the effects of such violence.

However, even now, sharing our personal stories is alternately a cause for terror and a release from fear. Our own memories of assault recently resurfaced as hundreds of young women, including many MSU athletes, collectively pierced the darkness of their abuse by Larry Nassar.

After enduring years of silence—obscured by layers of shame, fear and guilt—these young women formed a community. Their sheer numbers and eerily similar stories made them impossible to doubt.

Sexual assault encompasses every facet of our society, yet the problem has often gone unrecognized. Victims' stories have only recently broken through the silence to grab the attention they deserve.

There are many factors at play in this silence. Often, women who work to support their families don't report workplace abuse because they need to keep their jobs. Women who are disabled or are in some way disadvantaged often fail to report abuse by the very people who have power over them.

Students in schools and universities trust their leaders to prevent abuse and investigate it when it does occur.

Yet the women who go public with their stories are all too often treated as if they were somehow responsible for what happened to them. Victim blaming is still very prevalent

in our community. Sometimes even family members won't believe someone who says they were abused.

The result? Victims may feel ashamed, threatened by their perpetrators and leery of legal remedies.

But the toll of silence can be devastating.

Those who don't come forward probably do not realize that harboring such repugnant secrets can manifest later through health and relationship problems, an inability to maintain jobs, low self-esteem, depression, anxiety and other disorders.

One of the things the Women's Center of Greater Lansing provides is counseling and support groups for women. Support groups are crucial to help survivors feel believed in a safe place and among peers who share their survivor stories. This is an important step in moving from victim to survivor.

Often, support group members are the only people who really understand what it feels like to experience sexual assault and its aftermath. Group members learn they are not "less than" because of this experience. They know that life can go on and things will eventually get better.

The era of covering up this abhorrent behavior has to be over. No perpetrator is successful without the enabling of others. Whether it's family or an organization, in the

"One survivor spoke out and then we saw hundreds follow. That's what it's all about. We want that to continue. We want sexual assault to be eliminated."

Amanda McCafferty, '18
College of Communication
Arts & Sciences

case of sexual harassment, someone always knows.

Yes, it's risky to stick your neck out and tell what you saw or what you suspect is happening.

Violence against women is about power and control. Until we fully value women's lives and are willing to protect them at all costs, the violence will continue. Women have always talked about sexual assault—it's just that no one was listening. It's time to start listening to our girls and women.

One voice is often drummed out, but the voices of many saying the same things are heard. Now their voices are beginning to be believed. Our goal is to nurture a community of women who are strong, support each other and feel empowered.

It is a new day.

No more silence. No more shame. No more!

Both authors work at the Greater Lansing Women's Center. Ruth Sternaman, M.A., LPC, is a therapist and facilitator of support groups. Cindie Alwood, M.A., CRC, '97, is executive director of the rehabilitation-counseling program.



OUT OF THE DARKNESS

Students posted boards of teal ribbons people could wear to honor the survivors who spoke out in court.

"At a university, we have a special responsibility for creating environments where people feel empowered to speak, and ensuring the safety of our students and the MSU community."

Sanjay Gupta, '90
Dean, Eli and Edythe L.
Broad College of Business

Nassar's abuse reflects more than 50 years of men's power over female athletes

In the 1970s "...as the NCAA grew increasingly eager to control women's sports and Americans saw female athletes as legitimate, schools and private organizations increasingly hired men for authority positions that women had often previously held, like coaching, management and athletic directorship.

Today in college sports, just 40 percent of women's coaches and 22.4 percent of athletic directors are women.

Though increasing numbers of women became medical doctors after Title IX mandated their acceptance in graduate programs, men still hold the majority of sports medicine jobs in prestigious power roles, like Nassar's at USA Gymnastics, the U.S. Olympic Committee, and Michigan State University.

Men disproportionately specialize in orthopedics—and because so many elite athletes suffer bone or muscle injuries, they often see these specialists."

Anne Blaschke
Visiting Associate Professor of History
College of the Holy Cross

“We have to find
a fiber of
resilience, spun
in green and
white. We have
to look failure
straight in the
eye and
acknowledge
(it) with
humility. We
have to search
for meaning
in the broken
shards and
commit with
steely resolve
to restore lost
dignity.”

Prabu David
Dean, College of Commu-
nication Arts & Sciences

“Spartans, this is
the beginning
of our
revolution. Now
is the time to
make a
difference.”

State News
Editorial Board

Being a Spartan Now

BY STEPHANIE MCCANN, '09

Larry Nassar is not MSU. Lou Anna K. Simon is not MSU. The institutional trauma created by a culture of avoidance is not MSU.

The students I teach, the faculty I work with, the staff who support every corner of this community—we are MSU.

How do we reconcile being a Spartan with the harm caused to so many people at the hands of another fellow Spartan? How do we put on our Green and not feel embarrassment, anger or shame?

It is in the remembering that Nassar does not have the power to define the MSU community. It is in the remembering that anyone who covered up Nassar's abuse does not have the power to define the MSU community.

I am reclaiming what it means to be a Spartan. Being a Spartan means having deep empathy, it means speaking our truth, it means believing one another, and it means showing up when we feel most vulnerable. No one gets to push me out of MSU, including Nassar.

I am an MSU alumna, MSU faculty member and MSU parent. I am a social worker who strives to help others find their healthiest selves. I am a therapist for the Firecracker Foundation, which provides healing therapeutic services to children and families when child sexual abuse occurs.

To say that Nassar's sexual abuse at MSU is personal to me would be an understatement. It is betrayal. It is a reminder that as a survivor myself I have deep empathy for the courage it takes to speak your truth without attachment to the judgment of others.

I am a Spartan, and I am a survivor. And I still bleed Green. I believe people heal when they are heard.

#SpartansListen #SpartansWillShowEmpathy

Stephanie McCann, '09, LMSW, teaches classes in the College of Social Work. She originally posted this on LinkedIn.

The Making of ‘Go Teal’

What started as one project among a small group of MSU students has blossomed into a movement to fight sexual abuse and honor its survivors.

BY ALLISON BERTRAM, '18

The news of Larry Nassar’s crimes and other subsequent allegations of sexual assault and harassment on campus has caused turmoil among various communities at Michigan State University and around the nation. Dissatisfaction with the response from people in power added to these feelings of distress, and prompted many students to take action.

One creative response by a group of students from the College of Communication Arts & Sciences has made a particularly powerful impact, sparking a movement to eradicate sexual assault and abuse that its creators hope will last beyond their time on campus.

It all started when Yi Rong, Tianyi Xie and Larraine Fu attended a Friday Idea-A-Thon hosted by advertising and public relations Professor Ross Chowles.

In the wake of Nassar’s trials in Ingham and Eaton counties, morale and Spartan pride were dwindling on campus and in the East Lansing community.

Chowles prompted attendees to think of a creative way to make something positive out of this horrible situation.

Rong, Xie and Fu developed the idea of honoring the survivors through a video of a wilting flower in reverse, showing a metaphorical regaining of confidence. They sought the help of Amanda McCafferty to assist with PR and marketing for the project. McCafferty introduced Carlie Wirebaugh to complete their team of five.

The idea of honoring the survivors went a step further with posters. Fu shot photos of people with serious expressions, bare shoulders and teal-painted lips—a symbol of

the vulnerability and exposure that results from a culture of victim shaming.

These stark photos created a call to action for general society to “Speak Up” against sexual assault. The models who posed for the posters also shared their voices in the first Go Teal YouTube video, “Together, We Bloom.”

Xie also developed an idea to provide the community with a tangible, visible response: a black poster displaying the name of every known abuse survivor who publicly came forward, with a teal ribbon safety-pinned in front of each name.

The poster reads, “Out of the darkness, take a ribbon to acknowledge their strength.”

“We wanted to make sure we were sending the right message and not offending any of the survivors by using their names on these posters,” McCafferty said.

“We wanted to encourage their strength and acknowledge them, and what they’re doing for other survivors as well.”

In addition to the original display space in the Communication Arts & Sciences building, the Go Teal group hung the interactive ribbon posters across campus, including at the Hannah Administration Building.

The group even sent a ribbon poster to be showcased at the March 2018 Women in Advertising Conference in Chicago, where it

“When people are brave enough to come forward, we owe it to do everything we can to investigate these cases thoroughly using all available resources for support.”

Debra Martinez, '00
Senior Investigator,
MSU Office of Institutional
Equity



IT'S ON US
MSU students hosted a variety of sexual assault prevention and awareness events in April 2018.



was presented by Professor Henry Brimmer.

Go Teal's goal is to create an environment that empowers everyone to speak out about sexual assault. "We want the MSU community to come together as one to express our support for the survivors," Wirebaugh said.

Rather than promoting a political motivation, group members said they strive to foster a community that everybody is a part of, whether they agree with administrative decisions or not.

The group's efforts have gained positive responses; professors have donated out of pocket for supplies, while friends and fellow students have volunteered to help with everything from cutting ribbons to being models.

Although all of the original Go Teal group members have graduated, they aren't worried about the initiative changing. "We see it as a movement, not us as individuals," Wirebaugh said. "It would be cool to have a group dedicated to keeping the movement alive, but it doesn't have to be exactly how we've been doing things."

Allison Bertram, '18, graduated with a bachelor's degree in professional writing from the College of Arts and Letters, and is an editorial assistant for Spartan.

This story originally appeared in Ing Magazine's April/May 2018 issue. Since then, two edits were made to the piece, acknowledging the graduation of the students associated with the article.

NEVER AGAIN

The survivors have spoken with courage. Now we must answer.

Under Interim President John Engler, we are making changes in leadership, processes and policies to address cultural and systemic problems, and to make clear that sexual abuse will not be tolerated in our community.

A Commitment to Change

While we are haunted by the crimes and allegations of abuse and harassment in our “house,” we will learn from the survivors’ experiences and take action.

BY DR. ANDREA AMALFITANO, '84, '89, '90

Like the rest of the world, I was devastated when I learned about the scope of Larry Nassar’s criminal activities. Yet I am inspired by the raw courage displayed by the survivors of his abuse as they came forward and faced him in two separate courtrooms. Words cannot begin to express my admiration for their bravery in bringing a predator to justice, which I hope will assist in their healing process.

As interim dean of the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM), I am deeply, personally invested in this healing.

We must pursue the truth, no matter what, in light of allegations of sexual harassment against my predecessor, Dr. William Strampel.

While our pain cannot begin to approach that which the survivors are enduring, we are profoundly hurt that Nassar and Strampel have also harmed the reputation of our college, our alumni, our students and our very profession.

As for our path forward, I met with students, faculty and staff at all three of our sites, listened to their questions, and took to heart the pain and concern they’d expressed.

I promised that we’d listen and take action on what we learned. I also encouraged them to hold *me* accountable and on task to introduce real, substantive changes.

I recently convened a task force of faculty, staff and students to address how we could begin moving forward. This group facilitated additional listening sessions, and our students conducted their own survey about sexual assault education.

In this vein, we have recently contracted with a consulting firm to guide us through a climate review of our college.

This external review will provide us with an

unfiltered look at our most serious challenges and help us confidently embark upon the difficult task of repairing broken trust and moving our college into a brighter future.

We are working alongside our partners in MSU’s colleges of Nursing and Human Medicine, as well as the MSU HealthTeam, to implement new patient-care policies for students, athletes and the public.

We’re also examining our curriculum for opportunities to enhance education around difficult conversations—whether they’re related to sexual assault, harassment or other topics that might be hard to broach with a patient, a peer or a supervisor.

While challenging, we hope these efforts will continue to honor the courage of the survivors as we take the first steps toward our future.

The COM is just beginning this journey. We have a lot of work to do. But as long as we remember that we’re striving to build a better future, we will emerge as a stronger institution, known for training, and graduating, world-class physicians who will help define us as a premier medical school.

Dr. Andrea Amalfitano, '84, '89, '90, is now dean of the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine. He penned this in 2018 when he was interim dean. It has been edited for length.

“We will take the necessary actions to navigate through these difficult times with integrity, humility and compassion...we are united and pledge to work hard at regaining the full trust of the communities we serve.”

Randolph F. R. Rasch
Dean, College of Nursing

“As a fellow proud
alumnus of Michigan
State, I want to see
bad guys out of my
(university), victims
made whole, good
people returned
to work, students
protected to learn and
the institution free to
move forward.”

Chuck Moss, '75

*Dome: Covering the People, Issues &
Events Shaping State*

“It’s true that member-
ship in the Spartan Na-
tion means being part
of something special.
But it is undeniable
that our something
special is tarnished.

It has been diminished.

And until we right this
wrong, restore the
justice and humanity
that Nassar stole from
the survivors, and take
the necessary steps to
ensure this can never
happen again, it will
remain so.”

Louise Knott-Ahern, '96
Freelance writer

Who's Who

Changes within MSU's administration

Carol Viventi, '73

Vice President and Special Counsel to the President

Previously served as deputy director of the MI Department of Civil Rights and was the first woman and ethnic minority to serve as secretary of the MI Senate.

William “Bill” Beekman, '89

*Vice President and Secretary of the Board of Trustees
Athletics Director*

Dr. Norman Beauchamp, '86, '90

Associate Provost and Assistant Vice President for Health Affairs

Still holds his original position as MSU's dean of the College of Medicine.

Dr. Andrea Amalfitano, '84, '89, '90

Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine

Served as MSU's director of the Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute.

Dr. Anthony Avellino

*Assistant Provost for Student Health, Wellness and Safety
MSU HealthTeam Chief Medical Officer*

Until his appointment at MSU, Avellino was the CEO of OSF Healthcare Illinois Neurological Institute.

Kathleen Wilbur, '75, '12, '18 PhD

Executive Vice President for Government and External Relations

Worked as the Vice President for Governmental Relations and Public Affairs at Central Michigan University until becoming the school's 13th president in 2009 in an interim role. After serving as president, she returned to her original position and was promoted to vice president for Development and External Affairs.

Emily Gerkin Guerrant, '08

Vice President and University Spokesperson

Most recently served as the senior VP of Communications, Marketing, and Public Relations at the MI Economic Development Corporation.

Jessica Norris

*Associate Vice President of Office of Civil Rights and Title IX Education and Compliance
Newly promoted after serving as MSU's Title IX Director.*

Six Steps to Support a Survivor

It takes courage for a survivor of sexual assault or domestic violence to share their story with anyone. Never underestimate your power to affect the course of a survivor's healing journey. Here are some tools—words, actions, and resources—that can help you support someone who shares personal experiences with you.

You don't have to be an expert—you just have to be yourself. If someone shares their experience with you, you're probably a person they look to for support, compassion and guidance. Although you can't take away what happened to someone, you can be a source of comfort.

1. LISTEN

Sometimes you don't even need words (or at least not a lot of words), to be there for someone. Many people share that being able to tell their story to someone else lessens the weight of isolation, secrecy and self-blame. Listening is in and of itself an act of love.

2. VALIDATE

Think about a time when you felt vulnerable or faced a crisis, and think of what helped you the most. Chances are it was not a specific conversation you had, but it was the knowledge and comfort that the person or people you told were there for you, believed in you, were on your side, and were committed to supporting you through a hard time. There are some helpful phrases you can use to show you care.

"I'm so sorry this happened to you."

"I believe you."

"This is not your fault."

"You're not alone. I'm here for you and I'm glad you told me."

Often times, a survivor may feel like what happened to them is their fault. We are bombarded with victim-blaming myths and attitudes in our society, and they can sink in...deeply. But no action excuses a person hurting someone else. Violence and abuse is never the victim's fault. That responsibility and shame lies with the perpetrator. It can be helpful to communicate that gently and repeatedly.

"Nothing you did or could've done differently makes this your fault."

"The responsibility is on the person who hurt you."

"No one ever has the right to hurt you."

"I promise, you didn't ask for this."

"I know that it can feel like you did something wrong, but you didn't."

"It doesn't matter if you did or didn't _____. No one asks to be hurt in this way."

3. ASK WHAT MORE YOU CAN DO TO HELP

Violence and abuse is about power and control. It is vital for survivors to regain their sense of personal power. Instead of pushing someone into taking actions for which they are not ready, ask how you can support them.

4. KNOW WHERE TO POINT SOMEONE TO FOR MORE HELP

You can best help a survivor by offering options and leaving space for them to decide where to go from there. See page 26.

5. KEEP AN OPEN HEART

Remind a survivor you are available should they want to talk about their experiences further. The healing journey can be a long one. It can be full of many challenging—but sometimes joyful and liberating—conversations. It can make a big difference for a survivor to know you are there to support them along the way.

6. FINALLY, CARE FOR YOURSELF

There is a limit to what we are able to take in and process. The stories of someone else's hardships related to a traumatic event can impact or become a part of us. This experience of second-hand trauma—often called vicarious trauma—is a human response to coming face-to-face with the reality of trauma and the difficulties of the human experience.

Courtesy of Joyfulheartfoundation.com

"I never knew how afraid (Nassar's accusers) were that I wouldn't believe them, because that's not an option."

Det. Lt.

Andrea Munford, '96
MSU Special Victims Unit

RESOURCES

Financial support is appreciated

Should you wish to provide financial assistance, there are two MSU-related organizations supporting survivors of sexual assault and relationship violence. **givingto.msu.edu/survivors**

The Sexual Assault Program at MSU collaborates with on-campus counseling and psychiatric services to help students through counseling and support groups.

MSU Safe Place offers emergency shelter, counseling, support groups, safety planning, information and referrals to survivors of violence and their minor children.

RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE RESOURCES

MSU Safe Place

- Business office (517) 355-1100 ext. 2
- Shelter or immediate support (517) 355-1100
- Advocacy and follow-up (517) 432-9570 or (517) 353-9999
- Community education, volunteer opportunities, counseling, support groups, temporary emergency shelter and advocacy.
- All services are free and confidential.

End Violent Encounters, Inc. [EVE, Inc.] (517) 372-5572

- Shelter, support & community education programs for the Greater Lansing area.
- All services are free and confidential.

SEXUAL ASSAULT RESOURCES

MSU Sexual Assault 24-Hour Hotline (517) 372-6666

- Support, advocacy and information for all members of the campus community.
- All services are free and confidential.

MSU Sexual Assault Program (517) 355-3551

- Individual and group counseling, consultation regarding sexual assault trauma and educational programs offered.
- All services are free and confidential.

Office of Institutional Equity (517) 353-3922

Where to report sexual assault on campus; sexual assault investigations.

Olin Health Center (517) 353-1733

- The Center for Sexual Health Promotion at Olin aims to provide accurate information about sexual wellness.
- Confidential HIV and STI testing.

Sparrow Hospital Sexual Assault Clinic (517) 364-3641 or (517) 285-2203

Emergency (517) 364-3729
Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) on staff. Go to Sparrow ER.

CRISIS HELP LINES & COUNSELING SERVICES

MSU Sexual Assault 24-Hour Hotline (517) 372-6666

MSU Safe Place (517) 355-1100

LBGT Hotline (517) 332-3200

MSU Counseling Center (517) 355-8270

EVE, Inc. (517) 372-5572

LEGAL SERVICES

Legal Services of South Central Michigan (517) 394-3121

Provides custody and divorce assistance.

EVE, Inc. (517) 372-5572 or MSU Safe Place (517) 355-1100 Can accompany victims to court hearings or explain the legal process.

ASMSU Legal Services (517) 355-8266

Provides MSU students with completely free legal consultation. Lawyers can give advice and represent students in court.

POLICE SERVICES EMERGENCY: 911

MSU Department of Police and Public Safety (517) 355-2221

East Lansing Police Department (517) 351-4220

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

Ingham County Emergency Services (517) 372-8460 or (800) 372-8460

Sparrow Hospital Mental Health Center (517) 482-6570

SEXUAL HARASSMENT RESOURCES

Office of Institutional Equity (517) 353-3922

MSU Sexual Assault Program (517) 355-3551

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Night Owl (517) 432-8888

Provides late night/early morning campus transportation service at times when other CATA bus services are not running.

Self Defense (517) 355-5250

Free self-defense workshop provides common sense and practical information regarding sexual assault prevention.

MSU Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs Office (517) 353-3903

The ATOD Program is committed to reducing the negative impact associated with substance abuse, while cultivating a health-affirming environment at MSU.

MSU Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (517) 432-2471

File a formal complaint or seek conflict resolution.

National Sexual Assault Hotline 800-656-HOPE

Operated by RAINN, serves people affected by sexual violence, automatically routes the caller to their nearest sexual assault service provider.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800-273-TALK (8255); Spanish line call 888-628-9454; TTY: 800-799-4TTY (4889)

Provides crisis suicide intervention, self harm counseling and assistance, and local mental health referrals. Calls are routed to local centers.

The Firecracker Foundation (517) 742-7224

A South Lansing area nonprofit foundation that specializes in holistic healing services for child survivors of sexual trauma under the age of 18 and their families.



Spartans have asked how they can help survivors of sexual assault and violence. These two organizations in East Lansing could use your support:

MSU SAFE PLACE offers emergency shelter, counseling, support groups, safety planning, information and referrals to survivors of violence and their minor children.

THE SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAM at MSU collaborates with on-campus counseling and psychiatric services to help students through counseling and support groups.

givingto.msu.edu/survivors