

News

P.S.E.P.P.'s Clothesline Project sheds light on abuse

Tony Hudson

Guest Writer

Student Health and Counseling Services' P.S.E.P.P., Personal Safety Empowerment Partnership Program, Count Me In sponsored an activity known as the Clothesline Project on campus Nov. 25 and 26.

The activity allowed campus and staff to write encouraging messages on T-shirts for survivors of sexual and domestic abuse. T-shirts were hung in Room 112 of the Boling University Center and served as a visual display.

"It was a very powerful thing to see. My eyes were opened to how much abuse actually happens. The Clothesline Project was a great event, and I look forward to it for years to come," senior Communications major Jeremy Smith said.

The Clothesline Project started in 1990 in Cape Cod, Mass. Although it was originally created to speak out on violence against women, UTM's event targets violence against men as well. P.S.E.P.P. Coordinator Natalie Boyd wants to encourage



P.S.E.P.P. Count Me In volunteers Karen Miles, Student Health Center counselor, and Elizabeth Wright, sophomore Social Work major, lead students in signing up to create a T-shirt for survivors of sexual abuse at the P.S.E.P.P. Count Me In Clothesline Project on Nov. 25 and 26. | **Photo Credit/Natalie Boyd**

students to get involved, because sexual and domestic abuse can happen to anyone.

"Our goal is to unite, not only students, but the community when it comes to abuse. When any type of abuse happens,

people mainly think of women, but this isn't always the case. We want males to be aware that they can be abused as well," Boyd said.

"If you're not a victim, you may know of someone who is. Everyone is held accountable

to speak out and assist in prevention. You never know how much your words and help can change someone's life," Boyd said.

P.S.E.P.P. members look to provide an entry portal for

students who have been victims of domestic, verbal and sexual abuse.

P.S.E.P.P. started on the UTM campus in 2009 through a grant from the Justice department. This year P.S.E.P.P. received a new grant, which housed the program under the Student Health and Counseling Center, SHCS. The new grant also changed the name of the program to Personal Safety Empowerment Partnership Program, Count Me In.

In January, P.S.E.P.P. will be hosting an event entitled UTM Men Rock. This program will allow males to speak out against domestic and sexual abuse through poetry, dance and artwork. More information will be distributed about the event as January approaches.

The Clothesline Project did not occur without appreciation.

"I would also like to thank Shannon Deal, who is the project director, for all of her support. This event would not be possible without her involvement. I admire her for making sure that students are always informed," Boyd said.

Career Services road trip offers free valuable job connections

Joel Sissman

Pacer Writer

In today's competitively driven market, junior and senior students are finding it harder than ever to find jobs once they graduate from college.

However students who are interested in networking themselves are invited to take part in UT Martin's first annual Career Services road trip during Spring Break.

The road trip will be held from the March third to the fifth and will involve either or junior and senior students traveling to both Memphis and Nashville and meeting with

current UTM Alumni working for major companies in the area.

"The concept is to give them (students) a jump start in introducing them to other Alumni so that when they leave UT Martin they can become more successful in their chosen career path," said Assistant Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving, Andrew Hart, who has served as the assistant director for three years.

Students will leave UTM on Monday morning and will visit employers including FedEx, AutoZone and Ducks Unlimited. After spending the night, students will travel to Nashville and visit Nashville

and meet with companies such as Gaylord Entertainment, Sony and Dollar General.

"We are in the process of securing locations now.... We are hoping to set some guest speakers to talk to the students about the do's and don'ts of interviewing and how to get your name out of there in order for a job interview," said Hart.

Students that are interested can apply through the Alumni Affairs office by sending in their resume and sending in a 150 word minimum statement of interest on what they think they would like to gain from the experience.

"All majors, all juniors and seniors can apply. We will be

selecting 12 to go on the trip, six females and six male. Once they have applied we will contact them for an interview to see that they would be a good fit to go on the trip," Hart said.

The current deadline to apply for the trip was Nov. 22, however students can apply as late as January if they are still unsure if they can attend or not. Students will also have to pay a \$25 refundable deposit to insure their spot however it will be returned on the day of the trip.

"...It's totally free to the student. We pay for their transportation, hotel room and meals," Hart said.

While some of the locations

that will be visited might be related to one's major, Hart encourages students to go for the experience and to use the trip as an opportunity to increase their networking skills.

"It all about networking. Even if there is a place that is not of interest to a student it (the trip) really is gearing towards your networking skills and learning how to improve those. It's all about making the connections."

Students with further questions are asked to contact Andrew Hart, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving at ahart2@utm.edu call the Alumni Center at 731-881-3611.