HOPE Center hosts annual Domestic Violence Awareness Vigil

By: Abigail Wilson

Members of the HOPE Center, PCSW, GSA, GEL, and AAUW gathered with Lock Haven University students and staff to recognize and work toward ending domestic violence. The HOPE Center hosted its annual Domestic Violence Awareness Vigil on Wednesday, Oct. 28 by welcoming guest speaker Peg Dierkers, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Coalition against Domestic Violence.

The event kicked off with a lyrical performance by LHU’s Gospel Choir. The choir did an amazing job capturing the mood of the evening through their moving songs.

Kenny Hall, Director of the Center for Excellence and Inclusion, was recognized for not only his incredible dedication to the HOPE Center community, but to multiple organizations throughout the LHU campus.

Next, Dierkers spoke on “moving from a bystander to an upstander” by illustrating how we, as everyday college students, can stand up against domestic violence in our communities. Dierkers spoke about some of the victims of domestic violence in the past year alone and how crucial it is to recognize domestic violence as a rising epidemic in America.

The rates of domestic violence are rising to greater and greater heights as the year progresses, and Dierkers noted that it is important to be vigilant members of our community in order to lessen these alarming state-wide rates of domestic violence.

Following Dierkers, Rose Hibbler of the Clinton County Women’s Center took the stage. Hibbler opened her speech by reciting the names of victims of domestic violence in Clinton County in the past years, immediately capturing the severity of domestic violence not only on a state-level, but locally as well. Hibbler informed the audience of services that are offered in the Women’s Center such as counseling services, shelter availability and a 24 hour hotline.

As a tradition of the vigil, the mic was then made open to the public for anyone who wanted to share words of encouragement, stories, and personal testimonies.

The Gospel Choir brought the event to its end, by serenading the audience with a beautiful tribute to all victims of domestic violence as well as those who still continue their journey of healing, both physically and emotionally.
Michael Kimmel visits LHU
By: Meghan Mausteller


In his presentation, Kimmel discussed “Guyland” as a new stage of development people face between the ages of 16 and 26. He specifically discussed “guys” and the ways in which they are socially adrift during this stage in their lives due to a toxic and outdated ideal of masculinity.

Three students who attended the PASSHE Women’s Leadership Consortium this summer organized the event. The students, Felicia Baker, Meghan Mausteller, and Diosanny Rivera, contacted Kimmel and advertised for the event, which brought in over 400 audience members.

Baker, Mausteller, and Rivera all expressed their pleasure at the event’s success. According to Rivera, none of them expected the event’s success to reach that level.

After his presentation, Kimmel was available for a Q&A session with the audience, where students and faculty alike participated and asked questions. The event ended with Baker, Mausteller, and Rivera presenting Kimmel with a gift from the University. In response, Kimmel gave the students a copy of his book, which will be donated to Stevenson Library.

Following the event, Kimmel signed copies of *Guyland* for audience members.

Michael Kimmel’s visit was made possible through the generous support of the offices of LHU Student Auxiliary Services, the President’s Commission on the Status of Women, the President’s Commission on LGBTQ Affairs, the HOPE Center, the Women and Gender Studies Minor, the Department of Sociology, and the Office of Excellence and Inclusion.

The HOPE Center exists to support, empower, and enlighten all students about issues of sex, gender, sexual violence, personal safety and health, social justice and educational equity. Our programs and events are designed to foster open discussion and intellectual exchange about these and other issues, to promote an overall sense of well-being, and to create a safe campus climate for all. We are located in Ulmer Suite 100, and can be contacted via 570-484-2111. For more information, stop by, call, or visit us on the web at:

http://www.lhup.edu/students/campus_safety/hope_center/

Other Important Community Resources:

- **The Clinton County Women's Center at**
  *(570) 748-9509*

- **Lock Haven University Public Safety at**
  *(570) 484-2278*

- **Lock Haven Police Department at 911**
  or *(570) 893-5911*

- **Title IX Coordinator: Ms. Deana Hill at**
  *(570) 484-2014 or dhill@lhup.edu*