

## Sexual Assault Awareness Month

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April is always a busy month for those of us working to raise awareness and educate about sexual violence; it is, after all, Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). This year we were thrilled to participate in community events and bring to campus some amazing opportunities for our students, faculty and staff members.

Home Safe –ASU’s Violence Prevention and Advocacy Program—started out the month by supporting the statewide Clothesline Project event at the Phoenix City Hall. EMPACT-SPC, the organization that spear-headed this event, did a fantastic job of coordinating Clothesline Projects from around the state and making it a success. It was a week-long event that used the powerful Clothesline Project to expose city workers to information about sexual violence.

We continued SAAM with our weekly tabling outside of the high-traffic area in front of our student union and helped raise awareness of Denim Day by providing the opportunity for those passing by to make a denim patch to that will be added to our quilt. Program staff also did presentations and marketed the up-and-coming events.

The next big event that we were able to host this year was bringing Jackson Katz to campus. We teamed up with members of the Women’s Studies Department and worked with Northland Family Help Center and the Men Against Rape and Sexism (MARS) program to coordinate Jackson Katz’s “Tour de AZ.” It started at Northern Arizona University on April 23rd and ended up here at ASU on the 24th. Jackson presented twice; once to a women’s studies class with about 300 students, faculty and staff in attendance and again in the evening to about 240 students, faculty and staff.

Finally, we ended our month by hosting our annual “Take Back the Night” rally. Although we did not have record-breaking attendance, Take Back the Night is a very powerful event for those who participate in it. Next year we are hoping to move the event to Tempe Town Lake and create more of a community feel to the event to increase participation and the number of people impacted by this event. We are going to start the planning committee this summer—so if you are interested please let me know.

Jeff Mitchell of ASU wrote an article about Take Back the Night that appeared in the State Press the day after the event. It’s always nice to have the support of journalists working at the paper to cover our events. Follow this link to read the article: “20 Students ‘Take Back the Night’: Participants march to reclaim night for victims of assault.”  
<http://asuwebdevil.com/issues/2007/05/01/news/701131>

And so the work continues.... keep raising awareness and educating! The work we do is making change and is making a difference. 2,4,6,8 No More Violence, No More Rape!!