

# LOUISIANA



# SEXUAL ASSAULT STUDENT ACTIVIST CONFERENCE 2019

SPONSORED BY NEWCOMB COLLEGE INSTITUTE OF TULANE UNIVERSITY  
AND THE LOUISIANA FOUNDATION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT

**Saturday, March 16, 2019**

**Xavier University | New Orleans**



# SCHEDULE

**SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2019**

<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Check-In and Light Breakfast</b>	<b>Third Floor Reception Area</b>
<b>9 am</b>	<b>Welcome Address by Nedra Alcorn</b> Dean of Students at Xavier University, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs	<b>UC Ballroom 308</b>
<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Student Activism Panel: Challenges and Successes</b> <b>Stephanie Boyd</b> , Student Activist <b>Bridget Lee</b> , Peer Educator and Hotline Operator <b>Gabriella Rodriguez</b> , Student Activist	<b>UC Ballroom 308</b>
<b>11 am</b>	<b>Keynote Speaker: Dalton Tieg</b> The Power of Youth, Queer and Trans Folx of Color	<b>UC Ballroom 308</b>
<b>12:15 pm</b>	<b>Networking Luncheon</b>	<b>Third Floor Reception Area</b>
<b>1:15 pm</b>	<b>Breakout Sessions</b> <b>UC Room 201</b> <b>Roleplay: A Devised Theater Piece exploring student perspectives on Love, Sex, Power, Relationships, and Consent</b> , a collaboration between Jenny Mercein, Tulane undergraduates, and Goat in the Road Productions <b>UC Room 205</b> <b>Peer Hotline Reflections and Experiences - SAPHE</b> Bridget Lee, Kennedy Williams, Riley Moran, Liv Arriviello, Nina Harris, Victoria Van Ripper	<b>UC Room 205C</b> <b>Challenges to Undergraduate Sexual Violence Research about LGBTQIA perpetration</b> Hailey Mozzachio, Hannah May, Ryan Herrschaft <b>UC Room 219</b> <b>Victim Advocacy and Survivor Resources: Agencies Outside of the College System</b> Alix Tarnowski, Amanda Tonkovich, Shametria Gonzales
<b>2:30 pm</b>	<b>Keynote Speaker: Rebecca Merton</b> Sexual Violence in Immigrant Prisons and the Case for Abolition	<b>UC Ballroom 308</b>
<b>3:45 pm</b>	<b>Breakout Sessions</b> <b>UC Room 205</b> <b>Title IX/Changing Policy</b> Chelsey Whynot, Title IX Intern, Tulane Law Student Josef Canaria, LaFASA	<b>UC Room 201</b> <b>History of Student Activism Surrounding Sexual Violence</b> Catherine Jacquet
<b>4:30 pm</b>	<b>Closing Address from the LSASAC Team</b>	<b>UC Ballroom 308</b>

# CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**DALTON TIEGS** currently works with the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence as a Youth Organizer. Tieg believes wholly that a world where everyone is valued is entirely possible and is on the way. Tieg believes in the power of youth, queer and trans folx of color, and historically marginalized communities in being able to lead the way in transitioning from the decaying world view to the verdant, healing centered, emergent new world.



**REBECCA MERTON** is the Director of Visitation and Independent Monitoring at Freedom for Immigrants. Her work is primarily focused on monitoring and reporting on conditions in detention facilities and supporting visitor volunteers in their direct service and advocacy work. Before joining FFI, Merton worked as a volunteer legal assistant and interpreter for the CARA Family Detention Pro Bono Project in Dilley, Texas. In 2013, Rebecca was awarded a Frederick Sheldon Fellowship for a year of purposeful travel. Merton's other experiences in anti-eviction and public benefits assistance and disability rights impact litigation have helped her develop the intersectional lens through which she approaches her advocacy work. She graduated from Harvard University with a bachelor's degree in social studies and completed a postgraduate program in mental health and human rights at the Universidad de Buenos Aires.

**CATHERINE JACQUET** is assistant professor of history and women's and gender studies at Louisiana State University where she teaches courses in US history, the history of sexuality, black feminism, and LGBTQ activism. Her book *The Injustices of Rape: How Activists Responded to Sexual Violence, 1950-1980* will be published with the University of North Carolina Press in Fall 2019. As a specialist in US women's history and the history of sexuality, Jacquet has a keen understanding of the adversities that women and sexual and gender minorities have faced both historically and in our own time. She is a feminist and she believes you.

**STEPHANIE BOYD** went on to start stopsexualassault.org with her mother, serve as the keynote speaker at last year's Take Back the Night, and become a trained sexual assault advocate for current students at Loyola University New Orleans after becoming a sexual assault survivor during her first-year of college. A graduate student in Loyola's music therapy equivalency program, as well as a graduate of Loyola's popular and commercial music program, Boyd also raises awareness about sexual assault and its related issues through music. Last year, she organized a benefit concert for STAR, Louisiana's Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response Center; and, this April, she will partner with college students around the city to release a creative project for sexual assault awareness month, titled Human. For more information about her and Human, visit [stephaniemarcelle.com](http://stephaniemarcelle.com) or follow her on social media: @musicbymarcelle

**GABRIELLA RODRIGUEZ** is an undergraduate student at Loyola University. She currently serves as the president of the Students Against Sexual Assault club, which seeks to combat the normalization of sexual assault, victim blaming, and cultural proliferations of unhealthy masculinity by altering the way in which people hold others accountable for their actions and view of society. She has spoken on several panels about rape culture and sexual assault, is a campus advocate for survivors, and was present in DC at a speak out in support of Dr. Ford this September.

**JENNY MERCEIN** is an actor, teacher, writer, and director. Acting work includes “NCIS: New Orleans,” “30 Rock,” “Blue Bloods,” “Unforgettable,” “Law & Order” and extensive theater credits spanning the country. Recent directing credits include “The Metromaniacs” (Tulane), “Dancing at Lughnasa” (Tulane-Big Easy Nomination, Best University Production), “Too Much Water” (UCSB), and “Heathers the Musical” (Santa Barbara’s Out of the Box Theatre- Broadway World Nomination, Best Director). Along with KJ Sanchez, Mercein is the co-creator of the acclaimed documentary theater play X’s and O’s about football and traumatic brain injury. An Assistant Professor and Head of Undergraduate Acting at Tulane University, Mercein is currently collaborating with students and members of Goat in the Road Productions on Roleplay, a new theatrical work highlighting students’ perspectives on love, sex, power and relationships on campus, created in an attempt to understand, confront, and heal the culture that keeps harassment and violence alive in their community.

**HAILEY MOZZACHIO** is a junior at Tulane University majoring in theater and digital media production with a minor in psychology. She implements her artistic training as well as her research experience to study the LGBTQ representation in media and how that affects audience perceptions of LGBTQ populations. She is currently a research fellow for Academic Equity and a cast member in Machinal and Role play.

**HANNAH MAY POWERS** is a sophomore at Tulane University studying Sociology and Latin American studies with a minor in Portuguese. She is currently working on a research piece that seeks to understand the prevalence of sexual violence within male homosocial groups on the American college campus, especially with regard to same-sex sexual violence within these circles. She is also working on a piece that examines sexual violence against LGBTQ+ women who are currently incarcerated.

**RYAN HERRSCHAFT** is a junior at Tulane University studying public health and psychology. As a researcher, he analyzed correlates of sexual violence perpetration and victimization among LGBTQ+ identifying students. His current work involves using evidence-based practices to implement interventions centering LGBTQ+ students and the health disparities they encounter.

**AMANDA TONKOVICH** is the Sexual Assault Program Director and a therapist at the New Orleans Family Justice Center. She coordinates the New Orleans Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) and the New Orleans Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Action Coalition. Tonkovich has over ten years of experience working with survivors of intimate partner abuse, sexual violence, stalking and adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse as a counselor and advocate. She helps facilitate collaborations between multi-disciplinary groups to continually improve the response to sexual and domestic violence and also oversees the Family Justice Center’s 24/7 medical advocacy program. Tonkovich sits on the New Orleans Mayor’s Advisory Committee on Sexual Assault and is the current chair of the Louisiana Crime Victims Reparations Board.

**ALIX TARNOWSKI** is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and currently works as the Advocacy Director at Sexual Trauma Awareness & Response® in the New Orleans office. Prior to joining the STAR® team, Tarnowski served as the Program Manager of NOLA Dads at Family Service of Greater New Orleans where she created a Healthy Relationship program. She completed her Bachelor’s Degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2009 and then relocated to New Orleans in 2011 to pursue a Masters of Social Work degree with a certificate in Disaster Mental Health from Tulane University. Tarnowski graduated with a Master of Business Administration, focused on Strategic Management and Leadership from Tulane University’s Professional MBA program in 2017. During her time at STAR, she has worked to improve services for sexual assault survivors and their loved ones.

**CHELSEY WHYNOT** is currently a second-year law student at Tulane University Law School and has been involved in campus assault prevention since she was an undergraduate student at Bentley University in Boston, Massachusetts. Most recently, she worked at Tulane University’s Title IX office as a legal intern. There, she assisted the Title IX Coordinator in writing a public comment on behalf of the university to submit to the federal government opposing the new Title IX regulations.

**JOSEF CANARIA** is the Campus Sexual Assault Project Coordinator at the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault (LaFASA), where he provides technical assistance to thirty-nine institutions of higher education in Louisiana in regards to their policies and protocols related to the response and prevention of sexual violence. He has been a part of LaFASA for three years, where he was previously the Engaging Men Coordinator and Program Assistant. Before LaFASA, Canaria served as an Americorps Member for City Year San Antonio, where he provided individualized support to under-served 4th grade students.

**SHAMETRIA GONZALES** works as a Rape Prevention Educator for the New Orleans Family Justice Center, a facilitator for the Teen Sex and the Law program for the Children's Advocacy Center, a backup medical advocate for University Hospital assisting victims of sexual assault, and also co-authored a book with her nine-year-old daughter in order to raise awareness on the effects of childhood trauma, titled *The Reflection Eyes See*. After coming to the New Orleans Family Justice Center as a victim of rape and domestic violence, the advocates at the center saw something in her and offered her a job at the front desk. It was hard and her transition and healing process was tough, but with the support of a entire organization, just six months later she was promoted to lead the Speak Up program. She now uses her experience and story as a tool to spark the attention of the youth, teens, and young adults she speaks to with the hopes of preventing dating violence, and raising awareness on sexual assault. She also started a company called Spiritually Connected were she travels and speaks on Redeveloping Yourself As a Woman After Trauma.

**BRIDGET LEE** is a sophomore at Tulane University studying neuroscience and public health. She is interested in brain development through trauma. As a survivor of domestic partner rape as a minor, Lee uses her knowledge and experience to advocate for Title IX rights in K-12 school districts. She is also the treasurer of Tulane's Sexual Aggression Peer Hotline and Education (SAPHE) organization, where she helps run the 24/7 hotline, provides resources and support for survivors of abuse and sexual assault, and teaches workshops about consent, resources, and sexual assault on college campuses.

**RILEY MORAN** is a sophomore at Tulane University majoring in Latin American Studies and Political Science. Moran is a member of the Sexual Aggression Peer Hotline and Education club at Tulane and has worked in outreach and juvenile diversion programs through an intimate partner violence shelter in her hometown in Tampa, FL.

**OLIVIA ARRIVIELLO** is a junior at Tulane University majoring in Public Health. She currently serves at the secretary of SAPHE, Sexual Aggression Peer Hotline and Education. Her mother works in sexual violence advocacy, so she has been involved in activism ever since she can remember.

**NINA HARRIS** is a junior at Tulane University double majoring in Political Science and Social Policy & Practice with a minor in Psychology. She has been in SAPHE since the fall of 2017 and has enjoyed facilitating workshops regarding sexual assault on campus. This past summer, she was a court advocate for a domestic violence and rape crisis center in Massachusetts. She currently interns for Southeast Louisiana Legal Services in their domestic violence unit, helping survivors obtain custody and divorces. Harris has a passion for helping survivors as much as possible and has worked with survivors of all ages and backgrounds.

**KENNEDY WILLIAMS** is a junior at Tulane University, from Shreveport, LA, majoring in Psychology. Williams has been involved in sexual violence activism since she can remember. She spent many years volunteering at a non-profit that her mother owns, which provides services to young survivors of sexual abuse. Williams continues her activist efforts by working at the New Orleans Children's Advocacy Center and Audrey Hepburn CARE center where she helps provide resources to children suffering from sexual abuse.

**VICTORIA VAN RIPER** is a sophomore at Tulane University studying Gender and Sexuality Studies and Psychology. She became involved with sexual violence activism because she wanted to have a voice and make a difference regarding the growing issue of sexual violence on college campuses nationwide. She hopes her experiences will help her become a better women's health professional in the future.





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