



MAURA'S VOICE

RESEARCH FUND INVESTMENT REPORT

2024

INTRODUCTION



Margaret & Jeff Binkley

The Maura's Voice Research Fund (MVRF) was established in December 2018 by Maura's parents, Jeff and Margaret Binkley, in memory of Maura Binkley, a young woman dedicated to serving others. MVRF focuses on reducing violence in general while championing a unique and robust focus on causes and effects of hate fueled, extremism driven violence in particular. Maura's Voice utilizes new approaches to forensic evaluation, management, and treatment and prevention strategies while supporting sound policy development and implementation.

This report shows the dedicated work paying homage to the legacies of serving others like Maura Binkley and Dr. Nancy Van Vessem, who lost their lives in the Tallahassee yoga studio shooting on November 2, 2018.

This report is also dedicated to Maura's Voice Co-Founder Margaret Binkley who passed away May 29, 2022 after a battle with ovarian cancer.

The legacy of love lives on.



A MESSAGE FROM THE LEAD RESEARCHER

It is my privilege to act as a conduit collectively seeking to reduce mass violence and firearm violence resulting from hatred and violent extremism, with a primary focus on violence against women and girls.

The researchers involved in the Maura's Voice Research Fund are doing phenomenal and incredibly important work that is changing lives and making progress in eradicating hate and violence. I am confident that you will be impressed and inspired by the work of Brendon Lantz, Skylar Morgan, Chris Collins, Jillian Turanovic, and Willis Shaw.

The timing is right to become involved in efforts to eradicate hate and gun violence. In fact, just in

December 2023 the Grand Challenges of Social Work, established by the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare, announced a new grand challenge for the profession, which is titled Prevent Gun Violence.

Please enjoy the breadth of impact that Maura's Voice is having on research, policy and the people involved with the mission.

Stephen Tripodi, PhD

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Associate Professor

Doctoral Program Director

Faculty Director – Institute for Justice Research and Development

If you are interested in becoming involved, visit csw.fsu.edu/mauras-voice

“FLORIDA STATE UNITED” LAUNCH



Left to Right: Olivia Pruitt, Sydney Carrow, Jeff Binkley, Jim Clark, Brenna Nopper, Kenley Adams

On November 2, 2022, Florida State University held a memorial service to remember the fourth anniversary of the 2018 shooting at a Tallahassee yoga studio that took the lives of FSU student Maura Binkley and FSU professor Dr. Nancy Van Vessem and injured five others.

The event launched the “Florida State United: One Voice Against Hate” initiative to bring more awareness to hate-motivated violence and to conduct research and educate the FSU community about prevention and intervention. “This is an initiative for the university to step up, to take that stand and to put that voice against hate at work,” said Jeff Binkley.

The impetus for the initiative started when Jeff Binkley was honored in September 2022 by President Joe Biden as a “Uniter” at a [United We Stand Summit](#) at the White House. Binkley and other individuals were

recognized for their exemplary work in addressing the destructive impact of hate-fueled violence on public safety.

The Florida State United initiative shares a common goal with Maura’s Voice to address hate and violence but targets specifically the university community at Florida State.

“This is higher purpose work and we’re thrilled and honored to be doing this,” remarked Jim Clark, FSU provost and executive vice president of Academic Affairs. “We are committed at Florida State to do this

work and to make a significant difference.”

The event gathered friends and family of Maura Binkley and Nancy Van Vessem including members of the Tri Delta Sorority and students across the FSU community to honor their memory. Following speeches, the event included a “Chalk for Maura” segment of the service for writing uplifting messages with colorful chalk on the sidewalk followed by a candle-lighting vigil.



Chalk for Maura



Jeff Binkley and other “Uniters” honored at the White House’s United We Stand Summit

UNITED WE STAND SUMMIT

During the United We Stand Summit at the White House on September 15, Jeff Binkley was honored by President Joe Biden as a “Uniter.” The Summit worked to counter the destructive effects of hate-fueled violence on our democracy and public safety, mobilize diverse sectors of society and communities across the country to these dangers, and put forward a shared, inclusive, bipartisan vision for a more united America.

TRI DELTA SORORITY AMPLIFYING MAURA'S VOICE

BY: SYDNEY CARROW

Director of Philanthropy (2022-2024), Tri Delta SorORITY, FSU Chapter



The Tri Delta partnership with Maura's Voice began in 2018, right after the launch of the foundation. Our executive offices allowed us to adopt a second philanthropy because of the special impact Maura Binkley had made in our chapter as a contributing leader.

From that point forward, our chapter would host philanthropy events each school semester to help raise funding for Maura's Voice Research Fund. We would also gather together on November 2nd, the memorial of the passing of Maura and Dr. Nancy Van Vesse, to remember them and the vital role Maura played within our chapter.

In 2022, when I was first selected as Tri Delta's philanthropy chair, I reached out to Mr. Binkley to share with him the plans I had for Maura's Voice within our chapter. I really wanted us to gather as a community to keep her legacy alive within our chapter as the years passed. During that meeting in Maura's room at the Tri Delta house, Mr. Binkley and I made the preliminary plans for the 2022 memorial celebration.

We both wanted a time and place for those who care about the cause to gather and listen to voices who support the Maura's Voice Research Fund and its

mission. I collaborated with the FSU College of Social Work to plan the memorial celebration, which turned out to be an amazing time to launch the then-new research initiative.

During this time, one of my Tri Delta sisters, Autumn Anderson was a member of the FSU Student Government Association. She worked with Mr. Binkley and me to pass her own SGA legislation stating that Maura's Memorial would continuously be recognized by the FSU community. This was an amazing accomplishment for someone in our own chapter to ensure Maura's Voice Research Fund continues to be recognized and supported by the FSU community.

In 2022, we also celebrated Maura's birthday, March 4th, at the Tri Delta house gathering together to remember. Maura played a large role in keeping our sisterhood intact and for that we are so thankful. I also worked with the FSU Police Department to provide us with a self-defense class after the birthday dinner. It was a time for all the women at Tri Delta to reflect on how violence affects all women and remember that the work that Maura's Voice does is extremely important.

Moving forward, the FSU Tri Delta chapter is doing a lot to continue our relationship with Maura's Voice Research Fund. Mr. Binkley and I developed the 2023 memorial/research symposium, where our Tri Delta will be in attendance to show support for the cause and will follow the event with a fundraiser at a local restaurant. We also have a large social media platform which we use to share Maura's Voice news and updates. I am also working with Maura's Voice researchers and Naomi Molina, event manager for the College of Social Work, to create Maura's Voice Violence Prevention Program. This will be implemented yearly in our chapter to continue building knowledge about violent crimes committed against women to inform our community and ourselves. The momentum that Maura's Voice has right now is astonishing and the women of Tri Delta and I are excited to play a part in helping it continue to grow.



Sydney with Jeff Binkley at the FSU United event, 2022



Dr. Brendan Lantz

FEDERAL HATE CRIME OFFENDERS PROJECT

Dr. Brendan Lantz

Associate Professor, Florida State University
College of Criminology and Criminal Justice

The Federal Hate Crime Offenders Project is building a comprehensive, detailed database of all federal hate crime offenders dating back to 2009, including information on individual-level characteristics, such as the demographic characteristics of each perpetrator and victim (e.g., age, race/ethnicity, gender); the perpetrator's criminal history, history of military service, employment, and mental illness; education, marital status, and a host of other relevant characteristics.

The goal of this project is to improve our understanding of serious hate crime offenders, incidents, and pathways into serious hate crime offending and to inform future intervention and prevention efforts.

This research is also intended to:

- Identify the key perpetrator and life-history characteristics associated with hate crime offending.
- Identify key differences between pathways into serious hate crime offending and develop a classification system for various pathways into serious hate crime offending.
- Identify key differences between perpetrators, including information on pathways, motivations, and offense outcomes, and develop an updated typology of hate crime offenders.

Recent Research: [The Consequences of Hate Crime Victimization: Considering Prejudicial Attitudes as an Outcome of Interracial Bias-Motivated Conflict](#) (*Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*)



MAURA'S VOICE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Jessica Margolies

Major: Political Science (Minor: Business, Social Work)

"I am very interested in learning how terrorism and hate crimes intersect," shared Jessica Margolies, a Florida native from West Palm Beach, as much of her political science coursework has covered terrorism and its effects.

Jessica works with Dr. Brendan Lantz (Assistant Professor, FSU College of Criminology and Criminal Justice) researching and coding different hate crime incidents. "We cross-reference how hate crimes overlap and compare perpetrators, victims and the hate crime itself," she explained.

"I currently serve as the Vice President of Community Relations for Tri Delta, which makes this internship even more special to me," said Jessica. With a passion for giving back to her community and an interest in studying law, she is involved in FSU Dance Marathon, Order of Omega, Phi Alpha Delta, Women in Pre-Law and the Panhellenic Association.

THE DISENGAGEMENT AND DERADICALIZATION OF INCELS

Dr. Christopher Collins

PhD 2023, MSW 2014, BSW 2013, Florida State University
Assistant Professor, Salem State University, School of Social Work

Dr. Skyler Morgan

Assistant Professor, California State University Long Beach, School of Criminology, Criminal Justice, and Emergency Management

The project we are currently working on, funded by the Anti-Defamation League's Center on Extremism, and supported additionally by Maura's Voice Research Fund, is examining the factors associated with the disengagement and deradicalization processes of incels.

We have a foundational knowledge that the two concepts are distinctly different from one another. However, we don't have a sense of what those differences look like among current and former incels.

In our project, we will administer an electronic survey to three large Reddit communities online that will hopefully help us to better understand this subculture of people. Ideally, the results will help to shed a light on some of the myriad factors that pull people into



Dr. Skyler Morgan

Dr. Christopher Collins

identifying with incelism and the factors that pull them out of it.



MAURA'S VOICE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Tara Gray

Major: Social Work (Minor: Business, Psychology)

Tara works with Dr. Christopher Collins and Dr. Skyler Morgan on building a survey geared towards incels to gather information on what drives incels' thoughts and actions.

The team is using quantitative methods alongside qualitative methods, offering to interview participants to better understand the incel population. "This research will hopefully give us a better understanding of misogyny, hate and violence," Tara explained.

"I am essentially the project manager for the project we are working on," she added. "I oversee preliminary research to figure out how we are structuring and implementing the survey, building the survey and once the survey is implemented, how to track responses. I'll also be contacting participants who agreed to be interviewed and setting those up."

Tara is an active volunteer with the Guardian Ad Litem Program community and is the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion chair for Tri Delta.

UNDERSTANDING ONLINE AND OFFLINE INCEL HATE

Dr. Jill Turanovic

Associate Professor, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Sociology;
Fellow, Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado Boulder

We are seeking to better understand how high-profile incidents of incel violence increase online traffic to incel forums. The relationship between online and offline hate is one that is deserving of more research attention, particularly in the areas of misogyny and gender-based violence.

To help clarify what we know so far and better identify gaps in existing research, Kali has been conducting in-depth reviews of the literature on the incelosphere and on studies that examine reinforcing and reciprocal relationships between online hate and offline violence. This review of literature will provide an important foundation for our own research moving forward.

**Maura's
Voice
Researcher**



Dr. Jill Turanovic

Recent Research: [Mass Shootings Involving Intimate Partners in the United States: Prevalence and Patterns](#)
(*All-American Massacre: The Tragic Role of American Culture and Society in Mass Shootings*)



MAURA'S VOICE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Kali McCullough

Major: Psychology (Minor: Spanish)

Kali's interest in research began through her participation in the creation and analysis of a psychology research project in a meta-cognition lab. "After discovering my love of research, I applied to Maura's Voice Research Fund. This opportunity is everything I could have asked for," she declared.

Working with Dr. Jill Turanovic, an associate professor with the FSU College of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Kali assists in a recent research

project studying incel violence and its portrayal on the media. Kali conducts literature reviews and analyses of previous research on incel violence and violent crime in the media.

"We are looking into the link between the violence committed by incels and the quantity and details of the media coverage, which could indirectly promote more crime," Katie clarified.

DOCTORAL RESEARCH

ANALYZING INCEL HATE CRIMES

Willis Shaw

PhD Student, FSU College of Criminology and Criminal Justice



Willis Shaw

Willis Shaw is working with Dr. Jill Turanovic, an associate professor at the University of Colorado Boulder on a quantitative analysis of a popular incel web forum. "The analysis focuses on the ways in which hate speech intensity and frequency changes as a result of major events of misogynist/incel violence," he shared.

"Since my undergraduate years, I've always been interested in researching terrorism and hate crimes," Willis added. He previously interned at the University of Arkansas' Terrorism Research Center and his undergraduate honors thesis focused on the mass shooting in El Paso, Texas. His doctoral research focuses on hate and bias-related crimes against protected groups.

Through Dr. Turanovic, he was also introduced to Jeff Binkley, one of the cofounders of Maura's Voice. Willis explained his interest in extremist research, including his idea to investigate trends in online

extremism. Through this introduction, Jeff was able to create a co-sponsored position for Willis through Maura's Voice with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL.org).

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) is the leading anti-defamation organization in the world that fights all forms of antisemitism, bias and is a global leader in combating antisemitism, extremism and bigotry.

"All the work I do with ADL's Center of Extremism, all the work everyone does at COE, is purpose-driven to combat extremism," Willis explained about his role at ADL. "We monitor extremist communities, collect data and insights about the current trends we witness, respond to requests from the Anti-Defamation League regional offices for additional intelligence, contribute to ADL publications, construct internal and external reports, just to name a few."

"All the work I do with ADL's Center of Extremism, all the work everyone does at COE, is purpose-driven to combat extremism"

Willis Shaw

MAURA'S VOICE MARKS 5 YEARS

RESEARCH/POLICY SYMPOSIUM AND MEMORIAL

On November 2, 2023, 5 years after the shooting at the Tallahassee yoga studio, Florida State University, including the College of Social Work, College of Medicine, Tri Delta Sorority, and the Student Government Association hosted a symposium and memorial at the College of Medicine.

The symposium brought together leaders and researchers from across campus and within the Tallahassee community to discuss the research generated by scholars and students thanks to support from the [Maura's Voice Research Fund](#).

The participants in the research symposium included [Dr. Jim Clark](#), FSU's provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs, who, when acting dean of the College of Social Work, was integral to the establishment of Maura's Voice. Other panelists were from the [FSU College of Criminology and Criminal Justice](#), including Associate Professor [Dr. Jill Turanovic](#), now at the University of Colorado Boulder and doctoral students Willis Shaw and Sarah Wouters.



University.

Dr. Turanovic also discussed her recent [research on Florida red flag laws](#) used to identify individuals with a history of violence to remove firearms from their possession and her interest in how these laws are implemented across the state and who is using the laws.

"Everyone is here for a reason with a shared sense of justice," said Willis Shaw, who has recently begun working with the Antidefamation League, thanks to collaboration with Maura's Voice. "I have never been more hopeful as we are thinking on our toes and in the right direction," he noted regarding the increasing

collaboration between public education and institutions with a shared concern for ending incidences of hate crimes and mass violence.

The policy panel included speakers addressing radical extremism, the gun violence it fuels, and its relationship to violence toward women and girls. Among the panels were [Representative Anna Eskamani](#) of Florida State House District 21, Patrick Crough, program director of the Targeted Violence Prevention Program within the [Florida Department of Law Enforcement](#), [Emily Snider](#), a senior project manager with the [Antidefamation League](#) along with Jeff Binkley.

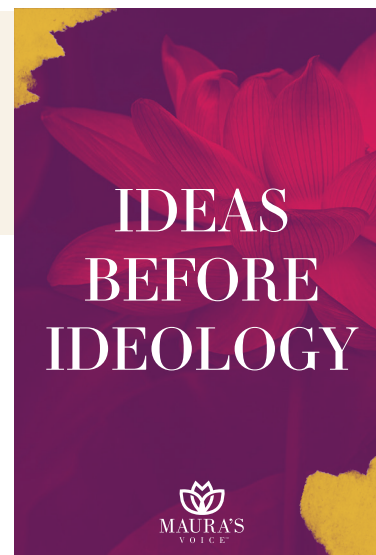
"What we're doing," Binkley told ABC 27, "is looking at expanding the depth and the scope of research into hatred, violence extremism, into areas where when we started this there were gaps.

Following the symposium, friends, family, colleagues, and members of the Tri Delta sorority gathered to remember Maura and Dr. Van Vessel.

Memorial speakers included FSU Provost Jim Clark and



Policy Panel: Jeff Binkley, Anna Eskamani, Patrick Crough and Emily Snider



2023 RESEARCH/POLICY SYMPOSIUM AND MEMORIAL CONTINUED



John Thrasher

President John Thrasher, FSU president emeritus and faculty at the FSU College of Law whose support with his wife Jean was integral to establishing Maura's Voice.

Friends and colleagues of Dr. Nancy Van Vesseem who spoke included FSU Senior Associate Dean of Students Dr. Shelly Ducatt and Capital Health Plan Internal Medicine Physician Dr. Lynn Jones. Both spoke of the importance of remembering the legacy of dedication and support Dr. Van Vesseem and Maura exemplified through their lives and legacies.

This message was echoed in remarks from student Autumn Anderson, director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the FSU Student Government Association, and Tara Gray, the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion chair for Tri Delta's FSU Chapter.

Maura's loving legacy of helping others was brought to life through poignant recollections from her best friends, Gabriella Giammarco and Sydney Schaefer. The memorial concluded with words from Maura's father, Jeff

Binkley, and Dr. Adelina Emini, whose song "A Force United (Maura's Song)" was played.

"I think she would be very happy with what we've done," Mr. Binkley remarked in an interview with ABC27. "She'd prod us to do more. Her sisters from Tri Delta really stepped up; these young women are our future."

The event's emcee and co-organizer, Sydney Carrow, is among those influential Tri-Deltas who continue to collaborate with Mr. Binkley and with the College of Social Work to perpetuate the memory of Maura and Dr. Van Vesseem and strive for a world without hate.



WATCH MAURA'S VOICE SYMPOSIUM & MEMORIAL NOVEMBER 2023



"A FORCE UNITED (MAURA'S SONG)" AWARENESS AND INSPIRATION THROUGH THE ARTS

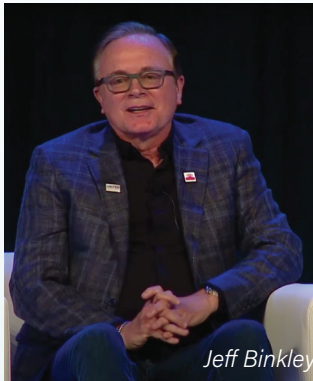
Jeff and Margaret Binkley always envisioned using the arts to symbolize and communicate the power of the legacy of love that characterizes Maura's life. Jeff first wrote a poem, "Golden Sister," and it became the basis for Maura's Song, produced by working with its singer, Dr. Adelina Emini, a former Visiting Scholar at FSU and now serving as Co-Director of the University's Summer Program in Kosovo. Dr. Emini sings from personal experience as a refugee escaping hate-fueled violence in the 1999 conflict in Kosovo. Maura's Song seeks to inspire people everywhere -- and particularly young women -- to unite against hatred and violent extremism of all forms. View the video and listen at maurasvoice.org.



Adelina Emini and Jim Clark



ERADICATESM HATE GLOBAL SUMMIT 2023



Jeff Binkley

Maura's Voice
Co-Founder
Jeff Binkley
participated
in the 2023
Eradicate Hate
Global Summit
in Pittsburgh,
Pennsylvania.

The summit was born from the October 2018 mass shooting at the Pittsburgh Tree of Life Synagogue, making it one of the deadliest instances of anti-Semitic violence in US History.

Now an annual event, the anti-hate conference unites experts and leaders from around the world to build working relationships and share ideas for effective approaches to reduce hate-fueled violence.

Featured speakers and panelists met every day of the event - September 27-29, and Mr. Binkley spoke on a panel on September 28th as part of a group representing the Voices of Survivors.

"I consider this not merely a trip, but the leg of a journey. A journey that began almost 5 years ago November 2nd in Tallahassee, Florida where my daughter Maura, then a

senior at Florida State University lost her life in a shooting at a yoga studio. Dr. Nancy Van Vesse, a medical professor at Florida State University, also lost her life," Mr. Binkley, stated during the panel. "...One further manifestation of violent hatred in our society which occurred six days after the shooting here at Tree of Life."

This journey, Mr. Binkley described, gained new resonance with his attendance at the 2022 Eradicate Hate Global Summit, which led to further connection and collaboration with the Anti-Defamation League. That relationship has grown from partnering on policy issues to the support of FSU doctoral student Willis Shaw working with the league and the support of post-doctoral work of Dr. Christopher Collins (Salem State University).

"I guess I was a part of this community before I ever knew I was," he shared when he recollected that Maura had attended a vigil for the victims of the Tree of Life shooting at FSU, where an annual memorial is now held to remember Maura, Nancy Van Vesse and the yoga studio shooting.

"Embrace the power of a common cause, embrace the power of connection and embrace the power of eradicating hate," he concluded.

EradicateHateSummit.org

THE IMPACT OF MAURA'S VOICE: PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL

Maura's Voice Researcher



Dr. Christopher Collins

PhD 2023, MSW 2014, BSW 2013, Florida State University
Assistant Professor, Salem State University, School of Social Work

Dr. Collins's interest in the mission of Maura's Voice Research Fund is deeply personal through his roles as a scholar, social work practitioner and yoga instructor.

How did you become involved with Maura's Voice?

In 2018, I was working as a licensed clinical social worker in Tallahassee and occasionally teaching yoga at two different locations. After the incel violence that precipitated the founding of Maura's Voice I reached out to Provost Jim Clark who, at the time, was the Dean of the College of Social Work. Maura's Voice was just getting started at that point and I came on at the ground floor. I've been involved ever since.

After our first study using the TRAP-18 to identify an incel lone-actor terrorist we began work on our second manuscript, which examines four cases of Incel violence and dissects similarities between the cases using a novel root cause analysis methodology. This article is currently under review for publication.

Our next project, which will be our biggest by far is funded by the Anti-Defamation League and will involve administering a survey to Incel-adjacent groups on Reddit to examine factors that influence deradicalization and disengagement in Incels. I'm fortunate to be working on this next project with colleagues in emergency management (Kate Reid, FSU) and criminology (Dr. Skyler Morgan, CSU-LB).

How has your work with Maura's Voice shaped your own research/teaching interests and career trajectory?

My research has evolved to focus on gun violence prevention, which is almost entirely because of

Maura's Voice. I wouldn't be where I am today without Maura's Voice.

Through Maura's Voice Research Fund, I've developed partnerships with various not-for-profit anti-violence and gun violence prevention groups across the country. More of these relationships continue to bloom every day.

In the classroom, I spend more time than ever before discussing and addressing violent misogyny and the manosphere. Regardless of what I'm working on in terms of research or teaching I often have Maura and her family at the forefront of my mind. I'm grateful for her family and their support and I hope that the work I do keeps her memory alive.

How has Maura's Voice supported your research?

In June 2022, I attended the annual National Association of Forensic Social Work (NOFSW) conference in New Orleans, LA. This conference assembles social workers engaged in practice across the criminal legal system and provides them with innovative strategies and novel research related to all facets of forensic social work.

I presented findings from our work at Maura's Voice using the TRAP-18 to retrospectively identify an incel lone-actor terrorist. This was the first time that many of the participants had heard about Inceldom and the manosphere, so it was also a great opportunity to expose them to current trends and characteristics of Incels.

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

MAURA'S VOICE INTERNS AND RESEARCH ASSISTANTS LEAD ON FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS



The Maura's Voice Research Fund is not only a platform for collaborative research and policy for professionals like FSU faculty but also supports internships and research assistantships, providing foundational experiences for future changemakers.

Three Master of Social Work graduates recently shared their experiences working on their social work field placement internships with Maura's Voice to support women and girls and how these efforts have transferred over to their professional pursuits. Each student worked directly with [then] doctoral student Christopher Collins, on work directly targeting improved safety for women and girls.



Kiara Tarafa

MSW 2023

Senior Associate, Grants and Finance, Girls and Women at the United Nations Foundation

"Working with Maura's Voice as my internship was an enlightening experience," shared Kiara Tarafa. "As Maura's Voice's first intern, I had the unique opportunity to shape my role."

Kiara worked directly with her field supervisor, Dr. Christopher (Chris) Collins, who was a social work doctoral candidate at the time. "Chris provided guidance and mentorship that helped me navigate these projects effectively," she said. She noted how the experience was both a comprehensive and valuable learning experience, offering a wide range of opportunities.

"I focused a lot on grant work to secure funding for the research being conducted at Maura's Voice. It was my first step into the world of grants," she recalled.

Alongside her work in funding development, data collection and grant proposal work, Kiara also worked on a gender-based violence project conducting research and collecting data for a threat assessment. Her work also included extensive research into hate crime policies and policies protecting women and girls against violence.

The experience ignited a passion for Kiara to continue advocating for women's rights and strongly influenced her career trajectory. "Learning that in some states, committing a gender-based crime doesn't qualify as a hate crime was not only surprising but also emphasizes the ongoing need for greater protection for women and girls," she stressed.

She is now a senior associate with Girls and Women at the United Nations Foundation, focused on projects aiming to end gender-based violence.

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP CONTINUED



Katie Alexander
MSW 2023
Special Events Coordinator,
Make-A-Wish Southern
Florida, Inc.

As her second field placement in the MSW Program at the FSU College of Social Work, Katie was excited about an internship with the Maura's Voice Research Fund, which was more focused on her area of interest. "Although my internship happened during a global pandemic, I had a wonderful experience," she recalled working with her team at Maura's Voice. "I felt my role was making a positive impact on the organization's mission."

Working alongside Christopher Collins, she recalls learning valuable research skills, leadership qualities and the Florida legislative process. And, most importantly, she learned that more needs to be done to protect women. "As a woman, I think about my safety every day, everywhere I go - how can I leave an unsafe situation? What is my exit plan if I am in danger?" she explained.

The research skills and experiences at Maura's Voice have transferred into her daily tasks as a special events coordinator with Make-A-Wish and Katie's personal pursuits. "I volunteer with a non-profit that assists those who have lost a family member to homicide," Katie shared. "My time at Maura's Voice Research Fund taught me the inner workings of a non-profit and I believe this placement pushed me into working in a field where I can directly impact constituents in the community. I see myself getting back into this field in the future."



Kelsey Whalen
MSW 2023
Operations Page, Jefferson
County Public Libraries,
Lakewood, Colorado

With a focus on the Diversity in Policing project with Christopher Collins, Kelsey Whalen received vital experience on how issues on the local, state and national levels can interact. She was also able to gain the same understanding of the broader goals and missions of the Maura's Voice Research Fund while also deep diving into the data.

"I learned a lot about conducting research in the real world and remaining open-minded about the results we found," she explained. "I learned to be adaptable in letting the data findings guide what we studied and how we went about doing so. It was eye-opening to see firsthand how different agencies implement the law depending on resources and the local community they work in."

Her experiences at Maura's Voice led Kelsey to find her passion in the foundational behind-the-scenes work that helps organizations run. "Interning with Maura's Voice helped me realize that change starts at the local, individual level." As the operations page for the Jefferson County Public Libraries in Lakewood, Colorado, she takes great pride in leading a team that ensures materials are well-kept, organized and accessible for patrons who are often disadvantaged.

"Maura's Voice taught me the importance of how core resources and well-rounded knowledge can foster more positive and safe life experiences. Libraries are a safe place for patrons to seek shelter, find support and learn," said Kelsey. "Many young families frequent the library, and fostering an environment prioritizing safety, learning and diversity I hope will encourage patrons to embrace differences and diversity."



WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP CONTINUED



Brenna Nopper
BS 2022 (Major: Criminology)

Brenna learned about the research assistantship with Maura's Voice when Jeff Binkley, the co-founder, came to speak to the Tri Delta, FSU Chapter about the organization.

Brenna was given the opportunity to pilot and develop a Hate Crime Offenders Database with Dr. Brendan Lantz, assistant professor at the FSU College of Criminology and Criminal Justice.

"I conducted investigative research on a number of hate crime offenders to identify common characteristics, behaviors and identifiers between

them," she recalled. "This included deep dives into sources like court records, even social media."

From her assistantship, Brenna realized her love of investigative research. She has continued this passion for investigative work and helping others as a protective investigator with the Florida Department of Children and Families conducting child abuse and negligence investigations.

"Having the opportunity to honor Maura and her legacy while making a change made me feel extremely connected to my sisterhood. My assistantship was the greatest privilege," Brenna concluded. "I will forever be grateful for my time at Maura's Voice."



Olivia Pruitt
BS 2022 (Major: Criminology)

Olivia (Liv) Pruitt became interested in the research assistantship with Maura's Voice Research Fund as a Tri Delta and criminology major. "I took a class on hate crimes in America and understood that there was little to no justice in the conviction of hate crime perpetrators," she said.

She worked with Dr. Christopher Collins and Dr. Melissa Murphy, [then] doctoral students on the Root Cause Analysis of Violent Incels paper as well as the Safe Firearm Storage Project in Florida and Massachusetts counties with Dr. Collins.

"This assistantship allowed me to learn about the large amount of hard work that goes into researching

a topic such as this, and it pushed me to my academic limits," she expounded. "I became a better writer, more thorough researcher and made a difference in my career field."

Now at Boston University pursuing her master's in criminal justice with a concentration in criminal analysis, Liv continues her interest in research. She hopes to work in forensic analysis or with the Federal Bureau of Investigations in the future.

"My assistantship allowed me to share something I am passionate about with my sisters in Tri Delta," Liv shared. "We were all able to bond over our love for Maura's Voice."

RELATED REFERENCES & RESOURCES

American Psychological Association's Journal of Threat Assessment & Management:
[Using the TRAP-18 to identify an Incel lone-actor terrorist \(2021\)](#)

Center for Countering Digital Hate - The Incelosphere:
[Exposing pathways into incel community and the harms they pose to women and children](#)

Institute for Research on Male Supremacism:
[theirms.org](#)

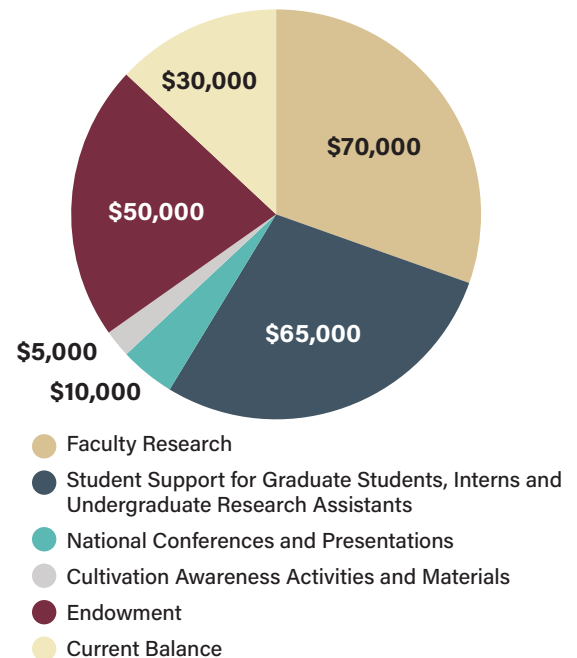
U.S. Secret Service's National Threat Assessment Center:
[Hot Yoga Tallahassee: A Case Study of Misogynistic Extremism \(2022\)](#)

National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOM) Webinar:
[Policing Hate Crimes: Expanding Definitions of the Violence of Hate](#)

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Since December 2018, MVRF has raised more than \$230,000 from 335 unique donors towards the initiative. To continue this work, we need your continued support to Maura's Voice Research Fund at FSU. Donate at [give.fsu.edu/maurasvoice](#).

Mail checks to: FSU Foundation
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If you have questions or would like to support Maura's Voice, contact:

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