

Breaking Cycles: Insights on Domestic Violence, Advocacy, and Community Accountability



BUF 4900: Internship Professional Critique Development
By: Giselle Leon

On November 12th, 2024, one had the privilege of attending the "Dive Talk" event at Monroe University's Mintz Auditorium, located at 2501 Jerome Avenue in the Bronx, NY. The seminar, held between 1 PM and 3 PM, was an enlightening experience made possible by Flora Montes, the CEO of Bronx Fashion Week, where one is currently interning. The event featured an esteemed panel of speakers, including Vanessa L. Gibson, the Bronx Borough President; Anne Paille, Coordinator of DiVa, Domestic Violence Consultant, and Adjunct Professor at Monroe University; Melissa Cebollero, Associate Vice President for the Office of Community Affairs at Montefiore Einstein; Maureen Curtis, who oversees the development of Safe Horizon's Criminal Justice Programs; Dr. Thomas Coghlan, Program Director of the Master of Science in Forensic Psychology at Monroe University; and Urania Castaneda, Director of the Human Services Program at Monroe University. Together, they explored critical topics such as domestic violence, advocacy, poverty, and politics, offering profound insights and actionable solutions for these pressing issues.

One of the most impactful aspects of the discussion was the detailed exploration of economic abuse within partnerships. The panelists shed light on how financial manipulation creates a cycle of dependency, stripping victims of autonomy by restricting access to resources, controlling finances, or sabotaging employment opportunities. The discussion also delved into emotional abuse, emphasizing the critical need for fostering respect in relationships. Panelists highlighted how cultivating self-worth, setting healthy boundaries, and promoting mutual respect can empower individuals to break free from toxic dynamics. Furthermore, the seminar emphasized the importance of honesty and accountability in parenting, addressing harmful practices such as denial, blame-shifting, and using children as tools of manipulation. These behaviors not only strain parent-child relationships but also perpetuate a cycle of dysfunction. The panel provided

actionable strategies for breaking these patterns, such as prioritizing open communication, taking responsibility for one's actions, and modeling positive behavior. These insights offered a comprehensive perspective on fostering healthier relationships and creating supportive, accountable communities.

This professional development experience directly connects to the class by offering insights into programs across the city that have established safe spaces for individuals of all genders while emphasizing the importance of accountability. It also highlighted innovative methods for communicating with diverse age groups and languages, reflecting the needs of the new generation. The seminar showcased technological advancements, such as discreet tools for communicating with the police department, designed to protect victims from detection. It also explored the dynamics of power and control commonly exerted by abusers. These include using male privilege to enforce isolation, minimizing, denying, and blaming to avoid accountability, and employing coercion, threats, and intimidation. Emotional and economic abuse were also examined, revealing how these tactics systematically strip victims of their autonomy and security. This deeper understanding reinforces the importance of advocacy, prevention, and education in fostering safer communities.

During the panel discussion, Urania Castaneda, Director of the Human Services Program at Monroe University, highlighted the significance of the Indigenous Wellness Pyramid as a holistic approach to health and well-being. She emphasized its foundation in ancestral traditions, which prioritize the balance of mind, body, spirit, and community. Castaneda explained how this model addresses health disparities by integrating culturally relevant practices that promote collective healing and a deeper connection to cultural identity. For the new generation, the Indigenous Wellness Pyramid offers a meaningful framework for understanding the importance of mental

and emotional health alongside physical wellness, fostering respect for the natural world.

Blending traditional knowledge with modern strategies empowers individuals and communities to cultivate resilience and build healthier, more sustainable lifestyles.

Figure 1, “Diva Talk” Flier Invitation

Monroe College-School of Criminal and Social Justice, Bronx Borough President's Office, Montefiore Einstein, VIP, and Safe Horizons present:

DIVA TALK 2024

POST-ELECTION: WHAT'S NEXT?

Domestic Violence, Advocacy, Poverty, and Politics



Join us for an in-person, interactive dialogue exploring the current landscape of domestic violence (DV) advocacy and policy. Learn why it's crucial to make informed decisions, vote, advocate, and participate in today's political climate.

Tuesday, November 12 / 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Monroe University / Mintz Auditorium / King Hall
 2501 Jerome Avenue, Bronx, New York

WELCOME:

- President Mary Jerome, President, Monroe University
- Vanessa L. Gibson, Bronx Borough President

DIVA TALK PRIZE 2024 AWARDS:

- Melissa Cobolero and Maxwell Curtis

KEYNOTE:

- Arisa Paula, MS, Coordinator, OVA, DV Consultant, Adjunct Professor, Monroe University
 The DV Movement: 1970 to 2024 – What's Next?

PANEL DISCUSSION:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melissa Cobolero (Chair), Associate Vice President, Community Affairs, Montefiore Albert Einstein • Maxwell Curtis, JMSW, MPH, Vice President, Criminal Justice Programs, Safe Horizons, Collaboration within the Criminal Justice System: What's Working, What's Not, and the Changes Needed to Better Serve DV Survivors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terence Coghlan, PhD, Ret. NYPD Detective and Clinical Psychologist, Owner at Blue Line Psychological Services, PIAC, Program Director, MS in Forensic Psychology, Monroe University, DV Risk Assessment: What's Next? • Ursula Castaneda, LCSW, CTR, Director of Human Services Program, Adjunct Professor, Monroe University, Invisible Wounds: The Link Between Domestic Violence, Child Abuse, and Economic Hardship
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Q&A SESSION

For further information contact: Robertopa@monroecollege.edu / 846.393.8663

Since 2002, DIVA has been organizing domestic violence awareness events in collaboration with key partners. Our members include the Bronx Borough President's Office, Safe Horizons, VIP, Montefiore-Albert Einstein, Not on My Watch, Inc., Palms Upon My Hands, and Monroe University.








MONROE UNIVERSITY
 SCHOOL OF CRIMINAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Figure 2, View from One's seat



References

- Admin. (2024a, April 22). *Domestic Violence Awareness Month with Masters Law Group*. Masters Law Group.
<https://www.masters-lawgroup.com/news/domestic-violence-awareness-month-with-masters-law-group/>