

MAURA'S VOICE

RESEARCH FUND INVESTMENT REPORT

2019-2020

INTRODUCTION

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 who dedicated her life to serving others. The MVRF supports reducing violence, while championing a unique and robust focus on researching and responding to the complex causes and effects of firearm violence. MVRF utilizes new approaches to forensic evaluation, management, treatment, and prevention strategies, while supporting sound policy development and implementation.

PUBLIC POLICY

In Fall 2019, Mr. Binkley sought assistance from Dr. Jim Clark, dean and professor of the Florida State University (FSU) College of Social Work, toward educating legislators about adding bias-motivated interpersonal violence against women to be classified as a hate crime in Florida and Georgia. These crimes against women are not considered hate crimes under state law in Florida and therefore are not required to be reported as hate crimes to the federal government. This state of affairs compromises valid state and national database development. Mr. Binkley spent a fair amount of time in Fall 2019 working on that and talking with legislators and staff. The outcome was mixed, as Georgia bills stalled, but the Florida Senate did pass a resolution in March 2020 condemning incel violence against women. Dr. Amy Coren, a Maura's Voice Researcher from the FSU Department of Psychology, and Mr. Binkley developed an information brief at the request of the Senate Infrastructure Subcommittee that contributed significantly to this outcome: [Resolution condemning philosophies of intolerance clears Senate panel](#)

The #HateFreeGA, a coalition of thirty organizations, sought to pass a statewide hate crime law in Georgia. Mr. Binkley and Maura's Voice (MV) are also members of the coalition. #HateFreeGA worked for more than a year utilizing enhanced education efforts to further the coalition's goal. In Spring 2020, Georgia's situation drastically changes with the murder of Ahmaud Arbery. Influenced by this tragic event, the Georgia Legislature subsequently passed significant hate



*Margaret and
Jeff Binkley,
Maura's
Parents*

crimes legislation (the previously stalled HB 426) for the first time in over twenty years. Maura's best friend Audrey Benson represented MV and provided testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee on the importance of retaining the terms "sex" and "gender" related to victim class in the bill's language. In a historic unanimous vote, the committee moved the bill including the language.



*Dean
Jim Clark*

Dr. Amy Coren

Maura's Voice
Researcher



PUBLIC POLICY, CONTINUED

In July 2019, Dr. Amy Coren resigned her position with the FSU Department of Psychology teaching forensic psychology for family/personal reasons. She plans to return in the near future. In the meantime, Dr. Coren holds an appointment as a courtesy faculty member in the FSU College of Social Work.

Dr. Coren is currently working on a law review article analyzing First Amendment free speech protections related to online forum content. The article examines the link between Internet forums and offline violence. In particular, the article examines the propagation of misogynistic, extremist communications through digital channels and their role in radicalizing their members.

Dr. Coren is also collaborating with FSU undergraduate student Lauren Callahan to document

incel movement history. Together their research explores the incel movement from its early inception as an online support group for people who “could not figure out dating” through to its modern connotation as an increasingly violent community.

In September 2019, FSU Criminologists Dr. Jill Turanovic and Dr. Brendan Lantz testified in a hearing conducted by Senator Tom Smith’s infrastructure subcommittee. The subcommittee tasked Senate President Galvano with developing legislation addressing gun violence, including specifically targeted violence and mass shootings. In Florida, [Florida Republican calls for stronger gun background checks to curb mass violence](#)

RED FLAG LAWS AND EXTREME RISK PROTECTIVE ORDERS (ERPO)



Dr. Daniel Webster
Director, John Hopkins Center
For Gun Policy and Research



Dr. Shannon Frattaroli
John Hopkins ERPO Researcher



Dr. Jeff Swanson
Duke University Visiting Scholar

In Fall 2019, Dr. Daniel Webster invited Mr. Binkley and Dr. Clark to the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health—Center for Gun Policy & Research.

There they spent a day with director Dr. Dan Webster, a nationally recognized violent crimes researcher—as well as ERPO researcher, Dr. Shannon Frattaroli.



Dr. Jeff Swanson (Duke University) was a visiting scholar there at the time, so he joined this very illuminating conversation. Dr. Swanson has been doing ERPO studies worldwide, especially as they relate to suicide and mental illness.

All were interested in the Maura's Voice Research agenda, including developing training and education in Florida for professionals involved in red flag law implementation.

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

In January 2020, FSU President John Thrasher hosted a dinner with Senator Lee and his wife, Secretary of State Laura Lee.

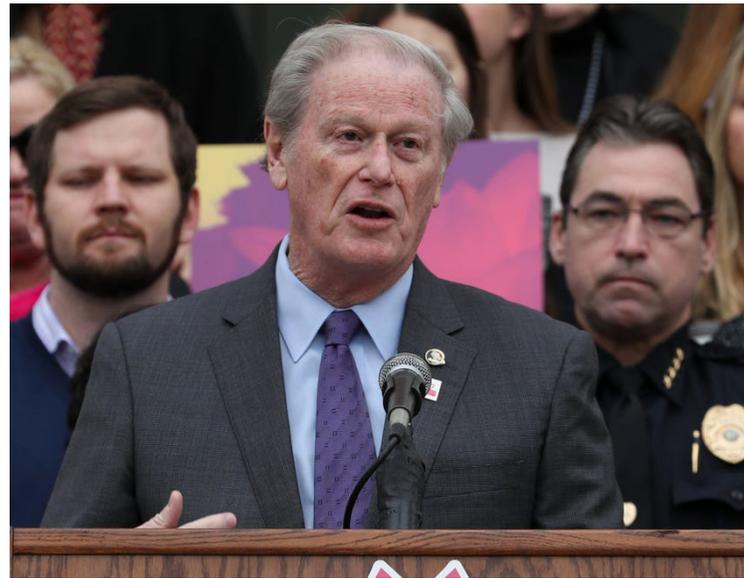
Dr. Turanovic and Dr. Clark joined the group and discussed the research science germane to violence against women and the targeted violence of mass shootings in Florida—issues of major concern to Senator Lee’s subcommittee.

Unfortunately, opposition elements managed to prevent the major reform legislation proposed by the subcommittee from moving forward. However, administrative measures were implemented that are consistent with the intent of legislative provisions that relate to enhancing the collection and analyzation of violence offender/offense data in Florida.

The MVRP at FSU funded Dr. Turanovic and Dr. Lantz during Summer 2020 to develop a Florida databased documenting hate and gender bias-motivated fatal shootings of women. The database is based, in part, on Dr. Turanovic’s innovative work funded by the National Institute of Justice to develop a research-friendly, valid national database on mass shootings.

Christopher Collins, an FSU social work doctoral student, also joined the research team. The research team reviewed more than 1,620 incidents of fatal shootings of women to determine whether hate or gender bias motivation was a factor. A research report and research brief are expected in Fall 2020.

To help advance this and other projects, MVRF representatives met with commissioners and staff at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to develop a strategic partnership and data sharing agreement to advance this project. These law enforcement professionals have stated a strong interest in working closely with MVRF.



FSU President John Thrasher

1620+
INCIDENTS
REVIEWED



Dr. Brendan Lantz
FSU College of
Criminology & Criminal
Justice
Maura’s Voice
Researcher



Dr. Jillian Turanovic
FSU College of
Criminology & Criminal
Justice
Maura’s Voice
Researcher

THREAT ASSESSMENT RESEARCH

Threat Assessment is another domain of research important to MVRP. Dr. Jim Clark is working with Chris Collins, a licensed clinical social worker and FSU social work doctoral student, on several projects.

First, Mr. Collins became a member of the Florida Association of Threat Assessment Professionals. He has also been corresponding with Dr. J. Reid Meloy a nationally acclaimed research expert in threat assessment science. Dr. Meloy became interested in understanding the incel shooting in Tallahassee. He is consulting on a current MVRF case study of the Hot Yoga Tallahassee and how it maps on the Terrorist Radicalization Assessment Protocol (TRAP-18), an assessment used to organize data on people of concern and plan for risk management to reduce the threat of targeted violence. The team will submit the case study on the Hot Yoga Tallahassee shooting for publication in Fall 2020.

Mr. Collins assembled a case database, including employment records previously unavailable to us, using the Freedom of Information Act. The team is also designing a second paper using Root Cause Analysis to examine confirmed violent incel attacks from 1989 through 2020.

Mr. Collins completed a Summer 2020 practicum working with Dr. Turanovic and Dr. Lantz on the Florida database. Mr. Collins also began a data project with Dr. Shamra Boel-Studt, an assistant professor at the FSU College of Social Work to examine the utility and effectiveness of Extreme Risk Protection Orders in Florida. Family/household members and police can obtain ERPOs are court-ordered to prevent individuals at high risk of harming themselves or others from accessing firearms when it is demonstrated that the person poses a significant danger. Dr. Boel-Studt's and Mr. Collins' project is a part of the strategic partnership with FDLE. The goal of this project is to begin examining the utility and effectiveness of ERPO in Florida.



Chris Collins
FSU Social Work Doctoral Student



Dr. J. Reid Meloy



Kiara Tarafa
FSU MSW Student

Kiara Tarafa, an FSU Master of Social Work student, completed a Summer 2020 practicum under Mr. Collins' supervision. Kiara worked to collect data for a forthcoming root cause analysis of violent incels and helped identify additional grant opportunities to promote and continue the mission of MVRF.

FACULTY PARTNERSHIPS



Dr. Adam Putz

Maura's Voice Researcher

Dr. Adam Putz of the University of Pécs, Hungary is teaming up with Dr. Amy Coren on a study of the psychology of misogyny. He will join the Maura's Voice team as he continues work with Dr. Coren to further develop international studies on misogyny and violence against women

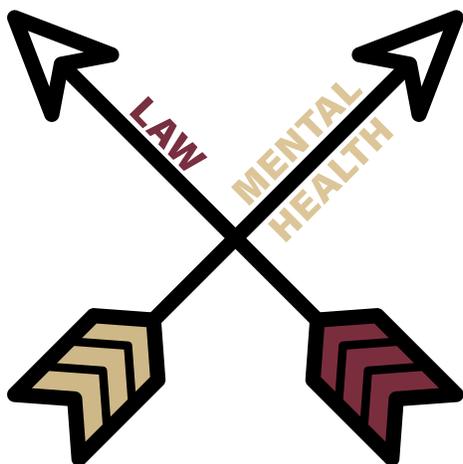


Dr. T.K. Logan

Maura's Voice Research Consultant

Dr. T.K. Logan of the University of Kentucky joins Maura's Voice as a strategic partner. Dr. Logan is an internationally recognized researcher in the area of violence against women. Dr. Logan recently led a federally-funded, groundbreaking study on violent stalking. Dr. Logan is especially interested in threat assessment research.

FORENSIC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CERTIFICATION



In 2018, Dr. Jim Clark was approached about developing a credential focused on forensic behavioral health. Through Maura's Voice, a Forensic Behavioral Health Certification is in development. With the assistance of Master of Social Work student and graduate assistant Sarah Withers, Dr. Clark began working on the certification in Fall 2020.

This project will involve creating an online curriculum for professionals, including social workers and other graduate-level professionals working at the intersection of mental health and the law.

OTHER RELATED REFERENCES & RESOURCES

MVRP Information and Background

CSW.FSU.EDU/MAURAS-VOICE

[Recent Canadian Press Coverage](#)

['Maura's Voice': Victim's father launches research foundation in wake of yoga studio shooting](#)

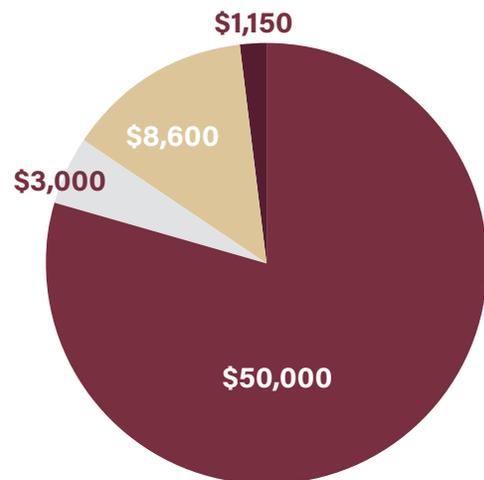
[ADL Report on Incel Violence](#)

[Mauras Voice Foundation Marks First Anniversary](#)

[MVRP Brief on Incel Violence](#)

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Since December 2018, MVRF has raised more than \$99,632 towards the initiative. To continue this work, we need your continued support to Maura's Voice Research Fund at FSU. Click [here](#) to donate.



- Research
- Graduate Student Support
- National Conferences and Presentations
- Cultivation Activities and Materials



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