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TJA

Oct. 6, 1998  
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**DATE RAPE SURVIVOR KATIE KOESTNER TO SPEAK  
AT UD DURING 'ZERO TOLERANCE' CAMPAIGN**

DAYTON, Ohio—Katie Koestner has been on a mission since she was 19 years old.

"My goal is to make as significant an impact as possible while I am still young enough for students to relate to me as a peer," she says.

Koestner is tackling her objective by speaking out in every way possible against sexual assault.

Koestner will bring her "No Yes" presentation on sexual assault prevention to the University of Dayton at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 4, in the Kennedy Union Ballroom. The program is co-sponsored by UD's Advisory Committee on Women's Issues and the office of educational and special programs as part of the University's "Zero Tolerance for Violence Against Women" campaign. The presentation is free and open to the public.

In "No Yes," Koestner tells the story of her own journey from victim to survivor as well as pieces of the stories other women with similar experiences have told her. The program offers a three-fold message emphasizing the importance of communication, responsible use of alcohol and respect for one's self and one's peers.

Koestner's mission began her first year as an undergraduate at the College of William and Mary. Koestner was raped her during third weekend at the school. According to Koestner, she opted for an internal investigation of the incident because her dean took her to the campus police but discouraged her from taking the case to outside authorities.

Koestner says the investigation taught her how difficult it could be to fully prosecute date rape at her school. The assailant was found guilty, but his only punishment was being prohibited from entering any residence besides his own for four years. Koestner says she decided to go public with her story in order that justice be done for other women.

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Her speaking career started with an invitation to talk at the First International Conference on Sexual Assault in Florida in 1991. Koestner gave 25 presentations before graduating magna cum laude in 1994 from William and Mary. In total, Koestner has given more than 800 presentations at 625 institutions in 47 states and international locations.

Besides making presentations, Koestner has helped form campus organizations such as Students Helping Others to Understand Trauma (SHOUT) at Cornell University and the Sexual Assault Companions Program at William and Mary. In 1994, Koestner founded Campus Outreach Services, Inc. (COS), which she has dedicated to fighting sexual assault "in any way possible." Koestner currently serves as director of educational programs of COS.

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To schedule media interviews with Katie Koestner, contact **Brett Sokolow** at the COS office at (610) 941-5997. For more information about the presentation or the "Zero Tolerance" campaign, contact **Molly Schaller**, director of educational and special programs, at (937) 229-2613.