TWO TEAMS OF CARNEGIE MELLON GRADUATE STUDENTS have developed product prototypes for combatting acquaintance/date rape. The two prototypes employ mobile technology to encourage bystander intervention and shared community responsibility. NightOwl and SPOT (A Problem) target student populations.

NightOwl is a social app that lets users anonymously report dangerous situations at social events to a host or another person who can intervene. The app also allows sharing of music playlists and pictures, a feature designed to increase implementation.

Developed with fraternities in mind, SPOT combines an integrated app and a wristband. Partypgoers can send information about unsafe situations to designated risk managers. The product benefits the fraternity because fewer incidents can help lower fees, dues, and insurance costs.

Both products were created by students from the fields of engineering, design, and business under the aegis of the university’s Integrated Innovation Institute. The institute has established an Innovate Against Rape website, Facebook page, and hashtag for social media to encourage others to share ideas for products to prevent sexual violence. Shown here, the SPOT team collaborates on its product. Watch videos of the teams describing their products via the Security Management app for Apple and Android tablets.