A Letter from the Director

When Harvard College students were asked at the end of the 2012-2013 academic year to define the purpose, mission, and goals of the Harvard College Office of BGLTQ Student Life, three words appeared time and time again: Leadership, Community, Resources. These are words that I have thought about often during my time at Harvard, and now, at the end of the Office’s inaugural year, they are the words that adorn our logo and serve as our guiding compass.

Although we do not yet have an official mission statement, our two primary goals have been to build community and provide visibility for all BGLTQ-identified students across the College—no matter their sexuality or gender expression. It gives me great joy to report that, on both fronts, we have succeeded.

Programmatically, the Office was involved in the planning and implementation of eighty-one phenomenal events, which ranged from weekly Community Hours to monthly educational programming that promoted and discussed the diversity that exists in our community. All of these events—which were driven by students—are detailed in this report and I invite you to read about them and experience the magic that they created.

However, the work of this Office goes far beyond the community events and educational programming we hosted. As Director, I also have had the honor of building relationships across the campus with faculty, staff, and students. Indeed, many departments have asked for direct support and I am proud to have conducted consultations and trainings about the lived experiences of BGLTQ-identified students. Relationships are critical to office and we continue to strive to provide co-sponsorship and support for programming and resources across the College.

I am humbled and overjoyed by the impact of the Office of BGLTQ Student Life this past year and want to thank all of our supporters including, first and foremost, Emily Miller, the past Graduate Coordinator for the Office of BGLTQ Student Life. Her hard work, focus, and dedication laid the groundwork for the Office and we are honored that she received the Undergraduate Ally Award at this year’s Annual
End-of-Year Dinner and Reception. The first class of Undergraduate Interns also played an enormous role in creating a strong sense of community at the College and their programming displayed passion and creativity. Finally, our Graduate Intern, Kevin Tervala, who joined the Office in January 2013, assisted the Office in streamlining the administrative functions and pushing the programming to new heights.

Within the report, you will find an overview of activities and offerings from the Office of BGLTQ Student Life. On behalf of the staff, thank you for your continued support, allyship, and partnerships! We look forward to many more years of impactful programming and student leadership development that create community and inspire all students.

Warm Regards,

Van Bailey, Ed.D.
Director
Harvard College Office of BGLTQ Student Life
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LEADERSHIP
Advocacy for BGLTQ-Identified Students

The Office of BGLTQ Student Life is a resource for all Harvard College community members and advocates for the needs of BGLTQ-identified students across the campus. During the academic year, the staff made significant strides in continuing Harvard College’s efforts towards inclusion. To that end, the Office and its staff have continued advocacy for gender-neutral housing initiatives in the Houses and in Harvard Yard, launched a campaign for the use of Preferred Gender Pronouns in community and classroom spaces, worked with University Health Services to increase awareness of BGLTQ-specific issues, offered trainings to multiple College offices and departments, provided additional online resources for BGLTQ students, dedicated funding for student organizations and events, and continued partnerships and conversations with various constituents in order to support BGLTQ athletes.

Student Leadership Development

Through an administrative division of Harvard College, the Office of BGLTQ Student Life is a student-driven and student-centered unit. Indeed, the Office is firmly committed to the peer leadership model and to the ideology that students, and young people more generally, are the best change agents in our society. To that end, the Office attempted to train and give the students of Harvard College the resources to determine the direction of the Office and the campus more broadly. As such, we provided leadership trainings and orientations to a variety of student groups and, more importantly still, we gave the reigns of programmatic planning, implementation, and evaluation over to our talented staff of undergraduate student interns. By embracing this student-centered approach to student affairs, the Office was able to ensure that it was serving the real-time needs and desires of the individuals it was meant to serve. And, as such, the successes of this Office were due, in large part, not to the Office’s professional staff, but rather, to the students.
Reflections from an Undergraduate Intern: Griffin Gaffney ‘13

If you walk through the yard when class is in session and carefully examine undergraduate fashion you’ll notice rainbow pins adorning many a backpack—pins that other interns and I at the Office of BGLTQ Student Life made by hand. Two years ago, those pins weren’t there. They weren’t visible in the yard, and neither was our community.

It was the morning after a cold, sleepless winter night during a snowstorm in January of 2011 that I made a life changing call to University Health Services. I remember the whole night so vividly. I snuck around my suite in the DeWolfe apartments finding and drinking all of the alcohol in my room in a desperate attempt to stop the thoughts from rushing in my head. I tried every spot in the suite to fall asleep—the bathtub, the couch, the floor, a chair—and eventually woke my parents up in the middle of the night sobbing that I was a mess, that I hadn’t slept in days, that I couldn’t start school the next week, and that I would so much rather move off campus to live alone than tell my roommates that I am gay. If my parents could just get me an apartment so I could escape Harvard I would be okay, I told them. But they made me ‘stick it out’ and ‘toughen up’ and my dad emailed me the phone number for UHS’s mental health services at five in the morning. The next day I had a phone interview, cried to a psychiatrist in a windowless room, started medication, and signed up to meet with a therapist the following week.

I rarely share how isolated I felt as a gay student on Harvard’s campus, let alone the fact that I was medicated just to cope with the isolation I felt. Part of me feels that I don’t want to seem weak—to seem confused, lost or alone, traits that no ‘real’ Harvard student would ever admit to having felt. But, I also know that my gay experience at Harvard never had a space in the school, or at least I felt that it didn’t. Harvard had a place for everything. Every culture, ethnicity, interest, and hairstyle was represented in one way or another on campus. But, I never saw one for gay men like myself—one that wasn’t as someone’s shopping buddy or in a close-knit clique. Where did I, a shy and scared newly out man fit in? Where could I find gay people?
Which visible administrators, advisors or adults could I turn to? The answer, in my mind, was that there was nowhere to go and no one to turn to.

When I look back on the year that I spent as an intern at the Office of BGLTQ Student Life, I realize that the gains made between my sophomore and senior years at Harvard were not just personal. It’s true that I gained a level of comfort with my sexual orientation that allowed me to eventually write my thesis on the experience of disclosing one’s sexual orientation and that the Office pushed me to think in new ways throughout that journey. But for Harvard to go from a place where no BGLTQ student life office existed to having one headed by a fierce, fearless, brave, and inspiring advocate for our community in the four years that I attended the college is truly exciting.

I don’t think that this year the Office of BGLTQ Student Life caught every student who had an experience like mine before they fall. But after working diligently, vehemently and with great care and sensitivity to the experiences of the BGLTQ students on our campus as an intern at the Office of BGLTQ Student Life I know one thing: we’re on our way to doing just that. So, as I look back on a whirlwind year of brand new programming and exciting events at the Office I can reflect on my work experience and the impact that the Office has had at Harvard using two words: rainbow buttons. Look for them. They weren’t always there.
COMMUNITY
Community-Building Events

Perhaps the most popular of all our activities during the 2012-2013 school year were the 40 community-building events that were sponsored or co-sponsored by the Office during the fall and spring semesters. Although ranging in size and subject matter, all of these events were designed to bring further visibility to BGLTQ-identified individuals, to educate the Harvard College community about the range BGLTQ issues and concerns, and, perhaps most importantly, to create a stronger, more diverse community for BGLTQ-identified students at Harvard College. And with close to 500 individuals participating in our events over the course of the year, it is clear that we were successful.

BGLTQ Reception for First Year Students—August 29, 2012

For most college students, arriving on campus and getting settled into their new home can be a stressful, confusing, and unpredictable time. In the case of BGLTQ-identified students, these feelings can be exacerbated their sexuality or gender identity.

- Will there be other BGLTQ-identified students?
- How do I (and should I) come out?
- How do I, as a queer person, interact with my roommate(s)?

These questions, and many others, are quite common in our community, and this year, in order to provide answers and offer support to the Class of 2016, the Office of BGLTQ Student Life, in conjunction with the Freshman Dean's Office, hosted the first ever reception for BGLTQ-identified first years in our suite in the basement of Boylston Hall. There, close to seventy-five first year students gathered to meet one another, ask questions of administrators and upperclass students, and begin to build a community among themselves. It was, to be sure, a powerful and moving event.
Student Organization’s Fair—September 7, 2012

In order to get the word out about our programming, events, and resources, the Office of BGLTQ Student Life staff staffed a booth at the student organization fair where we not only promoted the Office, but also, and much more importantly, made personal connections with dozens of undergraduates, many of whom became regulars at our events throughout the year.

BGLTQ Ice Cream Social—September 8, 2012

The Office of BGLTQ Student Life and the Freshman Dean’s Office teamed up once at the beginning of the fall semester to host another wildly successful event for BGLTQ-identified students. Undertaken with the aim of fostering a stronger community, the BGLTQ Ice Cream Social in nearby Adams House brought undergraduate students from all years, BGLTQ tutors and proctors, and Harvard College staff together in nearby Adams House for food, laughter, and general BGLTQ bonding. And, with lines out the door, the event was surely a success.
SPOTLIGHT ON

National Coming Out Day
October 11, 2012

On National Coming Out Day, the Harvard College Office of BGLTQ Student Life asked the college community a single question: What does it mean to “out?” Eschewing a single answer to that question, the day—which featured a variety of events across the campus—instead showcased the variety of ways that individuals, both those who identified as BGLTQ and those who did not, could be “out:” The largest event on the Office’s slate of fall programming, National Coming Out Day involved untold numbers of the Harvard University community and received coverage in *The Crimson* and Boston's BGLTQ newspaper, *The Bay Window*.

National Coming Out Day Morning Celebrations
Memorial Hall Lawn, West

This tabling event provided Harvard College community members with resources from local BGLTQ organizations (such as the Hispanic Black Gay Coalition, Keshat, and the Bisexual Resource Center) and BGLTQ on-campus organizations. Community members met office staff members and asked questions. In addition, the tabling events provided visibility for BGLTQ community members in recognition of National Coming Out Day.
Harvard Coming Out Narratives
Ticknor Lounge

This informal event provided the space to hear a diverse range of students’ coming-out experiences. Student leaders from QSA moderated the conversation while office staff was present to share stories and offer resources for students around issues of coming out.

National Coming Out Day Evening Celebrations
Office of BGLTQ Student Life Suite

The Office of BGLTQ Student Life provided food, resources, and music for students to connect and celebrate the events from the day. The office was at capacity with students filling the lounge space and two seminar rooms.

Photo Campaign Project

The Office of BGLTQ Student Life organized a photo campaign project with several athletic teams, student organizations, and departments to display solidarity, visibility, and acceptance of all Harvard College community members. The participants included:

- Women’s Tennis
- Men’s Wrestling
- Women’s Golf
- Cabot House Committee
- Men and Women’s Track
- Senior Class Committee
- Alpine Skiing
- Undergraduate Council
- Men’s Skiing
- Women’s Hockey
- Men’s and Women’s Rugby
- Harvard Sailing Team
- Men’s Water Polo
- Harvard University Police Department
- Women’s Water Polo
- Harvard University Dining Services
- Office of Student Life
- Women’s Softball
- The Harvard Foundation
- Men’s and Women’s Rugby
- The Harvard Foundation
- Men’s and Women’s Rugby
- Harvard College Women’s Center
- Harvard University Police Department
- BGLTQ Tutors & Proctors
Supporting National Coming Out Day

Harvard Nordic Skiing Team

Harvard Baseball Team

Harvard Men’s & Women’s Rugby

Harvard Women’s Swimming and Diving
COMMUNITY-BUILDING EVENTS

EqualiTEA—October 29, 2012
Although the weather outside was frightful (thanks to Hurricane Sandy), the inside of the Dean Tom Dingman's home was nevertheless delightful for the roughly thirty BGLTQ-identified first year students who braved the rainy, windy Monday to meet with Harvard's Dean of Freshman. Organized in collaboration with the Freshman Dean's Office of BGLTQ Proctors Joe Vitti and Clark Goodwin, the EqualiTEA was an event that allowed students and administrators to come together in a rare, informal setting to discuss the specific needs, wishes, and desires of the queer undergraduates at the College. And in spite of the weather, the event was a huge success, with one attendee, Ellen Shrock stating, “I'm glad I made it. It's such a conversation-starter to meet people at an event like this.”

Yazmin Watkins Performance at Sex Week—October 21, 2012
At the age of 377, Harvard College is an institution that has seen it all—or so we thought. In 2012, students from the student organization Sexual Health, Education, and Advocacy (SHEATH) sponsored the campus’ first-ever Sex Week in order to explore student experience with love and sex by providing comprehensive programming addressing a wide range of issues relating to sex, relationships, dating, sexual health, and sexuality. And, as a co-sponsor of the week's innovative programming, the Harvard College Office of BGLTQ Student Life was there to provide support, training, and social programming. In particular, the Office brought the internationally known queer spoken word artist Yazmin Watkins to Harvard for a performance about sexuality, religion, heartache, and the eventual discovery of self-love. Attended by many, this event, which helped kick off the week, brought the Harvard College community together in rare moment of solidarity and sex-positivity.

International Human Rights Day Study Break—December 10, 2012
On the final Saturday before Fall Term Final Exam period began, the Office of BGLTQ Student Life hosted its final event of the semester, an International Human Right's Day Study Break. The event itself combined both the social, relaxing atmosphere of a study break with educational goal of advancing knowledge and activism on global human rights issues.
Mid-way through the fall semester, the undergraduate interns at the Harvard College Office of BGLTQ Student Life had an innovative, if ambitious, idea: What if we, as an office, could bring together the diverse and disparate BGLTQ community each week to build community, friendships, understanding, and support? How would that change the experience of BGTLQ-identified undergraduates? Would that event, small as it was, help build a stronger, more supportive community? We could only find out by trying it out, and so, Community Hour was born.

Occurring every Friday from 2p.m.–3p.m. during the academic year, Community Hour was a time when the doors of the Office suite in the basement of Boylston Hall were thrown open to any and all students. The Office provided food and began the hour with a structured game to break the ice and then students were left to themselves to talk to socialize, play games, and discuss any issue that was on their minds. Professional staff members were also made available should students want to discuss any issues one-on-one.

The results of this student-driven effort were overwhelming. Community Hour soon became a staple event for a diverse range of BGLTQ-identified students and their friends and every Friday the Office suite was filled with the sights and sounds of up to thirty students eating, talking, laughing, and engaging.
Community-Building Events

Junior Parents’ Day Open House—March 1, 2013
For Harvard College’s annual Junior Parents’ day, the Office of BGLTQ Student Life threw open its doors to both students and parents alike for two hours, offering food, music, and a festive atmosphere that brought together both communities. Resources and staff members were also available to give tours, give assistance, and provide any information on the Office. Although attendance was sparse, those who did attend found an exciting, warm, and welcoming atmosphere.

National Day of Silence—April 19, 2013
For National Day of Silence the Office of BGLTQ Student Life chose to focus on visibility, not silence. Accordingly, undergraduate staff members weeks collecting stories from current Harvard College students about the reasons they came out of the so-called closet and compiled the stories into a gallery-style exhibition in the Office’s suite in the basement of Boylston Hall. Plans for an accompanying reception on the day of the event were unfortunately cancelled after Harvard University closed due to the emergency situation that occurred in Watertown following the Boston Marathon bombing. Nevertheless, this event provided a space for the campus community to stand together in solidarity and reflect on the similarities and differences in their coming out narratives.
Suhaag: A Hindu Same-Sex Mock Wedding—April 20, 2013
In what was perhaps its most unique event of the year, the Office of BGLTQ Student Life, in collaboration with Harvard Dharma, the Harvard South Asian Association, Harvard Queer Students and Allies, and Harvard Gay, Lesbian, or Whatever, sponsored a mock Hindu same-sex wedding to showcase the global perspective of BGLTQ issues. Indeed, “the idea that same-sex marriage is a new concept from the West is incorrect,” said Nishin Nathwani ’15, noting that ancient Hindu texts reference same-sex relationships.

Queer Prom—April 26, 2013
Sponsored by Harvard Queer Student and Allies and supported by the Harvard College Office of BGLTQ Student Life, Queer Prom brought together BGLTQ-identified students from across Harvard College for a night of dancing and socializing. Intended to give the prom experience to students who may not have been able to be out at their own high school proms, the event was incredibly well-attended and popular.
SPOTLIGHT ON

End-of-Year BGLTQ Reception and Dinner
April 29, 2013

The last, and largest, event sponsored by the Office of BGLTQ Student Life—the second annual End-of-Year BGLTQ Dinner at Cabot House—brought together close to one hundred students, faculty, and staff to celebrate the undergraduate members of Harvard College’s BGLTQ-identified student community and recognize outstanding individuals and events from the 2012-2013 school year.

The event started at 5p.m. with a reception where attendees could mix and mingle with each other while whetting their appetites with hors d’oeuvres and was followed by a dinner that featured a keynote address from Professor Robin Bernstein (African and African American Studies and Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality), presentation of the inaugural BGLTQ awards to outstanding student leaders, and gifts for members of the Class of 2013. It was, to be sure, a wonderful way to end the year and every attendee walked away with memories that are sure to last a lifetime.
Award Recipients

Community Empowerment Award
IvyQ

The Community Empowerment Award is granted to any event or program that has left a lasting positive impact on the Harvard undergraduate BGLTQ community.

Outstanding Student Leadership Award
Neimy Escobar ‘15

The Outstanding Student Leadership Award is granted to a Harvard College student of any academic year who has demonstrated significant leadership in the BGLTQ community, through his/her/hir/their involvement with and direction of campus or community events during their undergraduate career.

Undergraduate Ally Award
Emily Miller

The Undergraduate Ally Award is granted to any member of the Harvard community, including graduate students, faculty, and administrators who have been a tremendous ally to the undergraduate BGLTQ community through their efforts at all academic or professional levels.
**Educational Events**

As a part of their final group, the Working Group of BGLTQ Student Life noted a dearth of educational programming about BGLTQ issues and identities at Harvard College and, as part of their recommendations, suggested that a primary goal of the any office dedicated to BGLTQ-identified students should be to plan and implement programming and events that would better inform the Harvard College community about BGLTQ issues and events. As such, the Office of BGLTQ Student Life hosted 41 educational events that spoke to the diverse and varied experiences of all BGLTQ-identified individuals.

**Trainings, Workshops, and Facilitation**

As the inaugural Director of the Harvard College Office of BGLTQ Student Life, Van Bailey was called upon to lead trainings, orientations, and discussions about BGLTQ-specific issues and student-centered learning and community building for a variety of offices and organizations across Harvard University. Through these events—which ranged from lectures in Harvard College courses to interactive workshops for student organization leaders—the voices and experiences of BGLTQ-identified individuals were made real for a diverse range of students, faculty, and staff.

**Outreach to Houses, Dorms, and Student Organizations**

In our first year, the Harvard College Office of BGLTQ Student Life undertook a proactive campaign to listen to students and gather their input on both Office programming and events as well as BGLTQ life at the College as a whole. As such, all staff members spent considerable time attending events in houses and dormitories, networking with student leaders, and the meeting with tutors, House Masters, and other important constituents of Harvard College. Through this, we were able to build our profile as an Office and hear more directly from the students that we serve.
Educational Programming and Events

BGLTQ Sexual Health Workshop—September 10, 2012
Recognizing that the sexual health issues and needs of BGLTQ-identified students are, on the whole, different from others, the Office of BGLTQ Student Life joined forces with the Mental Health Services and the Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response to host an alternate to the Sex Signals workshop. Featuring medical practitioners, mental health professionals, and upper-class students, attendees at this event were able to learn about safe-sex strategies and the resources available to them at the College, all while getting a better sense of BGLTQ dating at Harvard.

Celebrate Bisexuality Day—September 23, 2012
It is a sad but unfortunate fact that individuals who identify as being bisexual are oftentimes marginalized and sidelines in discussion of BGLTQ issues and identities. To combat this, the Office of BGLTQ Student Life hosted an intimate discussion about bisexual, pansexual, and omnisexual identities where questions were answered, identities were celebrated, and everyone walked away with a better understanding and appreciation of this less-discussed group of sexual identities.

The Prep School Negro—September 26, 2012
In its first collaboration of the 2012-2013 academic year, the Office of BGLTQ Student Life and the Harvard Foundation for Race Relations teamed up to host a screening of the documentary Prep School Negro and a subsequent discussion with the film director Andre Robert Lee. A film about the experiences of a lower-class African-American who attended an elite, majority-Caucasian private school, the film provided an opportunity for its numerous participants to learn and reflect on their own experiences at Harvard. With interdisciplinary work being at the heart of the Office’s work, the Office was especially proud to play a role in this event.
The Harvard College Office of BGLTQ Student Life hit the ground running at the beginning of the second semester with an event designed to celebrate and explore the intersections of black and queer identities. Held on Tuesday, February 5th in Boylston Hall, the program—a panel discussion—featured six Boston-area professionals and activists who discussed everything from the experience of growing up as black and queer to faith and sexuality to future challenges for black- and queer-identified individuals. Following this hour-long conversation in Fong Auditorium, which included time for the questions from the audience, a reception in nearby Ticknor Lounge was held so panelists and attendees could mingle and continue discussions started during the panel. Overall, Black+Pride proved to be one of Office’s most successful and well-attended events of the year, drawing a diverse crowd on undergraduates, graduate students, and area community members.

Panelists:

**Tom Bardwell**
Public Health Professional

**Jonathan Reveil**
Fenway Health

**Hope Freeman**
Boston Gay Lesbian Assisted Social Services

**Daunasia Yancy**
Sexual Health Educator, Poet, Activist

**D’hana Perry**
DJ and Artist

**Corey Yarborough**
Hispanic Black Gay Coalition

**Moderator:**
**Van Bailey**
Director of the Harvard College Office of BGLTQ Student Life
Educational Programming and Events

The Power of Storytelling: LGBT History, the Media, and the African/Black Diaspora—October 18, 2012
Narratives about the BGLTQ community focus almost exclusively on the United States and, to a lesser extent, Western Europe. As such, BGLTQ issues and identities from nations and cultures outside the Euro-American axis are marginalized or excluded altogether. To remedy this, the Office of BGLTQ Student Life hosted the award-winning Nigerian writer and activist behind the Afro-Feminist media blog Spectra Speaks to speak about BGLTQ narratives from Africa and its diaspora. Attended by many, this event sparked many conversations and continued the Office’s tradition of highlighting and celebrating the immense diversity of the BGLTQ community, both here at Harvard and off the campus.

Transgender Day of Remembrance Visibility Project—November 6, 2012
A consciousness-raising publicity campaign, the Transgender Day of Remembrance Project began years ago in an effort to increase awareness of the history and specific issues faced by individuals who identify outside the gender binary. As part of this project, the Office of BGLTQ Student Life initiated a consciousness-raising publicity campaign to increase awareness on campus about the significance and history of the day and arrange transportation to the formal events taking place in Boston.
Kristen Chenoweth at Harvard—December 7, 2012
In collaboration with the Harvard Foundation and the Harvard College Women’s Center, the Office of BGLTQ Student Life participated in a conversation regarding activism and the media with Tony and Emmy award winning actress and singer Kristin Chenoweth.

Love Spectrums—March 11, 2013
Continuing its dedication to an intersectional approach to BGLTQ education and activism, the Office of BGLTQ Student Life, in collaboration with the Associate of Black Harvard Women, hosted Love Spectrums, the kick-off event for Women’s Week. The event featured the digital media activist Spectra for a discussion on the intersections of race, gender, and sexuality which all participants walked away from changed for the better.
Featuring the noted speaker, teacher, author, and activist Robyn Ochs, C.S.S. ’85, Ed.M. ’89, this event—the Office’s signature one for the month of March—took as its point of departure the notion that identities, particularly sexual identities, do not fall into tidy, black-and-white categories. Through this interactive workshop and discussion participants explored their own particular identities and their inherent fluidity over time. Additionally, participants discussed how they are perceived by others and how those perceptions affected their own sense of self. Following this workshop, a reception was held in the Office of BGLTQ Student Life Suite so that attendees could continue their conversations and better get to know each other. To be sure, this intensely personal workshop allowed the attendees to increase their own self-awareness, better understand those around them, and build strong interpersonal connections among the event’s attendees.
INTERPRETING LESBIAN MOTHERS’ NARRATIVES: THE INTIMATE & THE LEGAL—APRIL 16, 2013

While the number of gay and lesbian families has increased over the past twenty-five years, in the absence of legal protections, gay and lesbian parents have had to lean on individualized contracts to safeguard against a range of destabilizing events. During this event, Judith Raskin, Associate Professor and Women and Gender Studies at the University of Oregon, discussed her research into the strategies lesbian mothers in the United States used in order to secure their family relationships. A much needed reminder of how far the BGLTQ-rights movement still has to go, the Office of BGLTQ Student Life was proud to co-sponsored this event with Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality as a part of Harvard College’s Pride Month.

LGBTQ INTIMATE PARTNERSHIP ABUSE—APRIL 17, 2013

Hosted in collaboration with the Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, Queer Students and Allies, Trans* Task Force, and the International Women’s Rights Collective, the Office of BGLTQ Student Life hosted a discussion on domestic violence in the BGLTQ community. An uncommonly discussed topic, this event brought a spotlight onto a problem that is just as prevalent in the BGLTQ community as in the non-BGLTQ community and gave advice for how to safely remove oneself from situations involving intimate partner abuse.
Asexuality Panel—April 25, 2013
What exactly is asexuality? Perhaps the most underrepresented and least understood component of sexual identities, asexuality has, unsurprisingly, long been left out of the conversation about BGLTQ identities. This panel discussion helped rectify this oversight by presenting narratives about asexuality and allowing attendees to have their questions answered. And, with the Office of BGLTQ Student Life suited filled to capacity, it was certainly an event that showcased the need for greater visibility for asexual-identified individuals.

Sexuality and History: A Discussion with Niall Ferguson—May 13, 2013
Following a controversy surrounding the comments of Professor Niall Ferguson (History) about the influential economist John Maynard Keynes, the Office of BGLTQ Student Life partnered with Queer Students and Allies, the Harvard College Women’s Center, and the Office of Student Life to host a lunch-time discussion with the Laurence A. Tisch Professor of History. Attended by a great many students, the discussion served as both an educational and community-building opportunity.
SPOTLIGHT ON
Pride Week
April 1 to April 5, 2013

Making It Better for LGBT and Questioning Youth—April 1, 2013
In Fall of 2010, the United States was rocked by a spate of suicides by LGBTQ identified youth, a tragedy that forced the country to grapple with the reality of bullying, discrimination, stigmatization, and harassment. At the forefront of this movement to “Make it Better” is James Lecesne, the founder of the world-renowned Trevor Project. In this, the marquee event on the Office of BGLTQ Student’s Life Pride Week, Lescene spoke not only about his work, but also about the future of the movement and the country.

Out at Work—April 2, 2013
Starting a job can be a stressful experience, especially for BGLTQ-identified individuals. In this panel discussion, recent BGLTQ-identified graduates from Harvard College discussed their experiences being “out” in a variety of different work settings to help soon-to-be graduates navigate how to be themselves in their work environments.
Out Abroad —April 3, 2013
Every year, thousands of undergraduate students from the United States travel to foreign countries through study abroad programs. For BGLTQ-identified students, however, the thought of studying abroad can be intimidating. “Can I be out while abroad?” “How do different societies react to BGLTQ-identified students?” “What will the dating scene be like?” All of these are questions that students ask. Featuring current Harvard College students who studied abroad in different locations across the globe, the Out Abroad panel discussion provided answers and context for the many of these questions.

Gender Inclusive: Dress for Success with Marimacho—April 4, 2013
For many students, dressing for work is as complicated as a trip to the mall. For students outside of the gender binary, dressing professionally can be a more complicated experience. This event, which was for all gender non-conforming students, was designed to assist student is picking out that perfect work outfit. Featuring Marimacho, a New York City-based company dedicated to creating timeless fashion that empowers people of all genders, this event was among the most successful of the Office’s 2012-2013 programming.

Pride Week Community Hour—April 5, 2013
The grand finale of Pride Week, this expanded and extended Community Hour was every one of the Office of BGLTQ Student Life’s—only better! Featuring a spread of food from around the world, this event brought the BGLTQ community at Harvard College together for the fitting end to the institution’s first ever Pride Week!
Outreach to Students, Houses, and Student Organizations

Student Outreach
Recognizing that not every student may be comfortable coming into the Office's physical space to seek assistance, talk with other students, or collect resources, the Office of BGLTQ Student Life undertook an aggressive campaign to become available to students online and through various forms of social media. These included:

Tumblr
The Office has created a Tumblr for BGLTQ students and allies to share their coming out stories.

Facebook
The Office has an official Facebook page that highlights BGLTQ events on and off campus. Since the Director’s hire the page’s followers have increased from 98 to 341.

G-chat Office Hours
The Office hosted G-chat hours through Google chat on Wednesday 1p.m.–2p.m. and Friday 2p.m.–3p.m. where community members can contact office staff members regarding questions and concerns about BGLTQ student life.

House Outreach
Because House life is at the center of the student experience at Harvard College, three undergraduate interns were assigned to lead efforts in the Houses for programming, events, and support. All of the outreach interns stayed in contact with the BGLTQ specialty tutors and proctors and worked on joint programming efforts. The Director also met with Tutors and Proctors on a monthly basis.

Student Organization Outreach
In addition to reaching out to BGLTQ specialty tutors and proctors, undergraduate interns also served as liaisons with various the gender and sexuality-based student organizations at Harvard College. Through arranging frequent meetings with student organization leaders and attending their events, the Office was able to better serve its constituency and keep its finger on the pulse of Harvard College BGLTQ student life and thoughts.
Trainings and Orientations

First Year Urban Program
August 20, 2012
Discussion regarding social justice and advocacy in public service initiatives

Tutor/Proctor Orientation
August 24, 2012
An orientation on BGLTQ student life and support

Specialty Tutor/Proctor Orientation
August 28, 2012
Specific training on how to advocate, program, and provide resources for BGLTQ students in houses and in the yard.

The Harvard Foundation
September 8, 2012
Discussion regarding BGLTQ identities and intersections with race, ethnicity, and culture

Building an Inclusive Organization
September 12, 2012
A workshop during Student Organization Leadership Training, in collaboration with the Harvard Foundation and the Harvard College Women’s Center

Event Planning 101
September 13, 2012
A workshop during Student Organization Leadership Training with Amy Vest from the Office of Student Life

The Bureau of Study Counsel
September 21, 2012
An orientation to BGLTQ student life and terminology
Directors’ Plus Monthly Meeting: Spotlight Presentation
September 27, 2012
An overview of BGLTQ terminology, culture, and introduction to the Office of BGLTQ Student Life

RESPONSE Peer Counseling with the Harvard College Women’s Center
September 28, 2012
BGLTQ and Gender 101 discussion

The Harvard College Women’s Center
October 1, 2012
Transgender 101 discussion and training

What’s the Deal with Preferred Gender Pronouns?
October 16, 2012
Office of Student Life Sustained Dialogue

Undergraduate Council—Meet a “Dean” Lunch Series
October 19, 2012
Opportunity for students to ask questions and receive resources regarding BGLTQ student life

Chief Diversity Officer, Lisa Coleman and Staff
October 22, 2012
Training regarding transgender issues, culture, and on-campus support

Office of Career Services and Office of International Education
November 20, 2012
An orientation to BGLTQ student life and terminology
Peer Advisor Fellows and Allyship Discussion  
December 5, 2012  
Office of International Education Pre-departure Orientation  
December 6, 2012  
A talk regarding experiences and resources abroad for BGLTQ students

How to Write an Op-Ed  
February 20, 2013  
A workshop on how and why to write an effective opinion column for the Harvard College Women's Center interns.

Domestic Violence + LGBT Communities  
February 21, 2013  
Discussion and training regarding BGLTQ identities and sexual assault awareness and prevention

HEB 1377 Birth  
April 9th and 10th, 2013  
Transgender 101 training and discussion

Drug and Alcohol Peer Advisors  
April 17, 2013  
Training regarding BGLTQ 101 and advocacy work as it relates to other drugs and alcohol
A LOOK AT THE 2013-2104 ACADEMIC YEAR

WHAT’S

NEXT!

A LOOK AT THE 2013-2104 ACADEMIC YEAR
What’s next for the Harvard College Office of BGLTQ Student Life?

A Look at the 2013-2014 Academic Year

The Harvard College Office of BGLTQ Student Life’s AY 2013-2014 educational and social programming will come primarily in the form of five series. Most of these series are designed and coordinated by an undergraduate intern, with assistance from the graduate intern and director. These series include:

- **Ally Workshop Series:** More a training than a series, the Office of BGLTQ Student Life’s Ally Workshops will provide training to members of the Harvard Community on how to be an ally to the multitude of BGLTQ-identified students, faculty, and staff at this university. Coordinated by Elliot Marrow ‘13

- **BGLTQ Health and Wellness Series:** BGLTQ-identified student face a variety of unique challenges by nature of their very existence. This series will explore what those challenges are and how to overcome them successfully. Coordinated by David Hibbert ‘13

- **Community Hour Series:** Conceptualized as a low-key way to build community, Community Hour occurs every Friday afternoon in the Office of BGLTQ Student Life and features a variety of food and drink.

- **Film Series:** This monthly film and documentary-screening will expose students and community members to a variety of documentaries and films about BGLTQ-life in the United States and abroad. Coordinated by Kevin Tervala ’18 (Ph.D.)

- **First-Year Series:** This is series is designed to help orient first year student’s to life at Harvard College while simultaneously building a strong and inclusive queer community among the Class of 2017. Coordinated by Josh Blecher-Cohen’16

- **Out Series:** The Out Series will assist students in navigating how to express their identity in a variety of settings (at home, at work, while abroad, etc.). Coordinated by Marie-Fatima Hyacinthe ‘14
• **Queer Histories Series:** Participants in this year-long series will be exposed to a variety of events (e.g. panel discussion, movie screenings, speakers) that will give an overview of the BGLTQ history. Coordinated by Kapena Baptista ’16

In addition to these series, the Office currently anticipates holding three larger, signature events throughout the year. Stay tuned for more information!