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In our second year, the office has seen great growth and changes. This year, we added the Queer Student Advisory Council and solidified an office mission statement. Both of these efforts were in collaboration with many constituents across the University. In partnership with departments and student organizations, the office has provided over eighty programs and activities.

While much of our work falls within programming and training opportunities, there were many opportunities to build community, relationships, and increase the visibility of the office. We are excited to see changes in the Student Handbook for Fall 2014 that includes a College-wide gender-neutral housing policy. Lastly, we launched a number of programming series, organized the Nicholas Papadopoulos Lecture for LGBT studies and activism, launched a new website, and added an additional graduate coordinator position for campus education.

Within this 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 campus education and student leadership development that create community and inspire all students.

Kind regards,

Van Bailey, Ed.D.
Director
Harvard College Office of BGLTQ Student Life
Our Mission

The Harvard College Office of BGLTQ Student Life provides support, resources, and leadership development for bisexual, gay, lesbian, transgender, queer, and questioning students. Through collaboration with students and student organizations, the Office creates opportunities for fellowship, thoughtful dialogue, and the pursuit of knowledge. We seek to foster a safer, more diverse and inclusive campus by educating and engaging the Harvard community about the multiplicity of sexual and gender identities.

On March 12, 2014, the Harvard College Office of BGLTQ Student Life approved the final draft of its mission statement. As the document that will guide the Office and its work for years to come, the creation of this charge involved a substantial amount of people—most importantly coming from the thoughts, opinions, wishes, and desires of students.

“Students read over a proposed draft, suggested a new version that addressed their concerns, and ultimately that’s the final statement that was adopted.”

Josh Blecher-Cohen
Co-Chairman of the Queer Advisory Council
2013-2014 Undergraduate Intern

“From start to finish, the development of the mission statement was a collaborative effort, with students, staff, administrators, and faculty providing insight to shape the document.”

Caroline Light, Ph.D.
Member of the Executive Committee and Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Committee on Degrees in Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality

At the Harvard College Office of BGLTQ Student Life, students come first. They are not only at the center of our work, but their ideas, thoughts, and opinions drive everything we do. For instance, in the 2013-2014 academic year, we launched our very first student advisory board: the Queer Advisory Council (QuAC). The QuAC seeks to help us keep our finger on the pulse of Harvard College student life. Through this body—and the thirteen students from across all corners of the campus—we learned what we were doing well and what we could be doing better. Moreover, by providing a space for student leaders to gather, discuss, and debate, the QuAC facilitated student action in the form of a BGLTQ Town Hall, a State of BGLTQ Student Life Survey, and an organizing campaign to pass Question 1 (Gender Neutral Housing support) on the Undergraduate Council ballot. Also significant is the QuAC’s distribution of over $5,000 in grants to support twenty-two BGLTQ events planned and implemented by student groups.
These days, in our fast-paced, ever-more-mobile world, the importance of strategic communications and targeted outreach is of critical importance. As such, the Harvard College Office of BGLTQ Student Life spent much of the academic year finding ways to improve our online presence and virtual communications. Our new and improved website is a testament to this, as is our online weekly newsletter, QuWeekly; our expanded Twitter presence; our continued Facebook activity; and our brand-new Instagram account. By reaching out to students—and to the Harvard community at large—we not only provided resources and information to a broader array of people, but we succeeded in building the "QuOffice" brand.

This year, we were at the forefront of the successful push for a College-wide policy on gender-neutral housing. Working together with student advocates, House Masters, Resident Deans, and other members of the Harvard College community, we were able to ensure that all Harvard College students, regardless of House affiliation, will have access to gender-neutral housing options starting in the 2014-2015 academic year.

**Successful Advocacy in 2013–2014**

- Approving a gender-neutral Housing Policy at Harvard College.
- Adding more gender-neutral restrooms in Harvard Yard.
- Increasing the number of BGLTQ-Specialty proctors by 100%.
- Working to make community conversations safer and more inclusive.
It will come as no surprise to anyone when we say that Harvard College students are busy. From academic courses to extracurricular activities to professional internships, our students take on a lot. Indeed, it is part of what makes them so great. However, twice a year—once during the fall semester and once during the spring semester—the Harvard College Office of BGLTQ Student Life invites all of our students to slow down and enjoy each other’s company during a community-wide Holiday Dinner (November 15, 2013) and End-of-Year Dinner (April 28, 2014). Providing a chance to eat good food, meet new people, and celebrate successes, these two events were a huge hit during the 2013-2014 academic year.

We were pleased to welcome the 1,659 members of the Class of 2017 to the campus with a series of programs during the fall semester that were designed to help orient first-year students to Harvard College while simultaneously building a strong and inclusive queer community. These efforts continued in the spring semester, as we joined forces with BGLTQ student organizations to host a welcome meet-and-greet for the Class of 2018 during Visitas.
EXPANDING WITH OUR HISTORIES

The past, as they say, repeats itself. We believe that it is important to continually reflect and attempt to understand where we came from in order to understand where we are and where we want to go. Our Queer Histories Series was designed with that in mind. From an exploration of queer history at Harvard University to a discussion about the history of trans* rights with a leading activist to an examination of the history of African-American experiences in the LGBTQ-rights movement, Queer Histories reminded all of us that the past never dies and that it lives on in each of us.

“The Queer Histories] programs are educational, in an open inclusive environment”
Queer Histories Series attendee

BUILDING A SAFER, HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

Health and wellness are crucial for both success and happiness. As such, we teamed up with students and staff from the Bureau of the Study Council, Mental Health Services, the Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, the Office of International Education, and University Health Services to host our BGLTQ Health and Wellness Series. Focusing on mental, physical, and sexual health and safety—both in and outside of the Harvard community—this series assisted students in understanding how to take steps to ensure their health and wellness. Of course, we also continued to provide students and student groups with access to free and accessible safer sex supplies as well as one-on-one drop-ins with the Director.

BGLTQ Health and Wellness Events

- First-Year Social after Sex Signals with Sara Kimmel, Ph.D.
- Out Abroad with Nicole Garcia
- Out for the Holidays with Craig Rodgers, Psy. D.
- Safer Sex in the BGLTQ Community with Sara Kimmel, Ph.D. and Bruce Churchill, M.D.
- Great Sex! with Sara Kimmel, Ph.D. and Bruce Churchill, M.D

“Fantastic! Probably the best non-social mixer BGLTQ event I’ve ever been to!”
Sex in the BGLTQ Community Program Attendee
A look at the history of BGLTQ activism and advocacy in the United States reveals a movement dedicated to outreach and community engagement. As such, the Harvard College Office of BGLTQ Student Life got involved in the Greater Boston area. Through partnering with local secondary schools, non-profit organizations (like the Hispanic Black Gay Coalition), and other colleges and universities, we were able to expand our reach and learn from other youth leaders in the BGLTQ movement.

“[The retreat] widened my perspective, helped me to articulate formerly abstract thoughts, and made me more confident in leadership.”

Harvard College Student Leadership Retreat Attendee
Recognizing the need for a comprehensive training program on the intricacies of BGLTQ identities and experiences, the Harvard College Office of BGLTQ Student Life launched Harvard University’s first Allyship Workshop. A student-designed and student-facilitated workshop, our allyship trainings focused on both sexual and gender identity. They were intended to teach faculty, staff, and students from across the campus how to engage with BGLTQ-identified individuals as supporters and allies. In the Spring 2014 semester alone, 12 groups and organizations requested training with the Office, enabling us to reach numerous students, faculty, and staff members.

“I’ve learned more valuable strategies for allyship through this workshop.”
Allyship Workshop Participant

On Friday, April 25, 2014, Stanford University Artist-in-Residence Cherrie Moraga delivered the seventh Nicholas Papadopoulos Lecture in Gay and Lesbian Studies. Moraga’s lecture, “Queer Identities and the ‘Spirit’ of Radical Dissidence,” addressed the LGBTQ-rights movement in recognition of the 45th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. Speaking as a queer, Chicana feminist, Moraga—the first queer woman of color to deliver the annual Papadopoulos Lecture at Harvard—spoke to issues and identities that are oftentimes overlooked and opened up a dialogue on campus that will continue well into the future.
“Fantastic! Probably the best non-social mixer BGLTQ event I’ve ever been to!”
Sex in the BGLTQ Community

“Programs are educational, in an open inclusive environment”
Queer Histories Series

“It was very eye opening to see media portrayals of groups of color and intersecting identities”
The New Black

“I’ve learned more valuable strategies for allyship”
Allyship Training

“Queer history is essential to any academic institution”
Queer Histories Series

“Inspiring speaker, great documentary”
The New Black