

Lesbian
Gay
Bisexual
Transgender

E D U C A T I O N
O U T R E A C H
S E R V I C E S

Out Words

Welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of *Out Words* from the Center for LGBT Education, Outreach and Services at Ithaca College.

There are many exciting things to report since the Center was opened in fall of 2001. As the founding director, I wanted to take great care in creating programs and services that meet the needs of the campus community.

With that in mind, I invited students, staff and faculty to take part in an interactive and exploratory process to help create mission, vision and values statements that reflect Ithaca College and the needs of the LGBT and allied community.

The following statements are built upon ideas and suggestions from those meetings about The Center's reason for being.

The mission of the Center for LGBT Education, Outreach, and Services is to make the world a better place for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. This bold, large-scale mission represents the Center's guiding star. It is not an

action step or a goal, but a brief and compelling reason for being that states that the greater work of the Center includes cultivating allies and activists who will carry on with their work beyond their college graduation.

In service of that mission, the Center will work to create the best campus possible for LGBT people to learn, work, and live.

The Center works to create the best campus possible for LGBT people to learn, work, and live.

The Center's work toward achieving its mission will be guided by the following core beliefs:

- Sexual and gender diversity add value to a campus community.
- All people deserve access to information, education, support and services that value their unique diversity.
- Actively working toward social justice and equality are vital pursuits.
- Respect and appreciation for sexual and gender diversity are cornerstones of a healthy society.

Would you like to learn more? Call or email Lisa and ask for a copy of the new Center brochure!

Coming Out Spiritually

On November 20, 2002 Christian de la Huerta, author of *Coming Out Spiritually*, spoke with the college community about issues of religion, spirituality, and LGBT people.

Mr. De la Huerta's book, as well as others on the topic of spirituality from a variety of faith perspectives can be found in the LGBT Resource Room lending library.



Members of the Diversity Awareness Committee with guest lecturer Christian de la Huerta.

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The E-Center: *student volunteer helps bring the Center online*

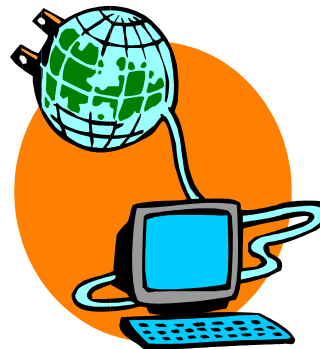
The LGBT Center website went live in September 2002 and was met with rave reviews. With a weekly average of 120 new visitors, the site has already proven quite popular and useful for members of the campus community.

www.ithaca.edu/lgbt is the place to go for a virtual tour of the LGBT Office and Resource Room, information about LGBT Center services, learning about being an ally and what it means to do ally work, and a directory of "Out & Proud" LGBTQI faculty and staff at Ithaca College.

The site is designed to serve as an E-Center by providing resources and information on LGBT issues 24/7. If it's 1:00 a.m. and you're looking for a link to a national website on LGBT issues, you can stop by the website, check out the links and get the information you need, when you need it.

The site would not have been possible so soon after the Center's opening without the expertise of a student volunteer and the research and resources of the LGBT Coordinator.

Working throughout the summer of 2001, the text, notes, pictures, and ideas generated to meet the needs of the campus community for a new LGBT website were put together into a unique and useful e-center.



In the coming months there will be more exciting additions to the website, including bibliographies and other resource sheets in user-friendly pdf-format.

The website e-center will be a valuable tool for our communities, as well as for our allies, prospective students, and all those wishing to learn more about the LGBT Center and issues of importance to sexual minority folks. Please enjoy the website, and be looking for future additions!

Fall 2002 Happenings

The fall was filled with LGBT-themed events sponsored by the LGBT Center! An Ice Cream Social kicked off the start of the new academic year, and drew many visitors both old and new.

Internationally-known researcher Dr. Ritch Savin-Williams provided a standing room only presentation during National Coming Out Week titled "Coming Out to Parents."

The Hangar Theatre presented the new play "Josh Keenan Comes Out to the World", which centers on a gay student's journey toward self-acceptance. The audience also enjoyed a

"talk-back" after the performance, in which the actors shared their experiences of working on and performing the play as it evolved.

Author Christian de la Huerta also brought his expertise to campus (see page 1), and there were other opportunities and happenings as well.

More events are planned for the spring—see page 3 for a preview!



Students, staff and faculty gather in the Center for the Ice Cream Social in September 2002

A minor setback

The LGBT Resource Room experienced an unusual event during the last week of the fall semester. Extremely cold weather caused pipes in the building to burst, causing unexpected showers to break out in the Resource Room.

Due to the swift action of Physical Plant and Public Safety staff, most of the resources were saved from harm. The damage required the room to be completely emptied, so repair and clean-up efforts could begin.

Unfortunately, this forced the room to close several days before the end of the semester—some last-minute book-

browsers and a few students seeking elusive citations for research papers stopped by to find that the room was closed for repair.

Clean-up and repair of the Resource Room is expected to be complete soon after the start of spring semester. Feel free to contact the office for updates on projected re-opening!

Thanks again to the wonderful staff of Physical Plant and Public Safety!



So, what can the Center do for you?

The Center for LGBT Education, Outreach, and Services actively fosters the academic success and personal growth of LGBT students and offers college wide services to enhance the campus community's awareness, understanding and appreciation of LGBT students, staff and faculty.

The work of the Center is for everyone.

Homophobia and heterosexism hurt people regardless of their sexual orientation. Challenging and confronting oppression is vital in a learning environment.

The Center's services include:

- An office staffed by a half-time professional coordinator and a Resource Room staffed by trained student volunteers.

- The Resource Room offers a welcoming and supportive environment for LGBT people and their allies. Books, videos, periodicals, and computer stations are available for use.
- Educational presentations and training workshops on a large variety of LGBT issues, including: LGBT 101, history, health care, reaching out to LGBT students, and much, much more.
- Referrals, resources, and information on LGBT issues and concerns.
- Campus wide LGBT themed educational programs and social events that are open to the larger community.
- Brochures and pamphlets addressing issues and concerns of LGBT people, their families and allies.
- Information for incoming students and their families.

Please call or email Lisa with any questions about the Center's services.

LGBT Center receives grant!

The LGBT Center was recently awarded a grant from the Tompkins County Health Department, Tobacco Control Coalition for a project on tobacco use prevention and cessation in Ithaca College LGBT students.

Research shows that rates of cigarette smoking among LGBT people are much higher than the general population, yet this subject is just beginning to receive attention.

The grant will allow special programming throughout the spring semester aimed at:

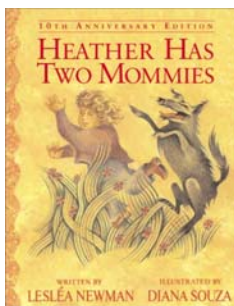
- Increasing knowledge of health risks for LGBT tobacco

users and non-users.

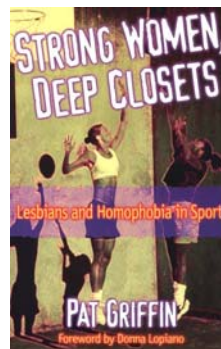
- Increasing knowledge of ways tobacco companies target the LGBT community and create action plans to resist their tactics
- Promoting quitting and preventing initiation of tobacco use among LGBT students.

Look for more special events and services on this topic in the spring semester, including workshops, Quit Kits, and film screenings!

Upcoming events



Author Leslea Newman will present "You can't be a Lesbian, You're Jewish" on **Tuesday April 1, 2003** at 8 pm in Muller Chapel. Ms. Newman has written many books, including *Heather Has Two Mommies*, the first children's book to portray lesbian families in a positive way. Much of her work addresses lesbian identity, Jewish identity and their intersections. Ms. Newman's campus visit is made possible in collaboration with Hillel and the Jewish Studies program.



Pat Griffin will visit campus on **April 8, 2003** to present "Mike Piazza Says He's Not Gay, But Why do We Care? Are Sports Fans and Teammates Ready for Gay Athletes to Come Out?" This presentation will take place at 8 pm in Emerson Suites, and is made possible in collaboration with Recreational Sports, with co-sponsorship by a variety of academic units, departments, and student organizations. Dr. Griffin is a professor in Social Justice Education at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

C E N T E R F O R

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ITHACA

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Check out the full color version
of this newsletter online!

We're on the web!
www.ithaca.edu/lgbt

Book Notes

Whether you're looking for information for a research paper, something to read over the weekend, or some inspirational words about being an LGBT person, the LGBT Resource Room is the place to go!

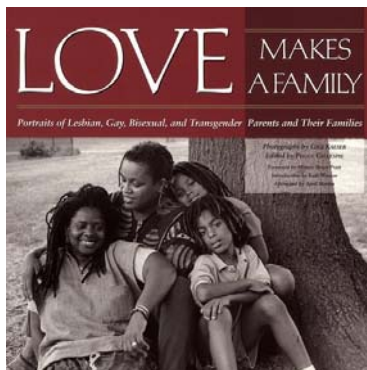
Books can be checked out - ask your friendly Student Volunteer for assistance!

A few new additions to the Resource Room include:

Love Makes a Family

by Gigi Kaeser
(Photographer), Peggy Gillespie, Kath Weston, April Martin.

This beautiful photo documentary brings the reader into the lives of LGBT families; you will see their faces and read their stories and learn a lot about the joys, trials and everyday life of LGBT families.



Inspiration™
FOR LGBT STUDENTS
& THEIR ALLIES

Inspiration for LGBT College Students & Their Allies

by Anthony J. D'Angelo, Stephen D. Collingsworth Jr., Mike Esposito, Gabriel Hermelin, Lydia A Sausa, Dr. Ronni Sanlo, Shane L. Windmeyer

Out & About Campus: Personal Accounts by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender College Students

by Kim Howard & Annie Stevens
(Editors)

These anthologies share stories, poetry, resources, personal narratives about the experiences of LGBT and allied college students.

