

Out Words

The Anniversary Edition

Spring 2007

Looking Back

In October 2001 Ithaca College took another step toward diversity and inclusion by providing support and resources for our LGBT students, staff, faculty and our allies. The inspiration and dedication of a small cadre of student leaders combined with the support of the administration, alumni and the campus community, led to the creation of the Center.

This year marks the 6th anniversary of the opening of the Center. Three weeks after the coordinator position was filled the Center was furnished, volunteer applications were circulated and a volunteer student staff of 16 were trained. The inaugural class of student volunteers helped to open the Resource Room for 65 hours a week! Since then we have had 188 student volunteers who have welcomed 18,400 visitors to the Resource Room.

Some other notable statistics from our first six years! Over the past six years there have been 50 films screened in the Out of the Closet and Onto the Screen film series; classroom presentations and staff training are provided



for 500 people per semester; a total of 9,654 people have attended LGBT Center events and learning opportunities; and there have more than 41,991 visitors to our website.

This year also marks the 5th anniversary of the Rainbow Reception for Graduates. Our reception is based on the Lavender Graduation concept created in 1995 by Dr. Ronni Sanlo at the University of Michigan. Over the past five years we have honored LGBT and Allied graduating seniors and presented numerous awards (see page 3 for more on awards and honors). Our Rainbow Reception is a celebration that recognizes LGBT and Allied students and acknowledges their achievements, struggles and contributions to the campus community.

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Looking Forward

In the fall of 2007 a series of real and virtual discussions will be hosted to help the Center shape the next five years of LGBT education, outreach and services at Ithaca College. Members of the campus community will be invited to share their insights, experiences and ideas. Admittedly, there is only so much a small Center can offer, however this is an opportunity to dream and envision what the future could hold.

To make sure you are involved in this process, sign up for the LGBT Center News & Announcement listserv. Get ready to share your thoughts in the fall!

Go to
lists.ithaca.edu
to subscribe!



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New website design launched



After months of surveying members of the campus community, interviews with key student leaders and the incredible work of Anna Rainey, M.S. '06, our new website was launched in February 2007.

The site features a new design that allows for timely revisions and additions to be completed by Center staff as well as a new visual look and feel through which users can click through and gain access to important LGBT facts, figures, dates and resources.

Of particular note is the fact that all our website designs have been student designed and inspired.

Some stats about the new site!

In the first two months after the launch of the new site design, we had visitors from:

- 📍 37 states, plus Washington DC
- 📍 13 countries, and
- 📍 4 Canadian provinces.

The site has been a great tool for prospective students, current members of the campus community as well as alumni; the newly launched design has had over 8,500 visitors since inception, with the new design and content drawing even more visitors than previous designs.

Visit ithaca.edu/lgbt to learn more!

LGBT web outreach by the numbers

☒ Most hits in one day: Thanksgiving 2004

Why? The number of hits peaked just after an Alumni Relations e-newsletter was released which included a small announcement inviting LGBT and Allied alumni to reconnect with the LGBT Center to learn about its work and initiatives. Overall, nearly 2,400 alumni (roughly 13%) of all those receiving the Alumni Relations e-newsletter appeared to have viewed the LGBT Center website during the week of Thanksgiving.

☒ Average number of visits to Center website per week: 162

☒ Most visited pages within the site: Out & Proud; Resources; Events; and special content for prospective students.

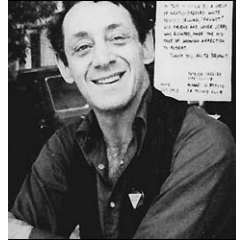
☒ Number of student volunteers who have been instrumental in creating and maintaining the site: 5

Three students have stepped up to offer their expertise in web design and two provide their continued attention to the details and information needed to keep the site fresh and up-to-date.

LGBT and Allied Campus Awards

Each year at the Rainbow Reception for Graduates we honor LGBT and Allied seniors and present three distinguished awards.

The Harvey Milk Award is presented to a student for outstanding efforts to increase awareness and visibility of LGBT issues at Ithaca College.



The Sylvia Rivera Award is presented to a student for providing outstanding service to the LGBT community at Ithaca College.

The LGBT Ally Award is presented to a member of the campus community for outstanding efforts as an Ally to the LGBT community at Ithaca College.



Past honorees include:

LGBT Ally Award

- 2002 Shelley Facente
- 2003 Bill Pelto
- 2004 Bonnie Solt Prunty
- 2005 Estela Santos-Pape
- 2006 Frederick Chandra & Rebecca F. Plante

Harvey Milk Award

- 2002 Ryan Prosser
- 2003 Danny Baker
- 2004 Gina R. Evers
- 2005 Aaron Escobedo
- 2006 Zachary T. Ford

Sylvia Rivera LGBT Award

- 2003 Jarred Eddy
- 2004 Braeden Liam Sullivan
- 2005 Sarah Johnson & Jennifer Stott
- 2006 Joseph M. Wladkowski

Two alumni receive national honors



Tillapaugh, '01

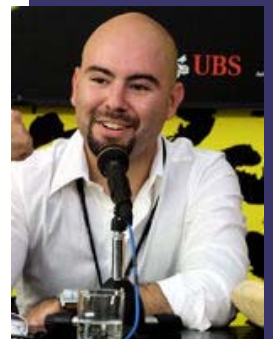
Dan Tillapaugh '01 was awarded the **Val DuMontier Outstanding New Professional Award by the American College Personnel Association's Standing Committee for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Awareness** for recognition of a new professional who has made significant contributions to LGBT awareness.

Currently the assistant director of student activities at Goucher College, Dan also serves as a liaison to the Office of Community Living and Multicultural Affairs and the direct advisor for BGLAD, Goucher's LGBT undergraduate organization. He is also an instructor of

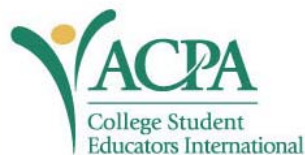
And, at the January 2007 **Bloomington PRIDE film festival** in Bloomington Indiana, a film by Rodrigo Bellott '01, *Sexo*, won the Alfred C. Kinsey Award.

Sexo is an experimental comedy described by the Bloomington film festival as:

"SEXO says what others don't dare say about sex, class and race. Stimulating the body and mind with hilarity and depth."



Bellott, '01



an undergraduate LGBT Leadership course at the University of Maryland, College Park.

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Web resources to know about

Some of the not-so-known but really important information that can be found at ithaca.edu/lgbt:

 **Planning to study abroad?** Go to the Resources Section on the site to download a pamphlet co-written with the Office of International Programs filled with specific resources for LGBT students planning to travel abroad.

 **Looking for back issues of Out Words?** Also in the Resources Section, all newsletters are archived and easily downloadable as PDFs.

 **Know someone thinking about attending IC?** Send them to the site to check out a special LGBT specific FAQ section for prospective or transfer students. And, be sure to tell them about the short film in the Student Section of the site specifically for prospective students!

 **When you're far away this summer and you miss the LGBT Center...don't fret!** Visit the Virtual Tour on the homepage!

Thank You!

Thank you to the LGBT Center student staff and volunteers for their service and dedication! The Center could not do what it does without you.

Student staff thank yous to Sarah Cayea, '07, Michael Miller, '07, and Josh Scott '08. From hanging posters and making copies to consulting on projects and LGBT campus issues your work is invaluable.

And thanks to our 47 student Resource Room volunteers! YOU are the reason we can offer a safe, inviting space for members of the campus community to stop in, hang out, study and of course, watch Family Feud! Safe and comfortable spaces for LGBT students are rated among the highest needs of students; thanks for helping make this happen. And yes, applications for fall 2007 will be available upon your return!

