



Mid Atlantic LGBTQA Conference

Theme



“Our Lives on the ‘A’ List: Academy, Administration, and Activism”

Friday, October 2, 2009

7:30PM Early Registration

8:00PM Pizza Party, Movie Night (KUB 345A)



All attendees who plan to arrive Friday night are invited to a casual social event. We will watch [A League of Their Own](#) followed by an open forum discussion.

8:00PM PASSHE LGBTQIA Consortium Meeting (TBD)



The State System Consortium will hold an executive committee meeting during the Pizza/Movie event.

Saturday, October 3, 2009

9:00-9:45 - Registration & Social Time (MCHS New Wing Lobby)



All attendees are asked to check in at the lobby of McCormick Center for Human Services before gathering in room 1303 for networking (with people you don't already know).

9:45-10:30 - Welcome, Introduction, & Ice Breaker (MCHS 1303)



[Dr. David L. Soltz](#), Bloomsburg University President

[Dr. Mark Usry](#), Conference Chair

[Andrew Stout](#), Assistant Conference Chair

10:45-12:00 - Break-Out Session A



Changing Gay and Lesbian in Television (MCHS 1303)

LGBT media images historically in connection with media activism and their impact on movies and television.

[Dr. Chuck Hoy](#), Mansfield University, Communications and Theatre



A Day in a Transgender's Heels... (MCHS 1316)

What's the difference between transgender, transsexual, cross dresser, drag queen/king? Have you ever wondered what it takes to change your image and/or gender? This session will discuss the topics of gender identity and the issues relating to transgender youth, including the processes and problems that trans-students encounter daily.

[Shay Neary](#), Keystone College



The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later (MCHS 2303)

It's been just over 10 years since the murder of Matthew Shepard, a gay college student, in Laramie, Wyoming. To commemorate the anniversary, an epilogue to the acclaimed documentary play *The Laramie Project* has been created, and the Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble (BTE) will be one of over 120 theatres participating in a simultaneous, world-wide staged reading of the epilogue on October 12 at 8pm. BTE actors Richard Cannaday and Cassandra Pisieczko will provide historical background to the events of Matthew's murder, read some excerpts of the original *Laramie Project* (and invite participants to read some selections as well, if interested) and talk about the October 12 performance of the Epilogue at BTE's Alvina Krause Theatre.

Casandra Pisieczko and Daniel Roth, [Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble](#)

 **Biting Back: Can Vampires Give a Voice to LGBTQA Issues?** (MCHS 2314)

This session will explore the representation of vampires as a metaphor for the LGBTQA community in HBO's show *True Blood*. In interrogating this portrayal, we will consider whether these associations help or harm the LGBTQA cause. Can popular culture be a space for advocacy? Why or why not?

[Dr. Christina Francis](#), Bloomsburg University, English

12:00-1:00 - Lunch


 Registration fee includes lunch in The Scranton Commons, our main dining hall.

1:15-2:30 - Break-Out Session B

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LGBT media images historically in connection with media activism and their impact on movies and television.

[Dr. Chuck Hoy](#), Mansfield University, Communications and Theatre

 **Teacher/Scholar/Leader/Activist?: Balancing Multiple Roles and Defining Boundaries in the Classroom** (MCHS 1316)

Run as an interactive session, I will present briefly on some of the questions that come up in terms of professional ethics and how, as an activist, one can/should be in the classroom, as well as questions of what actually influences students in positive and negative ways. What I'm thinking of here, is the question of what kinds of professor behaviors actually lead the classroom to be a place where people learn to be more knowledgeable and accepting, and what kinds of behaviors might actually be counterproductive. I will then open it up to participants to talk about what they have seen, what they think works and doesn't, and how they see professional ethics come into play.

[Dr. Heather Feldhaus](#), Bloomsburg University, Sociology, Social Work & Criminal Justice

 **Connecting With Other Groups of Diversity** (MCHS 2303)

In this session we will explore the ways in which GLBT groups/people can work, in tandem, with other groups of diversity, to achieve a common goal.


[Dr. Julie Vandivere](#), Bloomsburg University, English

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2:45-3:45 - LGBT Activism 101 (MCHS 1303)

 **From the Grassroots to the Halls of Power:
Effective Activism for LGBT Rights in PA**

[Jake Kaskey](#), Policy and Outreach Coordinator, [Equality Advocates Pennsylvania](#)

4:00-5:15 - Break-Out Session C

 **Keeping the Faith** (MCHS 1303)

The panel will discuss a wide range of issues related to spirituality and religious expression, particularly as they affect LGBT communities.

Reverend [Marjorie Menaul](#), St. Paul Episcopal Church, Bloomsburg

Reverend [Steve Engelhardt](#), Trinity Reformed United Church of Christ, Bloomsburg

[Dr. Mark Usry](#), Moderator

 **Coming Out to Friends & Family** (MCHS 1316)

The hazards of staying in the closet and how hard it is to grow up gay. The initial reaction to parents finding out that they have gay children, how to help them with the coming out process, and trying to give their parent's time and space until they come to acceptance. A useful approach to coming out carefully, confidently

and maybe comfortably. Coming out is never easy, so planning your course of action and testing your readiness level is important. Practical application during the session.

Anita Lee & Robert Nead, PFLAG Monroe County

Being 'Out' in the Workplace (MCHS 2303)

For many the decision to be 'out in the workplace' is a very personal one. How and when is determined by profession, geography, and attitude. This session explores the pros and cons of being 'out at work'.

Brian K. Sims, Esq., Staff Counsel, Philadelphia Bar Association

Dr. Robert M. Midkiff, Jr., Associate Dean, Bucknell University

Thomas Hoy, COO, Geisinger HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital

Andrew Stout, Moderator

5:30-7:00 - Free Time

Free time is provided to allow attendees to return to their hotel to "freshen up" before the evening events.

7:00 - Dinner (KUB Ballroom)

Registration fee includes a buffet style catered dinner including:

Grilled Marinated Chicken Breast Buffet

Rolls / Butter, Coffee / Iced Lemon Water

Wedding Soup

Pasta with Chunky Marinara Sauce

Herb Roasted Red Potatoes

Seasonal Vegetable Medley

8:00 - Keynote (KUB Ballroom)

Athletes & Allies: A Conversation About LGBT Athletes & Teammates

In 2000, *Brian K. Sims* was the captain of the Bloomsburg University football team, and in the middle of the greatest season in the Division II school's history he did the unthinkable: he came out of the closet! In doing so, the regional All-American and team captain became the only openly gay college football captain in NCAA history and the most notable college player to ever come out.

Following a trip to the National Championship, and after 12 seasons of winning football, Sims, a high school and college football champion, packed up his cleats and went to law school. Now, 9 years after his record-setting and unimaginable season, Sims is an LGBT advocate and successful policy attorney, living and working in Philadelphia.

Brian is the Staff Counsel for Policy & Planning at the Philadelphia Bar Association, the President of GALLOP (Gay & Lesbian Lawyers of Philadelphia), a State Political Leaders Fellow at the Center for Progressive Leadership, and a member of the Board of Directors of Equality Advocates of Pennsylvania. Find more info at www.brianksims.com.

9:00-11:00 - Dance (KUB Ballroom)

A social dance will follow the keynote speech.

Sunday, October 4, 2009

9:00-10:15 - Break-Out Session A

Providing LGBT Educational Panels in the University Classroom (MCHS 1316)

Facilitated by students from the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA), panels are offered in classroom settings. These panels focus mainly on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered issues, and typically follow a question and answer format. GSA students participating in panels have undergone training regarding how to properly conduct themselves during these panels, how to treat sensitive questions, and how to approach this often controversial topic in an inoffensive and educationally productive manner. In this workshop, we will discuss the Bloomsburg University LGBT Panel process including outreach to faculty and training for panel volunteers as well as record keeping and evaluation issues.

Dr. Alana B. Atchinson, Bloomsburg University, GSA Advisor

Mike Angeloni, Bloomsburg University, Panel Coordinator



Assuming the Position: High School Outreach (MCHS 2303)

While a countless number of high school students struggle with diversity issues each day, a small number of them actually receive an education specific to diversity-sensitive topics—especially in a time when GLBT issues are at a peak. This session will equip attendees with knowledge and sample lessons with which to approach teaching high school diversity.

[Andrew Stout](#), Bloomsburg University Alumnus



Decide on Diversity: Implementing Diversity Training on Your Campus (MCHS 2314)

Have you ever looked around your campus and thought to yourself; I wonder how I can bring these different groups of people together? This session is set up to take you through a model of how to lead a training session on Diversity to assist in understanding each others' perspectives. We will discuss the importance and meaning of the word Diversity, in relation to our lives as students and as leaders on our campuses. This session will showcase how to bring to light just how important Diversity is and the impact it has on college students.

[Jason R. Stansberry](#), West Chester University

10:30-11:45 - Break-Out Session B



GSA Leadership Roundtable(MCHS 1316)

[Luis Medina](#), Bloomsburg University, GSA President



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[Jason R. Stansberry](#), West Chester University

12:00-12:45 - Open Forum, Closing Remarks, & Thank You (MCHS 1303)



[Dr. Mark Usry](#), Conference Chair

[Andrew Stout](#), Assistant Conference Chair

2:30-4:00 - Out in the Silence (Campus Theatre, Lewisburg, PA)



The documentary film, "Out in the Silence," will be shown at the Campus Theatre in Lewisburg on Sunday, Oct. 4, at 2:30 p.m.

The screening is sponsored by the Bucknell University Office of LGBT Awareness, FLAG&BT and the Central Susquehanna ACLU chapter. Admission is free but donations will be accepted to defray costs.

Following the screening, film-makers Joe Wilson, a native of Oil City, and his partner, Dean Hamer, will participate in a discussion about the rights of LGBT persons in Pennsylvania and across the country.

For more information, view the [Flyer](#) or [Press Release](#).

The Campus Theatre in Lewisburg is approxametly 40 minutes from Bloomsburg University.



This page last updated April 14, 2013

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