

connect

In Transit

This semester in *Connect*, we chose to consider the idea of **transitions**. In part, the decision to focus on transitions was pretty self-evident. It actually almost stood on top of Old West and hollered at us from across campus. Not only is our college experiencing a major transition in leadership in President Roseman and our new Vice Presidents, Joyce Bylander in Student Development, Brontè Jones in Finance and Administration, and Marsha M. Ray in Advancement, but the Office of LGBTQ Services and the work we do is in transition too, especially as we began substantial work on Trans* and gender nonconforming issues.

In this semester's issue, you'll find pieces from all five of our student Pride Coordinators and our wonderful Graduate Intern outlining some specific programming accomplishments this semester. You'll also find a fabulous piece from senior, Mana Shaw, who collaborated with the LGBT Center of Central Pennsylvania and the Dickinson College Archives to assemble a groundbreaking exhibit exposing Central Pennsylvania's LGBT history. Of course, our Director, Brian Patchcoski, has also included some thoughtful comments on the work accomplished within our office and across campus as well, especially as we rolled out our new gender-neutral housing policy at the beginning of the summer. We're also very excited to unveil

our very first alumni spotlight column this semester, which includes an interview with writer and performance artist, Emily Newberry '66, and one of her original works.

I'm particularly excited about our alumni spotlight in this issue, because my interview with Emily brought to light something I had forgotten. In a piece of our conversation she said, "We are all to some extent caught in the old stereotypes, we all grew up in it, and we are immersed in a culture that still holds a lot of these stereotypes. To grow as a person, you have to encounter people who are different than you. It is a fundamental part of understanding yourself and being a better person. If you can't try to live in someone else's shoes, you are missing a big opportunity." In a way, I had forgotten how important it is to be uncomfortable, to live in someone else's shoes and walk forward with new perspective. As a sophomore, my transition to college and (quasi) adult life is complete, and it's time once again to be on the look out for some major, uncomfortable experiences. Talking with Emily reminded me that I can avoid being uncomfortable and live my life in transit, from A to B, or I can seek out different people and experiences, become uncomfortable, and live a life in transition.

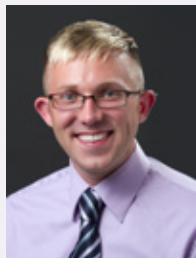
—Nick Bailey '16

Pride Coordinator for News & Digital Resources



Out on Britton 10-10-13

The Importance of Transitions



Transitioning to our second year, transitioning under new leadership, transitioning into the winter months, transitioning to new directions and aspirations—transitions are all around us. Merriam Webster’s dictionary defines a “transition” as “a movement, development, or evolution from one form, stage, or style to another.”

Our first year on campus was filled with excitement and anticipation. It was an energy that assisted us in moving new initiatives forward and encouraging the growth of our work on campus and in the community. Through that energy and movement, we have been able to build a foundation. With that foundation in place, we have been able to transition ourselves and our work to focus more intimately on building community, educating our campus and local area, and determining what might be most needed for us to continue building a supportive network and climate for issues of gender and/or sexuality.

As we have transitioned from year one to year two on campus, we have continued to offer our core programming inclusive of our Pride @ Dickinson Safe Zone Program, the LGBTQ Mentorship Program, our Pride Coordinator student employee program, this newsletter, and we will celebrate our 2nd Annual Lavender Reception in mid-April. Besides our Core Programming, we have also transitioned to offering more educational sessions and trainings taking a deeper look at our community and the “intersections” of our identities. We know that this work is not one-dimensional and we must be able to build a community bridging those intersections and creating places and spaces where those intersections can be discussed.

During this past fall, we celebrated Homecoming and Family Weekend and Inauguration Weekend where we welcomed Dr. Nancy Roseman as she transitioned to leadership at Dickinson. As an Office, we also gained a semester long graduate intern, Kyleen Classon,

from Shippensburg University who has assisted us in developing and redeveloping ally awareness resources and training materials. This fall, we also created a new Pride Coordinator position responsible for faculty and departmental outreach, expanding our work and efforts to connect with our amazing faculty here at the College and the great work happening in all the academic departments.

Since last spring, we have also worked tirelessly to transition our residential facilities and environments to be more inclusive and welcoming for the gender non-conforming and transgender communities. Through the work of the Enrollment and Student Life Committee (ESLC), faculty and staff, and much student input, we were able to create a gender neutral housing policy inclusive of first year students through upper class students. With this policy, Dickinson

“It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences.”

—Audre Lorde

is proud to join a community of more than 100 colleges and universities who offer some form of gender-neutral housing. Policies that resemble ours include American, Colby, Connecticut, Gettysburg, Hamilton, Oberlin, Princeton, Skidmore, University of Pennsylvania, Vassar and Wesleyan. There are variations of these policies across institutions, but Dickinson has worked to develop a policy striving to create the most inclusive and respectful living and learning environments for our student community.

Throughout the fall, the Office has worked to publicize and educate about LGBTQ History Month, Bisexuality Awareness Day, National Coming Out Day, Transgender Day of Remembrance, and World AIDS Day. While recognizing these as days and months of remembrance within our campus community, we have not only been able to encourage an awareness of

issues within the LGBTQ community, but also the multiple dimensions of identity associated with this work on a college campus. We have worked and will continue to work to transition our awareness as a community from basic knowledge, to greater depth and breadth, of understanding and engagement.

While encouraging an increased awareness of LGBTQ issues on campus and in our community, we celebrated Out on Britton (...or rather, because of rain, “Out in the Social Hall”) on October 11th. This year was a very special year in that it was the 25th Anniversary of the first celebration of (Inter)National Coming Out Day. Educating our community about our work during the last 25 years and listening to stories shared during the event, showcased the courage, strength, and resiliency that exists within the members of our community.

Knowing that we have a history as a movement and as a geographic area, we have also partnered to work with the LGBT Center of Central Pennsylvania and the Dickinson Archives on the Central Pennsylvania LGBT History Project. We have and will continue to promote the project and encourage members of our community to bring their experiences at Dickinson with the LGBTQ community back to the project. As a way of bringing visibility to the project, we partnered this fall to support the “History Comes Out Exhibit,” showcasing the great materials that have already been acquired by the project. We look forward to keep exploring our history and highlighting how far we have come as a movement at the College and in Central Pennsylvania.

As we have worked to uncover history, we have also worked to create new history at Dickinson. This past fall we launched our new Transgender/Gender Non-Conforming 101 Training on November 20th, the National Day of Transgender Remembrance. In this training, participants engaged in discussions around the wide variety of gender identities that fall under the umbrella term “transgender.” Participants were also challenged to consider the differences between sex and gender, explored gender diversity,

and discussed practical steps they can do to make transgender people feel safer in our community. This new training will continue to be offered to departments and groups on campus as we work to build a more gender inclusive community.

As our very busy fall semester neared an end, we also welcomed Keith Boykin, a New York Times Best-Selling Author and TV’s leading commentator on politics, race, and sexual orientation, to campus. Keith discussed his newest book titled, “*For Colored Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Still Not Enough: Coming of Age, Coming Out, and Coming Home.*” It responds to the crisis of youth development and suicide in the black community, specifically among young gay men of color. Keith was a very important piece of our work this semester—especially as we transitioned to focusing more on the intersections of LGBTQ issues. Keith’s reception, lecture, and book signing allowed members of the campus community to engage in some deeper dialogue around issues of race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality—discussions we hope to foster and continue as we strive to create a stronger community at Dickinson.

The fall semester has truly been a wonderful time of growth. As we have transitioned from laying a foundation to exploring deeper LGBTQ related issues on campus, we have also developed a five year strategic plan for the Office—providing us with further direction as we continue to grow. The plan highlights our way of building a stronger and more connected student community, especially for those within the LGBTQ community, through education, outreach, and advocacy.

Although we are in the midst of placing the fall 2013 semester in our history books, we must continue to recognize that we have much to celebrate and be proud of at Dickinson. The past semester has once again inspired me and this Office to keep making this work meaningful for ALL Dickinsonians. In the words of Audre Lorde, “It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences.” We as a community must continue to recognize, accept, and celebrate our differences—especially differences within communities.

On a final note, on behalf of the Office of LGBTQ Services, I would like to thank each one of you who have supported us and our work on campus. We look forward to the transitions and new roads that we will travel together and we hope you remain and encourage others to be part of them. We have lots to look forward to this spring, including our 7th Annual GSA Leadership Summit, our first ever LGBTQ Service Trip, Faisal Alam who will speak on his work with LGBTQ issues and Islam, our 2nd Annual Lavender Reception and Alumni Weekend in June. We hope to see you on campus soon!

Have a wonderful holiday season!

Warm regards,
Brian Patchcoski
Director - Office of LGBTQ Services



Updates from the Office

Pride@Dickinson and LGBTQ Mentorship

Fall has been a busy semester for our Safe Zone training program. We ran three workshops, one for faculty and staff, one for students, and one for a student group that requested our presence at two of their weekly meetings. We now have well over 100 community members enrolled in this comprehensive safe zone program. These faces of support have all gone through a three hour training led by the Office and are ready to help support Dickinson’s LGBTQ community any way they can. We have also begun reframing the Office’s Mentorship Program to make it feel less structured and are looking forward to re-launching this program in the spring. Finally, work has begun on finding ways to engage Dickinson’s LGBTQ alumni with the office. Feel free to e-mail us at LGBTQ@dickinson.edu if you have any ideas or would like to help form our programming and vision.

—Peter Oskar Shapiro ’14
Pride@Dickinson & LGBTQ Mentorship Pride Coordinator

Faculty and Departmental Outreach

This semester, I focused the majority of my work on the LGBTQ History Month project. This project highlighted this year’s thirty-one LGBTQ icons for the month of October with a campus-wide display and self-guided tour. I worked with fourteen different departments ranging from Art and Art History to Political Science to display these icons in departments with similar or connected contributions to the LGBTQ movement.

Following the month of October, I worked with another Pride Coordinator to transition the main display of LGBTQ History Month into a Trans* Awareness display. For the month of November, we hoped to focus on an area of the LGBTQ movement that tends to experience increased marginalization. So as the newest Pride Coordinator within the Office of LGBTQ Services, I look forward to more academic and departmental collaboration, as well as strengthening our connections, as we pursue the work of fostering an inclusive campus for LGBTQ issues.

—Martin Alvarez ’15
Faculty & Departmental Outreach Pride Coordinator

Programming and Community Outreach

As the Programming and Community Outreach Coordinator for the Office of LGBTQ Services, I’m proud to work with other groups to help to show support and sponsor events. Because of our work with other clubs, not only have we been able to attract better turnout for events, we also

Updates from the Office Con't.

encouraged and convinced other groups to show support by co-sponsoring events. With the support of the African American Society, the Africana Studies Department, Women's and Gender Resource Center, the Asbell Center, the Wellness Center, the Office of Diversity Initiatives, the Psychology Department, the Sociology Department, Dickinson's Violence Prevention Coordinator, the Division of Student Development, and Spectrum, we were able to host Keith Boykin, author of *"For Colored Boys who Considered Suicide when the Rainbow is still not Enough."*

His novel and lecture was about the struggles that queer men of color still experience despite the growing support for the LGBTQ community. Boykin's lecture helped many students on campus learn about the intersectionality between race, gender and sexuality. As a queer person of color, it was wonderful to hear someone speak about the black, queer experience. As the year progresses, I'm excited to see the other events we will be able to host due to the support of many clubs and departments across campus!

—Chalise Saunders '14

Programming & Community Outreach Pride Coordinator

Programming & Events

As the semester begins to draw to a close – with only four weeks left of classes, and what feels like only a handful of hours left at LGBTQ Services – I feel as though I'm ready to reflect on the work I have done since September. Although I had never held a position like this one before, I quickly learned what "Coordinator" meant: e-mails! I can't say how many hours I spent in the student office at Landis House sending out invitations, confirmations, requests, or otherwise corresponding with inquirers or other departments. I also spent time doing

research on national LGBTQ-related days of remembrance in order for the Office to keep much more of the campus well-informed. One of the bigger events that I covered was National Coming Out Week, which the office celebrated by hosting Dickinson's 4th annual Out on Britton.

Out on Britton (although it was Out in the Social Hall this year!) was perhaps my favorite project that I worked on over the course of the semester. It seems as though preparation for the event started the very first day that I walked into the office, but that's exactly why I liked it: between planning the guest list and sending the invitations, working with the Print Center to create advertisements, and organizing the space... it was an all-encompassing project. I feel privileged that I got to work so closely with Brian to accomplish something really wonderful. For anyone reading this who was able to attend Out on Britton, you know how moving it was to hear Dickinson students, staff, and faculty speak about their Coming Out and ally experiences. I am so honored that I was able to help make an important event like that so successful.

Ultimately, the job of any Pride Coordinator is to help bring awareness to LGBTQ issues both on and off Dickinson's campus, and I felt that I was able to reach out to a lot of people over the course of these past few months. I'm deeply sorry that I am unable to return next semester to continue this work, but I do hope that anyone in the Dickinson community who is at all interested in this kind of work—whether that be LGBTQ-related, coordinating, or both!—strongly considers applying for this position in future semesters. You will find yourself doing important work for the campus, and working with some talented people all along the way.

—Esprit Basner '15

Programming & Events Pride Coordinator

From the Desk of Our Graduate Intern

As an ally, I sometimes feel helpless beyond my offer of the words, "I support you." Although they are meaningful words that may comfort the ears of those struggling with the barriers society has put up against them, I sought this opportunity to do more. Actions speak louder than words.

I know I'm not the only ally out there, and surely I can't be the only ally who wishes I could do more. In the last year and a half, the Office of LGBTQ Services has made impressive strides in improving the climate of the campus and educating about the experience, rights, and needs of those identifying as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Omnisexual, Nonmonosexual, Pansexual, Asexual, and however else a person chooses to identify their gender identity or sexual orientation. In order for the Office of LGBTQ Services to expand what it offers students beyond the walls of the Landis House and its employees, we are thrilled to kick off a new initiative of educating and empowering allies across the campus. In the next few months, Dickinson's premier edition of the LGBTQ Services Ally Manual will be live on the Web site and available for unrestricted access.

Although I am proud to be part of such an important effort on this campus, I am humbled by the experience in developing this manual. My experience working on this project and others in my time here since June has been one of my most profound learning experiences. I have been confused, I have made mistakes, I have felt defeated, and I will probably continue to experience all of these emotions. I am not an expert, and I'm okay with that.

I've learned that you don't need to be an expert to be supportive. In fact, you need to know that you don't know everything in order to be supportive. It's about learning and accepting that someone else's truth is theirs and that it doesn't need to match or compete with yours. What I hope the ally manual offers is not a step by step guide of what it's like for the LGBTQ community and the answers to each of their struggles. What I hope the ally manual offers is that there is no single experience and that answers aren't necessary. There is an endless amount of challenges as well as opportunities faced by the many and vastly diverse members of the LGBTQ community. It is a privilege to be welcomed into understanding these experiences and offering the care I am able to.

I encourage you to explore the ally manual and perhaps attend an ally training session in the future. I am a better person for working on this project and connecting with the LGBTQ Office and the greater Dickinson community. I am forever grateful for those individuals who have shared their truth with me and given me more than they will ever know.

—Kyleen Classon



OCTOBER 1-31, 2013 | CELEBRATE LGBTQ HISTORY MONTH

This semester I have had the privilege to be an intern on the LGBT History Project, a joint collaboration of the LGBT Center in Harrisburg and the Dickinson College Archives, by curating the History Comes Out exhibit. In early September, I began going through the boxes of donations in the Dickinson Archives. My task included organizing and putting together documents and artifacts to display for the exhibit History Comes Out that opened October 1st for LGBTQ History Month. I had a very limited amount of time, and had to use every moment there wisely. I had never curated an exhibit before, which made it even more exciting to organize, especially because there were a lot of exciting and interesting materials that were donated. It was hard to choose what materials best represented the variety of artifacts and documents presented. I wanted to display objects that would be both eye-catching and informative to the viewer.

I have learned that there is a lot of LGBT history in Central PA, including local activist groups that partook in events and protests both nationally and in regional areas. For example, I loved going through the materials and finding activism by the Pink Triangle Coalition of Lancaster PA, promoting activism in DC for the March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi equal rights in 1993. I really enjoyed seeing how the local activism that the Pink Triangle Coalition took on. I found artifacts of their coalition sign, a picnic flyer, and newspaper clippings of their activism, showing that their coalition was visible during the late 1900's. I was also thrilled to find newsletters that were published in the 1970's that provided news and events in Central PA, such as Pittsburgh Gay News and Lancaster Gay Era. It was important because it also showed visibility of the lesbian and gay community locally.

This exhibit really captures the importance of LGBTQ History Month. It is a month to celebrate the history of LGBTQ individuals and see its progress, but also recognize challenges that LGBTQ individuals continue to face today.

I could not have been more pleased with working on this exhibit. Since I am majoring in Women's and Gender Studies, I was very happy to work on this project that interests me. In fact, as a senior, I am thinking about where this internship will help me in the future and I'd like to continue working and advocating for LGBTQ rights by promoting equal rights for Women and the LGBTQ community. This experience curating the History Comes Out has been an incredible experience, both working with the LGBT Center in Harrisburg and here at Dickinson.

—Mana Shaw '14



Alumni Spotlight:

Emily Newberry '66

Emily is a Trans*-woman
writer and performance artist

Q. What does our theme “transitions” mean to you in your life?

A. I've gone through a number of them! One was going to Dickinson College and getting a bachelors degree in Sociology. Graduating, I was so upset with the war in Vietnam and racism, and the political beliefs that I was starting to adopt made me realize that the revolution was going to be started by the working people, so I became a machinist. After 30 years of working as a machinist, I went back to graduate school for a certificate in conflict resolution and started doing organization development work. After that, I took early retirement and worked as an independent consultant until 2010 when I became a full-time writer and performance poet.

Those are all transitions, and in the midst of them, all the armoring I was carrying around my identity started to wear off. In 2005 I finally came out to myself and admitted what had been going on all those years. That, of course, was a really big transition, and I ran a successful campaign to have gender confirming surgery.

Q. How does your identity inform your work as a writer and artist?

A. It has helped me think more deeply than I ever did about the effects of cultural stereotypes on individuals, especially on children. How children develop, whether they're in marginalized groups who are experiencing discrimination or in majority groups, whose lives are narrowed and made less rich because of stereotypes. It has made me think about how much they miss out in the world. Some of them, of course, grow up doing damage to other people, which is not good for the soul, even if you are temporarily successful. Sitting at the top of society, exercising discrimination on those below you can't be good for you.

Q. What major changes or transitions have you seen at Dickinson since graduating?

A. When I heard that there was a gender studies initiative and an office doing LGBT work, I was blown away. I thought, “This was real change.” All good liberal arts colleges improve, but this change was really earthshaking.

Q. What message do you wish you could share with the Dickinson community, especially with students?

A. If you are transgender, gay, lesbian, or bisexual, don't hide from yourself. Seek out other people. Sit and talk to people. Don't let yourself wither under the fear of not being accepted, because there are people out there who are like you, who have similar experiences, and they are there to listen and to help.



“The Night Guard”

The beginning of life is a wonder,
in living we take a big chance;
and the question we're laboring under
is the music to which we will dance.

And the steps that we take,
our story will make,
and leave in our wake,
the give and the take.

Look back with a casual glance.
But listen, dear friend, to the music;
think not of the end of the tune.
And take each step as you choose it,
for the ending'll come rather soon.

For each grateful day,
be caught up in play,
and guard your own way
of being, and say,
“The truth is, I hadn't a clue!”

—Emily Newberry '66