LAMBDA

American University's GLBTA Resource Center Alumni Newsletter

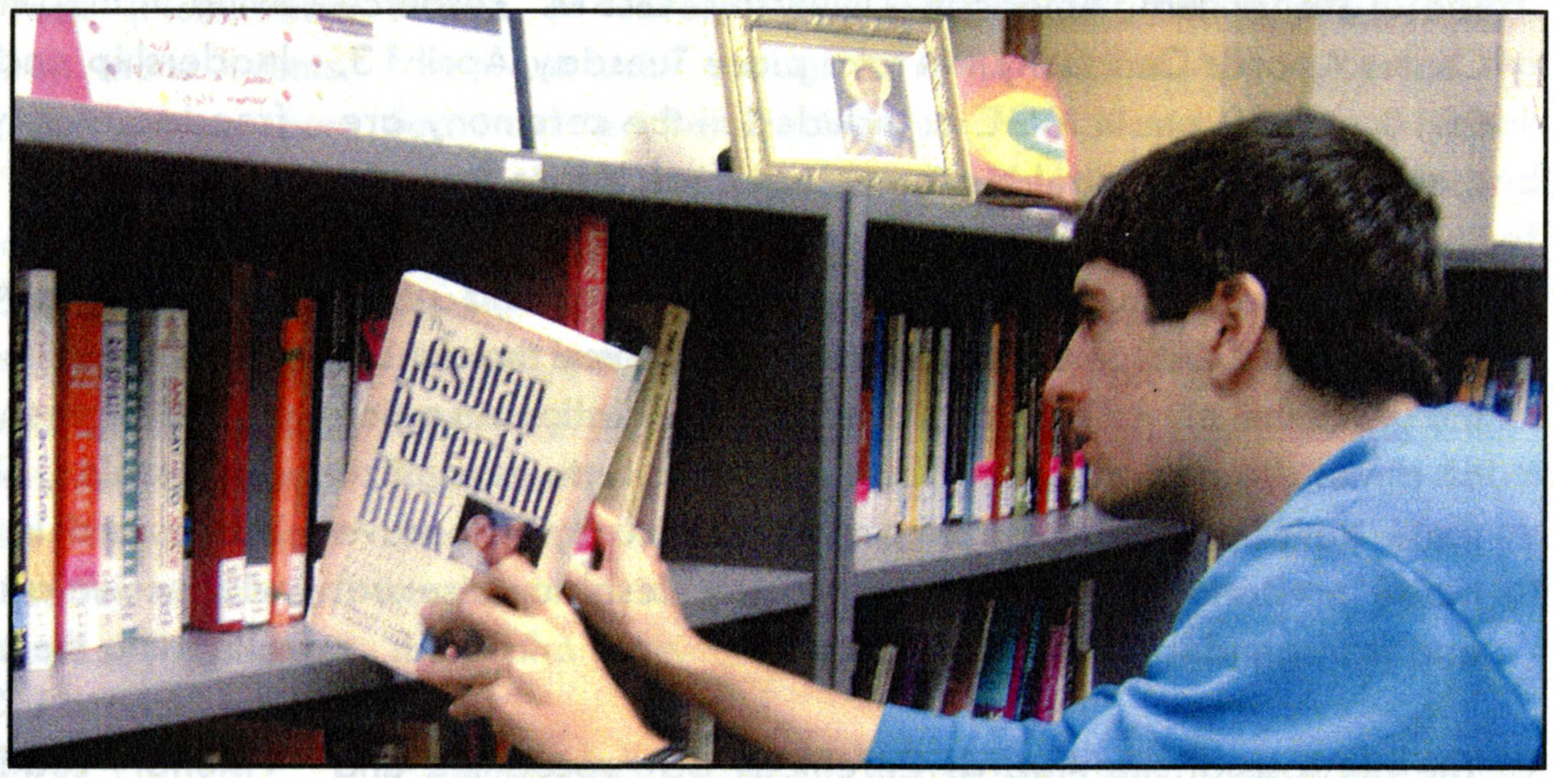
Greetings AU Alum!

The spring semester is in full swing and we are busy in the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Ally Resource Center! This semester brings the 2010 Annual Award Ceremony and honoring the 2010 Richard L. Schlegel National Legion of Honor Award Recipients.

You will find lots of information in this newsletter about events and programs since the last edition as well as a listing of some of our events for the semester. Our events are always free and open to students, faculty, staff, alumni and the community! Our office endeavors to find new ways to bring educational and entertaining speakers and films to campus. The success we are experiencing today is rooted in the actions of our alumni. We are proud of our past and look forward to continuing to make AU a safe, inclusive place for everyone.

We hope you're finding ways to endure tax season and we can't wait to hear from you all soon. For more information about the Center or any of our programs, please contact the GLBTA Resource Center at 202-885-3347.

All the best,
Sara Bendoraitis



Upcoming Events

A Night with Photographer Loren Cameron
Tuesday, April 6th | 6:00pm
Ward 1

Loren Cameron is the author of multiple photography books about transgender identity. Through a slideshow and discussion, he will tell his own personal story and the stories of the people he photographs.

13th Annual GLBTA Resource Center Awards Ceremony
Tuesday, April 13th | 5:30pm
Mary Graydon Center 3

The Awards Ceremony is our opportunity to recognize campus leaders as well as present the Richard L. Schlegel National Legion of Honor Award.

Night OUT at the Nationals
Summer - updates will be provided!

Contact Us

Hours of Operation
Monday and Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:00am to 8:00pm

Phone:	202-885-3347	E-mail:	glbta@american.edu
Fax:	202-885-1883	Website:	www.american.edu/glbta/

Resource Center and Schlegel Awards

The 13th annual American University GLBTA Resource Center Awards Ceremony will take place Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at 5:30 pm in MGC 3. Included in the ceremony are the Richard L. Schlegel National Legion of Honor Awards. The GLBTA Resource Center Awards offer an opportunity to recognize unique research, work, activism, and other activities by AU students, faculty, staff, and alumni throughout the AU community. The Richard L. Schlegel National Legion of Honor Awards offer the same opportunity to recognize those both inside and out of the AU community who have made outstanding contributions to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) communities.

The purpose of the Awards Ceremony is to recognize and celebrate the work of faculty, staff, alumni & students in six awards ranging from academic excellence to leadership & activism. Students, faculty, alumni, & staff may nominate or be nominated for the following awards: Academic Excellence, Alumni Involvement, Bridge Builder, Leadership, Outstanding 1st/2nd Year Student, and Staff/Faculty Appreciation. Nominations for these awards are due March 22nd.

The Richard L. Schlegel Legion of Honor Award is administered by the GLBTA Resource Center at American University in Washington, D.C. It recognizes individuals living in the United States who have exhibited outstanding leadership and significantly contributed to the dignity and freedom of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people.

The Richard L. Schlegel National Legion of Honor Award for Emerging Activist is given to young individuals (in high school or an undergraduate in college) who are living in the United States who have made outstanding contributions to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) communities. This award is for an Emerging Activist and the recipient will receive a cash award and includes travel expenses for attending the awards ceremony.
The Richard L. Schlegel National Legion of Honor Award for Visionary Leader is given to a person or organization in the United States who have made outstanding contributions to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) communities. We will be accepting nominations for the Schlegel Awards from now through Friday, March 5th. Nomination forms for all awards can be found on our website.

We welcome any and all nominations, and especially for our Alumni Involvement award! We are very excited to recognize all the people that make our community great.

-Heather Palmer, Class of 2013

GLBT Studies Colloquium

The 4th Annual GLBT Studies Colloquium was held at American University on November 17, 2009. It was sponsored by the GLBTA Resource Center and co-sponsored by Women's Gender & Sexuality Studies, the Department of Sociology, and the Office of Campus Life. Approximately 100 people attended nine concurrent sessions on a variety of topics.

Presentations included films and discussion panels on subjects ranging from the FDA's policy banning blood donation between MSMs (men who sleep with men) to polyamory to eating disorders in the queer community. One of the more popular seminars was AU's Katrina Casino's LOLesbians: Web 3.0 and the Queer Community which discussed online dating in the queer community.

There were participants from across the D.C. area, with students coming from George Mason as well as the University of Maryland.

-Andrew Dean, Class of 2013

A Busy AIDS Awareness Week on Campus

Last semester's HIV/AIDS Awareness Week (November 30-December 4) was a great success, with more events than ever before and large attendance from the campus community. The Women's Initiative HIV/AIDS Taskforce planned an assortment of activities on a variety of issues to educate the campus. The first event on Monday, November 30th was a huge collaboration of local African musicians, poets, and spoken word artists titled "Redefining Perceptions of Africa Through Art." The impressive event was a product of the hard work of Ravenna Motil-McGuire for her Honors Capstone project. Free Ethiopian food, education on current issues in Africa (including HIV/AIDS), and music...what more could you ask for?

Although Ravenna's event was hard to top, the HIV/AIDS Taskforce did cosponsor an event with the Kennedy Political Union featuring Cleve Jones on campus. Cleve came to discuss the current struggle for spreading awareness of queer issues and the growing numbers of HIV positive members of the queer community, specifically in D.C. He was an amazing speaker and an inspiration to many of us who, in a turbulent era of civil rights, can feel defeated working queer activism!

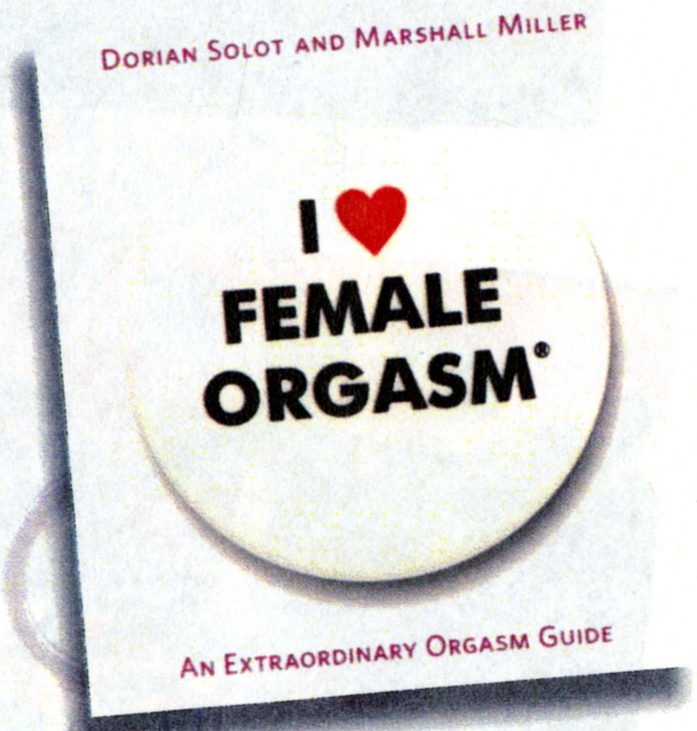
The last two events of HIV/AIDS Awareness Week focused on international issues. We screened an award-winning documentary called "Courage and Hope", which tells the stories of several HIV positive African school-teachers. We were lucky enough to invite Beldina Atieno, one of the featured teachers in the film from Kenya, to come speak to us about her experience with HIV-status disclosure and organizing a community of positive teachers as a means of coping with the illness and spreading awareness for testing. The last event we sponsored screened a brief documentary on an orphanage in Hyderabad, India for children who have lost parents/guardians to HIV/AIDS or who are HIV positive themselves. After the film, we ate Indian food provided by a restaurant on campus and wrote letters to the children at the orphanage.

As a member of the HIV/AIDS Taskforce, I am proud to say that we offered and cosponsored educational and enjoyable events for this year's HIV/AIDS Awareness Week. I believe that in the fight against HIV/AIDS, educating only one person is still a great success, so judging on our events, many people on campus have a bit more knowledge on the subject. We look forward to making next fall's HIV/AIDS Awareness Week even better!

-Matthew Stewart, Class of 2012

Loving the Female Orgasm

Dorian Solot and Marshall Miller love the female orgasm and so do we! Collaboration between Women's Initiative, the GLBTA Resource Center, and Queers and Allies brought back this dynamic couple for a second year to AU. Nationally known Sex Educators, Solot and Miller specialize in teaching about the female orgasm and healthy sexuality. For a second year, Ward 1 filled with the anxious faces of students from all different backgrounds and varying identities uniting under one common entity: the orgasm.



The GLBTA Resource Center was pleased to have the ability to aid in the return of this program. Solot and Miller don't only provide an open forum for the discussion of female sexuality and pleasure but create an environment inclusive of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities.
We are pleased to report that campus is now filled with shirts, pins, and books all proclaiming "I <3 the Female Orgasm".

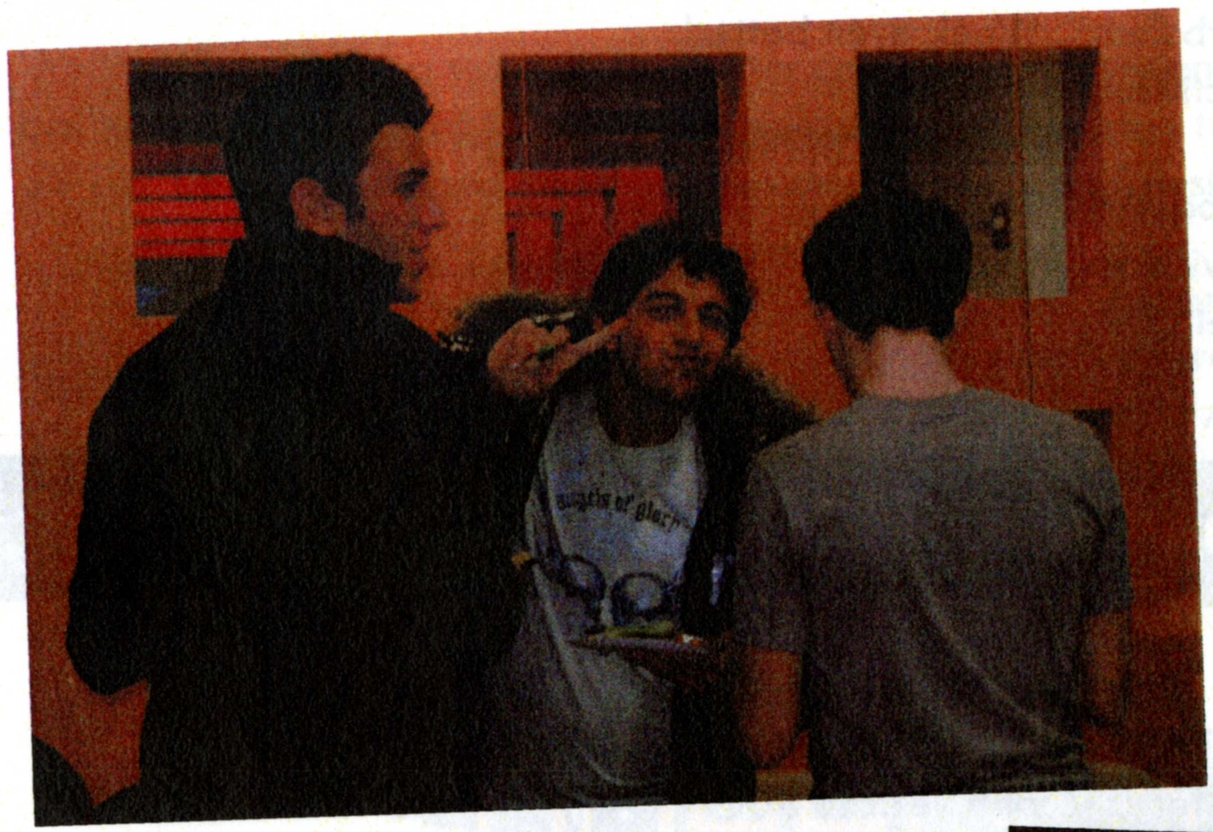
-Rachel Lachenauer, Class of 2012

A Succesful Mixer: Spring '10

This year's annual GLBTA spring mixer was even more of a success than last year's! Queer people came from all corners of campus to escape the cold, meet up with old friends, and make some new ones. This year's mixer was on January 14th, in Mary Graydon Center's Gianni Lounge. Like always, fresh fruit, crackers with hummus, and pizza was served to accommodate the hungry bellies of students and friends. Approximately 80 undergraduate, graduate, and law students attended the two hour event. Games and ice breakers took place to convert the lounge into a gay safe space of merriment. Heather Palmer, GLBTA staff worker and mixer disk jockey said, "This mixer was the best the RC has ever put on. I couldn't be happier if I had first-hand met Pikachu."

Not only did the spring mixer serve as a social gathering, but also as an information session. The GLBTA Resource Center's staff was present to answer any questions or concerns. To get the word out, supportive campus groups and offices, like Queers and Allies and the Office of Multicultural Affairs, were provided the opportunity to elaborate upon their mission and vision. Additionally, the Gay and Lesbian task force of D.C. as well as the National Center for Transgender Equality made an appearance to remind students of their resources. Overall, the spring mixer proved to be a great, informative escape from the cold and coursework.

-Anthony Jafari, Class of 2010



Queers and Allies
Semester Update

Second semester came up quickly! Last semester was packed with programming and we are heading in the same direction this time! Kicking off our semester is our annual, fabulous Drag Show. For this event we have six premier drag queens from the D.C. area, who have created original routines to fill the Mary Graydon Center on February 1st.

Queers and Allies recently released our new program Speak Out, in collaboration with the GLBTA Resource Center. This monthly program serves as a discussion group for students revolving around broad topics to foster communication and a safe space to develop ideas.

Our annual Freedom to Marry Day, one of our most popular events, is scheduled for the end of March. During this event the members of Queers and Allies perform mock wedding ceremonies on the quad allowing anyone to campus to temporarily marry anyone of their choosing. This fun event doubles as a representation that all people should have the ability to choose marriage. Currently we are working on designing a wedding cake which will be created by Charm City Bakery, home of the hit television show Ace of Cakes, for our end of the day wedding reception.

Beyond these stand alone events, Queers and Allies is constantly working to create the most diverse and inclusive environment possible. To do this we are continuing to put a lot of energy into our subgroups, Ally Initiatives, Trans Advocacy Project, Queer People of color, and the Queer Women's Advocacy Committee. They create programming each semester particularly addressing issues within their identity group.

We look forward to a successful semester and as always we encourage alumni to stay involved and let us know if they are interested in participating in any events! Please feel free to contact us at info@auqueersandallies.org and check out our website www.auqueersandallies.org for more updates!

Rachel Lachenauer
Executive Director
Queers and Allies
Rachel@auqueersandallies.org

queers.and.allies
american university washington, dc

Matt's Corner

As the spring semester is fully underway, I wanted to point out a few opportunities for alums to get involved with the Resource Center. As always all of our events are open to alums, but one in particular might be of interest.

During the GLBTA Resource Center Awards Ceremony we give away an Alumni Award, which goes to an alum who is committed to the efforts of the GLBTA Resource Center and GLBT issues. In addition, we give away a National Award called the Richard L. Schlegel National Legion of Honor Award. This award was created to honor individuals or organizations that exhibited outstanding leadership and significantly contributed to the dignity and freedom of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people. This year we are honoring a visionary leader and an emerging activist. We encourage alums to nominate someone for one of these awards and to also come to the GLBTA Resource Center Awards Ceremony on April 13th, where we will honor the winners of the Schlegel Award, Alumni Award and AU students, staff, and faculty.

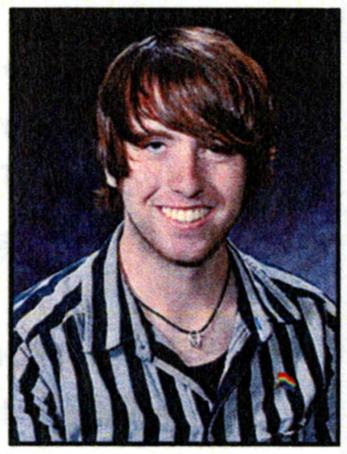
Additionally, with our newly formed collaboration with the AU Main Library, we are always looking for book/dvd donations to our GLBTA Resource Center Library. If you have always wanted to give back to AU (and specifically the GLBTA Resource Center), this is a perfect opportunity (and could potentially allow you to clear off some of your bookshelves!). Lastly, be on the lookout this summer for our 2nd Nats Night OUT event – a time to reconnect with some fellow alums and some AU faculty and staff!! Hope to see you soon!

-Matt Bruno
Program Coordinator

Meet the Staff

Andrew DeCaro-Dean is the RC's resident loud & proud Italian. He is undeclared in the College of Arts and Sciences but will probably end up in the School of Communications as he is a naturally gifted orator. Originally from Brooklyn, NY, he now resides in Westchester when he's not making a name for himself south of the Mason-Dixon line.

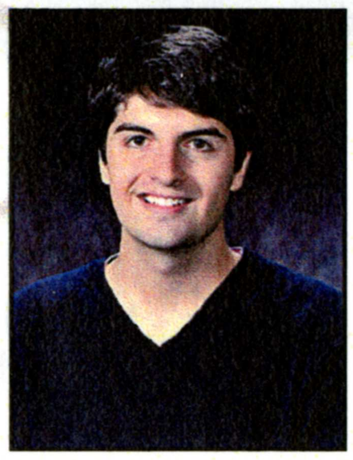
Dan Remick-Cook is the boy next door from Portsmouth, New Hampshire. He recently broke up with the School of International Service for a committed relationship with the Anthropology Department. His student worker responsibilities include the awards ceremony, logistics for Safe Space and Trans 101 trainings and most importantly the blaring of Beyonce loud enough for Multicultural Affairs to hear down the hall.



Heather Palmer is a first-year student from the mean streets of Philadelphia, PA. She began as a graphic design major but has since changed her mind quite a bit, almost as many times as she has changed her hairstyle. She likes cats, facial piercings and tattoos, and is the Resource Center's in-house artist. She also tends to listen to her abstract music a bit too loudly.

As the RC's self-identified "Mouth of the South," Matthew keeps things fresh around the office. He is buried in sociological theory course work but hopes to salvage his social life by next semester. He might start revitalized ACT UP chapter on campus with the help of a friend at another university in the consortium, so keep your eyes open! He wants readers to know that they are loved & valued as long as they play by Miss Ginger Snap's rules.

Ashley Olguin is a lone star from Houston and is a first year student at American, with this being her first semester working at the Resource Center. Her current major is International Relations with a minor in Women and Gender Studies. Ashley is funky and loves the shimmy!

Rachel Lachenauer returns for a second year of spending an absurd amount of time in the Resource Center. A Justice and (all too predictably) Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies major, Rachel spends the majority of her time doing many gay things, drinking copious amounts of coffee, attending meetings, and forcing her peers to listen to an excruciating amount of feminist rants.

Anthony Jafari is a senior majoring in unicorns (Political Science). He is the Resource Center's library coordinator and likes Albus Dumbledore, alliteration and alphabetizing. He has yet to finish the seventh Harry Potter book and lives with an adorable cat.