

Kansas State University

LAVENDER Alumni Newsletter

Semester newsletter recognizing individual diversity and equality.

Welcome



Brandon Haddock
Coordinator
LGBT Resource Center

Dear Lavender Alumni and friends,

This has been a very exciting semester for our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and allied community here at Kansas State University! In the past few months our students attended one of the largest lgbt themed conferences in the nation, celebrated ten years of K-State Drag Shows, heard one of today's most influential gay athlete advocates speak on campus, and celebrated Little Apple Pride. And now is time to prepare for a new year!

The upcoming fall semester will see the 4th Annual LGBT Leadership conference in October, Ted Talk's Geena Rocero will be here in November, and many other events are being planned! In

addition our staff and students will also be working on projects to help extend protections for the transgender community on campus, examining ways to be more inclusive for our lgbt faculty and staff, and will continue to build relationships with departments and offices on campus. The LGBT Resource Center is certainly a hub of activity throughout the year and more events will take shape over the next few months.

In addition to all of the wonderful news of what has happened on campus and what we are planning for the future, I want to remind you all that the 2014-2015 academic will mark the 5th anniversary of the opening of the LGBT Resource Center at Kansas State University! I am so proud and honored to have been a part of the Resource Center from the opening in 2010 and want to extend a thank you to all who have helped to support us and our students here at the University. We have come such a long way in such a short time!

~ Brandon

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Professor Spotlight

Dr. Shireen Roshanravan

Shireen Roshanravan currently works in her new position as an Associate Professor of American Ethnic Studies for K-State. She has also worked as a Professor in the Women's Studies Department on campus teaching a variety of courses including Politics of Women of Color, Sexuality Studies, and Transnational Feminisms, to name a few.

Dr. Roshanravan obtained her bachelors in Spanish and Philosophy at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, continuing her education into the State University of New York at Binghamton where she obtained her masters and Ph.D. Shireen's interest in Spanish comes from her passion about resisting monolingualism in the United States. Her focus on philosophy stems from her enjoyment in questioning and exposing assumptions that justify racial, gender, sexual and economic justice. Dr. Roshanravan serves as the faculty advisor for the F.I.R.E. Organization on campus and has been instrumental in having K-State offer the Queer Studies minor. Shireen feels that having this minor and a full time LGBT Resource Center is "a sign that we are embracing diversity as reality and cultivating the wisdom born of those who experience marginalization in different and multiple ways." The program is for everyone who believes that sexuality - in all its dimensions - shapes all of our lives. The LGBT Resource Center would like to extend a warm thank you for the support and kindness that Dr. Shireen Roshanravan has provided to not only the office, but to the queer and LGBT movements on our campus and elsewhere.



HERE'S WHAT

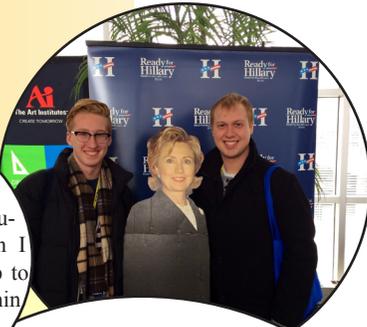
K-State Drag Show

This year, Kansas State University hosted its 10th annual Drag Show! Over 500 people attended this year's show to witness performances by: Monica Moree, Patti O'Dour, Victoria Fox, Celia Putty, LilKim Chi, former RuPaul's Drag Race contestant Penny Tration, Monica St. James, Leah Halston, Mitzy Moree, and Chelsea Pearl. This year, Monica and Mitzy Moree performed a special number that raised funds for the FHHRP Praxis Scholarship and Mary Kay Siefers Leadership Scholarship. Over \$1100 was raised for the scholarships and will be distributed among LGBT and Ally individuals on our campus.



The lectures helped me realize how to help the LGBT community in Manhattan, which I plan to do by stepping up to leadership positions within K-State LGBT & Allies.

~ George Walker



This year's Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender Ally College Conference was hosted right in our back yard at University of Missouri-Kansas City. This year's conference hosted lectures, workshops, keynote speakers ranging in topics from fashion, country music, transgender issues, religion in relation to LGBT status, LGBT issues within politics, and many others. Several of K-State's LGBT and Allies students attended the conference. Feel free to take a look at some of their comments to see how the conference impacted them!

MBLGTACC has helped me learn things not just for college, but also for after attending K-State. I was able to get the tools I needed to get an idea of how to start my own LGBTQ+ youth resource center/homeless shelter for Kansas.

~ Will Harmon

"We first met Holly Lorka last year when she traveled from Texas to K-State Salina to do a show. From that night on, she won the hearts of many, including the members of LGBT & Allies who traveled from Manhattan to go see her. This year, we brought her back to perform again, this time in Manhattan. During her performances, she read stories conjured up from her life, making them downright hilarious. While there are many moments of laughter, she delves into deeper meanings behind her stories to make us think and let us wonder about our own lives. If you missed it, make sure to look for another show with her in the future!"

~ Chris Chavez

Holly Lorka

Thursday
March 27th



YOU MISSED!



Little Apple Pride Parade

The 2014 Pride Parade marked this year as Manhattan's 5th annual parade! Like the previous year, the parade started on 7th and Poyntz at the United Church of Christ, ran along City Park, through Aggieville, and ended at Triangle Park. The Pride Festival, which followed the parade, was cheerful, emotional, and even educational. Booths lined Triangle Park and live performers graced the audience with their various talents, all of which marked this year's Little Apple Pride Parade the most successful one yet!

~ Colton Kueser



Progressive Dinner

LGBT & Allies hosted the 5th annual Progressive Dinner fundraiser on Sunday, April 13, 2014. Well-known campus and community members host a portion of the meal in their homes. Those in attendance move from house to house as the night progresses. Starting off, Andrea Blair, Director of the Student Access Center, and Mindy Wilkerson, Professor in Diagnostic Medicine Pathobiology, opened their home for the appetizer portion of the meal. Mary Kay Siefers, Assistant Professor of Leadership Studies, and Nancy Bolsen, hosted the entrée section. Finally, Sydney Carlin, Kansas State Representative for the 66th District, hosted desserts. About 40 LGBT and Allies students, K-State staff and faculty, and numerous community members attended the annual event. Over \$600 was raised.

~ Jakki Forester

Lavender Graduation is a special graduation ceremony that honors the achievements and contributions of graduating lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and ally students on campus. This year's graduation held a keynote presentation by Sue Gerth, an alumna of K-State, and featured special guest, Dr. Alison Wheatley, Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Over fifty individuals showed up to support this year's graduating seniors: Colby Bruner, Leia Richards, Lukus Ebert, Beth Little, Ellen Ludwig, Joshua Tackett, Christopher Kellenbarger, Chris Henry, Levi Kuhn, and Laura Thacker, and Kara Baker. Our office would like to congratulate and wish you all the best of luck in whatever you do! Thanks for showing your support to our community over the years.

Lavender Graduation

EVENT SHOWCASE

Wade Davis

This spring, the LGBT Resource Center had the wonderful opportunity to sponsor Wade Davis, a former NFL cornerback, to attend Kansas State University and speak regarding his work advocating for LGBT individuals across the globe. Speaking to a crowd of over 75 people, Wade Davis recounted his struggles between growing up in a very religious household and battling with his sexual identity.

Wade Davis spent the majority of his life growing up in Shreveport, Louisiana and Aurora, Colorado. Raised in a conservative Southern Baptist family, Davis was devoted to his religion, often going to church several times a week. With deep roots in his religion, Wade grew up with the notion that anything outside of traditional heterosexuality norms was against his religion and therefore against everything his family believed in. He spoke of several incidences while growing up where his attraction to persons of the same sex breached the line between friendship and wanting a relationship, but as a devout religious man, he continued to leave those feelings on the back burner while living a traditional heterosexual life.

Wade graduated from Overland High School in Aurora, Colorado in 1996 and afterwards attended Mesa State College in Grand Junction, Colorado. This was his first experience with college football and paved the way for his professional career within football. The next year, Davis transferred to Weber State University, playing on their team until he graduated in 1999.

In 2000, Davis began his professional career within the NFL. For the next three years, he played for several teams across the nation and globe. These Teams included the Tennessee Titans, Berlin Thunder, Seattle Seahawks, Barcelona Dragons, and the Washington Redskins. During his time with Berlin Thunder, Davis helped the team win the World Bowl IX in 2001. In 2003, Wade retired from professional football due to injury.

Wade talked about the pressures he felt during his professional career. Experiences such as portraying himself as the masculine male who dated women, went to parties, and kept up appearances as a straight male. He often felt that he lived under a microscope and had to live the life that he felt society would accept him in.

In 2012, Wade publicly came out and began talking about his experiences of hiding his sexuality and working in the NFL. He now works as the executive director for the You Can Play Project, an organization dedicated to ending homophobia within all sports, whether collegiate or professional. He also spends a lot of his time advocating for and helping LGBT youth to achieve successful life goals.

The Resource Center would like to extend a warm thank you for Wade's amazing and inspirational speech and we look forward to working with him in the future.



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COMMUNITY SHOWCASE

Hedwig and the Angry Inch

This spring the LGBT Resource Center worked in cooperation with Aggie Central Station, the Manhattan Music Coalition, Able Printing Company, and the Liberty Press to proudly bring Stephen Trask and John Cameron Mitchell's rock musical Hedwig and the Angry Inch to Manhattan.



Hedwig falls in love with Tommy. But soon, Tommy leaves Hedwig when he becomes a Rock and Roll Superstar. Hedwig then forms her own band: The Angry Inch.

Hedwig and the Angry Inch, a major motion picture and now a major Broadway show, tells the story of a young East German named Hedwig Schmidt. During the Cold War, Hedwig tries to escape Germany and come to America by getting a sex change operation and marrying a G.I named Luther. Sadly, the operation is botched and within a year Luther abandons Hedwig. Hedwig is left stranded and penniless in a trailer park in Junction City, Kansas. Eventually,



Completely produced and performed by local talent, Manhattan's own Hedwig was staged in Aggieville's home for live music, Aggie Central Station. The shows ran on April 10th through the 12th and again on April 17th through the 19th. The show was a huge hit and helped to showcase the lgbt community in Manhattan!

Directed by Heather Branham-Green, with music direction by Ashalen Sims. Starring Evan Tuttle, Betsy Baddeley, Ashalen Sims, Stephen Keith, Kyle Myers, Nick Reiter, and Justin Trowbridge.

I Am Manhattan

The Flint Hills Human Rights Project (FHHRP), a community based, non-profit organization whose mission is to use the political process, education and advocacy to ensure and promote dignity, safety, equality for and the civil and human rights of LGBTTIQ individuals in Manhattan, Kansas and the Flint Hills region of Kansas organized two events during the month of April to educate the community about issues transgender people face in society.

FHHRP sponsored the display of a billboard featuring one of the images from the "I am" project developed by Elle Boatman, founder of The Face of Trans project. The billboard, which was on display the month of April, featured Kansas State University student Adam O'Brien and his declaration that, "I am an art student at Kansas State University and an avid tattoo designer. I am an older brother, a best friend, and a full-on nerd. I am a transgender man. I am Manhattan." FHHRP's sponsorship was made possible with donations from members, non-members, and several local businesses.

FHHRP also hosted a presentation and discussion on Thursday, April 24 from 7 to 9 p.m. Boatman gave a

presentation called "Beyond the Binary," which framed the panel discussion that followed. Panel members, in addition to Boatman, included O'Brien; KSU director of counseling services Dr. Dorinda Lambert; and Dr. Diana Brightbill, MD. Audience members submitted questions in writing to FFHRP board president Mike Herman who moderated the discussion. Approximately 50 people attended the presentation, which was free and open to the public.

~ Mike Herman



Our STUDENTS

PAST

Zach Ozburn



“After graduating from Kansas State University in December 2010 with Bachelor Degrees in Biology and Microbiology, I relocated to Kansas City, MO. I took a job with ScriptPro, a pharmacy automation and software company, and began traveling all across the country for work. My most exciting work trips have been abroad to Canada, Hong Kong, and Puerto Rico. Today, I

work as a Project Manager at ScriptPro and am responsible for the implementation of our pharmacy software and robotic solutions.

When I am not working or traveling for fun, I enjoy spending time with my new puppy, Riley. She is always a handful, but I find it difficult to stay mad at her! I also enjoy cooking

and spend lots of time in the kitchen trying my hand at new recipes. In the summer you will find me at the lake every weekend. I can escape the city to waterski, kneeboard, tube, and relax!

I also enjoy volunteering and serve as the President of Delta Lambda Phi’s Heartland Alumni Association in Kansas City. This allows me to work closely with many Chapters in the area, including the Beta Mu Chapter at K-State. It also gives me many excuses to make excursions back to the Little Apple, although I never really need an excuse to visit Manhattan!”



PRESENT
Jakki Forester

The LGBT Resource Center likes to recognize the accomplishments and the lives of students in our community who are “living out loud”. This semester’s student is Jakki Forester.

Jakki is currently a Junior, double majoring in Journalism - Print Media and American Ethnic Studies. She is also minoring in Women’s Studies and is one of the first students to officially enroll in the newly formed Queer Studies minor. She has been the recipient of many scholarships offered by our office and other community organizations.

Jakki’s dream job would to be to write for the politics section of Rolling Stone magazine and she is well on her way to making here mark on the journalism world. The recipient of several awards as a writer for the K-State Collegian, she has put her heart and soul into the topics that matter so much to her.



These stories focus on a wide range of issues, such as her three part series on divorce that netted her a regional journalism award and her series on transgender students on our campus.

In addition to her academic and career interests, Jakki has also devoted much of her free time to lgbt organizations and causes. She has been involved with the executive team of LGBT and Allies, several Chair positions of Little Apple Pride, and has been a major ally and supporter of campus LGBT events, education, and advocacy. Even with this busy schedule, Jakki has also found room for love in her life. On July 17th of 2013, Jakki was married to Dani Forester in Iowa.

We look forward to seeing her continue to make a difference at K-State and throughout our lgbt community!

Community and Campus Organizations



Flint Hills Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays offers supports to family, friends, and members of the LGBT community. Educational meetings are held on the 1st Saturday of every month. More information can be found about the organization at www.fhpflag.org or by calling 785-340-2815.



Lesbian and Gay Veterinary Medical Association

The LGVMA is a global organization of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender veterinary professionals, students, and straight allies advocating for a welcoming and inclusive environment within the veterinary profession. They strive to: 1) Offer all LGBT-affiliated students a forum for discussion and an environment where they can feel welcome. 2) Coordinate and promote activities that educate the College on issues surrounding gay and lesbians within the scope of veterinary medicine and in society as a whole. 3) Provide a haven for those in need and a resource for people that are interested in educating themselves.



LGBT & Allies is the largest LGBT student organization on the K-State campus. The group offers a palace to have fun, relax, get involved, and get leadership experience. Some of the most notable events that LGBT and Allie are involved in are the BBQs held at the beginning and end of the year, National Coming Out Day, Red Ribbon Ball, World AIDS Day, and the Little Apple Pride Parade. Meetings are held once a week, and if interested, please contact the office for more information.



FHHRP supports the social, political, educational, and economic life of the LGBT Community in the Flint Hills. For more information and to find out what is going in Manhattan, find them on Facebook under Flint Hills Human Rights Project or email them at fhhrp@yahoo.com. The organization can also be reached at 785-341-4173.



Kansas Statewide Transgender Education Project

K-STEP provides education to universities, community colleges, human relations commissions, faith organizations, governmental entities, and many other types of groups throughout Kansas. Their main goal is to train interested persons as transgender educators, advocates, and leaders. For more information, visit: www.k-step.org.

12th Annual Flint Hills Pride Combining All Colors



Flint Hills Pride is the largest LGBT Pride Organization in the Flint Hills. This year's theme is titled "Combining All Colors" and will host a number of fun activities spread over a few days. This year's event ran from June 13th-15th and was held at Farnum Creek at Milford Lake. Be sure to be looking for next year's Pride and if you have any questions, please "like" their page at www.facebook.com/fhpride.



This edition of the Lavender Alumni Newsletter was brought to you by the Kansas State University LGBT Resource Center. For updated information and more resources, please find/contact us at:

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 lgbt@k-state.edu
 785-532-5352
www.k-state.edu/lgbt

The support of our LGBT students, faculty, staff, alumni, and allies at K-State help to make a difference in the lives and education of our campus and our community members. With the support of donations to our LGBT specified funds through K-State Foundation, we are able to provide a multitude of opportunities and services including scholarships, social events, conferences, and other empowering opportunities on our campus. Through the gracious support of even a minimal donation, you can help our LGBT students, faculty, and staff continue to be an integral part of our K-State community. To donate to our main LGBT fund, please follow the link below and it will direct you to our Foundation account. Thank you so much for your donations and continuing support in all things LGBT on our campus!

http://www.k-state.edu/lgbt/LGBT_Foundation_Support.html

Looking Forward...

Welcome Back BBQ	LGBT Leadership Conference	National Coming Out Day	Geena Rocero Trans* Speaker
<p>Event sponsored by the LGBT Resource Center to welcome back K-State students, faculty, and staff.</p> <p><i>September 3, 2014</i></p>	<p>Fourth annual conference featuring two days of keynote speakers and breakout sessions. This year's theme is "Global Change: Queering Policy & Perspective"</p> <p><i>October 10-11, 2014</i></p>	<p>Marking the 26th anniversary, this day allows for all individuals to openly come out as LGBT or in support of the LGBT community.</p> <p><i>October 11, 2014</i></p>	<p>Geena is most noted as a transgender model and activist. Her organization, Gender Proud, fights for transgender rights on the global scale. The Resource Center is proud to be sponsoring Geena's presentation. Make sure to mark your calendars!</p> <p><i>November 20, 2014</i></p>