

Queering Our World November 6 - 8, 2015 Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania

2015 Mid-Atlantic LGBTQA Conference Planning Committee

Timothy Oleksiak, Conference Chair M. Safa Saracoglu, Assistant Conference Chair Asa Kelley, Conference Operations Coordinator Matthew Barcus, Coordinator of Sexual & Gender Diversity Dave Kube, Art Exhibition Curator Debra Chamberlain, Treasurer Karli Miller Emily Moscaritolo Gina Rodriguez Shavonne Shorter Craig Young

The Committee would like to thank the following for their valuable contributions to the Conference:

Bloomsburg University

David L. Soltz, President Robert Wislock, Office of Social Equity & Accommodative Services LGBTQA Commission Equality Alliance LGBTQA Student Services Multicultural Affairs Women's Resource Center Center for Diversity and Inclusion Bloomsburg University College of Liberal Arts Department of Art & Art History Mary Prout, Facilities Scheduling Randall Presswood, Performing Arts Facilities ARAMARK at Bloomsburg University Bloomsburg University Police

Save the date!

The Ninth Annual Mid-Atlantic LGBTQA Conference Navigating Intersectionality: (De)Constructing Our Identities

November 4-6, 2016 Bloomsburg University

The Mid-Atlantic LGBTQA Conference Planning Committee would like to announce next year's conference dates of November 4-6, 2016. Please mark your calendars! The theme, *Navigating Intersectionality: (De)Constructing Our Identities,* will explore the countless factors that make us who we are. Be on the lookout for a Call for Proposals which will be circulated soon.

Cover Image: Sanh Tran - Bedroom Scene, No. 9

About our Keynote Speaker—Robyn Ochs

Robyn Ochs is an educator, speaker, award-winning activist, and editor of the Bi Women Quarterly, the 42-country anthology, Getting Bi: Voices of Bisexuals Around the World and the new anthology RECOGNIZE: The Voices of Bisexual Men. Her writings have been published in numerous bi, women's studies, multicultural, and LGBT anthologies.

Robyn has taught courses on LGBT history and politics in the United States, the politics of sexual orientation, and the experiences of those who transgress the binary categories of gay | straight, masculine | feminine, black | white and/or male | female.

An advocate for the rights of people of all orientations and genders to live safely, openly and with full access and opportunity, Robyn's work focuses on increasing awareness and understanding of complex identities, and mobilizing people to be powerful allies to one another within and across identities and social movements.

She lives in Massachusetts and on May 17, 2004, the first day it was legal to do so, Robyn married Peg Preble.

Robyn serves on the Board of Directors of MassEquality, Massachusetts' statewide equality organization and the



Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth. She is the recipient of numerous awards, most recently PFLAG's Brenda Howard Award, the National LGBT Task Force's Susan J. Hyde Activism Award and the Harvard Gender & Sexuality Caucus's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Thanks to all of the institutions represented at this year's Conference!

Bloomsburg University Bucknell University California University Caring Communities Chatham University Clarion University Cornell University Delaware Valley University East Stroudsburg University Edinboro University Elizabethtown College Indiana University James Madison University **Kutztown University** Lehigh Carbon Community College Lock Haven University Lycoming College Mansfield University Millersville University Misericordia University National Center for Equality and Innovation

Naz Male Health Alliance Northampton Community College Penn State Altoona Penn State University Pennsylvania College of Health Sciences Pennsylvania College of Technology Quist **Robert Morris University** Rowan University Sexual Assault Resource & Counseling Center Shiloh United Church of Christ Slippery Rock University Southern Illinois University Carbondale Susquehanna University The Pennsylvania Youth Congress The Women's Center, Inc. University of Missouri - Columbia West Chester University Western Michigan University William Paterson University Yeshiva University

Schedule—Friday, November 6, 2015

6:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Queering our World Art Exhibition—Closing Reception

Join us for the closing reception of our inaugural art exhibition in conjunction with the conference. Refreshments will be served.

6:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Game night!

Join your fellow conference attendees for a fun evening of games and entertainment. Snacks, bingo machine, cards, and other games will be available.

Schedule—Saturday, November 7, 2015

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Registration & Continental Breakfast

9:00 - 9:15 a.m.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Timothy Oleksiak, Conference Chair and Assistant Professor of English Gretchen Osterman, BU LGBTQA Commission Chair, Assistant Dean of Students for Greek Affairs, gosterma@bloomu.edu David Soltz, President of Bloomsburg University

9:30 - 10:30 a.m. — Session 1

Trans Student Policy Briefing and Advocacy Training

Young transgender Pennsylvanians have unique and often challenging experiences in affirming their gender under the law. Adopting effective policies and ensuring their enforcement can be crucial for trans youth to have positive development. This session will educate participants on the local, state, and federal laws that directly impact trans youth. Participants will gain valuable skills to use in their home communities. We will also examine several case studies of anti-trans discrimination involving Pennsylvania youth.

Victoria Martin, Development Coordinator, The Pennsylvania Youth Congress, vmartin@payouthcongress.org

History of Queering our World

Before our era of social media, there were people who made a difference in queering our world. We may not even know the impact and importance of our movement's history. It is important to learn about our history, and to pay homage to early trailblazers.

Tedd Cogar, Assistant Director, Student Conduct & LGBTQIA Advocacy, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, tcogar@iup.edu Steven Marks, IUP SAHE Intern, LGBTQIA Advocacy, S.R.Marks@iup.edu

McCormick Center 1303

McCormick Center Lobby

Session 1B — McCormick Center 1316

The Greenly Center, 55 East Main St., Bloomsburg

The Gallery at The Greenly Center, 55 East Main St., Bloomsburg

Session 1C — McCormick Center 2303

Lexical Issues and Identity Formation in Rural Central Pennsylvania Drag Queens

This session will be glimpse into a study conducted by Senior Aaron M. Brown and Professor Angelo Costanzo. The study is a workin-progress and will provide an overview of methods and procedures as well as preliminary findings. Student Aaron M. Brown will discuss what the findings mean and why they are important to the field of linguistics and the greater LGBTQA community. There will be time for questions at the end of the brief presentation.

Aaron M. Brown, Student, Bloomsburg University, amb39826@huskies.bloomu.edu

10:45 - 11:45 a.m. — Session 2

Building Campus Partnerships to Benefit LGBTQIA+ Study Abroad and International Students

Session 2A — McCormick Center 1303

Forming partnerships with international education offices presents two challenges that affect LGBTQIA+ students differently. Study abroad students often do not realize the potential risk of going abroad to countries with different socio-political views and laws toward different LGBTQIA+ populations. At the same time, international students who come to the U.S. face certain myths that they bring from their home country as well as possible misconceptions about what they have learned prior to arriving to the U.S. This session will discuss best practices to support and pool resources to benefit both groups of students, particularly at Universities with limited resources.

Tara Mitchell, Professor of Psychology, Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania, tmitchel@lhup.edu John Gradel, Assistant Director - Institute for International Studies, Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania, jrg5874@lhup.edu

Transfeminism: Activism vs Academia

From Greek life to dormitories, almost every aspect of higher education is gendered. This divide creates a challenging situation for transgender students both inside and outside of the classroom. Often, trans students can feel torn between their commitment as students and as activists. This workshop will explore how transfeminism can be a tool for linking academia and activism to benefit transgender students. Drawing on my own experiences as a trans student and activist, as well as examples from my research, I will look at both the lived experiences and the theoretical framework of this relationship. *Taylan Stulting*, Student, Bucknell University Class of 2016, tts003@bucknell.edu

LGBTQIA History Eye-Opener 101

Even if you've heard of Stonewall, you'll learn things in this presentation you never thought possible. A transgender Roman emperor, an intersex Swedish queen, a gay Brazilian aviation pioneer, a bisexual American blues singer - Their stories from across centuries and continents are your stories. LGBTQ activists of the past cared about you so much before they knew you that made daring and difficult sacrifices. Honor them and come be inspired by learning their fascinating, little-known stories. *Christianne Gadd*, Instructor, American Studies, Lafayette College, christianne.gadd@gmail.com

Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Lunch — Scranton Commons Dining Hall

1:15 - 2:15 p.m.

Keynote Address — Kenneth S. Gross Auditorium, Carver Hall

Thinking Outside the Box

Robyn Ochs, an LGBTQ+ activist since 1983, will share some lessons learned and ideas for building community and coalition as we move into the future.

Session 2B — McCormick Center 1316

Session 2C — McCormick Center 2303

2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Bounce!

This workshop will be about collaboration, communication, interacting, and most importantly having fun with as many people as you can in attendance at the conference. Many times a conference doesn't have time set aside for meeting other people in attendance but this is that opportunity. The activities will be led by the Quest team at Bloomsburg University whose focus is experiential programming with clients of all ages, sizes, and abilities. You will be tasked to discuss and solve problems with rapidly changing teams during this fast-paced activity session.

Brianne Oehmke, Executive Director, Bloomsburg University Quest

3:45 - 4:45 p.m. — Session 3

Considering a Global-Local Dialect in Queer World-Making

This interactive session focuses on identity from a global-local perspective. We will examine our own identities from an intersectional approach to consider the ways that we are simultaneously privileged and marginalized. We will then explore how our complex identities complement and complicate our ability to communicate across difference. Finally, through various examples and social movements like #BlackLivesMatter and Anti-Homosexuality legislation plaguing LGBTIQ people across the globe, we will examine some ways that global and local oppressions are linked. In doing so, my hope is that we can more toward more inclusive forms of social justice activisms in our globalizing world.

Gregory Sean Hummel, Doctoral Candidate of Communication Studies, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, ghummel@siu.edu

Creating a Safe Zone Training Program

This workshop is created for those who are interested in implementing a Safe Zone program at their institution and are not sure of how to get the ball rolling. This best practice workshop will outline a timeline for participants, resources, and materials needed to create safe spaces on campus.

Victoria Snyder, Director, Multicultural Student Services, Robert Morris University, snyderv@rmu.edu *Michael Campbell*, Graduate Assistant, Master's student at the University of Pittsburgh

Queer Artists

This panel will feature artists presenting and discussing their work as it relates to queer perspectives. Each artist will give a 10-12 minute talk displaying their work on a projector and discussing how it impacts themselves and others around the notion of queerness.

Bren Ahearn, Artist, http://brenahearn.com/, brenahearn@gmail.com Gregory R Hatch, Artist/Librarian, Gregoryhatch.com, Gregory.r.hatch@gmail.com

Dave Kube, Assistant Professor of Graphic Design, Bloomsburg University, dkube@bloomu.edu

Sanh Tran, Artist, www.sanhtran.com, sanh@sanhtran.com

Session 3B — McCormick Center 1316

Session 3C — McCormick Center 2303

Session 3A — McCormick Center 1303

5:00 - 6:00 p.m. — Session 4

Beyond Bisexuality 101

What does it mean to identify as bisexual (or pansexual or fluid)? What are some of the challenges to recognizing and understanding the middle sexualities — an often overlooked segment of the LGBTQ community? However you identify, come to this lively and interactive program if you could use some tools for challenging ignorance, biphobia and bi erasure. *Robyn Ochs*, Keynote Speaker, robyn@robynochs.com

GaySL: A Crash Course in Gay American Sign Language

Come learn ASL signs relating to the LGBT community and talk about Deaf culture, the importance of accessibility in activism, and more from Missouri's most fabulous Deaf transgender drag queen! All levels of experience with ASL and the Deaf community are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Hayden Kristal, Student, University of Missouri, hayden.m.kristal@gmail.com

Screw Oz, Give me Kansas

Two artists' narratives on how their rural and queer identities have affected and informed their art practice. During this session the artist will present past projects that exemplify these ideals and how they have led to their current artistic philosophy. Viewers will be asked to engage in a conversation on what it means to be queer in rural settings and discuss strategies on how to engage the public on issues such as sustainability, embracing diversity, and appreciation of local culture and resources. *Gregory R Hatch*, Artist/Librarian, Gregoryhatch.com, Gregory.r.hatch@gmail.com *Xon Henry*, Artist-Academic-Activist, James Madison University/OFAR

How we Win: Achieving LGBTQ Equality in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania remains a very difficult place to be openly LGBTQ under the law. Our state legislature has adopted no law currently in effect to ban anti-LGBTQ discrimination or violence in our schools and communities. In order to demand our full equality under local and state laws, we must be strategic in all our efforts. This session will provide you with a clear understanding of LGBTQ civil rights in Pennsylvania - our history, present, and future agenda from Harrisburg. Through collaborative work, you will learn about important tools you can use back in your communities to advance critical social and economic justice work. *Jason Landau Goodman*, Board Chair, The Pennsylvania Youth Congress / Student, University of Pittsburgh Law School,

Victoria Martin, The Pennsylvania Youth Congress

7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

The Links at Hemlock Creek, 55 Williamsburg Blvd, Bloomsburg

MasQUEERade Ball

Semiformal dance hosted by the Bloomsburg University Gender and Sexuality Alliance. Snacks, Pizza, Drinks, and Masks will be provided! Feeling fancy? Bring your own mask and formal evening attire!

Session 4A — McCormick Center 1303

Session 4C — McCormick Center 2303

Session 4B — McCormick Center 1316

Session 4D — McCormick Center 2314

jgoodman@payouthcongress.org

Schedule—Sunday, November 8, 2015

8:30 - 9:15 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

9:30 - 10:30 a.m. — Session 5

The Insidiousness of Classism, Sexism, and White Supremacy in the Queer Community: Caitlyn Jenner's Privileged Transition Session 5A — McCormick Center 1303

The purpose of this roundtable is to initiate and engage in difficult dialogue to address racism, sexism, classism, and white privilege within the LGBTQ community, particularly regarding the recent disclosure of Caitlyn Jenner's trans identity. While she has created visibility for transwomen, she has done so under the illusion that transwomen have access to financial and social capital that affords her the ability to reconstruct her physical features to pass, maintain a white identity free from stigma and racism, model femininity based on patriarchal constructs of beauty, while publicizing her transition on a major cable network for financial gain. *Dawnielle D. Simmons*, Doctoral Student, Western Michigan University, dawnielle.d.simmons@wmich.edu *Kyrai E. Antares*, Doctoral Student, Western Michigan University

Negotiating Power: Intersectionality in the Coming Out Process and Beyond

This workshop will assist participants in exploring the multiple intersecting aspects of identity that make up the whole self across planes of race, class, gender, ability, and sexuality. The challenges of negotiating these multiple identities in varying contexts, including the coming out process, will be discussed. Participants will leave with a toolkit for identifying their own layered identities and an understanding of the various ways they fit into existing sociopolitical power structures and their day-to-day lives. By recognizing their own privileged identities, participants will gain a stronger understanding of how they can advocate for others through individual interventions and grassroots activism.

Melody Willoughby, M.A., Ph.D. Student, Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology at Yeshiva University,

melody.willoughby@psych.ferkauf.yu.edu

Session 5B — McCormick Center 1316

Heather Thompson, MA, Adjunct Professor of English, William Paterson University

Tell Me I'm Fierce!: An Ideological Analysis on the Portrayal of the "Gay-Best Friend" (GBF) in the Movie GBF Session 5C — McCormick Center 2303

We've all been there, scrolling endlessly through the Netflix feed, shamelessly prowling for the best movie to spend our next few hours loving, hating, and sometimes, bailing out on half-way through. In 2014, Netflix did us a solid by adding the film festival favorite G.B.F to its collection, and the rest is history, or in our case, research. This session explores the ideologies, ideographs, and stereotypes behind future cult-classic movie G.B.F, and what exactly this movie, and media's portrayals of LGBTQ+ characters mean for the process of "queering our world." Come listen, laugh, and discuss with us just what having a G.B.F. (well, watching someone else have one on Netflix) can do for your quest to enhance your understanding and enact change in our media-saturated society. *Karli Jayne Miller*, Undergraduate Student, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, kjm80587@huskies.bloomu.edu *Aaron M. Brown*, Undergraduate Student, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, amb39826@huskies.bloomu.edu

McCormick Center Lobby

Stand Up and Speak Out!

Session 5D — McCormick Center 2314

What is your coming out story and how can you use it to help make change? Join us and hear how West Chester University students are using their coming out stories to help educate and spread awareness about the LGBTQ community. A panel of 3 or 4 students will share their coming out stories and their experiences with The Speakout Program at WCU. Then you will have the opportunity to discuss or develop a similar program that meets your campuses needs. Participants will leave with tangible next steps on how to effectively collaborate across campus departments to Queer up their campuses one story at a time. *Kaitlyn M. Michalek*, WCU LGBTQA Peer Educator, KM801476@wcupa.edu *Deni A. Tobin*, WCU LGBTQA Peer Educator, DT810609@wcupa.edu *Jake K. Muscato*, WCU LGBTQA Peer Educator, JM823231@wcupa.edu

10:45 - 11:45 a.m. — Session 6

The Animal Within Us

An important step in leadership and LGBTQ advocacy is to truly understand yourself and how you work with others. By working with four personality types, with a lot of interaction and fun we will discover how well we work together and how to work even better with ALL types of personalities. It's a fun way to understand people that think and act differently than we do and how to embrace that difference to reach common goals. Participants will leave with the tools needed to take this fun program back to their campuses.

Aneesah Smith, LGBTQA Services Coordinator, West Chester University, asmith4@wcupa.edu Shannon Gillespie, WCU LGBTQA Peer Educator, SG805587@wcupa.edu Christopher J. McGovern, WCU LGBTQA Peer Educator, CM793780@wcupa.edu Rachel K. Perrego, WCU LGBTQA Peer Educator, RP792572@wcupa.edu

Queerying Practice: Creating LGBTQ-Inclusive Environments in Clinical and Healthcare Settings

Session 6C — McCormick Center 2303

In this roundtable discussion, we will address the professional tensions encountered in treating and helping LGBTQ clients and patients. The panelists will discuss the roadblocks they face in their professions and the ways that they have negotiated them to provide comprehensive and inclusive services through various social service providers and the education of healthcare and health science professionals.

Amy K. Milligan, PhD, Director of Academic Development and Support, Pennsylvania College of Health Sciences,

akmilligan@pacollege.edu

Alicia M. Rathosky, Sexual Assault Counselor, Sexual Assault Resource and Counseling Center of Schuylkill County,

arathosky@sarccschuylkill.org

Session 6D — McCormick Center 2314

Sarah E. Fender, Social Casework Intern, Lancaster County Children and Youth, fenders@etown.edu

Implementing Intersectionality

We each hold multiple identities that factor into our level of privilege in society; when we organize around one identity, we often replicate systems of oppression when we fail to consider the impact of other identities. This replication further marginalizes individuals who may hold more than one minority identity, leaving them out of larger movements. Considering these intersections where identities meet is incredibly important when organizing and cultivating an inclusive movement. Too often we see trans individuals or people of color left out of larger movements when we fail to consider the compounding effect of having multiple minority identities. So, how do we actually implement intersectionality? In this workshop, we will consider why intersectionality is so important and ways in we can implement those thoughts and concepts into actions to take when we are organizing, whether it be for education, activism, or for a student organization.

Emily New-Cruse, Co-Educational Coordinator for Madison Equality and Undergraduate Student, James Madison University, enewcruse@gmail.com

Session ob — Micconnick Center 1310

Session 6B — McCormick Center 1316

Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Town Hall Meeting & Open Forum — McCormick Center 1303

Conference attendees are invited to offer their thoughts and opinions during this interactive conversation. Topics will be participant driven and might range from discussions about issues with which individuals or campuses are coping, questions about current and future programs, or responses to sessions attended at the conference. The floor will be open for discussion and moderated by members of the BU LGBTQA Commission.

1:00 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Matthew Barcus, Coordinator of Sexual & Gender Diversity, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, mbarcus@bloomu.edu

Thank you for attending the Eighth Annual Mid-Atlantic LGBTQA Conference!

Please take a few moments to complete our online survey at <u>www.bloomu.edu/LGBTQA/Conference/Survey</u> or scan here:

Attendees who complete the survey before November 30 will be entered in a drawing for a free pass to the 2016 conference!

Notes:

Page 10



McCormick Center 1303

Queering Our World Exhibition

Queering Our World is about increasing visibility for individuals who identify as LGBTQ, but it is often not enough to just be visible. The act of challenging and queering our understanding of the world is essential to carve out a space in which queer can be visible and also thrive. In this exhibition, artists are connected by ways they challenge the assumptions of how we understand the world and call attention to ways visibility takes shape and is often challenged.

Transforming objects and symbols get us to question the mundane ways in which normalcy can cloud our understanding of what we consider natural and absolute. The sculptures of Dain Mergenthaler, Keenan Bennett, Gregory Hatch, and Allen J. Masterson play with objects that are extremely recognizable and ubiquitous. By queering these objects, we start a conversation about the assumptions we make as we encounter a perversion that alters our association with form and reality. Additionally, Caroline Earley and Kate Walker's collaborative work plays with forms and colors that appear childlike, yet strangely ambiguous. The illustrations similarly seem educational, narrative, but ultimately vague.

The photographs in this exhibition take advantage of the power of photography to establish truth and disseminate knowledge. Sanh Tran's *Bedroom Scene, No. 9* betrays our sense of recognizability as the figure gazes at the viewer and sits confident in their successful attempt to betray binary notions of gender. Dain Mergenthaler's *Like a Prayer* invites us to contemplate the ritual act of prayer, but the ambiguity happening outside the frame disrupts this notion as the purple on the floor reflects and penetrates the purity of the outfit and walls; resulting in a stain of queer proportions.

Finally, there are a number of pieces in this exhibition that push us to think about why queering our world is so important and so challenging. Bren Ahearn's *Sampler #9* and *Sampler #12* document a history in similar ways that a family heirloom or needlepoint wall plaque decorate a home. On the surface, the text circles around the sphere of the domestic with discussion of lunchboxes and obituaries. However, the queer undertones within the text suggests a violence akin to hate crimes, bullying, or at the very least policing of gender norms.

Kate Walker's *XXYY* creates a barrier and permeable spaces for ideas and visibility. Initially it appears as something recognizably strong, but it ultimately fails as a structure. The artifice of the fence makes it strange and vulnerable. One may be compelled to think of (or hope) the barriers or structures of heteronormativity are equally as flimsy, artificial, and penetrable.

Bart Vargas' *Forever #2* features structured rainbow lines clashing with random chaotic areas invoking a sense that visibility is never neat. It is frenzied, unapologetic, and strives to infuse queerness into a rigid structure that would be uninteresting without it. The words 'forever' loom like a message of optimism or forewarning. Are we doomed to forever struggle as we inch toward a queerer world or are we forever embracing the ways in which our differences add to the spectrum?

Dave Kube Curator and Juror



Christopher Ferreria – Matt, David, and John, Boonville, California (Home is where one begins)





Bart Vargas – Forever #2



Sanh Tran - Untitled, No. 7



Keenan Bennett – Milk Jug



Allen J. Masterson - Smear Me Please



J. Casey Doyle – I Am My Own Mascot (video still)



Bren Ahearn - Sampler #9



Caroline Earley and Kate Walker – Out of Bounds I





Hilary Harp and Suzie Silver - The Sausage (video still)



Gregory Hatch - Weave #1 Basket Reeds, Artist's Wigs From Drag Performances



Room locations within McCormick Center



Internet Access

For your convenience, wireless internet access is available throughout campus. On your Wi-Fi capable device, connect to the "bloomu" network. If your device does not automatically display the "Welcome to the Bloomsburg University Network" page, open a web browser and navigate to a non-secure web page (i.e. http://cnn.com, http://weather.com, etc.), click the "Guest Login" button and enter the guest account credentials below. Once you authenticate, you will be able to browse the Internet. Username: lgbtqa — Password: november

