The Past, Present, and Future of Marriage Equality
by Lindsay Spaulding

Past
2013 may have been the most successful year for marriage equality yet. The most celebrated event was when the Supreme Court ruled part of “The Defense of Marriage Act” (DOMA) unconstitutional and also dismissed the case on Proposition 8 in California. The ruling on Proposition 8 allowed for legal same-sex marriage in California, and the ruling against DOMA allowed for same-sex marriages to be recognized at the Federal level. However, what might have been more impressive and memorable about these cases was the amount of support shown across the country for marriage equality. Nine states legalized same-sex marriage in 2013, which doubled the total of the previous year.

Present
If you have been wondering about all the progress in the past year, and where the country stands as of today, InQueery has that information for you! 18 states along with the District of Columbia, accounting for 38% of the population, allow same-sex marriage. They are: Hawaii, California, Washington, New Mexico, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, and Maine. Four more states have recognized certain rights for same-sex couples. These states are Wisconsin, Colorado, Nevada, and Oregon.

Future
Many advocates for marriage equality believe that 2014 could be an even better year for same-sex marriage. Already in 2014, an Oklahoma federal judge has ruled the ban on same-sex marriage unconstitutional. Utah has also been waiting for a ruling on same-sex marriage however, support there continues to rise. Many other states have the potential to legalize same-sex marriage as well, giving 2014 a chance to be one of the most productive years for marriage equality.

Related Resources
If you are interested in Edith Windsor (left), who was involved in the Supreme Court Case Windsor v. United States, the DVD Edie & Thea: A Very Long Engagement is in our library. The DVD covers the beautiful moments and struggles of Edie and Thea’s relationship.

If you are interested in The Happy Sad, the library also holds another film by Rodney Evans called Brother to Brother. The movie shows the relationship between an elderly poet in Harlem and a young gay man struggling to find his voice.
Free cake will be handed out by the LGBTQA+ Resource Center celebrating the progress of marriage equality and encouraging others to be informed about legal issues concerning same-sex marriage. The event, “Let Us Eat Cake”, will be held on February 12th in the east campus union and on February 13th in the city campus union. Everyone is encouraged to come to the event for free cake and to talk with the LGBTQA+ Resource Center staff about marriage equality.
The film *The Happy Sad* was released in 2013 and directed by Rodney Evans. The film played at the Ross Friday, January 17th through January 24th and is released on DVD on March 18th. The LGBTQA+ Resource Center was able to go as a group after the Volunteer Meeting. We were lucky enough to be able to meet the director, Rodney Evans, and to talk with him about his work. The film is a timely piece that explores the effects of a digital generation defined simultaneously by their open minds and their selfish hearts. The film follows two couples, one a black gay male couple, the other a white seemingly heterosexual couple, as they navigate the waters of infidelity and sexuality. Whilst neither couple is what the general population would consider "healthy", they attempt to redraw the lines of happiness around the values of sexual fulfillment and honesty, instead of monogamy and sexual repression. The message presented is one of understanding and acceptance, even in messy and painful situations. The film is independent and low budget, and was shot in only 16 days. The authenticity of the character development in the film is refreshing and timely, not just for the LGBTQQA community but for anyone who has ever been confused by love.

**Events in February**

**Feb 7 – 9: MBLGTACC 2014**

**Feb. 12:** *Let us eat cake!* On East Campus 12:30-2:00 pm

**Feb. 13:** *Let us eat cake!* On City Campus 11:30-2:00 pm

**Feb. 13:** Spectrum meeting at 6:00 pm (Social Hour starts at 5:00 pm)

**Feb. 13:** Jim Fields, Flyover Country (movie at the Ross), 7:00 pm

**Feb. 20:** Spectrum meeting at 6:00 pm (Social Hour starts at 5:00 pm)

**Feb. 21:** Volunteer meeting from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

**Feb. 27:** Spectrum meeting at 6:00 pm (Social Hour starts at 5:00 pm)

**Feb. 28:** Deirdre McCloskey book discussion of *Crossing* 9:30 – 11:00 am

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**Details**

For more event details visit:

involved.unl.edu/lgbtqa

For more information on Spectrum UNL visit:

spectrum.unl.edu
The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Asexual and Ally (LGBTQA+) Resource Center advances the mission of UNL by working collaboratively to provide education, resources, outreach and advocacy to help build and sustain a socially just campus community that is welcoming and inclusive of all people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expression.

We envision a campus community that supports a safe, inclusive and respectful environment for students, staff, faculty, and alumnae of all sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expression.

LGBTQA+ Resource Center is part of Student Involvement’s outreach and commitment to diversity and inclusion for all students. The Assistant Director in Student Involvement for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Asexual and Ally (LGBTQA) Resource Center serves as the Director of the LGBTQA+ Resource Center, 346 Nebraska Union.

What the Center Offers:

. An inclusive place to hang out and do schoolwork
. Safe Space and Ally Development presentations, workshops, and materials
. Presentations and workshops related to social justice education, sexual orientation, gender identity and intersections of identities
. Involvement opportunities—including being a member of Out-Speaking (our Speaker’s Bureau), and volunteering at the center
. Library materials and resources to checkout
. Consultation and assistance on LGBTQA+ issues
. Assessment of campus climate
. Assistance with bias incidents (check out bias.unl.edu)
. Help in creating and maintaining a campus that is welcoming and inclusive for the diversity of students at UNL