Several organizations joined together in 1994 and declared October as National LGBTQA History Month. October was selected because the first and second Marches on Washington for lesbian and gay rights were held in this month in 1979 and 1987. National Coming Out Day (October 11) provided an additional reason for choosing October. Since this month also falls during the academic calendar year, educational institutions participate in LGBTQA History Month related activities and the LGBTQA Resource Center has planned several events to commemorate the occasion (events featured to the right).

The 9th Annual LGBTQA History Month Dinner, hosted by the LGBTQA Resource Center, is Thursday, October 27th at Embassy Suites at 6:30 P.M. and functions as the unifying highlight event for LGBTQA History Month at UNL. There will be delicious food provided by Embassy Suites, which includes a vegetarian option. For entertainment, the Resource Center is bringing in a UNL student musician, Rebbeca McPherson, and a slam poet, UNL English Professor, Stacey Waite. Between the OUTLinc-sponsored pre-dinner social at 5:30 P.M. and dinner, guests may purchase a raffle ticket and be entered to win great prizes and gift certificates from local businesses. Last but not least, the keynote speaker will be author, activist, historian and playwright, Sarah Schulman. Her message is titled Beyond Gay Marriage: Transforming Familial Homophobia: A Blueprint for Positive Change. Click on the link below and order your tickets before October 14th! We hope to see you there!

Author, activist, historian and playwright, Sarah Schulman, the keynote speaker for the 9th annual LGBTQA History Month Dinner

LGBTQA History Month

3-7: Fearless by Jeff Sheng, Rotunda Gallery, Nebraska Union (NU)
3: You Are Loved chalking project
6: Jeff Sheng presentation about Fearless, NU 7 pm
7: Drag Show (with OASIS and QAC)
11: COWs give-away, Booth at NU, 11 am—2 pm
20: UPC presents LGBT Round Table with the Real World / Spirit Day: wear purple!
21—27: Circumstance and We Were Here at The Ross (theross.org)
22-23: L’amour noir, a new play by David Csontos, NU Auditorium, 2 & 7 pm, Saturday; 2 pm Sunday
24: Two Spirits, 6 pm (w/ OASIS)
26: History of Act-Up by Sarah Schulman, 4—6:30 (refresments available)
27: 9th Annual History Month Dinner, Embassy Suites, 6:30 pm
28: Community Conversation with Sarah Schulman, Sheldon Museum of Art, 1-2:30 pm
Planned Parenthood of the Heartland is starting a new transmasculine support group that will commence on October 1st from 10 A.M. - 12 P.M. at their “O” street location in Lincoln (subsequent times and dates will be determined during the first meeting).

This group is for individuals who identify with a nontraditional masculine sense of self. This may include but is not limited to gender-queer, gender nonconforming, gender rebel, two-spirit, and female to male (FTM) individuals.

The group will meet monthly (day and time TBD). Planned Parenthood of the Heartland will provide individuals with support and a safe forum to discuss and obtain resources and referrals for social health and mental health support and services in the greater Lincoln community.

For additional information call 712.256.0318 or email ejay.jack@ppheartland.org.

New Transmasculine Support Group

In 2003, Jeff Sheng began photographing “Fearless,” a project on “out” lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender athletes on high school and college sports teams. And on October 3rd—7th, Sheng’s display will be displayed at UNL in the Nebraska Union Rotunda Gallery! “While these individuals are only a small segment of the LGBT community, I wanted to photograph them and give them visibility because they exemplify a particular courage and self-confidence in being “out” at a very young age while also competitively participating in the often-times homophobic world of sports. More importantly, these individuals do not let fear stand in the way of being true to themselves and enjoying what life has to offer. This is a lesson that is universal [...] The scope of the project happens to be just of a very small segment of a very diverse and wonderful LGBT community, and part of my hope is that other artists and photographers will undertake future projects that will do justice to other underrepresented groups” (fearlesscampustour.org).

Sheng will also be giving a presentation about Fearless on October 6th at 7:00 P.M. in Nebraska Union.

A Traveling Exhibit, Fearless, in the Rotunda Gallery

‘Guys and Dolls’ Drag Show

The LGBTQA Resource Center, OASIS, and QAC are coming together to host Guys and Dolls Drag Show with DJ Lady Ice on October 7th in the Jackie Gaughan Multicultural Center Unity Room (212). The doors open at 6:30 P.M. and the show starts at 7:00 P.M. The event is FREE, so come and enjoy LGBTQA History Month with a cross-dressing extravaganza. Watch our friends from the campus community entertain us in the art of drag and enjoy the musical styling of DJ Lady Ice.

Hope to see you there!
Queerette Corner

Article by Stacey Cleveland

With the first months of school successfully behind us, we are geared up and ready for our busiest month in programming for the semester: History Month. I am proud and thankful that we have an increase in dedicated volunteers this year who have helped us be more visible on campus. Our staff and volunteers started the year off by staffing booths at the RA fair, the new student-athlete orientation, Party at the Union with the Human Rights Campaign bus, Big Red Welcome, new graduate student fair and the international student fair. These events all happened before school even started! We were later visible at the East Campus Welcome, the LGBTQA Resource Center open house and several promotional booths. Finally, we closed the month with a celebration for the Repeal of Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell for which our volunteers made signs and labeled candy to spread the word. All in all, we have had a busy start, but because we have dedicated and passionate volunteers, we are able to “be the change” on campus! If you are interested finding out more about what you can do to help make the campus community better for everyone, please contact stacey.cleveland@gmail.com. See you at our events!

LGBTQA Resource Center Library Update

Article by Jihan Najjar

The newest additions to our library are philosopher Michel Foucault’s three volumes of the History of Sexuality: An Introduction, The Use of Pleasure, and The Care of the Self. This series is incredibly important to both women and gender studies and the LGBTQA community, as it pioneered queer theory. In the first volume of The History of Sexuality, Foucault argues against the common idea that sexuality has been repressed in Western society since the 17th century, and explores why we feel compelled to continue discussing and analyzing sex. In the second volume, Foucault analyzes ancient Greek texts on eroticism as he attempts to answer how sexual experience became a moral issue in Western society. In the third volume, Foucault writes about the first 2 centuries of our own era and into the Golden Age of Rome and reveals the subtle break from the classical Greek vision of sexual pleasure. I am incredibly pleased to have The History of Sexuality in our library at the LGBTQA Resource Center. Stop by and check them out! They would be great aids to students writing papers on the topic of sexuality and its western construction.

Queerette Spotlight: Marianne Wegulo

Marianne Wegulo is a new member to the LGBTQA Resource Center and is a sophomore psychology major at UNL with a minor in Spanish. Born in Kenya in 1992, she moved to the United States 2 years later and has moved around a few times since then, going from Ames, Iowa to Riverside, California and to Lincoln, Nebraska in 2005. She is currently a research assistant in a lab that studies skin tone biases in naturalization testing. In fact, Marianne very recently took her own naturalization test. “I get to be a US citizen after living here for 17 years! Yay!”

Marianne loves acting, dancing, and the performance arts. She is also a member of the African People’s Union at UNL, as well as the Undergraduate Psychology Organization. Stories like those of Matthew Shephard and Harvey Milk inspired her to want to help educate others on LGBTQA issues. She also knows people who identify as LGBTQA who had a difficult time coming out to some of their friends and who fear rejection from other friends and family if they were to come out to them. “I figured the [LGBTQA] Resource Center would be a good place to start to learn more as well as to begin to make a difference. I’d really like to make our campus more LGBTQA friendly.”

Marianne plans on studying abroad in Spain or somewhere in South America either her junior or senior year at UNL. Marianne is planning on going to graduate school with an emphasis in Abnormal Psychology.
The University Programming Council is shedding some light on the LBGTQA community in a big way: by bringing a few big name MTV celebrities to UNL for a roundtable discussion on October 20th at 7:30 P.M. in the Nebraska Union. The Real World LBGT Roundtable features members from a few different seasons of the hit TV show: Ruthie Alcaide of The Real World: Hawaii, and J.D. Ordonez and Katelynn Cusanelli of The Real World: Brooklyn. These celebrities are going to be discussing where the LBGT community has been, what it looks like right now, and how it is moving forward. This event is an opportunity for all of UNL’s students to become more informed about LBGTQA issues and to hear some of their favorite TV stars discuss them openly and unapologetically. Events like this are particularly valuable to the LBGTQA community because it draws a diverse crowd to the event, and will teach people that might not otherwise be drawn to queer-friendly educational events. The Roundtable event is free to UNL students and $5 for staff and the public.

UPC presents LBGT Roundtable: Real World

Article by Brie Myre

The University Programming Council is shedding some light on the LBGTQA community in a big way: by bringing a few big name MTV celebrities to UNL for a roundtable discussion on October 20th at 7:30 P.M. in the Nebraska Union. The Real World LBGT Roundtable features members from a few different seasons of the hit TV show: Ruthie Alcaide of The Real World: Hawaii, and J.D. Ordonez and Katelynn Cusanelli of The Real World: Brooklyn. These celebrities are going to be discussing where the LBGT community has been, what it looks like right now, and how it is moving forward. This event is an opportunity for all of UNL’s students to become more informed about LBGTQA issues and to hear some of their favorite TV stars discuss them openly and unapologetically. Events like this are particularly valuable to the LBGTQA community because it draws a diverse crowd to the event, and will teach people that might not otherwise be drawn to queer-friendly educational events. The Roundtable event is free to UNL students and $5 for staff and the public.

Free Movie in Jackie Gaughan Multicultural Center: Two Spirits

Article by Amy Vanderpool

On October 24th, the LBGTQA Resource Center and OASIS will be presenting the film “Two Spirits”, the true story of the murder of Fred Martinez, a Navajo youth with a non-conforming gender identity. The documentary explores some of the different perspectives on gender and sexuality between Native American and mainstream cultures, as well as what the intersection of the two cultures means for those who identify with a gender outside of the mainstream. Fred Martinez was nádleehí, described as “a male-bodied person with a feminine nature” – also known as “Two Spirit” – usually a special gift and a title of honor among many Native American cultures. Living as a self-identified gay male who expressed his gender as both masculine and feminine, Fred became one of the youngest hate-crime victims in history when he was murdered at 16. The film features the life of Fred as he lived his dual gender within mainstream American and Navajo culture, through the commentary of his mother and several renowned anthropologists and Native experts.

The film will be shown October 24th at 6pm in the Jackie Gaughan Multicultural Center Unity Room (212).

Thank you, New York

Article by Catherine Balta

Although, it was a little over 3 months ago that the New York senate passed the bill legalizing same-sex marriage, the feeling of getting a little closer to equality remains. New York is the largest state to legalize same-sex marriage, which doubles the amount of people in the U.S. who are able to legally get married. The outlook on the bill passing through the Republican majority senate was a little grim, but remarkably there were 4 Republican senators who helped pass the bill in the late evening of June 24th, 2011. A couple of the Republican senators had originally intended to spend their term opposing same-sex marriage, but after spending time reflecting on what people’s basic rights are, they came to the conclusion that everyone in this country should have the same rights that they receive. New Yorkers were able to begin getting legally married 30 days after the bill passed on Sunday, July 24th, 2011. In New York City, 823 couples had signed up in advance to get marriage licenses on the first day the bill was in effect. Since then, there have been over 1,400 same-sex marriages in New York. Hopefully there will be a pattern of more and more states joining Vermont, Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and now, New York in spreading marriage equality throughout this country of ours.

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