



**LGBT CENTER**  
UNC-CHAPEL HILL  
*Educating for Equality*

# ALUMINATE

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Volume 7, Fall 2019

Mx. Mariel Eaves, Editor & Designer

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# EDUCATING FOR EQUALITY

## OUR MISSION

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) Center works to foster a welcoming and inclusive environment for UNC-Chapel Hill community members of all sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions.

We address this mission by allocating our resources across three broad areas:

1. Educational Programs
2. Direct Support and Advocacy
3. Social and Cultural Events

Programs, services, and advocacy efforts are guided by an intersectional social justice framework. This framework recognizes that people experience the world in very different ways depending on the constellation of identities they hold and the ways that those identities are privileged and/or marginalized by the existing institutional structures and societal norms.

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Our Partners

# Pride Week

COLLABORATING  
ACROSS CAMPUS

Dr. April S. Callis, LGBTQ Center Assistant Director

For the first time in recent memory, a Pride Week celebration was held at UNC-Chapel Hill. Spanning April 8th through 12th, 2019 Pride Week included twelve events hosted by eighteen organizations.

At the beginning of the week, the LGBTQ Center invited students to Tie Dye Pride Week T-shirts. LGBTQ Center Ambassador Larson Carter was instrumental in planning the event as well as giving tie dying demonstrations day of. Gabby Brown and Mariel Eaves worked together to create the t-shirt design, which highlighted the collaborating organizations and departments involved in Pride Week. Monday was also the start of an online awareness campaign spearheaded by the student organizations Sexuality and Gender Alliance (SAGA) and the Black Student Movement (BMS) which focused on the intersections of gender, sexuality, race and ethnicity.

During the week, a variety of events were held on and off campus. These included a screening of *The Imitation Game*, Queer Karaoke, a Pride Field Day, an Interfaith Prayer, and Queer Trivia. On Wednesday, the European Studies Department held a mini LGBTQ Film Fest. And on Thursday, April 11th the LGBTQ Center and the Graduate School partnered with the Medical School's Queer Straight Alliance, Kenan-Flagler's Pride Club, Lambda Law Students Association, and STEM Pride of the Triangle for a Graduate and Professional Student Mixer.

The culmination of Pride Week was Queer Prom, which was cohosted by the LGBTQ Center and SAGA. Over 130 students braved a severe storm to dance the night away in a space decorated like an enchanted forest. Attendees also enjoyed a dedicated game room and a custom cake shaped like a unicorn.

Thank you to our QGAPS Program Coordinator,



Erin Case, and our volunteer Safe Zone facilitators who helped us by volunteering for prom (Edward Moreira Bahnsen, Lauren Townsend, Jhom Cimmino).

Students blow bubbles at a Field Day organized by Carolina Advocating for Gender Equity (CAGE).

Pride Week 2019 at UNC-Chapel Hill was a rousing success. In total, there were 465 attendees across the multiple Pride Week events. Planning is already underway for Pride Week 2020!

Read the full list of Pride Week 2019 collaborators on page 19.



LGBTQ Center Ambassador Larson Carter designing a Pride Week t-shirt.

# Safe Zone

## NEW MILESTONES

Dr. April S. Callis, LGBTQ Center Assistant Director

One of the signature programs of the LGBTQ Center is our Safe Zone Training. The standard Safe Zone is a four-hour educational session designed to create a network of visible allies to people who identify as part of the diverse LGBTIQ+ community. The training provides information and resources related to sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, including a terminology primer and ally strategies. Spring semester 2019 marked the twenty-first anniversary of Safe Zone, which was created in 1998 through a collaboration between the undergraduate LGBTQ student organization B-GLAD and the Office of the Dean of Students.

The 2018-2019 academic year saw the Safe Zone program reach a huge milestone. For the first time ever, more than one thousand participants were trained during a single year. In total, 1,033 individuals participated across forty trainings. An increasing number of these trainings have been offered to health sciences audiences, including students, faculty and staff at the School of Medicine, Campus Health, and multiple groups within the UNC Hospital

and the broader UNC Healthcare system. Other notable on-campus training partnerships for the 2018-2019 year include the School of Government, Student Government, STEM Pride of the Triangle, Environmental Health and Safety, Energy Services, Gillings School of Global Public Health, and the Carolina Population Center. Multiple trainings were also conducted in the local community, including at Duke Memorial United Methodist Church and with Sandhills Pride.

LGBTQ Center staff could not keep up with the ever increasing demand for Safe Zone trainings without the help of our volunteer facilitators. This year, a record number of seventeen individuals started the rigorous, multi-step process of facilitation training. Of those, six individuals made it all the way through the process to co-facilitator status, with many other individuals signed up to finish later in the summer or in the fall.

***For the first time ever, more than one thousand participants were trained during a single year.***

## PARTICIPANT EVALUATIONS

**97%**

“I now have greater knowledge about terminology related to sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.”

**96%**

“This training increased my cultural competency with people who identify as LGBTQIA+.”

**98%**

“This training will enable me to better treat others with fairness and respect.”

**96%**

“As a result of this training, I plan to take actions to disrupt heteronormativity on campus.”

Thank you to all of the volunteers who co-facilitated a training during the past year: Clare Counihan, Shelley Gist, Lauren Townsend, Edward Moriera Bahnson, Bryan Andregg, Jhon Cimmino, Daniel Wheeler, Parker Brookie, Erin Case, Sally Hoyt, and Nicky Kratzer.

# QGAPS | Queer Graduate and Professional Students

## CULTIVATING COMMUNITY

Erin Case, QGAPS Program Coordinator

I was so excited to have the opportunity to serve as the Graduate and Professional Student Program Coordinator for the LGBTQ Center this year! It has been a wonderful way to get to know the campus better and to give back to the LGBTIQ+ community, which has always been so close to my heart. This year, we have been able to build out our Queer Graduate and Professional Student (QGAPS) programming, find new ways to advertise events, and create a larger, more inclusive LGBTIQ+ community for graduate and professional students here on campus. We could not have achieved this without our partnership with Diversity and Student Success at the Graduate School, which has allowed us to provide even more resources for the community.

QGAPS has continued to offer the two mainstays of our programming: the LGBTIQ+ Speaker Series and the QGAPS Socials. The LGBTIQ+ Speaker Series offers a space for graduate and professional

students interested in LGBTIQ+ issues to connect with others already doing that work. It also offers an opportunity for faculty and students doing this work to present their research and continue to polish their presentation skills. This semester, we hosted a talk about peer-based health interventions in the trans community, and many students with an interest in trans health were able to connect with the professor to get advice on classes to take and who to reach out to for research opportunities.

The QGAPS Socials have been a ton of fun this year! We have kept the GP-SHAH formula but have added in some collaborative socials with other LGBTIQ+ graduate and professional student groups around campus, such as the Queer Straight Alliance at the Med School and Lambda Law Students. Knowing that other folks from their program will be attending the Social helps to encourage new students to attend, and

then we see these students coming back to other QGAPS events. For example, at our social with Lambda Law we had a great time playing board games and getting to know each other, and four of the new folks who attended have come back to more events.

We have also continued our monthly Queer and Trans People of Color (QTPOC) Gatherings. This program was created at the request of queer and trans students of color last year and has continued as a place where QTPOC can both come to meet other QTPOC and to discuss their experiences and concerns in a safe space.

This semester we were able to offer a Safe Zone especially for graduate and professional students who work as teaching assistants. This was a great opportunity for allies to engage with QGAPS, and to learn more about how they can create a safe and inclusive classroom for their LGBTIQ+ students. Several people told us they planned to implement our suggestions and let us know how helpful they found it. As a result, we plan to offer a teaching assistant focused Safe Zone each semester to continue to work towards a more inclusive Carolina.

We were also able to offer three larger social events this year that brought together both new QGAPS attendees and regulars. This started with our Welcome Back event to kick off the school year and introduce new students to QGAPS. We also offered our Solstice Supper, which takes place right before winter break to ensure that students who may not be able to celebrate the holidays with their loved ones still get a nice holiday dinner.

This semester, we also offered a social during our first Pride Week, called the Pride Week Mixer, as a space for graduate and professional students to celebrate Pride! It was one of our largest events of the year, with 31 attendees, and we all had a great time eating nachos and meeting folks from across the campus.



Students join the LGBTQ Center each year to participate in Durham's annual Pride parade.

This is a rite of passage for many students who do not have Pride celebrations in their hometowns, or who have felt unsafe being out prior to attending Carolina.

# LGBTQ Center Advancement Council

NEW MILEST A NEW WAY TO  
MOVE CAROLINA FORWARD

Dr. Terri L. Phoenix, LGBTQ Center Director

Do you want to advocate for LGBTIQA+ student services and support the educational programs of the LGBTQ Center?

If so, the LGBTQ Center Advancement Council may be of interest to you!

The LGBTQ Center Advancement Council members are alumni, faculty, staff, and community members who are committed to the mission of the LGBTQ Center and its continued success and growth. Its primary focus is fundraising for the LGBTQ Center to ensure that we can meet the needs of students through programming, service learning, and professional development.

Additionally, the Advancement Council is involved in increasing awareness of the vital importance of the work of the LGBTQ Center among alumni and community members across the region.

Ten members will be selected with the goal of including as many perspectives and identities as possible. To express your interest in participating, visit:

# Looking Ahead

FALL 2019 PROGRAMS  
AND EVENTS

AUG 19 **WELCOME BRUNCH**



We open the new academic year with a drop-in brunch where students can connect with others who share their identities.

SEP 23 **BISEXUAL PRIDE AND VISIBILITY**



Bisexual people still face strong social stigma that leads to notable health and income disparities. We spend the day educating about bisexuality and supporting community folks who identify this way.

SEP 28 **PRIDE: DURHAM PARADE**



Students join the LGBTQ Center each year to participate in the Triangle's annual Pride parade, now organized by the LGBTQ Center of Durham.

OCT 11 **NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY**



National Coming Out Day is one of our most popular visibility days, likely because it breaks down barriers within the community. We celebrate with cake in The Pit and a social for students.

OCT 24 **ASEXUAL PRIDE AND VISIBILITY**



Asexual and aromantic people are often erased by dominant narratives of relationship in both heterosexual and LGBTIQ spaces. We use this day to focus on normalization and community building.

NOV 08 **INTERSEX DAY OF SOLIDARITY**



Intersex people are engaged in an ongoing fight for bodily autonomy. We work to help the broader Carolina community engage this movement in ways that honor those directly impacted.

NOV 20 **TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE**



The global epidemic of violence against transgender people is a human rights issue that students are especially attuned to. We host a vigil each year to honor our fallen siblings in the U.S.

NOV 25 **WORLD AIDS DAY AT CAROLINA**



We partner with Student Wellness to encourage campus community members to take advantage of prevention and treatment opportunities; and educate about the HIV/AIDS movement.

# Supporting the LGBTQ Center

The LGBTQ Center provides education, support, and community connection for LGBTIQ+ students, staff, and faculty. Last year we provided educational trainings about LGBTIQ+ communities to over 2000 people.

In addition over 500 people visited the LGBTQ Center and over 1,300 people participated in LGBTQ Center social or community building programs.

Unlike many of our peer institutions, the LGBTQ Center is not funded by North Carolina state taxes or student fees. Our work to create a safe and inclusive campus environment would not be possible without our donors.

You can support the programs and services of the LGBTQ Center through your generous donations of any amount!

You may make a gift online at [www.giving.unc.edu/gift/lgbtq](http://www.giving.unc.edu/gift/lgbtq).

In the online form, make the following selections:

School/Unit/Program: Student Affairs

Fund: LGBTQ Gift Fund (606250)

## YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS COULD SUPPORT:

**\$30**

One social event for LGBTIQ+ faculty and staff to meet one another and build community.

**\$50**

Compensate the facilitator for one evening of Trans Talk Tuesday - a peer discussion group for transgender and gender-questioning people.

**\$75**

One "Center After Dark" social event for undergraduate students to meet one another, build community, and access Center resources.

**\$100**

Contribute toward one day of visibility and community-building programming on a "visibility day" focusing on Bisexuality, Asexuality, etc.

**\$500**

One Safe Zone training for a nonprofit or small non-campus organization that would otherwise not be able to afford it.

**\$1000**

Help sponsor a collaborative program with student organizations and other University departments, such as Pride Week, Gender Week, or World AIDS Day.

**\$5000**

Help sponsor a signature event such as Lavender Graduation, or bring a speaker or musician to campus for National Coming Out Day or another observance.

# Lavender Graduation

## CELEBRATING LGBTIQ+ ACHIEVEMENT

Dr. April S. Callis, LGBTQ Center Assistant Director

On Sunday May 5th, 27 graduates, four volunteers, and over 80 guests came together for one of the LGBTQ Center's biggest annual events. Lavender Graduation is a commencement ceremony honoring Sexuality Studies minors, graduating LGBTIQ+ identified students, and their allies. Held in the Sonjya Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History, Lavender Graduation is a cultural celebration that acknowledges the achievements and contributions that students of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions have made.

The ceremony kicked off with introductory remarks from the LGBTQ Center's Director, Dr. Terri Phoenix. Then Joy Messinger, our 2019 Lavender Graduation Keynote Speaker, took the stage. Joy is a Chicago-based reproductive, birth, and social justice advocate who earned her MPH in Health Behavior and Health Education

from the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health and a Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership from the UNC School of Social Work in 2010. She currently serves as Program Officer for Third Wave Fund, a national feminist foundation supporting the vision and leadership of young women, low-income communities, and transgender, gender non-conforming, intersex, non-binary, and queer youth. In her role, Joy oversees Third Wave's grantmaking programs and supports fundraising, communications, and philanthropic advocacy.

After Joy's well-received remarks, Dr. Karen Booth from the Department of Women's and Gender Studies recognized Sexuality Studies graduates and award recipients. Then it was time for Jhon Cimmino, head of the LGBTIQ+ Advocacy Awards Committee, to announce this year's winners. These awards recognize contributions to or advocacy on behalf of LGBTIQ+ communities

at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Twenty-one individuals were nominated for the LGBTIQA Advocacy Awards, across three different categories. The Faculty/Staff/Postdoc Award went to Alejandra Márquez Guajardo, a Teaching Assistant Professor who researched female desire in contemporary Mexican Literature. The Graduate/Professional Student Award went to Leigh Spivey, a graduate student in the Clinical Psychology department who has dedicated her research, clinical work, and internship hours to investigating the link between gender nonconformity and adolescent health risk

behaviors. Finally, the Undergraduate Student Award went to Morgan Korzik, the Resident Assistant for Pride Place, a residential community focused on personal wellness and academic success of students of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions here at Carolina.

Finally, it was time for the highlight of the ceremony: the recognition of the graduating students. Twenty-one undergraduate students and six graduate and professional students walked in the ceremony. Each student received a lavender



New graduates celebrate with a group photo.

rose, a rainbow tassel, and a copy of Goodnight Carolina. As each student crossed the stage, a quote of their choice was read. Notable quotes included “From so simple a beginning, endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being, evolved” (Charles Dawin) and “You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think” (Pooh’s Most Grand Adventure).

The LGBTQ Center would like to extend a huge thank you to our Lavender Graduation volunteers: Carrie Dobbins, Jon Curtis, Nate Creger, and Heather Thompson. Also, thank you to the Carolina Pride Alum Network for helping arrange volunteers. We would also like to express deep gratitude to our LGBTIQA Advocacy Award Committee: Kyle Alexander, Edward Bahnsen, Parker Brookie, Jhon Cimmino, Montia Daniels, Katie Bess Hilbinger, Shelley Kennedy, Kimberly Pentel, and Alli Whitenack. And finally, thank you to all of the Award Nominees, family members, friends, and campus partners who supported the event, our students, and our campus.



Joy Messinger delivering her moving keynote address.



LGBTIQA Advocacy Awards Committee Chair Jhon Cimmino and awardee Alejandra Márquez Guajardo.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2018-2019  
LAVENDER GRADUATES

UNDERGRADUATE

|                  |                             |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Kennedy Bridges  | Abigail Murray              |
| Gabrielle Brown  | Olivia Neal                 |
| Angum Check      | Veronica O'Kelley-Nickerson |
| Shaylyn Clancy   | Laura Sanford               |
| Nez Covington    | Ivy Satterwhite             |
| Sierra Dunne     | Magnus Schulz               |
| May Flowers      | Fiona Shauger               |
| Alex Haggis      | Cole Smith                  |
| Kaitlin Harlow   | Amy Townsend                |
| Margaret Hassel  | Brandon Tucker              |
| Ebuka Ibeziako   | Kyley Underhill             |
| Suad Jabr        | Kiera Whalen                |
| Brennan Lewis    | Rachel Yuan                 |
| Allen Longstreet | Samantha Zarnick            |
| Taya McClure     | Chichi Zhu                  |

POST GRADUATE

|                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Jonh Blanco                | May Chen        |
| John DeKemper              | Will Roper      |
| Brent Eason                | Lauren Townsend |
| Emma Ferriola-Bruckenstein |                 |

# Carolina Pride Alum Network

TWO YEARS OF COMMUNITY

Shawne Grabs, University Development Officer and CPAN Board Member

The Carolina Pride Alum Network continues to make strides to engage LGBTQIA alums after an amazing first two years of engagement. We kicked off the Network with several inaugural events around the country, and now we have reached 1200 members! Another accomplishment of note is that we officially have our National Board in place and finalized by-laws to govern our Network.

We are proud of our six regional chapters: Atlanta, Charlotte, New York, the Triangle, San Francisco, and Washington D.C. Between the six chapters there have been community projects, game watching, “Tales of the City” parties, holiday parties, BBQs, hikes, and Pride parade marches, as well as volunteering for Lavender Graduation. We are creating opportunities for our members to get together.

We hosted our first Homecoming Reunion Weekend November 2-3, 2018. The weekend of activities included a conversation with Dr. Andrew Reynolds, author of *The Children of Harvey Milk: How LGBTQ*

*Politicians Changed the World*, a meet-and-greet reception, and a pregame tailgate outside of Kenan Stadium. We had a special guest join us during the pregame: Chancellor Folt! One hundred of our alums and friends came out Saturday night for a drag show highlighting the UNC LGBTQ Center with special remarks by Director Terri Phoenix.

The 2019-2020 academic year is looking to be another exciting year with Fall Homecoming Weekend planned for October 25-26 (Beat Duke!) and a spring event to be announced on Carolina’s campus.

Interested in joining the Carolina Pride Alum Network? You can signup at [carolinapride.unc.edu](http://carolinapride.unc.edu).

If you are interested in volunteer or leadership opportunities, please reach out to Shawne Grabs at [shawne\\_grabs@unc.edu](mailto:shawne_grabs@unc.edu).



Carolina Pride Alum Network Board of Directors

# Thank You to Our Partners

Mx. Mariel Eaves, LGBTQ Center Administrative Support Specialist

The programs and services we were able to offer or co-sponsor this year could not have happened without a mutual commitment to collaboration with organizations and departments from all over campus. Like most Universities, Carolina can feel like a collection of silos, and we are grateful that our student, faculty, and staff partners take the time to plan and engage with us.

One of our closest partners, **The Graduate School Diversity and Student Success**, who were recipients of the University Office for Diversity and Inclusion's 2019 Diversity Awards for Intergroup collaboration. The team consists of:

Maria Dykema Erb, Co-Director  
Kathy Wood, Co-Director  
Yesenia Pedro Vicente, Program Coordinator  
Erin Case, QGAPS Graduate Research Assistant  
Ekiuwa Imariagbe, DSS Research Assistant  
Teresa Phan, DSS Research Assistant

To celebrate National Coming Out Day in October, the **Carolina Union Activities Board (CUAB)** supported us in bringing singer, songwriter, and filmmaker Be Steadwell to campus. We welcomed Be to campus with an intimate brunch meet and greet before her performance. Students braved strong winds and rain preceding the arrival of Tropical Storm Michael to experience what Be has coined Queer Pop - a blend of vocal layering and beat boxing in the traditions of acapella, folk, and soul music.

In November, our annual Transgender Day of Remembrance events were supported by **Kenan-Flagler Undergraduate Pride** and **the Campus Y**. These student-led organizations provided hot chocolate, coffee, and other refreshments to the campus members who joined us in a vigil memorializing the transgender and gender non-conforming lives lost to transphobic violence over the last year.

Under the leadership of **Student Wellness**, we continued the tradition of observing World AIDS Day in November as the official date, December 1st, fell on a weekend. We hosted informational activities in The Pit and Student Union while **Student Health Action Coalition (SHAC)** provided testing and resource counseling.

On March 1st we co-sponsored a production of *Houn' Dawg: Life and Times of Big Mama Thornton* with **The Sonja Haynes Stone Center**. *Houn' Dawg* is a musical comedy portraying Thornton's life as a Blues singer, songwriter, and entertainer. The show was written and performed by Asuza "SheShe" Dance of Chatanooga, Tennessee via New York City.

Later in March, we collaborated with the **Carolina Women's Center** on Gender Week, an annual effort to encourage the campus and greater communities to better understand and map the intersections of identity and examine the ways that gender, race, class, etc. influence our daily lives.

April brought a successful new initiative that depended on campus-wide collaboration. The events of Pride Week are detailed on page 04. The partners listed below developed creative events to affirm LGBTIQ+ campus members:

**Black Student Movement**

**Campus Y**

**Carolina Advocating for Gender Equity**

**Center for European Studies**

**Kenan Flagler Pride Club**

**Lamda Law Students Association**

**LGBTQ Center**

**Out in STEM**

**Pride Place**

**Queer People of Faith**

**queer\_hack**

**School of Medicine Queer Straight Alliance**

**Sexuality and Gender Alliance**

**STEM Pride of the Triangle**

**The Graduate School Diversity and Student Success**

**UNC Queer and Transgender People of Color**

**UNC Student Government**



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