



# LGBTQ Center Newsletter

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## A Letter from the Director

By Terri Phoenix

### UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 5TH | 4-6PM  
*Upendo Lounge*

2013 Lavender  
Graduation

DATE AND TIME TBD

10th Anniversary  
Homecoming Reunion  
*Look for more info in  
Fall 2013 Newsletter and  
the LGBTQ website*

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**G**reetings from the LGBTQ Center! The LGBTQ Center was founded in the spring of 2003. As we begin preparing to celebrate 10 years of working to foster a safe and welcoming community for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions we thought it was time to launch an LGBTQ Center newsletter. Our plan for this newsletter is that it will be a way for us to keep graduates informed about our work, to keep us connected to the accomplishments of graduates, and begin to build a network of people with whom future Tar Heels can connect after graduation. In order to create a title for the newsletter we are hosting a "Name the Newsletter Contest" (see details on pg 9). We also welcome feedback and ideas about the content, features, and structure. We want to create something that you find informative, interesting, and valuable.

I have been privileged to serve in multiple capacities at the LGBTQ Center for eight years and I have seen much positive change in that time:

- Creation of a policy that any new building or major renovation must include the creation of at least one gender non-specific restroom
- Inauguration of the annual Lavender Graduation Ceremony
- The addition of gender identity and gender expression to the UNC-Chapel Hill policy on nondiscrimination
- UNC system-wide equity for student purchase of health insurance for a same-sex partner in the student health insurance plan
- Creation of an inclusive language policy
- Creation of gender non-specific housing option in campus housing
- Increased advocacy by Human Resources and General Administration for benefits equity for staff and faculty with same-sex partners
- Over 2,000 active (i.e., still on UNC-CH campus) Safe Zone Allies



PHOTO BY DAN SEARS

While the LGBTQ Center and its staff played important roles in each of these accomplishments, they could only have happened in partnership and with the support of many people, organizations, and departments. Many of you reading this right now played instrumental roles.

The LGBTQ Center still has many things to address and accomplish. We will continue to push for benefits equity (i.e., the ability of employees with same sex spouses to purchase health insurance for their spouse); the purchase of health insurance that does not exclude coverage for transition-related medical care; increased inclusion in the curriculum of LGBTQ, intersex, Two Spirit, and Same Gender Loving communities; and improvements in campus climate for LGBTQ, intersex, Two Spirit, and Same Gender Loving communities and their allies. We hope that former Tar Heels will stay in touch and support us as we continue to work toward full equality and inclusion of people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

We hope that Tar Heel Graduates who value this continuing work will support us with donations of time, talent, energy, and finances. I'll look forward to hearing from you.

## Gender Non-Specific Housing

*An issue of inclusion, student choice, and student safety*

*By Adrienne Gibilisco*



LGBTQ Center Director Terri Phoenix and Student Coordinator of the Gender Non-Specific Housing Coalition Kevin Claybren walked briskly across campus, towards the Carolina Inn. Steeling their nerves in anticipation of the presentation they were scheduled to make regarding Gender Non-Specific Housing, they had no idea that the two of them were about to make history. As they stood outside the conference room where the University's Board of Trustees awaited them, Terri could see the tension on Kevin's face. "It's going to be just fine, Kevin," Terri said, although T felt the pressure, too. They had put so much time and energy into this and so much was riding on it. "We'll just go in there and give the presentation."

Nodding in agreement, Kevin pushed the door open and saw at least 50 students quietly holding signs in support of GNH and media folks crowding the room behind the

Board members. Swallowing hard against his nerves, Kevin greeted the Board members and then he and Terri proceeded to present their findings. As they warmed up to the subject that was so dear to them, Kevin and Terri addressed the Board's concerns, educated them about peer universities and their successes with GNH on campus, and explained why it was important for UNC to follow suit.

As the two most knowledgeable people about GNH issues, they handily responded to strategic questions about campus climate and peer institution policies, satisfying the Board's need to hear a comprehensive argument. After a while, they could see Board of Trustees members nodding their heads in response. The Board members were clearly moved as they heard stories of students who'd endured fear and tension, having their personal lives and academic success deeply impacted by lack of comfortable and safe housing. Eventually, the presentation wound down and the questions began to dwindle. Then came the big surprise.

As Terri was drawing T's breath in to thank the Board for allowing them to present, Trustee Barbara Hyde rose and said, "I move that we put forth a proposal in support of the creation of Gender Non-Specific Housing, to be implemented immediately." Alston Gardner swiftly seconded it. Terri and Kevin gaped as a chorus of "Aye's" followed. "Any opposed? Any abstained?" Silence. "Let the record show that the motion passes."

As the room erupted in an explosion of disbelief and unfettered glee over the unanimous vote in favor, the GNH dream team was swarmed by the crowd of students and media in attendance. Incredulous at this fantastic, yet unexpected, turn of events, the two collaborators reached out to each other, hugging with joyous tears after having traveled this arduous journey together.

It was a journey that began in spring 2006, when Terri was propelled to action after a student situation arose from an individual transitioning from F to M who was housed in an all-female suite. "As this person's transition progressed, that became an uncomfortable situation for the individual," Terri recalls several weeks after the Board's vote.

Once that person changed the marker to "male," school policy dictated that he would then be housed in a suite full of males, which presented additional concerns about safety and acceptance. "That was the beginning of my conversations with Housing about why Gender Non-Specific Housing was necessary," says Terri.

Those conversations resulted in intense research by Terri, who began collecting data on UNC-CH, diligently tracking policies at peer institutions and how they impacted students there. By the spring of 2010, the Gender Non-Specific Housing Coalition was formed. "It started out as a research project," remembers Kevin, who was then a first year on the Center's Volunteer

“ I don't think anyone should be forced to live in a place where they feel isolated and marginalized. College is stressful enough! ”

“ There are over 700 students that want to live in GNS housing and nearly 3,000 students who support this. IT IS IN! ”

“ I believe that just as every student deserves the right to a fair education, they deserve to be treated fairly in a safe and inclusive 'Home away from home' environment. ”



UNC LGBTQ Center Director Terri Phoenix (Center) and Gender Non-Specific Housing Coordinator Kevin Claybren (left) celebrate with students after approval.

Committee. Motivated by Duke's passing of a GNH resolution for their campus, the students met with Housing to discuss the importance of bringing it on board here and to get advice about how best to make that happen.

Although the other students (including Angel Collie, Gillian Reid, Rebekah Scherr and Caroline Johnson, among others) were thoroughly involved and devoted to the mission, Kevin was a standout. "He made this his issue in ways that I don't think any other student had done before," says Terri, proudly. "And the advantage is that Kevin is awesome at coalition building. He did a phenomenal job at cultivating relationships with a lot of different groups of people and I think that that was instrumental in the success of the campaign. He had the drive and the perseverance and the passion for this and he was really invested and committed a ton of time and energy into it."

Which is what made him the perfect partner for Terri. The two held countless late hour bullpen sessions and devoted an enormous amount of focus on this issue. An early meeting with Vice Chancellor Crisp, who advised them to think about questions and challenges that would arise and to have the data and information ready to support it, confirmed that they were on the right track. "We need to know what is happening around the country," he said. "We need to know where people have instituted GNH and what has happened as a result. And then you need to show us that the campus supports GNH."

Expanding on the research that Kevin and his cohorts had done, they now began to ask more detail-oriented questions, such as, "How long have you had GNH? What is the set-up? Is it suites, apartments, a shared room, a shared suite? Do you have to fill the whole suite or is it potluck? Who takes advantage of this?"

Although a common misconception is that couples would take advantage of GNH simply to have sex, Terri and Kevin's arduous research proved the opposite. Rather than being requested by couples of any nature, it was groups of friends of different genders and, quite often, siblings who, for family, cultural or religious reasons required Gender Non-Specific Housing. "Every student deserves the opportunity to have academic success," states Kevin. "If just one student that got in here is paying tuition and is paying to live in this on-campus housing doesn't feel safe, then our University isn't doing their job."

Strategizing to create a broad, diverse, powerhouse coalition, Terri and Kevin got Student Government, Student Congress, Resident Housing Association and the Housing Advisory Committee on board. They then extended their base by reaching out to student organizations and University departments for letters of support, along with signed petitions, to bolster the proposal they presented to Vice Chancellor Crisp. Campus support was strengthening, helped in great part by Student Body President Mary Cooper – who was a tireless champion – as well as members of the Cabinet and folks in Student Congress. The groundswell of support led it to

“ I want to lead the state of North Carolina down the path of acceptance, empathy and moral courage. ”

“ It is only an option – no one will be forced to room with only gender-specified roommate. As a gay man, I would be more comfortable rooming with a close family friend than a straight guy. Also, for transgender people it would be a difference between comfort and misery. ”

become a plank on multiple platforms, particularly the Student Power movement.

Their momentum was building fast, but it came to a screeching halt on February 6th, 2012. Chancellor Thorp, who had been supportive of their campaign, met with them to say that although he'd given GNH careful consideration, he concluded that he couldn't recommend its implementation out of concern that it hadn't been adequately explained to UNC-CH's many stakeholders off campus. "We owe it to this issue to ensure that people understand what we are proposing," he said.

Deflated by this surprising blow, Terri and Kevin took a collective breath and regrouped. In the wake of his decision, there were many who wanted to storm the Chancellor's office, but the two partners said, "That's not where we need to direct our energies."

Instead, they came up with a three-pronged approach: First, they needed to educate the Board of Trustees because, as key stakeholders, their advocacy was necessary. This was followed by a postcard campaign in which people expressed their reasons for wanting GNH. Over 450 postcards were then sent in bulk to the Chair of the Student Affairs Committee, Wade Alston. Likewise, they drafted a letter to alert President Tom Ross that GNH was something that was wanted not just by students, but by many people. They also initiated a Change.org petition that had President Ross as the recipient. Finally, they needed to get the movement happening at other UNC system schools. While Terri reached out to faculty, staff, allies and other communities, Kevin went directly to the Student Government Associations with a tool kit he developed using the materials from his research as a skeleton. Catching rides from like-minded friends, he presenting at ASG meetings in Greensboro and Asheville, expanding his network over time with the other delegates who could then apply his methodology to their schools.

By November 2012, the GNH conversation had become a deafening roar on campus. Just four days prior to their presentation to the Board of Trustees, Kevin went to Asheville, where the UNC Association of Student Governments passed a resolution in favor of GNH. Hot on the heels of that monumental success, which would strengthen their claim of overwhelming acceptance among campus communities, Terri and Kevin ramped up visibility by staging a Sleep-In at the Campus Y and inviting media to cover the event. With cameras rolling and print press capturing their every word, the duo made sure to mention their forthcoming presentation, hoping they'd show up at the Carolina Inn the next day.

With just a few hours' sleep, the two bleary-eyed collaborators were back at the LGBTQ Center the next morning to finalize their presentation for that afternoon. "We didn't expect a vote," says Terri now. "We were just going to tell the board why we're asking for this and why we've been expending so much energy and why it was important for UNC to do. There was no official proposal on the table at all."

Instead, the surprise vote ushered in a more inclusive, accepting and supportive living situation on the UNC-Chapel Hill campus and elsewhere (several other schools in the UNC system are exploring making GNH a reality on their campus). Although there was a second vote the next day to fully confirm the Board of Trustees' decision, Terri and Kevin had forever made their mark. The DTH (which had been huge in making GNH a public conversation) and other local papers picked up the story and it swiftly spread across the globe, with coverage as far as San Francisco, Canada, Spain and France, making what seemed like a local accomplishment at the time a story of international importance.

Celebrating at the Top of Hill the night after the first vote, the two were still numb with delirious shock. Reflecting on that moment, Terri grins. "We just sat there and shook our heads in disbelief, saying, 'Wow! We would never have imagined this in a million years!'"

*GNH will be offered as a pilot program beginning the 2013-2014 academic year. Students aged 18 years or older and those 17 and younger with parental consent are eligible for the program. The locations for this first year's program will be four apartments (16 spaces) in Ram Village, one suite (8 spaces) in Carmichael, and two suites (8 spaces) in Craige North (to accommodate first-year requests). Apartments and suites will be mixed gender, but resident rooms will remain same gender.*

“The safety of all students is important to me. Patience is not a virtue with what's at stake.”

“No Tar Heel should EVER feel abnormal or unsafe. That's not the Carolina Way.”



## Center Highlights



Classes had barely begun when the August 23rd **Welcome Back Kickoff** augured an exciting season of activities. Over 100 undergrads, grads and staff gathered at the Union for festive games, food and a sneak peek at the special events that the LGBTQ Center had in store for them during the fall 2012 semester:

In response to concerns in previous years that we had too many people crowding the UNC Pride float, this year the LGBTQ Center expanded its fleet to two floats. Even a deluge couldn't dampen spirits when our folks gathered on the UNC LGBTQ Center floats and marched along under rainbow umbrellas to take part in the NC **Pride** parade on Saturday, September 29th. Proudly waving colorful signs that read, "Labels Do Not Define Me" and "I Can See Queerly Now" the UNC contingent celebrated their identities joyously.

"It was awesome!" exclaimed one rain-soaked participant. "It was truly the most reaffirming and self-esteem-building-experience that I've ever been through. Thanks to Pride, I am 100% more confident and happy with my sexuality, emotions and spirituality."

Continuing the pride-boosting theme, in mid-October, **Coming Out Week** brought a plethora of activities, beginning with a "Pajama Movie Night" screening of *Paris is Burning*, the classic homage to the Ball culture of 80's New York City. Popcorn and PJs set the mood -- and at least one attendee was seen dancing in her Hello Kitty slippers!

Further promoting visibility and embracing identities was "Performance Night," which took place the next evening at the Genome Sciences Building. The diverse performances of such acts as competitive dance team Bhangra Elite, who performed their upbeat Punjabi dance style; Interactive Theatre Carolina, who used both scripted and improvised material; the all-female a cappella group Cadence; and campus slam team UNC Wordsmith each used creativity to show support of embracing identities. The breakout stars of the night were emcees Funmi Solar and Ping Nguyen, who lifted the energy stratospherically with hilarious demonstrations of their favorite dance moves, songs and poetry.



UNC LGBTQ Director Terri Phoenix and daughter Duncan on National Coming Out Day.

classes as participants met new people and visited with old friends in celebration. Capping the week was the “Coming Out Panel” which brought about rich discourse and unique stories about intersecting identities. Panel facilitator Laura Baker recalls, “the students gave nuanced descriptions of what it’s like coming out and living with different intersecting identities. It was moving and informative, especially for attendees who weren’t familiar with the subject.”

The aging russet, gold and vermillion leaves of late November set the tone for the **Trans Day of Remembrance**, the annual observance begun by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honor the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998. The vigil commemorated all the transgender people lost to violence that year and began an important memorial that we continue at UNC. Marking the somber occasion was a Die-In at the Pit, during which participants came clad in black and jeans, and joined in bearing witness to a visual representation of all of those whose lives were lost due to transphobic violence this year. Volunteers took turns representing the victims by calling out their individual names and sharing their tragic stories, then laying down in symbolic death with a white rose lain on their chest by fellow student Meshell Sturgis. LGBTQ Center Assistant Director Danny DePuy then read strategies for being an ally to transgender folks and each person who had lain down then stood up. Crowd reaction was intense as people respectfully viewed the gallery of placards about the shattered lives of the slain. Afterwards, the gravitas of the event led the volunteers to huddle for an emotional group hug and shared encouragement to reach out for support.

Continuing **Transgender Awareness Week** and coinciding with American Indian Heritage Month, the LGBTQ Center, American Indian Center, First Nation Graduate Circle and Carolina Indian Circle co-sponsored a screening of *Two Spirits*, the deeply moving story of Fred Martinez, a Navajo male-bodied person with a feminine essence who was slain. Audience members praised the event for providing “a new perspective on queer and trans acceptance within an unfamiliar community” and “increased knowledge of non-traditional/non-white queer identities.”

Bringing a sense of spiritual balance (and a revitalizing workout) to the LGBTQ community was the introduction of **Queer Yoga**. Led by the Center’s calmingly upbeat Assistant Director, Danny Depuy, the weekly classes are peppered with inspirational and uplifting information about the deeper connection between breath and body. These popular sessions moved from the Union to the Ram’s Head gym in January 2013 to better accommodate the staff, graduate and undergraduate devotees who flock to it in search of positive energy and a good sweat.

As 2012 came to a close, the LGBTQ Center once again took part in the Orange County Department of Social Services Foster Care Christmas Sponsorship by arranging for the wish lists of two local youth to be fulfilled with the clothes and games that they hoped for. This annual endeavor is one which we find incredibly rewarding as we demonstrate by action our commitment to community. We are humbled to have had the privilege to brighten their holidays.



Danny DePuy, registered yoga trainer, 2012.

## Impact of Center Programming

The chart to the right summarizes the evaluation data (response rate 45%) and reveals what people gained from their experiences with our events.

Most people heard about these events via word-of-mouth or Facebook, so please be sure to talk/post about our events often this spring to help increase participation!

These programs were designed with the intention of fostering participant outcomes such as an increase in:

1. awareness of LGBTIQ Community on Campus
2. opportunity to Connect to LGBTIQ Communities
3. pride & Self-Esteem in Own Identity
4. awareness of negative impacts of heterosexism, homophobia and transphobia
5. knowledge of behaviors to be an ally to/for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions

## Safe-Zone

By Danny DePuy (Assistant Director)

Safe Zone is the LGBTQ Center's flagship educational training program. During the four hour Safe Zone program, facilitators engage participants in activities and dialogue to elicit awareness around heterosexism, language, student experiences, scenarios, existing campus policies, and resources.

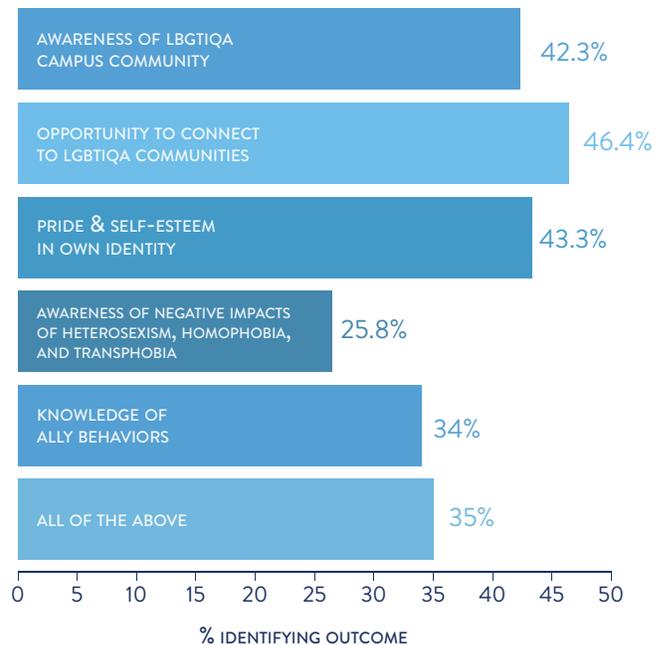
The aim of the Safe Zone program is aligned with the LGBTQ Center mission, which is to foster a welcoming and affirming environment for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions. Research shows that in organizations or institutions with a visible ally community, folks expect to be treated better, are more likely to interrupt heterosexist and transphobic behavior, and in turn, are actually treated better. Visibility matters!

One of the joys of facilitating Safe Zone is seeing folks have those "aha moments" when new information resonates into deeper understanding. I am grateful to the diverse crew of students who serve on our Speakers Bureau to share their coming out stories and salient experiences as an LGBTIQ identified person on this campus. As a testament to the program, one of the panelists regularly shares that he was admitted into two equally good graduate programs, UNC being one of them. Upon visiting our campus, he noticed Safe Zone ally signs in the hallway. At the time he didn't know what Safe Zone was, but he knew the rainbow image, and felt reassured to know that at least folks were cognizant of the need for ally visibility here on campus. This was the weight that tipped the scale and he is now here in his third year of graduate studies.



UNC-Chapel Hill  
**SAFE  
ZONE**

### PARTICIPANT OUTCOMES



After facilitating the most recent training, a faculty member came up to me and commented, "You know, I've been teaching here at UNC for over 20 years and this is the best training I've ever been to." Moments like this confirm the significance and impact this program has and I am grateful that we have so many passionate and supportive folks here at UNC Chapel Hill.

Our evaluation data indicates that this perception of the value of the Safe Zone program is shared by many. In 2011-2012, participants rated the overall quality of the training as Excellent (70%) or Good (27%); 98% reported a greater knowledge of the subject; 96% indicated they could apply what they had learned from the program.

In 2003, when the LGBTQ Center was formed, there were about 200 active allies on Campus. Today we have over 2,200 active allies present on campus. We work with individuals to set up trainings in specific departments or units so that information can be more directly tailored to that functional area. If you are interested in hosting a Safe Zone in your program, organization, or department, please contact me!

In addition to our Speakers Bureau, we rely on the generous support of our team of Volunteer Facilitators.

Without the tireless work of colleagues, students, and LGBTQ Center staff, we would not be able to meet the demand for training. Thank you for your role in making this program possible, and if you are currently on campus and wanting to be involved in some capacity, see our training schedule and my contact information below.

To register for an upcoming training, visit our website [[www.lgbtq.unc.edu](http://www.lgbtq.unc.edu)] and connect with me at [depuy@email.unc.edu](mailto:depuy@email.unc.edu) or 919-843-5376 if you are interested in joining the Speakers Bureau or Facilitator team.

## Featured Alumna Spotlight



*In each edition of this newsletter, we will feature an article highlighting the adventures and accomplishments of a randomly chosen graduate. This edition's featured alumna is Maggie Carlin (2011).*

*By Adrienne Gibilisco*

One of the greatest joys we share at the LGBTQ Center is nurturing the students who have worked closely with us and then watching proudly as they graduate from UNC-CH and implement the skills they've honed here when they go out into the world. Maggie Carlin is a prime example. Arriving at UNC with a degree in Psychology earned at Chicago's Northwestern University, she became the Center's graduate student assistant while working towards a Master's in Public Health. Maggie enthusiastically led Safe Zone training, guided work study students, and crafted the weekly News & Notes newsletter from 2009 until her Lavender Graduation in 2011.

When we caught up with her via phone from the city digs she shares with partner Meaghan, and their dog and cat, Beanie and Otis, in Ljubljana, Slovenia, Maggie's quick laugh and ebullience made us homesick for her upbeat energy. As Community Liaison Officer at the US Embassy there, she is responsible for providing support and resources for the local American communities, as well as arranging community service. It's far from the public health position she hoped for when she followed Meaghan, a Foreign Service Officer with the Department of State, there after graduation. But she's found her purpose. Her drive to achieve parity for marginalized

people has led her to co-create a program (funded by a grant from the J. Kirby Simon Foreign Service Trust) for the isolated and victimized Roma women of that region, changing their lives for the better.

### **What drove you to create support for Roma women?**

The Roma communities are definitely the most disadvantaged demographic group in Slovenia and probably the group that experiences the most governmental and personal discrimination. So we host workshops with the Roma women who are experiencing violence – in the home, mostly – in order to expand their social networks. Most of them don't really get to leave the home. They only get to interact with their own families and not with other friends or other women. So even to have a sanctioned reason to get out of the home and interact with other women from their settlement is a major step. People were really skeptical at first, but now they're willing to talk about more sensitive topics with us and we're starting to see that it's having an impact and people are grateful for it. It's been really, really rewarding work and it's great for me to have a chance to do something that I feel really strong



about. I was proud just to get the grant in the first place and have an opportunity to create a safe space and do this.

**That correlates with the work you did with Safe Zone somewhat. What other work did you do at UNC that you are proud of and that may have prepared you for your current work?**

When I was at UNC, I worked at SHAC, the Student Health Action Coalition, which is a group of students in the health professions, like med students and nursing students, who participated in this. For my second year at school, I was the co-director of SHAC and we fumbled through it, but I learned so much from that experience and I was really proud of both getting the position – that was really a coup for me – but then also the work that the organization did when I was a part of it. The organization provided a lot of awesome health care and did a lot of good work and started some new branches while I was there, so I was really proud of that.

Also, one of the things that was really good practice for life for me, working at the Center, was interacting with people from all walks of life and from all levels of familiarity with people who are different from them - working on Safe Zone trainings and talking to people [for whom] this is their first time learning any of the information, all the way to working

with people who have devoted their life to work with LGBT causes. I think that equipped me very well to come into every situation without judgment, not really knowing what to expect and kind of trying to be aware that people may have any level of knowledge that could be far greater than mine or far less than mine and coming in and trying to make sure I am not making any assumptions about anyone's experiences. I was forced to internalize that when I was working at the Center, but that lesson still stands and it's something I think about all the time.

**Can you share some of your favorite memories from UNC?**

A few of us from my program at UNC had a band while we were there. Mostly, we wrote public health-themed song covers and played gigs at department parties - no joke! One of my favorite memories is of the four of us stuffed into a practice room in the School of Music, jamming and pausing to vent about the stresses of grad school. It was definitely my greatest catharsis at the time. I also have really wonderful memories about getting into some sort of mess with Terri and Danny at the Center and laughing our way through it and figuring it out in the end. I was there about 15 hours a week, so it felt like a really big part of my life. Some of the best times were when we would have a game afternoon right after exams. We'd all just sit there for hours upon hours and tell horribly stupid jokes and just enjoy the heck out of it! (laughs)

**Looking back, can you name one thing that you know now that you wish you would have known upon graduation?**

Oh, gosh...for me, it was a huge, huge, huge decision and a huge risk to come here. To kind of say, "Okay, I know I'm not going to be able to work in public health and I'm going to have to depart this for a little while." To follow a partner across the world and leave everything was super risky and super scary. It was probably the biggest thing I struggled with around the time that I was graduating. It has certainly been difficult in many ways. A lot of the things that I thought might go wrong did go wrong, but it's also been so great and I'm so happy that it worked out this way. I hadn't had a lot of faith in my major life decisions up to that point. So I think I wish I had known that taking a risk can be really worthwhile and that it was okay to kind of let go for a little while and be a little more comfortable just going with the flow and letting life take you where it takes you.

**So where does life take you?**

What's really great about being here is that we're really well located for travel. We have an incredible amount of travel opportunities and we travel almost every weekend to either elsewhere in central Europe and around the region where we are now or to Western Europe. We went to the Middle East this year. We're going to Morocco soon. A lot of the time, we'll just stick our dog in the car and drive to Italy...or Austria or Croatia. We rent an apartment or stay in a hostel and just try to fit in as many trips as we can while we're here.



### What are your plans for the immediate future?

I'm finishing out the full two-year tour and planning to stay in the Foreign Service for a while. Our tour here will end this summer and then we'll go back to DC for a while and [Meaghan] will have some training and then we'll be [stationed] in Tijuana for two years after that. It's a good location for us because I'm hoping to be able to probably work in either Tijuana or San Diego. [Long term], I would love to be back in Public Health in the very, very general sense of the term, so that could certainly be something similar to the work I did with women who were

“ I wish I had known that taking a risk can be really worthwhile. ”

experiencing violence, when I was at UNC. I could certainly see myself continuing that, but I feel really open to having a chance to just have an experience and really kind of finding my way from there.

## Graduate and Professional Student Programs

By *Laura Baker (Graduate Student)*

The LGBTQ Center has continued to focus on the expansion of programs for Graduate and Professional students. In addition to our monthly social hours (GSHAH), we also held a roundtable discussion for Graduate and Professional students and faculty regarding strategies for integrating LGBTIQ issues into curricula.

As a result of the discussion, Derrick Matthews, a PhD student in Health Behavior, gave a presentation at a meeting of the Provost's Committee on LGBTQ life, emphasizing the importance of not just viewing LGBTQ issues from the perspective of student life, but also from an academic perspective to ensure that LGBTQ lives and subject materials are included in the curriculum. Based on the success of this result of a roundtable discussion, as well as feedback from the LGBTQ Center's Administrative Review and students, we will be conducting an increasing amount of roundtables, so please check our website for scheduling details.

Finally, we are working with the Graduate & Professional Student Federation (GPSF) to schedule a special Safe Zone training for graduate and professional students, focusing on issues that graduate students may face in the classroom. As graduate instructors interact with many undergraduate students, creating the potential for a large impact on campus, we hope to make this unique Safe Zone a regular occurrence.

## Contest: Name Our Newsletter!



Win this UNC Bag of Swag

When we planned this inaugural issue of the LGBTQ Alumni newsletter, we struggled to find a name that accurately represents us. How best to capture the essence of a group of diverse, bright, talented people with a distinctive University experience?

Complicating matters, we realized that although “alumni” is the default plural used to refer to graduates, it actually refers to males. Whereas, “alumnae” is the plural for females, but not traditionally used. Since we want to be inclusive of all genders and gender identities, we were perplexed by how best to represent our graduates: Alumnae, perhaps?

Ultimately, we decided to leave it up to you to properly dub this publication, knowing full well that you will use your creative energy and great UNC-educated minds to elicit an intriguing, relevant name that appropriately captures the essence of an LGBTQ Alumni/ Alumnae newsletter about a very diverse community. The grand prize winner will earn esteemed bragging rights for perpetuity, as well as a fabulous canvas UNC tote brimming with all sorts of goodies, generously provided by the General Alumni Association (GAA).

We will accept entries from April 1, 2013 to April 29, 2013. We will then conduct an online

poll (available on our website, our Facebook page, and the UNC-CH Alumni/ae Facebook group) to ascertain which of these suggestions garners the most votes. If no one suggestion obtains 80% of the votes, we will narrow the pool to the top three and again ask you to vote on it.

Please send your entries to Adrienne Gibilisco at [adrigibi@email.unc.edu](mailto:adrigibi@email.unc.edu). You may enter as often as you'd like. Deadline for entries is April 29, 2013.

## SUPPORT THE LGBTQ CENTER

### Make a Donation

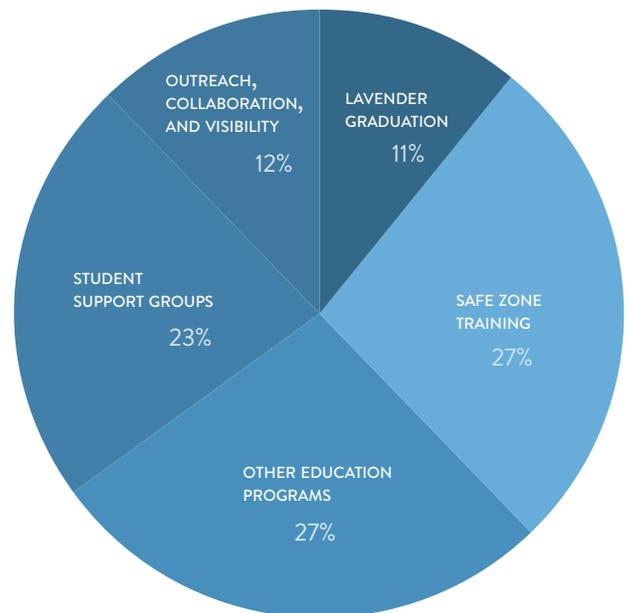
Our programming budget comes from private donations. The work of the LGBTQ Center to create a safe and inclusive campus environment would not be possible without our donors. Your generosity and support is greatly appreciated. The chart to the right represents the allocation of program funds by category. Your contributions of time, knowledge, money, and resources allow us to continue our efforts to ensure that all people at UNC-CH are treated equitably.

To make a donation to the LGBTQ Center, go to [www.lgbtq.unc.edu](http://www.lgbtq.unc.edu) and select *donate*.

School/Unit/Program: Division of Student Affairs  
Fund: LGBTQ Program Office (6250)

### Pine Tree Scholarship (8692)

We also invite you to support the Pine Tree Scholarship. The Pine Tree Scholarship provides grants to students who do not receive support from parents/guardians and who identify as being gay or lesbian or express an interest in gay and lesbian studies. People of all gender identities and sexual orientations are encouraged to apply if they meet the need-based and interest criteria. As of 8/23/11 we have no more grant money to award from that fund but there are four students (that we know of) who qualify for this scholarship. Your generosity and support is much appreciated.



SPECIAL THANKS TO: Allison Press (UNC Marketing & Design), Ran Northam (WCHL), Linda Sherck (GAA)