

Spring 2015

The Ally Network

Newsletter

What's happening on campus. . . .

GROUPS

LGBTQ Employee Affinity Group

Monday, May 4th, Room 209, Illini Union

5:30 P.M.

For more info, contact lgbtconcerns@illinois.edu

Coming Out Support Group

Every other Wednesday, 6-7pm

Email comingout@illinois.edu for location

EVENTS

“Lunch on Us” 12pm

April 15 :: *Voices for Justice: Awareness, Advocacy, Allies and YOU—Stories of Student Leaders & The Fight for Justice*, BNAACC & LGBT Resource Center (BNAACC)

April 27 :: *The Mask You Live In: Men, Masculinity, and the Movement to End Violence Against Women*, Imran Siddique, Former Outreach Director, Miss Representation Project

Queer-It Week

April 13th-April 17th

For more info, see next page!

SAAM

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

~All of April~

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Spring Feature

Queer-It Week

Queer It Week is a week long collaboration between the LGBT Resource Center, LGBT Registered Student Organizations, and campus and community partners celebrating LGBTQ identities. Emerging from the concept of "Sprit Week," "Queer-It Week" focuses on Queer Identities and conversations about those identities.

Events

April 13th -

What are Pronouns? Tabling Event, 12-2pm, Main Quad

Interfaith Film Series: City of Borders Join DiversityEd and the University YMCA for a screening of the documentary *City of Borders*. Yun Suh's documentary *City of Borders* goes to the heart of Jerusalem where an unusual symbol of unity — a gay bar — defies generations of segregation, violence and prejudice. This powerful documentary gives an intimate view of an underground community where people of opposing nationalities, religions and sexual orientations create an island of peace in a land divided by war. Co-sponsored by Diversity & Social Justice Education and the University YMCA. 7pm, Wahl Room (2nd floor) of the University YMCA (1001 S. Wright St., Champaign)

April 14th -

50 Shades of... WHAT?! Safe and Fun Dialogue about BDSM 11:30am-1pm Illini Union Room 407

Queer Asian and Asian American Experiences - Dinner Dialogue *Asian American Cultural Center* 6:30pm

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Events

April 15th - Q&A with Q&A The Counseling Center's LGBTQ Outreach Team, Queers and Allies (Q&A), hosts a weekly discussion drop in hour in the LGBT Resource Center. This is a space to ask questions, engage in dialogue, and learn about resources. *12pm-1pm*

Guess Who's Queer Panel *5-6pm Student Dining & Residential Programs Rm 2009*

April 16th - Queering Science Awareness Poster Campaign *All Day Main Quad*

Building Bridges Campus and Community Potluck The potluck will serve as a forum to have discussion between LGBTQIA+ folks and open and affirming religious communities on and around campus. As the name suggests, feel free to bring as much food as you want. It will be held at Community United Church of Christ in their Fellowship Hall, located in the basement. So come out if you are able, we would love to see you and have you join in on the conversation. Anyone and everyone are welcome. *Community United Church of Christ (6th and Daniels) 5:30-7:30pm*

April 17th - Day of Silence National day of action in which students across the country vow to take a form of silence to call attention to the silencing effect of anti-LGBT bullying and harassment in schools. *All Day*

Green Street Hug-In *6pm Green Street*

April 18th - NAGVA Volleyball Tournament *Leonard Rec Center*

ALLY OF THE MONTH

February 2015



On behalf of the Queers & Allies committee of the Counseling Center, the Ally Network Training Committee, and the LGBT Resource Center, we would like to congratulate **Jodi Byrd** as February 2015 Ally of the Month!! Jodi, we thank you for your contributions, wisdom, knowledge, and experiences, and we value and appreciate all of the work you do in and around the LGBTQ community at the University of Illinois. Now we present to you an interview with Jodi!

What positions do you have on campus, and who do you primarily work with?

I am an associate professor of American Indian Studies and English at the University of Illinois where I offer courses in indigenous studies, critical theory, literature, and video games.

How long have you identified as an LGBTQ ally?

I identify as queer myself so finding ways to support LGBTQ2 students, faculty, staff on campus has always been a priority.

What are the everyday ways you practice being an ally?

As a member of the faculty, the everyday practice of being an ally revolves around teaching, research, and scholarship.

How do you let those you work with know you are an LGBTQ ally?

This is a hard question for me to answer because, as someone who is an American Indian—my tribal community is the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma—and as someone who identifies as a lesbian, being an ally to LGBTQ2 communities is something that stems from my own personal commitments. At the same time, the work of allying for me hinges on creating space, giving voice, and challenging the structures that continue to erase, overwrite, and oppress us in this community.

What advice would you give to newly identified LGBTQ allies?

I think what is key to being an ally is always understanding yourself in relation to the communities you work with, for, and in. This means listening, not assuming your own priority, and being responsive to the needs of others.