



2019-2020



LGBTQA+ Center Annual Report

Pace University's New York City Campus

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Thank You

Welcome

Hello friends of Pace University's LGBTQA+ Center,

What a year it's been! From new leadership to a new name to new programs to serving students virtually, this year has certainly marked many changes for the LGBTQA+ Center on the NYC Campus. With outstanding new first year students, Queerleaders, student assistants, and graduate and undergraduate interns, we have welcomed so many wonderful folks who have helped build a stronger LGBTQA+ community at Pace. The Center could not do the work that we do without the hard work, passion, and support from our student leaders, and we want to sincerely thank you for all you've done!

While our history and continued legacy remains the same, we are excited to share about our new directions in leadership, programming and impact. This annual report will highlight our efforts on Pace University's NYC campus in regard to LGBTQA+ advocacy, education and community building. This year we have developed new events, programs, staff structure (...and even rearranged our furniture!), but continued our much loved traditions and built upon our strong foundations. We hope you step away from this report with a better understanding of who we are, what we do, and how we've grown over the past year. Each section will showcase photos, descriptions, and reflections on the LGBTQA+ Center's impact, and we can't wait to have you learn more about us!

The end of the 2020 school year brought about many unprecedented challenges at the university and for our world. It has pushed us to adapt to new ways to support each other, and through it all, we are so proud of the strength, power, and resiliency of our students. The LGBTQA Center remains committed to serving the Pace community (whether in 41 Park Row or on Zoom), and we look forward to continuing to build upwards in the years to come. Thank you for reading and for your support!

Sincerely,

Emmett Griffith

He / Him / His

Associate Director, LGBTQA Center (NYC Campus)

Our Mission

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning & Asexual (LGBTQA) Center at Pace University exists to create campus environments that are inclusive and supportive of student, staff and faculty diversity in the areas of sexuality and gender identity/expression. Under the Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, the office promotes advocacy, education, leadership opportunities and a commitment to social justice for the LGBTQA+ and ally community at Pace.



What's New?

The Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

In August of 2019, Pace University hired their first ever Chief Diversity Officer, Tiffany Hamilton. With the addition of Tiffany came the creation of the Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. This division includes The Chief Diversity Officer, The Office of Multicultural Affairs, The Office of Sexual and Interpersonal Wellness, The Office of Institutional Equity and Title IX Compliance, and The LGBTQA+ Center.



Name

With the addition of this new division, each department reexamined both their name and mission. After careful consideration, we decided the names LGBTQA Center (NYC) and LGBTQA Center (PLV) simply captures the work we do on both campuses. Because social justice is imbedded in all the work we do for the LGBTQA+ community and a "social justice center" implies larger-scale programming/ services that we simply cannot offer, we felt this change was necessary and helped provide some clarification and an exciting new direction for our branding.

What's New?

Leadership

In July of 2019, Emmett Griffith joined the LGBTQA+ Center as the new Associate Director. He served as a Graduate Assistant at the center for two years, and as he neared graduation, students were devastated to possibly see him go. When news broke that he'd be rejoining us in his current position, it felt like a natural and necessary transition. Emmett has brought new life to the center, and has reawakened a passion in countless students at Pace. He has not only changed the center space physically, but he has transformed the environment as a whole, and has made the 9th floor of 41 Park Row the place to be. We are incredibly lucky to have him as our leader at the LGBTQA+ Center, and even luckier to have such a determined advocate on the Pace staff as a whole.



"Emmett has shown his adaptability as a leader. Being able to maintain his prior relationships with students as a Graduate Assistant and transform them within his role as the Associate Director is one of the qualities that has made his first year as the only full-time staff member in the LGBTQA Center essential to building genuine connections that will last a lifetime." - Sherline Ortiz, Graduate Assistant

Leadership

The LGBTQA+ Center has a dedicated group of 9 staff members who work to keep the space operating day to day, as well as the specific tasks and projects for each staff member.



EMMETT GRIFFITH
He/Him/His
Associate Director



SHERLINE ORTIZ
She/Her/Hers
Graduate Assistant



TASHA MCCOMBS
She/Her/Hers
Graduate Intern



DEVYN CAIN
He/Him/His
Undergraduate Intern



ANTHONY INCRISTO
He/Him/His
Student Assistant,
Outreach and
Communication



NICK ISLEY
He/Him/His
Student Assistant,
Data Tracking and
Assessment



ALEX LOOKER
He/Him, They/Them
Student Assistant,
Events and Programs



MAY MINARD
She/Her/Hers
Student Assistant,
Social Media and
Graphic Design



MENGWE WAPIMEWAH
She/Her/Hers
Student Assistant,
Events and Programs

Leadership

Queerleaders

The Queerleader Program is the LGBTQA & Social Justice Center's student leadership program with a peer education component. Queerleaders attend monthly training focused on LGBTQ+ issues, social justice education and leadership development. They learn the presentation skills and curriculum content necessary to present the Center's educational trainings to the Pace community. Some of these educational trainings are Safe(r) Zone, Trans 101, and About the Center which are presented to students, staff, and faculty upon request and during our open house trainings!



Leadership

Q-Camp

Q-Camp unites the New York City and Pleasantville campuses at Camp Mariah in Fishkill, NY for a 3 day leadership retreat for LGBTQ+ students. Through a multitude of identity workshops, community building activities, and fun (kick ball is always a favorite!) This weekend empowers students to do important and challenging work for themselves and their community.



"My favorite event was Q-Camp because I was able to meet and connect with so many incredible students from the Pleasantville campus!" - Mengwe Wapimewah, Student Assistant

Discussion Groups

The Center currently offers four weekly programs

OUT TO LUNCH

Wednesdays at the Center are reserved for T-Time! Led by Associate Director Emmett, this is a closed discussion group for T/GNC students, to build community and offer support and advice.

Every Monday SA Alex leads a discussion on a specific LGBTQA+ topic ranging from queer history to current media! Sometimes featuring special guests, and always with plenty of food!

T-TIME

QTPOC Corner is the newest addition to our weekly line-up! Every Thursday Grad Assistant Sherline leads a closed discussion about intersecting identities for Queer and Trans students of color.

QTPOC CORNER

After a busy week, Grad Intern Tasha leads us in Healing Friday. An open group for students to engage in self-care through art, reflection, and conversation.

HEALING FRIDAY

Being in such a huge university, it's easy to get lost and not be able to express oneself fully and for Queer/Trans students of color, this is especially true. The QTPOC Corner space makes me feel so happy and although it's a new and growing program, I can already see the potential for its growth and how it has impacted students. - Sherline Ortiz, Graduate Assistant

Recurring Events

Our new monthly events were created to cater to a wide range of students. Whether you're looking for an educational conversation, or a quiet hangout, we've got the programs for you!

EXPOSURE

EXPOSURE is a monthly speaking series that covers a variety of topics, like Safe(r) Sex, Coming out, and Burnout. Along with some super special collaborations with Juliette from the Office of Sexual and Interpersonal Wellness, Active Minds, Queer Society, and so many more!



Queering Your Queue

Queering Your Queue is our monthly LGBTQA+ movie program! We've screened a wide variety of films, from queer history with *Paris is Burning*, to newer favorites like *Love, Simon*. This is the program for folks who just want to chill out and enjoy our space, with snacks included!

Major Events



We have a stellar lineup of annual welcome events, which always includes our trip to **Big Gay Ice Cream** for free ice cream and a queer history lesson down the street at the Stonewall Inn! Our other annual welcome events include our **First Year Mixer**, our **QTPOC Mixer**, and **Drag Queen Bingo!**



In addition to our annual events, we also had a few new programs, like **Coming Out of the Stacks**, our National Coming Out Day celebration where students labeled LGBTQA+ books with rainbow stickers! Some other major events include **Welcome Back Karaoke**, **Queer Crafting with the Crafty Lumberjacks**, **Trans Day of Remembrance** and our **Holiday Sweets Potluck!**



Collaborations

The LGBTQA+ Center consistently collaborates with other departments and student organizations. Whether it's to combine resources, knowledge, or just to bring our students together, collaborating allows us to do more for a larger group of students.

9/17 EXPOSURE: Let's Talk About Safe(R) Sex with The Office of Sexual and Interpersonal Wellness

9/23 Drag Queen Bingo with SDACA

9/27 Big Gay Ice Cream with Faculty in Residence, Dr. Emily Bent

10/11 Coming Out of the Stacks with The Birnbaum Library

10/15 EXPOSURE: Coming Out Panel with LGBTQ+ panelists Grad Intern Tasha McCombs, Pace alum Jay Bradford, Professor Erica Connerney, Alec Koehler from the Office of Student Success, and Dr. Regina Hund from the Counseling Center

11/19 EXPOSURE: LGBTQA+ Leadership with Queer Society

12/10 EXPOSURE: Going Home for the Holidays with PAASA

2/18 EXPOSURE: Let's Talk About Burnout with Active Minds



"I really enjoyed the Coming Out of the Stacks event! It was so great to see rows upon rows of books that many people would never have known were somehow a part of the LGBTQA+ community finally be visible for everyone to see." - Nick Isley, Student Assistant

Training

The LGBTQA+ Center offers a multitude of trainings, both by request or through our new monthly Open House trainings!

If you'd like to request a training for your department, organization, or class, email Emmett at egriffith@pace.edu!

Safe(r) Zone

A workshop that provides a foundation of knowledge to be an effective ally to LGBTQA+ students, faculty, and staff.



Trans 101

A workshop that provides a foundation of knowledge to be an effective ally to T/GNC students, faculty, and staff.



About the Center

A workshop that provides an overview of the LGBTQA+ Center and the resources, services, and events provided by the center.



Stand With Me

Stand With Me is a workshop facilitated at Orientation for every incoming first year, that offers a base conversation about differing and intersecting identities.

In addition to our major trainings, the LGBTQA+ Center is proud to offer specialized trainings for department specific needs, like our Beyond the Stacks: Creating an LGBTQ+ Inclusive Library Training for the Birnbaum Library Staff!

Health and Wellness



HIV/STI Testing

The LGBTQA+ Center in collaboration with the Office of Sexual and Interpersonal Wellness teamed up with Mount Sinai to offer free HIV/STI testing to Pace's students. **50 students were tested**, and the event will now be held once a semester due to need shown by students.

Condom Distribution

As a part of the Pace's Safer Sex Initiative, the LGBTQA+ Center dispersed internal condoms, external condoms, and lube across to 14 locations across the NYC campus. Supplies were tracked and replenished biweekly by SA Nick (shown with the condoms above!) until the campus was closed due to COVID-19.

3055

**External
Condoms
Distributed**

450

**Internal
Condoms
Distributed**

1864

**Lube
Packets
Distributed**

5369

**Total Safer-Sex
Supplies
Distributed**

Remote Learning and Leading

How the Center Continued during COVID-19

With the move to remote learning for the remainder of the Spring semester, the LGBTQA+ Center knew that there would still be a drastic need for resources and support for Pace students. Students were unexpectedly and very quickly sent back to their homes, which, for some, are environments that are not as accepting or understanding as life on campus. With this in mind, the LGBTQA Center (NYC) has teamed with the LGBTQA Center (PLV) to continue to offer virtual discussion groups and virtual programs.

We offered **Queer Movie Mondays** (a rendition on Queering your Queue, but weekly instead of monthly!), and we continued with three of our discussion groups, **T-Time**, **Out to (BYO) Lunch**, and **QTPOC Corner!**

And we of course remembered to celebrate Trans Day of Visibility with a social media Spirit Week, as you can see our amazing staff below on Day 1 with their visibility signs!



Lavender Graduation

Though our ceremony had to be virtual, we were still able to celebrate our award winners and graduating seniors with an incredible end of the year send-off, in collaboration with the LGBTQA+ Center PLV!



**Congratulations again to all
of our amazing winners!**

LGBTQA Educator of the Year

Dr. Erica Connerney

Employee Advocate of the Year

Juliette Verrengia

Staff/Faculty Ally of the Year

Gina Levitan

Department of the Year

The Birnbaum Library

Kelly Hebert Writing Award

Alex Looker

Alumni of the Year

Flower Rios

Intersectional Event

#WEFORTHEY CAMPAIGN

(HeforShe)

The Tisch Award for Excellence

Devyn Cain

Student Advocate of the Year

Alex Looker

T/GNC Leadership Award

Joey Borrelli

Queerleader of the Year

Esther Sutton

Most Promising Newcomer

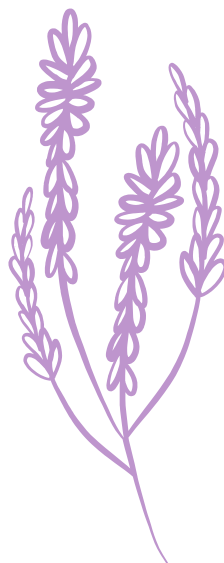
Gab Decastro

Student Ally of the Year

Jamie Rizzo

RA of the Year

Tori Schmidt



THANK YOU

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for another incredible and certainly unprecedented year. We could not have done it without the strength and commitment of our Center Staff, and our loyal students who continue to go out of their way to support us.

