Greetings-

We are excited to bring you this Fall 2013 edition of Tufts LGBT News. I wanted to kick off this issue by pointing out some of the impressive student-organizing that is already taking place on campus this year. Queer Straight Alliance (QSA) has been preparing for the annual National Coming Out Day Rally which is taking place on Wednesday, October 9th on the Campus Center Lower Patio. If you’re in the area, you can expect to see the campus once again covered in rainbows, as QSA has ordered close to 1,000 flags for distribution! In addition, our student-facilitated LGBT Center discussion groups have gotten off to a strong start this year. For instance, Women’s Group is going off-campus to see a performance called the Femme Show, and they are also in the process of planning a Queer Women’s Mixer which will be open to students, faculty, staff, and alums. Queer Students of Color and Allies (QSOCA) is also thriving; check out the article written by co-leaders Justin and Benjamin on page 5.

I am especially excited to mention T-Time. T-Time is a new gender-identity-focused discussion group that began meeting in September 2013. T-Time provides a confidential space for students who fall outside the traditional cisgender male/female binary to share and discuss personal experiences with such shared identities. The group's weekly meetings are facilitated by students who share these lived experiences. T-Time is committed to creating a welcoming space of support, where individuals can navigate their various and sometimes shifting gender identities. Over the past couple of weeks, T-Time has begun to break some very exciting ground. Students who have attended T-Time meetings have been excited to participate and overwhelmingly supportive of each other. They are very excited to continue forward with this new venture! If you are a student interested in participating in this group or have questions, you can email the group leaders at tuftsTtime@gmail.com.

It is my hope that you enjoy this issue, and have a wonderful Fall!

In solidarity,

~Tom Bourdon, Ed.D.
Director, Tufts LGBT Center
Every Fall semester, the LGBT Center brings a group of incoming first-years and returning upper-classmen to Provincetown, Massachusetts to participate in Team Q training. As the LGBT speakers and education bureau on campus, Team Q gathers students from a wide variety of backgrounds and gives them the tools necessary to effectively communicate personal experiences and issues critical to LGBT people.

The retreat is an amazing opportunity for Team Q, not only because of its intense training, which ranges from language in the LGBT community to mentoring and mental/emotional health, but also because it fosters an intimate and safe environment in which students establish lasting bonds. The training itself is an integral part of the Team Q trip, but this weekend also helps build a strong and dynamic community that serves as a strong student support system.

This year, Tufts was joined by Harvard and MIT, which allowed students to meet with the intercollegiate queer network. The passion, maturity, and integrity of the Team Q members shone through during this year’s Provincetown weekend, and we are all very excited for the wonderful events they will be involved in over the coming year.

Congratulations to the returning seniors, who have been involved since their first year, and have now completed their last Provincetown Training. Gráinne Griffiths, Benjamin Serrano, Aliandro Braithwaite, and George Murphy: you will all be missed next year!
Hello everyone! I’m the 2013-2014 Graduate Assistant at Tufts LGBT Center, working towards my Master’s in College Student Development and Counseling at Northeastern University. I recently graduated from Bryant University where I spent four years studying Management and became involved in a variety of student leadership positions. During my experience as a student leader, I realized my love for social justice and equality among minority groups. I was an advocate for multicultural & international students, female students in positions of power, and the LGBT community. During my first three years at Bryant, I acted as an advocate for the LGBT community by being an ally. It wasn’t until August of my senior year when I finally came out as a queer female. During my senior year, I struggled figuring out my sexuality since I had felt pressured to stay in the closet due to heteronormative environments. Although it took me about a year to figure out my identity after I first came out, I finally identified as a lesbian upon graduation.

Through my coming out process, I’ve been lucky enough to gain a great deal of support from my family and friends; however, I recognize that not everyone has been as fortunate as I have been. That realization sparked my passion in working with queer students in higher education. After I graduate from Northeastern, I hope to work with queer students in residence halls and act as a mentor and advisor.

In the meantime, while working at the LGBT Center, I hope to start my journey to work with and act as a mentor to queer students at Tufts. I will be working on various projects to help work towards that goal and I am excited to get started! I am currently working with queer identified and ally students on creating a peer mentorship program. We hope that this program can help connect students and provide support with queer issues. I am also focusing on creating a 1-2 hour queer bystander intervention workshop. I have training in bystander intervention and am looking to apply that knowledge to help the queer community at Tufts. I will also be working with the queer female population and the Women’s Discussion Group to help increase the presence of queer females on campus and in the Center. For next semester, I am also interested in focusing on queer history and education.

I want to get the chance to meet students and act as a resources, so feel free to stop by the LGBT Center Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday. Or you can always send me an email at Racheal.Pozerski@tufts.edu.
NEW UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN: THE REVEREND GREG MCGONIGLE

Can you tell us a little about yourself and what brought you to Tufts?
I am so excited to be at Tufts. Moving back to Boston is a homecoming for me since I grew up in this area and all of my family lives here. I also went to Brown for college and Harvard for grad school so I have many academic connections here as well. And it’s exciting to be back in an urban area that is so culturally diverse and has so many resources in terms of queer communities, racial and ethnic communities, and religious communities. My scholarly background is in South Asian religions and I also have an interest in contemporary American religious history and pluralism.

How is Tufts similar or different from the previous institution where you worked (Oberlin College)?
Although I loved my ministry at Oberlin, many things drew me to this exceptional opportunity at Tufts. Being a Unitarian Universalist minister, I knew of Tufts’ Universalist heritage and values, shared by the many traditions now composing Tufts, that make this university unique--such as a focus on the application of knowledge for the common good and a longstanding commitment to peace and internationalism. The resources in the Tufts Chaplaincy, the diversity and vibrancy of Tufts’ religious and philosophical communities, and opportunities for future growth were also a draw, as well as the scope of this position which serves the whole University. In addition, Tufts’ track record of support for the LGBTQ community and the work of Tufts’ LGBT Center were very important.

At Oberlin I had many connections with the LGBTQ community as both a member and an ally. With the LGBTQ Coordinator I was co-advisor to the student organization Queers and Allies of Faith (QUAF), and I taught a course on Queer Perspectives in the World’s Religions. We sponsored many speakers, films, and workshops about the intersections of LGBTQ experience and spirituality and ethics, and I hope to be able to continue that at Tufts. I helped organize Trans Day of Remembrance Vigils and forums and programs as part of Safer Sex Week and Queerfest. And I was in charge of an alumni fund that supported queer-related research and programming. With exciting things happening in the relationships between religions and queer people, such as Pope Francis’ recent gestures of openness and reconciliation, I look forward to more such collaborations and in general to meeting and supporting the queer community at Tufts.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: PROFESSOR MOON DUCHIN

Can you tell us a little bit about yourself and what brought you to Tufts?
I'm a mathematician with about a million other interests, intellectual and otherwise. Within math, I do research in geometry, topology, group theory, and dynamics, thinking about questions like: how does a billiard ball bounce around if you're playing on a table that isn't a rectangle? Or: if you make small random changes to the geometry of a surface, how does its shape look after a very long time? But I'm also really excited about philosophy, cultural studies, and history, particularly when they interrogate how science works, and I've lectured and taught courses in gender studies and history of math. I came to Tufts because it's got this great liberal arts atmosphere, plus a doctoral program in math, and it's in a part of the world that I love!

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)
(CONTINUED FROM FACULTY SPOTLIGHT PAGE 4) And Tufts students have been a really pleasant surprise to work with-- you can even get intellectual engagement in the calculus classroom. (!!)

What is your involvement or experience with the queer community at Tufts?
Well, I like to think my classes are pretty diverse in lots of ways... for math classes, anyway! And I try to be visible and involved with the LGBT Center and the Women's Center, which are really impressive by the way. (When I was in college I would have killed for events like "This is What a Queer Family Looks Like"-- super cool.) Generally I just try to have an open door and open mind. Students seem to respond by coming to talk to me pretty comfortably, which I love! But I have one question for you, queerlings of Tufts: WHAT'S A GIRL GOTTA DO TO GET A CHILI PEPPER AROUND HERE??? Yeesh.

If there was one thing that you would want queer students to know, what would that be?
To queer students, and really all students, let me just say: college is a big tasty array of incredible opportunities. You have all these amazing scholars who want to tell you about their stuff, all these seasoned activists who want to draw you in, and all these quirky peers who are figuring it all out at the same time as you. Being too goal-oriented in college is kind of a waste, almost no matter what those goals are; you've got the whole rest of your life to be a grownup. When standing in front of a smorgasbord, be omnivorous.

QSOCA

Written by Benjamin Serrano and Justin Silva

QSOCA, which stands for Queer Students of Color & Allies, is a student facilitated discussion group that focuses on the intersections between gender, sexuality, race, and ethnicity. It is open to all who are willing to discuss the affects these identities have on our everyday lives as students and people within our home communities. As a result of these intersections, each one of us is treated differently. For example, the social experience for a gay, white male can be very different than that of a gay, Asian male. Our job as facilitators of this group is to acknowledge these different lived experiences happening in bodies that are multiply classified as “Other”. We hope for the group to be a space for students to be their whole selves, and hope that it illustrates how wide and vast the queer people of color community is at Tufts and in Boston.

This year is going to be a busy year for QSOCA, as we are planning to focus on two other projects outside of the weekly discussion group. First, we are going to be creating a QPOC (queer people of color) “zine”. The zine will be a publication showcasing literary art, visual art, and possibly audio/visual art created by the QPOC community at Tufts and elsewhere in collegiate Boston. Art as expression of identity for QPOC, especially youth, is an important aspect of our community that needs to be documented, and the hope of having this publication is to let as many people know that this community is here and ready to be heard.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)
Gonorrhea (GC) is a bacteria that thrives in wet moist body orifices; throat, anus, urethra, vagina, and cervix. It is a sexually transmitted disease—you can’t get it from a toilet seat. You need actual contact between moist body parts.

Gonorrhea infection is most frequently seen in adolescents and young adults, racial minorities, and in certain geographic locations. The southeastern part of the US has the highest rates of GC. In Massachusetts, GC is most likely to be found in the greater Boston area, and in Springfield. Recently GC has been in the news because of increasing antibiotic resistance. New strains of GC have shown up, that are resistant to the usual antibiotics. Currently, about 25% of cases of GC are due to resistant bacteria.

Symptoms of GC vary depending on site of infection. When the infection is in the male urethra (the little tube carrying urine from the bladder to end of the penis), most men have pain with urination, and often a discharge or “drip”. The discharge may be thick and gooey, or more watery. In some men, the infection can occur in the testicle—the testicle suddenly becomes very painful and swollen. Infection in the anus shows up as a mucousy rectal discharge, pain with bowel movements, and anal pain. Occasionally, a man with gonorrhea will not have any symptoms at all. The majority of GC cases seen at Health Service are urethral infections in men, contracted through unprotected oral or anal sex with other men.

Infection of the throat is seen occasionally at Tufts. When it occurs, there can be swollen glands and a bad sore throat, but these symptoms are commonly seen for other reasons (mono, tonsillitis, etc).

The most common site for gonorrhea infection in women is the reproductive tract—the cervix or the fallopian tubes. Symptoms can include pelvic pain, a discharge from the cervix, or there may be no symptoms at all. Women can also get anal infection and have similar symptoms as described for men above. Here at Tufts, it is very rare to see a GC infection in a woman.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)
Treatment of GC involves an antibiotic injection and a large dose of a second antibiotic taken by mouth. Because of increasing antibiotic resistance, therapy with two medications is necessary. Fortunately, antibiotics are usually rapidly effective. Reinfection is common though, and everyone who has had an infection with GC should be tested again in three months, even without symptoms.

Infection with GC raises the likelihood of HIV infection—both because it indicates risky sexual behavior, and because the injuries done to tissues during the GC infection make it easier for HIV to invade the body. Likewise, an association between GC and syphilis has been noted. So anyone with a GC infection needs HIV and syphilis testing too. If you are concerned about any sexually transmitted infection, or would like to talk about STI testing in general, please come and see us at Health Service. If you are having symptoms, or have been exposed to someone with an infection, you can come to walk-in at any time. If you don’t have symptoms but want routine screening, just call to make an appointment.
STUDENT GROUPS

BI/PAN GROUP

A discussion group focusing on bi/pan/omni/queer/asexual/questioning/non-defined individuals and our interactions with ourselves, Tufts, and society as a whole. All people are welcome to come- it is a safe space for everyone, of any identity!

Wednesday 9pm in the LGBT Center

If you have any questions, feel free to email your lovely discussion leaders, John (2015) and Sophie (2016), at john_m.kelly@tufts.edu or sophie.ehrlich@tufts.edu. They are SO EXCITED about this group and can’t wait to meet you!

OSOCA

A discussion group for queer students of color and those interested in the intersections of race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality.

TUESDAYS at 9PM

at the
TUFTS LGBT CENTER
226 COLLEGE AVENUE
BOLLES HOUSE

Tufts LGBT News Page 8

Tufts T-Time

A confidential group which focuses on these shared identities

Meetings will include discussions, snacks, movie screenings, and possible trips to Boston!

Email tuftsTtime@gmail.com for more info.

Are you...
1. Questioning your gender identity?
2. An individual who falls outside the traditional cisgender male/female binary?

MEN’S GROUP

Tuesdays 7:00 PM
LGBT Center
~Free Food~

QUESTIONING AND/OR COMING OUT?

Tufts University
Coming Out/ Questioning Support Group

Thoughts and feelings about sexuality can feel challenging and confusing.

This support group offers an opportunity to talk with a small group of your peers about sexuality and the coming out journey in a confidential setting.

For more information, email or call Tom (LGBT Center Director) at tom.bourdon@tufts.edu / 617-627-5770