



**Tufts**  
UNIVERSITY

**Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Center**

**Volume V  
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# **Tufts LGBT News**

**Spring  
2014**

## **DIRECTOR'S WELCOME**

This is the final "Director's Welcome" I will be writing for Tufts LGBT News. After having served the Tufts LGBTQA community for 5.5 years, I am moving on to become the President of Greater Boston PFLAG (starting March 17, 2014).

I want to take this opportunity to thank my wonderful Tufts family for everything you have done for me over these years. I do not only consider you colleagues, students and alumni, but also friends. In total, I have worked in college LGBT Centers for almost a decade (having previously been at UCLA and NYU). During this time, I have come across LGBT Center colleagues at other schools who have expressed feeling isolated or overwhelmed as the only staff person appointed to do this work on their campus. I fortunately never had this experience at Tufts. I always felt that I was surrounded by so many brilliant and compassionate people who took just as much ownership in terms of educating the campus on issues of gender and sexuality and supporting those who were struggling or marginalized because of their identity. At Tufts, I always felt like I was part of a strong army of warriors and we had one common goal: to make the campus—and the world—a place where everyone felt equal and valued, no matter how they identified.



*Dr. Tom Bourdon,,  
President of GBPLAG*

I would like to give special thanks to my LGBT Center staff: the amazing undergraduate interns, the volunteers who helped with Team Q, Queer Peers, the Discussion Groups, and Faculty/Staff Caucus (Caleb David & Cindy Stewart), the driven graduate assistants (Kent, Clay, Aaron, Kris, James, and Racheal), and three incredible staff assistants (Jen Eliason, Emily Mears, and Jaclyn Johnson). You are the reason why the Center felt like a

second home to so many people. You are also the reason why coming into work every day was a joy for me. I also want to thank the incredible Group of 6 Directors (Steph, Ruben, Katrina, Linell, and Jane); for my entire tenure, you were there to support me and strengthen my work, and I am so grateful for all that I learned from you. Finally, I want to give a 'shout out' to all of the other wonderful people I got to work with in Health & Wellness Services, the Dean of Students Office, TUPD, academics, etc. Please know that I am extremely grateful to everyone for all that you did for me and the LGBTQA community I served.

With less than two months to go this academic year, I know the Center is left in great hands with the Women's Center Director Steph Gauchel stepping in as Interim LGBT Center Director. As you will see in this Spring 2014 issue of Tufts LGBT News, there are many fantastic events planned for GAYpril, and just as many incredible people making sure that the LGBT Center will continue running at full speed. Though I am no longer on campus, please feel free to reach out to me at Greater Boston PFLAG. I am also planning to come back for Lavender Graduation (April 30th), one of my favorite annual events which allows us to help send off our 2014 graduates—I hope that I might see some of you then!

In solidarity,  
~Tom Bourdon, Ed.D.

<b>DIRECTOR'S WELCOME</b>	1
<b>ANNOUNCEMENT: NEW DEAN OF STUDENT AFFAIRS</b>	2
<b>STUDENT EXPERIENCES: MBLGTACC</b>	2
<b>QUEER BYSTANDER INTERVENTION WORKSHOP</b>	3
<b>HEALTH SPOTLIGHT: IMMUNIZATIONS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO YOU</b>	3-4
<b>ALUM SPOTLIGHT: NORIS CHAVARRIA</b>	4-5
<b>FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: TIM ATHERTON</b>	5-6
<b>ALUMNI NOTES</b>	6
<b>Gaypril Events</b>	7

## ANNOUNCEMENT: NEW DEAN OF STUDENT AFFAIRS!

*Written by Racheal Pozerski*

The LGBT Center would like to welcome the new Dean of Student Affairs, Mary Patricia (Mary Pat) McMahon as the new Dean of Student Affairs! Based on John Barker's Announcement email: As Dean of Student Affairs, Mary Pat will be advocating for student interests and fostering meaningful engagement in the residential and extracurricular aspects of campus life. She succeeds Bruce Reitman, who, as you know, has transitioned to the post of Dean of Student Life and Campus Leadership. We look forward to getting to know you!



*Mary Pat McMahon, Tufts  
Dean of Student Affairs*

## STUDENT EXPERIENCES: MBLGTACC

*Written by Julia Fowler and Daniel Markbreiter. Photos from MBLGTACC Facebook page.*

MBLGTACC is a huge conference for queer college students. The acronym stands for Midwestern Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender Allies College Conference. Over 2,000 people attended this year and it keeps growing! The conference includes everything queer from intimate student-led panels and bigger name speakers, like Janet Mock. Queer slam poets, including Andrea Gibson, were there and there was a drag ball dance party including Monica Beverly Hills. The conference was organized entirely by students, and they were very visible throughout the conference and as they attended different presentations.



*Heartland Men's Chorus*

It was truly phenomenal to be able to learn so much about so many different facets of the queer community!

The majority of the conference consisted of student-led panels. Panel topics included polyamory, fatphobia, queer social networking, identities, and caucuses for all locations. The panels were led by a variety of different people, some by professionals in the field, local university professors, and students attending the conference. We were both hoping to bring presentations, and Daniel led a workshop on "gaining", a gay subculture. Our favorite part of the conference was knowing that we were completely immersed in a queer-celebratory environment. Being in a place where everyone has come to learn about all of the different permutations of queer is something that we have never experienced apart from MBLGTACC, and that we don't know we ever will anywhere else.



*Buff Faye, Drag Show*



*Chely Wright, Country  
Artist*

## QUEER BYSTANDER INTERVENTION WORKSHOP: REDUCING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT IN THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY

*Written by Racheal Pozerski*

Over the past few months one of the LGBT Center Graduate Assistants, Racheal Pozerski, has been creating a *Queer Bystander Intervention Workshop: Reducing Sexual Misconduct in the LGBTQ Community*. After months of preparation, her first workshop took place at the end of February.

The workshop provides tools to help Tufts Community Members intervene when they notice something going on that doesn't seem right or when they think that an act of sexual misconduct might be occurring. Sexual Misconduct is a form of sex or gender discrimination which includes: stalking, sexual exploitation, sexual assault, sexual harassment, sex and/or gender discrimination, and relationship violence. Throughout the workshop participants have the opportunity to learn about sexual misconduct in the LGBTQ Community through: language and definitions, statistics about LGBTQ individuals and sexual misconduct, prevention tools, obstacles to intervening, and scenarios.

The workshop is primarily based on Green Dot, a national organization that focuses on reducing violence with an emphasis sexual misconduct prevention and intervention. The presentation also combines aspects and information from colleagues who have worked in violence prevention in the LGBTQ community and Tufts Office of Equal Opportunity. Racheal has had the chance to connect with all of these entities and Tufts Health Education for support, ideas, and feedback for this presentation.

If you are interested in learning more about the presentation and would like to attend, her next presentation will be during Gaypril on Wednesday April 16<sup>th</sup> from 12-1pm. Please send all inquiries to [Racheal.Pozerski@tufts.edu](mailto:Racheal.Pozerski@tufts.edu).



*Racheal Pozerski, LGBT Center  
Graduate Assistant*

## HEALTH SPOTLIGHT: IMMUNIZATIONS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO YOU

*Written by Margaret Higham MD*

Immunizations.....Yawn.....Right? Well, Maybe not! Immunization shots are not just for babies. There are several important immunizations that are particularly aimed at adolescents and young adults. Do you know when your shots were?

**HPV Vaccine (Gardasil):** HPV causes cervical cancer, anal cancer and genital warts. The immunization protects you against the 4 most common strains of the Human Papilloma Virus—2 of which cause cervical cancer, and 2 of which cause genital warts. This amazing vaccine is the first (and only) vaccine available that prevents cancer. Prevents cancer—did you hear that? All young adults should get this immunization. HPV is incredibly common. The vaccine was originally licensed for use in girls and women, and now is also licensed for use in boys and young men. It is often given to kids entering middle school, but if you haven't had it yet, it's never too late. Particularly you guys out there—it's only been licensed for guys for a couple of years. Most health insurances cover it. Speak to your doctor, or come to Health Service to talk with us about it.

**Hepatitis A:** Hepatitis A is a liver infection caused by a virus you can get from contaminated water or food, and when having anal sex. Babies are now all immunized against it, but when you were a baby, it wasn't one of the regular shots. If you've traveled to developing countries, you may have already received this vaccine. Two shots protect you for life. If you are having anal sex, make sure you've had both doses. (note—this is different from the Hepatitis B shots. Hepatitis B is also sexually transmitted, but regular immunization of babies has been the standard for 25 years and is required for college entry, so all of you should have  
*(Continued on next page)*



*Margaret Higham MD  
Medical Director, Health  
Service*

*(Health Spotlight Continued)*

had those).

Flu Shots: True fact—of all the illnesses for which there are immunizations, the one you are most likely to get is Influenza (aka the flu). 3,000 Tufts students get their flu shots every fall at Health Service. If you haven't had your flu shot yet, there is still plenty of vaccine available in local pharmacies. Flu hasn't really hit Boston yet this year. The primary strain circulating in other parts of the country is H1N1, like the swine flu of 2009. Once you leave Tufts, keep getting that flu shot!



## TUFTS HEALTH SERVICES

**LOCATED AT 124 PROFESSORS ROW ACROSS FROM FLETCHER FIELD.**

**PHONE NUMBER: 617-627-3350.**

**FAX NUMBER: 617-627-3592**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO A NURSE OR CLINICIAN, SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT, OR SPEAK TO SOMEONE IN THE BUSINESS OFFICE, CALL 617-627-3350**

## ALUM SPOTLIGHT: NORIS CHAVARRIA

*Interviewed by Racheal Pozerski*

### Can you tell the readers about your time at Tufts?

I had an interesting time at Tufts. Moving from Queens, NY to a less colorful place was not easy. I found Tufts difficult to adjust to, but I never had the need to seek out a safe space such as the Centers.

My freshman year was fun and convenient. It wasn't until I was a sophomore that I made the friends that I still keep in touch with, who are mostly Latin@s. I applied to be a Latino Peer Leader because I thought it would look good on a resume. Luckily my pre-orientation experience as a peer leader was transformative. I learned so much and made great friends. I also learned more about the LGBT Center, but it was a scary place for me to even consider going as a person of color. I saw the LGBT Center as a safe space for white folks at the time (nothing wrong with that), but it just wasn't for me. So I didn't use it as a space to help me come out my shell or the closet.



*Noris Chavarria, Alum*

While at Tufts, I played a part of the student labor movement. I remember disrupting a Trustee Luncheon, and painting the canon. But I think the best experience was being able to live abroad in Santiago de Chile. Living in Chile allowed me to backpack and hitchhike through South America. The only countries I didn't travel to while down there were the Guyanas and Venezuela. If you get a chance you should totally do it!

### Were you involved with the LGBTQ Community while you were at Tufts?

The faces of the LGBTQ community did change throughout the years, becoming a more welcoming place for folks of color, like me. While the men's group meetings weren't necessarily for me, QSOCA (Queer Students of Color Association) was more of my taste. I also lived at the Rainbow House... those parties were fun!

In general, I wasn't really involved. But I appreciated the work that was done and of course, its presence as a safe space. I came out officially (thought was probably speculated before that) during my senior year. I was more  
*(Continued on next page)*

*(Alum Spotlight continued from page 4)*

involved or tried to be more involved in the intersectional work of the queer and student of color coalitions. I wrote my thesis on the Civil Union in Buenos Aires (which at the time was the case). Post-Tufts I actually presented on it at Safe Colleges.

### **What is Give OUT Day and how are you involved in it?**

Give OUT Day is a day once a year where philanthropy for and by the LGBTQ community across the country is encouraged. Currently, my role is program coordinator, but I feel I am the architect. Working with my team in its first year (2013) Give OUT Day rose over \$600,000 from 5,500 unique donors to benefit almost 400 organizations. As government grants and restricted funds are decreasing, this is a call to action for the LGBT community. If we don't support ourselves why would others? It's a great strategy to increase unrestricted funds for all organizations. It's all done online and it uses the crowdfunding model. You all should totally sign up ([www.giveoutday.org](http://www.giveoutday.org)) and ask the alumni to Give Back!

### **Can you tell us a little bit about yourself and anything else you are up to today?**

Though I did pre-med at Tufts, post-Tufts I never pursued anything in that. I loved the social sciences so of course grad school for Media makes sense right? My post-college years have been all over the place, as they should be. I've taught English at a junior college, ran a youth drop-in center, and have worked in the HIV/AIDS field. Today, as I mentioned earlier, I run the only national LGBTQ fundraiser and I love it. When I've been asked during an interview what I see myself doing in the next 5 years/10 years etc, my response has always been the same: I am a producer, I make things happen. So I have always been making things happen (pre- and post-Tufts). If I am not making things happen, I am thinking of things that would get you to like my Facebook posts.

### **Anything you would like to tell our readers? Any advice?**

From my professional standpoint, my advice would be to make sure you support a group on Give OUT Day, which is May 15th, 2014. You can visit [www.giveoutday.org](http://www.giveoutday.org). For students, I would say that I learned the hard way that my major was not going to be my life. So make sure you take the classes you like, enjoy, and are good at; especially to get that GPA high. Enjoy life!

## **FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: TIM ATHERTON**

*Interviewed by Racheal Pozerski*

### **Can you tell our readers a little bit about yourself?**

I'm an Assistant Professor in the department of Physics & Astronomy. I'm originally from England, and did both my undergraduate and graduate work at the University of Exeter in the southwest. My interests are very broad: I was delighted to move to the Boston area because it's so rich with theatre, art, culture as well as great outdoor activities nearby like snowboarding and hiking—I love all these things.

### **How did you find your way to Tufts? Can you talk about what you do at Tufts?**

I joined Tufts in 2011, having been a Visiting Assistant Professor at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

As a Physicist, my work focuses on a class of materials referred to as "Soft Matter". This encompasses a broad class of things important to our everyday lives: soaps, foams, colloids, paints, gels, plastics, glues, liquid crystals and  
*(Continued on next page)*



*Tim Atherton, Department of Physics and Astronomy Faculty*

*(Faculty Spotlight on Tim Atherton continued)*

biological matter. My research group tries to understand the fundamental physics of these materials using mathematics and computer simulation and how to optimize them for applications. Undergraduates participate a lot in my research, so if you're interested feel free to come talk to me!

I teach a wide variety of classes at all levels, such as Modern Physics and Electrodynamics, and use a student-centered approach that involves a lot of interaction and engagement. I think my experience as a gay man has actually made me a better teacher because it's encouraged me to both be empathetic to everyone in my class and also to strive to include everyone in the discussion.

### **How are you involved in the LGBT Community and/or the LGBT Center?**

Of course I strongly support the excellent work that the Center does. I'm the faculty sponsor of the Tufts oSTEM (Out in Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) chapter, which has been amazingly active this year. One of the reasons I'm so excited about this group is that it will help LGBT+ students in these fields network and feel comfortable integrating their orientation with their professional identity. So it's great that the LGBT Center, even with its distinguished history, continues to grow and support new things.

### **Can you talk about the article that you co-authored about Gender and Sexual Diversity in Physics?**

We wrote the article which created a best practice guide for departments, conference sessions on mentoring and inclusion as well as networking events. If you are interested in reading the article, you can find it [here](#). I'm also a co-organizer of the national LGBT+ physicists group that works with our professional organization, the American physical society, to organize conference and events to help create a welcoming community within Physics.

### **What advice would you give to our readers?**

I want to urge them to get involved in organizations appropriate to their specialism, such as oSTEM, because they deserve to feel comfortable not just in social spaces but also in professional spaces. Allies are crucial here—I was at a recent Safe Zone training for faculty and staff and was struck by how many non-LGBT+ people came. We all must work together to create a positive climate, because it's really necessary. Students, staff and faculty deserve to feel welcome and valued *everywhere* on campus not just in specific places.

## ALUMNI NOTES



**Anthony Meyers (LA'93)** serves as an Arts Program Specialist for the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, supporting nonprofit cultural groups across NYC with funding to develop cultural projects for local communities. This year, he celebrates 13 years with his now husband Robert.

**Beth Tappan-deFrees (J84)** has recently changed jobs at athenaHealth, Inc. She is now the Global Operations Manager, creating opportunities for successful teams between the company's US and India offices. An employee of Athena Health for 11 1/2 years, she, her wife and their son lived in Chennai, India for 6 months in 2010 - 2011 collaborating with the company's sibling office there.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH PRIDE ON THE HILL?  
VISIT THEIR WEBSITE AT [WWW.PRIDEONTHEHILL.ORG](http://WWW.PRIDEONTHEHILL.ORG)

# GAYPRIL EVENTS

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
  	1	2 SafeZone Training 12 pm   LGBT Center	3 Queer Movie Night 6:00 pm   LGBT Center	4 5 Guess The Straight Person! More Info: TBA
7	8 9 Gender Identity/Expression Workshop 12 pm   LGBT Center	10 11 QUEER WOMEN'S ICE CREAM SOCIAL 8PM   LGBT Center	11 Graduate Wine/Cheese 6 pm   LGBT Center drag bingo 8:30 pm   Floong	
14	15	16 Queer Bystander Intervention Workshop 12 pm   LGBT Center Asexuality Workshop 7:00 pm   Crane Room	17 18 Queer Movie Night 6:00 pm   LGBT Center QSA Drag Show 10:00 pm   Floong	
21 queer trivia 21+ 8:30 pm   Johnny D's	22	23	24 25 MEN'S SOCIAL	
28	29	30 Lavender Graduation 4:30pm   Sophia Garden		

For information or accommodations: [www.ase.tufts.edu/lgbt](http://www.ase.tufts.edu/lgbt), (617) 627-3770, [lgbt@tufts.edu](mailto:lgbt@tufts.edu)



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