OUT OF THE BASEMENT

FEATURES
JUNE 2010

SENIOR REFLECTIONS

IN THE NEWS

QUEER FUN!

MEET THE NEW GSCAS

SUMMER RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES

BODIES RELEASE PARTY

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 6

“Summer Fun” by Myla Fey, ‘10
A little over four years ago, I looked at college websites the same way I still handle the index in almost every nonfiction book I find: zooming in on anything queer, anything I could latch onto, anywhere I could feel at home in a way I never did in very hetero, very suburban Germantown, Tennessee. I’d tried to find this home on pages 252-259 under “homosexuality” before, but the idea of a center designed for connection and affirmation meant so much more. I don’t think I would’ve admitted this to anyone at the time, not even the handful of people I came out to my senior year. But I was desperate for some kind of community. I wanted friendship, I wanted love and all that, and I wanted comfort in my own skin. This whole “Gender and Sexuality Center” thing looked like a good place to start.

When I got to Carleton, I came to SaGA (the version that existed then) and sought out other opportunities affiliated with the GSC. I found queer friends in the strangest places (note to people who still need PE credits: take Aikido), and I attempted to establish my identity as somebody who was out … and then discover just what I was out about. But even after I settled into a (somewhat fluid) sexual identity, I knew there was still so much about myself that remained uncertain, fighting through all kinds of insecurities. This whole process of achieving an identity as someone confident and comfortable has never been easy. That said, I’ve grown a lot through my time here, through all the surprises that come with realizing others are open to and value my presence, and with opening myself up to all that the people around me have to offer. And we have so much to learn from one another.

The moments I’ve felt best working in the GSC and being a part of the community have been in conversations in which each person is willing to learn from one another and grow together. And I like to believe I’ve given back in some significant way, and we’ve all helped each other grow. I’ve been proud to be a part of SaGA and Men Talking about Masculinities and Queer Peers and hear people say how much they’ve gained from these things. Because I’ve gained a lot myself. A huge part me wishes I could stay here and we could all continue to grow together and celebrate one another.

Disclosure: I don’t know where the future’s going to take me. But for those of you who worry about your futures or finding yourselves or wonder whether you’ll even have a future, please, please, please just know that all we have to do is be there for each other. You’re great. And you deserve so much.
Senior Reflections

Stephen Gee ’10

Working at the GSC was certainly not something I expected to find myself doing when I first came here. I was afraid of the office and being associated with it, scared that everyone would label me the “gay kid” and only see that part of myself in me. In a fortuitous turn of events I found myself working with Danica Lance my sophomore year and figured if someone I loved, respected, and admired that much worked that hard for something, then I too could care about it without fear of what others thought.

As a GSCA I have found the courage talk about, struggle through, and care for the issues our office tackles. I’ve realized the purpose of something like the GSC is to create that possibility for all people – to love themselves and the people around them unconditionally. This is something I look so forward to taking with me from Carleton and into the harsh, fluorescent lights and sterile hallways of the medical world.

Kate

Coming into Carleton, I never would have pictured myself working at the GSC. I thought it was a pretty intimidating place, and I definitely didn’t feel like I knew enough about LGBTQA or gender issues to attend GSC-sponsored events, let alone enter the office. Obviously, these assumptions I made were way off. The GSC is for anyone and everyone; there is no minimum knowledge or experience required.

Working at the GSC has pushed me to really think about my values and opinions and the way they shape how I interact with others. It has given me the confidence to talk about issues I used to think were taboo and to stand up for what I believe in. It has introduced me to wonderful friends, a supportive community, and amazing opportunities.

The GSC is here for you—come to events (even if they intimidate you), stop by the office, and know that you are always welcome here!
Throughout my four years at Carleton, the changes in my life have sometimes been difficult to see. As I’m living it, my life changes at an almost imperceptible rate; it is only when forced to take a moment to look back that I can see how my path has actually been one of twists and turns, of up and downs. For me, identifying as part of the LGBTQA community (and as an LGBTQA person) has been monumental. Life changing. And when I look back along the path, I can see that it’s full of friends and mentors, guiding me along and always pushing me to think about myself and my situation. I can only hope that I have helped them cultivate themselves as much as they have helped to cultivate me.

So, I guess, in terms of advice, I would say to be patient with yourself and your self-discovery. Part of seeing the end of this part of the path is seeing how I moved along it in such incredibly varied fits and starts. At times, I was sprinting, at others, just trying to catch my balance. I’m not sure there’s a backwards, but it certainly felt like it sometimes.

I feel lucky that, for me, those people I needed were here at Carleton. It took some leaps on my part and on everyone else’s, but I also realized that I couldn’t always be cautious and calculating. And I encourage you, with all my heart, to keep trying, keep searching, and keep growing.

Thanks so much to everyone who helped make this year such a wonderful success! Have a great summer!
Gay Couple Pardoned in Malawi

On May 18, Malawi President Bingu wa Mutharika pardoned a gay couple convicted of sodomy and sentenced to 14 years in prison. He maintained that the couple had “committed a crime against our culture, our religion and our laws,” but was persuaded to pardon them after meeting with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. Although it is unlikely that gay marriage will be legalized in Malawi in the near future, the release of Steven Monjeza and Tiwonge Chimbalanga sets important precedence. For more information, see Barry Bearak’s article in the New York Times from 5/29.

“Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” Update

Last Friday, the House passed a bill that may end DADT for good. David Herszenhorn explains in his NYT article, “The bill would allow the Defense Department to end the ban 60 days after military leaders receive a report on the ramifications of openly gay and lesbian soldiers and certify that doing so would not disrupt the armed forces.” Herszenhorn’s article did not elaborate on how such a disruption would be measured. 220 of the 229 in favor were Democrats, surpassing the 208 necessary votes for the bill to pass. 186 voted against the bill (160 Republicans, 26 Democrats) and 17 abstained from voting. Although Obama would like DADT to be repealed, Herszenhorn warns that depending on the specific recommendations for the Defense Department Budget (which are unrelated to DADT but included in the same bill), Obama may issue a veto.

Although Adm. Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs is opposed to DADT, he expressed his concern about the timing of this bill on “Fox News Sunday” two days after it passed in the House. Mullen stated:

Personally I believe the law should change. But I also said this review is critically important. I would like the legislation to wait until we've completed the review [due December 1] so we can look at how to implement it... What I don't want to do is electrify the force at the time of two wars... Ideally, I would certainly have preferred that legislation not be brought forward in terms of the change until we are completed with that review.

Not surprisingly, Sen. John McCain serves on the Armed Services Committee and opposes any repeal of DADT. McCain and many other republicans are threatening to filibuster the bill when it appears before the Senate. Stay tuned for more news!
Which Movie Star Would You Be?

Match the GSCA with the actor they would choose to play them!
(answers on the back page!)

1. Sarah Berlin
   a. Mix between Rachel McAdams and Rihanna
2. Becky Canary-King
   b. Ellen DeGeneres
3. Susan Chambers
   c. Meryl Streep!
4. Patty Dana
   d. Meg Ryan
5. Marlene Edelstein
   e. Cross between Bradley Whitford and Alexa Vega...
6. Stephen Gee
   f. Maggie Gyllenhal
7. Christina Gehring
   g. Amanda Bynes
8. Beth Budnick
   h. Kevin Spacey
9. Kate Richey
   i. Joseph Gordon-Levitt. And then Elijah Wood, for all the parts of my life when I'm not 5'10".
10. Sam Ritter
    j. Kate Winslet
11. Allie Schwartz
    k. Claire Danes/Julia Roberts
12. Mike Stevens
    l. David Krumholtz (circa Numb3rs NOT 10 things I Hate About You) mixed with Ryan Phillippe (though I would NEVER do that to Reese)
13. Laura Stone
    m. Orlando Bloom/Toby McGuire
14. Kaaren Williamsen
    n. I would be played by (hopefully young) Carol Burnett. Or maybe a young Shirley Maclaine
15. Danica Lance
    o. Mary Stuart Masterson
**QUEER FUN WORDSEARCH!**

B G F P R D L O M N I L Z R G Y L L
R W U X P D Y S A O K R G E L L E N
X U V L V X T Y J I M S D B I L S P
R E D A E L R E E H C A M I T U B X
I M K I G T A M A W N B C O T E I V
X Z X X X K I I J I I K T N E E M A U
O Z P L A K N Y C P J J J J T R A N S
H A Y J M G B A A E O J W R Y X Z H
H O G W S A O U M H W M Z N D J I W
K Z M L N Z W L N O W I W B T V E P
R N R E E U Q R E D N E G D E B I U
I S L Q H M K H R Y L O C T I F G V
W U H N S T Y E A U C R L J Y Z S P
E Q Y M B S A G A T M L S O L B A E
P A E D Q D D H K M J G K D G Z O C
O S Q G Y G U S R E E P R E E U Q M
W Z R S S X S J S P B M I B X J E M
E A X M P T A I X O O D G L M A W S

**QUEER Fun!**

Beth Budnick ’11
### Meet Next Year's GSCAs!

Match the CAs with their summer plans or interesting facts!
(Answers on the back page)

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<td><strong>1. Nimo Ali</strong></td>
<td>a. Still knows every word to every Celin Dion song from the ’90s</td>
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<td><strong>2. Seth Althauser</strong></td>
<td>b. Will be going home to NYC over the summer to work on an Independent Research Fellowship</td>
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<td><strong>3. Sarah Berlin</strong></td>
<td>c. Will be an assistant teacher in mathematics this summer with the Middle Grades Partnership (an academic/leadership program for high-aptitude middle school students from failing inner-city schools)</td>
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<td><strong>4. Kendall Bills</strong></td>
<td>d. Is a huge fan of thunderstorms, artsy things, and The Cranberries</td>
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<td><strong>5. Jaclyn Bovee</strong></td>
<td>e. Will be spending time this summer in Jerusalem, Jordan, and Hong Kong</td>
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<td><strong>6. Beth Budnick</strong></td>
<td>f. Has a summer internship with Restorative Justice Community Action in Minneapolis</td>
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<td><strong>7. Hannah Button-Harrison</strong></td>
<td>g. Used to overwhelm her young childhood friends by surrounding them with toys and piling toys on their bodies. She just wanted them to have fun.</td>
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<td><strong>8. Patty Dana</strong></td>
<td>h. Plans to spend the summer researching sex education and sexual health for teen women in Charlottesville, VA</td>
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<td><strong>9. Marlene Edelstein</strong></td>
<td>i. Will be working this summer as a NSW Program Assistant</td>
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<td><strong>10. Michael McClellan</strong></td>
<td>j. Will be canoeing with 12-year olds in the boundary waters, trying not to make too many fires in the rain</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>11. Jean Rhodes</strong></td>
<td>k. Will be in Iowa City with an internship teaching music lessons</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>12. Manuel Silvestre</strong></td>
<td>l. Has a summer internship at the ACLU of New Jersey</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>13. Kristina Taketomo</strong></td>
<td>m. May be working in Northfield over the summer</td>
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The GSC would like to thank the members of this community who attended, organized, or contributed to the many events this month focused on sexual violence awareness and prevention. They were all incredibly well attended and have hopefully continued to spark conversations around campus. These events included HOPE Center training on May 4, dinner discussion with Martin Lang about men’s place in sexual violence prevention on May 5, the screening of NO! The Rape Documentary and discussion with filmmaker Aishah Shahidah Simmons on May 11, a lunch discussion with Marit Lysne about sexual assault and its effects on intimate relationships on May 13, the masculinities panel on May 17, and the Speak Up on May 20. Additionally, 261 individuals donated their lunch to the HOPE Center, raising over $500 to support the work they do here in Rice County.

Pledging to care for ourselves, support survivors, and create positive change in our community is an active commitment to be more intentional about how we live our daily lives. During your adventures this summer, please consider ways you can apply this same passion and dedication off campus. Communicating and establishing meaningful consent before and during sexual activity, interrupting conversations that promote a culture of sexual violence, intervening in potentially dangerous situations, holding yourself and your community accountable for their actions, and creating environments supportive of survivors are choices we hope you will continue to make regardless of where you are living.

Many of the resources available to students at Carleton are not offered over the summer. We hope this will not prevent you from finding the support you need. The Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) is the nation's largest anti-sexual assault organization. RAINN operates the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1.800.656.HOPE and the National Sexual Assault Online Hotline at rainn.org. Both of these services are available 24 hours a day, and are available to anyone affected by sexual violence regardless of whether they are the primary survivor or closely related to that person. If you would prefer to contact a local organization, RAINN volunteers can inform you of all of the resources available in your area. Don’t ever hesitate to call.
While You’re Out and About this Summer…

Patty Dana ‘11

Looking for some fun in the sun? If your summer plans don’t include cows, colleges, and contentment, check out something closer to home.

Freedom’s Sisters is a traveling exhibit that will be in museums in Texas and Georgia this summer. The Smithsonian Institution Exhibition Service (SITES) describes the project on its website, writing:

Much of our national memory of the civil rights movement is embodied by male figureheads whose visibility in boycotts, legal proceedings, and mass demonstrations dominated newspaper and television coverage in the 1950s and ’60s. Missing from that picture is a group of extraordinary women who, while less prominent in the media, shaped much of the spirit and substance of civil rights in America, just as their mothers and grandmothers had done for decades.

Freedom’s Sisters, a collaboration between SITES and Cincinnati Museum Center, brings to life 20 African American women, from key 19th-century historical figures to contemporary leaders, who have fought for equality for all Americans. The exhibition is introduced by a video and electronic projections of strong artistic images that will seize visitors’ emotions. Organized around the themes of "Dare to Dream," "Inspire Lives," "Serve the Public," and "Look to the Future," graphically striking interactive stations tell the stories of Harriet Tubman, Mary McLeod Bethune, Septima Poinsette Clark, Fannie Lou Hamer, Dorothy Height, Coretta Scott King, Rosa Parks, and 13 other women leaders.

The Women’s Museum: An Institute for the Future, on display now until 7/4.
3800 Parry Avenue - Dallas, TX 75226

Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum, on display starting 7/24
441 Freedom Parkway - Atlanta, GA 30307

Rainbow Skate

According to its website, Rainbow Skate is hosted primarily, but not exclusively, for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Communities every Wednesday at the Redwood Roller Rink in Redwood City, CA. There aren’t any cool photos online, but it sounds like a good time to us!

Redwood Roller Rink - 1303 Main Street - Redwood City, CA 94061
QFest

LGBT Film Festivals happen all over the country throughout the year. Find your new favorite movie in Philly at QFest (formerly known as the Philly International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival) between July 8th-19. Guided by artistic director Raymond Murray, expect over 125 films—a mix of narratives, docs and shorts—from more than 40 countries, in 27 languages. Figure out which films will be screened outside and more at www.qfest.com.

Queertopia

The About Face website says, “This oral history project portrays true stories of violence, discrimination and exclusion of LGBTQ young people in Chicago Public Schools, balanced with tales of peaceful advances by queer and allied youth.” The young people involved with creating this show call it a “ultra fabulous, crazy beautiful piece of theatre.” What else do you need to know? See it in Chicago July 15-25.

Queertopia

*The Center on Halsted Hoover-Leppen Theatre - 3656 N. Halsted St - Chicago, IL 60613*

Museum of Sex

Does this even need a description? As far as we can tell, this may be the only one in the country. Current exhibits include (but are not limited to) the Sex Life of Animals, the Sex Life of Robots (who knew?), and Rubbers: The Life, History & Struggle of the Condom. The museum is currently developing an exhibit on sexual techniques that increase sexual pleasure and confidence; be sure to check back every time you are in New York! All visitors must be 18+.

*Museum of Sex - 233 5th Avenue - New York, NY 10016*

In searching for these, we found MILLIONS of cool things you could do this summer relating to work we do at the GSC during the academic year. Get creative! Do something wonderful and tell us all about it in the fall.
Celebrate Bodies!

Come take a study break and celebrate the release of the GSC’s newest publication: Bodies!

It’s also a picnic to commemorate another great year here in the GSC!

Thursday, 7:30-9pm
Lawn Outside Scoville

Which movie star would you be? - answers:
1.f, 2.e, 3.j, 4.k, 5.e, 6.l, 7.h, 8.d, 9.g, 10.m, 11.n, 12.i, 13.b, 14.o, 15.a

Meet next year’s GSCAs - answers:
1.m, 2.e, 3.f, 4.h, 5.l, 6.i, 7.k, 8.j, 9.b, 10.d, 11.c, 12.i, 13.g

GSC Staff
Kaaren Williamsen, GSC Director
Kristen Askeland, OII Secretary
Danica Lance, GSC Advisor

Center Associates
Sarah Berlin, Beth Budnick, Beck Canary-King, Susan Chambers, Patty Dana, Maureen Edelstein, Stephen Gee, Christina Gehring, Kate Richey, Sam Ritter, Allie Schwartz, Mike Stevens, and Laura Stone

CONTACT INFORMATION AND EDITORIAL POLICY
The Gender and Sexuality Center publishes this newsletter monthly for the campus community and friends. Information in the newsletter is based on the best available information at the time of publication. Items in the newsletter are provided for informational purposes only, and do not necessarily represent the views of the Gender and Sexuality Center or its employees, nor do they represent the views of the students, staff, faculty, or administration of Carleton College.

Please submit articles, calendar entries, letters and news to the Gender and Sexuality Center or via e-mail to gees. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and space.

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