Upcoming Events

This Summer:
1. Out After Carleton @ June Reunion! June 17-19
Join OAC members and current students on campus for summer fruit and fruitful discussion! Take a break from the reunion schedule to recharge and meet some great people. Meet at the GSC/Basement Scoville Saturday the 18th of June at 2:00. K’s email mecdelm

2. Carleton Marches in the Twin Cities Pride Parade! June 26
Join students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends as we march in the Twin Cities Pride Parade. To learn more info, contact kwilliam.

Next Fall:

GSC Staff
Kaaren Williamsen, GSC Director
Kristen Askeland, GSC/OIIl Secretary
Alesia Morelli, GSC Advisor
Sara Cantor, Educational Associate
Garrett Hoffman, Student Life Intern

Center Associates
Nimo Ali, Beth Althueser, Sarah Berlin, Kendall Bills, Jaclyn Bozes, Beth Busick, Hannah Burman Hariman, Sara Cantor, Panty Dana, Marlene Edelman, Michael McClain, Joan Rhodes, Marney Silveone, Krissy Spinak, Kristina Takawano

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 billsk. We reserve the right to
We Asked, You Reflected!

This year at the Pride Banquet, we asked attendees to reflect on the past year and their time at Carleton. Here were some of the responses...

First time you came into the GSC?

A. Interning with Planned Parenthood in NYC
B. Working at the Center for American Progress in Washington DC
C. Jewish social justice education programming in NYC
D. Eating tons of Asian food in Portland, OR
E. Making music and “digitizing communication” in Iowa
F. Handing out sack lunches to kids in parks in Oregon
G. Working at the Carleton Library
H. Interning with the Bill of Rights Defense Committee in Northampton, MA
I. Traveling around Zambia, Botswana, Lesotho, and South Africa
J. Chemistry research at Carleton
K. Volunteering at the Grace Leslie Foundation in Chicago
L. Working at the Feminist Women’s Health Center in Atlanta
M. Traveling on the Ireland Study Abroad Program
N. Working at Lambda Legal in Atlanta
O. Interning at the Brooklyn Young Mother’s Collective
Match the 2011-2012 GSCAs to Their Summer

1. Isaac Werner
2. Hannah Button-Harrison
3. Caitlin Wood
4. Madeline Muzzi
5. Jaelyn Bovee
6. Norma Nyhoff
7. Chloe Zelkha
8. Kristy Spiak
9. Seth Althauser
10. Becca Litwin
11. Kendall Bills
12. Robin Wonsley
13. Sarah Berlin
14. Shantrice King
15. Michael McClellan

If you could have dinner with anyone dead or alive, who would it be?

Favorite GSC Event!

Something you learned this year:
Healthy Communities & Relationships
Sara Cantor, Educational Associate

The Healthy Communities and Relationships (HCR) initiative came out of the Spring 2010 review of the Sexual Misconduct Complaint Process. The review team noted that sexual violence prevention efforts at Carleton had been focused on the negative (what are we doing wrong?) rather than the positive (what can we do right?). In an effort to make our efforts more positive, HCR was created, and the task of organizing the dinners was given to the newly hired Educational Associates for Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response.

Each of the dinners has had its own theme: the Fall term dinner looked at what Carleton already does to promote healthy relationships, and what we can do better. Winter’s theme was Relationship Rights. The Spring term dinner focused on Balance. Each term, outstanding conversations have been had and great ideas have been generated. One of these ideas was to host HCR events outside of the dinner, which led to bi-weekly HCR common time lunch discussions (focusing on more narrow aspects of the term’s theme) starting in Winter 2011.

Overall, HCR has been a huge success. There have been approximately 100 people at the last two dinners, including numerous faculty and staff. The dinners and lunch discussions provide an avenue for members of the Carleton community to discuss their relationships and tips for success. Hopefully HCR will continue with the same strength next year!

We believe in healthy relationships.
We believe that strong communities foster healthy relationships founded on respect communication, and consent.
We believe that sexual misconduct requires a community-wide response, and we are informed about Carleton’s sexual misconduct policies, procedures, and resources.
Together we will become the caring and respectful community we want for Carleton.

Genderless baby

obscured, is a person with an unclear character, an unclear personality. If we don’t know someone’s genital status, how can we really know who they are? How can we know how they will behave, how to talk to them, how to present our own gender? A person with a gender unclear to outsiders, then, is a threat in that they reveal the instability of gender as determinative of personhood. This baby will turn out to be “sweet” or “handsome” or “strong” or “polite,” without anyone knowing what’s under the diaper. This baby will come to have a personality, a character, an entire identity without the world constantly reinforcing its sex. This baby will disrupt our belief that sex determines gender and that gender determines character. This baby, then, is a remarkable reminder that we do not need proscriptions to become people—and if that isn’t radical, I don’t know what is.

MN Gay marriage Amendment Update
Jaclyn Bovee ’12

On May 11th, the Minnesota Congress passed a resolution that puts a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage on the 2012 ballot. If this amendment is passed, same-sex marriage would be officially banned under the Minnesota Constitution, which would define marriage as solely “between a man and a woman.” Same-sex marriage is already illegal in Minnesota by law, but this new amendment would enshrine LGBT discrimination into the state constitution, and therefore make it extremely difficult to change.

According to a recent Huffington Post article, in the 30 states where residents have voted on the definition of marriage, opponents of same-sex marriage have succeeded in legalizing discrimination each and every time. However, “recent polls have shown growing support for gay marriage, particularly among young voters, including a recent Star Tribune Minnesota Poll that found a majority of respondents opposed to the constitutional ban.” The results of this vote are still very much up in the air, and it is likely to result in a long and expensive political battle over the course of the next year and a half.
In the News: Raising A Genderless Baby
Kendall Bills '13

Being from a patriotic, god-fearing, red-blooded-American family, I don’t take too kindly to hippies. My family lives proudly by a code of “efficiency above all,” and slogans like “early is on time, on time is late, late is unacceptable.” We make the Von Trapps look Type-B.

So when I started reading a recent article about a Toronto family that features a parent who teaches at “an alternative school,” three kids named “Jazz,” “Kio,” and “Storm,” and a penchant for “unschooling,” I was dubious, to say the least. A flurry of media had released the news that this family was keeping the sex of their youngest child, Storm, a secret. News outlets around the country were discussing the parents’ choice to “impose their own agenda on their kid.” Time wondered “how long Storm’s parents will be able to keep up this charade,” and Parent Central noted that “they were imposing their political and ideological values on a newborn.” No help that the two older children (both males) are allowed to keep their hair long and wear pink if they so choose. These parents have been quickly characterized as dangerous ideologues putting their child’s health and safety at risk with their radical agenda.

Yet it does not take a particularly gender-enlightened reader to see several logical fallacies in these assumptions. Perhaps the most ridiculous critique, in my opinion, comes from those who deem it unfair to expose children to the risk of ridicule and bullying that accompanies gender non-conformity. Particularly in this age, when young people everywhere are able to find support and camaraderie among others who share their gender identity, it is hard for me to imagine that each individual did not receive notions, but also, I realized I should never feel ashamed of my questions, concerns, and thoughts.

The other bizarre assumption that has clarified itself through the press is the notion that not sharing someone’s sex with the world is ‘radical’ and ‘political.’ Is a church upbringing radical and political? How do we determine the lines of what values are ‘normal’ enough to be instilled in children? Here, again, we see the silent undertones of these assumptions. We’ve learned, as a nation, that violence against children can take place for any variety of reasons—or for no reason at all. Asking children to modify their behavior to avoid punishment for non-conformity is a disheartening message, but not a new one. Not only is ‘normalcy’ a clear impossibility (see: any middle school), it is a threat to a child’s personal identity to be forced to obscure it for the ‘good’ of others. To ask a child to fit into the mold that society dictates just so that they can be adequately ‘normal’ and therefore adequately ‘safe’ is a preposterous demand.

The other point I would like to bring up is that being able to keep this secret is a privilege that is not shared by children who are born this way. I can’t help but question the dangerous undertones of these assumptions. We’ve learned, as a nation, that violence against children can take place for any variety of reasons—or for no reason at all. Asking children to modify their behavior to avoid punishment for non-conformity is a disheartening message, but not a new one. Not only is ‘normalcy’ a clear impossibility (see: any middle school), it is a threat to a child’s personal identity to be forced to obscure it for the ‘good’ of others. To ask a child to fit into the mold that society dictates just so that they can be adequately ‘normal’ and therefore adequately ‘safe’ is a preposterous demand.

Reflecting from students

“Am I the only one who’s having a hard time understanding the logic of not sharing my child’s sex? It seems like the world is so accepting of non-binary identities these days, why can’t we just accept that our child is in the middle of the spectrum? It’s not like we’re imposing our values on our child; we’re just not sharing their identity. Is that too much to ask?”

“Why do we feel compelled to hide our child’s identity? It’s not like anyone is going to judge them based on what they’re wearing or how they act. It’s such a small thing, but it feels like it’s weighing heavily on our shoulders.”

“Is it really that big of a deal if we don’t tell the world our child’s sex? I mean, they’re still going to grow up and find their own path, right? Why do we have to rush them into something before they’re ready?”

“Why do we feel like we have to conform to societal norms? Our child’s identity is their own decision, not ours. Why can’t we just let them be who they are?”
SaGA’s Gender Pronoun Awareness

Asking for and using a person’s preferred gender pronouns is important. It is important because it indicates that you are committed to validating peoples’ identities and their humanity. Using the correct pronouns is an issue of respect. By asking and using preferred pronouns you are saying, “I respect you as a human and respect your right to choose how to identify and how I speak to and about you.” By assuming which pronouns individuals use, you are not allowing for them to represent themselves authentically.

Maybe you saw the posters around campus, or heard about SaGA’s preferred-gender pronoun campaign from The CLAP or our letter to the editor in the Carletonian. SaGA—the Sexuality and Gender Activism club—started up a campaign to raise awareness about preferred gender-pronouns this winter. The posters pictured here were a major part of our campaign.

Masculinities Panel Recap

Manny Silvestre ’11

Recently the GSC put on the 2nd annual Masculinities Panel. The panelists this year were Professor Harry Williams, Professor Ross Elfline, Professor Angie Willey, and Clinical Psychologist Drew Weis. Professor Terrance Wiley was originally going to be on the panel, but unfortunately he could only make it to the Q&A portion.

The prompt for the panelists was rather open ended. They were asked to talk about masculinity as it pertains to their lives, the ways in which masculinity shapes classroom interactions, and the meanings and implications of our cultural construction of masculinity. Panelists discussed issues of masculinity in black communities, queer communities, women and masculinity, and the hyper-masculinity seen in the military.

Angie’s discussion on the ideal type of masculinity, and the inability of anyone to really live up to this ideal was particularly interesting. Framing her contribution as a discussion she had with her nephew, she discussed the idea of masculinity being a form of performance. Professor Williams also did a good job discussing masculinity in the context of the black community and the way the term queer has been used mostly in a white context.

The continued popularity of this event, as well as the fact that there are several faculty and staff members that students are excited to hear from, make it likely that such an event will continue into the coming years.