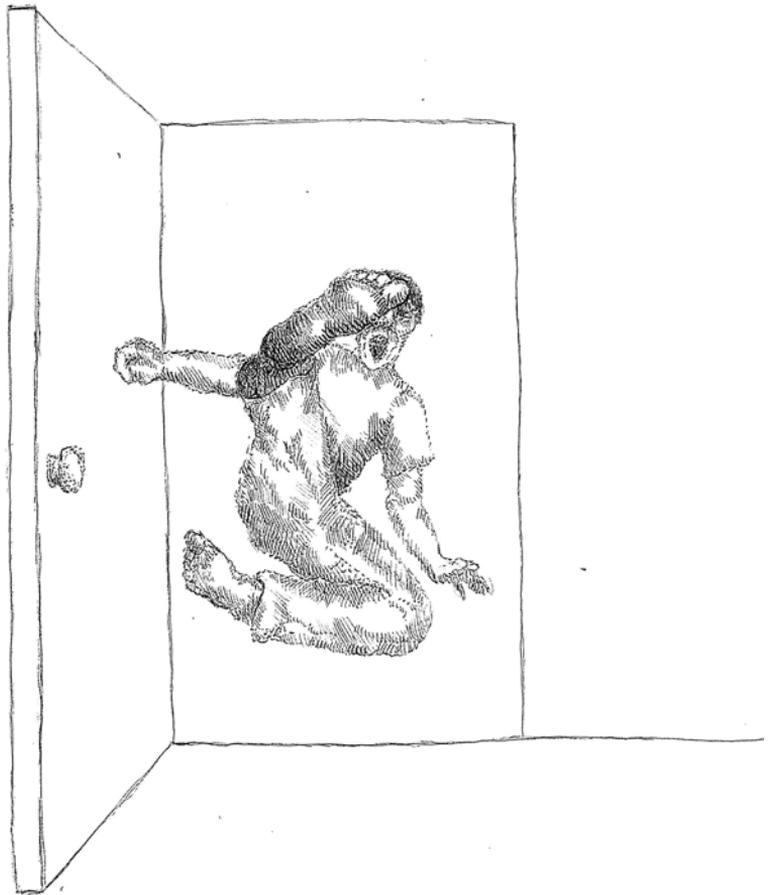




-GSC-

GENDER AND SEXUALITY CENTER
BASEMENT SCOVILLE

OUT OF THE BASEMENT



FEATURES
OCTOBER 2009

MEET THE STAFF

COMING OUT

SUPPORTING FRIENDS
COMING OUT

INTERVIEW WITH CHLOE
COENEN

NATIONAL EQUALITY
MARCH

STUDENT ORGS

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 1

Cover Art by Allie Schwartz '10

MEET THE GSC



Kaaren Williamsen
Director of the GSC,

Sports movies and the Olympics never fail to make me cry



Christina Gehring
Political Science/IR
Plymouth, MN

I've worn a full-on Dumbledore costume in public on more than three occasions



Sam Ritter
History/Religion
West Hartford, CT

I've stood naked on stage at Carleton



Stephen Gee
Biology/Biochemistry
Columbus, OH

My friend's sister stole John McCain's donuts



Becky Canary-King
History
Ann Arbor, MI

When I was four I sang "Achy Breaky Heart" to a cashier from inside a grocery cart, complete with dance moves. My grandma tells me I was real good



Kate Richey
Psychology
Hopkinton, NH

As a child, I played "College" more than "House," but was told that I had to play the boy because I looked like one



Marlene Edlestein
Religion
New York, NY

I used to be in child pageants and still have a book of pictures from these days

I played Baby Jesus and Mary (at separate times) in a Christmas play

MATCH UP

I bumped into a herd of domestic sheep
while hopelessly lost in the mountains this
summer

When I walk outside into bright sunlight, I
sneeze twice

I learned to recite the alphabet backwards
when I was 9 years old because I was
always terrified that the police would think
I was drunk

I have four typewriters (but only two at
school)

I won the Home Ec award in 8th grade

I don't know how to spell my name

Unavailable for comment. Although
Stephen and I did have the same
freshmen seminar and highly enjoyed
Prof. Prowe's collection of ascots

Danica Lance
Cassat and Memorial
Hall Director



Patty Dana
Sociology/Anthropology
St. Paul, MN



Mike Stevens
Sociology/Anthropology
Germantown, TN



Beth Budnick
Political Science
Westfield, NJ



Laura Stone
Cognitive Science
Winchester, MA



Sarah Berlin
Undeclared
Shutesbury, MA



Allie Schwartz
Geology and Studio Art
Milwaukee, WI



Susan Chambers
English
Columbus, OH



MEET A NEW HD: CHLOE COENEN

Interviewed by Stephen Gee

What brings you to Carleton? What interested you in Carleton specifically?

I was interested in coming to a small, liberal arts institution after working at a large Big Ten school because I wanted to have more direct interaction with students. When I came to here for my on-campus interview there was really something about Carleton that made me feel comfortable. I knew that I could get great experience while pursuing things I'm passionate about.

I've heard you were involved in sexual violence prevention and/or women's health issues in the past. Tell me more.

Well, Stephen, I started out working with sexual violence prevention as a peer educator, just like you. I got involved in my school's Women's Center as a sophomore and became a member of our peer leader group there, The Violence Against Women Prevention Program or VAWPP. As a part of that program I facilitated workshops on healthy sexual communication, acquaintance rape, and dating violence in residence halls and at summer orientation for new students. As a survivor, educating my peers about sexual violence was a big part of my healing process. The Women's Center helped me find my voice and I realized that my voice is my power.

As a graduate student it was really important for me to continue raising awareness about these issues. For a year and a half, I worked as an outreach intern for the Sexual Assault Crisis Service on campus. While doing that I worked primarily with the Greek community and started a program called Safe Sisters. The Safe Sisters program, which continues today, serves to start a conversation between sorority women about attitudes toward sexual assault, objectification of women, and heteronormativity in Greek culture. A lot of what we talked about was how on many college campuses sexual assault is normalized and seen as a regular part of the party scene.

While in graduate school I also volunteered weekly for two years at a rape crisis shelter. I was an assistant house manager, overseeing donations like food and clothing and doing house maintenance. That experience gave me a new perspective on sexual violence because it took it out of the college context. It allowed me to see different ways abusive relationships affect women when they have children or when they're economically dependent on their partner. I'm thankful for that experience because it showed me a more raw side of the issue.

Aren't you working with the SWAs this year? What's going on there?

I'm really excited to be working with the SWA program. It's great that they address a lot of issues that affect college students on a regular basis. Everyone should be sure to check out our programs coming up for Disabilities Awareness Month!

What are you excited about at the GSC?

I'm excited to be involved with the GSC not only as a staff member but also to be personally involved. I think the work that you do is really valuable. As an undergraduate, I was at home at the Women's Center, so I understand the value of a space like the GSC. It takes a lot of courage and determination to work with these issues every day. Talking about things like oppression, sexual assault, and equality can be very heavy, so I want to be another voice to add to the conversation.

So have you been mistaken for a student yet?

Every...single...day. By parents, other students and staff. On Friday I was at the bookstore to buy a Frisbee to send to my sister and the student worker there asked me why I was buying one if I just got one at NSW.

And finally, if your anger were an animal what would it be and why?

I'm thinking it might be a turtle, because I have a shell. I don't like to show my anger or frustration, especially around these kinds of issues. Do turtles live in groups?

Does your anger live in groups?

Ha ha, no but when I'm angry about something I try to find people who are upset about the same issue to process through my feelings. Also, turtles are cute.



COMING OUT: WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

By Mike Stevens '10 and Sarah Berlin '12

Coming out can mean many different things to different people. A common way to define it is *identifying as something other than the sexual orientation or gender assigned to you*. This process of self-identification takes two forms: changes in your personal identity (how you identify to yourself), and changes in your public identity (how you identify to others).

Settling on an identity that you think best matches your desires and expectations may be an immense personal challenge, accompanied by a range of emotions. During this process, it's okay to try out different self-identities and even invent your own ways of identification. People and their identities aren't static, and one term might seem like the best fit at one time and another term, or perhaps no term at all, might seem more appropriate later.

After coming out to yourself, your private identity may not line up with the outward, public identity you present. Sharing this information can be a very powerful experience for both you and whomever you choose to come out to. It can lead to feelings of relief and greater self-acceptance on your part and closer ties to the people you've trusted with this personal information.

However, this may not be the case for everyone, and there may be all kinds of reasons why someone may not want to come out to family, friends, or acquaintances. Everyone has the right to make this personal decision when they want and to whom they want, and whatever decision they make is valid.

It's important to keep in mind that whatever your thoughts about coming out to yourself others might be, you don't have to do any of this alone. There are supportive, confidential resources you can contact for more information:

- * **GSCAs**
- * **Queer Peers** (contact [stevensm](#) or [stonel](#))
- * **Carleton In and Out (CIAO)**
- * **Chaplain Carolyn Fure-Slocum** ([cfureslo](#))
- * **The Wellness Center**
- * **'Outish' Support Group** (contact Psychologist Jennifer Gildner [@jgildner](#))





Welcome to Carleton! If you identify as bisexual, gay, lesbian, transgender, queer, are questioning your sexuality, or are interested in being an ally to the queer community, you'd probably like to know a few things about Carleton:

- What kind of student groups are there?
- How can you find friends in a queer community?
- Is there a place where you can talk about your identity?
- What kind of dating options are there?
- *Is it cool to ask?*

Perhaps you don't feel like you fit into the categories above, but you just have some questions about LGBTQ issues. Perhaps you have been out forever and just want to figure out how to be out at Carleton.

We invite you to participate in Carleton's
Queer Peers Program!

HOW TO SUPPORT A FRIEND WHO IS COMING OUT

If someone feels comfortable coming out to you, keep in mind this is something very personal and they're placing a lot of trust in you. Here are some tips to help you be a supportive friend:

Listen. Try to appreciate where they're coming from.

Believe them. Don't ask, "Are you sure?" or respond with things like, "Really?" that may give the impression you doubt them.

Be comfortable with change. After coming out, someone's appearance, activities, or relationships might change. Discuss how their coming out could affect your relationship with them.

Don't make assumptions. Just because someone identifies a certain way doesn't mean they'll express or present themselves a certain way. There are all different kinds of self-expression and all of them are valid.

Keep their secret. Respect their privacy, and don't gossip about their biz.

Offer to go to events with them. Show your support by coming with them to GSC events. They might feel nervous going alone and having a close friend come along might make them more comfortable.

Read up on queer issues. Part of being a good ally is taking an active role in educating yourself.

Refer them to other resources. (See other article!)

IN THE NEWS

Caster Semenya

At the 2009 World Championships in Athletics, South African mid-distance runner Caster Semenya took gold in the 800 meters. Later in August, questions regarding Semenya's physical sex were raised officially raised by the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF). She was forced to undergo sex determination testing, but was not informed of the purpose of the tests. After results showed Semenya to be intersex, the report was made public before she was even notified. IAAF's handling of the case regarding Semenya has been met with outrage. Semenya, on recommendation of South Africa's Minister for Sport and Recreation, is building a legal case with the firm Dewey & LeBoeuf. Stated Dewey and LeBoeuf, "The plight of Semenya is a great matter of concern; not just to South Africans, but to fair-minded people around the world. We are going to do everything possible to make certain that her civil and legal rights and



Canada Queer Hall of Fame

On September 19, the first five inductees of the Canadian Queer Hall of Fame were inducted at a ceremony in Vancouver. The Hall of Fame honors the achievements of queer people and allies who have made significant contributions toward furthering queer rights. Inductees include Ted Northe, founder of Imperial Empire of Canada Foundation and the Dogwood Monarchist Society, organizations that raise money by hosting extravagant and well-attended drag balls; Pierre Elliot Trudeau, late former prime minister of Canada who decriminalized homosexuality in Canada just 40 years ago; Mark Tewksbury, who is a swimming gold medalist in the 1992 Summer Games and established the World Out Games; Janine Fuller, author and Little Sister's bookstore manager who has working to promote free speech and end censorship; and Robert Kaiser, who has spent decades working with volunteer and fundraising efforts for people with HIV and AIDS. The Hall of Fame is still a work in progress, and does not yet have a permanent home.



Police Raids on Atlanta Eagle and the Rainbow Lounge in Fort Worth

On September 10, 2009, police raided the gay bar and dance club Eagle in Atlanta. Throughout the raid, patrons of the club were forced to lie on the ground and were searched by the

officers. The police offered no explanation as to why the raid was taking place, and one officer stated, “This is gonna keep happening if we keep getting complaints from the community,” by did not specify what complaints he was referring to. Some patrons claim the police were using gay slurs throughout the raid, and threatening patrons who questioned the reason for the raid. The Atlanta Police Department released a statement, saying that “While there have been allegations of improper behavior by police officers conducting the investigation, there have not been any official complaints filed with the Atlanta Police Department.” The raid of the Atlanta Eagle follows a police raid on Rainbow Lounge in Fort Worth that occurred on the anniversary of Stonewall back in June as part of a routine alcoholic beverage code inspection. During the raid, Police Chief Jeff Halstead said that one man grabbed the groin of one of the raiding agents, and then drunkenly fell to the ground, sustaining a head injury. A patron of the club George Armstrong suffered a severely bruised back and shoulder after being tackled to the ground by an officer for allegedly resisting arrest. Said Armstrong, “He was yelling at me to stop resisting arrest, but I wasn't doing anything. It was horrible.”



STUDENT ORGS WELCOME YOU TO CARLETON

Welcome back to Carleton, everyone! And a special welcome to those new students who are receiving this newsletter for the very first time!!! The names CIAO, SAGA and CWI may be familiar to some of you as defunct organizations. However, this year they're coming back revitalized! So, here's a brief reintroduction to these important and exciting student groups:

Carleton In And Out (CIAO) - A group for anyone in, out, or anywhere in between, and allies to discuss issues pertaining to coming out and being out at Carleton and beyond. Meetings are Mondays at 8:30 PM in the Sayles-Hill Lounge. An example topic, explored in the first meeting, is where you're from and how where you're from is different than Carleton and what you would like to see from the community at Carleton.

Sexuality and Gender Activism (SAGA) - SAGA is a group that focuses on promoting awareness of issues of sexuality and gender across campus and beyond. This group deals with issues of sexual orientation, gender identity, LGBT discrimination, and more! Meetings will consist of community building, talking about important issues in our area relating to the queer community, and making posters intended for peer education. Look forward to volunteer work and political action! Meetings will take place on Wednesdays at 8:00PM in the GSC (basement Scoville).

Collective for Women's Issues (CWI) - A discussion and support group for women on campus exploring issues from female perspectives. Part discussion group, part check-in, the group meets Thursdays at 9:30 PM in WA (Berg) House and provides a safe space for women to talk about issues that matter to them. All genders welcome to the discussion; the check-in is for self-identified women.

And there's even one more student group,

Gender Discussion Group - A group for support and discussion of trans/gender issues at Carleton. This group is open to students of all genders. Weekly meetings discuss gender and plan fun events on campus. The group also organizes and takes trips to events and presentations in the Cities! Meetings are Thursdays at 9:30. Email stonel and chambers for location or questions.

THE NATIONAL EQUALITY MARCH

The National Equality March is a demonstration and set of events occurring October 10th and 11th in Washington, D.C. The march calls for equal protection of LGBT people under all civil laws in all 50 states of the USA. Now. The organizers of the march, which is advertised as a beginning toward a larger goal, seek to bridge the gap between national organizations and grassroots community organizers. By gathering citizens from each of the 435 congressional districts together in Washington, they seek to strategize and coalesce to create a decentralized network of LGBTQA activists and citizens that will continue to organize beyond October.

The organizers assert that under the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution, all people, including LGBTQ people, are guaranteed equal protection under the law. As such, those marching will be demanding their rights, not bargaining or prioritizing some parts of their identities over others. They assert that as members of every race, class, faith, and community, the struggle for LGBT equality is part of a larger movement for peace and social justice. The rights that all people, including LGBTQ people, should be given freely and at all times, include:

- * The right to work jobs and go to school free of harassment and discrimination.
- * The right to safety in their daily lives, and protection from hate crimes.
- * The right to equitable healthcare and the right to donate blood.
- * The right to equitable immigration policies.
- * The right to marry if they want and choose to do so.
- * The right to serve in the military openly.

Beginning at noon on October 10th, each Congressional District Action Team, a group of people mobilized to participate in the march living within one of the 435 congressional districts, will march to Congress to show Congressional leaders their demand to equal protection for all LGBT people under civil law.

Some Carleton students have the opportunity to participate in this event and will be bringing the experience back to the college through photos, interviews with participants, and first-hand experience at a large activist event! Look forward to news and updates from fellow Carls in late October!



GENDER & SEXUALITY CENTER
1 North College Street
Northfield MN 55057
<http://webapps/carleton/campus/edu/gsc>

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

NATIONAL COMING OUT WEEK (NCOW) SCHEDULE

GSC Staff

Kaaren Williamsen, GSC Director
Kristen Askeland, OIL Secretary
Danica Lance, GSC Advisor

Center Associates

Sarah Berlin, Beth Budnick, Beck Canary-King,
Susan Chambers, Pata Dana, Marlene
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.

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Monday Oct 5 | Carleton In and Out (CIAO). Taking about coming out. Sayles 253 8:30 pm |
| Tuesday Oct 6 | “Bisexual, Heterflexible, No Label at All”
Great Hall, 7:30 pm |
| Wednesday Oct 7 | “I <3 Female Orgasm”
Great Hall 7:30 pm |
| Thursday Oct 8 | Gender Discussion Group
Contact stonel or chambers |
| Friday Oct 9 | Rainbow Cake in Sayles
11:30-1 pm
Selves in Motion: An Open Mic Night
The Cave, 7:30 pm |
| Monday Oct 12 | Student Coming Out Panel for All-Campus
7:30 pm, Location TBA |