

September, 2009

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# Out & About

## LGBTQ Studies Minor Director Seeks Your Thoughts

As many of you know from a recent newsletter, Colgate now officially offers a minor in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Studies. The minor is described in the catalogue, as an affiliated minor within Women's Studies, as well as on the university's webpages (<http://www.colgate.edu/DesktopDefault1.aspx?tabid=3427#courses>).

The LGBTQ Studies Advisory Board is currently putting together a series of events in early October to mark the launch of the minor: *Coming Out in the Curriculum*. As part

of this effort, through which we seek to highlight important intellectual contributions made by LGBTQ scholarship, we'd like to solicit your thoughts on what instituting the minor means to you as a Colgate alum and/or in relation to Colgate's academic mission.

If you'd like to contribute, please send your comments to Ken Valente, Director of the LGBTQ Studies minor ([kvalente@mail.colgate.edu](mailto:kvalente@mail.colgate.edu)) by 15 September 2009. More information on *Coming Out in the Curriculum* events will be forthcoming for those of you who might be able to join us.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall Events 2009

**LGBTQ Mixer-** Welcome new Community Members Tuesday, September 1 at 7pm, Salmagundi Room, Colgate Inn

**Family Dinners-** Informal gathering to check in with one another each week at 6:30pm in the Coop

**LGBTQ Retreat-** An opportunity to plan the goals/objectives for the year, September 18-20

**Hidden Voices: Lives of LGBT Muslims-**

presentation by Faisal Alam, September 24 at 7pm in Love Auditorium

**Homecoming BBQueer,** Alumni are encouraged to attend! October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:30pm at Neal Rosenberg's '74 house on Broad Street in Hamilton

## Alumni Profile

When I graduated from Colgate in 1979, I would never have imagined attending my 30th (gulp!) reunion as an out lesbian - introducing my classmates to my partner and meeting other LGBT alumni at a reception just for us. Nobody was out at Colgate in the late 1970's - and I suspect that many of us assumed that our same-sex attraction was simply a phase; something we'd shed once graduation day hit. I know that it can be unnerving to return to Colgate as an openly LGBT person when many of us spent so much energy staying in the closet as undergrads.

Colgate always does a great job of making alumni feel welcome - and there are seminars, special events, sporting opportunities and gatherings to suit virtually every interest. It was especially heart-warming to see the LGBT reception at Neil Rosenberg's 1974's home listed as an official event in the Reunion program and great to meet so many other LGBT alums at his home on Saturday afternoon. There were about twenty of us, representing Colgate from the mid-1970's to the early 2000's, and every conversation seemed to include a good deal of talk about "what was it like to be LGBT when you were at Colgate?" And there was much speculation about how much the atmosphere on campus has changed - for the better - with the advent of a professionally staffed LGBT Center. It was great fun to make connections with other LGBT alums and their partners and especially wonderful to feel so comfortable being out at Colgate - something some folks experience for the first time only when they come back as alums. Indeed, as my partner and I were checking out on Sunday morning at the Student Center, we saw two men, loading kids into a Honda Odyssey and as they backed out we saw the HRC sticker on their bumper.

We ARE everywhere, even at Colgate!

Betsy Purcell '79

## Queers of Colgate Shirts available! (QOC)

As a throwback to our amazing softball team, we've got gay shirts! If you would like to order a shirt, they're \$13 each, and we could send you one (if you're an alum or away). We can use them for IM sports this coming year, for any events, or just to be stylin' on the town! Send a check to 13 Oak Drive, Hamilton, NY 13346 along with the size you would like. Thanks.



## LGBTQ Population Drive!

In the fall issue of Colgate's alumni magazine, the Scene, there will be a small invitation for alumni to repopulate the LGBTQ distribution list. It's been several years since we made a public reach for new names and supporters, so it's about time! Here is the text that will be included in the Scene:

*To all LGBTQ alumni and supporters: if you are interested in belonging to the distribution list for events and issues related to LGBTQ, please contact the Alumni Affairs Office at [alumni@colgate.edu](mailto:alumni@colgate.edu). This is a private community to allow our alumni to network together, find support, and learn about the current campus climate. You will also have access to the private "group" page on our alumni website at [www.colgatealumni.org](http://www.colgatealumni.org). Please provide an email and mailing address so you can be included on some important programs!*



## Sex Positive Programming at Colgate

The fall 2009 semester will start a movement of positive change on campus. A group of deans, members of the Counseling Center, CLSI, and Residential Life, along with summer student interns have teamed up to develop the "Keep It Sexy, Colgate" campaign to promote positive sexuality in students during their college years, and into their future. Many different organizations are developing events to fit under the campaign's umbrella.

Kicking off the series is the "You Decide" program, part of orientation for first years. We have changed the focus of the play this year to show both the negative parts of the social scene at Colgate, but also to depict some ways to turn potentially negative situations into positive ones. Two hosts will give commentary on the play to aid in the facilitation process afterwards, and will hope start the year off in a good light for the Class of 2013.

Last spring, Dorian Solot and Marshall Miller came to campus with their "I Heart the Female Orgasm," which overflowed Love auditorium and received incredible student enthusiasm. They are returning in September with "Sex Discussed Here," where they will explore the most common lies about sex and reveal the truths college students should know.

Wellness week will be the second week in September, and will have a special focus on healthy sexuality. A "Sex Carnival" of sorts is being planned, where students can learn about safe sex practices, pleasure, dressing up (to dress down), aphrodisiacs, and much more. Students and administrators will be running this event, and answering all student questions.

Men at Colgate will be having a panel discussion about the hook-up culture, masculinity at Colgate, and other issues facing all men on campus. The Network is bringing in "Four Hearts Changing," a play about partner abuse and dating violence.

## Office of LGBTQ Initiatives

### A NEWSLETTER FOR COLGATE LGBTQ ALUMNI

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The Office of Student and Academic LGBTQ Initiatives is dedicated to supporting our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning students by enhancing diversity and visibility throughout the greater campus community.

The office serves as direct support for individuals, as an agent for LGBTQ and its supportive programming, and as a network for LGBTQ faculty, staff, students and alumni, including their respective support groups.

### Meet one of our student interns!

**Andrea Finley '13** is a freshmen here at Colgate University. She plans on majoring in both political science and theater. In her spare time she loves to write poetry as well as music. Multi talented in the arts, Andrea plays piano, French horn and trumpet. Andrea is particularly concerned with issues of social awareness for minorities as well as religion within the LGBTQ community. Andrea has aspirations of becoming a syndicated talk show host in the near future. Andrea is very excited to be apart of the LGBTQ community here at Colgate; and has high expectations for this school year.

## Campus Climate Survey



In the spring 2009 semester, Professors Carolyn Hsu (Sociology) and Landon Reid (Psychology) conducted a Campus Climate Survey to evaluate student perceptions and experiences. This is the second comprehensive survey the two professors have conducted on the campus climate, the first performed in 2003.

On September 29, there will be a campus presentation that will offer the results of their most recent survey, which includes the climate for LGBTQ students and supporters.

Alumni can look forward to learning more about current issues on campus, and changes since 2003.

As a side, Professor Carolyn Hsu (left) will be honored as the first recipient of the Alumni of Color Distinguished Teacher Award for her efforts to create an inclusive campus community.

**nyc pride**  
june 20-28, 2009

Marcos Rada '82 hosted a small alumni reception in New York City in June to celebrate the Gay Pride Festival. Our thanks to Marcos and his guests for finding time to share some Colgate spirit together on a busy weekend!