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Out and About, Fall 2011

Colgate University. Office of LGBTQ Initiatives

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October, 2011

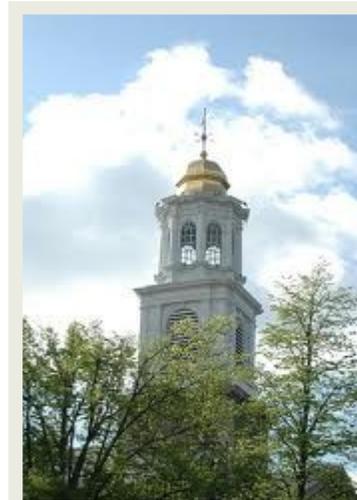
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Out & About

A Fresh Start for a New Semester

The current political gains won for LGBTQ Americans add new energy for beginning this semester at Colgate! In the last 3 months alone, we've seen historic movement forward to support LGBTQ people. In July, the New York State legislature passed the Marriage Equality Act giving gays and lesbians the legal right to marry their partners and receive state level benefits afforded to heterosexual couples. September brought the final stages of repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" military policy, and anti-bullying awareness is on our minds as we respond to the youth suicide epidemic. Federal and state level advocacy for LGBTQ equality gives us good reason to continue conversations about ways to empower LGBTQ and ally students.



As always, LGBTQ Initiatives' goal is to ensure that Colgate is a place where all students, staff and faculty feel comfortable and supported. By providing forums to discuss current issues, personal identities and challenges facing the community on campus, we engage in an inclusive and productive dialogue. With support from across Colgate's campus, LGBTQ Initiatives has SafeZone trained over 150 students this semester, hosted the Welcome Back Mixer and Coming Out Stories Brown Bag event, and continues to meet weekly for Family Dinner. The student clubs, Advocates and Lambda, have recruited many new members to gear up for this year's events. Since October is LGBT History Month and National Coming Out Month, we ought to pay special attention to the work being done on campus and recognize that our movement is in one direction—forward!

Sincerely, Jamie Bergeron

A NEWSLETTER
FOR COLGATE
LGBTQ ALUMNI

Colgate University
LGBTQ Initiatives
13 Oak Drive
Hamilton, NY 13346

Phone: 315-228-6840
lgbtq@colgate.edu



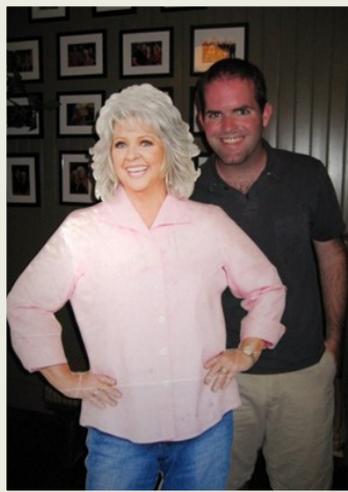
Palace Theatre
19 Utica Street
Hamilton, NY 13346

RENT Comes to Colgate!

Colgate's student-run theatre company
Masque & Triangle presents the hit
Broadway musical RENT!

Show dates are
November 11th, 12th, & 13th.
No ticket necessary, open to all!

Alumni Spotlight



Brian Bender '11 at Paula Dean's restaurant 'The Lady and Sons' in Savannah, GA

After graduation, Brian Bender '11 stayed in Hamilton for the summer while conducting his job search. "There's really not a more beautiful place to sort out your life than Hamilton in the summer." By the end of June he received a job offer to conduct research at Harvard Medical School. He is currently working in the Coen Lab in the Department of Biological Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology.

"Basically we study herpes viruses to understand the process of viral infection at a molecular level. Further, we screen libraries of drugs against our new findings in the hopes of detecting potential therapeutics that work to cure rather than treat herpes. Say goodbye to cold sores, fingers crossed!"

Although he's new to Boston, Brian is quickly falling in love with it. "There's a great community of Colgate graduates in the area and something fun is always going on."

Calling All Alumni!

Are you interested in being featured in *Alumni Spotlight*? Email us at LGBTQ@colgate.edu!

Queer art exhibit at Clifford Gallery

In *A Fine Line: Private Lives for Public View*, four photography collections are brought together which call attention to the real yet permeable line between our private and public lives as it is played out in the "queer" realm of gender and sexuality. The concept of queerness goes beyond self-understanding and crosses over into the territory of political affiliation. The included works capture moments of vulnerability in which subjects allow an artist to enter and record their private worlds for the sake of greater understanding and the possibility of social change and empowerment. This exhibit thus explores the struggle within the queer movement to define personal identities, the courage necessary to do so, and the unavoidable political consequences of making them public.

Corporal Brett Edward Stout-honorably discharged from USMC in 2002.



Artists Jo Ann Santangelo -*Proud to Serve*, Sophia Wallace - *Truer*, and Jason Hanasik - *He Opened Up Somewhere Along the Eastern Shore* will visit campus for the opening reception and artist talk on Nov. 16th at 4:30pm in Golden Auditorium, Little Hall. The exhibition also includes selected works from Catherine Opie - *Domestic*.

Meet the Newest Intern!

Kerry McGrath '12 is a senior getting ready to



graduate with a sociology and anthropology major! Hailing from Kingston, NY, she hopes to never live anywhere with snow again. As a freshman, Kerry joined Sidekicks, forming a long-lasting friendship with a young girl in Hamilton and eventually joining the

Leadership Team. Sophomore year, she began working as a peer consultant in the Writing & Speaking Center, joined Gamma Phi Beta Sorority and served as the Vice President of Public Relations for the Panhellenic Executive Board. Last spring, she spent the semester in NYC working for the Empire State Pride Agenda, an LGBT advocacy organization, which prompted her to begin her work with the LGBTQ community at Colgate. This will be her first and last year as an intern for LGBTQ Initiatives, and she's ready to get to work!



“It Gets Better”

By James Vigilante ‘14

When my boyfriend, Mitchell Tucci, first asked me to be in Colgate’s *It Gets Better* video, I have to admit I had never heard of the project before. After doing some research on it, I knew it was important that I be a part of it. Dan Savage created the *It Gets Better* Project after several gay teens took their lives last year due to bullying. I remember hearing about the suicides, but it was my first time hearing about the project. I saw how many people were involved and it truly touched me. I talked about my own experience coming out and how accepted I felt after. To me, it seemed very simple and insignificant compared to the celebrity videos; I had no idea how wrong I was.



On April 18th, the video posted on YouTube with Mitch and I as the screenshot. At first, it got a few hundred hits. Even that shell-shocked me. I saw that these videos really were helping people. I still cannot believe what happened next. One night during *Glee*, a commercial from Google Chrome aired advertising the *It Gets Better Project*. The touching and poignant ad recapped the project development and its widespread effect. I actually teared up watching it. The next day, Mitch texted me saying I should check the project’s home page. I couldn’t believe my eyes; our video was one of the few on the main page. I immediately checked the video and found that it had skyrocketed to one thousand hits. I was speechless. Our little video was a sensation! But that was only the beginning. Today, the video has 5,123 views and is still growing. I have received several Facebook messages from individuals of various ages thanking me for my support:

“Hey, I saw you in an It Gets Better video. Thanks, it helped a lot.”

“Just saw your Colgate blog on It Gets Better thanks for that!!!!!!”

“Just saw your vid from the project. Figured you had to have a FB page, and in fact here you are. I wanted to let you know I think you did a great job with that. It’s already better, you put yourself out there on the vid to have someone else see you, and find support in your message. I can only say, you have no idea how much better yet it will get as you move forward in your life. This really is just the beginning. Thanks for putting yourself out there and letting others know, and putting a real face to such an important message. Great job!!”

“Just wanted to say that I loved your part in the video for it get’s better. Thanks for helping spread awareness!”

I received more messages and even more friend requests and instant messages. To this day, I still cannot believe how important our video became to people. I feel like we truly made a difference in people’s lives and I hope that we continue to have a positive effect.

**Like LGBTQ Initiatives on facebook!
www.facebook.com/ColgateLGBTQ**



Upcoming Events

Family Dinners: Informal gathering every Tuesday, 6:00pm Frank Dining Hall

“Sex and the Soul” Lecture: Guest speaker Donna Freitas. September 26th 4:30pm in Persson Hall Auditorium

National Coming Out Week: October 3rd-7th

Coming Out Doors of Support: Located at Frank Dining Hall, The Coop, Reid Athletic Center and Case-Geyer Library from September 26th-October 7th

Annual BBQueer: October 1st, 12pm at Neal Rosenberg’s ‘74 house 46 Broad Street in Hamilton

WMST Brown Bag Lunch: “Coming Out as LGBTQ”: October 4th, 11:30am in Center for Women’s Studies

Being Alive: Queer Performance Between the Religious and the Secular: Guest speaker Ann Pellegrini. November 2nd, 7pm in Lathrop 217

Same Sex Marriage: Limits of Equality November 3rd, 11:30am, WMST Center

A Fine Line: Private Lives for Public View Gallery Exhibit: Opens November 16th in Clifford Art Gallery, on display Nov. 14-Dec.18

Film Screening Double Feature: “Closer” and “Hide & Seek”: December 6th, 7pm in Golden Auditorium

Transgender Day of Remembrance: Featuring local musician Melissa Clark. November 29th, 6pm in the lower level of the Chapel.

From the Director of LGBTQ Studies



The 2011/12 academic year marks the third birthday of LGBTQ Studies. At some point soon, we’ll have to stop thinking of ourselves as a ‘new’ program! Nevertheless, LGBTQ Studies continues to enrich the Colgate curriculum by offering students the opportunity to consider sexuality as a critical analytic category that can be brought to bear on other established areas of study. Like any other, our program continues to evolve. Professor Rebecca Ammerman joins the list of contributing faculty this year with her offering CLAS 232, *Sexuality and Gender in Classical Antiquity*. LGBT 250, *Sexuality, Gender and the Law*, is now approved as a continuing course, and we’re pleased that its instructor Casey Sprock (Class of ‘86) is back with us this semester as an Adjunct Lecturer in LGBTQ Studies. We also welcome the contributions of Kristy Watkins, Visiting Instructor in Sociology & Anthropology, who is currently teaching SOAN 220, *Gender, Sexuality and Society*.

This year LGBTQ Studies is partnering with other departments, programs, and initiatives to support a variety of speakers and events on campus. These currently include Educational Studies (Bettina Aptheker, Professor of Feminist Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz); Religion (Ann Pellegrini, Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Director of Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality, NYU); Film & Media Studies (screening a double feature of queer films as part of its Alternative Film series); and LGBTQ Initiatives (coordinating a Clifford Gallery exhibition featuring the work of four queer photographers). These and other collaborations help to raise LGBTQ consciousness within the wider campus community.

Finally, I’m most pleased to note that we’ll celebrate the graduation of our first minor student next semester: Leander Alexander! It promises to be a rich and exciting year.

Sincerely, Ken Valente

Interested in giving back to LGBTQ life at Colgate?

Sponsor student internships and conference opportunities by contacting Sara Groh of Colgate Annual Fund at sgroh@colgate.edu