From LGBTQ Initiatives Director, khristian kemp-delisser

I invite you to peruse the stories shared by our student interns, faculty and alumni in this newsletter. It is only a sample of our activities, but I hope it displays the range of academic and extracurricular activities our campus community engages with LGBTQ topics, causes and people. It is only a sample of LGBTQ people and our identities defy quantification. We eschew segmentation, categorization and boxes. We are best understood through intricate and complex stories. Our stories are about vulnerability, challenge and resiliency and yet are often only viewed in snapshots or glimpses like fragments of light through a kaleidoscope.

The job of LGBTQ Initiatives must be to expand our experiences and nurture spaces where we can all discover new things and push our limits. Change, if it ever occurs, will always be slow, often painful, and never easy. But it will inevitably bring us closer as a human family.

Meet Heidi Angueira, Administrative Assistant for LGBTQ Studies

I am delighted to be a new member of the LGBTQ Studies team! As a proud member of the LGBTQ community, I have a personal investment in LGBTQ issues and am eager to support the program. In my free time, as well in the workplace, I most enjoy creative expression. I love learning and plan to continue pursuit of my undergraduate degree through classes here at Colgate. I also love gourmet cuisine, gardening, cultivating sisterhood and wild nature. Please stop by my office in the Center for Women's Studies, I am eager to meet you!

Meet the new interns! LGBTQ Initiatives is proud to welcome three new members:

Abel Deleon  ’18
he/him/his

Being part of LGBTQ Initiatives offered the perfect opportunity for me to expand my knowledge on LGBTQ issues while at the same time help the office promote a more inclusive environment at Colgate. I love my job!

Em Rubey  ’18
they/them/their

I applied to be an intern because, well, I’m queer as hell, love activism about queerness, and I figured I may as well make it a legitimate enterprise. I hope to be a source of knowledge and understanding through my internship.

Romelia Loaiza  ’17
she/her/hers

I applied to join the LGBTQ Initiatives staff because of my queer identity. I saw it as a way to learn more about my queerness and start tying together the different parts of my identity. Also, I get to work with a wonderful staff and meet amazing people.
Professor Cristina Serna: My research focuses on queer Chicana/Latina and Latin American transnational feminist activism. I am interested in the role of art within queer and feminist social movements. My interest in Chicana/Latina feminist and queer activism grew out of my work as a founding member of various queer women of color activist organizations in Los Angeles. Through this work, I met many of the artists and groups that I write and teach about. I also lived in Mexico City for several years and this allowed me to meet lesbian feminist artists and activist collectives in Mexico. I became interested in studying the transborder art and activist networks that connect queer Chicana and Mexican lesbian feminist artists across the border.

Professor Danny Barreto: My own undergraduate experience was in some ways the very opposite of many Colgate students. I went to Hunter College (CUNY), a formerly all-women’s, non-residential public college in Manhattan, attended by over 20,000 students, the majority of whom were women, working class and of color. During those four years, thinking critically about sexuality, race, gender and class were integral to the creation of knowledge; this has continued to influence my research and the courses I teach. My research, broadly speaking, is on the inter-relatedness of discourses of gender, sexuality and nation-alism in colonial contexts. Particularly, I study Galicia and Puerto Rico, two stateless nations with long histories of migration and of nationalist and linguistic struggle. I’m interested in how women’s and queer voices both undermine and upend dominant narratives of national identity.

Dr. Cati Connell: Pride and Professionalism

Dr. Cati Connell’s lecture regarding her book, School’s Out: Gay and Lesbian Teachers in the Classroom, challenged me to consider a fundamental paradox in the lives of LGBTQ teachers: although gay pride rhetoric encourages LGBT individuals to present their sexual identity, today’s American public schools enforce heterosexual norms, which construct the homosexual teacher as the abject, unprofessional, sexualized “other.” To correct this marginalization, Connell argued that we must move beyond the “gay-pride model” that poses coming out as the necessary and most important part of one’s gay identity. Instead, she said that we must work to deconstruct the “codes of normativity” that engulf American public schools. She discussed creating a K-12 curriculum that incorporated LGBT history. She also challenged the notion that children must be protected from sexuality, arguing that children are also sexual beings. If society were to remove the sexuality shield, LGBT teachers would no longer be defined merely by their sexual identities.

I got hooked on LGBTQ Studies when I took Gender, Sexuality, & the Law. That course, along with other more theoretical classes, put the whole world into an understanding that I hadn’t had before. Once I found the minor, I found my niche.

My thesis was on the social, political, and religious histories of the hijras, a third gender community in India. To do this research, I learned to examine my own positionality as a white, cis, lesbian, middle-class woman in my twenties, and how that shaped the point of view I brought to my research.

The thing I am most proud of during my time at Colgate is being part of changing my own team climate, bringing the things I was learning and that I cared about to others, especially sex positivity and body positivity.

I want to get my Masters in Sexuality Studies, and from there do counseling in an outreach center or be an academic liaison involved in LGBTQ issues on campus; or after my Masters, go to law school to work with people who need help finding what channels they can take and what rights they have.

Curricular Highlights
Spring 2016 Courses

- LGBT 220: Lives, Communities, and Modes of Critical Inquiry: An Exploration in LGBTQ Studies with Professor Sprock
- SOCI 220: Gender, Sexuality & Society with Professor Beaver
- FMST 400: Sexuality and Visibility with Professor Maira
- WMST 205: Queer Latina Visualities: Art, Theory, and Resistance with Professor Serna
- ANTH 221: Kinship and Marriage with Professor Nicolae
- ANTH 371: Gender & Society in Africa with Professor Moran
- WMST 202: Women’s Lives: An Introduction to Women’s Studies. Three sections, with Professors Loz, Serna and Thompson

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