In May the Office of LGBT Awareness will bid adieu to four wonderful seniors: Erik Diemer, Naomi Hossain, Alex Madsen, and Cristie Winkler. Each of them has been involved in the Office since their freshman or sophomore years in one capacity or another. They have each brought positive energy and commitment to making Bucknell a more inclusive campus. We will miss them greatly and wish them all the luck in their future endeavors.

~ Fran McDaniel

Below is a brief interview with each senior.

**Erik Diemer**

**Major:** Management  
**How long have you been working at the Office?**  
I have worked at the Office since my sophomore year.  
**What types of projects are you in charge of?**  
I work with various projects through different means (advertisements, researching, general things).  
**What is your favorite thing about the Office?**  
The other staff whom I can relate to and chat candidly with  
**What is your favorite memory?**  
Fran's "Spring Flings"  
**What are your future plans?**  
unsure.....but pursuing career in marketing

**Naomi Hossain**

**Major:** English (Creative Writing) and Environmental Studies  
**How long have you been working at the Office?**  
I have worked at the Office since my sophomore year as part of my Fremont Scholarship.  
**What types of projects are you in charge of?**  
My major project for the three years has been the annual World AIDS Day Poetry Reading.  
**What is your favorite thing about the Office?**  
Working with Fran and all the other staff members. Everyone has such great ideas and even though at times we all work on our own individual projects, everyone is more than happy to help with whatever needs done.  
**What are your future plans?**  
I plan to work at a private school or college following graduation, in admissions, financial aid, alumni relations or the diversity offices

**Alex Madsen**

**Major:** Religion  
**How long have you been working at the Office?**  
I have worked at the LGBT office for a year, but have been involved with the office through various activities like InterGroup dialogue since freshman year.  
**What types of projects are you in charge of?**  
Coordinating and organizing National Freedom to Marry Week  
**What is your favorite thing about the Office?**  
I am constantly surrounded by brilliant, thoughtful, energetic, creative and insightful people. I get to work on issues I truly care about and get to work towards creating a better sense of social justice on this campus and elsewhere! I couldn't imagine not doing the work and engaging in the activities I do. I get to meet brilliantly motivated and inspirational people and well as have a great time. Best of all worlds I think!  
**What is your favorite memory?**  
I have many ranging from various dinners and gatherings to chit-chat in the office with Franiel.  
**What are your future plans?**  
Next year I am hoping to be working for either COLAGE, a non-profit dealing with children of LGBT parents, or Peace Action West, a non-profit working on U.S. foreign policy and the banning of nuclear weapons, both located in San Francisco, California. I am also in the process of applying for Teach for America.

**Cristie Winkler**

**Major:** Psychology and Anthropology  
**How long have you been working at the Office?**  
I have worked at the Office since October of my freshman year.  
**What types of projects are you in charge of?**  
I am the Student Manager, but I have also coordinated the National Coming Out Day support lists and Safe Space Programming.  
**What is your favorite thing about the Office?**  
How colorful it is and how personable/caring Fran is about her workers  
**What is your favorite memory?**  
My favorite memory is when the Office Staff revealed the NCOD Student Support List number to both Fran and Dean Midkiff. It was an amazing, hopeful moment and I'm really proud of those who contributed to collecting names.  
**What are your future plans?**  
I am going to graduate school in Vermont, to earn my Master's in Social Justice in Intercultural Relations from SIT Graduate Institute. After that, we shall see...maybe I'll come back and work for Bucknell!

“Only with civil marriage does a person have the right to medical decision making for a loved one, parenting rights, access to insurance, inheritance protections, and immigration rights. The act of getting married is invested with public, historical, and spiritual significance, and is emotionally charged for the individuals involved, as well as society. Until lesbian and gay couples have the freedom to marry, discrimination in civil marriages will remain a profound barrier to achieving complete equality for lesbians and gay men.” – National Freedom to Marry Week

February 11-15, 2008 was National Freedom To Marry Week. This year Bucknell’s LGBT Office, as well as FLAG&BТ, put a lot of time and energy into raising awareness on campus about the purpose of the week. Week long events celebrated same-sex partnerships and the importance of marriage equality. Among other topics, we discussed the strength of the same-sex family and why marriage equality matters. Through dialogues, discussions, movie showings and sharing our own stories, we tried to raise awareness around the protections denied to many gay couples because they do not have the right to get married. While Freedom To Marry week will probably not stick out in anyone’s head when looking back on the semester it was a much needed step to continue to make change on this campus and beyond.

What I have come to realize through coordinating this week is that by sharing our stories we are better able to communicate and connect with others. It is incredible how many people we can touch by sharing one simple story. By telling others about the harsh realities my Dad and his partner face because they cannot get married, and what that does to my family, many people were able to put a face with a cause. The simple process of story-telling is one way in which each generation passes on its wisdom. Talking honestly and openly about the importance of equal rights, equal opportunities, and basic fairness is an under recognized way of creating change. While Freedom To Marry Week did put together a series of educational events, the most useful ways in which it spread awareness was through communication and dialogue. Sharing our stories and showing our faces (while scary) helps the rest of America identify with our need to hold ourselves and others accountable to the promise of liberty, fairness and equality for all.

~ Alex Madsen ’08

Recap: The ALLIANCE at Bucknell: Creating Safe Space

Since September 2007, the Office of LGBT Awareness' peer education program The ALLIANCE at Bucknell: Creating Safe Space has been making great strides, presenting to over 1,000 faculty, staff, and students.

Presentations have been given to ten Greek chapters (fraternities: Chi Phi, Delta Upsilon, Sigma Alpha Mu, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Theta Chi; sororities: Alpha Chi Omega, Chi Omega, Delta Gamma Kappa Alpha Theta, Phi Beta Phi) the Social Justice residential College, a first year residential hall, Bucknell Student Government, Women’s Rowing Coaches and Rowing Team, the Office of Prospect Research and Management and three groups of faculty and staff.

This year has been a year of firsts: the first time we have presented to an athletic team and its coaches, the first year faculty and staff have been invited to participate in the training, the first year multiple fraternities have requested the training and the first year that multiple student groups have requested the training.

The Safe Space presentations are meant to educate the audience with LGBT terms, issues faced by LGBT individuals, the process of coming out, the use of derogatory terms, what it means to be a Safe Space, and available local resources.

Presentations given thus far have made a huge impact on the LGBT individuals that may have been in the audience. We know this because students have gone out of their way to contact one of the presenters to let them know how meaningful it is to have students speak out about LGBT issues, etc.

This group of dedicated students has been nominated for the Student Organization award at the Diversity Celebration for the group’s promotion of education and awareness of diverse perspectives.

Current Safe Spaces:

Fraternities:
Chi Phi (Chapter and House)
Delta Upsilon (Chapter and House)
Sigma Alpha Mu (Chapter)
Sigma Phi Epsilon (Chapter)
Theta Chi (Chapter)

Sororities:
Alpha Chi Omega (Chapter and Suite)
Chi Omega (Chapter and Suite)
Delta Gamma (Chapter and Suite)
Kappa Alpha Theta (Chapter and Suite)
Pi Beta Phi (Chapter and Suite)

Other:
Bucknell Student Government
Prospect Research, and Management Office
Social Justice Residential College
Women’s Rowing Team Coaches
Women’s Rowing Team

Call x7-1609 and schedule a Safe Space program for your hall, group, fraternity, sorority, athletic team or office.
April 8th: 20th Annual Celebration of Diversity
5:30—7 p.m., Sojka Pavilion

The upcoming 20th Annual Diversity Celebration is an opportunity to recognize the many Bucknell University community members who have demonstrated a strong commitment to creating a more just and pluralistic society. It is a privilege to extend our thanks to each of you for the collective and individual efforts you have made each year at Bucknell to broaden our understanding of each other and to create a campus climate where we can live, work, and learn with mutual respect.

A brief history of the event follows:

In the spring of 1989, The Multicultural Center, The Race/Gender Resource Center, and The Women’s Resource Center hosted a celebration of activism at Bucknell. This banquet was held to honor those at Bucknell University who made special efforts or contributions in the areas of race or gender equity on campus. Each year, numerous students were recognized through traditional senior awards for academics or sports teams, but there were other students who deserved recognition for their contribution to campus as well. The Multicultural Center, The Race/Gender Resource Center, and The Women’s Resource Center believed that there were students who consistently went above and beyond in their work involving race and gender. To celebrate their dedication and commitment to racial and gender awareness and equality, these offices created and sponsored a banquet where students, staff, and faculty would receive recognition. In time, the Office of LGBT Awareness, International Student Services, Office of Service Learning, Office of Chaplains and Religious Life, Housing and Residential Life and the Residential Colleges were included in the planning process. This celebration has been broadened over the years to include the many facets of social justice and diversity represented on the campus of Bucknell University.

Recap: S. Bear Bergman:

“Monday Night in Westerbork”

“Monday Night in Westerbork” was performed by S. Bear Bergman Tuesday, March 4, at 7:30 p.m. in Uptown. The performance created connections between Jewish and LGBT identities. In this one person show Bergman explored the element and power of storytelling. Ze transitioned between his own narrative of childhood memories at a Jewish camp (in which ze converses with survivors of concentration camps) and the narrative of Max Erlich, who produced plays in the Westerbork concentration camp. Westerbork was a camp where thousands of Jews, homosexuals and other undesirables were gathered. It became the site of a wonderful cabaret in which Erlich and others performed to keep the realities of the concentration camp and death farther away. “Monday Night in Westerbork” left many of us investigating points of intersection and impact among identity, art, persecution and resistance. The show had me scribbling inspirational phrases and quotes on various scraps of paper I could find in my bag.

Some of Bear’s words spoke strongly to the audience, “No one is not different, it only matters who is making the list.” “Everyone has a choice between doing well and being well.” Bear chose to use hir “privilege to dismantle privilege.” Ze eloquently explored issues of gender, the holocaust and identity in wonderfully intertwined monologues. Hir performance was a mix of the scary realities of the holocaust and refreshing humor. Bear is a performer, lecturer, writer and activist. Ze is also the author of Butch is A Noun, a book about gender theory and living outside the gender binary.

~ Alex Madsen ’08

Writing Workshop

*Note: S. Bear Bergman lead an interactive workshop for students, faculty and staff on March 5, at the Writing Center for people “thinking about the language of gender, its vernacular and lexicon and ways of making itself heard in writing, and then figuring out personal, useful ways to turn that to their advantage.”

The Writers Workshop with S. Bear Bergman was one of the most interesting workshops I have been a part of. Ze really opened my eyes to how gender bound we are when it comes to writing. Each participant of the workshop started by writing a paragraph on a gender-specific person, using the gender-free pronouns ze and hir. After that we discussed in detail about what an important part gender plays in writing, and that there are gender specific tasks that characters do. This workshop made me more aware of using gender in my writing, especially fiction writing, and was also a great opportunity to speak with someone who has such an intimate knowledge of writing with and about gender.

~ Naomi Hossain ’08

Rabbi Fujita, S. Bear Bergman, Alex Madsen, Fran McDaniel after Bear’s performance.
Spring 2008 Events:

Celebration of Diversity
"What Does Diversity Mean to You?"
April 8, 5:30-6:30pm
Sojka Pavilion

Jeans Day
April 17
Wear your "Gay? Fine by me." T-shirts

Day of Silence (sponsored by FLAG&BV)
April 14
April 15
April 16

LGBT Office student intern recognized by The American Association of University Women

The American Association of University Women awarded Naomi Hossain '08, a student intern at the Office of LGBT Awareness, the 2008 Senior Women Award. The nomination was reviewed by a committee of four members of the Susquehanna Valley Branch of the AAUW and was based on outstanding leadership, educational achievement and community participation.

The AAUW Senior Woman Award comes with a one-year national membership-at-large. As an AAUW member-at-large, Naomi will become part of an already established network of women who are happy to assist wherever her career path takes her. In addition to the national membership, the representatives from the local branch of the AAUW invited her to their annual Gateway to Equity luncheon. She was joined by Micheala Denny, Director of the Women's Resource Center.

The National Conference on LGBT Equality: Creating Change 2008

On Thursday, February 6th, Christine Kassab, Fran McDaniel and I traveled to Detroit, Michigan to take part in the 20th Annual National Conference on LGBT Equality: Creating Change, sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. The event was packed with engaging speakers, such as the NAACP’s Julian Bond, the Bishop V. Gene Robinson, and the hilarious Kate Clinton, all who shared their stories of support and courage, and talked about the importance of creating change in America and the world for the LGBT community.

The mainstay of the conference, however, were the workshops. Christine and I attended a pre-conference academy session, run by Campus Pride, about the LGBT youth movement and becoming involved and active. The workshop was run by the engaging Shane L. Windmeyer, founder of Campus Pride and one of the leading authors on LGBT campus issues. Other workshops included learning about religion and the LGBT community, how to build a successful coalition, the importance of transgender inclusion, and how to best facilitate safe space discussions.

Overall, the Creating Change conference was an amazing experience, both academically and socially. We at the Office of LGBT Awareness cannot wait to start implementing the strategies we learned from this conference.

~ Tyler Dinucci '11

Tyler Dinucci and Christine Kassab at the Creating Change Conference in Detroit, Michigan

http://www.bucknell.edu/LGBT.xml

The Office of Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Awareness, is committed to making Bucknell a safe place for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. This is accomplished by supporting student groups and efforts to educating and increase awareness about LGBT issues and current public policy concerns. The office is guided by an Advisory Board comprised of students, faculty, staff, and administrators who are interested in and committed to the mission of the Office.

Given that Bucknell is dedicated to prepare its students to be morally responsible citizens, and given that societal attitudes are changing, the University attempts to promote attitudes and behaviors among its students which will create a climate of mutual respect and empower us all to appreciate diversity.