Harvey Milk was the first openly gay man to be elected to a public office in America. His story is one of hope and change. It all started when Milk and his partner relocated to San Francisco at age forty looking for more purpose. He finds empowerment in his Castro neighborhood and the city of San Francisco to be an outspoken agent for change. Old and young, gay and straight back him up as he seeks equal rights and opportunities for all at a time when prejudice and violence against gays was openly accepted as the norm. He plunges into politics and soon is known all across the city. In his fourth run for public office in 1977, he is elected supervisor for the newly zoned District 5.

Milk lobbied for gay rights including a citywide ordinance protecting people from being fired because of their orientation and rallied support against a proposed statewide referendum to fire gay schoolteachers and their supporters. In 1978, Milk was shot to death by a former city supervisor.

This movie focuses on the last eight years of Harvey Milk’s life and the change that he strongly wanted to bring to the city. It has a limited release schedule for November. The Office of LGBT Awareness is working with the Campus Theatre to bring MILK in January.

~http://www.filminfocus.com/focusfeatures/film/milk/synopsis

Election Results...

- **California Prop 8**: Ban on Gay Marriage passed which amends the state constitution to specify that only marriages between one man and one woman would be recognized as valid in the state. This trumps a May 2008 ruling by the California Supreme Court that legalized same-sex marriage.

- **Arizona Prop 108**: Ban on Gay Marriage passed which amends the state constitution so that only a union between one man and one woman would be valid or recognized as a marriage in the state.

- **Arkansas Initiative 1**: Ban on Gay Couples Adopting Children passed which prohibits unmarried "sexual partner[s]" from adopting children or from serving as foster parents. The prohibition applies to both opposite-sex as well as same-sex couples.

- **Florida Amendment 2**: Ban on Gay Marriage passed which amends the state constitution to define marriage as a union between one man and one woman.

- **In King County, Wash.**, voters approved an amendment to the county charter that would make it illegal for the county to discriminate in hiring based on disability, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. The King County provision marks the first time that protections based on gender identity and expression have been explicitly named.

- **In Hamtramck, Mich.**, voters repealed a non-discrimination ordinance by a margin of 55 percent to 45 percent. Earlier this year, the City Council passed the ordinance, which added protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression in the areas of public services and employment.

Even though the LGBT community lost most of the ballots protecting rights there is still an air of optimism. Rea Carey, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund stated, “Despite this setback in California, we have seen an unprecedented positive shift in public attitudes toward the freedom to marry in California — from 38 percent in our favor during the 2000 vote to 48 percent this election. Public opinion is steadily moving in our favor, and in time, with continued work and renewed investment, fairness and equality will ultimately prevail.”
Recap of Recent Events:
This past month we hosted many events including: GLBT History Month, National Coming Out Day, “For the Bible Tells Me So” with director Daniel Karslake and the “Rocky Horror Picture Show.”

National Coming Out Day - Oct 11th

On October 9th Bucknell students celebrated National Coming Out Day, an internationally-observed awareness day for coming out and other LGBT issues; rainbows ran rampant on campus. “gay? fine by me.” t-shirts were worn proudly in every different color from bright yellow to pink to black. It was amazing to look around the campus and my classes and see the abundant amount of support for LGBT individuals. As usual, dozens of us gathered on Rooke Chemistry steps wearing our t-shirts to take our annual National Coming Out Day Picture; the turnout was even better than we expected. In addition, after over a month of hard work, that night the 2nd Annual National Coming Out Day Student Support List and the 8th Annual Faculty/Staff List was released in the Bucknellian. Our goal was to reach half of the school, and we did, with 1801 names on the Student List --650 more than last year-- and over 465 on the Faculty/Staff List. All in all, NCOD was a huge success and we strive to one day have all of the Bucknell community’s support.

~ Alyssa Gianino

GLBT History Month

Over the course of the month of October, 31 people were honored as GLBT icons. Displays were set up around campus in Smith Hall, Bertrand Library, and the Office of LGBT Awareness. Posters were hung around campus each week with information on each icon for that week. Emails were also posted daily with information on the icon of the day. The purpose of this month is to educate about people who have distinguished themselves within their fields of endeavor, as national heroes, or in the GLBT civil rights movement. This year’s celebration of icons was more extensive than in previous years and hopefully, as a result, more people were educated.

~ Andy Pascal

Co-Sponsored by FLAG&BT, ACE, and The Office of LGBT Awareness, The Rave @ Uptown Nightclub was a social event for LGBT students and allies that provided a setting where all would feel safe to have fun to techno music. The Rave was a surprisingly successful event with a turnout of roughly 200 guests throughout the night. Because of the joint partnership in putting on such an event, a live DJ, DJ Roundhouse (Ryan Shovlin), was able to provide music, lending his enthusiasm to the positive atmosphere. The idea of having The Rave came from the members of FLAG&BT collectively deciding to have an LGBT-friendly dance party, which was received well by all sponsors involved. Due to the success of the event and the overwhelmingly positive response from students, plans for a spring rave are currently being considered. It is now in the wishes of both FLAG&BT and The Office of LGBT Awareness to sponsor an event such as The Rave once a semester.

~ Andy Pascal
For the Bible Tells Me So

On October 19, 2008, the film "For the BIBLE Tells Me So" was shown at the Campus Theater as part of the theater's Annual Documentary Film Festival in collaboration with the Office of LGBT Awareness. Over 250 people were in attendance. Director/producer/writer Daniel Karslake lead a talk back after the screening for anyone who wanted to stay. The film is an exploration of the intersection between religion and homosexuality in the U.S. and how the religious right has used its interpretation of the Bible to stigmatize the gay community. Questions asked after the film include those curious about the process of making the film as well as interest in the “whys” of wanting to make a film on this particular subject.

Daniel also attended two of Prof. Milofsky’s sociology classes (SOCI 100 and 215) to continue discussions about the film. Several LGBT students also chimed in the discussion as well.

Many students attended the screening of the film and enjoyed it based upon comments the Office received following the performance.

Rocky Horror Picture Show

A Halloween showing of Rocky Horror Picture Show has become an annual event for the Office of LGBT Awareness. For the past 5 years, we have been sponsoring a showing of this film at the Campus Theatre. This year was no different than any other year with the majority of people seeing the show dressing up in character and bringing their own prop bags. Over 370 tickets were sold. A costume contest preceded the showing in which the judges had an extremely hard time choosing the best costume. Excitement grew as the time of the showing got closer. Everyone who attended the event seemed to have a great time and were totally into participating with film.

“Journey to a Hate Free Millennium”

On Nov. 10th, we had the privilege of co-hosting an event with Campus Jewish Life and Hillel. Brent Scarpo came to campus to present “Journey to a Hate Free Millennium.” This documentary is a multiple award-winning documentary that seeks solutions to ending HATE and the terrible hate crimes that have become frequent events in our daily lives.

Brent began the evening talking about hate, where it comes from, different types of hate, etc. This was powerful in that it showed that at some point we have all experienced some form of hate and our thoughts control whether or not we continue to show that hatred to others. He then proceeded to show the documentary which focuses on stories about James Byrd Jr, Matthew Sheppard, and the shootings at Columbine.

Even though this movie was made ten years ago, it still has an impact on people that watch it. It has saved many lives and has caused people to rethink how they act. If you have never seen it, I would suggest that you borrow it and watch it. You will be changed.

We thank the Association for the Arts for cosponsoring this event.
Homecoming/ GALABI Reunion

Returning to campus in the fall is one of my joys. The leaves are in full color, the campus is bustling, and I get to meet new people and renew relationships with folks I haven’t seen in months (or years). My partner and I come back to Bucknell at Homecoming specifically to attend the GALABI events - the informal reception, the annual business meeting, and the gathering for lunch. Many thanks go to Alumni Relations for funding, Dining Services for the food and service at these events, and the Office of LGBT Awareness for coordinating the schedule. It is always great to see the accomplishments of the office, meet the students, and discuss our goals for the next year. This year, attendance was up, and many interested students and alumni (old friends and new returnees) came to the various events.

GALABI is one of those organizations that most alumni and students don’t know about. GALABI is the acronym for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Alumni and Friends. Coming to our events doesn’t mean that you identify as gay; we are an inclusive group - just being supportive is enough. One of our initiatives this year is to have regional events in DC, New York, and possibly on the west coast. The Bucknell community is large and we encourage networking and social opportunities. Another initiative is to act as contacts or mentors for newly graduating students and alumni.

GALABI will be celebrating their 20th anniversary in 2010. Planning for such a significant anniversary is starting now - stay tuned! We want to encourage everyone to think about coming back to Bucknell and helping us celebrate. Things are changing at Bucknell (for the better). The administration has committed to making diversity inclusion and education a priority.

If you would like to be included in the GALABI mailings - contact the LGBT office or e-mail galabi@bucknell.edu. We encourage any graduating senior to stay involved with the group. You are our future!

~ Ann Malcolm Bidelspach ‘80
Co-Chair, GALABI Advisory Board

Updated Safe Spaces

Fraternities:
Chi Phi (chapter and house)
Tau Kappa Epsilon (chapter)

Sororities:
Alpha Chi Omega (chapter and suite)
Chi Omega (chapter and suite)
Kappa Alpha Theta (chapter and suite)
Kappa Kappa Gamma (chapter and suite)
Pi Beta Phi (chapter and suite)

Others:
Social Justice Residential College
Delta Gamma (Scheduled)

World AIDS Day 2008

This year, December 1st marks the 20th anniversary of World AIDS Day which was started in 1988 to raise awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection. Since 2005 the World AIDS Campaign has spearheaded the World AIDS Day campaign. They chose the main theme for World AIDS Day observances through 2110 to be Stop AIDS: Keep the Promise. This year, like last year, is using leadership as the theme. “Leadership encourages leaders at all levels to stop AIDS...leadership highlights the discrepancy between the commitments that have been made to halt the spread of AIDS and actions taken to follow them through. Leadership empowers everyone — individuals, organizations, governments — to lead in the response to AIDS (World AIDS Campaign).”

Every year since 1999 Bucknell has organized its own World AIDS Day event. This year the Bucknell AIDS Committee will be hosting a World AIDS Day Poetry Reading/International Lunch.