October is....

GLBT History Month

and

October 11th is National Coming Out Day!

National Coming Out Day 2008

As most of you probably know, National Coming Out Day is an internationally-observed civil awareness day for coming out and discussion about lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues. It is observed on October 11 by members of the LGBT communities and their allies. The day was founded by Dr. Robert Eichberg and Jean O’Leary in 1988, in celebration of the Second National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay rights one year earlier, in which 500,000 people marched on Washington D.C. for gay and lesbian equality. National Coming Out Day events are aimed at raising awareness of the LGBT community among the general populace in an effort to give a familiar face to the LGBT rights movement.

We, at Bucknell, celebrate this day by encouraging all of our allies along with those of us in the LGBT community to wear their “gay? fine by me.” t-shirts. A picture is taken of everyone in their t-shirts to commemorate the day. By wearing the t-shirt, it shows those students, faculty, and staff who many be in the closet, that there is support on campus.

In addition to the t-shirts, the Office of LGBT Awareness publishes the NCOD support list. This year marks the second year that we have created a student NCOD list and the current numbers exceed last year’s list of 1,150 students. It is also the eighth year that the administration, faculty, and staff NCOD support list will be published. By placing one’s name on this list, it also shows the support on campus.

GLBT History Month

In the 1990’s, teachers and community organizations determined that a month should be designated for GLBT history. They chose October because public schools are in session and traditions, such as National Coming Out Day (October 11), occur then.

The GLBT community is the only community worldwide that does not learn its history at home, in the public schools or in religious institutions. GLBT History Month teaches our heritage, provides role models, builds community and makes the civil rights statement of our extraordinary national and international contributions.

The 31 Icons, living or dead, are selected for their achievements in their field of endeavor, their status as a national hero, or their significant contribution to GLBT civil rights. Equality Forum solicits nominations from state, national and international organizations and leaders.

This year’s Icons include: Del Martin & Phyllis Lyon, Margarethe Cammermeyer, Melissa Etheridge, Sheila Kuehl, Alice Walker, and Gene Robinson among others. Look for daily emails with the each day’s icon and posters around campus.

~www.glbthistorymonth.com
Recap of Recent Events:

We had a jammed packed beginning of the semester with three major events in a little over a week. The Stop the Hate March/Unity Jam on September 8th, the AIDS Walk on September 13th, and Lucie Blue Trembley on September 15th and 16th. Read below to find out about the events.

Unity Jam: Stop the Hate Rally

On September 8, 2008, student groups, Resident Assistants, and fraternities met in front of the Ellen Bertrand Library to begin the annual Stop the Hate Rally down to Hufnagel Park. It is estimated that 100 students, faculty, staff, and community members participated in this march, with many of the groups carrying signs proclaiming “Stop the Hate.”

The marchers joined other Bucknellians and community members in Hufnagel Park for the Unity Jam. Mayor Judy Wagner opened the ceremony, followed by a vocal performance by Samantha McDounough ’10. Many prominent figures in the community and University representatives spoke about diversity and acceptance.

Quay Hanna gave the main address of the night, challenging people to realize the everyday ways they contribute to hatred. His presentation stems from life experiences that Hanna had growing up and confronting his own racist and prejudiced beliefs. His presentation really spoke to many of the people sitting there.

The evening wrapped up with a candlelight walk through downtown Lewisburg.

AIDS Walk Update

On a bright and crisp Saturday morning, September 13th, over 200 people showed up to participate in the 3rd Annual AIDS Walk. Walkers raised almost $2,500 for the AIDS Resource in Williamsport. They provide educational programs, prevention and outreach efforts to help stop the spread of HIV/AIDS. In addition, AIDS Resource financially assists people living with HIV/AIDS. The turnout this year was amazing with many more walkers than in previous years, but the amount of money raised was less than last year.

Lucie Blue Trembley

On September 16th, Lucie Blue Trembley performed a concert in Bucknell Hall. It included a mix of her newer music along with some of her classic pieces. Lucie was invited to campus to perform and also to talk about her project, The Breast Self Examination Project. She first introduced a diverse audience to this project on September 15th during a lunch. The crux of the project at this point in time is a music video “Changes” which basically takes the verbiage from the American Cancer Association’s directions on how to conduct a self-breast exam and puts them to music. The DVD, which she had just picked up days before arriving at Bucknell, contains a montage of live concert footage, individual interviews, stills, etc. with Lucy singing the directions. She is hoping that a company will pick up the video and distribute it to all women.

The concert on Tuesday evening was a success. Many faculty, students, staff and community members showed up for the intimate concert featuring many of Lucie’s works on piano and guitar. Many of the songs she sang were in French which pleased the French students who had come to see her perform. Lucie ended the evening with two encores and a “Meet and Greet” with a DVD and CD signing and conversation with the artist. Many students got their picture taken with Lucie.

Clockwise: everyone listened intently to Quay Hanna; RA’s with their banner before the march: Quay Hanna

Right: Lucie Blue Trembley singing one of her songs. Left: Sign advertising her project.
With the upcoming presidential election we are providing you with an overview as to where the presidential candidates’ stand on LGBT issues. All information was taken from The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund report on “The 2008 Presidential Candidates’ Positions on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues”

John McCain
Official Campaign Web site: http://www.johnmccain.com

Opposes sexual orientation- and transgender-inclusive ENDA
Opposes HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment
Opposes lifting military ban
• Supports “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy: “I do believe the don’t ask, don’t tell policy has been very effective. We’ve got the best military we’ve ever had….Generally, overall, it’s working. I think it’s logical to leave this issue alone—I really do.”

Opposes sexual orientation- and transgender-inclusive hate crimes laws
Opposes civil unions/domestic partnerships
• Opposes civil unions, “[b]ut I do believe that people ought to be able to enter into contracts, exchange powers of attorney, other ways that people who have relationships can enter into.”

Opposes same-sex marriage
• “The family represents the foundation of Western Civilization and civil society and John McCain believes the institution of marriage is a union between one man and one woman. It is only this definition that sufficiently recognizes the vital and unique role played by mothers and fathers in the raising of children, and the role of the family in shaping, stabilizing, and strengthening communities and our nation.”

Unknown stance on same-sex adoption
Opposes Federal Marriage Amendment
• “The constitutional amendment we’re debating today strikes me as antithetical in every way to the core philosophy of Republicans,” McCain said. “It usurps from the states a fundamental authority they have always possessed and imposes a federal remedy for a problem that most states do not believe confronts them.”

Barack Obama
Official Campaign Web site: http://www.barackobama.com

Supports sexual orientation- and transgender-inclusive ENDA
“And as president, I will place the weight of my administration behind the enactment of…a fully inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act to outlaw workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.”

Supports HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment
• On issues like (AIDS) prevention and care, we need to significantly increase funding, and we put out proposals to increase funding by at least $1 billion….On issues like AIDS funding, I see my job as not only getting more money and passing bills, but also changing and reframing the debate. I want to be able to reach out into the African-American community, where there may still be resistance and homophobia, and talk as a U.S. Senator about the importance of funding.

Supports lifting military ban
• “I think it needs to be eliminated. ... I think it is safe to assume that we have a significant number of gay and lesbian soldiers in Iraq. The notion that somehow they should be treated differently is contrary to what this country is about.”

Supports sexual orientation-inclusive hate crimes laws, unclear if supports transgender-inclusive hate crimes laws
• “And as president, I will place the weight of my administration behind the enactment of the Matthew Shepard Act to outlaw hate crimes.”

Supports civil unions/domestic partnerships
• “[T]he civil unions that I proposed would be equivalent in terms of making sure that all the rights that are conferred by the state are equal for same-sex couples as well as for heterosexual couples. Now, with respect to marriage, it’s my belief that it’s up to the individual denominations to make a decision as to whether they want to recognize marriage or not. But in terms of, you know, the rights of people to transfer property, to have hospital visitation, all those critical civil rights that are conferred by our government, those should be equal.”

Opposes same-sex marriage
• “And I should say that personally, I do believe that marriage is between a man and a woman.”

Supports same-sex adoption
Opposes Federal Marriage Amendment
~http://www.thetaskforceactionfund.org/studies_analyses/final_candidates_positions.pdf
Upcoming Events:

Fall 2008

October 9th, noon - National Coming Out Day Photo - Rooke Chemistry Steps

October 19th, 7pm - “For the Bible Tells Me So” - Campus Theatre
With director/writer Daniel Karslake for dialogue and discussion following the film

October 31st, 10pm - 5th Annual “Rocky Horror Picture Show” - Campus Theatre - tickets on sale, Campus Box Office Oct. 15th

November 10th, 7:30pm - Kristallnacht, “Journey to a Hate Free Millennium,” Brent Scarpo - Gallery Theatre

Safe Spaces Update

We have begun another year of “The Alliance at Bucknell: Creating Safe Space” presentations. Last year we had 15 organizations and offices vote to be Safe Spaces, including five sororities, five fraternities, one athletic team and their coaches, one office, and one residential college. So far this year, we have given two presentations and have many more scheduled for the upcoming weeks. The program has been slightly changed this year, adding in new information about how to support a friend who might identify as LGBT. We hope to present to all the fraternities and sororities again this year and to expand our efforts in the Athletic Department. Each organization is required to revote each academic year because old members may have left and new members may have joined.

2007-2008 Safe Spaces:

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

Fraternities:
Chi Phi (chapter and house)
Delta Upsilon (chapter and house)
Sigma Alpha Mu (chapter)
Sigma Phi Epsilon (chapter)
Theta Chi (chapter)

Athletics:
Women's Rowing Team Coaches
Women's Rowing Team

Offices:
Prospect Research, and Management Offices

Others:
Bucknell Student Government
Social Justice Residential College

2008-2009 Safe Spaces:

Others:
Social Justice Residential College

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.