

UCLA LGBT Studies

Spring 2014 – Spring 2015 Newsletter

Chair's Message

Welcome to our first issue of the LGBT Studies newsletter. This issue is packed with pictures and information about our different courses, programs, and events, and the people who have worked with me to make it all happen. I stepped up as the new Chair of LGBT Studies in 2013, but I have been a member of the LBTS Advisory Committee since the academic program's inception in 1997. In these last 18 years, I've seen LGBT Studies grow from a few classes to a well-established minor at UCLA. Our program organizes "QGrad"--the oldest queer graduate student conference in the nation—which celebrated its 15th anniversary in 2014.

We are very indebted to our longtime Chair of the program, Germanic Languages Professor Jim Schultz, the former Chairs, Professors Arthur Little and Gil Hochberg, a dedicated interdepartmental faculty advisory committee (FAC), and our students and allies, for having helped the program withstand everything from budget cuts to annexation. In that survivor spirit, I am looking forward to taking the program to its next incarnation: a graduate program in LGBT Studies. More on that next year.

For now, sit back and take a look at everything we've been doing these last couple of years. Enjoy the pictures (courtesy of undergraduate minor, Winston Luhur, who is highlighted on the back page). And please join me in welcoming our new LBTS program coordinator/student advisor/event administrator/program recruiter, Tomarion Brown, pictured here setting up our LBTS booth for the 2014 Bruin Day. Because of Tomarion's recruitment efforts, the number of LBTS minors has nearly doubled. Other changes include an annual undergraduate research symposium held every Spring, a new logo, and new office space in what FAC Professor Laure Murat called the "Lavender Ballroom."



Student Org News

QGrads

QGrads @ UCLA is a Graduate Student Org focusing on LGBT Studies and promoting Queer scholarship on campus. QGrads organizes the annual "QGrad Conference" one of the nation's leading LGBTQ Studies events.

Email Contact:

qgradconference@gmail.com

QScholars

QScholars is an academically based org for undergraduate students who are interested in conducting LGBTQ focused research at UCLA, and helping to coordinate the annual Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Email Contact:

Qscholarsucla@gmail.com

Save the Date!

Open House '15
Wednesday, 10/14/15
 LBTS Open House 1-2pm will be held in A5/A9 Haines Hall.

QGRAD 2015
Friday, 11/13/15
 Annual QGrad Conference will be held in Royce 306/314.

QScholars 2016
Friday, 4/8/16
 The 3rd Annual UG-Symposium will be held in Royce 306/314.



1. Tomarion Brown at Bruin Day 2014.
 Photo by Staff.

Queering the Campus: Special Events

Lavender Grad 2014

The 17th Annual Lavender Grad was held on June 14th in the Korn Convocation Hall at the Anderson School of Management. Ten LGBTS Minors graduated and received a certificate of completion of the minor and a rainbow cord in recognition of their achievements. Dafne Luna, B.A. in Gender Studies with a Chicana/o Studies Minor received the Ezekiel “Zeke” Webber Leadership in Activism & Education Award, and Chair Gaspar de Alba was honored with a Students’ Choice Outstanding Faculty



2. Tomarion Brown, Dafne Luna, and LGBTS Chair, Profe Gaspar de Alba at Lavender Grad 2014. Photo by Alma Lopez.

New Office Space

On October 29, 2014, we held our first LGBTS Open House in our new office space, A5 and A9 Haines Hall. The two-office suite, or “Lavender Ballroom,” is comprised of a TA/Lecturer office (A9), which also serves as the meeting space for our two student groups, Grads @ UCLA and QScholars, and A5, which is the Chair’s and Program Office, where Alicia and Tomarion hold office hours and advise Minors. In Spring 2014, Alma Lopez’s “Queer Art in L.A.” class installed a permanent mural painted as a collective class project commemorating the Black Cat uprising in 1967.



3. Above, students working on “Queer Uprising in L.A.” which commemorates the first queer protest in Silverlake, two years before Stonewall. 2nd pic: mural unveiling reception with students, faculty, staff, and community.

UC Regents’ Lecturer: Dan Guerrero

LGBTS and Chicana/o Studies collaborated to host the 2015 Regent’s Lecturer, Dan “Gaytino” Guerrero for a 2-week residence in Spring 2015. Dan is a Producer, Director and Performance Artist, and native son of Los Angeles. He was honored at a Welcome Luncheon, visited courses, and offered an intense, 2-day performance workshop for students. Dan ended his visit as the Keynote speaker for the 2nd Annual Undergraduate Symposium.



4. Dan Guerrero at QScholars Luncheon. Photo by Tomarion Brown.



5. Dean of Students, Janina Montero, and Keynote Speaker, Mia Yamamoto, presenting Leadership Award to Juan Fernández, Lavender Grad 2015. Photo by Alma Lopez.

Lavender Grad 2015

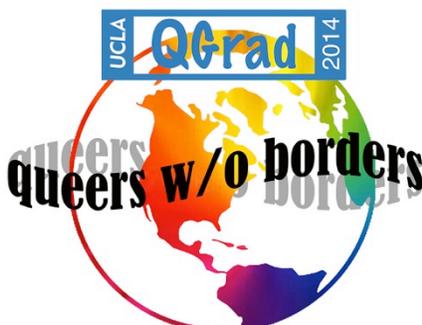
The 18th Annual Lavender Graduation was held on Saturday, June 13, 2015 in Korn Convocation Hall. Nine LGBTS Minors graduated and received a certificate of completion of the minor and a rainbow cord in recognition of their achievements. Juan Fernández, B.A. in Chicana/o Studies with an LGBTS minor, received the Ezekiel “Zeke” Webber Leadership in Activism & Education Award.



6. 2015 Graduating Minors with Tomarion and Profe Gaspar. Photo by Alma Lopez.



2. Germanic Languages Professor Jim Schultz moderating panel at QGrad 2014. Photo by Winston Luhur.



#9. Conference Logo by Alma Lopez.



10. Kevin Medina & Kendy Rivera, co-organizers of QGrad 2014. Photo by Winston Luhur.

Every Fall, the UCLA LGBT Studies Program proudly hosts the annual Queer Graduate Student Conference, which brings together the best graduate student research across the globe. “Queers W/O Borders” examined cross-cultural, transnational and international issues in Queer Studies. There were 4 sessions with 3 panels featuring graduate students from across the U.S. as well as international presenters.

The Keynote Duet featured Dr. Emma Perez, Chair of Ethnic Studies at University of Colorado, presenting “The Shamelessly Hopeful Queer Affect



8. Keynote Duet: Professor Emma Pérez and Professor Elisabeth Ladenson. Moderator: Prof Gaspar de Alba. Photo by Winston Luhur.

of a (former?) Lesbian Terrorist,” and Dr. Elisabeth Ladenson, Chair of French and Romance Philology at Columbia University, presented “Professional Lesbianism: Butch Socks in Juarez.”

QGrad2014 was co-organized by Kendy Rivera, PhD candidate in Chicana/o Studies, and Kevin Medina, MA student in Public Policy and Social Welfare. Over 150 participants registered for the conference, which was generously supported by the David Bohnett Foundation.

The event ended with a patio reception and a poetry reading by “straight outta Compton” UCLA alumnus, Claudia Rodriguez.

To see pictures and the program of the event, check out the Archives link on

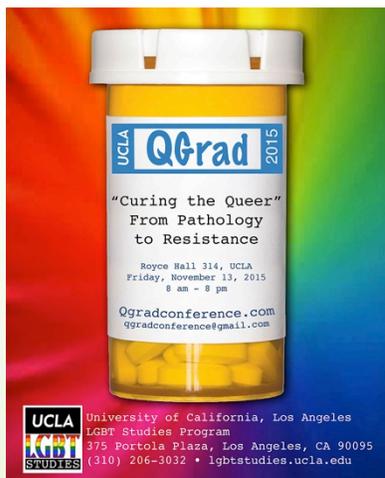


11. Claudia Rodríguez Poetry Reading at QGrad 2014. Photo by Winston Luhur.

SAVE THE DATE

11/13/2015

314 Royce Hall



QGrad 2015: “Curing the Queer”: From Pathology to Resistance

In April 2015, President Obama called for an end to conversion therapies for LGBTQ youth. Although California, Massachusetts, and Washington, D.C. are the only states/districts that have banned conversion therapies, these “treatments” are nonetheless practiced across the United States. QGrad 2015’s theme, “‘Curing’ the Queer: From Pathology to Resistance,” opens up a critical discussion on the (re)emergence of homo/queer/trans phobic culture under the guise of religious or medical restorative therapies and other queerphobic practices.

Courses

Summer 2014

Session A

- LGBTS M114 Instructor: Doran George
- LGBTS/MUS HIS M137 Instructor: Morgan Woolsey

Session C

- LGBTS 181 Instructor: Raja Bhattar



12. Tomarion Brown & Kevin Medina with Raja Bhattar, Director of the LGBT Resource Center at QGrad 2014 Registration. Photo by Winston Luhur.

Winter 2015

- LGBTS/English M101C Instructor: Uri McMillian
- LGBTS/Music History M137 Instructor: Jill Rogers
- LGBTS/CHI STU M136 Instructor: Alma Lopez
- LGBTS 183 Instructor: Lisa Sloan
- Education 147 Instructor: Stuart Biegel



13. Professor Alma Lopez with one of her students, Saul Quintero (LGBTS Minor). Photo by Winston Luhur.



14. Profe Gaspar & Gender Studies Professor Michelle Erai. Photo by Winston Luhur.



15. QGrad 2014 Opening in Royce 314.



16. Performance Studies Professor Sue-Ellen Case moderating panel at QGrad 2014. Photo by Winston Luhur.

Fall 2014

- LGBTS M114 Instructor: James Schultz
- LGBTS/English M101B Instructor: Arthur Little
- LGBTS 181 Instructor: Laura Wynholds
- LGBTS 183 Instructor: Doran George



17. French Professor Laure Murat moderating panel at QGrad 2014, with Elizabeth Ladenson. Photo by Winston Luhur.

Spring 2015

- LGBTS/ENG M101C Instructor: Chris Chism
- LGBTS/CHI STU 181 Instructor: Ernesto Chavez
- LGBTS 183 Instructor: Jill Rogers
- LGBTS 180SL Instructor: Michael Fleming
- LGBTS 181 Instructor: Linzi Juliano
- LGBTS 183 Instructor: Alma Lopez

Undergraduate Research Symposium

The “Real” Q-Word (2014)



18. Dafne Luna, coordinator of the first annual undergraduate research symposium, with Prof. Gaspar. Photo by Winston Luhur.

For the first time in the history of LGBTs at UCLA, the program showcased undergraduate research at a symposium conceptualized and organized by Dafne Luna. The 1st Annual LGBTs Undergraduate Research Symposium titled, “The Real Q-Word,” took place in Spring 2014. The symposium featured Queer Undergraduate Research @ UCLA from Depts. of Chicana/o Studies, English, Gender Studies, Political Science and UG Research @ UCSB and Pitzer College.

LGBTs Minors of the required Service Learning course discussed their internship experiences at various non-profits throughout the LA area at a panel moderated by their instructor, Michael Fleming, executive director of the David Bohnett Foundation. Professor Fleming announced that the total number of hours of service our LGBTs Minors had provided to their community across the years of this service-learning course was 11,000 hours.



19. Professor Michael Fleming's Featured Panel at The "Real" Q-Word, with LGBTs Minors, Juan Fernández and Juan Espinoza. Photo by Winston Luhur.

Staging Queers: Identity, Performance, and Bodies of Entertainment (2015)



Juan Fernández and Alicia Billalobos (at right), both LGBTs minors and founders of the new undergraduate LGBTs student group, QScholars, organized the 2nd LGBTs Undergraduate Research Symposium, which was held in Spring 2015. Dan “Gaytino!” Guerrero, U.C. Regents Scholar in LGBT Studies and Chicana/o Studies that quarter, gave the fabulous keynote presentation of the symposium.



20. Q&A with Dan Guerrero after his Keynote Speech at 2nd Undergraduate Symposium. At right, Dan with LGBTs Minor, Vicente Carrillo. Photo by Winston Luhur.

A unique feature of this year’s undergraduate research symposium was the workshopping opportunities offered by QScholars to presenters who needed editorial guidance on their conference papers, as well as training on how to deliver a conference paper. Special shout-out to Lisa



#21. Lisa Sloane & Saul Quintero at QScholars Workshop, Spring 2015. Photo by Winston Luhur.

Sloane, PhD candidate in Performance Studies and one of our LGBT Studies TAs, for leading this great workshop. Kudos to QScholars for this initiative.

LGBTS Minor Highlight!



#22. Winston Luhur, LGBTS Minor and Photographer-At-Large. Photo by Staff.

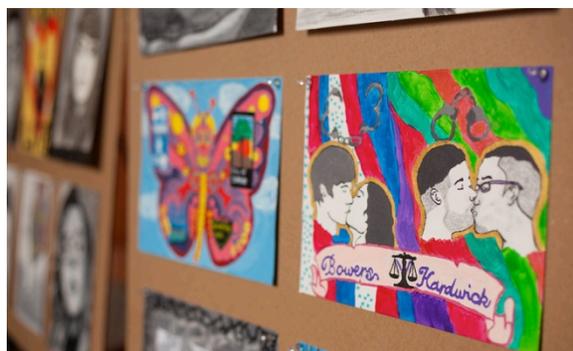
Why the LGBTS Minor? I was in the process of coming out at that time, so I thought why not explore my identity through a more academic means? Queer things and history always fascinated me, and I want to learn more about them.

Favorite LGBTS Class? LGBTS 184: Gender, Sexuality, and Science. It was my first LGBTS class, and the one that got me to decide I should get into the minor. It was a brilliant class, exploring the intertwining histories between the so-called “objective” sciences and the queer folks themselves, and how the sciences both influenced society and the societal expectations of the time. LGBTS 183: Coming out to the Movies: Los Angeles, Queer Outfest Film Festival, comes in a close second. It was a relaxing summer class where we watched films and volunteered at the Outfest while discussing queer films. We also made our own film shorts, which were both fun and terrifying at the same time.

Future plans? I plan to pursue my Ph.D. in biology, hopefully landing in the stem cell/anti-aging field. In the future I hope to land in the emerging biotechnology field of regenerative medicine. I also plan to seriously pursue my photography hobby and travel the U.S. more.

A Little Thanks to Our Friends

We would like to thank all of our allies, alumni, co-sponsors, staff, students, supporters, and volunteers. Thanks to the faculty who yearly agree to serve as panel moderators at our different events. Thanks to Tomarion Brown for all the behind-the-scenes work that helps everything we do run smoothly. Thanks to my wife, Alma Lopez, for all the pro-bono work she does for LGBT Studies, from logos to programs. Thanks to Humanities Dean, David Schaberg, for his commitment to the growth of the program. Finally, thanks to the David Bohnett Foundation for their annual contribution to QGrad.



#23. Original student art from Alma Lopez's "Art & Censorship" class was displayed at QGrad 2014. Photo by Winston Luhur.

Giving

Your tax-deductible contribution to LGBT Studies at UCLA is greatly appreciated. Please go to our program website at <http://lgbtstudies.ucla.edu> and click on Giving.

Through your generosity, we can continue to provide critical programmatic, educational and research support to the present and future generations of LGBT Studies students and faculty.

If you would like your gift to support the forthcoming graduate program in LGBTS, please indicate your wishes in the Comments section.



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#UCLA lgbt studies program