Chair’s Message

Academic Year 2015-2016 is behind us now, but it brought with it some important changes to the LGBT Studies program. First and foremost, the name of the program has been officially changed to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Studies, or, LGBTQS. We administered an online survey to see if the stakeholders of the program--students, faculty, alumni, and community members--wanted to add the "Q" to our acronym to reflect the increasing diversity of genders and sexualities that we now find within the LGBT spectrum, and 66% of our respondents agreed that adding the Q for Queer to our name was a good move. Our proposal was unanimously approved by the College Faculty Executive Committee, the Undergraduate Council, and the Academic Senate. The name change became effective 7/1/2016.

Another significant change for the program was a modification in our program requirements that will make it easier for students to complete the LGBTQS Minor, and will also draw more diverse students to our program. Because our courses contribute to diversifying our general curriculum at UCLA, we will be submitting proposals for specific courses to "count" for the new Diversity Requirement.

A huge change for the LGBTQ community in general was the 6/26/2015 Supreme Court ruling in Obergefell v. Hodges that marriage equality for same-sex couples is a constitutional right. It is now legal for same-sex couples to marry in 36 states and the District of Columbia, as well as in Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. Paradoxically, violent crimes against transgender youth, men, and women increased exponentially, especially hatred directed at queers and transgenders of color, as we saw in the tragic shootings at the Pulse nightclub in Miami, Florida. Our goal in LGBTQ Studies to educate and empower our community is more prescient than ever.

Save the Dates!

Open House ‘17
Wednesday, 10/11/17
LGBTQS Open House 1-3pm will be held in A5/A9 Haines Hall.

QGRAD 2017
Friday, 10/27/17
QGrad Conference will be held in the Bruin Reception Room.

QS Scholars 2018
TBD
The 5th Annual UG-Symposium will be held in Spring quarter, TBD.

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

QS Scholars
QS Scholars 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

On Friday, October 28, 2016, Queer Graduates @UCLA and the LGBTQS Program brought together the latest graduate student research from across the country for the annual QGrad Conference. The event's theme “(Re) Mapping Queer Mobilities” explored and examined the old, new and shifting landscapes of LGBTQ space and movement. The conference featured 24 graduate presenters whose research transcended multiple disciplines, including social sciences, humanities, life sciences and professional schools.

The keynote duet was presented by Karen Tongson, an Associate Professor of English and Gender Studies at University of Southern California and author of Relocations: Queer Suburban Imaginaries (NYU Press). Bamby Salcedo is a high regarded, nationally and internationally recognized activist, advocate, community organizer and social justice advocate.

QGrad 2016 was co-organized by Audrey Silverstre and Vicente Carrillo, PhD candidates in Chicana/o Studies. Over 150 participants registered for the conference, which was generously supported by the David Bohnett Foundation. Overall, QGrad 2016 was an intimate and successful event where participants and attendees alike had the opportunity to discuss new and unfolding dimensions of LGBTQ Studies, while networking with faculty and graduate colleagues.

A selection of the proceedings from QGrad 2016 will be published in volume III of Queer Cats Journal of LGBTQ Studies in Fall 2017.

To see pictures and the program of the event, check out the Archives link on the website: http://qgradconference.com

email: QGradconference@gmail.com

#qgradconference

QGrad 2017: Radical Imaginaries: Queer Scholar-Activism Dismantling the Politics of Hate

(Re)mapping Queer Mobilities, explores and examines the old, new and shifting landscapes of LGBTQ space and movement–leaving home/spaces and seeking sexual encounters in cyberspace. As cities across the U.S. experience demographic and socio-economic shifts many point to gentrification as the principal threat to LGBTQ and other historically marginalized communities.

website: http://qgradconference.com
email: QGradconference@gmail.com
#qgradconference
Queering the Campus: Special Events

QScholars Undergraduate Research Symposium 2017

The 4th Annual LGBTQ Studies Undergraduate Research Symposium was held on Friday, May 5, 2017 at the Kerckhoff Hall was free and open to the public. The event's theme "Painting Yourself Whole: Navigating Intersectionality in a Divided World". The symposium featured 12 undergraduate students who showcased innovative LGBTQ+ research. This year's theme explores the intersectionalities with the LGBTQ+ community and how we navigate, embrace, and negotiate our wholeness in intersectionality, queerness, and gender identity with military, religion, ability status, and other socio-cultural affiliations.

#7. Josh Feldman, keynote speaker presenting at the LGBTQ Studies Undergraduate Symposium. Photo by Winston Luhur.

The 20th Annual Lavender Graduation was held on Saturday, June 17, 2017 in Korn Convocation Hall. Nine LGBTQS Minors graduated and received a certificate of completion of the minor and a rainbow cord in recognition of their achievements.

#9. Faculty members Stuart Biegle, Michelle Erai, Prof. Gaspar and Anurima Banejri. Photo by Alma Lopez.

#10. Above. Tomarion Brown and Prof. with 2016 LGBTS graduating minors.

#11. Right. LGBT Resource Center Director, Raja Bhattar, with keynote speaker, D’Lo. Photos by Alma Lopez.


2017 LGBTQS PRIZE!
Award for Outstanding Work by a LGBTQS Minor

World Arts and Cultures/Dance senior, Khushboo Gulati’s project "Dreamfruit" won the inaugural $500 LGBTQ Studies Prize for Best Senior Project on a Queer Theme. The Senior Project was nominated by Professor Anurima Banerji, who is a member of the LGBTQ Studies Faculty Advisory Committee. Faculty Mentors: Anurima Banerji, Polly Roberts, and Cheng-Chieh Yu.

A Little Thanks to Our Friends

We would like to thank all of our allies, alums, 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 LGBTQ 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 generous annual contribution to QGrad.

Giving

Your tax-deductible contribution to LGBTQ Studies at UCLA is greatly appreciated. Please go to our program website at http://lgbtqstudies.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 LGBTQS, please indicate your wishes in the Comments section.