

GLBTA Pride Center Newsletter

The GLBTA Pride Center



Supporting BSC's gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender population and their allies.

GLBTA Pride Center Grand Opening

We're very happy to announce that the GLBTA Pride Center will have its official grand opening on Monday, January 29, 2007 from 2-5pm in RCC 009A.

Still Has that New Smell

The entire BSC community is invited to see the newly renovated center. Over the winter break, the center received new paint, carpet, and furnishings—including a comfortable lounge area for students.

You're invited to celebrate with us and learn about our plans for the center. If you

haven't met the GLBT Coordinator, Lisa Forest, and the center's clerk, Nicole Diliddo, please introduce yourself to us and tell us what you would like to see come out of the GLBTA Pride Center (pun not intended).

No celebration is complete without food! Come early while your favorite foods and drinks are still available. Stay awhile to meet new people or chat with old friends.

Fashionably Prompt

The first five people who



First Five Win A Prize

come to the grand opening will win a prize.

Leave "fashionably late" far behind. Promptness is the new "cool."

See you at the grand opening!

Homophobia and Racism Webinar

The GLBTA Pride Center, the Student Affairs office, and the Diversity Council are proud to sponsor a webinar conference for the BSC community on the important topic of GLBT people of color.

Many GLBT people of color report feeling isolated from the GLBT community as well as from their racial or ethnic group/s. They express the unfortunate experience of feeling as though they have to choose one identity and

community over the other rather than feeling accepted as a person who has multiple and equally important identities.

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Spring 2007
Volume 1, Issue 1

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A Note in GLBT History

Did you know

In 1973, homosexuality was removed as a mental disorder from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, the official manual of mental disorders used by health care providers.

What's New at the GLBTA Pride Center

The GLBTA Pride Center has many events and programs scheduled for the Spring 07 semester. Here's some of what is happening in February.

Food for Thought

Food for Thought is a safe forum where students can explore, question, and learn new facts about GLBT issues of interest over pizza and soda provided by the center. Food for Thought is a monthly series that looks at topics such as coming out, career issues for GLBT employees, transgenderism, religion and sexuality—to name only a few!

Join us the first Thursday of every month from 5-6pm at the GLBTA Pride Center. February's topic is about transgenderism.

Valentine's Day

On Valentine's Day, in cooperation with Residence Life, the GLBTA Pride Center is facilitating a discussion about how everyone is not equally encouraged to celebrate their love. Learn about the subtle and overt ways that heterosexual privilege manifests in our society.



Join us February 14, from 7-8 pm, in Scott Hall.

Marriage Equality

Join us and the Office for Commuter Services during Commuter Can Week for a discussion about marriage equality and changes happening in Massachusetts on this important issue. February 12, from 12-1, in the GLBTA Pride Center. Refreshments provided by Commuter Services.

For more events, visit www.bridgew.edu/GLBTA/calendar.cfm

What If I'm Straight?

Think you don't belong at the GLBTA Pride Center if you're straight? Think you won't need any services the GLBTA Pride Center provides? Think again. Regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, the GLBTA Pride Center welcomes you and offers services to the entire BSC community.

A is for Allies

We deliberately choose to welcome and serve allies at the Center, and our

The GLBTA Pride Center welcomes everyone regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

commitment to allies is reflected in our very name—the GLBTA Pride Center—where the “A” stands for “allies.”

What We Offer

The center supports anyone who wants to learn more about GLBT issues. Some

students seek knowledge to better support a GLBT family member or friend. Other students have utilized our library materials for course research papers or projects. Still others have learned new ways to reach out to GLBT students and friends. Oftentimes, students appreciate the knowledge and awareness they gained from attending a center-sponsored event. Stop by and see all we have to offer.

Homophobia and Racism

Many disclose that they are in the closet with their racial or ethnic group/s for fear that their families and friends will reject them for their sexual orientation or gender identity. The GLBT community feels no more welcoming to them as they point to racism in the GLBT community.

This webinar will address the complex factors associated with belong-

ing to multiple groups and navigating multiple oppressed identities. Audience members will be able to ask questions of the conference presenters via telephone or the web. For more details on the conference—free of charge to the BSC community—go to www.bridgew.edu/GLBTA/webinar1.htm.



Bayard Rustin was a gay person of color who worked closely with Martin Luther King Jr and helped organize the famous March on Washington.

GLBT Myths & Facts

It's important to remember that most of the negative stereotypes of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people are based on erroneous or inadequate information. Here are some myths and facts to help you flesh out what's myth from fact:

It's a "choice." Sexual orientation and gender identity are not choices, any more than being left-handed or having brown eyes or being straight are choices. The choice is in deciding whether or not to live your life openly

and honestly with yourself and others. Decades of research all point to the fact that sexual orientation is not a choice, and that a person's sexual orientation cannot be changed. Who one is drawn to is a fundamental aspect of who we are.

Gay and lesbian couples can't have healthy families. Quite the opposite is true. According to the American Psychological Association ¹ parenting effectiveness is not related to parental sexual orientation. Decades of social

Children of same-sex parents are *not* more likely to be gay, lesbian, or bisexual.

science research demonstrate that lesbian and gay parents are as likely as heterosexual parents to provide supportive and healthy environments for their children.

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Terminology

What does transgender mean?

Transgender is an umbrella term used to describe people whose gender identity (sense of themselves as male or female) or gender expression differs from that usually associated with their birth sex. Many transgender people live part-time or full-time as members of the other gender. Broadly speaking, anyone whose identity, appearance, or behavior falls outside of conventional gender

norms can be described as transgender. However, not everyone whose appearance or behavior is gender-atypical will identify as a transgender person.

Are trans people gay?

People generally experience gender identity and sexual orientation as two different things. Sexual orientation refers to one's sexual attraction to men, women, both, or neither, whereas gen-

der identity refers to one's sense of oneself as male, female, or transgender. Usually people who are attracted to women prior to transition continue to be attracted to women after transition, and people who are attracted to men prior to transition continue to be attracted to men after transition.

Excerpt from
www.apa.org/topics/transgender.html

Safe College Coalition Splits Up



BRIDGEWATER STATE COLLEGE

Good news! The Safe College Coalition

has split up—into 4 subgroups, that is! The SCC has been instrumental in promoting awareness of and equality for GLBT students, and their efforts are paying off. They have recently grown large enough to create four different subcommittees: Mission, Goals, and Assessment; Frank-Tremblay Scholarship; Events and Promotion; and the Safe Zone committee.

Put your commitment to GLBT equality into action and join one of the subcommittees. You don't need any particular experience or expertise about GLBT issues—only a willingness to learn and serve. People of all sexual orientations and gender identities are welcome. Visit www.bridgew.edu/GLBTA/SafeCollege.cfm

GLBT Myths and Facts



Research has shown that children raised by gay and lesbian parents do just as well on all conventional measures of child development and adjustment, such as academic achievement, psychological well-being and social abilities as children raised by opposite sexed parents.

¹ www.apa.org/pi/lgbcc/publications/lgparenting.pdf

Organizations that Support Same-Sex Parenting

- American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
- American Academy of Family Physicians
- American Academy of Pediatrics American Bar Association
- American Medical Association
- American Psychiatric Association
- American Psychoanalytic Association
- American Psychological Association
- Child Welfare League of America
- National Adoption Center
- National Association of Social Workers
- North American Council on Adoptable Children
- Voice for Adoption



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