



PB POORMAN



PRIDE CENTER



# Pride Magazine

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## Table of Contents

- 2** LGBTQ Studies Certificate
- 3** "This Modern Love & Other Letters"
- 4** Madison Summer Pride Festival
- 5** LGBTQ Student Visit Day
- 6** Queer Career Panel
- 7** National Coming Out Day
- 9** Virtual LGBTQ Community
- 10** Course Spotlight!
- 11** New Harvest Grant



**Now Available!**

# **LGBTQ Studies Certificate**

I am excited to announce the launch of a new LGBTQ Studies Certificate which already has 16 enrolled students. This certificate provides space for students to study how gender and sexuality interact with other salient identity markers including race, ethnicity, social class, ability, and more. It requires 12 credits from a range of LGBTQ-focused classes, independent study, and internship opportunities. Queer historian Dr. Ashley Barnes-Gilbert contextualizes that “the LGBTQ\* Studies certificate is extremely valuable as an academic, activist, and community building tool. [...] Historically, LGBTQ\* identified persons have experienced exclusion and been rendered invisible within the academy—this certificate is one step towards challenging that long history of oppression. And, hopefully, is the first of many inroads to come.” I, for one, am thrilled, but that might also be because I get bragging rights for making history as UW-W’s first LGBTQ Studies Certificate student.



# This Modern Love & Other Letters

During summer 2020, the LGBTQ community came together for a socially distanced feature of the two-person play “This Modern Love and Other Letters” directed by Matt Denney, starring IMPACT co-advisor Isabella Virrueta and fourth year English/Theater student Jamie Love. The play was based on a social experiment by Will Darbyshire, and follows the stories of Vi (Isa) and Goose (Jamie), exploring different forms of love. While the central focus of the play was the romantic love between each characters’ significant other, the background friendship between Vi and Goose is developed before our eyes. The final performance was sold out to LGBTQ students, faculty, and staff! After the play, special just for us, was a talk-back for audience members to ask questions. Both Jamie and Isa were hired as members of Matt Denney’s production company MD Productions following the performance.

QTBIPOC UW-W Alum Get Involved

# Madison Summer Pride Festival

During summer 2020, Madison's Outreach LGBTQ Community Center adapted to the pandemic by moving its annual Pride event online. In urgent response to the uprising for Black lives, this year's "Magic Festival" highlighted and compensated QTBIPOC artists, speakers, and performers. Included in the five-hour production were four UW-Whitewater alum who emceed throughout the event, including (from left to right): Radaya Ellis (2016), Kyra Tomcheck (2018), Isa Viruetta (2019), and Brianna Donaldson-Morton (2020). I was so excited to see UW-W friends and family have their talent and advocacy recognized through being selected as emcees. LGBTQ students have been active advocates on campus and in their communities for decades, and it's beautiful to see this legacy of community involvement continue with my generation of recent alums.



Fourteen area high school students enrolled in our very first "LGBTQ Visit Day," held virtually on October 22nd. Co-hosted by the Office of Admissions and the PB Poorman Pride Center, prospective students learned about the academic experiences and social opportunities that help students to thrive at UW-Whitewater. Attendees connected with LGBTQ student leaders, faculty, and staff who spoke about the LGBTQ Studies Certificate, Purple Pride Learning Community, gender inclusive housing, internship and employment opportunities at the PB Poorman Pride Center, applying to UW-W, and more! Admissions Counselor, Kate McKay, helped students learn how to assess college campuses based on their LGBTQ resources and opportunities. In spring, McKay will co-host an LGBTQ 101 webinar for the Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling, and co-present a conference presentation on increasing LGBTQ inclusivity through college admissions.

# VIRTUAL LGBTQ VISIT DAY





## The Second Annual Queer Career Panel

The Queer Career Panel has quickly popularized as a space where LGBTQ students can build their network beyond UW-Whitewater faculty and staff. IMPACT hosted the second Queer Career Panel for its members on September 22nd. Twenty five students benefited from building community with each other and LGBTQ area professionals. Participants learned how to advocate for oneself in the workplace, as well as how to do LGBTQ advocacy work.

Panelists included: Sonja Worthy (left) who works in community mental health focusing on formerly incarcerated folks ; Janine Gardner (middle) who works as a full spectrum doula and is involved in community theater; and Kaci Sullivan (right) who's trained in animation and game design and founded the Trans Liberation Art Coalition and his own business, KS Strategy and Design. IMPACT President Chamomile Harrison attended the event and had this to say about the opportunities it afforded her: "I've been exposed to so few examples of LGBTQ people having *careers*. As a queer senior, it means so much to see that I can have a professional future that is supportive of who I am. It was great to get guidance on living my best queer life post-graduation."



Featuring Saint Saunter

# National Coming Out Day

The Pride Center and IMPACT celebrated National Coming Out Day with a virtual dance party. Sarah Akawa kicked off the celebration with an afternoon keynote about curating intentionally inclusive spaces. During her talk, she spoke about her identity as a transnational adoptee, as well as her experience with racial and gendered exclusion in mainstream LGBTQ spaces. She gave advice to students on creating our own spaces--emphasizing building the community we want to see and be a part of, not fearing how many people will show up to an event or how popular it might become. The day ended with Saint Saunter and DJ Sunstone streaming a dance party over Twitch. IMPACT members got dressed up and danced with each other virtually over Zoom. For some, it was their first time ever experiencing an LGBTQ "club."

# Virtual LGBTQ Community



One silver lining of living and learning in our remote environment has been the creation of a virtual LGBTQ community on Discord. Discord, whose tagline is “your place to talk and hang out,” is a free online community-building and messaging space. Unlike other social media platforms, you have to be invited to join a Discord server which offers a level of confidentiality to LGBTQ students. The design of our “Virtual Pride Center” intentionally provides an outlet for levity and lightness, including channels for pets, memes, and arts & crafts. With over 50 members, it has grown from necessity into a place so many of us now call home. I always look forward to reading Chamomile’s memes at six in the morning, or Alyx’s latest “gender of the day” post. Discord will continue to be an important community-building tool even after we safely move back into our beloved Pride Center that we miss so much.



I wanted to let you all know how grateful I am to be here. Thank you for creating a place where we can safely be ourselves while sharing our struggles, pets, and stupid memes. Love y'all.

--Kali Anditon

# Course Spotlight!

## "Social Work Practice with LGBTQ+ Populations"

Assistant Professor of Social Work, Dr. Kristen Prock, joined UW-Whitewater in fall 2019 as a licensed clinical social worker with expertise in LGBTQ youth homelessness. She quickly joined the Chancellor's Committee for LGBT\* Issues and taught a Special Topic's "LGBTQ Studies in Social Work" course in spring 2020. Now officially approved, Dr. Prock



will teach "Social Work Practice with LGBTQ+ Populations" as a hybrid course offered to both graduate and undergraduate students in spring 2021. The course centers the intersectional experiences of LGBTQ people, introducing students to LGBTQ history, legislation and policy, theory, and contemporary issues through a social work lens. Many area LGBTQ advocates with social work backgrounds will be invited as guest speakers to share their experience and network with students. The social realities of homophobia and transphobia leave LGBTQ young people in particular vulnerable to abuse and neglect, as well as overrepresented in the fostercare system. The course's combination of theory and practice is an invaluable contribution to the LGBTQ Studies Certificate for students wanting to go into advocacy-based work.



In May 2020, the PB Poorman Pride Center was awarded a \$5,688 New Harvest Grant to scaffold a series of LGBTQ recruitment and mentoring efforts designed to better support incoming and graduating students. These two moments of professional transition can result in gaps of support, and the New Harvest Foundation prioritizes innovative projects that respond to undermet needs in the LGBTQ community. For example, GLSEN’s robust 2017 National School Climate Survey with over 23,000 LGBTQ youth reports that the majority (62.2%) of LGBTQ high school students experience discrimination at school, which results in them being twice as likely (10%) to report that they do not plan to pursue post-secondary education. This negative relationship to formal education increases for students who hold multiple marginalized identities that also experience school “push out.” One goal of this project, then, is to provide greater access to resources and opportunities for incoming LGBTQ students to enable a smoother transition to college. At the same time, LGBTQ alum have been involved in campus and community projects for decades. Each year, LGBTQ alum express an interest in building a pathway for them to remain involved and provide mentorship to current students. New in 2020, we can offer such platforms. Engaging prospective students and building alum connections is a powerful new campus opportunity.



# Queer Kudos

Student leaders **Avery Ward & Chamomile Harrison** recently celebrated gender affirming legal name changes.

University Center student employee, **Laney Unke**, is working to add pronouns on HawkCards.

Even during a pandemic, **Sam Gauthier** released 7 songs with punk group Falling Flat, and opened for Beartooth to thousands of drive-in audience members.

Alum, **Cole Pinno**, taught his first LGBTQ Studies course at Carroll University, titled "One Acronym Two Views: LGBTQIA\* through an American and German Lens."

Women's & Gender Studies Instructor, **Dr. Ashley Barnes-Gilbert**, successfully coordinated the Virtual Feminist Coffee Shop series.

Assistant Professor of Social Work, **Dr. Kristen Prock**, served as an LGBTQ History Month keynote speaker at Michigan State University.

