

JMU's Queer Campus History

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Presentation Overview

- Part I: Queering Campus History
- Part II: Origins of LGBTQ+ Support
- Part III: Contemporary SOGIE
- Part IV: Questions/Comments

Learning Outcomes

- At the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:
 - Explain why LGBTQ+ campus history at JMU matters.
 - Discuss the evolution of LGBTQ+ support on campus in their own words.
 - Identify opportunities where LGBTQ+ support can grow moving forward.

Queering Campus History

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Baird's Letter

Why Campus History?

- "Reclaiming" subaltern histories
- Accurate, inclusive, relevant pasts > "belongingness"
- Renamed 3 buildings on Quad
- Walking tours & exhibits
- More research needed!
- See our Linktr.ee:







Origins of LGBTQ+ Support

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CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONAL FOCUS:
LAMBDA GAMMA LAMBDA

Lambda Gamma Lambda is one of the newest and most controversial organizations on campus. Due to the amount of confusion and misinformation about the group, SCOOTER'S NOOZE is interested in providing Lambda Gamma Lambda's point of view and explaining the purposes of the organization as it was conceived.

Lambda Gamma Lambda serves many functions: The organization serves as a support group for gay and lesbian students on campus; the group also serves to educate the campus community about gays in order to reduce prejudice and discrimination; and finally to act as service group for JMU students and the city of Harrisonburg by establishing a gay hot-line.

As a social group, Lambda Gamma Lambda tries to create a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere for gay and lesbian students. This is done by organizing parties and other social events.

As an educational function, the group sends members into classrooms to discuss homosexuality with Human Sexuality and Psychology courses.

Any JMU student may become a member of Lambda Gamma Lambda, the group is not limited exclusively to gay or lesbian students.

Overall, Lambda Gamma Lambda hopes to benefit the general campus population by raising awareness, destroying stereotypes, and promoting an atmosphere of tolerance.

BEING THE
CHANGE.

The start of Lambda Gamma Lambda

- Spring 1984 started by Luke Adams and Joe Hage
- “JMU sticks out like a sore thumb because no group on campus deals with rights of homosexuals. The University of Virginia, Virginia Tech, William and Mary, VCU and ODU have a gay alliance” - Luke Adams

Spring 1985

- 'Harmony' was formed
- SGA approved budget for LGL
- 'That Thing' published first edition
- First Gay Awareness Week – April 1985

SGA president

Randy See
Helen MacNabb

Helen MacNabb and Randy See are each highly qualified and deserve to be SGA president. Phil Holland, also running, has done good work as SGA treasurer and on the proposed campus radio station, but we feel his qualifications aren't as outstanding as either MacNabb's or See's.

MacNabb, currently SGA legislative vice president, has been a forceful and persistent presence in the SGA and has shown a lot of insight and knowledge into student concerns. She's very professional.

As legislative vice president, MacNabb got five additional library hours posted for students and is pushing for more. She worked hard on last fall's successful SGA voter registration drive and she's still working on the library's noise problem. Although we feel the SGA noise campaign she worked on was a wasted effort, she's one of few

candidates who realizes the problem exists.

Randy See, currently chairman pro-tempore of the SGA senate and a former student Honor Council advocate, also has the SGA experience needed to be an effective president. He offers a lot of intangibles, is more straight-forward and realistic than his opponents and is a strong leader. See stood up first, foremost, and for a while, almost alone in the SGA when the bleacher proposal was initiated. He led the charge against constructing bleachers on the hill and showed tremendous leadership when the funding for Lambda Gamma Lambda came before the SGA.

See views the SGA as being extremely complacent and says he will "shake things up a bit" if elected. A shake-up would do the SGA good.

For students, it's a tough decision. It's too bad there can't be a co-presidency.

That Thing...

the newsletter of lambda gamma lambda

P.O. Box L-214 James Madison University, Harrisonburg VA 22807

September 17, 1985

volume two, number one

FROM THE EDITORS...

Depending on your status, welcome or welcome back!! Your editorial staff hopes that all enjoyed a relaxing, healthy and fruitful break.

Another new year is upon us, readers. Like all new years, this year brings new hopes, dreams, and aspirations, as well as new difficulties, hurdles, responsibilities and inevitably, [re-newed] biases. In its first year of existence at JMU, Lambda Gamma Lambda was quite successful in overcoming some of those hurdles, but the organization can hardly afford to rest on its successes. We must all face this year with increased vigor and enthusiasm if we are to continue trying to free this society from its long and well-established tradition of discrimination and non-acceptance based on sexual orientation.

The administration of LGL has pledged itself to aid any and all students interested in promoting freedom to express sexual preference. The staff of "That Thing" is certainly no exception: Our purpose is to provide an outlet for relaying—often with a certain degree of levity—pertinent information to JMU's gay-lesbian community and its friends. In addition, there are special interest sections such as personals, classifieds, and social notes; naturally there is no charge for such entries. Of course, one can always expect a prompt reply from our infamous advice/etiquette columnist, Miss Thing.

This is your newsletter—please let us hear from you! We are interested in constructive criticism and hints for future inclusions in addition to entry queries. Do your part to help make "That Thing" a worthwhile enterprise.

Have a good year. With high regards, The Editors.

MEETING TIME

Our first meeting of the year will be held Tuesday, September 17 at 7:30p.m. in room A of the campus center. We'll be discussing all sorts of things that you just wouldn't want to miss, so don't!

WHO WE ARE... a brief history

The original charter for Lambda Gamma Lambda was submitted in the spring semester of 1984 by Luke Adams and Joe Hage. They thought up the name, the sign, the colors (red, black and white), and everything else that is Lambda Gamma Lambda today. The name of our group is significant in that the "Lambda" word and sign is the universal gay symbol. The "Gamma" in our name is apparently just a catchy word to link the two Lambdas together. Although we presently describe L.G.L. as a gay-lesbian support group, rumor has it that Luke and Joe originally submitted it simply as a human rights organization; supposedly because an outwardly gay organization was denied recognition by the university years earlier.

Because Luke and Joe submitted the charter just before their own graduation, they had to locate someone to take on L.G.L. once they were gone. This delightful load was heaped on the shoulders of our President, Art Thomas, at a graduation day party.

The first official meeting of Lambda Gamma Lambda was held at the information desk at the Warren Campus Center when Art Thomas and Steve White picked up the final approval of the charter and were told that they had to list the names of the officers of the group before L.G.L. would be officially recognized. They held a meeting right then and there and elected Steve as the first President and Art as the first Vice President of L.G.L. More official elections were, of course, held later.

The growth of Lambda Gamma Lambda since that time has been simply amazing. Already, we are the size of many longer established groups, and our growth continues.

FARM PARTY

This Saturday, September 21, LGL will have its first party of the year at the JMU University Farm. The cost of admission is \$3 and includes music, food, drink (alcoholic and non) and lots of fun and games. Tickets may be purchased through the club box (L 214) or by contacting Art (434-5766) or Scott (433-0947). Let's make our first party of the year one we'll be talking about for the rest of the year.

oh yeah...

On Wednesday September 4, LGL sponsored a table at the university Student Activities Night. Thanks to everybody who stopped by.

Gay Awareness Week

April 8-13



Gay people:
a part of your life

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* GAY AWARENESS WEEK *

APRIL 8-13, 1985

Mon film "Pink Triangles" showings 2:00 - 3:00 Rm D, WCC
6:30 - 7:20 Rm D, WCC
Open forum: "On Being Gay" times 4:00 - 5:00 Rm D, WCC
(an opportunity to talk 7:20 - 8:00 Rm D, WCC
to gay students about
being gay)

Tues film "Lavender" showings 2:00 - 2:30 Rm D, WCC
6:00 - 6:30 Rm A, WCC
Guest speaker:
Kevin Berril of New
York, National Gay
Task Force, "Responding
to Anti-Gay/Lesbian
Violence and
Harrassment" times 2:30 - 4:00 Rm B, WCC
6:30 - 8:00 Rm A, WCC

Wed film "Some of Your Best
Friends" showings 2:00 - 3:00 Rm D, WCC
7:00 - 8:00 Rm D, WCC
Guest speaker:
Father Bill LaFratta, JMU Catholic Campus Minister
"A Catholic Perspective
On Some Issues Regarding
Homosexuality" time 3:00 - 4:00 Rm D, WCC
Thou RA Forum: "Responding
to the Problems of Gay
Residents" time 2:00 - 4:00 Rm D, WCC
Guest Speaker:
Tom DePriest, attorney
"Legal Issues: Questions
and Answers" time 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Blackwell Auditorium
Moody Hall

Fri film "Michael, A Gay
Son" showings 2:00 - 3:00 Rm D, WCC
5:00 - 6:00 Rm D, WCC
Rap Session: "Coming-Out
Process; How to Tell
Parents Family and
Friends" featuring Gene
Baker from Parents and
Friends of Gays time 7:00 - 10:00 pm
Rm 14 Burruss Hall

Sat Rap Session: "Relating to
Homosexuality and
Homosexual Clients"
featuring Gene Baker from
Parents and Friends of
Gays time ~~7:00 - 10:00 pm~~ 7:00 - 1:00
Rm 14 Burruss Hall

BEING THE
CHANGE.

1987/1988 - Student Activism/Community Involvement

- LGL and Harmony participated in the Second National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay rights
- 1988: LGL participated in the Gay Rights March in Washington DC
- Contributed a square to the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt



BEING THE
CHANGE.

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Early Staff Efforts

- Counseling Center - 'Alternative Lifestyles' support group
- Chris Gatesman – credited with the start of LGBTQ+ resources on campus
 - Advisor to Harmony
 - Helped develop Safe Zone
 - Library in office
 - Be the Change nomination

"For me, the greatest experience came from the opportunity to meet one-on-one with students, listening to their stories and encouraging them to fully participate in the JMU experience without feeling shame or limiting themselves because of their LGBT identity," - Gatesman

Contemporary SOGIE

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SOGIE

- “Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity & Expression (SOGIE) works toward promoting James Madison University's commitment to diversity through education, support, advocacy and the fostering of equity for all students, inclusive of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions.”
- Established 2018
- Emerged from LGBTQ and Ally Education Program (housed in The Well, JMU Health Center)
- Jordan Todd (director) and Cassidy Angelo (asst director) angelocn@jmu.edu



Lavender Alumni Chapter

SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY AND EXPRESSION

ABOUT US

EVENTS ▶

DIVERSITY EDUCATION

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

RESOURCES ▶

ADVISORY BOARD

LAVENDER ALUMNI CHAPTER



JMU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

— *Lavender Alumni Chapter* —

For more information about the Lavender Alumni Chapter, which is a space for our graduates who identify as members of, or are allies of, the LGBTQ+ community, click [here](#).

Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity & Expression Programming

Student Success Center
738 South Mason Street
Room 1310
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22807

Email Us
540-568-2545

Operating Hours follow the Student Success Center



Selected Bibliography

- Sarah E. Truman and Stephanie Springgay, “Queer Walking Tours and Affective Contours of Place,” *Cultural Geographies*, (2019)
- Gregory Samantha Rosenthal, “Make Roanoke Queer Again: Community History and Urban Change in a Southern City,” *The Public Historian*, v. 39 (2017).
- Christine Robinson and Sue E. Spivey, “Structuring Injustice: Partisan Politics in the Making and Unmaking of JMU’s EO Policy,” *Journal of Homosexuality* (2011).
- Wendy L Rouse, “A Very Crushable, Kissable Girl: Queer Love and the Invention of the Abnormal Girl among College Women in the Gilded Age and Prog Era,” *Journal of Gilded Age & Prog Era* (2022).
- Outhistory <https://outhistory.org/> (See exhibits on Virginia, also Higher Education)
- Kelly Bolding, “You Can’t Ask the Dead: A Case Study of LGBTQIA Identities and Outness in Archival Collections,” presentation for SAA, 2018.
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- Margaret A. Nash and Jennifer A. R. Silverman, “‘An Indelible Mark’: Gay Purges in Higher Education in the 1940s,” *History of Education Quarterly* 55 (4) (Nov 2015), pp. 441-59.

Questions?

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