

OUT in Front LGBTQIA+ & Ally College Conference

6th Annual Conference

February 21, 2015



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Francesca Walker, Chair- Vanderbilt University
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Welcome!!!

Welcome to the 6th annual OUT in Front LGBTQIA+ and Ally College Conference at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee! The 2015 OUT in Front Planning Committee and the students, faculty, and staff at Vanderbilt University are excited to host you for this day, as we work together to build community, find common voices, and empower undergraduate and graduate lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans*, queer, questioning, intersect, asexual, and allied students.

Mission

The mission of OUT in Front is to engage students, faculty, and staff from across the region in issues relevant to the LGBTQIA+ & Ally community and society at large. Each year, the conference strives to connect both individuals and communities with resources that will help to enrich lives in the area. OUT in Front strives to enhance leadership development for LGBTQIA+ and allied students.

Diversity & Inclusion Statement

In addition to highlighting the imperative nature of sexual and gender identities for both individuals and communities, OUT in Front recognizes that we each hold multiple identities and that these identities are intersectional in nature and impact our individual and collective histories as well as the way we interact with the world around us. In building diverse and inclusive communities, we honor all of these multiplicitous identities and acknowledge ask that conference-goers respect the various lived experiences that attendees bring to Out in Front.

General Information

All Gender Restrooms

In order to create a safe space for attendees, there are both gender inclusive and “gender-assigned” restrooms available at OUT in Front. Gender inclusive restrooms for use by all genders are located within Sarratt-Rand Student Center on the third floor (near room 325 and on the first floor outside of the cinema). All gender restrooms will be labeled. “Gender-assigned” restrooms are located on the first floor by the elevators and on the second floor.

Designated Smoking Areas

Vanderbilt University is a smoke-free campus. Smoking is prohibited in all buildings on campus and on the grounds of the campus with the exception of designated outdoor smoking areas. The nearest designated smoking area is located outside of the Sarratt Cinema, near the large outdoor staircase.

Conference Lanyard & Name Badges

During check in, you will receive a name badge which lists your name and pronouns. We will also have “no photo” stickers you can put on your name badge if you do not want to be included in any pictures or media taken during the event. Blank name badges will also be available if you wish to make your own name badge. Your OUT in Front name badge and lanyard identify you as a conference participant; in order to have access to all of the conference workshops, sessions, caucuses, and meals, please be sure that you are wearing your conference badge throughout the day.

Accessibility

The OUT in Front 2015 Planning Team has worked hard to make the 2015 conference accessible for attendees with disabilities. In the spirit of learning how our communities can be inclusive of and accessible to all people, we have put together these guidelines for creating a community where people with disabilities are valued and respected.

Words like retard, cripple, lame, and crazy have been used to bully and oppress disabled people for many decades. Please don't use these words casually.

Understand that the lives of disabled people are neither inspirational nor pitiful by virtue of our disabilities. Rather our disabilities are ordinary and familiar parts of who we are.

Ask and wait for an answer before you try to help someone. What you assume is helpful may not be or may be disrespectful.

We encourage folks to be considerate of the following:

- Some folks are sensitive to smell. Please try and avoid using and/or wearing scented products.
- Please be aware that there will be seats reserved in the front and back rows of sessions for folks that have specific needs around vision, hearing, wheelchair access, and the need to possibly exit easily and quickly.
- Sarratt/Rand does have one elevator that allows folks to access every floor of the building. The maps below show where that elevator is located.
- Sarratt/Rand has one accessible entrance located on the map below. The accessible entrance enters into the first floor near Sarratt/Rand Cinema where check-in, breakfast, and the opening session will take place.
- We will be providing everyone with a name badge that will include folks name, gender pronouns they use, and institutional and/or community affiliation.
- We ask folks to also always state their name and pronouns before speaking if possible to create a more accessible conference experience for everyone.

Social Media

For those of you who LOVE social media, make sure you keep up with everything OUT in Front! Please use the following accounts and hashtags while you post all day about the great fun and learning that is happening today.

tumblr: <http://outinfrontvu.tumblr.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/734715556595310/>

Instagram: @OIFConference

And twitter: @OIFConference

Hashtags - #oif2015, #oifsubmission, #OIFbranchingOUT

Gender Pronouns

Q: What is a gender pronoun?

Gender pronouns are the words that we use to refer to ourselves and others. Some individuals may use gender pronouns that are different from the ones that you'd assume, so it's always important to find out what pronouns a person uses. Each OUT in Front attendee's gender pronouns can be found on their name badge.

Q: Why do gender pronouns matter?

Using the correct gender pronouns is one of the most basic ways to respect an individual. It is a privilege to not have to worry about which pronoun someone is going to use for you based on how they perceive your gender. If you have this privilege, yet fail to respect someone else's gender identity, it is not only disrespectful and hurtful, but also oppressive.

Q: I really want to be respectful, but gender inclusive pronouns are new and unfamiliar to me. How do I learn more about these pronouns without being hurtful to someone?

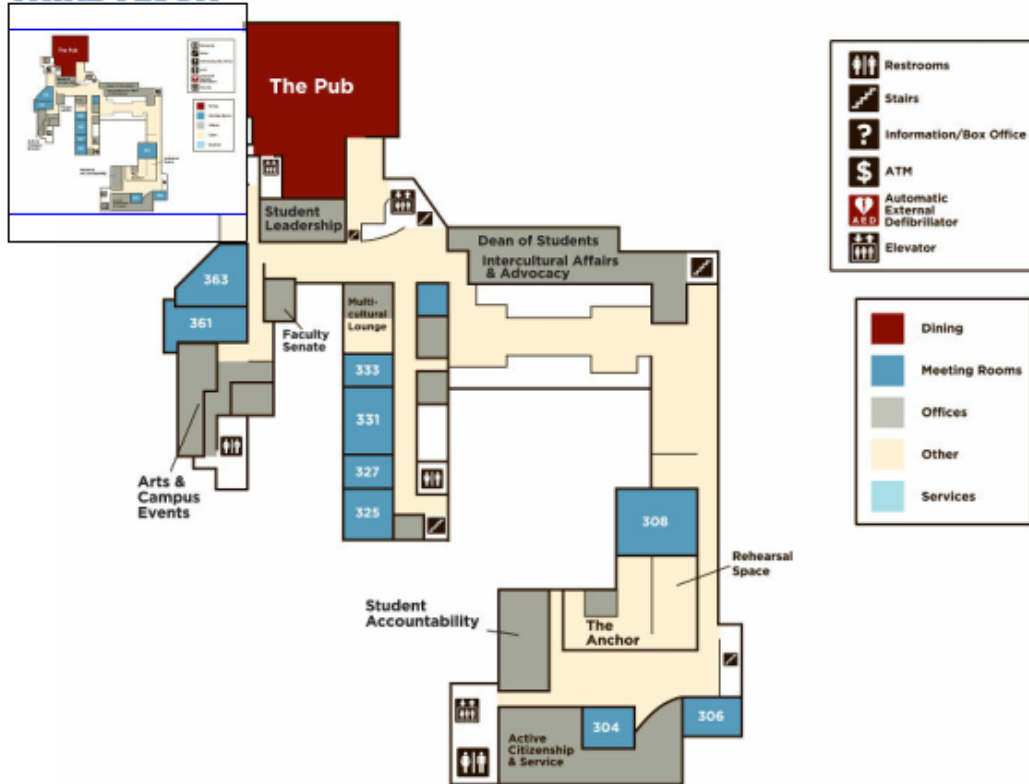
Below you will find a chart demonstrating how to use SOME common pronouns. If you have any questions about how to use a type of pronouns you've never encountered, please feel free to ask any OUT in Front Planning Committee member.

Subject	Object	Possessive
they	them	theirs
per	pers	pers
e/ey	em	eirs
ze	hir	hirs
[name]	[name]	[name]'s
she	her	hers
he	him	his

Map of Sarratt-Rand



THIRD FLOOR



Theme



Branching OUT is the theme for the 2015 OUT in Front Conference. What does the theme mean? Branching OUT strives to explore all aspects of identity, from the history and awareness of identity to the current tools college leaders can use to affect change on campus and the community. We want all conference attendees to branch out of their comfort zone and into the communities present at OUT in Front.

Roots: The roots are what ground you and draw in resources. In relation to LGBTQIA+ and Ally identities, the roots signify history, awareness, education, common language, and identity.

Trunks: Trunks are strong and provide you with room and spaces in which to grow. We see the trunk as a place to educate others, educate oneself, and talk about identity/self development, intersectionality, and the tools needed for social justice and ally ship.

Branches: Branches reach out into the surrounding area and are not afraid to grow into the community around them. For the LGBTQIA+ and Ally conference attendees, branches are the places to discuss impact, action plans, activism, change, policy work, and politics.

Schedule at a Glance

Time:

8:00 am Check in & breakfast

9:00 am Welcome/Brave Space

9:30 am-10:30 am Session 1

10:35 am-11:35 am Session 2

11:35 am-12:55 pm Lunch

1:00 pm-2:00 pm Session 3

2:05 pm-3:05 pm Session 4

3:10 pm-4:10 pm Keynote

4:15 pm Closing- Action Plan!!!

5:00 pm

Location:

Gallery outside Sarratt Cinema

Sarratt Cinema

Various Rooms in Sarratt-Rand

Various Rooms in Sarratt-Rand

Rand Dining Center
or off campus

Various Rooms in Sarratt-Rand

Various Rooms in Sarratt-Rand

Sarratt Cinema

Sarratt Cinema

Conference ends

Lunch

There will be \$5 vouchers available to use for lunch in the Rand Dining Center (2nd floor). Any additional money spent in the dining center will be the attendee's responsibility. If you did not pick up a voucher at registration, they will be available at the registration table (gallery area, 1st floor). One voucher per person will be given.

If you do not want to eat on campus, below is a list of restaurants, discounts offered (if given), distance from campus, address, food options, and price ranges. If you are going to a restaurant that offers a discount to attendees, please make sure to bring this program and your name badge with you.

Mellow Mushroom

No tax and 10% off

0.2 mile from campus

212 21st Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37203

Gluten free, vegan, vegetarian options

\$11-\$30

Michaelangelo's Pizza

25% off

0.3 mile from campus

205 22nd Ave N, Nashville, TN 37203

Gluten free, vegetarian options

\$11-30

Qdoba

154 feet from campus

2019 West End Ave, Nashville, TN 37203

Gluten free, vegetarian options

Under \$10

Moe's

413 feet from campus

2511 W End Ave, Nashville, TN 37203

Gluten free, vegetarian options

Under \$10

Chipotle

0.2 mile from campus

400 21st Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37203

Gluten free, vegan, vegetarian options

Under \$10

Cafe Coco

0.4 mile from campus

210 Louise Ave, Nashville, TN 37203

Gluten free, vegetarian options

Under \$10

Jimmy Johns

0.2 mile from campus

2318 West End Avenue, Nashville, TN 37203

Gluten free, vegetarian options

Under \$10

Bread & Co.

338 feet from campus

2525 West End Avenue, Nashville, TN 37203

Gluten free, vegan, vegetarian options

\$11-\$30

Panera

0.3 mile from campus

406 21st Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37240

Gluten free, vegan, vegetarian options

Under \$10

GoGo Sushi

0.3 mile from campus

2057 Scarritt Place, Nashville, TN 37212

Vegetarian options

\$11-\$30

Let's Pizza

0.2 mile from campus

2323 Elliston Place, Nashville, TN 37203-1702

Vegetarian options

\$11-\$30

Subway

0.3 mile from campus

400 21st Avenue South #1, Nashville, TN

0.3 mile from campus

2817 West End Avenue, Nashville, TN 37203

Gluten free, vegan, vegetarian options

Under \$10

Satay

0.1 mile from campus

2412 Elliston Place, Nashville, TN 37203

Gluten free, vegetarian options

Under \$10

San Antonio Taco Co.

0.3 mile from campus

416 21st Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37203

Vegetarian options

Under \$10

Keynote Performance

J Mase III and Regie Cabico's

Cupid Ain't @#\$%!: An Anti-Valentine's Day Poetry Movement

Cupid Ain't @#\$%!: An Anti-Valentine's Day Poetry Movement has been entertaining fans for 7 seasons. It is an international tour started in Philly that has since reached NYC, DC, London, Oakland & Detroit, among a host of other cities. Founded by J Mase III and co-curated by the infamous Regie Cabico, it features the bitterest of poets and performers talking about failed relationships, love, sex and Cupid that devil himself. Cupid Ain't @#\$% uses humor and a quick witted political edge to create an alternative to Valentine's day that is funny, sad, and just a wee bit arousing.



Identity Caucuses

Identity caucuses are an opportunity for conference attendees to come together around a specific identity they have. These identity caucuses were created to make a safe space for participants to engage in healthy discussion and dialogues about their experiences. These identity caucuses are intended to be safe and affirming spaces for those who share that identity. Because of this, we ask that you do not join caucuses or identities with which you do not self-identify.

Identity Caucus Ground Rules for Brave Space:

1. Assume good will
2. Challenge with care
3. Move up/ Move back
4. Respect confidentiality
5. Practice dismantling -isms and building safer space
6. Any additional ground rules participants would like to establish

The following Identity Caucuses will be offered throughout the day:

- **Asexuality Caucus:** *Facilitator Julian Sun*
- **Leadership Caucus:** *Facilitator Wil De Los Santos and Musbah Shaheen*
- **Bi/Pan/Queer/Fluid:** *Facilitator TBD*
- **Non-Supportive Work/School Environments:** *Facilitator Jaison Briar*
- **Advisor/Staff/Faculty who support LGBTQIA+ Students on your Campuses:** *Facilitator Petey Peterson*
- **Trans/GenderQueer/Gender-Nonconforming Caucus:** *Facilitator Robles*
- **Interfaith Caucus:** *Facilitator Sarah Porter*
- **Queer People of Color (QPOC) Caucus:** *Facilitator Sara Green*
- **Allies Caucus:** *Facilitator Kathy Halbrooks*

List of Workshops and Caucuses Offered

The workshops offered at OUT in Front this year cover a wide range of topics but they all relate back to our theme of Branching OUT. In order to further clarify the purpose of these workshops, each workshop has the tenets of the theme denoted next to the title by letters. The letters represent the tenets of the theme as follows:

B: Branches

T: Trunks

R: Roots

Session 1 (9:30-10:30 am)

Allyship Isn't Always Easy: (T)

Presenter: Eric Neal Samuels, Nashville Electrician's Local 429

Room 189

What happens when you're the only ally in the room? Do you step back and go with the status quo, or do you face inequality head on? Join us in discussing how we can take action as allies when things get tough. Topics will include learning to recognize a hostile/abusive situation, how to measure a response to fit the audience, and how to deal with repercussions of intercession. Strap on your gloves and get ready to stand shoulder to shoulder with your LGBT peers!

When OUT isn't an Option—Queer Survival in Straight Spaces : (T)

Presenter: J Briar, Nashville Electrician's Local 429

Room 216

So you made it to OUT in Front but you're not entirely out. We're in the same boat! While it is great to be OUT in Front, for some of us, it isn't always possible. Whether you can't be out at home, school or work, we'll strategize around surviving spaces that aren't supportive to our identities. Gear up and get ready to talk shop- we'll fill your tool box with tips and tricks to build community.

Real Love: The Ongoing Struggle to Have Successful Relationships in a Heterosexual Society: (T) (R)

Presenters: Dionno Taylor, M.A. and David Long CASAC-T

Room 325

Our lives are multifaceted, shaped and manipulated by various factors such as economic status, communal values, culture, etc. Therefore, it is unsuitable to generalize the experiences of others by forcing them into binary structures such as homosexual and heterosexual, male and female, or top and bottom. The intention of this research/discussion is to provide related data that showcases the art of MSM relationships. Presenters will highlight and engage in an open discussion on successes and failures in MSM relationships as well as provide proven methods used to sustain healthy, long-lasting, and fulfilling relationships in a heterosexual society. Participants are expected to learn how to develop new and successful partnerships, the meaning of healthy vs. unhealthy relationships, and what it means to find real love in a society that's against us in so many ways.

We're Here, We're Queer: A History of the American Gay Rights Movement:(R)

Presenter: Valerie Pfister, University of Louisville

Room 327

Education is activism. Networking is activism. Speaking out about your experiences is activism. By being here today, you are taking part in the LGBTQ rights movement. This is part of a much larger ongoing historical movement, with many leaders and volunteers that have dedicated their lives to improving ours. Taking a look at the political and social history of the gay rights movement in America, we will begin with the 1950s homophile movement and end the conversation by brainstorming about what we can do today to continue the struggle. The discussion will be especially aware of people that are often left out of official histories, leaders such as Sylvia Rivera and Barney Rustin. *"You can't know where you're going until you know where you've been."*

Queer Issues in Mental Health: (B) (T) (R)

Presenter: Corrine O'Brien, Mills College

Room 363

This workshop will focus on LGBTQIA+ issues in mental health. The goal is to discuss the history of pathologizing LGBTQIA+ identities, the history of conversion therapy, the effects conversion therapy has on queer patients, as well as the effects that discrimination can have on the mental health of LGBTQIA+ people. We will bring attention to current mental health issues in the LGBTQIA+ community, like the suicide rate, issues finding LGBTQIA+ friendly resources, bullying, and discrimination. I will then teach ways to recognize signs of depression and suicidal tendencies, and educate the group on ways in which they can react in safe and healthy ways if they notice these signs in people they know. We will also cover resources for LGBTQIA+ friendly mental health care.

Poetry as Survival: (T) (R)

Presenters: Carlin Rushing and Tatiana McInnis, Vanderbilt Carpenter Program, Vanderbilt University

Room 112

In *Sister Outsider: Essays & Speeches*, Black lesbian warrior poet, Audre Lorde writes “it is our dreams that point our way to freedom. Those dreams are realizable through our poems that give us the strength and courage to see, to feel, to speak, and to dare (39).” This writing workshop seeks to explore the way college students can make sense and affirm their own voice using both the poetry of Black women writers and personal narratives.

Participants do not need to think of themselves as poets to participate. This workshop will use poetry/literature as a resource for naming and claiming embodied experiences while navigating college/university campuses and the world.

Repairing the Roots: Bisexual Language and Inclusion in LGBTQ Spaces: (B) (T) (R)

Presenter: Robin Lovett, University of Tennessee Knoxville

Room 331

Breeders, barsexuals, and fence-straddlers, oh my. Or have you ever said "she's not even bisexual!"? Repairing the Roots will examine the ways that common LGBTQ lingo makes spaces unsafe for bisexuals and the negative impacts this has on bisexuals and the community at large. We will go through the ways that non-bisexuals talk about bisexuality, how bisexuals describe their experiences, and how anyone can make the way they talk about minority sexualities more inclusive.

What's In a Name: Exploring the Social, Cultural and Spiritual Implications of Naming: (B) (T) (R)

Presenter: SueAnn Shiah, Belmont Bridge Builders

Room 308

Who are you, how do you know who you are, and how do you communicate that to people? This workshop explores the significance of naming and labeling through various avenues. The influence of naming in our identities-gender, sexual, racial, and spiritual is tied to our needs to distinguish ourselves as individuals and find connection in groups and communities. Naming is an intimate and powerful experience that everyone shares. We will explore how we are named and how we name others, and how this self knowledge sets the foundation for building community and outreach and activism.

Asexuality Caucus:

Facilitator: Julian Sun, Vanderbilt University

Room 361

The Ace/Aro (Asexual and/or Aromantic) caucus seeks to provide a supportive space for people who identify on the asexual and/or aromantic spectrums to discuss their experiences as it relates to navigating both queer and heteronormative spaces. Join us for dialogue and a sense of community!

Leadership Caucus:

Leader: Wil De Los Santos and Musbah Shaheen, Vanderbilt University

Room 114

Are you a leader on campus and/or in the LGBTQI community? Even if you don't consider yourself a leader (just yet), this caucus aims to provide discussion about leadership skills in both queer and hetero spaces. Come brainstorm ways to bring back the tools and resources you gain at OUT in Front to your college campuses.

Session 2 (10:35-11:35 am)

Preventing Suicide in the Queer Community: (B)

Presenter: Faith Gipson, Belmont University

Room: 363

This workshop will address active rescue in cases of suicidal queer teenagers. It will deal with implementing specific courses of action for instances where a friend admits to being suicidal, someone is suspected of being suicidal, a friend is dealing with mental illness, depression as a result of mistreatment as a result of being queer, and other mental health issues within the queer community.

Ghosts of Stonewall: (B) (R)

Presenters: Paige Regan, Shawn Reilly, Jackson Crossley, Averri Goddard, Christian Cohen, Gavin Woods, Jacob Hall, Leslie Berkley, Lexie Nance, Sarah Werner, Taylor Jones; Oasis Center/Students of Stonewall

Room: 308

An educational workshop about these three figures and how their histories and involvement with the Stonewall Rebellion is too often untold, yet invaluable to our continued liberation as people inspired by the pursuit of true social justice. This workshop bridges our past with our present and touches on subjects such as: intersectionality; police brutality; prison industrial complex; violence against trans women of color, etc.

Israel Uncovered: Identity Mediation Workshop: (T)

Presenters: Kayley Romick, Blake Tamez, and Troy Morrow

Room 112

The purpose of this workshop is for participants to explore conflicting identities and how different environments and cultures can affect a developing identity, while recognizing individual differences between shared identities, and understanding how identities from different communities can be bridged to strengthen community. The leaders of this session have recently traveled to Israel and observed firsthand ways queer, religious, and national identities intersect. Through this session, we would like our participants to recognize and respect different ways identities can be seen, and also learn more about the intersection of identities in Israel. We are using queer experiences and identities in Israel as a base and example of how environment and culture can create and mold an interesting and sometimes unfamiliar blend of identities. Through activity and discussion, we hope the attendees of this workshop will gain a greater understanding of their own and others conflicting identities.

Allyship 2.0: (T)

Presenter: Steven Romeo, The University of Alabama- Birmingham

Room: 189

This workshop will be an intense exploration into allyship, it will start by looking at the unique and specific roles people who experience privilege and people who experience oppression (knowing these experiences are not linear) may assume when showing up in movement work. Then we will do an activity that will allow us to reflect on and share our needs as they relate to our experiences of oppression, and will create spaces for us to make commitments to others based on their expressed needs from and challenges with attempted allyship. We will end by creating a space for folks to share what they are looking for in an ally and take time to learn from each other about ways we can be stronger in our allyship.

The Bible: The First Queer Book I Ever Read: (R)

Presenter: J. Mase III

Room: 216

What does liberation for LGBTQIA people look like in the context of faith? Often the conversation gets stuck in a world of defensive theology- opposing sides constantly debating a handful of scriptures to prove or disprove the worth of LGBTQIA people. Are there any affirming texts related to LGBTQIA people in scripture? If so, where? In this workshop, we will look at queer characters within Abrahamic scripture and learn how to have productive conversations about LGBTQIA identities and religion.

Engaging a Community: Intentional Family Culture: (B)

Presenter: Kait Spear, Vanderbilt University

Room: 331

Love and support are important factors in self-care and happiness, but they are also vital to strong community building and good programming. For those of us who are part of a campus culture or any other community (birth families as well!), learning about Intentional Family Culture can create a more vital support network and enhance the impact of the changes for which we strive. Come learn about what it means to be part of a community and the intersection of family and activism!

The Fourth Decade of HIV: (B) (T) (R)

Presenters: Peter Velehr, Vanderbilt University

Room 325/327

This workshop is NOT HIV 101. This workshop will examine the current state of HIV prevention in the United States and the intersections with broader social justice movements. Behavioral strategies (traditional education and counseling), biomedical strategies (PrEP, PEP, microbicides, and vaccines), and social justice strategies (intersectionality, housing, anti-racism, anti-poverty, and anti-LGBT stigma) for HIV prevention will all be addressed as essential steps toward creating a world where HIV acquisition is rare. By attending this workshop, participants will learn about the history and future of HIV prevention, treatment, and activism.

Bi/Pan/Fluid

Facilitator: TBD

Room 361

Bi/Pan/Fluid seeks to provide a supportive and brave space for people who want to explore bi/pan/fluid or otherwise non-straight/non-heterosexual identities and experiences.

Non-Supportive Work/School Environments

Facilitator: Jaison Briar, Electrician's Local Union #429

Room: 114

This caucus is for students who have made it to the OUT in Front Conference, but perhaps face hostility in their work/school environment. The purpose of this workshop is to discuss how you navigate these non-supportive places and to brainstorm ways to build community and find support.

Advisor/Staff/Faculty who support LGBTQIA+ Students on your Campuses:

Facilitator: Petey Peterson, Program Coordinator of Vanderbilt LGBTQI Life

Room: Meet Petey at the "Check in Table" in Sarratt. You will then walk to the K.C Potter Center

This caucus is for advisors/staff/faculty members who want to learn about student support available through a university affiliated LGBTQIA+ office.

Session 3 (1:00-2:00 pm)

Queer Metaphors: A poetry workshop: (B) (T) (R)

Presenters: Donika Ross and Briana Barnes, Vanderbilt University

Room 112

What does it mean to write in a queer tradition? What's so queer about metaphors and images? This workshop seeks to articulate the connection between queer people and poetry by interacting with queer poets work and creating our own. We emphasize the possibilities of concrete images that can help translate our experience as queer thinkers and artists. We'll start by reading/listening to and discussing poems by queer poets, both spoken word and more traditional poems. Then we'll write our own and share them.

Merely to be Normal: Mental Health Wellness Across the LGBTQI Spectrum: (T)

*Presenter: Lee Moore, MEd, Research Nurse, Vanderbilt University School of Nursing
Room 325*

We try to not stand out, to normalize our own appearances, thoughts, and emotions. We want to just fit in, to be normal and typical. Does this sound familiar? To live within the LGBTQI spectrum places certain hardships onto many individuals; we know, however, that mental health is so often left unaddressed in our society. In this seminar, we'll talk about how the spectrums of LGBTQI identities and mental health collide to bring about both mental health wellness and illness. Come ready to discuss; the facilitator does not want to do most of the talking! Possible topics include mood and anxiety disorders, substance use, PTSD, destigmatization, available resources, and more. You'll leave with an understanding of the realities of LGBTQI mental health illness and wellness, available resources, and a set of goals for your next steps in branching out to help those in need.

Introduction to Queer Representation in Superhero Comics: (R)

*Presenters: Justin Hosford and Scott Kelly, Nashville GLBT Gaymers and Friends
Room 308*

This is a great 101 session where we will be tracing the history of queer representation, misrepresentation, and no representation in the last 60 years of comics. We will focus on the major themes of HIV/AIDS, censorship, gender identity, use of metaphor and allegory.

Queering the Classroom: Feminism is coming to class: (B)

*Presenters: James Huff and Emily Matheney, SAFE MTSU
Room 331*

Going to class? Don't leave your Queer spirit at home! Members of Middle Tennessee State University's group, Students for Feminism and Equality, will share their tips and tricks for queering your college experience. We'll talk about how to navigate tough conversations in class, how to bring feminism into the classroom and what you can do as a student to further gender equality on your home campus.

Privilege 201: Beyond the “Either/Or”: (B) (T)

Presenter: Ames Wyn Sanders, Vanderbilt University

Room 216

This workshop seeks to examine, deconstruct, and expand our models of privilege beyond its status as a buzzword, to delve into the factors which complicate (and often challenge) our concepts of privilege and oppression, and ultimately to further our ability to treat conversations about privilege as an opportunity for justice, compassion, and empowerment. Focuses for discussion will include intersections of identity, passing privilege and erasure, the politics of pain and voice, and situational modifiers of systemic privilege.

Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence: 35 Years of Ruining It For Everybody! (B) (T) (R)

Presenters: Music City Sisters

Room 327

Ending the guilt and spreading some joy...

A long, long time ago, in 1976, far away in the land of Oz (Iowa), a convent of Roman Catholic nuns lent some retired habits to The Sugar Plum Fairies performing their version of The Sound of Music. One year later, one of our Founders Sister Vicious Power Hungry Bitch (Ken Bunch) moved to San Francisco (1977) and brought those habits to the streets of the Castro district...

In 35 years SPI has grown worldwide bringing attention to important issues, raising funds for worthy charities and forcing everyone to smile and remember “we are all full of joy and beauty.”

Trans/Gender Queer/Gender Non-Conforming Caucus

Facilitator: Robles, Vanderbilt University

Room: 361

This caucus seeks to provide a space to discuss the continuum of gender identity and expression, particularly for students who identify across the Trans spectrum. Join us for conversation and reflection about TGQ experiences.

Interfaith Caucus

Facilitator: Sarah Porter, Vanderbilt University

Room: 114

The intersection of faith and religion and LGBTQIA+ identities is complex and often times misrepresented and misunderstood. This caucus will provide a space for people of all faiths and beliefs to find common ground and similarities as individuals or within institutions. Attendees will explore how citizens of the world can work together to achieve respect, compassion, and harmony as LGBTQIA+ communities of faith.

Session 4 (2:05-3:05 pm)

Witness: Queer Testimony as Spiritual Healing: (R)

Presenter: Sarah Porter, General Board of Higher Education & Ministry

Room 308

Religions are stories we tell ourselves to make sense of the world. They help us order everything from the smallest social cues to global economies. In this workshop, we will analyze some of the hurtful ramifications of Christian stories around sexuality; then we will create our own counter-narratives (storytelling as healing). Finally, we will discuss the power of telling our stories as an important component of social action (storytelling as strategy). While the workshop facilitators are most familiar with Christianity, people of other faiths or no faith are welcome to actively participate as well.

Queering Sex Ed: (T)

Presenters: Kam Johnson and Kait Spear, Belmont University and Vanderbilt University

Room 216

“Queering Sex Ed” is a workshop specifically addressed to the LGBTQIA+ community that seeks to provide a safe space for open discussions about holistic sexuality. Our goal is to provide peers with the knowledge and tools necessary to help themselves and each other make healthy and informed decisions around sex and sexuality. We want to empower the community to embrace their own choices and affirm the choices of others and to become advocates for their sexuality in a healthy, positive way.

Queer Futures and Marriage Equality: Cruising Dystopia: (R)

Presenter: Benjamin Ray, The University of Alabama

Room 331

This workshop addresses various loci of queer identities and rhetorics in the Marriage Equality Movements. Focusing on myopic, assimilationist agendas for “same-sex” marriage, I dissect the intersections of Q/queer sexual and political identities to highlight conflicting definitions of acceptability, correctness, and legitimacy. While understanding that the majority of the audience consists of undergraduate students, there is a critical evaluation of the importance of identity politics in navigating social and political spheres. Though Marriage “Equality” has been a corner-stone of LGBT activism during recent decades, there are other facets to Q/queer agendas that are necessary to reveal and put into stark relief. These are difficult tasks, to be sure, but this workshop intends on beginning the stressful and complicated work of unpacking the relationships between Marriage Equality & Q/queer(ness).

Painting the Rainbow: Creative expression in the LGBTQI Community: (B) (T) (R)

Presenter: Jonathan W. Thurston, Thurston Howl Publications

Room 361

In the LGBTQI community, one of the most important aspects of daily life can often be creative expression. That expression can include writing, art, singing, dancing, acting, reading poetry, etc. Historically, it was often the only one an LGBTQI person could express themselves. To this day, it is something that should be encouraged.

Wellness & World-Changers: Helping Yourself to Help Others: (R)

Presenters: Katherine Drotos and Aubree Peterson, Vanderbilt University

Room 363

When we commit our lives to advocating for and helping others, it is critical to remember that we need to care for ourselves as well. This presentation will focus on holistic health and wellness for individuals engaged in leadership and social change, including physical, social, and emotional wellness practices.

Queering the F Word (B)

Presenters: Emily Hickey and Alexandra Hollifield, Vanderbilt University

Room 327

Explore with us what it means to queer feminism and its intersections with gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity/expression. Discover how feminists and LGBTQIA+ activists exist as natural allies in a world working toward positive social change. Push yourself to gain a deeper self awareness of feminism in your own life through the local, regional, and national resources aimed at gender equity. Join us on a journey that will connect the two activist branches.

Branching Out: Organizing and Messaging for Trans Rights: (B)

Presenters: Marisa Richmond PhD, Michael Reding and Loria Hubbard Richardson; Tennessee Transgender Political Coalition

Room 112

Fighting for Transgender equality has proven to be a challenge for those who have never been active in politics or have not worked to educate others about the lives of trans people. Many times, the “T” is often overlooked or shortchanged when discussing equal rights. Attendees will discuss the challenges of discussing trans identities and effective ways of messaging to affect policies, laws, and personal relationships.

Queer People of Color (QPOC) Caucus

Facilitator: Sara Green, Vanderbilt University

Room 325

When discussing LGBTQIA+ identities, queer people of color may be left out of the conversation and the LGBTQIA+ community is often whitewashed and people of color are erased for the community. Historically, LGBTQI activism has been primarily “White” and we would like to offer a space for a discussion of the intersection of LGBTQIA+ identities and race and ethnicity.

Allies Caucus

Facilitator: Kathy Halbrooks PFLAG Nashville

Room 114

Anyone can be an ally regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. But, what does it mean to be an ally? This caucus provides space to talk about experiences as an ally, the definitions of an ally, and how allies can help create social change.

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- The Change Project
- GLSEN Middle Tennessee
- HRC- Nashville
- Urban Music Project
- O&AN

THANK YOU!

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Also a big thank you to all of the participants, workshop presenters, and caucus leaders in this year's conference. It is your strength and leadership that makes your institutions safer and better places.