2018

2018 Fall Pride Alumni Community Newsletter

Illinois Wesleyan University

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Our mission is to connect LGBTQ+ alumni, friends and allies to Illinois Wesleyan University

Newsletter

Events

MLK Teach with Charlene Carruthers ‘07
Monday, Jan 21, 1:00-4:00pm
IWU

16th Annual Charity Drag Ball
Saturday, Feb 2, 7:00-11:00pm
Doors open at 7:00pm
Performances begin at 8:00pm
Hansen Student Center, IWU

PAC-Pride Alliance Brunch
Sunday, Feb 3, 11:00am-1:00pm
IWU
Details in next newsletter

Pride Summit
Saturday, Feb 8, 2:00pm-6pm
Memorial Center, Turler Lounge
Details in next newsletter

PAC Brunch
Sunday, Mar 3, 11:00am-1:00pm
Inspiration Kitchens
3504 W Lake St, Chicago
Details in next newsletter

This year’s Campus Pride Index gave IWU 4 out of 5 stars, with highest marks for LGBTQ+ Support and Institutional Commitment (4.5 / 5) and LGBTQ+ Housing and Residential Life (5 / 5). GO TITANS!

As noted by College Choice, who ranked IWU 38th among best LGBTQ+ friendly campuses, “At IWU there are strong LGBTQ+ social and support organizations, such as the IWU Pride Alliance and Safe Zone, or the Pride Alumni Community which serves alumni, students, faculty, and staff. The IWU Pride Alliance is a student-led organization ... interested in supporting the LGBTQ+ community and offering resources for their support and development.” Dear alumni, that’s YOU!

Charlene is a strategist, writer, and community organizer in today’s movement for Black liberation. She has also authored bestselling book *Unapologetic: A Black, Queer and Feminist Mandate for Radical Movements*. Learn more about Charlene.

The Drag Ball is an annual tradition of the Pride Alliance and a fundraiser. This year’s proceeds will be donated to the Pride Alumni Community Endowed Scholarship. Hosted by Sharon Sharealike, performers this year include Freddie Fahrenheit, Ceduxion Carrington, and Foxie Sharealike.

PAC events and activities are open to all members of the university community: alumni, faculty, staff, friends, family, and often, students. Like Pride Alliance gatherings, everyone is welcome, privacy is respected, and no assumptions are made!
From the PAC Chair

If fall is my favorite season, then homecoming is my favorite weekend of my favorite season. It was wonderful to see many of you this year back on campus. During our annual Sunday brunch, I had the pleasure of announcing the newly established Pride Alumni Community Endowed Scholarship! Before you cheer too loudly, please note that I said newly established, which is not the same as newly established and funded. To fund an endowed scholarship, we need to raise $25,000. That said, we are well on our way, with more than half of that money pledged and collected. Some have asked me if this scholarship replaces the PAC Annual Scholarship, now in its 8th year. No. That scholarship, funded through the PAC Giving Circle, will continue with gifts pledged and collected through the year. The PAC Endowed scholarship is an effort to expand student support by creating a scholarship that will self-fund, year after year, and ensure that IWU recognizes and honors LGBQ and TGNC students for their leadership and community involvement.

I encourage you to read more about this scholarship and consider making a donation to help us reach our goal. As always, our mission is to connect students, alumni, and friends with IWU and one another.

With TITAN PRIDE,
Jim Richter ’93
Co-Chairperson
Pronouns: he/him

Points of Pride

- A student-drafted petition for mandatory diversity training for faculty, staff, and students was passed! This effort received support from Karla Carney-Hall, Dean of Students, and Provost Mark Brodl. Through their leadership and guidance, this training is planned for 2019. The petition was specific calling the need for education on LGBTQ+ identities, endorsed by the IWU Pride Alliance and your own Pride Alumni Community.
- SafeZone training continues! Alanna Scoggins ’20 is creating two versions of SafeZone to enable the Office of Diversity & Inclusion (ODI) to expand programming. The first will be introductory in level, the second will be intermediate, and advanced to follow next semester for queer folks and strong allies.
- The entire Humanities department requested a SafeZone training for the end of November.
- Hannah Mesouani, Assistant Director of ODI, has developed training on “Pronouns and the Singular They,” that was well-attended by faculty, staff, and grounds crew. She will present to several classes in the coming weeks and reports, “Support at all levels feels really tangible.”
- Provost Mark Brodl approached the RA of the Rainbow Floor to financially assist with decorating the space and supplying any resources our students might need. A huge step for the space! Contact Jim Richter to donate.
- The School of Theatre Arts recently presented Stop Kiss. Set in New York in the late 1990s, the story explores the friendship between Callie and Sara and the impact of their first kiss. The production was well received, and talkback afterwards gave members of the IWU and BloNo community an opportunity to discuss how queer lives are demoralized by the current administration and lack of sincere ally-ship. Many conversations focused on the importance of queer representation. Read more about the IWU production.

Thank you to Hannah Mesouani for contributing to Points of Pride.

Jim Richter ’93, (he/him), Editor
Amelia Smith ’15, (she/her), Writer
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Caroline Marchi (she/her), Pride Alliance, Alumni Liaison

Please send comments, suggestions, and ideas to Adriane Powell, Director of Alumni Engagement