Community Advisory Board to Add Faculty Reps

The GLBTA Community Advisory Board (CAB) will add 3 faculty members to its roster in January 2009. This board consists of several administrators, Student Affairs staff, and students and will now increase its faculty representation. New board members include Nicolle Overgaard, John Loegering, and Kenneth Johnson.

The board’s mission is to serve as a mechanism for organizing the efforts of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members that contribute to the mission of GLBTA Programs at UMC. That is, the creation and maintenance of a welcoming and affirming climate and campus community. The board will connect GLBT advocacy and outreach to the roles and responsibilities of campus-wide departments and organizations.

Members must:

- Complete Ally Training or Train-the-Trainer (provided by GLBTA Programs)
- Advocate for the safety and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and ally identified individuals on campus as well as those who are questioning their sexual orientation and/or gender identity
- Attend or contribute via conference call to one monthly meeting
- Commit to projects or initiatives that serve the mission of the board and are in accordance with one’s individual role or position (i.e., job responsibilities).

For more information about the CAB, contact GLBTA Programs Coordinator, Kim Jorgensen (jorge382@umn.edu).

New Director of Diversity Programs at UMC

In a continuing effort to provide an exceptional student experience, the University of Minnesota, Crookston announces the appointment of Thomas James Williams as the new director of Diversity Programs. Williams’ broad experience serving underrepresented student populations has prepared him to take on this vital leadership role on the Crookston campus. Williams most recently served as the director of cultural diversity at Minnesota West Community and Technical College in Worthington, Minn.

For more, see: http://www.umcrookston.edu/umcnews/stories/story1187.html
Fall 2008 Programming

GLBTA Programs at UMC offered several educational, social events, and off-campus opportunities during Fall semester 2008.

- Train-the-Trainer Ally Training (MN Campus Alliance)
- GLBTA Student Leadership Retreat (Systemwide)
- Systemwide Summit on GLBT Concerns (at UMD)
- National Coming Out Week tabling + button making
- GLBTA History Month displays + movie series (co-sponsored by Residence Life)
- GENDERAMA
- MN OUT! Campus Conference (at MSU—Mankato)
- GSA Organizing Meeting

UMC students and staff were also encouraged to attend events sponsored by Systemwide GLBTA programs as well as the Minnesota Campus Alliance.

GENDERAMA

November 6: GenderART
* Made collage art of male and female gender expression norms and genderqueer/genderfuck expressions. Discussed the implications of breaking gender rules.

November 13: GenderBENDER
* Watched TransGeneration. Discussed transgender and other intersecting identities.

November 20: GenderTALK
* UND Counseling Psychology graduate students facilitated dialogues around gender identity and expression. These students are currently enrolled in the course “Psych. of Women, Gender, & Development” and have been trained in group facilitation.

Next semester we will use these dialogues to talk about how exploring our own gender identities and expressions allows us to understand sexism, homophobia, and other gender-based harassment that happens on college campuses.

Transgender Day of Remembrance

November 20, 2008 also commemorated the 10th Transgender Day of Remembrance (DOR). This day was set aside to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. Posters providing information about the DOR and emphasizing the extent of violence against transgender identified people were displayed across campus. Discussions during GenderTALK also explored the reality of violence in the lives of transgender and other gender variant people.

For more information
www.gender.org/remember/day/
www.transgenderdor.org
www.genderpac.org
Minnesota OUT! Campus Conference

On November 7-9, 2008 UMC students and staff attended the Minnesota OUT! Campus Conference (MOCC), sponsored by the MN GLBTA Campus Alliance. This conference allowed students and staff to:

• Meet GLBTA-identified students and staff from other Minnesota campuses
• Build community affiliation, both social and academic
• Share resources for GLBTA Programming & Outreach
• Represent the efforts of the Crookston campus in GLBTA and Diversity Programs
• Attend workshops aimed at fostering leadership in social justice
• Expand personal conceptualizations of diversity and advocacy
• Attend keynote presentations by Miss Major and Jessica Pettit

Student Matthew Erickson says, “I learned a lot about biphobia. It comes from straight and lesbian and gay people. I want to try to educate people about this.”

Guide to GLBTA Services at UMC

GLBTA Programs Coordinator Office Hours – Information, resources & referral information regarding gender identity/expression and sexual orientation identities are available in Hill 15 and from coordinator.

Equality Room – (Hill 15) Everyone who enters this room may safely and comfortably self-express without fear of discrimination, harm, or exposure for being different.

Programming – Events will be sponsored or co-sponsored on a monthly basis. All are welcome!

Ally Training – Students, faculty, & staff will have opportunities to learn about and explore Ally identities.

Consultation – The GLBTA Programs Coordinator offers consultation to faculty and staff on teaching about gender and sexuality and advocating for equality.

Community Building – Monthly programming and maintenance of the Equality Room as a safe space serve to build a GLBT-affirmative community and fostering a welcoming climate at UMC.

Systemwide Events – Students are welcome to attend events sponsored by systemwide GLBTA Programs and the Minnesota Campus Alliance. UMC GLBTA Programs offers financial assistance for travel.

Students organize Gay Straight Alliance

A planning meeting was held on December 11, 2008 to create a constitution and form a new UMC student organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender students and their allies.

Students chose the name Q&A to reflect a welcoming environment for queer-identified students, staff, and community members and their allies. Members must sign a Safe Space Code of Conduct and may be removed from the group for behaviors in conflict with this code.

The organization will meet in the Equality Room (Hill 15) during Spring 2009 to increase membership, socialize, and plan and implement events that educate others about gender identity and sexual orientation. Amanda Neubauer, of Student Support Services, will act as advisor to the group.

The group hopes to increase support and decrease bias incidents on campus that are related to gender and sexual orientation. (Contact: valgr001@umn.edu)
System- & Statewide Support for GLBTA Programs

With the addition of GLBTA staff at the Crookston and Rochester campuses in Fall 2008, the University of Minnesota now has formal services for GLBTA students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members on every campus.

The GLBTA services provided on the Crookston campus are, therefore, supported greatly by staff and volunteers on other campuses. In particular, much support comes from the Systemwide Director of GLBTA Programs, Anne Phibbs, and the staff at the Twin Cities office. Systemwide efforts are guided by the Systemwide Standing Commission on GLBT Concerns. Representatives from each campus, including faculty, staff, students, and community members, are elected to this commission and meet each semester.

The state of Minnesota also has a unique resource in the MN Campus Alliance, a statewide organization networking GLBT programs and services at university or college campuses across the state. The Campus Alliance provides much education and training across the state, publishes an extensive campus resource guide, organizes an annual conference, and provides support to faculty, staff, and students working in GLBTA campus organizations.

**UMC Representatives to Systemwide Commission**—
David DeMuth (Co-Chair)
Kim Jorgensen (Campus GLBT Admin)
Yvonne Valgren (Student)
Don Cavalier (At-Large)
Amber Evans-Dailey (At-Large)
Pete Phaiah (At-Large)