

State of the UC for the LGBTI Community

UCLGBTIA General Assembly

February 21, 2004

UC Berkeley — On November 12, 2003, Chancellor Berdahl had his first-ever dinner with invited campus LGBTI guests. He called attention to the historic nature of this event and entertained questions & discussion with guests. The Chancellor was very interested in following-up concerns raised by a transgender (FTM) student about how residence hall assignments are made. He also promised to resume meetings of the Campus Advisory Committee on LGBT concerns, since he was not entirely aware the group had stopped meeting. The 4th annual performance of the Vagina Monologues for the 2nd consecutive year featured additional Transgender voices, which were very well received. Audience members signed letters (300+) to creator Eve Ensler strongly suggesting she broaden her understanding of gender and better integrate Trans and Intersex Voices into the 2005 V-Day College Campaign. Progress is also being realized on the woman and student of color fronts -- this past fall Queers of Color (a coalition of Cal Q&A, Yque, and Zawadi) held several meetings and potlucks. This is the first time in many years a multi-ethnic queer group has organized and been active at Cal. Thanks to the efforts of the Woman's Studies Student Association and faculty such as Judith Butler, the Woman's Studies at Cal is changing to become "Gender & Woman's Studies" with an expanded curriculum. The campus is connecting with San Francisco Mayor's office with a Thank You card regarding the same-sex marriage movement, signed by members of the Cal Community. Cal Alum Supervisor Beven Duffy, whose district includes the Castro, is assisting with this effort. Information on the many active Cal student groups can be found on the Queer Council website – <http://queer.berkeley.edu>.

UC Davis — Sheri Atkinson is the new UC Davis Director of the LGBT Resource Center. After two years without a permanent Director, the LGBTRC is now able to revitalizing campus involvement. The number of volunteers has increased significantly, allowing the center to create volunteer work groups for various projects. Preliminary meetings have been held with faculty to start a Queer Studies minor. Current challenges include lack of space for the growing needs of the community. UCD is in the pre-planning stages of building a student community resource center, in which the LGBTRC will be one of the departments housed. The campus is raising awareness around Transgender and Intersex issues, including gender-neutral restrooms. In a time of tremendous growth at UC Davis, the budget cuts are causing a slow down in the LGBTRC's ability to address staffing, programming, and resource needs.

UC Irvine —The LGBT Resource Center will have a new, expanded space integrated into the UCI student center in 2006. The Administrative Assistant III staff position was re-classed to a Student Affairs Officer II position. However, the position is vacant and frozen due to budget concerns. In the Fall, Jeffery Solomon's one-person comic documentary play "Santa Claus Is Coming Out" made for a festive holiday season. The LGBTRC launched a film series to explore the integration of LGBT identities with other cultural identities. "Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin" was a featured part of the Martin Luther King Junior Symposium. "Act of Faith" explored sexual orientation and the Muslim community. "Paragraph 175" will be screened for Holocaust Remembrance Day in the Spring. The center has almost acquired the complete collection of Marlon

Riggs films for use on campus. New collaborations such as between the LGBTRC, MEChA, and PFLAG Espanol for the program Nuestra Familia, are building bridges. Student groups OUTspoken and Irvine Queers are actively co-sponsoring programs.

UC Los Angeles — The UCLA LGBT Campus Resource Center's most important accomplishment of the past year was moving into its new 1600 square foot facilities in the Student Activities Center in the heart of the campus. Students, faculty, staff, community members, and elected officials attended the grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremonies officiated by California State Senator Sheila Kuehl during National Coming Out Week activities. Visits to the new facility are averaging 50 persons per day. Regardless of the severe budget cuts experienced by the LGBT Center, a host of new programs have been launched, such as boardgame lunchtime, movies at noon, monthly LGBT Faculty/Staff brown bag lunches, monthly Shabbat dinners by Mishpacha (the LGBT Jewish student group), the Queer Alliance Tea at 4 on Thursdays, and others. Gender neutral bathrooms have been identified on campus and a list of their locations and accompanying maps have been posted to the Center's web page. Officially recognized LGBT student groups each received full student government funding for 2003-2004 academic year. LGBT Studies, LGBT student media, and Safe Zones training all continue to advance and prosper. Montreal's loss of the 2006 Gay Games created an opportunity for the Los Angeles Gay Games Organizing Committee to resubmit its own proposal, which includes significant involvement of UCLA and the LGBT Campus resource Center. To date this academic year, no major hate crimes or hate speech incidents have been reported to the Center.

UC Merced — UC Merced is scheduled to open in Fall 2005 with approximately 900 undergraduate students, 100 graduate students and 75 faculty. The State has not fully funded budget requests for campus opening and the campus is assessing programs and level of service that will be available. Five major projects are currently in construction. Several other projects are in design. The Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs has established several student oriented advisory committees that include community college and students from other educational institutions in the Central Valley and surrounding areas. The Chancellor convened a campus wide committee to advise her on the establishment of founding principles of community. These principles were subsequently approved and are used in the campus outreach efforts. A Cross Cultural Center has been discussed and is identified as a potential gift funding opportunity. The first student programs will be administered out of the Student Housing complex and from Student Services space in the Library. The campus web site will continue to be revised and updated with an emphasis on providing information to potential students and their families. For more information, please visit the UC Merced web site at: <http://www.ucmerced.edu/>

UC Riverside — Current challenges at UCR include not enough space in the center, budget cuts that threaten staffing, and the need for gender neutral restrooms. A hate crime near the UCR campus this month has raised safety concerns. UCR will complete a Campus Climate for LGBT People and Allies survey this year, as a follow-up to a 2001 campus climate survey. So far this year, the LGBTRC has organized over 70 workshops, speakers, road trips, and special events. The LGBTRC offers a new advanced Trans Allies training for current Allies members. The LGBTI Studies Minor will offer a Senior Seminar for the first time in Spring 2004. Queer Alliance is running a

youth outreach project, the campus has a new magazine called Queeriosity, the new group Students for the Equality of Queers (or, SEQs) is working on an LGBT Theme Hall on campus, and Queer Conference Committee organized the largest UCR student contingent ever to the UCLGBTIA Conference.

UC San Diego — The UCLGBTIA conference has been a major project over the past year and has brought together the community to help in its various aspects. Thanks to a grant from the Human Dignity Foundation, the LGBT Resource Center expanded its staff and was able for the first time, to hire student interns - a Youth & Senior Intern and two Arts & Culture Interns. Last year's Day of Silence was highly successful with strong participation and planning is under way for this year's program. Currently, plans are being reviewed for a new, larger, permanent LGBT Resource Center to open on campus in 2005. A recent challenge occurred when the Resource Center was flooded in November and operations were relocated to the Women's Center. In regards to budget cuts, UCSD is particularly concerned about how the cut in outreach programs will affect students of color, a large percentage of who make up the daily attendance at the Resource Center and who comprise a large portion of community leaders.

UC San Francisco — UCSF is perceived as a leader in LGBTI health nationally, and particular focus areas for 2004-05 are development of LGBTI-related curriculum and LGBTI competency trainings for health care providers. Although the center has not suffered budget cuts yet, the demand for services grows with only one staff person. The center is seeking funding from alumni, foundations, and corporations, but the concern is that successful external fundraising could mean lessened campus support. Director Shane Snowdon continues system-wide advocacy for equitable benefits and policies.

UC Santa Barbara — In the face of a 13.5% budget cut to Student Affairs, UCSB's Resource Center lost much of its permanent funding, including the Assistant to the Director position and funding for one Queer Peer Intern. The four month absence of the Resource Center's director has also presented a challenge; members of QSU (Queer Student Union) and QPOC (Queer People of Color) managed to fundraise for a delegation of 40 students to attend UCLGBTIA this year. Students and staff from PISSAR (People in Search of Safe and Accessible Restrooms) and GenderQueer continue to organize for gender-free bathrooms on campus. All student organizations have been organizing for more community and city-wide collaborations on LGBT issues, and for more awareness of multi-identity issues in the LGBT communities. Both QPOC (Queer People of Color) and EUCALYPTUS (University Wide Committee on LGBT Issues) have been rejuvenated this year while Bi Centric has unfortunately halted regular meetings. QSU (Queer Student Union) has joined multiple organizations in creating a General Education Requirement, the focus of which will be Queer, Gender, and Sexual Identities and Communities. On February 9, 2004 the Academic Senate unanimously approved a Minor in LGBTQ Studies to go into effect immediately at UCSB. Housing & Residential Life has recently announced the opening of Rainbow House for Fall, 2004 and has had great success in filling that space. UCSB's Safe Zone Project has also attained funding this year to produce more pamphlets and stickers to affix on campus offices designating Safe Zones for LGBT students.

UC Santa Cruz — The GLBTI Resource Center is as busy and engaged as ever. The center has a full-time Director, a 34 hr/week Programs Coordinator, six work/study

Student Coordinators (~35 hrs/week total) and several dedicated volunteers. UCSC has 11 active student organizations. The newest student org is Queers in the Kitchen (QIK). QIK's first event was "Tamale Factory"--collaboration with the Chicano/Latino Resource Center, MeCHA, Queers of Color, and others. Students learned to make tamales, listened to Latin American tunes, and watched the film "De Colores." In general, student organizations are struggling from lack of support from the Student Activities office, which has several staff vacancies. On the funding front, the GLBTI Resource Center has always balanced its budget with the help of temporary funds, which are drying up. The request to increase the Program Coordinator position to full-time was put on indefinite hold by the Vice Chancellor. The Center, students, and faculty continue to pursue the development of a Queer Studies Minor. The center is exploring a Sister Centers project with a lesbian group in Mexico City. In the Spring, the Center will be renamed after a beloved deceased gay professor, Lionel Cantu. With the help of the Friends of the GLBTI Center, a GLBTI endowment has been established, and the alumni support base is growing. The first alumni outreach event will take place in Los Angeles on July 10th at the One Center. UCSC is extremely proud of the just released book "Out in the Redwoods: GLBT History at UC Santa Cruz, 1965-2003" and of the Princeton Review 2003 survey that rated UCSC as the #1 public university for GLBT "friendliness."

Office of the President — The Office of the President includes over 1400 staff, located in four buildings in Oakland, one in Sacramento, one in Washington, DC and other satellite offices scattered statewide. The UCLGBTIA Chapter, led by Emily Nalven, received \$1,000 in funding from Human Resources. The chapter helped organize Sistahs Steppin' in Pride, the premier East Bay Dyke March and Festival held the third Saturday in August, so UCLGBTIA was listed as a major sponsor. The chapter is gearing up for Pride Month activities, including a keynote, ice cream social, and film series

Los Alamos National Lab — The visibility and awareness of the LGBTI community and issues continues to increase at LANL. Last year LANL supported recruiting booths at the Santa Fe Pride on the Plaza event and the Out & Equal Conference. The LGBTI Diversity Working Group met with many LANL offices to address LGBTI issues. These contacts included legal counsel, OEO, benefits, and the Director's Office. The issues addressed included the impact of the NM Human Rights Act and NM Hate Crimes laws on the Laboratory, inclusive policy language, LANL subcontractor benefits, and awareness education. The progress on these issues has been and remains very slow. Perhaps the most significant example of the state of the LGBTI at LANL was the theft of the Celebrate Diversity banner the lab displayed in a very prominent location during June last year. The banner was stolen within 2 days and the Laboratory did not issue a statement nor acknowledge the event. According to officials, the immediate vicinity and a few dumpsters were searched for the stolen property. Had the banner belonged to a different diversity group, would the response been the same?