

S U M M E R 2 0 1 1

Connections

A Publication of the Minnesota GLBTA Campus Alliance

Inaugural Issue

Greetings!

On behalf of the Minnesota GLBTA Campus Alliance, we would like to thank you for taking the time to read this publication and for your continued involvement/interest in our organization.

In this issue we will talk about our latest happenings, such as some of our recent and upcoming outreach events. We will highlight some of our education achievements in the last few months, including presenting a day-long Ally Institute at the 2011 Creating Change Conference hosted by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. We will also introduce you to our current Chair, Becky Saltzman.

To make comments or suggestions about this publication, please email outreach@mncampusalliance.org.

Our Mission

The Minnesota GLBTA Campus Alliance strives to build a statewide network of individuals and organizations working for equality and justice on issues of gender and sexual diversity; empower the voices of groups that are underserved and underrepresented in our campus communities; and create welcoming, affirming, and safe environments on college and university campuses throughout the state of Minnesota.



Outreach Events

Twin Cities Pride



We want to congratulate MN Campus Alliance founder and current board member Dr. Anne Phibbs as the 2011 winner of the Twin Cities Pride's Grand Marshal Award. Make sure to look for Anne as she rides down Hennepin Avenue in the Ashley Rukes GLBT Pride Parade Sunday at 11am.

For more information, visit www.tcpride.org. Make sure to stop by and say hello to us at Booth #3114 on College Row! If you would like your event featured in Outreach Events, contact outreach@mncampusalliance.org

Education Spotlight

MN Campus Alliance Presented First Ever Ally Institute at Creating Change



Over 2,500 individuals attended the 23rd National Conference on LGBT Equality: Creating Change this past February in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Presented by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the five-day conference, a blend of workshops, day-long institutes, caucuses, plenary speeches, social events, and more, is an annual conference to educate community leaders and train activists.

Prior to 2011, there were no day-long institutes dedicated specifically to the challenges, struggles, and excitement of being an ally to/within LGBTQIA communities. MN Campus Alliance member Ross Neely attended an ally caucus at Creating Change 2010 where after much discussion he realized there needed to be more than a caucus. People needed to be, and wanted to be, more informed. Other members sharing in this experience came together and submitted a proposal for an Ally Institute.

The Ally Institute committee was made up of Mike Grewe, Anne Phibbs, Jamie Ann Meyers, Justin Nash, Ross Neely, and Jen Parshley.

Once the proposal was approved by the Task Force, the committee started planning the training program in summer 2010, meeting several times a month until the day of the conference.

The first-ever Ally Institute was designed specifically for both allies to and within the LGBTQIA movement to strengthen their knowledge base, skills, and organizing savvy with LGBTQIA communities through an inclusive, social justice frame. Participants considered how allies to the work of gender and sexual freedom can help create inclusive and accessible environments in the different positions, roles, and communities where they live, work, play, and workshop through a mix of facilitated activities, skills sharing and small group work. The eight-hour training drew components from each of MN Campus Alliance's training programs.

We had 30 people attend the session. Some people even recruited their friends to join us after lunch break! We received amazing positive feedback and have been invited by the Task Force to present the Ally Institute in 2012 at Creating Change Baltimore.

If you're interested helping us plan for 2012, please email us at education@mncampusalliance.org

Outreach Spotlight

BECAUSE Conference on Bisexuality 2011

The BECAUSE Conference is the premier weekend event in the Midwest for bisexuals, queers, non-mono-sexual, bi-curious, questioning, and all others, regardless of sexual or gender identity.

In 2009 Minneapolis was honored to host the largest BECAUSE Conference in history—Since then they have continued their growth and service to the bi community including a very successful 2011 conference.

In 2012 the BECAUSE Conference will be celebrating its 20th anniversary, make sure to stay tuned to www.becauseconference.org for more details as they reveal new and exciting things.

**Bisexual
Empowerment
Conference:
A
Uniting
Supportive
Experience**

North Dakota GLBTQA Conference 2011



On April 30, 2011, our neighbors to the northwest held their annual conference to provide education, advocacy, and support to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning and ally (GLBTQA) people in North Dakota and surrounding states.

This event drew in hundreds of participants and included speakers such as Robyn Ocsh, author of *Getting Bi*; Kathy Flick, a campus minister at Christus Rex Lutheran Campus Center at the University of North Dakota; and Dee Ann Du Shane, a transfeminist, transactivist and LGBT recovery advocate in the Fargo/Moorhead area. Visit www.ndglbtaconference.com for more information!

East Central Pride in the Park 2011

East Central MN Pride in the Park is the yearly celebration of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender residents of East-Central Minnesota. It is just one of two prides held in a rural community in the U.S. The celebration is generally held during the first weekend in June at Voyageur Park in Pine City, Minnesota.

The seventh annual East Central Pride in the Park was celebrated on June 5th with the theme of “Out N’ Da Country”.



Featured Article

Introducing Becky Saltzman Minnesota GLBTA Campus Alliance Chairperson

The Minnesota GLBTA Campus Alliance was saddened when Scott Anderson left to Colorado to pursue his career. Even though we are all very excited for him and wish him the best in his future endeavors, we knew that we needed a new Chairperson.

Cue Becky Saltzman, a dedicated, intelligent activist ready and willing to take charge and lead the MN Campus Alliance with her years of experience in GLBTQA Advocacy. We would like to take a few minutes to introduce our friend to you.

So, Becky, what interested you in being the Chairperson for the MN Campus Alliance?

I have always been passionate about the work of the MN Campus Alliance and have tried to be available to volunteer my time, knowledge and skills whenever possible. An opportunity arose that fit with my skill set, as well as my availability. I have learned so much from the MN Campus Alliance that coming back to the Chairperson position seemed like another way to give back to an organization that has given me so much over the years.

You were quite involved with the MN Campus Alliance in the past. What did you do previously?

I started with the Minnesota GLBTA Campus Alliance at the first Minnesota OUT! Campus Conference (MOCC) in 2006 as an attendee. At some point I heard help was needed transporting materials to another location and I offered my car and my time which was

accepted. After the conference I was invited along to the volunteer party at Anne Phibbs' house and at that moment I knew I wanted to be involved with the MN Campus Alliance.

After that I officially joined by helping with the second MOCC at Metropolitan State University. It was through involvement on an amazing committee that I became passionate around the work of the MN Campus Alliance.

At that MOCC, Michael Grewe and I were elected as Co-Chairpersons for the 2007-2008 year. The next year I served as the Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator on the Board. Throughout this time I had been involved in planning several MOCCs and tabling at events and Prides across the state. I have been active on the Education Committee helping develop curriculum and moving through the trainer process to become a Lead Trainer.



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What do you like most about the MN Campus Alliance?

I love the connections. The relationships formed go beyond the work, regardless of the level of involvement. I have found friends, mentors and chosen family within the MN Campus Alliance. This organization has created a platform for folks to learn, teach, mentor, network, train, discuss, facilitate, have fun, and so much more over the years. I have grown as a person and a leader and gained access to opportunities that I would not have had if it had not been for the MN Campus Alliance.

You are currently attending Graduate school at Hamline University, what is your major and what do you see yourself doing with that?

I am studying in their Masters of Nonprofit Management program. I am hoping that the knowledge and skills learned within this program will allow me to better serve within the nonprofits of Minnesota as both a volunteer and as a staff member. I am not sure exactly where I see myself in the future as my passions are in many fields. I know that I love working with social justice and intersectional organizations to improve our lives and our society and expect that to continue.

What has been the most rewarding thing for you in the past?

In terms of the MN Campus Alliance? I could easily say the awards the MN Campus Alliance has been honored with, but that is not the real answer. The most rewarding thing for me is seeing the impact we have on the community.

When I attend community events across the state and I hear from folks how the MN Campus Alliance has changed their lives. I hear stories about how their start to activism was through MOCC or how they have combated homophobia/biphobia/transphobia on their campuses (and in their homes) thanks to information and skills learned at our trainings. To hear these types of stories shows that our work is really changing lives across Minnesota. That simple fact is more rewarding than any award that we could be granted.

Under your leadership, where do you see the MN Campus Alliance going in the next year?

I see the MN Campus Alliance going great places as there are many opportunities. I am really excited to have the 2011 MOCC hosted by St. Cloud State University and I am sure some amazing things will be coming out of that conference. I see us expanding our training program and educating more Minnesotans about GLBTA issues and identities, which is especially crucial this year. I am especially looking forward to working with the board, committee members and key stakeholders to establish a strategic plan for the next wave of the MN Campus Alliance.

Last question, and this is a tough one, what is your favorite snack item?

That is tough! There are many choices but I think near the top will always be Ritz Crackers with cream cheese. Delish!

Get Involved

The MN Campus Alliance is a volunteer run organization made up of students, staff, faculty, alumni and community members from across the state. We need your energy and voice!

Ways to be involved:

- **Volunteer for Events**
 - Volunteers can help plan and coordinate MN Campus Alliance events such as the Minnesota OUT! Campus Conference and tabling and Prides and events across the state.
- **Join A Committee**
 - Including Development, Communications, Education, Outreach, and of course the planning committee for MOCC.
- **Become a Panelist or Trainer**
 - As part of our Training and Education Services, MN Campus Alliance panelists and trainers have trained over 3,500 individuals in the Upper Midwest at college, universities, businesses, and community organizations. We are looking for enthusiastic individuals to join us as we work to educate Minnesota.
- **Join the Board**
 - We are always looking for dedicated and passionate individuals to join our Board. There are a variety of skills needed to run a nonprofit and you could have just the type we need.

Connect With Us

We would love to hear from you!



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The MN Campus Alliance is a registered 501(c)3 organization. See our page on GiveMN.org for more details.



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