

PRIDE_{POST}

Volume I, Issue II

3801 W. Temple Ave. Pomona, CA 91768 (909)869-2573 www.csupomona.edu/~pride_center

May 2005

Upcoming Events

- Fundraiser- Cancelled
- Spring Quarter Rap Group- Every Tuesday beginning April 12th, 5:30-6:30pm
- Lavender Graduation Celebration- Thursday, June 2nd 5-8pm, Ursa Major

Meetings & Gatherings

QSAFE

Queer Students & Allies
For Equality
Tu 12-1pm @ Pride Center

La Familia

Th 12-1pm @ Chavez Center

Lavender Graduation
Celebration Committee
Th 12-1pm @ Pride Center

Spring Quarter Rap Group
Tu 5:30-6:30pm @ Pride Center

Pride Student of the Month



Samantha Martin- 1st year undeclared student

"The Pride Center is a safe place to meet new people!"

(Cont. On Page 2)

New Pope, New Hopes and Fears

By Nancy Gonzalez

The world stood still as the news concerning the death of Pope John Paul II rippled across countries. People across every nation and of every background mourned the death of Pope John Paul, a pioneer who worked diligently to bridge the cultural, political, and social divide through the power of faith and spirituality.

GLBT persons from every corner of the world also felt the tremendous loss, including students from Cal Poly. Third year Marketing student Chester Lagmay was "deeply saddened" over the Pope's passing and feels he "owes respect" to the only Pope he knew.

Second year Pre-Vet student Guadalupe Sandoval reported that her family felt as if "someone from her family had passed away."

Today, people all over the world are beginning to finally stir, some with reserved anxieties and others with increased excitement as former Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger is announced as Pope Benedict XVI. The National Gay and Lesbian Task force recently put out a statement on Pope Benedict XVI:

"Today, the princes of the Roman Catholic Church elected as Pope a man whose record has been one of unrelenting, venomous hatred for gay people, Cardinal Joseph

Ratzinger. In fact, during the reign of John Paul II, Cardinal Ratzinger was the driving force behind a long string of pronouncements using the term 'evil' to describe gay people, homosexuality, and marriage equality."

Understandably, there are increasing anxieties surrounding the direction Pope Benedict XVI will take the Catholic Church. It's important to note that the Catholic Church as a whole has never showed true acceptance of the GLBT community but now the fear that a message of overt hate will be delivered to the masses is real!

Some might say that gays and lesbians have no place in religion, a mes-

Celebrating our GLBT and Ally Graduates

By Chester Lagmay

The Lavender Graduation Celebration, Pride Center and Lambda Alumni is proud to announce its Seventh Annual Lavender Graduation Celebration! (or Lavender Grad as most people refer to it). Lavender Grad is one of

several sponsored cultural celebrations that is programmed by the cultural centers. These cultural graduation celebrations are open to all students, and give the students the opportunity to celebrate with family,

friends, allies and other community members.

This year's Lavender Graduation Celebration will be held at the Ursa Major Suite on June 2nd, 2005 from 5-8pm.

(Cont. On Page 2)

Lavender Grad cont'd

This year's theme is *Coming Out to the World, Time to be...* and will feature Keynote Speaker Norma Bowles, Founder and Artistic Director of Fringe Benefits who will also serve as the entertainment for the evening!

Participation in the Lavender Graduation Celebration is open to all graduating seniors and is free! Admittance for the event is also free. If you are a graduating senior, and would like to participate, please pick up a registration packet at the Pride Center (Bldg 26-107). The Pride Center Staff will be happy to assist you.

Coordinator's Corner

By Fernando Estrada

What do you get when you cross a group of friendly people, delicious food, empowering speeches, amazing prizes and free student money? You get the Fourth Annual Celebrating Pride and Excellence Scholarship Dinner!

The event took place on April 14th and thanks to YOU it was a huge success! Students, staff, faculty and community members showed up to support our student's academic achievements and their connectedness to the GLBTQIA community.

Scholarship recipients included Chester Lagmay, Justin LaBreck, Conrad Olmedo and Alejandro Santander. A special scholarship was awarded to Veronica Ingrid



Rojas Muñoz as she prepares to enter Law School.

Faculty and staff were also recognized as Dr. Mary Yu Danico received this year's Ally in Pride award for her contributions in helping increase GLBT awareness. Edwin Santiago received the Pride in Community award for his dedication and involvement in numerous GLBT agencies.

This was my first Scholarship Dinner and a very memorable one! I hope you will join us next year as we award more scholarships and awards to those on our campus making a difference!

New Pope cont'd

sage often heard, both directly and indirectly, during Cal Poly GLBTA Panels. Some GLBT Cal Poly students such as Richard Cutler vehemently deny the notion that there is a lack of morals and faith in the GLBT community stating his personal faith is "more spiritual than religious."

As a Catholic and ally, I see so much strength and courage in eve-

ryone that comes out as not just GLBT but also as a holder of steadfast faith in his/her spiritual and/or religious beliefs.

God has taught us to love, and in this world of rampant hate no one should be forbidden to express and convey their love towards other people. And with a new Pope at the helm of the Catholic Church we must come together to say *GLBT love is good, is pure, and is right!*

Student of the Month cont'd

Samantha Martin started off her year as a Pride Center Volunteer. Samantha is often seen at the Pride Center working on her homework or attending the Spring Quarter Rap Group. Samantha is also part of the 2005 Lavender Graduation Celebration Committee and hopes to find the right balance between academics, friends, and fun!

Term of the Month: Ally

An Ally refers to a non GLBTQI person who learns about and challenges heterosexism, homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and other forms of oppressive forces. An ally is a person who sincerely cares for the well being of GLBTQI persons and understands the importance of equal rights and social justice is-

sues concerning the GLBTQI community.

Being an effective ally means more than simply having GLBT friends or hanging out at GLBT spaces. An ally is a person who commits to a journey of personal development to better understand his/her privilege

as non GLBT. For example, an ally :

- Refuses to tolerate anti-GLBT jokes
- Refuses to assume everyone is heterosexual
- Respects confidentiality
- Uses gender neutral terms (i.e. partner, spouse, etc)

For more info contact the Pride Center!