

PRIDE_{POST}

Volume 11, Issue 1

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

November 05

Upcoming Events

- December 1— Hip Hop Dance Class Fundraiser. Kellogg Gymnasium (Bldg 43) - Aerobics Room. \$8 for 1 session, sign up at the Pride Center.
- December 1— World AIDS Awareness Day, TBA
- February 15— Safe Zone Training for students, 3-5pm
- March 1— Safe Zone Training for faculty & staff, 1:00-5:30pm, Ursa Minor

Meetings & Gatherings

QSAFE

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

La Familia

Th 12-1pm @ TBA

Women's Rap Group
Th 6:30 pm @ Pride Center

Pride Faculty of the Month



Dr. Charles W. Gossett
Professor & Chair, Political Science Department

(Cont. On Page 2)

An Open Letter to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning and Ally Faculty and Staff

From the Cal Poly Pomona Pride Alliance

As we begin a new school year and soak in the renewed energy that always manifests when our students return, we are reminded once again at what an incredible university that is ours – Cal Poly Pomona. We are fortunate to have student, administrative, staff and faculty leaders at our university who value what is also important to the LGBTQ community; diversity, acceptance, equal opportunity, and progressive change. Although we are far from where we need to be in creating a safe place for anyone desiring to be out or to explore their sexual identity, we are in a very different place than we were even 5 or ten years ago. And this is of course due to the campus community members who had a different vision for Cal Poly Pomona than the status quo and helped make our university more welcoming of sexual diversity. Now to move even further ahead, we need your involvement and active support this year.

A progressive alliance of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, & Allies Faculty and Staff, the Pride Alliance is here to help our community create a positive campus environment conducive to academic, career, and

personal growth and success. We are here to provide social support and networking for LGBTQ faculty and staff; to advocate for policies and practices that are inclusive; and to support the Pride Center in providing programs and services that assist LGBTQ students and allies. The outcome of our efforts is to ensure that future generations of the Cal Poly Pomona LGBTQ community are authentically part of the institutional fabric and decision-making structures.

Whether you are an ally or an LGBTQ individual, there is a place for you within the community. The Pride Alliance Steering Committee is asking for you to take an active role this year in moving our community forward. It may be a public role or it may be behind-the-scenes. But in whatever way you can, we ask you to make a difference this year. It is you, the faculty, staff and administrators who have the influence to help our students feel supported and in turn experience success resulting in graduation. This is the year, if you haven't already done so in the past – to become involved; join a committee when invited, come to an event, donate to fundrais-

ers, and support the work of the Pride Center. We assure you there is not a shortage of opportunities and we look forward to your involvement in 2005-06!

To become aware of opportunities for your involvement and to stay informed about the Cal Poly Pomona LGBTQ community, please consider joining the anonymous email listserv. If you would like to be added to the Pride Center and Pride Alliance faculty/staff/alumni email list please contact Fernando Estrada, Pride Center Coordinator, at x3064, festrada@csupomona.edu or Daryl Patton, at x3915, dtpatton@csupomona.edu.

This list is confidential and maintained between the Pride Center Coordinator and the Pride Alliance President. We look forward to a great year because of your involvement in making a better place for all of us to learn. It is you who can be the role models, friends and advocates our LGBTQ students need to be successful.

Letter (Cont. On Page 2)

Katrina Relief

By Kori Bennett

As noted in *The Advocate*, New Orleans has welcomed same-sex couples since the early 1800's. The magazine and several other publications have recently printed numerous articles reporting the extensive physical and emotional damage of those in the LGBT community who view the Big Easy as their residential haven. For this very reason, members of the GLBTIA community are among the most mournful of the city's survivors, many of whom appear determined to tackle the devastation and rebuild.

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender Community Center is working by means of a disaster relief initiative called Families Helping Families (FHF) to provide aid to hurricane victims. The objective of Families Helping Families is to bring together LGBT individuals and families displaced by Katrina with "center families," small teams of volunteers who will send periodic care packages to and correspond with their assigned family. The idea is for the volunteers to get their communities involved and to continue support over a substantial period of time, not simply for the first few weeks.

For more information, call 212.620.7310, ext. 274 or check out http://www.gaycenter.org/katrina_relief.

Letter (Continued from page 1)

2005-2006 Pride Alliance Steering Committee:

Daryl T. Patton

Pride Alliance Steering Committee President

Kris Surber

University Police and Parking Services

Jonnie Owens

College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences

Dr. Charles Gossett

Political Science Department

Jeffrey Hoffman

Associated Students, Inc. (ASI)

Fernando Estrada

Pride Center Coordinator

Coordinator's Corner

By Fernando Estrada



As some of you may have witnessed or heard, there were several acts of hate towards our community this past October

during LGBT History Month. Beginning with a hateful email sent by a Cal Poly student, followed up by an off-campus professor spewing hateful messages in the name of God during National Coming Out Day, and most recently, the defacing of our lovely rainbow CPP letter on CPP Hill.

Acts such as these are meant to send an intimidating message of intolerance towards all LGBT and ally persons. Disappointingly (for the perpetrators of these acts) the larger Cal Poly community has united to defend diversity!

During National Coming Out Day, representatives from the University Police Department voiced their support for a safer campus for LGBT students through education and collaboration. Representatives from Associated Student, Inc. shared their vision of a campus free of hate. The Stop Violence Office expressed their support for the development of our students in an accepting environment. And with Pride Alliance members mobilizing staff/faculty soon after the CPP vandalism, our wonderful rainbow letter on CPP Hill was restored!

LGBT History Month was a success! And with YOUR help, we will continue to combat hateful acts as ONE community!

Term of the Month: The Rainbow Flag

Although not actually a "term," the rainbow flag has been an important vehicle of communication in the LGBT community since it was first designed in 1978 by Gilbert Baker in response to a cry for a community symbol, and for use during that year's San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Freedom day.

Each color is symbolic for different components of the gay community, red for life, orange for healing, yellow for sun, green for nature, blue for harmony, and violet for spirit.

The rainbow flag is one of many symbols used by the LGBT community.

Pride Faculty of the Month

Dr. Charles W. Gossett is a professor and Chair of the Political Science Department at CPP. Dr. Gossett received his BA from Hope College and his MA, PhD from Stanford University. He has been at CPP for 4 years.

Dr. Gossett admires the work of Barney Frank and Harvey Milk and his advice to students is, "Don't let anything get in your way and keep a positive attitude regardless of what happens."