This report highlights programs and projects connected to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Life office at Johns Hopkins University. This report provides an overview of events from the academic year 2017-2018.

HIGHLIGHTS

Baltimore Pride Parade | June 17. LGBTQ Life was proud to lead a contingent of Hopkins students, staff, and faculty in the Baltimore Pride Parade. Our group included more than 250 people from across Hopkins, a bike float, a Blue Jay shuttle, and an ambulance.

National Coming Out Day Breakfast | October 11. We celebrated our community with a breakfast on National Coming Out Day. 60 people joined us in the LGBTQ Life office for bagels and coffee.

World AIDS Day Dinner | December 1. The World AIDS Day Dinner was a collaborative event between LGBTQ Life, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. This event featured spoken word poet Timothy DuWhite. We also had support from CHEW, the Student Health & Wellness Center, the Hopkins AIDS Alliance, and Project R.E.A.C.H.

Show Your Love | February 14. We gave out more than 1,200 rainbow ribbons to people across the Hopkins enterprise, asking them to wear the ribbons to show their love for the LGBTQ community. Participants were asked to share photos with the #JHUshowYourLove hashtag.

Dinner with President Daniels and Joanne Rosen | May 1. 30 students, staff, and faculty were honored to have dinner with President Ron Daniels and Joanne Rosen at Nichols House, the president’s residence at the Homewood campus. We gathered for community building and to discuss experiences on campus.

Lavender Celebration | May 6. We ended the year with a celebration of our graduating students and all we had accomplished as a community. This marked the fifth Lavender Celebration at Hopkins, and we honored 21 graduating students. About 55 students, staff, faculty, and alumni enjoyed conversation, community, and rainbow cake.

LGBTQA ORGANIZATIONS

Hopkins is fortunate to have a wide range of organizations to support and serve the LGBTQA community. Students join DSAGA, oSTEM, Gertrude Stein Society, Peabody Organization for Diverse Identities (PODI), Out for Business Carey, and SAIS Pride. Other groups include Spectrum (Homewood), LGBT Working Group (SPH), The Network (JHMI), LGBTQ+ Curriculum Committee (SOM) and Allies in the Workplace (APL). Finally, we have a great relationship with JHU Pride, which serves LGBT alumni.
LGBTQ Life was founded in 2013. The office provides support, education, and advocacy around sexual orientation, gender identity, and the intersections of those identities with other identities. In collaboration with our many campus partners, we are working towards making Hopkins a safer and more inclusive place for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Demere Woolway is the director for LGBTQ Life, which also employs four undergraduate interns.

Support

Demere Woolway meets regularly with students and other members of the Hopkins community, in order to provide one-on-one support, resources, and referrals. Dinners and meet-ups connect students around aspirations and identities. LGBTQ Life continues to organize the OUTlist, an online directory of out LGBTQ members of the Hopkins community, which now has 239 out and proud members. We began publication of a student zine called The Q-Jay. We remain visible through our weekly email newsletter and social media.

Education

Safe Zone trainings are 3 hour sessions that anyone can attend and learn more about the LGBTQ community. From June 2017 – May 2018, we trained 438 people in 34 sessions held across the Hopkins community. We held and collaborated on 54 educational speakers, movies, presentations, and discussions. We supported and facilitated Identity and Inclusion workshops with Diversity and Inclusion colleagues.

Advocacy

We regularly partner with JHMI on LGBTQ health education and the Center for Transgender Health. We are continuing work streamlining use of chosen names in computer systems. A committee with representatives from IT@JHU, Human Resources, General Counsel, and Institutional Equity meets regularly to move this project forward.

LOOKING AHEAD

In the next academic year, we will host an LGBTQ Needs Assessment. We will work to strengthen our meet-up and mentorship programs. We will also partner on programs that enhance holistic wellbeing.