

# LIFELINE

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ON LGBTQIA EQUALITY AT  
PCOM-GEORGIA



PCOM Georgia LGBTQIA Council, August 2018

## THIS ISSUE'S MUST-READS:

- Campus Highlight: Beth Levine
- PCOM-Safe Training
- LGBTQIA Student Organization

- What does LGBTQIA stand for?
- In the News: "Treating LGBTQ Patients with Respect"

PCOM-Georgia's LGBTQIA Council and the Office of Diversity is composed of members who are dedicated to addressing issues of racial, ethnic, gender and sexual orientation diversity. This newsletter is a collaborative project with the goal of communicating important events, programs, information, and resources for the LGBTQIA community at PCOM-Georgia. We strive to raise awareness on current LGBTQIA issues within our school community, while providing a safe, inclusive space for people of all genders and sexual orientation on campus.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. In this and future editions, we hope to show you our commitment to serving all aspects of the LGBTQIA community.

With love and support,

PCOM-Georgia LGBTQIA Council  
Office of Diversity & Community Partnerships

# RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

## PCOM-SAFE TRAINING

PCOM-Safe Training was created to promote a safe environment for not only the LGBTQIA community, but for students, staff, faculty, and patients affiliated with PCOM-Georgia. The training offers a series of four consecutive modules, and all four modules must be completed in order to receive recognition.

We are proud to announce that PCOM-Safe's inaugural class graduated on March 5, 2019. Congratulations!

Our next training will take place in the 2019-2020 school year. If you have any questions or are interested in joining, please contact Aisha DeBerry at [aishade@pcom.edu](mailto:aishade@pcom.edu).

# CAMPUS HIGHLIGHT



## BETH LEVINE, MA

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Throughout her time at PCOM-Georgia, Beth Levine has served as a Faculty Advisor to LGBTQIA students, was a member of the school's first Diversity Council, and officiated the school's LGBTQIA council in its first year. Currently, she holds the position as Vice-Chair of the LGBTQIA Council. Beyond that, she is an instructor and the Assistant Director for PCOM-Georgia's Department of Psychology, teaching Communication Skills for Leaders and Foundations in Systems & Organization Development. She uses an experiential approach to ensure that students understand the concepts at a visceral level, allowing them to make direct applications in their daily lives and work situations. One of her favorite moments in her teaching career is witnessing a student's "aha" moment, fully knowing that insight will last a lifetime. Through this, Beth is continuously inspired by her students' passion, dedication, and commitment.

Ms. Levine has been an Organization Development (OD) practitioner for over 25 years, her work encompassing public, private, non-profit, and academic sectors. At Columbia University, she designed, executed, and ultimately led a merged function providing both Bursar and Registrar services at the Health Sciences campus at Columbia University to improve student services and process efficacy. As an OD consultant in construction and remediation business, she has worked with leadership and whole systems to diagnose needs; design and implement interventions; and assess impact. Her current interests include the application of systemic constellation work to organization and development, Polarity Management, and communication methods that support healthy dialogue and conflict.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## BEST PRACTICES IN GENDER REASSIGNMENT SURGERY

Dr. Rumer, who specializes in gender reassignment surgery, will converse with Dr. Anne Koch as part of the Transgender Real Time Webinar Series. For this session, they will be discussing "Best Practices in Gender Reassignment Surgery." The live conversation will take place on PCOM main campus, but will be simulcast to our campus on March 18 from 9-11 AM in Room 1040. Breakfast will be provided. If interested in attending, please contact Aisha DeBerry at [aishade@pcom.edu](mailto:aishade@pcom.edu).

## PCOM MEDALLIANCE

MedAlliance is PCOM-Georgia's first and new LGBTQIA Student Organization. Anyone who identifies as part of or supports the LGBTQIA community is welcome to join. Next meeting is on March 13 @ 12 PM in Room 1048.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact them at [PCOMMedAlliance@pcom.edu](mailto:PCOMMedAlliance@pcom.edu)



# DID YOU KNOW:

## What LGBTQIA Stands For?

Language morphs all the time, so it doesn't come as a surprise that LGBT is an evolving abbreviation. This abbreviation has been in use since the 1990s as an adaptation of the initialism "LGB," which was used to replace the term "gay" in reference to the LGBTQIA community.

Now, the LGBT initialism has become adopted into the mainstream as an umbrella term for use when labeling topics pertaining to sexuality and gender identity. The initialism may also be used to refer to anyone who is non-heterosexual or non-cisgender.\* To recognize this inclusion, the initialism LGBT has turned into LGBTQ in a growing number of circles, with the "Q" standing for "queer" - a controversial word given its past derogatory use. In some circles, the "Q" can stand for "questioning."

As the LGBT initialism continues to grow, there comes the addition of "I", which stands for "intersex\*" and "A" for "asexual\*" and/or "allied\*." In other circles, the last letters are combined to form "LGBT+" to encompass spectrums of sexuality and gender. Other variants of the initialism also exist, motivated by a desire for inclusivity, including those over twice as long.

This addition of abbreviations is a culturally and generationally driven decision. But just how abbreviated should this initialism be?



Joshua Rainey/iStock

Debate over this topic isn't new. Michael Hulshof-Schmidt, the executive director of EqualityWorks, NW, a Portland-based company that works with other organizations on issues involving racial and gender equity, states that "LGBT explicitly calls out key components of a diverse group." He adds to say that "as shorthand goes, it's fairly effective [in] recognizing the spectrum of sexual orientation and gender identity in simple letters. Of course, [at times] it leaves plenty of people feeling unheard."

"Orange is the New Black" star Lea DeLaria also spoke up on this issue in a 2016 interview, stating that she favored using "queer" for all of the various communities under the LGBTQ umbrella. She states that a part of her "believes that this inclusivity of calling us the LGBTQQTY....tends to stress our differences. [This is why] I say queer. Queer is everybody."

But it wasn't too long ago that the word "queer" was considered taboo. Even journalism stylebooks caution on using the term outside of quotation. However, as the labels continue to evolve, so do the meaning behind the words. "Queer" is how Hulshof-Schmidt identifies himself. It was, he conceded, "a slow evolution within me."

"I'm 50 years old. [The word] was pretty harmful when I was young child, and I've now become quite fond of it," he said. When asked why, he answered, "I think it's a lovely piece of resistance against the dominant discourse."

When asked on the importance of letters and labels, Margo M. Jacquot, founding director of the psychotherapy practice The Juniper Center and national lecturer on LGBTQIA issues, replies, "Identity is huge, [and] these labels are so important to people in the LGBTQIA community." However, she voices her concern that "when people talk about the LGBTQIA, they talk about it as one community... when in actuality there are very, very different communities, some of which overlap."

Some LGBTQIA activists state that more letters in the abbreviation means greater unity, an opportunity for greater awareness, and perhaps, greater political muscle. The addition of letter "I" to LGBTQ, for example, increases visibility and promotes awareness as many people don't know intersex people. The goal is that the general public will note the "I" in the abbreviation and learn about it. "It's always good to have allies, whether LGBTQIA or heterosexual."

"We have to educate each other. Educate and not put ourselves down," states Mike Oboza, founder of the Bisexual Queer Alliance in Chicago. Hulshof-Schmidt adds that the strength is found when the community works together. The intent matters more than the label, and that the focus should be on the work we need to do together to make this a better place for everyone. He states, "Those of us with targeted identities must resist division and go for community and solidarity."

- Cisgender: denoting or relating to a person whose personal identity and gender corresponds with their birth sex
- Intersex: general term used for a variety of conditions in which a person is born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't seem to fit the typical definitions of female or male
- Asexual: without sexual feelings or associations
- Allied: in combination or working together with a group

Article taken and summarized from The Chicago Tribune:  
"Why LGBT initialism keeps growing."

# IN THE NEWS:

## Treating LGBTQIA patients with respect

With India's recent landmark ruling decriminalizing gay sex, the LGBTQIA community are sharing their stories of discrimination and harassment from their own healthcare providers.



Dibyangshu Sarkar/Getty Images



Indranil Mukherjee/Getty Images

"It takes no compromise  
to give people their  
rights...it takes no money  
to respect the individual.  
It takes no political deal  
to give people freedom.  
It takes no survey to  
remove repression."

### Harvey Milk

the first openly gay elected official  
in the history of California, where  
he was elected to the San Francisco  
Board of Supervisors

Two years ago, Shivam Sharma rushed to the emergency room of a Mumbai hospital and asked for a preventative dose of antiretroviral medicine, or PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis). He had sex earlier that night with a man who was HIV-positive. Though they used protection, he sought extra measures to be safe.

Sharma recalls that the hospital staff was clueless, as they had immediately pulled out a massive manual on how to deal with sexually-transmitted infections. He then recounts the first time he got tested for HIV during college; the nurse at the health clinic had yelled across the room for everyone to be "careful" of him. The implication that Sharma was "dirty" due to his sexual orientation was clear.

Healthcare discrimination is not exclusive to India. These type of discrimination is happening everywhere - here in our own country, our cities, and our own clinics and hospitals. It would not be farfetched to assume that this happens almost every day.

Despite the traumatic HIV test experience, Sharma continued to see doctors for regular checkup and care. However, many LGBTQIA Indians say they have long avoided doctors and hospitals altogether for fear of discrimination and mistreatment.

In the United States, more than 50 percent of LGBTQIA people have experienced healthcare discrimination, discouraging them from seeking medical treatment. Some of them resort of self-medication. Other barriers can span from absence of proper gender designation on medical forms to healthcare providers blatantly refusing to provide necessary services. As a result, LGBTQIA people are at higher risk for substance abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, obesity, depression and suicide compared to the general population.

Poor medical care due to discrimination not only endangers the lives of LGBTQIA people, but it can even the impact ives around them. Discrimination creates health disparities, directly influencing health outcomes. As a result, discrimination, whether it be against race, ethnicity, religion, gender and sexual orientation, is a public health issue.

Story taken and summarized from NPR: "India's Anti-Gay Law Is History. Next Challenge: Treat LGBTQ Patients With Respect"





Stonewall Inn nightclub raid on June 28, 1969 / New York Daily News Archive, Getty Images

Marsha P. Johnson, one of the most prominent gay rights activists in LGBTQIA history / The New York Public Library Digital Collections



The unveiling of the first rainbow flag in 1978 / Spencer Platt via Getty Images

"I thought a gay nation should have a flag too, to proclaim its own idea of power," Gilbert Baker, who died in 2017, wrote.



The crowd gathers on the National Mall for the first National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights on October 14, 1979 / ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives at USC Libraries



Candlelight vigil for Matthew Shepard, 1998 / Hornet Images



Celebrations follow Supreme Court ruling on same sex marriage / Doug Mills via The New York Times

# FAST FACTS on LGBTQIA History in the United States

1924 - The Society for Human Rights, the first documented gay rights organization, is founded by Henry Gerber in Chicago.

1950 - The Mattachine Society is formed by activist Harry Hay, focusing on social acceptance and support for homosexual individuals.

September 1955 - The first known lesbian rights organization in the United States forms in San Francisco, called the Daughters of Bilitis (DOB). They host private social functions, fearing police raids, threats of violence and discrimination in bars and clubs.

July 1961 - Illinois becomes the first state to decriminalize homosexuality.

June 28, 1969 - Police raid the Stonewall Inn in New York City, resulting in protests and demonstrations. This event later becomes known as the start for the gay civil rights movement.

June 28, 1970 - Community members in New York City march through the local streets to recognize the one-year anniversary of the Stonewall riots. This event is named Christopher Street Liberation Day, and is now considered the first gay pride parade.

1970 - Marsha P. Johnson, a Stonewall veteran and LGBTQIA activist, founded Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR) with Sylvia Rivera to fight intolerance, harassment, and violence faced by gender-nonconforming people, particularly those of color.

1973 - Lambda Legal becomes the first legal organization established to fight for equal rights of gays and lesbians.

December 15, 1973 - The American Psychiatric Association removes homosexuality from its list of mental disorders.

1978 - Gilbert Baker designs and stitches together the first rainbow flag.

October 14, 1979 - The first National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights takes place, with the event drawing an estimated 75,000 to 125,000 individuals marching for LGBTQIA rights.

1983 - Lambda Legal wins *People vs. West 12 Tenants Corp.*, the first HIV/AIDS discrimination lawsuit. Neighbors attempted to evict Dr. Joseph Sonnabend from the building because he was treating patients with HIV.

October 6-7, 1998 - Matthew Shepard was tied to a fence and beaten near Laramie, Wyoming. He was eventually found by a cyclist, but Shepard later died due to sustained injuries.

September 21, 1996 - President Clinton signs the Defense of Marriage Act, banning federal recognition of same-sex marriage.

June 26, 2015 - The U.S. Supreme Court legalized sex-sex marriage in all 50 states in *Obergefell v. Hodges*.

# RESOURCES

## ON-CAMPUS

### Counseling

PCOM-Georgia's Personal Support Counselor Leanne Henry Miller, LPC, MFT, provides support to all students. Her office is located the Student Affairs suite. Contact Leanne through Student Affairs at 678-225-7510.

### The Meditation Room

The Meditation Room will be a designated spot for mediation, prayer and reflection. This space is open to students, faculty and staff of all ages, genders, abilities, faiths and beliefs. The room is open during campus hours.

## Q&A: Ask Jordan

ASK JORDAN is the anonymous Q&A for LGBTQIA students at PCOM-Georgia

Need advice on how to support a friend who just came out?

Looking to connect with on-campus and off-campus resources for LGBTQIA students?

Want recommendation for queer books, movies, or educational resources?

Heard a term you don't understand and need an explanation?

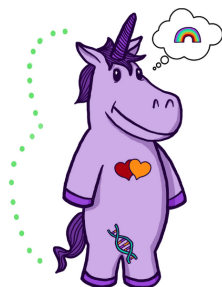
Ask us any question and JORDAN will post a response in our newsletter!

Email @

PCOMMedAlliance@pcom.edu

OR if you wish to remain anonymous, go to this link:

<https://goo.gl/forms/fDpWPNwG-WyRjBb3S2>



## OFF-CAMPUS

### Mental Health Support

TRANS LIFELINE is a national trans-led organization dedicated to improving the quality of trans lives with direct service, material support, advocacy and education. With their mission focusing on fighting the epidemic of trans suicide, they strive to improve life-outcomes by facilitating collective community aid. Their hotline number is 877-565-8860.

TREVOR PROJECT is an American non-profit organization founded in 1998 focused in suicide prevention efforts among LGBTQIA youth. Through the TrevorLifeline, the organization offers confidential service through trained counselors. If you are in need of a safe and judgment-free place to talk, they can be contacted at 1-866-488-7386.

### Sexual Health

NAESM - "We love you, love yourself, BE SAFE"  
NAESM stands for the National AIDS Education and Services for Minorities. The organization provides access to free HIV testing, care and treatment. They now offer PrEP.

If you have any questions about their services, feel free to contact them at 404-691-8880.

SISTERLOVE, INC. is an organization that provides a policy and advocacy program, health education and prevention, testing and counseling. Testing services are provided at the Motherhouse based in Atlanta, GA. They can be contacted at 404-254-4734.

SOMEONE CARES engages, educates and empowers individuals living with HIV/AIDS and other health disparities by eliminating barriers to culturally sensitive services, building a network for underserved groups, and increasing client resiliency. They can be contacted at 678-921-2706.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD is a nonprofit organization that provides sex education, reproductive health care, testing services and treatment. The Gwinnett clinic can be contacted at 404-688-9300.