

# Emory LGBT News

Weekly news and information from the Office of Lesbian, Gay,  
Bisexual and Transgender Life

Stay up to date on all events and opportunities in  
our office, on campus, in the community, and  
around the country!



## From the Office of LGBT Life

### Update on Office of LGBT Life Program Coordinator Search

The Office of LGBT Life is bringing several candidates to campus  
in the next two weeks for on-campus interviews. Please save these  
dates and times to meet these candidates:

**March 29<sup>th</sup>, April 8<sup>th</sup>, & April 9<sup>th</sup>**

Noon--Candidate lunch with students in the DUC  
(all students encouraged to attend)

2-2:45 p.m.--Presentation by the candidate  
(open session-room 355 DUC)

2:45-3:00--Open Forum  
(open session-room 355 DUC)

Office of LGBT Life  
Suite 246E  
Dobbs University Center

Phone: (404) 727-0272

Email: [lgbt@emory.edu](mailto:lgbt@emory.edu)

Hours: M-F 8:30am- 5:00pm

Web: [www.lgbt.emory.edu](http://www.lgbt.emory.edu)

Join our Facebook group:  
[http://www.facebook.com/group  
.php?gid=58990379767](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=58990379767)



## In this edition of Emory LGBT News:

### News in Higher Education

Adoption Advice for Gay and Lesbian Employers from The Chronicle for Higher Education

### Office of LGBT Life

- EQHAL Journal Club
- Trans-Forming Emory-NO MEETING 3/30/10
- Emory Pride Spring Meetings

### Events in the Community

- The Williams Institute Presents: "When Gay People Get Married: What Happened When Societies Legalize Same-Sex Marriage"

### Job and Internship Opportunities

- Legal and Professional Services PR Internship

### Scholarships

- NWSA Graduate Scholarship in Lesbian Studies

### Conferences

- "Doing Queer Studies Now" Graduate Conference- Call for Papers
- Unity Conference 2010

### Surveys and Research

- UGA PhD Candidate Seeking Participants
- NODAK PhD Candidate Seeking Participants
- Opportunity for LGBTQ Biology Undergraduates and Graduates
- Call for Submissions: Trans Bodies, Trans Selves



Sharon Semmens and Cleve Shirah, GALA Co-Chairs presenting the GALA Leadership Award to Basal Rabah at the Annual Pride Awards Banquet on Mar 2.

## News in Higher Education

### Adoption Advice for Gay and Lesbian Employees

By David W. Hanson, Emory's Associate VP, Finance and Special Assistant to the Executive VP of Finance

The decision to have children can be made in so many different ways: traditional two-parent conception, surrogacy, foster care, adoption. And the types of adoption are varied, too. For many gay and lesbian employees in academe, adoption is a commonly chosen course.

Over the past month, I interviewed several gay and lesbian professors and staff members about the adoption process. Some are in the midst of it. Some have been through it. And some, like me and my partner, have decided to forgo adoption for a mix of personal and professional reasons. (We had a surrogacy agreement with a birth mother several years ago that didn't work out.)



*Cont'd on pg 3*

## Office of LGBT Life

### Emory Queer Health Advocacy League (EQHAL)- Journal Club

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday and 4<sup>th</sup> Wed of every month at 12pm  
Office of LGBT Life (236E DUC)

EQHAL will be holding bimonthly journal club meetings to discuss issues faced by member of the LGBTQ community in accessing health care services. Journal article for discussion will be announced via email prior to meetings.

Contact: Ian Spain [gspain@emory.edu](mailto:gspain@emory.edu)

### Trans-Forming Emory

Tuesdays at 7pm

Trans-Forming Emory is a group for members of the Emory Community that meets to discuss issues of gender and building community for transgender, gender variant, transsexual, genderqueer, gender questioning people and their allies, friends & partners.

\*\*\*\*NO MEETING 3/30/10\*\*\*\*

Trans-Forming Emory is on facebook, too:

<http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=295859677513#!/group.php?gid=179327742373>

### Emory Pride Spring Meetings

Wednesdays at 7pm 101C Callaway

#### Run Off Elections on March 31, 2010

Emory Pride will have a runoff election for the position of Co-President. After the election, Emory Pride will finalize plans for the rest of the spring and begin planning for fall 2010.

#### Coming up:

Out at Work Panel POSTPONED

New Date: April 14

### Article from News in Higher Ed Cont'd

**Legal issues.** The legal landscape for gays and lesbians pursuing adoption varies considerably by state and even at times by county. For example, Florida law bars "homosexuals" from adoption, and Utah law disallows unmarried, cohabitating couples from petitioning to adopt, thus preventing gay and lesbian partners in a relationship that is not a legal marriage from adopting. Other states are far more liberal and progressive.

In some states, such as Georgia, the chances of gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered people adopting may depend, in part, on the county of residence. Georgia law does not specifically permit same-sex couples to adopt jointly or prevent them from doing so, and no statewide court has held one way or another, leaving it up to the lower courts (by county) to grant or deny adoption petitions.

Two of the gay and lesbian adoptive parents I met (one single mother and the other in a partnership) admitted that they relocated to a different county where gay adoption was more likely to be granted. The single mother said that because she lives in Georgia, it was important to "get the right judge" and on "the right docket" and know which lawyers to hire so she would not have to "hide her gayness."

The legal issues are not confined to the adoption process. For instance, the federal Family and Medical Leave Act allows a parent to take time off to care for a child, but if a state does not grant second-parent adoption or recognize parental rights, then a same-sex partner may not be a "legal" parent under state law to take advantage of FMLA leave after the baby arrives or if the child falls ill.

Understanding the legal environment on a state and county level took tremendous effort for some of these parents. The single mom suggested that her institution could have provided helpful information on a Web site or could have created an e-mail discussion group for gay and lesbian adoptive parents.

Continue reading [here](#).

## Events in the Community

### **The Williams Institute Presents: “When Gay People Get Married: What Happened When Societies Legalize Same-Sex Marriage”**

*Thurs, Mar 25 5:30pm Paul Hastings LLP, Bank of America Building*

Featuring Lee Badgett, Research Director of the Williams Institute and Beth Littrell, Staff Attorney of Lambda Legal

Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and refreshments while listening to a reading from Lee's book and learn more about legal recognition of same-sex marriage couples in the Southeast.

*RSVP to: Katie Dowd, 310-794-5192, dowd@law.ucla.edu*

## Job and Internship Opportunities

### **Legal and Professional Services PR Internship**

Poston Communications, LLC is a public relations agency focused on professional services companies in the Southeast including law, architecture, accounting, financial services, interior design, construction, health care, management consulting, real estate and the arts.

The public relations intern will be a recent graduate, or actively enrolled in, a law school or university law, public relations, marketing, English, political science or other related program. Current students will preferably have at least junior class standing.

The individual must demonstrate the ability to undertake basic public relations writing assignments, and possess an understanding of basic media relations skills, an ability to interact professionally with clients, and good judgment. A working knowledge of computers, as well as word processing and database management software is necessary.

Interns will work between 15-40 hours per week.

*To apply please email cover letter, resume and writing samples to:*

*Corey Nolan  
P. O. Box 79466  
Atlanta, Georgia 30357  
nolan@postoncommunications.com*

## 2010 Unity Conference

Apr 9-10 UNC-Chapel Hill

The themes this year is “Intersecting Identities: Performance, Politics, Power,” and focuses on the concept of intersectionality as an ethic of theorizing and organizing. We wish to take up the multiple sites of difference that inform our experience of queer and allied communities as a primary and generative site of social change.

More information can be found at <http://unityconference.webs.com>.

## Surveys & Research

### Opportunity for LGBTQ Biology Undergraduates and Graduates

The Federation for American Societies for Experimental Biology is exploring the idea of organizing a conference for LGBT biology students to present work (whether LGBT-related or not) and to network. At this point they are trying to gauge the level of interest among students. If you are an LGBTQ biology undergraduate or graduate student please contact Lisa Silverman: [lsilverman@faseb.org](mailto:lsilverman@faseb.org).

### UGA PhD Candidate Seeking Participants

Adult Education PhD Candidate from UGA is conducting research on the multiple meanings of motherhood and how a mother’s perception of motherhood may change when faced with maternal experiences that are opposite to what society dictates, for example being a mother of a gay or lesbian.

If you wish to participate or know of other mothers who would be willing to participate, please contact me through the information provided below.

Tom Harnden: [tharnden@uga.edu](mailto:tharnden@uga.edu) 404-660-0881

### NODAK PhD Candidate Seeking Participants

Counseling Psychology doctoral candidate at the University of North Dakota is seeking participants for a dissertation about how stressful experience are affected by social and cultural identities and coping strategies.

Participants must be over the age of 18 who are willing to complete an online survey that requires 30-60 minutes. You will also have the opportunity to enter a drawing for one of eight \$25 Target gift cards. This study is completely voluntary and you may end your

participation at any time.

Questions or concerns about this study should be directed to [kimberly.jorgensen@und.nodak.edu](mailto:kimberly.jorgensen@und.nodak.edu).

Link to Study:

<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s/154317/iajgo>

### Call for Submissions: Trans Bodies, Trans Selves

“Trans Bodies, Trans Selves” is a resource guide for the transgender population, covering health, legal issues, cultural and social questions, history, theory, and more.

The book will be aimed at a general transgender and gender-questioning audience, and when using complicated language, will provide definitions and explanations. The tone will be friendly and fun, and will promote trans-positive, feminist and genderqueer advocacy. Short opinion pieces and testimonials will be included in each section. Anonymous quotes from transgender and gender-variant people will also be included. These will be gathered from this website's survey.

Chapter authors are needed for the sections listed below. In addition, 1-page opinion pieces or testimonials are also being collected.

Terminology, Defining Ourselves, Gender Theory, Transgender History, Transgender Communities, Living in Transition, Transgender Children and Adolescents, Legal Issues, Resources.

\*Submissions for consideration as a chapter author should include the following:

- 1) A detailed outline of the proposed chapter, with an estimate of the page length (450 words/page).
- 2) A list of questions pertaining to your topic that should be included in interviews or an electronic survey of transgender individuals. This survey will be distributed by the editor and the answers to these questions will be used as quotes within your chapter.
- 3) A description of your experience in this field and why you would be the right person to author this chapter. Please include a CV.
- 4) A writing sample to a similar audience.

Please direct all submissions to: [transbodies@gmail.com](mailto:transbodies@gmail.com)