Spectrum Conference Presents: Cremosa

_A Message from Taylor Huffer, our Palace Party Coordinator_

On Saturday, March 24th at 10 pm there will be a party at the Palace Theater as part of the NY6 Spectrum Conference. With bright lights, psychedelic colors, and funky music, this event will celebrate queer and trans students plus friends all while benefiting F2L. This organization works with and for queer and trans folks (primarily of color) that are incarcerated in the New York prison system. Featured New York City DJ, Cremosa will be flaunting her unapologetically sexy and grindy sets to curate a night that centers community, queerness, and care. The first 100 attendees will receive a Spectrum Conference t-shirt.

Interview with Miss Major

_A Reflection from Alastar Kettles, our Newsletter Editor_

If you’re searching for inspiration, Miss Major is sure to put light in your eyes. As a trans man reflecting on my interview with Miss Major, I was enchanted by her vibrant personality and charming honesty. As someone who has dedicated her whole life to fighting for trans and gender non-conforming people and people of color, she sees “a story of oppression and survival” in our narratives. According to Miss Major, however, “we’ve been around since the beginning of time,” and we deserve recognition. Miss Major takes pride in hearing that what she has said or done has inspired us to be our most authentic selves. So, I will say, she has inspired me to find beauty in my story and discover my passions. For Miss Major, passion extends beyond politics. Passion to her is: boys, kisses, and vivacious partying. She is a true testament to the fact that our lives, as trans and gender non-conforming people, are not just a fight for survival, but a celebration of ourselves and our stories. Be sure to come out to Love Auditorium this Saturday, March 24th at 5:30 to hear her emboldening message!
A Joint Newsletter by LGBTQ Initiatives & LGBTQ Studies

OUT & ABOUT

khristian kemp-delisser
(he/him, they/them)  A Letter from our LGBTQ Initiatives Director

My time here has been characterized by great shifts and changes spurred and prompted by brave students, loyal staff, and forward-thinking faculty. We moved the LGBTQ Initiatives Office to the Center for Women's Studies, bringing our communities and causes in close alignment with grassroots feminist and social justice campus movements.

Colgate remains a model and a beacon for local schools and agencies, a status that will be on display this month when we host the NY6 Spectrum conference. And this newsletter is a testament to the strength of our relationships with LGBTQ Studies and other offices campuswide to promote intellectual engagement, community building, and outreach to all marginalized communities. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve and work with the Colgate LGBTQ+ and Ally communities for these past four years. Thank you.

Hélène Julien
(she/her)  A Letter from our Director of LGBTQ Studies

It has become a cliché to call this time of the academic year “bitter-sweet.” There is surely much to rejoice and take pride in this year. After months of tireless preparation by some extraordinarily dedicated students, Colgate will soon be hosting the biannual Spectrum Conference, gathering students, faculty, and staff from NY6 institutions to reflect, network, and build community around questions of sexual and gender identities.

But we will also bid goodbye to khristian kemp-delisser, who has directed LGBTQ Initiatives since 2014. We will miss his generous and inspiring presence more than words can say. He has helped make Colgate a better place, where all can truly feel welcome and supported.

Finally, I would like to express my personal appreciation to the students and colleagues who have made my experience as director of LGBTQ studies such a meaningful experience. This is the kind of work that one can only do with and for community, and it has been an honor to be called to do it.

Ken Valente
(he/him)  Faculty Feature from the Chair of Mathematics and Professor of LGBTQ Studies

Colgate introduced its LGBTQ Studies program in 2009, and we've made great strides since then. At the same time, I’ve also become more involved in helping other institutions to create their own curricula and programs. As part of that work, I’ve often gone back to a 1993 special issue of the Journal of Homosexuality dedicated to Gay and Lesbian Studies as an emergent discipline.

To mark the 25th anniversary of an issue that sought to encourage future efforts, I proposed a new special issue of the Journal of Homosexuality with the intention of exploring the ways in which LGBTQ Studies programs have developed, evolved, adapted, and sustained themselves within the academy -- and continue to do so. The ultimate goal for this special issue, currently titled "25 Years On: The State and Continuing Development of LGBTQ Studies Programs” and due for publication in the second half of 2018, is to contribute to a body of scholarly work that speaks to campus climate by providing a forum for considering the curricular, intellectual, and institutional landscapes our programs now occupy and negotiate.

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Meet Our New LGBTQ Initiatives Intern

Keyra Jimenez
(she/her)

I like to: cook, binge TV shows, give hugs
Favorite thing about the WMST center: the cozy atmosphere, the library

Find us online

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