



APRIL 2025

Let the sun shine in!

Welcome to our monthly newsletter to keep LGBT FSA members updated on our events, opportunities to get involved, and issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community at GVSU.

In addition to sending the newsletter out via email, we'll also post the newsletters on our website each month.

In this issue:

- LGBT FSA Election Results
- Member Spotlight
- Advocacy Spotlight - Title IX Policy Q&A follow up, OCRTIX Resolution Pool, Advocacy Group Statement of Focus
- LGBT FSA End of Year Picnic
- Graduation Celebrations
- We recommend... (Queer media recs!)
- Get Connected

CHECK OUT THE LGBT FSA WEBSITE!
OR EMAIL US AT LGBTFSA@GVSU.EDU

LGBT FSA

Steering Committee Elections



The results are in!
Meet the 25-26 LGBT
FSA Steering Committee
Members...

Candidate 1: Sarah Chase (they/them)

GVSU role: Affiliate faculty

98.1% Yes votes

Candidate 2: Kel Nemetz (she/her)

GVSU role: Office Assistant in CLAS Dean's Office

94.3% Yes votes

Candidate 3: AJ Young (any pronouns with respect)

GVSU role: Coordinator of Tutoring and Supplemental Instruction

96.2% Yes votes

Since all three candidates received a majority "yes" votes, all three have been elected to the Steering Committee. The new committee will begin serving on May 1, 2025. Since there are 4 seats on the steering committee, the final seat may be filled by appointment, per the organizations bylaws.

If you're interested in serving on the LGBT FSA steering committee, but missed the nomination window, let us know!

If you have questions about the voting process or the LGBT FSA, please email us at lgbtfsa@gvsu.edu.



Spotlighting Luke Madden

he/him

[CLICK HERE TO
NOMINATE SOMEONE
FOR A FUTURE
SPOTLIGHT!](#)

What's your connection to GVSU? I'm a 2-time Grand Valley alumnus and I currently work in the Records and Registration Office, where I've been working for the last 7 years. I earned a Bachelor of Arts in English and creative writing in 2008, and a Master of Education with an emphasis in adult and higher education in 2021. My final project for my graduate program focused on cultivating resilience in LGBTQ+ college students through mindfulness-based practices.

What are 3 words you would use to describe yourself? Empathic, grateful, resilient

What's something in your life you're proud of? I'm proud of the journey I've been through with my mental health because it has helped me be a more honest and vulnerable version of myself, which helps me connect more authentically with others.

What's something you recommend? I've been practicing mindfulness and meditation daily for the last 6 ½ years. It has been a constant coping technique throughout my mental health journey in helping me investigate my thoughts and emotions, and it was influential in the creation of my final project in graduate school. There are so many ways to practice mindfulness, and I highly recommend people find what works best for them (whether on their own or with a teacher/therapist to guide them through difficult situations). Also, therapy is amazing! 10/10 would recommend.

Q&A Session: Title IX Policy Updates

HUGE THANK YOU to Stacy and MJ from the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX for participating in a Q&A session last month about the updates to Title IX policy at the federal level and what that means at GVSU. We'll have follow up info from MJ & Stacy in the next newsletter, so stay tuned!

Join the OCRTIX Resolution Pool!

The Resolution Pool is a group of faculty and staff who facilitate the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX's resolution processes by serving in roles such as co-investigator, hearing panelist, and case advisor. Colleagues from any background, employee classification, or area of the university are encouraged to join the Resolution Pool. No prior knowledge of university policy or state and federal law is required – OCRTIX staff will provide training and ongoing guidance and consultation. Members of the pool must be able to apply strong critical thinking, objective decision-making, and professional neutrality skills in a variety of roles and situations. All members of the pool must act impartially at all times in the best interest of a fair, just process.

The time commitment for each case varies between 8 – 15 hours across multiple weeks/months. All roles come with a \$200 stipend upon completion of service.

Please visit our website to learn more and sign up for the next training session on Wednesday, April 16.

LGBT FSA Advocacy Group Focus Statement

The LGBT FSA advocacy group has been meeting regularly over the past few months. We've been reviewing all the climate data collected by the LGBT FSA as well as other sources, such as the ombuds reports, campus climate survey, etc.

We've synthesized our conclusions from that review into a document that lays out some potential areas of focus for our work. Over the summer we'll be sharing that with other stakeholders (like you guys), gathering feedback, planning, and adjusting our course. It's important to understand this document isn't "finished," our plans could change drastically as we learn more from other stakeholders. This is a place to start, that's all.

Expect a more formal presentation of our plans this coming fall. In the meantime, if you have comments or feedback, please share with us via email at lgbtfsa@gvsu.edu.

[Click here to read the LGBT FSA Advocacy Groups DRAFT Statement of Focus](#)

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If you're interested in joining the advocacy group - or just learning more about what this group will be doing - it's not too late! Please email lgbtfsa@gvsu.edu to let us know you are interested.

We are excited to see this group continue to engage more of you in advocacy conversations and work at GVSU!



GVSU LGBT FSA



END OF YEAR PICNIC

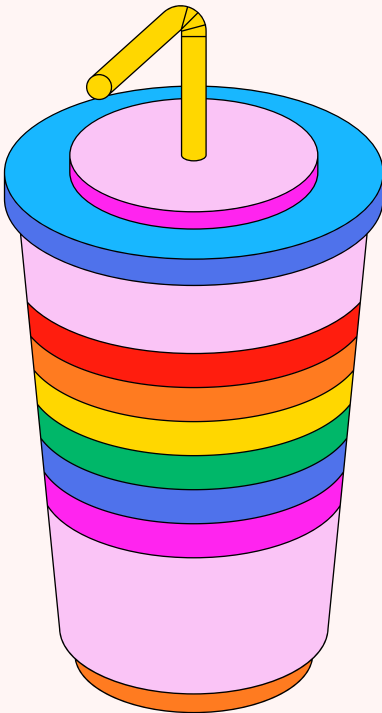
APR 29

Tuesday

END OF YEAR PICNIC

11:00 AM - 01:30 PM Kirkhof/Library North Lawn

[RSVP HERE](#)



**Come for as little or as long
as you like!**
**Free food, lawn games, crafts, and
LGBT FSA swag!**

**HAVE AN IDEA FOR AN EVENT OR WANT
TO MEET UP FOR A COMMUNITY
EVENT? LET US KNOW!**



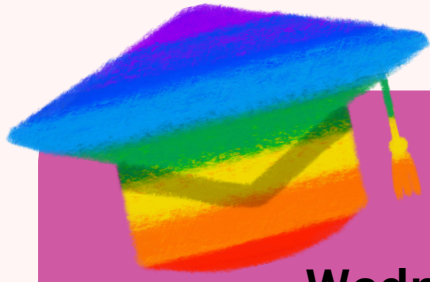
GVSU.EDU/LGBTFACSTAFF



LGBTFSA@GVSU.EDU



GRADUATION CELEBRATIONS



You're invited to Lavender Graduation!

**Wednesday, April 16, 2025, 7:00-9:00pm
Kirkhof Center, room 2204 (Pere Marquette)
Allendale Campus**

If you have any questions, please get in touch with the LGBTRC at
lgbtcenter@gvsu.edu or 616-331-2530



[Click here for the full list of graduation celebrations, including:](#)

- **Asian Graduation Celebration**
- **Black Graduation Celebration**
- **Latino/a/x Graduation Celebration**
- **Lavender Graduation**
- **Native American/Indigenous Graduation Celebration**

WE RECOMMEND...

Looking for a great LGBTQ+ books, articles, podcasts, tv shows, movies, etc.?

We've got recommendations! Each month we'll highlight some queer media recommended by LGBT FSA members.

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT
A RECOMMENDATION!](#)

Bodyshare: A Novella

by Leandra Inglis

Recommended by Jordan Sickrey

This story is very near and dear to me. It's a modern queer fantasy that features an aromantic and pansexual male lead, and it's about identity and hits hard for any creative. The craft is brilliant, and the layering of details is amazing. I still find things to have feelings over. It's a truly wonderful novella that weaves metaphor and literal together, and it is, ultimately, my favorite book out there. [Learn more on Goodreads.](#)



These LGBTQ+ characters are the heart and soul of 'Grey's Anatomy'

Article by Mey Rude

Recommended by Natalie

Grey's Anatomy is celebrating 20 years of LGBTQ+ representation on the show! As someone who used to hide under the covers to watch clips of Arizona and Callie falling in love, this is very special to me. I especially love seeing so many women represented in this article!

Though many do not like the show for a plethora of reasons, Grey's Anatomy has never shied away from pointing a spotlight on queer identities, even doing so before it was the norm. This article features many different identities: Lesbian, Transgender, Bisexual, Nonbinary, Gay, Unlabeled, and more! [Read the article on Out.com](#)

Join the Out List!

The LGBT FSA and LGBT Resource Center maintain an Out List of LGBTQ+ faculty & staff at GVSU.

You can use this list to find and connect with queer colleagues across campus.

Participation is completely optional. **Click here to add your name to the list!**

In next month's newsletter...

- Title IX Q&A Follow Up
- More queer media recs
- Member spotlight
- and more!!

Did a friend send you this?

Email lgbtfsa@gvsu.edu to sign up for the LGBT Faculty & Staff Association email list!



Have an idea for our newsletter?

Please share it with us!

Check out our [idea submission guidelines](#) & [submission form](#)!