



F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 5

How long 'til spring break???

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:

- Advocacy Spotlight
- Queer Connections Mentorship Program Update
- Member Spotlight
- Tips for Coping with Uncertainty
- Winter 2025 Event Calendar
- Campus Events of Interest
- We recommend... (Queer media recs!)
- Get Connected

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

LGBT Advocacy Group Update

The advocacy group spent time at the last meeting looking through all the data we have about needs and trying to choose areas to focus on.

We're working on a statement of focus to articulate what we'll be working on and why-we hope that will go out for general comment in a week or two. We are working on the first draft right now. So be on the lookout for that soon.

Again, it's not too late to get involved-we have folks who have come on as their capacity allows.

The Advocacy group will continue meeting throughout the winter 2025 semester. We'll share updates with the FSA membership in the newsletter and via email.

If you're interested in joining the 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. Or just stop by the meeting!

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

What is Queer Connections?

Queer Connections (QC) pairs LGBTQ+ students with LGBTQ+ faculty/staff mentors. Mentorship pairs meet throughout the academic year and participate in various program events. QC is a joint program with the Milton E Ford LGBT Center and the LGBT FSA.

Number of mentor/mentee pairs for 24-25: 13

What's new this year?

QC participants were invited to a virtual escape room in January that was a great addition to the program! It was a great way for program participants to meet people who they were not paired with directly and stay connected with their mentees/mentors.

Here's what program participants had to say about the experience:

"Overall, I had a great time. It was fun to see how different people stepped in to get something solved and how we had to work together, especially to look at the different clues while simultaneously applying the info from the clues to something else..."

"I loved the escape room event. I also liked how we can collaborate virtually and still make connections. I think a few options for virtual events is a good idea for the future, especially in the cooler months."

What's next for QC?

Program coordinators are looking forward to adding more programming in the future and even more excited about the end of year celebration this April!

Interested in becoming a mentor? We recruit new mentors in the fall semester and will announce in the newsletter when the interest forms open for the next round of the program.



Spotlighting Jayla Dallas she/they

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

What's your connection to GVSU? I am a 2022 GVSU Alum and I started working at Grand Valley in 9/11/2023 in the Human Resources Department.

What are 3 words you would use to describe yourself? I asked those closest to me for their input, and the 3 words they used to describe me were genuine, compassionate, and honest/transparent.

What's something in your life you're proud of? I'm proud of building the confidence to take risks and pursue things simply because I want to. It's been empowering to step out of my comfort zone and follow my instincts.

What's something you recommend? If you like Mediterranean Food, I suggest Le Kabob on 28th st, sooooo good! 😊

Who should we spotlight next?

[Fill out the nomination form](#) and we'll reach out to that person with more information about how to participate if they want to. Self-nominations are welcome and encouraged!

COPING WITH UNCERTAINTY

Queer people are facing increased threats to our rights, access to basic healthcare, our physical safety, and more. New regulations and information is coming faster than ever before and it's often unclear what will be officially enforced and when. This uncertainty adds an additional layer of stress and anxiety for many of us.

With that in mind, we wanted to share some strategies for coping with uncertainty in our lives and world.

HELLO
MY NAME IS

Name and
acknowledge what
you're feeling



Limit exposure to news



Control what you
can, release some
of what you can't



Be present - concentrate on where you are right now.



Focus on healthy routines and coping skills



Connect with others
Lean into community



References

[American Psychological Association](#)

[University of Michigan Counseling & Psychological Services](#)

COMING UP SOON!

KARAOKE *night*

WITH THE
LGBTQ FSA

MONDAY
FEBURARY 17TH

8:00PM

APARTMENT LOUNGE
33 SHELDON AVE NE

COME SING YOUR HEART OUT WITH
YOUR FAVORITE LGBTQ COLLEAGUES!
CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE! FEEL
FREE TO REACH OUT TO KEL QUESTIONS,
NEMETZKE@GVSU.EDU



GVSU LGBT FSA



WINTER 2025 EVENTS

CASUAL QUEER HANGOUTS

Thurs. 2/20 12:00-1:30pm
Kirkhof 2259
Allendale Campus

Weds. 3/19 2:30-4:00pm
DeVos C lobby area
Pew Campus Social Justice Ctr

Drop-in anytime - BYO coffee/lunch/crafts.
We'll have casual crafts to share too.

FEB 5

Wednesday

LGBT FSA HAPPY HOUR

05:30 PM - 07:30 PM @ New Holland - GR

FEB 17

Monday

KARAKOKE

8:00 PM @ Apartment Lounge - GR

MAR 20

Thursday

GAME NIGHT

05:30 PM - 07:00 PM KEN 134 (Pew)

APR 29

Tuesday

END OF YEAR PICNIC

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

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



[GVSU.EDU/LGBTFACSTAFF](https://www.gvsu.edu/lgbtfacstaff)



LGBTFSA@GVSU.EDU



Black History Month @ GVSU

Multiple events throughout February

[Click here for a full schedule](#)



As always, lots of great options from from the **Inclusion & Equity Institute!**
We've highlighted a few below - [click here for a full list](#)

Know Your Rights Workshops

To register, [click here.](#)

presented by staff from Michigan Immigrant Rights Center

Participants will learn what constitutional rights you hold, whether or not you are a citizen of the United States. The presenters will share when and how to exercise those rights and how to assist students, faculty, staff, and community members in doing the same.

- [Wednesday, February 19, 2025](#) from 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Allendale Campus Kirkhof Center 2204 Pere Marquette
- [Friday, February 28, 2025](#) from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pew Campus
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Creative Wellness (same session as fall, but feel free to join AJ again!)

February 19, 2025 | 11:00am-12:30pm | Virtual

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Intro to Restorative-Based Conflict Prevention & Resolution

March 21, 2025 | 10-11:30am | DeVos Building - Pew Campus

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!](#)

Alligator Bites Never Heal

Album/mixtape by Doechii

Recommended by Kel

She just won best rap album at the Grammy's alongside many other queer winners and her level of performance is INSANE. [Check out her Tiny Desk Concert here.](#)



Middlemarch: The Series

YouTube/web series by Rebecca Shoptaw

Recommended by Emily

This web series holds a special place in my life as the catalyst for realizing my asexuality (thanks Dot!). To quote the web series' official description, "Middlemarch: The Series" is a "modernized, gender-bent, vlog-style web series adaptation of 'Middlemarch' by George Eliot." I just find the characters so endearing (most of them...) and really enjoy the creator's artistic choices. Even if you've never read "Middlemarch" (the novel), it's still worth it. As a strong adaptation, it can hold its own. [Watch the full series on YouTube](#)



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...

- 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](#)!