

McKENNA DAVIS
2018



FOR SCHOLARSHIP IN MATH & PHYSICS THAT HAS EARNED HER THE **WOMEN IN AEROSPACE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARD** AND A SPOT IN THE **AEROSPACE ENGINEERING PhD PROGRAM AT UCLA.**

AYLEN MERCADO
2019



FOR WORKING TIRELESSLY AS A POWERFUL ADVOCATE WITH BOTH A NATIONAL AND LOCAL FOCUS; AND FOR EXISTING AS GENUINE FOUNTAIN OF GOODNESS ON THE RHODES CAMPUS.

OUTSTANDING STUDENTS



CATHERINE OWEN
2020



FOR LEADERSHIP IN RHODES STUDENT GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE GREAT HOPES FOR HER AS OUR NEW STUDENT BODY VP.

MARY THOMAS
2021



FOR A COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL JUSTICE AND HELPING TO BRING THE "MARCH FOR OUR LIVES" MOVEMENT TO MEMPHIS.

FROM EACH CLASS YEAR

EDITORS' CHOICE AWARDS

ON NOV. 5, 1919, A GROUP OF YOUNG JOURNALISTS AT RHODES COLLEGE CREATED THE *SOU'WESTER*, WHAT THEY CALLED, "THE MOST DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTION A BODY OF STUDENTS CAN ESTABLISH... IT BELONGS TO ONE GROUP AS MUCH AS THE OTHER AND ENTERS INTO EVERY ACTIVITY KNOWN IN THE COLLEGE."

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, THE *SOU'WESTER* HAS HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO REPORT ON THE RHODES COMMUNITY — PAYING CAREFUL ATTENTION TO THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF ITS MEMBERS. IT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE EDITORS' CHOICE AWARDS TO RECOGNIZE THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS. THE *SOU'WESTER* EDITORIAL BOARD SELECTS THE RECIPIENTS THROUGH A MAJORITY CONSENSUS PROCESS WITH ADVISEMENT FROM MEMBERS OF THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY.



EDITORS' CHOICE AWARDS, CONT'D



OUTSTANDING ADMINISTRATOR DR. MARJORIE HASS

FOR A TRULY HISTORIC FIRST YEAR AS PRESIDENT AND FOR PROPELLING THE COLLEGE INTO A NEW AND PROMISING TRAJECTORY.

OUTSTANDING FACULTY MEMBER DR. TIM HUEBNER

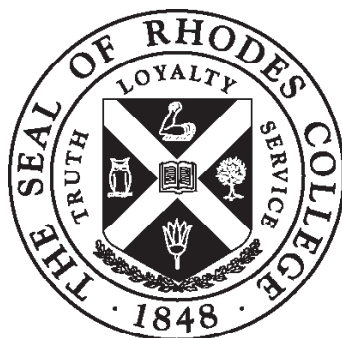
FOR CAREFUL ATTENTION TO DETAIL AND A ZEALOUS PURSUIT OF THE TRUTH IN REVEALING THE UNPUBLISHED HISTORY OF NATHAN BEDFORD FORREST'S HOUSE. WE MUST ALWAYS ACKNOWLEDGE OUR PAST AND WORK HARD TO SEE INJUSTICE REMEMBERED.



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EDITORS' CHOICE AWARDS, CONT'D

OUTSTANDING
GREEK
ORG

ALPHA
OMICRON
PI



FOR DEMONSTRATING TRUE SISTERHOOD IN INVITING A TRANS WOMAN INTO THEIR SORORITY.
WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER.

OUTSTANDING
STUDENT
ORG

GENDER &
SEXUALITY
ALLIANCE



FOR A METICULOUSLY PLANNED 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SHOWING THE STRENGTH OF
INCLUSIVITY.

OUTSTANDING
COMPETITIVE
TEAM

MOCKTRIAL



FOR TREMENDOUS HARD WORK AND ACHIEVEMENT WHILE CEMENTING THEIR STATUS, NATIONALLY, AS A FORCE TO
BE RECKONED WITH.

WITHIN THE GATES

Hass Seeks to Make Dining Services Representative of Student Desires

BY TY GEORGEADIS '20
STAFF WRITER

The administration is seeking to change the dining policy on campus after hearing opinions from the student body. President Marjorie Hass publicized her intentions in an email sent to students in mid-April stating, "Our goal is to select a food service partner with program offerings that are aligned with our institutional values, will enhance the student experience, and is the best option for our community."

Certain members of the Rhodes College faculty are currently leading the movement. This includes the Dean of Students Russ Wigginton, as well as Hass herself. Ultimately, the committee

will be formed in the Fall and the search process will begin thereafter. Collaboration with the student government and community as a whole will be crucial as the decision process is planned to rely heavily on student input. Wigginton and Hass both agree student involvement is a high priority. Additionally, the committee will look for a provider, Aramark or not, that will maintain and respect the relationships with refectory employees that have been built over the years.

Aramark has been a provider at Rhodes College for over 25 years. When asked about the driving force behind the shift in values, the administration has simply decided to achieve a more inclusive and inviting community by approaching

dining services concerns now. The administration realizes this aspect of the college is about the students and will treat it accordingly.

Coming from another college, Hass, upon arrival, proceeded to hear thoughts from students on what they would like to see improved. Having implemented a new food services policy at her last institution, Austin College, complaints about the refectory at Rhodes were important to her. In the same area as providing current students a more enjoyable experience, the administration looks forward to becoming more competitive with other colleges. The committee will be using favorable dining experiences at other academic institutions to compare alternatives.

"When it comes to looking at schools," Hass said, "it's good for prospective students to look at our dining services and check that box."

The administration looks forward to many stimulating ideas concerning dining policies and the decision-making process. Wigginton mentioned student trips to observe different dining experiences at other colleges as a possibility. Most importantly, however, are the negotiations.

"It's not about what we find but what we ask for," Hass said.

To know what to ask for, the Rhodes community will have to first determine what it is they want.

Students React to President Hass' Email

BY ROHAN KAZA '21
STAFF WRITER

President Hass sent out an email to the student body detailing the plans discussed by the Rhodes College Board of Trustees on April 13. Over the two days they met they addressed a 2018-2019 budget plan as well as the expansion of the counseling center, but there were also three crucial initiatives brought up: the Alcohol Taskforce's approved resolution, a process for discernment of names and memorials on campus, and a reevaluation of the current dining services.

The Rhodes Presidential Alcohol Taskforce, a combination of students and staff, presented their recommendations for improving the campus's alcohol culture while also discouraging its abuse. They surmised this report based on their on-campus research as well as looking at what works for others nationwide. They introduce new policies for education and awareness while also suggesting a revision of current policies. There are many dissenting opinions on this course of action within the student body.

Student Body President Spencer Beckman '19 said, "The Presidential Taskforce on Alcohol has provided us with a good understanding of how we can continue to improve our community's understanding of alcohol and healthy drinking. Largely, this relies not simply upon school policies or student

education but, instead, upon the culture of our campus. Over the course of the next year RSG will be looking to partner with students, student organizations and administrators to ensure that we continue to promote a culture of responsibility at Rhodes."

Some students, although they agree upon the necessity for action, believe a different approach is in order.

Alice Berry '21 said, "Frat parties are only a symptom of a larger cultural problem. I have friends from other countries where the drinking age is at 16 for beer and wine, and 18 for hard liquor, and none of them have had to be transported to a hospital... In part because their countries' legal systems are different, there is a lot less shame surrounding an alcohol related incident, which is a concern I have that the report from the Alcohol Task Force didn't seem to take into account. On campus, I think something needs to be done about the fact that fraternities have a monopoly on alcohol consumption. As a result, few people drink casually or socially, only at pregames and frat parties, where we have a tendency to go overboard."

Another suggestion came from Camden Napier '21. Napier said, "What our school needs is better planning for weekends and more spaces for students to do things besides go to parties. We need something like a student center to gather, socialize, and enjoy life away from academics... I think the fear of

increased punishment is only going to create a negative reaction from the student body."

All-in-all, students seem to unanimously seek a change in the status quo of the campus's alcohol culture.

The next initiative is to deal with the controversy surrounding the names of certain buildings and memorials on-campus through a discernment process. To quote directly from the Naming Principles document emailed out to the student body, "This study of our past, reflection on our present, and aspirations for our future must be undertaken with great humility and respect, as we recognize that all histories are challenging, multivalent, and may make us uncomfortable." Next Fall there will be a discernment committee consisting of students and staff to carry out the review. Students seem divided towards this as well.

Jacob Fontaine '21 said, "I am very impressed with the board's decision to continue the conversation surrounding the renaming of certain buildings on campus. Regardless of any politics across the country surrounding the removal and renaming of certain public features, I think it is important that the College continues to foster the most welcoming environment it possibly can."

In addition, Napier said, "... I believe our school should take a very close look at what the names of our buildings and what we decide to memorialize says

about us. Our city is doing it and we should too."

Other students, although they concur with the effort to address the darker parts of history, do not support the complete renaming of institutions.

Alice Berry '21 said, "... I don't know whether renaming buildings is the right way to go about that... In my opinion, it would be best to publicly acknowledge the fact that the man for whom Palmer Hall was named was racist, and that Rhodes does not tolerate those views, but still remembers that it as an institution once admired him."

Either way, there seems to be an appreciation that the issue is being embraced and acknowledged.

Lastly, there is the initiative to reevaluate and improve the dining services here on-campus, and a huge part of it is talking with Aramark (current service provider) and other companies that agree with the institution's goal: to ameliorate the current dining experience while also preserving the staff that are an important part of our community. For students, this seems to be a step in the right direction as they share the sentiments behind both an upgrade in dining services and the preservation of beloved staff members.

With so much planned, there will be a lot to look out for in the following year or two. For better or for worse, Rhodes is steadily changing along with its students.

WITHIN THE GATES

Campus Life Awards Celebrate Student, Faculty, Staff Achievement

BY RYLAN LORANCE '21
STAFF WRITER

This year's Campus Life Awards celebrated excellence in many different campus clubs and organizations. The Banquet was held in the Rat, with the tables donned with white tablecloths and a stage set up to award those people who have shown extraordinary work in whatever field or club they work in. Former Student Body President Thomas Mitchell '18 and Raven Burks '18 hosted the banquet—both receiving their own awards during the evening. Nearly fifty people were given awards ranging from work as an RA to professors receiving awards for their excellence.

The night began with awards given out to Rhodes Student Government members who have shown excellence throughout the year as well as to employees of the college who have distinguished themselves. Daniel Elliott '19 was awarded the Jacob Abraham Award and Sri Velrajan '20 was awarded the Matthew Sean Jones award. With regard to college employees, Director of Student Accessibility Services Melissa Butler was awarded the Lynn Conley Award for Outstanding Staff Member, Assistant Professor of English Ernest Gibson was awarded Outstanding Faculty Member, Associate Dean of Student for Academic Support Jamia Stokes was awarded for Outstanding Administrator

Then awards went out to outstanding members in different campus organizations. Katherine Smith '19 received the award for Allocations Board, Zain Virk '18 received the award for Honor Council, Chris Meadows '18 received the award for Social Regulations Council, Grant Ramey '18 received the award for Lecture Board and Adam Cruthirds '20 received the Award for Rhodes Activity Board. Financial Aid awarded Jenny Loomer '18 Student Employee of the Year, Associate of the Year Award to Dominik Booth '18 and Supervisor of the Year to Art Department Visual Resources Curator Rosie Meindl.

The next awards given were the awards for work done within the Resident Life Office. Best Returning RA of the Year went to Ben Crane '19, Best New RA



went to Amanda Salazar '20, best Campus Safety Officer of the Year went to Sylvia Bradley and the Loretta Watkins Housekeeper award went to Pamela Brown.

The ODK Honor Society awarded its Sophomore Man of the Year to Dorian Canales '20. Jordana Terrell '20 was awarded the Sophomore Woman of the Year in Mortar Board. Associate Professor of Spanish Pozo Martinez was awarded the Faculty Award and Denise Harrell was awarded the Administrative Award, all in Mortar Board.

Excellence was lauded in the Greek life section of the ceremony. The award for Best Fraternity went to Sigma Alpha Epsilon. The award for best sorority

went to Chi Omega. The Greek Man of the year was Davis Field '18, a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity and the Greek Woman of the year was given to Helen Hope '18. The National Panhellenic Council Chapter of the year was Alpha Kappa Alpha. The NPHC Member of the Year was awarded to Burks.

Kinney gave out many awards to those students who achieved excellence in the sphere of community service. First, the Hunger and Homelessness Award was given to Atticus Wolfe '18. The Healthcare & Wellness Award was given to Sarah Morris '18, the Disability Advocates Award was given to Katherine Cynkar '19. The Animal Services Award was

given to Laura Eckelkamp '18, the Arts Award was given to Karrisa Coady '18, the Intercultural Perspectives Award was given to Tianna Herman '18, the Interfaith Award was given to Virk, the Economic Justice award was given to Julie Coen '18, the Mentoring and Education Award was given to Jeremy Breddan '18, The Environment Award was given to Catherine Weddig '18, the Advocates for Women award was given to Margaret Myers '18, the Queer Advocacy award was given to Michelle Ngo '18, the Estelle R. Cone Award given to Rachel Myers '18, the Vision Award was given to Gillian Wenhold '18 and the Mountaintop Civic Engagement was given to Mitchell.

The South Asian Culture and Advocacy Group won Organization of the Year award by RSG and the Black Student Association was awarded Organization of the Year by the Multicultural Office. The award for Ally of the year went to Loomer, who was award two plaques this evening.

Loomer said, "I'm very honored and excited to have been thought of for these awards, especially Student Employee of the Year. I have loved working for the Office of Inclusion and Involvement the past two years, and particularly the opportunity to learn about excellence in leadership from Dean Davis. As flattered as I am by the Ally of the Year Award, I haven't earned it. While my work in the Office of Inclusion and Involvement has focused on racial equity, it pales in comparison to the efforts of students of color like Jamarr McCain, Aylen Mercado, AnDrea Hargrove and many more who went unrecognized to build up communities of color on this campus. I should not be recognized for being white and making an effort; they should be recognized for being extraordinary."

The evening ended with a closing address made by President Marjorie Hass where she thanked all the students for their effort in the past year and pushed students to become as active in clubs and organizations as possible.

BEYOND THE GATES

Tennessee Equality Project Educates Students, Rallies Support at Rhodes



BY PRAMIKA SRIRAM '21
CITY EDITOR

The state of Tennessee has often been a hotbed for a variety of highly debated issues—including the discussion of what rights the queer community should receive. On Monday, April 15, Kinney Queer Advocacy hosted Tennessee Equality Project Executive Director Chris Sanders. According to its website, TEP “engages state and local governments in Tennessee on behalf of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.” To achieve its mission, TEP often focuses on raising awareness and blocking discriminatory legislation at the state level.

During his visit, Sanders pointed out that not many people actively pay attention to state government and often neglect to even learn who their state

representative is. However, Sanders highlighted how much a state’s actions can profoundly impact minority populations and the queer community in particular.

“Advocating in Tennessee matters because we start a lot of bad bills,” Sanders said. He pointed to cases in which the Tennessee legislature had drafted and discussed harmful bills that were later adopted by other states, sowing systemic inequality. Sanders emphasized the need for Tennesseans, and specifically Rhodes students, to contact their state representatives about the discriminatory bills that have been introduced into the legislature. Additionally, Sanders reinforced the importance of the upcoming 2018 election cycle by noting that all 99 seats in the Tennessee House of Representatives will be up for election.

Alarming, Sanders noted that the

Tennessee Equality Project has recorded an increasing number of harmful bills being introduced in the state legislature. In contrast to the escalating attack on equity, there has been less local media coverage about anti-queer legislation. Sanders attributed this phenomenon to the growing influence of the USA Today network on local newspapers and similar media outlets. In fact, Sanders revealed that the newspapers in four out of five of Tennessee’s largest cities are owned by USA Today. The sole major city with an independent newspaper is Chattanooga and Sanders claims that even its media is in danger of being acquired. As a result, Sanders pointed to the lack of information about state legislation as a detriment to combating the inequality plaguing the queer community.

Despite the introduction of discrim-

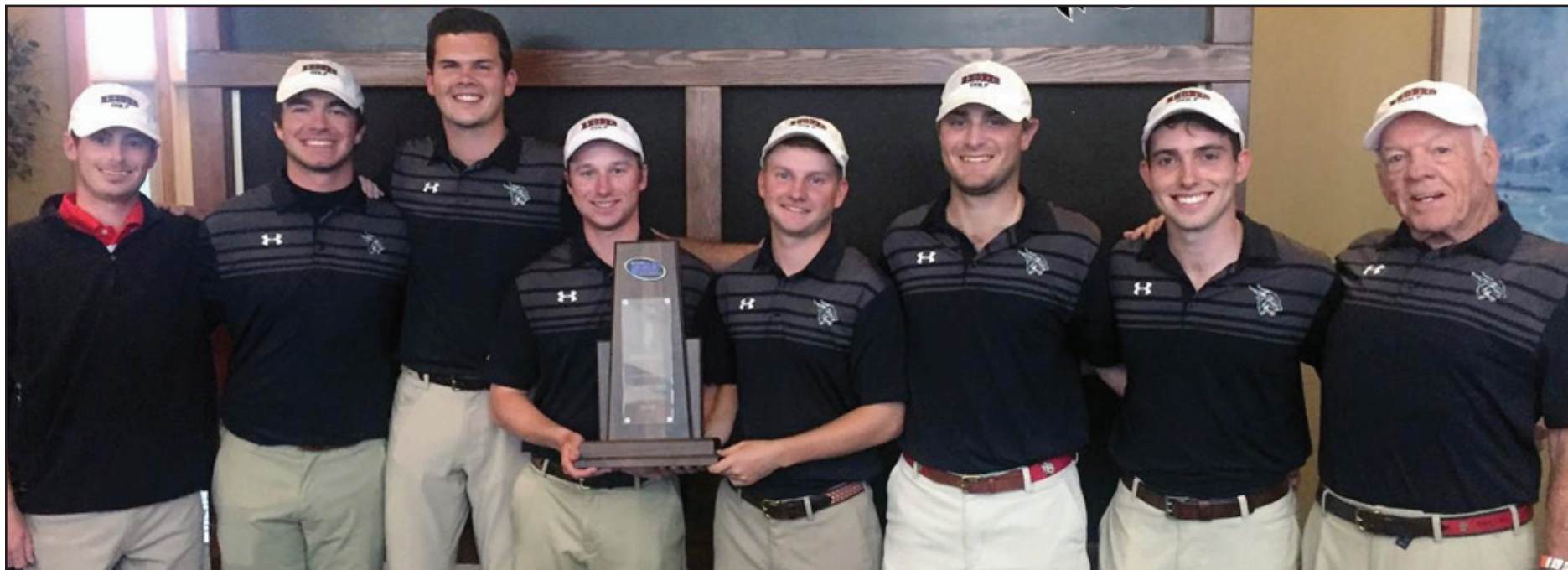
inatory bills, Chris Sanders remained hopeful about the future of equality for the queer community in Tennessee. He pointed out that none of the bills have been passed and that some bills never even made it onto the legislature’s floor for debate. Sanders credited the work of volunteers and the efforts of the TEP for blocking negative legislation.

Hibah Virk '20, a student and Kinney coordinator, said Sanders’ presentation was “very informative” because he “not only went through proposed bills but also discussed how we, at a local level, can raise awareness about inequality.”

The Tennessee Equality Project is actively looking for students and volunteers to become involved with its mission to block discriminatory legislation in Tennessee.

SPORTS

Golf Swings SAA Championship, Again



By JACK PATTON '18
SPORTS EDITOR

Over the weekend the Rhodes Men's golf team won their second SAA Conference Tournament in a row. After day one the Lynx were behind the leading team by a stroke. But, Rhodes rallied in a big way to score an 879 total—20

strokes ahead of Oglethorpe and Seawane.

Rhodes finished the third and final day with an impressive four of the top ten scores individually.

Speaking of individually, Corrie Kuhn won the tournament by finishing two over par and one stroke ahead of Centre's Hans Stromberg. Rhodes men's

golf head coach Bill Cochran earned the honor of being 2018 SAA men's golf coach of the year.

Asked about the SAA conference tournament win, graduating Carter Connelly '18 said, "Fantastic Sam's—go there—and mention me, I think I'll get a free haircut or something."

Vince Wheeler '21 said, "I feel amaz-

ing. Really glad I could contribute to the team. I really love golf and being outside – the sunshine, the clouds, and vitamin C – it's great."

The men's golf team advances to the NCAA Division III Tournament from May 15-18 at Grandover Resort in Greensboro, NC.

Women's Lacrosse Sweeps BSC



By JACK PATTON '18
SPORTS EDITOR

On Saturday the Rhodes College women's lacrosse team buried Birmingham-Southern College 24-8 in the SAA conference tournament semifinals. In the finals this Sunday here at Rhodes at 1pm the Lynx will battle Centre College for the title.

Last Saturday against Birmingham-Southern the Lynx came out hot. Birmingham-Southern was at a dis-

advantage because they were playing with one less player due to injuries. By the half Rhodes led 18-2. Birmingham-Southern scored six of the last seven goals in the game but it was not enough.

Asked about the team's performance against Birmingham-Southern, senior midfield attacker Olivia Holmes '18 said, "I think we played well and it was a good outcome but blowouts are never that fun. But, we were able to share the love, as our coach says, and a lot of

people got to score and that was good."

Looking ahead to the Centre game, Holmes said, "It will be a good game. We only beat them by two in the regular season. We lost our starting goalie a couple weeks ago but our backup goalie (Mallika Rao) has been doing great."

Against Birmingham-Southern, Rao had 12 saves in goal, which was a career high for her. Maggie Rippetto '18 said, "As a team, we were happy with our performance in the BSC game. Heading into the Centre game this weekend,

we are fired up and ready to play them again. We have a strong rivalry with this team and always look forward to competing against them."

Considering Centre's strengths, Holmes said, "They have strong attack players who are fast and aggressive. They can check hard so we will have to watch out for turnovers."

Good luck the to the Lady Lynx Laxers this weekend.

THE BACK PAGE

Students Showcase Research at Gender and Sexuality Symposium

BY B. LEVER '21
STAFF WRITER

On April 12, the Gender and Sexuality Symposium, a celebration and showcase of student research done this year regarding gender and sexuality studies and issues, took place. After Professor Graybill, the chair of the GSS department, finished her opening remarks, the students began their presentations. Ranging from the hypervisibility of black women to how video games can be ecofeminist tools, there were a wide range of topics to digest—all equally important in social commentary and academic value.

In the third session of this four-part symposium, accurately entitled “Queer Perspectives,” Tara Fredenburg '21 dissected the video game “Life is Strange”—asking the audience to question the value held in a narrative centered around choice, growing up, relationships and discovering one’s sexual identity. According to Fredenburg, the game has been most successful with LGBT teenagers and individuals are meant to ask why LGBT teens seem to yearn for any media containing “realistic” portrayals of adolescent LGBT relationships—even if heterosexual people compose those relationships and the narrative ends between choice of disaster for all of the main character’s loved ones or the main character’s romantic partner’s death. Fredenburg posited narratives like this drive the vehicle that LGBT relationships are often founded in shame and destruction across media and despite “Life is Strange’s” believability, the pragmatic guilt is still at the core of most mainstream media LGBTQ relationships.

Following this excellent display of queer theory applications for contemporary media was Michelle Ngo '18 who deconstructed the very notion of the gay and lesbian identity. Through Ngo’s “Challenging of the White Colonial Heterosexual Gaze” the audience was able to understand the gay and lesbian identity not as entities that transcend time and space but as a community from a very specific period in history—the industrialization period of the United States. Ngo used John D’Emilio’s work as an inspirational source for her presentation and it left

THE 14TH ANNUAL
**GENDER & SEXUALITY
STUDIES**
SYMPOSIUM

TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2017 | BLOUNT AUDITORIUM

3:20 pm | Opening Remarks: Rhiannon Graybill

3:30-4:30 pm | Gender and Sexuality in the Arts
Moderator: Hannah Barker

Becca Cook, “The Monstrous Male Gaze in Chronocrímenes”
David Marsicano, “A ‘Blonded Life’: Frank Ocean’s Illustration of Queer Positionality in Blonde”
Ozakh Ahmed, “Animating the Movement: The Manifestation of Social Justice Issues through Action”

4:30-4:45 pm | Break: Refreshments will be served in Buckman Lobby

4:45-6:00 pm | Gender Roles: Past and Present
Moderator: Wonneken Wanske

Anna Clare Pearson, “Lesbian Dicks, Sperm Donation, and S/M: Examining the Power of Butch Woman and Female Masculinity in the Hebrew Bible”
Roz KennyBirch, “Economics of Exclusion in Late Medieval London: How English Women and Male Jews Met Obstacles and Found Opportunities”
Michelle Ngo, “Gender Role Models: ‘De-Queering’ Queer Parenting”

6:00-6:15 pm | Break: Refreshments will be served in Buckman Lobby

6:15-7:15 pm | Performance/Discussion: Abbey Bako, Because I Believed You
Moderator: Culture of Consent

the audience to ponder questions of identity and how individuals come to engage in the acts of self-identification and how individuals identify with others.

Alex Gulis gave the final presentation of this session—lovingly entitled “The Grindr Catalogue.” Within this

work, Gulis used the app Grindr, a gay social networking app, to ask around 500 men the same question; “What is a beautiful boy?” The presentation consisted of Gulis reading some of the most shocking, intimate, vulnerable and harsh responses—giving insight to some of the sexism, toxic masculinity,

hypersexualization and objectification present in the gay male community. Ultimately, it required people to ruminate on what it means to be a man and what the gay experience means.