Director Welcome

Dear Reader-

My name is Nino Testa and I am the new director of the LGBT Center. I started in August, but as many of you probably know, I am not new to Tufts. I spent the last year in New York working at an independent publisher called the Feminist Press, but before that I was a graduate student at Tufts. I received my doctorate from the English department in 2013. While I was a graduate student at Tufts, I worked at the Women's Center, Asian American Center, and the LGBT Center. Through my work with students as a graduate intern and staff assistant at these centers, I witnessed the creativity, intelligence, and passion of Tufts students in a variety of settings. When my friend Tom Bourdon, the former director of the LGBT Center, told me that he was leaving Tufts to become the president of Boston's chapter of PFLAG, I knew that I wanted to be back on campus in this role.
The articles in this newsletter should give you some sense of the kind of space I am trying to create at the LGBT Center. I want students to find resources and support for their own personal identity development, their activist projects, and their academic lives. To that end, we have had a diverse set of events on a wide range of issues: from a lecture by Tufts alumnus and current Executive Director of AIDS Action Committee, Carl Sciortino, on the importance of PrEP and PEP in HIV prevention; to a rally and queer tour of Boston in commemoration of National Coming Out Day; to a late-night Halloween screening of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* complete with props, callbacks, and shadow cast.

Our Center is about so much more than what the current mainstream dialogue on LGBT lives represents. We are mindful of the ways that race, class, physical ability, and other markers of identity influence our experiences of our gender and sexuality. We also want our programs and services to reflect the diverse identifications and experiences that fall outside of L,G,B, or T identities. With the help of my brilliant student interns, thoughtful discussion group leaders, and creative members of Team Q, we are creating a dynamic, intentional space where all members of the Tufts community can come to explore their own unique relationships to gender and sexuality. I hope that the students, faculty, staff, and alumni who read this newsletter will want to be a part of the work we are doing here at the LGBT Center. If you want to get involved, feel free to reach out to me at nino.testa@tufts.edu.

Thanks to our wonderful grad assistant Racheal Pozerski for creating this newsletter. Enjoy!
attended!

The Rocky Horror Picture Show, complete with shadow cast, call-backs, and props, made its first (and maybe annual) appearance at Tufts to an almost overflowing auditorium. Nino started out the show by introducing some queer historical background of Rocky Horror. He encouraged the audience to make the show a safe zone for people of all identities. He started a conversation about how Rocky presents many positive attitudes to things that may be considered "taboo," but there are also aspects of the show which might be problematic. Nino then handed it off to LGBT Center intern Christin to get the show started with a pre-show that included both a "virgin" contest and costume contest.

After the pre-show broke the ice, Tufts Burlesque performed to the Lips intro and introduced sexy to the show. As the shadow casting began, the audience yelled out some of the traditional call-backs while keeping in mind the idea of a "safe zone" that was introduced in the beginning of the show by Nino. Team Q made a great effort not to condone Rocky Horror's non-consensual sex scenes and judgmental or gendered language. The show was by far a great success and I would suggest those who couldn't make it this year to look out for the show next Halloween!

PEP Talk-
Preventing HIV
by Margaret Higham MD
(left) & Ariel Watriss NP
(right)
Tufts University Health Service

- Rates of HIV infection are on the rise among college-age men who have sex with men (MSM)-True fact.
- If you have a high-risk sexual exposure, there is medication you can start within 3 days to help prevent HIV-also a true fact.
- If you have had unprotected anal sex within the last 6 months, or contracted a bacterial STI, you are a good candidate for a daily medication you can take to prevent HIV infection. True fact!

HIV research has advanced dramatically in the past 2 decades. There are now medications that are extremely effective for treatment and prevention, with very minimal side effects. If you are a MSM who has had unprotected anal sex you should know about Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), and Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP). We offer both of these at Health Service.
Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP): Truvada is a pill which is a combination of two medications. It can be taken once a day on a regular basis over months to years, to prevent HIV. It is highly effective if taken very consistently. Side effects, such as gas, nausea and headache are usually mild if they occur, and resolve within several weeks. If you are interested, make an appointment at Health Service to discuss with one of the clinicians. Tell the appointment secretary that you want to discuss PrEP.

Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP): This is medication that can be given right after a high-risk exposure to reduce chances of acquiring HIV. It needs to be started within 72 hours, but the sooner the better-ideally within 24 hours. Exactly what medications are given depends on the details of the exposure, but usually it includes two different pills, one of which is Truvada. These medications are taken for 28 days. If you think you have had a risky sexual exposure or are not sure, come to Walk-In at Health Service when we are open. Figuring out risk is a conversation. Some characteristics of a risky encounter would be unprotected anal sex (being the bottom/receptive partner is higher risk than being the top/insertive partner, for example) with someone who is HIV positive, or whose HIV status you don't know. Anonymous partners, like folks met on dating/hookup apps, for example, are often riskier. If you aren't sure, come talk with us. If it is a Sunday (when health service isn't open), you can contact the Doctor on Call through Tufts Police.

Tufts Health Service wants to be a resource for you as you make decisions about your sexual health. We are a judgement-free space, so stop by if you have any questions!

Out on the Town
by Racheal Pozerski

This year, on National Coming Out Day (October 11th) the Center held an event called "Out on the Town." A small group of students joined some of the Center staff to take a fun queer tour of Boston.

The first stop on this journey was the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) to learn about queer artists and see their new collections in the contemporary wing. The MFA have recently added a lot of queer works. One of our favorites was an installation from visual artist Felix Gonzalez-Torres, seen to the right with our director, Nino Testa. If you are a Tufts student, your Tufts ID will get you into the MFA for FREE, so check it out!

After the MFA, the group went to lunch at Club Cafe, an iconic queer restaurant & bar in Boston. If you want to read about the history of Club Cafe, here is an article from their 30th birthday last year!

After our delicious lunch, the group checked out the History Project, an archive of LGBT-Boston. The group had a chance to look through some archived material
and learned about the history of queer life in Boston. They are always looking for people to help out, so if you are interested in volunteer opportunities give them a call at: 617.266.7733.

To wrap up the day, the group went to Calamus Bookstore, Boston's complete LGBT bookstore. They have new and used LGBT books and it is one of the few independent bookstores still around in Boston. They are close to South Station, so it is just a quick redline ride to get there! We purchased a few books for the LGBT Center, some of which are featured in this newsletter!

The group had a lot of fun on this trip and we hope to have it again next year. If you are interested in going, keep your eye out next fall! Or if you want information about any of these places, feel free to stop by the Center and ask Nino Testa (LGBT Center Director) or Racheal Pozerski (LGBT Center Graduate Assistant).

**Alumni Spotlight:**

**Chartise Clark**

Class of 2011

*On Friday, November 14th, Chartise Clark will be co-facilitating an LGBT Center event on race, gender, and cultural appropriation in gay white spaces as part of our Qrunch convo series. Get to know a little about Chartise before the event!*

**Can you tell us about yourself?**

I graduated from Tufts as a member of the class of 2011, and I majored in American Studies and minored in Dance. I am was born and raised in Baltimore, MD, and have been living in Boston, MA for the past few years.
What are you involved in right now?

I am a Recruiter at a nonprofit organization called UP Education Network, a nonprofit school management organization whose mission is to rapidly transform chronically under performing district schools into extraordinary schools that sustain high achievement over time.

I am also a civic organizer and activist with Black Lives Matter - Boston. #BlackLivesMatter was created by Patrisse Cullors, Opal Tometi, and Alicia Garza as a call to action for Black people after 17-year-old Trayvon Martin was post-humously placed on trial for his own murder and the killer, George Zimmerman, was not held accountable for the crime he committed.

Black Lives Matter - Boston was formed as a response to the Black Lives Matter ride to Ferguson, MO. It took place over labor day weekend, and riders from across the country and Canada answered the call and drove to Ferguson. Black Lives Matter - Boston drove back to Ferguson on October 9th, and we are continuing work against racist policing and police violence both locally and nationally.

Either in your career or in your free time, are you involved in anything related to gender or sexuality?

Yes! Gender and sexuality intersect with all of my work. I serve as a co-chair of my organizations Diversity and Inclusivity Task Force; and my writing and visual art both explore gender and sexuality, largely as I navigate my own identity and thoughts on life/living.

Can you talk about your time at Tufts?

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..."

I would not be who I am today if it were not for Tufts. I do not believe I would have so much strength and courage had I not learned to survive at Tufts by laying claim to my voice and calling on the strength of other students of color - particularly queer students of color - who were with me and who had also come before me.

Initially, I went to Tufts to major in IR (like the rest of the student body), but I stumbled on an American Studies class in my first semester, and found an academic space that respected my voice and honored the history of my communities.

I was layout editor and editor-in-chief of ONYX magazine. I was Vice President of Pan African Alliance (PAA) and the served on Tufts Community Union (TCU) Senate my senior year. Outside of class, much of my work centered on Africana Studies and transforming PAA from a cultural to a political body. In Senate, I served as the Education Chair, and helped create the DCA position, and preserve SECA and the Community Representative positions. I also served on the inaugural Africana Studies Task Force.
Were you involved in the LGBTQ community while at Tufts?

Yes. I attended QSOCA events as a junior and senior, and spent a lot of time working and connecting with other students in the LGBT Center whenever I needed to write.

Anything else you would like our readers to know? Or any advice?

My advice would be to try to always speak and live while being aware of your purpose, and to do what pleases you, even if others disagree with your choices.

Faculty Spotlight: Sarah Pinto
New Director of WGSS

Can you talk about your position as the new Program Director for WGSS?

I am very excited to be taking up the directorship of WGSS in what is a regular passing of the baton (we rotate directorship every three years or so), and hope that I can live up to the visions, ideas and ideals of my highly capable predecessors.

What is your vision for the WGSS program for the upcoming years?

Under the leadership of Sonia Hofkosh, our program changed its name from Women's Studies to Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, a transition that did not so much change the direction of the program as underscore and show our commitment to the full scope of our interests and offerings, as well as the expertise of our faculty. My vision is to sustain and further invigorate this commitment through programming, new courses, and bringing exciting people - faculty, speakers, guests, students - to campus. I feel a particular commitment to further enriching WGSS' already strong commitment to sexuality, queer, and trans* studies, as is evident in our recent pursuit of a Mellon Bridge Assistant Professorship in the Humanities; which WGSS received together with the Drama and Dance Department to hire a tenure-stream faculty person working in the fields of performance studies and queer and/or trans* studies. This is an extremely exciting development, and means that not only can we look forward to welcoming a fantastic new scholar to our campus, we can also anticipate several outstanding public talks by those applicants at the start of the spring semester.

What are you most looking forward to?

I am most excited about continuing to learn from students about what issues, themes, and topics related to women, gender, and sexuality are most meaningful
and urgent, and to working with students and our outstanding faculty to foster our community's engagement with those things.

**Can you talk about your experiences relating to gender and sexuality?**

I am a product of women's education (both high school and college) and have been fortunate to have experienced the guidance and mentorship of some remarkable feminists. My research on women, medicine, and intimacy in India has likewise taught me that nothing should be taken for granted about what sexuality or gender are or should look or feel like. Though being a scholar of these topics, I find myself constantly surprised by the way matters of gender definition and forms of sexual expression and experience always demand I think more, further, and differently, beyond given ideas or categories or interventions, even those (ideas/categories/interventions) I might take up in trying to make the world a more accepting place. I suppose that sounds esoteric, but it's what I have been thinking about lately. Gender and sexuality make us think more and think better.

**LGBT Center Intern Spotlights**

Fall 2014-Spring 2015

Jonathan is currently revamping the LGBT Center's social media platforms and brainstorming new and exciting ways to engage the Tufts community. He is also helping to publicize and make the LGBT Center resources more accessible. Jonathan worked to help unveil the Center's new Tumblr and Instagram page.

While Jonathan has worked at the Center, he has had a chance to meet new people, make new friends, and is always welcome to talk to people at the Center on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. -1 p.m. and Thursdays from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.!

Nina is a sophomore studying biology and clinical psychology. Her primary role in the Center is organizing and updating the library collection. She has discovered dozens of interesting books and highly
recommends that everyone browse the shelves to see our new collections. The library contains everything from educational books to novels, poetry, and plays so everyone is guaranteed to find something new to read!

Christin is the Programming Intern for the Center and she has been diligently working on new Team Q activities. Team Q has been revamped this year and is focusing on education around queer issues in the Tufts Community; they also focus on self-education. She is looking forward to all of the fun and educational events that Team Q will be holding throughout the year. Some events will address topics including: mental health, consent, and intersectionality.

New Additions to the LGBT Center Library
by Nina Lutz

This year, LGBT Center is featuring the new additions to our library collection. Since some of our readers may not be familiar with theses titles, we have provided a short review for several of our new books. Although you can check these books out from the LGBT Center library for FREE, we realize that some of you may be off campus and this may not be an option. In the links, you can find a summary of each book and additional reviews, as well as links to purchase your own copy. We hope you enjoy some of our new options and you learn something new!

Sexuality, Race, and Gentrification

Featured Book:
Safe Spaces by Dr. Christina Hanhardt (based on Dr. David Leonard's review)

Dr. Hanhardt's book creates an important dialog on how race and class lines intersect with the need for LGBT "safe spaces". She provides the framework for understanding many aspects of the issue, including urban development, social movements and LGBT civil rights activism, and policies around crime. Hanhardt
discusses black homophobia and how blackness is often viewed by white LGBT activists as a "pollutant" to the white movement for social and political progress. These issues all feed into the discussion of LGBT visibility, including the conflict between the safety of invisibility and the problem of LGBT erasure. Safe Space brilliantly and importantly illustrates the ways that these narratives and frames privilege whiteness and middle-class identities.

For more on these topics:

The LGBT Center has newly acquired two additional books that explore intersections of race, sexuality, and space. We suggest that you look at the links to these two books or stop by and check them out!

**Gentrification of the Mind by Sarah Schulman**

**The End of San Francisco by Mattilda Sycamore**

**New Queer Voices**

**Featured Book:**

[Man Alive by Thomas Page McBee](http://myemail.constantcontact.com/LGBT-Center-Fall-2014-Newsletter.html?soid=1116994419675&aid=6Q_l8Sw8xDM#blike) (based on a collection of editorial reviews from the Amazon Bookstore)

In his memoir, McBee answers the question "what makes a man" in a way that the typical gender binary would not allow. He includes details of his difficult and abusive upbringing, and how it influenced his experiences during his transition. He had to decide for himself what defines masculinity, leading him down a long path of self-discovery. His story is expertly written and weaves personal anecdotes into a universal story that, while incredibly unique, will resonate with every reader.

For more on this topic:

The LGBT Center has newly acquired two additional books that feature new
We encourage you to seek out queer voices. We suggest that you look at the links to these two books or stop by and check them out!

**Redefining Realness** by Janet Mock

**Against Equality** by Ryan Conrad

### Queers and the Middle East

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**Featured Book:**

**An Unnecessary Woman** by Rabih Alameddine *(based on NPR book review by Rosecrans Baldwin)*

*An Unnecessary Woman* is the story of a lonely woman coming to terms with old age. Aaliya is a divorced former bookstore owner who lives alone in Beirut and spends her time translating her favorite novels into Arabic. The plot manages to work the smallest, most mundane occurrences into a highly gripping tale. Aaliya is complex, humorous, and cynical and makes it clear that a quiet life is not necessarily a boring one.
For more books on these topics:

The LGBT Center has newly acquired two additional books that explore queerness and the Middle East. We suggest that you look at the links to these two books or stop by and check them out!

**Israel/Palestine and the Queer International by Sarah Schulman**

**Wanting in Arabic by Trish Salah**

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**Poetry**

**Featured Book:**

**Sorry, Tree by Eileen Myles** *(based on review from Octopus Magazine, by Gina Myers)*

Sorry, Tree is a collection of love poems that are not about romance. Rather, they center on the love of life and love gained from others. They are political, written by an activist who analyzes what it means to be alive in modern America. They are about finding pleasure within the mix of loss and the struggle against defeat. There is a fast pulse through all of Myles' work, conveying motion through time as well as perseverance, that expresses her love for life.

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For more queer poetry:

The LGBT Center has acquired another book of new queer poetry. We suggest that you look at the link or stop by and check it out!

**Snow Flakes by Eileen Myles**

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Follow us on Instagram!