

# Network Notes



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A Newsletter for Members of UMCP's Rainbow Terrapin Network

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## Changes, Changes, Changes

Welcome to a new school year, and welcome to a new version of *Network Notes*!

You'll notice a few changes in this latest version of the Rainbow Terps' newsletter, most notably that it's much shorter than usual. The new format—simple summaries and links to original articles—means you can easily focus in on the news that's most important to you. All of this means one more change...a more regular publication schedule!

We hope you enjoy the new format, and we'd love to hear any feedback you can offer.

The newsletter, of course, isn't the only thing around the Office of LGBT Equity to have changed. Believe it or not, we've finally moved to our new location, 0119 Cole Student Activities Building. Although the space isn't yet fully furnished, it's already a big improvement. You really should stop by and check it out sometime.

In fact, we have the perfect opportunity for you to stop by, and that leads me to another change. We're now offering brownbag discussions for our allies and other interested folks. The first will take place on Tuesday, 28 September from 12-1pm. See the "Get Involved" section for more information. We hope you'll join us!

And there's one final change to add here. We're pleased to announce that Sivagami Subbaraman, whom you may know from the Office of Human Relations Programs, has joined LGBT Equity on a part-time basis this year. She's already assisted us greatly with outreach and information technology, and in the coming months she'll be developing a new mentoring program. Welcome Shiva!

All these changes point to an exciting year for the Rainbow Terps Network. We're glad you're back, and we look forward to another year of helping allies make UMCP a more supportive place for LGBT people!

## The Allies List

Preparations are underway for the publication of this year's Out List and Allies List in *The Diamondback* for National Coming Out Day. The list will appear sometime around October 11<sup>th</sup>, and as a Rainbow Terp, your name will be highlighted on the Allies List.

As was the case last year, we'll soon be sending out sheets for each of you to collect signatures of interested colleagues, classmates, etc. Several of you really came through for us last year and collected quite a few signatures. We're hoping we can count on everyone's support to make this year's Ally List even bigger!

## Campus News From Around the Country

1. "Website Mobilizes College Students in Support of Gay Marriage"

Two Stanford University students launch ForGayMarriage.org to help college students and others take up the marriage equality fight...

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2004/8/prweb146753.htm>

2. "Duke, YMCA Cancel Deal"

Duke University and the Triangle Area YMCA agree to terminate contract when gym refuses to offer same-sex couples family membership rates...

<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/story/1380716p-7504032c.html>

3. "America's Best Gay College"

The Princeton Review polled students at the top 357 schools, and the winner is...

<http://www.365gay.com/newscon04/08/081704gayU.htm>

4. "OU Partner Benefits Won't Be For Heteros"

Ohio University offers domestic partner benefits, but not to unmarried heterosexual couples...

[http://www.athensnews.com/archives/article.php3?story\\_id=17249](http://www.athensnews.com/archives/article.php3?story_id=17249)

5. "GLBT Youth Win College Scholarships"

The Point Foundation awards over \$500,000 "to support academic achievement in higher education among disenfranchised GLBT youth..."

<http://www.planetout.com/news/article.html?2004/07/14/3>

## Featured Online Resource

### Lambda Legal



[www.lambdalegal.org](http://www.lambdalegal.org)

Securing full legal equality is at the heart of progressive LGBT agendas, and the work of Lambda Legal is aimed toward that end. In the organization's own words, "Lambda Legal is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, the transgendered, and people with HIV or AIDS through impact litigation, education, and public policy work" ([www.lambdalegal.org](http://www.lambdalegal.org)). Lambda Legal pursues litigation throughout the U.S. in all areas of law that effect LGBT people as well as people with HIV and AIDS. At any given time the organization is likely to be working on around 50 cases, most of them test cases selected for their likelihood of being won and thus establishing positive legal precedents for the LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities.

Lambda Legal's web site is full of information. Within its pages you can find out the scope of the organization's litigation (which includes everything from its AIDS project and marriage project to First Amendment concerns, September 11<sup>th</sup> victims' compensation, rights for older gays and lesbians, transgender issues, youth and school concerns, gays in the military and much more). All of that information can be found in the site's "Issues" section.

The site's "State by State" section contains issues maps detailing which states have anti-discrimination and domestic partnership laws. Individual state pages include information about the state's LGBT- and HIV/AIDS-related laws, as well as information about past or pending cases of relevance in the given state.

In the "Library" section you can find a listing and description of cases Lambda Legal is/has been involved with, along with decisions, press releases and other materials. The "Library" also

*Lambda Legal, continued from page 2*

includes a list of Lambda Legal events; notices about how to get involved with current legal issues; a law library listing of complaints, briefs, decisions, related legislation, and memos; a media library with news releases, updated articles, etc.; and a resource section that contains articles, post cards, videos and more.

Unfortunately, not all of the web site's pages are up to date. A further weakness—or strength, depending on how you look at it—is that the same information seems to be repeated on a number of different pages. Still, if you're interested in finding out what legislation of concern to LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities is pending, Lambda Legal's site is a great beginning!


### Check it Out!


If you're interested in the intersections of race and sexual orientation, the current issue of *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology* (August 2004) is a special issue on lesbian, gay, and bisexual racial and ethnic minority individuals.

Table of contents along with links to article abstracts can be found at


<http://www.apa.org/journals/cdp/currentTOC.html>

## Announcements & Program Notes

 If you've had any changes in your campus contact information since last semester, please be sure to email your new information to Tricia immediately at [SlusserT@aol.com](mailto:SlusserT@aol.com)

 The Rainbow Terrapin Network is now over 90 strong and growing. Welcome to our newest members:

Steve Adams	Kurt Klier
Sean Ballantine	Phil Marcinek
Chandra Bisnath	Kathleen Maroney
Ronnie Brown	Matthew Miller
Grace A. Chen	Mollie Monahan
Amy Costanzo	Gina Natale
Allison Cox	Karen Nuijens
Brandon Dula	Allan Pacheo
John Garland	Julie Parsons
Suzanne Gordon	Alex Pieterse
Bob Harrison	Jim Poole
Carla Hunter	Nicole Roop
Sharon Kirkland-Gordon	Joy Tongsri

 This semester we will begin offering a brownbag series of ally brush-up sessions. The sessions are meant to highlight topics of importance to allies, especially those that Rainbow Terp training was only able to cover briefly. See "Get Involved" for more information on the first session, and if you've got ideas for future topics, send them to Tricia at [SlusserT@aol.com](mailto:SlusserT@aol.com)

## Did You Know?

Due to the defeat on July 12, 1996 of a proposal to extend domestic partner (DP) benefits, the University of Maryland remains part of a shrinking minority within the Association of American Universities (AAU), sixty-two (62) leading research institutions, both public and private, which fail to offer domestic partner benefits to employees with same-sex partners.

Currently there are 48 U.S. institutions, both public and private, offering some form of DP benefits. (The AAU also includes 2 Canadian universities—The University of Toronto and McGill University—but due to Canada's universal health care system, the concept of DP benefits via an employer does not apply. It should be noted, however, that same sex marriage is legally recognized in both Ontario and Quebec.) U.S. universities that offer DP benefits include such private institutions as Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Princeton, Stanford, and Johns Hopkins. The list also includes such public institutions as Berkeley, UCLA, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, and Rutgers.

Only one private AAU institution, Catholic University, does not offer benefits. The list of eleven (11) public institutions not offering DP benefits includes such schools the University of Texas, the University of Florida, the University of Kansas, and the University of Virginia. Of the five universities UMCP recognizes as peer institutions, only one—UNC, Chapel Hill—does not offer DP benefits.

If we're ever to reach the provost's goal of becoming one of the top ten public universities, doesn't it seem as though we should join those other universities in offering domestic partner benefits?

## Get Involved...

1. *Celebrate...* Join us for the annual LGBT and Allied fall kickoff reception on Monday, September 13 at 4:30 in the Annapolis Hall multipurpose room.
2. *Find strength in numbers...* Help collect signatures for the Allies List and Out List, both of which will be published in *The Diamondback* this October.
3. *Sharpen your skills...* Join us for an ally brush-up brownbag on September 28<sup>th</sup> from 12-1pm on 0119 Cole Student Activities Building. The topic will be "Intersections of Identity." We plan to have speakers share their experiences as LGBT people of color. Bring your lunch and join us!
4. *Join the battle...* Efforts are underway to support same-sex marriage in Maryland. For more information and ways to get involved, visit [www.idoinmaryland.org](http://www.idoinmaryland.org).

*Network Notes* is a newsletter for members of The University of Maryland, College Park's Rainbow Terrapin Network. Comments, questions, and suggestions are always welcome, and may be directed to Tricia Slusser, editor of *Network Notes*, at [SlusserT@aol.com](mailto:SlusserT@aol.com) or 301.405.0734.