You’re invited to the annual

**LAVENDER RECEPTION & MOSAIC AWARDS GALA**

Sunday, April 13, 2014 from 1:30pm to 4:00pm
in the Big 10 Room, Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center

Please join us to celebrate the accomplishments and leaders within the LGBTQQIA community during the 2013-14 academic year.

Friends, family, significant others are all welcome to attend.

RSVP to madalyn.gildea@gmail.com

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**HOW TO CONTACT GLFSA**

**E-Mail**
glfsa@msu.edu

**GLFSA**
P.O. Box 4251
East Lansing, MI 48826

**Web Page**
www.msu.edu/~glfsa/

**Facebook**
Meet Our New Board Members

Allegra Smith is a first year master's student in MSU’s Department of Writing, Rhetoric, & American Cultures. She earned bachelor's degrees in professional writing and women's & gender studies in May 2013, and served as university-wide commencement speaker at spring graduation. She received a Board of Trustees award for graduating with a perfect 4.0 GPA, and was one of two LGBTQ students on MSU's 2012-13 homecoming court.

Currently, Allegra is taking courses in rhetoric, literacy and pedagogy, serving as a research assistant on a statewide writing research project, and tutoring students at MSU's writing center. Her interests focus on rhetorical constructions of gender, sexuality, religion, and the body. During undergrad, she was the LBGT Resource Center's program media assistant for two years, and continues to be involved with the center through its speakers' bureau and outreach programs. A lifelong member of the United Methodist Church, Allegra is deeply involved in the movement for sexual and gender equality within her church, as well as the national queer faith community.

Karen Sedatole is a Professor of Accounting in the Eli Broad College of Business. Previously on the faculty of The University of Texas at Austin, she joined the MSU faculty in 2006.

She earned her BSE in computer engineering from Baylor University in 1987, her MBA from The University of Texas at Austin in 1989, and her PhD from The University of Michigan in 2000. Prior to her doctoral work, she worked as a systems consultant, designing and implementing customized client information systems for use in business applications.

Karen has two children, a son who is a junior at MSU and a daughter in high school. With her partner in North Carolina, Karen can frequently be found flying south. In her spare time, she enjoys tennis, golf, attending concerts, and enjoying good food and wine with friends.

Students! Apply Now for Pride Scholarship

GLFSA announces that the application for the 2014 Pride Scholarship is now available!

The Pride Scholarship is awarded to an incoming, first-year MSU undergraduate student who has been active in support of the LGBT community. Although preference is given to an incoming, first-year student, all students are welcome to apply. A scholarship of between $4,500 and $5,000 will be awarded. The recipient is selected by GLFSA.

Students can find an online application at http://lbgtrc.msu.edu/scholarships/

Please share this information widely.
It is with a heavy heart that I report the departure of Grant Littke from Michigan State University as he assumes a new position at Penn State University. During his presidency, Grant was instrumental in guiding our organization forward in the era following the 2008 Michigan court challenge to same-sex partner benefits. Colleagues and administrators could count on Grant's forthright goodwill, problem-solving abilities, and infectious charm in addressing the interests of MSU's LGBT faculty, staff, and graduate students. We thank Grant for his years of service and wish him the best in his new position as Director of Career Services in the School of International Affairs at PSU.

I am happy to report GLFSA had an active and engaged Fall 2013 semester. Spring 2014 looks to follow suit. During Fall 2013 we saw a marked increase in community partnerships as GLFSA joined interests with area LGBT organizations and businesses. In addition to our regular fall picnic and our holiday party, GLFSA sponsored a Suits in the City event in November, cosponsored the October AFL-CIO changes in DOMA law discussion, and co-hosted a seminar on post-DOMA estate planning in November. We hope members find these community linkages to be valuable resources and natural allies as we engage the unfolding legal landscape for LGBT persons in Michigan.

On February 18, GLFSA co-hosted a free tax and estate planning seminar with Rich Sneary of Merrill Lynch, Ryan Lowe of Simplified Tax and Kellen Lynch of Norcross, Warner and Judd demystified many aspects of tax and inheritance law for LGBT individuals. For those of us who have never needed to distinguish between married filing jointly versus separately and how to reverse construct a tax return to meet Michigan and federal guidelines, it was an enlightening session. We look forward to more partnerships and events such as these!

Here at MSU, GLFSA continues to engage the University regarding federal same-sex married benefits and taxation; and, bereavement and course fee courtesy issues for Other Eligible Individuals (OEIs). Same-sex married individuals who submitted a copy of their marriage certificate to Human Resources during Fall semester were able to receive adjusted 2013 W-2s as well return of FICA and Medicare overpayments. Additionally, MSU has ceased federal taxation of medical benefits for same-sex couples who provide a marriage certificate. Taxation continues for state-level categories.

GLFSA continues in its struggle for equality for OEIs at MSU. At this time course fee courtesy is not provided to OEIs or their children/dependents, and many staff groups do not receive the same time off provided to heterosexual spouses for bereavement purposes. We continue to address these issues and I ask any GLFSA members to share with me any experiences or challenges they may be facing regarding these issues.

Last, but not least, please mark your calendars for Friday, April 4 at 5:30 pm for GLFSA's annual meeting. The meeting will be hosted in Beggar's Banquet's banquet room. Immediately following the meeting, GLFSA will hold its spring mixer. We hope to see you there and to be celebrating further advancements in LGBT rights!

--Nick Bourland
Donate to the MSU Pride Scholarship Endowment Fund

The MSU Pride Scholarship was established in January of 2000 to aid LGBT students in attending MSU. Candidates must demonstrate involvement with and/or support for the LGBT community. They also must show commitment to academic success.

Bill Beachler, an MSU alumnus, is the scholarship’s founder and was instrumental in working with MSU and GLFSA to set up the scholarship. Applicants submit materials to GLFSA, whose scholarship committee in turn makes a recommendation to MSU on who should be awarded the scholarship each year. With continued successful fundraising for this award, the dollar value grows annually. The award in 2013-14 was $5000.

There are two ways that GLFSA members can support the Pride Scholarship. The first is to volunteer for the selection committee. Each year in the month of April, five people are selected from MSU faculty, staff, and alumni to read and consider candidates for the award. Past President Val Meyers chairs the committee. If you would like to volunteer to serve, please email glfsa@msu.edu and use the subject Pride Selection Committee.

Secondly, we encourage and appreciate donations to the Pride Scholarship endowment fund from GLFSA members. Donations are tax deductible.

You can send a check, payable to Michigan State University, with the note “Pride Endowed Scholarship” on the memo line. Mail to:

University Advancement
University Development
Michigan State University
300 Spartan Way
East Lansing, MI 48824-1005

You can also donate online at http://www.givingto.msu.edu. Click on the Give Now button in the upper right of your screen. In the search box type ‘Pride’ and the Pride Endowed Scholarship Fund will appear. Add the fund to the cart, and proceed to check out.

The Pride Scholarship has been awarded each year since 2000-01. We appreciate the support of the GLFSA members in assisting GLBT-supportive students at MSU.
Nearly 100 GLBT Spartans and allies gathered to celebrate MSU’s historic trip to the Rose Bowl Game on Monday, December 30, 2013.

Matt Gatson (center), 1985 graduate of MSU’s Telecommunication program, planned the GLBT Alumni Mixer on behalf of the GLBT Alumni Association.

Scott Westerman, Executive Director of the MSU Alumni Association, Dee Hurlbert, Director of the LGBT Resource Center, and Sparty welcomed guests from all over the country to the GLBT Alumni Mixer.