Kiara Farrell-Starling 2012 MSU Pride Scholarship

Kiara Farrell-Starling, an MSU freshman who hails from Tipton, Michigan is the 2012 recipient of the MSU Pride Scholarship.

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 LBGT 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. This year’s award is $5000.

Kiara is a freshman in James Madison College, majoring in Constitutional Democracy and Political Theory. Her early ambition (in second grade) was to be the “first girl president”. Her goals still include becoming a part of the political process in the United States.

Kiara enters MSU with a 3.89 GPA and substantial community involvement while in high school, including starting a Gay-Straight Alliance at her school. She served as President of Student Government her senior year. Other honors included membership in the National Honor Society, and graduating in the top 5 of the class.

In light of Kiara’s passion and dedication as well as for her demonstrated academic excellence, GLFSA is honored and pleased to award Kiara the 2012 MSU Pride Scholarship.

Information about making a donation to support the MSU Pride Scholarship is provided on page 2.
Donate to the MSU Pride Scholarship

The Pride Scholarship was founded in 2000 by MSU alumnus Bill Beachler and GLFSA, with the goal of rewarding MSU students for academic excellence and service to the LGBT community. As one of just a handful of such scholarships offered by U.S. universities, the Pride Scholarship has established MSU as a leader in promoting diversity, financially assisting students, and demonstrating that LGBT and allied students are welcomed and supported. The long-term goal of the scholarship founder is to annually award a full-ride scholarship that would cover the cost of attendance at MSU for four years.

We would like to ask your help in achieving this goal. Please consider donating to the Pride Scholarship at Michigan State University.

All donations are tax deductible. Make your check payable to Michigan State University and write “Pride Endowed Scholarship” on the memo line of the check. 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

MSU LBGT Resource Center Updates

The LBGT Resource Center opened its new space in January 2010. Staff who work in the Student Services building as well as students are frequent guests in our community lounge. We would like to see more faculty and staff from around campus! Come get a cup of coffee at our ‘Gay Café’. We have a Keurig and an assortment of coffees for you to choose from as well as real half-half and sugar! A $1 contribution is requested. Comfortable seating and workspaces are available.

MSU’s LBGTQA Speakers Bureau will have its first training on Saturday, October 1 in the Multicultural Center of the MSU Union. The MSU Speakers Bureau provides awareness and education about the LGBTQA community in classrooms, campus units, student organizations and community settings. Faculty and staff are encouraged to be a part of the Speakers Bureau, formally known as the Panel Program, and utilize the program for their classes/organizations. Email Lauren Spencer at lbgtrc@msu.edu for more information.

The SafeZone Workshops available through the LBGTRC are going to move widely available and adaptable to more audiences this year. SafeZone Workshops provide foundational information about sexuality and gender and provide an opportunity for audience members to identify how they can create SafeZones in their office, classroom, organization or home for LGBTQ persons. Staff, faculty and students are being sought to be trained as SafeZone Facilitators. If you are interested, contact Deanna Hurlbert at lbgtrc@msu.edu. SafeZone Facilitator Training will be held the second week in October (TBD).

We will be posting for a half-time CTU position in the LBGTRC. If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact me. The internal posting will be up soon.

For a complete list of LBGTQA related campus events, go to the LBGT Events Calendar on www.lbgtrc.msu.edu. Submit events for this calendar to lbgtrc@msu.edu.

Deanna Hurlbert, MPA, MA
Assistant Director
LBGT Resource Center
Michigan State University
302 Student Services Building
East Lansing, MI 48824-1113
517-353-9520
www.lbgtrc.msu.edu
Many of you will know from recent news reports and my letter with recent membership renewal mailing that this continues to be an important period at MSU for persons who identify as LGBT. You’ll know that the Michigan House of Representatives passed Bills 4770 and 4771 on September 15. Brought forward by Rep. Dave Agema, these bills forbid state-funded educational institutions from offering family benefits to anyone but legally-married spouses (and children) of employees. This is a direct attack on MSU’s policy of offering Other Eligible Individual (OEI) benefits, and is intended to render them illegal. It is unclear as I write whether the state Senate will take up those bills, but the word on the street is that if they do, the votes are there to pass them. In that case, the question becomes the willingness of the Governor to sign them. While that too is uncertain, there is certainly a scenario under which he is so willing. Whether MSU’s constitutional autonomy will protect it from this form of interference in employee contracts and benefits policy will then have to be tested.

While there are a number of points at which the uncertainty surrounding these issues might play out in our favor (e.g., the Senate declines to take up the bills, the Governor chooses to veto them, or the courts rule that this is an unconstitutional interference in MSU affairs), it is clear that the future of OEI benefits is very much in play. It was only a year ago that I wrote in this space that we could celebrate the end of a decade-long struggle to win those benefits, and to extend them to all employee groups at MSU. Sadly, those celebrations were premature.

The GLFSA Board is actively seized of these issues, is consulting with some of our allies at the State Capitol on likely developments as the bills move forward, and is speaking with MSU administrators about possible next steps should the bills become law. Until there is more clarity on what the Senate, Governor, and courts are likely to do, it is hard to be precise about what GLFSA’s role will be. But we will be there in as active a role as we can muster, to do everything necessary (and smart) to protect OEI benefits.

Your support is vital if we are to win the battles that are looming. GLFSA will continue to keep you updated via our web site at http://www.msu.edu/~glfsa/.

--Grant Littke
HOME COMING PARTY

Everyone is invited to the LGBT MSU Homecoming party / reception on Friday, October 21, 2011. The party will be held at the Kellogg Center in the spacious Red Cedar Room with fireplace after the MSU Homecoming Parade from 6:30 to 9:30. Whether you are alumni, friends of MSU, students, or faculty / staff – we even expect some guests from the University of Michigan and Wisconsin – everyone is invited!!

This fun event, the sixth annual, will include excellent food, including a chef carving the beef and turkey (do not eat dinner in advance), a cash bar including soda, free coffee, our beautiful green, white & purple décor, background music, and the opportunity to meet the 2011-2012 LGBT scholarship recipients. This is also an opportunity to network with other grads and to meet many new friends. You may park free in the Kellogg Center parking ramp. Tickets will be sold at the door for $20 per person.

Homecoming this year is with powerhouse Wisconsin. MSU is predicted to win the Big Ten. There is excitement in the air in East Lansing. We expect this excitement to also be present at the party. We also are expecting guests from Minneapolis, Chicago, and Detroit as well as many other locations from around the state and country.

We thank our sponsors, the Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau and the MSU Federal Credit Union. Check out the association’s excellent website at https://www.msu.edu/~glbtalum/.

For more information, contact Bill Beachler at beachlerb@sbcglobal.net or call 517-337-1419.

LISTSERV FOR LBGT GRAD STUDENTS

I’m hoping that you can all help spread the word about a listserv for LBGT graduate students. Please let folks know that they become a part of the list by doing the following:

► Send an email to: listserv@list.msu.edu. In the body of the email, write ‘subscribe lbgtagrads’. You will receive a confirmation email that you must respond to in order to be added to the distribution list. The list is confidential, but anyone may post to it!

► You must respond to the confirmation email per the directions to complete the process!

► If you want to get OFF of the distribution list, send a message to listserv@list.msu.edu that says ‘unsubscribe lbgtagrads’ in the body of the email.

Remember, you are all able to post to the listserv, so please feel free to propose events or let folks know about cool things going down.

Take care,
Claire

Claire Gonyo, MS
LBGT Resource Center, Graduate Assistant
Higher Adult and Lifelong Education, PhD Student

ARE YOU AN ARTIST?

The Greater Flint Arts Council is still looking for LGBT artists to fill their Joann A. Downing Michigan LGBT Artist Invitational, which starts October 14th. This is a great way to display and sell your work.

Perhaps you paint, sculpt, glass blow, hand saw metal, craft jewelry, work with fibers, etc. This is a great opportunity to display your work as part of the Art Walk. This is also a great way for those of you who knew Joann Downing to honor her.

Those interested in having their work in this show, should contact Greg Fiedler at the GFAC greg@greaterflintarts council.org.

This event is free and open to the public

Friday, October 14, 2011
6 - 9 pm
~ Music with Duality ~
~ Food and Beverages Provided ~

GFAC GALLERY
816 S. Saginaw Street
Downtown Flint

Exhibit continues through Friday, November 4, 2011

Gallery hours are 9am - 5pm
Monday – Friday
For further information call 810-238-ARTS