

The Rainbow Connection
is published by the
Prairie Pride Coalition
(PPC).

Send
Correspondence to
P.O. Box 5048
Bloomington, IL
61702-5048
or e-mail
info@ppc-il.org

PPC Board:
Dave Bentlin
Kathleen Burger
Peggy Burton
Gary Gletty
Margot Mendoza
Donna O'Crowly
Elizabeth Anvick
Marcus Smith
Olemuel Ashford

Rainbow Connection

FEBRUARY, 2014

MCATF Back "Home" in Downtown Bloomington

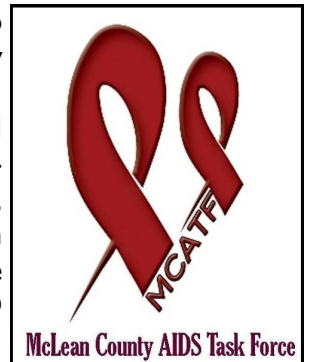
The McLean County AIDS Task Force is pleased to announce its return to downtown Bloomington! Our new address is 117 N Center St., Bloomington, IL 61701.

We are now located in the basement office of a civil rights attorney, Jonathan Backman. Our new office is conveniently located right next door to Kelly's Bakery & Cafe, near the main bus stop, and a block away from the health department. Our phone number will remain the same: (309) 827-2437. We will also be obtaining a PO Box very soon.

We have access to a conference room as needed for groups and/or if someone has physical limitations with walking downstairs into a basement office. Our office space is large enough for small group meetings. We will be working on setting up regular office hours and re-establishing some of our support groups, including the Wellness Group.

If you are interested in volunteering, serving on our Board of Directors, or are in need of our services, please contact us at the number listed above, or email us at mcاتف@mcاتف.org.

We will be planning an Open House in the near future. Please "like" us on Facebook for the latest updates.



To Junior High and High School Students

Becoming Myself...

Exploring who we are and how we got there

- *Panel of college students*
- *A time to share stories*
- *Food and socializing*



Saturday, Feb. 15, 2014

5:00-7:00pm

at the

LGBT/Queer Studies and
Services Institute

205 S. Main Street, Normal
(in the Professional Development Annex, enter on
the north side of the building)

Sponsored by
LGBT/Queer Studies and
Services Institute
PFLAG of Bloomington-Normal
Unitarian Universalist Church of
Bloomington-Normal

For more information call the LGBT/Queer Studies and
Services Institute at 309/438-1118 or email
LGBTQ@illinoisstate.edu

Marriage Forum Educates Residents on New Rights



Residents of McLean County were able to get more information about the recently passed legislation legalizing same sex marriage in Illinois last month at a forum hosted by PPC.

McLean County Clerk Kathy Michael was on hand to answer questions about turning a civil union license into a marriage license, as well as how to obtain a marriage license itself. Equality Illinois CEO Bernard Cherkasov was also present to answer questions.

The event was educational and yet celebratory at the same time, with wedding cake and a photo booth.

Gretchen Shelly
Owner
309-661-1726 • 309-661-1729

merry maids.

1702 W. College Ave
Suite A-3
Normal, IL 61761
mmofbn@yahoo.com

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Openly Gay News Anchor to Speak at ISU

Illinois State University Housing Services is pleased to welcome openly-gay CNN news anchor Don Lemon as the featured speaker at the Black History Month Cultural Dinner at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 25 in the Brown Ballroom at Bone Student Center.

Lemon came to CNN in 2006 from the NBC affiliate in Chicago, where he served as afternoon newscast co-anchor. Before that, he was a correspondent for Today and NBC Nightly News. In his 2011 memoir *Transparent* Lemon came out publicly as gay and discussed colorism in the black community, homophobia, and the sexual abuse that he suffered as a child.

He is the recipient of multiple honors, including several Emmys. In 2009, *Ebony* named him to its "Power 150" list of the most influential blacks in America. In 2011 he was named one of the OUT 100, a yearly list of the most influential GLBT people.

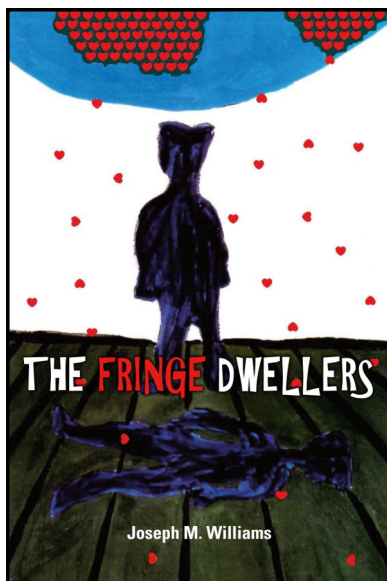
Lemon is dedicated to shedding the light of truth on today's most important news events as well as his own compelling backstory as one of the most prominent African American and openly-gay men in television news.

Ticket Prices for the dinner are \$15 for students, faculty, and staff. Tickets for non-ISU community members are \$18.93. Tickets will be available for purchase online; go to the ISU Housing Services web site at housing.ilstu.edu for more details.

Tickets must be purchased in advance and will be available up to Feb. 14 or until they are sold out.



Local Professor Publishes Novel



IWU professor Joseph M. Williams has published his first book, *Fringe Dwellers*, a comedy novel about a couple who constantly breaks up and gets back together again. Williams describes it as "like *Sex and the City* as written by Woody Allen and the creators of the *Airplane!*/*Naked Gun* movies."

In the book, Christian and Laura can't stay together, yet can't stay

apart. *The Fringe Dwellers* comically explores what happens when you can't stop breaking up with the person you're destined to be stuck with for the rest of your life and how the lives and relationships of an oddball array of characters (an ex-girlfriend/grade school nemesis, an uptight lawyer best friend, a therapist with her own mental health issues, a 400 pound cab driver who used to be 800 pounds, a faded country singer attempting a comeback after drug rehab and several misguided appearances on

celebrity reality shows, a pot-smoking, sarcastic fourteen year-old, dysfunctional parents going through a divorce and the cranky and malevolent downstairs landlord) impact Christian and Laura's relationship.

E-book versions are available on the Kindle, Apple's iBookstore site and Barnes and Noble's Nook site. On all three sites, the first few pages are available as a free preview.

Save the Date!

While we may be mired in the depths of winter, it's never too early to get a couple of spring dates on your calendars, especially when they are among the drag events of the year in the Twin Cities!

The 16th annual ISU Charity Drag Show will take place at 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 29 in Braden Auditorium at Bone Student Center.

The next month the IWU Pride Alliance will sponsor its annual Drag Ball at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 18 in the Hansen Student Center.

Come out and support the students and performers!

Creating Safer Schools for LGBTQ Students: Tools and Resources for Teachers



No cost to attend and
FREE FOOD!

Date: Thursday, April 3rd, 2014

Time: 11AM-3PM

Where: LGBT/Queer Studies and
Services Institute

If you need special accommodations to participate in this event,
please contact Michelle at michelle@illinoisafeschools.org with
sufficient time to arrange the accommodations.

Join us at the LGBT/Queer
Studies and Services
Institute for workshops on:

11AM-11:45: How homophobic
bullying impacts LGBTQ students and
the school climate as a whole

12PM-12:45: The legal obligations of
teachers and administrators to
provide a safe learning environment
for all students

1PM-1:45 Tools and resources for
teachers to use in the classroom to
reduce and interrupt bullying

2PM-2:45: Tools and resources for
teachers to use to address
homophobic behavior from other
faculty/staff



Illinois State University

LGBTQ Alumni Network



Thursday, February 20th

REPLAY

Happy Hour

5:00 – 7:00

This event was organized by ISU Alumni Relations, fellow alums, and members of the Division of Student Affairs. Come out and have fun!

REPLAY is located at 3439 N. Halsted Street. It is conveniently located next to Halsted's Bar and Grill and is known for their free arcade games.

(Street Parking, Cash Bar, Addison Red Line Stop)

Calendar

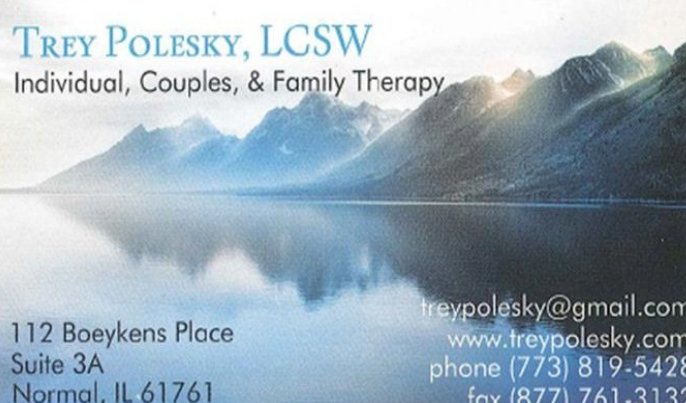
- **Friday, Feb. 7**—The Bistro BIG Show at 11 p.m. The Bistro will open early on the 7th at 4:30 to celebrate the downtown Bloomington Tour de Chocolat
- **Saturday, Feb. 8**—Sharon and the Sharealikes Show at 10 p.m. at Ken's A-Frame, located at 1303 E. Eldorado in Decatur
- **ISU presents The Vagina Monologues Thursday through Saturday (Feb. 13-15), 7 p.m.** daily in the Old Main Room, ISU Bone Student Center. Tickets are \$8 in advance and at the door
- **Friday, Feb. 14**—A Bistro Valentine, hosted by Sharon ShareAlike at 11 p.m.
- **Saturday, Feb. 15**—"Becoming Myself," a panel discussion for junior high and high school students at 5 p.m. at the LGBT/Queer Studies and Services Institute, 205 Main St., Normal, sponsored by the LGBT/Queer Studies and Services Institute
- **Thursday, Feb. 20**—ISU LGBTQA Alumni Network After-Hours Mixer from 5 - 7 p.m. at Replay Craft Beer and Bourbon Bar, located at 3439 N. Halsted St., Chicago
- **Tuesday, Feb. 25**—ISU Cultural Dinner Featuring CNN Anchor Don Lemon at 5 p.m. in the Brown Ballroom, ISU Bone Student Center
- **Fun nights at the Bistro**—Tuesdays are game nights with Justin, Wednesdays feature free pool and beer pong, and enjoy bingo and karaoke on Thursdays. DJ Squeesa will be performing on Saturdays

Valentine's Alternative

The Illinois Wesleyan University Pride Alliance will sponsor an Alternative Valentine's Day event at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 14 in the Hansen Student Center.

Progressive, indie, folk musician Diana Chitester (www.dianachitester.com) will perform at the event. For more information go to the IWU Pride Alliance Facebook group page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/IWUpride/>.

TREY POLESKY, LCSW
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112 Boeykens Place
Suite 3A
Normal, IL 61761

treypolesky@gmail.com
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For information, contact
Chris Kaufman, R.N., Certified
Healing Touch Practitioner
305 E. Front St., Bloomington
(309) 826-5546
Wellsprings1@gmail.com

	<h2>New Covenant Community</h2>
<p>An Open and Affirming/More Light congregation which welcomes all persons into full participation in the life of our community, regardless of race, gender, age or sexual orientation.</p>	
<p>Worship Sundays, 10 a.m. Sunday School and childcare provided during worship Chapel of the Campus Religious Center 210 W. Mulberry St., Normal, IL 61761 (309) 454-7362 www.nccnormal.org</p>	