

The
Rainbow Connection
is published by the
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(PPC).

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Rainbow Connection

MARCH, 2014

Planning Your Wedding in McLean County

All signs point to the possibility that same-sex marriage will become legal in McLean County by the time you get this newsletter, so the Prairie Pride Coalition has begun collecting information for a guide that will help same-sex couples as they prepare to become legally wed.

We have set up an online application at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/9HRCTFT> and are asking local LGBT-friendly businesses and individuals that provide services for weddings and commitment ceremonies to complete the short, five-question application. Categories include accommodations, bakeries, catering, entertainment, event planning, fashion/hair, favors/invites, flowers, jewelry, officiants, photography, travel, and venues.

Our goal is to make the process of planning for their special day as easy as possible for same-sex couples. If you have had a good experience with a business or individual, please forward the address of the web site to them and encourage them to complete the application.

This is a FREE service being offered by PPC. The guide will be included in the May issue of the Rainbow Connection, on our web site, and will be available at events that we sponsor.

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ISU LGBTQA Alumni Weekend Activities

The newly-formed ISU LGBTQA Alumni Network is finalizing plans for its inaugural "alumni weekend" coming up on March 28-30. Some weekend highlights:

1. The LGBT film "Tru Loved" starring ISU alum Jane Lynch will be screened at 8 p.m. on Friday, March 28 in the Old Main Room at Bone Student Center. The screening will be followed by a discussion of the film and the university's SafeZone program.

2. An open house from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 29 at the ISU LGBT/Queer Studies and Services Institute, 205 S. Main Street (Professional

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Activist Robyn Ochs to Speak at IWU March 25



Bisexual rights activist Robyn Ochs is planning a visit to Illinois Wesleyan University on Tuesday, March 25.

Details of Ochs' visit were not finalized at press time, but will be posted on the IWU Pride Alliance's Facebook page.

Ochs is an educator, speaker, award-winning activist, and editor of the 42-country anthology, *Getting Bi: Voices of Bisexuals Around the World* and the *Bi Women* newsletter. Her writings have been published in numerous bi, women's studies, multicultural, and LGBT anthologies.

An advocate for the rights of people of all orientations and genders to live safely, openly and with full legal equality, Robyn's work focuses on increasing awareness and understanding of complex identities, and mobilizing people to be powerful allies to one another within and across identities and social movements.



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New Fraternity Created at ISU



LGBTQ diversity took a new, bold step at ISU with the recent introduction of the university's first queer "fraternity."

The Alpha chapter of Lambda Psi Omega was founded in 2013 and bills itself as a gender neutral queer fraternity. The purpose of Lambda Psi Omega is to provide to its members a family based on acceptance and equality. The organization's Facebook page defines the organization as one that "will nourish self-discovery within its members while promoting self-wellness throughout life. Utilizing these tenets, Lambda Psi Omega will assist in the development of leadership within its members. By following these prin-

ciples, this organization can embrace queer, Greek life."

For more information about the fraternity, visit the organization's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/lambdapsiomegaisu>.

New Introductory LGBTQ Course Introduced at Illinois State

A new introductory LGBTQ course has been approved for the fall class schedule at Illinois State University to further help in the development of an LGBTQ studies certificate program.

The new course is "Introduction to LGBTQ Studies" and will be housed in the Women's and Gender Studies program. It joins an upper-level course, "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender/Queer Studies and Theory," which was developed in 2011 through a collaboration with WGS and the ISU LGBTQ/Queer Studies and Services Institute.

These courses, along with a sequence of courses that Dean Simpson's LGBTQ curriculum committee will be forming, will enable ISU to join the many universities that have already established minors, majors, and graduate programs in LGBTQ/Queer Studies, responding to the growing demands for such academic programs from students and from faculty en-

gaged in research and teaching in this dynamic interdisciplinary field.

The introductory course will be included in the Fall 2014 class schedule; the upper-level course will be offered in Spring 2015.



Calendar

- **Tuesday, March 4**—Indulge and celebrate **Fat Tuesday** at the **Bistro!**
- **Friday, March 7**—**First Friday** at the **Bistro**, beginning at 5 p.m. **Unwind** after a long week with friends!
- **Friday, March 7**—Come see **Manwatch**, a male stripper revue at the **Bistro**
- **Saturday, March 8**—**Mardi Gras** party at the **Bistro**
- **Monday, March 10**—the **Bloomington-Normal PFLAG** chapter meets at 5:30 p.m. on the **2nd Monday** of each month at the **Unitarian-Universalist Church**, located at **1613 East Emerson** in **Bloomington**.
- **Friday, March 14**—**The Big Show**, hosted by **Sharon Share-a-Like** at the **Bistro**
- **Monday, March 17**—**St. Patrick's Day Party** at the **Bistro**
- **Tuesday, March 25**—**Bisexual rights activist Robyn Ochs** will be speaking at **Illinois Wesleyan University**. Location and time **TBA**; please check the **IWU Pride Alliance Facebook** page for more details.
- **Saturday, March 29**— **Open House** at the **ISU LGBT/Queer Studies and Services Institute**, located at **205 S. Main Street** from **10 a.m. to noon**.
- **Saturday, March 29**—the **16th annual ISU Pride Charity Drag Show**, **7 p.m.** at **Braden Auditorium**. Tickets available at the **Braden Box Office**.

Alumni

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Development Annex). The open house will include a presentation by ISU Galleries curator Barry Blinderman and a presentation on the history of LGBTQ at ISU by Bob Sutherland and Denise Goff.

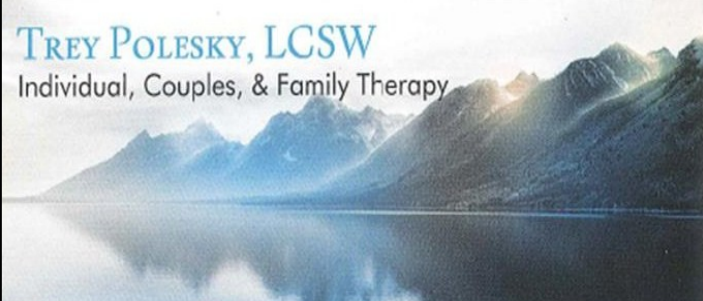
3. The ISU Pride Charity Drag Show at 7 p.m. Saturday night in Braden Auditorium. Ticket prices have not yet been set but tickets will be available at the Braden Box Office or on ticketmaster.com. This is the 16th edition of the annual show that raises money for local LGBTQ organizations.

4. An alumni brunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 30 in the upstairs level at Medici, 120 North Street in Uptown Normal.

All ISU LGBTQ alums are encouraged to attend any or all of these events; we would especially welcome local alums to join us! It should be a fun opportunity to reconnect with fellow alums and revisit some memories of time spent at ISU.

For more information, check out the alumni network's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/IllinoisStateLGBTAAIumni>.

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 	New Covenant Community
 	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.
	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