

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

October 2023, Issue No.12



WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:

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Word of the Month: **Intersectionality**

Also called intersectionality theory, intersectional theory . the theory that the overlap of various social identities, as race, gender, sexuality, and class, contributes to the specific type of systemic oppression and discrimination experienced by an individual (often used attributively)

Dictionary.com

Its Fall, Y'all!

By Ethan C. Brown

Hey everyone! This edition of the newsletter features information about LGBTQIA+ History Month, as well as the events that will be happening around campus to celebrate. You will also find information on "WellFest." Our spotlight for the month is shining on Dr. Ashely Turner, make sure to read her amazing interview. Also, check out the back page and meet the new members of our office!



LGBTQIA+ HISTORY MONTH

By Ethan C. Brown

LGBTQIA+ History Month was first observed in 1994! It was Rodney Wilson, a Missouri High school Teacher, who felt that a month needed to be dedicated to teaching LGBT+ history. Wilson gathered other teachers and community leaders and they chose October due to it being a month that school is in session and the month of National Coming Out Day (Oct 11th).

The LGBT community is the only community not taught their histories at home or in schools, and this can be detrimental to the youth. Growing up with no LGBTQ+ representations can lead to internal struggles with identity. Having LGBTQ+ History Month means a lot! It allows for youth to have positive queer role models, build communities, and gives them the opportunity to see queer people such as themselves in positions of success.

The Meaning of RAINBOW FLAG COLOR

RED

Life

ORANGE

Healing

YELLOW

Sunlight

GREEN

Nature

BLUE

Serenity

PURPLE

Spirit



NEWLY ADDED COLORS

Black

&

Brown



Represents People of Color

Pink

Baby Blue

White

Represents Trans People

What Does LGBTQIA+ Stand For?

LESBIAN

A female who is romantically or sexually attracted to another female

GAY

A male who is romantically or sexually attracted to another male

BI (SEXUAL)

A person who is romantically or sexually attracted to two or more genders

TRANS (GENDER)

A person whose gender identity differs from their assigned gender at birth

QUEER \ QUESTIONING

A person who is exploring their gender, sexual identity, and sexual orientation

INTERSEX

A person whose sexual anatomy differs from the traditional definitions of male and female

ASEXUAL \ AROMANTIC

Asexual describes a person who has little to no sexual attraction towards another. Aromantic describes a person who has little to no romantic attraction to another

PLUS SIGN (+)

A representation of other gender and sexual identities that aren't included in the initialism

Upcoming Events:

WELLFEST

FALL IN LOVE WITH MENTAL HEALTH 2023

PRESENTED BY CHI SIGMA IOTA & JAXSTATE COUNSELING SERVICES

MENTAL HEALTH IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS PHYSICAL HEALTH. IT AFFECTS HOW WE THINK, FEEL, AND ACT. TAKING CARE OF OUR MENTAL HEALTH IS ESSENTIAL FOR OVERALL WELL-BEING.

MEDITATION STATIONS
SOUND BATH + GENTLE YOGA
ART THERAPY ACTIVITIES
CERTIFIED THERAPY DOG
Q+A WITH A COUNSELOR
ACTIVE MINDS INFO
FREE CHAIR MASSAGE
& MORE!!

WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 25TH 4-6PM
JAXSTATE QUAD
Houston Cole Library
11th floor if raining

CONNECT WITH OTHERS. HAVING A SUPPORT SYSTEM IS CRUCIAL FOR GOOD MENTAL HEALTH. REACH OUT TO FRIENDS, FAMILY, OR A MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL. Q+A WITH A COUNSELOR WILL BE PROVIDED FOR ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT KCUTHRELL@JSU.EDU

LGBTQIA+ Oct 2023 HISTORY MONTH



OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

September 30

Pride Sign Crafting Session

Contact Full Spectrum for more details.

Join the local LGBTQIA+ Student groups on campus and make a pride banner for our second annual pride walk on October 6th.

October 5

Pride Walk

6:30PM | TMB Lawn

Join fellow community members and allies for a walk to Jacksonville Square in Celebration of LGBTQIA+ History Month. The walk will start at 6:30PM.

October 7

LGBTQ+ Support Group

5:30PM | Weekly! International House

The LGBTQ Support Group meets weekly in the basement of the International House. Stop by, and hangout with students looking for community.

October 11

All Mixer: Safe Zone Project

12PM - 1:30PM McClure Chapel

Join the Safe Zone Project for some games and refreshments as we hang out and get to know each other better.

October 11

National Coming Out Day Cookout

4:00PM | Germania Springs

Join your LGBTQIA+ Allies and Friends at Germania Springs for a fellowship, fun, music, activities, games, and more!

October 11

ISO's Worldwide Pride Night

5PM - 7PM | International House

Join ISO and the International House for a one evening celebration of Pride and facts about Pride around the world.

October 16

Pride Climb Night

8PM - 9PM | UREC

Join the University Recreation Center for a night of climbing with fellow allies and students from the Community.

October 19

Pride on the Quad

10:00AM - 4:00PM | Quad

Join the many LGBTQIA+ Gamecocks and their allies for food, fellowship, steel drums, jazz, contests, chalk drawing, fundraising and more!

October 27, 28, 29, 30

As You Like It

7:30PM | Oct 27, 28, 30
2:30PM | Oct 29

Location: Stone Center
The Department of Theatre and Film is excited to perform William Shakespeare's classic comedy *As You Like It*, adapted and directed by Michael Boynton to celebrate gender and sexual fluidity in our contemporary times.

November 1

Diversity Fashion Show

5:00PM - 9:00PM | Leone Cole Auditorium

Join us for a night of fashion and acceptance at the second annual diversity fashion show. There will be food, red carpets, and games for those who attend at 5PM, with the Fashion Show starting at 6PM.

Those interested in modeling their outfits can scan the QR on the right to enter into the fashion show today!



All Month

Safe Zone Trainings available all month!



Celebrate LGBTQIA+ history month and become a better ally today! Register for Safe Zone Classes by scanning the QR code to the left.

Oct 13
SZ. Pt. 1
Student Class

Oct 16
SZ. Pt. 1
Faculty Class

Oct 20
SZ. Pt. 2
Student Class

Oct 23
SZ. Pt. 2
Faculty Class

Presented by

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Safe Zone, LGBT+ Support Committee, and participating student groups

The Spotlight

By Jay Clark

Who are you?

My name is Dr. Ashley Turner. I am an assistant professor of biology for the Department of Biology at Jax State.

What inspired you to work at Jax State?

I was looking to start my independent professorship in an environment and community where I could grow, not only my teaching and research, but also my advocacy for diversity and inclusion for students inside and outside of the classroom. Jax State has been this and so much more.

As someone who works in the Department of Biology, what is your research focus?

For our research lab, we coined ourselves "The Worm Hole." We use a microscopic nematode (roundworms), *C. elegans*, in our genetics research to bridge the gap between nematode and humans for exploring human disease.

Where did the name 'The Worm Hole' come from?

Nematodes have similar genes or orthologs that humans have, and they often have similar functions, believe it or not. This allows us to ask a question in a nematode that we want to study in a human, right? Worm holes in space in theory are passages that could create shortcuts across the universe. Our lab uses the roundworm model to help bridge the gap between nematodes and humans. That is where the name came from, the name came from the connection that we're making from a nematode model to a human disease and bridging that gap through basic and translational research.

That is like how humans have similar DNA to bananas, correct?

Yes, humans, bananas, trees, plants, dogs, cats, and nematodes all have the basis of DNA, and genes evolve over time and have unique functions in organisms. But at the basic level, all living organisms have a set of DNA instructions that encode who we are. At the core of DNA, we are all the same.

In what ways are you involved on campus?

My appointment is in the Department of Biology, and

I have a wide array of teaching, research, and service activities. A lot of my service across campus is through outreach. I collaborate with public educators in middle and high school classrooms to engage students through biology and genetics by bringing nematodes and more into their classroom spaces. My efforts also reach into the diversity and inclusion realm, supporting and advocating for diverse individuals. Two new leadership and advisory roles I am stepping into this semester include serving as the new incoming president of the LGBTQ+ Faculty & Staff Collective and a co-advisor for the student group Full Spectrum.

Can you talk about what is the LGBTQ+ Faculty and Staff Collective?

That is a faculty and staff organized group at Jax State that focuses on contributing and supporting a welcoming and inclusive environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and ally faculty and staff. We supply support and mentoring for LGBTQ+ students, strengthen outreach to and retention of our LGBTQ+ faculty, staff, and students, and supply opportunities for fun social events and professional networking within the JSU (Jacksonville State University) community. Building community and advocating for queer individuals on campus are our main goals. We meet monthly to discuss the latest LGBTQ+ issues. If you are a faculty or staff member who is interested in joining this group, please send an email inquiry to jsulgbtqfsc@jsu.edu.

Is there anything else that you would like to share?

I am so thrilled to be at Jax State and part of this community, including our LGBTQ+ community. I am a proud member of the LGBTQ+ community, and identify as queer, lesbian, and a cis-gender woman. It is important for queer-identifying students and really all students to know, see, communicate, and collaborate with other queer individuals and professionals in STEM. I am part of a growing body of queer scientists around the world sharing our stories and journey through a project called 500 Queer Scientists at www.500queerscientists.com. We are here. We are beautiful and amazing! Love you and be you in all the spaces you are in!

STUDENT RESOURCES

Preferred Name Request (Registrar's office)

http://www.jsu.edu/registrar/student_forms.html

Counseling Services

<http://www.jsu.edu/ccservices/>

Student Health Center

<http://www.jsu.edu/studenthealth>

JSU Library LGBTQ+ Resource Collection

<http://libguides.jsu.edu/lgbtq>

Title IX

<http://www.jsu.edu/titleix/>

LGBTQ Vocabulary List

<https://thesafezoneproject.com/resources/vocabulary/>

D&I Glossary

<https://www.jsu.edu/diversity/glossary.html>

Diversity Discussion Request

<https://www.jsu.edu/diversity/event-request.html>

Cocky Cares

<https://www.jsu.edu/cockycares/>

Disability Resources

<https://www.jsu.edu/disabilityresources/>

Student Success

<https://www.jsu.edu/studentssuccess/>

Gamecock Market

<https://www.jsu.edu/gamecockmarket/index.html>

JSU Safe Zone is a campus-wide program that works to ensure a welcoming environment for all gender identities and sexual orientations. By establishing an identifiable network of trained individuals committed to fostering an atmosphere of respect and inclusion, the program provides a safe space for members of the LGBTQ+ community and their allies on campus.



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