

August Newsletter – Members' Stories Edition

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Staff Pride
Network
for LGBT+
colleagues
& allies

Welcome to our special **Members' Stories Edition** of the Staff Pride Network Newsletter

We hope you enjoy this newsletter focused on YOU, our members. Our Communications & Media Team have been involved in all manner of developments over the last year and they have managed to deliver exciting projects including the glossy newsletter at the end of 2016. To deliver a singular, regular newsletter, they set up this Mailchimp format and with the launch of our logo made it look pretty, I hope you agree. This fascinating edition brings together event reports, personal stories, university experiences and Staff Pride Network influencing. From January 2017, we would love to hear from you about your events, experiences and all that interests you which make up our wonderful LGBT+ community. Please note, you will only be able to link to the full length articles on our members' stories until we please email us at staffpridenetwork@ed.ac.uk to be added, whether LGBT+ colleague/PHD student, or straight/non-LGBT+ ally, follow our Twitter for regular SPN updates @staffpride.

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Debbie Aitken – Coming Out To Students



After attending the newly formed Staff Pride Network and realising that the staff LGBT+ community is much bigger and more diverse than I ever imagined, I felt empowered to be open with an entire lecture theatre full of students in the medical school about my identity as a LGBT+ person. I was talking to the medical students about seeing each patient as a whole person, and how it's important to remember that what they might think an LGBT+ patient looks like isn't necessarily always very accurate. [Read more here](#)

Ali McDonald – LGBT+ Internationalisation



In January along with two colleagues I attended the Stonewall Scotland LGBT+ Internationalisation Seminar, hosted by the University of Dundee. Having worked in International Student Support for over 8 years and more recently becoming a Staff Dignity and Respect Advisor, this resonated right up to my stomach. [Read more here](#)

Anabel Noelke/Jonathan MacBride – LGBT+ Research Promoted In The University



As part of February's LGBT+ History Month calendar, Anabel Noelke hosted a seminar 'LGBT+ and the Media'. Both staff and students attended and after an introduction and video showing her research, Anabel led a vibrant discussion. The following month Anabel presented her research at Demos in London and has since been published in a journal. The following email was sent on 12th March to the entire Business School staff mailing list and it made me proud to see my workplace promoting a colleague's work in the LGBT+ sphere. [Read more here](#)

Susan Thomson – Ghost Empire screening: A Response



A documentary trilogy which 3 directed, Ghost Empire 3 Singapore, Ghost Empire 3 Cyprus (about the Turkish occupied North of Cyprus), as well as the trailer for Ghost Empire 3 Britain which is currently in production, screened at Edinburgh University on the evening of Thursday 23rd Feb 2017 supported by the LGBT+ staff network as part of LGBT+ history month. The films look at the British colonial legacy of (now 36) former colonies, which continue to criminalise homosexuality, around the world. [Read more here](#)

Gina Maya Roberts – LGBT+ History Month Asexual Awareness Evening



The organisers had booked a narrow room with a table for twenty. By the time they'd closed the door for the screening, sixty people had arrived. Anonymity, clearly, is a subject of interest not to be underestimated. It makes sense in our hyper-sexualised society to ask the question, 'Is it just me, who find the media's sexual blurring overwhelming?' It's easy to imagine the seriousness of an asexual identifying person confronted with the daily stream of images in pop culture, and seeing themselves as outsiders and wanting greater recognition, and accommodation. [Read more here](#)

Tammy French – Speyside Way Challenge



My fiancée and I completed the 66 mile trek along the Speyside Way in March. Our group raised a great £281.52 that will be divided between the charities Calaid and Help for Heroes. The trek was challenging but luckily I didn't get. [Read more here](#)

Jonathan MacBride – Out in Edinburgh, Mental Health & Wellbeing



April's Out in Edinburgh focused on mental health and wellbeing, with presentations from the lead counsellor at LGBT Health & Wellbeing's counselling service, a staff member from Health In Mind, Heriot-Watt University's Head of Student Counselling and Wellbeing services and a Barclays staff network member who talked about some of their positive initiatives to make the workplace a healthier place for its staff and that embracing diversity within the company can have a positive impact in the outside world. [Read more here](#)

Oliver Main – Joining The University of Edinburgh



When I stumbled across the Administrative Assistant job at Edinburgh University Careers Service, I knew it was a job I should apply for. What I didn't know was whether Edinburgh University was an employer that would support me in my transition – having socially transitioned but being on the lengthy waiting lists for medical assistance. So, I began my research: first, based on my last job interview with Stonewall (Programme officer for the diversity champion program); I contacted the University of Edinburgh where a Stonewall Diversity Champion, checked they were aware. Meeting in the right direction, looks promising. [Read more here](#)

Events

SPN Social

Date: 1 September 2017
Time: 17:30-21:00
Location: The Potting Shed

Drop by for a social drink with members and the committee at this fully accessible venue.

SPN Coffee Afternoon – A Celebration Of Allies

Date: 23 September 2017
Time: 12:00-15:00
Location: Tenet Library Bar, Committee Room

Join us at our regular monthly coffee afternoon. There is a Celebration Of Allies theme this month for which the reason will be revealed in one week's time. Please drop in any time for a coffee and cake, catch up with your LGBT+ colleagues and ask a committee member those questions you've been dying to have answered!

Full Events Calendar
Useful Information
Contact & Committee
Help, Support & Advice
staffpridenetwork@ed.ac.uk