

Closeted/OUT in the Quadrangles: A History of LGBTQ Life at the University of Chicago

Although the University's contributions to the academic study of sexuality have been documented, we knew very little about the experiences of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning individuals and communities that have passed through the quadrangles. In order to make these visible, students affiliated with Closeted/Out in the Quadrangles: A LGBTQ History of the University of Chicago have been researching the University's queer past since 2012.

This exhibition presents some of the most significant results of the "Closeted/Out in the Quadrangles" project. All existing archival collections in the Special Collections Research Center have been carefully reviewed, and the collections have been enriched by new materials preserved and made available by LGBTQ alumni and students. We also mined local and national archives and conducted oral histories with 95 alumni, faculty, and staff, representing degrees from a 1958 JD to a 2012 AB.

In creating a new oral history archive of LGBTQ experiences at Chicago, we learned that the University's exaltation of the life of the mind has been a source of both liberation and frustration. For example, Esther Newton (AM 1966, PhD 1968) could write a dissertation about male drag queens in Chicago without being asked awkward questions because "There was never any connection between, supposedly, your personal life, whatever that was, and why you wanted to work on what you wanted. It was all floating out there, in the intellectual ether." Newton had actually struck a delicate balance between embracing her identity and tactically distancing herself from it: "I probably would have done a lesbian thesis if I hadn't been so afraid. But that was too close. And this way, it was men. And I could take on that aspect of the neutral observer and they couldn't really ask me, 'Why? Why do you want to do this?'"

Newton's story highlights the inherent tensions between intellectual aspirations and embodied experience, between tolerant liberalism and indifference to physical and emotional needs. Focusing on the experiences of LGBTQ people at the University of Chicago invites us to consider the "life of the mind" as it is lived by embodied individuals. With Closeted/Out in the Quadrangles, we hope both to make visible the people who helped transform the University and to create a history that will inspire future generations.

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Closeted/Out in the Quadrangles

What it means to be "closeted" and "out" shifts not only within individual experiences, but also over time in the collective vernacular. For example, in the "glossary of homosexual terms" gathered by a Sociology student in 1933, "coming out" meant coming into a preexisting subculture by going to a bar.

By the 1970s, the Gay Liberation movement redefined "coming out" to mean announcing one's identity to people outside of the gay subculture. Students on campus wore buttons stating "OUT OF THE CLOSETS AND INTO THE STREETS." Murray Edelman (PhD 1973) recalled that the "closet" terminology was so new that other students didn't always know what the buttons meant.

Today the "coming out story" is a shared genre of LGBTQ experience, and events like the "Coming Out Monologues" allow students to share their own. The 2012 Queers and Associates t-shirt, designed by Yiwen Feng (AB 2015) connects an entire cloud of words with queer identities. The back of the shirt says "label me proud."

Historian Allan Bérubé left campus in 1968 just weeks before his graduation and missed the beginnings of Gay Liberation on campus. When he visited the Seminary Co-Op in 1990 for a reading of his book *Coming Out under Fire*, about gays and lesbians in the military during WWII, he signed a copy for Bert Harrill (AM 1989 PhD 1993), who was then the president of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance.

Professors Howard Brown and Roger Weiss were "out" by many standards. The University agreed to a "spousal hire" for the couple in the 1960s, and the two hosted parties for gay students and faculty in their home until Roger's death in 1991, and Howard's death in 1993. Bob Devendorf (AB 1985, AM 2004) remembered Howard and Roger as "gay godfathers" and mentors, while John DelPeschio (AB 1972) treasured the intergenerational community they fostered: "I felt as if I were entering a more adult world."

However, Brown and Weiss' refusal to participate in political actions and "come out" in the broader public sphere sometimes frustrated younger gay men like Wayne Scott (AB 1986, AM 1989), as he describes in this article. Jim McDaniel (AB 1968) remembers Howard saying "I don't really care what anybody knows, I just care what I have to admit."

Women's Relationships at the early University

Professional women at the turn of the twentieth century often found it easier to achieve their goals outside of heterosexual marriage. Many chose to pursue close emotional, financial, and sometimes sexual partnerships with other women in what was then called a "Boston marriage."

Attitudes toward female homosexuality were also changing rapidly in this period, such that the relationships documented in this case may have been more acceptable to the outside world when they started than when they ended. By the late 1920s and 1930s, close relationships between women were increasingly taken to imply a "disordered" homosexual identity, and a 1929 case study by a Sociology student shows that Marion Talbot was known for having "such affairs." Some women may have embraced a certain amount of strategic ambiguity in order to escape scrutiny and stigma.

In her 1929 study, Katherine Bement Davis (PhD 1900) found that 46.2% of women born in the late 19th century reported homosexual experiences, but only 21.4% of women born in the first decade of the 20th century did. What might account for this decline? The transcript of a sex education session in a women's dormitory in 1947 spells out a new outlook on relationships between women: female homosexuality might be acceptable as a developmental phase, but if kept up for too long, it was evidence of an immature personality.

Marion Talbot, Sophonisba Breckinridge, and Edith Abbott

At the University of Chicago, Marion Talbot, head of the Department of Household Administration and Dean of Women, encouraged Sophonisba Breckinridge to pursue graduate study. Breckinridge became the first woman to earn a Political Science PhD (1901) and a JD (1904) at the University.

Talbot later secured Breckinridge a position as an instructor and as her assistant. The two were inseparable. One student remembered "Little Miss Breckinridge trudging along over a few blocks to see Miss Talbot. She went every night to see her." Talbot's parents gave the family home to both women in 1912.

After Edith Abbott arrived on campus in 1905, working with Breckinridge and eventually becoming Dean of the School of Social Service Administration in 1924, the two women grew closer. Abbott and Talbot seem to have fought over Breckinridge's affections, as documented in a series of letters from 1911.

Breckinridge remained close to Talbot – writing letters about her "dear legs" in the 1930s—but gradually merged her life with Abbott's. While on vacation, she wrote Abbott twice a day: "Edith, when you get back, and I get back, don't let me go again. I can't get along without you." Breckinridge and Abbott would live together by the 1940s.

Gertrude Dudley

Gertrude Dudley, Director of Women's Athletics, co-wrote *Athletic Games in the Education of Women* (1909) with Frances Kellor, a former lover. Kellor was one of the first women graduate students in Sociology, and was hired by Dudley as a gymnastics instructor. Their book argued that playing sports could make women more engaged citizens. Dudley founded the first competitive women's athletics program in the nation while at the University. In a letter Dudley wrote to Alonzo Stagg, then Director of Athletics, she makes light of her lack of experience with men.

Charlotte Towle

Social workers Charlotte Towle and Mary Rall lived together in Hyde Park for over thirty years beginning in the 1930s. Their friends and family recognized and supported their relationship. The SSA Newsletter issue on Charlotte's death spends more time on her love of dogs than on Mary, who is euphemistically named as "closest friend and companion."

Cecil Smith and Paul Goodman

At least two male University of Chicago instructors were dismissed in the 1930s and 1940s after allegations of homosexuality. Although the University was initially reluctant to police the instructors' behavior, it moved decisively when that behavior seemed likely to create bad publicity.

Cecil Smith, an instructor in the Music department, pictured here in the Glee Club, was arrested in December 1944 for "making advances" on a sailor in a theater on Clark Street. Although the University helped Smith hire a defense attorney, it also launched an extensive investigation into his past. Smith was ultimately forced to resign in the spring of 1946 after being arrested when a policeman "saw him in conversation with a friend in a small space enclosed by high bushes near the Art Institute." University President Ernest C. Colwell wrote: "it is our judgment that we simply cannot support on our faculty any member who provides publicity of this sort to the degree that Mr. Smith has done."

Paul Goodman is not documented in this case, but he was openly bisexual when he came to campus in 1936 as a graduate student and instructor in the English department. Although married, he was also known to go cruising in Jackson Park and to have open affairs with male students. Richard P. McKeon, Dean of the Division of the Humanities, told Goodman in 1939 that he would have to resign if he could not keep his sex life off campus. Goodman chose resignation, writing in 1973 that he had been fired "because of my queer behavior or my claim to the right to it."

Gay Liberation

In the late 1960s, black liberation, women's liberation, and anti-war protest all swept through the campus. Another of these new social movements was gay liberation, and the Chicago Gay Liberation Front (GLF) was founded in Hyde Park in 1969.

Murray Edelman (PhD 1972) placed ads in *The Maroon* about forming a "Student Homophile League" in June 1969, while Henry Wiemhoff placed an ad looking for a gay roommate in October 1969. Michal Brody, living in Hyde Park and driving taxis at the time, responded, recalling later that Wiemhoff was surprised because he "never expected a woman might consider herself gay or to be in that category. Fortunately no one else responded to the ad, so he gave me the room."

The Gay Liberation Front met in Wiemhoff and Brody's apartment; some people walked around the block several times before getting up the courage to go in. GLF members went public with their own stories, including a February 1970 appearance on Studs Terkel's radio show and an eight-page Gay Liberation Supplement in the *Chicago Seed*. They also protested misinformation in David Reuben's book *Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Sex*, adding stickers to the title page reading [and vicious homophobic lies]. Edelman even interrupted a taping of the Howard Miller TV show featuring Reuben.

The GLF also created spaces for gay men and women to connect, including dances where people of the same sex could dance together. Alumni fondly recalled the weekly coffeehouse in the Blue Gargoyle, located at 5638 S Woodlawn. John DelPeschio (AB 1972) was in a night of theater called "What are Ladies' Voices?" where they performed Tennessee Williams' play *Talk to me like the Rain* twice, reversing the genders the second time. The Blue Gargoyle also had a monthly women's coffeehouse that hosted lesbian musicians; lesbian newspaper Lavender Woman—edited by a collective including Wiemhoff's roommate Michal Brody—published a review of one of those concerts.

The Gay Liberation Front

The Gay Liberation Front used the University to organize gay dances in Chicago. At the time, dancing was prohibited in most gay bars. Alice Leiner (AB 1974) remembers more gawkers than dancers at their first dance in the Eleanor Club (now Breckinridge Hall). At the second dance, in Pierce Hall, students snuck hand stamps outside to get around the University-imposed limit of one guest per student. Over 600 people attended, so many that the bars on the North Side were empty that weekend—"and the next week, all of those bars allowed dancing!"

The University responded to the violation of the guest limit by demanding that the dances move off campus. An off-campus dance at the Coliseum at 16th and Wabash (which had previously hosted drag balls sponsored by African-American business owners in the 1930s) was made possible through alliance politics, with a lawyer for the Black Panthers agreeing to provide insurance to the GLF. The police called

off a planned raid at the last moment, and a photograph of that dance was published in the underground newspaper *Second City*.

Students involved in gay liberation at the University brought the spirit of intellectual inquiry across the country. Kevin Burke (AB 1972, PhD 1999) and Murray Edelman (PhD 1972) moved to San Francisco after graduation to live in a gay commune. While in California they started *Lavender U*, a catalog of courses directed towards gay men and lesbians. Burke taught photography and took the photographs on the cover of the catalog. He told us that “The women would teach things like auto mechanics and the men would teach things like crocheting. We thought it was really cool for gender role breakdown... We had a course about how to write sex ads called Cruising 101.” *Lavender U* was also the beginning of *Front Runners*, today the largest gay running group.

Race and Gay Liberation

Gay Liberation happened in the context of the civil rights movement, and many white oral history narrators consciously connected their experiences in the two movements. Kevin Burke (AB 1972, PhD 1999) remembers it as one of the first times he was able to “talk to black people as peers,” and recalls doing coalition work with the Black Panthers. In a letter asking for office space, Burke and Edelman patterned their demands after those of the University's Black Student Organization, an analogy that Dean O'Connell rejected along with their demands.

Hannah Frisch (AB 1964, PhD 1976) led the picket line at the PQ bar, which required African-Americans to show multiple forms of ID in order to enter. Historian Allan Bérubé (X'68) wrote an essay titled “How Gay Stays White and What Kind of White It Stays” where he described the practice of “triple-carding” as “a form of racial exclusion—policing the borders of white gay institutions to prevent people of color from entering.” The picket line against triple-carding, the insistence on bringing community members to the dances, and coalition work with the Black Panthers were all protests against this kind of border policing.

After the burst of initial activism around the Gay Liberation Front moved to other parts of the city, gay activism at the University mostly failed to engage with questions of race and racism for nearly twenty years. Many alumni described a “siege mentality” distancing the University from its surrounding community. Minority enrollment was also low, hovering around 5% in the College for most of the 1970s. These factors combined to make University-based activism another example of “how gay stays white” until student-led efforts at change in the 1990s and 2000s.

E. Kitch Childs

E. Kitch Childs (PhD 1972) one of the first African-American women to receive a doctorate in Comparative Human Development, was a founding member of

Chicago Gay Liberation and of the national Association for Women in Psychology. She spent a professional career helping black women as a therapist. She died in 1993.

Vernita Gray

Hyde Park resident Vernita Gray, who lived at 56th and Drexel at the time, came with Brody to see Henry Wiemhoff's apartment and was subsequently involved in organizing lesbians on the South Side. Gray more recently was the plaintiff in a court case that hastened gay marriage in Illinois. She and her wife Pat Ewert were the first same-sex couple to marry in Illinois on November 27, 2013 before Gray died in 2014. On the iPad she speaks about using University resources to create gay community.

Cruising the University

Men looking to have sex with other men have often found each other in public places. There has been a "cruising" culture in and around the University of Chicago as early as the 1940s—when Paul Goodman used to cruise Jackson Park—through today, when similar encounters might be facilitated through Grindr.

Illinois was the first state to decriminalize sodomy by consenting adults in private. Frank Allen, then a professor at the Law School, chaired the Joint Committee to Revise the Illinois Criminal Code, which repealed the law in 1961. Allen was persuaded by the argument that sodomy laws led to police corruption and blackmail, later speculating that if gay people had tried to claim that they were "normal" in 1961, sodomy reform would have been a nonstarter.

David Goldman (AB 1972) mentioned the repeal of the sodomy law as a factor in his choice to leave New York and attend the University of Chicago. But even after the repeal of the law, soliciting sex in public was illegal, and vice cops like the notorious John Manley continued to try to entrap men in parks and bathrooms. One of the Gay Liberation Front's first political activities was to protest a talk by Manley. The group also used the money it raised from dances for a bail fund and for funding a booklet by the Gay Legal People's Committee about how to interact with the police as a gay person.

Wieboldt Hall

By the 1960s, the Wieboldt Hall men's bathroom was enshrined as a tearoom, a place where men could find sex with other men. The *1971 Gay Guide* attests to Wieboldt's international renown, and in the early 1980s, as one narrator recalled, sometimes a line would form down the staircase.

Wieboldt was not the only space that men cruised in Hyde Park. Several narrators mentioned the public bathrooms near the Point, and Robert Devendorf (AB 1985,

AM 2004) remembered walking into a bathroom outside of Harper and finding that “the whole thing was covered in this fascinating gay leather sex mural.”

From GLF to Q&A: Gender and Student Organizing from the 1970s to the 1990s

The Gay Liberation Front continued to change based on student initiative. Read (Schusky) Weaver (AB 1981) wanted to make the Gay Liberation Front more welcoming for lesbians and the name Gay and Lesbian Alliance [GALA] was adopted in 1978. However, female enrollment in the College hovered around one-third during the 1970s, and women like Esther Stearns (AB 1982) remembered that their experiences with sexism made them far more politicized than GALA men.

Women were consequently more likely to engage politically in lesbian feminist activities outside of the University. *Lavender Woman* editor Marie Kuda and pulp novelist Valerie Taylor organized Lesbian Writers' Conferences at the Blue Gargoyle annually from 1974-1978. The first conference was dedicated to noted lesbian librarian Jeanette Foster (AM 1922, PhD 1935).

At the same time, GALA worked to make the gay community visible on campus. This t-shirt, designed by Scott Dennis (AB 1982) parodied a popular campus tee that sported the phrase: "Ho-Ho. The University of Chicago is funnier than you think." When GALA began to print their version, the house that sold the original "Ho-ho" t-shirt threatened to sue, claiming that GALA had destroyed the market for their offering.

Starting in the early 1990s, new organizations on campus included the University of Chicago Bisexual Union [UCBU], Queer University, and the Uppity Les/Bi/Gays [later the Uppity Queers]. University students were featured in a Newsweek cover story about bisexuality in 1995.

GALA briefly considered the name BT-GALA, but ultimately the group changed from GALA to "Queers and Associates" during the 1995-1996 academic year, one of the first LGBTQ campus groups in the nation to incorporate "queer" into its name.

The 1990s were also a time that the first narrators recall that people were beginning to publicly question gender identity on campus. One narrator donated a copy of Kate Bornstein's gender workbook, which they used in thinking through their own gender identity.

AIDS at the University

HIV/AIDS ravaged gay communities nationally and locally during the 1980s. Drew Feraios (AB 1981) remembers that the threat of AIDS and the climate of homophobia it fostered politicized gay men on campus and "contributed to the coming out process of my

more closeted friends." The objects in this case point to some of the different strategies community members used to respond to AIDS.

David Ostrow (SB 1969, MD 1974, PhD 1975) co-founded the Gay Medical Students Organization for medical students across Chicago which began confidential STD testing for gay and bisexual men in the 1970s. This early experience in community-based medicine put Ostrow in place to become a lead researcher on the Multisite AIDS Cohort Study beginning in 1984. Still running today, the MACS is the first and largest study on the natural history of AIDS. Ostrow was invited back to campus to speak to medical students in 1985.

Direct-action organizing also provided an outlet for anger at a society that did not care about those who were dying. Debbie Gould (AM 1990, PhD 2000) began working with ACT UP/Chicago (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) while still a student, left the University after earning her AM in order to spend more time on activism, and returned years later to write her dissertation on the movement. This case displays archived photos that Scott Mendel (AM 1995) took at ACT UP demonstrations in Chicago.

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Brent House

Sam Portaro, chaplain of Brent House, hosted discussions about AIDS, wrote about the epidemic in his monthly newsletter, and provided a home in Brent's guest house for Joey Fairclough, a South Side resident living with HIV/AIDS. Portaro recollects this as "a valuable learning experience... I really had to work hard at impressing upon all of these wonderful helpers that Joey... needed to be treated as an independent person capable of doing a lot of things for himself and not treated as our pet case." Fairclough's ashes are interred on the grounds of Brent House.

ACT UP

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Harassment and Response on Campus, 1984-1991

Two waves of intense harassment targeted gay and lesbian students during the first decade of the AIDS crisis. In 1987 a group of University of Chicago students associated with a conservative campus newspaper called themselves "The Great White Brotherhood of the Iron Fist" in order to out and intimidate gay students on campus.

These students placed an advertisement in the *Chicago Reader* looking for a gay roommate. Students who answered this ad were unwillingly "outed." Their parents and employers received letters from "The Great White Brotherhood of the Iron Fist" describing the person as an "AIDS carrier." In a letter to the *Chicago Tribune*, the harassers wrote: "We claim credit for a new means of becoming openly homosexual, the 'dragging out party.' We will not stop until we have achieved the complete ruination of homosexuality as a viable lifestyle."

Madelyn Detloff (AB 1987) remembers: "What were you going to do? If you were afraid of being outed... you couldn't go to the police and complain about it because you were outing yourself anyway. So that was part of the politics of the closet that we were dealing with."

An investigation ultimately deemed students Russell Miller and David White, writers at the *Midway Review* (a successor of the *Chicago Patriot*), responsible. Both students were suspended. When Russell Miller returned two years later in order to graduate, students demonstrated against his graduation and called for a University policy on sexual harassment.

For Debbie Gould (AM 1990, PhD 2000) the sense of crisis also engendered new kinds of politics. "The Coalition of People United for a Responsible UofC" brought together three constituencies: queer students who were upset about the blasé University response to harassment, a group of black women employees at the University Hospitals who were being harassed by their bosses, and PUSH and the Woodlawn Organization, community organizations who did not want the University to build an incinerator for medical equipment next to a local school. Gould remembers that although the formal coalition broke down after Russell Miller's graduation, some of the student members continued to organize with the hospital workers.

Brotherhood of the Iron Fist

In the spring of 1991, three gay students in the biology department received threatening letters from another "Brotherhood of the IRON FIST." These letters

claimed to have deadly chemicals in them. One of the victims of this harassment, Andrew Ross (SM 1992), shares his memories of this time on the iPad. One of the targeted students was even physically attacked on his way home from the lab. Three reported hate crimes made Hyde Park one of the top two neighborhoods in Chicago for anti-gay hate crimes in the first report of its kind in 1992. This wave of hate crimes also provoked protest demonstrations from students, including a rally on the quadrangles where students wore pink triangles to show solidarity.

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Gay and Lesbian Law Students

Eric Webber (JD 1987) founded the Gay and Lesbian Law Students after having started a similar group at the Business School in the fall of 1984. One of the group's first goals was to get the Law School to add "sexual orientation" to its nondiscrimination policy. The Law School was the first division of the University to do so, in 1988.

In 1986, the Supreme Court's ruling in *Bowers v. Hardwick* allowed states to criminalize relationships between people of the same sex. Webber remembers feeling the decision was "like a slap in the face." His anger about the decision gave him the idea to organize the First National Conference on Sexual Orientation and the Law in 1987.

Irwin Keller

Irwin Keller (JD 1988) used his training as a lawyer to help activists across the city author Chicago's first non-discrimination ordinance, which passed in 1989. Keller remembers that Ambassador James C. Hormel, JD 1958 and former Dean of Students at the Law School, asked to meet the gay and lesbian law students when he visited campus in 1986. These students talked to Hormel about a loan forgiveness program for people going into non-profit work, and in 1987 he created the James C. Hormel Public Service Fund to support students going into public service law.

Law Student Protests

The law student organization used the amended nondiscrimination policy to protest campus recruiting by organizations like the CIA and Army JAG Corps that did not accept gays and lesbians. One year, gay and lesbian law students signed up for every single recruiting interview and "played it straight" until the end of the

interview, when they revealed that they were gay. Webber recalls: "we wanted not just to harass the guy... but to have a thoughtful conversation about how the policy was denying them the interest of very qualified people."

Weddstock and Domestic Partnership Rights

In the early 1990s, domestic partnership rights that would grant medical and other benefits to same-sex couples energized campus. A graduate student worked with Lambda Legal to sue the University for gym and library privileges for his male partner. At the same time, a group of faculty and staff formed the Lesbian and Gay Faculty and Staff Organization [LEGFASO], which organized and negotiated with the administration over recognition of domestic partnership.

Students organized the "Weddstock" protests to call attention to the issue of domestic partnership. The "marriage certificate" and the mass wedding ceremonies of Weddstock encouraged a specifically queer sensibility that tried to envision a more expansive version of intimacy and relationships. The kiss-ins pictured in this case were important in claiming a public space for expressions of non-heteronormativity. According to Nayan Shah (PhD 1995): "Weddstock really did the work of confusing who was performing and who was being... that actually was probably wholly liberatory for a lot of people."

The University announced same-sex domestic partnership benefits for faculty, staff, and students in December 1992, making it one of the first US universities to do so. Victor Friedman, PhD 1975 and director of the Center for East European and Russian/Eurasian Studies, was the first faculty member to accept a new job and have his partner immediately covered.

Some students remembered the victory as dissipating activist energies on campus. These students were frustrated that the final form of the benefits defined "domestic partnership" through property ownership

"The Natives are Studying Themselves": Studying Queers/Queer Studies at the University

The University of Chicago has a strong claim to being the birthplace of the academic study of sexuality, with the Chicago School of Sociology viewing sexual behavior as a legitimate object of social science research. Students in Ernest W. Burgess's courses on social pathology wrote term papers about gay speakeasies and cabarets and interviewed the men they met there.

Some of the sociological research was clumsy and guided by notions of "normal" sexuality. A set of 1934 field notes show that a researcher hired a sex worker to try to

convince a homosexual to "take the masculine role," exploiting both of the participants in the process. But some students used their academic work to enter into the homosexual world themselves: Drag queen Fay Templeton recalled that she had dated men from many local universities for research purposes; another student who wrote an undated term paper on "restlessness in women" explicitly addressed her own interest in the subject.

Considering the Burgess papers, we might wonder whether the nature of scholarship changes when people who study sexual identities are able to be open about their own. Esther Newton (AM 1966, PhD 1968) wrote a dissertation about drag queens, the first major anthropology of a homosexual community in the United States. A comic drawn by Kelsey Ganser (AB 2012), who interviewed Newton in 2013, reveals some of the ways Newton struggled with gendered self-presentation while at the University. Years later, Newton informed her dissertation advisor, David Schneider, that she now had a number of students who were self-identified lesbians working on lesbian themes, joking, "[T]he natives are studying themselves!"

Jeanette Howard Foster

Jeanette Howard Foster (AA 1916, AM 1922, PhD 1935) wrote *The Sex Variant Woman* in 1956, the first catalog of lesbian experience in literature and a key text for an entire generation of women. She also served as Alfred Kinsey's first librarian at the Institute for Sex Research, where she helped him secure interviews with lesbians.

Foster came to the University as an undergraduate in 1914 but had a nervous breakdown and left after realizing that she was in love with another woman who did not love her back. Foster later returned to the University for a PhD in Library Science, and the second time was better than the first. Later in her life, Foster wrote to lesbian activist Karla Jay, remembering that Gertrude Dudley had once asked her to help a graduate student who had become infatuated with a man. Foster contacted the woman, "gave her a lecture on Sex & What To Do About It, and ended by taking her quite coolly to bed with me. The location of our rooms, all singles in that grad dorm, made that quite possible—also several other women were doing likewise."

The Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality

Although at the time the study of sexuality was rarely an explicit part of the College curriculum, narrators from the 1960s through the 1980s remember writing papers that dealt with sexuality and the ways that their own sexuality influenced their course of study.

In the late 1980s, faculty including Leora Auslander in History, Mary Becker at the Law School, Lauren Berlant in English, and Elizabeth Helsinger in English and Art History ran the Feminist Theory and Gender and Society workshops. After over a decade of organizing by faculty and students, in 1996 the Center for Gender Studies

was founded as an academic research center. In 1997 the concentration/major in Gender Studies was established and Professors George Chauncey of History and Elizabeth Povinelli of Anthropology founded the Lesbian and Gay Studies Project at the Center. The Center was renamed the Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality [CSGS] in 2011. Objects in the case highlight some of the events that the CSGS has sponsored and hosted over the years.

The CSGS was founded in a context of national expansion of queer studies as a field. Programs from the First National Graduate Student Conference and Fifth National Conference on Queer Studies suggest the rapid growth of the field. The 1993 zine *Judy!* was created by University of Iowa students; it speaks to the way that queer studies re-imagined the relationship between subject and object, with Judith Butler becoming the subject of speculation, gossip, and fantasy.

5710 and 21st Century Activism

The 21st century has been distinguished by an increasingly formal relationship between the University and its LGBTQ students. When the University issued a Diversity statement in 2004 that did not include the LGBTQ community, a group of students and staff responded by creating a set of recommendations for improving LGBTQ student life at the University. Those recommendations led to the creation of the 5710 Diversity Center on South Woodlawn, a space that combines the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs and the Office of LGBTQ Student Life. The combination is not an accident. Antonia Clifford (AB 2010, AM 2011) remembered "LGBTQ students of color forcing this issue and wanting this to be a joint space and wanting to make that work, and the reality of making that work was so beautiful. And painful."

The shared space responds to a long history of LGBTQ students of color feeling isolated in their overlapping identities. Nayan Shah (PhD 1995) recalled that when he was here, "to be out and gay at the University of Chicago seemed to be white male," while Ann Kwong, (AB 1980, PhD 1986), "really didn't think I was gay when I was in Chicago because of how I felt was so far from the white lesbians that I saw."

LGBTQ students often have good queer fun, as in the photos of the 2010 Genderfuck party, but they also continue to fight to make the University a place where all students can safely pursue the "life of the mind." Trans* students and their allies have been especially active in improving campus conditions in the last decade. Students have successfully fought for an Open Housing policy, where students can live with a roommate of any gender, and a preferred names policy. Another goal, symbolized by the "Hello" nametag in the case, is to normalize asking people about their preferred gender pronouns instead of making assumptions based on gender-normative cues. Objects in this case show some of the ways that current students continue to organize, particularly around intersectional identities.

The LGTBQ Mentoring Program

The LGBTQ Mentoring Program was founded in 2001. Kathy Forde, now Associate Dean of Students in the College, worked with Jim Howley, a graduate career counselor at the University, to create the program because she saw that many LGBTQ college students had a hard time imagining adult queer lives. The mentoring program can be seen as a formalized recreation of the intergenerational social world that Howard Brown and Roger Weiss facilitated for gay men in Hyde Park from the 1960s to the 1990s.

The Office of LGBTQ Student Life was founded in 2008 to serve LGBTQ students, questioning students, and allies in the College and graduate and professional schools. It hosts the Q Groups, discussion groups for a wide variety of identities at 5710. Also in 2008, the LGBT Alumni Network was created to foster and strengthen the bond between the University of Chicago and its alumni who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT).