



LAVENDER LETTER

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANS,
AND QUEER ALUMNI OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY



*New logo for the
Lavender Alumni Network*

LAVENDER LETTER FIRST ISSUE: HELLO FROM THE EDITORS

A quick recap! The Lavender Alumni Network was formed in December 2023. The group was formally recognized after it reached thirty members, and membership has grown quickly to over 170 in May 2024.

As part of the first election for the group, it was unanimously voted to start a newsletter. In a following group vote, the name “Lavender Letter” won in a group of five contenders, with “Saluki Pride Quarterly” in second place.

For our first issue, we have several updates, including election results (see left), a semester update from the SIU LGBTQ Resource Center, an update from the Saluki Rainbow Network, news about an honored SIU alum, news about this month’s LGBTQ+ Saluki Reunion Weekend, and other events coming up for Pride Month from Pride in Action Southern Illinois, Rainbow Cafe, Southern Illinois Pride Collective, and the SIU LGBTQ Resource Center. There is also a new column: Alumni Spotlight!

If you are interested in submitting material for the newsletter, including job postings, career tips, photos from your time in Carbondale, etc., please send to Nakkiah Doreen or Juniper Oxford either by email or on Facebook.

RESULTS FROM THE FIRST LAN ELECTION

PRESIDENT - JUNIPER OXFORD
VICE PRESIDENT - TYLER KNUPP
SECRETARY - NAKKIAH DOREEN

**SHOULD THE LAVENDER
ALUMNI NETWORK HAVE A
NEWSLETTER?**

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN
ATTENDING AN LGBTQ+
GENERAL (ALL-YEARS)
REUNION AT SIU CARBONDALE?**

ONE MAYBE AND ALL OTHERS
YES.

END OF THE YEAR UPDATE FROM THE SIU LGBTQ RESOURCE CENTER

The 2023-2024 academic year has been an extraordinary one for the LGBTQ Resource Center. Events such as the Play With Pride Game with Saluki Soccer and the Pride Day Game with Saluki Softball have emphasized that strong link between LGBTQIA+ pride and school pride that the L.A.N. shares in abundance. Our campus community came together with a robust month schedule for LGBTQ+ History Month just two weeks after the arrival of our new center coordinator. After a two-year hiatus, Transitions, our support group for trans, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming students, began meeting regularly in September 2023. It is one of our oldest programs, and we are excited to work with Counseling and Psychological Services in bringing it back.

We are continuing our Queer Cinema series in partnership with Morris Library, where we show a free movie/documentary with an LGBTQIA+ theme and have a post-film discussion. The QRC has also brought together students, staff, and faculty to socialize at our “Affinity Space” events, including a TNBGNC Cocoa Sip and Social, a Bi/Pan Health and History Workshop, and an A-Spec Hang Out where we had root beer floats and played board games.

The Center raised awareness during the school year, not only at Safe Zone trainings, but also for Trans Awareness Week (Nov) and LGBTQ+ Health Awareness Week (Mar), where we had full weeks of events in partnership with Student Health Services, Wellness and Health Promotion Services, Women Gender and Sexuality Studies,

The LGBTQ+ Faculty and Staff Council, Saluki Rainbow Network, and the Women’s Resource Center.

We have re-introduced our Saluki Ally Awards under a new name: The Prism Awards. Three of the awardees were recognized at our Lavender Graduation ceremony and their names were the first on our new plaque, which now is displayed beside the Saluki Ally Award plaque in the LGBTQ Resource Center.

Prism Awardees (left to right): Charah McKinzie, Carrie Vine, Ashley Followell



We also introduced the Paulette Curkin Paragon Award, named for the first coordinator of our center, and who has a tremendous record of advocacy for our community in Carbondale and at SIU. Lavender Graduation saw twenty-seven LGBTQ+ salukis emerge from their respective programs ready to make their impact on the world.

With the end of the year, we are eagerly looking toward the fall, where we will be welcoming students, new and returning, to campus and celebrating the 30th anniversary of LGBTQ+ History Month. Happy Pride Month. We hope to see you at the reunion and at Southern Illinois Pride!



LAVENDER GRADUATION 2024



ANNOUNCING THE SOUTHERN ILLINOIS QUEER ARCHIVE

SIQA, or the Southern Illinois Queer Archive, is an active project of the SIU LGBTQ Resource Center and the SIU Special Collections Research Center. Our goal is to collect and preserve material that speaks to the histories, stories, and experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals, groups, organizations, and communities at SIU and in the Southern Illinois region. **We are currently seeking donations of materials to continue to grow this collection**, including but not limited to personal papers, photographs, letters and postcards, posters, stickers and pins, flyers, and print media (including LGBTQ+ books, magazines, and newspapers both from and outside Illinois). If interested, call 618 453 5627 or email lgbtq@siu.edu to learn more.

END OF SEMESTER UPDATE FROM THE SALUKI RAINBOW NETWORK

As we come down to the end of the year SRN has done anything but wind down from the many events that have brought lifelong memories among our fellow Salukis and our board. When asked to summarize our events, charities, tabling's, and outings I considered giving a detailed report on all these. But upon looking over these details one part kept sticking out as our main goal, our true achievement for this year. That is our community and the leaders that have flourished and grown here on this campus. Our events and groups always have the goal of the community in mind, connecting and establishing lifelong relationships with not only other individuals here on campus but also with oneself.

Two of our board members have stepped down, ready to graduate and move on to places away from SIUC. Many of our general members have also taken the same path, where they will become advocates, leaders, and inspirations to those who will come upon them in their new stages of life. What can be said is that through all our troubles, late nights, and tense moments, our members, our fellow students, and our community have shown true kindness and love by being true to each other. As it was said, summer does not lessen our work as help and outreach are still necessary no matter the time of year. Together, with our new board and growing members, what can be said at the end is to expect much bigger and much more fabulous things that will only expand our community further. SRN wishes everyone a great summer and a fantastic pride.



HOMECOMING PARADE



WONDERLAND DRAG SHOW



PRIDE PROM

~SRN President Crane (They/Them)

ALUMI SPOTLIGHT: MEETING THE L.A.N. BOARD

Nakkiah Stampfli (They/Them), Secretary SIU '15-'20



Nakkiah called Southern Illinois University home from 2015 to 2020, where they graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in University Studies with minors in Philosophy and Communication Studies. During their time at SIU, Nakkiah was a founding group leader of ALIAS (Alternative Lifestyles, Identities, and Sexualities); president of The Philosophical Society; a member of Saluki Rainbow Network (SRN) and Undergraduate Student Government; and held multiple student employment positions across campus, most notably their position as a Team Lead at New Student Programs (Oct 2017 - Jan 2020). Nakkiah currently lives in Menomonie, WI, where they have held multiple positions at University of Wisconsin-Stout and are continuing their education in UW-Stout's Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy program.

Tyler Knupp (He/They), Vice President SIU '17-'22

Tyler attended SIU Carbondale from Fall 2017 to Fall 2022. He started at SIU studying Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, later changing it to Bachelor of Arts and adding a second major Radio, Television, and Digital Media, Specializing in Animation. He graduated in December 2022 with a *Cum Laude* B.A in CS and RTD Animation. During his time at SIU, he founded Saluki Furry Society, an RSO for the Furry Fandom, and co-founded C.A.T Dawgs, a video game development RSO. He also worked on the IT Security Team as a student employee and as an Analyst I Extra Help. Since graduating, he has been volunteering and assisting Saluki Furry Society and Saluki Rainbow Network with events. His hobbies include fursuiting, video gaming, and 3D modeling.



Juniper Oxford (She/Her), President SIU '19-'21



Juniper attended Southern Illinois University from 2019 to 2021, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in History with a minor in Political Science. She is a third generation Saluki (her mother and grandmother both SIU alumni) and has called southern Illinois home for most of her life. During her time at SIU, she wrote for the Daily Egyptian and for the Diversity & Inclusion Monthly. After graduating, she continued her studies at the University of Vermont, where she obtained her Master of Arts in History--focusing her research on women's history and trans history. After graduating in 2023, she came back to SIU and serves today as the LGBTQ Resource Center Coordinator. Her article on trans feminine lives and WWII has recently been published in University of Victoria's Graduate History Review edition "Trans Histories by Trans Historians."



SALUKI RAINBOW NETWORK FOUNDER JIMMY WRIGHT RECEIVES HONORARY DEGREE FROM SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Southern Illinois University celebrated Jimmy Wright with an honorary Doctorate of Arts in recognition of his contributions to the arts and to the LGBTQIA+ community both at SIU and nationally. Wright is one of the founders of what is today the Saluki Rainbow Network, one of the nations longest running LGBTQIA+ student organizations, which began in 1971.



During his return to SIU, Wright shared in discussion with students who organize Saluki Rainbow Network today about their experiences. During a luncheon reception, Carbondale Mayor Carolyn Harvey presented Wright with a city proclamation recognizing May 10th as Jimmy Wright Day. At the commencement ceremony, Wright wore the rainbow stole given to him by SIU retiree Cade Bursell and the lavender cord given to him by the LGBTQ Resource Center, just as his fellow 2024 lavender graduates wore.



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR PRIDE MONTH

SOUTHERN IL PRIDE ROYALTY PAGEANT



*Performances by
Jodie Santana, Co-MC*



*Christina
Garnette*

THE VARSITY CENTER
418 S ILLINOIS AVE,
CARBONDALE IL
DOORS OPEN 5:30 PM,
SHOWTIME 7:30 PM
ALL AGES SHOW

FRIDAY
JUNE 7

GENERAL
ADMISSION
\$20

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/RNA2S2XU](https://tinyurl.com/RNA2S2XU)
OR SCAN QR CODE



*MC, Pageant
Director and
Southern IL Pride
Queen 2019-2022
Blanche DuBois*

*Southern IL
Pride King '23
Ethan Jackson*

*Southern IL
Pride Queen '23
Leiyana Santana*

*Guest
Judge and
Performer
Sabrina
White*



Kailey Santana
Rochelle DeLeight

PRIDE in ACTION Southern IL

JUNE 8

THE VARSITY CENTER
418 S. IL AVE,
CARBONDALE
DOORS OPEN 6:00PM
MEET & GREET 6:30 PM
SHOWTIME 7:30 PM
VIP MEET AND GREET \$35
GEN ADM 1 & 2, \$15/\$25
SCAN FOR TICKETS

RuPaul's DRAG RACE
ALUMNI

Sierra DeLeight

Milk

Pride Spectacular!

Noah Mazzaratie Steele
SPECIAL GUEST
MR. MISSOURI
ENTERTAINER OF
THE YEAR 2023-24

Christina Garnette

or visit:
<https://tinyurl.com/57aw9xdn>

Jodie Santana
Leiyana Santana
Jasmine Cavalli
Blanche Dubois
Idina Rimes

Rochelle D'Leight

June 9
11 am

PK's
— Est. 1955 —
OPEN 365 A YEAR

308 S Illinois Ave,
Carbondale IL
No Cover
open seating

PRIDE in ACTION Southern IL

Idina Rimes

Mika Paris
Food and Drink
Specials
...and MORE!

Pride Brunch

Christina Garnette
Mistress of Ceremonies

Sashay Santana
Sierra D'Leight
Blanche Dubois

JUNE 14-16 2024

LGBTQ+ SALUKI REUNION WEEKEND

FRI - QUEER CINEMA: THE QUEEN

Hosted by the Lavender Alumni Network
and the LGBTQ Resource Center

Guyon Auditorium (Morris Library) @ 3 PM

Free movie, popcorn, and candy plus a post-film discussion!

MCLEOD PLAYHOUSE PRESENTS "THE PROM"

McLeod Summer Playhouse @ 7:30 PM

Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors, \$20 for students, and \$15 for children.

SAT - ALUMNI BREAKFAST

Hosted by the Lavender Alumni Network

Student Center Ballroom A @ 9 AM

Come and have breakfast with your fellow LGBTQ+ salukis!

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS PRIDE FESTIVAL

Hosted by Rainbow Cafe & Southern Illinois
Pride Collective

Promenade begins @ 11, starting in Carbondale Pavilion and fest
in Washington Square.

SUN - TALKING WITH ALUMNI

Hosted by the Lavender Alumni Network

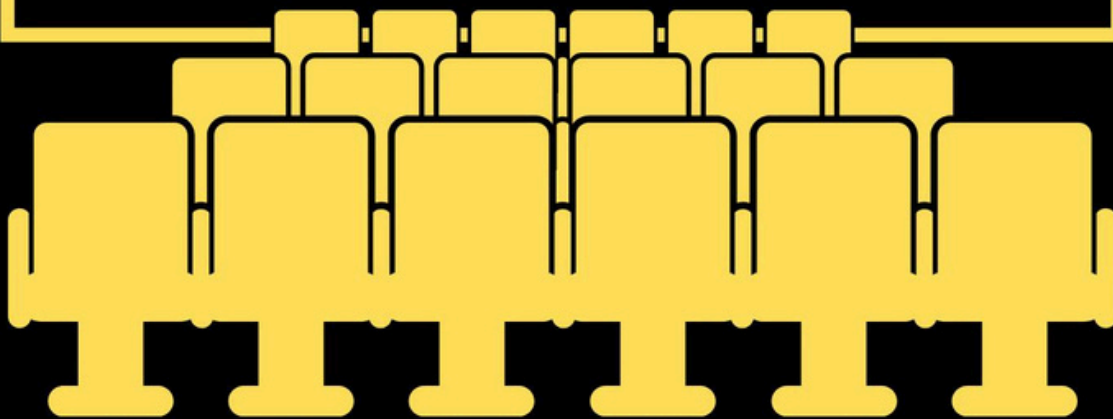
Student Center Old Main Room @ 1 PM

Join the leadership of our SIU LGBTQ+ groups in a discussion
about the issues facing the SIU LGBTQ+ community.



QUEER CINEMA

presents



The first event of LGBTQ+ Saluki Reunion Weekend!

June 14

Guyon Auditorium (Morris Library) @ 3 PM

Free movie, popcorn, and candy plus trivia, give aways, and a post-film discussion!



LAVENDER ALUMNI BREAKFAST



KICK OFF YOUR MORNING BEFORE
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS PRIDE FEST WITH
YOUR FELLOW LGBTQ+ ALUMNI

Saturday, June 15th
9 AM @
SIU Student Center Ballroom A



Talking with Alumni

Join Lavender Alumni Network President Juniper Oxford, LGBTQ+ Faculty and Staff Council President Priscilla Pimentel, and Saluki Rainbow Network President Crane in a discussion about issues facing the SIU LGBTQ+ community and share your experiences about your time at SIU.

Sunday, June 16th @ 1 PM
Old Main Room, SIU Student Center



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
LGBTQ+ FACULTY
AND STAFF COUNCIL



SIU
— ALUMNI ASSOCIATION —

LAVENDER ALUMNI NETWORK



SOUTHERN IL PRIDE FEST EVENT SCHEDULE JUNE 15, 2024

Southern IL
Pride



PRIDE PROMENADE: 11am

Beginning at The Carbondale Pavilion,
located in front of Rainbow Cafe
118 N Illinois Ave, Carbondale, IL 62901



Opening Ceremonies -Speakers

Brian Johnson - CEO - EQUALITY ILLINOIS
Colton Crawford - MISS TRANS ILLINOIS
Clare Killman - CARBONDALE CITY COUNCILWOMAN

12:00pm

Lone Howl

Lone Howl is a Southern Illinois based band centered around the original song writing of Christopher Brown.

12:15pm

Performances by: The Cast of the musical "The Prom"

Cast Members of "The Prom" will perform various numbers from the upcoming production that is set to take stage June 14-16, 21-23 at McLeod Theate.

1:15pm

Performances by: Arabesque Dance

Performers of all ages will showcase this seasons competition dance routines that include all different styles of dance!

1:45pm

Wingtips

Wingtips is a Chicago-based electro pop duo WINGTIPS comprises Vincent Segretario & Hannah Avalon.

2:00pm

Drag Show

A family friendly drag show with performers from around the tri-state area!

3:30pm

RAINBOW CAFE

INDOOR

PRIDE EVENTS

JUNE 15, 2024

118 N. ILLINOIS AVE, CARBONDALE IL

COME COOL OFF WITH US!

2 00

SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

PM

LEAD BY CHRIS WISSMAN FROM THE CARBONDALE PARK DIST

3 00

CONTRA DANCE

PM

LEAD BY SOUTHERN ILLINOIS COMMUNITY CONTRA DANCE

4 00

DRAG STORY HOUR

PM

JOIN ILLINOIS AMERICA'S BEARDED QUEEN, LUMBER JILL, IN STORY READING AND PUPPET MAKING!

6 00

YOUTH PRIDE BASH

PM

A COMPLETELY FREE (ALCOHOL-FREE) EVENT OPEN TO ANYONE AGES 25 AND UNDER WITH GAMES, TRIVIA, MUSIC, AND PLENTY OF FUN!



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT EVENTS UNDER RAINBOW CAFE'S FACEBOOK PAGE!



A full day of fun with the LGBTQIA+ community at Veteran's Park in Mt Vernon, Illinois!

Indoor and outdoor vendors start at 11am!

Dress to impress and get your photos and videos done at the awesome 360 Photo Booth!

Bring your chairs and blankets for the live entertainment which starts outside at 3:30pm.

Then get ready to stand up for some amazing LIVE drag performances beginning at 6pm. Bring plenty of dollar bills to tip your favorites!