# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A Vessel for Change</th>
<th>2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>With Equality and Inclusion for all</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Diverse Night to Remember</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creating a Home Wherever She Goes</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversity Academy</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back to the Future</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Relations</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queer Week</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Building Bridges newsletter aims to celebrate campus diversity and is presented through Chico State’s Office of Diversity each semester. This video highlights many fall 2011 events that had a focus on diversity and inclusion.
In December 2010, the Chico State Diversity Action Plan was created to build a more inclusive campus. But who would ensure that these goals are met? Who would oversee its progress?

To answer these questions and implement the plan, Chico State’s first Diversity Council was formed. The council is composed of 38 faculty, staff, and community members. At the head of the council is President Paul Zingg, who leads the group with Chief Diversity Officer Tracy Butts and Diversity Coordinator Tray Robinson.

“It’s a system for implementing the plan, contacting organizations, and sharing with the college,” Butts said.

The Diversity Council will provide guidance and assurance for the accomplishment of the Diversity Action Plan. It is also designed to ensure as much campuswide buy-in and confidence as possible through its composition, Zingg said.

“We’ve also done some cosmetic and spatial improvements on the campus and made great strides within our GE curriculum to emphasize multicultural and diversity topics,” Zingg said.

From 2007 to 2011 Gayle Hutchinson chaired the Diversity Scorecard Committee, a group recruited by Zingg to develop a diversity action plan.

The committee drafted a plan and then sought input from many campus constituents, and after many revisions, a final draft was accepted by President Zingg. On Feb. 1, Zingg introduced to the University the Diversity Action Plan, titled “To Form a More Inclusive Learning Community.”

Hutchinson currently serves on the President’s Diversity Council, which comprises four subcommittees outlined in the Diversity Action Plan: Access and Success, Education and Scholarship, Intergroup Relations and Campus Climate, and Institutional Vitality and Viability.

Each point of the plan is assigned to a separate subcommittee that meets regularly to discuss these issues. These subcommittees are dedicated to meeting two priorities and focus on how to meet a variety of needs at Chico State.

Hutchinson co-chairs the Education and Scholarship subcommittee along with Vincent Ornelas. Joe Wills and Mimi Bommersbach head the Intergroup Relations and Campus Climate subcommittee while Maurice Bryan and Paula Scholtes focus on leading the Institutional Vitality and Viability subcommittee.

Also involved is Gary McMahon, director of the Chico Student Success Center, who was also approached by Zingg in late 2010 to join the Diversity Council. He currently co-chairs the Access and Success subcommittee with Chela Patterson, director of the Educational Opportunity Program.

“We started by reviewing the admission and retention reports with an eye on the academic success of our underrepresented students,” McMahon said. “We’ve looked closely at the individual colleges’ graduation rates.”

The biggest hurdle for the Diversity Council will be generating momentum for the accomplishment of the entire Diversity Action Plan. The positive attitudes and efforts from the council members are helping move the plan forward, while members hope to see tangible results and visible gains in the future.

“I look forward to the day when ‘diversity’ is no longer considered a strategic goal because it is in the very fabric of our university,” McMahon said.

Click to explore the Chico State Diversity Action Plan 2011-2016.

Chela Mendoza Patterson learns about new diversity training styles from Bob Sprague.
A college campus becomes so much more for students than the place they go to school. It becomes the place where they meet new people and challenge themselves in classes, and eventually it starts to feel like home.

The Gender & Sexuality Equity Center (GSEC), formerly the Women’s Center, is now an identified space on Chico State’s campus for all students, including students in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) community who are looking for information and support.

Changing the name from the Women’s Center to the GSEC was meant to help foster a sense of inclusion and expand the programming offered, especially to the LGBTQ community. “We changed the name in order to create a labeled space so that people don’t have to just assume that we’re going to be a safe place for everybody, but that we actually have the name,” said Abigail Teicheira, the LGBTQ program coordinator for the GSEC.

“By Sarah Alvarez

The new office space allows for more collaboration among interns and staff.

“This way people can realize I am not invisible; I am not ignored.”

It is particularly troubling that this report shows that LGBT students as well as faculty and staff were much more likely than their counterparts to consider leaving their institution because of experiencing or fearing physical and psychological harassment, discrimination, and violence related to their sexual identity,” reports the survey.

Since the name has changed to the GSEC, there has been an increase in LGBTQ students coming to the office looking for ways to get involved said Kimberly Edmonds, director of the GSEC.

Off-campus organizations like Stonewall Alliance and Catalyst Domestic Violence Services support the GSEC and are helping spread its name in the community since it is still "under the radar,” Teicheira said.

The GSEC also acts as a resource center for students and community members who have experienced sexual assault, rape, harassment, and stalking. In addition, the GSEC will maintain the women’s programming it provided as the former Women’s Center.

Another goal of the name change is to alleviate the misconception that only women can participate in programs and internships. Though it does not currently have any male interns, as the Women’s Center there were a few male students who were involved each semester.

“We absolutely are open to men, regardless of their sexuality,” Edmonds said.

Although the GSEC has relocated to its new office in the basement of the BMU, the GSEC is still transitioning to get its name noticed and will host an open house in the spring semester.

“This year is really about creating a solid base and solidifying what the structure of this office will look like so future years can expand and grow,” Edmonds said.

The Gender and Sexuality Equity Center now offers more programming for the university.
A DIVERSE NIGHT TO REMEMBER
Spotlight shines on campus and community cultural performances

By Rebecca Edwards

From ancient Hmong dancing to modern day hip-hop, the 28th annual Multicultural Night at Chico State showcased a large spectrum of international traditions.

The event was held Nov. 14 and hosted by the AS Multicultural Affairs Council in the Bell Memorial Union. This free event, which began in 1983, attracts nearly 1,200 campus and community members every year. Multicultural Night highlights cultural organizations involved in the community and on campus.

“We want to stress that this is not a talent show, but a focus on different cultures here in our community,” said Aaron Rodriguez, AS commissioner of multicultural affairs.

AS and Rodriguez want to give students and community members a broader understanding of the diverse population in our society.

“There was a great turnout this year,” Rodriguez said. “We never know what to expect, but the seats were filled, and people came and went throughout the night.”
Growing up in Atascadero wasn’t easy for Jillian Ruddell. As one of the only “out” lesbian women in such a conservative community at the time, Ruddell often felt isolated.

Ruddell realized she did not have the support system needed for her sexual identity, so she decided with a group of students to start a gay-straight alliance at Atascadero High School. As senior year rolled around, Ruddell and other alliance members were holding weekly meetings with 30 attendees.

That’s when her heart and mind collectively helped her discover her passion in life: helping others in need of an understanding support system.

When she chose to attend Chico State, Ruddell saw all of the potential for contributing her skills and passion toward activist work and community growth.

“If you look at Chico in a snapshot, it’s not necessarily the most inclusive environment,” Ruddell said. “But there is a lot of activist work going on here, and I recognize the ability for progress.”

For Ruddell, Chico is her “home way from home without an ocean.” She felt right at home when she arrived as a business administration major in 2008.

Sara Cooper, professor of multicultural and gender studies, has been a prominent mentor and friend through most of Ruddell’s activist work.

“Of the thousands of students I have taught and advised over my 11.5 years at Chico State, I can think of none who is more serious about obtaining an education and making a difference in the world,” said Cooper.

Ruddell served as the youngest director of the Associated Students Women’s Center, starting her time as an intern in her freshman year. This was the stepping stone for continuing her activism and prompting her to change her major to multicultural and gender studies.

“After taking MCGS 489, a seminar about putting multicultural and gender study theory into practice at your internship, I fell in love,” Ruddell said. “And that’s when I decided I wanted to be an MCGS major.”

While interning at the center, she organized the first Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Leadership Conference. The organization of the conference helped show that there was a population at Chico State that is interested in and needing advocacy for LGBTQ issues.

After the completion of her sophomore year, Ruddell obtained a stipend from the University Honors Program and spent her...
Bridges

summer developing a proposal to establish a Gender and Sexuality Equity Center (GSEC) on the Chico State campus, in response to the need expressed at the LGBTQ Leadership Conference.

In fall 2010, Ruddell was awarded with the William Randolph Hearst/CSU Trustee’s Award for Outstanding Achievement. The California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees acknowledged her for academic excellence, campuswide involvement, and her advocacy for social equality.

One of her greatest accomplishments was being elected as a student representative on the CSU Board of Trustees this past year. The Board approves rules and regulations regarding the CSU. Ruddell represents students from the 23 CSU campuses and wants to focus on equality for all students.

“I want to make sure everyone is aware that I represent all students, not just the LGBTQ community,” Ruddell said.

Ruddell currently serves as the vice chair at the Stonewall Alliance Center in Chico. This agency strives to create a safe and welcoming environment for LGBTQ individuals in the community.

Although she has accomplished many things during her time at Chico State, Ruddell said getting to where she is today wasn’t easy and could not have been done alone. After graduation, Ruddell plans to move to San Francisco for graduate school. She knows she will continue her activist work in a new city, creating a new home.

“Jill’s track record, current activities, and plans for the future show that she is a true shining star who deserves the special recognition that she has been receiving for her accomplishments,” Cooper said.

“Words do not suffice to express how invigorating and inspiring it is to work with such a driven and precocious individual.”

Did you know...

Jillian would love to have spent a day in the life of Sandra Day O’Connor while she was serving as a Supreme Court Justice.

She is a terrible artist, but on rainy days her creativity gets sparked and she loves to paint.

Her favorite movie is any Quentin Tarantino or Tim Burton flick!

Jillian has saved every boarding pass and train ticket stub since her first flight in 1997.

She always counts the number of stairs she climbs. No matter how often she has walked the same staircase.

Jillian dislikes raw tomatoes and bad drivers.

Diversity academy gives faculty and staff new perspectives

Summer workshop promotes diversity integration on campus

By Naubil Oropeza

When Professor Katherine McCarthy filled out her application to attend Chico State’s first Diversity Academy, she had two goals in mind: to catch up on areas she didn’t know about and was underexposed to, and to contribute her knowledge on religious diversity by helping to facilitate the program.

“Take risks and get out of your comfort zone with people who are different,” McCarthy said.

McCarthy, a religious studies and multicultural and gender studies professor, was one of 20 faculty and staff

Faculty and staff discuss diversity themes in an open discussion.
that attended the Diversity Academy, a program that encouraged an open classroom for discussing complex diversity topics. The eight-day program was held at Chico State July 25–28 and Aug. 1–4.

Professor Susan Shaw from Oregon State University facilitated seminars while faculty, staff, and administrators attended the academy as students, where they were assigned required readings (including bell hooks’ Teaching to Transgress), individual and group assignments, and films relevant to the theme of diversity. Topics covered included race, disability, gender, sexuality, and social class.

The Diversity Academy attracted various faculty and staff on campus, not only those already involved in diversity initiatives. Mary Wallmark, who is currently the chair of the Staff Training Committee for the Wildcat Recreation Center, also attended the eight-day course.

“I liked the idea that it had texts associated with the curriculum as well as full facilitation for each session,” Wallmark said. “This gave it a strong academic as well as social component, and beyond just discussion, it seemed set up to encourage application and problem solving.”

Several workshop sessions elicited some feelings of hurt, guilt, and power inequity based on personal experiences, according to McCarthy.

“These exercises allowed us to see where we were privileged, where we experienced discrimination individually, and how to understand these complex identities,” McCarthy said.

Rich Rosecrance, a professor for the College of Agriculture, was involved with the faculty diversity working group led by Professor Lee Altier last spring semester. This experience, along with his experience in the Diversity Academy, led Rosecrance to develop a module for one of his classes concerning immigrant and agriculture issues. He said that he found the open forum at the Diversity Academy a very beneficial model for the classroom. “Immigrant labor issues were particularly relevant to me,” Rosecrance said.

“I have included a section on agricultural labor in my agricultural ecology class where we deal with immigrant labor, discuss Cesar Chavez’s movement, and possible solutions to improving labor relations.”

The idea to create the first diversity program for faculty and staff arose when six Chico State staff attended the Association of American Colleges and Universities Conference in Oct. 2010 and heard about the positive outcomes that had resulted when other campuses incorporated practices learned at these academies.

Tracy Butts, who was recently appointed chief diversity officer at Chico State, acted on the idea and organized the workshops.

“What we’re hoping to do is create a sense of community with those that want to be involved in diversity efforts, for groups to create research and to integrate diversity into daily activities,” Butts said.

Overall, the Diversity Academy fulfilled some of the goals of the university’s Diversity Action Plan by involving faculty and staff that previously may not have had the chance to interact and creating a more inclusive campus environment. The Diversity Council continues to build a comfortable and inclusive campus, Butts said.

Mary Wallmark said she is planning to add topics of diversity training and application to daily practices in the WREC.

“My hope is to effect a cultural change in all of our employees with an emphasis on equality rather than equivalency,” she said.

“It will behoove our structure to value all employees and users equally, regardless of their different station in our micro-system.”

Due to the positive feedback, Chico State hopes to host a Diversity Academy annually.

“It has reinforced my sense of who I am and the value I have in my community, professionally and as a person,” Wallmark said. “I feel much more emboldened to try to effect change.”

The Diversity Academy brought together faculty and staff from different departments and backgrounds in hopes of achieving a common goal.
BACK TO THE FUTURE
Re-entry students bring life experience to the classroom

By Nicole Lee

To picture the average college student is to see a twenty-something working toward a degree—during the week and living it up with friends on the weekend, but there are a number of college students who don’t fit this profile.

Re-entry students work hard toward getting an education, and sometimes their age helps bring a unique perspective to many classes at Chico State.

SHARI ANDERSON

Time management is a skill most college students learn, and it is important when trying to balance the pressures of school while maintaining a social life. For Chico State student Shari Anderson, it’s a necessary skill for her to make it from one day to the next.

Anderson, 39, is a wife, mother of two, full-time employee of the Chico State Alumni Association, journalism student, and, as of this year, graduate student as well.

A North Dakota native, Anderson earned bachelor’s degrees in both English and speech communications at North Dakota State University prior to moving to California in 2002.

After a hiatus of almost five years from the working world following the birth of her two sons, Anderson began her work with the Chico State Alumni Association as the coordinator of alumni engagement.

Shortly after beginning her position with the alumni association, Anderson enrolled as a student at Chico State, and the desire to remain current in the professional world led her to the journalism program with an option in public relations.

“I really feel like it’s imperative to stay current with what’s going on, and it changes all the time. It changes every other year,” Anderson said.

The fast-paced lifestyle that change often provides is something Anderson is no stranger to. She is able to balance work, school, soccer practice, dentist appointments, and third grade projects, which means she is constantly on the go.

Anderson manages her time by taking only two classes each semester and finishing most of her homework before it’s due, while also taking advantage of her free time.

“If you’re not really super organized it’s easy to lose track of stuff,” Anderson said.

Still in the process of finishing her bachelor’s degree in journalism, Anderson enrolled in graduate school this year and is working toward a master’s degree in communications studies.

After graduation Anderson is considering the possibility of teaching, but her ultimate goal is to earn a doctorate.

“Going to school gives you aspirations. It places a goal in the distance, and you work toward it,” Anderson said.

JERIMIAH MEDINA

Inspiration is individualistic, a force that rouses your body, soul, and mind to strive for more out of life. Jerimiah Medina is the perfect example of an inspired person, driven by personal experience and his desire for more.

At 32 years old, Medina felt motivated to quit his job as a technical operations manager and go back to college to earn a degree that will not only allow him to freely navigate the job market, but also make his family proud.

Medina’s father, a Guatemalan immigrant, supported his family by working long hours as a textile vendor at local markets in Los Angeles while raising Medina and his siblings. The idea of going to college was always one that was discussed in his household but never really seemed like much of an option for Medina.

“It wasn’t something that was in the family plan even though my dad always talked about it,” Medina said. “I didn’t even know anybody in my close relationships that actually had a college degree.”

Medina joined the United States Navy in 1999 and completed six years of service, including deployments to Guam and Bahrain.

When he got out of the military in 2005, Medina completed his associate degree at Butte College before finding work as a technical operations manager for a printing technology company near Fremont, Calif.

During a weekend visit with a friend in Oroville last May, Medina decided to stop by Chico State’s campus to see just what it would take for him to become a student. Two months later he quit his job, moved to Chico, and is currently pursuing a degree in finance.

With a course load of 21 units, Medina spends most of his time in class or studying in the library. He is currently considering the addition of a second major in operations management.

Aside from being an extremely devoted student, Medina takes some time to enjoy some of the amenities Chico State has to offer, spending a couple hours every week playing basketball at the Wildcat Recreation Center.

“I definitely enjoy trying to show the kids up on the basketball courts. I try to play at least three or four times a week,” Medina said.

Even though Medina is aware of differences in maturity among some classmates, he is enjoying life as a student and finds his coursework to be both interesting and valuable.

Medina hopes to honor his father’s hard work and provide inspiration to his nieces and nephews by earning his degree and putting his education into action.

The importance of finishing a college degree immediately became clear, in order to get somewhere better in the future, Medina said. The importance of finishing a college degree immediately became clear, in order to get somewhere better in the future, Medina said.
BACK TO THE FUTURE... CONTINUED

It has been said that real estate is all about location, but for 28-year-old Sara Morford this saying applies to much more than real estate.

College began for Morford as a series of stops and starts, inhibited by unclear career goals and a lack of direction. “In high school there was really nothing that stood out for me as far as a career or something I wanted to do,” Morford said. “So that, right when you go into college, is something that is going to affect your decisions.”

A change of location and a new university gave her a renewed lease on life and set her on the path toward a career.

Raised in the central valley town of Clovis, Calif., Morford began classes at a community college right out of high school.

After attending Fresno City College for a couple semesters as an undeclared student, Morford decided to enter the workforce full time while working toward an associate degree at night.

Morford said working and being social with friends became more important, and her priorities just weren’t on her education.

She made the decision to take a couple of months off from school to pursue the social and professional aspects of her life, but those couple of months turned into a year, and eventually Morford found herself in an on-and-off relationship with college.

After diving head first into the working world, she came to the realization that her job in property management was a lot of stress for very little pay and that a degree would better serve her in her future endeavors.

When the opportunity arose, Morford made the decision to move to Chico to get herself back into school.

She spent a few semesters at Butte College and earned an associate degree in business and behavioral and social sciences and a real estate license before transferring to Chico State.

Now working toward a Bachelor of Science in business management, Morford has some career goals in mind and is working toward a December 2012 graduation, a drastic change from when she first began her college career.

“I feel like a lot of people in my position are not motivated because they don’t have a goal, and they don’t see that goal through,” Morford said.

When she graduates, Morford hopes to go into real estate investment, but is also considering going back to a full-time property management position.

HUMAN RELATIONS NETWORK BRINGS SOCIAL ISSUES TO LIGHT

Community Organization Increases Transparency Between Law Enforcement and Community

By Sarah Alvarez

The HRN began as a branch of the Chico Area Interfaith Council shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks 10 years ago, said Jo Lillis, HRN treasurer. Eventually a group of Butte County citizens created the HRN to discuss issues of race, ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation.

Since then, the HRN has established monthly meetings, Lillis said. The majority of the conversation comes from the portion of the meeting where the HRN discusses citizen complaints and issues.

There is no official membership process for the HRN; everyone is welcome, Ballin said. Membership has been eight members at its lowest and 40 at its highest.

Ballin is currently trying to revive membership by performing outreach to community organizations and maintaining an active Facebook page. His work has resulted in the October and November 2011 meetings having more than 20 people in attendance.

Inviting groups from the community to attend meetings is a practice that has helped the HRN gain momentum. Stonewall Alliance, Chico Peace and Justice Center, and various law enforcement officers often attend meetings to provide their perspective and insight.

“Mike Ramsey [Butte County District Attorney] has been particularly helpful in aiding people at the meetings to help them separate their feelings from what the law says,” Lillis said.

In the November meeting, the HRN discussed two issues of racial profiling they thought had occurred in the community. The highlight of this meeting was an explanation of police practices from Chico Chief of Police Mike Maloney.

“In order to provide a proper response to an issue, you have to take both sides of the story into consideration,” Maloney said.

The effort to create transparency and understanding between law enforcement and attendees creates a safe space for discussion and gives insight one can get only from interaction with someone who knows police protocol.

The HRN is working hard to foster a sense of inclusion for members of the community, but there is a lack of diversity in the membership. If it is going to succeed in making the community more inclusive, it needs more perspectives represented at its meetings.

Meetings take place the first Monday of each month at 3 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Chico.

For more information, please contact Walter Ballin at wallyjballin@gmail.com.
Lindsey Pevar is a lesbian. This is something Pevar discovered about herself just a few years ago and disclosed to her parents this past year.

After spending time at local counseling and community centers, Pevar decided her feelings, which she had thought might just be passing, were not.

Once she found the courage, Pevar decided to come out to her parents, a difficult process that took a lot of thought and consideration.

“It’s really empowering that you can just be who you are,” Pevar said.

The second week of every October marks National Queer Week and National Coming Out Day, a calendar event created to recognize the millions of people, like Pevar, who have had to face the challenge that coming out to friends and family can present.

National Coming Out Day was founded in 1988 by the personal growth workshop founder Robert Eichsberg and the former head of National Gay Rights Advocates Jean O’Leary. The day was a way to help celebrate the anniversary of the 1987 Second National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

In recognition of National Queer Week, National Coming Out Day, and the LGBTQ student population, the Chico State Office of Diversity and Inclusion partnered with the Gender and Sexuality Equity Center (GSEC) to host a week-long series of celebratory events.

The celebrations kicked off with a Monday night showing of two films, Transamerica and Training Rules, which highlight some of the struggles that face the LGBTQ community.

The lectures included a lecture from journalist Ted Cox, who spoke to students regarding his undercover experiences in religious gay-to-straight rehabilitation programs.

Cox, a straight atheist man, spent over a year posing as a Christian male struggling with his homosexuality in order to investigate the healing claims made by religiously-based rehabilitation groups.

Providing both background history on gay-to-straight camps and his own experiences in them, Cox entertained students with his satirical sense of humor and informed them of the realities of what goes on inside religious weekend retreats aimed at “curing” homosexuality.

Healing touch, group, and aversion therapy are some of the methods Cox was exposed to while undercover.

Cox handed out rubber bands to students prior to his lecture and explained that they were used as a type of aversion therapy suggested to help Christians curb “homosexual thoughts.” As Cox explained, each time this occurred, participants were encouraged to snap the rubber band to create a feeling of pain that would then be associated with homosexual thoughts.

Despite the shock many felt during his presentation, Selvester’s Café was filled with smiles and laughter for much of the lecture.

Cox gave situational examples to students that he felt discredited claims made....
by religious healing programs and anti-gay religious activists.

As he concluded his lecture, Cox provided students with a list of gay rights activist organizations, encouraged student participation in LGBTQ issues, and told students what he believes is the real truth about gay rights.

“When it comes to gay rights, to equality, this is it—being treated equally, being treated like everyone else,” Cox said.

Immediately following Cox’s presentation, “Coming Out for Art,” a multi-media showcase featuring LGBTQ-inspired work, was hosted at The Rayray Gallery by The Stonewall Alliance of Chico.

Wednesday, Oct. 12 the Office of Diversity and Inclusion hosted its bi-weekly Conversations on Diversity lecture series, this time focusing on The Stonewall Riots of 1969.

The riots were the direct result of a series of police-driven bar raids in New York City that aimed to deter homosexual activity.

The lecture was facilitated by Professor Sara Cooper of the multicultural and gender studies program and featured both a discussion of the events as well as a portion of a documentary film, which had both interviews and footage from the actual events.

“The Stonewall Riots were a real turning point in the gay and lesbian movement,” Cooper said.

Following the afternoon lecture, staff members from the GSEC hosted an evening panel discussion on LGBTQ rights and activism.

The guest panel featured four local activists who spoke on their own coming out experiences, their activism in the community, and how students can become involved.

Thursday, Oct. 13 the GSEC hosted a workshop for students that focused on intersectionality within the LGBTQ community. Intersectionality is the study of relationships and how they can contribute to social inequality among culturally formed groups based on race, sexual orientation, gender, and class.

The evening of Friday, Oct. 14 provided a culmination of the week’s events in a Pride March through downtown that aimed to raise awareness of the gay communities in and around Chico, to protest against hate crimes, and to allow LGBTQ members and their family and friends to show their pride.

Alyssa Jacques, a 21-year-old pride march participant, said she came to support herself, friends, and family members who are gay and proud of it.

Despite the week’s events coming to a close, stories like Pevar’s, along with the millions of others who have come out about their sexuality, continue to exemplify the cause for celebration of National Queer Week and National Coming Out Day throughout the year.

March 11, 1987 more than 200,000 people marched in Washington DC for Gay and Lesbian Rights.

It was the largest gay rights march since 1979.

Participants were calling for more government funding for AIDS research and an end to discrimination against homosexuals.

 Speakers included: The Reverend Jesse Jackson, Cesar Chavez and two gay then-elected members of congress Gerry E. Studds and Barney Frank.

The march succeeded in bringing attention and funding for AIDS research as well as the Gay rights movement.


Queer Week came to a close with a community pride march. Photo courtesy of Melissa Lepiane

This publication was produced by: Tehama Group Communications

Writing & Editing

Account Executive: Sarah Alvarez
Writers: Sarah Alvarez, Nicole Lee, Rebecca Edwards, Naubil Oropeza
Editorial Director: Kelsey Eidbo
Editorial Assistant: Melissa Baxley

Design & Production

Graphic Designer: Lauren Beck
Photographer/Videographer: Shannon Jordan

Executive Team

Director of Diversity Programs and Inclusion: Tray Robinson
TGC Adviser: Debra Johnson
University Publications Editor: Casey Huff

Please contact Tray Robinson with any questions or comments at TRobinson@csuchico.edu