

2015

## Coming Out for Change Program

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**Produced by:  
The LBTQ Women's Group**

**Student Co-Producers**    **Faculty/Staff Co-Producers:**

Portia Burnette  
Kim McGuinness  
Jen Kaye  
Christina Kinney  
Dana Speesler

Holly Nichols  
Carolyn Sovet  
Annemarie Vaccaro

**Filming and editing also done by:**  
Randy Stevenson, Betty-Jo Cugini & Robert Rose

**The LBTQ Women's Group is**

open to all Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer,  
and Questioning female students at URI.

We invite you to join an open and accepting group of  
URI women. Enjoy participating in weekly  
discussions and activities while supporting your peers  
and making new friends!

Thursdays 5:00-6:30 PM  
Roosevelt Hall, Room 223

[web.uri.edu/lbtqwomensgroup](http://web.uri.edu/lbtqwomensgroup)

The University of Rhode Island's  
Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender,  
Queer and Questioning  
(LBTQ) Women's Group Presents:

**It Gets Better at URI:  
Coming Out for  
Change**

Film Screening and Panel Discussion

September 30<sup>th</sup> 2015  
7:00pm

Edwards Auditorium

## Program

- 7:00 PM**     **Welcome and Introduction to Film**  
Holly Nichols, LMHC,  
Clinical Counselor, Co-Producer and  
Advisor/Facilitator of the LGBTQ  
Women's Group
- 7:15 PM**     **Showing of It Gets Better at URI:  
Coming Out for Change**
- 8:00 PM**     **Panel Discussion**  
Featuring Portia Burnette, Charles Clark,  
Annie Russell, and Cidalia Silva.
- Moderated by Patricia Burbank, D.N.Sc,  
M.S, B.S, College of Nursing,  
University of Rhode Island
- Following the panel discussion, panel  
members and moderators will be  
available at the front of the auditorium  
to answer questions and provide support**

## Student Participants

Amie Archambault	Teresa Ireland
Wendy Baker	Lauren Kurr
Krista Borsari	Kim McGuinness
Portia Burnette	Wilson Okello
Charles Clark	Kyla Pacheco
Stephen Constantine	Alex Papa
Derek Denard	Radhika V. Pasupuleti
Ben Eaves	Henry Ponciano
Amanda Figgins	Allie Rand
Courtney Findlen	Erin Shea
Lexy Halpen	Cidalia Silva
Emily Housecamp	Dana Speesier
Jen Kaye	Amy Tedesco

## Faculty/Staff Participants

Alycia Mosley Austin	Kathryn Friedman	Rosie Pegueros
Stephen Baker	Bruce C. Hamilton	Jason Pina
William Bartels	Chad Henderson	Jess Raffaele
Thorr Bjorn	Alison Homa	Rhody the Ram
Bob Beagle	Claudia Kerbel	Thom Rieser
Winnie Brownell	Sandra Ketrow	Jayne Richmond
Karen de Bruin	Shirley Kinsey	Pamela Rohland
Mary Capello	Tiffani Kisler	Robert Rose
Billie Connors	Marv.Iane Klinkhammer	Robert M. Samuels
Doug Creed	Judy Klopfenstein	Joseph Santiago
Susanne Danish	Bobbi Koppel	Jarso Jallah Saybe
D.H. DeHayes	Mailee Kue	Carolyn Sovet
Lynne Derbyshire	Keith Labelle	Gina Sperry
David. M. Dooley	Jody Lisberger	Micheal Starkey
Katrina Dorsey	Sara MacSorley	Annemarie Vaccaro
Tom Dougan	W. Lynn McKinney	Melvin Wade
Adria Evans	Jasmine Mena	Jean Walton
Grace Frenzel	Holly J. Nichols	Amy Weiss
Nancy Fey-Yensan	Amy Olson	Leslie Williams
Cheryl Foster	Jennifer Phillips	
Marge Franca-Terceira		

## Participant Biographies

### Portia Burnette

Portia is a Talent Development student who will be graduating in 2016 with a BSN in Nursing, a BA in Biology, a BA in Philosophy, and a minor in Gender and Women's Studies. She identifies as lesbian, and while at URI she has played a significant role in the production of the film "It Gets Better at URI: Coming Out for Change" as well as in planning tonight's event. She has volunteered as a URI 101 Mentor, and worked as a SNAP Outreach Worker at the URI Feinstein Center for a Hunger Free America. She currently tutors Anatomy and Biology for the Pathways to Nursing Program in the College of Nursing, and works at Rhode Island Hospital as a Nursing Student Associate.

### Charles Clark

Charles graduated from URI in 2011 with a BA in Communication. He identifies as a gay male. While at URI, Charles was a student athlete and participated on the Swim team that won nationals in 2011. In his free time he is part of the Friends, Lesbians, and Gays (FLAG) Football team. He currently works as a Production Assistant for the Boston Red Sox, operating the video board content during events and games.

### Cidalia Silva

Cidalia obtained her BA in Psychology with a minor in Gender and Women's Studies at URI in 2012 and was a member of Talent Development. Cidalia identifies as transgender female and sexually fluid. While attending URI she volunteered at the GLBTQQ Center as a staff member and program coordinator. She was also active in the URIGHT, Gay Straight Alliance, and IMURI organizations and was a member of the LBTQ Women's Group. She helped to organize Diversity Week events, and assisted URI Hillel and the URI GLBTQQ Center in creating the first South County PFLAG group. She is now a Behavioral Specialist for a local non-profit called North American Family Institute.

## Faculty/Staff Biographies

### Annie Russell

Annie obtained her Ph.D in Higher Education Administration, her Masters in Education, and her BA in Gender and Women's Studies. She identifies as lesbian, and has served as the Director of the Gender and Sexuality Center at URI for the past 3 ½ years. She teaches part time in the Gender and Women's Studies and Honors Programs. She serves on the URI President's LGBTQ Commission at URI, and works every day to transform the culture at URI into one of acceptance. She has overseen the construction of the new stand-alone Gender and Sexuality Center, and creates new publications each semester to contribute to knowledge in her field.

### Holly Nichols

Holly obtained her BA in Women's Studies and Psychology at URI and her Masters in Clinical Counseling. She has been a Clinical Counselor at the URI Counseling Center since 2006 and facilitating the LBTQ Women's Group since its inception in 2010. As an undergraduate, Holly designed the first Diversity Week webpage, was actively involved with the Committee to Eliminate Homophobia and Heterosexism, and chaired the URI LGBTQ Symposium. She identifies as lesbian, is a co-producer of tonight's film, and serves on the URI President's LGBTQ Commission.

### Patricia Burbank

Dr. Patricia Burbank is a Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the University of Rhode Island, College of Nursing, and a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. She is also a faculty member in the RI Geriatric Education Center and former co-chair of SAGE/ RI (Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders). Her recent research is in the area of students' attitudes toward older adults, issues related to health of LGBT elders, and testing her invention, the AAGILE, to improve exercise behavior in older adults. She is the author of numerous articles and 3 books related to health of older adults.

## Purpose

### **It Gets Better at URI: Coming Out for Change**

was developed in 2011 as part of the nationally recognized "It Gets Better" campaign to prevent suicide by instilling hope in youth struggling with their sexual and gender identities.

Tonight's film features URI students, faculty and staff sharing their stories about struggle, triumph, and change in order to inspire us to think positively about the future. It also reveals the important roles allies play in making URI a welcoming and safe environment.

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Department of Writing and Rhetoric  
Department of Gender and Women's Studies  
The Heather Fund  
The Multicultural Center  
The President's Office  
The Student Affairs Diversity Fund  
University College  
The Women's Center

## Resources

<u>URI LBTO Women's Group</u> web.uri.edu/lbtqwomensgroup Holly Nichols, Staff Advisor/Facilitator	401-874-2288
<u>URI Counseling Center</u> web.uri.edu/counseling	401-874-2288
<u>URI Gender and Sexuality Center</u> web.uri.edu/gender-sexuality	401-874-2894
<u>URI Women's Center</u> web.uri.edu/womenscenter	401-874-2097
<u>URI LGBT+ Alumni and Friends</u> www.alumni.uri.edu	401-874-2242
<u>The Trevor Project</u> (Suicide Prevention) www.thetrevorproject.org	1-866-488-7386
<u>TGI Network of Rhode Island</u> www.tgitnetwork.org	401-441-5058
<u>RI Youth Pride</u> www.youthprideri.org	401-421-5626

Thank you for your support and for attending our event this evening! Please feel free to view this film again on Youtube:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BTYOUUp6\\_0S0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BTYOUUp6_0S0)