Embracing our rich history, celebrating our diverse communities, and acknowledging our contemporary struggles, the program committee is proud to present the **15th Annual URI Symposium on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer and Questioning (GLBTIQQ) Issues** from *Monday, March 30, 2009* through *Friday, April 3, 2009*.

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<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Opening Event</strong>&lt;br&gt;Lecture: Daniel Scott, <em>Black Lavendar 2: Gay Black Men in Rhode Island</em>&lt;br&gt;Reception, conversation and tour of the exhibition to follow</td>
<td>Gallanti Lounge, URI Library 3rd Floor</td>
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<td><strong>Exhibit</strong>: <em>Black Lavender 2: Gay Black Men in Rhode Island</em>&lt;br&gt;Exhibit opens</td>
<td>Library Gallery, URI Library 1st Floor North</td>
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<td><strong>Presentation</strong>: Elizabeth Rowell, <em>Gay, Lesbian, and Finally Transgender Picture Books for Young Children: An Underused But Much Needed Resource</em></td>
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Monday, March 30
Time: 5:30 pm, **Black Lavender 2: Gay Black Men in Rhode Island**
Location: **Gallanti Lounge, 3rd Floor, URI Library**
Presenter: **Robb Dimmick and Daniel Scott, Ph.D., Professor of English, Rhode Island College**
Gay African American men in Rhode Island will be given center stage at a landmark event at the University of Rhode Island. An exhibit, entitled **Black Lavender 2**, will depict Black gay leaders, artists, activists, authors and everyday men, and will open at the URI Library in Kingston in conjunction with this lecture. Daniel Scott will discuss his findings from a series of interviews he conducted with black gay men throughout the state, detailing their accomplishments and hardships living in the state. The event, the first of its kind in the nation, will be followed by a reception and is free and open to the public.

_Funded by the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities; the event opens the annual GLBTIQ Symposium at URI._

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Tuesday, March 31
Time: 7:30 pm, **Ask Not — A Film by Johnny Symons** on effects of US Military’s “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy
Location: **Gallanti Lounge, 3rd Floor, URI Library**
Presenter: **Al Lott, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, URI Psychology and Colleagues**
Ask Not is a rare and compelling exploration of the U.S. military’s Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell Policy. The film exposes the tangled political battles that led to the discriminatory law, and profiles charismatic young activists determined to abolish it. As wars in the Middle East rage on, Ask Not reveals personal stories of gay Americans who serve in combat under a veil of secrecy. [http://www.asknotfilm.com](http://www.asknotfilm.com)

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Wednesday, April 1
Time: 1:30 pm, **Gay, Lesbian, and Finally Transgender Picture Books For Young Children: An Underused But Much Needed Resource**
Location: **Gallanti Lounge, 3rd Floor, URI Library**
Presenter: **Professor Elizabeth Rowell, Rhode Island College**
This multimedia workshop will include a discussion of why it is so important to use these picture books with all young children; a brief look at their creation, availability, and use; reading aloud of several portions of some including the new transgender books; and an illustrated overview of the different books followed by time for participants to critique some. Video clips of young children wishing their teachers had read these books when they were in kindergarten and teachers using some will be shown and discussed. The session will end with questions and sharing. Handouts will be provided.

Time: 3:00 pm, **A Gay Psychologist’s Healing Journey That Leads to a Psychotherapy Method Based on Christian Spirituality**
Location: **Gallanti Lounge, 3rd Floor, URI Library**
Presenter: **Dr. Richard York, Psychotherapist**
This talk is based on a book that is soon to be published — **A Christian Spirituality and Psychotherapy: a Gay Psychologist’s Practice of the Clinical Theology**. I will tell the story of my experience of healing that relieved me of severe...
depression, anxiety, and homophobia though my relationship with the God who dwells within me and the church community. This experience led me to define the caring God within as the Indwelling Spirit and how it functions in psychotherapy in opposition to the tyrannical inner self-critic. I use experience in relationships as the primary concept for psychology, psychotherapy, and theology. I critique psychology for its nonrelational scientific method and its lack of dealing with sin and evil, which are essential parts of human experience. I critique theology for promoting a perfectionistic morality as the essence of the Gospel rather than a new relationship with a caring, forgiving God who helps us become caring and unconditionally loving of self, others, and the created order. I explain how loving same-sex relationships can be as moral as loving opposite-sex relationships.

Time: 7:30 pm, An Evening With Staceyann Chin  
Location: Hardge Forum, Multicultural Center  
Presenter: Staceyann Chin. Artist, Out Poet, and Political Activist  
An evening with poet, performer, and activist Staceyann Chin whose forthcoming Simon and Schuster release, The Other Side of Paradise, is her memoir of growing up multiracial and gay in Jamaica.  
http://www.staceyannchin.com

Thursday, April 2  
Time: 12 Noon, Coming Out Stories: Why We Tell Them, What They Mean  
Location: Gallanti Lounge, 3rd Floor, URI Library  
Presenter: Alexia Kosmider, Ph.D., Part-time Instructor at URI in Women’s Studies/English  
Dr. Alexia Kosmider recently completed a documentary, Venus Priests and Supermen, which focuses on the banning of Eve Ensler’s The Vagina Monologues at Providence College. The film has screened at Brown University as well as Tufts University and a portion was broadcast on R.I. PBS. Through a series of coming out stories, filmed from out gays/lesbians who are from the Rhode Island gay/lesbian community, we will explore such issues as why coming out stories are an important rite of passage into the out world and what coming out means to gays and lesbians.

Time: 1:00 pm, Iron Jawed Angels  
Location: Gallanti Lounge, 3rd Floor, URI Library  
Presenters: Eva Jones, Katie Dunning, and Jessica Ellis  
This film covers the struggle of Alice Paul and Lucy Burns as they joined the American Woman Suffrage Movement. Contrary to the more conservative efforts employed by the National American Woman Suffrage Association, Paul and Burns historically pushed the envelope and adopted radical means to earn American women the vote. Historically, Paul’s radical practices and experience with the British Women’s Movement allowed her to break from the more conservative NAWSA and form the National Women’s Party (NWP). Iron Jawed Angels captures the tensions and struggles inside and outside of the American Woman Suffrage Movement, which is now termed the first wave of American feminism. The program will encompass a viewing of Iron Jawed Angels and will be followed by a discussion of the film’s content.

Time: 7:30 pm, Saving Marriage  
Location: Hardge Forum, Multicultural Center  
Presenters: Susan MacNeil, MERI Board, and Cassandra Ormiston  
When Massachusetts becomes the first state to recognize gay marriage, a constitutional amendment immediately emerges that would take that right away. Now, seasoned lobbyists and rookie activists are in the battle of their lives. The holy grail of gay rights is within reach, and their fight to save marriage will change forever how people — including them — view same-sex relationships. Civil rights history begins a new chapter in Massachusetts, and Saving Marriage is there on the scene as the drama unfolds.
Time: **12 Noon, Coming Out and Substance Abuse: An Affirming, Empowering, and Sobering Journey**
Location: Gallanti Lounge, 3rd Floor, URI Library
Presenter: Brian Arcand, Proud Openly Gay URI Staff Member and Alumnus, Long-time Advocate in Support of Alcohol and Substance Free Living. *Coming Out and Substance Abuse* is an affirming, empowering, and sobering journey; an intimate conversation about embracing a positive gay identity while confronting the personal impact of alcohol and substance abuse.

Time: **1:00 pm, Modernizing HIV Prevention Online: Community-Based Internet Outreach Programs For Gay Men**
Location: Gallanti Lounge, 3rd Floor, URI Library
Presenter: Elsa Larson, Ph.D. candidate, URI Behavioral Science  This presentation has three objectives: 1. Review recent research regarding the relationship between the Internet, sexual practice, and HIV prevention among gay men or MSM, 2. Present examples of innovative community-based programs using the Internet, and 3. Discuss challenges and successes of using Internet-based approaches from an applied perspective. Elsa Larson’s research interests in HIV prevention, GLBTQ health, and program evaluation are informed by ten years of practical experience working in community-based HIV prevention programs. She co-developed the Sexperts Internet Outreach Program for AIDS Project RI while she was the Director of Prevention and continues to investigate applications of Internet-based health promotion.

Time: **2:00 pm, Living with HIV**
Location: Gallanti Lounge, 3rd Floor, URI Library
Presenter: Darren Wells, Former Airline Employee, Junior at RIC  I plan to discuss the kinds of adjustments I’ve had to make in order to accommodate my continued survival. I’ve had to change my self-concept several times, from “20-something muscle twink” to “dying” to “fighting this thing” to finally admitting that the virus has made me weaker, and limited my options and abilities, accepting that I could not pull myself up by my own bootstraps and make it without outside help. My latest challenge is making the transition from a “disabled” identity to a man reintegrating into the work force, and I plan to make that part the main focus of my presentation.

Time: **7:30 pm, Mamma Mia! Sing-a-long and Party**
Location: Hardge Forum, Multicultural Center
Presenters: Mike Miele and Symposium Committee  Set on a colorful Greek island, the plot serves as a background for a wealth of ABBA songs. A young woman about to be married discovers that any one of three men could be her father. She invites all three to the wedding without telling her mother, Donna, who was once the lead singer of Donna and the Dynamos. In the meantime, Donna has invited her backup singers, Rosie and Tanya.