Illinois State University

ISU ReD: Research and eData

Queer Coalition

Fall 2023

Out And About

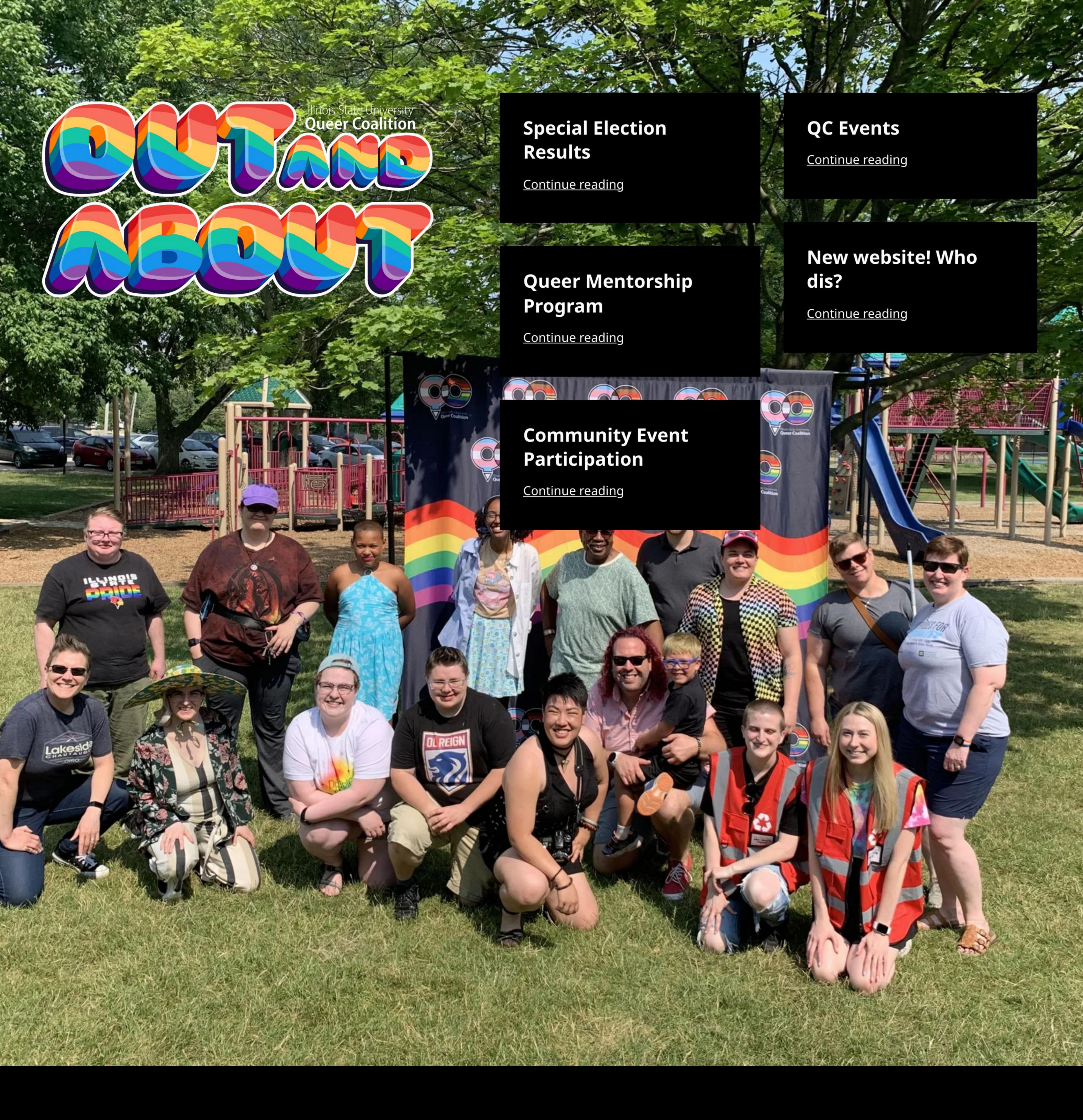
Queer Coalition *Illinois State University*

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Important announcement:

On May 25th, we passed a resolution to make our monthly board meetings public. We will hold our meetings on the first Wednesday of every month. Zoom link is sent via the Listserv (email list) before the meetings.



Rainbow Briefs!

Our recurring section for bite-sized articles.

Continue reading



Onward and Outward!

Closing remarks, reflections from the team, and next steps. Taking submissions for the next newsletter!

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A belated welcome back to campus, Queer Coalition!

I hope those of you who were able to join us for our summer programming found strength in community, restoration in togetherness, and most importantly, had a good time! While our Pride Picnic and Welcome Back Coffee have emerged as traditional bookends to the summer season, my favorite activity was actually our Saturday morning hike at COMLARA Park – I loved hunting down weird mushrooms and trying to identify native plants with my trans sibs (and Athena, a 100-lb Burmese Mountain Dog); it felt almost like the idyllic rural boyhood I read about in storybooks as a child.

As the new semester arrived, we welcomed three new members to the QC Executive Board: Brigid Aslin (copresident), David Giovagnoli (member-at-large), and Justin Lawson (treasurer). I am so grateful for their service and humbled by their efficiency and incisiveness. With them lending their support to the board's team efforts we have launched a number of new initiatives and programs recently, including:

A remodeled website

- Opening Executive Board meetings to all QC members
- A mentorship pilot program to connect faculty, staff, and grad students who have worked through their own coming out processes with undergrad or grad students in need of advice and support navigating the vagaries of life as queer adults
- A combined Queer Coalition/Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program Queer Talks Lunch 'n' Learn series, beginning with the <u>Fighting Florida's Stop WOKE</u> <u>Act</u> webinar at on October 6th. A presentation from Brigid Aslin and Samantha Vazquez on recent anti-trans legislation is also in the works for November 7th!
- The return of our ever-popular Brown Bag Chats on the first Friday of the month in the Bone Student Center's Faculty/Staff Lounge



Hello Queer Coalition!

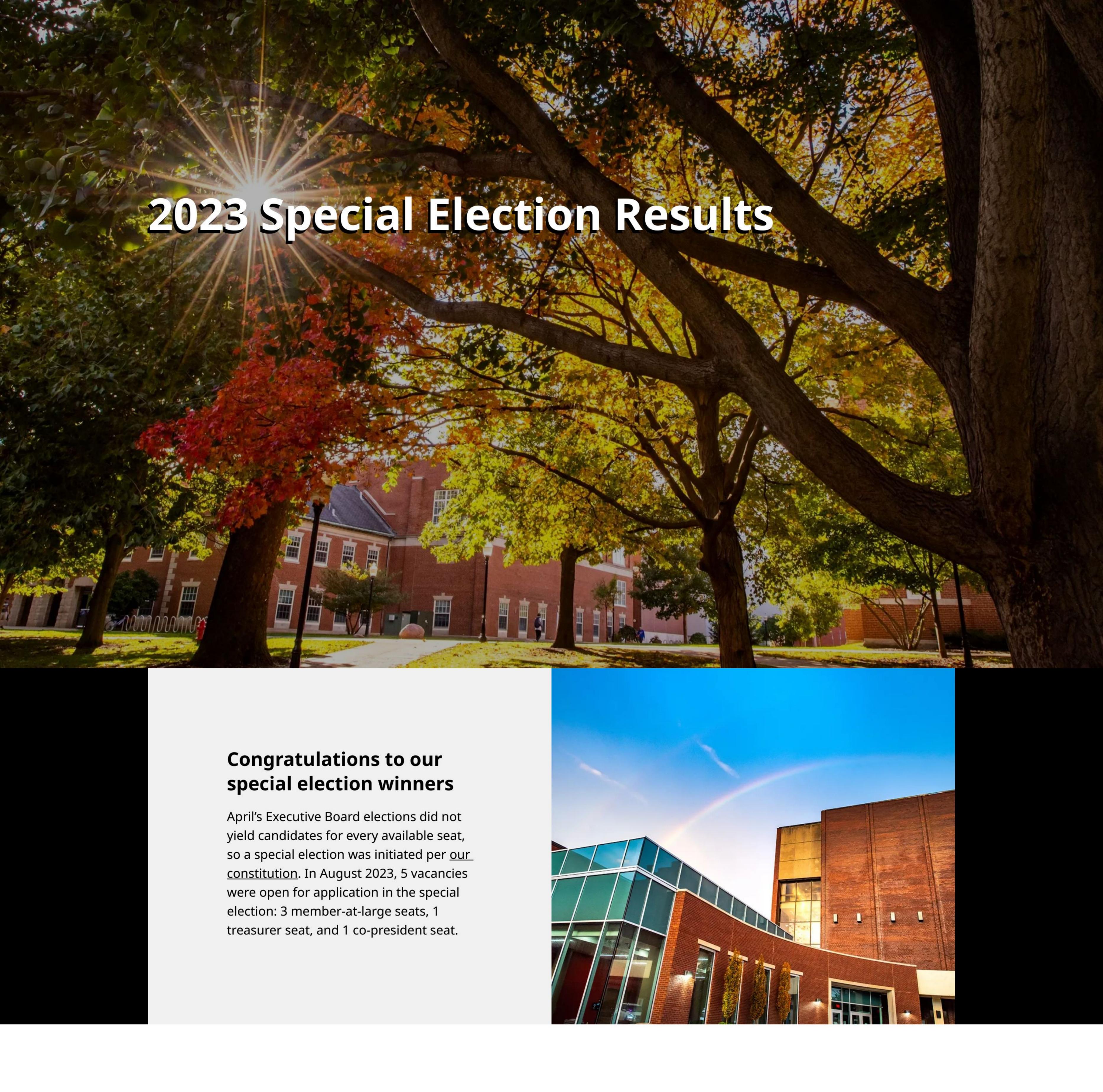
I am incredibly excited to serve as co-president of Queer Coalition this year and to work with this year's executive board and all of our members to make ISU a better place for the LGBT community. In the past two months since I was appointed, I've learned so much about the history of this group and I can't wait to continue the incredible work that we've been doing. A huge thanks to the executive board, especially Karmine, for welcoming me to the board with open arms and catching me up to speed. The executive board this year has a lot of great ideas and plans for this year, and I can't wait to share them all with you. See Karmine's letter for more information on what we've been working on so far!

One of the things I am most looking forward to this year is building relationships across campus, whether that is with fellow members of QC, students, administration, or community members. I am excited to develop programs that raise awareness, promote acceptance, and foster a sense of belonging for every member of the LGBT community at Illinois State. We are stronger together, and I cannot wait to see all that we achieve this year.

Even just a month into this role, I know this is going to be an amazing year for Queer Coalition. I'm looking forward to meeting everyone in the near future and hope to see folks at upcoming programs!

Stay tuned as we continue to refine our slate of programming for next semester! As always, the Executive Board is here to serve you, the membership, so please don't hesitate to reach out to lgbtq@ilstu.edu with any questions, concerns, or other feedback.

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Welcome to the board!





Our new Treasurer Justin Lawson (he/him)



Our new Member-at-Large David Giovagnoli (he/him)



Queer Mentorship Program

The germ of the Queer Coalition Mentorship Program was formulated by Stephanie Thompson in response to situations she had encountered as a case manager for University Housing Services. Stephanie and Lumen Stasicky continued to develop the concept during FY23 and Karmine stepped in to help get it off the ground this past summer. This pilot program is predicated on the understanding that queer identity development can begin at any point in one's life and is a continuing process that may shift or change in unexpected ways over time. While many Gen Z people begin this journey as youths, a significant percentage still report struggling with their (a)sexuality and/or gender identity in college and beyond. The mentoring relationship provides an empathetic listening space to discuss and work through the feelings that accompany coming out and integrating one's intersecting identities into new contexts. Through this program, mentees can receive guidance and encouragement in developing integrated queer identities with the aim of helping them lead fuller, healthier, and happier lives.



Bloomington Pridefest 2023

Jan Lancaster, owner of The Bistro, initially held the first Pride Fest in 2018 as an anniversary celebration. Since then it has grown into a community-wide celebration of LGBTQ+ identities that is attended by roughly 6,000+ people.

Queer Coalition has tabled for the past 3 years, representing Illinois State University.





Wear Orange event

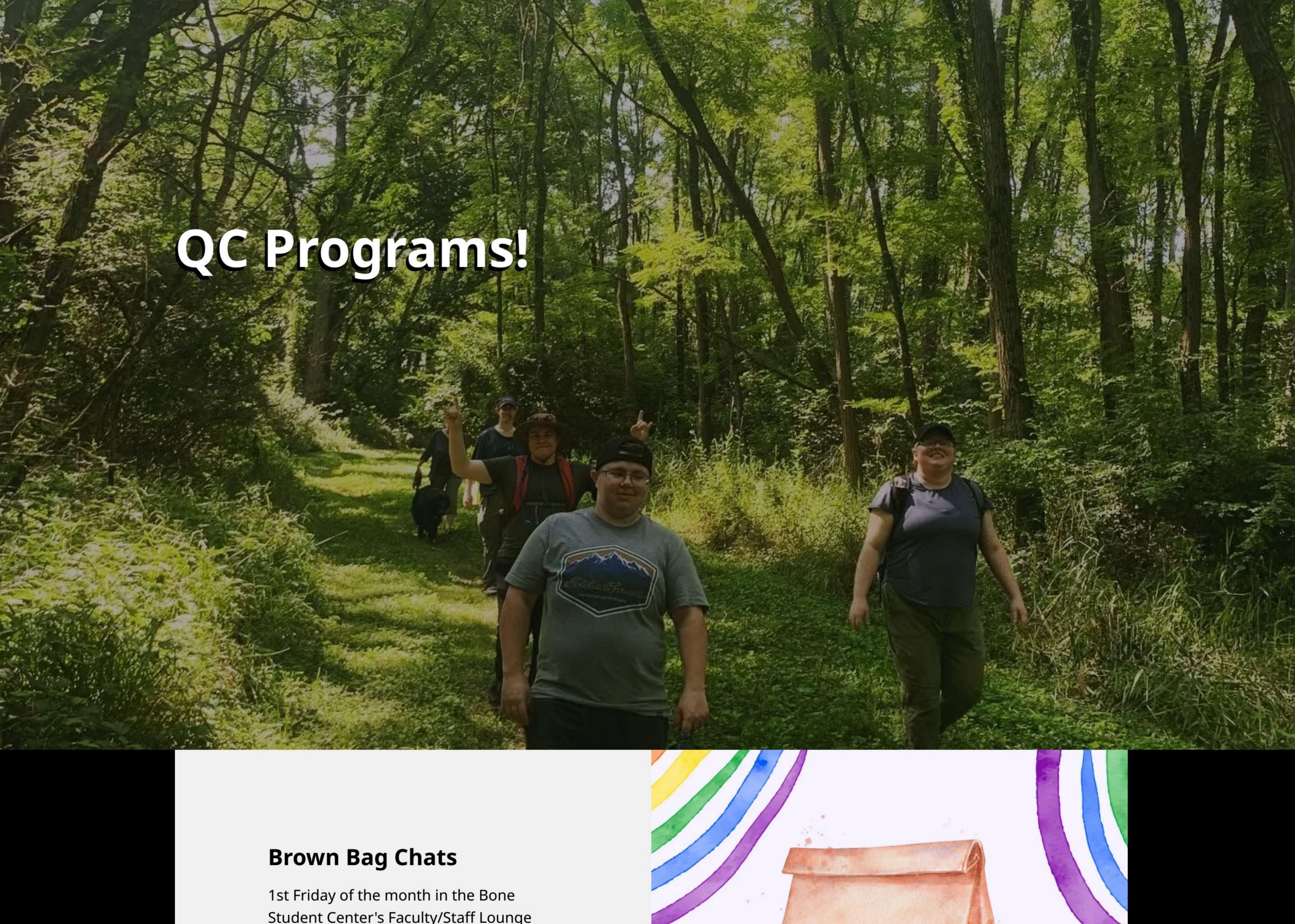
McLean County Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America hosted an event in June, which included live music, speakers, and community partner tables.

LGBTQ+ Special Viewing of *Lost in Yonkers*

The Illinois State University campus community was invited to attend a staged reading of the play *Lost in Yonkers* by Neil Simon, directed by alum Jane Lynch.

There was an opportunity to support the LGBTQ+ Student Support Fund.
Attendees were able to make their contribution at the event in person.

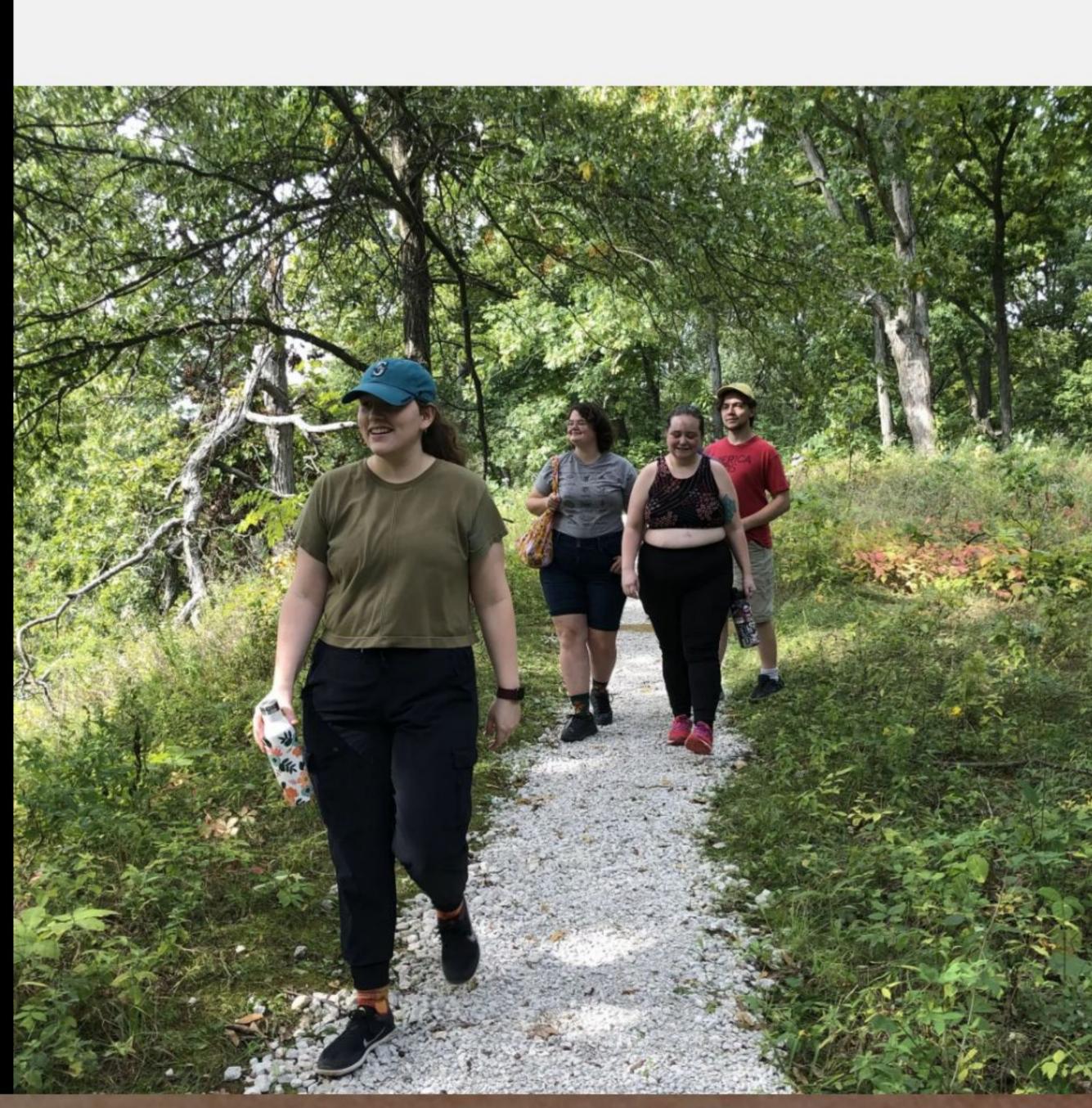




Student Center's Faculty/Staff Lounge (2nd floor next to Timbers Grille).

Bring your lunch or just yourself to the Faculty Staff Lounge in the Bone Student Center (2nd floor, to the right of Timbers Grille) for informal conversation and networking.

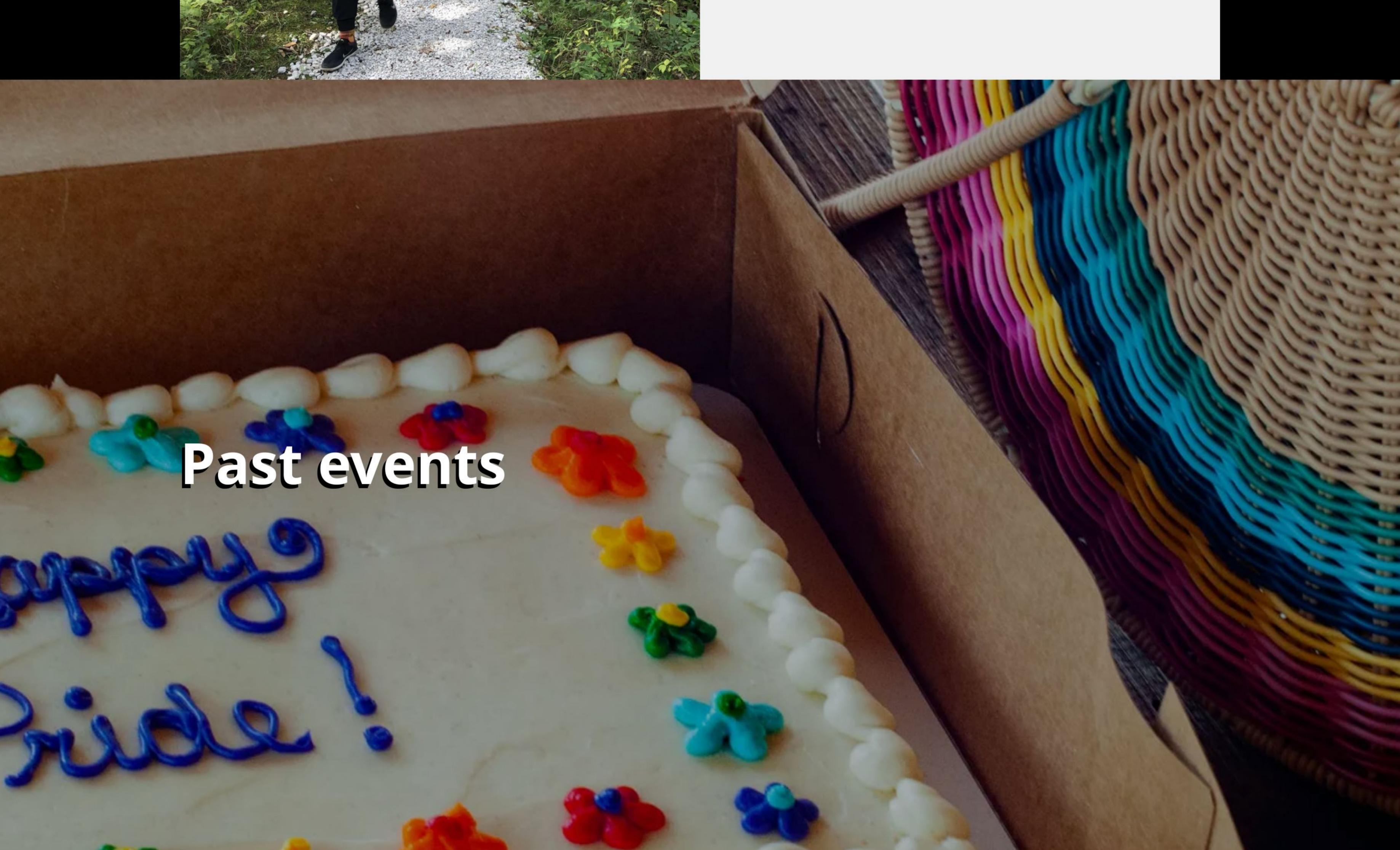
Add the dates to your calendar!

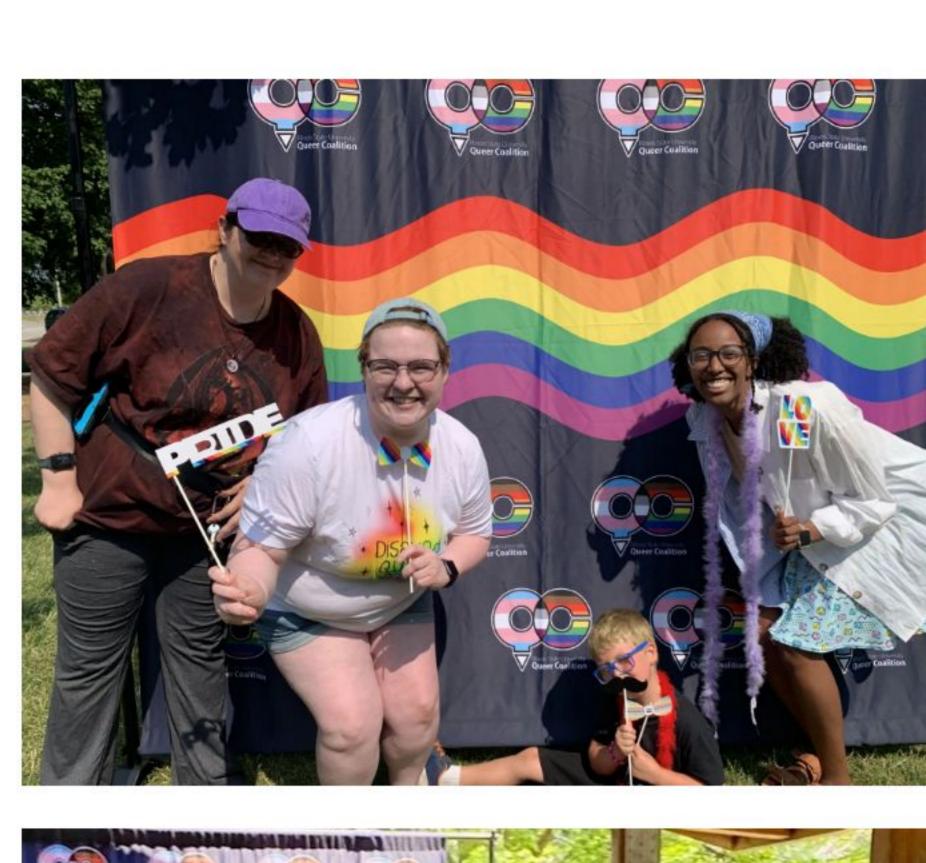


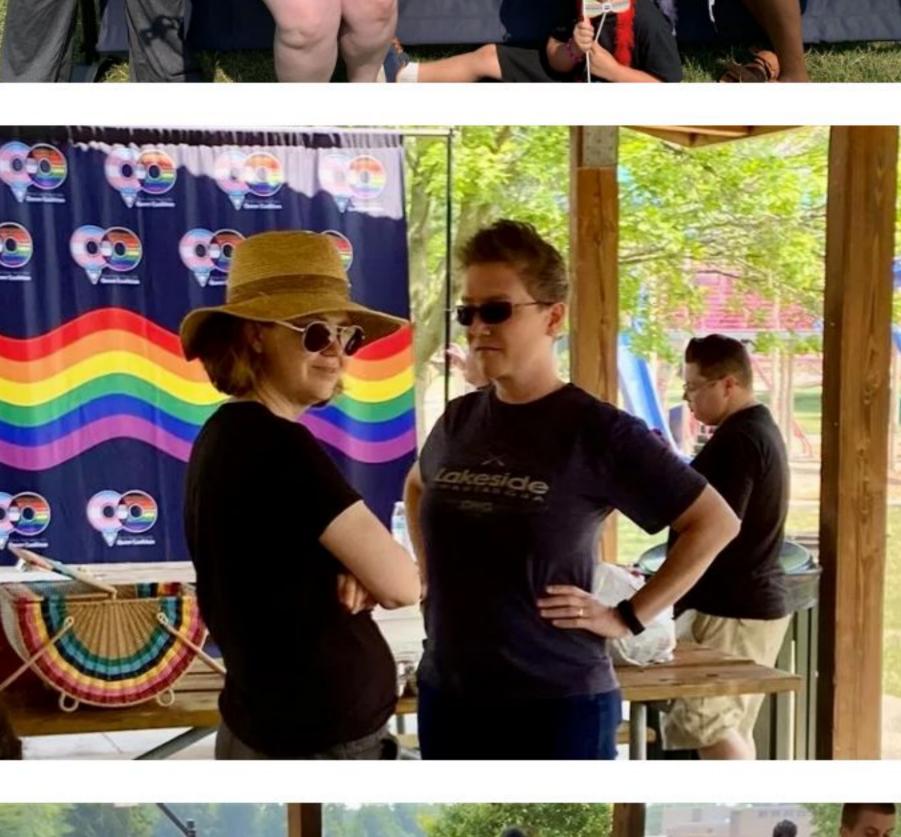
Hiking Series

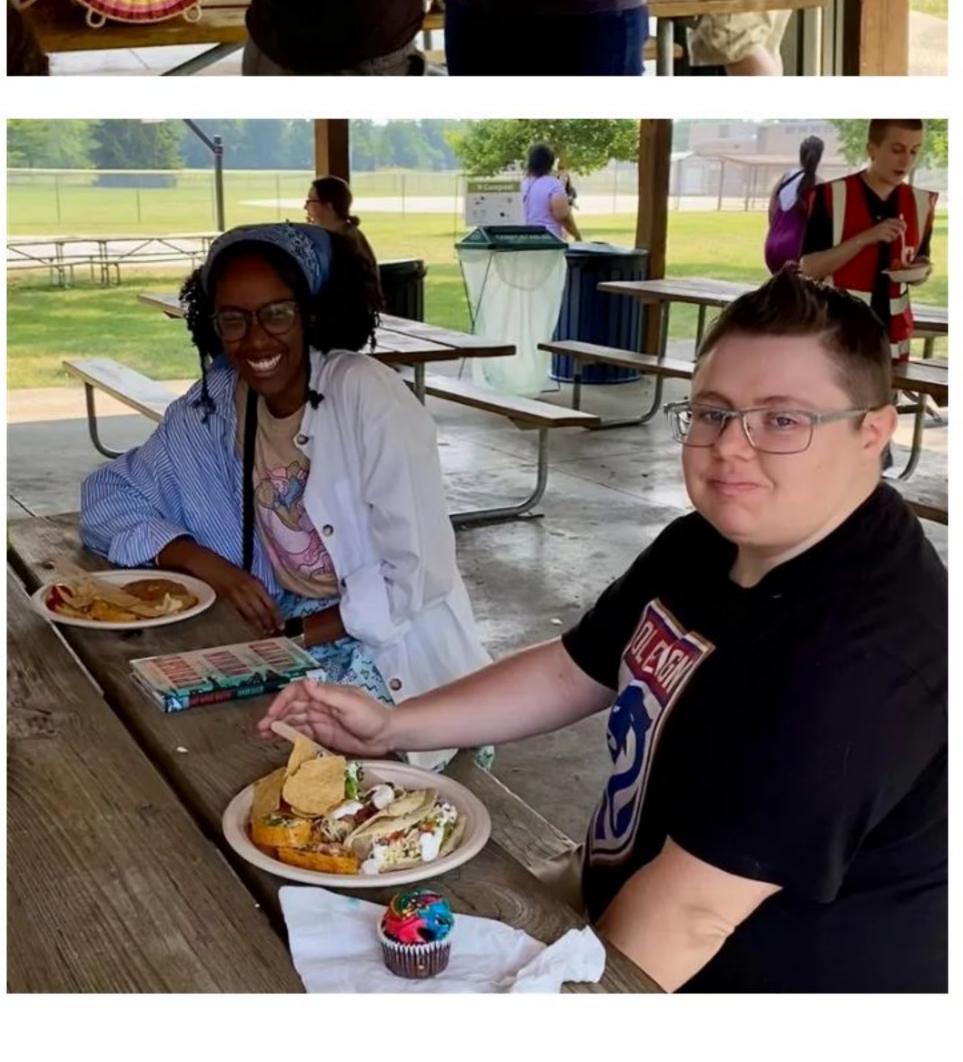
As weather permits, these hikes are designed to be widely accessible to people of various fitness and ability levels. We walk slowly to appreciate our surroundings. Children are welcome but dogs may depend on the location.

Stay tuned on social media for the next one!









2023 Pride Picnic

This was QC's 3rd annual pride picnic. Here are some photos from that beautiful day!

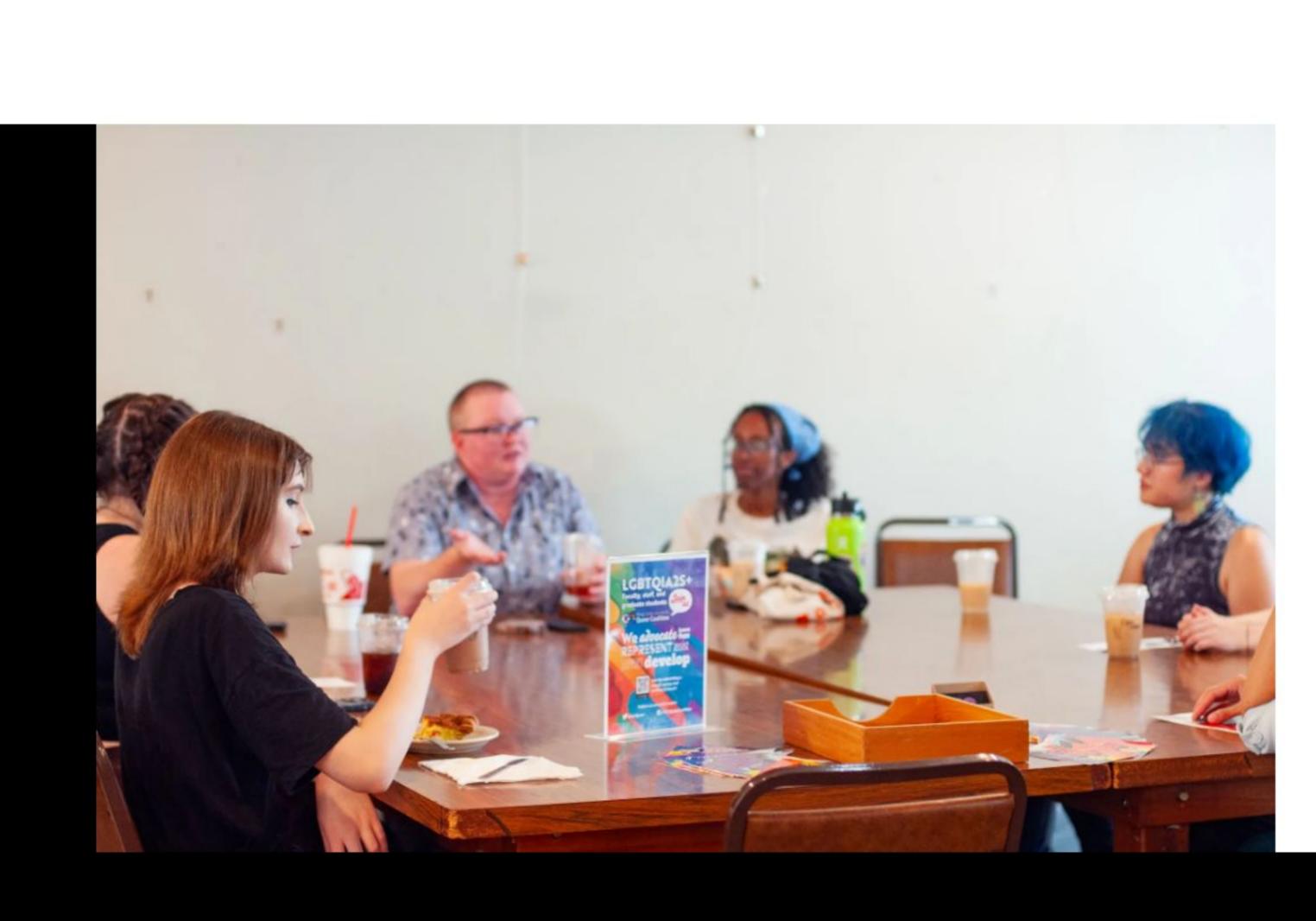






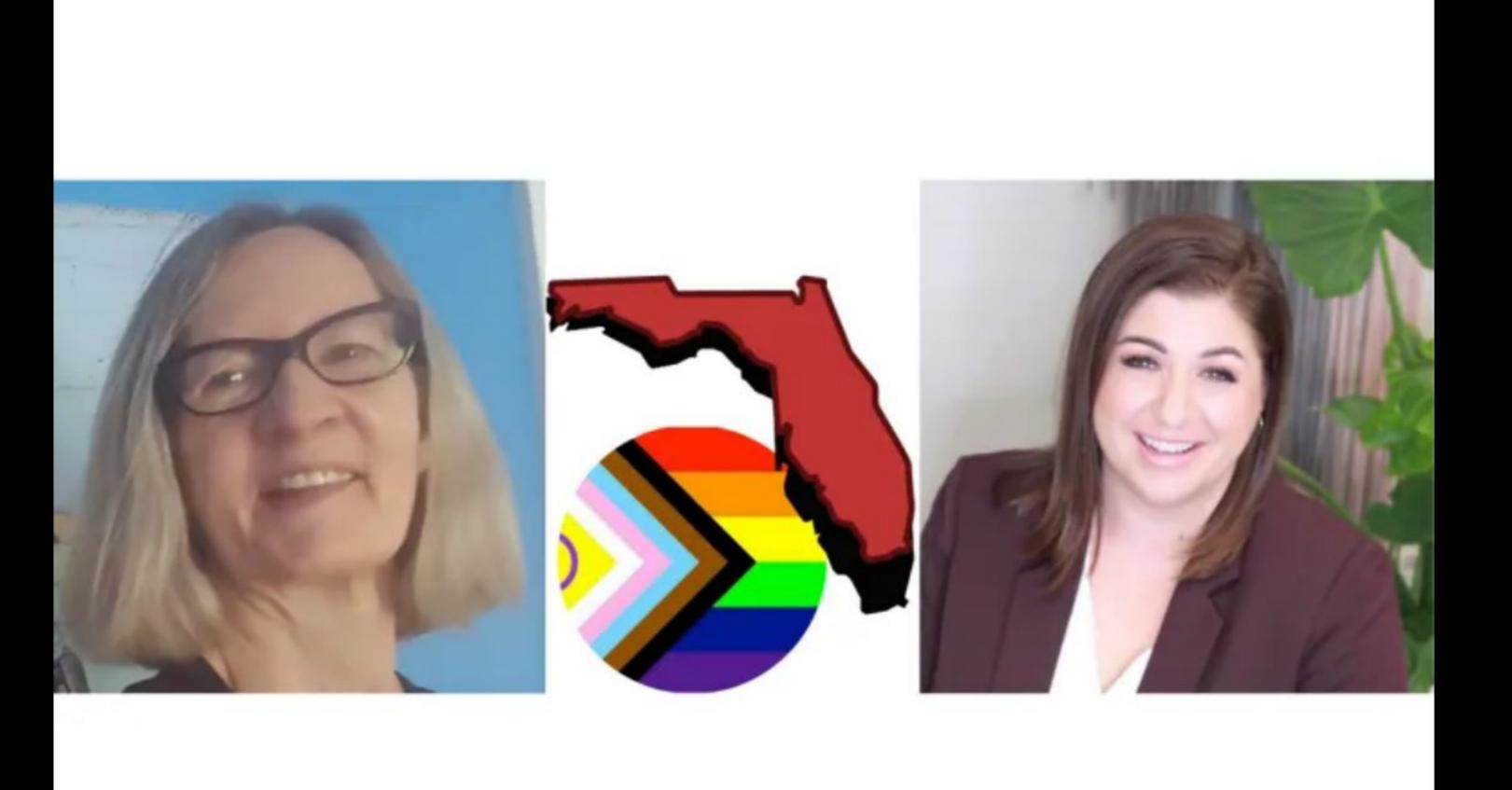






Welcome Back Coffee

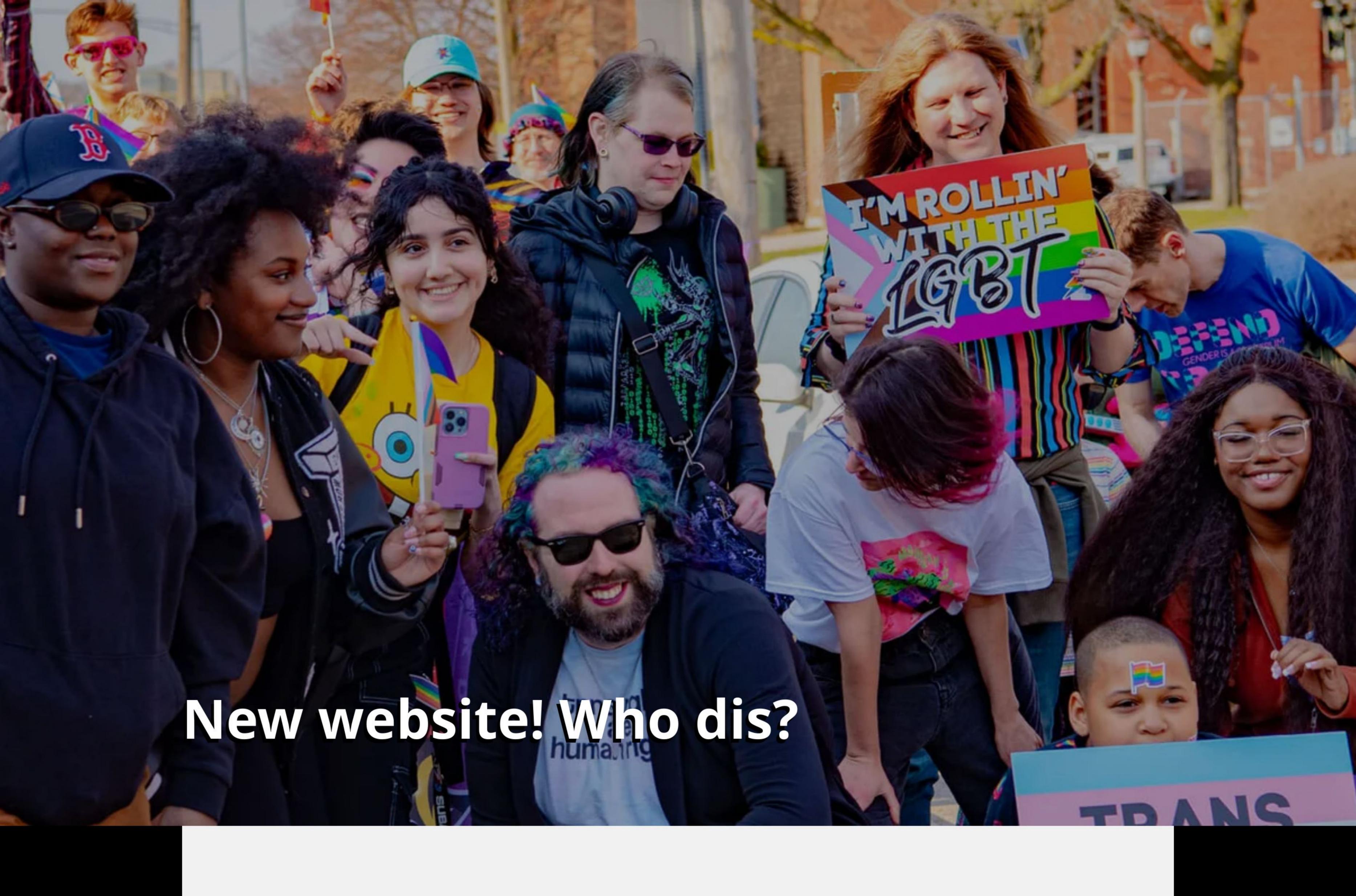
We gathered at The Coffeehouse in uptown Normal to welcome new and returning members to campus!



WGSS and Queer Coalition hosted "Fighting Florida's Stop WOKE Act" Zoom event

Faculty from the University of Central Florida joined ISU via Zoom for "Fighting Florida's Stop WOKE Act," a discussion on defending free speech and social justice in higher education through the opposition of Florida HB7.

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QueerCoalition.IllinoisState.edu

Our previous About.IllinoisState.edu/QueerCoalition has been upgraded to the current university-wide Omni content management system (CMS).

Translation: our website has been remade anew!

Take a look!

The old URL will forward to the new URL, so there's no need to go back and edit old correspondence, but moving forward please use <u>QueerCoalition.IllinoisState.edu</u>.

What's Happening With Queer Coalition ——



ember Spotlight: Jamie

Council will feature a Civil at Illinois State University each it an exceptional colleague and work being done on campus.

about and applaud Women's, ality Studies Program le Jamie Anderson.







OCT Queer Coalit Chats ☑

♀ Bone Stude

10/6/23 at 1

∨ Queer Coalit

♀ Bone Stude

11/3/23 at 1

DEC Queer Coalit
Chats 12/1/23 at 1

♀ Bone Stude

View all Queer Coalitie

It's not just a facelift! The new CMS is integrated with our ILSTU news posts. If you post with the ILSTU news Wordpress and your post is related to QC, please feel free to click the checkbox for "Queer Coalition" in the "Units" section and it will appear in the feed on our Events tab of the website!

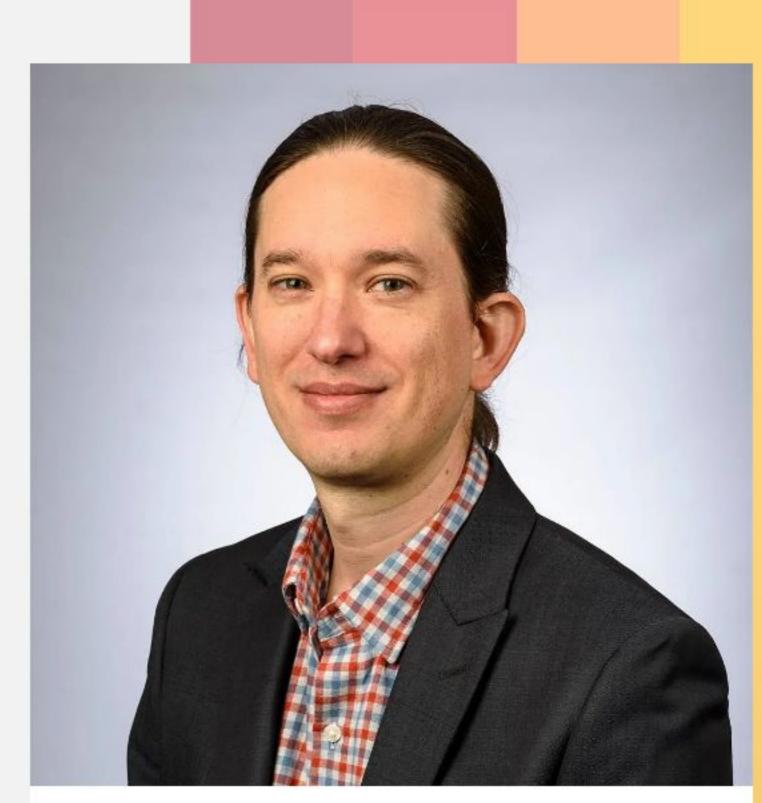
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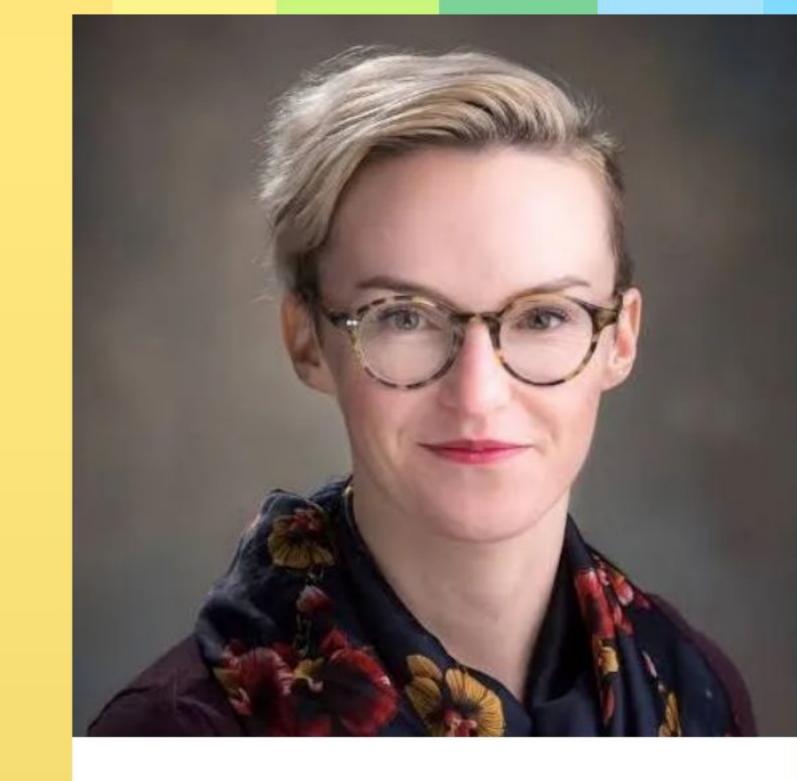
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Rainbow Briefs

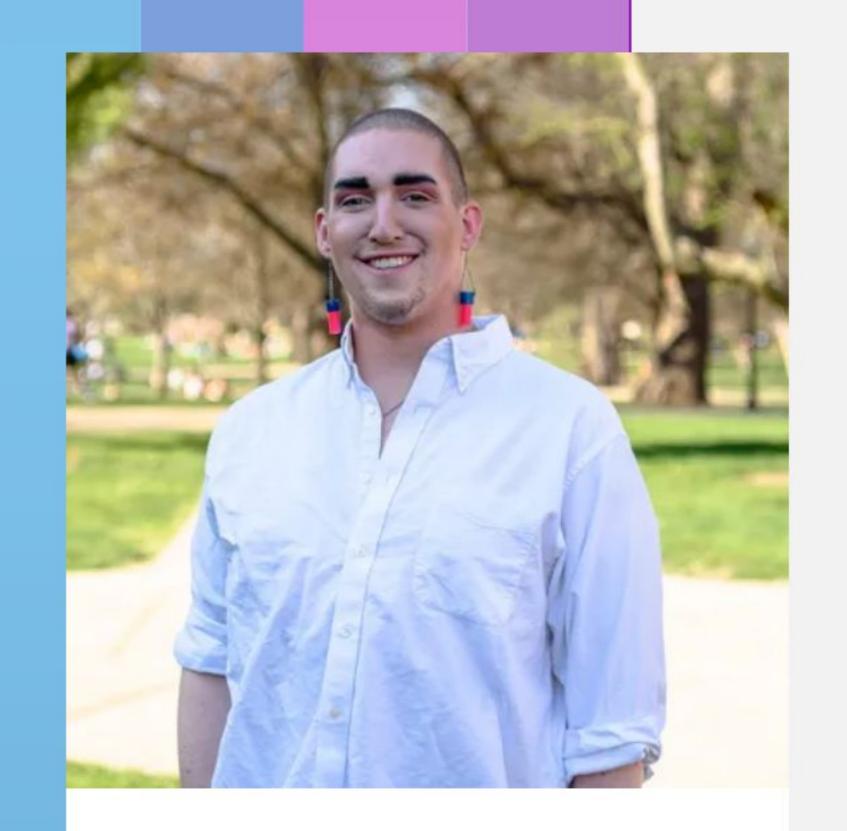




Eric Godoy, Department of Philosophy, granted tenure and promoted from assistant professor to associate professor!



Ela Przybylo, Department of English, granted tenure and promoted from assistant professor to associate professor!



Ian Cooper, a secondyear graduate student in the Wonsook Kim
College of Fine Arts,
followed their passion to
Illinois State University
where they're developing
Occentatia, a video game that combines queer theory, escapism, community, and exploration.

Continue reading...





Natalie Rodgers earns top LGBTQIA2S+ advocacy honor from the University of Wisconsin System!

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Dr. Alison Bailey was recently named University Professor by Illinois State University's Office of the Provost!

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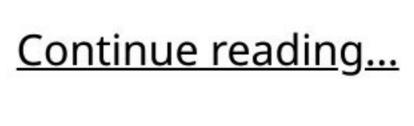


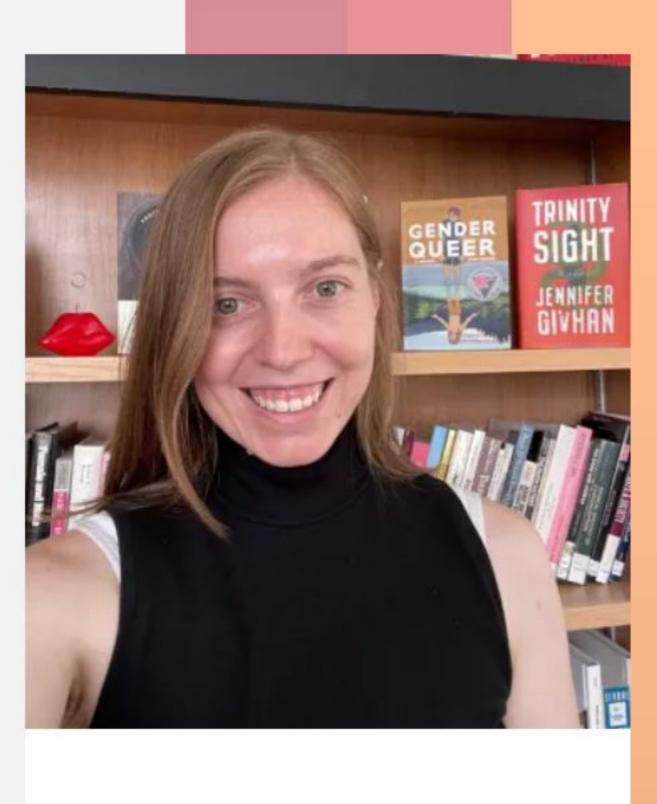
Edcel Cintrón-Gonzalez featured in PRESS 254's book launch for his *Irma, Maria, Fiona, and Me*!

<u>Continue reading...</u>



Dr. Sercan Şengün is building a first-of-itskind, searchable video game database for educators!





WGSS welcomes new assistant director, advisor, Dr. Jacklyn Weier!

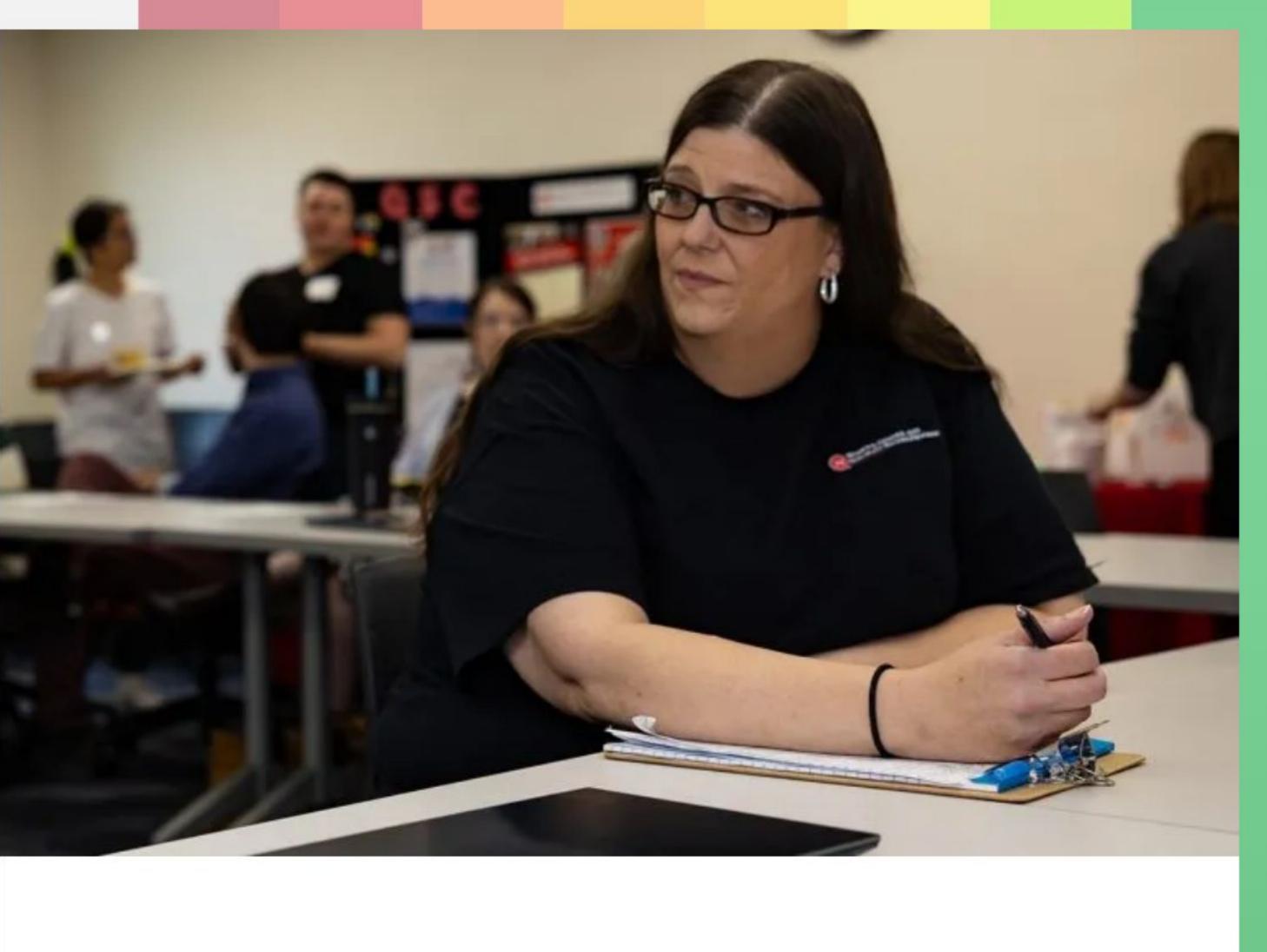


WGSS welcomes new affiliated faculty, Dr. Katharine Landers (ENG)!





Dr. Gavin Weiser is granted tenure, promoted to associate professor, and wins the College of Education's Teacher of the Year!

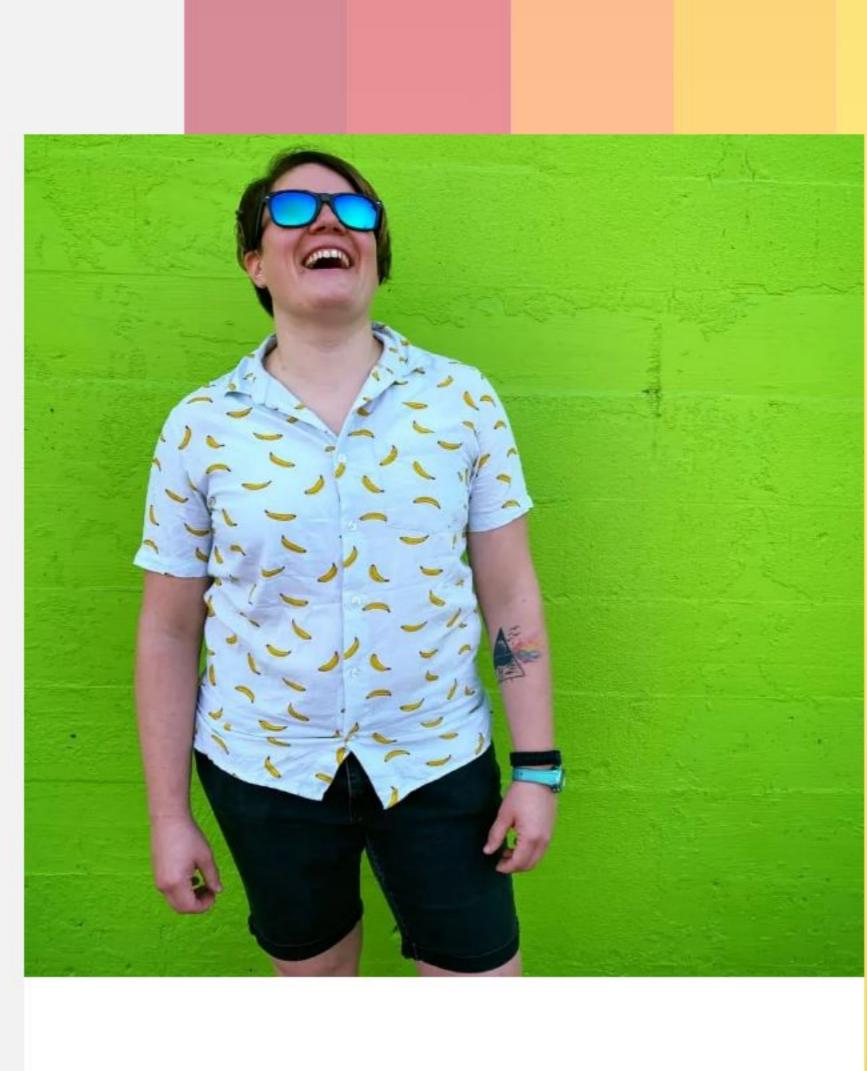


The Civil Service Council will feature a Civil Service employee at Illinois State University each month to highlight an exceptional colleague and the outstanding work being done on campus. This month, learn about and applaud Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program administrative aide Jamie Anderson!

Continue reading...



Congratulations to Emily Fontenot for successfully passing her dissertation defense titled "Drenched and Drying: Regional Affects and Small-Scale Souths: A Creative Dissertation"!



Derek Sparby wins the 2024 Outstanding College Researcher in Humanities!



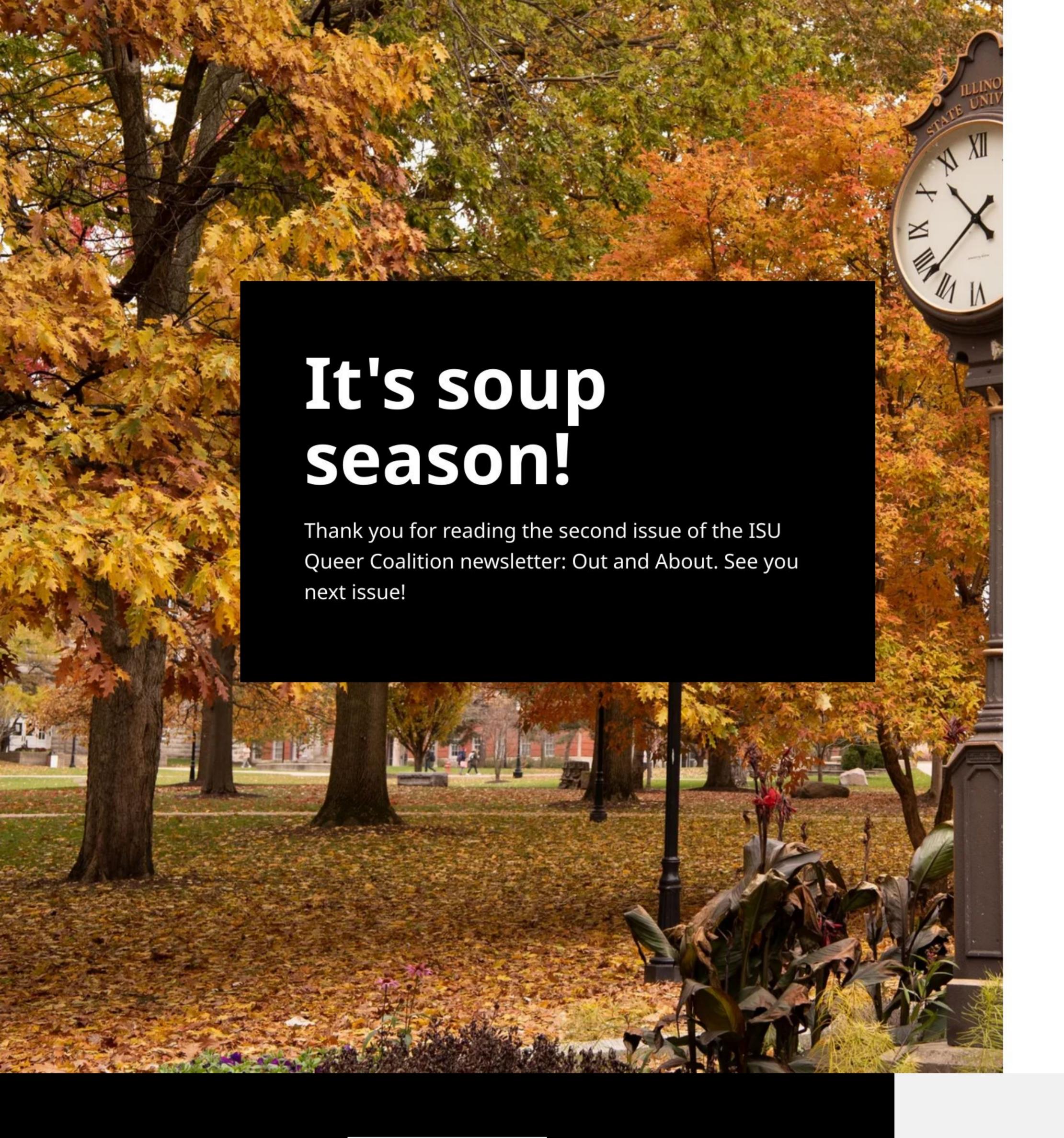
Queer Coalition creates impactful legacy

Established by a group of Illinois State University faculty and staff as a support system for the LGBTQIA2S+ community, Queer Coalition (QC) stands as an emblem of inclusion and unity on the

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University's campus.

Continue reading...



Submit something for the next newsletter!

Use this as an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of you and your peers, or help catch us up on news regarding our LGBTQ+ community. Click below to submit a form and it will be reviewed by our newsletter team for consideration in the next issue!

Fill out the form

