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Fusion Spring 2014, Issue 1

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GAY GAMES
Come to Cleveland

Fusion profiles GAY ATHLETES at KSU

Game Day in Kent and Cleveland — The Bar Review
Dream it. Do it.

Weathervane Community Playhouse
2005 GRANTEE

Fusion Magazine
2007 GRANTEE

Community AIDS Network
2009 GRANTEE

GCEF Scholarship Fund
2011 GRANTEE

Gay Games 9
2014 GRANTEE

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GG9 | 2014 GAY GAMES
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A kind of complete list of GSM terms
This year was huge for the gender and sexual minority (GSM) community. We had the Olympics in Sochi, Russia this year, which triggered a push for GSM advocates everywhere to raise their voices. Closer to home, Cleveland will play host to the ninth Gay Games this summer, something readers can learn about starting on page 15.

The GSM community also had some major spotlight shed on it this year with an abundance of trans* people in the media. We had Laverne Cox doing the press rounds for her upcoming documentary Free Cece about transgender prisoner Cece McDonald. (Our own take on transgender prison issues can be found on page 10 of the entertainment side). Transwoman-fronted punk band Against Me! released its album Transgender Dysphoria Blues this year to an outcry of support across the country, shattering glass ceilings in the music industry. And of course, Orange is the New Black was renewed for a second season.

With all the sports and entertainment news whizzing around the mediasphere this year, Fusion decided to pull itself in a direction we never have before, actually a few directions. This issue, Fusion wants to celebrate GSM communities with a sports issue and an entertainment issue, both untrodden paths for us.

On this side you’ll learn not only about this year’s Gay Games, but about gay athletes at Kent State University (page 8). You can also find reviews of the best bars in the area to watch the game (page 20).

Flip the issue over and start again to find coverage on GSM documentary capturing life in Northeast Ohio (page 12). Continue on for an insight into queercore (page 16), as well as entertainment reviews starting on page 21.

I use “we” a lot when writing these letters, not because I’m speaking on behalf of a Royal We. But because I feel a closeness with the GSM community here in Northeast Ohio, so much so that I feel our successes are my successes and vice versa. Though I identify as straight, I created this issue of Fusion as a love letter to the community that embraced me so wholly.

To the punks and the jocks, the queens and the queers, I love you all.

Brittany Rees
MEET OUR STAFF

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Mission Statement
According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, fusion is “a merging of diverse, distinct or separate elements into a unified whole.” Fusion magazine addresses sexual minority issues within the university and throughout Northeast Ohio. The magazine strives to unify people of different backgrounds through education and awareness.
The International Olympic Committee enforces "sex testing" to ensure the gender of all competitors. This was prompted after masculine-looking female olympians were accused of being males posing as female.

Title IX is passed, ensuring no one in the United States will be discriminated against or be barred from participating in anything federally funded due to their gender or sexual expression. This, of course, includes sports.

The first openly-gay Olympic athlete wins a gold medal: British figure skater John Curry.

Professional basketball player Magic Johnson announces he has HIV.

Tom Waddell founds the first Gay Games, hosted in San Francisco.
Since the dawn of time, gender and sexual minorities have been fighting for their place in the world. The athletic world is no exception. In the past 50 years, sports law has become more inclusive regarding GSM people. Here, we’ve mapped out the ups and downs of that journey.

**1999**
The International Olympics Committee officially ends “sex testing”.

**2003**
The NCAA begins offering safety training in sports for schools across the country for free.

**2004**
The International Olympics Committee creates a policy outlining the circumstances under which a trans* person may compete in the Olympics. Soon, other athletic organizations follow suit.

**2011**
Olympic figure skater Johnny Weir comes out as gay to no one’s surprise.

**2014**
Winter 2014: Olympics are held in Sochi, Russia. Here, protesters came to chastise Russian government for its disgraceful treatment of the GSM community. Some of these protesters are Olympic athletes swimmer Tom Daley.

Summer 2014: Cleveland will host the ninth Gay Games to an expected crowd of 10,000.

Sources: ESPN, Huffington Post, Gay Games
Athletes Fest

Success in sports depends on many factors, perhaps the most important of which is acceptance and support of teammates. In the sports culture, bearing the label “gay” might have once been a terrifying thought. With the growing number of ‘out’ athletes, 24-year-old Missouri Tigers defensive lineman Michael Sam being on top of the list this year, gay-rights issues have been talked about with an increasing frequency lately. A lot of professional athletes no longer keep their relationships under wraps, which reflects the changing sports landscape.

But three Kent State students find it easy to merge two important aspects of their lives: their sport and their sexual identity. Every day, they contradict the stereotypical notions of what it means to be a player in sports that have been historically defined as male domains.

Robert Bailee: Movement

In the isolated space of room D125 in the Music and Speech building, Roberta Bailey taps her foot to the orchestral beats of “Code Name Vivaldi” by the Piano Guys. She watches her dancers spin a story of love and acceptance with their bodies. The lovers embrace, backs arching like herons’ necks. At one point when they don’t quite move to her liking, she jumps in and dances along with them. After four minutes of intense movement, Bailey points to a chair in front of the floor-to-ceiling mirrors. They can rest now. It is just a rehearsal, she says. The actual performance will be more polished.

The routine she choreographed has a commitment to diversity that informs an adroitly shaped storyline about a lesbian couple and a journey of acceptance. It is called “Acumen,” meaning the ability to reason and understand, and is Bailey’s entry into the Student Dance Festival on March 14 through 17.
pletely. Her friends at school had an idea – and some weren't very nice about it. When she came out to her best friend during her senior year of high school, the news was quickly spread to the dressing room. “There are times in your life that change you as a person,” she says. “This was one of those times for me.”

Soon after, her former male best friend told the entire school. Bailey was devastated. “Looking back at it now I realize that treating someone like that doesn’t make a person righteous it makes them ignorant,” she says.

Despite her best friends who turned their backs on her in high school, Bailey now proudly wears her sexuality on stage and around her current friends. Now that she’s in college, Bailey still has some (though lesser) concerns. The awkwardness of dancing with men and the physical contact that comes with it, is one.

“[Being gay] has never been too much of an issue except for the fact that you know, you’re changing in a room with girls and you don’t want them to think that you’re looking at them,” she says.

As far as her family goes, Bailey has had her ups and downs. Bailey’s mother was driving when Bailey first came out to her. They were on the highway when Bailey said, “Hey mom, I know I have a boyfriend, but I kind of like my best friend.”

To Bailey’s surprise, her mother replied, “Oh, she’s pretty.” On the other hand, her dad is still uncomfortable with her sexual orientation. “He has this image of what he wants me to be.” She says, “It was hard for us to communicate after that in regards to my personal life.”

But however crippling the challenges, it never deterred her from pursuing her career. In fact, it taught her to be confident. While most college freshmen go through a transition period, Bailey was experiencing multiple life changes. “It gave me a reality check of you know, how to deal with struggles, how to deal with multiple things happening at the same time and how to learn to be really adaptable and still be able to function.”

Most of Bailey’s inspiration comes from everyday life. Even though she generally doesn’t look at pop culture as a medium of inspiration, Bailey mentions Sasha Mallory, “So You Think You Can Dance”’s uber-popular eighth-sea-
In the vast green area of the field house, just adjacent to the Dix Stadium, freshman Sarah Busch gets ready to chase down and catch any ball that hits into the outfield. There are a number of cheerleaders on the right climbing their pyramids and falling off more times than staying on. Some are twirling, others merely chatting amongst themselves. A group of boys are running around the track for what it seems like the twentieth time. But Busch remains focused. After all, that’s what her sport is all about.

Busch, who is currently a health administration major, has been playing softball since she was 12. She remembers her mother taking her and her sister to practice back in Jefferson, Ohio, where she lived most of her life. That’s how she got into the sport. She loves it because it is competitive – and it keeps her busy in the spring.

“It’s essential to have focus to hit well and field the balls when they come to you on defense and just to be mentally prepared,” she says. “No one plays well

“When I tell people I’m a lesbian, they’re like, ‘No, you’re not,’ or ‘You’re too pretty to be a lesbian.’

Sarah Busch: Focus

Five or ten years into her performing career, she wants to start her own dance company, founded on the idea of human interaction. She says she is interested in community outreach, teaching people to physicalize their ideas into movement.

But that’s not it. Bailey says she plans to go back to school at some later point in life to get a degree that will allow her to work with kids with disabilities – ideally at her own summer camp where she can teach classes in movement rehabilitation to underprivileged kids.

“When I was in high school, I was having a hard time with grades and personal life and dance was the only thing that kept me focused and got me through it,” she says. “I’d love to give something to kids to hold on to because I think that’s very important.”

Although Bailey has danced on stage multiple times, she most vividly remembers “Monkey Brains and Paper Chains,” a piece she performed at the Fall Faculty Concert “Winterplay” in 2012. “I loved that piece because it was so thoughtful,” she says, “We were wearing unitards. We had straps and we were running around for 12 minutes,” she chuckles. “It was movement that felt good on my body and the music was undeniably impactful.”

Bailey continues to rehearse seven days a week for an exhausting number of hours. “Yeah, I don’t sleep,” she laughs.
when they’re just messing around.”

It’s been only five years since she came to terms with her sexuality, after a movie night with her best friend Lexi Signar. Both being on the basketball team, Signar and Busch became friends during Busch’s freshman year of high school. She remembers their first kiss against the backdrop of the science fiction horror film “The Mist.”

“I discovered something about myself that I was unsure of,” says Busch. “I felt somewhat relieved, like that was some sort of closure.”

It would take her another couple of years to tell her mother. On the morning of her brother’s fiancée’s bachelorette party last summer, she finally came out.

“It was really scary,” says Busch. “I was really nervous.”

Her mother had always known about her sister, who is also bisexual, but Busch’s sexuality came as a surprise to her. To her mother, she doesn’t “look gay” – doesn’t fit the omnipresent stereotype. The reddish streaks in her long hair, her makeup and her outfit are anything but tomboy. Busch realizes that she doesn’t satisfy the characteristics of a player in a sport that is considered a euphemism for homosexuality.

“When I tell people I’m a lesbian, they’re like, ‘no, you’re not’ or ‘you’re too pretty to be a lesbian,’” she says.

But ultimately, everyone has been supportive, she says. Even her roommate in college, who was randomly assigned to her. Busch admits she has not made an official statement to her teammates, but lets them know instead through casual conversation and her posts on social media.

When it comes to people who inspire her, Busch is quick to mention her sister. After all, they share a similar sexual orientation and a passion for same sports. “We consider ourselves bisexual but we both lean more toward girls,” Busch says with a giggle.

Busch says that being bisexual never hindered her pursuits. She plans to continue playing for club softball and hopes to live somewhere warm when she graduates. “I’d hopefully be married [in ten years] and I honestly don’t know if it will be with a male or female, so I’ll just have to see,” she says.

As the Kent State softball team run laps with assigned partners, asking one another questions to get to know each other better whilst warming up, the Women’s Rugby team rest after a long practice. Jordan Costy, president of the Women’s Rugby team at Kent State University, sits down and tries to catch her breath.
Jordan Costy: Perseverance

“The rugby team has always had a reputation with gays and lesbians. Our team is really accepting. We are literally one big family.”

“This is chalk, it’s for the track people,” Costy laughs, looking at a solid white block lying on the ground. “Apparently if we touch it, they are going to kick us out of here.” She then touches it. A couple of her teammates laugh.

Costy, who is originally from Pittsburgh, only started playing rugby in college. “The rugby team has always had a reputation with gays and lesbians,” she says. “Our team is really accepting. We are literally a one big family.”

That welcoming culture is what makes the women’s rugby team appealing to the LGBT community at Kent State University. Costy says it has always been a safe space for lesbians and bisexual women to find a welcoming team environment. The culture, from post-practice socializations to group studying at the library, is warm and supportive.

Costy then calls her teammate Holly Chesnick. “Hey Holly, you’re out and proud, right?” She says jokingly. Chesnick turns around and says, “Did you just call me ‘Gay Holly?’” Costy shakes her head. They don’t take offense; they have grown to be comfortable around one another. The conversation is easy; no one tip-toes around the subject.

Chesnick is currently a senior exploratory major. Prior to joining the rugby team, she used to play softball and basketball; this is only her second semester playing rugby.

On the night of a homecoming football game, she decided to come out to her mother. Chesnick’s family was deeply involved with her high school’s the music department; they were present at every marching band game. A minute before she had to line up for half-time, Chesnick decided to tell her mother. The plan was for it to be quick, as to avoid a lengthy conversation. “Mom, I’ve been dating someone for the past month and it’s her” pointing at my then girlfriend,” Chesnick said, pointing at her former girlfriend. But things did not go as expected. Before Chesnick could run off, there was an injury on the field and the clock stopped, giving her more time to stand there and talk to her mother.

Denial was her mother’s initial reaction. “It could be a phase,” she said, and then added, “Well, you can have a best friend that you really care about that doesn’t have to be a girlfriend.”

But Chesnick disagreed. “I told her ‘No mom, I really like her, and she is my girlfriend’,” says Chesnick. “Why are you telling me this now?” Chesnick was honest. She said she had hoped to tell her and run away instantly. She did not anticipate the clock stopping. With a laugh, her mother said, “Well look how that worked out for you.” It took her a while to adjust to this reality. For about a month or so after that, her mother would tip-toe around the sore subject. Now, she has completely accepted Chesnick for who she is. They even joke about it from time to time.

As far as how she’s been treated by her teammates in the locker room, Chesnick says that it has never been a problem. “Not in rugby,” Costy adds. Other lesbians on the team are open about their orientation and Chesnick says that it is never a “big deal.”

“Basically, being gay hasn’t been super tough on me from my family or friends,” says Chesnick. “The toughest part was my girlfriend who wasn’t really a good person at all to me for a long time. But after coming to college I finally got away from her and now I’m perfectly happy with where I’m at now with who I have in my life.”
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Fusion’s Guide to Summer

With the 2014 Gay Games right around the corner, people will be swarming to Cleveland to spectate the weeklong celebration of GSM sports. In between athletic events and vendor festivals, Cleveland and Akron have planned a variety of activities to ensure there is something for everybody to do in the coming summer months.

Words by Brittany Rees

May 18th
Interbelt Nite Club in Akron will be hosting their annual Miss Queen of Beauty International drag competition. Queens may register to compete now for the pageant in May or drag fans can attend the competition to judge performers on their poise and talent.

June 28th
The Cleveland PRIDE! parade will celebrate its 26th anniversary this June. The parade will feature two stages: one for family-friendly entertainment and one to engage the adult parade-goer.

August 2nd
Cleveland’s LGBT Community Center will be hosting their 19th annual TaDa events series to celebrate GSM arts and entertainment. On August 2nd, the Center will be taking guests to the rooftop terrace of Judson Manor in University Circle for a jazz-filled 1920s-inspired cocktail party.

August 9th
The most anticipated event of the summer, the 2014 Gay Games opening ceremony will be held August 9th at the Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland. Starting with a parade and ending with a marching band, the opening ceremony is billed to be a fantastical and energized event to kick off the Games.

August 9th-16th
The International Gay Rodeo Association will be in Cleveland, hosting a week long event at the Gay Games Festival Village. Admittants will be able to attend nightly line dances, competitions and rodeo showcases in between Gay Games sporting events.

August 12th
Cleveland’s LGBT Community Center is hosting a night-time cruise around Lake Erie. Starting at 7 p.m., the cruise promises non-stop music, food and drinks until the ship docks at 10 p.m. The cruise will also host several of this year’s competing Gay Games athletes and will offer photo opportunities for guests.

Every Third Friday
Gay Guys Happy Hour (G2H2) welcomes the GSM community to party it up in Northeast Ohio the third Friday of every month. Together, they explore night clubs, art galleries, eateries and more as a welcoming community of young gay men.
Gay Games

Going for the Gold
Cleveland takes on the Gay Games

Story by Brittany Rees — Photos by Jenna Watson
A Quick History

The Federation of the Gay Games (FGG) will host the ninth Games mid-August in Cleveland. But before finding its way to the buckeye state, the federation travelled the globe hosting their version of the Olympics.

Billing itself as "the most inclusive sporting event in the world", the Gay Games held its first ever competition in 1982 in San Francisco. The founder, former Olympian Tom Waddell struggled to get his first attempt at an all-inclusive sporting event recognized.

According to the FGG website, the original name of the Gay Games was to include the term "Olympics" in the title and description. However, just three weeks before the first ever Gay Games opening ceremony, the United States Olympic Committee sued FGG for use of the word "Olympics". After a brief court battle, the Gay Games lost and was forced to remove all Olympic references from the Games and a lien was taken out of founder Waddell’s home.

In 1987, a year after Gay Games II, Waddell died from AIDS-related complications. His former wife Sara Lewinstein said in a 2013 interview that Waddell would be "ecstatic" to see his creation still going strong.

“He'd be so proud of the Gay Games, and there's no reason he shouldn't be,” Lewinstein said "He definitely provided a civil rights movement for our culture.”
This summer the international sporting event known as the Gay Games is coming to Cleveland to a crowd estimated at upwards of twenty thousand people. The renowned, Olympic-like event celebrates sexual and gender diversity and works to break down stereotypes within the community.

Since Waddell’s passing, the Games have been hosted seven times every four years. Some of the cities that have hosted include New York, Sydney, Amsterdam and Vancouver.

The largest Gay Games on record is the VII Games in Chicago with 11,000 athlete participants. So far, Cleveland's IX Gay Games has a roster of 10,000 athletes.

Lewinstein said incorporating more women-identifying individuals into the Gay Games is the biggest hurdle facing the FGG right now. However, referring to Waddell, she said “I think he’d say, ‘Let’s go back to the quality instead of the quantity of how many sports are actually participated in.’”

Gay Games I hosted around 1300 athletes who participated in 16 different sporting events. This summer's Games will more than double the number of events with 35.
The Gay Games offers more than just opportunities to spectate athletic events. From August 9 to August 16, the Cleveland Foundation will be presenting a variety of multi-cultural entertainment and festivals to coincide with the actual sporting events.

The Cleveland Foundation will host a Festival Village, similar to the Olympic Village that houses Olympic athletes, in downtown Cleveland. There, vendors, spectators, artists and musicians can gather to shop, eat, drink and dance in between athletic outings.

According to Esha Hand, the vendor coordinator, Festival Village will have two music venues, a four-acre vendor area to sell merchandise, art and refreshments, an art display and a space on the green to celebrate each day's athletic accomplishments.

In addition to the Village, the Gay Games is set to put on two lavish ceremonies to open and close the Gay Games. The first at Quicken Loans arena will be held August 9 to open the Games. It's promised to feature live music, parades, a light show and words from event coordinators. The closing ceremony will take place at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and will celebrate the accomplishments of the week. It will also show the passing of the Gay Games flag to the next host city, Paris, France.

The week’s sporting events will include Olympic favorites such as figure skating, basketball, hockey and volleyball. However, the Games will also be sponsoring less conventional sports such as darts, dance and squash.

All events hosted by the Gay Games, athletic or otherwise, will be located in the greater Cleveland area with a few events occurring in Akron.
Rounding up our favorite local places to wine and dine...

the Bar Review

Story by Kelli Fitzpatrick, Kristen DeRan and Michael Reece
Photos by Kristen DeRan

Bar 145°
The restaurant known for its red Chucks-clad employees, cover band weekends and $5 burger & martini Wednesday also presents an eclectic and daring menu.

Kristen’s drink review:
Angry Bird

Secret recipe:
Things that excite me when I order a drink are the words ‘secret’ and ‘apple ale’. While the real recipe of this drink remains a secret, I can verify that muddled basil, lemon and cinnamon all play a part in this belly warming drink. It’s also decently sized, which can go right to your head if you’re not careful.

Laziza
A sultry Mediterranean restaurant in the heart of downtown Kent? Five years ago, such a thing was a thing of wild dreams. Today, it’s reality.

Kelli’s drink review:
Peach Cobbler Cocktail

Ciroc peach, peach schnapps, rum chata, half & half, cinnamon, whipped cream

With a name like peach cobbler, I didn’t expect this drink to be overwhelmingly strong. Yet, served in a martini glass with a mountain of whipped cream on top, it was. But by mixing in that dollop of cream, I upped the sweetness and balanced the harsh taste. It would’ve done well with an extra bit of half & half to start. Pairing it with a plate of pita and hummus (and hot sauce!) made for an odd but satisfying evening snack.
101 Bottles

A rotating list of beers and ales, as well as a delectable selection of cocktails, keeps this happy, hipster pub of a place going.

Kristen’s drink review:
Griffith Honey Ale

⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐
It’s ale. ‘Nuff said.

As a strictly non-beer-drinking girl, I was leery going to a bar known for having ‘101 bottles of beer.’ In truth, they probably had more than that, mostly local concoctions with some exotic choices too. Looking through the on-tap choices, I was on the hunt for anything light and non-beery. What drew me to the ale was the description, which highlighted it was brewed with local Ohio apples. What made me excited about the drink was the question mark next to the alcohol content. By the bottom of my drink I was feeling way tipsier than I expected from apple ale. The taste was light and crisp without a tartness that some ale has. It’s a shame that its only available on tap, I would love to have a case of this for the holidays.

Square Bar

One of the prime gay bars in Akron, Square has many sweet drinks — maybe best for an acquired taste.

Michael’s drink review:
Strawberry Martini

⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐
This drink tasted like making out with a boozy Kool-Aid man, and I liked it. It was cheap, sugary and very strong. If you like your drinks fruity, this one is for you!

Kristen’s drink review:
Pumpkin Spice Martini

⭐
The best thing about the changing seasons is the food that comes with it. Hearty soups, black and orange Oreos and yes, everything pumpkin spice are just a few reasons fall is the best time of the year. So I jumped at the chance to try the Square Bar’s seasonal martini. What I tasted was disappointing. The drink was so strong I couldn’t take more than one small sip at a time without making a sour face. This was entertaining to the person I was with, but not me. All the components of a good drink are there: Kahlua, creamer and some spices, but this pumpkin was not so great to me.
From Squirrels to Nuts

A “complete” list of GSM terms

Definitions by Kyana Mojica — Illustrations by Krystal Krajcovic

Though not all people within the GSM community like labels, here are some terms and definitions to help bring insight to the different types of sexual and romantic orientations and gender spectrum there are within the GSM community.
Note: Male/female identifying individuals mean anyone who sees themselves as male or female regardless of the gender they were assigned at birth.

Agender: A person who feels without a specific gender or any gender at all.

Aromantic: A person who does not normally have romantic attraction to others.

Asexual: A person who usually does not feel sexual feelings. This does not mean that an asexual person can’t feel sexual feelings. They are also not always abstinent.

Biromantic: A person attracted romantically to both binary genders.

Bisexual: A person who is attracted to people under the binary spectrum, males and females. They can be cisgendered individuals or anyone that falls within the binary, depending on the bisexual.

Cisgender: A person whose sex matches his/her gender and is not Trans*. For example a person who is biologically female chooses to live her life as a female and does not want to change her gender.

Demisexual: A person who feels more comfortable having intimate relationships with people they have already established relationships with.

Gay: A male-identifying individual who is attracted to other male-identifying individuals. Gay has also come to mean anything homosexual in nature and used by some as a collective word to describe the GSM community.

Gender Binary: A system which presumes there are only two genders: male and female. It is widely disputed.
**Genderfluid**: Genderfluid individuals feel that they do not fit solely into one binary gender. They fluctuate on the gender spectrum. Gender change can happen at any point in time (hourly, weekly, monthly, etc).

**Gender Identity**: Psychological state of being a certain gender.

**GSM**: An acronym for gender and sexual minority. It is more inclusive than LGBTQIA.

**Heteroromantic**: A person attracted romantically to the opposite gender.

**Intersex**: A variation in sex characteristics including chromosomes, gonads, or genitals that do not allow an individual to be distinctly identified as male or female.

**Lesbian**: A female-identifying individual attracted to other female-identifying individuals.

**Misgendering**: When someone refers to a trans* individual using incorrect pronouns or referring to them as the incorrect gender.

**Pansexual**: A person that is attracted to individuals regardless of gender.

**Queer**: Someone who doesn’t fit into exact labels of sexual identities or gender binaries but still consider themselves part of the GSM community. The ‘Q’ in the LGBTQ also stands for questioning, meaning one could still be figuring out identity.

**Sex**: External biological structures that fit into the gender binary. Basically the male and female reproductive organs and systems.

**Sexually Fluid**: Similar to genderfluid in the way that sexuality falls on a spectrum. A sexually fluid person can fluctuate the terms of their sexuality according to certain periods in life. For example, a person can be attracted to a person of the same gender or sex for months to a number of years and then switch.

**Sexual Orientation**: A term to identify where one’s sexual preferences lies

**Trans***: Trans* is the umbrella term that encompasses everyone under the binary and non-binary spectrum. It includes, but is not limited to, female-to-male transgender individuals, male-to-female individuals, genderfluid, non-binary and gender. The asterisk is meant as a symbol to show inclusion beyond male-to-female/female-to-male individuals. Trans (without the asterisk) is used more frequently for just male-to-female/female-to-male people.

**Transgender**: Another umbrella term used to describe people that do not identify with the gender they were assigned at birth. Transgender is an adjective, not a verb so the use of “transgendered” is often found to be offensive and incorrect.