

# 2023

## ACADEMIC YEAR IN REVIEW



## THE CENTER FOR GENDER RESOURCES AND SEXUALITY EQUITY (GRASE)

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Students participate at an interactive exhibit, "Queer Haverford: Modern Voices", Oct 2022.

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Students practice calligraphy at a (Re)claim Wellness workshop held jointly during Campus Pride Month and AAPI Heritage Month, Apr 2023.

## ABOUT THE GRASE CENTER

**The Center for Gender Resources and Sexuality Equity (GRASE)** cultivates an equitable community by providing leadership, expertise, and resources on gender and sexuality. We envision a campus environment that is radically inclusive, equitable, participatory of our LGBTQIA+, women, and femme students.

### The PACE of GRASE

- **Policy:** Review and advocate for campus policies to increase representation and protection for people of all gender identities and sexual orientation.
- **Advocacy:** Promote equity by building power with LGBTQIA+, women, and femme communities and providing strategic support.
- **Community Engagement:** Develop connection and engagement among students, staff, faculty, alumni, and community partners through initiatives and programming.
- **Education:** Enhance awareness and leadership development through education with anti-racist, anti-oppressive, and equity frameworks.

**Student Learning Objectives:** Through engagement with the GRASE Center, students will:

- Develop a sense of belonging on Haverford College campus through meaningful engagements with peers, faculty, and staff across the college.
- Seek, identify, and utilize resources that lead to their continued development in academic, professional, and personal areas of growth.
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of social, cultural, political, historical contributions of communities with marginalized genders and sexualities, with intersectional, anti-racist, and trauma-informed frameworks.
- Acquire leadership skills, particularly with regards to advocating for equity and access for community members and those who have been and continue to be underrepresented, marginalized, and oppressed.
- Maximize their potential allowing them to lead in the world authentically, confidently, compassionately, and ethically.

# CENTER HIGHLIGHTS

The Academic Year 2022-2023 saw a significant growth in our student engagement and campus involvement.

New programming included **Courageous Conversations: Gender & Sexuality**, an educational workshop for incoming first years; **(Re)Claim Wellness**, regular workshops designed to equip our students with accessible tools and resources for self and communal care, and **Queer QualiTea**, community conversations on various topics impacting the student body.

We also marked the year with a series of programs celebrating **LGBTQIA+ History Month, Trans Resilience Month, Women's History Month**, and **Campus Pride Month**.

With a redesigned student internship program at the Center, the **GRASE Associates** liaised with student organizations and campus partners to curate events and strengthen an inclusive campus community promoting gender and sexuality equity.

43

events, workshops, educational training held during the year

58%

of the programs were in collaboration with campus partners

80+

incoming students participated in educational workshops

48

students on average participated in large campus-wide events and initiatives

16

students on average participated in small-scale events

51

seniors registered to be honored at Lavender Graduation. 45 seniors participated in the ceremony



International ballroom director and choreographer, Kemar Jewel, hosts an interactive workshop during LGBTQIA+ History Month, Oct 2022.



The Haute Team collaborates with the GRASE Center for Haute Fashion Show featuring a cohort of designers committed to gender inclusivity, Apr 2023.



GRASE joins Center for Peace and Global Citizenship and campus partners at the Coalition Against Death by Incarceration Rally in Harrisburg, Sept 2022.



# STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The GRASE Student Associate Program is a redesigned initiative that focuses on individualized personal and professional leadership development, cohort-based peer mentorship, and year-long work that culminates in final projects.

The GRASE Associate Program was co-led with a **Senior Associate**, a rising senior and a returning intern, who served as an integral role to the team with thought leadership and peer mentorship.

The **LGBTQIA+ Program Associates** supported the planning of annual and feature events throughout the year, including celebration of the LGBTQIA+ History Month and Campus Pride Month.

The **Gender Equity Associate** hosted events on reproductive justice, voting empowerment during the election season, and led the workshops that archived voices of the communities of marginalized genders.

Organized by the **Wellness Associate**, the (Re)Claim Wellness series brought together students on a monthly basis for workshops on self-care toolkits, essential oil making, affirmations, journaling, and meditation practices.

The **Exhibition Associate** partnered the Hurford Center and Lutnick Library to curate archival exhibits showcasing LGBTQIA+ history at the college.

The **Communication & Publication Associate** worked with the GRASE team to design event promotion images, social media, and newsletters, as well as leading the relaunch of GRASE anthologies.



Rubí Rivas '23, GRASE Senior Associate, at the "Queer Haverford: Modern Voices" Reception during Family & Friends Weekend, Oct 2022

# ORGANIZATIONS SPOTLIGHT

**QueerAND** is a newly founded student organization that aims to create a space for Queer and Trans Black, Indigenous, People of Color, as well as disabled people. In partnership with QueerAND, we hosted a series of community conversations called **Queer QualiTea** on the complexities of coming out, pronouns usages, and more.

In the spring, we collaborated with the **Students for Reproductive Health** - a student advocacy group that formed following the news of Supreme Court decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* in 2022 - to host a film screening of *Period* and discussion about stigmatization of menstruation as well as accessibility of reproductive health products.

We also partnered with the **Korean Culture Club (KCC)** and **Pan-Asian Resource Center (PARC)** during the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month and Campus Pride Month to host **Navigating the Asian American Identity** and **Dinner with the Diaspora** events.



Student add personal narratives to the "Queering the Map" board at the "Queer Haverford: Modern Voices" Exhibit, Oct 2022.



George Allan, GRASE Exhibition Associate, curates the "Queer Haverford: Modern Voices" Exhibit, Oct 2022.

## QUEER HAVERFORD: MODERN VOICES

The GRASE Center presented **Queer Haverford: Modern Voices**, an interactive exhibition focusing on queer modern life at the College. Curated by George Allan '24, GRASE Associate, the exhibit featured recent milestones, including the creation of **QHouse**, Haverford's annual **Drag Ball**, inaugural **Lavender Graduation** in May 2022, and ongoing work of LGBTQIA+ affinity student organizations, **Rainbow Fords** and **QueerAND**.

We invited members of the College community to share about LGBTQIA+ experiences to normalize and celebrate such important moments. Students, staff, faculty, and alumni wrote their stories on post-its and covered the **Inclusive Pride Flag**. In addition, similar to the popular virtual initiative, **Queering the Map**, we invited members to archive their LGBTQIA+ experiences in relation to physical space on campus.

## QHOUSE SPOTLIGHT

The QHouse is a residential and community space for students invested in histories, legacies, liberation, and celebration of LGBTQIA+ communities. Established in 2017 by student activists and campus partners, the QHouse has become a space where ideas of home are reimagined and reclaimed.





# TRANSGENDER & GENDER EXPANSIVE PROGRAMS

In 2022-2023, the GRASE Center expanded its long-term commitment to equity, inclusion, and access for transgender students and members of the college community. We launched **Trans Resilience Month** in November that included a series of event, including a community conversation on **Trans & Queer Accompliceship, Coconspiratorship, and Forms of Solidarity** and wellness spaces.

In December, members of the college community gathered for **Peace Vigil** in light of violence that occurred at Club Q, to mourn the death of a Black Trans woman in Philadelphia, and lives of transgender individuals lost to violence in 2022.

The program included gathering around a tree branch bearing the names of those whose lives were lost, holding the tree, and sharing about emotions and experiences. Students gathered later in the evening for a vigil at VCAM lounge.



President Raymond at the Trans Space of Remembrance: Peace Circle, Dec 2022.



Students, staff, faculty, and friends gather at the Trans Space of Remembrance: Peace Circle, Dec 2022.





Lenée Voss leads a workshop during the 2023 THRIVE Conference, Jan 2023.

## THRIVE CONFERENCE

The GRASE Center joined the **Students Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (SDEI)** offices and campus partners on the second annual **Truth, Healing, Resiliency, Inclusion, and Equity (THRIVE) Conference** with the theme *Reclaiming Our Stories*. With over 50 people from the College and local community, the concepts of equity, antiracism, reclamation, and stories of heritages were collectively explored.

## COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

During the academic year, the GRASE Center deepened relationships with community-based organizations and leaders. We partnered with the **William Way LGBT Community Center** on a student internship project focusing archival history, and began relationships with **Attic Youth Center** and **Beyond the Bell Tours** - where Haverford alumni are igniting change as organizational and community leaders.



Rebecca Fisher '18, co-founder of Beyond the Bell, gives a walking tour of Philadelphia Gayborhood, Nov 2022.



The Hurford Center collaborated with GRASE and campus partners on a communal dinner hosted by Red Flower Collective, Oct 2022

## CAMPUS PARTNERS

The GRASE Center collaborated with **Dean's Office & Student Life**, academic centers such as **John B. Hurford '60 Center for the Arts and Humanities** and **Center for Peace and Global Citizenship**, and academic departments including **Visual Studies** and **Health Studies** for joint programming and co-curricular engagement.





Student creates a self-portrait at the HerStory Writing Retreat, Mar 2023.

## HERSTORY & HAVERQUEER

**HerStory** is a collection of personal narratives, poetry, and art produced by the Center for Gender Resources and Sexuality Equity (GRASE), formerly known as the Women's Center.

Started in 1983, *HerStory* originally took the form of an event where the first class of women gathered to share their experiences of gender-based violence and discrimination, as well as formation of relationships and shared community. The Center published these stories in a booklet, starting a tradition of annual publications of *HerStory* that ran until 2018.

This year, we revived *HerStory* with a **40th Anniversary Special Edition**, and launched a new anthology, **HaverQueer** that made its debut in this joint publications.

Over the course of five weeks and two writing retreats that were hosted in partnership with the **Office of Academic Resources**, we gathered over 50 entries that contained letters in envelopes, poetry, portraits, sketches, photographs, and more.

**John B. Hurford '60 Center for the Arts and Humanities** collaborated with us in designing and actualizing the collection. We were proud to present the publication at the **Lavender Graduation 2023**.



HerStory & HaverQueer: 40th Anniversary Special Edition, May 2023.



Graduates gather following presentation of cords and gifts at the Lavender Graduation, May 2023.

## LAVENDER GRADUATION

We concluded the academic year with our second annual **Lavender Graduation** - a celebration honoring and acknowledging the achievements of LGBTQIA+ graduating seniors at Haverford College.

The ceremony was held on May 11th at the Jaharis Recital Hall. A total of 51 seniors registered to be honored at the ceremony and 45 students participated in the ceremony, with a small number of students who chose to be honored privately.

Graduating students received **honor cords** and gifts from the College, including **lavender plants** nurtured on the college campus as symbol of healing and resistance, **Lavender Graduation pins** as emblems of shared communities, and copies of **HerStory & HaverQueer: 40th Anniversary Special Edition**.

### History of Lavender Graduation

The first Lavender Graduation took place at the University of Michigan in 1995 with just three graduates. It was created by Dr. Ronni Sanlo, LGBTQIA+ Campus Resource Director at the University of Michigan, after she was denied the opportunity to attend the graduations of her children because of her sexual orientation. Today, over 500 colleges and universities host Lavender ceremonies. At Haverford College, we joined this tradition by hosting our inaugural Lavender Graduation in May 2022.

### Lavender as LGBTQIA+ Resistance

From the inverted black triangles that were used as identification marks for lesbian women and pink for gay men during the holocaust, to the lesbian activist group called the Lavender Menace, the color lavender has been reclaimed in LGBTQIA+ activism spaces as a symbol of resistance.



## GRASE Partners

- Alumni and Constituent Engagement
- Arboretum
- Athletics
- Center for Peace and Global Citizenship
- Health Services
- Health Studies
- Institutional Diversity, Equity, and Access
- John B. Hurford '60 Center for the Arts and Humanities
- John P. Chesick Scholars Program
- Lutnick Library
- Marilou Allen Office of Service and Community Collaboration
- Office of International Student Support
- Office of Race and Ethnicity Education
- Religious and Spiritual Life
- Residential Education and Community Engagement
- Visual Studies
- Attic Youth Center, Philadelphia, PA
- Beyond the Bell Tours, Philadelphia, PA
- William Way LGBT Community Center, Philadelphia, PA

## Thank you

We thank every student, staff, faculty, alumni, and friend who intersected with the Center for Gender Resources and Sexuality Equity (GRASE) and contributed to advancing inclusion, equity, and justice for LGBTQIA+, women, and femme communities.

A special acknowledgment to LGBTQIA+ Support Fund by Jeremy Nicholson '71 and the Wendy Raymond and David Backus 1982 Presidential Fund for LGBTQIA+ Student Programs.

Photography by Patrick Montero and Holden Blanco.



President Raymond, GRASE Director Sayeeda Raashid, GRASE Associates Rubí Rivas '23, Thaiana Zandona '26, and Sophia Cosma '26 gather after Peace Vigil, Dec 2022.



# HAVERFORD COLLEGE

## **The Center for Gender Resources and Sexuality Equity (GRASE)**

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