The EWU Pride Center hosted the 3rd Annual Lavender Graduation on Thursday, May 10. Eighteen LGBTQ and Ally graduates from EWU, Gonzaga, SFCC, and Spokane area high schools were celebrated in the Showalter Rotunda by a standing room only crowd of friends, family, and community members.

Ret. Maj. Margaret Witt, who was also celebrating her own graduation, (a Doctor of Physical Therapy from Temple University), delivered the keynote address. The Emcee for the evening was EWU student and Eagle Pride President Molly Fitzpatrick. Student speakers included Evan Knudsen, Nathan Lewis, and (continued on page 4)
SHOWER OF STOLES

The Shower of Stoles is a collection of over a thousand liturgical stoles and other sacred items representing the lives of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people of faith from thirty-two denominations and faith traditions, in six countries, on three continents, many who served in secret or who were excluded from service.

The EWU display, which included 100 stoles, was a part of a larger Spokane display and was a collaboration between the Pride Center, EWU Campus Ministries, the Compassionate Interfaith Society, Bethany Presbyterian Church, the Spokane Falls Alliance, Gonzaga University’s LGBT Resource Center and the Peace, and Justice Action League. For more information: www.welcomingresources.org

EAGLE PRIDE ART SHOW

EWU Senior Lindsey Salzer spearheaded the first ever Pride Week Art Show which was housed in JFK Library and featured the work of EWU students, faculty and staff showing off their talent.

Billed as “a gathering of art, poetry, prose and speaking to celebrate Pride, Acceptance and Equality in the LGBTQQA Community”, the Art Show kicked off Pride Week with a Grand Opening on Monday evening.

Artists gathered to share their art, read their poetry, and perform spoken word.

The art was displayed throughout Pride Week.
The Pride Center teamed up with the School of Social Work’s Center for Studies of Aging, and the EWU Women’s Studies Center to bring Peggy Hanley-Hackenbruck, MD, of Portland, OR to campus to discuss an often overlooked subset of the LGBT community.

“LGBT seniors are a newly visible and an underserved part of the U.S. aging population. They have unique needs, vulnerabilities and strengths, facing all of the challenges of aging in general, plus the effects of current and historical social stigma and prejudice directed at the LGBT community.”

Portland’s Gay and Grey program offers a model for meeting the needs of this unique and growing population.

In addition to a campus lecture, Dr. Hanley-Hackenbruck stopped by the Pride Center for an informal conversation with Eagle Pride members. The popular octogenarian bridged the generation gap by candidly sharing her coming out story and answering questions.

Let’s Talk About Marriage
A Panel Discussion About Marriage Equality

With Referendum 74 on the November ballot and who should be allowed to marry, a hot topic of discussion, the Pride Center hosted a panel discussion on May 3 in the JFK Auditorium.

Panelists discussed the history of marriage, the legal aspects of Washington State’s marriage equality law, an update on the Referendum process, and two couples discussed why they want voters to approve Ref 74 so that they can legally marry. The discussion was followed by a Q&A session with the audience.

Panelists (from left to right): Jill Wagner, Molly Spencer, Jim Jones, Ramon Alvarez, Laurie Connelly, Mimi Marinucci
As the finale to the celebration of 20 years of Spokane Pride, the 2012 Equality Awards honored public servants and Spokane community members whose actions have helped to advance the mission of “human rights, justice and equality for all.”

The awards ceremony was held on Thursday, June 28, at the nYne Bar and Bistro in downtown Spokane, with Lt. Gov. Brad Owen and Senate Majority Leader Lisa Brown delivering keynote addresses. Retired Air Force Major Margaret Witt, Spokane PFLAG member and Pride Parade Founder Helen Bonser, and Spokane City Council Member Jon Synder were also featured speakers.

The 2012 Equality Awards ceremony was a joint effort of the LGBTQA Centers at the University of Washington, Washington State University and Eastern Washington University, along with the Inland Northwest Business Alliance and its 185 business members and community partners.


In the eighteen months since the Pride Center has been open, the number of visits by EWU students has been steadily increasing. During the 2011-12 academic year, there were more students who visited the Pride Center in one quarter than in the three quarters of the previous year combined. A huge thank you to all of the faculty, staff and students who volunteered in the center so that we could keep the doors open five days a week. See you in 2012-13!