

Hofstra's LGBT Scholarship Committee

April 5, 2013

Dear Valued Friend of Hofstra University:

In 2002 Hofstra University established an unprecedented scholarship program for students engaged in service to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community. The program demonstrates Hofstra's commitment to equality and support for LGBT individuals.

Between 2009 and 2012, Hofstra offered a full-tuition scholarship to a student who exhibited strong academic ability and experience promoting activism in support of the LGBT community. Unfortunately, the fund for the scholarship for LGBT activism is now in jeopardy. As I write this letter, the amount of the fund has fallen to \$1,839 for the entire 2012/13 academic year.

Hofstra's scholarship for LGBT activism needs your help!

Please join us for a Hofstra LGBT Scholarship Fundraising Reception on **Thursday, May 16, 2013, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Libby and Joseph G. Shapiro Alumni House, South Campus.** Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served. The cost is \$55 per person, with most of the proceeds going directly to the LGBT Scholarship Fund. Please register online by May 10, 2013, at hofstra.edu/LGBT051613. For more information, please contact the Office for Alumni Affairs at **516-463-6636** or alumni@hofstra.edu. This will be a great opportunity to meet fellow LGBT alumni and their friends, as well as current and former recipients of Hofstra's LGBT scholarships. Learn firsthand about the impact the LGBT scholarships have had on their lives and what an education at Hofstra University has meant to them.

In the words of our scholarship recipients:

Christian Fuscarino '12 (Video/Television), recipient of the scholarship for LGBT activism from 2009 to 2012, writes: *"The LGBT scholarship not only allowed me to receive my degree in television broadcasting, but it also had a tremendous ripple effect. I worked to form a stronger LGBT student life, and Hofstra is one of Long Island's most LGBT-friendly universities. The ripples kept on spreading though, because the student organization I started at Hofstra expanded into a community organization that now has regions all over the tri-state area and is a registered 501c3 – making an impact on thousands of LGBT students each year. What I'm trying to tell you is that when you make a donation to the LGBT scholarship program, you're actually making an investment in your community. Without the support from past donors, I wouldn't have been able to accomplish any of my successes. I strongly encourage you to invest in the future of our community."*

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Ken Duarte '14 (Classics), recipient since 2010 of the Mildred Elizabeth McGinnis Endowed Scholarship for an LGBT student in the humanities, writes: *"Being awarded the Mildred Elizabeth McGinnis Endowed Scholarship has allowed me to meet the many amazing Hofstra professors who have encouraged me to explore my interests, and connect my passion for LGBT issues with my love of classical studies. I've been given the opportunity to share my own experiences as a transgender person and educate others about LGBT identities and issues, while also learning the history of our community. Perhaps most importantly, since coming to Hofstra, I've been able to surround myself with people who have helped me learn not only to accept but to celebrate every aspect of my identity."*

We urge you to consider helping us raise the funds to continue a full-tuition scholarship for present and future recipients of Hofstra's scholarship for LGBT activism. Your generous contribution will help sustain Hofstra's commitment to the LGBT community.

If you cannot join us for the reception on May 16, you can still make a donation:

- Please send your check (payable to Hofstra University) to our staff liaison, Gwendolyn Wade, at: Hofstra University, Libby and Joseph G. Shapiro Alumni House, 150 Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY 11549-1500. Please be sure to memo "LGBT Scholarship."
- If you prefer to speak with Gwen directly, please contact her at **516-463-6639**.
- Visit hofstra.edu/LGBT051613 to make a gift online.

If you have any questions, please contact me at **718-689-0821**. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Steven D. Smith
Chair, Hofstra's LGBT Scholarship Committee
Associate Director of LGBT Studies
Associate Professor of Classics and Comparative Literature