That’s so Gay
A Beginner’s Course to the LGBT Community

Prepared by Vincent E. Vigil, LGBT Resource Center Director
Terminology Quiz

- Gay
- Lesbian
- Bisexual
- Transgender
- M2F, F2M
- Ally
- Queer
- Gender vs. Sex
- GLBT vs. LGBT vs. GLBTA

**Tip:** Use what students identify as
Coming Out: Sexual Orientation

• Average age for people to become aware of their same gender attractions has changed throughout the decades

In summary:*
• 1960’s, girls 17 & boys 14
• 1990’s, girls 12 & boys 10

• A steady decline in age
• Why?

*Taken from The New Gay Teenager, 2005
Coming Out: Communities of Color

- Homophobia from racial community
- Racism from LGBT community
- Regional Experiences
- Vincent’s dissertation
  - largest theme: Having a direct experience with discrimination based on sexual orientation and/or race
Coming Out: Transgender

• Coming out earlier – statistics are slim

• Experiences at the Transgender Summit
  – Healthcare
  – Employment
  – Youth

• 2004, 55% of transgender students reported being physically harassed due to their gender, gender expression or sexual orientation.*

*Taken from GSLEN National School Climate Survey (2004)
Glance of LGBT Statistics
At USC and Beyond
GSAs in the High Schools

- 2004-05 Academic Year, GSAs established at U.S. schools at the rate of three per day *

- October 2005, 3,000 GSAs at U.S. Schools
  - Nearly 1 in 10 high schools
  - 290 middle schools

- March 2007, 608 registered GSA’s in California**

* Taken from GSLEN, www.glsen.org
** Taken from GSA Network, www.gsanetwork.org
LGBT Acceptance at Institutions

- November 2006, 115 LGBT Resource Centers

- January 2007, majority (61%) of incoming 2006 freshmen approve of same-sex matrimony*

- 2005, approximately 300 institutions across the nation adopted domestic partner benefits**

- Public universities in 20 states provide benefits to employees’ domestic partners.**

*Taken from UCLA’s Higher Education Research Institute, Cooperative Institutional Research Program

**Taken from American Association of University Professors, 2005
Transgender Non-discrimination

- October 2006, 70 colleges and universities include gender identity and expression in non-discrimination policies*

- 46% institutions include gender identity and expression protections in their non-discrimination policies are located in the Northeast
  - West: 24%, Midwest: 22%, South 8%

- A handful (14) of institutions have changed forms in housing, admissions, student-life, etc. to include a “self-identity” option.

* Taken from Gender Public Advocacy Coalition, Genius Index
USC Statistics for Improvement

Senior Survey
• Spring 2005, majority (65%) of 2005 graduating seniors are “unfamiliar with LGBT issues or concerns”

Bias Protocol
• August 2006, Residential Education created the Bias Protocol
• October 2006, 13 incidents reported, 5 dealt with sexual orientation and 1 dealt with gender expression
Improvements at USC

- 2005-06 Academic School Year, increased attendance at every LGBT event

- August 2006, the Advocate College Guide for LGBT Students, Top 20

- October 2006, Diversity Leader in GENIUS Index (Gender Equality National Index for Universities & Schools) one of 75 schools

- Today, 135 Faculty & Staff Allies registered
Current Hot Topics
In the Media and Beyond
Marriage Equality

- 7 states that recognize same sex couple recognition through civil unions (CU) or domestic partner benefits (DP)*

  - California, DP
  - Connecticut, CU
  - Hawaii, DP
  - Maine, DP
  - Massachusetts, Gay Marriage
  - New Jersey, CU
  - Vermont, CU
  - District of Columbia, DP

* Taken from www.hrc.org
“Faggot”

Has the word “faggot” – the new f word – become as verboten as the n word?*

* Taken from Advocate Magazine, April 10, 2007
Democratic Leaders

Do you trust the Democratic leaders in Congress to take up gay rights issues?*

- No: 68%
- Yes: 32%

Total: 1016

* Taken from Advocate Magazine, January 30, 2007
Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell Policy

Will Congress abolish "don't ask, don't tell" this year?*

* Taken from Advocate Magazine
Gay Acceptance in Hollywood

Now that Ellen, a gay woman, has landed the hosting gig for the Oscars, do you think an openly gay man will follow suit?*

* Taken from Advocate Magazine, March 27, 2007
USC LGBT Student Experiences
USC Experiences for LGBT students

- Fall 2006, seven student narratives collected from LGBT students affiliated with the center

- Question: Think back over your experience as a college student and identify one incident or experience on campus that reinforced being a racial/ethnic minority or incidents based upon your sexual orientation and gender on campus. This could have been either positive or negative.

- 4 experiences were negative while 3 were positive

- Homophobia was a major theme presented from the experiences
Experience #1

“I have had very few negative experiences on the USC campus in regards to being homosexual. Since I do not consider myself a racial minority, this is not something I have had to deal with. I believe USC in general fosters a supportive environment for minorities both in sexual orientation and race. I can remember once when a group of "frat-ish" guys threw a pink circus animal cookie at a friend of mine, who is gay, in front of Leavey Library. They then said something like "fag." This is the only incident of direct homophobia that I have witness while here.”
Significance & Resolution

“I think this experience was important to remind me that people do actually still exist out there who fear others. Being of a minority sexual orientation, this is probably something I will always have to deal with to some degree. However, it is just another exercise to fight back against hatred.”

“I believe in this situation my friend and I just ignored the perpetrators. They were not worth wasting our time.”
LESBIAN GAY BISEXUAL TRANSGENDER RESOURCE CENTER

USC Campus Resources
How can allies help?
What can you do?

• Speak Out against inequality

• Get Involved with LGBT events or organizations

• Educate Yourself about the LGBT community

• Be Visible as an ally