

**EMORY UNIVERSITY. OFFICE OF  
LESBIAN/GAY/BISEXUAL LIFE.  
Office of Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/  
Transgender Life records, 1979-2012**

Emory University  
Emory University Archives  
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library  
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Digital Material Available in this Collection

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## Descriptive Summary

**Creator:** Emory University. Office of Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Life.  
**Title:** Office of Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Life records, 1979-2012  
**Call Number:** Series No. 208  
**Extent:** 4.75 linear ft. (10 boxes)  
**Abstract:** The Office of Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender (LGBT) Life records contain files that were created by the Office and by Emory LGBT student groups from 1979 to 2012 documenting campus protests and controversies, as well as campaigns for policy changes related to discrimination and harassment prevention and same-sex partner benefits.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

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## Administrative Information

### Restrictions on Access

Special restrictions apply: Selected material is closed in accordance with Emory University Archives policy for personnel records.

### Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

### Related Materials in This Repository

President's Commission on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns records (Series 28)

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**Source**

Transfer, 2012 and 2015

**Citation**

[after identification of item(s)], Office of Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Life records, Emory University Archives, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

**Processing**

Processed by Michael Hessel-Mial, 2012.

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**Collection Description****Administrative History**

The Emory University Office of Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Life was founded in 1991 as the Office of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Student Life. Together with the President's Commission on LGBT Concerns (later renamed the President's Commission on Sexuality, Gender Diversity, and Queer Equality) and student activism, the Office precipitated several changes in Emory policy, including the addition of sexual orientation and gender identity to the University equal opportunity policy, and creating same-sex partner benefits for University employees. The Office, under the direction of Saralyn Chesnut, also provided leadership in several controversies. Notable among these were the 1992 protests over the harassment of two gay students, and the "Oxford affair," in which President William Chace and the Board of Trustees came into conflict over whether same-sex couples could use Emory facilities to hold commitment ceremonies. The Office was renamed the Office of Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Life in 1998.

The advocacy and programming of the Office was preceded and bolstered by the activities of various student groups, beginning with the Committee on Gay Education (COGE) in 1977. In 1983 COGE had reincorporated as Student Action for Human Rights (SAHR) in an effort to include non-LGBT allies. In 1986 the organization reincorporated as the Emory and Lesbian and Gay Organization (ELGO). In the late 1980s and early 1990s, ELGO raised the profile of LGBT students by campaigning aggressively for the revised equal opportunity policy, and by having its leaders appear in interviews in Emory student publications. In 1995, ELGO merged with OUTstaff, a similar group for University employees, to form the Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual and Allies League (GLOBAL). Since then, LGBT groups have emerged representing nearly all of the divisions of the University, including Emory Pride for Emory College, Rainbow Oxford Student Alliance for Oxford College, and Sacred Worth for Candler School of Theology, among others.

**Scope and Content Note**

Series 1 contains the records of the Office of Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Life. The bulk of the series is comprised of a chronological file of articles and correspondence on Emory and Atlanta LGBT history created by the Office itself on the occasion of its 20th anniversary. These files include material on a 1992 harassment incident that provoked wide protests and galvanized the LGBT voice on campus. Other notable contents include files on the national controversy known as the "Oxford affair," in which President William Chace and the Board of Trustees came

into conflict over whether same-sex couples could use Emory facilities to hold commitment ceremonies.

Series 2 contains material generated during the operations of Emory's various Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender student groups from 1979-2007. Material type varies by organization, with the earliest group files, Committee on Gay Education and Student Action for Human Rights, containing group charters and budget material, and later groups, like Emory Lesbian and Gay Organization and Gay Lesbian Or Bisexual and Allies League containing correspondence, printed material, and photographs. Emory Pride materials include a binder of forms, meeting minutes, and other materials used in the administration of the group. Notable contents include Emory Lesbian and Gay Organization's binder titled, "The Fight for Freedom," which details the campaign to add sexual orientation to the University equal opportunity statement. Additional contents of interest include correspondence from Oxford students disputing how harassment could be defined and policed.

Series 3 contains the captured and preserved website of the Office of LGBT Life available to browse via the Web Archiving Service of the California Digital Library.

**Arrangement Note**

Organized into 3 series: (1) Office of LGBT Life records, (2) LGBT Student Group records, and (3) Web archives.

## **Description of Series**

[Series 1: Office of LGBT Life records, 1981-2012](#)

[Series 2: LGBT Student Group records, 1979-2007](#)

[Series 3: Web archives, 2012-](#)

**Series 1**  
**Office of LGBT Life records, 1981-2012**  
**Boxes 1-5**

**Scope and Content Note**

The series contains the records of the Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender life. The bulk of the series is comprised by a chronological file of articles and correspondence on Emory and Atlanta LGBT history created by the Office itself on the occasion of its 20th anniversary. These files include material on a 1992 harassment incident that provoked wide protests and galvanized the LGBT community on campus. Other notable contents include files on the national controversy known as the “Oxford Affair,” in which President Chace and the Board of Trustees came into conflict over whether same-sex couples could use Emory facilities to hold commitment ceremonies.

**Arrangement Note**

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
1	1	Brochure from the Center for Ethics at Emory, 2010
1	2	Chick-Fil-A campaign, 2012
1	3	Domestic partner benefits at Emory University, benefit programs at other institutions, 1990-1994
1	4	Domestic partner benefits at Emory University, correspondence, 1992-1994
1	5	Domestic partner benefits at Emory University, printed material, 1994-1996
1	6	Domestic partner benefits at Emory University, policy proposal drafts, 1994-1995
1	7	Domestic partner benefits at Emory University, survey of other institutions, 1993
1	8	Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, description of contents, 2010
1	9	Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 1981-1986
1	10	Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 1987
1	11	Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 1988
1	12	Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 1989
1	13	Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 1980s
1	14	Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 1990
1	15	Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 1991
1	16	Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 1992 January-March [some material removed and restricted until 2067]
2	1	Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 1992 April-December
2	2	Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 1993
2	3	Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 1994
2	4	Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 1995

- 2 5 Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 1996
- 2 6 Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 1997 January – September  
[some materials removed and restricted until 2072]
- 2 7 Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 1997 October-December
- 3 1 Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 1998
- 3 2 Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 1999
- 3 3 Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 1990s
- 3 4 Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 2000
- 3 5 Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 2001
- 3 6 Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 2002 [selected material  
removed and restricted until 2077]
- 3 7 Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 2003 [selected material  
removed and restricted until 2078]
- 3 8 Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 2004 January-February  
[selected material removed and restricted until 2079]
- 3 9 Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 2004 March-November
- 3 10 Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 2005
- 3 11 Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 2006
- 3 12 Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 2007
- 3 13 Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 2008
- 4 1 Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 2009
- 4 2 Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 2000s
- 4 3 Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 2010
- 4 4 Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 2011
- 4 5 Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 2012
- 4 6 Emory University Equal Opportunity policies, 1998
- 4 7 Emory Wheel's National Coming Out Day special section, 2000
- 4 8 Financial records, 1992-1998
- 4 9 Logbook, 1991-1994
- 4 10 Newsletters, 1997-2001
- 4 11 Advisory committee manual, 2009
- 4 12 Oxford affair, articles, 1996-1997
- 4 13 Oxford affair, correspondence, 1997-1998
- 5 1 Oxford affair, public statements, 1997 May-November
- 5 2 Oxford affair, reference material, 1997
- 5 3 Oxford affair, report, 1997
- 5 4 Photographs, negatives from the book *The Shared Heart*, circa 1997
- 5 5 Posters, 1980s-2000s
- 5 6 President's Commission on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender concerns,  
1993-2008

5	7	President's Commission on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender concerns, Essay competition, 1998-2003
5	8	President's Commission on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender concerns, floppy disk, 1998
5	9	Pride Awards, 1997-2013
6	1	Programming, 1999-2000
6	2	Programming, 2000-2001
6	3	Programming, 2004-2005
6	4	Programming, 2005-2006
6	5	Programming, 2006-2007
6	6	Programming, 2007-2008
6	7	Programming, 2008-2009
6	8	Programming, 2013-2014
6	9	Sign-in sheets, undated [2002-2006?]
6	10	Space Redevelopment plan, 2008
6	11	Speaker Bureau and Safe Space Training Procedures, undated [after 2007]
9	1	Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 1992 January-March [removed and restricted until 2067]
9	2	Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 1997 January-September [removed an restricted until 2072]
9	3	Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 2002 [removed an restricted until 2077]
9	4	Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 2003 [removed an restricted until 2078]
9	5	Emory and Atlanta LGBT history, chronological file, 2004 [removed an restricted until 2079]
10		T-shirts and 2014 Atlanta Pride fan

**Series 2**  
**LGBT Student Group records, 1979-2007**  
**Boxes 6-7**

**Scope and Content Note**

The series contains material generated during the operations of Emory various lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender student groups from 1979-2007. Material type varies by organization, with the first group files containing group charters and budget material, and later groups containing correspondence, printed material and photographs. Notable contents include Emory Lesbian and Gay Organization's binder titled, "The Fight for Freedom," which details the campaign to add sexual orientation to the University's equal opportunity statement. Additional contents include correspondence from Oxford College students disputing over how harassment could be defined and policed.

**Arrangement Note**

Arranged by group name in chronological order.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
7	1	Committee on Gay Education, charter with Student Government Association, 1979
7	2	Student Action for Human Rights, correspondence and budget, 1983-1985
7	3	ELGO (Emory Lesbian and Gay Organization), binder, "The Fight for Freedom," correspondence and printed material related to the inclusion of sexual orientation on Emory's equal opportunity policy, 1987-1988
7	4	ELGO, reference material on Yale University's campaign to include sexual orientation on its equal opportunity statement, 1980-1986
7	5	ELGO, general correspondence and printed material, 1988-1992
7	6	ELGO, photographs, undated
7	7	ELGO, statements of support for including sexual orientation to Emory University equal opportunity statement, 1987
7	8	ELGO, Task Force on Equal Opportunity, 1987-1988
7	9	GLOBAL (Gay, Lesbian Or Bisexual and Allies League), 1995-1998
7	10	GLOBAL, National Coming Out Day advertisement in The Emory Wheel, release forms for personal testimony, 1997
8	1	GLOBAL, photographs, Emory Pride, undated
8	2	Emory Pride, binder, constitutions, 2000-2005
8	3	Emory Pride, binder, executive committee meeting minutes, 2005-2007
8	4	Emory Pride, binder, forms, 2005-2007
8	5	Emory Pride, binder, fliers, 2004-2007
8	6	Emory Pride, binder, general body meeting minutes, 2005-2007
8	7	Emory Pride, binder, campus and community resources, 2003-2006
8	8	Emory Health Alliance, constitution, undated
8	9	ROSA (Rainbow Oxford Student Alliance), correspondence, 1999-2000



8	10	ROSA, LearnLink conference on harassment, November 13, 2000
8	11	Sacred Worth, 2004-2011

### **Series 3**

#### **Web archives, 2012- web sites**

#### **Scope and Content Note**

Series 3 consists of captured and preserved web pages from the Emory University Office of Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Life that are made available through the Web Archiving Service of the California Digital Library.

The Emory Office of Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Life website ([http://www.emory.edu/CAMPUS\\_LIFE/LGBTOFFICE/](http://www.emory.edu/CAMPUS_LIFE/LGBTOFFICE/)) features information about programs and events, campus organizations, resources, and University policy related to LGBT concerns for students, alumni, faculty, and staff.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
Online		Emory University Office of Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Life web archive, 2012- <a href="#">[Resource available online]</a>

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