

Introduction

Hello and welcome! My name is Rhaynie, and I am the communications chair for a new group called Pride of Capstone.

I believe that leadership is a collaborative effort between everyone in the group. In some way, shape, or form, everyone should have a say. Leaders are on the frontlines doing the hard work that makes everything happen. They strive to be better people for themselves and for the people looking up to them.

My leadership experience includes but is not limited to:

- Organizing events for Pride of Capstone.
- Being a section leader and drum major in my high school's marching band.
- Being an instructor with said marching band after graduation.
- Organizing service opportunities as an officer of my county's chapter of the National Honors Society.
- Being involved in several service opportunities that involved creating and facilitating events for students of different age groups.

I look forward to talking with you about my vision. Please feel free to ask me any questions you may have about the project!

Aim

Within the University, there are a striking amount of LGBTQIA+ students that are completely unaware of the resources that the UofSC provides for them. Communities such as QCafé and IRIS are amazing; however, they have difficulty bringing in new members, especially freshman. Also, their main purpose is for discussion, information, and activism. These are all incredibly important, but there does not seem to be a purely social group for LGBTQIA+ students.

If there was an active group for LGBTQIA+ students on campus, it would be much easier to give out the information about other LGBTQIA+ groups on campus, while simultaneously creating a safe and low stress environment where students can be themselves around other LGBTQIA+ people. This would increase the turn out to the other groups on campus and may even bring in some new members that will become future leaders.

Method

The purpose of Pride of Capstone is to provide a low stress social environment for LGBTQIA+ students on campus. Our primary targets are members of the Capstone Scholars Program; however, we do not plan to turn any non-Capstone Scholars away.

We plan on achieving this goal through bi-weekly get-togethers. The date and time of these are determined through a vote at the beginning of the semester. This is because everyone's schedules change from semester to semester, and we try to accommodate for that. Activities include the standard game night, movie night, and study session night, but we also do more out-there events such as Dungeons and Dragons, pajama parties, and PowerPoint parties!

Potential Partners:

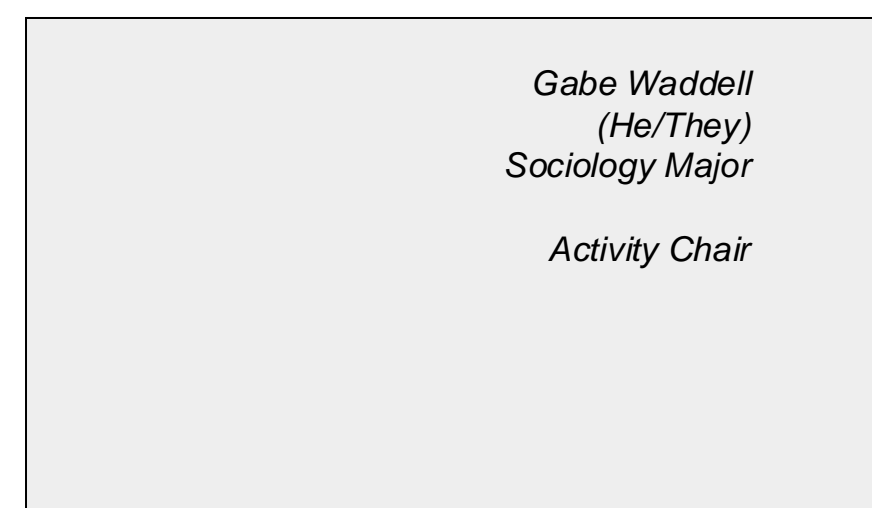
- Office of Multicultural Student Affairs (OMSA)
- Capstone Scholars
- Leadership and Service Center

Other Executive Members:



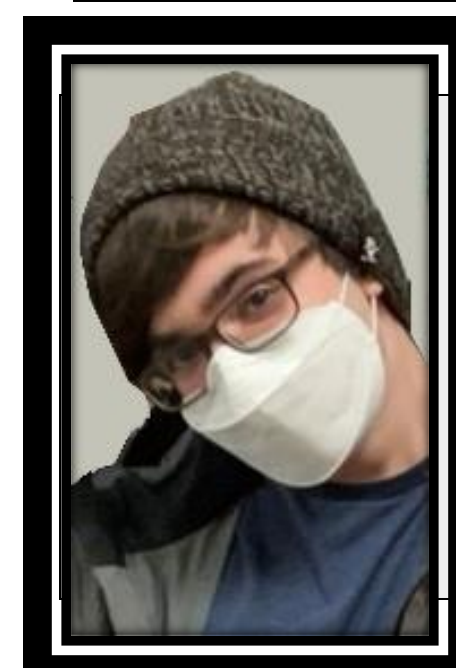
*Fern Walker
(They/Them)
Music Education Major

Scheduling Chair*



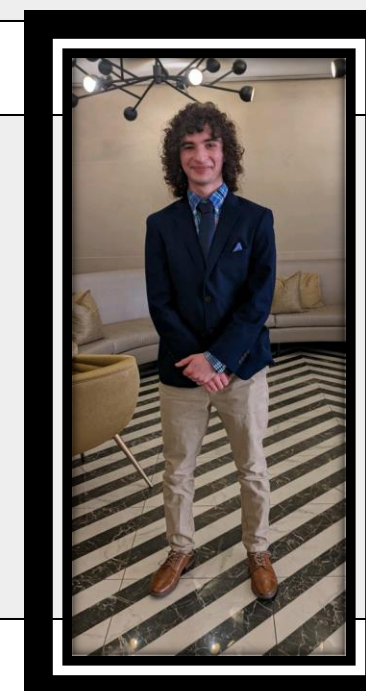
*Gabe Waddell
(He/They)
Sociology Major

Activity Chair*



*Alex Cone
(He/Him)
Finance Major

Treasurer and D&D Chair*



Detailed Action Plan

1. Continue with regular Bi-Weekly meetings.

This will contribute to our overall goal of creating a social space.
2. Continue with regular Executive meetings.

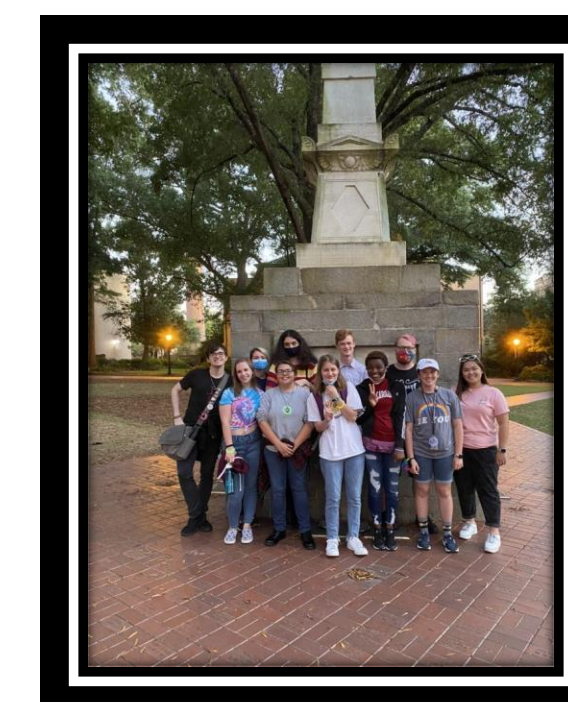
This is to ensure consistency among leadership and to make sure feedback is properly considered.
3. Create a Pride of Capstone Discord to go with the GroupMe. Date expected: 2-28-2022

Our Discord will be a center for creating virtual events!
4. Continue to work on our Constitution. Date expected: 4-7-2022

We are currently in the process of becoming an official campus organization on Garnet Gate!
5. Get involved with LGBTQ+ events on campus.
 1. Stay connected with OMSA. Read the newsletter and keep an eye on QCafe dates.
 2. Look into participating in local LGBTQ+ events off campus such as Carolina Pride and working with the Harriet Hancock Center.
6. Have the executives go through Safe Zone Training.

Being an executive not only entails organizing events. Part of our job is to keep our members safe, especially when we do activities off campus.

A Peek of What We've Done So Far!



A photo taken before we took a group to Carolina Pride in October.

A picture we took together after watching "Into the Spiderverse" with our stuffed animals during our Pyjama Movie Night!



Evaluation

What success would look like to us is seeing each LGBTQIA+ group on campus grow: not just our own. The purpose of Pride of Capstone is to create a low stress environment, but it also is to raise awareness to the other groups and resources on campus.

Another way we plan to measure our success is through the feedback we get after every meeting. We check and see how people enjoyed the activity to see if should be repeated in the future. We also make sure that no one was uncomfortable with anything, since the whole point of these meetings is to have fun and make friends!

Conclusions

Pride of Capstone is all about creating a safe and supportive community around those who may not have that back at home. We want to help students, especially freshman, for connections with their LGBTQIA+ peers. We also want to raise awareness to all of the other amazing LGBTQIA+ resources on campus so that they can also get more involvement.

Questions?

Please feel free to ask any questions you may have!