

MSU Stories of the Pride

Queer Students of MSU

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PREFACE

[[**TODO:** Include background information/motivation on this collection]]

LGBTQ+ IDENTITIES

[[**TODO:** Have members of the MSU LGBTQ+ community (QSA, oSTEM, etc.) write about the identities making it more primary source material!]]

ASEXUAL

The dictionary defines asexuality as not having sexual feelings toward others, not experiencing sexual desire or attraction [1]. [[**TODO:** Work with MSU's LGBTQ+ community to further define asexual.]]

BISEXUAL

According to the dictionary, bisexuality is defined as of, relating to, or characterized by sexual or romantic attraction to people of one's same sex and of the opposite sex [2].

GAY

The term gay has a little more complex meaning. For example, the dictionary defines it as of, relating to, or characterized by sexual or romantic attraction to people of one's same sex, usually referring to males [3]. It also says of, relating to, or intended for people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, etc [3]. Therefore gay doesn't just refer to one group.

GENDER FLUID

Gender fluid is defined as of, relating to, or being a person whose gender identity is not fixed [4].

LESBIAN

The dictionary defines lesbian as of, relating to, or characterized by sexual or romantic attraction to other women or between women [5]. It also shares an interesting fact about the origin of the term. Sappho of Lesbos (c. 610-c. 580 b.c. lead a female religion and educational community where she would write poetry for and about other women [5].

NONBINARY

Nonbinary is defined by the dictionary as relating to or being a person who identifies with or expresses a gender identity that is neither entirely male nor entirely female [6].

PANSEXUAL

Pansexual is defined as of, relating to, or characterized by sexual or romantic attraction that is not limited to people of a particular gender identity or sexual orientation [7].

ACADEMIC YEAR: 2019-2020

ANONYMOUS (JUNIOR): PICK AND CHOOSE

I had a conservative upbringing wherein the idea of being binary was inherent and somewhat drilled into us, children. Those were the underpinnings of a culture I had to take a hiatus from, when I came to America at 17 and my entire foundation of navigating identities was dismantled by my engagement at MSU. I starting questioning but that only made me increasingly frustrated, as I had a conflict brewing inside me. At this time, a close friend of mine and a member of the MSU LGBTQ+ community told me something, that changed my entire perspective on having an intersectional identity. He said, "You need to pick and choose a person to love, not a gender" and that defined the rest of my experience at MSU.

-Cell Biology & Neuroscience

BRITNEY (MASTERS): FINALLY, A REALIZATION

I never realized my sexual identity and now that I have, I'm much happier. The signs were all there, I even joked about being a lesbian or told it to guys when I didn't want to go on dates. Turns out it was true! Basically, long story short, my best friend in Bozeman moved and I was lonely. I was 22 and for the first time started to consider that maybe I wanted a relationship. Shortly after a guy asked me out. Now I've never been attracted to a guy in my life, but I said yes. I assumed that's how it was for all people. The funny thing is I had been attracted to girls in the past, I just never realized what that was either. This guy and I had been dating for a while when I began to realize I was in love with a friend from high school. Shortly before things ended with him, I reached out to her. I told myself we were just friends. She ended up being my first kiss. Another long story short, she ended up breaking my heart. However, I realized something valuable. Turns out, I was not straight; I am a lesbian! I started looking into dating girls and getting involved in the MSU LGBTQ+ community. There I found a wonderful group of friends

and encouraging community. All in all, I am so thankful I was able to meet these people and explore my identity with them. It's been an interesting, amazing ride!

-Computer Science

SHAMARRA HARDEMAN:

After discovering my Not So Straight™ identity in my second year I started frequenting the Queer Straight Alliance every week. The president at the time, Jamie, introduced the game Werewolf to the group. I thought it was a great bonding experience for the local queers, and it was easy to build a lot of strong connections and friendships through this game for me. So the following year once they had left I decided I wanted to start running these games more often in qsa just after the meeting. It's a lot of crazy stories of betrayal, trust, and friendship and I think it's absolutely amazing! At this point that was two years ago now and we have a tradition of doing it at the end of almost every meeting and then we go to IHOP and talk to the amazing waitress and hang out there for an hour or two. I guess it's not just one story, but I've seen this continuing event bring people out of their bubbles and create strong friendships that have lasted and I really enjoy it!

-Political Science

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

[[**TODO:** Include acknowledgments of those that helped and want credit]]

LGBTQ+ IDENTITIES

Asexual: [[**TODO:** Names of people who helped write asexual section]]

Bisexual: [[**TODO:** Names of people who helped write bisexual section]]

Gay: [[**TODO:** Names of people who helped write gay section]]

Gender Fluid: [[**TODO:** Names of people who helped write gender fluid section]]

Lesbian: [[**TODO:** Names of people who helped write lesbian section]]

Nonbinary: [[**TODO:** Names of people who helped write nonbinary section]]

Pansexual: [[**TODO:** Names of people who helped write pansexual section]]

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- [1] ASEXUAL. Merriam-Webster. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/asexual>, 2020.
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- [5] LESBIAN. Merriam-Webster. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/lesbian>, 2020.
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