

Campus' LGBT community celebrates fourth annual pride week

By Kallie Gould



From left to right, Andre Christian (President of the NSU chapter of LEGASI), Kim Williams (Vice President) and Asia Page (Historian and Creativity Manager). Under faculty advisement from Dr. Charles Ford, LEGASI (Leading the Education of Gay and Straight Individuals) has had one mission since its conception and it's to live up to & go beyond the organization's namesake. Photo by Tykhari Coles

From Apr. 7 to Apr. 11, the Leading the Education of Gay and Straight Individuals, also known as LEGASI, held its fourth annual Pride Week.

It included events from the "Hot Topics Forum" to "Lip Sync for your Life Competition and Talent Show." Members also established a presence in the Student Center with representatives set up to draw attention to the group and answer questions about the movement and their existence on campus.

The week culminated on Apr. 11 with a "Cultural Pride Ball", which over 150 people attended.

This year's Pride Week theme, "Pride In The Colors," was planned by LEGASI E-board members sophomores Kimberly Williams and Taneisha Hurt, juniors Jasmine Adkins and Asia Paige, freshman Keiyah Allen, and the LEGASI Presi-

dent, graduating senior Andre' Christian.

Christian said the goal of Pride Week was "to increase awareness about the LGBT community in the Hampton Roads area by exposing populations to appreciate cultural differences. It's our desire to be a resource for cultural competency, human rights and social justice."

"In a world where people are becoming more open about their sexuality, and the social norms of society are constantly being challenged, the LGBT community must be able to join together to let their voices be heard in a safe space. NSU LEGASI has been committed to fulfilling that mission at the intersection of being black and gay. Over the years, our supporting allies, especially faculty, have been pivotal in the success of our organization. We appreciate the embracing

spirit on our campus that's tolerant of our movement," said Christian.

NSU is the first and the only HBCU to host a LGBT Pride Week. The first pride week took place in March 2011 and was started by former NSU student and former LEGASI president, Toni-Michelle Williams.

"I started pride week because it simply was time!" exclaimed Williams. "During that era of my life, I was finding my voice and place as a student leader, a member of the black LGBT community and ultimately as a Spartan. I wanted to see something different on campus; something for me and something for my friends to enjoy and be a part of." Williams went on to point out that many other groups were already represented on campus, everyone from Caribbean descendants to commuter students to Christian bible study.

"I'm proud that people are still walking up to the table to add in the pieces necessary to further our movement," said Williams. "There were and are so many stereotypes, stigmas and myths that surrounded our community that no one had access to the truth because we simply were not visible. So it was time and it will always be time until everyone gets it."

And there is still work to be done as far as LEGASI is concerned. "We can't do this fight alone. Many gays, including non-black, stood with blacks for the fight for equality; we must be able to reciprocate their efforts of equality. In closing, I'm reminded by Dr. Martin Luther King, 'injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere,'" noted Christian.

A change in social media preference may be on the rise

By Danielle Kirsh

Currently, Facebook and Twitter are no longer the preferred social media networks and may soon be the networks of the past.

Many young adults are ditching the larger social media and migrating to other smaller networks, like Snapchat and Vine.

In 2013, Snapchat, Vine and YouTube were the most popular social networking apps, according to businessinsider.com.

As of Apr. 17, Snapchat and Instagram have been downloaded more frequently than Twitter and Facebook in Apple's app store.

However, Facebook and Twitter still dominate in total numbers with Facebook hav-

ing 1.2 billion users, and Twitter having 240 million.

Facebook is also becoming a larger company than the social networking website we've come to know.

In Feb., Facebook bought the messaging app Whatsapp, with its more than 450 million users, for \$19 billion. Facebook also purchased the photo-sharing network Instagram, which has more than 150 million users.

The other social networks provide essentially the same features, but with fewer parents, grandparents and other family members that Facebook tends to have. These smaller networks are increasingly becoming more preferred by young adults.

According to a Pew Research

Internet Project study, teens and young adults cited that they disliked the "increasing number of adults" on Facebook along with the "drama" and "inane details" their friends of-

ten share.

Those who use Twitter and Instagram reported to the study that they felt like they could "better express themselves on these platforms."



As of late, the original social networks of this generation, such as MySpace and Facebook, are losing their relevance. Graphic by Tykhari Coles