Light, Liberty, and Pride: LGBTQ Activism at UNC-CH

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Senior Division
Individual Exhibit
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As I read *The Color Purple*, a novel about a queer black woman in the South, I became fascinated with the topic of Southern queer culture. Upon further research, though, I discovered that the early gay liberation movement was centered in urban areas and that queer history in the South was either sparse or lost. In an effort to give a voice to those silenced by homophobia, I began researching and discovered a thesis written by Hooper Schultz at the University of Mississippi. Schultz provided an in-depth analysis of the Carolina Gay Association (CGA), including its goals and activism, opposition and struggles, and its continuing legacy. I was simultaneously in awe of such activism and furious at the erasure of such a profound organization.

Schultz’s thesis became the backdrop of my research and I used it to identify subtopics such as Lambda and the Southeastern Gay Conference (SEGCs). I also shuffled through LGBTQ Center and CGA records at the Wilson Library at UNC-CH to find the majority of my primary sources. Since I wanted to do original research of my own, I spent weeks reading The Daily Tar Heel and Lambda archives that spanned over three decades. Although I had a lot of primary sources, I lacked the commentary I needed from secondary sources. Therefore, I interviewed Katelyn Campbell, a Sexuality Studies Research Assistant at UNC-CH, to understand more about the CGA’s activism and funding battles. I also listened to thirteen oral histories of former CGA members and queer North Carolinians conducted by the Southern Oral History Program to understand the LGBTQ scene in the South in the late-twentieth century.
Finally, I interviewed members of the Sexuality and Gender Alliance, the current version of CGA, to understand CGA’s legacy.

My goal was to create a physical project that made a statement like a roadblock or stop sign. I was tired of queer history erasure and I wanted to make a statement. Therefore, I decided to create an exhibit: something wooden and sturdy to represent the hard-hitting impact of CGA but also modern because LGBTQ activism is an ongoing movement. I decided to pair the mild Carolina blue paint with bright rainbow lettering and paper to display CGA’s continuing commitment to the welfare of students, despite opposition from the university administration.

The theme “Breaking Barriers in History” refers to people or organizations in history that represented change and destroyed opposition. The CGA did just that— they broke the barrier of institutionalized homophobia in the South by advocating for queer people and creating an accepting atmosphere for them. They broke barriers within the queer community by discussing important yet controversial topics like drug use, AIDS, and diversity. The CGA also broke barriers in the Southeast by organizing conferences where community activists came together to coalesce their efforts. It’s shocking that CGA isn’t hailed as an important historical queer organization for their remarkable activism and it’s time to recover queer history in the South.
ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

PRIMARY SOURCES


https://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/sohp/id/15212/rec/1

This interview really helped me understand the importance and context of the Southeastern Gay Conferences (SEGCs). James “Jim” Baxter was one of the attendees of many early Southeastern Gay Conferences. In his interview, he described the set up of the conference and how it was organized. Baxter was also the founder of The Front Page, one of the earliest queer newspapers in the Southeast. He described how his motivation to start the newspaper was from the conference and that many other activists were also inspired by the SEGCs in a similar way. Baxter also described the impact of the conference and explained how for most activists, the SEGCs were the only way to meet other activists in the South. I used several of his quotes on my exhibit and in my supplementary scrapbook.


https://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/sohp/id/19215/rec/4

This interview helped me understand how the Carolina Gay Association formed. Dean Donald Boulton was in charge of Student Affairs during the time the CGA submitted its Application for Recognition. I was initially surprised that he had approved the CGA so
quickly but this interview helped clarify why: Boulton had traveled to historically significant places like Germany where he had learned about the abuse and torture of queer people. This inspired him to accept the CGA right away. He also describes how he received harsh criticism from the university administration for his acceptance. People were not pleased with his actions but Boulton had proper evidence to back up his stance. He described how in response to the harsh mails he received, he compiled a list of court decisions in the US at the time that had stated that recognition denial of queer student groups violated the 14th Amendment. Despite his efforts, he and CGA continued to receive backlash. I used a quote of his in my supplementary scrapbook.


This article described a certain part of the Carolina Gay and Lesbian Association (CGLA) budget meeting of 1992. Eric Pratt, a Representative in the Student Congress, led the opposition to funding the CGLA. When the CGLA’s budget was approved, he stood up and shouted, “You’re all a bunch of faggots!” I used this article on my exhibit as an example of outright homophobia on campus. Pratt was censured by the Student Congress Ethics Committee; however, funding struggles did not end there and Pratt was still supported by the majority of the student body.

https://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/sohp/id/19274/rec/7
Gary Carden was a gay man who lived in Chapel Hill in the 1970s and 1980s. His interview provided much-needed insight into the LGBTQ scene in Chapel Hill. Although Chapel Hill was described as pretty liberal and accepting, I was unsure of just how comfortable they were with the idea of homosexuality. Carden explained how the gay bar scene was sparse in Chapel Hill and often, bars would shut down quickly due to low levels of support. He described how being gay in Chapel Hill at that time wasn’t threatening in any way but it certainly wasn’t accepted in the mainstream. I used a quote from him in my supplementary scrapbook.

https://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/sohp/id/19277/rec/8

Dr. James Carmichael’s interview helped me understand the issues within the LGBTQ community in the South, specifically in Georgia and North Carolina. He elaborated on drug use and alcoholism within the queer community. Often, queer people wouldn’t get help because there were fewer resources to help them overcome the struggles they faced. With most gay relationships and culture being extremely casual, talking about mental health issues and drug use became taboo and toxic. He also explained how the LGBTQ community in Chapel Hill was mostly hidden away from daily life, with queer people only having entertainment after 10 PM. He said, “There were days when I thought I was the gay community. Yeah, that’s how bad that was.” I used this quote in my supplementary scrapbook to emphasize how little resources existed for the queer community.
Carolina Gay Association Records #40491, University Archives, The Wilson Library,
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

This collection of records housed at the Wilson Library was my most important primary source. This collection contained hundreds of significant documents, like newspaper clippings, pictures of people in CGA, and fliers/letters. Most of the pictures displayed on my exhibit, especially those in the “Background” and “Breaking Barriers” section came from this source. I found examples of activism conducted by CGA and documents written by them, like pamphlets and fliers, that described their goals and mission. This source helped me dig into the many accomplishments of CGA and understand its true impact on society.


This was an article I read while researching the Daily Tar Heel archives on DigitalNC. It described a conference attended by local politicians in Chapel Hill and one of their discussions about homosexuality. The officials explained how recently, there had been numerous attacks on people belonging to the queer community. Political bashing explicitly affected Joe Herzenberg, the first elected gay politician in Chapel Hill who was a councilman at the time. This article helped me understand the divide between the straight and queer community in Chapel Hill at the time and I used this clipping in my supplementary scrapbook.

After talking to Hooper Schultz about his thesis and the Carolina Gay Association, he was gracious enough to share the recordings and transcripts of the interviews he conducted as part of his research. This interview was with Dan Leanord, one of the graduate students who founded the CGA. This interview proved to be extremely useful in helping me understand the initial goals of CGA, which was to improve acceptance on campus. I also learned a lot about the Southeastern Gay Conferences, including how they formed, the planning efforts, and what their goals were. Dan Leanord has been quoted on my exhibit and in my supplementary scrapbook several times.

David Haltiwanger. Interview with Hooper Schultz. 12 December 2018

David Haltiwanger was another member of CGA and this interview helped me understand the goals of the Southeastern Gay Conferences (SEGCs). Haltiwanger told a little story in his interview about how he unknowingly reunited with his distant brother after they had met at a conference. Neither of them was out to each other and despite being embarrassed initially, they had a lot of fun together. He also described how his brother eventually went home with one of Haltiwanger’s friends, which helped me understand the role of the SEGCs as a social space. Even though many activists gathered to enact political change, the SEGCs were also places of entertainment and social mixing. The lack of queer spaces in the South was overwhelming and the SEGCs gave people an opportunity to mingle with other queer people. Haltiwanger has been quoted in my supplementary scrapbook.
This interview with Dr. Henry Phelps Gates helped me understand more about the early gay liberation movement in the Southeast. Dr. Gates compared the gay communities and activism in New York, Washington D.C., and Chapel Hill. He emphasized how despite being more accepting than other cities in the South, Chapel Hill still wasn’t a center of gay activism like D.C. and New York were. This helped me put the Carolina Gay Association’s work in context and showed me how important and necessary it was for them to exist and be funded.


This article described homophobic vandalism of the Cube, a popular spot on campus where posters and fliers for clubs were hung. One side of the Cube advertised a dance for the Carolina Gay and Lesbian Association, however, someone had vandalized it by painting slurs on them. I used this clipping on my exhibit as an example of homophobia on campus.

Hardin signs resolution, in the Office of Chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: Michael Hooker Records #40026, University Archives, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
This source is a group of letters sent by both the ACLU and the CGLA urging Chancellor Hardin to sign a resolution that expressed support for overturning the ban on gays in the military. The letter contained articles about gay people who were denied the opportunity to serve their country from national news agencies like the Washington Post and the New York Times. The last page in this folder had a copy of the signed resolution, which I used on my exhibit in the “Political Activism” section. It’s also worth noting that this source helped me understand the pushback the university administration faced in response to their efforts to help the CGA. Members of university organizations quit and sent angry letters to Chancellor Hardin claiming their resignation was due to Hardin’s support for “fags in the military.” Despite the CGLA’s enormous efforts, homophobia was still deeply rooted within the university.

https://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/sohp/id/8899/rec/1

Joe Herzenberg was the first gay politician elected in Chapel Hill. I used this interview to understand the gay community in Chapel Hill but I also found a really interesting example of political activism conducted by the Carolina Gay Association (CGA). One day, a group of CGA members went to a local Board of Aldermen meeting and requested that the term “affectional preference” be added to the government employee nondiscrimination policy. The Alderman agreed and voted in favor of this addition, thus making Chapel Hill one of only four cities at the time to include sexual orientation in their nondiscrimination ordinances. Despite this being a huge victory for the CGA, it
was neither celebrated nor even covered by local newspapers. I used a quote from Herzenberg on my exhibit to showcase this monumental achievement.


Bill Hull was a local gay man who lived in Chapel Hill. His interview elaborated on the gay bar scene in North Carolina. He describes how only one or two gay bars existed in Chapel Hill at the time. He also explained how there wasn’t much discrimination or violence at the bars and that he had never witnessed any bar raids. This interview came as a shock to me because it countered a lot of information I had learned from other sources. Upon further discussion with Hooper Schultz and Katelyn Campbell, two CGA historians, I understood that the “bar gays” and the “political gays” were often two separate types of people. I used a quote from Bill Hull to further explain how although Chapel Hill was tolerant of the existence of homosexual people, it wasn’t as fond of queer people who advocated for their rights.


This article described discrimination faced by lesbians and gay men as told by speakers of a local conference. It was really important for me to understand the context of the Carolina Gay Association’s work. The CGA was extraordinary because it effected a lot of change in an area that was often dangerous for queer people to live. As seen in this clip, queer people had to deal with discrimination in the workplace on top of
discrimination from almost all other facets of society. As a university organization, the CGA worked with many graduating seniors to help them obtain safe jobs and warned them of discrimination in the workplace. The clipping was used in my supplementary scrapbook to hone in on the CGA’s numerous resources for queer people in the Triangle area.

King, Bob and Carolina Gay Association Steering Committee. "CGA Funds- financing a lifestyle or educating students?" The Daily Tar Heel (Chapel Hill, Nc.), November 22, 1976. DigitalNC.


This two-part article contained both the opinion of an anti-CGA student as well as a direct response from the CGA Steering Committee, detailing exactly why they should be funded. Ever since the CGA was approved, students had been sending in letters arguing why the CGA shouldn’t exist to the Daily Tar Heel columns and editors. Often, the CGA didn’t respond directly but after seeing a lot of issues around funding for the first time, they decided to speak up. Normally, these writings would contain the names of their authors however a note at the bottom of the CGA’s response explained how they refused to put their names due to harassment from other students. I cropped this clipping into two separate parts and put them side by side in my supplementary scrapbook for my audience to read.

Kirk, Kevin. "Local groups sponsor gay march, activities and speeches as tribute." The Daily Tar Heel (Chapel Hill, Nc.), June 25, 1981. DigitalNC.

This article described pride marches hosted by the CGA and a few other local gay groups in order to commemorate the 12th anniversary of the gay rights movement. One of my most important arguments was detailing how the CGA went above and beyond their role as a college student group. Not only did they foster a welcoming campus, but they also actively participated in the Chapel Hill community, bringing resources and support for community queers who are not students. I used this clipping in my supplementary scrapbook to highlight the CGA’s commitment to supporting the LGBTQ community in all of Chapel Hill.


This article from a Lambda newsletter reminded readers that the 3rd Southeastern Gay Conference was being held in Atlanta. One of the primary achievements of the SEGCs was their ability to grow so quickly to reach a plethora of Southern states. The SEGCs weren’t simply catered to North Carolina; they reached a wide variety of campuses and students all throughout the Southeast. Therefore, I wanted to include a few examples of the different states that the SEGCs traveled. I used this clipping on my exhibit to showcase the SEGCs’s influence in Atlanta.


This ad on Lambda was for a local queer-religious group called Dignity-Integrity. From my research, it seems like Dignity-Integrity was either a Southeastern or a national
organization that had chapters in different locations. As I’ve mentioned previously, one
of the CGA’s most important functions was spreading knowledge about resources for
queer people. Dignity-Integrity was one of those resources that specifically catered to
queer people’s issues with faith and religion. Therefore, I used this clipping on my
exhibit to showcase the CGA’s efforts in raising awareness of local queer support
resources.


One of Lambda’s most important functions was giving ordinary queer citizens
opportunities to enact positive political change. Although the CGA themselves battled
with their political identity, they were still nonetheless very politically active. Lambda
served as a network to queer Southerners and encouraged them to protest when
necessary. This ad tried to recruit protestors for the March on Washington. The March
on Washington was a really important event in queer history and because of the CGA’s
efforts, a team of Triangle-area residents was able to participate in history.

Lambda (Chapel Hill, Nc.). "SEGC2 Resolutions." May 1, 1977. DigitalNC.

This was such an interesting article to read! This article written by the Lambda staff
detailed the resolutions passed at second Southeastern Gay Conferences. After hours of
discussion and rallying, the end of the SEGCs resulted in a list of resolutions. One of the
resolutions thanked President Jimmy Carter for listening to the SEGC attendees which leads us to believe that there were presidential representatives at the conference. Another resolution described the SEGC attendees’ commitment to oppose Anita Bryant’s Save Our Children campaign, a homophobic campaign against the queer rights movement. This source really helped me understand the political nature of the SEGCs. While the SEGCs served as an important and necessary social and cultural space for queer people, it was also a huge hotspot for community activists to hone in on their skills. I used this clipping in my exhibit to showcase the many accomplishments of the SEGCs.


Due to their commitment to confidentiality and sparse funds, not a lot of photographic evidence remains of the CGA’s members and events. Of course, there are loads of flyers and newspaper articles however group pictures were very hard to come by, especially those from the CGA’s early years. Since I wanted to showcase at least a fraction of the available photography, I decided to use this image on my exhibit. The photo depicts two SEGC4 organizers discussing and planning. Wanting to display the people behind the Carolina Gay Association, I included this picture on my board.


As I previously mentioned, the Southeastern Gay Conferences, once fully established, spread like wildfire throughout the Southeast. Community and campus groups everywhere were committed to funding and putting on such an extraordinary gathering
for queer people in their hometowns. One of the various places it traveled to was Dallas, Texas, where the SEGCs received a lot of attention. I used this ad on my exhibit to show how widespread the impact of the SEGCs were.


Just like Dallas and Atlanta, another really interesting location that the Southeastern Gay Conferences traveled to was Birmingham, Alabama. After interviewing a lot of Sexuality and Gender Alliance members, along with organizers of UNC’s Unity Conference (a modern queer conference), I realized that the Southeastern Gay Conferences went through a lot of name changes and faded away into Alabama. As time went on and more queer resources popped up, the impact of the SEGCs diminished and it became a conference that schools in Alabam put on exclusively. So, I wanted to include this clipping to show how because of the CGA, a vibrant queer community formed in a conservative, Deep South state such as Alabama.


This section from Lambda was written by the staff of Lambda. The statement promised audience members that Lambda intends to provide information using “non-classist, non-sexist, and non-racist language.” This was so unique and interesting because although there is a strong argument that the CGA wasn’t very diverse based on today’s
standards, it can similarly be argued that the CGA was dedicated to improving their diversity. Within just three years of publishing, Lambda had reached such a massive audience that CGA members worried about how inclusive and kind their language was. It’s one of the many little things about the CGA that makes me hold them so highly. I included this statement on my display to highlight the characteristics and intentions of the Lambda newsletters and staff.

Lambda (Chapel Hill, Nc.). "Unity through Diversity: 650 Lesbians and gay men attend Southeastern Conferences." June 1, 1979. DigitalNC.


Much of the statistics about attendance and funding can really only be obtained through the CGA’s self-reporting. After their conferences, the CGA would always write articles about how the conference turned out. This SEGC, in particular, was attended by 650 queer-identifying people. I mainly wanted to include this clipping to show how successful the SEGCs were, but I also wanted my audience to think more in-depth about what the headline means. It’s hard to imagine that there were 650 openly gay people in the NC and GA area. It’s so hard to imagine that we can now definitively say that most of them were not completely “out.” Most attendees were closeted and came to the conferences, often traveling through many other states, just to have the experience of a queer social event. Most of these people left and went back to their states where they lived the entirety of the year inside the closet. The SEGCs were truly phenomenal in their work because they provided a much needed social outlet for hundreds of queer-identifying people in the Southeast.
During the AIDS crisis of the 1980s, CGA began taking on a stronger role on campus to combat prejudice against queer people. From my research using Lambda archives and oral histories, I understood that the CGA, although officially just a student group, took on a larger, far-reaching mission as a queer and health support center. Most universities today have specific, university-funded support centers for people of different backgrounds like LGBTQ Centers or Multicultural Diversity Centers. These resources aren’t student-led; instead, they have staff and therapists that are hired by the university to provide safe information. However, in the 70s and 80s, these types of resources were not there and the CGA stepped up to fulfill their roles. The CGA constantly delivered pamphlets and provided the most recent information on HIV/AIDS to all students, not just queer ones, during a time when the university administration chose to turn a blind eye. This particular clipping, which is also displayed on my exhibit, shows the first AIDS Fact Sheet published by the CGA. This article included information about CGA-sponsored resources like support groups and counseling for patients who were closeted. It also included information on the symptoms and medical terminology associated with HIV/AIDS.
within the Student Congress. Student Congress representatives wanted to limit the CGA’s funding, often claiming that its politicalness was inappropriate as a student group. In reality, it was just pure homophobia fueling these representatives and their constituents because an organization for queer people, by simply existing in the 1970s, was inherently political. This clipping from Lambda is about a referendum put forth by the Student Congress to determine whether the CGLA should receive funding. Even though more people voted against funding, the non-binding form of the referendum rendered it useless. Nevertheless, it’s a prominent example of opposition faced by the CGA which is why I included it on my exhibit.

Lambda (Chapel Hill, Nc.). “Confidentiality statement.” November 1, 1983. DigitalNC.  

One of the most important aspects of Lambda that allowed it to grow and reach a large audience was the staff’s commitment to confidentiality. As this section of Lambda states, the CGA was prepared to mail Lambda issues discreetly in plain, brown packaging. Although the effort is pretty simple, it shows the CGA’s dedication to assisting queer people everywhere. Lambda issues were always available to be read across the campus for students, however, that wasn’t the case for queer people in the rest of the Southeast. In order to cater to their needs as well, the CGA devised a plan to confidentially mail them their Lambda copies. I used this clip on my exhibit to describe how Lambda was formatted and shipped.

Throughout its existence, Lambda not only served as a newsletter for the CGA but also as an advertisement platform for other local queer groups. The Duke Gay Alliance was one such group. The CGA, especially during its earliest years, had very little support from neighboring queer student groups. So when the Duke Gay Alliance became official, the CGA advertised for them in all of their Lambda issues to ensure their survival. I included this clipping on my exhibit to express how the purpose of Lambda was to connect the queer community not just on campus, but all throughout the Triangle region.


As stated before, Lambda provided many opportunities for ordinary citizens to engage in political activism. Although the CGA was mainly in charge of queer-related activism, they also took on a stronger role to pass the Equal Rights Amendment. They went so far in doing this that they actually tried to plan one of the SEGCs in Tennessee, despite not having any guidance from local queer groups or the state government because it was the only state that had ratified that ERA at the time. This Lambda clipping in particular listed North Carolina’s congressmen and directions for how to mail letters to them in support of the Equal Rights Amendment.


If you read all the Lambda newsletters chronologically, you’d notice a very distinct pattern of evolution in the way they look. Lambda’s format changes often and I really
wanted to include an example of how some newsletters were formatted. Therefore, I cropped the header of a newsletter and included that image on my board.

Lambda (Chapel Hill, Nc.). “Gay Alcoholics Anonymous ad.” April 1, 1980. DigitalNC.  

A really important subtopic in queer history, one that’s often disregarded by historians, is the troubling concept of alcoholism and drug use in the LGBTQ community. Often, queer people didn’t have any resources to talk to because most of the reasons why they resorted to these substances were queer-related. Therefore, one of the CGA’s most important resources was the Gay Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. An oral history I listened to described how members were comfortable in truly expressing themselves because they knew that everyone was queer. The Gay AA meetings are one of the earliest forms of “safe spaces” and that’s why I included this ad on my exhibit.

Lambda (Chapel Hill, Nc.). “Have you written to your Congressman about H.R. 5452 yet?” August 1, 1976. DigitalNC.  

Wanting to include another example of Lambda-initiated activism, I included an image of this article from Lambda on my tri-fold board. This article, in particular, encouraged readers to tell their Congressmen to add sexual preference to the Civil Rights Act of 1965. I specifically picked this example, though, because the article was copied from a newsletter published by the National Gay Task Force (NGTF). The CGA did primarily
work with their own resources, however, they were an important ally of the NGTF.

National news, and even international news, would flow from the root, the NGTF, to its many branches, like the CGA and other smaller gay groups across the country. This alliance was two-fold in that it not only helped the CGA grow but also helped create a more cohesive and coalesced gay rights movement.


As I’ve mentioned previously, Lambda served as a link between queer people in the South and those elsewhere. As a community, they learned to celebrate achievements in queer activism from other parts of the world. Working mostly with the National Gay Task Force, the CGA often included a section called “International news” on the Lambda newsletters. This section detailed queer conferences or legislation from different parts of the world, primarily in Scandinavian countries. It was things like this that helped queer people feel like they were a part of a community. Upon reading Lambda, many activists remembered rejoicing together in a few oral histories I listened to. Lambda helped foster a connection within the LGBTQ community of the Triangle and beyond and therefore, I included this clipping on my exhibit.

Lambda (Chapel Hill, Nc.). “Koch Bill." March 1, 1977. DigitalNC.

Just like international news, Lambda also informed readers of the queer rights movement in the U.S. Almost all of the issues published included a section about queer activism in other states. This particular clipping informed readers about the Koch Bill, a
gay rights legislation that was similar to Bella Abzug’s Gay Rights Bill. I used this clipping on my exhibit.

Lambda (Chapel Hill, Nc.). “Peer Counseling." August 1, 1976. DigitalNC.

As I’ve mentioned previously, the CGA was really focused on improving awareness of the resources they offered to queer people. One such resource was peer counseling. The concept of peer counseling is really important to the CGA because it was actually formed out of a sexuality counseling group. Peer counseling was open to all students and it was regularly advertised on Lambda. Wanting to include more examples of the CGA’s resources, I included this clipping on my display.

Lambda (Chapel Hill, Nc.). “Triangle Area Gay Scientists Ad." November 1, 1978. DigitalNC.

The Triangle Area Gay Scientists (TAGS) was a group started by Dan Leonard after one of the Southeastern Gay Conferences. The group is actually the largest queer scientists’ organization in the US and is still running. The Southeastern Gay Conferences encouraged community organization and therefore, a lot of local gay groups formed from the SEGCs. Wanting to include examples of these groups, I decided to include this ad for TAGS on my display.

Lambda (Chapel Hill, Nc.). “We Salute Nebraska." March 1, 1978. DigitalNC.

I used this clipping on my exhibit to showcase Lambda’s commitment to informing its readers of developments in the national gay liberation movement. I picked this one
specifically because it's hard to imagine how Lambda could've received information about developments in Nebraska, a state that is thousands of miles away from North Carolina. Nebraska and a lot of other, more rural Midwestern states were less talked about in the national queer community. However, despite communication struggles, Lambda still remained dedicated to their goal of informing readers of all things queer-related.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) Center of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Records #40433, University Archives, The Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Although this collection is about the LGBTQ Center at UNC-CH, there is a lot of documentation from later iterations of the CGA like B-GLAD and QNC. Therefore this was one of the most important sources I used on my project. I acquired several newspaper clippings and pictures that I included in my exhibit from this collection. They helped provide examples and context to many of my arguments.


As I developed my “Opposition” panel, I realized that there were two main types of discrimination faced by the CGA: funding battles and homophobia. Although both overlapped a lot, for the sake of simplicity and my audience, I decided to separate these two issues into two groups. Homophobia was widespread and rampant on campus. Often, it took the form of degrading and destroying the CGA’s property, like flyers it put
up. However, some bigots decided to send troubling letters to the CGA. This article describes one such letter the CGA received. This letter was filled with tons of derogatory terms and slurs. I decided to use this example because I really want my audience to understand why it was so important for the CGA to fight against homophobia on campus.


This article was the only article written by the Daily Tar Heel staff about the first Southeastern Gay Conference. The writers actually miscalculated the number of attendees as they stated that only 20 people attended when in reality, there were more than 300 attendees. This was one of the first articles I read about the SEGCs and it really helped me understand what the public opinion about the SEGCs was. Although it was highly revered by the queer community, within the heterosexual world, it really meant nothing. Other than the opinion pieces written by students that were often against the CGA, the Daily Tar Heel staff itself wrote few articles about the proceedings that occurred at the conference. This article helped me understand the difference between these two communities and the different hoops the CGA had to jump through to receive recognition.


The CGA, and its later iterations like B-GLAD, faced a lot of opposition in terms of funding struggles. Student Congress members claimed that the political nature of the CGA rendered it unable to receive funding from the university. However, as I previously stated, the CGA’s existence was inherently political as a gay group in the late-twentieth-century in the South. Moreover, they provided necessary resources to students that really should’ve been the responsibility of the university administration. Nevertheless, every year, funding for the CGA became a heated battle. This article depicts one instance of those battles and has been included on my exhibit.

https://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/sohp/id/19254/rec/38

Barry Nakell was one of the CGA’s first advisors and he was actually at UNC when the CGA formed. His interview helped me understand how the CGA functioned. He described how the CGA was fairly independent and organized, with their own rules, subcommittees, and rap groups. He also went into detail about the social events the CGA put on and their impact on the community. Listening to this oral history really helped me understand the goals of the CGA and was beneficial to my research. Nakell has been quoted a few times in my supplementary scrapbook.


For my “Background” section, I wanted to explain how the early gay rights movement was focused on urban areas, which abandoned queer people in the South and left them
without a voice. Often when we think of queer history, we really only remember the Mattachine Society or the Stonewall riots, which is why I used this picture of the Stonewall Riots.


Although the CGA contained primarily queer activists, its later iteration, B-GLAD, received a lot of support from many cisgender, straight allies. This article depicts the story of one of these straight activists. I chose this article because I wanted to emphasize how effective the CGA was at organizing and changing public attitudes. They were so successful that they had straight activists working alongside them long before “allies” became an official term. I used this clipping in my supplementary scrapbook so that my audience can read it themselves.


https://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/sohp/id/19260/rec/43

Dr. Terri Phoenix is the current LGBTQ Center Director and T’s preferred pronoun in “T”. I mainly listened to this interview to understand T’s story, which is one example of how tough life was for queer people in the Southeast. Dr. Phoeniz grew up in rural Georgia and ran away from T’s home as a child. In the interview, T discusses homelessness and discrimination, key elements of many queer people’s lives in the
South. This interview really helped me understand the public’s attitude towards queer people in the South which helped me build context for the CGA’s efforts.

Pride Week fliers. From personal correspondence with Sexuality and Gender Alliance at UNC-CH. 2020.

As part of my research into the CGA’s legacy, I reached out to the Sexuality and Gender Alliance’s (SAGA) co-president, Danny Bowen. He shared a folder of fliers for Pride Week 2020, a huge, cross-campus awareness event led by SAGA and the LGBTQ Center. I included these fliers in my supplementary scrapbook so I could further elaborate on the legacy of the CGA.

"Program of the Fourth Annual Southeastern Conference of Lesbian and Gay Men." Rainbow History Project Digital Collections.

As I sought to understand the impact of the Southeastern Gay Conferences, I analyzed a lot of the conferences’ program. This one is particular was really important because it included two statements on the March on Washington and the ERA urging for supporters and activists. The SEGCs understood its role as an activism-training facility and thus, took the effort to include political statements and stances in their programs. This is an extremely important part of the impact of the SEGCs.

"Program of the Third Annual Southeastern Conference of Lesbian and Gay Men." Rainbow History Project Digital Collections.
This source was definitely my favorite document to analyze. The bright-orange program for the third SEGC held in Atlanta contained several ads from businesses and a lot of really important information about the conference procedures as well. I used a clipping of the program’s “workshop” pages to display the various workshops and classes offered at the conference. There was also a statement titled “Beware of Violence” which discussed safety in Atlanta. I really enjoyed reading this document which is why I also included it as supplementary material in front of my trifold board so that my audience can flip through its twenty pages and analyze it for themselves.


This article provided one example of the CGA’s protests against Senator Jesse Helms. I included a picture of this “kiss-in” mainly because I really wanted to include a photograph of the CGA members, but also because the person photographed is heterosexual CGA member. It’s quite astonishing how much influence the CGA must’ve had in order to convince a straight person to be a part of a homosexual “kiss-in.”

Student Government of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Records #40169, University Archives, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

This collection included the CGLA budget request application for the year 1977-1978. I used this application, and a few other materials from this collection, to understand the day-to-day operations of the CGA. The application included explanations of how Lambda was printed and described how funds given by the university weren’t used for
the CGA’s dances or coffeehouses. This source really helped me assess whether the CGA’s funding struggles were based on homophobia or other issues from the CGA’s part. I can now conclude that the funding issues were completely unwarranted because everything in the budget was fair and proper.


This article was written by one of B-GLAD’s presidents, Svati Shodan. B-GLAD hosted an awareness week, similar to the CGA’s Gay Orientation Week, to spread information about queer issues and the queer community. The Monday that started off the awareness week was called Blue Jeans Day. During this day, anyone who wore blue jeans was considered to be a homosexual. The goal was to make students feel the uncomfortableness associated with being “outed” that queer students feel. Shodan described how despite the dozens of complaints they receive about Blue Jeans Day, it was necessary for everyone to understand the anxiety and pain of queer people. I included this article in my supplementary scrapbook for my audience to read.


Susan Johnston was a member of the Triangle Area Lesbian Feminists. I used this interview to understand how CGA impacted lesbians and women in the area. Although the CGA was predominantly male for most of its initial years, I understood from this interview that they had a continuing commitment to expanding diversity within the association. Johnston also went into depth about how the university administration
handled lesbian affairs, especially in terms of health advising. That analysis helped me understand how the university administration responded to queer issues.


I included this newspaper clipping in my supplementary scrapbook to show how B-GLAD worked with community organizations to expand gay rights. This article describes the CGA’s alliance with the Triangle Area Lesbian Feminists and other local gay groups to spread awareness of queer issues.

The Daily Tar Heel (Chapel Hill, Nc.). "Campus responds to congress’ attempt to defund to CGLA." April 5, 1976. DigitalNC.


This article describes then-Student Congress Representative Tim Moore’s plan to revoke funding of the CGA. This section included writings by many different Student Congress members like Gregory Randall and Eric Pratt. It helped me understand the reasoning of these representative’s desire to slash funding. I also found an interesting political cartoon that I included in my supplementary scrapbook.

The Daily Tar Heel (Chapel Hill, Nc.). "Protect the CGLA." , April 19, 1985. DigitalNC.


This source was a two-part article that described the two main opinions about the CGLA. One piece discussed why the CGLA should be funded and the other part argued
against funding. I printed both pieces out and included them in my scrapbook for my readers to read and understand themselves.

Tom Carr. Interview with Hooper Schultz. 9 August 2018

This was another really important source. Tom Carr was the publicity director for the CGA and was a member since the CGA’s inception. Carr’s interviews helped me understand the origins of the Southeastern Gay Conferences and some of the funding issues faced by the CGA. He went into depth about the different resources the CGA offered which really helped me build my “Breaking Barriers: Campus Events” section. He has been quoted numerous times on both my exhibit and in my supplementary scrapbook.

University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, *Yakety Yaks* (Chapel Hill, North Carolina: 1976),

Page 29, Digital NC Archives,


Throughout the years, a majority of CGA pictures and photos have gone missing since no consistent or official records were kept. However, I really wanted to incorporate members’ photos to highlight all the wonderful people who kept the organization alive and active. The Yakety Yaks yearbooks in the late 70s still contained pictures of each individual organization and so, I found a lot of photos of CGA members from these sources.

University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, *Yakety Yaks* (Chapel Hill, North Carolina: 1977),

Page 183-184, Digital NC Archives,
These pages of the Yakety Yaks contained really important and valuable photographs of SEGC attendees and the Carolina Gay Association members.

University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, *Yakety Yaks* (Chapel Hill, North Carolina: 1979), Page 227, Digital NC Archives,

This Yakety Yaks issue had a section on the Southeastern Gay Conferences. I used a lot of important photographs from this section in my panel titled, “Southeastern Gay Conferences.”

University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, *Yakety Yaks* (Chapel Hill, North Carolina: 1980), Page 393, Digital NC Archives,

Just like the other Yakety Yaks yearbooks, I obtained various images from this issue that I used in my supplemental scrapbook and on my exhibit itself.


Gerald Unks was one of the CGA’s earliest advisors. His interview helped me understand how the CGA felt after being recognized. He said, “When they were
recognized, I think it surprised some of them that that didn’t really change the world. They were still hated.” The rest of his interview, along with this particular quote which is included in my supplementary scrapbook, helped me understand the aspirations and motivations of the founders of CGA.

https://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/sohp/id/19238/rec/57

Stuart Wells was the editor for Lambda during the 1970s and he was actually the first editor of Lambda. He discussed his role as editor and explained what some of the goals of Lambda were in this oral history. He also described how relieved he felt after joining the CGA because he finally felt accepted. This oral history further helped me understand the impact of CGA.

https://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/sohp/id/19246/rec/59

Sherry Williamson was a member of the CGA who was actually closeted during her time at the university. I found her interview to be pretty important because it further explained CGA’s commitment to inclusion and anonymity. Even though she received Lambda newsletters and was photographed with other CGA members at CGA outings, because of CGA’s commitment to confidentiality, her sexuality was never compromised to anyone. She has also been quoted in my supplementary scrapbook.
Cecil Wooten was another faculty advisor for the CGA. He offered useful insight into CGA’s meetings and membership. He also greatly discussed the funding referendum placed on the CGA’s budget. This interview helped me design a large part of my “Opposition” section. I also included several interesting quotes from him in my supplementary scrapbook.

SECONDARY SOURCES


This was one of the first sources I came across when researching my topic. It provided a short, neat overview of the CGA. It also gave me specific subtopics to explore further like Lambda and the funding struggles. I also used this website to find contact information for Danny Bowen, the co-president of the Sexuality and Gender Alliance, who I interviewed to understand the CGA’s legacy.

A History of Sexuality Studies at Carolina: http://sexualitystudies.unc.edu/our-history/

Katelyn Campbell, a research assistant for the Sexuality Studies Department, wrote this synopsis about the CGA and its history. It was after reading her write-up that I understood where to locate archived materials and records. I also found a lot of information regard the CGA’s fight against AIDS from this source. Campbell has been quoted several times on my exhibit itself.
http://outhistory.org/exhibits/show/nc-lgbt/campus-activism/carolina-gay-association
This article helped me understand some of the earliest sources of opposition towards the CGA. I was first introduced to the CGA’s funding struggles through this source and I also learned more about the Attorney General’s probe into CGA funding. Bellamy also included several links that led me to the DigitalNC database, which I then used to read archived Lambda newsletters.

I personally interviewed Danny Bowen, co-president of the Sexuality and Gender Alliance, over a Zoom call. I asked him questions about the work of SAGA as well as their goals. I discussed the general attitude of the UNC campus towards queer people with him and he concluded that he believes UNC’s welcoming climate is because of UNC’s long history of LGBTQ activism started by the CGA. His explanations also helped me understand a lot about the legacy of the CGA and therefore, he has been quoted several times in my supplementary scrapbook.

Brewer, Camilla. Interview by the presenter. April 18, 2020
Camilla Brewer was the director of the 2015 Unity Conference. I interviewed her to understand whether or not the modern-day Unity Conference was derived from the original Southeastern Gay Conferences. Although the SEGCs faded away into Alabama, I was curious to see if archives and records were used to plan the newer conferences. Brewer said that she’s unsure if there are any direct connections but did hear from a few
friends that UNC did once put on a queer conference. She stated that an indirect connection is very likely. She has also been quoted in my supplementary scrapbook.

Campbell, Katelyn. Interview by the presenter. March 27, 2020.

I interviewed Katelyn Campbell, a UNC-CH student who also researched the CGA, to discuss the work of the CGA as historians. It was really helpful to discuss my ideas for my exhibit and have her help me reinforce my arguments. Since we were both well-rehearsed on the topic, it was really beneficial for me to ask her questions and advice about what to focus on when I’m building my exhibit. I was also lacking information about the CGA during the AIDS crisis and she helped me find more information. Katelyn Campbell, from this interview, has been quoted numerous times in my supplementary scrapbook.


Although the gender-neutral housing campaign failed, the LGBTQ Center did create Pride Place which is housing for queer students. This article explained what Pride Place was. I also used a picture from this article on my exhibit in the section titled, “Legacy.”


This source is one of only three analysis-type secondary sources I could find on the CGA. It proved to be really beneficial in helping me construct my argument. I learned a lot about racial diversity within the CGA from this article. This article was based on 16
oral histories conducted by Southern Oral History Program interns so it helped introduce me to many of the oral histories I used for my project.


This source from the Daily Tar Heel helped me understand LGBTQ activism in Chapel Hill outside of the CGA. I learned about Joe Herzenberg and Mark Kleinschmidt who were gay politicians in Chapel Hill. I was also introduced to other parts of gay history in Chapel Hill like dinners to raise money for the National Gay Task Force. I’ve also quoted this source on my exhibit and my supplementary scrapbook numerous times.


Lauren Martin was the President of the Sexuality and Gender Alliance in 2015 and was leading the organization of the Unity Conference. Although the Unity Conference is not the same conference as the Southeastern Gay Conference, the similarities between them are very close. They both have the exact same layout and similar workshops. Thus, I was able to understand how the CGA’s efforts impacted current organizations at UNC-CH like SAGA and the Unity Conferences. Martin has also been quoted in my supplementary scrapbook.


https://time.com/longform/mattachine-society/

As I mentioned previously, I really wanted to include examples of well-known queer historical events to show how queer history often leaves out activism in the South. This
source had a picture of the Mattachine Society which I used in the section labeled “Background” to argue my claim that queer history was also prominent in the South, even though it was often ignored.


This article helped me create a timeline of the name changes that the CGA went through in order to be more inclusive. This source was extremely beneficial because up until I had read it, I thought that the B-GLAD, QNC, and CGA were all different groups. I was also able to find a link to the Sexuality and Gender Alliance’s website which led me to the contact information of many of my interviewees.


This thesis was the foundation of my research. It was after reading this thesis that I decided to research the Carolina Gay Association. I was able to identify a lot of important subtopics for my exhibit using this thesis. This was also the biggest resource I had to understand the Southeastern Gay Conferences. It was this source that helped me identify the goals and impact of the SEGCs. I used Schultz’s research to also guide my own research.

Schultz, Hooper. Interview by the presenter. April 17, 2020.

I also decided to interview Hooper Schultz to clarify my understanding of the CGA. We talked about the funding battles that the CGA faced and whether or not it would be considered homophobia. We also discussed whether or not the CGA would be
considered a “political institution.” There were a lot of questions I had that simply couldn’t be answered by my other sources and Schultz really helped me with those. He has been quoted several times on my exhibit and in my supplementary scrapbook as well.


This book by James Sears is one of very few published books on queer history in the South as a whole. This book analyzed queer history in various locations like Georgia and Alabama. Although I never read about the CGA in this book, I did notice a few references to the Southeastern Gay Conferences. I wondered why a reference to the SEGCs wouldn’t include the CGA but then I realized that as the SEGCs spread, conference attendees forgot the origins of the conference. For example, conference attendees in Texas didn’t realize that the conference began in North Carolina, and therefore, research surrounding queer history in Texas will never be tied back to North Carolina because of the lack of historical documentation. This source really helped me understand the queer scene in the South and has been quoted once in my supplementary scrapbook.
Instructions for Completing this Template

1. Photograph Your Exhibit
   ○ You should photograph your actual exhibit. If you don’t have your exhibit, it is OKAY for someone else to take pictures.
   ○ Turn on the lights or go near a window
   ○ Hold your camera steady
   ○ Make sure you get close-ups of each panel and section

   Note: If your project is 3D or rotating, you may need to include more than one photograph on the “overall” slide to capture different views of your project.

2. Fill Out the Exhibit Entry Information Slide
   ○ **DO NOT** edit this template. Please go to File > Make a Copy.
   ○ Add your information (name, title, etc.)
   ○ Optional: Add links to any media you may have included in your exhibit.

3. Add Your Narrative and Quotes
   ○ Add your historical argument to the “thesis/historical argument” slide
   ○ Add the text that corresponds with the images into the boxes on the close-up slides. Include your titles, words, and any quotes you typed out on your exhibit.
   ○ It’s okay if the text in your image doesn’t match the text in the image.
   ○ Judges will refer to the text in the slide for judging.

4. Done? Save as PDF
   ○ File > Download As > PDF.
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<td>Rachel Amburose</td>
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</table>
Despite considerable opposition to its existence, the Carolina Gay Association (CGA), the oldest LGBTQ student group at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, along with its later iterations, not only broke barriers on campus by educating people about queer issues, expanding social spaces for the queer community, and organizing political activist opportunities but also by connecting activists and queer people across the Southeast by publishing the Lambda newsletters and hosting the Southeastern Gay Conferences.
Breaking Barriers - closed panel

Campus Events

Coffeehouses and dances were meant to be queer social spaces for underage students and non-drinkers. The CGA prioritized safety and wanted students to stay away from the alcoholism that’s so prevalent in the LGBTQ community.
Breaking Barriers- open panel

"Striking out at society’s oppression of homosexuals, lesbian activist Barbara Gittings said Wednesday that gays are no longer willing to live under a curtain of secrecy. Her remarks came in a speech sponsored by the Carolina Gay Association (CGA) in the Union."- Gittings: gays should be candid.

During the 1980s AIDS crisis, the university administration largely ignored the disease however, after receiving pressure from the CGLA, they established an AIDS Advisory Committee in 1986.

“The CGLA must continue to get student fees, because it is the only organization on campus (with the possible exception of Student Health Service) that actively distributes information on AIDS prevention.”- CGLA Funding a Matter of Life and Death

Political activism

“The Carolina Gay Association (CGA) will distribute leaflets tonight urging a boycott of He’s Not There, a local bar, for allegedly discriminating against homosexuals."- CGA distributes leaflets to urge boycott

In 1992, upon request from BGLAD, Chancellor Paul Hardin signed a resolution asking President Bill Clinton to allow queer individuals in the military.

“A bunch of students – mainly graduate students –five or six of them from what was then the Carolina Gay Association… went to a work session of the Board of Aldermen where they were discussing a new personnel ordinance and asked if they would add and they used the term which is pretty unique, “affectional preference,” as a protected class in the town's personnel ordinance.” - Joe Herzenberg
“Lambda is now the oldest and longest-running gay student newspaper in the country.”- David Schultz

“Lambda was at once political and social, calling for members to write their congressmen to add protections for gays and lesbians in federal legislation alongside notices of upcoming dances on campus. The CGA not only distributed Lambda across UNC, but it sent the newsletter out regionally to colleges, prisons, and other gay groups. Often people unaffiliated with UNC would write in to request a subscription, demonstrating the dearth of written materials aimed at gay audiences in the South. Lambda was at once a newsletter, an activist publication, and a place for students to share art and poetry.”- Dr. Evan Faulkenbury
Lambda- open panel

Lambda included national and international news about LGBTQ issues so the queer community in the Southeast could stay aware.

Lambda also provided political activism opportunities to the queer community

“LAMBDA also helped to coordinate student activists around local LGBT issues, detailing the plans for a Triangle area coalition to attend the 1979 National March on Washington for gay and lesbian rights in Volume V, Issue 1.” - The Carolina Gay Association, Organizing and Opposition

Lambda advertised for local queer organizations to open up new opportunities for the LGBTQ community in the Triangle.

University- sponsored censorship

“The riders [on CGLA funding] force the groups to submit copies of their publications to a Student Congress committee for approval to make sure they do not advocate partisan politics, which is prohibited under the Student Government Code for fee-receiving organizations.” - Heyd protests riders by not signing budget

“This is unacceptable to us. This gives them judgment on what we print. They can say, ‘You have to withdraw everything you’ve put out.’” - CGA Chairwoman Svati Shah
The early gay rights movement began in mostly urban areas like New York City and San Francisco. Organization in the South was sparse and scattered.

“In the South, social change often occurred at a slower pace than in the rest of the country.” - Dr. Evan Faulkenbury

“The CGA was begun in the spring of 1974 as a consciousness-raising group which met at the Lutheran Student Center. After two months to be accepted as a valid organization by Student Government. In August of the same year the CGA was recognized by the Dean of Students, and in October was granted initial Student Government funding.” - Homosexuality, Carolina Gay Records

“The CGA was the first of its kind in the Southeast—beginning as a social club for LGBTQ+ students, but quickly taking on a more activist role.” - Marriage, Bathrooms and Organization: LGBTQ+ rights over the decade,
Opposition

Homophobia

“The two fliers stated (with errors included): ‘Faggot Homocide/ Kill All You Can/ April 8, 1992/ No Limit’s,’ and ‘Pant’s Day/ If You Think Faggotry Is A Crime/Wear Pant’s / April 8, 1992.’” - Flier spurs CGLA member’s complaint

“There has been no factual information which definitely proves that being a homosexual can be traced back to genetic factors. There are only theories surrounding this matter, not hardcore facts.” - CGLA’s bias unacceptable

“Nobody is protected by the First Amendment when they are spending someone else’s money to support political action, not even the CGLA and their liberal cronies! These groups have cried censorship. In a word, this is bullshit.” - CGLA is a special interest group

Student Congress and Funding

“On February 17 [1988], in a 3,195 to 2,285 vote, the UNC-CH student body voted in favor of a non-binding referendum to defund the CGLA.” - The Carolina Gay Association, Organizing and Opposition

“In 1989, State Representative Steve Arnold, a Republican from Guilford County, introduced a bill into the North Carolina state legislature to revoke funding from all LGBT student organizations in the UNC system.” - The Carolina Gay Association, Organizing and Opposition

Political cartoon depicts Student Congress members’ homophobia.

“They knew all along what they were doing and that it would intimidate some people. They know we promise our members anonymity if that’s what they want.” - Don Chauncey

In 1992, Student Congress released a 63-member list for BGLAD that was meant to be anonymous.
Picture of Right Panel of Exhibit
Southeastern Gay Conference

“A Human Sexuality Information Counseling and Services (HSICS) rap group’s 12-week-long cycle was ending. At the final meeting, Tom Carr proposed a new event to bring their discussions public—the Southeastern Gay Conferences.”- David Schultz

“Same basic layout of a weekend conference with Friday night registration and various social events either, you know, dance, cabaret, that kind of thing. Meetings, workshops, speeches, symposiums, displays all day Saturday, and on Sunday more recreational things like barbecues and picnics, what have you.”- Tom Carr
Speakers included front liners in the national gay liberation movement: Dr. Frank Kameny, David Kopay, Dean Perry Young, Barbara Gittings, Loretta Lottman, Jean O’Leary, Karla Jay, Allen Young, Bob Basker.

Some groups that worked on SEGCs: Eastern Gay Alliance, Duke Gay Alliance, Guildford Gay Alliance, Triangle Area Lesbian Feminists, Texas Lesbian Conference.

“It has also been reflected in the coordinating committee’s resolution that there will be workshops and other space available for any segment of the gay community to gather together alone. We understand the need for minority groups (Lesbians, Blacks, Latins, Asians, Native Americans, handicapped gays, etc.) to discuss and organize among them/our/selves without outside participation.”- Program of the Third Annual Southeastern Conference of Lesbian and Gay Men

“Health concerns were also at the forefront of the conference, with drug use in the gay community becoming a topic of discussion. Tom Carr led a workshop on the making of “poppers,” or amyl and butyl nitrites, which were popular both as a club drug and used as a sex-enhancer by gay men.” “Black Lesbian activist Faye Johnson, from Knoxville, Tennessee, Carolyn Mosley of the Atlanta MCC, and other activists including Michael Bardin from Dade County, Florida were on the panel. The panelists emphasized their commitment to coming up with new role models for the movement, beyond the white middle-class gay men of the homophile movement who insisted on wearing dresses and suits for respectability. The activists on the panel were not concerned with middle-class respectability.”- David Schultz

The CGA understood its role as an activist organization and used its influence to affect national politics.

SEGCs spread all throughout the South, from Texas to Georgia.

“We lived off of those three days for the rest of the year. So many of us worked in relative isolation.”- James Baxter

The CGA prioritized getting feedback from attendees.

“Cultural and artistic creations rose out of the SEGCs, including but not limited to the Womonwrites conference series, The Front Page gay newspaper, and the Triangle Area Gay Scientists (TAGS), which created revolutionary professional spaces for out gay people in industry.”- David Schultz
The Carolina Gay Association was one of the first LGBTQ student groups in the Southeast and their work is immeasurable. Through careful organization, they created a liberal, more accepting campus at UNC-CH. They fostered the liberation of the queer community through educating and normalizing the public. They also created many resources for queer people all over the Southeast: newsletters, conferences, and discussion meetings. The SEGCs provided a fun social scene for queers in the South, but it also provided important activist training and brought the scattered LGBTQ community together. The work of the CGA continues to this day at UNC-CH through the efforts of the Sexuality and Gender Alliance and the LGBTQ Center.

The CGA's work inspired students and fostered an open atmosphere for queers on campus.
The CGA helped inspire other gay groups and newsletters to form in the Southeast.

The CGA enabled queer individuals to express themselves without fear.

“I remember at one meeting, I think that it was in the mid 80s, we were all sitting around a circle and we were supposed to go around and introduce ourselves and say something about ourselves. There was a kid there, he was a freshman, he was extremely nervous, and he just blurted out real fast, “My name is so and so and I am from Gastonia, my momma would kill me if she knew I was here!” [Laughter] You know, it really sort of crystallized, you know, what a frightening experience it must be.”- Cecil L. Wooten

Recent efforts of the LGBTQ Center and the Sexuality and Gender Alliance at UNC-CH.

Beginning in 2013, the LGBTQ Center was involved in a campaign to get gender-neutral housing which, despite their hardest efforts, ultimately failed.
A full program of the third Southeast Gay Conference.

A supplement scrapbook with images and quotes from former CGA members as well as articles published by the Daily Tar Heel about the CGA.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<td>Carolina Gay and Lesbian Association (CGLA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Bisexuals, Gay Men, Lesbians, and Allies for Diversity (B-GLAD)</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>Queer Network for Change (QNC)</td>
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<td>Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered, and Straight Alliance (GLBTSA)</td>
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<td>2013</td>
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Shown- supplement scrapbook with oral history/personal interview quotes, newspaper clippings, and pictures of CGA members.