

# LEXI MALPASS



She / Her / Hers

Senior, Graphic Design & Illustration

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I contribute to LGBTQ equality by striving to be myself and elevating others around me. In the world we live in, it's the small day-to-day interactions that speak volumes. Being kind, open-minded, and supportive costs nothing but means everything. It's because of the LGBTQ activists at Stonewall and the support of my family, friends and community that I'm at a point in my life where I'm proud that I exist, and I'm proud to let others know. I'm ready to give that back to anyone who may feel invisible or left behind.

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# SEAN BARKER

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He / Him / His

Senior, Fashion Merchandising,

Minor in Art

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I participate in this movement by being as genuine and kind as I can possibly be. I spent a lot of my life afraid of being who I was, never wanting to draw attention to myself. I now try and live as freely as I can, hoping to inspire others to be themselves as well. I place importance in who I vote for and I try to get engaged politically, as we are still fighting for our rights 50 years later. I appreciate all the work done and hope for only positive growth as we move on.

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# CHLOE BAYLOR

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She / Her / Hers

Senior, Animation

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I believe spreading information and building a strong sense of community is just as important now as it was then. I use every opportunity I get to educate myself and others about LGBTQ culture and history. Due to the efforts of those who fought back when mistreated by the police during the raids, the LGBTQ community has progressed over the decades that followed. The fight is not over and certain people within the community are still highly targeted, but I still believe that a better tomorrow is possible. We must remember that being who we are is not a crime.

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# JORDAN GASKIN



He / Him / His  
Junior, Public Health

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I honor the Stonewall riots by living my true, authentic self. Because they fought for my right to exist, I can live freely and use my voice to teach the next generation.

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# ETHAN GRAY HUTCHINSON

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He / Him / His

Academic Advisor, College of Education

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‘I would never have guessed—you don’t look transgender’ is the common refrain when I come out. I respond, ‘what do you think transfolks look like?’ Stonewall brought visibility to the trans and LGB communities. I believe in living my life as a visible and out transman—to say to the world that we walk amongst you. We are your neighbors, coworkers, doctors, schoolmates, first responders, and community members. Within my spheres of influence—family, friends, neighbors, coworkers—it is my responsibility and privilege to challenge oppressive constructs about trans and LGB folks, folks of color, those with differences in ability, women and others who have historically marginalized experiences, as our forebearers have done for us.

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# EMILY JARVIS



She / Her / Hers

Executive Director, A Time for Science

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I truly believe that every human being deserves to live authentically and to the fullest, knowing that **THEY. ARE. ENOUGH.** I celebrate what Stonewall ignited in our society so many years ago by working every day to educate not only my family and friends, but also the community on the importance of continuing the fight to achieve LGBTQ equality. Whether it's by being a highly visible ally or creating space for conversations on LGBTQ rights, I put myself out there to raise awareness, normalize, and destigmatize, continuing the momentum started by the very brave people at Stonewall. I want my kids to grow up in a world where they can love who they love and be who they are, knowing that they will be accepted and loved.

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# NOAH LEE



He / Him / His  
Senior, Sociology

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I participate in the movement that started with Stonewall by being my most authentic self and being outspoken on my stance on queer rights in my everyday life. As a white, cisgender, gay man, I know that it is important for me to not speak for queer people that are different from me, but to hold the microphone up to their mouths when they speak on their own intersecting identities. To me, being out and proud is a political statement. To be unapologetic in a world that wishes to silence us is to be the catalyst for change.

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# ABIGAIL LUND



She / Her / Hers

Sophomore, Fine Arts

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I fight for LGBTQA+ rights by being a representative voice and advocate for the community. I do this through educating others about the struggles that queer people face today. This includes writing an informative research paper on why HB2 was discriminatory towards trans people. Through interviewing organizations that advocate for trans rights, I provided my audience with the perspectives of my trans peers. I want the LGBTQA+ community to be represented equally as human; no one should be deprived of basic human rights for who they love.

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# DENNIS MCCUNNEY, Ph.D.

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He / Him / His  
Director, Intercultural Affairs

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As director of intercultural affairs at ECU, I have the privilege of working with an incredible team to make our department's vision a reality: 'creating inclusive and equitable communities where all persons confidently know and are known.' As a proud and active ally of the LGBTQ community, I'm honored to stand on the shoulders of all those who have committed their lives to justice, peace, and human rights - through the watershed, legacy-creating moment of Stonewall, to all other movements where communities struggle for justice. I stand with these trailblazers to live out these strong values.

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# MICHELLE ANDREA GIRON MORALES

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She / Her / Hers

Junior, Biology & Hispanic Studies

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As a Latinx in the LGBTQ community, I am no stranger to the fight for equality. This work means I get the opportunity to fight alongside those who were at the forefront of the Stonewall Riots in 1969. I participate in such a movement that began 50 years ago by standing and speaking up for others, as well as staying true to myself in the process.

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# NATALY MONTER

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She / Her / Hers

Junior, Printmaking & Art Education

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How do I participate in a movement that began 50 years ago? I think by really understanding the values and visions held by those that were part of the movement is a start. Understanding the significance of the Stonewall riots and sharing its history with others keeps it alive. The resilience of all who fall under the LGBTQ+ spectrum is unique. I think it is important to represent an effort that is truly about love for all with real, unique, beautiful faces and stories. I believe we do this by studying how the events still impact us today.

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# JESSICA MELOWSKI, MS

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She / Her / Hers

Assistant Director,

Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center

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All people deserve to feel worthy of acceptance and inclusion. I take pride in building a space where all students are welcome as their authentic selves and are free to express all sides of themselves. The inspiring acts of courage at the Stonewall Inn riots highlight the necessity of fiercely defending spaces that serve as a refuge for so many LGBTQ individuals. As the Assistant Director of the Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center, I am committed to LGBTQ equality through representation of all identities and removal of barriers to LGBTQ student success.

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# EL PERRY



## They / Them / Theirs

### Junior, Social Work,

### Minor in Hispanic Studies

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The idea of the queer community as a sort of family is something that really resonates with me, and maintaining historical thinking processes is something I find really important in terms of understanding the world. So when I think about landmark moments in queer history like Stonewall, I realize that they're not only important, but necessary to me, because they're the reason why I'm here. And when I think about how I participate in the legacy, I come to the conclusion that it's through continuing to be here. Also by navel-gazing my way through super simple concepts, apparently.

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# MAYA M. PITTMAN, MA, NCC, LPC

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**She / Her / Hers**

**Staff Counselor, Center for Counseling  
and Student Development**

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I am participating in the movement that began 50 years ago by committing to the 'constant becoming' of an ally who supports the resistance of any form of inequality and prejudice against the LGBTQ community. I've committed to listening, learning, and allowing myself to remain a stone of support in the wall that stands up to the hate that breeds nothing but rejection and shame. This work is important to me because people are our most valuable resource. We are all in this together, and as Martin states, 'injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere...Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.'

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# BRIANNA PLUMB



She / Her / Hers

Sophomore, Chemistry & Biochemistry,  
Minor in Hispanic Studies

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I honor the Stonewall Riots by working in the Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center as a Center Assistant (CA). Through this position I am able to make the Center a home and place of refuge for those who may not have one. Before becoming a CA, I was not confident in my identity and was, in fact, ashamed of it. I was, and still am, only out to a small group of my family members and friends due to fear of being disowned and ridiculed. This Center has helped me blossom into my identity and not be ashamed of it. With this photo shoot, I hope to remind myself and others that it is alright to be yourself and accept all your identities.

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# AUSTIN POPLIN



He / Him / His  
Sophomore, Biology

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I believe that Stonewall was a necessary event to have taken place. I wouldn't be able to live how I do today and be as open about myself as I do without it. I contribute to promoting the movement for equality by volunteering at the Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center. I want those feeling that they aren't welcome to know they are welcomed with open hands, and for acceptance rather than tolerance. Because those who were part of Stonewall before me didn't just tolerate being oppressed!

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# SHAUN R. SIMON, M.Ed

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She / Her / Hers

Associate Director,

Ledonia Wright Cultural Center

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I participate in the continuing legacy of Stonewall through my insistence of living within my total humanity. Refusing to be erased or not seen, especially with the students I work with and serve—many may not have encountered an out, queer, person of color in a professional setting. It is through living my life and living it out loud and providing both my education, advocacy, and life experiences that honors the legacy of our foremothers Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera.

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# MAYA WASHINGTON

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**She / Her / Hers**  
**Senior, Political Science**

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**By living in my truth, I honor the fight of those who came before me and paved the way. Their sacrifice is constantly challenged through hate crimes and legislation and I will not allow ignorance to stand. As a Black queer woman and an aspiring human rights lawyer, I will use my power to challenge and dismantle the system that has turned a blind eye and neglected my communities for so long. All power to all the people.**

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# MAX GILBERT-LOVE



They / Them / Theirs  
Senior, Ceramics & Photography

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The Stonewall Riots began in 1969 when patrons in a Manhattan gay bar were finished with being discriminated by the local police. The riots may have ended a few days later, but the fight has not. The brave people of the Stonewall Inn began this fight for us, and I want to work to make sure we continue it for them.

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