



**The Ohio State University Alumni Association  
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Alumni Society**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**GLBT Alumni Group Officially Recognized by University**

At their February meeting, The Ohio State University Alumni Association's Board of Directors officially recognized the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Alumni Society and granted the group an official charter. The group has been working with the OSU Alumni Society for the past two years to establish their structure and Board of Governors. This process is used to establish all new alumni societies. The GLBT Alumni Society joins the other 50 alumni societies that currently exist across the country.

"The University and the Alumni Association have gone out of their way to make us feel welcome and help us establish this society," said Jack Miner, the group's scholarship chair. "The University and Alumni Association have really seen this as an opportunity to build a bridge with our community." Miner added that the group has received personal encouragement from the President of the Alumni Association as well as University President Brit Kirwan and Provost Ed Ray. Jim Ryan, society President, added "The commitment of gay alumni to the society has been phenomenal the last two years as we worked toward gaining chartered status. We're excited about the opportunities, programs and support we will be able to provide to gay alumni, students and staff as an official alumni society."

While preparing for their official status, the society has been very active coordinating events and building a membership base. "We have hosted a number of social events for GLBT alumni including a breakfast before last year's Pride March, outings to women's basketball games, and a pep rally on homecoming weekend" said Chad McCoury, programming chair. McCoury added "Alumni have really welcomed the opportunity to meet other GLBT alumni. One of the most successful programs was a bowling night with current students and alumni.

In the coming months the society will be hosting a GLBT tailgate before a home football game. Members will also have the opportunity to purchase football tickets as part of a tailgate package. The group is also looking forward to hosting Network Columbus at the Longaberger Alumni House this fall.

The group's other major focus has been to provide scholarships for GLBT students at Ohio State. The society is approaching their goal of creating a \$25,000 endowment fund that will provide permanent support for a scholarship. "The university has been extremely supportive of our scholarship efforts. The University has never been able to target scholarships for GLBT students because our community had never stepped forward to help identify need and to raise the necessary funds." Most university scholarships are generated through gifts to the University.

Alumni who would like more information on membership or programming can contact Jim Ryan, GLBT Alumni Society President, at (614)421-9389 or [ryantrng@aol.com](mailto:ryantrng@aol.com).

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