

Office of SOCIAL EQUITY *newsletter*



Dear Clarion University family and friends,

As we finish up another semester at Clarion, I want to share the progress we have made toward our shared commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion.

In fall 2018, we had the annual Domestic Violence and Abuse Awareness Day, sponsored by the Presidential Commission on Sexual Harassment and the Office of Social Equity. Representatives from the tri-county area provided resources to students and staff, and the campus community submitted poetry related to domestic violence. The poems were tragic, but beautiful.

Last spring was our Third Annual Lavender graduation to acknowledge students who identify as LGBT+ and/or allies. We also provided Safe Zone training to employees and were able to add more than 20 new offices to our current list.

We created the Presidential Commission on Racial Equity, which provided vast resources and sponsored a talk by Dr. Joe Harmon during Holocaust Remembrance Week. Social Equity worked with the Remembrance Committee to show "Who Will Write Our History."

Social Equity also partnered with The Presidential Commission on the Status of Women for the first Women in History Door Contest. Offices from all over campus participated, and we were blown away by the creativity!

Together, we promote an environment of civility and common understanding. Through that work, Clarion University is truly a wonderful place to live, learn and grow!



Buildings with single use/all gender restrooms

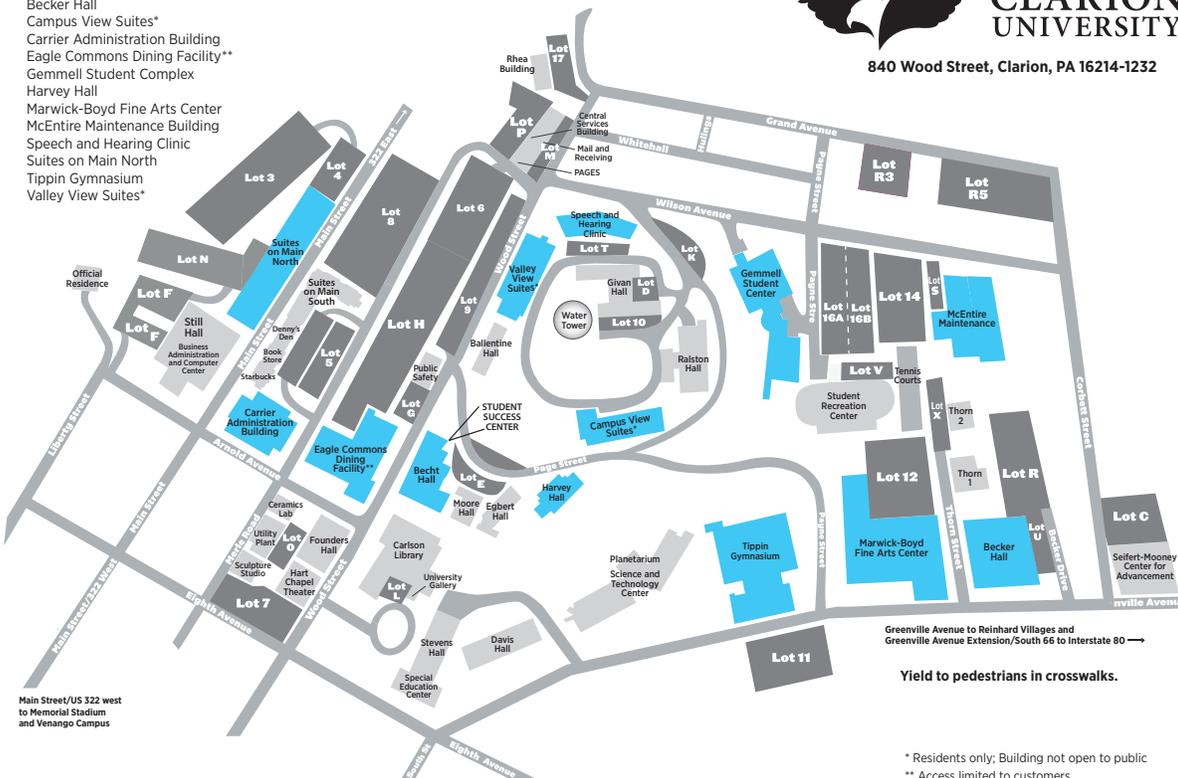
- Becht Hall
- Becker Hall
- Campus View Suites*
- Carrier Administration Building
- Eagle Commons Dining Facility**
- Gemmill Student Complex
- Harvey Hall
- Marwick-Boyd Fine Arts Center
- McEntire Maintenance Building
- Speech and Hearing Clinic
- Suites on Main North
- Tippin Gymnasium
- Valley View Suites*



ALL-GENDER RESTROOMS

Clarion University has designated all-gender restrooms in 11 buildings on the Clarion campus and in one building on the Venango campus. Other all-gender facilities will be added as buildings are scheduled to be renovated.

All-gender restrooms are not specific to transgender people. She said they are an option for anyone wanting privacy or for a parent with a child.



CU SERVE SELECTED AS EQUITY AWARDS' SPECIAL GROUP

CU Serve has been an integral part of the student life at the Venango Campus since the early 2000s. Though for most of the club's existence members have been primarily students from Venango Campus, membership now includes students from the Clarion campus.

The purpose of CU Serve is to connect and engage students through fellowship and service. Members are devoted to the principle of volunteer service, and through these learning experiences they are provided with opportunities to grow in their understanding of the world.

CU Serve selects unique service projects with which students can volunteer. They have built ramps to make buildings handicapped accessible, organized fundraisers, and collaborated with Mustard Seed Missions of Venango County to renovate a housing center in Franklin.

Each spring break, CU Serve completes a large service project in another part of the country. They have traveled to Mississippi, Georgia and, most recently, New Orleans, where they volunteered at food pantries, nursing homes and victim shelters.

Most importantly, CU Serve members strive to be examples for their peers. Their attitude gives hope to a world that is often pessimistic about young people.

CU Serve students excel in the classroom and are active in a wide variety of campus activities and outside organizations. They exemplify the qualities of equity, social justice, civility, fairness, and compassion.



NEVER AGAIN: HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE

More than 30 years ago, mathematics professor Dr. Stephen Gendler formed Clarion University's Holocaust Remembrance Committee. The formation was in response to the creation of Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, a day reserved to memorialize the immense tragedy of the Holocaust. Holocaust Remembrance Day is commemorated on the Jewish calendar (which operates on the lunar calendar) on the 27th of Nissan, which corresponds to the solar calendar anywhere from early April to mid-May (similar to the irregular correspondence of Hanukkah and Christmas).

Gendler's astute vision, sensitivity, and insight has inspired countless such events, bringing to Clarion experts ranging from the academic to the artistic, including Holocaust survivors to share their stories. Often, student groups collaborate with the Holocaust Remembrance Committee by providing funding to support speakers, and faculty connect a portion of their instructional time to the particular Holocaust-related topics the visitors present.

In 2012, for example, Shulamit Basktacky, who suffered in the Holocaust as a child, shared her story. Born in 1941 in Vilnius, Lithuania, she was one of the "Hidden Children" of the Holocaust, hidden and saved by non-Jews. Along with Ms. Basktacky's talk, the Cantor of B' nai Abraham Synagogue sang songs that were composed during the Holocaust.

The Holocaust is expansive in terms of the numerous perspectives and interpretations we can draw from it. Recently, the committee brought the Jewish poet Yehoshua November, who writes tenderly in celebration and sadness about orthodox Jewish culture; the photographer Lisa Shifren, who presented "Photographic Portraits: The

Holocaust Survivors of Baltimore"; Phil Holtje, an expert on "Modern Music that Remembers the Holocaust." Holtje discussed not only music in the context of the Holocaust, but in other catastrophes, such as the Armenia the Native American genocides.

In this respect, the Holocaust Remembrance Committee is also sensitive to other, similar events. In 2016, the committee brought to Clarion Qutaiba Idbibi, from Damascus, Syria, who discussed the severe human rights abuses taking place in his country. He described being detained twice and tortured by the internal security forces in Syria.

The Holocaust Remembrance Committee and its current members, Gendler, English professor Dr. Philip Terman and social sciences instructor Dr. Jeffrey Diamond, is grateful for Clarion University's continued sponsorship as it continues in its mission to educate our community of the significance of the phrase, "never again."



Carlson Library's Karen Sheesman, Rachel Davis, Cassandra Colligan, Amber Borland and McKenzie Reck celebrated Women's History Month by creating a Jane Austen door.

COURAGEOUS. *confident.* CLARION.

It is the policy of Clarion University of Pennsylvania that there shall be equal opportunity in all of its educational programs, services, and benefits, and there shall be no discrimination with regard to a student's or prospective student's gender, gender identity, race or color, ethnicity, national origin or ancestry, age, mental or physical disability, religion or creed, genetic information, affectional or sexual orientation, veteran status, or other classifications that are protected under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and other pertinent state and federal laws and regulations. Direct inquiries to the Title IX Coordinator, Clarion University of Pennsylvania, 103 Carrier Administration Building, sfenske@clarion.edu or phone 814-393-2351, or the Director of Social Equity, 210 Carrier Administration Building 16214-1232; Email alsalgiver@clarion.edu or phone 814-393-2109. Inquiries may also be directed to the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, Department of Education, 330 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20201.

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