

GGC Holds Annual Gender and Sexuality Conference

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By Lina Said - Originally Published 04/2019

On March 22, GGC held the seventh Annual Intersections Conference. Students and faculty presented various panels discussing multiple topics on gender and sexuality with some interactive art. The program started with a free continental breakfast in LVIS followed by presentations in various rooms on campus until 5:00 p.m. The final event was an informal mixer held at Universal Joint in downtown Lawrenceville.

Events like “The Year of the Women: A Moderated Discussion with Georgia Lawmakers” presented by Dr. Ellen Rafshoon, “Rights, Resources and Mental Health in LGBTQ+ Youth” presented by Autumn Lockhart and Sarah Riffin, and “Relationships, Identity, and Compassion” presented by Edward G. Simmons, Kace Garcesa, and Olga Vilkov gave way to interesting discussions on complex topics. Because GGC is considered one of the most diverse colleges in the region, attendees were able to hear the stories of these diverse individuals and see representations of them in research. Students like Yesmeen Jaser, who presented during the conference, were able to impart what they have learned through their presentations.

“Through my experience, I learned that relationships are more than just intimate, they are also relationships between a mother and her children, siblings, and friends,” Yesmeen said.

English professor Dr. Rebecca Flynn first organized the Intersections Conference in South Dakota and brought the conference to GGC.

“Intersections started in 2005 at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota,” Dr. Flynn said. “I co-coordinated the conference with my dear friend Jessica Nathanson, who died from breast cancer a few years ago. She taught me so much, and I think of her every year I coordinate this conference.”

“We started the conference to provide students professional conference experience in a low-key, friendly environment,” she said. “We also wanted to promote an atmosphere of inclusivity and open-mindedness.”

This year’s conference had more presenters than in previous years. The goal for the future is to continue to grow, cover more topics and expand across the nation.