



## Out After Carleton Fall News: Two New Student Committee Members, Updates from the GSC, and Carleton Connects with Jonathan Capehart '89

### Welcome Alé Cota '22 & Gavin Young '21



Alé Cota '22

#### Tell us a little bit about yourself and your path to Carleton.

Hey y'all! My name is Alé, I use they/them/(pretty) pronouns, and I am a third-year from California, currently studying remotely from South Texas. I am working towards my double major in Gender, Women's, Sexuality Studies and Latin American Studies. I absolutely am a proud trans, nonbinary, queer Latine (gender-neutral term for Latino that avoids the clunky x like "Latinx" because Spanish speakers being forced to say Latinx is just another facet of power dynamics at play). Besides that, I am a self-proclaimed writer, thinker, poet, and practicing radical, queer organizer.

#### In what ways are you excited about connecting with LGBTQI+ alumni?

I serve in a lot of leadership roles at Carleton and all of my work these past two years has been very much QTBIPOC focused. I also work at the Gender and Sexuality Center as the associate in charge, along with an amazing co-worker, to revamp educational workshops for students. One of my favorite programs so far has been our pronouns workshop that my co-worker titled "THEY SAID." With this work in mind, I really want to connect with LGTQI+ alumni, especially QBTIPOC (queer and trans Black, Indigenous, and people of colour), or white alumni who are in positions of power to consider the ways in which they can directly and effectively assist QTBIPOC. This can be in creating connections for QTBIPOC with companies that are safe environments for us. As a future practicing attorney, I will have to grapple with the conservative performativity of gender and its dynamics in the courtroom as a they/them pronoun using person. Having had some of the conversations with faculty and some alumni about that aspect has definitely been really helpful and transformative for me. Conversations that go such a long way because they affirm our identities rather than the heteronormative discourse of having to adapt to the white supremacist, and the capitalist myth of professionalism.

To read more about Alé, check out the [full interview](#).



Gavin Young '21

#### Tell us a little bit about yourself and your path to Carleton.

I grew up on a farm a little ways outside of Birmingham, AL. I'm told that when I explain it to other people who don't know me it sounds like I grew up in a cult because I live down a two mile dirt road with 20 members of my extended family, was homeschooled, and didn't wear shoes regularly until I was 13. My road from there to Carleton is largely influenced by my wonderful highschool counselor who saw me for the conflicted little queer boy I was and quite forcefully shoved me towards Carleton, a push I'm grateful for.

#### What motivated you to join the Out After Carleton Leadership Committee?

I was motivated to join the OAC Leadership Committee both out of a desire to connect to my community and a desire to contribute to improving the experience of the next group/generation of queer students at Carleton. I'm trying to carve out a place for queer people in the organizations that I'm a part of on campus but it feels hard and lonely. I want to learn about the legacy of my family at Carleton so it can inform how I take action and give me hope.

To read more about Gavin, check out the [full interview](#).

## News from the Gender and Sexuality Center

We are excitedly kicking off LGBT History Month! Check out this cool promo video as well as our LGBT History Month Calendar of Events page at [go.carleton.edu/gsc](http://go.carleton.edu/gsc)



### Happy Fall from the Gender & Sexuality Center!

The [Gender & Sexuality Center](#) (GSC) is celebrating LGBT History Month in October with a theme of "Using Our History to Heal Us." Part of the calendar of events is our annual Rainbow Retreat, October 9 and 10. Although it will all be virtual, we still hope to offer our students an opportunity to connect with each other. **This year OAC alumni are invited to participate in a variety of activities throughout the month.** Register now to save your spot!! No prep necessary, just join in the conversations with students about topics affecting LGBTQIA+ communities at Carleton and beyond.



- **10/10 and 10/11 LGBTQIA+ Affinity Groups/Spaces:** LGBTQIA+ Affinity Groups are identity-based spaces for individuals to gather, network, and dialogue in a space dedicated to those holding specific identities. There will be a variety of Affinity Groups available 10/10 and 10/11 and open to LGBTQIA+ student, staff/faculty, and alumni as a way to build community within the larger LGBTQIA+ Carleton community! [Registration](#) required.
- **10/11 National Coming Out Day with Rev. Kristin Maier '92:** "Stonewall: Stories from Another Uprising," contact Carolyn Fure-Slocum at [cfureslo@carleton.edu](mailto:cfureslo@carleton.edu) for the Zoom link.
- **10/17 The Luminous present: Generative writing through histories, dreams, and the kaleidoscope of self.** In writing in English, as in living in the United States, we're working within a violent colonial structure that holds oppression, survival, joy—and also the possibility for transformation. This session is a chance to sit with both the grief and the resplendence of our individual and collective histories, and from within them, find ways to speak that are new, fresh, and alive.
- **10/24 J Mase III: On Faith & the Criminalization of the Black Trans Body.** Join the GSC, Carleton Religion Department, Office of Intercultural and International Life, and the Office of the Chaplain as we co-host J Mase III, a black, trans, queer artist and educator, discuss the complex relationship between religion, race, and gender.
- **10/31 Edit Loud and Edit Proud: Queering Wikipedia:** Wikipedia is full of information about notable LGBTQ+ people and events...or is it? Wikipedian Rachel Wexelbaum will show you how to edit Wikipedia to expand and improve LGBTQ+ content and queer Wikipedia articles, and will connect you with a community of LGBTQ+ Wikipedia editors.

Though these are unprecedented times, the GSC is continuing to provide opportunities for LGBTQIA+ Carls to connect, share stories, and build community. At our virtual Rainbow Reception hosted at the end of New Student Week, over 50 students joined to learn more about LGBTQIA+ communities at Carleton—and receive a free GSC t-shirt! We've also mobilized our safer sex and menstrual supply resources through our GSC Care Kits— distributed to all Resident Assistants through a collaboration with the Office of Residential Life & Housing. Thanks for all your support!



Anya Lord '23, our GSC Associate Leading efforts around First Year Engagement, showing off the newly updated GSC logo on the free t-shirts sent out to any student who participated in the Rainbow Reception



GSC Care Kits

GSC Care Kits contain free menstrual and safer sex supplies. Contact information for reproductive health, LGBTQIA+ support, and suicide intervention are included on the kit lids.

## Carleton Connects Presents: Jonathan Capehart '89 on What Matters Now

Tuesday, October 13, 12:00 pm CDT

Join Pulitzer Prize-winning *Washington Post* opinion writer **Jonathan Capehart '89** for a wide-ranging conversation on national, personal, and topical issues, with plenty of time for questions from the audience.

[Learn more and register online](#), and browse nearly a decade of episodes in the [Carleton Connects archive](#).



## Share Out After Carleton with Fellow Carls

Do you know a classmate that should receive Out After Carleton communications? Please forward the newsletter and encourage your classmates to join the [Out After Carleton communication list](#).

Out After Carleton is for all Carleton alumni, students, faculty, staff, family and friends who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Gender Non-Binary, Queer, Questioning, Asexual, Aromantic, and Other Marginalized Sexual Orientations and Gender Identities (LGBTQA+) or are allies of this community.

We are open and inclusive, and we welcome anyone who is interested in being a member of our community.



Office of Alumni Relations • Carleton College  
One North College Street • Northfield, MN 55057  
Email: [alumni-office@carleton.edu](mailto:alumni-office@carleton.edu) • Phone: 800-729-2586

**Come Explore Carleton's Alumni Network:**

[Connect](#) • [Return](#) • [Learn](#) • [Remember](#) • [Volunteer](#) • [Ask](#) • [Alumni Directory](#)