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Pride Week events this week

Summary: "Pride Week is to celebrate who you are and where you come from," said Jen Hagen, treasurer of E-Quality at the University of Minnesota, Morris. Pride Week, an annual celebration at UMM that also takes place nationwide in late May or early June, is being celebrated locally this week.

(April 8, 2008)–"Pride Week is to celebrate who you are and where you come from," said Jen Hagen, treasurer of E-Quality at the University of Minnesota, Morris. Pride Week, an annual celebration at UMM that also takes place nationwide in late May or early June, is being celebrated locally this week.

The week's events, sponsored by E-Quality, include:

An opening ceremony, held April 7, raised the GLBTA flag for the week on the campus mall. A concert with singer, songwriter, and guitarist, Ellis, was held in Edson Auditorium.

A Poetry and Art Show is scheduled for Wednesday, April 9, at 8 p.m. in the Alumni Room of Oyate Hall in the UMM Student Center. This is a chance to see art and listen to poetry by UMM students and faculty. "This event was in part inspired by the annual French Poetry Contest," according to Hagen. Anyone is welcome to bring poetry or art to the show and refreshments will be served.

Ending Pride Week will be the 2008 Diva/Drag Show on Friday, April 11, at 7 p.m. in Edson Auditorium, Student Center. General admission is free, VIP tickets are \$5, but attendees are encouraged to bring nonperishable foods to the event for the food drive. "The Annual Drag Show closes out our Pride Week with lots of dancing, lip-syncing and some great moves," said Hagen.

E-Quality is one of UMM's oldest student organizations. It's an organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersex students and allies of GLBTs at UMM.

Through social events, educational programs, pride activism and political awareness, the organization strives to end stereotyping and works to promote an understanding of and equal rights for GLBTs and for diversity.

E-Quality members coordinate the GLBTA Resource Center in the Student Center, which contains publications relevant to GLBT issues, including videotapes, pamphlets, books, current newspapers and national magazines. The resource center, open to the public, is also dedicated to creating and maintaining a safe, confidential space for open dialogue and learning about issues of diverse sexuality.

E-Quality also organizes events such as National Coming Out Day and a Candle light vigil march in memory of Mathew Shepard.

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.