

CIVIC LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT



HIGHLIGHTS

LGBTQ History Month

David Macey: Championing Inclusivity at FHSU

FHSU Homecoming 2024 with Alex Johnson

October Speaker Series

“Sorting Out Race” Speaker Series

Swipeout Hunger 2024

Election dates

The exhibition: Salina Art Center

LGBTQ HISTORY MONTH

LGBT History Month (U.S.) was first celebrated in 1994 and was declared a national history month by President Barack Obama in 2009 to encourage openness and education about LGBT history and rights.

LGBT History Month is an annual observance that celebrates the rich history and achievements of the LGBTQ+ community. It provides a platform to highlight key figures, events, and milestones in the ongoing fight for LGBTQ+ rights and acceptance.



DAVID MACEY: PIONEERING CHANGE AND FOSTERING INCLUSIVITY AS A LEADER AT FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

In today's rapidly changing world, leadership demands resilience, adaptability, and a commitment to inclusivity qualities embodied by Dr. David Macey, Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at Fort Hays State University (FHSU). In addition to his academic leadership, Macey is an unwavering advocate for the LGBTQ+ community as President of Hays Pride and faculty advisor for FHSU's Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA). His vision transcends traditional boundaries, promoting an environment where diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) are not just talked about but actively pursued.

In an insightful and candid interview, Macey shared the journey that brought him to FHSU, the challenges of promoting inclusivity in a rural setting, and his vision for the future of the LGBTQ+ community both on and off campus.

David Macey's path to academic leadership is anything but conventional. "I started my career working in a soup kitchen in Brooklyn," Macey recounted, highlighting his early experiences of service before transitioning to higher education. His trajectory includes roles at the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO), where he served for over two decades in various capacities, including Chair of the English Department and Assistant Vice President for Diversity and Globalization.



After more than 25 years at UCO, Macey sought new challenges and found an opportunity at FHSU. "I knew about FHSU and its reputation for excellence, and after so long at one institution, it felt like the right time to try something new," he reflected. The transition to FHSU allowed Macey to leverage his extensive experience and passion for DEI, fostering dialogue and collaboration in a new academic and cultural landscape.

Macey, who embraced his identity at 16, has been deeply committed to LGBTQ+ advocacy throughout his life. "I've been involved in LGBTQ+ activism since the 1980s, a time when being open about one's identity presented significant challenges," he reflected.

When asked what motivated him to become President of Hays Pride, Macey underscored the importance of representation: "It's crucial for our community to see leadership that reflects its diversity. Hays Pride is about more than just celebrating identity it's about creating safe spaces where people can come together and feel seen and valued."

Despite the progress that has been made, Macey acknowledges the challenges of promoting LGBTQ+ inclusion in a rural, conservative setting like Hays. "There's a lot of value placed on maintaining 'polite' social relations, but that can sometimes shut down real conversations about DEI," he noted. For Macey, fostering a truly inclusive environment requires open, sometimes uncomfortable, conversations ones that challenge people to think critically about their beliefs and biases.

Macey's leadership extends beyond his role with Hays Pride. As Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, he plays a pivotal role in shaping academic discourse and championing the liberal arts. Macey recognizes the unique challenges that come with leading a regional institution like FHSU, especially when it comes to advocating for the value of the arts and humanities in an increasingly career-focused educational landscape.

"Arts, humanities, and social sciences are often seen as less 'practical' disciplines, but they teach the critical thinking, creativity, and leadership skills that are essential in today's rapidly changing world," Macey explained. "We live in a global economy and culture, and our students need to be prepared to adapt.



The liberal arts provide those transferable skills."

At FHSU, Macey is working to build on the college's strengths while navigating ongoing restructuring and reorganization. "We're in a period of transition, but that also brings opportunities to redefine what it means to study arts, humanities, and social sciences in Western Kansas and beyond," he said, referring to FHSU's international partnerships in countries like China, Cambodia, and Senegal.

Macey believes that universities play a critical role in fostering collaboration and building bridges between diverse communities. In rural areas like Hays, this role is even more pronounced.

"In Oklahoma, I worked in a large metropolitan area with many other universities, but here in Hays, we are the only four-year public institution in this part of the state," he noted. "That gives us a unique opportunity to be a hub of collaboration and innovation for the entire region."

Macey's work with Hays Pride and the GSA is an extension of this philosophy. By creating spaces where LGBTQ+ individuals and allies can come together, these organizations foster a sense of community that extends beyond the university. "Hays Pride has been able to create social spaces that bring together people from the university, the town, and surrounding communities. It's about building a wider community of understanding and support," he said.

As FHSU prepares to celebrate LGBTQ+ History Month, Macey hopes the campus community will take the opportunity to reflect on the progress that has been made and the work that still lies ahead. "History Month is about more than just celebrating identity. It's a chance to learn from the past, to connect with the elders in our community, and to understand how far we've come," he emphasized.

Macey encouraged students and faculty to explore not just national LGBTQ+ history, but also the local history of LGBTQ+ activism in Kansas. "There's a rich LGBTQ+ history right here in Hays, and it's important that we understand that history to make sense of where we are today," he said.



In closing, Macey's message was one of optimism and resilience. "We've made incredible progress, but there's always more to do," he said. "At FHSU, we have the opportunity to be leaders in fostering inclusivity—not just in our academic programs, but in the way we engage with our community. We need to be open to difficult conversations, because that's where real growth happens."

David Macey's leadership at FHSU is a testament to the power of resilience, advocacy, and collaboration. As both an academic leader and an LGBTQ+ advocate, he is committed to creating a campus and community where every individual feels empowered to make a difference. Through his work, Macey continues to build bridges, foster understanding, and inspire the next generation of leaders at Fort Hays State University.

FHSU HOMECOMING 2024: ALEX JOHNSON'S DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP SHINES THROUGH FESTIVE PLANS

As Homecoming approaches at Fort Hays State University (FHSU), excitement builds across campus and among alumni. In an exclusive interview, Alex Johnson, the current Alumni Office intern, provided an insider's view on the preparations for this highly anticipated event. Johnson, a Political Science Pre-Law major with a passion for public service, shared his unique journey to this role, insights into the history of Homecoming, and what makes this event so meaningful for FHSU alumni and students.

"I've always had a passion for service," said Johnson, explaining his decision to intern with the Alumni Office. Having previously interned in Washington, D.C., he was drawn back to Fort Hays by its sense of community, a hallmark of the university. "That sense of community is something I've always admired about FHSU, and it's one of the reasons I chose to work here."

After being recruited by Jason Williby, the President and CEO of the FHSU Foundation, Johnson saw an opportunity to merge his strengths in public service and communication with his desire to make a difference. As part of his internship, Johnson is responsible for reaching out to alumni and supporting the event-planning process for Homecoming, a task he describes as "all hands on deck."



One of the most unique aspects of FHSU's Homecoming is the focus on reconnecting alumni with their alma mater. This year, the university will honor the classes of 1964 and 1974 as part of the Half Century Club. Johnson noted that the Half Century Club celebrates alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago, allowing them to share memories and relive their college days. This year, the Class of 1964 will celebrate their 60-year reunion, while the Class of 1974 will be inducted into the club for their 50-year milestone.

Reflecting on conversations with alumni from these classes, Johnson emphasized the enduring bond they share with the university.

"Even though times have changed, the fun and joy they had during their college years are the same experiences we're having today," he remarked.

Another cornerstone of the Homecoming celebration is the recognition of alumni who have made exceptional contributions in their fields. This year, six awardees will be honored: three receiving the Alumni Achievement Award, one the Distinguished Service Award, and two receiving the Young Alumni Award. Johnson explained that the selection process is rigorous, with nominations coming from students, faculty, staff, and even community members. These awards represent the highest honors FHSU can bestow on its graduates, celebrating their successes post-graduation.

Homecoming at FHSU has deep roots in the university's history, and Johnson has been diving into archival yearbooks to better understand its evolution. "It's always been a big deal," he shared, noting that Homecoming is a cherished tradition not only for the university but also for the wider Hays community.



One of the standout events of Homecoming is Oktoberfest, a celebration of the Volga-German heritage that runs deep in Hays. This unique cultural event is a time for students, alumni, and locals to come together and enjoy food, music, and festivities.

As FHSU's Alumni Office continues its work on Homecoming preparations, Johnson is particularly excited about the potential for growth and innovation in future celebrations. "We're always asking ourselves how we can make this better," he said, highlighting the team's commitment to improving communication and enhancing the overall experience for attendees.

When asked about his personal favorite moments from past Homecomings, Johnson, a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity, reflected on the relationships and connections that are fostered during this time. "It's all about the people you meet and the friendships you form," he said with a smile. For Johnson and many others, Homecoming is more than just an event it's a time to reconnect with old friends, celebrate accomplishments, and create lasting memories.

As FHSU prepares to welcome back alumni from all over the country, Johnson's excitement is palpable.



While this will be his first Homecoming as a member of the Alumni Office, he is confident that the event will live up to its reputation as the "best weekend of the year."

For anyone looking to experience the full schedule of events, including the Half Century Club luncheon, award ceremonies, and Oktoberfest, Johnson encourages students and alumni to visit the official FHSU Homecoming website. "No matter which events you attend, you'll have a blast," he promises.

With Homecoming fast approaching, Fort Hays State University is ready to honor its rich history, celebrate its alumni, and strengthen the bonds that make this community so special



FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING & OKTOBERFEST WEEKEND SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, OCT. 3

- **Golf Tournament:** Smoky Hill Country Club, 8:00 AM Registration, 9:00 AM Shotgun Start
- **Tiger Bonfire:** Robbins Center, 7:30 PM

FRIDAY, OCT. 4

- **Welcome Desk:** Memorial Union, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
- **Groundbreaking:** Lewis Field Stadium, 9:00 AM
- **Half Century Club Social:** Memorial Union, 11:00 AM - Noon
- **Oktoberfest:** Hays Municipal Park (Visit OktoberfestHays.com)
- **Alumni Meet & Greet:** Moss-Thorns Gallery, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM
- **Luncheon & Induction:** Memorial Union, Noon - 1:00 PM
- **Campus Tour:** Memorial Union, Sunset Atrium, 1:30 PM
- **Hays Bus Tour:** Memorial Union, 2:00 PM
- **Awards Banquet:** Memorial Union, 6:00 PM Social, 7:00 PM Dinner

SATURDAY, OCT. 5

- **Welcome Desk:** Memorial Union, 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM
- **Reunion Breakfasts:** Memorial Union, 8:30 AM
- **Campus Tour:** Memorial Union, 9:30 AM
- **Parade Watch Transport:** Memorial Union, 10:45 AM
- **Parade:** Downtown Hays, 11:00 AM
- **Oktoberfest:** Hays Municipal Park (Visit OktoberfestHays.com)
- **Tiger Tailgate:** Lewis Field Stadium, 5:00 PM
- **Football Game:** Lewis Field Stadium, 6:30 PM Pre-Game, 7:00 PM Kickoff

For details, call **785-628-4430** or visit FHSUhomecoming.com.

OCTOBER SPEAKER SERIES



OCTOBER SPEAKERS SERIES

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

Anniston Weber is the Campus Advocate at Options Domestic and Sexual Violence Services. Her position lies in supporting college and high school students who have experienced domestic violence, sexual violence, stalking, or human trafficking. She is committed to community outreach and education and takes great pride in the community events she gets to create and host through her job like, "Rock Against Rape." Additionally, she plays a pivotal role in creating and maintaining sexual assault response teams, as well as being educated in Title IX to ensure justice and support for survivors. Outside of her professional role, Anniston is a board member for Hays Pride, a board member for CEVGV, a board member for 802 United, a volunteer grant writer, and a vocal advocate for voting rights, reproductive health, and diversity and inclusion within the community of Hays.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1,
CODY COMMONS - MEMORIAL UNION
6:30 - 8:00 PM



ANNISTON WEBER

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Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA)
Hays Pride

For more information contact: cle@fhsu.edu

OCTOBER SPEAKER SERIES

KANSAS COALITION FOR COMMON SENSE

Tuesday, October 8

6:30 - 8:00 PM

Cody Commons – Memorial Union,

Ashley All is a communication and political strategist with 20 years of experience working on political campaigns in Kansas and other states. She led communication teams on multiple statewide campaigns for governor, attorney general, US Senate, and as a communication director for Governor Laura Kelly.

In 2022, Ashley served as a communications director for Kansans for Constitutional Freedom – the coalition that secured a historic landslide victory for reproductive rights in the first vote post-Roe. Since then, she was worked on successful campaigns to protect rights in Kentucky, Montana, Michigan, and Ohio.

Last year, Ashley started the Kansas Coalition for Common Sense – a nonpartisan communication hub to help organizations, leaders, and advocates communication more effectively and advance our shared commonsense Kansas values. She is sixth generation Kansans, a graduate of the University of Kansas, and has a Master of Science in Strategic Communication from Columbia University in New York City.



Ashley All

KS Common Sense

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Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA)
Hays Pride

For more information contact: cle@fhsu.edu

Please join members of the Experiential Learning Committee for coffee and conversation about Experiential Learning Innovation Grants that are available through the Office of the Provost! Learn more about [Funding Opportunities](#) here.

Tuesday, October 8, 2024
from 8 :00am - 9:30 AM
Prairie Room at Memorial
Union




**Coffee &
Brainstorm**


Sponsored by:
Experiential Learning Committee

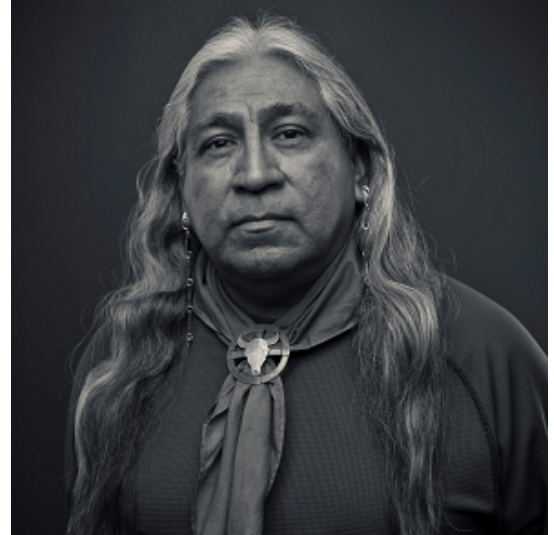
“SORTING OUT RACE” SPEAKER SERIES

A special bonus speaker that will visit campus after the exhibition has left Hays but will address similar themes. Dr. Pewewardy’s visit is made possible by the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, Civic Learning & Engagement, the Department of History and Philosophy, the College of Education, the Advanced Educational Program, and the Department of Communication Studies, Law & Political Science.

Dr. Cornel Pewewardy, “Seeing Red: The Construction of the Indian in American Popular Culture and Sports”

Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Central Oklahoma and professor emeritus, Indigenous Nations Studies at Portland State University, and vice-chairman of the Comanche Nation

October 22 at 3:00 PM in Albertson 169



Dr. Cornel Pewewardy

SWIPEOUT HUNGER 2024

Join US!

Civic Learning and Engagement, the Leadership Programs, Student Engagement, Forsyth Library, and Global Affairs presents

SWIPEOUT HUNGER

Step Up, Pack Up, and Fight Hunger Locally! Join the mission to make a difference.

Event set up: 10:00am
Meal packing: 12:00pm

**Saturday,
November 16th 2024**
Black and Gold Room,
Memorial Union



**Volunteers
needed**
**Scan the
QR code**



ELECTION DATES



ELECTION DATES

Tuesday, October 15 - Deadline to register or update registration for 2024 general election.

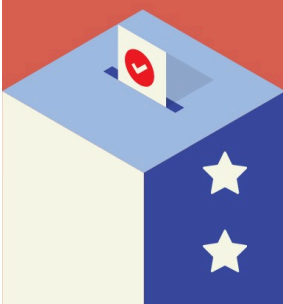
Monday, October 21 - First day of advance voting. (Check with your county!)

Tuesday, October 29 - Last day to apply for an advance voting mail ballot.

Monday, November 4 - In-person advance voting ends at 12:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 5 - **GENERAL ELECTION**

FIND YOUR POLLING PLACE OR VERIFY YOUR REGISTRATION



myvoteinfo.voteks.org/voterview

SALINAartcenter

Muse | James Kinser & Niki Grangruth
September 25 - December 29, 2024

Muse, a collaborative body of work by visual artist Niki Grangruth and multimedia artist James Kinser, explores non-conforming gender identity by reimagining and reinterpreting well-known paintings of female subjects from art history. Through the use of a male subject, gaze, and hand-made costumes, each photograph questions common gender-specific beauty ideals, disrupts the pervasive construct of binary gender identity, and explores gender as a non-linear and ever-changing performative act. These challenges to socially constructed gender norms are juxtaposed with overt references to art history, which grounds the work in the familiar and accessible.




**CONTACT
INFORMATION**


For any inquiries, information, or assistance, please feel free to reach out to the Civic Learning & Engagement Administrative Team

Donnette Noble

Director of Civic Learning and Engagement

 djnoble@fhsu.edu

 (785) 628-4415

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Engagement](#)

Newsletter Credits

Tayyabunnisa Tahera

*Graduate Assistant for Civic
Learning and Engagement*

 t_tahera.se@fhsu.edu