

**Special Event: UW-L's International LGBT Film Festival!  
Feb. 25-27! Don't miss it! Details begin [here](#).**

**Feb. 10, noon, Sara Sullivan (Psychology) and Will Van Roosenbeek (Pride Center): LGBTIQQAA Studies in Paris, Cartwright Center 340.**

In Summer 2009, Sara Sullivan and Will Van Roosenbeek led a unique study abroad experience to Paris, France. Our main goal was to provide a meaningful international experience for LGBTIQQAA (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, Questioning Asexual and their Allies) students. In cooperation with the CEA Global Campus in Paris, students were enrolled in the UWL course, Introduction to LGBT Studies, and the CEA course, Gay Paris. A highlight of our trip was attending the Paris Pride celebration. In addition to reviewing last summer's experience, we will focus on plans/changes for summer 2010 and address questions from those who are interested in participating in 2010.

**Feb. 17, 4 pm. Keely Rees, Health Education and Health Promotion, "Inclusive Sexuality Education for Youth through the Our Whole Lives Program," Cartwright Center 330.**

Ever wonder what youth are learning about sexuality at home, in our schools, with their friends? Come learn about one innovative, comprehensive program in community-based and faith-based settings. How it gets children, tweens, and teenagers and even adults talking candidly, asking honest questions about sexuality. Factual, open, diverse sexuality education in a spiritual setting? How is that possible....come find out.

**Feb. 25-27 Visiting Scholar and Director Parvez Sharma,**

**Lecture , Film Screening and Discussion as part of the UW-L International LGBT Film Festival. Sponsored by: Dean's Council Visiting Scholar of Color Grant, Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, the Pride Center, and the Departments of Psychology, Modern Languages and English**

Parvez Sharma is the director and producer of A Jihad for Love ([www.ajihadforlove.com](http://www.ajihadforlove.com)), which is the world's first feature documentary to explore the complex global intersections between Islam and homosexuality. Crucially, this film speaks with a Muslim voice, unlike other documentaries about sexual politics in Islam made by Western directors. In the hope of opening a dialogue that has been mostly non-existent in Islam's recent history and defining jihad as a "struggle" rather than a "war," the film presents the struggle for love.

A Jihad for Love has been screened at more than 70 other international film festivals and is the winner of several international awards. In addition, Sharma was the Assistant Director of "Dance of the Wind (1998)" and Associate Producer of "Tying the Knot (2004)". In 2004, Sharma also was a producer of "Democracy Now!" with award-winning host, Amy Goodman. From 1997-2000, Sharma served as the News Correspondent, Producer and Editor of Star News Channel, New Delhi Television, India. Sharma's academic work includes serving as an Adjunct Professor in the Dept. of Anthropology from 2001-2002 and as an Adjunct Professor in the School of Communication from 2002-2003 at American University in Washington D.C. Sharma's work has been cited in several academic works on media, documentary film and Islamic research. Parvez Sharma has spoken at more than 200 live events across the world including: The Second UN Conference on Racism ("Durban 2"), Geneva, 2009, The Global Forum on the Freedom of Expression, Oslo, 2009, World Outgames, Copenhagen, 2009 and Amnesty International/Movies

that Matter (Holland, 8-city tour), 2009. Sharma has been the featured/keynote speaker at more than 30 educational institutions across the United States. As a commentator on Islam and homosexuality and in the context of reporting on the post-2009 election in Iran, Parvez has been interviewed on prominent television networks including: CBC, CNN, BBC, PBS, FOX and MSNBC.

**Feb. 25 Parvez Sharma Lecture, “Islam and Diversity,” 4 pm, Cleary Center** Does the 1429 year old religion have principles that are relevant in the twenty first century? What is the sexual psyche of those young men who take on weapons in order to defend Islam and are ready to die for the promised seventy virgins in heaven? Was he (Parvez Sharma) right in re-defining Jihad the way he did with his film? Does Islam’s birth, some fourteen centuries ago herald a sexual revolution that was unprecedented for the monotheistic religions that preceded it? Don’t Muslims have a lot of sex, given the high rates of procreation in their communities worldwide? And what was the Prophet Muhammad’s attitude to matters of sex and sexuality? Was it perverted over time as male power brokers sought to define Islamic morality? In an engaging and incisive talk and discussion based on extensive research and personal experience Parvez takes on these and similar questions for the audience.

**Feb. 26-27 UW-L’s International LGBT Film Festival, co-sponsored by Pride Center and Institute for Latin American Studies**

**Friday, Feb. 26 7 pm. *A Jihad for Love* followed by a Conversation with Director Parvez Sharma, 339 Cartwright Center.**

**A Jihad for Love** Middle East/South Asia Running time: 81 minutes Fourteen centuries after the revelation of the holy Qur’an

to the Prophet Muhammad, Islam today is the world's second largest and fastest growing religion. Muslim gay filmmaker Parvez Sharma travels the many worlds of this dynamic faith, discovering the stories of its most unlikely storytellers: lesbian and gay Muslims. Produced by Sandi DuBowski (Trembling Before G-d) and Sharma, *A Jihad for Love* was filmed in 12 countries and 9 languages and comes from the heart of Islam. Looking beyond a hostile and war-torn present, it reclaims the Islamic concept of a greater Jihad, whose true meaning is akin to 'an inner struggle' or 'to strive in the path of God' - allowing its remarkable subjects to move beyond the narrow concept of Jihad as holy war.

**SATURDAY, Feb. 27: 12pm - 10 pm, International LGBT Film Festival continues in 339 Cartwright Center**

12pm:**The Baby Formula** Canada RUNNING TIME: 81 minutes In the beginning... sperm came from men Two adventurous women in love are desperate to have their own biological child. They take a chance on an experimental scientific process and make sperm from their own stem cells. Pregnant with humor and unexpected twists, their journey tailspins out of control when their families discover there is no father.

2pm:**Diagnosing Difference** USA Run time: 60 minutes How does it feel to have your gender identity included in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders? *Diagnosing Difference* is a full-length length documentary featuring interviews with 13 diverse scholars, activists, and artists who identify on the trans spectrum (transgender, transsexual, genderqueer, and gender variant) about the impact and implications of the Gender Identity Disorder (GID) on their lives and communities.

3:30pm:**Dangerous Living: Coming Out in the Developing World** Egypt, Honduras, Kenya, Thailand Running Time: 60 minutes *Dangerous Living: Coming Out in the Developing World* is

the first documentary to deeply explore the lives of gay and lesbian people in non-western cultures. Traveling to five different continents, we hear the heartbreaking and triumphant stories of gays and lesbians from Egypt, Honduras, Kenya, Thailand and elsewhere, where most occurrences of oppression receive no media coverage at all. By sharing the personal stories coming out of developing nations, *Dangerous Living* sheds light on an emerging global movement striving to end discrimination and violence against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people.

5:00pm:**XXY** by ILLAS and the Pride Center)Argentina | Spanish w/ English subtitlesRunning Time: 91 MinutesFor just about everybody, adolescence means having to confront a number of choices and life decisions, but rarely any as monumental as the one facing 15 year-old Alex (Ines Efron,) who was born an intersex child. As Alex begins to explore her sexuality, her mother invites friends from Buenos Aires to come for a visit at their house on the gorgeous Uruguayan shore, along with their 16-year-old son Álvaro (Martin Piroyanski.) Alex is immediately attracted to the young man, which adds yet another level of complexity to her personal search for identity, and forces both families to face their worst fears.

7pm:**Patrik, Age 1,5** SwedenGöran always wanted to become a father. He is married to his partner, Sven, and they have been cleared for adoption by the Swedish authorities. The problem is that no country seems to be willing to give a child to a homosexual couple. Göran refuses to give up his dream of having what so many others take for granted; a real family.