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# Q Notes

Noted . Notable . Noteworthy . LGBT News & Views

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## Q-Notes Online gets makeover

### RSS, commenting, daily news alerts and more

Regular visitors to *Q-Notes* Online have already noticed a change in our online presence. A week prior to this current issue, *Q-Notes* staff rolled out our website's new design.

The new *Q-Notes* Online features daily news, RSS feeds, article talkbacks, staff blogs, a daily email news update and more. The new site and its behind-the-scenes construction enable us to better serve you and helps us get the news out faster and better than ever before.

On the new website readers can engage in community discussions on each published article. You can also sign up to receive a daily email delivered right to your inbox every morning containing the latest LGBT news from around the Carolinas.

For those who are a little more tech savvy, *Q-Notes* Online now offers RSS feeds, allowing you to subscribe to content from virtually any section of the site.

Built with the popular blogging platform WordPress, we hope the new website will be able to grow and change simultaneously with the internet and web trends of the blogosphere. We also hope to build close relationships with LGBT bloggers around the Carolinas and nation. Increased use of video reporting is also in development.

If you haven't yet had the chance to check it out, head over to *Q-Notes* Online at [www.q-notes.com](http://www.q-notes.com). Be sure to look at our two newest staff blogs, *InsideSource* with editor Matt Comer and *Daily Popcorn*, a queer-oriented pop culture blog with associate editor David Stout. ▀

info: [insidesource.q-notes.com](http://insidesource.q-notes.com) . [popcorn.q-notes.com](http://popcorn.q-notes.com)

## Gay freshman elected student body prez at N.C. college

*Michael Tusso's victory potentially the first in UNC system student politics*

by Matt Comer . *Q-Notes* staff

GREENSBORO — An openly gay freshman at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro



**Michael Tusso does not describe himself as an activist, but lives his life to help others.**

(UNCG) won the student government spring election for student body president by an overwhelming majority in mid-April.

Michael Tusso, 19, a native of Raleigh, offi-

cially took office Apr. 29. His duties as student government president include overseeing funding for hundreds of student organizations, serving on the university's board of trustees and acting as a liaison between students and university administration.

Tusso might be the first-ever openly gay student body president at any school in the UNC system. Past members of UNCG's student government couldn't recall ever hearing about an openly gay president and members of the system-wide Association of Student Governments couldn't either. Web searches also returned nothing.

Tusso had to overcome obstacles of age, academic class and sexual orientation to win the right to lead UNCG's more than 16,000 students for the next year. His prior involvement with the student government was primarily focused in the Student Senate Finance Committee.

Tusso told *Q-Notes* that he wants to find ways for student government to work more

## N.C. Primary coverage

*Q-Notes* has some great coverage of the N.C. Primary on May 6. Be sure to check out pages 4 and 5 for two guest commentaries on the remaining Democratic candidates, Sens. Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. Daily updated coverage can also be found on *Q-Notes* Online at [www.q-notes.com](http://www.q-notes.com). Happy Voting!

closely with student organizations.

"An issue I've been pushing a lot is collaboration. There is a lot of disconnect between the Student Government Association and student organizations."

UNCG has a reputation for the outlandish antics of past student governments. Collaboration and dialogue have been in short supply in recent years as the bitter infighting between differing special interests have taken center stage. In fact, the lack of planning almost led to the student government's shut-down by university officials less

see new on 13

## Business Guild celebrates 15th year in Columbia

*S.C. Gala features openly gay comedian ANT*

by Collier Rutledge . Contributing Writer

COLUMBIA — What do you get when you mix scores of LGBT people, a nationally respected, openly gay comedian, the mayor of a state's capital city, food and dancing? The S.C. Gay and Lesbian Business Guild Gala, of course.

On May 16, the Guild will host their annual awards gala with featured entertainer ANT at the Embassy Suites Hotel on Greystone Blvd. The event starts with a reception and networking hour at 6 p.m., followed by the gala program at 7 p.m. A cash bar will be available during the gala and an after dinner dance is scheduled from the end of the program until midnight.

The event marks the 15th anniversary of the S.C. Gay and Lesbian Business Guild, a well-established LGBT organization that is among the oldest gay groups in the state.

ANT has been featured on numerous television programs, including "The Last Comic Standing" (where he served as a judge), "The Tonight

Show with Jay Leno" and "The Tyra Banks Show." He has also appeared on programs airing on VH1 and LOGO.

According to gala organizer Chuck Archie, ANT is also donating his time for a private luncheon on the day of the gala.

Archie told *Q-Notes* the Guild has donated 10 seats to the luncheon to the AIDS Benefit Foundation Dining with Friends Dessert Finale auction. A platter signed by ANT will also be auctioned off at the same fundraiser.

At the gala, the Guild will be presenting four awards, including the Freddie Mullis Corporate Member of the Year, Dan Burch Volunteer of the Year and Community Partner of the Year awards. A Trailblazer Award will also be presented to an individual who has "blazed a trail, broken new ground or achieved some historical milestone in our community." Event nominations were due by Mar. 31.

Tickets can be bought online at [www.scglbg.org](http://www.scglbg.org). Prices range from \$60 for Guild members to \$75 for non-members. Full tables of eight can be bought for \$500 each.

Event sponsors include American Airlines, Asset Realty, Inc., Embassy Suites, Fastco, *Q-Notes*, Cap-n Al's Hawaiian Sunglass Hut, Robin Ridgell & Marla Wood and Roof Basket Works. ▀

info: [www.scglbg.org](http://www.scglbg.org)



**Comedian ANT is scheduled to perform at the S.C. Gay and Lesbian Business Guild Annual Gala in Columbia.**

Blogger takes on DJ, radio station  
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UNCC students face anti-gay preachers  
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Groups want killer charged as juvie  
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