



Photo by Eric Velarde

### DePuy, left, and Phoenix

consensus-based model. With 15 people there is a lot of dialogue about privilege and oppression. We strive to be really intentional about the work that we do. Working at UNC's LGBTQ Center feels like a really nice blend of my personal and professional experiences. I am given the ability to work in an environment where I can create change and where I can center my energy around issues that are important to the LGBTQ community.

*How do you like your new space?*

**Dixon:** I love it! I am sad about losing our central location – that worries me a little bit.

*What does the Center have planned for this semester?*

**Dixon:** Last year, we added a lot of new programs like Lunch and Learn and the Triangle Resource Fair. Some of what we will be doing this semester will focus on continuing and developing those newer programs. We also want to build a wider base of volunteers. We are looking at doing a mentor program. We are also thinking about doing a spring prom. We would invite faculty, staff and students. We would also reach out to the local GSAs. It would be a nice intergenerational group – something that you rarely see.

**DePuy:** I will be developing the volunteer program. I was a volunteer manager at my last job and I want to develop a structure to enable the volunteers to do more within the program.

*Terri, what are the three biggest challenges that LGBTQ faculty, staff and students face at UNC?*

**Dixon:** In some ways the challenges are different for those three groups.

1. Getting connected for allies and LGBTQ-identified folks is hard. There are lots of student organizations. There are programs like Connections for LGBTQ Faculty and Staff, but faculty and staff have fewer resources.

2. The second challenge deals with climate issues such as when to come out in a classroom setting. Depending on which side of the grade book you're sitting on the issue looks a lot different.

3. Thirdly, it is hard to grapple with the intersectionality of identities around sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and spirituality and faith.

*Danny, what are some of your goals as Assistant Director?*

**DePuy:** I want to bring people together in a supportive environment. I want to demonstrate how all our struggles intersect and how in supporting one another we can make change happen as a unified front.

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