LGBTQ+ HISTORY MONTH NEWSLETTER

University of Leicester School of Physics and Astronomy
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LGBTQ+ in STEM: Spotlight on Lianna Newman

Today, we're highlighting the work of Lianna Newman at Booz Allen Hamilton.

Lianna is a Full Stack Software Engineer and previously worked as a Human Resources Specialist before venturing into Technology and Robotics in 2016. During this time, Lianna faced a lot of discrimination during interviews, frequently being misgendered and marked as 'too aggressive', which left a feeling of general unwelcomeness in the field.

Lianna took these experiences and built a passion to make the tech space more inclusive and welcoming. In Lianna's own

Photo credit: lesbianswhotech.org

Today's donation link is Hidayah, a secular organisation which provides support and welfare for LGBTQI+ Muslims and promotes social justice and education to counter discrimination, prejudice and injustice. Donate here.

words, the true measure of building a diverse workforce goes beyond 'checking boxes' and focuses on elevating diverse individuals.

In 2018 Lianna helped launch and is now the DC Chapter Head for Out in Tech DC. Lianna is also a creator/moderator of the #black-mental-health-support channel in Out in Tech's Slack workspace. In the same year Lianna also accepted the role of Director of External Affinity Groups for oSTEM after being awarded the 2018 oSTEM Partner Excellence Award.

Outside of work, Lianna enjoys spending time crafting dollhouse miniatures and has worked as a professional dog sitter. You can find out more on Lianna's website, here!

Photo credit:
https://twitter.com/bithubafrica

For more LGBTQ+ resources, including links to STEM LGBTQ+ networks and reports, visit https://cutt.ly/6k3Qhzl.

EVENTS THIS WEEK
19th Feb: STEM, LGBTQ & You Conference 2021

This Friday, oSTEM at the University of Birmingham will host a day-long online conference exploring LGBTQ+ experiences in STEM. More info can be found here.

RECOMMENDATIONS & RESOURCES

Book for younger readers: Julian is a Mermaid, illustrated and written by Jessica Love. A mesmerising and heart-warming picture book which highlights self-confidence, love and radiant celebration of individuality. Available at Gay's The Word and bookshop.org.

Book for older readers: Trans Britain. Edited by Christine Burns, who chronicles the journey of trans visibility in the modern world. Focusing on key figures, this book contains a wealth of historical knowledge about the trans community. Available at bookshop.org and Pages of Hackney.

Podcast: Nancy with Tobin Low and Kathy Tu, who discuss provocative stories and frank conversations about being LGBT+ in today's world. Available on Spotify and Apple Podcasts.

Livestream: MikeCheb is a queer Twitch streamer and engineer who creates fun and light-hearted streams focused mainly on Animal Crossing. MikeCheb is also a member of the Rainbow Arcade group and hosts streams for organisations such as The Bail Project. Catch up with his streams here.

Photo credit: British Book Centre

Today's key figure in British LGBTQ+ history is Roberta Cowell. Born as 'Robert' in 1918's Croydon, Roberta was always enthusiastic about engineering, and soon after leaving school went on to drive and work on racing cars.

In 1936, she studied engineering at UCL, whilst competing in the Antwerp Grand Prix in 1939. In 1942 she became a spitfire pilot in the Royal Air Force and was taken as a prisoner-of-war by German troops for five months. After the war, Roberta started racing more competitively but was fighting against the growing discomfort with her body and wartime trauma. In 1948 she then started her trans journey and went on to be the first British trans woman to undergo sex reassignment surgery.

Contact us

To recommend scientists, events, donation links, books and podcasts for future editions, please contact the PGR Reps at the emails below:

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