

LGBT-096 Alberta Hamm Collection

LGBT Center of Central PA History Project
Archives and Special Collections
Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA
archives@dickinson.edu 717-245-1399

COLLECTION REGISTER

Name:	Hamm, Alberta	LGBT-096
Material:	Papers and Artifacts (2000 - 2007, 2019)	
Volume:	.50 linear feet (1 document box, 1 artifact, 5 oversized folder)	
Donation:	Donated by anonymous donor, 2021	
Usage:	These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.	
Processor:	Sarah Wakefield, February 2023	
Support:	Funding to process this collection was provided by donors to the LGBT Center of Central PA History Project.	

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Alberta Hamm was born April 1, 1941 and assigned male at birth. After high school, Hamm entered the seminary for a short time before ultimately enrolling in the Army. She was stationed at Fort Dix, NJ and served 13 months in Korea. After being discharged in 1961, Hamm entered sales, owning her own business for a time, and working for Montgomery Ward department store starting in 1979 selling appliances throughout stores in Pennsylvania for the next 20 years.

From a young age Hamm knew she was different. She started to transition in 1995 and after retiring in 1999, had transition surgery in 2001 at the age of 60. She also enrolled in Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) in 2000, where she pursued a degree in social services. While at HACC, she served as president of the campus LGBTQ+ organization, student senator, and in 2002 became the first transgender individual in the nation to become student body president of a collegiate student government. She served in this position from Spring 2002 to Spring 2004.

After Hamm graduated, she worked for the Center for Independent Living, and stayed active with local LGBT+ organizations like TransCentral PA and Common Roads. Hamm passed away in October 2019 at the age of 78.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

This collection is comprised of five series: Student Information, Newspaper Articles, Awards, Miscellaneous, and Artifacts.

The Student Information Series contains materials pertaining to Hamm's time as a student at HACC which includes her student body president campaign materials and degree information. The Newspaper Clippings Series has clippings pertaining to biological information of Hamm, Hamm's campaign, and general gender issues. The Awards Series contains awards presented to Hamm for her participation in student government while at HACC and two recognition awards. Lastly, the Artifacts Series contains her diploma, a letter congratulating her on graduating, and the special appreciation plaque naming the Student Government Office the "Alberta Hamm Student Government Office" in honor of Hamm.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

Series 1 Student Information

1.01 Campaign Material

- 1.01.01 Alberta Hamm Campaign Brochure (2 versions) – 2005
- 1.01.02 Print Job Receipt – Mar. 23, 2005

1.02 Degree Information

- 1.02.01 Recognition of Graduation [with holder] – May 15, 2006
- 1.02.02 Associate in Human Services [with holder] – Aug. 2006
- 1.02.03 HACC The 42nd Annual Commencement Winter Ceremony Program –
Dec. 18, 2006
- 1.02.04 Associate Degree in Social Services – Dec. 2006

Series 2 Newspaper Clippings

2.01 Biographical Information

- 2.01.01 "Just one of the Girls," *The Advocate* [original and copy] – Sep. 3, 2002
- 2.01.02 "61-year-old transgender heading student gov't group," – circa 2002
- 2.01.03 Editorial on Alberta Hamm – circa 2002
- 2.01.04 Copy of Patriot News Alberta Hamm Obituary – Nov. 8 to Nov. 10, 2019

2.02 Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC)

- 2.02.01 "Women credits HACC with aiding life change," *Local & State* –
Jun. 2, 2002 (see oversized OBL)

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2.02 Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) (cont.)

- 2.02.02 "Transgender Student Campaigns on Diversity," *Community College Work*
– Jun. 24, 2002 (see oversized OBS)
- 2.02.03 *The Fourth Estate* (see oversized OBL)
"Active student has alternative lifestyle," pg. 3 [bottom of article cut off]
– Nov. 13, 2001
SGA President Election Edition – Apr. 9, 2002
"Hamm outreaches younger opponents to win presidency," –
Apr. 30, 2002
"SGA optimistic, plans big agenda for fall, Hamm proposing to buy bus for
athletes, clubs," – Jun. 25, 2002 (2 copies)
"SGA officers to San Diego Conference stresses leadership skills," pg. 3 –
Dec. 10, 2002
- 2.02.04 *The Fourth Estate* (see oversized OBL)
"SGA Vice President Wuorinen resigns," pg. 1 and "SGA has serious
problems conducting business, but will dividing the Senate solve their
problems?" pg. 8 – Jan. 29, 2003
"Debate of the Century," [second page missing] – Feb. 26, 2003
"Underdog Culbertson upsets Hamm 182 – 78," – May 7, 2003

2.03 Gender Issues

- 2.03.01 *York Daily Record* (see oversized OBL)
"Backlash over Vermont's 'civil union' law," – Sep. 7, 2000
"Gender ruling takes a hit," – Sep. 7, 2000

Series 3 Awards

3.01 HACC Awards

- 3.01.01 Student Government Association Certificate of Recognition – Apr. 27, 2002
Student Government Association Certification of Recognition, Senator of the Year
– Apr. 27, 2002
- 3.01.02 Student Government Association Certificate of Recognition – May 9, 2003
Student Government Association Certificate of Recognition, Vice President –
May 6, 2004
- 3.01.03 Student Government Association Certificate of Recognition – Apr. 28, 2005
Student Government Association Certificate of Recognition – Apr. 20, 2006

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3.01 HACC Awards (cont.)

- 3.01.04 HACC Certificate of Recognition for participation and achievement in the Act 101 Program – May 12, 2006
HACC Certificate of Recognition for participation and achievement in the Act 101 Program – May 14, 2007

3.02 Miscellaneous

- 3.02.01 Mid-Atlantic District UFMCC Special Recognition – Nov. 10, 2001
3.02.02 The National Conference on Student Services Certified Student Government Leader Award – Oct. 29, 2002

Series 4 Artifacts

- LGBT-096-AC01 Special Appreciation Plaque for the Alberta Hamm Student Government Office [the student government office was named for Alberta Hamm] – circa 2006