Pride Network, the University’s undergraduate GLBTQA (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, and ally) student organization, celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. The history of Pride Network intertwines with the history of GLBTQ rights in the Rochester area. The organization was instrumental in the formation of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley and the creation of the Empty Closet newspaper, one of the longest continuously published GLBTQA newspapers in the nation.

The organization hosted numerous events during Meliora Weekend 2010 to unite GLBTQA alumni and current students. Thanks to help from Alumni Relations, Pride hosted Dr. Jerome Goldstein, ’63 who spoke at length about the neurology of the gay brain. Alumni and students also mingled at an Image Out film, networked at an alumni after-hours event, and shared stories and experiences at a panel featuring members from each of the eras of Pride Network’s history.

This past year, Pride has continued its longstanding role of educator, advocate, and supporter of the University’s GLBTQA community. In late October, Pride hosted an interfaith vigil, joining with religious leaders on campus in prayer, song, and remembrance to promote healing and to honor the memory of victims of homo-, bi-, and trans-phobia, and bullying. Thanks to lobbying by members of Pride, the newly renovated restrooms on the second floor of Wilson Commons are designated gender-neutral. Pride also posted fliers around campus during Transgender Day of Remembrance to educate members of the community about what it means to identify as transgender. With the help of several cosponsors, Pride brought Ian Harvie to campus in March to open up the dialogue for trans-inclusive policies.

This April, Pride is partnering with the Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender and Women’s Studies, Pride Alliance at the University of Rochester, and the Warner School’s LGBTQ & Allies Special Interest Group to host Gaypril/GLBTQ Awareness Month. Events include the traditional Spring Drag Show, a Day of Silence, a GLBTQ film series, a lecture, and a panel that explores the experience of being a sexual minority within minority communities.