



### **Brian Doyle**

Brian Doyle graduated from Michigan State University in 2009 with a degree in International Relations and currently works for the university in the Department of Major Gifts.

As a student, he remembers having several professors who were openly a part of the LBGT community and he remembers how important it was for him to have those people there.

"Even if I didn't know them personally, just knowing that they were out there was something pretty important to me in terms of a comfort level at the university."

Brian is originally from Williamston, Michigan, and he said that with many people at MSU coming from medium to small sized high schools in the mid-Michigan area, when they come

to MSU is likely going to be the first time they have contact with a person with a different sexual orientation than their own.

With regards to his time at MSU as a student member of the LBGT community, he says, "It was great." Brian served on the board of the South Complex PRISM.

Brian has been working for MSU for several years now and feels that his overall experience as an LBGT member of faculty/staff has been a positive one and that the biggest problem facing the MSU LBGT members of faculty/staff, is to relate to LBGT community members outside of the university.

"I think it's sometimes hard for members of the MSU LBGT faculty/staff community to relate to people outside of the university bubble. Because we are recognized and protected under so many additional layers of the university, that in terms of domestic partner benefits or stuff like that, the university is really a champion for that, and I think sometimes that disengages the larger population and a lot of people from the larger discussion because it's sort of one those "We're good, so we can kind of sit back a little bit." But in Michigan, that's not the case for most people."

He thinks one of the challenges in the MSU LBGT community is to get more people involved in activism because it can be easy to forget that not everybody is afforded the same level of protection as those inside the "university bubble."

His advice to LBGT students is to get involved with their local caucus group as it's a good way to get involved in the community and to make different connections throughout the university.