Assessment Summary

General Description

Pizza & Pleasure (P&P) is a re-envisioned version of last year’s poorly attended Sexuality Series and, therefore, is a new initiative in the Student Affairs Strategic Plan for 2010-2011. In collaboration with Dr. Amy Stone (Sociology & Anthropology, which is a co-sponsor of the P&P series) and several students representing Students Advocating Gender Equality (SAGE) and the Sexual Diversity Alliance (SDA), we planned two P&P programs during fall semester and two during spring semester. During early September, a ballot was distributed in both electronic and paper formats to gauge the interest of students in eight potential topics. The top four topics, their dates, and attendance were:

- Do Ya Think I’m Sexy?: Body Image and Sexuality (Sept 23; n=36)
- Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Sexual Orientation (Oct 10; n=30)
- Beyond Vanilla (Jan 20; n=41)
- Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Sex (Feb 10, rescheduled from Feb 3 due to weather; n=12).

Cay Crow, a local AASECT-certified sexuality educator and therapist, led each program. Pizza and lemonade were provided. A total of 119 attendees were present across the four programs. A paper-and-pencil evaluation was provided at each program, and 73 attendees (31% FY, 24% SO, 16% JR, 29% SR; 75% female) responded to at least one question for a response rate of 61.3%.

Key Findings

This program supported Divisional Goal #1--integrate curricular and co-curricular learning through programs and services--thanks to the involvement of Dr. Amy Stone and financial support from Sociology & Anthropology.

The program was envisioned to promote two Common Learning Outcomes:

- A1: Demonstrate identity development re personal values, beliefs, and attitudes. This CLO was assessed with the question, "To what extent did tonight’s program help you clarify your personal values, beliefs, or attitudes toward your sexuality?" A 6-point Likert scale was provided ranging from 0 (not at all) to 5 (to a great extent). The percentage of respondents who indicated 3, 4, or 5 for each of the four programs was, in chronological order: 64%, 47%, 76%, and 66% with an average across the four programs of 65%. Thus, this learning outcome was achieved with a majority of students.

- B2: Describe safe sexual health practices. This CLO was assessed with the open-ended question, "Based on information about safe-sex practices in tonight’s program, what are one or two safe-sex behaviors that you are committed to practicing when the time comes for you to have sexual intimacy with another person?" The number of safe-sex practices noted for each of the four programs were, in chronological order: 18, 0, 9, and 4. The 0 number for the second program is understandable given that the topic--sexual orientation--was conceptual rather than behavioral. This CLO was achieved to a modest degree.

A supplemental Program Learning Outcome was also assessed with the question, “To what extent did tonight’s program help you become more aware of human sexual diversity?” Using the same 6-point Likert scale described above, the percentage of respondents who indicated 3, 4, or 5 for each of the four programs was, in chronological order: 59%, 84%, 76%, and 66% with an average across the four programs of 81%. Thus, this learning outcome was achieved with a majority of students.

To request a copy of the assessment instrument and/or complete tabulated results, email DAT@trinity.edu.
Analysis

The re-envisioning of the Sexuality Series was successful in drawing a significant number of students, unlike the programs during the previous year. I suspect four things contributed to the turnaround. First, the topics ballot disseminated at the beginning of fall semester raised awareness of the programs to come. Second, the titles were more appealing to college students. Third, the campus newspaper ran a column by Ms. Crow each week before a program. And, last but not least, free pizza! Students voiced a “hunger,” not just for pizza but also for the kind of frank information and open atmosphere for Q&A that Ms. Crow provided. In the absence of a human sexuality course at Trinity (there has not been one in about 20 years), this series fills a developmental and educational void. Assessment data results indicated that the learning outcomes for the P&P series were sufficiently obtained.

The total cost of the 119 attendees was just over $400 (about $100 per program for Ms. Crow’s honorarium and pizza/lemonade), making the cost per attendee about $3.36, which is reasonable. Although I did not prepare or deliver the sessions, I did spend a significant amount of time designing and analyzing the topics survey, designing promotional materials, editing Ms. Crow’s *Trinitonian* columns, and assisting with the logistics for the evening programs. The response of the students made the effort worthwhile, however.

The Pizza & Pleasure series should continue in 2011-12, at least during fall semester to see if it has sustaining power. We should schedule two programs in the fall and, if they continue to draw students, two more for the spring. Based on this year’s experience, I make the following recommendations:

- Most importantly, we need a better location. Neither the Tigers’ Den nor the Witt Reception Center proved satisfactory. Both were too noisy. Therefore, consult with Ms. Crow in early August to schedule fall and spring program dates, then book a room in the Coates University Center for the selected dates.
- Consult with Ms. Crow in early August to revise the previous year’s ballot of topics for an early fall dissemination.
- Inquire of the *Trinitonian* editor whether s/he might continue Ms. Crow’s column.