

# JUNE IS LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER (LGBT) PRIDE MONTH

On June 2, 2000, President Bill Clinton declared June “Gay and Lesbian Pride Month.” The month was chosen to remember the 1969 Stonewall riots in Manhattan, NY. Patrons of a gay bar, Stonewall Inn, fought back against a police raid, sparking three days of riots. It is considered to be the start of the gay liberation movement in the U.S. From 2009 to 2016, a yearly Presidential Proclamation designating June as LGBT Pride Month was issued.

## OAR PROFILE: **SIM ABERSON, METEOROLOGIST,** **AOML**



Sim Aberson is a meteorologist at NOAA’s Hurricane Research Division, located at AOML in Miami, FL. His research has focused on observing systems to give Hurricane Specialists at the National Hurricane Center information to improve their hurricane forecasts. He participates in NOAA’s annual Hurricane Field Program and has worked with different observing platforms, especially dropwindsondes, to optimize sampling from Hurricane Hunter Aircraft and the way the data are assimilated into forecast models.

Sim began his NOAA career in 1981 as a high-school student intern; in fact, his first project with NOAA was work to improve how dropwindsonde data can be obtained from aircraft, quality controlled, sent to forecasters, and ingested into models to improve forecasts. He originally became interested in hurricanes when he moved to Miami Beach from his upstate New York hometown; retired science teachers next door taught him how to listen to NOAA Weather Radio and track hurricanes during the season. He’s wanted to work with hurricanes ever since.

Sim received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Meteorology from Penn State, and his PhD from the University of Maryland - College Park. His other work interests are in promoting diversity, inclusion, and belonging amongst everyone who works at and with NOAA, and in promoting collaborations across different line offices. He lives in Dania Beach, FL, with his husband, who also works at AOML as a systems administrator, and his two blue cats. His hobbies include collecting tropical fruits and vegetables and rare palms in his garden, cooking, and books, theatre and film.