

In fall 2005, when Bates College took steps to support the decision of then-student Kelly Godsey, an All-America thrower, to “self-identify” as a male — that is, to live as a male student and be referred to as Keelin Godsey, but *not* begin any medical or drug protocol — the College developed a series of “talking points” so as to respond accurately to public inquires regarding what Godsey wished to accomplish in 2005–06 and how Bates would accommodate and support his decision. Below is a selection of those talking points.

1. Has the NCAA's endorsed Keelin's opportunity to participate in women's track and field?

Yes, we have consulted with the NCAA regarding Keelin Godsey's competitive status. For the purposes of competition, the NCAA interprets an individual's sex according to the individual's status as classified by state law. At Bates, we understand this to mean that an individual who is physically and physiologically female may compete in intercollegiate competition with females.

2. Could Keelin compete in men's track?

No. The NCAA has ruled that if an individual is allowed to compete on a team with members of the opposite sex, as classified by the individual's status under the law, that team is reclassified as a mixed team. Such action renders the team ineligible for NCAA competition.

3. How will Bates handle locker rooms and hotel accommodations for the women's track team?

Bates will make a private locker room available to Keelin. Hotel accommodations will be made at the discretion of the track coach. The College will reserve a separate hotel room for Keelin if conditions so warrant.

4. Is there support from the within the New England Small College Athletic Conference?

Yes.

5. Why has Keelin chosen to go through this transition now rather than wait until after graduation?

According to Keelin, “Bates is a comfortable environment where I have a decent amount of respect from students and faculty. I would rather transition my senior year — that is, change my name and pronouns — than transition while living in a new place, starting a job or two, beginning internships or grad school. Why now? I've hid who I am for my entire life. It's hard to live what you see as a lie. Everyone knows this one person, but you don't even consider that one person to be you. Or, you feel like you're lying to every important person in your life because they don't know everything about you. I try to be as honest with everyone as I can, so it's especially hard [to live the lie].”

6. How does Keelin reconcile the split identity: living as a male student and competing as a female athlete?

Keelin's response here is important to note. "It will be hard. It doesn't feel it should be hard, because I've been [thinking as a male in my mind] for so long, but to be "out" and doing it is one completely different thing. I do want both my lives to finally merge into one, but with what I want to do with throwing in the future — qualify for the Olympic Trials in 2008 — those two lives can't merge right now. For me to be in a fair competition, I have to compete as a female. I could not compete vs. men. It's a very hard task, especially in my field which is mostly a brute strength field, plus technique."