

# AGLBIC News

Volume XXXI, Issue 2  
Summer 2006  
www.aglbic.org

## From our President:

Brian Dew, Ph.D.



During my taxi cab ride to the Montreal Airport following the conclusion of the 2006 ACA/CCA Conference, this extrovert must admit that he longed for some peace and quiet. The rampant pace of the past 5 days had begun to take its toll. While hustling through customs with way more baggage than necessary (no, I did not shop in Montreal), I finally arrived to my aisle seat, awaiting my two hour flight return to Atlanta, GA., which much to my surprise, had an on-time departure. High above the epi-

center of the GLBT community's version of Oz, Massachusetts, I pushed the seat recliner button, leaned back, and quickly closed my bloodshot eyes. Soon thereafter, relief set in, followed by an unbelievable sense of fulfillment. In over 10 years of involvement with AGLBIC, I can honestly say that I had never felt a greater sense of unity, purpose, and accomplishment among members and our allies than I did during our days together in Canada.

Whether it was our booth, educational sessions, brunch, or the same-sex wedding ceremony and reception, the turnout for AGLBIC-sponsored events was simply fabulous. These numbers were even more remarkable given the feedback from other divisions that their attendance was...well, let's just say their numbers were not as "consistent" as past conventions. Compared to other stalls on "division row," there was a steady buzz at our brightly decorated, rainbow-wrapped booth (you aren't really surprised are you?). Our LGBT-related memorabilia was a huge hit, professional literature from our sponsor, Haworth Press, was gobbled up by clinicians, ivory-tower professors, and students alike, and opportunities to meet new and old friends were welcomed. AGLBIC would like

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## From our Past-President:

Joy S. Whitman, Ph.D.



As I enter into my last year on the executive board of AGLBIC, I am honored to have served for the years and in the capacities that I have. I am also proud of this division and the work it has done to further its mission, that of promoting "greater awareness and understanding of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) issues among members of the counseling profession and related helping occupations". The board and members have all devoted much time and effort this past year. So what has

been done this past year and how are we moving forward?

### AGLBIC JOURNAL

This is the first year of AGLBIC's print journal. Thanks to the efforts of Past-President Ned Farley, we now have a journal that will be published three times a year. The journal will have a special issue once a year as directed by the Past-President of that year. We are excited about the journal and how it will "speak to the psychological and social needs of our community".

### SAME-SEX WEDDING

AGLBIC hosted a same-sex wedding in Montreal during the ACA National Convention. Eight couples were legally married in front of what we estimate to be at least 200-300 individuals. It was immensely successful as it brought together ACA leadership, divisions, and members. Present was ACA President, Patricia Arredondo who offered a few opening comments to the attendees. In addition, this event was sponsored by ARCA and ACES and supported by IAAOC and CSJ. Thank you to those divisions that stood with us in unity during this event. It highlighted AGLBIC's commitment to educating others about the rights denied same-sex

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The happy newly-weds.

See pg 13 & 14 for more details and photos...

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Michael Kocet, **Graduate Student/Mentoring**  
John Marszalak, **Membership**  
Joy Whitman, **Awards**  
Joy Whitman, **Nominations and Elections**  
Joy Whitman, **Bylaws**  
Rhodes Gibson/Rob Mate, **Webmasters**  
Bob Rohde, **Historian and Archivist**  
Colleen Logan, **Media and Public Relations Chair**  
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to extend an enormous thanks to Dr. Michael Kocet for organizing this outreach effort and our student volunteers for their relentless-dedication. Our educational sessions, which included such topics as aging, parenting, identity and spiritual development, and substance abuse issues for LGBT individuals were well-received by more than 200 attendees. The AGLBIC brunch, with over 65 people in attendance, was the largest in over 10 years. New members, board members, families, and students dined over scrambled eggs, bacon, and a plethora of tasty pastries (I assumed that grits had not made a huge splash in Canada) while celebrating the division's achievements and listening to aspirations for continued success.

Yet, when persons think back to the Montreal's 2006 ACA/CCA Conference, memories of unusual warm weather, small meeting spaces, or ill-timed bus rides may surface. However, the most enduring memory for many will be the same-sex wedding ceremony held on Saturday, April 1st. Those who were fortunate enough to witness the exchanging of vows (nearly 300 persons squeezed into the Sheraton's Salon A while 50 more stood in the hallway unable to see the proceedings) will not soon forget the emotion that filled the room. Following a heart-felt welcome from ACA President, Dr. Patricia Arredondo, eight couples took turns exchanging personalized vows filled with expressions of mutual love and commitment in front of five past presidents of ACA. The evening was capped off with a reception, with an exquisite wedding cake and introduction of the newlyweds.

Certainly, for me as well as for other convention attendees, it will be an ACA Conference that will not soon be forgotten.

*Brian*



AGLBIC Montreal Wedding attendees lighting the way during the ceremony on April 1, 2006.

## W a n t e d Editorial Board Members

The Association of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues in Counseling (AGLBIC), a division of the American Counseling Association (ACA) is accepting applications for editorial board members for its new journal, titled *The Journal of GLBT Issues in Counseling*. This referred journal focuses on publishing articles that address the important issues relevant to Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered peoples and their significant others. Areas for submission include: (1) new research in the field of counseling, (2) a review of the literature that critically integrates previous work around a specific topic, (3) introduction of new techniques or innovation in service delivery within the counseling field, or (4) theoretical or conceptual pieces that reflect new ideas or new ways of integrating previously held ideas.

We are looking for those who have a background/experience with this population and counseling related issues that involve our work. This includes those who work in the following arenas: counselors, counselor educators, and other counseling related professionals that work across a diversity of fields, including school counseling, mental health, couple and family, colleges and universities, and the public and private sector. Preferably, these individuals will also have a history of publication of scholarly works, or expertise in specific counseling areas that will be of benefit to the reviewing of journal submissions.

In particular, we would like to have an editorial board representative from the major counseling areas represented in ACA. Therefore, in addition to the areas mentioned above, specialization in areas such as assessment, adult development and aging, humanistic orientations, multicultural issues, rehabilitation, spirituality, group work, addictions and offender treatment, and career and employment are also encouraged.

To apply, please send a cover letter outlining your interest and reasons for applying, as well as a current Vita, to: Ned Farley, Ph.D., editor, [nfarley@antiochsea.edu](mailto:nfarley@antiochsea.edu). You may also mail an application to the following address: Ned Farley, Ph.D. Chair, Mental Health Counseling Program Center for Programs in Psychology Antioch University Seattle 2326 Sixth Avenue Seattle, WA 98121-1814



couples and did so wonderfully.

### CROSS-DIVISIONAL PRESENTATION

At the ACA National Convention, AGLBIC took the lead in joining other divisions in a cross-divisional presentation. This presidential program highlighted the competencies from various divisions, such as AGLBIC, the Counselors for Social Justice (CSJ), the American School Counselor Association (ASCA), the National Career Development Association (NCDA), the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES), and the Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling (ASERVC), and in doing so placed an emphasis on how these competencies intersect in focus for the training of counselors working with lgbt clients. It was well-attended and began an open conversation with members and leaders from other divisions.

### DAY OF LEARNING

Also at the ACA National Convention, AGLBIC hosted a Day of Learning offering programming focusing on various topics such as aging, working with youth, transgender populations, gender role expression, and religion. Overall, these programs seemed to be received well and offered the ACA membership education about our communities.

### NEW STATE CHAPTER

It was a pleasure of mine this year at the ACA National Convention to charter a new state chapter for membership into AGLBIC. Alabama became our next member and Paul Hard received the charter and gavel at the AGLBIC brunch. This state joins Kentucky, Louisiana, North Carolina, Texas, and Pennsylvania as state chapters. Co-founders, Dr. Glenda Elliott and Frank Hrabe deserve recognition for their efforts. Serving as President of AGLBIC-AL is Donna Melderwere. Congratulations to you all.

### BOOTH PRODUCTS

At the AGLBIC booth this year at the national convention, Michael Kocet organized the sale of various lgbt pins and cards as well as publications from Haworth. This was the first time AGLBIC has offered these kinds of products to convention attendees, and it proved to be successful. Plans to do so again next year are in the making.

### TRANSLATED COMPETENCIES

This year AGLBIC's competencies were translated into four languages with plans to translate them into quite a few more. Incoming board trustee, Anneliese Singh, multicultural consultant, is responsible for these additions and for our new link to multicultural resources on the AGLBIC website ( <http://www.aglbic.org> ).

### FOR MEMBERS

As a board, we voted in changes in the ways we communicate with members. Many of you have noticed that we are now emailing you information. We believe that it is an important vehicle for contact and plan to continue to do so. We also decided to remove the "Members Only" area from the AGLBIC website to make information available to all. Too many members had forgotten the password and were unable to access information. Now current newsletters will be available without password protection.

Summerr 2006

### NEWSLETTERS

Speaking of newsletters, the board voted to publish the AGLBIC newsletter in both print and electronic forms. You may have noticed as well that your spring newsletter was printed in color and mailed to you in an envelope. This is the result of our partnering with Haworth Press who publishes our journal. We believe that many of you enjoy the print version of the newsletters and appreciate it as you do the electronic version. You can expect to receive them three times a year as well as an email alerting you to the online version of it.

### FUTURE ISSUES

At the spring board meeting, the board discussed creating a committee focusing on the needs of practitioners and to send a survey soon to all members exploring those needs. We also discussed how to advocate with *Counseling Today* to be mindful and respectful of lgbt individuals and their advertisement of ROTC ads in that publication. AGLBIC will be investigating the needs of lgbt people in the armed forces as well to balance our approach to this issue.

Whew! We have been busy and we plan to keep being busy. As you can see, AGLBIC has many plans to ensure that the organization remains vital and focused on its mission. To do so, we invite you to join us. I am confident that our incoming President, Brian Dew, will move us forward in positive ways. He has already done so, and I look forward to joining him in his visions. We have a committed and focused board, one that has already accomplished great things this past year.

In closing, I want to thank the current board for their support this past year and for the stability they brought to AGLBIC as an organization. You have been unfailing in your commitment to AGLBIC, and I have so appreciated you as colleagues and friends. I look forward to my last year on the board with you as we continue advocating, educating, and remaining visible in ACA.

*Joy*



Joy & Cyndy on their wedding day.  
April 1, 2006  
Montreal, Canada

## Part I: Same-Sex Marriage and Multicultural Issues

We had an amazingly beautiful wedding at ACA in Montreal! Smiles abounded, tears were flowing, and it was truly wonderful to watch eight beautiful couples exchange their legal vows.

In fact, one could even say that it was a healing experience for all of us – queer and straight ally alike – who have lived through the realities of homophobia and heterosexism in our lifetime.

On the Diversity Committee, we got to thinking. Yes, marriage equality is important to many of us in the queer liberation movement. It is also a critical issue for many of the LGBTQI clients with whom we work in our offices. However, so many times in the queer movement, marriage gets framed as “the” issue. Then, we forget about how queer people also suffer the realities of racism, classism, ableism, spiritual and religious oppression, among other isms.

So, we decided that as a committee we would do two things.

**(1) First, we decided to attempt to bridge the gap between same-sex marriage and other important queer issues.**

**(2) Second, we created a hand-out that attempts to broaden the issue of same-sex marriage to include other issues of diversity as well.**

For now, here is a sneak peek of a few points to know how African Americans, Asian Americans, Latina(o)s, and the elderly are impacted by anti-same sex marriage laws and policies to be included in that document. We welcome your emails and suggestions on this topic.

### **African Americans:**

H. Alexander Robinson, chief executive officer of the National Black Justice Coalition, said African-American couples have more to lose if denied the responsibilities and protections of marriage:

*“On average, black same-gender-loving women are more likely to be raising children; black gay families earn less and are more likely to have public sector jobs than our white peers,”* he said. *“The black family is a fundamental driver of black advancement, so discriminatory policies that act to further marginalize black gay families put the entire black community at risk.”*

### **Asian Americans:**

*“For many (Asian-Pacific American) same-sex couples, this struggle for equality is as much about challenging our second-class status as it is about safeguarding our families and children.”* said Andy Shie Kee Wong, coalition manager of Asian Equality.

### **Latina(o)s:**

Jason Cianciotto, in a report published by the National Gay and

Lesbian Task Force, suggested that same-sex marriage rights would be particularly helpful for GLBT Hispanics and Latinos:

*“66 percent of Hispanic female couples and 58 percent of Hispanic male couples were raising at least one child. That compares to 32 percent of Anglo lesbian couples and 19 percent of Anglo male couples.... White gay couples earn an average of \$65,000 annually, while Hispanic same-sex couples earn less than \$40,000. About 51 percent of gay couples where both partners are Hispanic were identified as not being U.S. citizens.”*

(<http://newsfromrussia.com/world/2005/10/28/66430.html>)

### **The Elderly:**

Sean Cahill and his colleagues, in *Outing Age: Public Policy Issues Affecting Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Elders*, had this to say:

*“GLBT seniors may be more likely to live alone and lack family support networks, GLBT seniors may experience poverty and economic insecurity at higher rates than heterosexual seniors.”*

### **GLBT Adoption Rights:**

In addition to these concerns, we have one other. There is a growing number of children in need of foster care and adoption, and sixteen states have already banned gay and lesbian individuals and couples from providing foster care or adopting children. Some states have been overt in their bans while others have said that all single individuals (or all unmarried couples) are banned from providing foster homes or adopting children who need families.

Obviously, we think there are many reasons that the right to get married is important for LGBTQI people in terms of multicultural issues. There will be a Part II of this article in the next newsletter examining same-sex marriage for transgender people, people with less financial privilege, Native Americans, immigrants, and people living with disabilities.

## W a n t e d :

Writers/thinkers on counseling issues pertinent to queer immigrants, as well as how LGBTQI individuals and allies can get involved in counseling issues pertinent to immigrants for our next *Diversity Watch* column.

The Diversity Committee at AGLBIC is always working on exciting projects and welcomes your input and talent! Email us your thoughts on what ways AGLBIC can continue to be inclusive of diversity in our efforts to Anneliese Singh at [nanakikaur@yahoo.com](mailto:nanakikaur@yahoo.com).

## Recent Research on GLBT Issues

Beauchaine, T.P., Balsam, K.F., Mickey, R.M., and Rothblum, E.D. 2005. *Mental Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Heterosexual Siblings: Effects of Gender, Sexual Orientation, and Family*. Journal of Abnormal Psychology. v. 114, n. 3, 471-476.

Pionke, D.R., Vogel, D.L., and Wester, S.R. 2005. *Male Gender Role Conflict, Gay Men, and Same-Sex Romantic Relationships*. Psychology of Men & Masculinity. v. 6, n. 3, 195-208.

Lease, S.H., Horne, S.G., and Noffsinger-Frazier, N. 2005. *Affirming Faith Experiences and Psychological Health for Caucasian Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Individuals*. Journal of Counseling Psychology. v. 52, n. 3, 378-388.

Burckell, L.A., and Goldfried, M.R. 2006. *Therapist qualities preferred by sexual-minority individuals*. Psychotherapy: Theory, Research, Practice, Training 2006, v. 43, n. 1, 32-49.

Buhrke, R.A., and Johnson, W.B. 2006. *Service Delivery in a "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" World: Ethical Care of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Military Personnel*. Professional Psychology: Research and Practice. Vol. 37, No. 1, 91-98.

Lindahl, K.M., Malik, N.M., and Willoughby, B.L.B. 2006. *Parental Reactions to Their Sons' Sexual Orientation Disclosures: The Roles of Family Cohesion, Adaptability, and Parenting Style*. Psychology of Men & Masculinity. v. 7, n. 1, 14-26.

Epting, F.R., Moradi, B., and van den Berg, J.J. 2006. *Intrapersonal and Interpersonal Manifestations of Antilebian and Gay Prejudice: An Application of Personal Construct Theory*. Journal of Counseling Psychology. v. 53, n. 1, 57-66.

Kimmel, S.B., and Mahalik, J.R. 2005. *Body Image Concerns of Gay Men: The Roles of Minority Stress and Conformity to Masculine Norms*. Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology. v. 73, n. 6, 1185-1190.

Darbes, L.A., and Lewis, M.A. 2005. *HIV-Specific Social Support Predicts Less Sexual Risk Behavior in Gay Male Couples*. Health Psychology. v. 24, n. 6, 617-622.

# SILENCE = DEATH

A special publication from  
the American Journal of Public Health

June 1, 2006 was the release date of the American Journal of Public Health's recent issue which focused on the current research involving the AIDS virus and HIV positive individuals. The SILENCE=DEATH logo on the cover dates back to 1986 as part of the SILENCE=DEATH project that helped the AIDS activist movement to get on the political agenda in the United States.

Some of the articles that may be of interest are listed below:

• **Sexual and Drug Risk Behaviors Among Women Who Have Sex With Women** (Authors: Ann V. Bell, Danielle Ompad, and Susan G. Sherman)

• **Health Care Access Among Individuals Involved in Same-Sex Relationships** (Authors: Julia E. Heck, Randall L. Sell, and Sherri Sheinfeld Gorin)

• **Sexual Orientation and Mental and Physical Health Status: Findings From a Dutch Population Survey** (Authors: Theo G.M. Sandfort, Floor Bakker, François G. Schellevis, and Ine Vanwesenbeeck).

• **Greater Risk for HIV Infection of Black Men Who Have Sex With Men: A Critical Literature Review** (Authors: Gregorio A. Millett, John L. Peterson, Richard J. Wolitski, and Ron Stall).

• **Health and Health Care Among Male-to-Female Transgender Persons Who Are HIV Positive** (Authors: Rita M. Melendez, Theresa A. Exner, Anke A. Ehrhardt, Brian Dodge, Robert H. Remien, Mary-Jane Rotheram-Borus, Marguerita Lightfoot, Daniel Hong, and The National Institute Of Mental Health Healthy Living Project Team).

You may access the abstracts for these articles at the American Journal of Public Health web site: <http://www.ajph.org>.



Bubbles flew at the Same-Sex Marriage Ceremony on April 1, 2006 in Montreal, Canada. To see photos of out newlyweds see page 13.

To read the articles and postings that resulted from our press release about the ceremony, see page 10.



# Making AGLBIC Feel Like Home

By Michael M. Kocet, Ph.D., LMHC,  
Chair, Graduate Students and New Professionals Committee



It was wonderful meeting so many of our graduate students and new professionals during the ACA Convention in Montreal at the AGLBIC booth and throughout the conference. Professional conferences are a great way to stay connected with friends and colleagues who share a similar

vision and outlook on our professional work. However, I recognize that attending conferences can be costly and not everyone can break away from their daily lives to be a part of our national gathering, so I would like your help in identifying ways that can bring graduate students and new professionals together throughout the year. So, how can AGLBIC feel like a professional “home” to you, our graduate students and new professionals?

## Here are some ways to stay connected with AGLBIC:

1. Read the AGLBIC Newsletter and the upcoming The Journal of LGBT Issues in Counseling. Reading AGLBIC’s publications are an important way to find out what is going on within our organization.
2. After your done reading AGLBIC’s newsletter and the new Journal of LGBT Issues in Counseling, submit an article that addresses being an LGBT counseling graduate student.
3. Share your voice. Discuss challenges LGBT professionals face in the counseling profession or talk about ways you think counselor training can improve when it comes to learning about the LGBT population.
4. Have you read a great book on LGBT issues that you think others should know about? Write a book review for our newsletter or journal.
5. Contact our newsletter editor Karen Hartman at raed8@comcast.net or Ned Farley, editor of the Journal of LGBT Issues in Counseling at nfarley@antiochsea.edu for information on how to submit ideas for articles.
6. Join the Graduate Student and New Professionals Committee within AGLBIC. Volunteer to take on a leadership role and share your perspective about ways the organization can better address the needs of LGBT counselors-in-training.

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# AGLBIC REPORT MEMBERSHIP

Phyllis Mogielski-Watson, PsyD

By now all members should have received the AGLBIC magnet. As a token of thanks the 2005-2006 board hopes members will display the magnet with pride.



Visit the web page for organizational updates and current events.

THANK YOU to all members who have renewed memberships in a timely manner. Doing so helps AGLBIC maintain organizational stability, keeps your membership status current, and avoids interruption in communications. March was an especially good month for membership renewals. March produced the highest number of renewed memberships so far this year.

If your membership is up for renewal...  
DON'T DELAY – RENEW TODAY!

## Point to Ponder:

Do “Policies intended to protect gays and lesbians from discrimination discriminate against conservative Christians” (Simon, S. 2006. <http://www.twincities.com/mld/twincities/living/14512797.htm> retrieved on June 21, 2006).

A student is suing her school, Georgia Institute of Technology, for her right to freedom of speech. Ruth Malhotra, a 22-year old senior at Georgia Tech and Alliance Defense Fund took her case to court in March, 2006 for the right to follow her religious beliefs of intolerance.

This is simply one case in a growing movement which claiming that policies to protect gays and lesbians from harassment, impinge on the rights of religious followers in expressing their opinions and viewpoints regarding their acceptance of homosexuality.

For more information on this controversay, including the Day of Truth, a day set up to “counter the promotion of the homosexual agenda” please go to:

**Day of Truth** <http://www.dayoftruth.org/>

**Lambda Legal** <http://www.lambdalegal.com/>

**Alliance Defense Fund** <http://www.alliancedefensefund.org/>

**The Epistle** <http://www.epistle.us/>

## Youth LGBT Resources



**Advocates for Youth** is a national, nonprofit organization that creates programs and supports policies that help young people make safe, responsible decisions about their sexual and reproductive health. Every site includes information that is inclusive regarding gender and sexual diversity, along with a separate site directed towards lgbt youth. The following are some descriptions of specific sites that I have found useful. -the editor.

**youthresource**  
a project of **ADVOCATES FOR YOUTH**

<http://www.youthresource.com/>

YouthResource, a website by and for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning, (GLBTQ) young people, takes a holistic approach to sexual health and exploring issues of concern to GLBTQ youth.

## Free Publications for LGBT Youth

[http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/freepubs\\_type.htm](http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/freepubs_type.htm)

Written by and for young lgbt people, listed below are a few that focus on lgbt issues:

HIV/AIDS and the Young African American Woman: Get Your Talk On [html]

I Think I Might Be Gay, Now What Do I Do? [html] [pdf]

I Think I Might Be Lesbian, Now What Do I Do? [html] [pdf]

I Think I Might Be Bisexual, Now What Do I Do? [html] [pdf]

**NEW!** I Think I Might Be Transgender, Now What Do I Do? [html] [pdf]

Resources for Young People Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Youth [html] [pdf]

## Youth of Color

<http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/yoc.htm>

Advocacy for Youth has a page dedicated to serving youth of color. Some new documents have been added to this site that may be of interest and are listed below. These are research based fact sheets and they are available free for download via html or pdf format.

•NEW! From Research to Practice—Young African American Women and HIV [html] [pdf]

•NEW! The Facts: Young Women of Color and the HIV Epidemic [html] [pdf]

Other documents on this site that focus on glbt youth:

•The Facts: Young Men Who Have Sex with Men: At Risk for HIV and STDs [html] (also available in spanish)

•The January 2004 issue of Transitions compiles information about issues faced by youth of color, including HIV-positive youth and gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (GLBTQ) youth of color. It considers how concepts of masculinity contribute to young men's sexual risk behaviors and their problems in intimate relationships. It discusses the interplay of cultural competence and social justice and how to create culturally relevant programs. It discusses barriers to health care and arts programs that promote young people's sexual health. Stories by youth of color underscore the importance of the Rights. Respect. Responsibility.® paradigm, and a lesson plan provides opportunities for young people to improve communication skills related to sexual risk reduction. Finally, this issue provides links to national and online resources. [html] [pdf]

**My Sistahs**  
A Project from Advocates for Youth

My Sistahs is a project of Advocates for Youth.

<http://www.mysistahs.org>

A program from the Advocates for Youth directed towards young women of color and is very inclusive regarding sexual orientation. Program and site goal is to educate and inform a young woman regarding their decisions about their reproductive and sexual health.

**ambienteJoven.org**

<http://www.ambienteJoven.org>

By and for Latino GLBTQ youth. This site is completely in Spanish.



# A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

Kathryn Newton, MS, President, CPS-AGLBIC, Georgia State University, Doctoral student, Counselor Education and Practice

Lamar Birckbichler, President-Elect, CPS-AGLBIC, Georgia State University, Masters student, Professional Counseling

While AGLBIC may not officially have a letter in the acronym for heterosexual allies, they play a daily role in supporting the LGBT community here at Georgia State University. From personal support to education, our allies speak-up and out, in conversations, classrooms, and at conferences. When they speak, they do so from a unique position of influence available to them as part of the majority.

Each semester, our internal defense systems come online as we automatically prepare ourselves for a range of homophobic and heterosexist reactions from classmates, students, and supervisees. One day I (Lamar) might have to interrupt a person for using the term “faggot”, the next I’m explaining that my life partner is another man. And as each semester starts I (Kathy) find myself contemplating if and how to integrate my identity with my teaching and supervision work. Heterosexual instructors may casually toss off remarks about spouses, where a casual toss from me could be a ticking time bomb or silence open classroom discussion for fear of grading retribution. On the other hand, each challenge has the potential to break down biases and stereotypes. It becomes a round-robin ritual of coming out, advocacy, and reflection.

For those of us living with these daily injustices, words cannot express the feelings of relief and empowerment when an ally steps up by our side, or in our place. Occasionally I feel compelled to ask an ally why they would go out of their way for an issue that does not directly affect them. In response, I have heard a torrent of stories about abuse directed at LGBT brothers, sisters, parents, and close friends. I have also heard simply, “because it’s not right.”

Straight allies can be effective and powerful advocates for our work on campus and in the community. They also provide an opportunity for those of us in the LGBT community to heal from the micro-aggressions of daily life in a heterosexist world. Every time a straight ally affirms, defends, or educates on our behalf, we reclaim a little bit of ourselves. Every time we are surprised. Every time it is personal. And every time we are grateful and reinforce our own learning that we do not always have to be defended.

In our department we have student allies who challenge their peers in the classroom, and who include LGBT issues in their presentations, projects, and papers. They challenge faculty who are less than inclusive in curriculum and readings, and they engage in research that has practical applications within our community. Currently faculty-student teams are working on projects looking at school bullying, the impact of methamphetamine on our local gay male community, and the mental health needs of transgender individuals. We have faculty allies who advocate for us and our work within the department, at faculty meetings, and behind doors otherwise closed to us as students. These allies have proven invaluable and have become increasingly important in the fight for LGBT rights. Indeed, those that will ignore LGBT voices as “special interest” and “agenda-pushing,” are often receptive to hearing from straight allies who are “like them.”

Our chapter has always valued building our community one person at a time; we know that each new connection resonates through multiple personal and professional relationships. From the beginning, CPS-AGLBIC has taken active steps to cultivate hetero allies by having classroom panels to discuss sexual and gender identity, to personalize and put a face to LGBT issues, and to open the door for relationship. We intentionally plan events and activities that provide a “safe” way for hetero individuals to inquire, learn, and take steps to become more involved. Being present at a classroom panel may lead to signing up anonymously for our listserv, visiting our table at department-wide events, attending our annual Day of Learning, and participating in research projects.

We provide opportunities and mentoring for all students, GLBT and hetero, to gain experience with writing, presenting, and research. These academic and professional open doors seem to be an ideal means of reaching out and cultivating relationships across the sexual and gender identity-divide. People discover that our events are fun, meaningful, and inspiring for them – personally and professionally – and they keep coming back. These connections have lead to professional partnerships at regional and national conferences, multiple joint research and writing projects, emerging leaders and advocates, and deeply satisfying friendships.

After only two years as a chartered student organization, CPS-AGLBIC has emerged as a solid, competent, and reliable professional resource for students, faculty, and community professionals. We would not be here without the support and partnership of our hetero allies at all levels. Last year we put our money where our mouth was, and dedicated our first annual scholarship to recognizing the work of our allies. The Karen Lopp Memorial Scholarship was established to honor individuals who have invested time and energy to scholarship, advocacy, and/or service within the LGBT community. As we became more confident and sure of our support base, we were able to look beyond our own community and recognize the needs of others.

Over the last year, we have begun to step up as allies to other marginalized populations. We encourage CPS-AGLBIC officers and members to serve on boards and committees for other organizations. We use our listserv to let members know about opportunities to advocate and support. Over the past year we have strengthened our ties with community organizations serving transgender individuals, and we are working to better understand issues facing our local Southeast Asian and Latino communities. Rather than feeling over committed, we have found ourselves feeling even more supported, connected, and inspired by the common goal of universal human rights.

Rights without healthy community relationships will be a flat victory. But to acquire rights through the steady flowering of relationship and community...that is a dream worth realizing.

CPS-AGLBIC is the first university-based chapter of AGLBIC, and is housed in the Department of Counseling and Psychological Services (CPS) at Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia

Making AGLBIC Feel Like Home Continued from pg 7...

There is not just one single way to be a leader within AGLBIC. Some leaders have a more quiet, laid back style, where others take on a more vocal position on issues. Some leaders work best behind the scenes, where other people have talents that put them on center stage. Contact us and we can help you discover your talents and gifts and how they can best help AGLBIC be one of the strongest divisions within the American Counseling Association! Want to help us out at next year's booth during the annual convention in Detroit? Want to help us create a graduate student panel next year? All of us on the AGLBIC board are very eager to talk to you and help you find your home within our organization. Come join us – we need you!

Finally, since its summer time there are many images that come to mind: beach wear, sun screen, traveling, picnics, or just lounging in a comfy chair finding a chance to catch our breath. Summer can be a great time to catch up on doing things we don't have time to do during the rest of the year, or it's an even better time to do absolutely nothing. So, this summer, nurture yourself. Have you created your Self-Care Plan? Who are the people you want to contact this summer that you have lost touch with? What are the books you want to put on your summer reading list or the movies you want to watch but you just haven't had the time.....until now? What places do you want to visit this summer? Use this summer as your personal commitment to YOU! Relax, slow down, and discover what is truly important in your life. By taking good care of ourselves, we will be better able to help others and become stronger, more well-rounded counseling professionals.

### *Have a restful summer!*

If you have any ideas, suggestions, or comments about the Graduate Student and New Professionals Committee – we'd love to hear from you! Please send your ideas to Michael Kocet, Ph.D., chair at [mkokcet@yahoo.com](mailto:mkokcet@yahoo.com).



# AGLBIC

## in the NEWS

As of the date this newsletter was sent to printing, these links were still active.



**Ran February 1, 2006**

<http://www.gaywired.com/article.cfm?section=11&id=8314>



**Ran February 1, 2006**

<http://montreal.gaymonkey.com/article.cfm?section=9&id=8314>



**Listed March 3, 2006**

[http://www.mountainpridemedia.org/oitm/issues/2006/03mar2006/news10\\_wbriefs.htm](http://www.mountainpridemedia.org/oitm/issues/2006/03mar2006/news10_wbriefs.htm)



**Posted to her blog on March 13, 2006**

<http://jenburke.com/2006/03/13/the-association-for-gay-lesbian-and-bisexual-issues-in-counseling/>



**Ran April 11, 2006**

<http://www.outinwindsor.com/Home/News.asp?articleId=28852>

**FREE:**  **E-learning curriculum in Sexual Health**  
<http://www2.hu-berlin.de/sexology/ECE3/index.html>

The Archive for Sexology has a curriculum based on inclusive sexual health available to the public. One of their global projects, this site will eventually consist of 10 courses on sexual health. The first, entitled "Basic" has a well-rounded, yet brief section on intersexuality (in the section "Physical Problems in Males and Females."

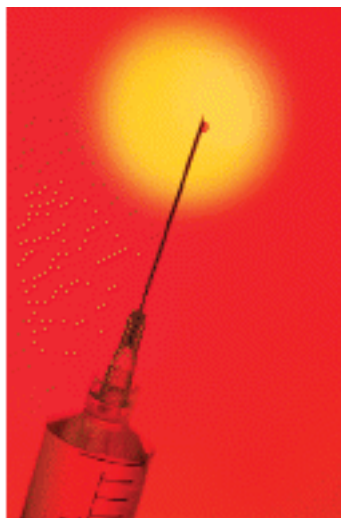
There are no programs to download or install. This is a simple web site that is very user-friendly. They are written at the college-level and is a self-directed course of study, and they are easy to use in a classroom setting with a projector beam and a large screen.

Some of the sections of courses are offered in various languages such as Spanish, Hungarian, and Chinese. Additional courses regarding sexual and gender diversity are currently "under construction."

# ON THE RAZOR'S EDGE:

## Black Market Silicone Use in the MTF Trans Community

By Stacey L. Reicherzer, MA, LPC, NCC



I remember the first time I learned about black market silicone. I was a 19 year-old gender nonconformist (birth-assigned male), exploring the confluence of my own gender and sexuality. I was dressing in drag, and hanging out at the local gay dives in downtown San Antonio. I still remember her, probably one of the most beautiful women I'd ever met: Jenny was her name, and she was a transsexual. Of course, I had to ask Jenny how she had created her body. She whispered her secret to me: *"Silicone, girl. Start*

*now, and you'll be a goddess in no time"* (Jenny was in her early 30's).

So much of who and what we are, we seem to learn from others. I knew fairly quickly what I wanted to do...a goddess? **You betcha!** I asked Jenny for her help. I started having black market silicone work done a few months later.

Here's how it works: a person, usually who lives in some other city, has access to black market silicone and has some knowledge of where and how to inject it. The silicone "doctor" (as they often refer to themselves) will have a contact person in a local community. The local contact, in this case Jenny, contacts all of the people she knows, primarily male to female (MTF) transsexuals looking for feminization. They all come to a central location, often the local contact's apartment or a hotel room, where a "pumping party" is held. The doctor injects the silicone under the skin into whatever area for which enhancement is sought: hips, buttocks, breasts, calves, lips, cheekbones, or wherever else it is thought that enhancement might create a more feminine appearance.

Following the injection, superglue or another sealant is used to keep the liquid from oozing out. The silicone solidifies within a few hours normally, and stays in place, in most cases permanently or semi-permanently (it sometimes shifts). Often, a person will have repeated treatments to reach a desired effect. The cost is relative, and negotiated with the silicone "doctor." People spend as little as \$100 for a small area and minimal injection, to several hundred or more for more major body work. Transsexuals (myself included) have been known to trade to the silicone doctor gowns and costumes that were left over from our "previous lives" as drag queens.

I had two treatments in my hips and buttocks, that latter from which I developed a low-grade fever and a lot of physical discom-

fort when I'd lay on my side (like laying on concrete). I made a decision that silicone wasn't for me, and I quit black market injections thereafter.

I later heard stories of people who'd lost their abilities to walk, or whose silicone shifted in their face, creating disfigurement. I also heard of people having silicone removed because of health risks. I remember seeing a friend who had been "pumped" several years before, only now with her silicone all removed and a sunken, androgynous frame left. I didn't ask her why her silicone had to be removed. I remembered how happy she had been with her bodily enhancements, and somehow, asking what had changed would have seemed to vulnerable a subject to invite with someone I had not seen in so long.

MTF Transsexuals, as a whole, are not a silly, foolhardy people who take incalculable risks for no reason. The reasons for taking such risks are complex, however. First, the need for an MTF to "pass" as a birth-assigned woman is often significant, and culturally reinforced by a system of gender binarism that has no tolerance for gender ambiguity. Additionally, the desire to be physically attractive as a woman (based on contemporary Western constructions of "attractiveness") is often strongly felt because for many MTFs there is a sense of feeling disconnected from one's own sexuality in a male body. In these instances, when changes occur through bodily augmentation, an individual feels physically more attractive as a woman. There is often a "rush" that feels at once powerful and elating...particularly when she is being perceived as sexually attractive to others.

The danger in this is that many transsexuals, prior to their transitions, have histories of social pain that often dates back to childhood. Stories of being ostracized and bullied are common reframes in the stories MTFs tell of their youths. When they begin to have bodily augmentations and are "read" as birth-assigned women, particularly sexually attractive women, there is often a temptation to move into new dating situations. This can be particularly dangerous for MTFs who are male-attracted, as they often began spending time in straight bars or other venues for the purposes of meeting heterosexual men. Often, the experiences of social pain are still very present. When these women do not have clear boundaries or are not familiar with negotiating dating situations with heterosexual men, they can easily set themselves up to be victimized.

Silicone presents a much cheaper and instantaneous option than traditional plastic surgery, which tends to be very pricey and out of the financial reach of many transsexuals. Additionally, silicone can be pumped anywhere in the body, whereas cosmetic surgeons do not typically perform surgeries to enhance areas like the hips.

Continued on page 12



Finally, using the black market means that transsexuals do not have to work within treatment protocols that might be necessitated for feminizing surgeries, which may include mental health evaluations that many believe to be invasive and unnecessary (a grounded theory of transgender perceptions of mental health is the subject of my dissertation). Thus, although black market silicone presents an enormous health risk, for many, this risk seems fairly minimal when compared to the alternative of not having a congruent body that would not be seen as possible through any other means.

Because MTFs who use silicone recognize how peculiar the practice sounds to people outside the community, it's often difficult for MTFs to bridge these subjects, particularly with counselors



from whom some degree of pathologization is often anticipated. Counselors who work with this population must recognize the role of social pain in creating a context that propels extreme actions that even include health risks. Responding to people's statements about use of the black market for silicone or hormones should be done with awareness of the role of bodily enhancements as linked to identity. Talking frankly with MTF clients who use

silicone about its role in their lives: what's changed, perceptions of self, perception of relational interactions, are appropriate courses for therapy. Only through enhanced self-esteem, or a rock-bottom health risk, are individuals likely to consider safer practices for their bodies. Counseling that is done with awareness of both the gender journey the individual has taken, and the role social opprobrium has played in the individual's life, invites a context in which transsexuals' are more likely to trust in the counselor and the therapeutic process.

Stacey L. Reicherzer, MA, LPC, NCC is a therapist and educator who specializes in gender and sexual diversity. She practices in both San Antonio and Austin, TX. Stacey will complete her PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision from St. Mary's University in spring 2006. She can be reached at [zoroastre@sbcglobal.net](mailto:zoroastre@sbcglobal.net), or her office numbers, 210-558-0409 (San Antonio) and 512-444-9922 (Austin).



## Gay Men of African Descent

<http://www.gmad.org/>

Gay Men of African Descent, a group that represents the largest constituency of Black gay men on the East Coast was founded in 1986. Lead by the Reverend Charles Angel, this organization's story of conceptualization is truly inspiring.

The mission: "to improve quality of life within the New York City black gay community by effectively fight the triple threat of AIDS, homophobia and racism through education, advocacy, health and wellness and social support." They first acknowledge the variances within the gay community, and still identify and support the variances within the "subculture of the gay community of color."

"GMAD provides workshops throughout New York City to educate and engage the broader community about discrimination and its impact on black gay men. Other workshops, which are being developed, include: homophobia, class, race and gender, black male identity, and living positively."

Take a moment and look at the positive influence they are having on the lives of others in New York City. It is truly inspiring.



## United Lesbians of African Heritage

<http://members.aol.com/uloah/>

**Mission Statement:** ULOAH is dedicated to the visibility, unity and empowerment of lesbians of African heritage. We empower black lesbians through education, the promotion of health and well-being, and advocacy.

United Lesbians of African Heritage  
1626 N. Wilcox Ave., #190,  
Los Angeles, CA 90028  
323-960-5051

Please e-mail them at [uloah@aol.com](mailto:uloah@aol.com) for more information, or to be placed on their online or postal mail mailing lists.

# Why did AGLBIC Sponsor a Same-Sex Wedding in Montreal?



Currently in the United States, same-sex couples are spending their lives together with love and commitment but they are unable to access the more than 1,138 automatic federal and additional state protections afforded to legally married couples. They are denied benefits and discounts from employers, banks, insurers and businesses as well as social respect from family, friends and neighbors. As a result, these couples are left vulnerable to pieced together a patchwork of legal and financial documents to protect each other

and their children. Or worse, they must remain at risk since many benefits from marriage cannot be replicated through other means.

The ceremony of marriage for same-sex couples we celebrate is legally recognized in only five countries around the world: Belgium, Canada, South Africa, Spain, and the Netherlands. In the U.S., same-sex couples can marry only in Massachusetts, and their unions are not recognized by any other state.

**APRIL 1, 2006**  
**AGLBIC - ACA MONTREAL**  
**CELEBRATING THE MARRIAGE OF**  
Bari Ayn Guibord & Lenka Reznicek  
Theodore Edward McCadden, Jr. & Todd Allen Rey  
Joy Whitman & Cyndy Boyd  
Cecil Rhodes Gibson III & Jeffrey Scott Tippie  
Robyn S. Zeiger & Dori anne Steele  
David Brusce Winmill & Jeffery Bernhard Lensman  
Jean M. Parker & Marjorie M. Chapin  
Michael K. Risarcik & Robert Graves Ratcliff, Jr.

## **A short list of the benefits denied same-sex couples residing in the U.S.:**

To be considered next of kin for hospital visits and emergency medical decisions;

The automatic right to joint parenting;

Immigration and residency for spouses from other countries;

Entitlement to family insurance coverage for spouses;

Bereavement leave from work and ability to file wrongful death claims;

Divorce protections to cover shared property, child support and alimony;

Freedom from forced testimony against each other;

Social Security benefits of the deceased spouse,

Automatic inheritance of shared assets in absence of a will,

Inheritance of tax-free retirement savings; and

Eligibility for tax benefits and claims.

**PLEASE JOIN AGLBIC IN ADVOCATING FOR LGBT INDIVIDUALS AND WORKING  
TOWARD THE ERADICATION OF HOMOPHOBIA, INEQUALITY AND  
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE LGBT COMMUNITY.**





**Congratulations**  
to all newlyweds,  
and to all who made this event a success!





# AGLBIC Journal Call for Articles

The Journal of GLBT Issues in Counseling, is the Journal of the Association of Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Issues in Counseling, and is published by The Haworth Press. The journal publishes articles that specifically focus on issues and concerns related to the health and well being of sexual minority individuals, families, and communities. The intent is to offer a variety of ideas and perspectives for counselors and related professionals who work with Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered persons, their families, and communities. As such, submitted articles should focus in one of the following areas:

**Research Studies:** Articles within this focus represent qualitative and/or quantitative studies that contribute new understanding to the field of counseling as it relates to sexual minorities. These manuscripts should include an introduction, review of the literature, methodology, data analyses, results, and discussion. Implicit in these is clear descriptions of the studies purpose and implications for future research.

**New/Innovative Practices:** Articles within this focus represent ways of approaching counseling, counselor education, training, supervision, or program design that reflect new ideas or innovative approaches that are grounded in counseling theory and/or research.

**Conceptual Articles:** Submissions in this focus represent original thinking related to the theory and practice of counseling. These might include a review of the literature, which critiques and integrates previously stated ideas; a presentation of new theoretical perspectives, or perhaps addressing a new way of utilizing previously published work.

All submissions should be prepared according to the guidelines of the most recent Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, including the use of citations and references, and inclusion of non-discriminatory language. Manuscripts should be sent as attachments via the e-mail address below, or on disc. All work should be done in Microsoft Word. Tables and figures should be used only when essential, and illustrations or graphs should be embedded in your manuscript at their appropriate place. If accepted for publication, final manuscripts should be publication ready when submitted. It is the author's responsibilities to secure permission to use any copyrighted materials within their manuscript.

The Journal of GLBT Issues in Counseling expects authors to follow the most current ACA Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice.

The Journal of GLBT Issues in Counseling understands that authors bear full responsibility for the accuracy of all referenced, quotations, tables, figures, and the overall content of their article.

Please submit articles to Ned Farley, Ph.D., Editor, The Journal of GLBT Issues in Counseling at [nfarley@aus.edu](mailto:nfarley@aus.edu). Confirmation will be sent via e-mail.

“Come out” and submit an article for the AGLBIC News!

We are currently accepting articles of varying lengths and topics. For more information contact the editor, Karen Hartman, Editor at [raed8@comcast.net](mailto:raed8@comcast.net)



AGLBIC News, the newsletter of the Association of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues in Counseling, is published three times annually. The AGLBIC News is published on-line in the summer and fall. Our Pre-conference issue is a mailed hardcopy. The publication dates and submission deadlines are:

**Fall edition:**  
December 1st:  
Submission  
Deadline:  
September 15th

**Pre-conference edition:**  
March 15th.  
Submission  
Deadline:  
January 15th.

**Summer edition:**  
July 31st:  
Submission  
Deadline:  
May 15th

## Dates & Guidelines

### Submission Guidelines

Submit articles and items of interest to our readership and members that are current and informative. Submissions that encourage dialogue and opinion are especially encouraged.

All text submissions can arrive either by email [formatted in MS Word, .rtf or embedded in an email] to the editor. Please note that the editor has the right to edit your submission due to space considerations and/or content issues.

Please send your submissions to:  
**Karen Hartman, M.S. Ed, Editor of the News**  
[raed8@comcast.net](mailto:raed8@comcast.net)(H)

**Disclaimer:** Although the AGLBIC News attempts to publish articles and items of interest that are consistent with the mission and goals of AGLBIC, they do not necessarily reflect the overarching opinions, policies, or priorities of AGLBIC or ACA.



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