

From our President: From our Past-President:

Phyllis Mogielski-Watson, PsyD, CADC



Greetings:

As I prepared for the presidency of AGLBIC I reflected on the leadership that has brought our division to this point. I am proud to be among these folks. I am honored to have this role and assure you I carry the mission as I set out my primary goals for the coming year.

As many of you know, AGLBIC is one of a few ACA divisions that continue to enjoy growth in membership. We are flourishing and our board is a committed group of people who work for the best interest of our division. Based on this we are in great shape, our leadership is committed, and our membership is strong.

Since little needs to be changed, my goal for the division is to continue to grow. In the past we have done this through concerted efforts to reach out to members, past, current, and new. Keeping with the efforts of AGLBIC's past-president, Dr. Brian Dew, the membership committee will continue to put forth the same outreach efforts. Anyone with a lapsed membership will get a letter of inquiry from AGLBIC. New members will be welcomed and congratulated on joining us. Current members will be kept up-to-date on the efforts of the division and will be invited to become more active in the division as well as sharing their thoughts, opinions, and ideas. Through these forums, I hope to see steady growth throughout the year.

An additional goal of mine is to bring greater focus and understanding to LGBT families. We all know that LGBT families are unique, facing different struggles and less rights than "traditional," heterosexual families. Through dialogue and education I see the need to define the differences and work toward increased support. I am especially interested in aiding couples and the children of

Continued on page 4...

Brian J. Dew, Ph.D., LPC



It is difficult to believe that my presidential year is nearing its end and that this column will be my last as leader of AGLBIC. Throughout this journey, I have met hundreds of our members and allies from across the country, listened to the desires and hopes for our division, and attempted to represent myself and our division in a way that is worthy of being AGLBIC president. As I turn over the reigns of leadership to Dr. Phyllis Mogielski-Watson, I have no doubt that

AGLBIC will continue to grow in membership as well as enhance its impact on the counseling profession.

What a year we have had! I would like to thank the AGLBIC board, its executive council, trustees, and chairpersons, for your dedication and continued support. As I ponder highlights of this past year, the following events and milestones come to mind:

1. Unanimous board approval of AGLBIC's name change to include transgender issues. The decision to change our name from The Association for Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues in Counseling to The Association for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues reflects the inclusion of gender identity as a component of our division's purpose. While our mission statement clearly recognizes the importance of transgender issues, our division's name will now reflect our commitment to this population.

2. AGLBIC's membership growth in the past year was nearly 18%. In a year when ACA's divisions were averaging membership losses of 5-10%, AGLBIC was one of only two divisions that saw our membership numbers increase! Today, our membership consists of 780 members which reflect the highest level in the past five years.

3. Successful completion of AGLBIC's two initial journal editions. I have been consistently impressed with the quality of

Continued on page 4...

At a GLANCE...

Interview with Dr. Michael Rankin	pg 5
Diversity Watch.....	pg 9
A Wedding Story	pg 11
Tales of Discovery.....	pg 13
The Legacy Project	pg 15



AGLBIC Leadership

2006-2007

Phyllis Mogielski-Watson, PsyD, CADC, President

Associate Director of Training,
Office of Placement & Training,
The Chicago School of Professional Psychology
325 N. Wells
Chicago, IL 60610
312-329-6692
pmogielski-watson@thechicagoschool.edu

Anneliese Singh, M.S., President-Elect

Assistant Professor
University of Georgia
402 Aderhold
Athens, GA 30602
404.849.8186
nanakikaur@yahoo.com

Brian Dew, Ph.D., Past-President

1210 Beech Haven Rd.
Atlanta, GA 30324
(404) 808-5436
bdew@gsu.edu

Michael P. Chaney, Ph.D., Secretary

Assistant Professor
Oakland University
440B Pawley Hall
Rochester, MI 48309
248-370-3084
chaney@oakland.edu

Robert L. Mate, MS, NCC, LMHC, Treasurer

Assistant Dean of Students
Office of the Dean of Students
Purdue University
475 Stadium Mall Dr
West Lafayette, IN 47907
Phone: 765-494-5860
Fax: 765-496-1550
rmate@purdue.edu

Susan Rachael Seem, Ph.D., LMHC, NCC, ACS, Trustee 2007-2010

Associate Professor/Chair
Department of Counselor Education
SUNY College at Brockport
350 New Campus Drive
Brockport, NY 14420
(585) 395-5492
sseem@brockport.edu

Edward Cannon, Ph.D., Trustee 2006-2007

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Counseling
Community Counseling Program
Marymount University, Arlington, VA
(757) 817-8258
Edward.Cannon@marymount.edu

Michael Kocet, Ph.D., LMHC, Trustee, 2005-2008

Associate Professor, Department of Counselor Education
Bridgewater State College
110 Kelly
Bridgewater, MA 02325
(508) 531-2721
mkocet@yahoo.com

Ned Farley, Ph.D., Governing Council Representative, 2006-2009

Editor, Journal of GLBT Issues in Counseling
Chair, Mental Health Counseling Program
Coordinator, Integrative Studies in Psychology Program
Center for Programs in Psychology
Antioch University Seattle
2326 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98121-1814
(206) 268-4814
nfarley@antiochsea.edu

Sue Strong, Ph.D., CACREP Representative, 2005-2008

Professor of Counseling and Educational Psychology
College of Education
Eastern Kentucky University
406 Combs Bldg.
Richmond, KY 40475
859.277.3119
Fax: 859.622.1126
sue.strong@eku.edu

Committee Chairs 2007-2008

Michael Kocet, **Graduate Student/New Professionals**
John Marszalak/Philip Gniska, **Membership**
Brian Dew, **Awards**
Brian Dew **Nominations and Elections**
Brian Dew, **Bylaws**
Rhodes Gibson/Rob Mate, **Webmasters**
Bob Rohde, **Historian and Archivist**
Denny Frank, **Media and Public Relations Chair**
Tracey Gagné, **Multicultural Consultant**
Susan Seem/Ed Cannon, **Branch Chapter Committee**

Karen Hartman, M.S. Ed., Editor of the AGLBIC News

Krueger Middle School
2001 Springdale
Michigan City, IN
(219)873-2061 (W) (219) 805-6834 (cell)
khartman@mcas.k12.in.us (W), raed8@comcast.net(H)



Graduate & New Professionals

Michael M. Kocet, Ph.D.,
Graduate & New Professionals Committee Chair

Read A Book, Share A Book

Summer is usually known as the time of the year for vacations and catching up on reading some great books. Well, ALGBTIC is calling all graduate students and new professionals to share their favorite summer reads with us!!

We are looking for students and new professionals who are interested in writing book reviews for the ALGBTIC newsletter. Book reviews can be LGBT fiction or non-fiction, counseling related books on LGBT issues, or just any LGBT topic that you think ALGBTIC members would be interested in learning more about. Book reviews would be no more than 2-3 pages for the newsletter. Send inquiries to me at: Dr. Michael Kocet, Chair of the Graduate and New Professionals Committee at mkocet@yahoo.com or (508) 531-2721.

Continued on page 6...

Governing Council Report

Ned Farley, Ph.D.
Governing Council Representative

Several topics of interest to our division were discussed during the spring, 2007 Governing Council meeting in Detroit:

1. Membership: there was quite a lengthy discussion regarding the continued decrease in overall ACA membership. In addition, the majority of divisions were also losing membership, but for most, this was slowing down, and there were a handful of divisions (AGLBIC included) where membership was either leveling off, or increasing slightly. AGLBIC was highlighted in this discussion as one of the few divisions to show some steady increase. In response to the concerns around membership, the Governing Council spent time looking at our current dues policies and generated several ideas about ways to think differently about dues. In the end, a motion was put forth and passed, asking the ACA Financial Committee to study six possible iterations to handle dues and to come back with a recommendation based on their research. While there were varying ideas put out, what was clearly evident was a bias by Governing Council members against any plan that would reflect unified dues (e.g. pay a single price and get your ACA membership, a division membership, and a branch membership). It was noted that this would create more problems than it would help, especially with the varying ways divisions and branches handled dues and dues categories. The most favored plan was a "tiered" plan which provides a menu option which allows (1) divisions to maintain the option of joining their divisions only; (2) which gives members options to just join ACA (receive other member benefits besides CT/journal); (3) join ACA plus the journal and/or CT; (4) become an associate member which includes division membership; or (5) premium tier, which includes all plus another division and a special discount for the conference.

Continued on page 4...

Summer 2007

Spotlight on State Chapters

Edward P. Cannon, Ph.D., LPC, LMFT
Co-Branch Chapter Committee Chair

In an effort to connect folks working for LGBT issues on the state level, and to bring awareness to the general membership, we have been encouraging submissions from our state chapters. Here is a dispatch from Peggy Lorah, president of PAGLB TIC. If you would like to share what your state chapter has been up to lately, please contact me. Also, if you would like support or tips for developing your own state chapter, please contact me at Edward.Cannon@Marymount.edu.

PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION FOR GAY, LESBIAN, BI-SEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER ISSUES IN COUNSELING (PAGLB TIC)

As president of PAGLB TIC, I was pleased to be able to attend the AGLBIC board meetings at this year's ACA conference. It was such a positive experience to hear what other members are doing and to share what we are doing in PA. One of the things I was able to share is our very conscious decision, several years ago, to add the "T" to our name.

PAGLB TIC members are dedicated to providing training and support to PA counselors who work with LGBT clients. Here are a couple of the initiatives we have undertaken in the past few months:

Continued on page 6...

Our Progressing Journal

Ned Farley, Ph.D.
Editor, Journal of GLBT Issues in Counseling

The journal is continuing to move forward in its growth and development. We have had a very good year in terms of number of submissions, with an approximately 40% acceptance rate overall. Volume One, Issues one, two and three have all been published, and issue four is at the publishers in line for publication. 1(4) is also our first special issue, focusing on Counseling LGBT Couples and Families, with guest editors Drs. Joy Whitman (past-president of AGLBIC) and Bret Hendricks (past-president of IAMFC). In addition, we are currently finalizing 2(1) and hope to get it to the publisher within the next month to six weeks. While submissions are still not up to the volume or flow that we ultimately would like, I am happy with the quality of submissions overall, and feel that as we get better known in the journal community, our submission rate will also increase.

We are now in the process of pulling together our "call for submissions" for our second special issue, focusing on Addictions and Substance Use/Abuse within the LGBT community. Guest editors will be Drs. Brian Dew (past-president of AGLBIC) and Pam Lassiter (past-president of IAAOC). Our hope is to have this call out within the next month, and the special issue finalized by January/

Continued on page 12...
AGLBIC News

President's letter continued from front page...

LGBT families. I also would like to enhance the role of allies in supporting LGBT families. In the coming months I hope to have dialogues available through the AGLBIC newsletter and more LGBT family friendly programs at future ACA conventions.

Finally, in 2008 we have the ACA convention in Hawaii. The board is committed to making this convention another one that members of AGLBIC will not soon forget. Plans are in the works to organize a LGBT focused luau. We are also researching LGBT friendly travel agents who can work with members to enhance your travel to Hawaii and the nearby islands. Look for more information in the near future.

Throughout my time as AGLBIC president please feel free to let me know your thoughts and ideas. You can reach me by email at pmogielski-watson@thechicagoschool.edu I look forward to serving the membership. Thank you for this opportunity.

Phyllis



**Make plans
NOW to meet
us in Hawaii!**

Governing Council Update continued from page 3...

2. Management Service Agreements: this is the contract we have as a division, with ACA to manage many of our day to day functions. For the second year in a row it was decided not to raise the per member fee for the provision of these services.

4. Signature Product: ACA is moving ahead at producing what can become "signature products", focused in three areas: Multicultural Counseling, Ethics, and an Encyclopedia of Counseling.

5. There was clarification around the bylaws for maintaining division status. The bylaws read: once a division exists, you must have a minimum of 70% or 400 who are ACA members in order to remain part of ACA.

6. A motion was put forth and passed that divisions will receive a "kick-back" for every member who registers and attend the Hawaii convention. The request was for the ACA Financial Committee to consider kickbacks ranging from \$1-\$20. (update: at the ACA Executive Committee meeting in June, it was voted in that the kick-back would be \$3 per member).

7. The ACA President-elect, Brian Canfield asked that the Convention Program planners consider allowing there to be afternoon breaks from programming for attendees to enjoy Hawaii. I have not heard any more news about this at this time.



Gay-friendly travel agent to use when planning to attend the 2008 ACA Conference in Hawaii.

Gary Trick
Windy City Travel
1357 N Wells
Chicago IL 60610
Phone: 312-951-0710
Fax: 312-951-6181

Past-President's letter continued from front page...

submissions to our journal. Our outstanding editorial board consists of highly recognized leaders from nearly every ACA division. Dr. Ned Farley deserves special recognition for the many hours of service he has poured into launching our journal.

4. Recognizing AGLBIC's early pioneers by initiating the Legacy Project. It was an honor to work alongside board member, Dr. Sue Strong, in recognizing those persons who have carried the banner for LGBT issues within ACA. To have Dr. Joe Norton, founding father of AGLBIC, along with numerous other leaders from the past 25 years, present at the 2007 AGLBIC brunch in Detroit was a real joy! This tribute reminded us all of the history of the division, including its early trials, varied successes, and challenges that remain.

5. "One of us in the White House." While it might not be a race for President of the United States (although we could only dream), members of AGLBIC have a great deal of pride in knowing that one of our own has been elected President Elect of ACA., Dr. Colleen Logan will take the reigns as President in 2008-09. Her commitment to social justice and equality for LGBT persons is palpable. I have no doubt that we will be well-represented within the counseling profession and that AGLBIC will have an advocate in Colleen.

I want to take this opportunity to also thank my partner, Rob Latham, for his patience and unyielding support during this past year. I also would like to thank my colleagues and students at Georgia State University for allowing me to perform a job that I love so much.

With pride- *Brian*



During the AGLBIC brunch, ACA President-elect Colleen Logan and Bob Barret reflect on their leadership roles during AGLBIC's formative years.

An interview with Dr. Michael Rankin

Edward P. Cannon, Ph.D., LPC, LMFT
AGLBIC Trustee

Recently, I had the opportunity to sit down to discuss the military's "Don't Ask Don't Tell" Policy. Michael Rankin, MD, MPH, Capt, MC, USNR (Ret.), is a Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Dr. Rankin served for 24 years as a Medical Officer in the United States Navy and Navy Reserve. He was Chief of Psychiatry at the Oakland VA Medical Center from 1986 to 1996. At the Oakland VA, Mike established and directed mental health programs for active duty military and veterans living with HIV and AIDS. Dr. Rankin was featured in the April 24, 2007 Advocate (issue 984) after Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman Peter Pace called homosexuality immoral, along with six other retired officers who also came out.

Thank you for speaking with me today. Please tell me about your experience with the Don't Ask Don't Tell policy, and its history.

We knew long before President Clinton was elected in 1992 that denying gay men and lesbians the right to serve with honesty about who they are was not only unnecessary, it was causing us to lose some of our best and brightest. Other nations—Canada, the UK, Australia, New Zealand, Israel—were already considering allowing open service in their Armed Forces. All subsequently did so, with no adverse effect.

Aware of this, President Clinton promised to make that change in the United States military. He saw the denial for what it was—prejudice plain and simple, based on old myths and stereotypes. We were a better nation than that. He would issue an order overturning the ban, as Truman had done to integrate the Armed Forces, and that would be that. Clinton meant well—but he was incredibly naive. He did not anticipate the fierce and very public opposition from the likes of Senators Sam Nunn and John Warner, then respectively the Chair and Ranking Member of the Senate Armed Services Committee; nor the opposition of Chair of the Joint Chiefs Colin Powell, who ironically had a gay senior adjutant. The man tried unsuccessfully to change Powell's mind. At least the General didn't turn him in—but that honest disclosure ruined his career. He left the Army soon after.

And so Clinton was forced to accept a compromise. "Don't Ask Don't Tell" would allow gay men and lesbians to serve, but only if they kept an important part of who they are a deep secret. The military, in turn, promised no witch hunts. They would not "pursue." The pursuit began almost on day one. Letters and e-mail were intercepted and read. Shipmates and fellow soldiers were encouraged to report suspicious behavior like "he doesn't go drink with us," or "he doesn't date," or "he talks about a special friend back home, but won't show us a picture."

What effect do you think that environment has had on LGB service members?

Military women began to hear "you won't sleep with me? You must be a dyke!" Or worse, "if you don't sleep with me, I'll tell everyone you're a dyke." Despite their inability to do so with full disclosure,

Summer 2007

an estimated 65,000 gay men and lesbians serve in the armed forces right now. They serve with great love of country, and with great courage—but they serve in silence. That silence makes some less effective soldiers and Marines, more prone to PTSD. It is the enforced hiding and denying that's the problem, not their homosexuality. It takes a lot of psychic energy to keep secret the most important people in your life. Why on earth do we do this to our sons and daughters? Why do we spend millions of taxpayer dollars ferreting them out, as though they were closet members of Al Qaeda?

What about other countries who allow LGB individuals to serve openly? Can you speak about current research about the DADT policy?

The British military, where gays have served with full disclosure for nearly a decade, has had no such problems. Neither will we, when we invite all patriotic Americans to serve in the fullness of their humanity. Recently, UCLA did a study of the impact of the current policy and the earlier complete prohibition against open service. They found more than a million gay or lesbian veterans, men and women who fought for America in WW II, Korea, Vietnam, and the first Gulf War, and more recently in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Their comrades of earlier wars remained largely silent about their experiences when they returned. Those coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan are not. They are telling their stories to all who will listen, to newspaper reporters, to television producers, to their friends and families—and to the Congress. They've decided that whatever the price, the cost of continued silence is too great. They have nothing to be ashamed of, and much to be proud of—and they know it.

What about the recent discharge of Arabic language interpreters?

Since DADT went into effect in 1993, more than 11,000 of our service men and women have been discharged for being gay or lesbian. Among them are 58 fluent speakers of Arabic and Farsi, and more than 100 physicians and other health care clinicians. Many believe our lack of translators made us more vulnerable to the brutal attack of 9-11. And have you read in your papers about the shortage of physicians and nurses at Walter Reed, Bethesda, and almost every other military hospital and clinic?

Yet another study shows an estimated 40,000 gays are ready to serve if they are allowed to do so without hiding. But the message from the Pentagon and White House could not be clearer: no homos need apply.

What about the argument that allowing LGB individuals to serve openly will affect "unit cohesion"? What do you think today's troops really think?

Continued on page 6...
AGLBIC News

Graduate Student/New Professionals continued from page 3...

ALGBTIC Graduate Student and New Professional Volunteers.

We know that graduate students have a busy schedule, but we are looking to get graduate students more involved in our organization. There are many different ways to get involved, depending on how much or how little time you have. ALGBTIC has many different committees that need a student representative. We are in need of at least one graduate student/new professional to serve on each of the following committees:

- the ALGBTIC newsletter (helping write articles)
- Membership Committee
- Media and Public Relations Committee
- Awards Committee
- Multicultural Consultant Assistant
- Nominations and Elections Committee
- Branch Chapter Committee
- Bylaws Committee
- Assistance with ALGBTIC's website
- Graduate Student and New Professionals Committee

Don't worry, there is not a major time commitment for these committees. Most work is done through email and telephone meetings. If any of these sound interesting, send an email to Dr. Michael Kocet mkocet@yahoo.com. and let us know you want to participate!

We welcome suggestions and input on how to increase our efforts at involving graduate students and new professional counselors within ALGBTIC. ALGBTIC members are always available to assist graduate students with ideas for research projects, mentoring on dissertation or theses, or just to offer a supportive ear and encouragement. If you need any type of assistance for a class project/paper, or you are a new professional needing help with a resume or job search, please don't hesitate to contact me at mkocet@yahoo.com. I can help connect you with an ALGBTIC leader or member who might have the information or resources you need. ALGBTIC is all about connection!!

Have a relaxing summer!!

Penn State Chapter continued from page 3...

The Pennsylvania Counseling Association held its annual conference in October 28 and 29, 2006. For the second year in a row, PAGLB TIC members developed and presented an educational session for each time slot of the conference, modeled after the AGLBIC day of learning at the ACA conference. This year, for the first time, PAGLB TIC awarded certificates of completion to participants who attended all of the sessions.

Additionally, members of PAGLB TIC presented a Safe Zone training for faculty and staff at Lock Haven University in August, 2006. We also provided a day-long training on affirmative counseling for LGBT clients for Diakon, a program affiliated with Lutheran Social Services in the Reading area.

Peggy Lorah, D. Ed., NCC, LPC

Interview with Dr. Michael Rankin continued from page 5...

The military and some politicians say they are worried about unit cohesion. It's a legitimate concern. The countries most like ours were worried too, before they changed their policies. Afterwards, they found no negative impact on unit cohesion—none. Most young people these days have had gay friends in school, or known a gay relative. It just isn't a big deal to them.

I've done my own survey of the twenty-somethings in my life. I have good friends who are serving in Iraq or in Afghanistan. Some are the sons and grandsons of fellow Vietnam veterans, young men I've known all their lives. Some are senior officers serving alongside gay and lesbian British soldiers and Marines among others. They know and respect gay and lesbian service members in their own units. There is rarely a problem. It's live and let live. "I don't care who you sleep with, as long as you have my back when the bullets fly."

My three godsons, sons of my former Navy commanding officer, are in that age group. One is a college freshman at Pepperdine University in Los Angeles; another is a junior at the University of the Pacific, about to apply to dental school; the third is on his midlife cruise in the Gulf this summer; in September he'll begin his final year at the Naval Academy. We've talked openly and honestly about the policy. None of them support it, and John says few of his Academy classmates see a reason for it.

When I teach medical ethics at the USUHS—the military medical school at Bethesda— we are given assigned topics to cover. Recently I led a discussion on the role of the physician at Abu Graib and Guantanamo, and what should be the proper response if a service member "confesses" homosexual feelings to his or her physician. Without exception, these doctors to be, all of them active duty military, most of them politically conservative, said the policy is not needed and should be ended. Under no circumstances would they violate a patient's confidence on this issue.

What about those who say the ban should not end while we are at war?

This is exactly the time it should end. The military is so stressed and stretched, they are recruiting convicted felons and those who couldn't make it past 6th grade. Yet they turn down the estimated 40,000 gay and lesbian Americans—intelligent, well educated men and women, with no criminal record— who would enlist if they were allowed to serve without hiding their sexual orientation. Worried about inappropriate behavior? Let the same rules, and the same consequences of violating those rules, apply to all, gay and straight. As long as this policy is in effect, our nation is the loser. It doesn't reflect what America is all about. It doesn't come close, as more and more in positions of leadership—including military leadership—are saying.



AGLBIC in Detroit 2007

Award Recipients

Joe Norton Award: This award is presented annually for an outstanding contribution to the GLBT community.

The Ruth Ellis Center opened in 1999 with the purpose of providing short and long term residential safe space and support services for runaway, homeless and at-risk LGBTQ youth in Detroit and Southeastern Michigan. They only 1 of 4 social services agencies exclusively devoted to LGBTQ homeless teen and young adults and serve as the largest drop-in center in the country.

The Ruth Ellis Center honors the life and work of Ruth Ellis, a treasured member of Detroit's LGBTQ community. Ruth lived to celebrate her 101st birthday after a long life filled with helping young people, activism and creativity. The Ruth Ellis Center is carrying on that work.

Since they opened, annually, they have:

- Had 45,000+ contacts with youth on the streets
- Served more than 58,000 meals
- Handled more than 15,000 phone calls for help and referrals
- Passed out over 60,000 safe sex kits

Receiving the award is the Executive Director, Grace McClelland and Robert Thomas, her Administrative Assistant.



Ruth Ellis Center, Executive Director, Grace McClelland receives the Joe Norton Award at the AGLBIC Brunch in Detroit.

AGLBIC Service Award: This award is presented to an AGLBIC member who has served AGLBIC and/or the larger GLBT community through forwarding the mission and values of AGLBIC.



Karen Hartman,
AGLBIC Newsletter Editor

Karen has been involved with the AGLBIC newsletter since 2001 when she became co-editor, and in 2003, she became the sole newsletter editor. Since taking over as editor, Karen changed our newsletter to color, produced online newsletters, converted us back to print newsletters, ensuring the production of 3 newsletters a year. All the while

Karen was completing her master's degree in counseling at Purdue University Calumet; raising her daughter, Kate, as a single mom; obtaining a job at Purdue; and transitioning to the job she has now as a school counselor at Krueger Middle School, Michigan City, IN.

Let me say something about the job of the newsletter editor. It is not a glamorous one though it is the face of the organization and connection to membership. It is not a board position, though Karen has had to solicit board members' articles every few months and to interact with all board members throughout the year. It is a position that requires creativity, patience, organization, and heart.

Karen has offered AGLBIC all of this and has been tireless in her effort to do so.

Prior to the newsletter converting to the online/electronic form, Karen not only organized the material the board sent her, but she labeled, stamped and sent all of the newsletters herself. Once the newsletter went electronic, Karen had fun with color and made the newsletter pop. She also included much more material that was current, searching for articles she believed relevant to the organization. And once it went back to print but with Haworth Press taking on the responsibility of labeling, stamping, and mailing, Karen seamlessly worked with Haworth to ensure that the newsletter was sent to them on time even though the board voted to move the deadline up.

Through the years, Karen has worked with 5 different presidents (two of them twice) and 7 boards to ensure accurate, timely, and aesthetically pleasing communication of messages and ideas to the membership. I have known Karen since she was a graduate student at Purdue. I have watched her develop into a counseling professional, and it is my pleasure to see her receive this award as the outstanding advocate she is for AGLBIC and for LGBT issues.

Graduate Student Award: This award has been established to honor a graduate student member of AGLBIC who has contributed significantly in one of three areas:

1. Representing or embodying the mission of AGLBIC through direct service for AGLBIC or in the field of counseling;

Continued on page 8...

Graudate Student Award continued from page 7...

2. Furthering knowledge of GLBT issues through an outstanding research contribution; or
3. Providing service or research that specifically focuses on furthering the knowledge of and commitment to issues of diversity within the GLBT community.



This year the recipient is Tracey Gagne. Tracey Gagne is a second-years student in the MS/EdS degree in the Department of Counseling and Psychological Services at Georgia State University. She has been active in CPS-AGLBIC (the first department chapter of AGLBIC) since the beginning of her studies in many significant ways. Tracey has participated in over 10 panels for CACREP-required classes (e.g., group counseling, career counseling, multicultural counseling)

that highlight the stories and voices of LGBTQI people and LGBTQI-allies. Through these panels, she has reached over 200 MS/EdSPhD students and clearly articulated the benefits of acquiring competency with LGBTQI issues as well as the importance of the intersection of multicultural identities (e.g., people of color, people with disabilities) for LGBTQI clients.

Tracey has participated as an organizer and presenter at the annual Day of Learning on LGBTQI issues in Counseling at Georgia State University, and has been instrumental in bringing Drs. Toti Perez and Patricia Arredondo on board as keynote speakers for this event which reaches over 150 counseling and psychological students, professionals, and faculty from all parts of Georgia and Alabama.

Tracey has been an enthusiastic member of the AGLBIC's Diversity Committee, and has been a contributor to the "Diversity Watch" column in the AGLBIC newsletter. Tracey is also a leader within CPS-AGLBIC, holding the position of Secretary. She additionally manages the CPS-AGLBIC listserv, which has over 100 members and disseminates important counseling and political information for those seeking to increase affirmative counseling skills with LGBTQI clients.

Tracey is also an active participant in furthering the mission of Safe Zone at Georgia State University, participating as a trainer in making the campus safer for LGBTQI students. She has led the way for bringing CPS-AGLBIC members to present on how counselors may build their own Safe Zone's at their schools, universities, or workplace and will present this information in a Learning Institute at the ACA national conference in Detroit.

Tracey is not only an advocate for LGBTQI issues in counseling for others, but she has made special efforts to increase her own competency by taking courses during her MS/EdS program in Women's Studies and Sociology (courses outside of the requirements of her program). She is a strong match for the vision behind the AGLBIC Graduate Student Award because she does not separate her advocacy for LGBTQI people into her profession, but rather integrates this advocacy into how she lives her daily life.

AGLBIC Mentor Award: This is the first year AGLBIC is presenting such an award. Mentor: a trusted friend, counselor or teacher, usually a more experienced person. It is someone who provides her/his expertise to less experienced individuals in order to help them advance their careers, enhance their education, and build their networks.



Sue Strong,
Past-President of AGLBIC

Having known Sue since 1995, I can say that she embodies the definition of mentor. As a young lesbian, professional, Sue took me under her wing to help me develop my professional identity. She brought

me to AGLBIC to take on the mentoring program and encouraged me to find a place in ACA through AGLBIC. At Eastern Kentucky University, where she is Professor of Education, she began the ECU Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Transgendered, Queer, Questioning (GLBTQ) Faculty/Staff Mentoring Program. Its purpose is to provide a safe environment for GLBTQ faculty/staff and friends/allies of GLBTQ faculty/staff to openly discuss issues that concern us within the university environment and outside the university environment; to provide a voice for the concerns of the GLBTQ faculty/staff community at ECU and to transmit those concerns in a unified way to the ECU administration; and to contribute to the ECU strategic plan of providing a university community that honors diversity, dignity, and integrity.

Also at ECU, Sue created the ECU AGLBIC Graduate Student Chapter whose mission is to educate and support ECU students, faculty and staff in strengthening their knowledge, awareness, and attitudes of GLBTQ issues in counseling. Sue is the faculty sponsor of the chapter and mentors the students' professional identities as GLBTQ counselors.



Joe Norton,
the father of AGLBIC

Back in the Day with Dad & Mom

AGLBIC Brunch Detroit 2007

The highlight for those who attended the AGLBIC brunch this March (2007) was listening to our past leaders talk about what

it was like before and during the birth of our division (AGLBIC). You can read about them in our continuing focus celebrating our past leadership in the Legacy Project. See page 15 to read about the recollections of Brenda Hawkins.



Bob Rhode,
the mother of AGLBIC

Introducing Our New Multicultural Consultant



Anneliese Singh,
Multicultural Consultant (2004-2007)

I want to start off this column by expressing my excitement about the name change for our organization to ALTBIC, as well as sharing my hope that our division truly is a safe place that meets and explores the needs of our transgender members and the trans-

gender clients whom we serve. This is also an exciting column to write, as it is time to pass the baton to the new Multicultural Consultant for ALTGBIC, Tracey Gagné (Georgia State University)! My excitement is also combined with gratitude for the leadership on multicultural and social justice issues within our division over my past three years in this position.

To refresh our memories, the position of Multicultural Consultant was proposed by Ned Farley, past-President of our division, in order to prioritize multicultural issues within the division. One of the first recommendations to the board in my position was to incorporate specific inclusive language into our mission statement. The board immediately took action on this issue, which conveyed to me how important attention to multicultural issues was (and is) to the leadership. Other recommendations and actions were translation of the AGLBIC Competencies for Working with GLBT Clients into various languages (e.g., Spanish, French, Hindi, American Sign Language), ensuring that the “Day of Learning” integrated multicultural issues throughout the programming, and continuing a dialogue centering on how the division could be more inclusive place for members from marginalized backgrounds (e.g., people of color, transgender). The “Diversity Watch” column has been a place to report on how our division is addressing multicultural issues for queer people, and recently this column has also been an integral sounding board for committee organizing on multicultural and social justice issues (e.g., transgender committee, diversity committee).

To say it has been an honor to serve ALTGBIC as the Multicultural Consultant would be an understatement. I am extremely thankful for the board and members for being such a passionate, committed, and vibrant community that is a joy to be a part of within ACA! I am also excited to see how our division can continue to play an integral role in valuing and responding to the issues that impact the lives of LGBTQI people from diverse backgrounds. I know that Tracey Gagné will play an integral role in the movement of the Multicultural Consultant position to include attention and action on advocacy and social justice issues for LGBTQI folks.



Tracey Gagné,
Multicultural Consultant
(incoming)

I’m very excited about serving ALTGBIC as the Multicultural Consultant. I feel honored that the Executive Committee have seen fit to pass the baton on to me. While advocacy for the LG-BTQI community has been important

to me for years now, it feels important for me to be doing this on a grander scale, and I look forward to continuing the work that Anneliese has begun with the new transgender committee. The inclusion of “T” in the official name of the organization is an important step in the process of inclusion, and I’m looking forward to working on awareness of issues related to those of us who are transgender and intersexed.

With this said, I think it’s safe to say that I’m interested in advocacy on many levels. For me, this means awareness and understanding of white privilege and how it affects all LGBT communities, so that we remain constantly aware of how our actions and privilege affect others and how we can use privilege in positive ways. The thought that went into the name-change for the organization illustrates this recognition. Further awareness and understanding may require taking a look at language that we use. I know that ALTGBIC has done a lot of work on language and inclusiveness through Anneliese’s efforts in this role, and I believe that this work needs to continue. Also, at this past ACA convention in Detroit, CPS-AGLBIC from Georgia State University conducted a successful Safe Zone training as a part of the all-day Learning Institutes. I would like to see how we may provide Safe Zone trainings to other divisions within ACA in the spirit of advocacy.

I look forward to working with ALTGBIC in the upcoming year, and I urge any members who are interested in joining the transgender committee or who have other multicultural and social justice concerns to contact me. At the brunch at the ACA convention, several individuals who were asked to speak mentioned how safe and inviting this organization has felt to them through the years. I’ve had a similar experience and am looking forward to exploring ways of extending this experience to all people who need to feel safe being themselves. Please email me at euphrasie71@gmail.com with your input and/or desire to be involved in promoting multicultural issues within our division.

Welcome Tracey!



AGLBIC's Wedding Project



Sue Strong (Professor of Counseling and Educational Psychology at Eastern Kentucky University) and Philip Gnilka (Counselor Education PhD Student at Georgia State University). All comments about this article should be addressed to Sue.Strong@EKU.Edu.

The Wedding sponsored by AGLBIC at the ACA Convention in Montreal under the leadership of Joy Whitman (President) and Brian Dew (President Elect and Conference Chair) was a momentous occasion for both the association and the couples involved. AGLBIC would like to commemorate this event for the association and the couples by a series of interviews for the newsletter and possibly periodic follow up interviews.

Both AGLBIC and the GLBTQ community are grateful to the married couples for their courage to publicly celebrate their union and love. Eight couples married in Montreal on April 1, 2006:

Bari Ayn Guibord and Lenka Reznicek
Theodore Edward McCadden, Jr. and Todd Allen Rey
Joy Whitman and Cyndy Boyd
Cecil Rhodes Gibson III and Jeffrey Scott Tippie
Robyn S. Zeiger and Dori Anne Steele
David Bruce Winmill and Jeffery Bernhard Lensman
Jean M. Parker and Marjorie M. Chapin
Michael K. Pisarcik and Robert Graves Ratcliff, Jr.

The interviews are being conducted in an open-ended manner, with each couple taking the interview in any direction they prefer. A series of questions are sent to the couples in advance, and all, some, or none of these questions can be focused on by the couples interviewed.

What are your attitudes about the institution of marriage?
What is/has been your experience with the institution of marriage?
What are/were your immediate and extended family's attitudes about marriage?
Do you have any religious/spiritual views about marriage?
Are/were there any differences in views between the couple on marriage?
What are your thoughts on civil unions v. marriage?
What drew you to marry in Montreal?

Have you perceived your relationship differently since your marriage?
Have others perceived your relationship differently since your marriage?
Was your marriage recognized as equal to heterosexual marriage by family, friends, and colleagues?

In addition, the following basic information was collected at the time of the interview:

What were your ages at the time of your marriage?
How long had you been together before your marriage?
Are you/have you been involved in co-parenting children or stepchildren with each other?
Do you have any religious/spiritual identity/affiliation?

Why did AGLBIC sponsor a same-sex wedding in Montreal?

The wedding brochure stated that:

Currently in the United States, same-sex couples are spending their lives together with love and commitment but 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 piece 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 is only recognized in 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 in the U.S.



A Wedding Story:

Cecil Rhodes Gibson III & Jeffrey Scott Tippie

Rhodes and Jeff met seven years ago while living in Seattle, Washington. While they were getting to know each other on that momentous day, they realized that they both had a lot in common. Both grew up in El Paso, Texas and had attended the University of Texas at Austin for their undergraduate degrees. As their relationship progressed, they realized how much they both loved their time in Austin and longed to eventually move back to the city. After a year in Seattle, they moved to Austin, bought a house together, and have lived there happily ever since. They described Austin as “different from the rest of Texas.” LGBT individuals are an integrated and accepted part of life throughout the city. They felt “it’s not an issue” to go to any movie theater or restaurant in the city. This was different from other big cities such as Houston and Dallas that have larger ghettoized LGBT populations. If you leave the LGBT-friendly neighborhoods in these bigger cities, you can run into problems. Both had little interest in moving, though they both enjoy traveling across the world. Later this year, Jeff and Rhodes will be on their first month long gay cruise to the Mediterranean.

Both had different experiences of marriage while growing up. Jeff’s parents have been married for 54 years, and he described his family as the family in the television show *Leave it to Beaver*. Rhodes’ parents divorced when he was young; however, he did not think much about the meaning of marriage while growing up. Jeff and Rhodes have similar views of marriage today. They believe that couples, both same and opposite sex, should be recognized by federal and state governments. They believe that whatever term is used to describe the commitment between two adults, such as civil unions or marriage, the term should apply for everyone. Religion should play no role in the federal and state recognition of marriage between two adults.

If couples want further recognition for their marriage through their church or religion, Jeff and Rhodes thought this should be separate from government recognition. Jeff commented that he first viewed marriage as for straight people and did not see the need to get married for their own relationship. Rhodes also commented that they saw no need to get married when they first got together. They had already acquired the services of a lawyer to integrate their lives as much as possible. They had Living Wills, Power of Attorneys, joint ownership of the house, and joint checking and savings accounts. They were also fully out to their communities, friends, and families.

Rhodes found out about the AGLBIC sponsored wedding and thought it would be a great event for them to take part in. As an added bonus they would get to see Montreal. They did not tell their friends, family, or coworkers, because they wanted to do it just for the two of them. While they did not feel this was a religious ceremony for their relationship, both felt that the ceremony was full of love, excitement, and energy. Both left the marriage ceremony moved at the support from both the other couples and all who were there to honor their love for each other. They were very happy they had the experience of getting married.

When Jeff’s parents found out about the marriage, they were upset for not being invited to share in the occasion. Over the next few days, Jeff’s three brothers’ families heard the news. Shortly thereafter, wedding presents and cards from the family started appearing in the mail congratulating them on their marriage. Rhodes and Jeff commented that their families have been very supportive of their relationship throughout their time together, and this was just another demonstration of the strong love they get from them.

Both agreed that life has not changed too drastically after they got married given they were already living together for six years. One small change is they now celebrate their anniversary on April 1st. Rhodes also noted that clients see his ring and ask if he is married much more often than before their wedding. They continue to travel when they have the opportunity, love watching movies, and take their dogs, Max and Jake, for walks.

Jeff and Rhodes would like to thank ALGBTIC for the opportunity to get married in Montreal and all the couples and participants in the ceremony for their support. They are open to hearing your loving comments and support for their marriage you care to share with them (Rhodes@go9media.com).



The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) introduced its “I DO” Campaign, a new media initiative designed to promote marriage equality. The campaign combines a national competition to create a 30-second commercial television spot and public service announcements with celebrities.

For more information about the “I DO” media initiative, please go to www.GLAAD.org/ido.

Which leaders are speaking out?

Recently, former Chair of the Joint Chiefs, General Shalikashvili, said the policy should end. So did conservative congressman Bob Barr, in an op-ed piece he wrote for the Wall St. Journal. Commenting on the recent debate among GOP candidates, Barr said the following: “the five who responded to questions about the Clinton-era ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ policy’ governing military service by gays and lesbians showed a disturbing move away from conservative principles, in favor of what smells strongly of political expediency or timidity. With nearly a decade and a half of the hybrid ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ policy to guide us, I have become deeply impressed with the growing weight of credible military opinion which concludes that allowing gays to serve openly in the military does not pose insurmountable problems for the good order and discipline of the services.” These are not the words of the president of the ACLU, but of a former congressman as conservative as they come. Even Colin Powell admitted on a Sunday talk show he’s not nearly as sure about the need for the ban as he once was. And Barry Goldwater, years ago, commented you don’t have to be straight to be a good soldier—you just have to shoot straight. Can we really talk about bringing freedom and justice to others when we deny it to our own citizens?

What can individuals who read this interview do to help bring about change in the policy?

There are political and personal strategies, and we need both. First, the political: there is a bill in Congress called the Military Readiness Enhancement Act. It would end the prohibition and allow honest service for all who are otherwise qualified. It has bi-partisan support from nearly 150 members of the House of Representatives. A similar bill will be offered in the Senate next session. If you agree with what it would accomplish, let your elected officials know.

But we also need personal lobbying of influential individuals and organizations. So far, only one Veterans Service Organization—the Jewish War Veterans of America—has come out against the ban. If you’re a member of a VSO—raise the issue at those meetings. And in your churches and community organizations. A number of religious organizations have passed resolutions asking the military to end the ban, among them Reform Judaism, the Unitarian-Universalists, the United Church of Christ, and others.

Any closing thoughts?

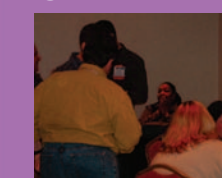
In honor of all the brave men and women, both gay and straight, who defend our nation—let us help America live up to its finest values and greatest promise. Let us truly be “one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

Thank you, Dr. Rankin, for your time and consideration.

Find yourself ...

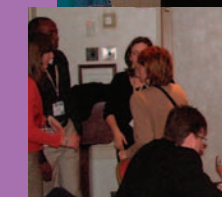
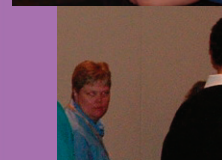
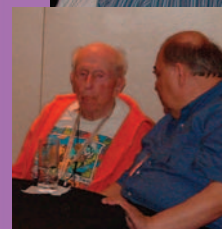


ACA Detroit 2007



having a good time...

ACA Detroit 2007



at the AGLBIC Reception???

Family Conference Call Statement

Brian J. Dew, Ph.D., LPC

As Past- President of the American Counseling Association's Association for Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues in Counseling, it is an honor to talk about an issue that our members feel so passionately about. In fact, the timing could not be better as the American Counseling Association just elected an openly gay person, Dr. Colleen Logan, as President Elect for its nearly 41,000 members. Dr. Logan and her partner are the proud parents of baby boy and of course, are incredibly passionate about equality for GLB persons who are seeking to become or are already parents. You can look to the American Counseling Association to take an even more proactive stance regarding this issue in the next 2 years.

Meanwhile, the American Counseling Association stands alongside such mainstream professional organizations as the American Psychological Association, The American Bar Association, the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Psychiatric Association in favoring the view that the adjustment, development, and psychological well-being of children is unrelated to parental sexual orientation and that children of gay and lesbian parents are as likely as those from heterosexual parents to flourish. It is important to note that the endorsement of these organizations does not represent a small minority of pro-gay persons that have somehow infiltrated and pressured the larger membership to endorse such a statement. Rather, in the American Counseling Association, passage of such a resolution was unanimous. Not one single division, including the Association for Marriage and Family Therapist, opposed this measure.

Drs. Stacy and Volpp have clearly articulated the research that has 1) been used to discriminate against GLB persons from both parenting, and in my opinion, from obtaining full societal acceptance;

and 2) highlight the lack of psychological and adjustment distinctions between children raised in heterosexual homes and same-sex homes. So, I am not going to spend a great deal of time refuting particular studies or promoting the ones done with more representative samples that found no significant differences on self-reported assessment of psychological wellbeing such as self-esteem and anxiety, grade point averages, measures of family relationships, and both groups of children were equally likely to be in a romantic relationship in the past 18 months.

What members of the American Counseling Association have witnesses, especially among school counselors, is the impact of homo-prejudice on the lives of these children. It is true that children of lesbian and gay parents may encounter anti-gay sentiments in their daily lives. This fact is not surprising given that Dr. Kevin Jennings, Founder and President of the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network, has once been quoted as saying that "the hallways of our schools are the most homophobic place in America." In a study that was conducted in 2005 by Gartrell and associates, they found that a substantial minority of children raised in homes with gay and lesbian parents had encountered anti-gay sentiments among their peers... and our school counselors do report that children (both from heterosexual homes and homes comprised of gay or lesbian parents), feel upset, sad, and even angry after hearing these sentiments. Here I want to stress that it is NOT JUST the children raised in homes with gay and lesbian parents that react this way. Rather, it's the friends of the children from these homes that report a similar reaction. Yet, there remains no evidence that such encounters impact children's overall adjustment is simply lacking.

Tales of Discovery Come Out or Stay In: The University Classroom

Tinny Cheung, MA

Teaching as a new instructor at a university entails fundamental stressors. What materials should I be focusing on for the semester? How should I structure the class? How much do I disclose to the students about my life? Educators who belong to the LGBT community face the additional question of whether or not to come out to their students.

From one perspective, your sexuality is a personal issue and therefore not necessary to disclose in the classroom (similar to our military's motto of "Don't ask, don't tell"). On the other hand, sexuality is a part of your identity, and being genuine to your students involves presenting a true sense of self, not omissions of truth. As an educator in higher education, there is also a sense of social responsibility to step forward and teach equality and tolerance.

And so this question of whether or not to come out or stay in lingers inside of my mind until the first day of class. The day finally arrives, and it is a phenomenal experience. Positive first impressions are made; the tone of the class is set. I feel a sense of excitement

and curiosity from the students as they see that their instructor is a youthful and energetic petite Asian woman. Do I risk altering the good impression through my disclosure? How will it change the way my students look at me?

In the next few classes, I did not make a general announcement that I am bisexual and am currently involved in a romantic relationship with a woman. Heterosexual professors do not announce to their classes that they are straight. Most professors disclose their relationship information (if they choose to disclose at all) in the context of conversation. Why not do similarly, I thought to myself? And so I did. I simply told them of my involvement in a romantic relationship with a woman in the context of small talk, just as straight instructors would talk about their spouses or relationships. Was there any negative change in the tone of the classes to follow? Not at all, in fact later on that evening, a student emailed to tell me that it was comforting to have a professor that was "like me". I think it's a small step forward, and I'm proud of it.

The Association of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues in Counseling (ALGBTIC), a division of the American Counseling Association (ACA) is inviting submissions for our second special edition of "The Journal of LGBT Issues in Counseling". This edition will focus on Addictions and Substance Abuse within the LGBT community. The intent of this special edition is to publish articles relevant to working with sexual minorities around issues pertinent to addictions, and substance use and abuse, and that will be of interest to counselors, counselor educators, and other counseling related professionals that work across a diversity of fields, including in schools, mental health settings, family agency's, and colleges and universities. This journal welcomes the submission of articles that reflect our special focus and are pertinent to the health of sexual minority individuals and communities, and should focus in one of the following areas: (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. The deadline for submissions is October 31, 2007, and the tentative date for publication is June, 2008. These dates are subject to change.

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. Submissions should be no longer than 5-50 pages. While this journal will be a hard copy journal, manuscripts should be sent electronically, as attachments via the e-mail address below. 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. Please make sure to include author contact information, including phone and e-mail. 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. We ask that you indicate in your cover letter which of the four areas that this journal focuses on (see above) best fits your article. It is

expected that authors follow the most current ACA Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice.

It should be understood that authors bear full responsibility for the accuracy of all referenced, quotations, tables, figures, and the overall content of their article.

Please identify submissions as for this special edition by noting in your cover letter "LGBT Addictions and Substance Abuse". Please submit articles to Ned Farley, Editor, The Journal of LGBT Issues in Counseling at nfarley@antiochseattleu.edu. All special edition submissions will be forwarded to our guest editors for review. Confirmation will be sent via e-mail.

In addition, please mail all appropriate signed copies of the Manuscript Submission and Limited Copyright Transfer Form required by Haworth Press, Inc. to Ned Farley, Ph.D., The Center for Programs in Psychology, Antioch University Seattle, 2326 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98121-1814. This form can be found online at: www.haworthpress.com/pdfs/Jmanuscript.pdf

The Journal of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues in Counseling:

Call for Special Edition Submissions

Focus on Addictions and Substance Abuse within the LGBT Community

Dear Violet is a new fiction publication written by Nancy Sigafoos, MA, LMHC, CHT. This novel was written from the viewpoint of a lesbian Army private who dies in Iraq. N.Sigafoos counseling background looms large in the narrative, as does her commitment to peace.

Nancy and her partner have a queer counseling center in Olympia, WA and has just passed their 10th anniversary in business.

Congratulations to Nancy! Keep up the good work. We admire your dedication and support of AGLBIC!



FAGBUG: Taking it BACK & thru the U.S.

Read about a new young activist who can inspire us all with her tale of a hate crime gone right. If you haven't seen her on Logo or read about her in Curve check out her story at <http://www.fagbug.com>



Brenda Hawkins' Recollections of AGLBIC

(Co-Chair 1978-1986)

Sue Strong, Ph.D.

Brenda became involved with AGLBIC as a graduate student at Indiana University (IU) at Bloomington. She attended an ACA conference and heard about the National Caucus of Gay Counselors (NCGC) through a message posted on a bulletin board. Her immediate reaction to finding the organization was "oh, wonderful" and she was glad to find that something existed for gay and lesbian counselors. Brenda stated that she met Joe Norton at one of the ACA conferences. Her recollections of Joe were that he was "nice, had pleasant energy, talkative, friendly, and made people feel welcome". As a lone woman walking into a room filled with men, Brenda initially wondered if she should just turn around quietly and leave. She felt like an invisible ghostly presence as she roamed about the room attempting to say hello to people who in turn ignored her. But Joe came up to her and made her feel welcome and comfortable and reassured her that it was okay for her to be there. She remembers his presence in the meetings as steadfast and grounded.

Brenda stated that by the late 1970's she was co-chairing AGLBIC, a national organization; yet, because of the prejudice of the times, she could not list it on her resume and therefore never kept track of the dates or presentations she did with AGLBIC members at the conventions. She also stated that in the early years of the organization, "women were as scarce as hen's teeth" and she was probably elected co-chair because she was the "only woman who showed up at the meeting". She stated that she was often the only woman who was at an AGLBIC meeting or dinner. She remembered fondly when Valerie Coleman (1986-87 Co-Chair) came to a caucus and to a dinner. According to Brenda's personal journals, she met Valerie when ACA held its convention in New York City in 1985.

Brenda Hawkins and Howard Fradkin's co-leadership began when they were both in graduate school, continued through their internships, and lasted until they became established in their first jobs (1978-1985). Brenda recorded in her personal journal of that time that Howard was good to work with, and that she had co-presented a workshop with him and Reese House on counseling gay men and lesbians. Brenda then continued chairing the organization for one year with Fernando Gutierrez from 1985-1986. Of her initial meeting with Fernando in 1985, Brenda recorded in her journal that he told her that her appearance "blew him away (his words)" and that "he expected a big tall woman" and spoke to her about it at length. (Brenda was five feet tall, small

boned, and weighed all of 95 pounds at the time). In order to draw more women into AGLBIC, Brenda held a women's meeting to address the needs of lesbian ACA members. She recorded in her journal that there was a lot of good energy at that meeting, and they developed a strategy to get more women into AGLBIC.

Brenda's leadership years reflected the prejudice of the time, the struggle to exist as an organization, and the struggle to be recognized by ACA. Brenda related a story of attending the ACA conference in St. Louis with three heterosexual women that she shared a room with. Two of the women were young graduate students in counseling from IU and knew she was a lesbian. They made it an obvious point to run ahead into the room first so they could share a bed together, used the bathroom as a changing room, and made comments. The third was a middle-aged high school guidance counselor who was "oblivious" to Brenda's sexual orientation and made a heterosexist joke when a large group of AGLBIC members (all male, of course) showed up to bring Brenda with them to dinner.

Ever since high school days, diversity issues had been important to Brenda, and while in graduate school she became more involved in lesbian and feminist issues. The women's community in Bloomington was an important part of her life, and living in a "lesbian feminist house with several other women" supported her need for diversity awareness and inclusion. She was sensitive to the fact that she was often the only female at an AGLBIC meeting. She stated that the reality of both AGLBIC and ACA during the 1970's was largely that of a white, able-bodied, male dominated culture. She often wanted to help evolve an organization that included a focus on counseling issues such as gay and lesbian relationships, coming out, and dealing with prejudice while developing a healthy self concept and self esteem. But often AGLBIC's meetings would focus more on social and recreational interests of the members and function more as a social club than an organization.

Brenda stated that just getting recognized by ACA was a recurrent issue during the early years of leadership. ACA often reflected the same attitudes as the dominant culture at large. She referred to an incident at an ACA conference where she and another AGLBIC member were putting up posters in the lobby pertaining to AGLBIC meetings. While they were putting up the posters, a man yelled "faggot" across the room. She wondered if he was an ACA convention attendee because a hotel employee would not be

Continued on page 16...

NOTE: Like many people interviewed for the AGLBIC Legacy Project, Brenda stated that her memories may have faded with time, which is why this series of articles are named a "Collection of Recollections". The readers may then draw their own interpretation of AGLBIC's history through reading the stories of the early leaders. History is a fluid subject always open to various points of view, opinions, and re-interpretations. The organization has undergone several name changes over time, but for convenience this writer has referred to it as ABLBIC, unless the name has a specific historical context. (Brenda Hawkins was interviewed for this article on December 4, 2006.)

allowed to be openly hostile to paying customers. Another incident happened at the ACA convention in Washington, D.C. In another effort to encourage women to become involved in AGLBIC, a small group of lesbian counselors went to a local women's bar and restaurant for dinner and dancing. Then, "a couple of cops came in and the music abruptly stopped". Women quickly returned to their seats, everyone looked down at their laps in silence, and Brenda discretely turned her head enough to see the cops walk down to the far end of the bar, where the woman behind the bar gave them a large amount of money. The cops then left, and the music and socializing resumed.

After Brenda left AGLBIC leadership in the 1980's, she became involved with the women's division of the Georgia Psychological Association (GPA). Again, as a reflection of the times, she found a **Continued on page 16...** focus purely on "straight women's concerns". So it was often the same problem of lesbian invisibility, whether in a gay group or a women's group. Just as lesbian issues were not recognized at all during these times, likewise transgender issues were also ignored. Because of the demands on her time as a licensed psychologist in private practice, Brenda eventually left ACA and became more involved with APA and GPA, where there was more movement toward addressing real world diversity needs and issues.

Brenda stated that although leaders were interested in becoming a division of ACA, they had more immediate concerns because in the beginning they were "not sure if the group would survive". ACA was also overtly negative about AGLBIC becoming a division. Some in ACA went so far to state to the AGLBIC leaders that they would have to have a number of votes on the Governing Council to become a division, and they would "never have enough votes for that". A high point for Brenda came in 1985, when David Capuzzi, who was president-elect of ACA, actually came to an AGLBIC meeting to get input, listened to everyone, and even jotted down some notes. Prior to that time, no one in the national ACA leadership had ever recognized AGLBIC's existence, much less came to a meeting and communicated. So this raised Brenda's hopes that eventually, possibly, AGLBIC might gain a recognized status within ACA.

After a great many years in private practice serving an extremely diverse clientele, a lot of Brenda's clinical time now revolves around the elderly; and she sees the need for AGLBIC to be concerned with the needs and issues of the growing population of GLBTQ elders. She stated that she is reminded of the old quip that "nobody loves you when you are old and gay". Thirty years ago, she first heard about the difficulties that lesbian elders were having in nursing homes. One woman was being deprived of being bathed because "no one wanted to wash the old dyke". Couples were not permitted to room together if it was known that they were together. Thirty years later, things are not any better. In her current work, she sees on a daily basis how nursing homes are "not good for older gay and lesbian people" and thinks that it is important to help counselors work with the emotional, socialization and support system needs of gay and lesbian elders. Noticing society's segregation into young and old, she remembered when she was a young graduate student in Bloomington going to the local gay/lesbian bar and asking "where are all the older lesbians"? She further noted that

"if we are lucky we are all going to get old". Therefore, it becomes increasingly important for AGLBIC to become proactive regarding the counseling needs of our elders, the need for education and awareness among helping professionals and other caregivers, the triple whammy of ageism, sexism, and homophobia, and the need for basic human protections such as partner benefits, inheritance, and the ability to make medical decisions for our loved ones. She recalled a situation in which a gay male's partner died from AIDS, and his family of origin came in and literally took "everything the couple owned except the clothes the partner was wearing at the time".

Brenda was delighted to be updated on the progress of AGLBIC and was excited to hear about University Chapters and Branch Divisions of AGLBIC that have developed at universities and states. The ability of Brenda and other early leaders to persevere against a lot of challenges in the early years of AGLBIC have allowed the organization to continue to be productive today.

Brenda Hawkins is a consultant psychologist in Lily Dale, New York. Warm regards can be sent to Brenda at BLHawk@Netsync.Net.

(All comments about this article may be addressed to the author: Dr. Sue Strong, Professor of Counseling and Educational Psychology, Eastern Kentucky University, sue.strong@eku.edu)

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



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, .rft 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, AGLBIC News
[raed8@comcast.net\(H\)](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.