

AGLBIC News

Association of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Issues in Counseling
A Division of the American Counseling Association

Volume XXVIII, Issue 1

www.aglbic.org

Pre-Conference 2003



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Mid-Year Progress Update

Ned Farley, Ph.D.
President

It is hard to believe that I have reached the halfway point in my year as president of AGLBIC! There has been much to do, and more to come. At this point, the major focus has been on planning for the up-coming ACA conference in Anaheim in March. I want to especially thank our president-elect, Colleen Connelly, and Joy Whitman, a board trustee for their specific work in conference planning.

One of the major tasks of the president-elect is to chair the conference planning, which means working with ACA and the hotel and conference center to plan all of the AGLBIC functions. Colleen has done a phenomenal job, and I think you all will be pleased with the results. *[Please note the days and times of our major functions*



"I highly encourage you to attend as many of the AGLBIC functions (in Anaheim) as you can."

referenced elsewhere in this newsletter.] These include our Board meetings, business meeting, awards brunch, reception, and graduate student meeting. In addition, this year marks the return of the AGLBIC Happy Hour, an opportunity to meet and socialize with other AGLBIC members. These are planned for both Saturday evening and Sunday evening, March 23 & 24 at the Hilton hotel in the lobby bar area (just look for us...we won't be too hard to find!). Colleen also is responsible for making sure we have a booth in the exhibition hall.

I also want to thank Joy Whitman, our trustee who also chairs the graduate student mentor program. Joy takes on the responsibility of staffing the AGLBIC booth that Colleen's work insures we have. Here we utilize graduate students who volunteer time staffing the booth,

in exchange for a variety of things. Some students, who take the major responsibility for putting in time at the booth, receive their conference registration fees in exchange. Others, who work shorter shifts, get free tickets to the AGLBIC brunch. Joy has taken on this responsibility for the past three years, and has once again done a great job!

I highly encourage you to attend as many of the AGLBIC functions (in Anaheim) as you can. This includes the business meeting, which is conveniently scheduled right after our awards brunch. Your input really does help with the decision-making that steers the division forward.

This is also a great opportunity for you to get involved. It is at this meeting that we look for nominations, both self-nominations and nominating others, for board positions and committee help. Believe me, there is lots to do, and many positions available.

Obviously, the happy hours, brunch and reception are totally fun social

events; just remember that you need to order your brunch tickets ahead of time through ACA. It is not too late, even if you have already purchased your conference registration. Just contact ACA either by phone or through the ACA website. Tickets are only \$33 for a wonderful meal. Come see who is being honored this year. It is not uncommon that we get folks trying to get tickets at the last minute, which doesn't always work. We also welcome any of you to stop by our board meetings, which happen all day on Friday, March 21, and in the afternoon on Saturday, March 22. (See meeting schedule pg 3)

Finally, I want to catch you up on some of the things that I talked about in our Fall Newsletter. I feel it is important that you be kept abreast
Continued on pg 2...

AGLBIC News

K.R. Hartman
1110 Fairlane Drive
Valparaiso, IN 46383

Progress Update continued...
of the work the board is doing for you.

(1) A call for a one year contracted position as a consultant to the board to help us strategize and implement a way to encourage more counselors of color to join us as members and leaders. Unfortunately, we have not had any responses to this request. If you, or someone you know is a good fit for this position, please forward a cover letter outlining your interest, and a current vita to me. My contact information is in this newsletter. While this, like all of our positions, is a volunteer one, we plan on making every effort to support this individual in working with the board as is necessary.

(2) We have made a decision to move our newsletter from paper to primarily an on-line format. This is in-progress. The pre-conference newsletter will always be published in hard copy, however the remaining two editions each year (summer and fall) will be published on-line only, with members only having access initially, then later it will be available to anyone who logs in to the AGLBIC website.

(3) We are exploring the possibility of changing our journal "Q", to a paper publication to better reach and impact the larger counseling world. This is also actively being pursued. We are currently in serious conversation with Haworth editorial Press, who has expressed interest in being our publisher. We would retain responsibilities, while Haworth would handle marketing, publishing, and distribution. AGLBIC members will receive a free subscription while others would pay a rate to be negotiated. Aspects of this negotiation still being worked out include possibly changing the name of the journal, as well as making decisions as to how often it would be published. This will be a major topic of discussion at our board meeting in March. Please stay tuned.

(4) In connection with the last two decisions (listed above), we plan on shifting funds to the website with the intent to make it even more professional. This is a work in progress. Current discussions are happening at the board level, and again, this will be a topic at our upcoming board meeting in Anaheim. We hope to be able to implement some changes prior to the next fiscal year (July, 2003) with additional changes occurring over time.

(5) We are planning on finding and appointing member liaisons to the other ACA divisions, with the sole responsibility to act as a
AGLBIC News

conduit for two way communication and education. We have not had as large a response to this request from our membership either. While we have made appointments for liaisons to AMCD and ACES, we have not yet had any responses for members interested in being liaisons for other divisions. Please let us know if this is of interest to you. Primary responsibility will be to foster communication and collaboration between AGLBIC and other divisions. At the minimum, we would ask that this liaison would be willing to write one or two articles fostering this collaboration to be published in the division newsletter, and at least one "up-date" article in the AGLBIC news across the year. Again, if this interests you, please contact me.

In the meantime, I hope you are all having a good year, and that I will be able to meet as many of you as possible in Anaheim. See you there!

Letter to the Editors:

Dear Karen and Ed-- Thanks for your work on the newsletter. It really looks good and contains a lot. Keep up the good work. I'm looking forward to seeing what new directions you're taking the conventional newsletter. Bob

PS- Now, I've got to start READING those bylaws. Now its our turn to work.

Bob: Thanks for the feedback! It is great to hear from our members because we are working for YOU! Please encourage others to write us about the AGLBIC News! Karen:-D



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AGLBIC's Mentoring Program

Objectives of the Mentoring Program for the Association for Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues in Counseling:

- To promote an understanding of gay, lesbian, and bisexual (GLB) issues in counseling through mentoring relationships between experienced AGLBIC members and others interested in serving GLB populations, especially graduate students, counseling interns, and novice professionals.
- To provide opportunities for career development and leadership within a national professional counseling organization.
- To provide opportunities for networking, exchange of ideas, and dialogue between and among members of mentoring relationships.
- To encourage and facilitate attendance and participation in professional development activities, especially the ACA World conference and/or other counseling national, regional, and local conferences.
- To encourage and foster supportive professional relationships between GLB professionals and allies.

I put my hand in yours and together we can do what we could never do alone. No longer is there a sense of hopelessness, no longer must we each depend upon our own unsteady will power. We are together now, reaching out our hands for power and strength greater than ours, and as we join hands, we find love and understanding beyond our wildest dreams.

-Anonymous

For more information please contact:

Joy S. Whitman: 219.989.2693 or boydwhit@21stcentury.net or
Melissa Lidderdale:
GLBTherapy@aol.com
Web Address: <http://www.aglbic.org/>
CONFIDENTIALITY RESPECTED

“Q” Calls for Editorial Board Members

“Q”, the Journal of AGLBIC (the Association of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues in Counseling), is accepting applications for editorial board members. This refereed on-line 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 potential editorial board members who have background and experience with this population and the counseling related issues that inform 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 in schools, mental health settings, family agency's, and colleges and universities. 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 journal as submissions are reviewed.

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., “Q” editor, at nfarley@antiochsea.edu. You may also mail the application to Ned at the following address:

Ned Farley, Ph.D.
Chair, Mental Health Counseling Program
Graduate Programs in Psychology
Antioch University Seattle
2326 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98121-1814



AGLBIC Reception
Monday,
March 24th
7-9pm
201-C

AGLBIC Leadership 2002-2003

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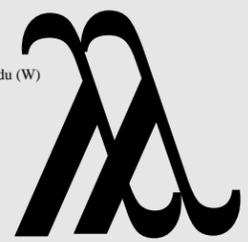
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Committee Chairs
Colleen Connolly, 2003 Conference Chair
Morgaine Wilder, 2003 Conference Co-Chair
Joy Whitman, Graduate Student/Mentoring
Melissa Lidderdale, Graduate Student/Mentoring Co-Chair
Sue Strong, Awards
Sue Strong, Nominations and Elections
Sue Strong, Bylaws
Rob Mate/Rhodes Gibson, Webmasters
Susan Seem, CACREP 2002-2005
Colleen Logan, Governing Council 2002-2005
Bob Rhode, Historian and Archivist

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Mentoring continued from pg 3...

be there as well, so if anyone is interested in discussing the program or becoming involved, we would welcome that conversation. We hope to see you there.

Our interest in furthering the development of this program includes adding to our pool of mentors and protégées. If you will not be at the conference this year, please visit us online at our Mentoring Program site (<http://www.aglbic.org/mentor.htm>) on the AGLBIC web site. You can download and then email protégée and mentoring application forms.

Another program available to graduate students is a new message board. In response to the requests of graduate student members, we established the AGLBIC Graduate Student Message Board to create an e-community for the members of our organization. The original intent of this board was to create a place for our graduate student members to share ideas and to connect for support. The message board contains areas set-up for discussion on topics such as: graduate programs/studies, research, employment, conferences, general discussion, and "sharing our lives". Please take advantage of this new method for interacting with other students and members. Thank you to Dave Marsteller and Joy Whitman for bringing this idea into creation. Access to the message board is available to all current AGLBIC student members. For information on how to access the message board, please visit the AGLBIC website, come by the AGLBIC booth at ACA, or contact Melissa Lidderdale at glbtherapy@aol.com.

SEE YOU IN ANAHEIM!



ACA CONFERENCE 2003

Websites on GLBT Issues:

The Men's Bibliography: a comprehensive online bibliography of writing on men, masculinities, and sexualities.
<http://www.xyonline.net/mensbiblio/>

Bisexual Education and Issues: a good jumping off point for information nationwide on bisexual issues.
www.binetusa.org

Intersex Society of North America:

this is a very good website concerning the care and treatment of intersexed infants and children.
www.isna.org/index.html



The Interfaith Working Group: organization devoted to explaining religious diversity on social issues: equal rights for sexual minorities, reproductive freedom, and separation of church and state.
www.iwgonline.org



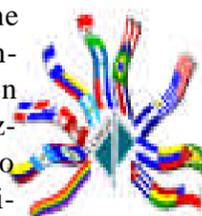
(Editor's note: This column will be a regular feature of our newsletter and we invite input and submissions of websites that you have found to be useful. If you have websites that should be included here, please email the editors.)

Mautner Project for Lesbians with Cancer: A national organization dedicated to lesbians with cancer, their partners, and caregivers.
www.mautnerproject.org



Gay and Lesbian Medical Association: A national organization that works to maximize the quality of health services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and to foster a welcoming professional climate.
www.glma.org

National Latino/a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender Organization: The only national non-profit organization devoted to organizing Latina/o LGBTQ communities on a local, regional, national, and international level.
www.llego.org



AGLBIC Booth, Mentoring, and Graduate Students

Joy S. Whitman
Melissa Lidderdale

As it was last year at the ACA conference, this year at Anaheim, AGLBIC's booth will be staffed by graduate student members. Last year's booth at New Orleans was a great success due to the enthusiasm of our graduate students who greeted prospective and current members as well as interested others. At the booth, membership information will be available, books and journals from Haworth Press will be on display, and sign up sheets for other AGLBIC programs will be on hand. Please stop by to greet our graduate students, lend support for our division, and sign up for the following programs.

The Mentoring Program is one of the programs that AGLBIC offers its membership. It is one that I've promoted through the years and is a vital and active program. We continue to increase our membership by connecting graduate students with experienced clinicians and academics. It actively fosters the careers of our protégées in a variety of ways, such as co-presenting at conferences, engaging in collaborative research projects, offering support and guidance in protegees' studies, and suggesting resources for clinical work. At this year's ACA conference, there will be a presentation about our mentoring program with a panel of protégées and mentors who will speak of their experiences in the program. Please join us during that presentation to learn more about the benefits for protégées and mentors. And please stop by the AGLBIC mentoring booth where you can sign up to become a protégée or mentor. Brochures will be available for your information. If you are a protégée and have done something with your mentor that you would like to tell others about, please contact us or come by the booth to tell us what you've done. We would be interested in publishing your accomplishments in the next newsletter.

I also want to encourage all mentors and protégés to make plans to meet each other in person during the conference. This would be a wonderful opportunity to further the mentoring relationship and to discover additional avenues for involvement in AGLBIC. Melissa and I will continue on pg 10...

NEW BYLAWS

Sue Strong, Ph.D.
Past-President 2002-2003

AGLBIC has recently updated their bylaws to be in alignment with ACA's bylaws and membership has approved them to go into effect November 15, 2002. ACA has a copy of these new bylaws and they are posted on the AGLBIC website at (WWW.AGLBIC.ORG). All currently chartered branch divisions of AGLBIC (KY, NC, TX, LA) will need to access the web posted AGLBIC bylaws and make revisions in accordance with them. After the branch divisions revise their bylaws, they will need to send a copy to their respective Branch Counseling Associations and send an electronic copy to the AGLBIC President, Ned Farley (NFARLEY@AUS.EDU) so he may distribute them to the AGLBIC website and to our archivist. All changes in the branch division bylaws need to be proposed, approved, and completed by July 1, 2003.

Officer Election Results

AGLBIC President elect-elect:
Nick DiCarlo

AGLBIC Trustee-elect:
Reggie Tucker

AGLBIC Secretary-elect:
Cyndy Boyd

AGLBIC would like to acknowledge all who ran for office for their contributions and willingness to serve. We hope that they will consider running again for an office in the next year.

Anaheim 2003: AGLBIC Meetings

All meetings are held at the Convention Center unless otherwise announced.

Friday, March 21 Board Meeting I

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.,
Room 210-B

Saturday, March 22 Board Meeting II To Be Announced

Happy Hour
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Avenue Bar at the Hilton



Sunday, March 23 Happy Hour

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Avenue Bar at the Hilton



Monday, March 24 AGLBIC Brunch

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
201-C

If you plan on attending the AGLBIC brunch, **you MUST pre-purchase a ticket. No ticket purchases will be available if you wait to register at the conference.**

AGLBIC Annual Business Meeting

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
201-C

AGLBIC Graduate Student Meeting

1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
201-C

AGLBIC Reception

7:00 - 9:30 p.m.
201-C



**Aging Resources Expo:
Gay & Gray or Heading that Way**

An Aging Resources Expo is being planned in Charlotte, NC. A group of interested and concerned individuals from a variety of backgrounds and occupations has begun the development of what will be the first of many such programs to inform and support the aging gay and lesbian population in the metropolitan and surrounding areas of Charlotte.

May 10, 2003
Charlotte
Senior Center
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The event is scheduled to take place on May 10th and will be held at the *Charlotte Senior Center*. It will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be presentations covering topics on health, legal matters, coming out, and living options as they relate to an aging gay and lesbian population. Packets will be available with resources and other helpful information for all attendees.

It is hoped this will be a successful event and begin to draw attention to the needs Gay and Lesbian individuals experience as they age.

Further information can be obtained by contacting:

Connie Vetter
cjvetter@bellsouth.net

Don Rosenthal
dbr1@mindspring.com

**AGLBIC NEWS
HELP WANTED**
general interest articles
Book Reviews
article ideas
Program announcements
Research Queries
See page 9 for submission info

**2nd European Bisexual
Conference in Dublin**

In June 2001, the first European Bisexual Conference (EBC1) was held in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. At that conference, it was decided to make EBC a biennial event. The second European Bisexual Conference (EBC2) is to be held in Dublin from July 4th to 6th, 2003. This weekend ties in with the Dublin Pride celebrations, guaranteeing an exciting and action packed weekend for all who attend.

The conference is being organised by Bi Irish, a Dublin-based group founded in 1996 for bisexuals and any individuals interested in bisexuality or sexuality in general. EBC2 is open to all, regardless of sexual orientation or sexual preference, and in fact seeks to increase dialogue and discussion amongst members of the queer and straight communities. The conference will be a place to exchange information and experience in the areas of freedom of sexual preference and the position of bisexuality within societies across Europe, and also aims to improve bisexual visibility at the European level.

The conference theme "Loving the Difference" stresses the diversity of sexuality in general and bisexuality in particular. The cultural and social contexts of sexuality are tantamount to our understanding of humans, and these contexts include race and class. By offering a rich and varied programme, ranging from informal workshops, through to discussion groups, through to more formal presentations, EBC2 promises to be an interesting and rewarding experience for anyone who is involved with their (bi)sexual identity. However, the conference programme will not consist solely of discussions and talks. There is also a busy social programme, including of course the Dublin Pride parade and celebrations.

Submissions for presentations at the conference are welcomed. Full details of presentation requirements can be found on the EBC2 website (<http://www.eurobicon.org>). The deadline for submissions is April 12, 2003.

For more information:
Post: EBC2, c/o Bi Irish, Outhouse, 105-106 Capel Street, Dublin 1
Web: <http://www.eurobicon.org>
Email: info@eurobicon.org

**Help Improve
Counseling Services
for LGB Clients**

My research team has developed a measure of counselors' knowledge about LGB issues, and we are recruiting members of AGLBIC to complete this 30-minute online survey. Your participation will assist us in validating the measure, and we are offering a \$250 cash lottery incentive. If you are interested in taking the survey, please go to the following url: <http://gradsurvey.cognilogic.net>. When prompted for id and password, type in "survey" for both. Informed consent information and instructions for taking the survey and entering the cash

If you are interested in taking the survey, please go to <http://gradsurvey.cognilogic.net>

lottery are provided at this site. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at the email address below or my research assistant, **Veronica Gutierrez** at vgutierrez@education.ucsb.edu. We are hoping this measure will assist counselors, supervisors, and researchers and will ultimately improve mental health services for LGB clients. Thank you very much for considering participation in this study.

Tania Israel
Assistant Professor
University of California, Santa Barbara
e-mail: tisrael@education.ucsb.edu

**Did you realize that
the AGLBIC News is
moving to an ONLINE
format with the
Summer 2003 issue?**

**For more information
please contact:**
Karen Hartman, Editor
raed8@attbi.com

**NEW Counselor
Education Program**

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte is now offering a PhD with an emphasis on multicultural counseling. Entering its third year, the program is designed to provide doctoral-level preparation for professionals who seek advanced clinical training and leadership positions in the counseling field. A unique feature of this program is its emphasis on increasing knowledge, awareness, and skills in interacting with socially and culturally diverse populations.

UNCC and the Counselor Education Program is committed to providing a gay affirmative environment.

Further information can be obtained by contacting:

Bob Barret, PhD
Doctoral Program Coordinator
Counseling Program
College of Education
UNC Charlotte
9201 University City Blvd.
Charlotte, NC 28223-0001
(704) 687-4726
rlbarret@email.uncc.edu

or visit our website at:
<http://education/uncc.edu/counseling>

LOOK 



Health Gay Identity cont...

ment comes to fruition that improves the plight of the LGBT community. Working for social justice can give LGBT persons a sense of purpose and instills self-confidence which further establishes a healthy gay identity.

own social justice commitment is through In sum, we live in a society that still institutionalizes discrimination against sexual minorities, and this historical practice has caused much distress for LGBT persons. Despite this fact, LGBT members are increasingly finding the courage to resist the oppressions imposed by the dominant society and are constructing ways to develop healthy gay identities. Externalizing problems, creating new narratives, and working for social justice are three methods that can help one to develop a healthy gay identity while living in a context of bigotry and prejudice.

Address comments to:
Ron.L.McLean@Hofstra.edu

**THE NEXT ISSUE
OF THE
AGLBIC NEWS
WILL BE
AVAILABLE
ONLINE ONLY!**
**For more information
please contact:**
Karen Hartman, Editor
raed8@attbi.com

Fall Board Meeting 2002

from right to left:
Sue Strong,
AGLBIC Past-President
Melissa Lidderdale,
AGLBIC Trustee
Mark Pope,
ACA President-Elect
Ned Farley,
AGLBIC President
Colleen Connolly,
AGLBIC President-Elect
Joy Whitman,
AGLBIC Trustee

**AGLBIC News
Publication Dates and Guidelines**

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:

Summer On-line edition: **July 1st:**
Submission Deadline: **May 15th**

Fall On-line edition: **November 1st:**
Submission Deadline: **September 15th**

Pre-conference hardcopy edition: **March 1st:**
Submission Deadline: **January 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 or embedded in an email] to the editors. Please note that the Editors have the right to edit your submission due to space considerations and/or content issues.

Please send your submissions to:

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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.

Tuesday, Mar. 25
sessions cont...

Program ID#450
Lesbians' Experiences in Mental Health Counseling(30 Minutes)
11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Project/Research Poster Session
Anaheim Convention Center,
Location PS6
Darcie A. Davis-Gage

Program ID#469
Extending Multicultural Counselor Competence to Sexual Orientation (90 Minutes)
11:15 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.
Anaheim Convention Center
Room 212B
Markus P. Bidell

Program ID#489
Counseling Clients With HIV/AIDS (30 Minute)
12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Project/Research Poster Session
Anaheim Convention Center
Location PS9
Michael M. Omizo and John M. Gruenewald

Program ID#494
Lesbians in the Media: What Are the Messages and What Do Counselors Need to Know? (30 Minute)
1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Project/Research Poster Session
Anaheim Convention Center
Location PS2
Valeria Fabj and Barbara Abernathy
Sponsored By AGLBIC

Don't forget to
stop by the AGLBIC
Booth and say "hi!"

Program ID# 528
State of Mind Versus State of Being: Facing the Fiction of a Homosexual Life (90 Minutes)
2:45p.m. - 4:15p.m.
Anaheim Convention Center
Room 212B
Jeanne H. Stec and Sue Petersen

Program ID# 566
Body Image-ASpecial Concern for Gays and Lesbians (90 Minutes)
4:30p.m. - 6:00p.m.
Anaheim convention Center
Room 213D
June M. Williams, Cathy Woodyard and Connie Jung Fox

Program ID# 571
Sexuality Counseling With Couples: A Wellness Approach (90 Minutes)
4:30p.m. - 6:00p.m.
Anaheim Convention Center
Room 304A
Judith Burnett, Lynn L. Long and Valorie Thomas

See you in Kansas City
ACA 2004!

Healthy Gay Identity cont...
constructionist and narrative therapy philosophical thought heavily influences my ideas.

First, it is important to learn how to externalize problems. We live in a culture where negative messages about being LGBT are transmitted early in life, and the basic message is that "something is bad or wrong" about you. This message is often internalized long before we become aware of being a LGBT member. Externalizing a problem indicates that you are reframing a problem outside of yourself, rather than allowing a problem to define you as having some flaw or weakness in yourself as a person. LGBT persons should avoid see-

ing themselves as pathological just because they are members of a sexual minority. In contrast, the LGBT persons should locate the problem outside of themselves, and come to understand that non-heterosexual orientation is a problem in the dominant culture largely due to errors in the social construction of its values. The use of externalizing can help LGBT members move towards a healthier gay identity because it helps prevent assaults to ones personhood, removes blame, and frees up energy so one can take productive action to learn ways of coping with a homophobic culture.

Secondly, it is important to create a new narrative (one that addresses internalized homophobia) about yourself as a sexual minority member. If we genuinely believe that the widespread prejudicial beliefs about the LGBT community do not adequately describe our experiences, it is important for LGBT individuals to construct new narratives or stories that shed light on who we are. Personally, I had to re-think who I am as a person, partly by affirming my values that all people be treated with dignity and respect, questioning erroneous assumptions about LGBT people in my circles of interaction, and by modeling and sharing my experiences in hopes of contradicting myths about LGBT people. By "re-authoring" my story, to put it in narrative therapy terms, I began to make additional changes in my life such as: moving beyond my religious beliefs towards a broader acceptance of spirituality, re-negotiating my family and other significant relationships, and consciously creating a living environment (family/community/job) that allows me to live as an authentic gay man. The use of narrative techniques can help LGBT people confront their own internalized homophobia and help them take the necessary action to constructing a story that is more truthful to their experience.

Thirdly, it is imperative for LGBT individuals to take a stand against injustice, and work for social justice. This is an area that has many levels, corridors, and avenues; each individual has to determine at what level she or he participates. Advocacy for social justice ensures that the powerful and the powerless both have the privilege to be treated with human dignity and fair practices. One way that I address my group and organizational work. In this way I work with other people of "good will" to achieve goals that benefit LGBT people and others. I usually feel a sense of community, support, less isolation, and of course, a great feeling of accomplishment when an achieve

Continued on pg 9
Pre-conference 2003

Tales of Discovery: A Road Less Traveled

Chantelle Borne

I grew up in a small town in southern Louisiana full of beautiful oak trees and muddy bayous. I grew up with brothers who hunted squirrels and Maw-Maws that made duck gumbo. I attended a small Catholic school from kindergarten to 12th grade. I was a "model student" and a "good Catholic." I was popular with the "right crowd" and successful in school. I graduated at the top of my class and was voted "Miss Hanson High."

I start my "coming out" story in this way because "coming out" stories so often start with folks saying things like "I was always made fun of as a kid" or "I knew I was different from the time I was 5 years old." That is not my story. As a young person, I was what other parents wanted their daughters to be. And now, at 27 years old, I'm a lesbian.

The first time I fell in love I was 21 years old. It was a wonderful experience. It was simple: I was attracted to her, she was attracted to me and we had a wonderful summertime affair. But, it was simple for only a little while.

Even though I had friends and family that I knew would support me, straight or gay, I was very scared about what it meant to be a "lesbian." Most of my thoughts and feelings about being a lesbian were colored by my experience as a young person. I grew up with the idea that being gay or lesbian was the *worst* thing to be. In high school calling someone a "dyke" or "faggot" was the worst insult. Being gay or lesbian meant you were a pervert. It was serious. And now, that was me. And that sucked.

I thought that *real* lesbians only lived in San Francisco or New York City. As you might imagine, much of my "coming out" story has been redefining what it means to be a lesbian. It has meant following my heart, being honest about my life and really being challenged to trust my own experience.

Pre-conference 2003

"I thought that *real* lesbians only lived in San Francisco or New York City."

I used to think that "coming out" was a one-time event. I know now more than ever, that "coming out" is a life long process. It happens in the line at the grocery store, on a fellowship application, in the workplace and in our own families. Coming out is a real act of bravery. For me, it has been a process of believing that I belong, and that the love I have for my partner is just as genuine as anyone else's.

Right now, one of the biggest coming out processes of my life is unfolding as my partner and I plan our wedding. I continually have to redefine what it means to be in a committed relationship with another woman in a world that is often less than supportive. Can we do it? Is it possible to be a lesbian and live a happy life? The vivid pictures that were painted for me as a young person would say "No way!" But now, I see those pictures for what they really are: a big ball of fear created by fearful people!

Now, I see change happening. I experience this change with my partner, as we have more faith. I see young people changing "the system," working in schools, challenging adults. I see more and more folks coming out of "the closet." And I know that we all have to redefine ourselves over and over again. We are all being challenged to follow our hearts.

And speaking of following our hearts, I challenge all of you, as counselors working with young people, to not only support queer youth in their quest to follow their hearts, but to support *all* the kids you work with whatever their sexuality or gender expression may be. I think we need to broaden our intention to consider how homophobia and trans-phobia affect *everyone*. It keeps girls from hitting the baseball too hard. It keeps boys from dancing and singing too loud. It keeps us all, kids and adults alike, afraid.

Send comments to: [borne@email.unc.edu]

INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING TO THE TALES OF DISCOVERY COLUMN?

See page 9 for submission guidelines for the AGLBIC News!

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The Transformation of a Healthy Gay Identity: Some Reflections

Ron McLean,
AMCD Liaison

We live in a society where the social discourse about someone who identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgendered (LGBT) is minimally tolerant and, at times, openly hostile and violent. It is not difficult to imagine why many LGBT individuals spend years feeling depressed, ashamed, and have low self-esteem. Some find themselves embedded in destructive practices such as drug or sexual addiction as a way to cope with the pain that he or she feels. Homophobia and heterosexism are major practices used in the dominant culture that continue to oppress and promote second-class citizenship in the LGBT community.

Yet, though surrounded by cultural bigotry, many members of the LGBT community have shown tremendous courage, strength, and resilience by refusing to accept the unmerited negative messages about LGBT people that are imposed by the dominant culture. Moreover, we have begun to speak for ourselves by defining who we are and educating others about our experiences. A

key question I have asked myself is: What has to happen in order for an individual to resist negative messages imposed by society and to be able to move toward developing a healthy gay identity? While there are many points of consideration, I have chosen to highlight three pursuits that I believe one must engage in to develop a healthy gay identity while living in a larger context of social intolerance. Social

continued on pg 8

... many members of the LGBT community have shown tremendous courage, strength, and resilience by refusing to accept the unmerited negative messages about LGBT people...

AGLBIC News

Sunday, March 23

Program ID# 120
Transsexualism: Historical and Counseling Issues (90 Minutes)
 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
 Anaheim Convention Center
 Room 304B
Dionne Monique Redmond

Program ID# 124
CSJ Day of Learning: Meditation and Personal Goals Regarding Peace (90 Minutes)
 9:25 a.m. - 10:55 a.m.
 Anaheim Convention Center
 Room 303D
Janet I. Jones and Ned Farley
 Sponsored By CSJ

Program ID# 138
Gay and Gray Community Inter-vention (90 Minutes)
 10:45 a.m. - 12:15 a.m.
 Anaheim Convention Center
 Room 213C
S. Jeffrey Mostade
 Sponsored By AGLBIC

Program ID# 159
CSJ Day of Learning: Implications for Social Justice Gender Identity, Gender Expression, and Sexual Orientation Counseling and Advocacy (100 Minutes)
 1:00 p.m. - 2:40 p.m.
 Anaheim Convention Center
 Room 303D
Stuart F. Chen-Hayes, Cyndi Boyd, Jamey Cheek, Hugh Crethar, Ron McLean and Joy Whitman
 Sponsored By CSJ

 **AGLBIC**
Happy Hour!
 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
 Avenue Bar at the Hilton

Program ID# 176
Gay Parents: No Longer a Paradox (30 Minutes)
 Project/Research Poster Session
 2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
 Anaheim Convention Center
 Location PS5
Brian J. Dew and Pam Lassiter
 Sponsored By AGLBIC

Program ID# 214
Current Research and Practice Implications for Counseling Bisexuals (30 Minutes)
 Project/Research Poster Session
 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
 Anaheim Convention Center
 Location PS8
Anneliese Singh and Carole Darnell

Program ID#243
Multicultural Counselor Training Through Experiential Group Activities (90 Minutes)
 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
 Anaheim Convention Center
 Room 212B
Thomas M. Batsis and Paul DeSena

Program ID#249
Assisting Parents of Gay and Lesbian Youth (90 Minutes)
 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
 Anaheim Convention Center
 Room 303C
Marie T. Bracciale, Samuel Sanabria and E. Jane Updyke



Monday, March 24

Program ID#267
Creative Approaches to Serving Sexual Minority Youth in Intolerant Environments (3 hours)
 9:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.
 Anaheim Convention Center
 Room 213B
Judy A. Stone, Valerie K. McDonald and Dennis A. Frank

AGLBIC Brunch
 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
 Room 201-C

If you plan on attending the AGLBIC brunch, you MUST pre-purchase a ticket.

Program ID#298
Wilderness Experiential Therapy: A New Approach for People With HIV/AIDS (30 Minutes)
 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
 Project/Research Poster Session,
 Anaheim Convention Center
 Location PS9
Markus P. Bidell, Cara Cawood, Timothy M. Weaver and Rebecca Lobb

AGLBIC Annual Business Meeting

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
 Room 201-C
Please come and be a part of the process that is AGLBIC!
 Don't forget to stop by the AGLBIC Booth in the Convention Center!

Graduate Student Meeting

1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
 Room 201-C
Program ID#306
Women at Midlife: Influences of Race and Sexual Orientation (30 Minute)
 1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
 Project/Research Poster Session,
 Anaheim Convention Center,
 Location PS4
Lynn Calhoun Howell

Program ID#322
The Impact of a Psychology of Sex Roles Course on Gender Attitudes (30 Minute)
 2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
 Project/Research Poster Session,
 Anaheim Convention Center,
 Location PS7
Dianne T. Robinson, Gina Gibson-Beverly and Stacy A. Parault

Program ID#328
Working Ethically in a Diverse World (90 Minutes)
 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 Anaheim Convention Center
 Room 208A
Yvonne J. Owen and Josef C. Afandor

ACA Presidential Invited Session!!!
Program ID#335
Multiculturalism and Diversity: The Next Step (90 Minutes)
 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 Anaheim Convention Center
 Room 210D
Roger Herring, David Kaplan (introduction), Derald Wing Sue, Thomas Parham, Alan Goldberg, Michael D'Andrea, Susan Cameron, Patricia

Arredondo and Colleen Logan
 Sponsored By ACA and AMCD

Program ID# 343
Bias in the Administration and Interpretation of Assessments for Gays and Lesbians (90 Minutes)
 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 Anaheim Convention Center
 Room 303A
Jane E. Rheineck and Suzanne E. Degges-White
 Sponsored By AGLBIC

Program ID#366
Using Noncognitive Variables to Add Diversity in Counselor Training Programs (30 Minute)
 4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 Project/Research Poster Session,
 Anaheim Convention Center,
 Location PS4
William Sedlacek and Courtland Lee

Program ID#377
Married and Lesbian: Thinking Outside the Box (90 Minutes)
 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
 Anaheim Convention Center
 Room 209A
Valeria Fabj and Barbara Abernathy

Program ID#379
Creating a Mentoring Program for Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Counseling Students (90 Minutes)
 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
 Anaheim Convention Center
 Room 210A
Joy S. Whitman, Melissa Lidderdale, Bob Barret, Amy L. Anderson, Karen Hartman, Reginald Tucker, Colleen Logan, and Susan R. Seem

Program ID#392
Sexual Addiction and the Internet: Implications for the Gay Male Client (90 Minutes)
 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
 Anaheim Convention Center
 Room 303C
Michael P. Chaney and Brian J. Dew

Program ID#405
Examining Religious, Cultural and Gender Influences on Homophobia (30 Minutes)
 5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
 Project/Research Poster Session
 Anaheim Convention Center
 Location PS9
Samuel Sanabria and Magaly Freytes
 Sponsored By AGLBIC

AGLBIC Reception
 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.
 Room 201-C

Tuesday, March 25

Program ID#415
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Career Concerns: Applying SCCT (3 Hours)
 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
 Anaheim Convention Center,
 Room 210C
Melissa A. Lidderdale, Mary Z. Anderson and Sharon A. Carney
 Sponsored By AGLBIC

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