I am sitting here in my hotel room in Park City, Utah on the first day of the ACES conference. As a counselor educator, this is one of the conferences I look forward to, along with the ACA conference each year. This year, we decided to hold our AGLBIC fall board meeting here, the day and a half prior to the start of ACES, as many of us were planning on attending this conference anyway. This was a cost savings step for many of us, who would have had to plan travel and expenses for both the AGLBIC meeting and the ACES conference in a very short period of time. Besides, ACES was gracious enough to offer to provide the meeting room to us at no cost, and they had scored a great price on hotel rooms. Ultimately, the convenience, beautiful mountain setting, and great weather proved to be fertile ground for an excellent board meeting. I am so impressed with the collaborative and creative energy that moved us along our agenda, and helped us formalize a strategy for the on-going work of this division.

The title of this article reflects the work we have just accomplished. We spent time reflecting on our history and the work and dedication that previous leaders and members have contributed to bring us to where we are today. We took time to review our mission statement, both to consider the work that has been done in our stated goals, as well as work we still want to see done as these next years unfold. Most importantly, we took these experiences and successes and coalesced them into a future that sees AGLBIC as growing and evolving. It was humbling, daunting, and exciting. I’d like to share a bit with you of what is already in place, and the plans we have for the next year and beyond. Suffice it to say, that many of our ideas will take more than my term as president to implement, but sitting at the table with board members who will carry on continued on page 3...
NEW 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.

AGLBIC News

Call for applications-Consultant

As a response to the need for AGLBIC to better represent all current and future members, the AGLBIC Board is seeking applications for a volunteer position as consultant to the board for GLBT members of color. While recognizing that AGLBIC desires to be a division that reaches out to, and represents all GLBT people and our allies, we have historically not done an effective enough job of reaching out to multi-minorities within our community. While we understand that this should be extended to include a variety of under-represented communities who also identify as GLBT or an ally, in particular we want to reach out to our current and potential members of color who are willing to serve on a one-year contract to consult with the board on strategies to make AGLBIC more inclusive and representative. While a volunteer position, that could be extended after the first year, AGLBIC will compensate this individual in any monetary way to attend our spring and fall board meetings. To apply, please submit a letter stating how you see yourself as fitting this position, and why you are interested in helping AGLBIC in this way. This position requires AGLBIC membership. Please forward this letter of application to Ned Farley, AGLBIC President at

nfarley@antiochsea.edu

2326 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98121

For more information please contact:

Joy S. Whitman: 219.989.2693 or bwydwhit@21stcentury.net

Melissa Liddell:

GLTherapy@aol.com

Web Address: http://www.aglbig.org/

Confidentiality Required

Advice to Parents continued...

groups that can answer questions and provide stories about other parents by their experiences.

*Be aware that extended family members can play an integral role assisting parents to adapt to their new status. It is likely that some of these family members also have same-sex attractions and can thus offer a unique perspective about what the child needs.

*Encourage the child to share his or her history of same-sex attractions, the ways in which sexual orientation has influenced the child’s life, who else knows and how they have reacted, and future expectations the youth has about his or her life as a gay person. Despite discomfort parents may feel with the subject, this conversation should be the first of many. If not initiated by the child, parents should encourage these discussions because they normalize the youth’s sexuality and the parents’ alliance with him or her.

Parents have been given an honor, a gift - the opportunity to know their child better, more intimately about what the child needs.

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AGLBIC News

Rebecca F. Welter, editor

AGLBIC News AGLBIC News

Reflecting Back continued...

How old are you? continued...

I know these and other ideas will take hard work and effort from our board, our commit-
tee members, and all of you who have joined with us to make AGLBIC a viable and
healthy organization. I ask for your continued patience as we recognize you are not nec-
essary to allow us to better meet your current
and future needs. I know it has not always been
easy, and in fact, often frustrating. Even more,
I ask for your support in any way you can.
Reach out to your GLBT colleagues, peers,
allies, and encourage them to join AGLBIC.
Contact us and let us know what you think of the
division. We are always in need of mem-
ters to take on the current and future tasks that are
necessary for our healthy survival. Join a
commitee, become a division liaison, run for
an office. You are our future leaders.

Finally, we are forging ahead with our plans
for the convention in Anaheim in March. We are
excited by the many offerings that have been of-
ered. We look forward to our awards brunch,
our reception, and the re-emergence of our
AGLBIC Happy Hours. Look for these events
in our pre-conference edition. Lastly, and per-
haps most importantly, I ask each and every
one of you to please plan on attending this
convention. Your attendance at our functions,
our business meeting, and other AGLBIC sponsored programs truly provides us with the
feedback necessary for future planning.

Thank You! ✤

How old are you? continued...

In the upcoming months we will have the
pleasure of welcoming a new president, Ned
Farley. Ned has been an active and passionate
voice of representation within ACA advocating
for all LGBT peoples and their al-
lies. Let’s all work to keep AGLBIC a ro-
bert in our unique issues.

This attitude often leads to neglect of our el-
ders and has a divisive and destructive effect
on all of us in the GLBT community. The gay
and lesbian population is of the utmost impor-
tance to the organization as a whole,
and addressing concerns raised by the gay,
lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community
is a top priority. We must continue to focus
on the needs of this important segment of the
population.

In conclusion, we would like to express our
appreciation to all who have contributed to our
organization, past and present.

AGLBIC Membership Update:

March 2002: Sari Dworin was present the
AGLBIC Service Award at the AGLBIC Brunch during the ACA Conference in New
Orleans.

Editorial Board Members

March 2002: Lynn Friedman received the char-

Edward A. Wierzalis, PhD

Aging is the great equalizer. We all get older and we must learn to understand and accept the
changes that will occur and be able to hold on to how valuable it has always been.

Aging in gay culture forces us to reexamine
our own processes of “coming out” and the
changes we have made. It is important that we
continue to celebrate these changes and use
them to our advantage.

The GLBT Community and Aging

How old are you? Continued...

AGLBIC News 6

Because of the generous donation of the Herschel Foundation and several of AGLBIC’s board
members, there are over 20 scholarships available for graduate students and new pro-
essional members. Scholarships are available for a one-year period for those interested in
the AGLBIC mission but unable to join due to financial constraints. AGLBIC is committed
to welcome gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered individuals and our allies who are committed to
the counseling profession and the issues faced by the sexual minority. The Herschel Foundation
scholarships were made available by Trustees, S. Jeffrey Mostade and Eric J. Nilson.

Those interested in scholarships can contact Scholarship Chair, Nicholas Di Carlo at
dicarlo@ael.com or at New Perspectives Counseling, 225 N. Fourth Street, Suite A,
LaFayette, Indiana 47901. 765-429-5352.

Scholarships Available from AGLBIC

AGLBIC News 3

Fall 2002

Fall 2002

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Reflecting Back continued...

While we champion the banner of cultural in
clusion, we have notoriously done a weak job of
providing an environment where GLBT counselors of color (and potential allies) feel comfortable and inviting. It is time to move forward in this arena, and we see it as an op-
portunity to diversify and grow our member-
ship. In this light, we are putting out a call for
a one year contracted position as a consultant to
the board to help us strategize and imple-
ment a way to encourage more counselors of
color to join us as members and leaders (please see adjoining position announcement). (2) We
have made a decision to move our newsletter
to an electronic format. This decision was made
long to all other divisions, and it is increas-
ingly important that we build bridges for
foster dialogue and collaboration in current and
future projects.

Organization to help prevent harassment and
bullying in our schools. A coalition of individ-
uals who work together to form groups and
educate on behalf of GLBTQ youth.

www.safeschoolscoalition.org

National Organization For Men Against Sexism
In support of its mission to be pro-

feminist, gay-affirmative, anti-racist, and
dedicated to enhancing men’s
lives, NOMAS provides a number of
resources for members and interested
friends of the pro-feminists men’s
movement.

www.nomas.org

Biological Resource Center: An organization that educates the
general public about bisexuality, provides a public forum for the
discussion of bisexuality, and provides a support network for
bisexual individuals, a number of psychologists have formed
AFFIRM.

http://naples.cc.sunysb.edu/CAS/affirm.nsf

Psychologists affirming their Gay, lesbian, and Bisexual Family
Recognizing the very important role family plays in the lives of gay, les-
bian, and bisexual individuals, a number of psychologists have formed
AFFIRM.

Tales of Discovery
My religious experience and coming out
by John Nance
Until recently, I would have never considered
disclosing the fact that I am gay. However, at
38 years of age, my world has broadened and
I am experiencing the freedom that comes along
with a positive self image. As so many GLBT people
know, this personal freedom has not come without a story of struggle. Devel-
opment of my identity might often involve a religious struggle as well as coming out to
self and others.

Religion always played an integral part in my
understanding of what was right and wrong. I
followed many literal biblical interpretations
and accepted them as my own. Taking on these
teachings ensured that I would struggle as a
gay person to reconcile my personal struggle
and my beliefs. Throughout my childhood,
austerity, and young adult life I struggled with
being both spiritual and gay. I remained
closed, never discussing my orientation be-
cause I found it difficult to imagine how
might integrate my belief system and my
sexual orientation.

This private struggle and confusion led me into
destructive patterns of behavior while I re-
amained anonymous in the gay community yet
functioned within the structure of the church.
Following a call to ministry, I tried to put my
religion and beliefs in the back of the nagges
desires I experienced. I became a minister be-
cause of an inner desire to help others in times
of need.

I first disclosed my sexual orientation at the
age of 23 to a ministerial counselor. He en-
couraged me to distance myself from the ori-
entation which he explained conflicted with the moral beliefs of the church. Torn
between church teachings and a continuous pull toward my natural orientation, the
wrest-
lings left me frustrated, confused and defeated. I embraced the acceptance of over
seven years of counsel and therapy.

With the opinions of my mentor, he re-
vealed his sexual orientation to me. He was
male gay. Shocked at first, I went into
myself wondering how to reconcile his opinions,
my struggle, my faith, and this information.
The trust I placed in the therapeutic relation-
ship seemed to crumble as this new under-
standing complicated my fight against my in-
stinctual drives that I perceived as temptations.
Over time I came to believe that our journey
would last a lifetime. I accepted my role in my
struggle as a mentor and believed he alone
would be there to know my struggle and help
me through it. Suddenly, however, I was faced
with the disturbing news of the untimely death
of my counselor, the only person who knew
of my dilemma. This left me on my own even
more confused.

This experience forced me to evaluate my be-
lief system even more deeply. Determined to
understand how to live as a “gay” Christian
man, I sought out another counselor who could
empathize with my struggle. Again, I had to
make known my sexual orientation. This time,
however, as I disclosed my sexuality it seemed
to be easier. I had a person sitting across from
me who did not judge me or place personal
values into the relationship. She was accept-
ing of my questions. I found myself
utilizing the logic I was taught while in the
Final Excerpt from Dr. Savin
Advice to Parents:
How to Move Toward Acceptance
If parents desire to show their acceptance of
their children, they should first listen, ask
questions, and then

*Give unconditional love and reassure their
child that they love and support her or him
regardless of the child’s sexuality.

*Continue to meet their child’s basic needs,
such as safety, structure, and affection.

*Help their child enjoy childhood and
adolescence. Let their child be a kid and pro-
vide her or him space to be herself or himself.
Give the child tools to take back power the
child might have lost because of her or his
sexual orientation (e.g., connect physical and
emotional intimacy).

*Realize that integrating a new identity as a
parent of a sexual-minority child requires time
and stamina. The child has had a life that
affected on his or her sexual feelings before self-
identifying; parents should give themselves
some slack and time to adjust to this new sta-
tus: the parent of a sexual-minority child

*Seek educational information for parents

(e.g., literature form P-FLAG, or Parents,
Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)
that will help in coping with the sexual status of
the child. Without such resources, accep-
tance or even tolerance is an arduous task.

In coming to terms with their son’s or daughter’s
same-sex attractions, it is critical that parents
modify previous biases regarding the conse-
quences of a nonheterosexual identity.

*Talk with others in similar situations to
gain information and support. Groups such as
P-FLAG and We Are Family provide op-
portunities to openly discuss fears and con-
cerns about having a gay, bisexual, or lesbian
child. Also available are therapy and support
continued on page 7

A GLBC News