From our President:
Anneliese Singh Ph.D., LPC, NCC

“Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day I can hear her breathing.”

This quote by a South Asian activist and novelist (The God of Small Things) captures what it feels like to work with ALGBTIC members and leadership. Whether I am reading an email from a transgender person looking for a competent counselor or talking on the phone to a graduate student who is experiencing discrimination based on his gay identity, I am reminded of the importance of continuing to build a world safe for our LGBTQ and ally community. The emails and calls are also full of inspiring stories – ways our members and leaders are challenging heterosexism, creating social justice initiatives, and working to connect heterosexism with other types of oppression such as racism and sexism.

These stories of empowerment are also reflected within our division’s activities. Our division is active, thriving, and full of energy! From the podcasts sponsored by ALGBTIC and ACA to the important work by the Transgender and Multicultural Committees, our division is at the frontlines of providing important resources for professional counselors, students, and academics alike. We have an impressive website that is constantly updated with important resources thanks to our wonderful web designer – Rhodes Gibson. And of course, this newsletter you are reading and our journal also help create resources to create accountability for ethically-sound practice, research, training, and advocacy efforts with LGBTQ counseling issues.

Now, it is time for us all to think about holding our first ALGBTIC divisional conference. In the times we are in where people actively organize against affirmative-therapies with the LGBTQ community,

Continued on page 3...

Tips for Effectively Teaching LGBTQ Students
Kirsti Reeve

For those of us who are counselor educators, these suggestions might be useful to keep in mind or to pass on to colleagues. The more that we can represent LGBTQ issues and viewpoints in our classes, the more we can prepare our students for their future work with diverse and multicultural populations. The ALGBTIC newsletter or articles from our journal can be great resources to highlight contributions that LGBTQ individuals have made to the counseling profession. The following tips are adapted from Jennifer Manion, Visiting Professor of History at Connecticut College, Director of LGBTQ Resource Center.

- Challenge students who make homophobic remarks in class – even those which seem less directly targeted at LGBTQ students, such as the ever persistent “that’s so gay.” This models that anti-gay commentary and jokes are unacceptable in your classroom.
- Do not assume that all students in a class are heterosexual.
- Do not assume that gender non-conforming students are LGBTQ.
- Do not assume that LGBTQ students are all white or that students of color are all straight. Queer students of color may not conform to white LGBTQ stereotypes or participate in predominantly white LGBTQ organizations, but they are here!
- Do not look to LGBTQ students who are out on campus to speak for or represent the community. Just because they are out in some areas of their lives does not mean they want to talk about it in a classroom setting.
- Do not give assignments that will force gays or lesbians to describe their social life or to “come out” against their will.

Continued on page 7...

Highlights in this issue:
Teaching Queer Students.................................................................pg. 1
ALGBTIC Awards Nominations....................................................pg. 5
Experiences of Gay Fathers............................................................pg. 8
Dr. Phil and Transgender Issues.....................................................pg. 12
ALGBTIC Leadership 2008-2009

Anneliese Singh, Ph.D., President
Assistant Professor
University of Georgia
402 Aderhold
Athens, GA 30602
404.849.8186
ANNELIESESINGH@GMAIL.COM

Michael Kocet, Ph.D., LMHC, President-Elect
Assistant Professor
Bridgewater State College
110 Kelly
Bridgewater, MA 02325
508.531-2721
MKOCET@YAHOO.COM

Phyllis Mogielski-Watson, PsyD, CADC, Past-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

Michael P. Chaney, Ph.D., Secretary
Editor of ALGBTIC News
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 2006-2009
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Counseling
Marymount University
Arlington, VA
757.817.8258
Edward.Cannon@marymount.edu

Ron McLean, Trustee 2008-2011
McLean Counseling & Training Services
P. O. Box 122
Metuchen, NJ 08840
732.548.8232
RONNIE.MCLEAN@GMAIL.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

Committee Chairs 2008-2009
Ron McLean, Graduate Student/New Professionals
John Marszalak/Philip Ginila, Membership
Phyllis Mogielski-Watson, Awards; Nominations and Elections; Bylaws
Rhodes Gibson/Rob Mate, Webmasters
Bob Rohde, Historian and Archivist
Denny Frank, Media and Public Relations Chair
Kathy Newton, Multicultural Consultant & Committee
Susan Seem/Ed Cannon, Branch Chapter Committee
Michael Chaney/Hugh Crethar, Task Force on Anti-LGBT Counseling
Theo Burns, Transgender Committee

Kirsti Reeve, Editorial Assistant
3822 Elmhurst Avenue
Royal Oak, MI 48073
248-752-8696
KREeve@oakland.edu

"Autumn is a second spring where every leaf is a flower."
From our President continued from page 1…

this conference will be an important way to stimulate and continue innovative affirmative practices with our community and allies. To make this dream a reality, we will need as much member input and participation in the planning process as possible. From location of the conference to content sessions and format, we want to hear from our members about what is most important to YOU. I am in the process of appointing a conference planning committee, so please email me (AnnelieseASingh@gmail.com) if you are interested.

A quick update for our conference in Charlotte in March 2009, ALGBTIC is partnering with the Rockway Institute to present a free training on how to use and present LGBTQ issues in counseling (and other areas) in a positive light. For folks who have attended this training around the country, it is one of the best and we are proud to offer this opportunity to our members! Look for more information coming soon.

Lastly, please remember that our division is here because of you. Thanks for everything you do in your own communities, organizations, and personal/professional lives. When I think of that Ahrundati Roy quote, I know each of you are part of building that beautiful and beloved world! Thank you for the stories and please don’t hesitate to email or call if you need resources and/or guidance and feedback on situations in your school, community, or organizations. Happy fall and best wishes for the holiday season!

In the spirit of community~

Anneliese

Attending a conference or event in the near future? Make sure you take digital photos for possible inclusion in future editions of ALGBTIC News.

Now accepting submissions for the 2009 Pre-Conference edition of ALGBTIC News. I am seeking the following:

- General interest articles
- Book reviews
- Program announcements
- Summaries/highlights of current research
- Website reviews
- Other ideas welcome

Submission guidelines are on page 14.
Governing Council Report
Ned Farley, Ph.D., Governing Council Representative

I am looking forward to my final year as your ALGBTIC Governing Council Representative. It has been a wonderful experience so far, and in many ways has been the perfect way to move to the next step in service after serving as a board member, and two-time past president for our division. Working at the Governing Council level has given me even a better sense of ACA as an organization, and the many ways in which the dedicated folks at ACA and in our fellow divisions work hard to provide a comprehensive counseling identity to the world.

I have no new news to provide at this juncture, as the work done at our last Governing Council meeting in Honolulu was shared with you in our recent summer newsletter. I will be traveling to Alexandria, VA for our fall meeting in mid-October, where much of our work will be around reviewing the current impact of the economy on ACA’s investments and unfortunately on our 2008-09 budget. We will continue to also do work on consolidating our professional identity as counselors from across many specializations; on ways in which to diversify our revenue streams, and continuing dialogue on many other issues that arise within such a large and diverse organization. I will look to provide you with the outcome of this fall meeting in the next, pre-conference newsletter. In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding the Governing Council, or my role on it, please feel free to contact me at nfarley@antiochseattle.edu.

### Transgender Task Force Report
Theodore Burnes, Ph.D.

The transgender task force of ALGBTIC has had a busy fall! As part of the initiative of her presidential year, Dr. Anneliese Singh has appointed Dr. Theodore Burnes to lead the transgender task force. Theo is a counselor educator at the University of Pennsylvania and is excited to facilitate the work of the task force. The task force has two main projects for the Fall 2008-Winter 2009 season. Task force members are currently constructing an article for Counseling Today on counseling transgender adults that will include discussions on various aspects of the topic such as employment, discrimination, legal issues, and medical issues. In addition, task force members are hard at work developing a series of competencies for working with transgender clients. Following the format of the competencies for working with LGBT clients, members will be reviewing literature and receiving feedback from each other in the development of these competencies based on the eight domains outlined by the CACREP standards. The task force has a goal to send a draft of these competencies to the ALGBTIC membership and to community members to receive feedback. It is the hope and goal of the task force to have these competencies completed by March 2009. As always, the task force appreciates any feedback or suggestions that members of ALGBTIC and/or ACA may have. The eight members of the task force are always looking for help, so please e-mail Theo at burnes@gse.upenn.edu if interested in helping with various projects.

### ALGBTIC Task Force on Anti-LGBTQ Counseling
Michael Chaney, Ph.D.

At our March 2008 Board meeting, Past-president Phyllis Mogielski-Watson established the Task Force on Anti-LGBTQ Counseling, in response to a growing force within ACA that supports sexual reorientation therapy (i.e., conversion therapy). ALGBTIC firmly disagrees with the utilization of conversion therapy and is committed to ensuring that the public, ACA members, and clients are educated about and have access to LGBTQ-affirmative counseling. The Task Force is currently delineating tasks that need to be accomplished over the next several months. A primary task to be completed is an examination of the scientific basis for conversion therapy. Other proposed actions include writing an article for Counseling Today, the development of a panel discussion at a future conference, and working toward inclusion of a specific ethical code that speaks to the social injustice of conversion therapy. The Task Force will be presenting its recommendations to the Board at the ACA Convention in Charlotte. Because of President Singh’s commitment to collaboration with other divisions, she invited Hugh Crethar, Past-president of Counselors for Social Justice (CSJ), to co-Chair the Task Force. We are honored to have Hugh and ACA leaders (Susan Seem, Harriet Glosoff, Stuart Chen-Hayes, and Jeffrey Moe on board. We are currently seeking individuals to serve on the Task Force. Our first conference call is scheduled for December 10, 2008 at 2:00 PM. Please contact Mike Chaney (chaney@oakland.edu) or Hugh Crethar (crethar@okstate.edu) to get involved.
In preparation for the 2009 ACA Conference in Charlotte, NC, and as ALGBTIC Past-President and Chair of the Awards Committee, I am seeking nominations for outstanding contributions in several areas. These awards, which are described below, will be awarded at the ALGBTIC Brunch at the ACA Conference. Please carefully consider who might deserve recognition in each of these categories and send your nominations to me no later than January 1, 2009.

**Joe Norton Award:**
This award is presented annually for an outstanding contribution to the LGBT community. Nominees can be either an individual who has made a significant contribution in the city or region in which the ACA conference is held or an organization that has done so.
This year we are seeking nominations in the Charlotte, NC area. When making a nomination, please include the person’s or organization’s name and contact information along with a letter outlining why you believe the nominee is a contender for this award.

**ALGBTIC Service Award:**
This award is presented to an ALGBTIC member who has served ALGBTIC and/or the larger LGBT community through forwarding the mission and values of ALGBTIC. Please include the nominee’s name and contact information along with a letter of nomination outlining why you think this person should be considered for this service award.

**Mentor Award:**
This award is presented to an individual identified for his or her significant contribution to mentorship in the ALGBTIC community and persons within the community. Please include the nominee’s name and contact information along with a letter of nomination outlining why you think this person should be considered for this mentor award.

**Graduate Student Award:**
This award has been established to honor a graduate student member of ALGBTIC who has contributed significantly in one of three areas:
- Representing or embodying the mission of ALGBTIC through direct service for ALGBTIC or in the field of counseling;
- Furthering knowledge of LGBT issues through an outstanding research contribution; or
- Providing service or research that specifically focuses on furthering the knowledge of and commitment to issues of diversity within the LGBT community.
When making a nomination, please include the person’s name and contact information along with a letter outlining why you believe the nominee should be considered for this graduate student award.

Please send your nominations directly to me, either by e-mail or mail at the address below. All nominations will be reviewed and voted on by the Executive Committee of ALGBTIC.

**Phyllis Mogielski-Watson, PsyD**
**ALGBTIC Past-President,**
**Associate Director of Training/Associate Professor**
**Office of Placement & Training**
**The Chicago School of Professional Psychology**
**325 N. Wells St.**
**Chicago, IL 60654**
Looking Back and Moving Forward
Kathryn Newton, Ph.D., Multicultural Consultant

I suspect one reason ALGBTIC’s membership continues to grow, where many other division memberships are declining, is that we have been both responsive and pro-active in addressing community needs and interests. One of the areas we have done this is in acknowledging and valuing diversity.

Accepting the role of Multicultural Consultant was not easy. I know this organization, the leadership, and the members well enough to know that this is no empty title – attending to diverse needs is a priority and results are expected. How will I, as a White, middle class, professional, lesbian – identify, accurately represent, and advocate for diverse perspectives?

In assuming this role it was important for me to review the multicultural history of our organization. In doing so, I was reminded of all the interactions, events, and meetings where our commitment to inclusiveness was evident. Ongoing evaluation of ALGBTIC’s attention to diversity led to the establishment of the Multicultural Consultant position and has resulted in the following changes:

Inclusiveness:
- Mission statement now acknowledges diverse contexts and cultural interactions
- Organization name changed to include transgender (from AGLBIC to ALGBTIC)

Resources:
- Translation of ALGBTIC Competencies into French, Turkish, Chinese, Japanese, Romanian

Actions:
- Establishment of Transgender and Multicultural Committees
- Intentional inclusion of diverse perspectives in conference programming and ALGBTIC publications

Examining and addressing issues of inclusiveness is a critical step in cultural competence, and an ongoing process. This has been an important part of our past and of our present. The obvious next question is, where are we headed? I am in agreement with our current president, Anneliese Singh, that we are a strong and energized organization that is ready to expand. And so the question I asked myself was, after inclusion, then what? How can we be of service to individuals and groups who do not necessarily seek inclusion, but would welcome collaboration? In addition to being a “destination” organization, can we also be a partner, collaborator, and resource?

With these questions in mind, one of my first priorities is to significantly expand our multicultural resources. This is one way we could provide support to others across interest areas. We currently have a three-member committee working to collect resources for educators, supervisors, counselors, service providers, and for the general public. Resources will include texts, journals, films, websites, and organizations that support direct service, instruction, social justice, and legislative concerns. The specific areas we are expanding include LGBT issues among racial and ethnic minorities as well as across age, ability status, social class, and religious/spiritual orientations. As these resources expand we will work to increase access by creating reciprocal links with professional, LGBT, and community service organizations within and outside the United States. If you have resource recommendations or would like to coordinate one of these resource areas, please contact me – we need you.

Here are ways you could contribute to our efforts:
- Volunteer to translate the ALGBTIC Competencies into additional languages, especially Spanish (contact Anneliese Singh at AnnelieseASingh@gmail.com)
- Advocate for culture-specific LGBT concerns that need further attention or are not being addressed (contact Kathryn Newton at ksnewton@ship.edu)
- Both the Multicultural and the Transgender Committees are actively seeking new members and input from the community (issues, concerns, news items, resources)
  - Transgender Committee contact Theo Burns at burnes@gse.upenn.edu
  - Multicultural Committee contact Kathryn Newton at ksnewton@ship.edu

As our resources expand, so will our knowledge of the concerns and strengths of LGBT individuals within and across diverse groups. It is my hope that this knowledge will generate partnerships and ultimately support ALGBTIC’s goal of providing more systemic access to resources and care for those in need.
An Opportunity to Serve: Volunteers Needed

Ron McLean

I am a new board member, and I am the chair of the conference booth committee. Each year we sponsor a booth at the American Counseling Association’s Annual Conference. My job is to ensure that we have an attractive booth for distributing information and marketing organizational products. The annual conference will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina, March 19-23rd.

This is an exciting time to be apart of ALGBTIC and ACA. ALGBTIC has a primary responsibility to educate and advocate LGBT concerns to the counseling profession and beyond. It is particularly exciting to have our ACA president, Colleen Logan at the executive helm this year. Colleen is one of our own and has served in a variety leadership capacities, including as AGLBTIC president. We can be sure that she will represent the LGBT community and the issues we care about. Her active involvement in various roles in ACA and AGLBTIC is a model that is worth emulating.

Speaking of involvement, I am announcing an opportunity for board members, the general membership, and counseling students to get involved. We need volunteers to help staff the booth at the annual conference. Specifically, we need individuals to commit to working a one 2-hour session staffing the booth. In addition, we need help with printing, coordination, and purchasing of supplies.

Help make this year’s ACA conference the best ever! Volunteering is an excellent way to make new friends, network, and show support for our organization. During the next few weeks, we will be contacting the membership to request your assistance. Please be open and say yes to serving ALGBTIC. If you think that you can help with any of these volunteer opportunities, please contact me at Ronnie.Mclean@gmail.com.

“Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation’s compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain love for one another.”

~ Erma Bombeck

Teaching LGBTQ students continued from page 1...

- Use acceptable terms when speaking about gay and lesbian issues: Homosexual has long been replaced by “gay” or “lesbian”
- Queer is a popular term among young people who believe that sexuality is fluid and don’t want to be categorized; It is also an umbrella term that includes LGBT; Not all LGBTQ people are comfortable with the term
- Transgender is an umbrella term for those who express gender in ways that do not conform to their sex. This includes transsexuals as well as “Gender Queer” people who deliberately present themselves ambiguously.
- Sexual “orientation” is more appropriate than sexual “preference” which suggests that sexuality is akin to one’s favorite ice cream flavor.

Internet Resources for Queer Youth

Youth Resource: www.youthresource.com

Ambiente Joven: www.ambientejoven.org

Advocates for Youth: www.advocatesforyouth.org

My Sistahs: www.mysistahs.org
Most gay fathers are aware of their sexual orientation before marriage, but awareness does not always equal acceptance. Gay fathers who were homosexually active before marriage reconcile their gay and father identities more readily than those who were not. In contrast, gay fathers who first began to act on their homosexual desires after marriage have considerable difficulty resolving their identity conflict. The result of this is serious role conflict and inner turmoil. Self acceptance as a gay man almost always demands disclosure of the homosexual identity, but disclosure to family is difficult because in most cases it leads to divorce.

Gay fathers are generally similar to heterosexual fathers in their reasons for having children. This is related to having a legacy, the need to nurture, completing the life cycle, and conforming to cultural norms.

"The man who is gay but also a father may differ from other gay men by internalizing the negative cultural image of homosexuals and homosexuality and 'protecting' himself from disapproval or rejection by significant others in his life and by society in general by marrying and becoming a parent." (Bailey, et al. 1995, p. 125).

Gay Fathers: Just Another Horse of a Different Color?

The views are conflicting. Gay and non-gay fathers may differ significantly in approach, philosophy, and style of parenting (Miller, 1979; Wainright & Russell, 2004).

The Gay Daddy Dilemma

Sexual orientation does not have an impact on gay fathers' abilities to parent. Gay fathers may make efforts to be "better" fathers because they feel guilty about being gay. Gay and non-gay fathers are similar in most ways, but they do differ in qualitative ways.

Do Gay Men Make Better Fathers?

Gay fathers are known to be stricter. They also emphasize rule setting and enforce limits. They promote cognitive skills by explaining rules and regulations and are more responsive to the perceived needs of the child (Barrett & Tasker, 2001).

The Impact of Partners

Gay fathers play an equal/major role in decision making regarding biological children. Most male partners of gay fathers are reported as being only a little involved in issues related to the fathers’ children. Gay fathers with partners have a different experience than gay fathers without partners. Men living with same-sex partners do as well parenting as men living with their child's (or children’s) mother.

Extreme Invisibility of Gay Fathers

A prominent and recurring theme is the overall invisibility of gay fathers. Many gay fathers speak about an extreme lack of awareness of their existence, and a lack of programs and services. Most would like to see increased public awareness of the existence and experiences of gay fathers. This is sometimes combined with a hesitation due to a desire to protect their children from public attention. Most hope for increased visibility, countering some of the commonly held negative stereotypes about gay fathers.

Continued on page 11...
ALGBTIC Branch Chapter Committee Update
Edward Cannon & Susan Seem

The goal of the Branch Chapter Committee this fall is to consolidate where ALGBTIC is in terms of state chapters – to find out who is active. Then we plan to update the information we receive so that the ALGBTIC website will reflect that. Ed is contacting North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Texas chapters. I am contacting Alabama, Kentucky and Louisiana. For those of you who are active, we would love to hear periodic updates from you, so that we can share your great work with membership in this forum! Please send updates to me or Ed at the email addresses below.

If you are interested in starting a chapter in your state, please feel free to contact either Ed (Edward.Cannon@marymount.edu) or Susan (sseem@brockport.edu).

For more information on starting an ALGBTIC state chapter, visit the official ALGBTIC website at www.algbtic.org.

Ohio Working Toward A State Chapter

ALGBTIC and the Ohio Counseling Association sponsored a session called, “Getting it straight: Issues and trends in counseling lesbian and gay clients” Presented by Dr. Stephanie Brzuz from Xavier University, the session focused on issues related to sexual identity and best practice related to lesbian and gay issues in counseling.

The above collaboration is in response to the efforts of Tara Meckley Hill, who is working to establish an Ohio chapter of ALGBTIC. If you are interested in joining the effort to establish an Ohio chapter of ALGBTIC, please contact Tara Meckley Hill at tmhm7@aol.com.

The Pennsylvania Association of LGBT Issues in Counseling: A Thriving Chapter
Peggy Lorah

For the third year, the Pennsylvania Association for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues in Counseling (PALGBTIC) will be offering an LGBT track at the Pennsylvania Counseling Association conference, to be held October 24-26 in State College. Topics to be presented include “Affirmative Counseling with LGBT College Students”; “Creating Safe Space for Gay, Lesbian, Gender Minority, and Questioning Youth”; “Getting Old Ain’t for Sissies: Aging Issues for LGBT and Straight Clients”; LGBT Committed Couples: Counseling Issues for Those with Unequal Recognition”; and “LGBT Spirituality Issues”. In addition, a pre-conference presentation entitled “Intersecting Identities: Being LGB and…” will be offered.

PALGBTIC members are committed to doing outreach to community members and mental health professionals throughout Pennsylvania. Thus far, members have presented two all-day workshops in the greater Reading, PA area, one entitled “Affirmative Counseling for LGBT Clients” and the second entitled “Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Development: Skills for Working with Individuals and Families.” On November 3, 2008, members will provide a third workshop entitled “Creating a Campus That Is Affirming for LGBTQ Students.”

For more information about PALGBTIC contact:

Peggy Lorah, D. Ed., NCC, LPC
Director, Center for Women Students
The Pennsylvania State University
204 Boucke Building
University Park, PA 16802
814-863-2027
mal273@sa.psu.edu
The Journal of LGBT Issues in Counseling To Focus On LGBT Issues and the Military

The Association of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Issues in Counseling (ALGBTIC), a division of the American Counseling Association (ACA) is inviting submissions for our next special edition of "The Journal of LGBT Issues in Counseling". This edition will focus on Counseling and Research for LGBT Issues and the Military. The intent of this special edition is to publish articles relevant to working with sexual minorities around issues pertinent to this special focus, 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 agencies, 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 June 1, 2009, with the hope to submit this special edition by mid-September, 2009 to our publisher. 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 35 pages, although longer submissions will be reviewed on a space available basis. 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 Issues and the Military”. Please submit articles to Ned Farley, Editor, The Journal of LGBT Issues in Counseling at nfarley@antiochseattle.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 School of Applied Psychology, Counseling, and Family Therapy, Antioch University Seattle, 2326 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98121-1814. This form can be found online at: www.haworthpress.com/pdfs/Jmanuscript.pdf

"The conservative movement, to which I subscribe, has as one of its basic tenets the belief that government should stay out of people's private lives. Government governs best when it governs least - and stays out of the impossible task of legislating morality. But legislating someone's version of morality is exactly what we do by perpetuating discrimination against gays [in the military]." Barry M Goldwater, former senator, AZ.
Gay fathers continued from page 8...

Disclosure
Fathers prepare their children to accept them as gay by teaching them tolerance of others and by serving as a role model of tolerance. Gay fathers disclose their sexuality to children either directly (verbal) or indirectly (nonverbal). Gay fathers also attempt to protect their children from the hostility of others and recognize the need for discretion. Gay fathers who do not disclose their sexuality do so for three reasons: fear of rejection, self rejection of being gay and fear of ex-wife's reaction.

Issues for Counselors
Counselors can come across several issues when counseling gay fathers. They include but are not limited to: depression, disclosure, identity development, networking for support, couples issues, and gay step-family formation. Check out the ALGBTIC website for resources.

References

Resources for Gay Fathers
COLAGE (Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere): http://www.colage.org

Family Equity Council:
http://www.familyequity.org

Families Joined by Love:
http://www.familiesjoinedbylove.com

Lambda Legal: http://www.lambdalegal.org

Monday, December 1, 2008

Why is 2008 Important?
2008 marks the 20th anniversary of World AIDS Day. Since 1988, the face and response to AIDS has greatly changed. While many of these changes are positive, this anniversary offers us an opportunity to highlight how much more still needs to be done.

Stop AIDS Leadership Pledge
To celebrate the 2007 and 2008 World AIDS Day theme of leadership, the World AIDS Campaign launched the Stop AIDS Leadership Pledge in November 2007. In collaboration with national, regional, global and constituent partners, this initiative asks people from all over the world to pledge their leadership to help stop AIDS. These pledges collected online, by mail and at events, will be used to create exhibitions, banners and other visibility actions during major events in 2008 and 2009. With a goal of at least 100,000 signees, these pledges serve as a persuasive tool for leveraging greater political leadership on universal access to AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support and act as a visual example for key national and international decision-makers to follow. Pledges can be viewed at http://pledges.worldaidscampaign.info

Take the Lead. Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise. For more information visit: www.worldaidscampaign.org

Information contained in this announcement came from the World AIDS Campaign website.
HOW DR. PHIL HAS FAILED THE TRANSGENDER POPULATION, AND WHAT WE CAN DO DIFFERENTLY

Dara Hoffman, MA

On August 4, 2008 the guru of modern day pop psychology, Dr. Phil, revealed to us his “shocking” guest-of-the-day on an episode entitled “Daddy Drama”. What followed was what I believe to be a clear example of how a psychologist should never handle a family counseling session in which the father has come out to his children as a transgender woman.

The guest was Kayla, a transgender male to female parent who was hoping to reconcile her severed relationships with her two daughters, ages 21 and 13. From the moment the show began Dr. Phil’s opinion of Kayla’s transition was evident, contrary to his statement at the beginning of the show that he will treat the topic of transitioning “with dignity and respect”. His exact words following that statement were “…and we’re going to look at the impact that it has on the family members when someone makes this choice.” (italics are mine). With those words he successfully set the stage for Kayla’s children, her ex-wives, and the studio audience to get away with painting her as a selfish home wrecker.

Even worse than the disrespect Phil showed towards Kayla’s 40-year struggle as a transgender woman was his silence. Here are a few moments where Phil chose not to say anything in response to comments made by Kayla’s 21-year old daughter:

“He had no right to do that to us! I can never forgive him!”

“I am very embarrassed to know that he carries my last name and that his blood is running through my veins.”

“You’ve got to be my dad. You can’t be this. This is not my dad. My dad is a man, my dad is a role model…”

Instead of taking those moments to show empathy towards Kayla and explain why she was not wrong for wanting to transition, Phil would offer comments such as:

“I certainly don’t mean to be offensive or indelicate with pronouns of he or she, or whatever. Legally you’re still a man.”

“You have to look at the impact on others and not just your own personal priorities and agendas along the way.”

“I’m trying to keep this really balanced here…If there’s something that we’re missing, enlighten us!”

And on and on until Phil concluded the show with a speech about how important he believes family is and that “your role as a parent never changes”, directing us to go to his website to read more on how to be a responsible parent.

There is no way to know the extent of the damage that Dr. Phil might have caused through his treatment of Kayla during the “Daddy Drama” episode. Minimally he has most likely increased the rift between Kayla and her daughters, and has taught them that it is okay to think that someone who is transgender is “selfish”, “nasty”, and “dirt”. At worst he has taught his national audience the same. Perhaps those of you who are activists at heart will feel inspired to do something along the lines of organizing a boycott or letter writing campaign directed towards Phil McGraw and his producers (they can be reached through his website at www.drphil.com).

There is so much more, though, that we as LGBT affirmative counselors can do in our very town or city to help provide positive information about transgender issues.

- Let this inspire you to become more educated about the transgender community and the unique challenges they encounter, which oftentimes are different than the experiences of your gay, lesbian, and bisexual clients.
- Give a presentation at your local Pride Center or PFLAG chapter for transgender parents who need help in coming out to their children.
- Contact any local transgender support groups in your area and let them know you are available as a trans-affirmative counselor for their members.
- If there are no transgender support groups in your town, start one!

Continued on page 13...
Join the newly formed Transgender Committee as part of ALGBTIC. Contact burnes@gse.upenn.edu.

Develop your own set of resources for your transgender clients. A list will soon be available on the ALGBTIC website to get you started (www.algbtic.org).

No amount of research can take the place of actually meeting and getting to know people who are transgender. They are your greatest resource, and will bring your understanding of who they are and what they experience to a new level.

The biggest opportunity Phil McGraw missed during his show was taking the chance to educate Kayla’s children, the kids’ mothers, and the national audience on what it means to be transgender. From this sort of education the seeds of understanding can begin to grow and healing can begin, something Kayla and her children so desperately needed.

You don’t have to be a famous psychologist to make a lasting and dramatic difference people’s lives—educate yourself, share that knowledge with whomever will listen, and watch the tendrils of your efforts work their way through this world. Dara Hoffman can be contacted at: CounselorDara@comcast.net

Connecticut Legalizes Same-Sex Marriage

On October 10th 2008, Connecticut’s Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples have the right to marry under the state constitution, and that the existing civil union law did not provide couples with the same benefits as marriage. This makes Connecticut the third state, behind Massachusetts and California, to legalize full marriage equality. The 4-3 ruling drew on the same principles as the California decision, treating gays and lesbians as a class of individuals who have traditionally been subject to discrimination and prejudice because of their sexual orientation.

Transgender Woman Wins Federal Discrimination Case

Diane Schroer made history to be the first transgender woman to win a federal appeals case for discrimination because of her gender identity. Diane, a former Army Special Forces commander, had applied for a job at the Library of Congress as David. The library was initially enthusiastic about the experience that Schroer would bring to the position. However, the day after she revealed to her future boss that she would be transitioning before beginning work, the offer was rescinded, and she was told she was no longer a “good fit” for the Library of Congress. Significantly, the federal judge ruled discriminating against someone on the grounds of changing genders counts as sex discrimination, and that the Library was also guilty of sex stereotyping against Schroer, because she failed to meet traditional notions of gender.

Judy Shepard To Be Keynote Speaker At ACA Convention

Judy Shepard, the mother of Matthew Shepard who was brutally attacked on October 8, 1998 due to a hate crime, will speak on at the ACA Convention in Charlotte on Sunday, March 22 at 9 a.m. Ms. Shepard will deliver a powerful message about what professional counselors can do to help make our communities and schools safer for everyone, regardless of their race, sex, religion, or sexual orientation.

SAVE THE DATE

Right: Diane Schroer. Photo borrowed from the Washington Post.

Photo from NY Times

Joanne Mock, right, and Elizabeth Kerrigan, with their son Carlos, 6, were among eight couples who sued to get marriage licenses.
**ALGBTIC News**, the newsletter of the Association of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues in Counseling, is published three times annually. The ALGBTIC News is typically published online in the summer and fall. Our Pre-Conference issue is a mailed hardcopy. The publication dates and submission deadlines are:

**Pre-Conference edition:** March 15  
Submission deadline: January 15

**Summer edition:** July 31  
Submission deadline May 15

**Fall edition:** December 1  
Submission deadline: September 15

**Submission Guidelines:**  
Submit articles and items that would be of interest to our readership and ALGBTIC members. Information should be current and informative. Submissions that promote dialogue and opinion are especially encouraged.

All submissions should be sent to the Editor via email as a Microsoft Word attachment. Please be advised that the Editor has the right to edit your submission due to space considerations and/or content issues.

Please send your submission to:  
Michael P. Chaney Ph.D., LPC  
Editor, ALGBTIC News  
chaney@oakland.edu

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

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**2009 ACA Annual Conference & Exposition**  
Register online at www.counseling.org

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Super Saver Rate</th>
<th>Advance Rate</th>
<th>Onsite Rate</th>
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<td>$240</td>
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