As I reflect upon my AGLBIC Presidency, I am also pondering my experiences in ACA and my career as a counselor. I first joined ACA in the mid 1970’s and attended the annual conference in Texas where I was privileged to see Carl Rogers and Albert Ellis in person. They reflected the polar opposites of the 1970’s and perhaps the polar opposites in me.

I was 27 years old when I became a counselor and I have now been a counselor for 27 years. Half of my life has been in this meaningful profession that I truly believe has the power to change the world.

In 1980 I began to struggle with my sexual orientation and ironically I did not find the field of counseling and ACA responsive to my struggle. I left ACA and joined APA because of Division 44 and the generally more welcoming attitude toward GLBT people and professionals. However, my karma was soon to bring me back to ACA when I accepted a position as a counselor educator in 1990. During the early 1990’s ACA was still not overly responsive to the GLBT issue and I was struggling with coming out at work, before achieving tenure, at a conservative Kentucky university.

By 1995 I had been elected the President of the Kentucky Counseling Association and realized that indeed one committed person could change a part of the world. In 1995, I attended the ACA conference in Denver and noticed for the first time that a few GLBT workshops, etc.

It is with great excitement that I enter officially into my year as AGLBIC president. Having been a member of AGLBIC since 1990, I have had the opportunity to watch us grow, first as an affiliate, and now as a division. I had the privilege of being co-chair of AGLBIC in the mid 1990’s when we were a small but energetic affiliate. At that time, it was sometimes a struggle to have our voices heard, but we prevailed. Now we clearly hold a seat at the table, and have helped guide ACA around policy issues related to the needs of the sexual minority community. As GLBT folks, we have increasingly been able to make our presence known, not only in ACA as a whole, but also in many other divisions. In my recent years as an AGLBIC board member, it has been wonderful to see the outreach to, and the connections made. Most importantly, we have recently elected the first openly gay president of ACA, Mark Pope. Mark has been a member of AGLBIC for many years, and I firmly believe that it is because of the overall presence of AGLBIC within ACA that has made this “first”, a possibility.

My goals over the next year are few, but important ones. First and foremost, I would like to continue to support the stability of AGLBIC based on the groundwork of our past presidents. We have come far in this regard, but it is equally important that we continue to provide a strong base from which to do our work. Therefore, my secondary goals include a continued commitment to increasing our membership. While we have had only minor reductions in numbers compared to many other divisions, none the less, we must encourage as many ACA members as possible to join us; both GLBT folks, and our straight allies. In addition, I would like to see us do better outreach to our...
A Letter from the Editors

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Let us begin by apologizing to you, our members, for the delay in our summer issue. There were some technical difficulties faced in layout and graphics that slowed production. We then faced the need to have the AGLBIC laws included in this issue, and as such, not on you, our members. It meant revising the entire issue and reshaping its content so as to fit the by-laws in and give you a chance to vote on the revisions.

The by-laws of our association have been revised in order to align them with those of ACA. All members are invited to attend the first full day ACA sponsored diversity training on GLBT issues at the ACA Presidency as the first openly gay person to lead the organization in its 50-year history.

Youths should be sensitive to their parents’ feelings and needs. Youths have had years coming to terms with their own and thus should not necessarily expect parents to accept them within minutes after leaving about their sexuality. Youths should make this an act of faith in parents and should thus be respectful of them; this will improve chances for a positive outcome. This is an act of love, because youths want to be closer to their parents and share their life with them. It is not necessary to bring up disturbing topics during the first conversation (such as AIDS/HIV, other sexual conduct, violence) or to tell other relatives without consulting parents.


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Call for Papers

“Q” is the Journal of the Association of Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Issues in Counseling, a division of the American Counseling Association (ACA). The intent of this journal is to publish articles relevant to professionals who work with sexual minorities and that will be of interest to counselors, counselor educators, and other counseling related professionals that work across a diversity of fields, including in schools, mental health settings, family agency’s, and colleges and universities. This journal welcomes the submission of articles that reflect issues 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. For more specific descriptions and guidelines, please refer to the “Guidelines for Authors” page of the journal, accessible through the internet: www.aglbic.org/

Coming up in our Next issue...

Advice to Parents: How to Move Toward Acceptance...the 3rd and final excerpt from Dr. Savin-Williams’ book regarding advice to parents.

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. Since “Q” is an online journal, manuscripts should be sent as attachments via the e-mail address below, or on disk. All work should be done in Microsoft Word. Tables and figures should be used only when essential, and illustrations or graphs should be embedded in your manuscript at their appropriate place. If accepted for publication, final manuscripts should be publication ready when submitted. It is the author’s responsibility to secure permission to use any copyrighted materials within their manuscript.

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"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 areas: counselors, counselor educators, and other counseling related professionals that work with diverse fields of identity, 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 mfarley@antioch.edu. You may also mail the application to Ned at the follow-up address:

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

Websites on GLBT Issues:

AGLBIC News

The Governing Council meeting in New Orleans was the last that I attend as the AGLBIC representative. Those who know me well understand that sitting for two and a half days is not something I do easily. I have found these meetings to be interesting, sometimes overly tedious, and productive. There have been a few issues that came up over my three-year tenure that directly impacted sexual minorities, but most of the agenda dealt with things like finances, membership, by-laws, policy, and strategic planning. It had been my privilege to learn about ACA’s operations up close, and I am grateful for the opportunity this task has given me. At the same time, serving as governing council representative has not allowed me to attend our Board Meetings, and I have missed regular and up-close contact with the Board. I urge the Board to recognize the danger in losing touch with the GC rep and to find a way to reinstate the annual fall board meeting so this contact remains close and active. Over the past three years all of the controversy about having a division that focuses on sexual minorities has faded, and AGLBIC has come to seem as a valuable presence. This is largely due to the ground building work done by Rita Drapkin, our first GC rep. I know it will be continued as Colleen Logan follows as our new representative.

For me, July 1 brings to an end almost a decade of work in AGLBIC, and I want to use my last column as Governing Council representative to make some observations on what we’ve accomplished and urged us to address a specific challenge that lies ahead. Ten years ago ACA was urged to acknowledge the presence of gay men, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people as professional counselors. Personally, I do not think most of the membership was against us; I believe they feared the repercussions that might follow if our presence was affirmed by giving us membership status.

Those early years of transforming AGLBIC from a small and largely invisible organization into a division were exciting and challenging. Tom Eversole, Colleen Logan, and I worked closely together, aware that we were taking on a task that others had not been successful with,
Graduate Students Network: ELECTRONIC PEER SUPPORT

Written by David Marsteller and Joy S. Whitman

Gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender (glbt) and allied students with an interest in glbt issues in counseling will soon be able to benefit from the establishment of an electronic peer support network in the form of a listserv. This listserv will aim to promote networking, research and an espirit de corps among AGLBIC graduate student members.

Graduate students have thrived on having the support of peers to share the good times and weather the challenges of graduate school. Students can be an invaluable source of support for each other in all areas of academic endeavor, which is one of the reasons many academic programs admit students in cohorts that go through coursework together and the other processes of graduate study at the same time. Many of you know from your own personal experience as a graduate student that having peers from whom you could gain support for much of the joys and concerns of graduate student life has been invaluable.

Unfortunately, every glbt and allied student does not have access to support from other glbt and allied graduate students. Through AGLBIC, however, such a community for glbt and allied graduate students in counseling across the nation and beyond can be formed through a listserv exclusively for AGLBIC graduate students. Ideally students will have and maintain a forum and a peer group to work with through the AGLBIC web site through an e-list whose membership will be limited primarily to graduate students and prospective graduate students.

Such an e-community will provide students who wish to do research a new pool of folks to work with—who are at or near their own level so that they may learn together the joys of qualitative and quantitative research. If you are completing your master’s work and looking for a doctoral program, where better to find out what another program is like than from people who are in that program now? Also of concern, for glbt students in particular, is the climate of the community that a student might be considering—is the community outside the university welcoming or accepting of glbt people? Are there friendly coffee shops? Neighborhoods? Community centers? Bars? A fellow student can provide that information—and in that process quite possibly become one of the first members of the relocating student’s immediate, local support network—even before the student has applied for admission to the program! If you have a great program, what better way to share that information than where it will be most useful—with people who are looking for such a program.

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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 provide an understanding of gay, lesbian, and bisexual (GLB) issues in counseling through mentoring relationships between experienced AGLBIC members and other 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 the association.
- 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. 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
Melissa Lidderdale: GLBTtherapy@gal.com
Web Address: http://www.aglbic.org/CONFIDENTIALITY RESPECTED

AGLBIC’s Graduate Students How to Come Out to Parents

by Dr. Savin-Williams

Several writers and the youths’ narratives in the present study suggest possible issues that should be considered when deciding how best to come out to parents. Youths might want to:

- Work through their own fears and concerns before coming out to parents, perhaps with friends or a professional mental health provider.
- Plan ahead and put serious time and effort into preparing the coming-out event. It is probably best not to simply leave hints behind the house.
- Ask others for their coming-out script or write their own, but have something clearly in mind; select a quiet, safe, and private location, unless they expect a dangerous reaction, in which case they should choose a public place; exude certainty and calmness in their voice; and talk only when they have the parents’ full attention.
- Choose a nonethectic time when everyone is not tired. Holidays are usually a bad time because the congestion interferes with the time needed for parents to process the information; consider whether they will need time to escape the family and whether parents will need time to “cool off.”
- Test the waters by raising contemporary issues such as same-sex marriage, gay in the military, and antigay Boy Scout policies. If responses are generally positive, then this is a good sign. However, parents can react in a very different manner if it is their child who is gay.
- Have modest expectations, and give parents time to adjust.

Getting Involved: AGLBIC’s Graduate Students

by Joy Whitman

At the recent ACA Annual Conference, graduate students were active in several of the division’s activities including volunteering at the exhibition booth, attending the AGLBIC reception, and attending the AGLBIC brunch. Several graduate students interested in getting more involved and connected to AGLBIC’s work with division leadership to discuss interests and opportunities. The discussion was lively as more ideas and avenues for leadership emerged. As one of the co-chairs of the graduate student mentoring program, I was heartened to hear how wanting to be more involved in AGLBIC motivated many of these students to attend this meeting and to creatively find ways to have an impact in the division. Here is a summary of some of the ideas discussed:

1. Beginning a GLBT student counseling organization at various universities, Georgia State being one of them. Melissa Lidderdale discussed ideas she had about how to start such an organization, beginning with getting in touch with established student organizations such as Chi Sigma Iota.

2. Collaborating on research or presentations. There were a variety of clinical and research areas presented which could lead to collaboration among graduate students. One idea I presented to the group was to think about presenting at the next ACA conference about being a GLBT graduate student (ups and downs of it.

3. After all attending discussed their research and clinical interests, it was agreed that everyone would send a list of any literature references/citations as a vehicle to update AGLBIC’s resource list for professionals.

4. Mentoring was discussed. Some present gave an account of what their experiences were like as protégés.

5. An interest in compiling a list of programs across the country that offer GLBT courses or programs was discussed. This list could then be posted on AGLBIC’s website for prospective students to use.

6. One student offered that it would be very helpful if, for all upcoming ACA Annual conferences, both on the website and the newsletter, AGLBIC printed a list of GLBT friendly restaurants, bars, stores, etc. and whether or not they were situated in safe areas; AGLBIC happy hour times and meeting places so that new and old AGLBIC members could meet and greet; and some type of firsttimers tip sheet on “doing” the conference. All agreed that this would be very beneficial.

An informal student email list was created in order to help this group stay in touch and work on the ideas discussed. These ideas are still in development and in need of student involvement. If any of these activities are of interest to you, please contact me so that I can help you get involved. If you were unable to attend AGLBIC’s graduate student meeting but have some additional ideas you’d like to spearhead, please contact me as well. There are many opportunities for leadership in AGLBIC and we welcome student input and participation. My email address is boydwhit@21stcentury.net.

One more thing to inform you all about is that AGLBIC has scholarships for graduate students. The scholarships are for membership. So if you want to either become a member or renew, you can apply for one of these. Please contact Nick DiCarlo for that as he is the chair of membership. His email address is DiCarloNick@aol.com.

I am very excited about the possibilities for graduate students in AGLBIC. Please find a way to become more active. We welcome and need your energy and enthusiasm.
When I think back on my earliest recollections of being gay, I can recall how feeling different and my curiosity led me to secretly explore my attraction for members of my gender. During my formative years, I struggled to keep my LGBT attraction and curiosity tightly under wraps so my father, siblings, and peers couldn’t suspect anything different about me. It's this struggle to keep a secret that now influences my feelings of shame that shadowed my self and my sexual development.

I look back and see that I was searching for others that may have shared in these same feelings and could possibly help me figure out me. I wanted to know how they understood their feelings of shame that shadowed their lives and could possibly help me figure others that may have shared in these same feelings. It's this struggle to my father, siblings, and peers couldn't suspect my attraction and curiosity tightly under wraps so I once thought there was one way to be open about it with my family, colleagues, and other non-gay individuals. It certainly helped me develop a comfortable and open view of myself on some level, but did not advance my full acceptance and self-respect as much as I needed and wanted.

I’ve always marveled at those who seemed to be comfortable and open about their sexual orientation and who made the process seem so easy. I wondered if I was making it more difficult and convoluted than necessary. I have certainly grown more aware and appreciative of all the work that goes into being OUT, and I’ve been a facilitator of my comfort-level and openness about being gay. Along with the process I have chosen the knowledge and the identity I have encountered gay men and women in their exploration and living the experience, I now find myself being open, informing others I am gay when it is necessary and showing myself as a role model to others. (Editor note: This column will be a regular feature of our newsletter and we invite input and submissions of your own experiences with coming out. If you are interested or have ideas on how to reach the editors. We look forward to hearing from members and colleagues of AGLBIC)

Tales of Discovery: stories of "Coming-out"

Reflections on coming out…one man’s perspective.

by Edward A. Wierzels

My life and sexual identity at times got mixed with anxiety and self-doubt. “I” suppose much of it has to do with my generation, my upbringing, and my experiences. I struggled to keep my LGBT attraction and curiosity tightly under wraps so my father, siblings, and peers couldn’t suspect anything different about me. It's this struggle to keep a secret that now influences my feelings of shame that shadowed my self and my sexual development.

During my early twenties, as I emerged into independence, I began to wrestle with the question of "being out". My life and sexual identity at times got mixed with anxiety and self-doubt. “I” suppose much of it has to do with my generation, my upbringing, and my experiences.

In the media, I’ve encountered gay men who have come out in bars and other venues, led me to some painful and difficult experiences with coming out. If you are interested or have ideas on how to reach the editors. We look forward to hearing from you!

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ARTICLE V
BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF THE ASSOCIATION

SECTION 1. REVERSIBLE OR TRANSFERABLE INTEREST.
No member shall have any reversible or transferable interest in the property of AGLBIC.

SECTION 2. CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT.
AGLBIC shall be subject to the control and management of the Board. Any accumulation or disposal of real property, except upon dissolution of AGLBIC, must be approved in advance by the Board.

SECTION 3. DISPOSAL UPON DISSOLUTION.
On dissolution or final liquidation, the Board shall, after paying or making provision for all of the legitimate debts and liabilities of AGLBIC, distribute all the assets of the Association to the non-profit or non-commercial organizations described in section 501(c)(3) of such Code; and/or

a) an organization or organizations having a similar purpose as AGLBIC and which may be selected as an appropriate beneficiary in accordance with paragraphs (a) and (b) above; or

b) all persons serving as editors of the publications and other media of AGLBIC.

ARTICLE VI
OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

SECTION 1. OFFICERS AND TERMS OF OFFICE
The officers of AGLBIC shall be the President, the President-Elect, the Immediate Past President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Executive Director.

The President, the President-Elect, and the Immediate Past President shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Association, as described in section 170(c)(2) and 501(c)(3) of such Code; and/or

a) the members of the Board of Directors, as described in sections 170(c)(2) and 501(c)(3) of such Code; and/or

b) the Nominations for Awards and Elections Committee shall function primarily to address those questions of law, on the advice of independent legal counsel, that the Board member or officer or committee member might otherwise arise allowable as above-stated.

Every reference herein to a member of the Board of Directors, as described in Article VII, and each of its officers and committee members, as aforesaid, from and after any such action or proceeding, or any appeal therein, to which such an officer or member of AGLBIC might otherwise arise allowable as above-stated.

All such proposed amendments and revisions must be submitted in writing to the Bylaws Committee no later than twelve weeks prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board.

ARTICLE XII
ANNOUNCEMENTS OR NOTICE
The Board shall have the right to make or authorize the publication of its decisions, and any such publication shall be in writing and in such manner as the Board shall determine.

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