

A Message from the Chair

Gisela Vega, SCLGBTA Chair

Greetings to all our SCLGBTA members! I can't believe another ACPA Convention has come and gone. It's even harder to believe that this academic school year is almost over. Well, now that you've had an opportunity to return home and ponder your ACPA experience I'd like to challenge each of you to share your conference knowledge and experience with your campus and colleagues and get involved. By doing so you will be able to develop yourself further professionally and continue to reap the benefits of your Long Beach experience!

Here are some ideas on how to do this:

1. Network! Network! Network! Get out those business cards you collected from your new and old professional friends and give them a call. Keep in contact!
2. Share information about the programs, meetings and events you attended with other campus colleagues.
3. Make a difference in your community! Get involved with groups who work to improve the quality of life and education for the glbta individuals. Check out these organization: Gay, Lesbian Straight Educators Network <<http://www.glsen.org>>, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force <<http://www.nglft.org>>, PFLAG Parents and Friends of Lesbians & Gays <<http://www.pflag.org>>, NASPA's GLBT Knowledge Community at <<http://www.naspa.org/communities/kc/community.cfm?kcid=7>>, Project Yes <www.projectyes.org>, and of course the SCLGBTA <www.sclgbta.org>!
4. Educate your colleagues and students about AIDS. If you attended the wonderful

AIDS memorial this year then you understand the magnitude and urgency of this need. If you didn't, let me share with you some statistics that will help you understand the need for us to continue this education.



Adam Rockman, outgoing member of the SCLGBTA Directorate, and Gisela Vega, Chair of the SCLGBTA.

Myth:
AIDS isn't a problem for our students anymore.
I don't know anyone who has AIDS today.
The infection is under control.

Reality:
Young people are especially vulnerable to HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). They are also vulnerable as regards drug use (and not just injected drugs). Even if they are not engaging in risk behaviors today, they may soon be exposed to situations that put them at risk.
The group most infected is individuals under the age of 25. There are over 50 million

people living with AIDS in the world today. In many countries 60% of all new HIV infections are among 15-24 year-olds.

Also the highest rates of STDs are usually found in the age range 20-24 years, followed by 15-19 years.

As of the end of the June 2001, 793,026 AIDS cases in the USA had been reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Of these, 79% were men, 21% were women and 1% were children less than 13 years of age; 41% were in whites, 38% in blacks, 20% in Hispanics, <1% in Asians and Pacific Islanders, <1% in American Indians and Alaska Natives; If you would like more information check out the following site: <http://www.avert.org/>

5. Get involved with ACPA! Whether it's through SCLGBTA, another committee or commission, we need you!

I hope you all decide to take on this challenge. Remember, this as a great way to enhance your own professional development. I would like to thank the SCLGBTA directorate for all their hard work this year and welcome our new directorate members! Have a great summer!

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Long Beach: Great City Great Convention, Great Memories!

Welcome to the Beach!

Melissa Pon, Local Arrangements Coordinator

With a population of almost half a million people, Long Beach is the second largest of 114 municipalities that make up the Los Angeles metroplex. Long Beach attracts a widely diverse population. It is estimated that Long Beach numbers about 50,000 LGBT people, making it one of the largest LGBT communities in the state of California. The LGBT population is visible and proud in the Long Beach community. I truly hope that you experienced this sense of LGBT support in Long Beach during your participation in the ACPA Conference.

ACPA Conference attendees were welcomed to Long Beach with many LGBT publications of The Long Beach Blade, Lesbian News, and Frontiers available at the SCLGBTA Information Booth. In addition to the many wonderful publications, a list of LGBT friendly restaurants, coffee shops, dance clubs, bars, and spiritual opportunities were provided to show conference attendees that Long Beach is truly a city that is LGBT supportive. I hope you were able to relax, enjoy, and experience some of the friendly businesses supported and owned by the LGBT community.

Saturday night started out with the SCLGBTA's Dinner OUT on the Town! The dinner social was held at Mariposa Restaurant, a very festive Mexican Restaurant located on the restaurant row of Pine Ave. This was a VERY successful event with an attendance of 80 people! The menu consisted of savory dishes such as Enchiladas de Pollo,

Chimichanga Jalisco, and Burrito Guadalupe. YUM!

In addition to Pine Ave. restaurants, Shoreline Village provided an amazing assortment of more restaurants and shops overlooking the beautiful harbor.



John Fox and Melissa Pon at the first open meeting of the SCLGBTA during the Long Beach Conference.

Long Beach provided many opportunities to take in the sunshine, smell the ocean breeze, and walk along the sandy beaches. Sunday's opening Gala provided more opportunities to eat and celebrate on the historic Queen Mary.

On Monday, SCLGBTA hosted another successfully attended event, "The Beach" Social that followed the Carnival's theme, "Surf's Up!" This

event, like every year, attracted a large crowd of LGBT folk and allies to relax, socialize, dance, and reconnect with colleagues in a fun atmosphere!

Tuesday's Cabaret, was hosted by Hamburger Mary's, a perfect venue for the Cabaret that provide a fun LGBT atmosphere, lots of energetic music videos, and ten video screens throughout the restaurant that provided performance viewing for everyone. This site was conveniently located close to the convention and was another great opportunity to have fun and raise money for SCLGBTA's educational goals.

I hope you had a fun, memorable, and meaningful experience in Long Beach! ACPA needs to have more national conferences on the west coast! Come visit again! I'll be more than happy to be your California Tour Guide!

A special thanks to Melissa for a job well done and for making us all feel welcome in Long Beach!



Special Congratulations to
Convention Chair Vernon Wall & the entire Convention Planning Team
for a job well done!

The Talented Cast of the Café Pride Coffeehouse

Joseph Rios. Member at Large for Visibility and Recognition

The Cafe Pride Coffeehouse, during the ACPA convention, was well-received and well-attended. Close to 200 ACPA members attended our Monday night event, listening to our featured performer and ACPA talent.

The show kicked off with the hostess for the evening, Standing Committee directorate member Jessica Pettit, introducing each act. Jr. Member at Large Joseph Rios began the musical selections and led into the featured performer, Anne Engel. Anne Engel, a local Long Beach singer and songwriter, played a 45-minute set of original music. For those who enjoyed her show, you can find her at www.anneengel.com.

Four other ACPA members sang during the remaining coffeehouse performance, ranging from acoustic guitar to live piano accompaniment (and a roaring version of "Proud Mary"). A heartfelt thank you to our incredibly talented Standing Committee members, and to Jessica for hosting the fun event.

We encourage all of our committee members to perform during the upcoming Cafe Pride coffeehouse in Minneapolis! For more information about Café Pride 2003, contact Joseph Rios, jrios@ccmail.nevada.edu or Anika Summers at asummers@accmail.umd.edu.



Emcee and Lambda Mentor Program Coordinator Jessica Pettit gets the evening off to a stylish start at the Cafe Pride Coffeehouse.

SCLGBTA Top 15 Convention Memories

To bring a smile to the face of our final SCLGBTA Directorate meeting in Long Beach, Gisela Vega invited those in attendance to share some of their favorite memories of the convention. While some of the memories may not make sense to everyone, it is our hope that at least one of two of the entries will make you smile and remember your time in Long Beach (or make you sorry that you didn't attend!).

1. Lisa Evaneski bringing her mom going to Cabaret
2. Watching Vernon Wall at the opening ceremony - a preview of Coretta Scott Queen?
3. Watching everyone's hard work at events becomes a success!
4. Receiving wonderful support and encouragement from the directorate
5. Hearing SCLGBTA members thank us for all our hard work
6. Being with good friends in Long Beach
7. Increasing Coffeehouse attendance was phenomenal!



Coretta Scott Queen preaches to the choir at the cabaret.

8. Good Papa John's pizza ~yummy, yummy!
9. Fresh fruit
10. "Sorry. I'm not walking straight, I'm just tired."
11. Dinner Out On The Town at Mariposa!
12. Getting leis from Melissa Pon, our fabulous local arrangements host!
13. Seeing the passion, support, and enjoyment of non-SCLGBTA members!



Danielle Licitra enjoys a Krispy Kreme doughnut!

14. Psycho friendly Standing Committee! (First time ACPAER and I loved it thanks to this SC!)
15. Amazing AIDS memorial



Daniel Fictum, Pat Patterson and Daniel Klingler liven up the SCLGBTA table at the Convention Carnival.

Life Is a Cabaret

Mark R. Martell, Diversity Advocate

Every year, on one special night, men and women dress up in fabulous costumes and express their creative talents. No, it's not Halloween. I'm speaking about the SCLGBTA Cabaret fundraiser, where white-collar male professionals loosen their ties and slip into high heels and beautiful dresses and where professional women lose their femininity and gain masculine traits.

Although socially exciting, the Cabaret takes careful planning and teamwork. In conjunction to the Committee members' coordination, the drag performers also work hard for this special event.



Our Own Moulin Rouge: The Lay-D's of Long Beach: Cinnamon Flynn, Zorita Rojas, Porcelain Doll and Angel Falls.

Nowhere else have I had such a unique educational experience. In the last two years of my partaking in the Cabaret, I have learned fashion and make-up tips. Now I can understand and appreciate what women and female-identified individuals go through to look presentable. (Next time, think twice before rushing them.)

Along with the fun that goes on at the Cabaret, an invisible force impacts the audience. I remember at the Boston Cabaret after I had performed Gloria Gaynor's "I Am What I Am," an audience member approached me in tears. After seeing me in a black, evening gown and

a rainbow-colored shawl, she wanted to thank me for making her understand what it means to be proud and gay. The combination of the song's lyrics and the visibility of the pride flag made a difference in her life.

This past ACPA in Long Beach, I performed Deborah Cox's "Absolutely Not," which focused on societal expectations and stereotypes. After the performance, another audience member approached me and expressed her observation of my choices of songs. She noted that my songs communicated a positive message to the audience, and she thanked me for making an effort to reach out by the usage of music.

I guess Madonna was right: music does make the people come together. As for the Cabaret, it brings women, men, drag queens, drag kings, allies—the whole community together. People volunteer their time to provide a social event for



The cast of the cabaret takes the stage for a round of applause. This event helps raise funds for the activities of the Standing Committee. Thanks to all who attended for their support!

people who are not usually catered to, and people share their artistic and musical talents to entertain, to make people smile, and to make a difference.

The non-stop effort of the Standing Committee and the support of others will continue to make that difference. But this success can only occur with hard work of blood, sweat, and tears combined. Yes, this event can truly be a drag, but Liza said it best: "Life is a Cabaret."

Congratulations to Our New Directorate Members

The following SCLGBTA members were elected to the directorate at the 2002 Convention in Long Beach:

Daniel Ostick, *Secretary*

Rob Igoo, *Member at Large for Advocacy*

Michael Roggow, *Member at Large for Health and Wellness*

Julie Wood, *Member at Large for Membership and Development*

Anika Summers, *Member at Large for Visibility and Recognition*

Danielle Licitra, *Incoming Program Chair*

Christopher O'Connor, *Newsletter Co-Editor*

Randy McMullin, *Development Coordinator*

Mary Clare Fahey and Bridget Blanshan, *Wellness Coordinators*

Andrea Conner, *Local Arrangements Coordinator*

Lisa Evaneski, *Women's Coordinator*

Melissa Pon, *Outreach Coordinator*

Debra Griffin, *Intern*

A Review of Conference Programs

Daniel Fictum, Program Chair

The Standing Committee was once again successful in providing conference goers with quality programs and workshops to learn about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues. In doing so we were able to increase our colleagues awareness of the issues that face LGBT students and staff. We were also successful in affording professional development opportunities for members of the standing committee.

The sponsored programs offered this year included GLBT is *Not a New Sandwich at McDonalds!* presented by Douglas G. Cureton of CreativiTEAM, Inc focusing on inclusionary training practices dealing with GLBT and ally issues. Past standing committee chair Jo Campbell of the University of Illinois—Chicago presented *Housing Transgender Students: Practicing Inclusion* about policy and other

relevant issues for Transgender students in our residence halls. Another standing committee veteran, John Mueller of Indian University of Pennsylvania presented *In Pursuit of Understanding: A Model of Heterosexual Consciousness Formation* that discussed a model of heterosexual conscience and it's impact on LGBT students. *What Matters?: Race, Gender, and Sexual Orientation* was presented by R. J. Holmes of Washington University in Saint Louis. This program addressed the relationship between race and gender in adult gay and lesbian identity development.

The standing committee co-sponsored two additional programs with other ACPA committees. Targeting LGBT students in the admissions process was discussed by Bradley Blankenship and Mindy Michels of American University in *Pulling*

Admissions Out of the Closet: LGBT Prospective Student Programs. This program was co-sponsored with Commission II-Admissions, Orientation and First Year Programs. *Manhood on the Margins: Men Talk about Sexual Orientation* was co-sponsored with the Standing Committee on Men. Jason Laker, Brian Shimamoto and Matt Helm, all of the University of Arizona, facilitated this session.

This year the standing committee also had the unique opportunity to work with representatives from the American College Health Association. Together the committee sponsored the pre-conference workshop *Creating Safe Zone Programs*. Robert Ward coordinated the workshop through the efforts of Daniel Fictum.

2002 Awards Presented by the SCLGBTA

Danielle Licitra, Member at Large for Visibility and Recognition

Each year, ACPA's Standing Committee for Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Awareness provides awards of recognition to student affairs professionals and others who have shown a commitment to service, education, support, and/or research in relation to LGBT issues on our college campuses and in our organization. This year's winners are as follows:

Outstanding Service

Presented to Jo Campbell of the University of Illinois at Chicago for significant contributions to the Standing Committee for Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Awareness through support and efforts for LGBT awareness in ACPA

Public Service

Presented to Ashley Watson of Stephen F. Austin State University for significant contributions to higher education and to her institution or other institutions around the country through her support and efforts of LGBT awareness

Research Recognition

Presented to Kimberly Balsom of the University of Vermont in recognition of completed or on-going research for LGBT issues

And our newest award:

Excellence in LGBT Student Programming

Presented to the Rainbow Alliance of Southeast Missouri State University for their National Coming Out Week Series which included a workshop on religious perspectives, an LGBTA student/community panel, and a drag show



Outstanding Service Award Recipient and Immediate Past Chair of the SCLGBTA, Jo Campbell with the plaque for her award.

**Watch for information
about award nomination
deadlines for the
2003 convention...**

**Check out the web site at
www.sclgta.org**

Committees: Another Way to Get Involved

In addition to new officers, a series of new committees were created to help the SCLGBTA function more effectively. Here is a list of the committees and some of their members. If you are looking for a way to get involved with the SCLGBTA, consider joining one of the committees.

Lambda Mentor Program

Jessica Petitt, Chair
Chris Pereira, Michigan State University
Mark Mason, University of Maryland
David Kessler

Conference Programs

Daniel Fictum, Chair
Danielle Licitra Incoming Chair
Ryan Kasmier
Bob Coffey, University of New Hampshire
Peter Adamson, New York University
Sean Robinson
Lee Mintz

Local Arrangements

(for ACPA 2003 in Minneapolis)
Andrea Conner, Chair
Rob Anderson, Viterbo University
T. Todd Masman, College of Saint
Benedict Saint John's University

Visibility and Recognition

Joseph Rios and Anika Summers,
Members at Large
Ted Smith,
Drew Tinnin, University of Toledo
Stephen Spores, Sarah Lawrence
College

Health and Wellness

Stacey Shears and Michael Roggow,
Members at Large
Amanda Gilker, University of Arkansas

Newsletter

Pat Patterson and Christopher O'Connor,
Co-Editors
Kathi Kramer, Occidental College

If you are interested in joining any of the committees, please contact the members at large/chair for each committee. Contact information can be found on the website at <www.sclgbta.org>.

Out On Campus is the newsletter of the Standing Committee for Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Awareness of the American College Personnel Association.

It is published on-line three times per year (late spring, early fall and winter) at <www.sclgbta.org>.

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Member Spotlight: Julie Wood

In each issue of "Out On Campus", we will feature one member of the Standing Committee who you, as members of the SCLGBTA, have elected to serve on the directorate. For this issue, we focus the spotlight on Julie Wood, the newly-elected Junior Member at Large (MAL) for Membership and Development.

Julie is ending her first year as a Complex Coordinator at the University of Vermont, after working for three years at Drew University as a Resident Director. She earned her BA in English and Political Science at Dickinson College in PA in 1998, and her Master of Divinity at Drew Theological School in NJ in 2001.

She is enjoying her first year out of school by hanging out with her partner, Abby and black lab puppy, Gus. She really enjoys cooking and running in her free time, and will be participating in the Northeast AIDS ride as a crew member for the third time this summer.

What We're Reading: A Book Review

Michael Roggow, Member at Large for Health and Wellness

There has been much ado about *Noon-day Demon: An Atlas of Depression*, Andrew Solomon's newest book (Simon & Schuster, 2001), which recently appeared on the New York Times bestseller list and was reviewed by Out Magazine. Solomon writes of his personal account in experiencing life-threatening struggles with major depression, starting with its acute beginnings in college and evolving into uncontrollable daily struggles in his late twenties and thirties. The account of his 15-year struggle with depressive incidents ranged from mild symptoms and crying fits to panic disorder and suicide attempts provides a distressing yet realistic portrait of the disorder's downward-spiraling effects. Solomon's discussions are honest and frank. We are introduced to his charm and youthfulness, acquainted with his loving family backdrop, and witness to his plummet into unspeakable pain and loss of functioning. He makes us privy to his breakdowns, suicide attempts, and recovery, as he makes his way back to living after isolation and near-death from the disease.

Solomon discusses his own sexuality by

talking loosely about his painful breakups with women and about his innocuous relationships with gay men. To this end, he discloses his homosexuality in the context of engaging in unsafe, suicidal sexual practices in hopes of contracting HIV to re-establish equilibrium with his depression. He elaborates on his own coming out and the role this played in diffusing his depression. Solomon uses a variety of arguments to illustrate homophobia's and xenophobia's significant role in exacerbating depression among closeted gays and lesbians.

In summary, *Noon Day Demon* is a curious read that brings to life one man's struggle with major depression and examines depression from both a social and medical perspective. Solomon's reports mirror findings of major medical researchers about the biological and social effects of major depression, its prolonged and cyclical effects on our bodies, and the short and long-term possible implications of using antidepressants. This real-life account is an excellent work, providing and will give anyone suffering from this disease comfort as they read one man's perspective.

Road Signs: The Toward Acceptance Roadshow

R. Derrick Thomas, "Toward Acceptance" Roadshow Liaison

As the ACPA Toward Acceptance Roadshow Liaison for the SCLGBTA this past year, it was my duty to help get the Roadshow organized and represent the Standing Committee's interests at the organizational meeting. Hopefully, I can shed some light on the new workshop available from ACPA. I also hope to encourage all readers to think critically about their institution in regard to addressing LGBT issues and how the Roadshow might be able to help bring the campus community a step closer to effectively dealing with the issues. Readers of this article and participants in the Roadshow workshops will hopefully re-examine these issues in light of these new times on campus and in the nation.

The organizational meeting held April 2001 – brought together representatives from the ACPA national office, the Core Council for Outreach and Advocacy, the State and International Divisions, the previous Roadshow (Beyond Tolerance... The Roadshow), the Standing Committee for LGBTA, and organizing editor of the two texts that serve as the foundation for the workshops. The committee brainstormed ways that this Roadshow would be different from the first workshop sessions, how to get the word out about its availability and addressed the content to make sure the material and curriculum was a true reflection of the new research on LGBT issues and experiences of entering college students and Student Personnel professionals.

The Toward Acceptance Roadshow is... the second workshop being offered by ACPA through the Core Council for Outreach and Advocacy based on the comprehensive second work from Nancy J. Evans, (ACPA President) and Vernon A. Wall (Convention Chair for the Long Beach Convention). It specifically targets LGBT issues on campus and in student affairs and is a direct outgrowth of the Nancy Evans, Vernon Wall book, *Toward Acceptance: Sexual Orientation Issues on Campus*. The book serves as the curriculum foundation and training source for, and exploration of these complex issues as they affect college students and the University community.

In January, Karen Paulsell from Michigan

State University was selected to serve as Coordinator for the Toward Acceptance Roadshow. Karen has worked with LGBT issues for about 10 years and makes a welcome addition to the group working on the Roadshow. Karen will work with the facilitators to schedule the workshops, gather the feedback from each session and coordinate the daily operations. Karen is very excited to see the Roadshow happen across the country and to see LGBT issues getting more attention for the benefit of all students. In order to bring the Roadshow Workshop to your area, just contact Donna M. Bourassa, Ed.D. at the ACPA National Office or email: dmb@acpa.nche.edu

In March, ACPA held the first Train the Trainers workshop at the annual convention in Long Beach. Almost 20 individuals signed up to join previous trainers. This means there are approximately 40 amazingly talented student affairs professionals who've committed their time and talents to leading workshops and training sessions on LGBT issues around the country. The group represents every skill level and brings a diversity of experience to the facilitator group.

What does this mean for you? It means that when your campus, region or state division would like to address these issues at a meeting, conference or drive-in workshop there is likely to be someone in your area who can work with you or serve as a facilitator for the Toward Acceptance Roadshow. It also means that ACPA is committed to moving the dialogue on LGBT issues from beyond tolerance and toward acceptance on all campuses and provides resources to facilitate those conversations and developments.

The Toward Acceptance Roadshow is different from the Beyond Tolerance Roadshow in that it challenges all to move beyond these first steps of awareness and move towards higher levels of understanding. This Roadshow deals with Transgender issues. As we face the important issues of inclusion and education about the transgender population, it offers participants a chance to engage in dialogue, to improve their own skills in this area, and to relate and share ideas with other colleagues on

effective strategies to move campus administrations, departments, and policies to increased levels of inclusion. The workshop also provides a framework to accomplish these tasks and challenges participants to take the workshop experience and create an action plan for their institution. Participants will think critically about how to apply strategies and important considerations learned from the Beyond Tolerance Roadshow and the experiences of other campuses.

I hope this article can transition into a regular feature for Out on Campus. The Road Signs section can be a reflection of the experiences of the trainers and the trends they encounter as they move from one Roadshow stop to another... Literally bringing us all the signs from the "Road". I don't think this could have happened at a more appropriate time. We have the book(s), we have the events of September 11 and how the country has moved to increased levels of patriotism and calls for "one America"; we have issues of insecurity as all try to understand what the attack on America means for LGBT individuals... and we have hope. Courageously and intentionally, the Toward Acceptance Roadshow will help address the increasing violence against young people across the country, will spark creative learning and understanding on campuses, and will counteract the new strategies by anti-gay groups to link sexual diversity to negative and divisive themes. Hopefully, the "road signs" will all point towards an increased acceptance, and even pinpoint places for celebration for college student personnel. The "road signs" may tell us that the future is indeed bright and that understanding with administrators, education with students, stories of individual growth and the development of inclusive institutional policies continue... one stop at a time.

See you in
Minneapolis for
ACPA 2003...