

# Out On Campus

The Newsletter of the



## Fall 2002 Issue

### Two Great Candidates for SCLGBTA Chair

**John Fox, Senior Member At Large for Membership & Development**

The SCLGBTA is proud to announce two candidates have been selected to run for the next term as Chair.

Special thanks to the Chair Candidate Selection Committee comprised of Gisela Vega (current Chair), Melissa Pon (Outreach Coordinator), Pat Patterson (Co-Newsletter Editor), and John Fox (Sr. MAL, Membership & Development).

Our candidates are:

**Keith Humphrey,**  
University of Arizona

**Jared Tuberty,**  
Northwestern University

Both Keith & Jared bring a wealth of experience and leadership with the Standing Committee to their candidacy.

Keith currently serves as the Director of Orientation/Assistant Director of Admissions. Keith has served on the SCLGBTA as Outreach Coordinator and Member at Large for Membership & Development. He also is the past recipient of the Standing Committee's Outstanding New Professional Award. Keith is currently a director member on the ACPA Core Council on Member Services and Interests.

His goals for the SCLGBTA include:

- Increase the level of advocacy and resources to all professionals outside the convention
- Focus on services that we are providing to our students

- Listening closely to the members to define the future of the SCLGBTA

Jared currently serves as the Coordinator of Student Involvement in the College of Engineering. He has served on the SCLGBTA as the Wellness Coordinator and the Internet Resources Coordinator.

His goals include:

- Increase in information resources
- Advance on-line resources and communication
- Increase involvement of the Standing Committee Membership
- Creating more opportunities for year-round involvement
- Increase membership
- Using the SCLGBTA as a marketing tool for ACPA general recruitment
- Focus on the professional development aspects of Directorate Body participation
- Align initiatives with goals of supporting LGBT students, faculty, and staff & make them accessible to all constituents
- Collaborate and support beyond the SCLGBTA within ACPA and the profession

Both candidates represent strong roots in the SCLGBTA and we are very fortunate to have them interested in leading our Standing Committee. Please encourage both of them and help us achieve our future goals by voting in the election this fall.

Good Luck Jared & Keith!

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

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# A Message from the Chair

Gisela Vega, SCLGBTA Chair

Greetings to all SCLGBTA members!

It's hard to believe that another year is upon us. Much has happened in the SCLGBTA this summer. Our MYM was held in June. The committee met in Boston to plan and prepare for this up coming year. Thank you to Danielle Licitra from Mass. Art and Curtis Hoover from Suffolk for being our gracious hostess and host.

Another shout-out goes to John "Fox" and his nomination committee for providing two wonderful candidates. Our candidates this year are Keith Humphreys and Jared Tuberty. Both candidates have a long history with our committee and I'm sure either candidate would do an outstanding job. Best of luck to Jared and Keith!

At the ACPA Leadership meeting in July much information was provided about the future of ACPA. This is an exciting time for ACPA with many changes on the horizon. We are currently seeking a new editor for the Journal of College Student Development and About Campus. These are

two fabulous publications the association prints that many of you I'm sure are familiar with. Another major change is that our Executive Director, Carmen Nueberger, will be retiring this year. A search committee has been convened to start the recruitment and selection process.

Plans for the spring convention are well on the way. Minneapolis will be an exciting place for us to visit! We have identified a possible sight for the cabaret. It's hard to believe this will be the 5th Anniversary of the Cabaret! If you are planning to attend ACPA remember to register early and submit programs.

Please remember to re-affiliate with the association and check off the SCLGBTA box. By checking off the SCLGBTA committee we will keep you up dated and informed of all committee happenings. Best wishes to all as we embark on a new academic year!

## Nominations For SCLGBTA Awards

Joseph Rios, Sr. Member At Large for Visibility & Recognition

As the new academic year rolls around, we know that our colleagues will do incredible work on their campuses related to LGBT issues. The Standing Committee wants to recognize them (and you) for the hard work we all do on our campuses, and within the Association, educating our colleagues about LGBT issues.

So, as you talk to your colleagues, who are ACPA members, about the work they are doing, keep in mind that our Standing Committee wants to recognize them! We recognize outstanding efforts of New Professionals, the Val DuMontier Award for New Professionals; Outstanding Service to ACPA; Outstanding Public Service for our campus communities; and Outstanding Efforts for Research in LGBT Issues. You can nominate your ACPA colleagues, or encourage them to self-nominate.

We have also added a new award for Outstanding Student LGBT Programming, to recognize the efforts of the students who also add to campus awareness around LGBT awareness. The student award recipients will also receive a \$500 grant to continue their programming efforts on their campus – we encourage all of our Standing Committee members to encourage their students to submit nominations for their fantastic work. Nominations are due before the upcoming convention, and all awards are presented during the ACPA Convention.

You can find more information about our awards, both professional and student awards, on our SCLGBTA website, or by emailing Joseph Rios, Member at Large for Visibility and Recognition, at [jrios@ccmail.nevada.edu](mailto:jrios@ccmail.nevada.edu).

## Volunteer Opportunities

Interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities that the SCLGBTA has to offer?

Please contact  
**Melissa Pon**  
Outreach Coordinator  
[peacepon@yahoo.com](mailto:peacepon@yahoo.com)

You will learn about ways to volunteer during the year and most importantly, volunteer opportunities at the upcoming conference in Minneapolis! Volunteers are greatly appreciated and add to the success of our conference events and efforts.

## How Can You Help?

Mark you calendars for  
**March 29 – April 2**  
in  
**Minneapolis**  
for the  
**2003 ACPA Convention**

**Educating Students:  
One Purpose,  
10,000 Approaches**

# Directorate Spotlight: Intern Debra Griffith

*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. In this issue, Debra Griffith, who is serving as the SCLGBTA Intern, provides us with her reflections.*

Washington DC 2000 was the first ACPA conference that I attended. I did not know anyone except for the people from my institution that were attending the conference with me. There were many people in attendance that year and in my eyes everyone seemed to know each other. I went to sessions and was impressed by the ones I attended but wished I felt more connected to the people that were around me. Sure I tried to strike up conversations but I did not really feel like I was connecting to anyone.

That year I also attended my first AIDS memorial. I was so touched by the stories and the songs I heard and impressed by the entire production. I left ACPA that year liking it but at the same time feeling a little sad that I felt like I didn't belong like the other people around me did. I wanted to be involved and feel like I was real member but I did not know how to accomplish that goal.

Fast forward to ACPA Long Beach California 2002 so much has changed. I've been in the field for three years. I know more people in the profession now. I anticipated having a lot a fun at the conference this year. I thought I would go to some sessions, meet a couple of new people and leave inspired, rejuvenated and ready to go back to work with a refreshed prospective.

Well my thoughts were slightly different than my reality. It was Sunday March 18, 2002 the conference really hadn't begun yet but they had pre-sessions and different meetings going on. That afternoon I ran into one of my colleagues/friends from work and he told me that he was going to a session and that I had to come with him. So off we went and of course we were late and the room was packed. The meeting was the SCLGBTA open meeting and we thought we just sneak in and sit in the back but that would not be the case because we were invited in and made to feel very welcomed. At the end of the meeting my friend decided to run for the standing committee so I nominated him for his desired position. I wondered for myself how could I get involved but honestly I did not know how I could contribute so I left just hoping that he would win.

The elections were held the next day and by time I got there he had won! While I was waiting for the newly appointed member of the standing committee I began talking with one of the members and I asked if there were any positions that no one usually goes for or if there were any other ways that I could be involved. She told me about the appointed positions and so I proceed to fill out the ballot and check my name off for a couple of positions. I actually didn't believe I would get anything because I really haven't had any experience but I still wanted to be involved in some capacity well any capacity My friend and I went to almost every SCLGBTA event and had so much fun but I have to say the best thing about the committee are the people in it. They were amazing. They were so welcoming, friendly, inviting and just non-clique which is something I really appreciated.

We went to drag show - which was my first and I loved it and can't wait until next year. The chair announced her new committee members that night and to my surprise and delight I was picked for the intern position. When she called my name I kept saying did she just say Debra Griffith. I was honored and still am and I cannot wait to work with this amazing group of people and be associated with the SGLBTA.

ACPA 2002 has forever changed me because I'm beginning to feel like I'm part of ACPA and not just a member!

## Committees: Another Way to Get Involved

Committees have been 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>.

# Looking For A Few Good State Liaisons

Bob Coffey, State Liaison Coordinator

Greetings from the University of New Hampshire! I'm the newly minted State Liaisons Coordinator for the SCLGBTQA. Through this position, I have the privilege of working with one of the most dynamic and diverse communities within student affairs.

Our members work at small colleges in pastoral rural communities, and at large urban institutions in some of our nation's most dynamic cities. Our advocacy and support of LGBTQ people sometimes happens within the context of open and visible support and affirmation; on other campuses, we work quietly, behind the scenes, and sometimes in delightfully creative (and subversive) ways! We advocate for a myriad of issues: recognition of same-gender relationships through domestic partnership benefits, inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity in our non-discrimination ordinances; responding to incidents of hate or intolerance; supporting LGBTQ students' right to organize and receive official recognition; ensuring our institutions are open and accessible to transgender persons; supporting initiatives that promote equity

and diversity.

We are the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and allied community within student affairs! Our history as change agents within the communities we serve is storied and impressive. Each of us stands on the shoulders of those who came before us.

Our committee works best when we are in touch with our highly diverse membership: when our work is informed by the critical issues our LGBTQA colleagues are facing at work and in their communities; when they in turn are familiar with the advocacy, support and services the SCLGBTQA provides. The State Liaisons program has the potential to be an effective and powerful way for the voices of our community to be heard in shaping the Committee's work.

We're currently in the process of rebuilding our corps of State Liaisons members. I'm on the lookout for movers and shakers in every state! State Liaisons act as critical communication links between the

Standing Committee for LGBT Issues and the LGBT student affairs community in their state. In states where active State or International Divisions exist, State Liaisons represent the SCLGBTQA at divisional conferences and meetings. They are knowledgeable about the role the SCLGBTQA plays within ACPA and can share that with colleagues.

State Liaisons also cultivate a network of colleagues at other institutions in their state. These contacts serve as additional points of contact between the State Liaison and the LGBT student affairs community in their state. State Liaisons keep in regular contact with their network of colleagues, and pass news and other critical information along to the State Liaison Coordinator (me!).

The SCLGBTQA itself has an impressive history as an agent for change within ACPA. Through their efforts, State Liaisons contribute to that tradition in their leadership through service. If you're interested in joining this intrepid corps of volunteers, please contact me via phone [603.862.4528] or via email [bob.coffey@unh.edu]. We can't do it without you!

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## The Missing Spoke on the Wellness Wheel: Spirituality & the LGBT Community

Mary Clare Fahey & Bridget Blanshan, Wellness Coordinators

Many of us have given eloquent speeches and had conversations challenging our students to make wellness a priority, but how many of us reflect that mirror back on ourselves? As we all know, there are many models of wellness and healthy living. We often talk about eating more healthily, the benefits of sleeping regularly — admittedly a fleeting thought for people in graduate school, and attempting to create balance between our work and our personal lives. But often in our conversations with students and colleagues the topic of spirituality is absent, particularly within the LGBT community.

Spirituality takes many shapes and forms. There is no one correct way to incorporate spirituality into one's life. It is not our intention to imply spirituality requires religious practice or the following

of a tradition. However, given the history of the real and perceived walls raised by many religions with regard to the diversity of sexual orientations, we decided to address the option of spirituality as it relates to religion for anyone who might choose to develop their spiritual selves in a faith community.

In our research we have found that many religions not only tolerate members who are LGBT, but embrace and celebrate members who are not heterosexual. The first major religious denomination to sanction same-sex unions was Reform Judaism. Since that time many other organized religions have taken active steps to ensure that the general public knows that they are accepting of sexuality diversity among their membership. There is, however, a broad spec-

trum of religion in the world today. One resource a person could use in deciding if a particular religion fits with his or her personal beliefs is the website at [http://www.religioustolerance.org/hom\\_chur1.htm](http://www.religioustolerance.org/hom_chur1.htm) provided by Ontario Consultants on Religious Tolerance. Another recommendation would be to check-in with the Office of Campus Ministries at the largest public college or university near you. These offices are generally tolerant at a minimum and often go far beyond that. If the campus is large enough you should be able to find there referrals to several on and off campus congregations who would be welcoming and affirming of LGBT people.

Whether by joining a faith community, gathering friends and colleagues for a conversation about life's purposes or by scheduling some unstructured solitude, this might be a time when you consider your spiritual wellness. As we so often encourage our student leaders, there is no time like the present to focus on wellness.

# Where Are They Now?

## A Quick Update From Past Directorate Member Jonathan Poullard

As part of each issue of the ACPA SCLGBTA "Out On Campus" newsletter, we are going to feature a past directorate member with a brief update about what they have been doing since leaving the directorate. We hope this will keep former directorate members connected to the SCLGBTA and keep the current membership informed about the contributions of people like Jonathan Poullard of Cal State San Marcos.

### 1) What position(s) have you held on the SCLGBTA directorate?

*I was a Member-At-Large for two years, Coordinator of the Domestic Partners Project (which I helped to create with John Leppo and Amy Reynolds, Past Chair), the Lambda Mentor Coordinator and the Chair from 1997-99.*

### 2) Tell us about your favorite memory from your time on the directorate.

*I have two! The first was when we added the "T" to our name at the St. Louis Convention in 1998, and the other was developing the coffeehouse and cabaret which of course have become huge favorites of many convention-goers.*

### 3) What have you been doing since you left the directorate?

*I served as Past Chair from 1999-2000, served as the Marketing Coordinator for the 2000 Convention in DC, served as a member of the Critical Issues Task Force called by Jill Carnaghi in 2001 and served as the Director of the Core Council for Member Services and Interests from 2000-2002.*

### 4) Tell us about your current professional position.

*I have recently been named the Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students at Cal State San Marcos. In this capacity, I serve as a generalist in the Division of Student Affairs and am instrumental in guiding collaborative efforts to enroll, retain and support a diverse student body, promote academic and personal development and provide direction for enriching the quality of student life. I directly supervise the Office of the Dean of Students, the Career and Assessment Center, the Office of Student and Residential Life, Equal Opportunity Programs, Gear Up, Upward Bound and K-6 Student Outreach.*

### 5) What makes you laugh?

*I try to laugh out loud each day, it's good for the soul, and it really doesn't matter how. Friends; a good game of Scattergories; my godson, Che; my nieces Ashley, Courtney and Simone; and of course making fun of people and myself!*



*Jonathan relaxing in his office at Cal State San Marcos where he is the Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students. Jonathan has several ACPA SCLGBTA members on his staff*

## Focus On: Trans Health

**Trans-Health** is the online magazine of health and fitness for transsexual and transgender people.

In their Summer 2002 issue ("The Underground Issue"), they have several articles that explore alternatives to mainstream medical transition and general health for trans people, as well as a comprehensive look at gray and black market access to prescription hormones.

This issue also introduces a new columnist, Shahn D. Dickson, who'll be covering intersections of trans identity and dis/ability.

Articles in this issue include:

Biking for a Cure

Gay Games Down Under

HRT Self-Medication

Don't Be Silly!

What We (Don't) Know About

Estrogens

Training for Visual Mass Part 4

Diet Update!

E-scriptions

Driving Spikes Through Your Dick

Reiki for Trans People

You're Next

As the Standing Committee continues to address the needs of ALL members of our community, we encourage you to check out the Trans Health web site at <http://www.trans-health.com>.

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

**Check out the web site at  
[www.sclgbta.org](http://www.sclgbta.org)**

# Building Virtual Communities One Cyberhug at a Time

Stuart Brown, President of StudentAffairs.com

Virtual communities have been seen as the Holy Grail of the Internet ever since the Web's popularity exploded among the denizens of cyberspace in the early 1990s. Have we located this Holy Grail or does it exist somewhere beyond our grasp? Magrid Igbaria, a Professor of Information Science at Claremont Graduate University, defines virtual community "as a term commonly used to describe various forms of computer-mediated communication, particularly long-term, textually mediated conversations among large groups (p. 68)." The most common methods of information transference are through computer bulletin boards, chat rooms and discussion lists.

These online watering holes have been written and spoken about in hushed, reverent tones as predictions of a mass migration of Internet users flocking to these virtual villages was projected. Along with these forecasts came warnings of gloom and doom. Gary Pavela wrote in 1994: "Much attention is being paid to the novelty of creating cyberspace communities on the Internet. There is a danger, however, that these efforts will divert energy from the equally important task of building the kind of friendships that make local communities work (p. 412)." William Simpson, speaking in 1993 about the challenges for the future of higher education, emphasized that "interrelationships with fellow students and staff and identification with a campus and its heritage (p. 88)" are necessary attributes that a decentralized interactive relationship with a computer cannot be an adequate substitute for. Indeed, as Larry Moneta wrote in 1997, "twenty-first century campus centers will face an even more challenging task to offer social gathering opportunities that compete with the abundance of solitary electronic entertainment options (p. 9)."

Fast forward a few years (a quantum leap when measured in Internet time) and the landscape has changed somewhat, or at least slightly altered as the murky, uncharted waters surrounding virtual communities has become less cloudy. No longer are they seen as an unholy force threatening

our very existence. In fact, some of the online neighborhoods have thrived. One of the more notable success stories has been craigslist.org, a Web site featuring countless numbers of classified ads that encompass such topics as community bulletin boards, all types of housing information (rentals, roommates, shares), a jobs area, local events listings, and much more. Founded in 1997, the site registers millions of page views a month by tens of thousands of browsers.

More recently, the 2001 UCLA Internet Report, "Surveying the Digital Future," on the impact of the Internet on users and non-users shows that time spent on virtual community-type activities has little or no effect on face-to-face relationships or socialization in the real world. Going online either has no influence on the amount of time spent with household members, or positively influences household time together, the results disclose. Internet users spend more time than non-users socializing with family members, and almost as much time socializing with friends. Is it safe, then, to venture into the online world without fear and retribution from loved ones? Can we once and for all put aside the cautionary warnings of the past? Not quite yet.

In a forthcoming book, "The Internet in Everyday Life," Stanford Professor Norman Nie reiterates his findings from his February 2000 report, "The Study of the Social Consequences of the Internet." These findings paint a slightly different picture of the online world. Some quotes from Dr. Nie, director of the Stanford Institute for the Quantitative Study of Society and principal investigator of the study:

"The Internet could be the ultimate isolating technology that further reduces our participation in communities even more than television did before it. The more hours people use the Internet, the less time they spend with real human beings."

And my favorite: "E-mail is a way to stay in touch, but you can't share a coffee or a beer with somebody on e-mail or give them

a hug."

Clearly, the jury is still out on the effects cyberspace communities play in our society. So where do we go from here? As I preach to my children, and myself, moderation is always the best medicine whether it's chocolate or online activities. Delving into the virtual world should not be viewed as going over to the Dark side, nor a panacea to the pain, heartache, or frustrations caused by interactions with our fellow human beings. Spending time chatting with friends or Internet acquaintances is healthy and natural in today's world. Logging hours online, while not a substitute for face-to-face interactions, can produce some of the same benefits as other humanistic activities. Overindulging, becoming lost in space and time, has consequences. But as long as we are aware of the potential pitfalls of involving ourselves with virtual communities then our participation should be celebrated, not disdained.

## References

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*Stuart Brown is the President of StudentAffairs.com which includes hundreds of resources for student affairs administrators, including online professional development courses and the most accessed job site on the Internet. Please send your comments or other feedback about this article to stuart@studentaffairs.com.*

# Past Life Reflections

Mark R. Martell, Diversity Advocate

Okay, I'm no Shirley McClaine, but I can attest to a past-life experience. At the Boston Mid-Year Meeting, one topic of conversation focused on GLBT spirituality, which made me re-evaluate my reason of being.

That's brings me to my past-life regression experience. I was a long, raven-haired woman with pale skin and olive eyes. Secluded in a room in a cobbled-stone tower, I sensed that I was being held against my will. I remember looking out a window and having a strong yearning to be outside, but I know I was forbidden by the armored guard. I also remember lacking a identifiable relationship with the crucifix I wore. When I was asked to go to my death, I remember running away from the armored man, and then, I was lying with bloody lips and a wound to my stomach area.

Then a figure stepped-out of a door silhouetted by blaring lights from an unseen room on the other side. This silver-bearded man in robe-like apparel introduced himself as my father. Although I couldn't recognize him, there was something familiar about him. As he led me through the bright door, the past life regressor instructed me to move on to my next life.

I found myself in my present life as an infant. My mother held me in her arms while my father stood beside her hospital bed. Then I was shown glimpses of my childhood—from kindergarten, to middle school and high school, and all the way to adulthood. My spiritual guide, the bearded man, even showed me a preview of the future—I stood at a podium in front of hundreds of people. I sensed importance and a contribution to society. With that, I asked my spiritual guide to end my glimpse of my future. For some reason, I didn't want to know. My guide respected my request and closed with the statement, "We have so many things in stored for you, Mark. Good things."

Did it really happen? Sure. Was it real? Possibly. What did it all mean? Well, after reading past lives books by Dr. Brian Weiss and Sylvia Browne, both authors stated that we all have had past lives, that we carry character and personality traits

from previous lives, and that we choose our lives for particular reasons. If that were true, then why would I choose the life of a gay man, where I would experience pain, hatred, and discrimination?

That was the key question I kept in my head as I went through my past life regression, and it was answered. That woman, whoever she was, was a woman ahead of her time. Her desire to venture in the outside world and her assertive personality was so strong that it stuck with me. On my umpteenth time around, I chose a man's life because, in society, men are sometimes viewed as powerful and unrestricted. However, my strong feminine characteristics were so forceful that it stuck with me in this life—hence, I am gay. Okay, okay. I know that sounds far-fetched, but it sure challenges the nature versus nurture theory or the choice or not a choice debate.

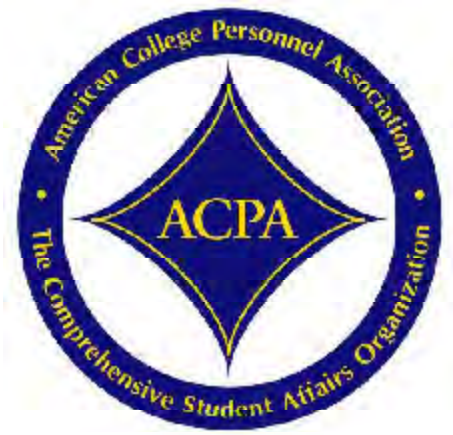
Whichever the case, the purpose of past life regressions is not to prove if the life really existed or not. The purpose is to utilize the knowledge you have learned from the regression and to ensure mistakes are not repeated.

As for my life lesson for "choosing" to live a gay life, I am here to educate and to teach compassion. Also I chose this particular time period to experience and to contribute to the already growing GLBTQ movement.

As for this article, it is part of my education for and contribution to society. I see this article as a discussion tool to have readers evaluate their being and mission in life: Why did I choose to work in this field? How am I impacting others? Am I where I am supposed to be?

Whatever your answers and whether you believe in past lives or not, consider this an opportunity to use the past to make a difference today.

For more information about past life regression visit the web pages of Sylvia Browne at <http://www.sylvia.org> and Dr. Brian Weiss at <http://www.brianweiss.com>.



Visit the ACPA  
web site at  
[www.acpa.nche.edu](http://www.acpa.nche.edu)

**Deadline for the next issue of**

**Out On Campus**  
**is November 15<sup>th</sup>**

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