

Standing Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Awareness



ACPA
STANDING COMMITTEE FOR
**Lesbian, Gay
Bisexual and
Transgender
Awareness**

From the Chair's Chair

Happy Spring SCLGBT A membership! For those that were in Indianapolis, we enjoyed seeing you at events & spending time with you! For those that were not at convention, we had great success with the SC events. A few of the highlights included:

- The directorate voting in our new proposed structure
- A new event, the Resource & Networking Exchange that replaced the Coffeehouse
- Increased attendance at AIDS memorial and songs from the show 'Rent'
- T.J. Jourian, from the Sundance film, TransGeneration
- 5 outstanding sponsored programs
- \$130 raised for the Indiana Youth Group, our GLBT youth organization silent auction recipient
- & a cabaret that was off-the-hook!

I want to share a brief overview of the first highlight – the new SCLGBT A structure.

One thing the SC has always represented is innovation and adaptability. At our mid-year meeting in June 2005, through a series of conversations about specific positions on the directorate, we decided to examine our overall structure.

Rather than making minor changes to specific positions, it really made sense to review the entire structure. This also matched nicely with the process that was occurring with the ACPA organization via the Governance Task Force.

From the Chair's Chair cont.

We voted in this new structure which we believe will better serve YOU, our membership. A few of the highlights in how our structure is different includes:

- * 19 directorate board members vs. 26
- * 3 areas (administration, networking & advancement) vs. 4 areas (membership & development, visibility and recognition, advocacy and health & wellness)
- * Outcome based vs. clearly defined individual position roles.
- * Term lengths that will allow for approximately 1/2 of the DB to come in new each year.

More focused and streamlined communication among directorate

Hannah Wu, a member of the SC Governance Review Task Force, had this to say:

"I am very excited to see the effects of the new structure on the directorate body, such as greater access into the committee, better use of volunteers, and better communication between members on the directorate body. Working on the governance task force was an exciting opportunity and I look forward to see how the implementation team will finish the process of the transition!"

We are very excited about our new structure and current a team is working on the implementation – i.e. how we move all of our functions & roles into the new structure. Watch for more information on our website for you to see more of what's going on after we meet in June for our Mid-Year Meeting.

I wish everyone a good closing & wonderful summer! Please keep talking to us about how we can better serve you and your campuses!

Sincerely,

John Fox

Standing Committee for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Awareness

Thank you

On behalf of the Standing Committee, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to the outgoing members of the Directorate for all their hard work and dedication to the Standing Committee.

Thank you to: Will Cribby-Innocenti, Chad Disharoon, Justine Hollingshead, Keith Humphrey, Brian Kraft, Jayme Little, Michael Mancini, Jessica Pettitt, Karen Proulx, and M. Chad Wilson. We would like to especially thank George Wilson, our local arrangements coordinator who helped us arrange the use of the nightclub for the Cabaret, the dinner for the evening out, and got us publicity and special deals in the community.

We would also like to thank all the convention participants who attended any of our events. Your support and assistance helped us raise money for the Indiana Youth Group, made the cabaret a success, and all our other sponsored events a big success.

As we are planning for next year's events, we welcome your feedback so that we can better serve all Standing Committee members at next year's convention. We are very excited about Orlando 2007 because of the location and because it is a joint conference with NASPA, which means we will be able to combine resources and reach more people.

Standing Committee Elections

By Andrea Conner

The Directorate Body of the Standing Committee for LGBT Awareness would like to welcome five new members! As usual, elections were held at the annual ACPA convention in Indianapolis. You may be aware that a new Directorate Body structure was voted in to place this year, and due to the restructuring there were only five new positions (three elected, and two appointed). However, in future years there will be higher rates of transition, with 11-13 spaces each year. Elsewhere in this newsletter a member of the restructuring team details those changes.

We welcome:

Keith Kozak, a Residence Director for Framingham State College, elected to Director of Administration

Lisa Kendall, the Assistant Director of Greek Affairs at the University of Florida, elected to Director of Convention Programs

Staci Gunner, Women's Center Program Coordinator, Michigan State University, elected to Director of Education

William (Bill) Huff, the Educational Programmer for the University of Iowa, appointed to Administration Coordinator

Derrick Gunter, an Assistant Residence Director for the University of Massachusetts Amherst, appointed to Networking Coordinator

We want to thank all of you who showed interest in our Directorate Body by running for elected and appointed positions. We hope that you (and anyone reading) will continue to be involved by volunteering at any opportunity. The work of volunteers from the Standing Committee membership as a whole is extremely important to the work we do as a committee and as a part of ACPA! Thanks again to everyone who ran, and welcome to Keith, Lisa, Staci, Bill, and Derrick!

New Faces on the Standing Committee

At the conference in Indianapolis, the Directorate elected some new members to the Standing Committee. In the next two newsletters, we will introduce you to the new members of the Standing Committee.

Derrick Gunter

Networking Coordinator

Greetings everyone! My name is Derrick Gunter and I am so excited to be a new member of ACPA's Standing Committee for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Awareness. For the past seven years, I have been a strong advocate for LGBTQ youth and college students in many ways. My activism began while I was at my undergraduate institution, Rowan University. At Rowan University, I was a strong proponent for awareness of issues that LGBTQ youth face as they attend college. This included hosting campus wide discussions, lecturing in classes, and organizing events for LGBTQ students and their allies on campus. My support for LGBTQ students and youth has continued into my graduate work at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Currently, I advise the 2 in 20 program, which is a residential learning community designed to provide support to LGBTQ students and their allies in the residence halls.

It is with great enthusiasm and passion that I seek to continue my advocacy for the LGBTQ community through this committee. Personally, I feel as if this is a wonderful opportunity for me to not only continue my support for LGBTQ college students and youth, but also expand this to professionals who work in the field of Student Affairs. As a new professional, I hope to bring my hard work and dedication to the SCLGBTQA. Besides that, I hope to have a wonderful experience and a lot of fun! With that said, let me know how I can be of service to you and/or your institution and I look forward to meeting you as I begin my career in Student Affairs!

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Bill Huff

Administrative Coordinator

Hi. I'm Bill Huff and I recently graduated with my Masters in student Development in Postsecondary Education from the University of Iowa. I recently accepted a position at Brandeis University in Waltham, MA as a Quad Director. I spent the past two years at Iowa with an assistantship in the Office of Residence Life as one of the Educational Programmers. In my spare time, I enjoy frequenting karaoke bars and belting out my rendition of "Midnight Train to Georgia" and "Total Eclipse of the Heart," buying other people's stuff at auctions and garage sales, and referring to himself in the third person. I am excited for the opportunity to be involved with the Standing Committee as one of the Administrative Coordinators. I am looking forward to building upon the strong traditions already established while finding new ways to connect the membership and provide information to make the Standing Committee for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Affairs stronger and even more fabulous.

Other New Members

In the next newsletter, you will be introduced to the other new members of the Directorate. You will soon be introduced to:

Keith Kozak - Director of Administration

Lisa Kendall - Director of Convention Programs

Staci Gunner - Director of Education

2006 Special Guest Speaker

The Standing Committee was happy to present this year's guest speaker, TJ Jourian. TJ is a Higher Education Administration graduate student at Michigan State University. He is a transgender activist and an activist for an array of causes. TJ was also one of the students shown on a film series called "Transgeneration", which follows four transgendered students through college life and records many of their trials and tribulations. This film won the award for best documentary at the GLAAD Awards featured on VH-1. TJ attended many of our events and he spoke on his own life experiences at the conference to ACPA attendees. Many people felt the speech was memorable and were impacted by his words. TJ has written a little bit about his experience at ACPA

TJ's Reflection of Indy

Indianapolis was a mere four-hour drive away, but the experience at this year's ACPA felt almost other-worldly. Well, maybe the term 'mere' is not one the person riding with me would use, since she ended up doing all the driving as usual, but I'm sure she forgives me for that. I had not been to ACPA before, so I was excited to see what made this conference different from the 'other' one. At the same time, I was a tad on the apprehensive side. The reason for that seemed to lie in feeling a loss of connection between myself and the field of student affairs for the last year or so, a connection that I was not sure I wanted back. Since my involvement with TransGeneration, I had more than filled the gap of that missing piece with new dreams and aspirations for my future, from involvement in media work for the transgender community to starting a national non-profit organization for transmale college students. And now, post-conference, it seems I might have to figure out a way to balance those new dreams with a resurrection in my drive to do the work I first set out to do; be a Queer Campus Director.

Without a doubt, I have the Standing Committee to thank (or blame?) for that. From the onset I felt welcome among its leadership and was inspired by

the commitment exhibited by so many that comprise it. The work that this organization does seems incredible to me, considering that each person involved has at least a full-time job or an advanced degree program keeping them busy to begin with. I almost felt ashamed for not being more involved myself. More personally, this experience was memorable to me not only for the people that I got to meet and know, but also for all the ways that I was heard and valued, something that too many transgender folks in higher education have come not to always expect. And then with that, I suddenly remembered why I was in this field: to make sure transgender students are among those being heard and valued.



TJ Jourian was the special guest of the Standing Committee at the 2006 ACPA National Convention.

So Long, Farewell, It's Time to Say Goodbye

by Michael Mancini

I hope that everyone returned home safely and that the end of the semester wind-down finds you well. I know, for me, conference time is both exciting and exhausting, and this year was no different. The buzz from people is that our standing committee did a great job this year and we all should take satisfaction in that.

Needless to say then, we had a great conference. I am glad to report that the silent auction went well. We were able to raise \$250.00 for the Indiana Youth Group, for which they were thankful. I would like to thank all those who donated items to the silent auction as well as all those who bid on items; your support is always appreciated.

Overall, I think we had a wonderful conference. Cabaret was a blast; Gender Blender was a major success, as was the AIDS memorial not to mention all of the other events that we sponsor.

This past conference was my last as outreach coordinator. I have enjoyed my time on the directorate body, and hope that the new directorate body members will serve the standing committee well, and I wish them all the best.

I think it is important to acknowledge the work that we do for ACPA as well as on our individual campuses. As a standing committee we have been on the forefront of acceptance of LGBT people, and that is due in major part to the work of each of us; take pride in that.

As always your assistance is welcomed and encouraged. If you are not able to serve on the directorate body, then I urge each of you to get involved in whatever way you can. We are always looking for new perspectives and ideas to help us better serve our community in specific and ACPA in general. Please contact any member of the directorate body to find out information about getting involved.

At present our rights are in jeopardy and this makes our work even more important and pivotal. I live by a particular self-made mantra: "If you wish to make tomorrow worth living you need to do what is right today." I think our work is right and I hope that we can continue to do this work not just for our own personal benefit, but also for the benefit of all those who support equal rights for the Queer community.

Be well and take pride,

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Gender Blender Finds Its Niche in Third Year

by Alex Thompson

One of the highlights of this year's convention was the overwhelming attendance at the Gender Blender Social. Over 60 attendees found their way down the longest hallway in the Marriot Complex, to cram into the tiniest room in the greater Indianapolis area. While there was much discussion about why the social - which highlights trans-identified and trans-allied folks - was scheduled in such a secluded room (some of us suspected that we were actually in Illinois by the time we found it), the event itself was a huge success beyond. The excellent turnout, coupled with the enthusiasm and interest generated by the social ensured that the Gender Blender has established itself as a staple of SCLGBTQA sponsored events!

Call for Articles and Suggestions

In an effort to keep Out On Campus a valuable resource to all Standing Committee members, Out On Campus welcomes your ideas for articles. We are also always seeking articles that affect the LGBTQA community of ACPA and on our campuses. If you have an idea, suggestion or an article that could be included in upcoming newsletters, please email that information to Brian Kurisky, editor of Out On Campus at kuriskb@ferris.edu.

We appreciate your help in keeping Out On Campus a valuable resource for everyone.

WELLNESS FOR COLLEGE ADMINISTRATORS 101

By Dawn Dooley

Since this is the post convention newsletter, I wanted to follow-up with your participation in our wellness initiatives at convention. How well is well at convention? Health and Wellness for the SCLGBTA and the ACPA Wellness Commission sponsored wellness walks, runs, meditation and yoga. The "Fun Walks" sponsored by the SCLGBTA were not only fun, but scenic, winding around the canals of Indianapolis White River State Park. In addition, Health and Wellness for the SCLGBTA designed and distributed a Wellness Convention Planner, which included convention wellness hints, local places of worship, local support groups and healthy eating establishments. We hope you took advantage of some of these great opportunities to take care of yourself at Convention. So really, how did you do? Take a few minutes to answer this follow-up survey, and remember it is never too late to begin living by these simple health and wellness tips.

Answer the following questions on the following scale:

- 5 = almost always (90% or most of the time)
- 4 = very often (about 75% of the time)
- 3 = often (about 50% of the time)
- 2 = occasionally (about 25% of the time)
- 1 = almost never (less than 10% of the time)

I ate regular quality meals during convention and made healthy selections.

I exercised 20-30 minutes a day during convention. Exercise could include stretching, aerobic activity, and strength conditioning and training, brisk walking, run or jog.

I took time to find my center each day, in worship, meditation or through another means.

I drank 2 quarts of fluid each day during convention...only count water, juice and milk.

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I slept 6-8 hours a night during convention.

I took time to relax and laugh each day at convention. I relaxed by sitting in my room, on a bench or at meal. I laughed hanging out with friends from days gone by or through new connections I made at convention.

Please add your points for each answer:

24-30 points: You maintained a healthy lifestyle and had a high level of wellness during convention. Maintain this lifestyle during the last few weeks of the semester and you will be on the healthy track.

18-23 points: You had a healthy lifestyle in some areas during convention. Strive to enhance those areas that need improvement during the last few weeks of the semester.

1-17 points: Wow, you appear to have had an unhealthy lifestyle at convention. It could be to your advantage to improve your level of wellness. Begin with one area and set realistic goals for improvement. Start on this venture now and you may see a better end to your spring semester.

On behalf of Health and Wellness for the SCLGBTA, Take Care of Yourself...

The Cabaret – A Good Time Had By All

By: Rick Moreci

This year's annual Standing Committee Cabaret was a huge success!!! As a fundraiser, this program brought in quite a bit of money, more than in year's past. This will allow the SC to operate, host great programs and events and continue outreach efforts. It's great to be able to measure the success of an event like this based on fiscal intake. However, the Cabaret could also be considered successful for many other reasons.

First and foremost, as the title of this article says, a good time was had by all. The audience loved the show based on the screaming, the applauding and of course the generous tipping. The show was admittedly a bit longer than usual, but it was so captivating that the length did not seem to bother most people. The house was still nearly full by the end of the show. Wall to wall people sure is a nice sight when hosting an event of this magnitude.

Ok, so the fundraising aspect was record breaking, the number in the crowd of people loving the show was huge, what about those performers? Wow! Are you sure this show was amateur? ACPA's finest put on their high heels and boots and tucked parts most of us don't want to imagine. Those kings and queens got up on stage and boy did they work it out for the audience. The stage was on fire! The music was amazing, the outfits were stunning and the lip syncing and even real singing was flawless. To all the performers in this show, the Standing Committee thanks you. We thank you for your willingness to perform, we thank you for dragging extra luggage to the conference to look as fierce as you did and we thank you for having so much fun with this event. On a personal note, being back stage with the performers was one of the coolest things I have ever experienced. Maybe I missed my calling???

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And what would a show be without good hosts or in this case hostesses? Wild Cherry Sucrets and Coretta Scott Queen, we love you! Don't ever leave! You two worked it out up there and helped make this show the amazing success it was. You are funny when you need to be, serious (though rarely needed) and graceful (well not so much by the end of the show)! Thank you for hosting our Cabaret – Drag Race 500!!!

The CDs did not go over as well as we had hoped, but we do plan to sell this year's greatest hits from all performers at next year's Cabaret. So, start thinking now about Orlando 2007. For those of you who performed this year, we hope you come back and for those who think you want to put on your best other face (whatever that may be), start practicing in front of that mirror now.

Thanks again to everyone!



President Jeanne Steffes and Boyd Yarbrough, Convention Planning Chair take time to talk with Coretta Scott Queen and Wild Cherry Sucrets.