

Out on Campus

The Newsletter of the Standing Committee for LGBT Awareness

Summer 2010

SCLGBTA GOALS

- To educate the general membership of ACPA in order to increase their personal and environmental awareness of the social, psychological, health-related, political, economic, professional, legal, and spiritual realities of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons.
- To work actively to eliminate the overt and covert oppression of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons within ACPA and on college and university campuses.
- To protect and advocate for the basic human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students and colleagues.
- To provide support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender members, as well as allies by reducing professional isolation.
- To appreciate the diversity within our membership and to work separately and in coalition with other groups to eliminate sexism, racism, classism, ableism, heterosexism, and other forms of oppression within our own membership, as well as within ACPA and on our college and university campuses.

A Letter from the Chair



Hello! It's hard to believe that ACPA 2010 has been over for almost two months, and summer is already upon us. It was great to see many of you as we celebrated our 25th Anniversary and began to lay the framework for the next twenty-five years.

Some other convention highlights included:

- The addition of more identity based socials as we intentionally explores intersections of identity
- Beginning a conversation about ally development and

the potential of committee name change

- Discussion of the potential consolidation of ACPA and NASPA and its effect on identity based constituencies
- Development of Intentional Partnerships with the NASPA Knowledge Community and the Consortium of Higher Ed LGBT Resource Professionals
- Finally, discussion about the issues in Virginia and equity statements and the impact of such decisions on our communities and our institutions

As has been tradition, the convention ended up with one of the best Cabaret's in our history and we were able to donate a significant amount of money to the Boston Alliance of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgender Youth.

As always after a successful convention, we left Boston with more work and opportunity than we came with. The convention provided an oppor-



tunity to reflect, celebrate and refresh. Most of us are aware this is a very exciting time not only for our association but also for the field of student affairs. It's important that we each remain engaged and attentive to what's happening on our campuses and in our communities so that we can be the best advocates for social justice and education.

The future is bright and with it comes ample opportunity to provide feedback, advice, and to be part of positive and meaningful change. I hope to hear from many of you in the coming year, as we realize that the standing committee and ACPA do exist to serve our membership beyond the convention.

In Pride,
Patrick I. Romero-Aldaz
Chair, SCLGBTA

SCLGBTA Considers Adding Letters

by Andrea Conner,
former SCLGBTA Equity Officer

At the recent ACPA Annual Convention in Boston, the Directorate Body launched a conversation about the name of the Standing Committee for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Awareness. In response to a suggestion that the committee add a "Q" for queer (or potentially queer/questioning) and an "A" for ally, former Directorate Body member Sharon Chia Claros prepared a document detailing some history of our movement and a discussion of the importance of self-identification through naming. Sharon's document guided our initial exploration of these concepts.

For some, the addition of "Q" to our string of LGBT identities is a no-brainer. Many in our community have reclaimed the word "queer" as an identity label that feels more inclusive of their sexual orientation and gender identity. However, for others in our community, the word "queer" was long-viewed as a derogatory term that is difficult to reclaim as a positive label after decades of hate associated with the word. Adding another layer to the conversation: some groups and organizations also use the "Q" to include those who may be "questioning" their sexual orientation. Once again, there are opinions on both sides of the issue, including the desire to be supportive and inclusive of individuals in all aspects of their identity journey, while also rejecting "experimentation" as an offensive experience to some. (continued: *Letters* on pg. 2)



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

Big Thanks to Our Volunteers

by Steven Canals

The Big Give 2010 Continues

The SCLGBTA still has a few more opportunities to give back to the local community of the ACPA 2010 host city, Boston, Ma. Each year, we solicit donations from the community to support a local LGBT youth organization. This year, that organization was BAGLY.

This year, we are continuing our work post-convention, and just in time to begin planning your trainings for the new academic year. Three individuals have donated workshops to this very worthy cause.

The SCLGBTA will be running a process online to collect your bids for these workshops. If you have any interest in the informative and engaging workshops listed below, please consider working through the SCLGBTA to bring these programs to your campus.

Reconciliation and Healing: The Journey to Wholeness with Rev. Jamie Washington and Rev. Sam Offer

A specifically tailored workshop to fit your needs with Joy Marie Conway

Social Justice: When Diversity isn't Enough with Jessica Pettit

For more information on these workshops or the process to bring one of these opportunities to your campus, please see: sclgbtaconference.squarespace.com

For more information on BAGLY, please see: www.bagly.org

On March 21, 2010 thousands of student affairs practitioners descended upon Boston Massachusetts for the annual ACPA convention. As an SCLGBTA network coordinator, I had the privilege of organizing all SCLGBTA volunteer efforts at the Boston Convention. The Standing Committee's success firmly rests on the shoulders of its members, particularly those who offer to assist at convention by volunteering.

This year 60 volunteer opportunities were filled by 40 hard working SCLGBTA volunteers, and they brought a wealth of energy, experi-

ence, and education to the standing to get more involved.' Although committee's efforts. Volunteers convention is busy and I had a lot to assisted with tasks as varied as set- do, volunteering with the SCLGBTA ting up the SCLGBTA's table at was a rewarding experience and well Convention Showcase, introducing worth the time!"

SCLGBTA sponsored program presenters, and greeting attendees at SCLGBTA identity socials.

Conference attendees supporting SCLGBTA sponsored events quickly learned that the support provided by volunteers is immeasurable. Moreover, serving as a volunteer can also be personally gratifying. As recent volunteer Amanda Mollet noted, "Each year I thought, 'I would love

The Standing Committee would like to thank the Boston 2010 convention volunteers for their hard work, and remind you that opportunities abound outside of convention to get involved. If you are interested simply visit the 'Get Involved' section of our webpage at <http://www.myacpa.org/sc/sclgbta/>

SCLGBTA Supports BAGLY via the Big Give 2010!

Each year the SCLGBTA chooses a local youth organization in the host city of the annual ACPA convention to fundraise for throughout their convention activities. This past year, the SCLGBTA worked with the Boston Alliance of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth (BAGLY) as that organization.

BAGLY provides weekly and monthly social activities and special events for people ages 22 and under. These activities provide an opportunity for youth to socialize, have fun and develop a sense of personal and community identity.

BAGLY also has HIV, STD, Drugs, and Alcohol education and prevention programs in place. They actively educate and empower youth in making wise decision regarding their health.

Every other Wednesday they offer free HIV testing and counseling. For health care concerns and other needs BAGLY makes referrals to the appropriate LGBT friendly health service providers.

The Queer Activist College is their newest program. The program offers a variety of opportunities to learn more about queer activism and build life-lasting leadership skills. Courses in the "college" include public speaking, anti-racism, leadership, meeting facilitation, and more.

Much of the important work that BAGLY does is impossible without donations from local supporters and national organizations, like ours. At the annual convention, the SCLGBTA raised \$634.00 soliciting donations from attendees at Dinner Out and

through the Silent Auction at the SCLGBTA Social. While certainly a significant contribution to BAGLY's work, we hope we can continue our contribution to the work of this wonderful organization.

Several prominent members of our community have donated workshops, so the SCLGBTA can continue raising money in support of BAGLY. As you begin planning for the next academic year, we urge you to please consider bringing one of these speakers to your campus through this program. Please see the information on the process to bid on one of these workshops.

(Letters, continued from pg. 1)

Perhaps the most complicated conversation relates to the potential addition of "A" for ally. Some would say that the committee, at its core – and thus represented in the current name – is committed to the awareness of LGBT issues in higher education. Therefore, involvement in the committee's efforts by straight/heterosexual people is an avenue

toward being an ally. However, others have said that –since allies are a critical part of our movement toward equality– straight activists and supporters should be represented in our name.

Whether the SCLGBTA keeps its name, or adds a couple of "Q"s or "A"s to represent even more folks in our community, you can be sure that the Directorate Body will continue to volunteer their time to volunteer

their time to educate other Student Affairs professionals about LGBT/Q/Q/A issues in higher education. Additionally, you can be sure that this conversation will continue! What are your thoughts? Watch for an opportunity to log your thoughts with the SCLGBTA sometime in the future.

Is Virginia “Really” for Lovers?

Ken Cuccinelli, Bob McDonnell and the Death of Equal Rights

by R. Jason Cottrell

March 2010 certainly came in like a lion for LGBTQ college and university students, faculty and staff in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli issued a statement to college and university presidents urging sexual orientation be removed from their non-discrimination policies. The November election of Republican candidates to the top three state government positions brought about an energized Republican party, but it also brought about concern that the rights gained over the past eight years would be lost due to the ideology of Governor Bob McDonnell and Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli.

The ideology of both McDonnell and Cuccinelli shined during their campaigns. McDonnell's graduate school thesis and Cuccinelli's statements about the legality of Executive Orders by previous Governors Mark Warner and Timothy Kaine guaranteed that LGBTQ individuals would be at-risk with a Republican win in November 2009. McDonnell wrote in his graduate thesis, from Pat Robertson's Regent University, "cohabitators, homosexuals or fornicators" are detrimental to families and society. His belief is that the government should guard against "cohabitators, homosexuals or fornicators," favoring married couples over unmarried couples. McDonnell later stated his views have changed and his opponent was using the thesis, and social issues in general, as a political tool to redirect discourse from the economic problems facing Virginia. During the campaign, he said his job, as governor, was to help Virginians with key economic and job issues, not to be a social activist.

On Feb. 5, less than two weeks after his inauguration, McDonnell signed an executive order that prohibits discrimination "on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, age, political affiliation, or against otherwise qualified persons with disabilities." His rationale was that the Virginia General Assembly granted these specific protections to Virginia citizens, but not other "groups." He did also add a specific clause for veteran status, which is not covered by either the Constitution, or any statute, of Virginia. This executive order, effectively eliminating previously stated protections for sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, allowed Attorney General, Ken Cuccinelli, to move forward on attacking those social issues he stated he would ignore as governor.

Since taking office in January, Mr. Cuccinelli has sued the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) claiming that global warming is a hoax, sued the federal government over health care reform, sued the EPA due to the new fuel standards the federal government has imposed, stated that he believes that President Obama's birth place should be investigated, was the keynote speaker at a gun rights rally at Virginia's Capital where he attacked the victims' families of the Virginia Tech Massacre for trying to destroy the Constitution, and sent a confidential letter to all state college and university presidents stating their non-discrimination policies were invalid because of their inclusion of sexual orientation. His argument to college and university presidents was that the General Assembly had not granted authority for state institutions to create a special class of citizens to protect. His position was that college and university presidents were to remove sexual orientation to protect the state and come in line with state law.

Mr. Cuccinelli aligns with legal groups who seek to rescind previous laws that provide opportunities for individuals with less access than the majority. Those groups seek to overturn affirmative action laws, and in this instance, equal opportunity laws. Cuccinelli has spoken out against LGBTQ individuals specifically, telling *The Washington Post*, "My view is that homosexual acts, not homosexuality, but homosexual acts are wrong. They're intrinsically wrong. And I think in a natural law based country it's appropriate to have policies that reflect that. . . They don't comport with natural law. I happen to think that it represents (to put it politely; I need my thesaurus to be polite) behavior that is not healthy to an individual and in aggregate is not healthy to society."

(continued: *Virginia* on pg. 4)

SCLGBTA Announcements and Opportunities!

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

Throughout the year, there will be several opportunities to work with the Directorate Body of the SCLGBTA on projects, programs and to provide feedback. We encourage all members to participate in some way to the SCLGBTA. Here are a couple of ways to volunteer in the coming months:

Sponsored Program Reviewer: to read over and provide feedback on program proposals for the Baltimore 2010 convention. Time Commitment: 12 hrs. Time Frame of work: Early Fall

Awards Review Committee: review applications for our three annual awards. Time Commitment: 10 hrs. Time Frame of work: Late Fall/Early Winter

Election Committee Volunteer: assists the Equity Officer in reviewing election applications and establishing the slate for elections. Time Frame of work: Oct.—Feb.

For more information on volunteering with the SCLGBTA, please see the "Get Involved" section of our website at: <http://myacpa.org/sc/lgbta>



RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS

The SCLGBTA would like to thank everyone who participated in our 2010 Raffle.

Though we wish that you all could win, we did have three winners:

Jonathan Poullard,
UC Berkeley

Tracy Davis,
Western Illinois University

Gina M. Vanacore,
Stoneybrook University

Congratulations to the 2010 Raffle winners. Thank you again to all of you who participated, our socials, educational programming and next generation scholarship program would not be possible without

Virginia, continued from pg. 3

Although he is targeting state colleges and university policies on sexual orientation, his goal is to overturn the entirety of the laws; local, state and federal, that protects individuals from discrimination. The expected lawsuits would not only affect Virginia, Mr. Cuccinelli hopes to overturn the protections needed for all legally protected groups, nationally.

When the memo to university presidents became public, during most college Spring Breaks, shock waves rolled across Virginia. Facebook groups were formed and letters were written. Almost every college campus in Virginia began to strategize how to approach the Attorney General's newest approach for discrimination. Students, faculty and staff at my work institution, Virginia Commonwealth University, organized a rally on campus. Unexpectedly, after the rally, over 200 students marched to the Virginia Capital, about a mile and a half down the street, into their representatives office and demanded a bill to protect students, faculty and staff from discrimination, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

These students stood against discrimination and for the belief that everyone should have the rights to an education, a job and a future. At the same time as the rally and march, Governor McDonnell produced an "Executive Directive" recognizing that discrimination should not occur toward any individual, loosely protecting sexual orientation. The Directive does not have the same power as the previous Executive Orders issued by previous Governors Kaine and Warner. Those Orders specifically protected state employees, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression. It is now time to force states and the federal government to pass and enact an inclusive non-discrimination act for employees and students. As the former Provost at Virginia Commonwealth University stated during an open forum on campus recently, in all his years he has never heard of "acts of hate, bias or discrimination against a person because they are heterosexual."

As the annual ACPA convention began in Boston, Virginia was at the height of its higher education controversy. For the Standing Committee for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans-

gender Awareness, the Directorate discussed how to approach Virginia's new policies allowing discrimination. A decision was made to approach both Virginia Representatives as well as the greater ACPA organization and recognize the need to protect individuals from discrimination, regardless of that person's identity. To Virginia, we as LGBTQ professionals will not stand for discrimination. You will lose talented faculty, staff and students. To ACPA, you must stand with us, your colleagues and students, against discrimination by boycotting Virginia for future conventions, workshops and seminars until the state recognizes the need to protect individuals, who everyday face discrimination, hate, inequality and even violence. The time has come for solidarity in a fight for equal rights!

Mr. Cuccinelli's letter to Virginia College and University President's can be found at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/metro/Cuccinelli.pdf>

Mr. McDonnell's Executive Directive can be found at <http://www.dhrm.virginia.gov/documents/ExecutiveDirectiveOne.pdf>

Don't Ask, Don't Tell: The final countdown

by Mark Torrez

Enacted in 1993 by then-President Bill Clinton, *Don't Ask, Don't Tell* was originally intended to ensure that any citizen, regardless of sexual orientation, could serve in the United States military. The stipulation: lesbian, gay, and bisexual individuals can not disclose their sexual orientation or discuss any relationships or behaviors that might indicate they are not heterosexual. Since its inception, the policy has realized in the dismissal of more than 12,000 men and women.

Over the past five years, the movement to repeal the policy has gained enormous momentum. In addition to President Obama's declaration at the State of the Union address and numerous gay rights groups, several notable military officers have stepped forth in support of the repeal, including Gen. John M. Shalikashvili, who was chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff when the policy was first implemented. In May, both the House (234-194) and the Senate Armed

support of the landmark legislation which would repeal *Don't Ask, Don't Tell*. voted in support of the landmark legislation which would repeal *Don't Ask, Don't Tell*. However, in the weeks prior to the House and SASC votes, the Pentagon was charged with the task of conducting a study on the impact of the policy change and the best strategy for the transition, after a group of pro-DADT politicians demanded that an investigation take place. Furthermore, Sen. Robert Byrd has requested that the final Senate vote not take place until 60 days after the results of the Pentagon's study have been published. The study is due by December 2010, which will inevitably retard any significant change until mid-to-late 2011.

Despite the on-the-record communication from opponents of the ban, there is concern that delaying the vote until after the results of the study have been published is a final attempt at foiling passage of a *Don't Ask, Don't Tell* repeal. However, those supporting the delayed vote state the study is not to determine whether or not the repeal will occur, but, instead, to determine *how* the repeal

culated uses language which articulates a concrete repeal, pending the results of the Pentagon's study. Sen. Byrd has advocated the delay as a means of ensuring Congress has an additional opportunity to weigh in before the policy change begins to materialize in the military.

Although there is still much speculation surrounding the timeline of the policy's repeal and what the results of the Pentagon study will advise, there are many who feel the battle is already won. After implying that the SASC vote was a more difficult win than the overall Senate vote will be, Majority Leader Nancy Pelosi said that the fight over the policy is effectively over. Yet, the questions remain: does the Pentagon's study have the weight to influence the Senate's vote? And, if passed in the Senate, how long will it take before men and women feel free and safe to disclose their sexual orientation? (Note: A 5-year strategy was created, when the military was ordered to racially integrate,.)