



SIGnals

Rainbow SIG Newsletter

NAFSA: Association of International Educators, Spring 2006, Vol. 12, No. 2

Rainbow SIGnals is published once a semester by the Rainbow Special Interest Group (SIG) of NAFSA: Association of International Educators. The Rainbow SIG is comprised of diverse NAFSAs whose goals are to combat homophobia, heterosexism and transphobia within NAFSA, to counsel international students and study abroad students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered, and to support gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered professionals in international education

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

:: Page One ::

- Foreign Queer in the Midwest USA?
- Updates from your co-chairs

:: Page Two ::

- NAFSA GLBT Related Events
- Rainbow SIG Survey Summary

:: Page Three ::

- Rainbow SIG Annual Meeting Minutes

:: Page Four ::

- Rainbow SIG Advisory Board

:: Page Five ::

- Sexuality Conference in Netherlands
- Special news from our members

:: Page Six ::

- Reception Invitation

Foreign Queer in the Midwest USA?

Submitted by: Edgar Sanchez, Mexico

A few months ago, I was quite excited to know that I was eligible to go to Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg, Missouri, as an exchange visiting faculty at the Department of Communication. Even though I had visited CMSU before on behalf of the International Office from my institution in Mexico City, I had never spent more than two days there.

At the same time I could not help wondering about some possible sources of culture shock for someone from a large city, considering that Warrensburg has a population of 17,500 inhabitants versus 20 million in Mexico City. I am now living in a more rural setting with a predominant white population (85.5%). In addition, it is more traditional here and it seems more conservative than other cities in the US. I know that many may think that Mexico City is not exactly the best example of a liberal society but it is more progressive in comparison to other cities in Mexico or in the US.

And here I am in Missouri as a Hispanic, urban, gay man.

A few weeks after my arrival to CMSU, I noticed a sign on a message board inviting the community to participate in a public session called "Safe Zone @ CMSU", organized by a group of students. That is how I got in touch with the Queers and allies at Central QAAC, a student organization whose purpose is to provide a safe, supportive atmosphere for students, faculty, staff and community members and to educate the CMSU campus and the community about issues of concern to the LGBT community.

[continued on page 5]

Updates from your Co-Chairs:

SIG Membership Renewal: NAFSA requires all SIGs go through a renewal process every five years. We are happy to report, that after a few issues around the exact number of dues paying NAFSA members, the SIG was renewed. More details on the membership issues encountered and our proposed changes will be discussed at the upcoming business meeting in Montreal.

SIG Survey: Through the generous sponsorship of the Council on International Education Exchange (CIEE), the SIG conducted a survey of the membership, through our listserv, this semester. Questions sought information on the direction of the SIG, fundraising efforts, newsletter content and general priorities moving forward. The survey results can be found on page 2 in this newsletter and will be discussed at the annual business meeting in Montreal.

New Advisory Board Members: We would like to officially welcome three new members to the Advisory Board since our last conference.

- Amy Bartnick-Blume, IFSA Butler
- Andreas Eimer, University of Muenster
- Michael Mahan, UMass, Boston
- Anthony Ogden, Penn State

Anyone interested in joining the advisory board for next year is encouraged to connect with one of the co-chairs.

New Recording Secretary: Mr. Ismael Crotte has kindly agreed to be the SIG's new recording secretary for our board meetings and annual business meeting.

Montreal Events: We are excited for the upcoming conference in Montreal and have some really good events plans. Despite the SIG-related workshop being canceled this week due to low enrollment, there are three SIG-related sessions, the Advisory Board Meetings, the annual business meeting and of course, the annual reception on Wednesday night. Check out the schedule of events on page 2.

[continued on page 4]

Rainbow SIG Co-Chairs:

Jan Kieling

Administrative Director
Study Abroad Office
University of California, Berkeley
Email: kieling@berkeley.edu

J. Scott Van Der Meid

Director of Study Abroad
Brandeis University
Email: svanderm@brandeis.edu



Monday 22	Tuesday 23	Wednesday 24	Thursday 25	Friday 26
4-5pm <u>Meeting:</u> Rainbow SIG Advisory Board Meeting <u>Location:</u> Hyatt Regency Lobby	2:30 pm – 3:45 pm <u>Session:</u> <i>My International Students... Gay, Lesbians? No Way!?</i> (Chair: Thomas Lavenir)	1:45-3pm <u>Meeting:</u> Annual Rainbow SIG Business Meeting. <u>Location:</u> TBA 8:00 pm – 10:00 pm - <u>Reception:</u> 13 th Annual Rainbow SIG Reception/ Celebration <u>Location:</u> Café at the Monument-National, 1182 Saint-Laurent Blvd.	No Planned events	11:15 am -12:30 pm - <u>Session:</u> <i>Just How Multicultural Are We? The Status of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Professionals in International Education</i> (Chair: Jan Kieling) 2:45 pm - 4:00 pm - <u>Session:</u> <i>Transgender Students: Surviving At Home and Abroad</i> . (Chair: Kevin Morrison)

Rainbow SIG Survey – Spring 2006 Summary Submitted by: J. Scott Van Der Meid

Through the generous sponsorship of the Council on International Education Exchange (CIEE), the Rainbow SIG conducted a survey of the membership, through our listserv, this semester from mid-March to mid-April. Questions sought information on the direction of the SIG, fundraising efforts, newsletter content and general priorities moving forward. Survey respondent answers were consistent across the series of questions. Out of a total number of 127 Rainbow listserv subscribers, 38 individuals responded to the online survey, giving the survey a 30% response rate. Thank you for everyone who took part in responding to the survey.

Most Important Contribution in the Past 5 Years: Three responses helped outline the most important contributions the Rainbow SIG made to NAFSA. First, increasing the visibility of the LGBT population and their issues was the top response. Next, providing a network for international educators who are allies and out, was important. Finally, providing resources to the field of international education was considered an important resource that the SIG should continue.

General Direction: Seeking direction for the future agenda of the SIG revealed that respondents felt that the most important task was to promote LGBT issues within NAFSA. Second in importance was the production of

on-line materials for students followed by the production of on-line materials for colleagues. Social programming was the least popular option chosen as a priority for the SIG.

Development/ Fundraising: When asked which sorts of causes would inspire members to donate to the SIG, the top rated response was providing some sort of scholarships. The second highest rated response was around publications such as an advisor handout, pre-departure materials, etc. Finally, having SIG-related events at regional meetings was also important.

Newsletter Focus: The next section focused on our newsletter, SIGnals. The majority of respondents did not want to contribute to the newsletter (67%). Of the most interest to the respondents for newsletter content included (A) U.S. student overseas experiences, (B) advising tools (C) international student experiences in the U.S. (D) Links to new or expanded web resources. Of minimal interest were international lodging resource options for traveling Rainbow colleagues. There was no consensus about a

name change for the newsletter with only 6 respondents answering the question.

Current Projects Underway: When asked what LGBT related projects, most respondents were working on conference sessions, and general advising issues. One existing project is "a video which will show some of the changes which take place through a study abroad experience. Several of the interview subjects are "gay" and, perhaps, some of the material could be edited to reflect the "gay" experience on study abroad." When asked what assistance, respondents would like to receive or have that would help them with a project/event dealing with LGBT issues was to have more information made available related to assist international students with LGBT issues.

Survey Note: Several people asked if the survey was broken because they were not allowed in several questions to give equal priority to many projects. That was intentional on the part of your co-chairs since feedback in the past always had most tasks at the same priority level. This way we have been able to see what is truly more important than other things.

Rainbow SIG Annual Business Meeting Minutes [June 1, 2005 – Seattle, Washington]

I-Welcome- Terry Crouch and Jan Kieling, the SIG Co-Chairs, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Terry then read the SIG mission statement aloud. This was followed by introductions of the SIG leadership (co-chairs, advisory board, and officers). New members were invited to stand and were welcomed with applause.

In the Co-Chairs report, Jan indicated that she had attended the NAFSA SIG Leadership Forum, a meeting of all the NAFSA Special Interest Group Chairs (SIGs), and learned that ours is the largest and most active of the SIGs!

Also, the Rainbow SIG Advisory Board met yesterday and discussed several initiatives, identifying one or more advisory board member willing to take them on as projects, including the following:

- Encouraging a regional presence and increased visibility for the SIG at regional conferences (Susan Carty)
- Submitting session and workshop proposals for the 2006 NAFSA conference in Montreal (Kevin Morrison and Scott Van Der Meid). Session suggestions include a panel of out educators and a Transgender advising session
- A vanity address for the SIG Web site
- Facilitated group communication, possibly through NAFSA's E-communities
- Identification of a Development Officer to focus efforts on fundraising (Mark Lenhart)

II- Announcements related to Seattle and Montreal- It was noted that there is a SIG booth in the hallway near the registration area. All of the SIGs were invited to leave materials and to "staff" the table. We have had a strong presence throughout the conference which has increased our visibility and added some new members.

III- Minutes from 2004 Meeting- A motion to approve the minutes of the 2004 annual meeting was made and seconded. The minutes were approved.

IV- Rainbow Website Report- Website Manager Kathleen Sideli updated us on the SIG website. She reported that the site had been created originally for use of professionals, but we quickly discovered that people were directing students there and considered it a valuable resource. The Web site received only a handful of e-mail inquiries, most seeking information, and every year, there are typically a couple of nasty messages. This year there were 12 of the former and 2 of the latter. The site has recently added Penn State's multi-cultural brochure (which all are welcome to use as a model); will soon be adding Kevin Morrison's annotated bibliography; and expect to add session materials from conferences. We should encourage others to link to the site when it is appropriate. It is hoped that the project to categories and cross-reference newsletter articles, initiated by Jim Daniel, will be finished soon. Kathy notes that Web projects are accomplished by volunteer staff.

V- Membership Report and Listserv Report- Susan Carty, Membership Coordinator, reported that the SIG currently has 111 members from 12 countries. Susan Carty also noted that Listserv Manager Daniel Soto, who maintains the list at Indiana University, confirmed that the list has about 100 members now.

VI- Financial Report- Rick Russo apologized for having left the printed copies of the treasurer's report at his booth. He offered to make the report available to those interested [Russo@bu.edu]. From memory, he reports that the SIG has approx. \$1,400 in the bank account. We have sponsors for this evening's reception exceeding \$900 in contributions and the SIG will meet any additional expenses (expected to be relatively light). SIG spends very little throughout the year, since newsletters are electronic and we rely on e-mail for communication. Q: Is NAFSA okay with our annual membership fee? A: Yes, as long as it is clear that contributions are optional.

VII- Newsletter- Eero Jesurun, Editor, requested submissions of articles for the newsletter. They can be sent by e-mail and might include student reflections or research reviews on research, books or videos. They are particularly interested in getting more from/or about international students in the U.S. Scott Van Der Meid has served as co-editor this past year, but we may be looking for a new co-editor since he is replacing Terry Crouch as Co-Chair. A message announcing each newsletter is distributed via e-mail and the document posted on the Web site. Deadlines are generally Oct 15 and Apr 15 for publication around the end of November and about a month before the annual conference.

VIII- Elections for 2005-06 year- The following individuals were elected into the open positions:

- | | |
|---|---|
| - <i>Co-Chair</i> - J. Scott Van Der Meid | - <i>Development Coordinator</i> - Mark Lenhart |
| - <i>Newsletter Co-Editors</i> - Eero Jesurun and Tom Lavenir | - <i>Web Content Managers</i> - Jacqueline Bedard and Peter Johnson |

Annual Business Meeting Minutes [Continued from page 3]

IX- Advisory Board- The board supports the co-chairs and board members are encouraged to take on projects. The work of the board is done primarily over e-mail throughout the year, with a meeting at the annual conference. All of those interested were asked to speak to a member of the current advisory board.

X- Rainbow Reception- Everyone was encouraged to attend the SIG Reception this evening from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Rosebud Café on Capitol Hill.

XI- Special Thanks- Jan Kieling offered words of thanks to Terry Crouch for his excellent service as co-chair and presented him with small thank-you gifts as a token of her appreciation.

XII- NAFSA Montreal 2006- Mike Allcott, a member of the NAFSA Annual Conference Committee, encouraged everyone to submit proposals for sessions, workshops, posters for the NAFSA Conference in Montreal 2006. Deadline is August 1. E-mail Mike with questions [tdp@trentu.ca]

XIII- New Business- Jan Kieling noted that the Diversity Statement approved by NAFSA Board of Directors in 2004 omitted gender expression and identity. This omission was noticed and raised as a potential issue by Kevin Morrison and discussed among the Advisory Board members over email this spring. The Co-Chairs then wrote a letter to NAFSA leadership asking NAFSA to add gender expression and identity to the official Statement. The gist of NAFSA's response was that the language in the diversity statement was changed to be more general and inclusive of all identity groups without singling out any specific group. Kevin's candid discussion with one of the members of the committee that drafted the statement made him realize that this may be about as far as NAFSA is willing/able to go at this point. However, he said that he felt positive that the issue had been raised and addressed by the ad-hoc committee, and hopes that we have laid groundwork for future discussion about the inclusion of transgender individuals in our organization.

Jacqueline Bedard reviewed some ideas for panels and other proposals for upcoming conferences and encourage those interested in working on these to be in touch with her so she could post these on the website.

Adrian Spark from San Francisco announced that he is working on a DVD-ROM project on sexuality and gender expression for orientations for international students and would love to speak with others who have suggestions.

Justin Shelton from Notre Dame announced that there is a 5:15 p.m. organization meeting today for a Peace and Justice Special Interest Group that is just forming.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm. Minutes submitted by Susan Carty.

Updates from your co-chairs [Continued from page 1]

Volunteers Needed: The Rainbow SIG needs volunteers to help staff the SIG information table during the conference. Our Rainbow SIG banner will be displayed and materials need to be handed out to people who walk by: SIG newsletters, brochures, rainbow flag stickers, and invitations to our reception. You will also have a supply of SIG logo pins which you can sell for \$5.00. We request volunteers for a minimum of a 1 hour block - longer blocks of time would be wonderful. Please e-mail Jan Kieling ASAP with tentative or confirmed blocks of time.

Nominations for New Co-Chair Urgently Needed: Jan Kieling will be stepping down this summer as Co-Chair after two years. Scott Van Der Meid will continue for 2007. We are seeking a SIG member to replace Jan Kieling for a two-year term. We also are seeking names to place in nomination, preferably a woman to maintain gender balance, but this is not a requirement. Send any names to either Jan or Scott so that we have a nomination slate going into the Annual Meeting where we will hold the election of officers.

Safe travels,
Jan <kieling@berkeley.edu> & Scott <svanderm@brandeis.edu>

Rainbow SIG Advisory Board

Amy Bartnick-Blume (IFSA-Butler) - Jacqueline Bedard (Camosun College) - Mark Beirm (Pamona College) - Michael Carter (University of Alabama at Birmingham) - Susan Carty (Indiana University) - Kevin Coyne (International Students House) - Ismael Crotte (Universidad de Guadalajara) - Terry Crouch (Rotary International) - Andreas Eimer (University of Muenster) - Christina Florez (University of Miami) - Paul Geis (Bentley College) - Eero Jesurun (CIEE) - Bo Keppel (Retired) - Peter Kerrigan (Consultant) - Jan Kieling (University of California, Berkeley) - Tom Lavenir (James Madison University) - Mark Lenhart (CET Academic Programs) - Michael Mahan (University of Massachusetts, Boston) - Kevin Morrison (Earlham College) - Joe Murnan (Hariri Foundation) - Josh Newman (John Carroll University) - Anthony Ogden (Penn State) - Peggy Pusch (Intercultural Communication Institute) - Bradley Rink (CIEE) - Rick Russo (University of California, Berkeley) - Kathleen Sidel (Indiana University) - Greg Slatcher (University of Melbourne) - Daniel Soto (Indiana University) - Julie Trimpe (Augsburg College) - Art Turmelle (Foothill College) - Jerald Thornton (Marist College) - J. Scott Van Der Meid (Brandeis University)

For submissions, comments and or concerns regarding the SIGNALS Newsletter, please contact Co-Editors:

Eero Jesurun - Resident Director - CIEE
Study Center - 28012 Madrid - SPAIN
Tel: (34) 91-523-9875 - E-mail: Ejesurun@ciee.org

Thomas Lavenir - Assistant Director - ISSS
James Madison University - Harrisonburg, VA 22807 - USA
Tel: (540) 568-7314 - E-mail: lavenitp@jmu.edu

Foreign Queer in the Midwest USA?

[continued from page 1]

I have had the chance to attend various events organized by this group and get to know its members, their enthusiasm and hard work. I would like to recognize the job my peers are doing to educate both the gay and straight community, trying to fight homophobia and heterosexism through information, promoting empathy and self awareness.

Some of the events they have organized during the fall 2005 semester include the "Safe Zone @ CMSU" (two versions, one for faculty & staff and one for students and community members), the "Same Sex Holding Hands Day", the "Coming Out Day" as well as seminars, sessions, movie nights, health promotion, charity and relief events, etc.

During the months that I have been here, I have found out that even though many persons tolerate GLBT people, the gay living environment is pretty much closeted and few persons dare to live openly and publicly as gay. That is why I think that the work that Michael-Lee O'Brien, Dottie Jean Moore, Abby Doyle and Phillip Hernandez are doing is extremely significant and CMSU's vision and support through the Faculty Advisors, the offices of Community Engagement and Student Life is very important. They are making my stay in the US memorable and welcoming.

Special News from One of Our Members

Submitted by: Giancarlo Taylor- Director of International Studies, Kettering University

My boyfriend (a Spanish national from Barcelona) and I (American, born in Italy, grew up in Mexico City and USA) will be getting married legally next year in Barcelona in the spring of 2007. Basically I'm a gay global nomad, international educator who is Director of International Studies at Kettering University (former General Motors Institute). I've been with my boyfriend for ten years- his name is Antonio Guerrero Serrano and he is an artist from Valencia whom I met when I was coordinator of a study abroad program in Spain 10 years ago. We've been together ever since, he mostly comes to the USA to visit me since I make more money than he does. Hopefully with marriage, I will be able to move to Spain (he has no interest in moving to the USA) and I think we will be very happy.

US Students Attend Sexuality Conference in The Netherlands

Submitted by: Ginni Fleck- School for International Training Amsterdam

This spring semester the School for International Training (SIT) program "Sexuality and Gender Identity," located in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, has become increasingly involved with a Call for Action entitled *What about sex?*, part of a



conference organized by Youth Incentives and World Population Foundation. SIT participants and staff attended the March conference in Utrecht. The Call for action was co-sponsored by SIT and written to be presented at the United Nations gathering addressing HIV/AIDS. Explicitly, SIT students expressed the need to discuss dental dams, giving lesbians more visibility in the field of sexual health. They also brought up the issue of gender identity raising awareness for the need for trans inclusion. At this conference, World Population Foundation and Youth Incentives wanted to tackle taboos related to sexuality: what is sexuality, which norms and values surround it, how do people value their own sexuality and why is openness so important? Participants had the opportunity to develop skills needed for discussing sexuality with specific target groups.

It was great to be involved in a project that engaged them as global citizens involved in sharing information about sexual health with many others from other parts of the world.

For more information you can check out the Youth Incentives website: www.youthincentives.org.

Rainbow SIG 13th Annual NAFSA Reception

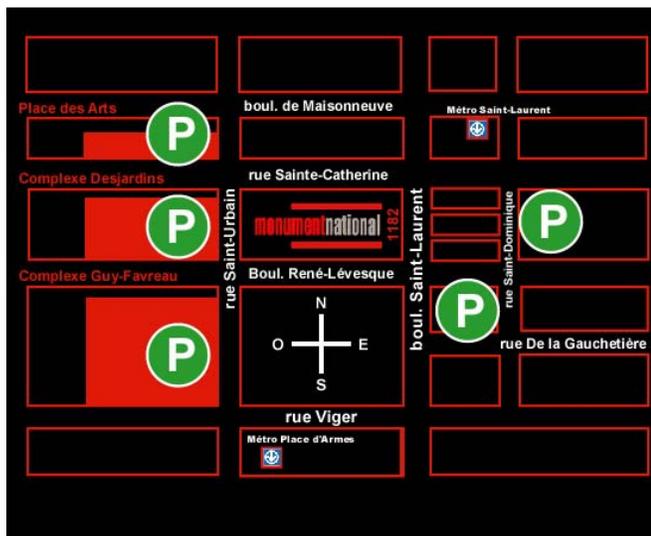
Wednesday, May 24, 2006 8:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Hors d'oeuvres and Cash Bar

Café at the Monument-National

[1182 Saint-Laurent Blvd - <http://www.monument-national.qc.ca>]

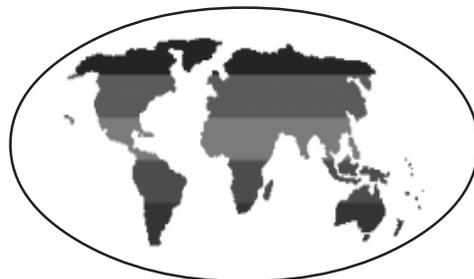
A proud landmark in the heart of the performing Arts District of Montreal, the Monument-National has led a life as varied and colourful as those of the many artists who have played on its stages. Built in Montreal in 1893, the Monument-National was for decades an essential stop for the great French, English, and Yiddish vaudevillians, as well as stars like Edith Piaf, Emma Albani, and Maurice Schwartz. It once housed the Starland, one of the first cinemas in North America. Quebec's first feminist launched their campaigns here in the 1900s. Fully renovated for its one-hundredth anniversary, today the Monument-National's romantic past is linked to renewed possibilities for the future. Today it belongs to the National Theatre School of Canada, the country's leading theatrical institution.



The Rainbow SIG Co-Chairs and Advisory Board gratefully acknowledge the Institute for Study Abroad at Butler University, CET Academic Programs, the Council on International Education Exchange, Denmark's International Study Program, interstudy, and SIT Study Abroad for their generous contributions to this event.

Who are your friendly Rainbow SIG Officers?

<u>Co-Chairs:</u>	Jan Kieling (UC Berkeley) & J. Scott Van Der Meid (Brandeis University)
<u>Membership Coordinator:</u>	Susan Carty (Indiana University)
<u>Newsletter Editors:</u>	Thomas Lavenir (James Madison University) & Eero Jesurun (CIEE, Madrid)
<u>Listserv Manager:</u>	Daniel Soto (Indiana University)
<u>Web Content Managers:</u>	Jacqueline Bedard (Camosun College) and Peter Johnson (Berkeley's Haas School of Business)
<u>Web Manager:</u>	Kathy Sideli (Indiana University)
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Rick Russo (UC Berkeley)
<u>Development Coordinator:</u>	Mark Lenhart (CET Academic Programs)
<u>Recording Secretary:</u>	Ismael Crotte (Universidad de Guadalajara)



Make sure to check out Rainbow SIG's website at:
<http://www.indiana.edu/~overseas/lesbigay>