The Challenge of Addressing Sex and Sexuality in Orientation
Submitted by: Eero Jesurun, CIEE Madrid

Speaking with advisors about GLBT students, some still have questions about when and where to address sex and sexuality in pre-departure or orientation. In a few cases, it is not always clear what information staff needs to know in preparation for orientation. The easy task seems to be updating and selecting resources that are helpful to students, but the challenge is how do you communicate all this information about sex and sexuality to study abroad participants in an effective way?

Student issues related to sex and sexuality include (albeit it is not a complete list): personal safety and security such as sexual harassment, hate crime, rape, alcohol/drug abuse; health and counseling such as coming out, STD testing, pregnancies, eating disorders; cultural stereotypes related to gender and social relationships, dating, attitudes towards sexual orientation, use of smiles, body images, personal space & touching, etc.

Many research reports, such as the one completed by the US National Campaign to Prevent Teenage Pregnancies, show that discussing sex and sexuality do not increase sexual activity [and risky behavior]. But the challenge seems to be more how to address this to students and how to communicate relevant and important information to them.

From my own in-country experience in Spain, it has been useful to follow some of the following general guidelines in addressing participants when the topic [Continued on Page 2]

Summary of Region XII SIG Meeting in Hawaii
Submitted by: Darrell Kicker, University of Hawaii

Seven attendees reunited for a regional Rainbow SIG meeting at the NAFSA Bi-Regional (Regions I & XII) Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii from November 10-14, 2008. Specifically, the passage of Proposition 8 and its meaning for the NAFSA national conference in Los Angeles (May 24-29, 2009) was our main topic. The general consensus was that boycotting the conference in LA would not really be effective, but that we did feel compelled to take action. Especially, we want to take the opportunity to educate fellow NAFSAns while at the conference.

Several steps were discussed for a plan of action at the NAFSA annual conference: Primarily, we discussed how to ask that NAFSAns (and certainly Rainbow SIG members) only stay at hotels that support equality and were
Addressing Sex and Sexuality

[Continued from Page 1]

of sex and sexuality is discussed in a large group situation.

1. Discuss peer pressure
   * US vs. host culture
   * Recruit local youth or students in activity

2. Demonstrate general life skills in host culture
   * Smiling/body language – when is it appropriate?
   * Cultural courtesies in social context
   * How to accept or decline invitations
   * How to say thank you and sorry

3. Explain sexuality in cross-cultural context
   * Differences in dating, gender behavior
   * Avoid scare tactics about risky behaviour
   * Use some pop culture images in your presentation

4. Focus on negotiation skills in host culture
   * Teach conflict resolution & communication skills
   * Share colloquial words/expressions
   * Explain adequate tone of voice/eyes/hands

Findings About LGBT Issues in United Kingdom Universities

Submitted by: Thomas Lavenir, James Madison University

“The fact that LGBT students feel they can be themselves in our universities is very positive. But there still needs to be a concerted effort by the sector and institutions to ensure that LGBT staff and students feel welcome and are acknowledged and recognised as an integral part of the higher education community.”

This direct quote from United Kingdom’s Higher Education Minister David Lammy was his reaction to the Equality Challenge report. The unit, founded in 2001 and funded by the higher education sector and the funding councils, compiled this report as a result of an analysis of 4,205 online responses to an electronic survey disseminated to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual (LGBT) staff and students in higher education institutions in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

“The research finds that higher education provides a positive space for many LGBT students, but there are still high levels of homophobia and discrimination on campus, a factor that contributes to 20% of LGB and 28.5% of trans students suspending their studies. More than a third of LGB staff and 41% of trans staff who took part in the research have experienced discrimination and abuse from colleagues.”

The result of this report will ideally shed new perspective to the need for the UK government to adopt the Equality Bill and to address and deal with all sorts of inequalities (based on gender, ability, sexual orientation, racial, age…)

This article is based on the article: UK: Sexuality Challenge for Universities which Diane Spencer wrote on March 15, 2009 found on the University World News - http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20090315110842930
Rainbow SIG’s
Conference Schedule at a Glance:

*Monday, May 25, 2009*
4pm - Rainbow SIG Advisory Board Meeting at the Holiday Inn San Jose room.

*Tuesday, May 26, 2009*
8:30-10am - Poster Session: Diversity Outreach, Enhancing Learning
9:30-11am - MIG Open House
2:30-3:45pm - Session: Addressing Sex and Sexuality in Predeparture and On-Site Orientation.

*Wednesday, May 27, 2009*
8-9am - Session: Beyond Rainbow Flags: Advising Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, or Transgender Students
1:45-3pm - Rainbow SIG Annual Business Mtg. in ?!!!?
3-5pm - Rainbow SIG 16th Annual Reception at Ciudad restaurant (1318 9th Street NW)

--- 2009 NAFSA Annual Conference Rainbow SIG Related Sessions ---

:: Diversity Outreach, Enhancing Learning ::
* Poster Session:*
Posters will highlight innovative programs, support services, and resources to assist colleges and universities interested in expanding study abroad participation and enhancing learning before, during, and after study abroad, especially among under-represented and nontraditional study abroad populations focusing on LGBT, disability, race and ethnicity, socio-economic status, and academics disciplines such as sciences and engineering.

:: Addressing Sex and Sexuality in Predeparture and On-Site Orientations ::
* Session abstract:*
Learn innovative ways to talk about sex and sexuality, within the framework of health and safety abroad, during predeparture and on-site orientations. This session showcases an upcoming NAFSA publication, videos on preventing sexual assault, and on-site experiences of advising students about sexual health and sexual identity.

* Presenters include:*
- Melissa Chambers, Arcadia
- Dr. Stephen Ferst, The Education Abroad Network
- Eero Jesurun, CIEE Madrid

:: Region IV Highlight: Beyond Rainbow Flags: Advising Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, or Transgender Students ::
* Session abstract:*
Explore strategies to make your office a more friendly place for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) students by going beyond rainbow flags! Learn about GLBT frameworks, advising techniques and resources, and critically examine real case studies.

* Presenters include:*
- Bradley Titus, U. Minnesota
- Sarah Tschida, U. Minnesota

16th Annual NAFSA Reception
Wednesday, May 27 2009
8-10 p.m.

Ciudad restaurant:
445 S. Figueroa Street
- http://www.ciudad-la.com/

“Experience the bold and seductive flavors of the Latin world at Ciudad, the Downtown restaurant of Chefs Mary Sue Milliken and Susan Feniger, Food Network’s “Too Hot Tamales”

The Rainbow SIG is raising funds for our reception and we will be thanking our generous sponsors in the coming weeks.
were opposed to Proposition 8. Another idea included the publication of a full page ad in the NAFSA program to voice our opposition to Proposition 8 and to suggest restaurants and businesses, etc, that are deserving of our support. We thought it best to emphasize who we want to support and not who we want NAFSA attendees to boycott. In addition, we felt it was critical to expand the visibility of our SIG information table at the conference (most likely in the registration area). Some thoughts include the design and distribution of posters, flyers, handouts, buttons, stickers, etc.

Also from our discussion, it seemed as though some of the attendees who work in California should be participating in community service projects in various neighborhoods to help educate voters about Proposition 8. For international educators in Region XII, we will repeat the visibility campaign and dialogue for the Regional Conference in San Diego in October, 2009.

Test your knowledge!

Can You List in Chronological Order the (following) Countries with Legal Gay Marriage? (according to the years that legislation was passed by parliament)

Canada
Spain
Netherlands
South Africa
Belgium
Norway
Sweden

Answer:


Test your knowledge!

Did you know that our webpage features a list of books that have been recommended by members of the Rainbow SIG which identify sources of information on cultural, lifestyle and legal information...?

Your Rainbow SIG Newsletter Co-Editors:

Eero Jesurun
Resident Director - CIEE Study Center
Universidad Carlos III de Madrid
Calle Madrid 128 - Edificio 15.1.53
28903 Madrid - SPAIN
Tel: (34) 91-530-9032
E-mail: Ejesurun@ciee.org

Thomas Lavenir
Assistant Director
International Student & Scholar Services
James Madison University
800 S. Main St. - Harrisonburg, VA 22807 - USA
Tel: (540) 568-7314
E-mail: lavenitp@jmu.edu

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

Do you have a Facebook account? If so, please note that the Rainbow SIG has a profile: NAFSA Rainbow SIG. Join us if you wish, share your comments, pictures, videos of your NAFSA experiences and more... stay in touch!