On Wednesday, May 27 2009 during the annual Rainbow SIG Annual Business Meeting Bradley Titus officially became Rainbow SIG’s new Co-Chair. Some of you may know him as Bradley or as BJ and have noticed that he is left-handed as well as his passion for Thai restaurants and fishing in general, but most of you know him as the Associate Institutional Relations Director at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities’ Learning Abroad Center. Did you know that the same institution he works for is also where he graduated in 2002 with a double major in Linguistics and Spanish? His passion for international education started when he decided to study abroad. Back from his studies in Spain, he utilized his passion and served as a Study Abroad Peer Advisor. An entry-level position in the Study Abroad office opened up right around the time Bradley graduated. He jumped on this opportunity and has worked at the University of Minnesota’s Learning Abroad Center as well Macalester College’s International Center. His coming out process coincided when he first studied abroad to Valladolid, Spain. There, Bradley met for the first time an individual who was openly out, and as a result opened Bradley’s eyes and his “thought process.” Six months later Bradley came out to himself and to his peers. That being said, his coming out process to his parents was not the easiest, to say the least.

The 2009 NAFSA Annual Conference in Los Angeles coincided with the California State Supreme Court’s ruling on challenges to Proposition 8 on May 26, 2009. Billed by Proposition 8 opposition groups as the “Day of Decision” (http://dayofdecision.com/), a series of rallies in the LA area were organized for that day. A group of a dozen or so Rainbow SIG members joined the afternoon rally at nearby Pershing Square downtown. It was a day of mixed emotions. While the California Supreme Court confirmed the validity of the some 18,000 sex-same marriages that had already occurred in the state from June 16 to November 4, 2008, it simultaneously ruled that the measure was, in fact, a valid amendment to the California Constitution under current state law (and not an illegal revision of the constitution as opponents contended).

The court maintained that the rights of same-sex couples were not fundamentally altered by the passage of Proposition 8, but that same-sex couples were denied the use of the term “marriage” in a narrow sense. As stated in the court’s Opinion published that day:

"Proposition 8 was not a lawful amendment to the California Constitution because it denies equal treatment to same-sex couples."

Rainbow SIG Co-Chairs:
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  Director of Study Abroad
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Dear colleagues,

This past year has had record of highs and lows. We celebrated the success of the SIG under the clear Los Angeles sky as our friends in California and across the nation mourned the upholding of California’s Proposition 8 (aka the California Marriage Protection Act) by the California State Supreme Court. Several SIG members took part in rallies around the LA region. Many SIG members convened at the CIEE conference in Istanbul, truly a highlight of the year, as well as regional NAFSA meetings across the country and the Forum Conference in Charlotte. We have enlisted the assistance of a specialist in the field of library science to assist us in creating a user-friendly method of archiving and accessing the vast amount of GLBT resources available on the SIG web site, the majority of which has been created by members of the SIG. Under the leadership of Kevin Coyne, Peter Kerrigan and Mark Lenhart, the scholarship committee has invested a great deal of time and energy into the scholarship project. While the costs of administering our own scholarship appear prohibitive, the SIG will continue to advocate for the earmarking of funds to support GLBT students and GLBT-related scholarship. Same sex marriage has been legalized in two more states, Washington, DC and Mexico City since the last NAFSA Conference. Elsewhere worldwide, there has also been highs and lows. Ugandan Parliament member David Bahati introduced the Uganda Anti-Homosexuality Bill which would broaden the criminalization of same-sex relationships in Uganda and would introduce the death penalty for HIV-positive people engaging in sexual activity with people of the same sex or with those under 18. France became the first country to declassify transgenderism as a mental illness. Fiji became the first Pacific Island nation to formally decriminalize homosexuality and The Delhi High Court in India decriminalized homosexual relationships. It is always good this time of year, to look back and see how much has changed, and how greatly the Rainbow SIG can help.

Co-chairs
Mark Beirn and BJ Titus

Welcome Letter
Submitted by: Co-Chairs Mark Beirn (Tulane University) & Bradley Titus (University of Minnesota)

Semenya Saga sheds light on intersex South Africans
Submitted by: Bradley Rink (CIEE South Africa)

Prior to the recent 2009 World Athletics [Track and Field] Championships held in Berlin, 18-year old South African middle-distance runner Mokgadi “Caster” Semenya was little known outside of running circles or her home village of Fairlie in Limpopo Province, South Africa. Unfortunately, however, Semenya was soon to be a household name not due to her outstanding athletic skills, but because of a controversy over her gender. In the wake of her gold medal 800 metres win in Berlin, Semenya’s celebration was tarnished by questions of her gender. This caused the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) to conduct gender verification tests on Semenya following the competition. Comparisons were made between Semenya’s muscular physique and those of 1970s-era Eastern Block athletes who at the time were alleged to be men posing as women or simply females whose performance had been boosted by male hormones. While the incidents in the 1970s exposed Cold War-era animosities, the case of Caster Semenya ignited debates about race, sex, gender, and sexuality. But few arguments accurately touched upon the truth of the intersexed, and often silenced the very communities that were being examined through the media glare.

Our new co-chair: Bradley Titus
(Continued from Page 1)

"It was a struggle with my parents in the beginning. Being from a small town, it is something that was quite a shock to them, but they have come around over the years and have really embraced it and invite my partner up for holidays." When sharing what his experience was like being an out gay men at work, Bradley was very quick at describing his office as a very open, welcoming and accepting environment. "My office is absolutely amazing when it comes to being out." As it turns out, Bradley is not the only out individual in his team. Bradley, further commented on the fact that this support and this environment are his office organized a wedding shower for source of inspiration and motivation for be- their coworker and her partner. It views wed- ding shower parties as venues "to celebrate any great couple [whether heterosexual or bow SIG co-chair? He is very excited being homosexual].” Bradley could not hope for a better working environment fulfilling the mission of the Rainbow SIG.

"Being from a small town, it [being out] is something that was quite a shock to them, but they have come around over the years and have really embraced it and invite my partner up for holidays."
Proposition 8 Rally in L.A.  (Continued from Page 1)

“...the measure carves out a narrow and conclusive equal respect and dignity!). And yet reaching change in the nature and operation limited exception to these state constitutions, the fact remains that it is still legal in California of our governmental structure that it must eighth tional rights, reserving the official designations for a majority of citizens to deny equal protection to the marriage of the term “marriage” for the union rights to a minority. constitution rather than a mere “amendment” of opposite-sex couples as a matter of state Justice Carlos R. Moreno was the sole dis-sent in the 6-1 decision to uphold the low same-sex couples to be stripped of the all of the other extremely significant sub- constitutionality of Proposition 8. Justice Alito married that the Supreme Court had stantive aspects of a same-sex couple’s Moreno concluded that Proposition 8 was previously confirmed “places at risk the state state constitutional right to establish an officially recognized and protected family relationship and the guarantee of equal protection of the laws.” A Judicial Council of California news release noted that in a concurring opinion, Justice Katherine Mickle Werdegar conduced that “although Proposition 8 impinges upon the right of same-sex couples to have their family relationship accorded respect and dignity equal to that accorded the family relationship of opposite-sex couples, the measure ‘has not brought about such a broad change in the principle of equal protection as to amount to a constitutional revision.’”

The California Supreme Court seemed in"requiring discrimination against a minority a very narrow majority and that the momentum and progress toward full marriage rights a proverbial silver lining – that equal protection remains in place (even though that underlies our California Constitution not be denied."

As Justice Werdegar noted in this does not in – and thus ‘represents such a drastic and far-

Uniting American Families: Keeping Our Families Together
Submitted by: Glenn Freeman (Oklahoma State Representative, NAFSA)

In the 10+ years that I have been advising international students I have seen several same sex partners face separation because there is no legal protection of their relationship. For example, one of my former F1 students has been with her partner for 10 years now. They have jointly raised their partner’s daughter. They are a loving committed family. The student is from Malaysia. She has completed her bachelor’s degree and two master’s degrees here at our school. She sought sponsorship for H1B status but could not find an employer to sponsor her. In February of this year the UAFA was once again introduced by Representative Nadler the US with her family or abandon her family and return to Malaysia where she would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act most likely be forced to marry. Unable to eliminate discrimination in the immigration tos continue paying tuition for degrees she did not really want or need she abandoned her of United States citizens and lawful permanent efforts to maintain student status and is nent residents to obtain lawful permanent resident status in the same manner as spouses of citizens and lawful permanent residents and to penalize immigration fraud in connection with permanent partnerships.

At the time of this writing the bill has 116 cosponsors and has been referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law.

It was introduced in the Senate by Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) as S. 424 where it has 22 cosponsors and has been referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. There are some who argue that the bill would give special rights to foreigners. Not so, this bill gives basic rights to U.S. citizens and permanent residents to keep their families together. There is also the argument that it would be abused by some to gain entry and residency in the United States. (Continued on page 4)
NAFSA’s Education Abroad Leadership Award was established in 1999 with the support and approval of the then-SECUSSA National Team to complement the Lily von Klemperer Award and recognize members whose records of distinguished service to the education abroad profession exceed 15 years. Although two awards were made under special circumstances during that year, the award is now made to one education abroad professional each year at the NAFSA Annual Conference.

The 2009 Award Recipient was our very own Jan Kieling! One close colleague of Jan’s, J. Scott Van Der Meid of Brandeis University, said, “…every member of the National Advisory Committee with IFSAA –Butler mentioned [her] dedication to the field, [her] good nature, and [her] focus on teamwork. She has shown tremendous attention to detail on site visits, and prepares her students well before they travel. Jan has the ability to think strategically, work creatively in the face of challenge, all with good nature and optimism.”

Jan Kieling was the Administrative Director of Berkeley Programs for Study Abroad at the University of California, Berkeley, and retired in July 2009. In commemoration of her retirement we decided to take a deeper look at who Jan Kieling really is! Jan served as co-chair of the Rainbow SIG from 2004-2006 and has served in a multitude of other roles within the SIG during her time with NAFSA. She attended her first meeting the year the Lesbigion SIG was founded in 1993.

Jan was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota but calls Oakland, California and the greater San Francisco Bay Area her home where she has lived for the last 40 years. Her father was a Naval Officer— which meant that she and her older brother were constantly uprooted and forced to adapt quickly to new environments. She spent her youth playing sports (basketball and softball), writing music (she began playing guitar and writing her own songs at age 10) and making people laugh with her “quirky ability to use foreign accents and different voices” when telling stories.

In 1968 during her junior year of high school, her family relocated to Sacramento, California, bringing her out to the west coast, and providing her with a “safe place to explore and experience life”. In the late sixties, there was a great deal going on socially, politically, and culturally in California, including the start of the gay liberation movement.

At 16, Jan had her first taste of study abroad in Durham, England on a six-week summer high school program. At that point she was certain she wanted to spend a junior year abroad in college. After studying Spanish in school for six years she decided to switch it up and try Italian. She fell in love with the language and the art (she also studied European Art History) and knew instantly that’s where she wanted to be. Jan spent her junior year abroad at the University of Padua in northern Italy with the UC Education Abroad Program. It was this experience for which she attributes her desire to enter the field of international education.

Getting a job at UC Berkeley was a fluke. Jan graduated from UC in 1973 with a degree in Journalism in the middle of a recession and struggled to find work. She worked several temp jobs to pay the bills and a friend told her about an opening at the study abroad office at UC Berkeley. She applied and was hired with a two-year commitment. She fell in love with the job, the university, and the opportunity to work with students, and finished her career at the same place she started… 35 years later! Jan met her partner in 1985, registered in California as domestic partners in 2001, and the two have been together for the last 23 years.

Jan struggled with her sexual identity from age 18 to 24 and for a while identified as bisexual. Eventually, after several years of dating men and “working hard at being straight”, she stopped fighting and fell in love with a woman who helped her come out to her family and herself.

Jan feels extremely fortunate that her coming out process was fairly smooth and had the support of family and friends. Coming out to her family was probably easier because she has other gay family members (an uncle and two cousins). She was able to flourish in a professional environment that did not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation – both at UC Berkeley and in California. So what is Jan doing now that she’s retired? She is excited about the possibility of starting new hobbies but in the meantime, is enjoying picking up her guitars and singing again. She loves films, comedy, cats, travel, football, jewelry & gemstones, photography, and Canada! Want to find Jan and say hello? She might be retired but she’s not outdated… you can find her on Facebook or email her at yaneechay@hotmail.com.
The passage of the Uniting American Families Act would pre-
vent the cruel separation of loving and caring families such
as the one I described earlier. We can all make a difference
against abuse and fraud as current law applies to het-
sexual marriages. There are those who had hoped that
provisions for permanent residency for same sex partners
would be included in the long-awaited comprehensive im-
migration reform bill. This is not guaranteed and the immi-
gration reform bill, which was supposed to be introduced by
Semenya in front of reporters at press conferences to show that she was
really a girl’. The ASA even accepted an offer by popular South African
magazine YOU where Semenya was dressed up in pink, painted with plenty
of rouge and lipstick, and displayed on newsstands across the country. For
the most part Semenya has remain silent—some say silenced—since her gold
medal win in Berlin. Yet the story continues to develop.
In the weeks since the controversy erupted, it has emerged that ASA under-
stood Semenya to be Intersexed yet they covered it up and allowed Semenya’s
sexual identity to be questioned by the world at-large. Semenya has been
brought up and has lived the life of a woman for all of her 18 years. She had
every right to compete as a woman, and deserves her gold medal. However,
her sexual identity is more complicated than a question of male or female.
Intersexuality is described by Intersex South Africa (ISSA) as “atypical con-
genital physical sexual differentiation (that) takes the form of ambiguous
external genitalia.” While the boxes that we tick would conveniently ‘sex’
a person across the binary of ‘male’ and ‘female’, and our social structures
similarly ‘gender’ a person along the same lines through expected norms and
behaviour, the experience of the intersexed demonstrates that such binaries
do not always apply. Often confused with transsexuality, intersexuality is
a state of anatomical ambiguity, rather than one of gender-identification that is the case in transsexuality.
According to Intersex South Africa (ISSA), South Africa has one of the
world’s highest incidences of more intersexed people, where it is estimated
that one in 500 people are born intersexed. That a community of intersexed
is about the body rather than about sexual attraction.” Intersexuality is “about anatomical ambiguity at one or more levels—
be it chromosomal, gonadal, connected with the external genitalia, hormonal,
or a combination of these, rather than about gender-identification. Likewise,
intersexuality should not be confused with sexual orientation. Intersexuality is
about the body rather than about sexual attraction.” According to Intersex South Africa (ISSA), South Africa has one of the
world’s highest incidences of more intersexed people, where it is estimated
that one in 500 people are born intersexed. That a community of intersexed
people exists is undeniable; the question is: do we treat them with respect and
see them as an integral part of our rainbow nation? And how will this case
affect future competitors of all sexes? According to South Africa’s Mail &
Guardian newspaper, the IAAF’s medical commission will meet on 16 Octo-
ber 2009 to begin deliberations on the definition of a woman in the context
of athletics competitions—at the same time it prepares to reveal the results of
Caster Semenya’s gender tests.
For more information on intersexuality, see the ISSA website at http://www.
intersex.org.za

* Amy Bartnick-Blume (Butler University), * David W. Brannon University of Washington), * Erin Burt (University of California, Berkeley), * Melissa Chambers (Arcadia University), * Kevin Coyne (International Students House - United Kingdom), * Terry Crouch (Middlebury College), * Paul Geis (Elon University), * Steve Jacques (The University of Hawai‘i System), * Bo Keppel (Retired), * Peter Kerrigan (DAAD-New York) * Kim Killingsworth (Cornell University), * Scott king (TUniversity of Iowa), * Alan Lawrie (Monash University), * Greg Slatcher (University of Melbourne - Australia), * Jean Murnan (Hari Foundation), * Tony Ogden (Penn State), * Bradley Rink (CIEE - South Africa), * Duane Rohovit (University of Minnesota), * Kathleen Sidel (Indiana University), * Greg Slater (University of Melbourne - Australia), * J Scott Van Der Meid (Brandeis University), * Kevin A. Zajac (Saint Joseph’s University)
The Center for Global Education (CGE), Augsburg College’s study abroad campus in Cuernavaca, Mexico, started a GSA group (Gay Straight Alliance) this Fall. The idea came from staff member Marisela Chaplin as she felt that GLIBTAQ (Gay, Lesbian, Intersex, Bisexual, Transgender, Asexual & Questioning) and Straight (heterosexual) students didn’t have a specific space to socialize and talk about sexual diversity issues. Although students can have a Gay or Lesbian home-stay or internship and discuss related issues in class, there was a need to talk more deeply and personally as well as socialize and learn about GLIBTAQ life in Mexico.

The response from students has been great as well as from other staff members, such as history professor (and gay activist) Antonio Ortega. The group meets every other week and among other activities has: shared coming out stories, attended a drag show, watched and discussed the movie Milk, celebrated birthdays of group participants, and visited Grupo CD4 and Queernavaca Magazine, to name a few. The plan is to continue the group in future semesters and open this to students and staff from the local Universal Spanish School as well as other members of the Cuernavaca community.

For more info on Augsburg’s GLIBTAQ friendly semester programs check the following link: http://www.augsburg.edu/global/about/lgbtsqsem.html

Rainbow SIG Conference Schedule

:: Tuesday, June 1st ::
* 9:30-11:00 CMIG Open House
Convention Center, Exhibit Hall CDE
* 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Advisory Board Meeting
The Marriott Downtown [ML Williams AB Marriott Tower, Third Floor.]

:: Wednesday, June 2nd ::
* 1:45 - 3:00 p.m. Rainbow SIG Annual Business Meeting
The Westin Crown Plaza [Roanoke room]
* 8:00 - 10:00 p.m. Rainbow SIG Annual Reception
Hamburger Mary’s [101 Southwest Blvd., ]

:: Thursday, June 3rd ::
* 3:45 - 5:00 p.m. Queer Studies in Local Contexts
Location: T.B.A.
* 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Diversity Forum
Location: T.B.A.

Kansas City Pride Week is taking place May 30 to June 6... check out the official website for more information and a schedule of events!
http://www.gaypridekc.com/fest/PrideWeek.php