Rainbow SIGnals Newsletter

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 NAFSAns 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 professional in international education.

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RAINFO SIG Schedule of Events at NAFSA

*For exact locations, please check your Registration Program

• Get Networked in NAFSA Fair (Rainbow SIG Table)
  Tues, May 28th 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

• Advisory Board Meeting: Tues, May 28th 11:15 AM – 12:15 AM

• Rainbow SIG Open Meeting
  Wed, May 29th 10:15 AM – 11:15 AM
  (yes, this is a time change from our normal meeting)
  Elections for: Co-chair, Co-Editor, and Co-Web Content Manager. Please send nominations to Co-Chairs now (See pages 2 and 3)

• Poster Fair: Best Practices in Addressing Gender and Sexuality in International Education
  Wed, May 29th 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

• Rainbow SIG Annual Reception
  Wed, May 29th 8:00 PM – 10:00 PM
  Hamburger Mary’s: 3037 Olive Street, St Louis, MO 63103
  Tel: (314) 533-6279 / www.hamburgermarys.com

NEED ONSITE REGISTRATION INFO?
Click Here

ONLINE REGISTRATION
CLOSED APRIL 19.
How Do Universities Rank on the Campus Pride Index?

All eight LGBT-Friendly factors receive the same weight in the overall score. Significant testing and analysis went into determining the weights. The eight LGBT-Friendly factors are, as follows:

1. LGBT Policy Inclusion
2. LGBT Support & Institutional Commitment
3. LGBT Academic Life
4. LGBT Student Life
5. LGBT Housing
6. LGBT Campus Safety
7. LGBT Counseling & Health
8. LGBT Recruitment and Retention Efforts

After completion, the appropriate campus official receives a confidential report of the index tool along with recommendations for improvement and an LGBT-Friendly rating through the use of a five star scoring system. The five star score is a continuum of progress for inclusive LGBT and Ally policies, programs, and practices. Three stars represent the mid-range score possible. Public users may search a basic profile with limited results from every campus; however, a campus may also opt out of sharing their information online.

Interested to know where your institution ranks? View the LGBT-Friendly Score here: [http://www.campusprideindex.org/search/](http://www.campusprideindex.org/search/)

Interested in your institution becoming ranked by Campus Pride? Learn how here:

[http://www.campusprideindex.org/campusofficialsonly/default.aspx](http://www.campusprideindex.org/campusofficialsonly/default.aspx)
Congratulations to the 2013 Winner of the Rainbow Scholarship, Victoria LaFara!

Victoria LaFara
Portland Community College, to study in London, England

Hello, My name is Victoria. I’m a first generation student, mother, queer, social justice organizer, proletarian, abuse survivor, and 4.0 student. I attend Portland Community College and work part-time. My mission is to ease burdens for as many lives as I have ability. I measure success by the quality of life for the least fortunate members of our communities. I’ve volunteered throughout adulthood and continue to on campus. Being older and a driven woman of action, I have more life experience than traditional students. I’ve been a beauty instructor, construction contractor, Independent Media Center editor/outreach coordinator, arts and social justice center co-coordinator, and I’m currently Executive Director for Associated Students of PCC. After losing my business, I was making minimum wage and considering one of my life dreams: to get an education. I had only completed 7th grade before leaving home. At 16, I got my GED to begin college. However, I became pregnant and my life went down other paths, which brought me here. I began college to earn a bachelor’s and master’s degree in social work. As a former homeless queer youth, I will use my experience and education to design social programs. Living my life has been about learning the art of turning a nose dive into flight. In tough times, visions for my future provide destinations to focus on so that I don’t wallow and sink in the despair of the present.

Another life dream is to travel to Europe. I’m from Portland, OR and haven’t lived anywhere else. I have chosen London because I love British pop culture, have always felt a personal affinity for London, and there are exciting opportunities for me to gain experience through the volunteer component of my study abroad program. London has a network of programs exclusively for sexual minority homeless youth! That is my career focus. My goal is to volunteer for Jigsaw: the program that acts as a switch board for this network. Thus, I could have exposure to the entire system and bring that valuable perspective to my community. I am indescribably grateful that this, once out-of-reach, dream is coming true!

Please continue to support this scholarship by donating to Fund for Education Abroad! Learn more and give to the Rainbow Scholarship Fund. (Please indicate Program as Rainbow Scholarship Fund)

1920 N Street NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036-1601
Phone: 202.349.7340

RAINBOW SIG ELECTIONS

Nominations are open and elections will be held during the annual open business meeting on Wed., May 29 at 10:15. Please see NAFSA program for exact location. Open positions include: Co-chair, Co-Editor, and Co-Web Content Manager. These will be 2-year positions. For a description of duties, visit Rainbow SIG Governance section of our website.

Please submit nominations for open position to the co-chairs by Wed., May 22nd. Please include which position(s) you are running for and a short bio about you. Also, volunteer as a Regional Rep (see page 4).
CELEBRATE 20 YEARS OF THE RAINBOW SIG
Please Join Us
RAINBOW SIG RECEPTION

Wednesday, May 29th
8:00pm – Late

at Hamburger Mary’s
3037 Olive Street
St. Louis, MO 63103

Transit: Olive St @ N Cardinal Ave

Tel: (314) 533-6279
www.hamburgermarys.com

NEW Employment Section on Rainbow SIG Website
We’ve added a new section to the Rainbow SIG website which will highlight job opportunities. We encourage you to submit job opportunities to share within the community and we need your help to get the word out about your open positions.

http://www.rainbowsig.org/employment/

The Rainbow SIG Regional Representatives:
Region I: Joshua Davis ’12–’13
Region II: Open Position
Region III: Mark Powell ’12–’13 & Wafa Istambouli ’12–’13
Region IV: BJ Titus ’12–’13
Region V: Jesus Velasco ’12–’13, David Gardner ’12–’13, Joseph Halaas ’12–’13 & Mark Chung Kwan Fan ’12–’13
Region VI: Sarah Wann ’12–’13
Region VII: Open Position
Region VIII: Open Position
Region IX: Open Position
Region X: Rebecca Greenstrom ’12–’13
Region XI: Sara Sanford ’12–’13
Region XII: Travis Pentz ’12–’13 & Steve Jacques ’12–’13
Outside US: Kevin Stensberg (China) ’12–’13 & Christopher Daberer (Canada) ’12–’13

We are looking to fulfill the open positions for Regional Representatives, please email the Co-chairs if interested.

Travel Resource: OutAbroad.com is a lesbian backpacker site for ladies who love ladies who love travel.
Many gay travel sites focus heavily on gay male travel and OutAbroad.com is specifically designed for the ladies. Created by Nikki Danger and Ky Ventura, OutAbroad.com is interested in showing gay women abroad through guest blogging opportunities and also in promoting the study abroad experience from a gay perspective to readers in hopes more women will be inspired to study abroad!

If you have any questions or feedback about the site or know any women who are budding travel writers, please contact Nikki and Ky.

Visit the site now

CONNECT :: CONNECT :: CONNECT

SUBSCRIBE :: to the Rainbow SIG Listserv by completing the online form
GIVE :: DONATE to the Rainbow Scholarship
REACH OUT :: email the listserv, send your message to: rainbow-l@indiana.edu
LIKE US :: on Facebook Search [NAFSA Rainbow SIG] or https://www.facebook.com/groups/rainbowsig/
CONTRIBUTE :: submit content for the Rainbow SIG website (Web Content Managers: see page 2)
REPRESENT :: Volunteer to become a NAFSA Rainbow SIG Regional Rep (Page 4 for open Regions, multiple Reps per Region welcomed)