
=RAINBOW SIG NEWSLETTER=

NAFSA: Association of International Educators, Fall 2003, Vol. 10, No. 1

Terry Crouch Is New Co-Chair

Mr. Terry Crouch was nominated and elected as new co-chair during the annual SIG meeting in Salt Lake City. Based in Chicago, Terry is the program associate for France and Italy at IES, a leading study abroad provider for U.S. colleges and universities. Terry's interest in international education began during his high school years following two service experiences in the Dominican Republic. He participated in a CIEE study program in Rennes, France, while attending Wofford College and is currently completing his Master's degree in French language at Middlebury College. Together with Jacqueline Bedard from the University of California, Terry will be co-leading the Rainbow SIG.

Report from the Chairs

November 2003

10th anniversary celebrations

The Rainbow SIG held its biggest and most glamorous ever party last year in Salt Lake City in celebration of its tenth anniversary. The site of this magnificent event was the Peery Hotel, which is also where many of us stayed. The Peery did a magnificent job catering the event and pampering its guests. Clearly the Peery staff was just as excited about the event as we were. We hope to post a link to event photos on the Rainbow listserv before the Baltimore conference so that all who weren't able to attend will at least be able to revel in the visual splendor of it all. Stay tuned!

New & revised positions in the Rainbow SIG

During the week in Salt Lake City some of the Advisory Board members came up with suggestions on how to better structure our growing SIG. These are the outcomes.

◆ The Website Manager position has been changed. It is now a permanent non-elected position, due to the fact that the website is hosted and maintained at Indiana University, where the Web Manager, Kathleen Sideli is located. Indiana University has generously supported our website since its inception and there seems little reason to move it (and change the URL everywhere it is found). Naturally, Kathleen does reserve the right to relinquish her position at any time, at which point it would be up for re-election with no set term.

◆ A new position has been suggested by Kathleen to assist with the growing demands of our ever expanding web information. The Rainbow SIG will now have a Web Content Manager. We have appointed James Daniel, Rollins College to this position until we are able to hold a formal election process at next year's meeting. Welcome Jim!

◆ You may have noticed that the SIG's look is changing. We had a new logo developed for our 10th anniversary and we expect it to carry us through another decade. All of our materials have recently either been updated and revised, or are currently under this process. Fernando Guerrero, a graphic designer, has offered to update the brochure design for the Rainbow SIG, incorporating our new logo. We expect to have it ready for next year's SIG meeting in Baltimore.

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Continued Efforts to Improve Website Resources

As was stated at the Rainbow SIG meeting, the website has a need for more expansive resources for foreign students coming to North America. Feel free to suggest these to either Terry (tcrouch@IESabroad.org) or Jacqueline (jbedard@eap.ucop.edu).

We look forward to seeing you at this year's Rainbow SIG meeting and social in Baltimore!

Jacqueline Bedard Terry Crouch
Co-chair Co-chair

Los Angeles 2003

NAFSA Region XII held its conference in sunny LA this year. The Rainbow SIG took this opportunity to hold its second annual SIG meeting and social. This year's attendance was much better than last year (which was incidentally, the first). As I recall, there were about ten of us, an increase of over 50% from last year!

And the social activities were better attended this year as well. A large group of us went for martinis at the hotel after the NAFSA reception and then two groups of people went out exploring West Hollywood, in some cases into the wee hours of the night!

All in all, the SIG meeting required very little effort, was highly appreciated, and is a worthwhile event to have at the NAFSA regional conferences. We encourage you to host one yourself next year. Without active volunteers, the Rainbow SIG would cease to exist. Come take part!

Region XII hosts ~ Jacqueline Bedard and Darrell Kicker

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The Rainbow Special Interest Group of NAFSA Association of International Educators publishes the Rainbow Newsletter periodically.

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CALL FOR NEWS ITEMS:

If you have comments, NAFSA conference updates, student articles, etc., please send them to the newsletter. We would like to include both perspectives from international students who are in the US as well as study abroad program participants. Please send any news items articles to Eero Jesurun at: eero.jesurun@ciee-spain.org

Bookmark the Rainbow SIG Web Site
www.indiana.edu/~overseas/lesbigay

Student Perspective from Japan: Tangentially Related

Submitted by: Anthony C. Ogden, The
Pennsylvania State University

The following comments were written by Kendric Tonn, a student with the IES Center in Tokyo during the fall 2002 semester [when I was Director at this site]. During our exit interview, we discussed his identity as a gay man studying in Tokyo. I asked him to write down some of his thoughts and with his permission, I now share them with the Rainbow Newsletter. His comments remind me that for some students, just getting both feet planted firmly on the ground is probably the most important aspect [in an overseas study program].

"I confess I was a bit nervous about studying abroad because I had little idea what was awaiting me as a gay, American student in modern Tokyo. I knew that I should not expect a feudal, warrior-love accepting culture (having missed the Tokugawa era by a few centuries), but I had little idea what I might actually find. I went to Japan with a US study abroad program, and took classes on a Japanese campus. Both the staff and students I encountered there were nothing but wonderful. The other students on the program with me had no problem with my homosexuality. (Or, at the least, if they had a problem, no one ever troubled *me* about it, which amounts to the same thing in my book.) For the staff of the study-abroad program, I approached the director of the center early in the term, asking for advice on what I might expect as a homosexual in Japan. That consultation proved startlingly enlightening and a few days later, my director pointed me towards (and accompanied me to) a large gay pride parade through downtown Tokyo.

Outside the study abroad group though, things were occasionally more uncomfortable. For instance, I was staying with a Japanese family. At one point, the topic of homosexuality came up at dinner.

This confused the family's six-year-old daughter, and my host mother offered an explanation to her. To my limited language skills, it seemed an uncolored and fairly straightforward explanation, until she finally concluded with, "...but people don't ever talk about it." If I had had any particular inclinations to come out to my host family, this comment would have done them in. I had enough trouble just asking how to use the [high tech] Japanese bathtub, much less trying to explain my sexual orientation.

But, to be honest, I did not feel a great loss from my inability to make such explanations. Although I had some worries about the topic going over, my trip to Japan was ultimately only tangentially related to my homosexuality; whatever my inclination towards investigating Japanese sexual mores, my real experience was a bit more day to day problem solving. I earlier mentioned my difficulties with the bathtub. Add in [Tokyo] subway maps, strange calendars, classes, and other minutia of life – what you arrive at is that, ultimately, the experience of a confused foreigner. Tangentially, this particular confused foreigner likes other men, but it would be a great error to overrate that."

The SIG at NAFSA Regional Conferences

As usual, many Rainbow SIG members were actively involved at their local Regional Conferences this year. In addition to the SIG reception organized by Jacqueline and Derek at Region XII's Conference in LA, others such as Region XI gathered in Hartford to network and dine. Our presence at these conferences further emphasizes the important role the SIG plays within NAFSA, and it is thus essential that we try to create such meetings and presence at each Regional (not to mention that it means a good time for all). Not only are SIG members able to connect and reacquaint with friends and colleagues,

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Regionals (continued from page 3)

but these meetings also allow networking and active participation for members and potential members who are not be able to attend NAFSA's national conference. Likewise, advisors and professionals in the field who are unfamiliar with the SIG and who may be unable to attend national meetings are able to learn more about it and its resources.

If you would like to organize or help to organize an event for the next round of regional conferences, please contact co-chairs Jacqueline Bedard and/or Terry Crouch.

Madrid Movements: Finding an Active GLBT Community in Spain

By: Eero Jesurun, CIEE-Alcala de Henares

For study abroad students wanting to learn about sexuality in a Spanish context, they will find numerous social and academic opportunities in the greater Madrid area. As the country's capital, Madrid is recognized as an urban space with a large contingent of GLBT constituents. Not only is Madrid a dynamic place because of its political, geographical and cultural axis within the country, but also because it incorporates various venues for gays and lesbians. For instance, nearly 700,000 people gathered in the city to celebrate the annual Pride parade this past June. Several organizations rented busses to bring groups from other cities, such as Sevilla, Barcelona and Bilbao to participate in a week filled with activities. In addition, the first week of November, is the annual Gay and Lesbian Film festival that shows films with sexual orientation themes at various theaters throughout the city.

One of the main areas of daily GLBT activities in Madrid is the Chueca neighborhood which offers many gay-oriented commercial venues, restaurants, clothing stores, book stores, and houses the center for COGAM (a political action group for GLBT specific causes). Chueca

has emerged as a very trendy area that has seemingly been influenced by American gay culture. For instance, some streets have permanent rainbow flags as part of the local decor. The area is also popular among young Spanish people who visit the various clubs, bars and other night venues. The neighborhood also knows a lot of political and social activism. For example, COGAM has their own building in the heart of Chueca where they organize coffee hours, political lectures, dinner groups, hiking trips, etc. All this create a solid niche for GLBT individuals who visit Madrid.

Even for study abroad locations such as Alcala de Henares and Toledo, which have direct and short-distance train connection with Madrid, a growing GLBT culture is flourishing because of their vicinity to this active urban phenomenon. In Alcala, there is now a gay bar, several venues with drag performances and it is the residence of a prolific and openly gay author, Tomas Ortiz. Similarly, ODISEA, a Madrid area publishing group with many gay authors on its roster, has started to award annual writing prizes for the best GLBT fiction in Spanish language, which has been very successful in creating a large literary following. As part of their marketing strategy, ODISEA often organizes gay author lecture series in public libraries, book stores and other venues in Madrid, Alcala and other Spanish cities.

Additional information about various cultural activities can be found in local press resources in Madrid, such as the Shangay magazine (which is free and available in the gay bookstores and shops in Chueca) as well as the glossy magazine, Zero. In addition, there is a telephone information line through COGAM, called Gaiinform (Tel: 91-523-0070).

Additional GLBT - Madrid resources:

www.cogam.com
www.fundaciontriangulo.es
www.libreriaberkana.com
www.lesgaicinemad.org
www.orgullogay.org
www.zero-web.com

Rainbow SIG Annual Business Meeting Minutes

May 28, 2003 – Salt Lake City, Utah

I Welcome

Jacqueline Bedard and Kevin Morrison opened the meeting and welcomed all to the 10th Anniversary Annual Business Meeting. 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.

A motion to approve the minutes of the 2002 annual meeting was made and seconded. The minutes were approved.

II Leadership Reports

Website Manager Kathleen Sideli updated on the SIG website. She reported that the materials section has been updated, but there is still a large need for more resources on International Students coming to the U.S. She also reminded us that website is very reliant on volunteers. She explained that the website has three entry points for differing interests (Students, GLBT Professionals, Advisors), and that it has become the “main” site for resources.

In addition, she stressed the following:

- The student section needs more development.
- There is a need for a catalog of the newsletters.
- IU is the current host of the website.

Susan Carty speaking for Listserve Manager Daniel Soto reported on the list-serve. Currently it is also hosted by Indiana University. There are 84 members currently on the list-serve.

Membership Coordinator Susan Carty offered an update on SIG membership and reported that we have 119 members. After this she passed around the membership form for new members to sign-up and old members to renew. She reminded us that the mailing list is used for 2 or 3 newsletters per year and one or two other mailings (i.e. invitations), and that the member list is kept confidential.

Rick Russo gave the treasurer’s report. Rick noted that the fundraising campaign for the 10th anniversary reception was very

successful and approximately US\$4,000 was raised. He reminded us that all contributions are tax-deductible.

Eero Jesurun, Newsletter Editor, reported on the SIG Newsletter. There are two newsletters published each year. Eero asked for new articles/topics for articles, and updates on regional conferences. This will be announced via email. Jacqueline reported that articles from the foreign perspective are valued and provide interesting variations on the U.S. content.

III Elections

There were no officer elections, as it was noted that all of the two-year positions, other than the one co-chair position, had had people elected into them last year. Elections will take place again next year. Terry Crouch from IES was nominated and seconded as the new Co-Chair. This was approved.

Jacqueline thanked Kevin Morrison for his hard work and leadership.

IV New Business

A new means of selecting officers was discussed (there are 7 posts). Changes to this will be recommended and sent to the list-serve for discussion.

Kevin Morrison spoke about the SIG and the coming 10 years. “Where do we want to go?” Further development of resources. New Sessions and groups with which we can collaborate. What we can do in the next 5 years. At this point, the meeting broke into small groups to discuss what the SIG should undertake over the next 5 years.

Reports as follows:

Group 1: Increase overseas membership and advisory board. More collaboration with NAFSA. No conferences in places with discriminatory laws How to maintain identity in NAFSA while creating community

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Annual Business Meeting Minutes
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Group 2: Incorporate more sessions into NAFSA conferences

Group 3: Identify a regional contact person, particularly in regions with underrepresented membership. Create a vanity address website (still hosted by IU) to make it easier to remember (i.e. www.rainbowsig.org).

Group 4: Put more info concerning laws abroad affecting GLBT persons on website.

Group 5: New membership: Have a SIG rep at NAFSA first timers meeting.

Group 6: Need for additional resources. Creating and producing NAFSA publications. Being included in NAFSA best practices

Group 7: Make sure we have a SIG rep at each regional meeting. Ensure a SIG member on all local arrangement committees

Bo Keppel stood up to remind the meeting that the year that San Antonio and SLC were chosen, the SIG members stood up at general meeting in protest.

V - Announcements

Jacqueline announced the reception at the Peery Hotel. SIG related/diversity related sessions were announced Queens University in Canada is trying to become more inclusive. The university has made a recent campaign to make the community aware of transgendered issues. Posters are available and can be purchased.

The Local Arrangements rep spoke on Baltimore. Proposals have a Aug 1st deadline. We should use ideas from this meeting and make sessions cross-sectional. Use regionals for practice. Fill out conference evaluations!

Jacqueline once again thanked Kevin for his leadership. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Crouch

Please complete and return this form or send the information by e-mail.

RAINBOW SIG 2003-2004 MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAFSA: Association of International Educators

All members pledge to support the goals of the Rainbow SIG: to counsel international students and study abroad students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered; to support gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered professionals in international education; and to combat homophobia, heterosexism and transphobia within NAFSA.

Name _____

Position _____

Institution _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

I can assist the SIG by: Doing a session at a local or regional NAFSA Contributing to the newsletter
 Organizing next year's social event Assisting the co-chairs
 Outreach Other (specify) _____

Optional 2003-2004 Activity Fee Enclosed (Suggested amount: \$5 to \$10 to cover newsletter costs, etc.)

Complete and return to Susan Carty, Office of Overseas Study, Indiana University, Franklin Hall 303, Bloomington, IN 47405; E-mail: scarty@indiana.edu. Make checks payable to NAFSA Rainbow SIG.