

SIGnals

Rainbow SIG Newsletter

NAFSA: Association of International Educators, Fall 2008, Vol. 15 No. 1

Rainbow SIGnals is published once a semester by the Rainbow Specific 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 ::

- Interview with our New Co-Chair
- Where is your gay village?

:: Page Two ::

- Summary of Rainbow SIG Activities
- Rainbow SIG Advisory Committee
- Did you know? Featuring Bernard Delanoe

:: Page Three ::

- LGBT article in the NAFSA Magazine

:: Page Four ::

- Photos Taken During NAFSA's 2008 National Conference's Rainbow SIG's Reception

For any questions, comments and/or concerns contact Rainbow SIG Co-Chairs:

* Peter Kerrigan
Deputy Director
DAAD New York

E-mail: kerrigan@daad.org

* Mark Beirn

Director of Study Abroad
Tulane University

E-mail: mbeirn@tulane.edu

Interview with our New Co-Chair

Submitted by: Thomas Lavenir (James Madison University)



Mark Beirn became our newly elected Rainbow SIG co-chair during our last official meeting in Washington DC on Wednesday, May 28th. During his unofficial acceptance speech that day, Mark stated jokingly that "switching from Mark Lenhart to Mark Beirn was a wise decision for the Rainbow SIG as it will be easier for everyone to remember their co-chairs' name." Mr. Beirn, though more commonly known as Mark, to his peers and colleagues, is not only a funny and thoughtful individual he is also very committed and dedicated to the field of Study Abroad.

Mark serves as the director of the Study Abroad office at Tulane University. The position at Tulane opened at a time when he was considering a return to the Midwest from Los Angeles. "Tulane has demonstrated a tremendous long-term commitment to study abroad. I was enticed by the opportunity to work intimately with both education abroad programs and international & area studies programs at Tulane." The opportunity to reside in New Orleans during its post-Katrina/post-flood resurrection appealed to his commitment to community and interests in urban spaces and historic preservation and restoration. Besides, "what better time to live in New Orleans when this city was being redefined by internal and external forces." Mark feels privileged to work at Tulane and to live in New Orleans, a Caribbean city in the Deep South with strong ties to France, Italy

(Continued on page 4)

Where is your gay village?

Submitted by: Bradley Rink (CIEE South Africa)

Bradley Rink, Rainbow SIG Advisory Board member and CIEE Resident Director at Stellenbosch University, has recently completed his PhD thesis at the University of Cape Town studying the urban phenomenon known to many as the "gay village." Specifically, he researched concepts of gay village 'quartering' (among others) neighbourhood. The idea of village goes back to Martin Levine's (1979) examination of large concentrations of gay

men and lesbians who were congregating in major urban centres in the USA during the 1970s—including Boston, New York, Chicago, San Francisco and Los Angeles. What Levine called 'gay

ghettos' were later referred to—perhaps in a more positive light—as 'gay villages'. These urban 'villages' define themselves through clusters of venues that are gay-owned and/or focus on serving a gay¹ clientele. Such villages not only provide a space for the performance of identity, they also serve as one example of an urban 'quarter'

Such villages not only provide a space for the performance of identity, they also serve as one example of an urban 'quarter'

David Bell and Mark Jayne (2004) refer to as 'the locus for the symbolic framing of culture'.

Bradley's thesis, entitled Village People: Quartering De Waterkant in discourse and bricks examines the product and process of shaping urban space that serves as the locus for the symbolic

(Continued on page 3)

Welcome Letter

Submitted by: Co-Chairs Peter Kerrigan (DAAD New York)
& Mark Beirn (Tulane University)

Dear colleagues,

2009 is just around the corner and it has been an amazing year so far for the SIG. Our meeting at NAFSA was well-attended with many new faces, but our anniversary reception at Be-Bar in DC broke all records from sponsorship to attendance. Thanks to all for making the event an incredible success. Our RAINBOW SIG activities at NAFSA also marked the end of Mark Lenhart's tenure after two years as co-chair of the SIG. Kudos to Mark for a fantastic job! Well, one Mark left and another Mark arrived! Mark Beirn of Tulane University joined Peter Kerrigan of DAAD as the new co-chair. Welcome to Mark!

The SIG committees have been busy working on their mandates. Under the tutelage of Kevin Morrison and Jan Kieling, the Governance Committee successfully reached their goals by reworking and revamping the mission of the SIG and ensuring that its language was in synch with the current tenor of the group. That committee is now on a long-term hiatus. Led by Kevin Coyne, the Scholarship Committee has been busy trying to find a home for its potential LGBT scholarship. This process has brought the SIG into the radar of many organizations. A solution has, however, yet to be found. To be continued. Susan Carty of Indiana University has done a wonderful job with the membership (with assistance from Daniel Soto) and Rick Russo of UC Berkeley has helped keep us financially sound! Paul Geis of Elon University has been working with goabroad.com to roll out the SIG's new website. Launch to be announced in the coming months... Terri Crouch of Middlebury has volunteered to keep our minutes at meetings. Those written records are invaluable. Thanks to all involved. Unfortunately too many to mention.

Autumn brought us the winds of change in Washington DC with tears of confusion and disappointment in California (Arkansas, Arizona and Florida). The SIG is contemplating its advocacy role at the NAFSA annual conference to be held this year in Los Angeles. Mark Beirn is working with the Reception Committee to find a balance between outreach with the local community in LA and its membership base to put together a sensitive and appropriate reception in light of the recent financial turmoil and political let-down in California. Details to come.

So, it has been a busy and exciting year for the SIG. Our role within the community we serve could not be more relevant or more important.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year,

Peter Kerrigan and Mark Beirn
Rainbow SIG Co-Chairs

Rainbow SIG Advisory Committee Members:

* Peter Kerrigan (DAAD-New York) *Co-Chair*, * Mark Beirn (Tulane University) *Co-Chair*, * Daniel Soto (Indiana University) *Listserv Manager*, * Susan Carty (Indiana University) *Membership Coordinator*, * Eero Jesurun (CIEE- Spain) *Newsletter Editor*, * Thomas Lavenir (James Madison University) *Newsletter Editor*, * Ismael Crotte (Universidad de Guadalajara - Mexico) *Recording Secretary*, * Rick Russo (University of California, Berkeley) *Treasurer*, * Pete Johnson (University of California, Berkeley) *Web Content Manager*.

* Amy Bartnick-Blume (Butler University), * Jacqueline Bedard (Camosun College - Canada), * David W. Brannon (University of Washington), * Erin Burt (University of California, Berkeley), * Bruce Carolan (Dublin School of Technology - Ireland), * Michael Carter (University of Alabama at Birmingham), * Kevin Coyne (International Students House - United Kingdom), * Terry Crouch (Middlebury College), * Andreas Eimer (University of Muenster - Germany), * Cristina Florez (University of Miami), * Paul Geis (Bentley College), * Steve Jacques (The University of Hawai'i System), * Bo Keppel (Retired), * Jan Kieling (University of California, Berkeley), * Kim Killingsworth (Cornell University), * Alan Lawrie (Monash University- Australia), * Mark Lenhart (CET Academic Programs), * Michael Mahan (University of Massachusetts, Boston), * Louis M. Meucci (Showa Boston), * Kevin Morrison (Meredith College), * Joe Murnan (Hairi Foundation), * Josh Newman (John Carroll University), * Tony Ogden (Penn State), * Peggy Pusch (Intercultural Communication Institute), * Bradley Rink (CIEE - South Africa), * Oktay Sekercisoy (Binghamton University), * Duane Rohovit (University of Minnesota), * Kathleen Sideli (Indiana University), * Greg Slatcher (University of Melbourne - Australia), * Jerald Thornton (Marist College), * Julie Trimpe (Augsburg College), * Art Trmelle (Foothill College), * J Scott Van Der Meid (Brandeis University), * Kevin A. Zajac (Saint Joseph's University)

Did you know? Featuring Bertrand Delanoë



In 2001 when Bertrand Delanoë was elected mayor of Paris, the city became the world's largest to have an openly gay mayor. In March 2008, he won reelection.

As mayor of Paris, Delanoë pushed an agenda for change. In an effort to reduce city traffic and pollution, Delanoë started a low-cost program that encourages Parisians to rent bikes. He worked to provide more affordable housing to encourage economically disadvantaged people to stay in the city.

In October 2002, Delanoë was stabbed. His assailant told police he targeted Delanoë because of his homosexuality.

Despite France's political tradition of keeping one's personal life out of the public, Delanoë came out in a French television interview in 1998. In his book, "La vie, passionnément" ("Life, Passionately") (2004), Delanoë says he made that decision because he thought it could help, even if in a small way, "lighten the burden of secrecy borne by so many people." On the topic of gay marriage Delanoë writes, "In the name of what can one reject this demand for equality?"

Where is your gay village? (Continued from Page 1)

framing of culture. Through a detailed analysis of human, narrative and visual texts which describe the production and consumption of space, his thesis demonstrates that there are both utopian and dystopian tropes working in discursive and material ways to shape the identity and form of De Waterkant's quartering. Drawing on Situational Analysis and Actor Network Theory methodologies, his research uses case study, interviews, participant observation, and analysis of texts to identify the discursive and material structures that have contributed to the creation of quartered space.

Bradley's work combines insights and arguments drawn from a body of literature on place, the city, utopia, and identity—all grounded within the South African urban context that makes De Waterkant's quartering subject to identities, histories, and power structures that may not affect quarterings in other urban settings. The findings show that De Waterkant has undergone a series of quarterings including: an ethnic quartering which was dismantled under apartheid; a Bohemian quartering that changed racial dynamics and improved housing stock; a 'gay village' quartering that enacted place making along lines of sexual identity; and most recently a consumer lifestyle quartering

that established new notions of citizenship and consumption. The findings further demonstrate that hegemonic discourses of place making drive the shaping and re-shaping of urban quarters that are always 'becoming' while they are stabilised and de-stabilised by the struggle between utopian and dystopian forces. Bradley's thesis further exemplifies identity production and consumption that address a geography of urban space.



Picture of Bradley Rink with Kathy Sidell and Rick Russo who were visiting him in Capetown in October 2008.

Notes:

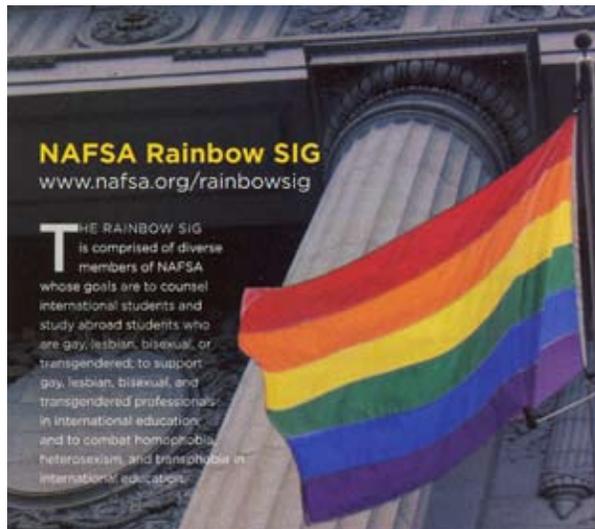
¹ While gay villages may presumably intend to serve a broad community of sexual dissidents (gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender), Levine (1979) argued that such places were dominated by gay male presence.



Are you subscribed to the Rainbow SIG e-mail listserv?

If not, simply complete the online form found at this url: <http://www.indiana.edu/~overseas/lesbigay/sig.htm>

Once you are subscribed, to send an e-mail to all of the members you will use the following e-mail address: rainbow@listserv.indiana.edu



LGBT article in the NAFSA Magazine

Submitted by: Thomas Lavenir (James-Madison University)



If you have not heard the news or read it yet, the November - December 2008 NAFSA magazine: *International Educator* published an article entitled: "Working with LGBT International Students" written by Eve Katz. One other reason why you would want to see this article is also because the Rainbow SIG is featured and referred to.

Your very own reporter, Thomas Lavenir, met with Eve Katz virtually to learn more about her background and the rational behind writing this article .

Eve Katz has been a freelance writer for a number of years. While she is not a member of NAFSA, she has been interested and involved in international education throughout her career. She was a Fulbright Grant recipient and went to France where she taught an internationally oriented subject at the university level for a long time, and then served as Director of the Middlebury College School in (Paris) France.

After having contributed several articles for the NAFSA magazine including one entitled "Students with Disabilities Studying Abroad," Eve was asked to contribute to the latest publication of the magazine by writing an article to focus on programs and services for international students. "Interestingly, the original assignment was framed in terms of gay and lesbian students but as soon as I set to work, it became immediately apparent that the subject needed to include B & T as well as L & G!"

This decision to have a more inclusive perspective on the experiences of LGBT international students and to print an article in the NAFSA magazine is definitely one that is very well appreciated and in the right direction.

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!

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

Mark Beirn

(Continued from Page 1)

and Germany that enjoys rich racial, religious, cultural and socio-economic diversity and tolerance. This same environment is full of reasons and reminders of the importance to study abroad and to explore the world.

This passion for traveling abroad was first introduced to Mark at an early age by his mother who also encouraged him to learn Spanish. Before going to college he had developed an interest in Germany when he hosted 2 German students. "I saw studying German and going to Germany as a means to bridge my personal and budding professional interests." Furthermore, Mark's mentor and friend Dr. Heidi Tilghman who was at the time Mark's German professor, took him under her wing and played a big role in not only convincing

"Her trust and confidence in me were key to my successes abroad."

him to study in Germany for a whole year as opposed to one semester but also provided him an insight into international education administration while still an undergraduate. "Her trust and confidence in me were key to my successes abroad." Yet, another individual who played an important role in Mark's life and influenced him in his discovery of the study abroad field was a professor of French who was gay and out. Reflecting on his professor's experiences has given Mark a lot of food for thought. "Even though being 'out' in 1954 meant something very different than it does today, it continues to inspire me!"

Mark knew at an early age that he had a preference for the same sex, though it was not until his junior year of high school that he came to terms with being gay and came out to a group of close friends and slowly afterwards to the rest of his entourage. His being out has never impacted him negatively and feels that overall that it has been an asset to his colleagues at Tulane. Mark first learned about the existence of the Rainbow SIG during his first NAFSA in Philadelphia when he saw the annual meeting posted in the conference brochure. Having met Scott van der Meid further convinced Mark that he needed to attend. While Mark recollection "has faded a bit" he did attend the meeting, met many people and was immediately welcomed. Many years later, Mark is now on the 'other side of the fence' and serves as our new co-chair.



A Few Photos taken during NAFSA's 2008's National Conference's Rainbow SIG's Reception



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...? Well... don't waste any more time and check it out! <http://www.indiana.edu/~overseas/lesbigay>

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