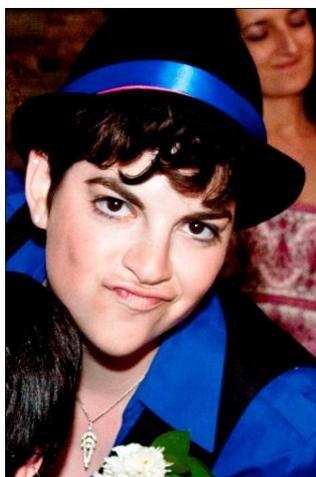


# NAFSA Rainbow SIG SIGnals Newsletter



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.



### Co-Chairs:

**Terry Crouch, Co-Chair**  
University Relations Coordinator  
Middlebury College  
[tcrouch@middlebury.edu](mailto:tcrouch@middlebury.edu)

**Jennie J. Weingarten, Co-Chair**  
Director of Programs &  
Assistant Director of  
Dashew Center for International  
Students & Scholars, UCLA  
[jwoolf@saonet.ucla.edu](mailto:jwoolf@saonet.ucla.edu)

And here's Jennie!



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## Meet Our "New" Co-Chair: Jennie Weingarten

Desired Superpower: "Freeze-time! That would be awesome..."

by: Brett M. Reichert (Clayton State University)

After serving two years as SIGnals co-editor, Jennie has stepped up to Co-Chair the *whole gosh darn tootin'* Rainbow SIG with the *timeless* Terry Crouch. She is really looking forward to it and hopes to involve our SIG in more networking opportunities throughout the year, not only at the annual conference.

Jennie was *born 'n raised* in good 'ole Nashville, TN as Jennie Woolf. After college at Indiana University, followed by adventures in corporate America, she randomly immigrated to Israel where she felt comfortable coming out to herself and her family. In the midst of returning to the US for a Masters in International Ed., she met her wife, Anat, in Israel; a happenstance meeting at a bar a half a world away just before repatriating has led to a 5-year relationship!

The two were married in June 2010 in an unofficial ceremony in southern California, but they were torn over what name to take; Journo or Woolf. In the end Anat suggested that they take a new family name. Weingarten was Jennie's mother's maiden name and was very special since Jennie's mother had lost her 5 year battle with cancer when she was only 14. "When she suggested it, my heart just melted", Jennie said. "It meant the world to me to have that piece of my mom with me forever". So 1 ½ years into their marriage, Jennie and Anat have navigated all the legal hoops to become the *Weingartens* together. "My friends have already started calling me 'JJ' because of my new name (Jennie Journo Weingarten)! It's kinda growing on me."

Today, Jennie is well-established in her career as an international educator. She is the Director of Programs and Assistant Director of the Dashew Center for International Students & Scholars at UCLA and LOVES her job!

## LGBT Scholarship & Intern Info - *Spread the word!*

- Name:** The Fund for Education Abroad (FEA) Rainbow Scholarship  
**Web:** [www.fundforeducationabroad.org](http://www.fundforeducationabroad.org)  
**What:** A non-profit scholarship organization based in Washington, DC, which has offered to host, help fundraise, solicit and review applications.  
**Goal:** To award a single \$5000-10,000 scholarship annually.  
**Currently:** Nearly \$1300.00 to date with donations and matching funds.  
**Help:** Tax-deductible donations are needed and will be matched by Rainbow SIG up to \$2500 through Dec. 31, 2011. Moreover, FEA is donating its services this year, so 100% of contributions will go to the scholarship.  
**via Internet:** [www.fundforeducationabroad.org](http://www.fundforeducationabroad.org), click "donate now" and select the FEA Rainbow Scholarship.  
**via Check:** payable to "Fund for Education Abroad" with note added for the Rainbow Scholarship mailed to: 1920 N. Street, NW, Suite 200, Washington DC, 20036.
- Co-chair:** Interested in serving as a co-chair on this project? Help is needed to publicize, fundraise, review applications and plan ahead. For more information, please contact current Chair: Mark Lenhart / [mlehart@academic-travel.com](mailto:mlehart@academic-travel.com) or by phone: 202-349-7347 / 800-225-4262.

### Rainbow SIG Advisory Board:

#### Co-Chairs

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### "An Apple a Day"

by: **Brett M. Reichert (Clayton State University)**

As the world knows, Apple's legendary co-founder Steve Jobs passed away October 5th this year at age 56 after a long battle with pancreatic cancer. From his visionary inventions and products to his famously quoted speeches, he's now rightfully immortalized in American and world history.

Many might not know, however, that the company Jobs built had another basic operating principle: **equality**.

In 1992, Apple was just the 4<sup>th</sup> major US brand, behind Lotus, Microsoft and Levi Strauss to extend domestic partner benefits to its employees. Then in 1993, Apple expanded the same coverage and benefits married couples could access to all its partnered employees. Since then, Apple has been held up as an icon of progressive HR policies and practices in the US.



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### “An Apple A Day” – Continued

The company's *official* EEO, non-discrimination statement of course includes an expanding list of protections for defined classes and groups, including most recently the addition of “gender identity”. Bravo Apple!

Ever vigilant in the rapidly evolving and lucrative flux of smart-phone apps, the company recently deleted a so called “Gay Cure App” developed by Exodus International after more than 140,000 people signed a change.org petition. We all know the phrase, “an apple a day keeps the doctor away.” Who knew a company called Apple could keep homophobia away - or at least out of our apps!?

Known for simplicity and elegance across all its product branding, the company's aesthetic is also carried forward to its jobs portal at apple.com. “A job at Apple is unlike any other you've had. You'll be inspired, *proud* and part of something big.” Scroll to the bottom of that page, and you'll see all the various segments of the human spectrum, not spelled out, but simply protected in a concise, comprehensive, perhaps even beyond LGBTQ way: “We are committed to diversity”. Thank you Steve Jobs. **RIP.**

## ANTI-HOMOSEXUALITY IN UGANDA – Update!

by: Brett M. Reichert (Clayton State University)



### Background:

In the Spring 2011 issue of SIGnals, we included an article on Uganda's “Anti-Homosexual Bill”, which would render the death penalty for anyone found to be gay or HIV+, and imprisonment for anyone failing to report a gay individual to legal authorities. A member of the country's parliament, David Bahati, had introduced the bill in October 2009 “to defend the cherished heterosexual culture” in Uganda. Then in October 2010, a private gay individual, David Kato, tried to sue a newspaper that had outed him, over privacy issues. Later that year, he was beaten to death. In March 2011, the bill was to be discussed in the “Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee”; however, Ugandan President Museveni shelved the bill in May 2011, meaning it went nowhere. Bahati was outraged and vowed to press forward with the bill later on. **That brings us to now...**

### How to help:

The online petition portal for global issues, AVAAZ.ORG, is seeking 2 million signatures to help ensure Uganda knows the world is watching with disapproval. As of 11/11/11, there were 1,681,572 signatures on the petition. Click here to add your name: [https://secure.avaaz.org/en/uganda\\_stop\\_homophobia\\_petition/](https://secure.avaaz.org/en/uganda_stop_homophobia_petition/)

### Oct. 26, 2011:

Ugandan Speaker of the House Rebecca Kadaga chairs a group called the “Business Committee” which decides what bills will be discussed and listed on the daily “Order Paper”. Kadaga was an early supporter of the bill. Whether or not the bill makes it to discussion, ie put back on the table, seems to be embroiled in confusing parliamentary procedure and the issue of “private” vs. “parliamentary” vs. “executive” ownership of the bill. The bill's future remains unclear.

### Nov. 1, 2011:

Britain, Uganda's former colonial power and a current provider of major aid, threatens to cut off support if gay rights are not universally respected. However, this move could back-fire given that Uganda and other former British colonies resent the UK's meddling in their domestic affairs. John Nagenda, a Ugandan Presidential advisor, said, “we are tired of being given these lectures by people,” referring David Cameron, the UK's Prime Minister. Nagenda, who never personally supported the bill went on to say, “I believe the bill will die a natural death” but urged Britain to refrain from giving ultimatums. Other LGBT advocacy groups in Africa echo Nagenda's stance and feel outside interference through the suspension of critical aid could undermine the development of indigenous human rights groups.

### Ironically, also on Nov. 1, 2011:

The popular travel series, Lonely Planet, named Uganda a “best travel destination for 2012”. The BBC network completed its acquisition of Lonely Planet earlier this year.

## Who Says You Have To Be Gay to Fight?

by: Andrew Coleman

In the struggle for human rights and marriage equality, legislation and social banter clamor so loudly that LGBT people may feel truly marginalized, and at times in the fight alone. The current climate may foster a breeze of hatred and disdain, which has a unique impact for each individual in the fray, yet the truth is evident if you know where to look. It is a reality that LGBT people are not alone, and our straight allies too are beginning to provide more shelter from the storm.

When the demand for equality among LGBT people reaches a fever pitch, it is our straight allies who will ultimately, with regard to our opponents, take the wind out of their sails. Filmmakers Rachel Lack and Anamarie Stewart lead their own charge in "The Activist Within", a film whose following began in the Southwest US and soon filtered outward. Director Rachel Lack shares insight into the internal change that occurred when she began documenting our response to these inequities.

Director's Statement for "The Activist Within"  
By: Rachel Lack

*October 12, 2008 changed my life; that was the day I got married. What was different in my case was that I had always been against the institution of marriage. I wasn't the stereotypical girl who had always dreamed of this fairy tale wedding.*

*I was married three weeks before the historic 2008 election. Three weeks before President Obama was elected, & three weeks before proposition 8 in California and proposition 102 in my state of Arizona were passed. These propositions changed 2 state constitutions, defining marriage between one man and one woman only. Arizona passing a law like this was understandable, but the California Supreme Court had legalized gay marriage 6 months before prop. 8 was passed, so what was happening over there?*

*18,000 homosexual couples were legally married during that time and now they weren't even sure if their marriages would still be honored. I was so sad and angry that this could happen in this day and age, especially given all the hope and progress represented in the election of the US's 1<sup>st</sup> African American president.*

*Afterwards, I couldn't believe more people weren't as upset as I was. I couldn't imagine not being able to marry my husband or not knowing if we were still married! Where was the empathy? The immense public outcry?*

*During 2009, I spent the year filming marches and protests to repeal propositions 8 and 102. Although my original motivation to start filming stemmed from anger, I wanted to document the most unbiased account possible. I wanted to understand why this was happening. From the very start however, this plan fell through.*

*Through my subsequent year of filming, I craved to be out there, fighting with the activists whom I was filming instead of being behind the camera. It wasn't until well into the editing process that I finally accepted the fact that I was an activist from the time I decided to pick up my camera.*

(Continued on page 5.)



(Click image to watch trailer)

The Activist Within premiered in Phoenix, AZ in May 2011 and soon gained attention across the country and the world. After its release as the first work about LGBT advocacy from these filmmakers, they are just getting started. "The Activist Within" has been presented at the Breckenridge Festival of Film (June 2011), Naperville Independent Film Festival (September 2011), with screenings in Washington D.C., New York City, Boston, San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego, Tucson and Toronto, but further exposure for the film remains a focused goal. We've witnessed some progress in recent years, but the struggle continues.

Again, who says you have to be gay to fight?

For more information about the film please contact Anamarie Stewart: [anamarie@purlingplace.com](mailto:anamarie@purlingplace.com)

## October Marks Change with Bullying Prevention Month

By: Andrew Coleman

Bullying continues to plague our youth, and its prevalence is often heightened among LGBT young people. Although bullying often occurs in school, it can frequently happen outside of school and may continue into young adulthood. With an increased awareness of the effects of bullying, the community has developed new initiatives to call attention to the problem and to work towards minimizing cases of bullying and its resulting effects. October is National Bullying Prevention Month and this year some encouraging new events have developed. It is important to remind our youth that they have the right to safe environments which allow for healthy and enjoyable lives.

According to *The 2009 National School Climate Survey*, a study of over 7,000 LGBT middle and high school students published by GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, 9 out of 10 LGBT students experienced some sort of harassment at school based on their sexual orientation or gender expression. Some alarming among statistics among LGBT student include:

- 84.6% reported being verbally harassed
- 40.1% reported being physically harassed
- 8.8% reported being physically assaulted in the past year.
- 72.4% heard homophobic remarks, such as "faggot" or "dyke," at school.
- Nearly two-thirds (61.1%) of students reported that they felt unsafe in school because of their sexual orientation, and more than a third (39.9%) felt unsafe because of their gender expression.
- Click here for the full [2009 National School Climate Survey](#) report.

This is a sampling of LGBT impressions and experiences as youth are wading through the potentially hostile educational environment. The frequency of harassment for LGBT youth has actually experienced a decline, yet the percentages of affected students remain high. Dr. Joseph Kosciw, GLSEN Senior Director of Research and Strategic Initiatives said, "A look at 10 years of National School Climate Survey data reveals some gains in the availability of resources and supportive educators, thanks in part to GLSEN's work and that of educators and advocates across the country committed to safe and affirming environments for all students." It is reasonable to assume that the severity of bullying varies based on the geographical regions and the current social implications of sexual and gender orientation in select communities; however, this survey calls attention to the need for further solutions to protect our at risk youth.

October 2011 was **National Bullying Prevention Month** and awareness campaigns and resource projects are growing to support the elimination of bullying tragedies in the United States.

During October, the PACER National Bullying Prevention Center sponsored the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Bullying Prevention Event which began as a weeklong event in 2006 and has developed into a full month for 2011. Events sponsored and supported by PACER included:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Run Walk Roll Against Bullying on October 1st in Minnesota.
- Outside Minnesota, individuals, schools, businesses, and organizations could host a Run, Walk, or Roll Call Against Bullying event in their communities using PACER's free toolkit, available at [www.pacer.org](http://www.pacer.org)

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- **Unity Day** "Make it orange and make it end!" linked together everyone utilizing the color orange in schools, communities, and online to send a message of support to students who have suffered.
- **Unity Dance Day** supported by MTV O Music Awards, which will attempt a new world record with a 55-plus-hour dance-a-thon in Los Angeles on Halloween and to raise awareness of LGBT youth issues. It is likely that as bullying awareness increases we will witness increased participation these events and see progress with this issue in the coming years.

**Additional Resources:**

[The Trevor Project](#)

[Matthew Shepard Foundation](#)

[Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network](#)

[It Gets Better Campaign](#)

[Welcoming Schools](#)

[COLAGE](#)

## NAFSA 2012 Annual Conference & Expo Just 6 Months Away!

**Theme:** "Comprehensive Internationalization: Vision and Practice"

**When:** May 27 – June 1, 2012

**Where:** George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston, TX.

**Registration:** Opens March 1, 2012

**Poster Fair Proposals Now Being Accepted. Deadline: 12/15/11**

For info and tips: <http://www.nafsa.org/annualconference/default.aspx?id=3199>

Conference Details at: [www.nafsa.org](http://www.nafsa.org)



### Subscribe to the Rainbow SIG Listserv:

Simply complete the online form found at: <http://www.indiana.edu/~overseas/lesbigay/sig.htm>  
To send a broadcast email to the listserv, email your message to: [rainbow@listserv.indiana.edu](mailto:rainbow@listserv.indiana.edu)

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