

# 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.



RAINBOW SIG  
20TH  
ANNIVERSARY

MAY 26, 2013 –  
MAY 31, 2013 @  
ST. LOUIS,  
MISSOURI, USA



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**ONLINE** REGISTRATION  
CLOSED APRIL 19.

## RAINBOW SIG Schedule of Events at NAFSA

**\*For exact locations, please check your Registration Program**

- **Get Networked in NAFSA Fair** (Rainbow SIG Table)  
Tues, May 28<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
- **Advisory Board Meeting:** Tues, May 28<sup>th</sup> 11:15 AM – 12:15 AM
- **Rainbow SIG Open Meeting**  
Wed, May 29<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM
- **Rainbow SIG Annual Reception**  
Wed, May 29<sup>th</sup> 8:00 PM – 10:00 PM  
Hamburger Mary's: 3037 Olive Street, St Louis, MO 63103  
*Tel: 314) 533-6279 / [www.hamburgermarys.com](http://www.hamburgermarys.com)*

## How Do Universities Rank on the Campus Pride Index?



The LGBT-Friendly Campus Climate Index is a necessary first step to improve the quality of LGBT campus life. It is an effective, ongoing measurement to improve campus LGBT policies, programs and practices. The index tool includes 50+ self-assessment questions, which correspond to eight different LGBT-Friendly factors. Questions were weighted in order to emphasize and add value to specific LGBT components which were determined to contribute to a more inclusive, welcoming and respectful LGBT and Ally campus.

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

View the **LGBT-Friendly Campus Climate Score™**

[National Assessment Tool Questions](#)

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/>

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

<http://www.campusprideindex.org/campusofficialonly/default.aspx>



### RAINBOW SIG CO-CHAIRS

**Jennie Weingarten**

Assistant Director of the Dashew Center and Director of Programming  
University of California, Los Angeles  
[jweingarten@saonet.ucla.edu](mailto:jweingarten@saonet.ucla.edu)

**Brita Doyle**

Study Abroad Advisor  
American University  
[brita@american.edu](mailto:brita@american.edu)

### LISTSERV MANAGERS

**Daniel Soto** (Executive Board)

Indiana University  
[dsoto@indiana.edu](mailto:dsoto@indiana.edu)

**Scott Van Der Meid** (Advisory Board)

Assistant Dean of Academic Services and Director of Study Abroad  
Brandeis University  
[svanderm@brandeis.edu](mailto:svanderm@brandeis.edu)

### MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

**Susan Carty**

Director of Administration & Program Management, Office of Overseas Study  
Indiana University  
[scarty@iu.edu](mailto:scarty@iu.edu)

### NEWSLETTER CO-EDITORS

**Andrew Coleman**

Regional Consultant Central/Mid-Atlantic  
CEA Global Education  
[Andrew.Coleman@GoWithCEA.com](mailto:Andrew.Coleman@GoWithCEA.com)

**Alayne Wood**

[alaynewood@yahoo.com](mailto:alaynewood@yahoo.com)

### SCHOLARSHIP COORDINATORS

**George Kacenga**

Director, International Enrollment Management  
University of Colorado, Denver  
[George.kacenga@ucdenver.edu](mailto:George.kacenga@ucdenver.edu)

**Wendy Gaudin**

Associate Director, Center for Intercultural and International Programs  
Xavier University  
[wgaudin@xula.edu](mailto:wgaudin@xula.edu)

**Mark Lenhart** (Honorary)

Executive Director  
CET Academic Programs  
[mlenhart@academic-travel.com](mailto:mlenhart@academic-travel.com)

### TREASURER

**Rick Russo**

Dean, Summer Sessions, Study Abroad and Lifelong Learning  
University of California, Berkeley  
[russo@berkeley.edu](mailto:russo@berkeley.edu)

### WEB CONTENT MANAGERS

**Paul Geis**

Associate Director of Study Abroad  
Elon University  
[pgeis@elon.edu](mailto:pgeis@elon.edu)

**Kelley Cobb**

Programs Associate  
University of California, Los Angeles  
[krnhb@saonet.ucla.edu](mailto:krnhb@saonet.ucla.edu)

## 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 22<sup>nd</sup>.** 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 29<sup>th</sup>  
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](http://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](#).

**Out Abroad**

[Visit the site now](#)

### CONNECT :: CONNECT :: CONNECT

**SUBSCRIBE ::**

**GIVE ::**

**REACH OUT ::**

**LIKE US ::**

**CONTRIBUTE ::**

**REPRESENT ::**

to the [Rainbow SIG Listserv](#) by completing the online form

[DONATE](#) to the Rainbow Scholarship

email the listserv, send your message to: [rainbow-l@indiana.edu](mailto:rainbow-l@indiana.edu)

on Facebook Search [NAFSA Rainbow SIG] or

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/rainbowsig/>

submit content for the Rainbow SIG website (Web Content Managers: see page 2)

Volunteer to become a NAFSA Rainbow SIG Regional Rep (Page 4 for open Regions, multiple Reps per Region welcomed)