



President's Column: How Much Does Division 44 Really Do?

By Charlotte J. Patterson

How much does Division 44, the Society for Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Issues, really do? At home in August, getting ready to attend the APA Convention, this question was on my mind. I've been an avid reader of the *Division 44 Newsletter* for longer than I care to admit, so I knew something about the Division's activities. Still, I found myself wondering how much was really going on. As the incoming president, I had been asked to create an agenda for the Division's Executive Committee meetings at the Convention. I hoped that working up the agenda would help me to learn more.

As it turned out, setting up that agenda was an eye-opening experience. While I was assembling the pieces, I kept getting e-mail from members, adding items. "Perhaps this is already on the agenda," the e-mails would begin, ever so politely, "but I just want to remind you that we hope to report on our achievements in the area of . . ." or, "I'm not sure if you are aware of this, but our committee has been busy



working on a new initiative." Soon, my mailbox was overflowing, and the agenda had grown much longer than I could ever have anticipated. Even after I arrived at the convention, items continued to pop up. It began to look like we would need an entire day, maybe longer, to consider everything.

If you attended the Executive Committee meetings, you probably remember it as a fast-paced couple of hours—perhaps even as a blur. Given the amazing array of activities that the Division's members are pursuing in support of our overall mission, there was barely time for each person to say three sentences. Never in my life have I been in the position of having to cut off so many interesting reports after so few minutes. If you are one of those I had to interrupt, in hopes of hearing from everyone, I do apologize! If you were not at that meeting, I want to share with you some of its highlights. Most are described in more detail elsewhere in this newsletter, so I will try to provide only a flavor here.

After introductions, there were committee and officer reports. Here is a sampling: Julie Konik, who envisioned and organized Division 44's mentoring event for graduate students at the Convention this year, reported on its success. Christopher Martell, the outgoing membership committee chair (and Division 44 President-Elect) reported that our membership is now more than 1,180, an all-time high. Kimberly Balsam accepted applause for her outstanding work in planning this year's Convention program, as did Jon Mohr for planning this year's Hospitality Suite program. Randal Ehrbar and Nik Embaye, co-chairs of our Committee on Gender Variance and Transgender Issues, described their work with the APA Task Force on Gender Identity, Gender Variance, and Intersex Conditions, which is being chaired by Division 44 member Marg Schneider. The reports of Randy George-miller, outgoing chair, and of Glenda Russell and Janis Bohan, incoming co-chairs, about activities of the Public

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The *Division 44 Newsletter* is published three times a year (Spring, Summer, and Fall) by the Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Issues (SPSLGBI). It is distributed to the complete membership of Division 44, including more than 1,300 members, associates, students and affiliates. Our membership includes both academics and clinicians, all of whom are connected through a common interest in lesbian, gay, and bisexual issues. Submissions are welcome and are particularly appreciated via e-mail.

DEADLINES Feb 15 (Spring), May 15 (Summer), Sept 15 (Fall)

ADVERTISING Full Page: \$300 Quarter Page: \$100
Half Page: \$175 Business Card: \$50

Publication of an advertisement in the newsletter is not an endorsement of the advertiser or of the products or services advertised. Division 44 reserves the right to reject, omit, or cancel advertising for any reason.

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Production and mailing services provided by Haworth Press in exchange for nominal advertising space. The opinions expressed in this Newsletter are the opinions of the authors only and do not reflect the views of Division 44 or of the American Psychological Association, unless clearly indicated to the contrary.

DIVISION 44 LISTSERV

Free member benefit! Get connected!

Take advantage of receiving information about Division 44 as it happens: an interactive e-mail forum that works for you! To subscribe, please send an e-mail message to listserv@lists.apa.org. Write nothing in the subject line, but in the body of the message type "subscribe div44" and your name.

Messages sent to div44@lists.apa.org will automatically be sent to everyone on the listserv.

Questions? Contact Jackie Weinstock at Jacqueline.weinstock@uvm.edu. The listserv is intended for communication among Division 44 members. Please be aware that the Division 44 listserv is not monitored. Please use it in the professional and respectful manner for which it is intended.

Hurricane Katrina May Alter Plans for APA Convention Aid, Dues Relief, and Research Grants Offered

The recent events surrounding the devastating effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in and around the New Orleans area, as well as other cities and states, are tragic. As the American Psychological Association (APA) Convention is scheduled to take place in New Orleans in 2006, APA is monitoring this situation daily.

At press time, APA had not altered its plan to meet in New Orleans next summer. In response to the hurricanes, the APA will take a number of steps designed to achieve the following goals: Provide assistance to victims of the storms through gifts to charitable and relief organizations targeting recovery efforts in the affected areas. Provide financial assistance in the form of dues relief to APA members whose homes and/or livelihoods have been affected by the storms. Work to ensure that cultural competency skills training is part of the mental health response to disaster-relief efforts. Help the psychology academic and training communities recover from the storms. Help foster information exchange within the psychology community. Educate the public and policymakers about trauma, trauma recovery, and the role of psychologists. APA's Disaster Response Network has also been activated and its effects have been significant. For more information see www.apa.org.

APA Division 9, Society for Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI), announced it will accept special applications to four of its award funds, Clara Mayo, Grants in Aid, Applied Social Issues Internship, and Social Action Grants for Experienced Scholars (SAGES), outside of the usual deadlines, for relevant work that (1) responds to Katrina or (2) has been disrupted by Katrina. SPSSI also reported that National Science Foundation Grant Programs is also making funds available under the SGER program (Small Grant for Exploratory Research) for proposals related to the hurricanes via both its Social Psychology program and its Human and Social Dynamics program. For more information see www.spssi.org.

Division 44 members who are eligible for APA dues relief because of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita will also be granted exemption from Division 44 dues. The Executive Committee of Division 44 expresses its deeply felt sorrow at the death, loss, disruption, and suffering caused by these events. We can barely imagine the stress imposed on some of the most vulnerable persons affected, including sexual minorities and trans persons who may have had to endure stigma and persecution in addition to the trauma of the disaster.

Letters to the Editor

Memories of Adrienne

To the Editor:

I very much enjoyed your recounting of Division 44 events at past APA meetings in the Summer 2005 *Newsletter* ("From the Newsletter 5, 10, 15, and 20 years ago."). However, because the information was based on the program, there was actually one error. In 1990, Adrienne Smith never actually chaired the panel for which she was scheduled. I recall a conversation with her in the summer of 1990, in which we discussed the fact that neither of us would be at APA. She had just been diagnosed with cancer, the beginning of her battle with what would tragically take her life all too prematurely. The following year, in San Francisco, she was there, but very thin and ill. The next year, in DC, we saw the video she had prepared, to be shown following her death. I thought these events, albeit sad, might be of interest to the readers. —Robb Mapou

Mentorship on Division Culture

To the Editor:

I got my D-44 newsletter in the mail and there was that picture! My goodness, that conjured up a lot of thought. How far we have come. I think, for me the time is coming to focus increasingly on mentorship—not just mentoring people on "the ropes" but also about the culture of the division. We continue to enjoy incredible support from our membership because the division has done so much. I like to think that, more often than not, the connections in the leadership have made this division work and excel beyond its wildest dreams. I just heard that D-35 lost a membership seat on Council and they are a huge division. There is a message in that. Our relatively small group has been extremely effective. We must preserve the culture that provided the soil for that. —Kristin Hancock

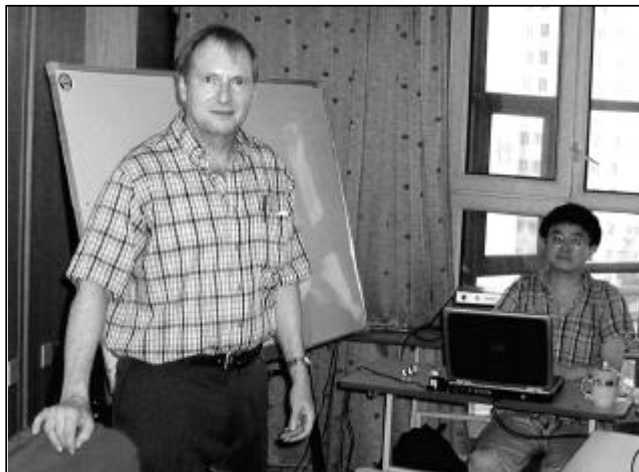
Thanks, Bill Cohen!

To the Editor:

As 2005 APA Convention Program Co-Chair I was delighted to hear Bill Cohen of the Haworth Press tell me he was making a \$2,000 donation to support DIV 44 convention events. Is there a way we could thank him for this in the fall newsletter? At least, the readers should know that his contribution helped pay the costs of the suite during the APA convention in Washington. I, for one, am grateful for his generous donation. —Jonathan Mohr

Kimmel Lectures on LGBT Psychology in China

Twenty young activists, many of them students, came from throughout China to Beijing for three days of lectures on lesbian, gay, and bisexual psychology given last July by Division 44 past-president, Douglas Kimmel. Topics included: minority stress, relationships and family issues, lifespan development, gay-affirmative therapy, and international perspectives.



Dr. Wan Yan Hai, director of the Beijing AIZHIXING Institute of Health Education (pictured here with Doug Kimmel), arranged the event, which was part of a two-week “summer camp” the institute hosted to provide support for the emerging sexual minority community in China. Many of the attendees were connected with telephone support services, college gay groups, a Web site that functions as a virtual community center, or were involved in HIV/AIDS and other aspects of health education.

Kimmel also gave two days of lectures in Harbin, a city in Northeast China. A local telephone support service sponsored the meeting and arranged for hotel accommodations. The audience of about 80 persons also included students and faculty at the university in Harbin as well as activists from Dalian, a city on the Eastern coast, twelve hours distant by train. The lectures and audience

questions were translated by a volunteer who was familiar with LGB psychology.

A final day of discussion was held in Beijing with Kimmel participating in English as the student comments were translated for him by members of the group. Topics included ways to identify the number and concerns of sexual minorities in a college, how to deal with gender parity, how one should manage being open, whether to come out to the family, and ways to deal with leadership disputes. Kimmel commented, “It reminded me of our early days of organizing and discussing strategies in the U.S. It was very exciting to be engaged again in this way.”

One highlight of the trip was a visit to one of six gay bars in Beijing where there were several TV monitors showing the popular Showtime program, “Queer as Folk,” with subtitles in Chinese. The bar was designed for dancing, with sophisticated equipment for the disc jockey in a very modern setting that rivaled any similar establishment in the West.

The first gay pride festival in Beijing was held in June 2005. A recent photo on the gay Chinese Web site showed a small group of young people waving several rainbow flags on the Great Wall. The group did not seek public notice, and it did not receive media coverage.

Homosexuality was removed from the list of mental disorders by the Chinese medical establishment in 2001. Legal prosecution of homosexuals effectively ended in 1997 when the crime of “hooliganism” was dropped from the criminal code. For more information see: www.globalgayz.com, www.csssm.org (in English) or www.gaychinese.net (in Chinese).



Apportionment Ballot

Soon each member of APA will receive an Apportionment Ballot to determine the number of representatives to APA Council Division 44 will have in the next election cycle. Although Division 44 is relatively small in numbers of members, it currently has three representatives to Council because its members vote in the Apportionment Ballot, and many give all 10 votes to Division 44. Each APA member can cast up to 10 votes for any single Division or State Association. The total number of votes determines the number of representatives each Division or State Association has.

So, when your Apportionment Ballot comes this fall, *DON'T* discard it. *DO* cast all ten (10) votes for Division 44, and keep our voice on Council—and in APA—strong and effective.

From the Newsletter 5, 10, 15, and 20 Years Ago

Fall 2000

Greg Herek announced that Division 44 is launching a new book series cosponsored with APA Books that will replace the Division Annual, which was discontinued by Sage Publications after five volumes.

Ruth Fassinger outlined suggestions for how to find a mentor, how to get the most out of mentoring, and noted that mentoring is a reciprocal experience.

Markus P. Bidell, Trevor Hart, Debbie Robinson, and Jamie McMinn were announced as winners of the Malyon-Smith Scholarship Fund. The award was increased by the Gamma Mu Foundation, Inc., whose Robin McDonald Memorial Scholarship was created to assist deserving students during graduate work in areas of importance to the gay, lesbian, and bisexual community.

Esther Rothblum presented her presidential address during the 2000 APA Convention in Washington, DC: "From Madness to Method—From Our History to Our Research." She noted that, "The history of lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals is a history of increasing visibility. Sometimes change has been faster than we once believed possible."

The Transgender Task Force reported that it was officially approved at the recent Executive Committee meeting and published its mission statement.

November 1995

April Martin, Barbara Sang, Kristin Hancock, and Charlotte Patterson were elected Fellows of Division 44 for "unusual and outstanding contributions."

Ronald Frederick received the Malyon-Smith Award; honorable mention was given to Becky Carrol.

Armand Cerbone presented his presidential address. No title was given in the *Newsletter*, but one theme was the proposed name change of the Division, which was then known as the Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian and Gay Issues.

A continuing education workshop was sponsored by Division 44 on media skills titled, "Who Will Educate the Public?" Connie Chan and Terry Gock, Division 44 Representatives to APA Council, cosponsored a resolution with regard to sexual orientation conversion therapies. Opposition to the proposal was defeated so that the process of revision and comment by APA governance structure will begin.

November 1990

Twenty-six hours of programming by the Division at the APA annual convention included Jan Schippers from the Netherlands, an invited panel of Division 44's past presidents, and an invited symposium on lesbian mothers.

Adrienne Smith, unable to attend the annual APA convention due to illness, requested that her presidential address be read by Connie Chan. Her address, "From Stigma to

Paradigm: The Uses of Difference," made the observation: "Being outsiders is a gift. It is a gift that is too easy to forget when we begin to acquire some of the perks of the insider." A letter from Adrienne about her fight against cancer was also published in this edition of the *Newsletter*.

Division 44 gave seven awards at the convention, including Christine Browning, Distinguished Service Award; Douglas Kimmel, Distinguished Educational Contribution Award; John Gonsiorek, Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award; and Linda Garnets, Distinguished Professional Contribution Award.

November 1985

Division 44 elected 14 Fellows who had previously been elected APA Fellows by other divisions: Anthony D'Augelli, Florence Denmark, Alan Gross, Evelyn Hooker, Arnold Kahn, Stephen Morin, Joseph Norton, Anne Peplau, Joseph Pleck, Evalyn Segal, Bonnie Strickland, Lenore Walker, and Barbara Walston. Douglas Kimmel was the first person elected to initial Fellow status through our Division.

Adrienne J. Smith reported on the symposium she chaired: "The panel members were part of my history as a lesbian psychologist and had each shown great personal courage in confronting the psychiatric and psychological establishments." Del Martin discussed organizing demonstrations and presentations at the American Psychiatric Association meetings in the early 1970s. Charles Silverstein recounted zapping behavioral therapists. Gerald Davison, past president of the American Behavioral Therapy Association, was "converted" by Silverstein. Judd Marmor, past president of the American Psychiatric Association, described the difficulties and lobbying involved in removing homosexuality from the list of mental illnesses. Harold Kooden traced the history of the radical movement within APA. Steven Morin and Evelyn Hooker were discussants.

Greg Herek reported on a symposium on homophobia that was well attended despite its early Sunday morning time. He recalled that his first paper on the topic, submitted to APA in 1977, was rejected, in part because there was no appropriate division to host it.

Kristin Hancock reported on the Division 44 Task Force on Future Directions. Among the recommendations were the inclusion of ethnic and racial minority nominees in the Division through the use of election slates and the formation of a Task Force on Ethnic and Racial Minority Issues.

Anthony D'Augelli reported that the APA Committee on Lesbian and Gay Concerns officially changed its name from the Committee on Gay Concerns.

Included in the *Newsletter* was a one-page Petition for the Establishment of a Society for the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minority Issues, A Division of the American Psychological Association.



Announcements

Election Results

This year we were fortunate to have four very distinguished individuals running for the Executive Committee: Christopher Martell, Alan Storm, Beth Firestein, and Kathleen Ritter. I would like to thank all of them for their willingness to volunteer to serve the Division. I am pleased to announce the results of the election:

President: Christopher Martell

Member-at-Large: Beth Firestein

These terms will start in August 2005, with Christopher becoming President-Elect and Beth becoming the first year MAL. I am sure all of us look forward to seeing them at APA. I am sure they will make a significant contribution to the Division. I hope all the other candidates and each of you consider running for an elected position (if you haven't yet) in the future.

—Judith Glassgold

Haldemen Elected to APA Board

Congratulations to Doug Haldeman, Division 44's long-time APA Council Representative, who has been elected by Council to serve on the APA Board of Directors. The Board manages APA business between Council meetings, reviews all items on the Council agenda, and makes recommendations on most important matters for the Association. Doug will be the third openly gay or lesbian member elected by Council to the Board; Stephen Morin and Catherine Acuff were the other two. Bonnie Strickland, as a past president of APA, would make a total of four openly gay members who served on the Board of Directors.

Terry Gock was appointed to serve out the remainder of Doug's term beginning in January 2006 by the three presidents serving on the Executive Committee.

Michael Ranney Named Chair of 2006 Fundraising Dinner

Michael Ranney, who is the Executive Director of the Ohio Psychological Association, was named Chair of the 2006 Annual Division 44 Fundraising Dinner. He will take the role long occupied by Robb Mapou, who has organized successful events at every Convention for several years. The 2006 APA Convention has been planned for August 10–13, in New Orleans. At press time, there was no word from APA as to the impact of hurricanes Katrina and Rita on plans for the Convention, so organizational efforts for the fundraising dinner await further news and developments.

2006 APA Annual Convention Call for Programs

All Divisional program proposals for the 2006 APA Annual Convention must be submitted via the Web by midnight, December 2, 2005. For information see the insert in the September 2005 APA Monitor on Psychology, or visit apacustmout.apa.org/convcall/.

Division 44 Program Chair is Jonathan Mohr, Ph.D., Department of Psychology, MSN 3F5, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA 22030; 703-993-1279. E-mail: jmohr@gmu.edu. The theme for this year is "Our Families."

Note: Proposals for APA Continuing Education Workshops are due November 1.

AFFIRM Founder Receives Professional Awards

Marvin R. Goldfried, Distinguished Professor of Psychology, State University of New York, who founded AFFIRM five years ago, announced that he is the recipient of the 2005 Society for Psychotherapy Research Distinguished Career Award, and the recipient of the 2005 Division 29 (Psychotherapy) Rosalee Weiss Award for Scholarly Contributions.

AFFIRM (Psychologists Affirming their Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Family) is an informal support group with 550 members. In addition to supporting family members, it also is an advocate for LGBT issues in the mental health field. It was featured in an article in the October 2005 *Monitor on Psychology* (pp. 42–43). For more information visit: www.sunysb.edu/affirm.

Announcements

From the CLGBC Web Site

www.apa.org/pi/lgbc/homepage.html

The APA Committee on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns (CLGBC) **2005 Outstanding Achievement Awards** were presented to **Armand R. Cerbone, PhD, ABPP**, and **Ruth E. Fassinger, PhD**, at the joint Division 44/CLGBC Award Program on Saturday, August 20, 2005. Nominations for 2006 are requested at lgbc@apa.org.

Task Force on Gender Identity, Gender Variance, & Intersex Conditions

The Task Force on Gender Identify, Gender Variance, and Intersex Conditions will meet twice during 2005 to develop recommendations for how APA should address issues related to gender identify, gender variance, and intersex conditions. The charge of the Task Force, as adopted by the Council of Representatives, is to develop recommendations, based upon a review of current research on gender identity and intersexuality, relative to the following:

1. How APA should address these issues, including recommendations for education, training, and further research;
2. How APA can best meet the needs of psychologists and students who identify as transgender, transsexual, or intersex, including which entities have interest or expertise in these issues, and how to develop ongoing dialogue and sensitivity training in this area;
3. Review extant APA policies with regard to these populations and make recommendations for changes;
4. Make recommendations for collaboration with other professional organizations in this area.

Task Force on Sexual Orientation and Military Service

The Division of Military Psychology (Division 19) and the Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Issues (Division 44) have received funding from the Board of Directors and the Committee on APA Division Relations for a task force to implement the APA Resolution on Sexual Orientation and Military Service (see www.apa.org/pi/lgbc/policy/military.html) that was adopted in 2004.

International

In June 2004, the Board of Directors authorized APA to undertake activities to follow up the final report of the 2001 international meeting "Sexual Orientation and Mental Health: Toward Global Perspectives on Practice and Policy" and to establish an international network of national, multinational, and international psychological organizations focused on lesbian, gay, and bisexual concerns and gender identity issues in psychology. Representatives of several national and multinational psychological associations have begun periodic teleconferences. Associations represented included the APA; the Association of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Psychologies, Europe; the Australian Psychological Society; the Conselho Federal de Psicologia (Brazil); the Colombian Society of Psychology; the Nederlands Instituut van Psychologen; and The British Psychological Society, Lesbian & Gay Psychology Section Committee.



**CLGBC 2005 Outstanding Achievement
Award recipient Armand R. Cerbone**

Join Division 44—membership application at www.apa.org/divisions/div44.

2005 Division 44 Awards

**Congratulations to the following 2005 Division 44 award winners
who were recognized at this year's convention:**

Distinguished Scientific Contribution — Ilan H. Meyer

Dr. Meyer's research has consistently demonstrated an ongoing commitment to understanding and advancing the well being of LGBT people. He is especially well known for his research on stress and illness in minority populations. In particular, he has focused on the relation of prejudice, discrimination, and sexual minority identities. His renowned article entitled "Prejudice, Social Stress and Mental Health in Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Populations," which appeared two years ago in the *Psychological Bulletin*, has fundamentally changed our understanding of gay-related stress. His related work on internalized homophobia, minority stress, and the mental health of sexual minorities has also made significant contributions. Educated at Tel Aviv University and at Columbia University, Dr. Meyer is now Associate Professor of Clinical Sociomedical Sciences at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, where he continues his important research.

Distinguished Professional Contribution — Charles Silverstein

Dr. Silverstein is one of the pioneers of the psychological study and treatment of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people. After receiving his Ph.D. in Psychology at Rutgers University in 1975 and becoming a licensed clinical psychologist in the state of New York in 1976, Dr. Silverstein has devoted many of his professional efforts to work in support of sexual minorities. In 1972 he became the Founding Director of Identity House, and later the Institute for Human Identity, counseling centers designed to meet the counseling needs of gay people in New York City. From 1974 to 1980 he served as the Founding Editor of the *Journal of Homosexuality*. In the late 1970s, with Edmund White, Silverstein published an illustrated volume entitled *The Joy of Gay Sex*. This book, which Silverstein himself describes as having been "burned in Paris, shredded in London, and confiscated in Canada," continues to be studied with (shall we say) great interest; in short, it has been a revelation for many, and is currently in its 3rd edition. In his long career, Dr. Silverstein has also published many articles, chapters, and books focusing on psychotherapy for lesbian, gay, and bisexual people, and he has provided therapy for many gay and bisexual clients. He has been one of the early leaders of lesbian and gay psychology.

Distinguished Contribution to Ethnic Minority Issues — Gary W. Harper

Dr. Harper was educated at Washington University in St. Louis, where he received a B.A., and at Purdue University, where he received both M.S. and Ph.D. degrees. He subsequently completed an internship at UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute, where he also received an M.P.H., and did postdoctoral fellowships at the Youth Guidance Center Psychiatric Clinic and at the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies, both in San Francisco. Now an Associate Professor of Psychology at DePaul University, Dr. Harper's research focuses on HIV prevention efforts for young Latinos, especially those who are members of sexual minorities. He is also the recipient of APA Division 27's Ethnic Minority Mentorship Award and of numerous grants in support of his research.

Certificate of Appreciation

Laura Brown — outgoing Division 44 Fellows chair
Robb Mapou — outgoing chair of Fundraising Dinners
Becky Liddle — outgoing newsletter editor
Wendy Wonch — student representative
Daniel Hsu — student representative

Distinguished Book Award

Ritch Savin-Williams — for his 2005 book *The New Gay Teenager*

Presidential Citations

Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies (IGLSS) Coalition on LGBT Health



2005 Malyon-Smith Scholarship Award Winners

The Malyon-Smith Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the following five winners of the 2005 Malyon-Smith Scholarship Award competition:

- **Salma Ackbar**, The University of Windsor
Proposal: "Re-defining Fusion in Lesbian Relationships: Relating Attachment, Social Support and Outness to Intrusiveness and Closeness-Caregiving" [See following paper.]
- **Julie M. Duhigg**, The University of Kentucky
Proposal: "Processes Leading Self-Identified Heterosexuals to Develop into Anti-Heterosexist Activists: A Qualitative Exploration"
- **Amy Black**, The University of Rhode Island
Proposal: "Objectification or Liberation? Bisexual and Lesbian Women's Experiences with Physical Appearance"
- **Francisco Javier Sánchez**, The University of Iowa
Proposal: "The Relationship between Masculine Gender Role Conflict and the Coming Out Process"
- **Tisha Wiley**, The University of Illinois at Chicago
Proposal: "Sexual Orientation and Juror Decisions in Child Sexual Abuse Cases"

Ms. Ackbar and Ms. Duhigg won a 2005 Malyon-Smith Award; Ms. Black won the Bisexual Foundation Scholarship Award; and Mr. Sánchez and Ms. Wiley won the Malyon-Smith awards funded by the Gamma Mu Foundation. We look forward to reading abstracts of the winners' research in the *Division 44 Newsletter* upon the completion of their work. Congratulations to all of the winners!

Each of these winning proposals was awarded scholarships, thanks to the wonderful generosity of the **Gamma Mu Foundation, Inc.**, who again donated two of the awards. Gamma Mu is a charitable organization founded over a decade ago as a perpetual, philanthropic fund to provide financial assistance for the health, enhancement and pride of our community. The Foundation has given over \$500,000 to rural AIDS organizations and has diversified into scholarship and research areas. Division 44 is extremely thankful to the Foundation for its generosity, and particularly to Michael Haley and Jim Sherrod for their efforts in securing these prizes.

Special thanks goes to the Division 44 members who reviewed the proposals: **Shelly Kerr, Jeffrey T. Parsons, Joanne Zager, Alan Storm, David Whitcomb, and Huso Yi**. Without their hard work, these awards would not be possible. In addition, heartfelt thanks to the contributors to the Malyon-Smith fund. Every donation we receive helps to support more students pursuing research on LGBT psychology.

Re-defining Fusion in Lesbian Relationships: Relating Attachment, Social Support and Outness to Intrusiveness and Closeness-Caregiving

Salma Ackbar¹

Malyon-Smith Award Winner 2005

Traditionally, fusion has been defined as a state of intense intimacy, in which members of a couple become so emotionally close that they experience a loss of their individuality or separateness (Pearlman, 1989). In earlier psychological literature, lesbian relationships were frequently labelled as "fused" in instances where lesbian partners desired very high levels of closeness with each other (Krestan & Bepko, 1980). However, traditional definitions of fusion

have failed to distinguish between high levels of positive and negative closeness (Green & Werner, 1996). Moreover, traditional conceptualizations of fusion have been based on male-centered notions that equate separateness with greater psychological maturity, and heterosexist frameworks that regard a perfect autonomy-dependence balance as the only model of a healthy relationship (Mencher, 1990).

Due to such biases, patterns of positive intimacy in lesbian relationships have often been unfairly overlooked and pathologized (Mencher, 1990). More recently, researchers have attempted to de-pathologize traditional notions of fusion by emphasizing the strengths and benefits that fusion

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can also have for lesbian couples (Mencher & Slater, 1991; Pardie & Herb, 1997). Understanding the difference between positive and negative patterns of fusion in lesbian relationships is crucial for better serving the needs of lesbians and bisexual women in therapeutic contexts.

Therefore, the current study aimed to differentiate between and measure positive and negative types of fusion in lesbian relationships. Using Green and Werner's (1996) framework of family functioning, positive fusion was conceptualized as closeness-caregiving, and negative fusion was conceptualized as intrusiveness. Closeness-caregiving reflects behaviors such as warmth, time together, nurturance, physical intimacy, and consistency. Intrusiveness reflects behaviors such as separation anxiety, possessiveness/jealousy, emotional interactivity, and projective mystification (mind-reading). This study also examined how developmental factors such as age and adult attachment style (e.g., secure, preoccupied, fearful, dismissing), and social factors such as social support and outness influenced women's demonstrations of positive and negative fusion toward their partners. Furthermore, the current study investigated the influence of positive and negative fusion on relationship satisfaction.

Participants. Participants were 77 women between the ages of 18 and 62 years ($M = 36.9$). All women were involved in lesbian relationships, of which the average length was 6 years. Eighty-two percent of women identified as lesbian and 8 % as bisexual. Although women of ethnic minority backgrounds were specially recruited the sample of women was predominantly Caucasian (84 %). However, the proportions of women of various ethnicities in the sample were comparable to those in the greater population of Ontario. All participants lived in Canada, and the majority of them lived in the province of Ontario. The majority of women identified as non-religious (68%); highly educated (86%); and employed (80%) with a middle-income level.

Procedure. Women were recruited through snowballing, flyer advertisements, and e-mails to Internet list-serves. Snowballing methods involved requesting participants to pass questionnaire packages onto other women. In order to recruit from both disclosed and hidden populations, flyers were posted in gay and lesbian-identified, as well as non-specifically gay and lesbian-identified establishments. E-mails were sent to lesbian and bisexual women's list-serves serving a range of organizations such as student and community support groups, and social groups. E-mails were also sent to groups specifically for gay and lesbian people of ethnic and religious minority backgrounds.

Measures. Negative fusion (intrusiveness) and positive fusion (closeness-caregiving) were measured using the 182-item, lesbian-couple version of the California Inventory for Family Assessment (CIFA; Werner & Green, 1999). Adult attachment style was assessed with the 36-item Experiences in Close Relationships Inventory (ECR; Brennan, Clark & Shaver, 1998). The 12-item Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS; Zimet, Dahlem, Zimet & Farley, 1988) was used to measure perceptions of social support.

The 4-item Network-Sector Closeting Measure (Caron & Ulin, 1997) was used to assess degree of outness to family, friends and co-workers. Relationship satisfaction was measured with the 7-item Relationship Assessment Scale (RAS; Hendrick, 1988).

Results. Three hierarchical multiple regressions were performed: one to test the influence of age, attachment, social support, and outness on intrusiveness; a second to test the influence of attachment, social support, and outness on closeness-caregiving; and a third to test the influence of closeness-caregiving on relationship satisfaction.

Descriptive statistics revealed very high scores on the closeness-caregiving dimension, and very low scores on the intrusiveness dimension. For the regression predicting intrusiveness, age was entered into the first block, the preoccupied attachment variable into the second block, and the social support and outness variables into the third block. Results indicated that age explained the most variance (11 %) in the prediction of intrusiveness. As expected, increasing age was associated with lower levels of intrusiveness. Preoccupied attachment style significantly accounted for another 10 percent of the variance in intrusiveness. Consistent with hypotheses, greater preoccupied attachment was associated with higher levels of intrusiveness. Contrary to hypotheses, neither social support nor outness explained any additional variance to the prediction of intrusiveness.

For the regression predicting closeness-caregiving, secure and dismissing attachment variables were entered into the first block, and social support and outness variables were entered into the second block. Results indicated that secure and dismissing attachments explained the most variance, and significantly accounted for 22 percent of the total variance in the prediction of closeness-caregiving. As expected, greater dismissing attachment was significantly associated with lower levels of closeness-caregiving. Contrary to hypotheses, a secure attachment did not significantly predict closeness-caregiving. Social support and outness together significantly accounted for another 10 percent of the total variance in closeness-caregiving. However, this variance was almost entirely accounted for by the outness variable, with a higher degree of outness being significantly associated with greater closeness-caregiving. Contrary to predictions, social support did not significantly predict closeness-caregiving. The results of the final regression indicated that closeness-caregiving significantly accounted for 64 percent of the variance in relationship satisfaction. Consistent with hypotheses, higher levels of closeness-caregiving were found to be associated with greater satisfaction.

Discussion. Most women showed very high levels of positive fusion and very low levels of negative fusion toward their partners. Moreover, consistent with past literature (Greene, Causby, & Miller, 1999; Schreurs & Buunk, 1996), women who showed more positive types of fusion reported greater satisfaction in their relationships. These findings suggest that lesbian partners may place great value on establishing high levels of closeness with each other because they ex-

perience high levels of closeness as satisfying and beneficial. Therefore, although lesbian partners may be so close to each other that individual boundaries may appear to be blurred or crossed, it is not appropriate to label such intense closeness or such blurring of boundaries as always dysfunctional.

In general, developmental variables (age and attachment style) were better predictors of negative and positive fusion than social variables (social support and outness). One explanation is that the psychological dispositions and level of maturity resulting from one's attachment style and age have a greater impact on one's adult relationships than social or external factors because they begin to form early in one's life, and become more deeply ingrained as time goes by. Consistent with what has been found and suggested in past research, older women showed lesser negative fusion than younger women; women with preoccupied attachments showed greater negative fusion than women with secure, fearful and dismissing attachment styles; and women with dismissing attachments showed lesser positive fusion than women of other attachments. Existing theories for fusion in lesbian relationships, such as systems theory, have postulated that women are more likely to be fused when they lack validation and support from social networks outside of the relationship (Krestan & Bepko, 1980). However, this study's findings suggest that such theories may need to be expanded or revised to take into account the potentially more powerful role of developmental factors such as age and attachment. Nevertheless, it is important not to discount completely the influence of social factors on women's tendencies to show positive or negative fusion in their relationships. Although social factors did not generally contribute as much as developmental factors to the prediction of positive and negative fusion, outness still showed a significant relationship to positive fusion. It may be that women who are more out tend to have higher self-esteem and less anxiety (Jordan & Deluty, 1998) because they do not fear discovery or judgment of their sexual orientation, as do women who are more closeted. Thus, they might be more physically demonstrative and emotionally intimate with their partners.

This study supports the call for therapists who work with lesbians and bisexual women to become familiar with the ways in which levels of intimacy in lesbian relationships might be different from those in heterosexual relationships (Igartua, 1998), and to recognize that sometimes high levels of intimacy reflect high degrees of love, trust and commitment between lesbian partners (Biaggio, Coan, & Adams, 2002).

Directions for Future Research: Future researchers may wish to replicate these findings with a larger sample size, and with women of more diverse ethnic backgrounds. Future researchers may also wish to explore how interactions between developmental and social factors might influence women's demonstrations of positive and negative types of fusion.

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Malyon-Smith Scholarship: Call for Proposals

A scholarship totaling up to \$1,000 will be awarded to selected graduate students in psychology submitting proposals for research into psychological issues of importance to gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender individuals, groups, or communities. Proposals must be postmarked by February 1, 2006. Application materials are available on the Division 44 Web site, www.apa.org/divisions/div44, or from:

Cisco Sánchez, Ph.D., David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Department of Human Genetics, Vilain Laboratory, Gonda Center #5524, 695 Charles E. Young Drive, South Los Angeles, CA 90095-7088 / e-mail: fjsanchez@mednet.ucla.edu

Uncle Sam Needs You: Public Policy and LGBT Psychology

Michael R. Stevenson¹

Excerpts from Division 44 Presidential Address on August 20, 2005

As I prepared for this event, I posed a simple question to the clinicians on the Division 44 listserv: If Uncle Sam were your client, how would you describe his symptoms? This question seemed to strike a chord with a handful of devoted listserv users. Several practicing clinicians suggested diagnostic labels relevant to this depiction of Uncle Sam's symptoms. However, I am not a clinician and will refrain from doing so. Furthermore, as Geoffrey Ream pointed out on the listserv, such a diagnosis might provide grounds for a future insanity defense, and I don't want to be responsible for that.

Whether Uncle Sam is suffering from multiple addictions, PTSD, Narcissistic Personality Disorder or some other form of mental ill health, for my purposes today, it is sufficient to conclude that Uncle Sam needs you—whether he wants you (or not).

Psychologists as Advocates

Psychologists possess both the data and the skills to advocate as content experts, role models, and witnesses. We can help to diminish the influence of heterosexist norms. We can influence the educational development of all health and mental health professionals. We can be affirming in our own work with clients, students, and research participants. And we can belong to and encourage the work of LGBT-affirming professional organizations.

Advocacy through the APA

The next time you receive your American Psychological Association (APA) dues statement and begin to re-assess the value of membership, please remember that participation in APA and Division 44 is probably the simplest form of advocacy. Like APA, a growing number of health-related organizations are focusing specifically on LGBT issues. By supporting such organizations, psychologists can participate

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I wish to acknowledge a number of people who have helped to shape my thinking on these issues: Kathryn Black, Laura Brown, Jeanine Cogan, Kurt DeBord, Judith Glassgold, Glenda Russell and last but not least, Senator Paul Simon. I also wish to thank the many others who have offered their ideas and encouragement with regard to this particular address. I must also acknowledge as my primary sources: Stevenson & Cogan (2003) and Stevenson (in press).

in efforts to improve LGBT-affirming health and mental health policy.

APA's Public Policy Office (PPO) advocates primarily at the federal level. The Office of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns works to eliminate the stigma of mental illness long associated with same-sex sexual orientation and to reduce prejudice, discrimination, and violence against LGB people. Within the APA, state and local advocacy is handled in collaboration with the PPO and the Practice Office on State Associations. Our Committee on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns (CLGBC) provides ongoing evaluation of issues that concern LGBT psychologists, supports LGBT-relevant research and LGBT-affirming



practice, and facilitates the integration of these issues into APA's advocacy work. These entities often collaborate with members of Division 44 in drafting policy statements and other significant documents supportive of advocacy efforts.

Like other organizations that encourage advocacy, APA supports the Public Policy Advocacy Network, an electronic network that can keep you informed and involved (Green & Elmore, 2003). It also produces a wide variety of *amicus* briefs, reports, and policy statements that have had a dramatic impact in legal and policy contexts. You contribute to these efforts simply by being members of APA and Division 44. But you can also volunteer to serve on the boards and committees directly involved in this work.

APA also supports advocacy coalitions. The Coalition to Protect Research came into being after Congress threatened to de-fund significant research on sexual behavior. Making the assumption that researchers are better equipped to judge the merit of scientific research than are most politicians, the Coalition lobbies against efforts to restrict funding for peer-reviewed research. The National LGBT Health Coalition is committed to improving the health and well-being of LGBT people through federal advocacy that is focused on research, policy, education, and training. It convenes national meetings, sponsors the National LGBT Health Awareness Week, and briefs policy makers on LGBT health issues.

Involvement in Community Action

Shifting our attention from professional organizations to community level activism, D'Augelli and Garnets (1995) argued a decade ago that heterosexist norms, such as those created when communities refuse to recognize LGBT families or

protect LGBT people from discrimination, prevent LGBT people from gaining access to the communities that can provide emotional support and affirmation. As advocates, psychologists can mobilize resources, remove barriers, and increase access to support services. At a community level, we can redefine social norms to create institutional protections and help to create safe climates so LGBT people can be open about their identities. We can also facilitate public and organizational policies that provide equal status and legal protection against discrimination through political advocacy, community organizing, and legislative lobbying.

LGB people are more likely to seek counsel from providers who have been trained to work with LGB clients or who identify as LGB themselves (Liddle, 1997; Murphy, Rawlings, & Howe, 2002). Although empirical data concerning the influence of the sexual orientation of the therapist are rare (Cabaj, 1996), Liddle (1997) demonstrated that clients who investigate their potential counselor's sexual orientation or attitudes about sexual orientation are more satisfied with the services they receive. She also lists a number of ways LGB therapists can make this information known. Her list includes offering LGB-specific workshops or groups, advertising in the LGB press, and making local professionals aware of the availability of LGB-affirming services. I think Liddle would agree that visibly advocating for LGB-positive public policy is an appropriate addition to her list.

On a practical level, being involved in policy advocacy, at local, state, and federal levels, may be necessary in order to gain political support and funding for LGB-specific treatment programs or facilities. Without strong LGB-affirming advocates such programs may be very difficult to start and defend, especially in a climate of budget cuts and program reductions. Clearly, it is advantageous for service providers in LGB communities to be savvy advocates, as well.

In addition to being personally involved in advocacy work as an individual or through a professional organization, it is important to consider the impact of community involvement on the mental health of LGBT clients. While psychological engagement with a community has a variety of positive mental health benefits (D'Augelli & Garnets, 1995), a considerable body of work has demonstrated that prejudice and discrimination can have substantial negative consequences for LGBT people (Crocker & Major, 1989). Reinforced by its legal and policy consequences, heterosexism and sexual prejudice also contribute to psychological alienation by stifling connections to LGBT communities (D'Augelli & Garnets, 1995).

Although prejudice and discrimination can be psychologically damaging and socially alienating, the coping literature clearly shows that active coping is a healthier response to oppression than passive acceptance. Integration into the LGBT community is associated with various indices of mental health for LGB individuals (e.g., Adam, 1992; Crocker & Major, 1989; Dworkin & Kaufer, 1995; Kurdek, 1988; Paul, Hays, & Coates, 1995). In contrast, withdrawal from the community may increase feelings of isolation, increase internalized homo-

phobia, and diminish support networks (Russell, 2000). LGB people need not be passive victims as they can actively protect their self-esteem (Crocker & Major, 1989) and enhance feelings of efficacy despite rampant heterosexism and sexual prejudice (Russell, 2000).

Support for the hypothesis that involvement in political advocacy may be therapeutic in itself can be inferred from Russell's (2000) finding that having contact with an LGB community and the act of coming out were seen as direct antidotes to the depression and sadness felt by many LGB Coloradoans during the campaigns surrounding Amendment 2. Although Russell's survey was itself a positive intervention for some participants, her data provide clear evidence that observing other LGB people come out and become politically active can be empowering. The same can be said for an LGB person's own steps in becoming more open as an advocate.

Clearly, psychologists can be effective advocates for LGB-affirming public policy. Perhaps, we are exactly what Uncle Sam needs.

Role Models and Witnesses

Involvement in advocacy will not only enhance our visibility and success in the community. It also creates opportunities to model healthy behavior and to act as a witness to oppression for potential clients, our students, and other members of LGBT communities.

The mental health professions are among the most receptive to LGB people and their allies. As Brown (1996) observed, LGB-affirming psychologists can be out and active in their professions and can serve as pillars of LGB communities. However, as members of AFFIRM¹ frequently demonstrate, psychologists can serve as role models regardless of their sexual orientations (Cabaj, 1996; Rochlin, 1985).

Significant visibility in the community is not without cost. Heterosexual allies may become suspected of being LGB themselves. Disapproving colleagues may question their LGB-affirmative advocacy. And they may struggle with how open to be about their role in the community (Morrow, 2000). Regardless of sexual orientation, such visibility can also create significant role overlap where therapists and clients encounter each other in social or political settings as well as during service provision (Lynn, 1994). This situation can create ethical dilemmas for service providers (Brown, 1996), but it may also provide opportunities for practitioners to model LGB pride and community involvement.

In addition to being a role model, psychologists can act as effective witnesses to oppression. As Russell (2000) explains in her extraordinary book *Voted Out*, in the context of any stigma, in addition to a victim and a perpetrator, there is often a witness who can highlight the reactions of others to the victimization. In the best of situations, the

¹ A group within APA of allies, parents, and friends of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people; their Web site is: naples.cc.sunysb.edu/CAS/affirm.nsf.

witness validates that stigma or discrimination has occurred and offers support and a moral alternative to the perpetration. Successful witnessing can be a source of resilience for people facing trauma.

Witnessing can take many forms. Whether that witnessing occurs at the close interpersonal level, the political level, or at the judicial level, it reduces the isolation and powerlessness experienced by those facing stigma and discrimination. Successful witnessing by heterosexual allies, family members, or even public figures helps victims of anti-LGB prejudice feel supported, less outnumbered, and less vulnerable (Russell 2000).

The Role of “Expert”

Last but not least, as an LGBT affirming psychologist it is important for you to act as an expert. That is, you need to possess the content knowledge that will allow you to recognize and refute misinformation wherever you find it and to contribute in whatever way you can to the research that constitutes LGBT psychology. In the educational context, we can develop curricula that prepare all students to serve LGBT clients while we contribute to learning environments that affirm diversity, broadly defined. In the lab, we can generate new research on policy-related questions and carefully draw policy implications from the extant literature. As a contributor, we can support organizations like the Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies (IGLSS) in its efforts to debunk the myths and misinformation promoted by those who would prefer we return to the closet.

Beyond direct advocacy, more scholarly work is needed in a variety of areas. I will mention only four. First and foremost, transgender issues are severely understudied. This is particularly troublesome given the impact of the transgender community in furthering LGBT-affirming policies. While professional associations and the federal government have occasionally encouraged data collection, the body of relevant research on transgender issues remains limited.

Second, with the exception of HIV/AIDS, data on the health concerns that may affect LGBT communities remain scarce. My graduate assistant, Heather Ryan, spent most of last year attempting to locate published reports of empirical research relevant to health disparities related to sexual orientation.² Despite her heroic efforts, she found only a limited number of studies on eating disorders, various forms of cancer, alcohol and drug use, and health care, but there was little consistency in the findings. Moreover, most studies relied on convenience samples and few took into account minority stress or sexual prejudice and discrimination in interpreting differences between LGB and other groups.

Having worked so hard to de-pathologize homosexuality, researchers interested in LGBT concerns may be reluctant to investigate health-related behaviors in fear of the potential political uses of such data. Other researchers may be reluctant to pursue federal grants for fear they would not be seriously considered. Despite these fears, investigators can de-

sign research that will increase our understanding of the relationships between sexual prejudice, anti-LGBT discrimination, and the health concerns of LGBT people, while supporting efforts to develop more affirming public policy (see Stevenson, 2002). IGLSS is currently circulating a resolution urging the inclusion of questions about sexual orientation on surveys related to a broad range of health and social outcomes that may be influenced by an individual's sexual orientation; the resolution also urges more researchers to analyze thoroughly the data that already exist.³

Third, data concerning the impact of aspects of international policy are sorely needed. As I know from personal experience, the United States does not allow citizens to sponsor a same-sex domestic partner for purposes of immigration. Although the Immigration and Naturalization Service began accepting asylum applications from lesbian and gay foreign nationals in 1994, it is difficult to know how frequently such applications are filed and whether the applications were successful. Although advocacy groups are educating policy makers on these issues, more sound research on bi-national same-sex couples and the impact of current policies would be useful.

Fourth, it should be abundantly clear that research on participation in advocacy efforts should be a high priority. Russell's (2000) work clearly established the value of active participation in the face of an anti-LGB campaign. As Russell (2004) explains in an essay entitled, “The Dangers of a Same-sex Marriage Referendum for Community and Individual Well-being,” multidisciplinary research with sociologists and communications specialists may be especially productive.

Conclusion

I think you will agree that Uncle Sam is troubled. Nonetheless, I believe with your help his prognosis is good. As I indicated earlier, he needs you, whether or not he wants you. I ask you to support APA's advocacy efforts; to be out as LGBT-affirming and visible as a role model and witness; to be actively involved in your communities and to encourage others to do so; and to act as an expert by refuting misinformation and contributing to the knowledge base. After all, in my estimation, this is what it means to be an *everyday activist*. I hope you are convinced that you already possess many of the skills and much of the knowledge to contribute in ways that will improve Uncle's condition. As individuals, we are but single frames in a potentially endless film, but even a brief scene can have dramatic effects over the long term. If you don't do it, who will?

² I would be happy to share Ryan's annotated bibliography with anyone wishing to pursue further work in this area.

³ If you or an organization you represent would like to be a signatory on the resolution please contact IGLSS or check their Web site: www.igloss.org.

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Social Support from Friends and Family in Bisexual Young Adults

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Abstract: Evidence suggests that perceived social support can contribute to an individual's overall psychosocial adjustment. These benefits have been considered even more important for marginalized populations. The current study addressed the role of perceived social support from friends and family in a marginalized population that has been overlooked in past research: bisexual women and men. Participants were 234 bisexual young adult students who were recruited and surveyed using an Internet-based methodology. The study was announced to faculty and student representatives of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender student organizations on 33 college and university campuses. It was hypothesized that general social support from family and friends would predict aspects of psychosocial adjustment, and that sexuality-specific support from family and friends would account for unique variability in psychosocial adjustment above and beyond that accounted for by general social support. Furthermore, interactions were expected between social support from friends and social support from family, such that friend support would benefit psychosocial adjustment most strongly when levels of family support were low. Results indicated that general social support from both friends and family accounted for less depressive symptomatology and greater life satisfaction, whereas only general support from friends was associated with less internalized biphobia. After controlling for general social support, sexuality-specific social support from friends and family did not predict depressive symptomatology. However, sexuality-specific support from family was associated with greater life satisfaction, and sexuality-specific support from both friends and family was associated with lower levels of internalized biphobia. Interactions between friend and family social support were found for neither general support nor sexuality-specific support. Overall, participants perceived higher levels of social support from friends than from family members.

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The Questions We Ask: Conducting Socially Conscious Research with Transgender Individuals

Katherine Rachlin¹

The transgender population has an urgent need for specific data. Researchers have the potential to have a positive impact on the lives of transgender individuals by providing these data. The limited amount of research on this population makes each study important.

Transgender individuals are not fully protected against discrimination in housing, employment, or medical care. They can too easily lose their jobs, their children, and their access to social services. When individuals gain access to the courts to fight for their civil rights they are often challenged to present "scientific" data to support their case. That data may be an indication that a procedure is medically necessary, it may be proof that being transsexual does not harm one's children or that supporting a transsexual child will not harm that child. The presence or absence of that data has tremendous ramifications.

Research Questions

Research is driven by questions. A research topic or question may be born out of a personal interest or connection. Researchers may choose to investigate a medical procedure they are considering. Researchers may be driven by the desire to understand a friend or partner or parent or the self or may choose a topic because it appeals to their intellectual curiosity. Researchers may choose a particular topic because the data are easily accessible or because they want to build on a previously existing study. Many researchers will propose a topic (or find that they are working on a project) because it is one that grant-giving institutions deem worthy of funding.

The Importance of Asking the Right Questions

Not all research questions are created equal. Some questions will have greater impact than others and will be more meaningful for the community. Research data can be used to obtain medical care and civil rights. Some of these data are simply documentation of demographics. Other questions require longitudinal medically supervised double blind protocols. Researchers in every subject area may be able to distinguish between a project that has the potential to contribute not only to our understanding but also to the quality of life. It is incumbent upon researchers to look at how their re-

search may be used to benefit the people who participate in that research. Available sample populations are still limited and most people are willing to participate in only a limited number of research projects before they refuse. We need to make the most of the people who do participate and honor them with useful research.

In research with transgender populations, cultural competence issues are often overlooked. One aspect of competence in this arena is knowledge of the impact of the research question on the population. Insider knowledge of this community will inform research questions, the language used, the research design, and the assumptions operating in the research. Lack of this knowledge may alienate subjects and result in data that lack richness.

I'd like to present a project in which I was involved (Rachlin, 1999) in order to demonstrate how the research was driven by a need in the community and how the data were used.

Need for this Research / Origin of the Research Question

The desire for surgery has been treated as symptomatic of the individual's cross-gender identity (American Psychiatric Association, 2000). Attitudes towards genital reassignment surgery (GRS), and one's relationship with one's natural genitals, are frequently part of the diagnostic profile used to determine medical care and legal status for transsexual people. For example, a person who has not had or does not plan to have GRS may be denied hormones, surgery (particularly mastectomy or hysterectomy), a legal name or gender change, or the ability to legally marry. At the time this research was conducted, FTMs (persons transitioning from female to male) were portrayed in the literature as people who wanted to transform their bodies from one sex to another and would not stop at anything but full reconstruction including phalloplasty. This was problematic because the great diversity in the choices that FTMs make regarding their bodies and surgery was not represented.

Summary of Research Method and Results

This research examined the factors that influenced the decisions of people who had considered female-to-male genital reconstructive surgery. A questionnaire was designed to explore subject demographics and surgical decision-making. The survey was sent to past participants in a support group in New York City. It was also distributed at the first FTM Conference of the Americas in San Francisco. The final sample

¹Paper presented at the 113th annual convention of the American Psychological Association, Washington, DC, August 19, 2005.

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consisted of 27 people who reported that they had been born as female and had male gender identities.

Respondents rated lack of money and inadequate medical technology as the most frequent obstacles to implementing their choices. The results of this research suggested that surgical choices have to do not only with gender identity but also with available resources, technology, and individual life circumstances. The results challenged the expectation that FTMs would request genital reconstructive surgery (phalloplasty in particular) and identified some of the numerous reasons why FTMs may not undergo such surgery.

Research Implications and Utility

This research has been used in court cases in which individuals were attempting to gain respect for their status as men regardless of their genital/surgical status. One particularly visible case was *Kantaras vs. Kantaras* in which Michael Kantaras fought for custody of the children he had formally adopted while married to his wife. The case hinged upon whether the marriage (and subsequent divorce) and adoption were legally binding because of Mr. Kantaras' previous female status. Mr. Kantaras had not had genital reassignment surgery. This research gave evidence that many men in his position share the same genital status.

Limitations and Suggestions for Future Research

This research was limited by the small sample size and by the lack of in-depth information about the subjects. While all participants in the transsexual group claimed to be male-identified, and even to live most or all of the time in the male role, the variations in the endurance, degree, and stability of that male identification were not examined. Written in 1995, the language used in this paper was quickly dated. Yet, this small study has been widely used because of the lack of information about this subject. I regularly receive calls from lawyers and individuals who are trying to obtain rights or services. They are aware of this research and ask if I can point them towards more research to support their case. I don't know of any other studies that address this issue directly and this study desperately needs to be replicated with a larger sample.

Developing Research Questions in Partnership with the Community

I asked a number of lawyers who specialize in working with transgender civil rights cases what data they would like to have with them in court. The answers were remarkably consistent. Dean Spade, transgender attorney and activist and founder of the Sylvia Rivera Law Project, articulated a need for "medical and mental health professionals to help us provide expert evidence for individual litigants, and to help show policy makers that most existing standards of gender recognition are based on outdated ideas about trans health care (i.e.,

everyone has genital surgery, specifically phalloplasty or vaginoplasty, and that is when their sex officially changes)."

Shannon Minter, an attorney with the Transgender Law & Policy Institute and the legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, proposed a number of specific research projects to address these issues. His suggestions included obtaining data on the benefits and effectiveness of gender reassignment procedures and the psychological/medical consequences when a transgender person is denied or is unable to obtain treatment for sex-reassignment. He also called for empirical data regarding the experience of transgender people who become parents both before and after transition and how this affects their parenting and their children. He expressed the need for research showing that children are benefited by approaches that allow them to express their gender identity and research documenting the experience of transgender children and youth (including pre-pubescent children) who are allowed to live in accordance with their identity (Minter, personal communication, 2004).

Other lawyers whom I consulted also mentioned the need for data on transgender (TG) parenting because of "the extensive and pervasive bias against TG parents in custody fights." They also were concerned about the rights of transgender children as in the case of "Pat Doe (a student challenging a principal's enforcement of a discriminatory dress code)."

Future Research Agenda

The research suggestions from community members and advocates can be divided into four areas: medical and psychological resources and interventions, protocols for treatments, family issues, and support for transgender children.

Medical/Psychological Issues. Research into medical interventions would involve looking at the effectiveness of current treatments and developing new treatments and procedures. How do the currently available gender-confirming medical treatments such as hormones affect people? What are the long-term physical and psychological consequences? How effective are different psychotherapeutic treatments in helping people address various gender issues?

Protocols for Treatment. The Harry Benjamin Association's Standards of Care (Meyer et al., 2001) are the most widely accepted Standards of Care. Are these guidelines appropriate and helpful for people seeking medical and psychological services? Each aspect of the standards needs to be guided by research. There may be other approaches to care that also need to be studied. We need data to support a maximally flexible model.

Family Issues. What is the effect on the family when a family member transitions? What would help the family and family members to adjust to the transition? What will help couples in which one-person transitions stay together? How does having a transgender parent affect the children? What would be most helpful to them?

Treatment and Support for Trans Children. How can we improve the treatment of transgender children? What is the effect of denying or of delivering gender support services to children? How can we predict who will grow up to be transgender so that we can provide early support? A visible trend is people seeking medical treatments at younger ages and using hormones and surgery to express non-traditional gender identity or presentation.

Finally, how can we train researchers and prepare them to work with transgender issues in constructive ways? What can training programs do to support research into transgender issues? In spite of all of the obstacles to working with this population it is an area full of potential. Even

small well-designed research projects can make large contributions to this field.

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Asian, Elderly, and Gay: Is Anyone Out There?

Connie S. Chan¹

I want to thank Helena Carlson for her persistence and work in putting this symposium together. The intersection of aging and culture raises interesting questions regarding older gay men, lesbians, and bisexuals of color. I am honored to be included today and I hope that my work on this topic is the just the beginning of future research by myself and by others in the field.

My questions for this presentation were: (1) Is there any research or writing concerning the experiences of older gay, lesbian, bisexual Asians and Asian Americans? (2) Is anyone “out” there who is Asian, older and lesbian, gay, or bisexual, and (3) How do Asian cultural values affect the experiences of LGB older Asians?

I conducted the standard literature review search with the keywords “Asian,” “lesbian,” “gay,” “bisexual,” and “elderly” and found almost nothing that was relevant. I then tried various Asian ethnic group terms, such as Chinese, Japanese, Thai, Korean, Indian, and was also unsuccessful in finding any articles or chapters on this topic. Getting desperate, I asked a nursing professor from China to do a literature search on LGB elderly Chinese in the Chinese language journals. She is usually capable of finding obscure articles in Chinese health and mental health journals, but alas, she reported to me that, after a thorough search, she also found nothing. As I reflected on this lack of written material, I thought about my own research on lesbian, gay, and bisexual identity among East Asian Americans. My studies had indicated that for an Asian or Asian-American to identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual, (s)he would have to take on the Western social construction of having an individual “identity” (vs. the family or group identity common in Asian cultures) as well as having a

sexual identity (very uncommon in traditional Asian cultures). After all, in Asian cultures, sexual behavior was most likely to be considered something you did, not something you were. And while there are many self-identified Asian and Asian American lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals, they tend to be younger. Given these factors, it should come as no surprise that there would be little written on this topic thus far. However, I felt a strong incentive to consider this topic and to conduct a small survey as a way of beginning to understand the experiences of aging, being Asian, and also being lesbian, gay, or bisexual.

My literature search did provide some insight into Asian cultural values regarding aging and the elderly. In contrast to Western (and likely gay) cultural values celebrating youth, Asian cultures seemed to value, even venerate older people. In Asian societies, old age is equated with wisdom, knowledge, and valuable experience. Elders are often revered and respected, and as a result, taken care of and assisted, rather than considered a burden. As a result, many Asians and Asian Americans regard getting older not as something to be feared, but the next stage in the natural order of life—a time to be respected for your experience, and a time to find fulfillment. One of the reasons for this perspective is that Asian cultures value family connections and family lineage above individual identity or expression. Yes, it would seem that Asian elderly with children and grandchildren feel secure that they would be loved, respected, and cared for in their golden years. But what about LGB Asian elders? Would they feel isolated and alienated from their families or would LGB Asian elders feel respected and cared for by younger family members as they aged? My first hunch was that getting older was a kind of leveling factor—that heterosexual and married Asians with families might have been more accepted and connected with their families in the younger and middle years—but that many more elders (not just LGB) are alone in their older years. My second hunch was that acceptance for

¹ Paper presented at the 113th annual convention of the American Psychological Association, Washington, DC, August 21, 2005. Correspondence concerning this paper should be addressed to Connie S. Chan, Ph.D., College of Public and Community Service, University of Massachusetts Boston, Boston, MA 02125. E-mail: connie.chan@umb.edu.

who you are—whether LGB, eccentric, stubborn, etc.—actually becomes easier over time, so that LGB elders might be more accepted and respected by family and their communities as they age.

As a pilot study, I interviewed three Asian self-identified lesbian, gay, and bisexual individuals and asked them to talk about their lives and about their perspectives on aging as they had become older. My first case study is a 67-year old Chinese-American gay man who had never married and who had been devoted to his parents and their care as they became sick and eventually died. Relating that he had come out as gay when he was 25, Jack¹ had been non-partnered for virtually his entire life and did not expect that to change. Since he had been so involved with his parents and their lives, Jack had made strong connections with both older and younger relatives at weddings, funerals, and “clan” dinners. At 67, he was optimistic about his future without his parents. He felt that he would have younger nieces and nephews as well as siblings for support and friendship; and he intended to provide support for aunts and uncles he had become close to. Wanting to find out more about his extended family, Jack was planning a trip to China to meet other relatives. He is planning this trip with his good friend, Tom, a gay man who had always wanted to go to China. Would he expect to experience any problems traveling as two men together? “No,” said Jack, with a laugh. “We’re too old for that. Everyone is going to be welcoming, I am sure. It would not have been that way when we were younger, but no one is going to try to marry us off now!”

My second case was a Korean bisexual woman, age 64, currently single. Mika had been married for fifteen years and divorced without children. Recently, she had been in a long-term relationship with a woman for ten years, but that relationship recently ended. She has been open about her bisexuality with family members for over twenty years and finds that their acceptance of her has increased as she has become older. Mika is particularly close to a niece, age 22, whom she sees weekly, and whom she adores. At 64, she is healthy and active and expects to be in a partnered relationship again soon. She reported feeling secure that the younger members of her family, especially her niece, will provide support and companionship as she ages. “As an older woman,” she says, “I am treated just like all the other women of my generation.

¹ All names have been changed to protect privacy.

Having a woman partner or not having children is no longer unusual. I am expected to carry out my responsibilities as a daughter and as an aunt, and I do, with enthusiasm.”

My last interviewee is a 72-year-old man from New Delhi, India, who has been in a relationship with a male partner for twenty years. Robert’s parents had always wanted him to get married and to have children, and even arranged marriages with suitable women when he was younger. Strong-willed and independent, Robert had always refused, and lived his life on his own terms, coming to the U.S. when he was forty. As other members of his family emigrated to the U.S., Robert infrequently attended family gatherings and events over the years. He attributes this to the fact that his father was angry that Robert was openly gay and did not acknowledge his partner as a member of the family. “I was perfectly content to live my own life apart from my family for years,” Robert remarks. Several years ago, when Robert’s father died, his mother asked him to forgive her and his father for their estrangement over the years. As she gets older, she wanted Robert and his partner to be part of their family and praised his partner as a caring spouse to Robert. While surprised, Robert decided to accept his mother’s invitation, and reports that he and his partner have enjoyed being part of the extended family again. They believe that both younger and older family members treat them with respect and with fondness.

I acknowledge that there are complexities and uncertainties as we age, but that my interviews reflect that Asian cultures tend to value elders and respect independence, history, and traditions. These are all good cultural values for anyone getting older, but particularly when one is lesbian, gay or bisexual. There is a great need for further research into these issues, and I encourage my colleagues and students to consider the important variables of culture as they study effects of aging in LGBT communities.

I am going to close with an observation from a recent film, *Saving Face*, about two young Asian lesbians finding a relationship with each other in the face of their parents’ initial surprise and then acceptance. The most moving part of the film was not just that the young Chinese doctor found love and acceptance of her relationship with an Asian ballet dancer, but that the doctor’s mother, a woman in her late 40s, found love and acceptance of her relationship with a man twenty years younger. The more acceptance and examples we have of the variations of love and loving relationships, the better off we all are.

Bisexual Foundation Scholarship: Call for Proposals

A scholarship totaling up to \$2,000 will be awarded to selected graduate students in psychology submitting proposals for research on the psychology of bisexuality. Proposals must be postmarked by February 1, 2006. Students may apply for both the Bisexual Foundation Scholarship and the Maylon-Smith Scholarship. Application materials are available on the Division 44 Web site, www.apa.org/divisions/div44, or from:

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Symposium: What I did for Love, or Benefits, or . . . : Same-Sex Marriage in Massachusetts

Sumru Erkut and Connie Chan, co-chairs¹

Same-Sex Marriage Study Group, Wellesley Centers for Women

I. Tying the Knot: The Context of Social Change in Massachusetts

Diane M. Purvin, Michelle V. Porche, and Jasmine M. Waddell

Center for Research on Women,
Wellesley Centers for Women

In this paper we present the framework, research design, and methods of a new study that explores how lesbian and gay couples in Massachusetts, including families with children, have experienced the legalization of same-sex marriage. According to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, 5,994 same-sex couples were married in Massachusetts in the year the court ruling was enacted (May 17th, 2004). For our research study, we gathered data from 50 couples, both married and unmarried, in committed relationships within this historic time. A primarily qualitative mixed-method design was used. A purposive sampling strategy yielded 50 couples of varied socioeconomic, gender, and racial/ethnic backgrounds. This sample of same-sex couples, both married and unmarried, were engaged in long-term committed relationships and expressed high levels of satisfaction in those relationships, and were comfortable being out to family and community. They reflected a wide range of views regarding the importance of marriage in making choices about their own relationships, while at the same time being like-minded in stressing the importance and value of the legalization of same-sex marriage. Key themes included aspects of relationships that changed or remained the same in light of legalization, legitimacy that legal marriage confers, benefits and their limits, LGBT marginalization contrasting with mainstreaming of married life, and the public spotlight on previously private relationships.

II. "Doing Marriage": Same-Sex Relationship Dynamics in the Post-Legalization Period

Ellen Schechter, Stone Center, Wellesley Centers for Women

Allison J. Tracy, Wellesley Centers for Women

Konjit V. Page, Boston College

Gloria Luong, University of California, Riverside

While there is substantial literature on the development of heterosexual relationships in the context of normative stages marked by events such as marriage and the transition to parenthood, we know considerably less about the developmental course of committed same-sex relationships. When Massachusetts became the first state to legalize same-sex marriage in the U.S. in 2004, an unprecedented opportunity appeared for studying the impact of legal marriage upon the development of same-sex relationships. This paper is based on findings from a larger exploratory study, conducted by the Wellesley Centers for Women, of 50 same-sex couples in Massachusetts, two thirds of whom had chosen to legally marry and one third had not. In this paper, we examine whether and how legalization of same-sex marriage impacted same-sex partners' commitment to one another, presentation to others as a couple, and treatment as a couple by others.

Relationships were found to generally follow a common sequence of commitment development. While roughly one fourth of the couples chose not to mark their commitment with ceremonies of any kind, nearly three quarters of the couples had either commitment (non-legal) ceremonies, legal weddings, or both. Decisions to legally marry were largely based on gaining legal protections, but unforeseen impacts on self, family, friends, and society revealed multiple layers of meaning. Implications of the study for personal and societal development are explored.

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III. “Goin’ to the Chapel?”: Same-Sex Couples’ Religious/Spiritual Perspectives on Legalized Marriage

Anne E. Noonan and Catherine Senghas
Wellesley Centers for Women

Given the strong public positions taken by some religious traditions on homosexuality, the recent legalization of same-sex marriage in Massachusetts represents an important opportunity to examine if and how same-sex couples view legalized marriage through a religious and/or spiritual lens. This paper describes qualitative analysis of interview data from an exploratory study of same-sex marriage ($n = 94$). Analyses revealed that in many participants’ description of their experience of legalization, multiple levels of religion/spirituality were influential, ranging from the individual and couple level to the level of institutional and cultural religion. Similarly, religion/spirituality influenced multiple levels of the experience of legalization ranging from the creation of individual marriage ceremonies to beliefs about marriage as a social or cultural institution. Findings are discussed in terms of the potential influence—positive and negative—of religion on same-sex marriage, even among those who do not identify with a faith tradition. The paper concludes with observations about the mismatch between “supply and demand”—between the desire for many LGB individuals to have religion and spirituality in their lives and in their marriages, and the relatively short supply of faith traditions that welcome such individuals.

IV. “These Are My Parents”: The Experiences of Children in Same-Sex-Parented Families During the First Year of Marriage Legalization in Massachusetts

Georgia Hall, National Institute for Out-of-School Time
Wellesley Centers for Women

This paper was prepared using the data from the larger “An Exploratory Study of Same-Sex Marriage” conducted by the Wellesley Centers for Women. Data for this paper came from interviews with parents and children and youth in same-sex parented families. Fourteen couples in the “Same-Sex Marriage” study reported having children. There were 27 children among the couples with an average child age of 13 years. The majority of the children were biological children of one of the members of the couple and in most cases the other member had adopted the child. Some of the children were adopted or living with a couple in foster care. The couples with children had been together as partners for an average of 13 years. Children in same-sex parented families did not express any discomfort or awkwardness in talking about their parent’s relationships and family structures. For most of the children who grew up in gay or lesbian families, their family structures seemed “ordinary” to them. Children were insistent that same-sex marriage is a necessary right that should be granted to same-sex couples, but upon having that right available did not necessarily attach importance to the ceremony itself. To some extent, the “legal” marriage ceremony was less meaningful because most the couples had previously participated in a commitment ceremony, often in the presence of their children, which solidified the parental relationship in the children’s minds. Same-sex parents articulated numerous advantages both for themselves and for their children in “getting married.” Same-sex couples reported believing that their children would feel a greater sense of belonging, pride, or permanence by having “legally married” parents. The children, however, were mostly happy that their parents could get legally married because it made the *parents* feel good.

Nebraska Symposium on Motivation: Call for Papers

Contemporary Perspectives on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identities is the topic of the 54th Nebraska Symposium on Motivation. The Symposium will be held at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln on March 30-31, 2006. Scheduled invited speakers include Charlotte Patterson, Ritch Savin-Williams, Marc Fajer, Michael Bailey, and Gregory Herek. If you wish to attend the conference, you can register at www.unl.edu/psypage/symposium. There is no charge for registration. Poster submissions are due February 15, 2006 and instructions for online poster submission are on the Web site. Each year the Symposium provides a unique opportunity for extended discussion of an important topic in psychology. The intimate setting and schedule provide many opportunities for interaction with the speakers and other attendees. A published volume of the proceedings will be available approximately one year after the event. Please contact Debra Hope, Chair of the 54th Nebraska Symposium at dhope1@unl.edu for further information.

What is Gender? Lessons from Working with Transgender Youth

Catherine Forbes, Mari Radzik, and Shann Collotzi¹

Risk Reduction Program, Division of Adolescent Medicine, Childrens Hospital Los Angeles

Abstract: The Risk Reduction Program in the Division of Adolescent Medicine at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles has been providing comprehensive services to transgender youth (TG) since 1996. A multidisciplinary team of physicians, psychologists, nurses and case managers provide medical care, individual mental health counseling, and case management. Based on work with youth involved in this program, several important therapeutic considerations have been identified.

TG youth struggle with gender identity in the context of issues of normal adolescent development. The issues of still-developing cognitive and reasoning skills, family and independence, education and vocation, and peer influence are intertwined with gender identity issues. Challenges TG youth face include dealing with family's reactions and levels of acceptance, experience of discrimination and violence, and lack of access to safe and supportive medical care. Psychological stressors among transgender youth often include absence of stable interpersonal relationships, fears of abandonment, addiction, self-destructive behaviors, internalized transphobia, mood disorders, and low self-esteem.

Important psychotherapy considerations include: respecting youth's self-identified gender; accepting and exploring the identified gender openly, recognizing the fluidity of gender identity, understanding the difference between gender identity and sexual identity, assisting the youth in exploring body image and "passing" issues, and working with families. Treatment for parents, when possible, is a key part of intervention; parents often need assistance with education, coping skills, work through loss, and grief issues. Family support of TG youth promotes healthy transition into adulthood as a TG person. It is essential for therapists to process their own concerns, discomforts, and reactions to TG issues through supervision and consultation. Overall, working with transgender youth compels therapists and other care providers to view gender on a continuum and to confront beliefs and "facts" about the nature of gender.

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Treasurer's Report, Division 44

Convention, August 2005

As of July 2005, the Division's assets totaled \$106,978.35 and our 2005 income to date was \$35,915. For comparison, as of July 2004, the Division's assets totaled \$87,654.81 and our income to date was 30,915.51. Our June 2005 checking account balance was \$8,679.89 and our money market fund balance was \$70,650.70, giving us an operating cash balance of \$79,330.59 (this total does not include Malyon-Smith assets). We currently have \$72,238.47 in net assets (our reserve) in our main operating account (does not include Malyon-Smith funds).

The Malyon-Smith fund is held in two accounts. Our mutual fund with State Street Research Funds was valued at \$23,533.74 as of 6/30/2005. Our initial investment (in 1998) was \$20,000, which represents an overall gain in value of \$3,533.74. The remainder of the fund, held in cash and short-term investments, was valued at \$11,294.45, as of June 30, 2005. Thus, our current quasi-endowment total is \$34,828.19.

Year-to-date dues income (as of July) was \$28,928, compared to \$27,874 at this time in 2004, so we are currently ahead of where we were last year. We have received \$6,457.77 in additional resources (including royalties, advertising income, interest and dividend income and a \$2000 donation by Haworth Press for the convention hospitality suite).

Our operating budget for 2005 is \$41,200. As of June, 2005, expenditures recorded by APA were \$14,266.41, with an additional \$2,550 yet to be recorded, for a total of \$16,816.41. Our total expenditures for 2004 were \$28,257.88.

We came in approximately \$11,000 under budget last year, as we have significantly cut expenses. I expect that we will come in under budget again this year. We have identified some areas in which we are willing to expend some resources (for example, improving the look and quality of the Division's website), and at the same time we continue to handle our expenses responsibly. All in all, the Division's finances are in good shape.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Kashubeck-West, Ph.D., Treasurer

Report from APA Council of Representatives

Doug Haldeman, Armand Cerbone, and Kris Hancock

The Council of Representatives met in conjunction with APA's Convention in Washington, D.C. on August 18 and 21, 2005. Top on Council's agenda was the consideration of the reports of President Ron Levant's Task Forces, including the Task Force on Enhancing Diversity in APA (TFED), the Task Force on Evidence Based Practice, and the Report on Psychology, Ethics, and National Security (PENS). TFED included representatives from several constituencies of color, women, sexual orientation and gender identity, age, religion, and ability status. Beverly Greene and Doug Haldeman were representatives for the LGBT community in APA. The TFED report included a three-stage plan for action to be carried out under the direction of CEO Norman Anderson. This comprehensive plan calls for a variety of initiatives intended to make APA a more welcoming place for members of all marginalized groups, as well as addressing mechanisms for conflict resolution between marginalized groups. The report and its accompanying resolution were adopted unanimously.

As you may have noticed, the PENS report received a fair amount of attention in the national press—not all of it positive—with respect to its recommendations for psychologists' involvement in the interrogation of prisoners of war. In conjunction with the APA Ethics Office and the PENS Task Force, a group of Council members representing the Divisions for Social Justice (DSJ), of which Division 44 is a member, were successful in developing a compromise proposal so that the proscriptions against torture or maltreatment of prisoners in any form were more strongly worded. This group will continue working to amend the PENS report so that it clarifies the positions that psychologists take, and ethical responsibilities to which we are bound, in consulting with military interrogators. We should also mention the unanimous passage of the report from the Task Force on Evidence Based Practice, which was the skillful crafting of a useful document by a group demonstrating the very best collaboration between practitioners and scientists.

Council passed a resolution against anti-Semitism, an outgrowth of last meeting's Task Force on the World Congress Against Racism report. This resolution was long overdue in the annals of APA's anti-discrimination policies. The Task Force also drafted a resolution against discrimination based on religion. Your Council delegation, along with others, felt that this proposed resolution did not adequately address the concerns raised relative to religion's use as an instrument for prejudice and discrimination, and that it should be reviewed in the customary manner by APA governance groups.

Council enjoyed reassurance from CFO Jack McKay that APA continues on its path of good fiscal health, given that budgetary figures point to robust economic stability. We were also privileged with the first-ever visit from the four Presidents of the National Ethnic Minority Psychological Associations, all of whom addressed Council briefly. Immediately following their visit, Council overwhelmingly passed a resolution opposing the use of Indian characters, personalities, or representations as school mascots for athletic teams. Council also voted to establish a Task Force that will make recommendations for infusing the Multicultural Guidelines throughout all aspects of the Association. A companion resolution to establish a similar Task Force for the LGB and Geropsychology Guidelines was submitted at this meeting.

As always, your Council Representatives were a visible and vocal presence in the Caucuses. We are pleased to announce that Kris was elected Chair-Elect of the powerful Women's Caucus, which is a great honor—as well as a benefit for the Division. She will assume the Chairship in 2007. Armand continues on the Executive Committee of the Public Interest Caucus, and was appointed to serve as Nominations and Elections Coordinator of the Association of Practicing Psychologists.

Finally, on a personal note, Doug would like to thank you all for the extraordinary privilege of serving you on APA Council for the past five years. This period was one of unprecedented visibility for the Division, and of extraordinary productivity for our legislative agenda. The team effort with the Division's EC, and especially with his co-representatives Kris and Armand, was as fun as it was successful. As many of you know, his "early retirement" is due to having been elected to APA's Board of Directors for a three-year term starting in January. He is proud to be the first openly gay man in nearly twenty years to serve in that capacity, and thanks you all for your support. As always, we are available to you for questions or concerns about APA Council and governance.

Malyon-Smith Fund

Have you contributed this year to the **Malyon-Smith Fund for LGBT Dissertation Research Support?**

Send checks made out to SPSLGBI to:

Susan Kashubeck-West, Ph.D., Division of Counseling and Family Therapy,
University of Missouri–St. Louis, One University Boulevard,
St. Louis, MO 63121-4499; E-mail: SusanKW@umsl.edu

Committee Reports

Membership Committee Report

Membership data from the end of July 2005 suggests we will end up with a slight increase in dues-paying members for this year compared with last year (we had a total of 1172 dues-paying members for 2004 and have 1181 such members now at the end of July; beginning with September, dues will be applied to the following year).

The new membership directory should be out by the end of this year, complete with August 2004-2005 Division Officers. We are hopeful that our new address change and opt in/opt out procedures, along with our direct collaboration with Division Services, will result in an improved directory of names, contact information, and interests.

We would like to offer a GIGANTIC thank you to Christopher Martell who just rotated off the Membership Committee after serving three years as Co-Chair. Thank you Christopher for staying on an extra year when we needed you to do so. Jackie Weinstock continues as Co-Chair of the Membership Committee for her second year. She is joined by a new Co-Chair, Barry Schreier. Jackie will continue to manage the listserv for now, and both Co-Chairs will work on other Membership issues throughout this year.

One current membership issue has to do with listserv rules. APA had been considering setting a policy regarding solicitation of study subjects via their listservs. The APA Research Department will likely recommend that listservs set their own policies, so this matter will be taken up by the EC this year; there is no policy in place at this time.

Finally, we want to extend a warm welcome to all our new Division 44 members. We hope you are finding your way in our division, and especially onto our listserv; if you are not on the listserv or you have any other questions or concerns, please be in touch with one of us.

—Jackie Weinstock, Ph.D. and Barry Schreier, Ph.D., Co-Chairs
Jacqueline.Weinstock@uvm.edu /bas@purdue.edu

Committee on Gender Variance and Transgender Issues: Post Convention Highlights

Current co-chairs of the committee are Randall D. Ehrbar and Nick Embaye, and Student Affiliate Joe Ippolito.

The 2005 Convention of the American Psychological Association (APA) marked another milestone for the Committee on Gender Variance and Transgender Issues.

On Thursday August 18, over 60 people attended the symposium, "Understanding Intersex—Changing Standards: Epistemology, Experience, Research, and Practice." Symposium participants included chair and discussant Randall Ehrbar, Intersex Advocates Betsy Driver and Janet Green, and Intersex researchers Katrina Karkazis, Nina Williams, and Robin Hoburg. Standards of care concerns, family issues, and surgery recommendations were some of the unique topics discussed during the symposium.

The Continuing Education workshop on Trans Affirmative Therapy by Walter Bockting and Randall Ehrbar was cancelled prior to the convention due to under-enrollment. Several people at convention expressed disappointment, as they would have liked to attend and did not realize it was important to sign up in advance.

On Friday August 19, the paper session, "Research and Practice with Intersex and Transgender Populations," was standing-room only. Participants included chair Kimberly Balsam and presenters Jeffrey Strain, Jackie Mascher, Katherine Rachlin, and Catherine Forbes. Topics included working with transgender youth, making research relevant to transgender populations, outness, and the connection of intersex concerns to GLBT concerns.

In addition to the convention programming, a discussion hour on transgender and intersex issues was held in the Division 44 suite on Friday, August 18. Several people attended this meeting, which resulted in a lively brainstorming session on how to better address these concerns in the division. Suggestions about transgender and intersex programming for the 2006 APA convention were discussed. Three potential programming proposals were made and action items distributed between group members. Program proposals include:

1. Co-chair Randall Ehrbar, Student Affiliate and Co-chair Joe Ippolito, and Division 44 members Rhonda Factor and Kit Rachlin agreed to work together to create a symposium addressing the issue of Gender Identity Disorder (GID) in the DSM. Eight potential panelists were identified and Joe Ippolito agreed to contact them and find out what their individual positions are regarding the issue and see if they would be interested in participating on such a panel. The goal of this symposium will be to present a range of positions (for and against) the issue of GID and its current placement in the DSM.

Committee Reports

2. Student members Shana Hamilton, Anneliese Singh, and Maya O'Neil will work together to put together a workshop highlighting student research on transgender related issues. The goal of this workshop will be to create a forum where other students can access transgender related research for their own studies.
3. Finally, ways to enhance knowledge regarding transgender and intersex issues among Division 44 members was discussed. Co-chair Joe Ippolito suggested having a Division 44 suite film night in 2006, where transgender and intersex related films could be shown. In addition, group members proposed the idea of hosting more informal discussions about transgender and intersex related issues at the Division 44 suite in 2006.

— Joe Ippolito, Student Affiliate and Co-Chair

Division 44 Public Policy Committee Update

Glenda Russell and Janis Bohan have taken over as co-chairs of the Division 44 Public Policy Committee, following (but never replacing) Randy Georgemiller. Glenda and Janis launched this year's committee activities by organizing a meeting at the recent APA convention in Washington, D.C. and issuing an open invitation to that meeting through the Division listserv. Twenty people responded to the e-mail invitation, indicating an interest in the committee's work; these folks have been added to the committee mailing list. Despite rather short notice, 12 of these people attended the meeting at the APA convention, which was intended as a brainstorming and agenda-sketching event. Thoughtful and enthusiastic discussions led to the formation of two "task groups" organized around key issues that emerged as agenda items for the coming year: (1) supporting and assisting State Associations in those states that will be facing anti-gay ballot initiatives in 2006, and (2) working to forge connections between psychological science and community advocacy efforts.

Members of the first task group (nominally headed by Janis Bohan and Glenda Russell) will proceed to gather necessary information about states that will be targeted, and will then attempt to contact psychologists in those states to serve as point people in this effort. Members of the second task group (nominally headed by Jonathan Mohr) will pursue the possibility of working with the Science Committee to develop a proposal for an APA Convention panel discussion about bridging gaps between researchers and individuals who do policy and advocacy work.

The aim is for this to be a working committee; anyone who would like to join in our efforts is welcome to e-mail the co-chairs to be kept apprised of future events: Janis Bohan, janisbohan@hotmail.com, or Glenda Russell, gmrussell5@hotmail.com.

Report from the Division 44 Committee on Bisexual Issues in Psychology

Division 44 sponsored two programs on bisexual issues at this year's APA Convention in Washington, DC. The first was a very well attended Symposium titled "Current Research on Bisexuality: Identity, Attitudes, and Social Support." The Symposium Chair was Emily Page; Roger Worthington and Matthew Moreno presented their research on the measurement of sexual orientation and sexual identity; Robin Hoburg presented her research on constructions of bisexual identities among women and men; Susan Cochran presented her research on the demography of bisexuality in California; and Raymond Sheets and Jon Mohr presented their research on bisexual young adults' experience of social support from friends and family. Marcus Tye was the Symposium Discussant. There was a follow-up discussion with the Symposium presenters in the Division Hospitality Suite.

The second program was a Division sponsored Bisexual Issues Discussion Hour in the Division 44 Hospitality Suite that once again offered members the opportunity to gather, talk about bisexual issues in psychology, and network.

In the coming year, the Committee will continue to support the ongoing work that the Division is doing in educating and advocating for LGBT issues in APA and within psychology. We will continue to develop convention programmed bisexual issues, as well as other resources on bisexual issues in psychology, such as the reading lists that are now available.

We invite you to contact us to let us know about your interest in and expertise in bisexual issues and to keep us informed about academic, clinical, research, or community projects, including publications and presentations, in which you may be involved that relate to bisexual issues and the interface of LGBT issues.

—Ron Fox, Ph.D. and Emily Page, Psy.D, Co-Chairs

Ron Fox, Ph.D., 2370 Market Street, #109, San Francisco, CA 94114, Tel 415-578-3379, ronfox@ronfoxphd.com
 Emily Page, Psy.D., 350 Massachusetts Avenue #183, Arlington, MA 02474, Tel 781-641-3570, em@emilypage.com

Committee Reports

Convention Program Committee Report

This year's convention program was a resounding success! We had 15 hours of substantive programming, representing 78 individual papers and posters. Our theme was "public policy" and we had a number of programs addressing the influence that psychologists can have on LGBT-related policy issues, including an invited address by economist Lee Badgett. We also had several presentations on populations that have typically been left out of research including LGBT people of color, transgender and intersex, and bisexual. All of our sessions were well attended and some were literally overflowing with attendees. The division hospitality suite hosted a diverse program of events above and beyond division meetings and parties, including panel discussions on LGBT health and spirituality, presentations on same-sex marriage, discussion hours on transgender and bisexual issues, and a student mentoring mixer.

Much of the success of the hospitality suite events is due to the outstanding work of our student representatives, Daniel Hsu and Wendy Wonch, and their fabulous crew of student volunteers: Brian Welch, Carolyn Brodnicki, Greg Jones, Jesus Perez, Joe Ippolito, Larry Carter, Sarah Overstreet, Shana Hamilton, Theo Thourson, Thomas Hill, & Toby Vaughn. Thanks to our wonderful students, the program ran smoothly—even when a little improvisation was required—and the suite itself was a welcoming, comfortable space for division members to socialize and conduct their business. Thank you for your contributions!

—Kimberly Balsam and Jon Mohr (co-chairs)

Committee on Racial and Ethnic Diversity (CoRED)

WE NEED YOU!! CoRED is going through a transition and is seeking input on how Division 44 can better serve the needs of its diverse communities. Consider, getting involved and becoming a member. However, if that is not possible because of other commitments, consider the following: First, just let us know how Division 44 could better serve the professionals, educators, researchers, and students in this area. Second, consider being a part of our network of interested individuals, who we rely on for input and expertise. Send all feedback, questions and input to: Judith M. Glassgold, Mentor to CoRED, drglassgold@yahoo.com.

Call For Papers—Spring 2006 Division 44 Newsletter

I am seeking articles about members' commitment, wedding, and marriage ceremonies, or those of folks they have known; also looking for personal pieces that are relevant to family issues—marriages, births, extended family issues, etc. Send a draft (under 1000 words) by February 1 to: dougekimmel@prexar.com.

Catherine Acuff Congressional Fellowship

The American Psychological Association (APA) Public Policy Office invites applications for 2006-2007 Congressional Fellowships.

PROGRAM: The APA established the Catherine Acuff Congressional Fellowship in 2000 to honor the memory of Catherine Acuff, Ph.D., and her many valued contributions to the field of psychology and to those it serves. Consonant with the goals of the APA Congressional Fellowship program, Dr. Acuff was committed to the application of psychological knowledge and expertise to solve larger societal problems. The Fellow will spend one year working as a special legislative assistant on the staff of a member of Congress or congressional committee. Activities may involve conducting legislative or oversight work, assisting in congressional hearings and debates, and preparing briefs and writing speeches. The Fellow will also attend a two-week orientation program on congressional and executive branch operations, which includes guidance in the congressional placement process, and a year-long seminar series on science and public policy issues. These aspects of the program are administered by the American Association for the Advancement of Science for the APA Fellows and those sponsored by over two dozen other professional societies.

AWARD: APA will sponsor one Fellow for a one-year appointment beginning September 1, 2006. The Fellowship stipend ranges from \$65,000 to \$70,000, depending upon years of post-doctorate experience.

APPLICATION: Interested psychologists should apply by January 2, 2006. Please contact the APA Public Policy Office via email (ppo@apa.org) or at 202-336-6062. Visit the Web site at www.apa.org/ppo/fellows.

Washington Dinner Charms Them All

Robb Mapou, Ph.D., A.B.P.P.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone who attended for making our annual fundraising dinner a resounding success. This year, we sold out all 75 spots and did so before the meeting even began! Everyone enjoyed the cozy setting at the American Newswomen's Club and the excellent meal provided by manager Randi Dutch and her staff. By the time you read this, receipts will have been sent out. However, if you have not received one or need a corrected receipt, please contact me via E-mail (mapuna@earthlink.net) or phone (301 565-0534, x264).

The Division would like to thank the following individuals who served as Mentors to students (\$160 level):

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| .. Armand Cerbone | .. Charlotte Patterson |
| .. Ruth Fassinger | .. Glenda Russell |
| .. Reggie Nettles | .. Shara Sand |
| .. Arlene Noriega | .. Michael Stevenson |
| .. Jeffrey Parsons* | .. Alan Storm |

(* Jeffrey Parsons mentored three students and then one more, because he could not attend—a new record!)

We would also like to thank the following individuals who were Sponsors (\$130 level):

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| .. Nancy Baker | .. Bertram Kohler |
| .. Bianca Cody-Murphy | .. Howard Kurtzman |
| .. Sari Dworkin | .. Christopher Martell |
| .. Linda Garnetts | .. Jim Peck |
| .. Randy Georgemiller | .. Michael Ranney |
| .. Terry Gock | .. Ariel Shidlo |
| .. Doug Kimmel | |

The following individuals could not attend the dinner but provided a donation:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| .. Patricia Hawkins | .. Allen Omoto |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|

I believe that we had a record number of Mentors, Sponsors, and additional donations this year. I hope this trend continues, as it allowed us to raise almost \$2500.00 for the division. In addition to the Mentored students and two who came in place of members unable to attend the dinner, three other students attended, bringing our total to 16. I would like to encourage our members to consider Mentoring a student next year, because this gives a great opportunity for interaction between our junior and senior members.

On a closing note, as some of you already know, this is my last year as Fundraising Dinner Chair. I am stepping down after having organized the dinner for six years. Having started in my hometown of Washington, DC in 2000, I thought that ending my term after DC was appropriate. I have enjoyed serving the organization these past years and, especially, having sold out the last three years, despite fears of SARS (Toronto) and fears of no one coming to the meeting (Honolulu). I also enjoyed indulging my interest in food and introducing everyone to my favorite place, Hawaii. I do plan to help out in the future, when APA returns to DC. As I write this, however, I think somberly about what has occurred in New Orleans and the unbelievable number of people who have been left homeless and jobless. I wonder what will become of all of these folks, what will become of New Orleans, and whether APA will, in fact, be able to meet there as planned next year. I can only hope that things will get better, that our country will see more effective leadership, that New Orleans will return, and that, by next August everyone will be able to revel in the spirit of the Big Easy. Until then, please remember everyone who has been affected by this disaster and donate as much time and money as you can.

(Continued from page 1)

Policy Committee were also welcomed. They anticipate a busy year ahead, particularly in seeking to provide support to psychologists in states considering legislation relevant to marriage and domestic partnership between same-sex couples. Robb Mapou, who organized this year's fundraising dinner, announced that it was sold out and that it raised more than \$2,000 for our Division. Lynn Brem, the Division's Web developer, talked about developments that will result in substantial improvements to our Web site. Michael Stevenson, Past-President of Division 44, agreed to coordinate necessary input in order to make these changes. Susan Kashubeck-West, Treasurer, reported on our budget. We learned that, under Susan's careful management, the Division's financial condition remains strong. We also heard from Armand Cerbone, Kris Hancock, and Doug Haldeman, who have been serving with great distinction as our Council Representatives, about initiatives for the year ahead. This part of the meeting concluded with a round of applause for Doug Haldeman, who has recently been elected to APA's Board of Directors.

We also had reports from APA staffers and from many of Division 44's liaisons to other divisions. For instance, Brenda Cole, who is Division 44's liaison to Division 36 (Psychology of Religion), described her efforts and invited members of Division 44 to seek membership in Division 36. Arlene Noriega described her work as Division 44's co-coordinator of the 2007 National Minority Conference and Summit, and invited input from members. Hank Taylor, liaison to Division 19 (Military Psychology), described a few of the many joint initiatives that are underway there. Lori Valencia Greene and Jeff McIntyre, of APA's Public Policy Office, gave updates on issues of particular interest to mem-

bers of Division 44. Clinton Anderson, the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Concerns Officer at APA, offered insight into CLGBC and Central Office activities relevant to our Division, and announced that publication of a revised version of APA's document on "Lesbian and Gay Parenting" is expected this fall.

I feel very aware, in writing this summary, that it provides only a partial listing. For instance, I haven't even mentioned the Division's book series yet (to learn more, contact Greg Herek), or our education and training initiatives (Maryka Biaggio is coordinating them). There simply is not enough space here to mention everything that is going on, or to name everyone who is making good things happen. To all who participated in the Executive Committee meetings, whether in person or through their efforts during the year, I want to offer our Division's heartfelt thanks. All who supported these activities—whether with dues, with encouragement, and/or with elbow grease—also deserve credit. In so many ways, our efforts are making a difference at APA, in our profession, and in the lives of Americans.

So, how much is Division 44 really doing? The answer, I've learned, is: "More than I had ever imagined"! That being said, however, I also hasten to add: If you feel essential topics are being overlooked, or if you see an area in which you would like to contribute, I hope that you will contact me. The remarkable vitality of our Division derives from our membership, in all its great diversity. To continue moving our mission forward, all of us are needed. In other words, I hope you will consider participating even more than you already do in the work of our Division. And if, later in the year, your efforts result in your sending me one of those polite notes for our next Executive Committee agenda, so much the better. I've cleaned out my e-mailbox and am planning for a busy year.

William A. Bailey Health and Behavior Congressional Fellowship

**The American Psychological Association (APA) Public Policy Office
invites applications for 2006-2007 Congressional Fellowships.**

PROGRAM: The American Psychological Association (APA) and the American Psychological Foundation (APF) established the William A. Bailey Congressional Fellowship in 1995 in tribute to Bill Bailey's tireless advocacy on behalf of psychological research, training, and services related to AIDS. Fellows spend one year working as a special legislative assistant on the staff of a member of Congress or congressional committee. Activities may involve conducting legislative or oversight work, assisting in congressional hearings and debates, and preparing briefs and writing speeches. Fellows also attend a two-week orientation program on congressional and executive branch operations, which includes guidance in the congressional placement process, and a yearlong seminar series on science and public policy issues. These aspects of the program are administered by the American Association for the Advancement of Science for the APA Fellows and those sponsored by over two dozen other professional societies.

AWARD: APA will sponsor one Fellow for a one-year appointment beginning September 1, 2006. The Fellowship stipend ranges from \$55,000 to \$70,000, depending upon years of experience post-doctorate.

APPLICATION: Interested psychologists should apply by January 2, 2006: For additional information about the application process, please contact the APA Public Policy Office via email (ppo@apa.org) or at 202-336-6062. For more information, visit the Web site at www.apa.org/ppo/fellows.

NEW! FROM DIVISION 44 AND APA BOOKS

CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES ON LESBIAN, GAY, AND BISEXUAL PSYCHOLOGY SERIES

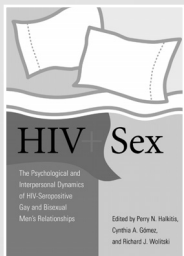
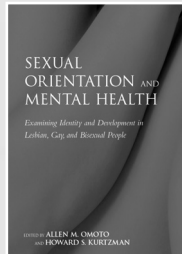
Sexual Orientation and Mental Health

Examining Identity and Development in Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual People

Edited by Allen M. Omoto
and Howard S. Kurtzman

In *Sexual Orientation and Mental Health*, expert contributors explore the impressive body of rigorous empirical research on mental health in lesbian, gay, and bisexual people that has emerged over the past decade. Presenting some of the most important work in this field, the contributors examine the prevalence and potential determinants of depression, anxiety, and substance abuse in adolescents and adults, giving consideration to the roles of prejudice and harassment as well as of positive family and social supports. The chapters address a wide range of topics, including sexual behavior and identity, the influence of religion on mental health, work satisfaction, the well-being of children of same-sex couples, and the links between psychosocial processes and physical health. 2006. 336 pages. Hardcover.

List: \$69.95 APA Member/Affiliate: \$49.95
ISBN 1-59147-232-6 Item # 4316052



HIV+Sex

The Psychological and Interpersonal Dynamics of HIV-Seropositive Gay and Bisexual Men's Relationships

Edited by Perry N. Halkitis,
Cynthia A. Gomez,
and Richard J. Wolitski

HIV + Sex illuminates the struggles faced by HIV-positive gay and bisexual men as sexual beings, but also describes

the myriad ways in which many of these men are able to celebrate their sexuality. Giving voice to the stories of hundreds of seropositive individuals, the editors and contributors explore how gay and bisexual men live with HIV and make decisions about sex, express their sexuality, choose their sexual partners, and balance their physical and emotional health while attempting to maintain viable and responsible sex lives. The personal narratives, in addition to featured findings of extensive behavioral research studies, provide orientation and valuable insight for studying and working with this population. 2005. 288 pages. Hardcover.

List: \$69.95 APA Member/Affiliate: \$49.95
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Psychological Studies Emphasis*

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Qualifications Required for all Applicants:

- Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, Community Psychology, Marriage and Family Therapy, or related field, from regionally accredited institution.
- Demonstrated record of successful teaching experience, preferably at the graduate level.
- Demonstrated commitment to broad spectrum of diversity.
- Significant record clinical or community professional experience and/or publication related to some aspect of gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender psychological studies.

Desirable Qualifications:

- Academic background and experience with LGBTIQ
- Psychological studies.
- Experience as full-time faculty member.
- Clinical licensure or license-eligible.
- Psychodynamic, depth psychology and/or postmodern (Queer theory) theoretical orientation preferred.
- Capacity to work with diverse theoretical positions.
- Program development experience and expertise.

Requirements and compensation:

This full-time position requires 35 hours/week. Salary is to be determined depending on level of experience. Benefits include excellent health insurance including dental and prescription drug coverage.

To apply:

Send letter of interest, resume and three telephone references to: Chair of MAP Program, MAP LGBTIQ Faculty Search, Antioch University Los Angeles, 400 Corporate Pointe, Culver City, CA 90230 (or email to aulahumanresources@antiochla.edu). Screening of resumes is continuing and will continue until position is filled.

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