

Reaching Out, Spring 1997

Newsletter of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Alumni Association

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GREETINGS FROM BLOOMINGTON

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Alumni Association of Indiana University! My name is Jeff McKinney and I will serve as your first president through 1999. It is my sincere hope that together we can make this the strongest alumni group of its kind!



Since that time, we have gathered names of interested alumni and friends from all over the globe (more than 100), formed a board of directors, and informally presented our group to the alumni association for recognition. We have communicated via e-mail, telephone, regular mail, and word-of-mouth to gather the names of alumni and friends. Special thanks also should be sent to John Hobson and Allison Scott of the alumni association, who have supported our efforts

every step of the way.

Our first official board meeting was held on Jan. 27. The board has continued to meet monthly through June. At that time, we are formally presenting our GLB Alumni Association to the IU Alumni Association for recognition as an affiliate group. We are very optimistic about the results of that meeting!

We are also excited that the GLB Alumni Association is finally in place at Indiana University. There are now even more opportunities for GLB alumni to get back in touch with IU. This is what we have needed for many years. The group needs to continually grow to make our collective voice even stronger. If you know anyone who would be interested in the GLB Alumni Association of Indiana University, please inform them of our efforts.

If everyone could just tell two of their friends, we could potentially triple our membership. Think of the possibilities. There is truly strength in numbers. Your continued support and enthusiasm is greatly appreciated. *It is our time to make a difference!*

*Best Wishes,
Jeff McKinney
President
GLB Alumni Association*

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FIRST ANNUAL GLB PICNIC

The Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Alumni Association would like to announce our first gathering, to be held on June 21, at Bradford Woods (<http://www.indiana.edu/~bradwood/index1.html>), located 30 minutes south of Indianapolis. We will be at the beach front and a lifeguard will be provided.

Highlights:

- Pitch-in: Please bring a covered dish.
- Fish and swim.

- Nonalcoholic drinks provided. (Because Bradford Woods is owned by Indiana University and operated by the School of HPER, alcoholic drinks are not allowed on the premises.)
- Bring your family and friends.

Please R.S.V.P. with the number in your party by calling IUAA's Allison Scott at (800) 824-3044, or send e-mail to glbtaa@indiana.edu.

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GLB OFFICE CONTINUES GROWTH, SUCCESSES

The operation of IU's GLB office has seen a time of exciting challenges and amazing growth. Opening its doors on Nov. 21, 1994, with a desk and a telephone in the back rooms of the former Dean of Students Annex Building (705 E. Seventh St.), the "Center," as it is affectionately referred to by most of its supporters, now boasts a welcoming reception area and computer work station, a burgeoning library, a coordinator's office, and work space for volunteers. The office is open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and has logged thousands of contacts, including e-mail and voice mail messages, phone calls, letters, and hundreds of drop-ins. Visitors are directed into the office by an official "GLB Student Support" sign in the front of the building, as well as by the "unofficial" GLB office sign and rainbow flag at the side entrance.



In addition to permanent staffers coordinator Doug Bauder and information specialist Carol Fischer, the office has dozens of volunteers who also assist in a variety of tasks. With their assistance, office operations continue to be developed and future programs planned.

The office is described as "a resource center for the entire university community, supplying educational resources on gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (glbt) issues and offering information, support, and referral for lesbian, gay, and bisexual individuals." That mission statement has been actualized in the following ways:

Consultation

Every contact made with the office is recorded, and there has been a steady increase in usage over the months, with a phenomenal growth in the use of our e-mail and Internet services. Our sense is that a number of closeted gay, lesbian, and bisexual students often begin their search for information on the Internet. Hundreds of other individuals, including students, faculty, staff, and alumni, have visited the office in person, offering encouragement, looking for information, seeking support.

Issues of Harassment

While few calls related to harassment have come directly to the GLB office, the coordinator meets regularly with the GLB Anti-Harassment Team, offering ideas and suggestions, meeting with those who have been harassed, planning educational forums, and discussing concerns with student leaders, faculty, and members of the administration.

Library

More than 2,000 books, representing a wide variety of topics including art, religion, politics, family issues, history, ethnicity, spirituality, media, the military, health, psychology, have been donated to our library. A cataloging system has been developed and a topical filing system with periodical articles is available for research purposes. A large database is also being established to assist students seeking information on a host of issues related to GLB concerns. Subscriptions to several popular gay and lesbian periodicals have been added to the collection.

Speakers Bureau

Working in concert with an IU health educator and a community activist,

office staff have participated in more than 30 panels or personal presentations, speaking in classrooms and residence halls and to campus and community groups. Those attending such programs have numbered more than 1,300 individuals. The response has been positive, and we are often able to provide additional volunteers to assist those who organize such presentations.

Volunteers

Since our opening, almost 50 individuals have indicated an interest in volunteering with our office. Some have been referred on to the GLB switchboard or the speakers bureau. Others have served on the advisory board or one of its committees (bylaws, library, fund raising). In addition, we have had undergraduates, as well as graduate and doctoral students, assisting us in a host of different tasks, including compiling monthly statistics, developing home pages for the Web, distributing brochures, compiling a professional referral list, streamlining office computers, organizing the library filing system, painting shelves, addressing envelopes, labeling books, and writing letters.

Donations

In addition to the donated books, we have received \$300 worth of magazine subscriptions, plus donations from supportive individuals in the community and from IU alumni. The advisory board is sending out a fund-raising letter to friends to increase our base of donations.

Challenges

Establishing a new office is not a one-month (or even an eight-month) project! While we are delighted with our progress, we are mindful of the fact that not all students in need are currently being served. With the approach of the fall semester and an influx of freshmen, it is difficult to anticipate the potential increase in office traffic. Because of some carry-over funds, we have been able to maintain our part-time staff at about 30 hours a week through the summer.

When the final report of the Educational Task Force on Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Concerns, submitted to Chancellor Kenneth Gros Louis, called for "the establishment of a Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Center at Indiana University,"² none of us could have anticipated the controversies that would surround the opening of such a facility or the great success of its operation. We are grateful for the tremendous support we have received during our first two years and we trust that we can continue to serve the educational and personal needs of the entire university community in competent, creative, and caring ways.

Doug Bauder, GLB Office Coordinator

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MEET YOUR GLB BOARD

Julio Alonso, BA'91 (history and political science), served two years on Union Board ('80-'82). He is currently the citizen services coordinator for the city of Bloomington and is chair of the Monroe County Democratic Party.

Frank Banta, BA'39, is a board member for the GLB Alumni Association.

Kelly Heck, BA'95, is a board member for the GLB Alumni Association.

Rebecca Keith is the secretary and treasurer of the GLB Alumni Association. Originally from Alabama, she received an MM in voice performance in 1996. She lives in Bloomington with her partner, Kelly Heck, and their dog, Newman.

Jeff McKinney, BA'92, MA'97 (speech communication), serves as president of the GLB Alumni Association. His interests include diversity training and teaching.

Lisa D. Newlin, AGS'94, is the vice president for the GLB Alumni Association. She is employed with Indiana University Student Information and Fiscal Services as a management reporting analyst.

Steve Sanders is an administrator and teacher at IU. He serves on the staffs of the Bloomington chancellor and the dean of arts and sciences. Last fall, he designed and taught IU's first course on Gay/Lesbian Politics. In addition, he chairs the Bloomington Human Rights Commission, is the administrative representative on Union Board, and serves as an advisor and as national committee chair for Pi Kappa Phi fraternity. He received his BA in journalism and political science in 1984, did master's work in political science, and is working on a doctorate in higher education administration.

Sophie Schaaf is a student board member for the GLB Alumni Association. She was appointed to the position by Doug Bauder, coordinator for GLB Student Support Services.

Cindy Stone is a training and communications manager at Indiana University Bloomington. She is involved in numerous university committees and policy groups. She most recently completed three years as a member of the IU Board of Trustees, where she worked on a variety of student, staff, and alumni issues such as childcare, personal safety for women, and diversity issues, including funding for the GLB Support Services Office.

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NATIONAL WOMEN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL CONTINUES AT IUB

As many of you know, the National Women's Music Festival continues to be held each year on the IU Bloomington campus, attracting thousands of lesbians to the four-day festival. This year's event started on Thursday, May 29, and concluded on Sunday, June 1.

It all began on Thursday morning at Teter Quad. At this year's National Women's Music Festival, the IU GLB Alumni Association presented a more visible presence. Special name badges identifying IU alumni were worn by participants and staff. Materials on the IU Alumni Association and, in particular, the newly formed IUAA GLB interest group, were available. Lots of attendees stopped by to introduce themselves.

Showcasing on the mainstage each evening were these great entertainers:

Thursday, May 29

Ubaka Hill presented a celebration of per-cussion, poetry, and songs of inspiration, victory, and joy.

Suzanne Westenhofer made us laugh so long and hard that our cheeks hurt.

Cris Williamson, **Tret Fure**, and **June Millington** celebrated their hot new release "Between the Covers."

Friday, May 30

Tiana Marquez, a trained operatic vocalist, took us back in time with African-American spirituals.

Jamie Anderson combined solid songwriting with a wacko sense of humor.

Three of Hearts, pianists **Margie Adam**, **Liz Story**, and **Barbara Higbie**, rendered powerful performances.

Saturday, May 31

Saffire: The Uppity Blues Women brought us rich melodies, honky-tonk

rhythms, and spicy-hot lyrics.

Dos Fallopia returned to the festival with their zany mix of characters and songs.

2 Funkin' Heavy, a group of hard-rocking gals, cooked up a wicked brew of blues, soul, and funk.

The NWMF is a musical and cultural extravaganza that tries to incorporate just about every facet of women's lives. It's a jam-packed weekend where you can choose from more than 250 workshops, nine structured concerts, eight unstructured concerts, an art exhibit, three dances, a theater presentation, outdoor sports (from golf to Frisbee), a shopping mall, and newly released films and videos. Past keynote speakers have included Army Colonel Margarethe Cammer-meyer, writer/activist Rita Mae Brown, and Democratic vice presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro.

The festival is held totally indoors so there are no rained-out concerts or workshops and no cold showers or facilities -- something we were grateful for this year!

Most festival registrants are women, although men can and do attend. Registrants come from all walks of life and cultures, cutting across ethnic, racial, sexual, age, and ability boundaries. Likewise, the programming reflects many points of view -- a diversity of ideas and topics that may strain at the edges, but that are explored and discussed in a safe environment. At NWMF philosophies and politics are open for discussion, not mandated or judged.

For more information on the NWMF contact the IU Conference Bureau, Indiana Memorial Union, Bloomington, IN 47405; (812) 855-4661; or call the NWMF office at (317) 927-9355 (a.m.).

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OTHER STORIES

Evan Wolfson presents update on same-sex marriage

Members of the IU community got a first-hand update on equal marriage rights for gays and lesbians when Evan Wolfson, senior attorney with the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, spoke to an audience of about 200 last fall in Whittenberger Auditorium.

Wolfson, the nation's most prominent expert on and advocate for equal marriage rights, provided an update on the legal case in Hawaii, for which he is co-counsel, that is widely expected to result within the next several months in the right of same-sex couples to receive marriage licenses in the Aloha State. Wolfson noted that the legal battles then will shift to other states, including Indiana, which may refuse to recognize these marriages.

Wolfson's talk, which was organized by GLB Alumni Association board member Steve Sanders, was financially supported by a variety of academic departments and campus and community groups, including the School of Law, Union Board, the Kinsey Institute, the GLB Student Support Services Office, the Bloomington GLB Coalition, and several others.

Plans are being made for several lectures, as well as smaller colloquia, for the 199798 academic year, including possible appearances by Greg Louganis and Amanda Bearse. For more information, contact Steve Sanders at sanderss@indiana.edu.

IU women's support group flourishes

For gay women affiliated with Indiana University, OWLS was created as a support and discussion group for older lesbians (35+). OWLS stands for Older Wiser Lesbian Sisters and meets monthly with a variety of discussion topics.

The majority of women attending OWLS are IU alumni who work in and around the Bloomington and Bedford communities. Recent topics included attorney Suzanne Sturgeon on "Advance Directives,"² covering wills and power-of-attorney, and a presentation by Planned Parenthood on health issues. More general discussions have included raising children in a lesbian home, out at work (or not), coming out to family, and dealing with the challenges of being a gay woman in our communities.

OWLS meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m., at the Center for University Ministry, 1514 E. 3rd, Bloomington. It is sponsored by the IU GLB Support Services Office. The meeting is typically an activity or program set in a casual atmosphere with information, food, and fun.

For more information, e-mail stonec@indiana.edu. IU faculty, staff, student, and alumni women are invited. We have lots of exciting activities scheduled for the spring and summer.

Upcoming dates and topics: June 24 (Pitch-in dinner)

About the pink triangle symbol

During the Third Reich, homosexual prisoners in Nazi death camps were forced to wear pink triangles, which symbolized the lowest rung in the camp hierarchy. Tens of thousands of homosexuals were arrested and thousands killed. Today the triangle signifies GLB remembrance, dignity, and pride.

Help build our network

We are looking for gay, lesbian, and bisexual alumni and friends from around the country to become part of our growing network. Call the GLB Student Support Services Office at (812) 855-4252, or e-mail glbtaa@indiana.edu.

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