

Reaching Out, Spring 1998

Newsletter of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Alumni Association

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to our second issue of *Reaching Out*. I write to you with an exciting challenge. We are beginning to reach out for more alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the IU GLBAA. We need your help. I hope that each member of the GLBAA will add one loved one, friend, neighbor, or acquaintance to our growing number. If everyone added just one person, we would have more than 300 members! I believe this number is well within our reach.



We also have begun discussing future events, alumni awards, and scholarship support to current Indiana University students. To this end, we will be embarking on a fund-raising drive to help us begin these vital programs. I urge everyone to get involved in some way. This is your alumni association. I congratulate each one of you for your participation! Without your support and membership, the GLBAA would not be possible. With your help we can begin some terrific programs for current and future students of Indiana University!

Keep your calendar open for the next GLBAA picnic/annual meeting at Bradford Woods on June 6. Details later.

Thanks again and best wishes,
 Jeff McKinney
 GLBAA President

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GLB OFFICE WISH LIST

We've been working on some exciting developments at the GLB Student Support Services Office. Some of our projects are:

- networking to publicize our library;
- improving our Web site (<http://www.indiana.edu/~glbserv>); and
- planning the first annual GLB graduation reception for May.

Do you want to get involved? We've come up with four simple ways for you to help us improve our office:

1. Contribute toward our buying 100 Souvenir rainbow graduation tassels for the reception in May.
- >
2. Help us buy some books. We're nearly out of room so we want to target two of our weakest areas: bisexuality and Asian-American GLB nonfiction. If you want to make sure we have a specific title, earmark your check. Otherwise, we'll add your contribution to our general book fund.
3. Help replenish our video collection. We've had seven videos stolen

and want to replace them with some new, cutting-edge documentaries.

4. Help fund our beautification garden party later this spring. We'll gather people together on a sunny Friday, dig in the dirt, plant some flowers and bushes, nibble on some munchies, and have lots of fun. But we need funds to buy plants, tools, and food.

Stop by and see us whenever you're in town.

Better yet, help us dig in the dirt!

Carmen Wargel, GLB Library

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WHAT'S NEW AT THE GLB OFFICE

That's an easy question to answer -- always something. Here are some of the experiences and events that occurred the past few months:



- We trained 10 students as peer supporters to assist people who are struggling with coming-out issues.
- A student researching the phenomenon of drag was referred to local drag queens and borrowed several books.
- Questions were posed to a student seeking advice for a gay friend intending to marry his childhood sweetheart.
- We provided an international student with resources on community events and GLB organizations.
- A gay alumnus borrowed several books and a video to assist his parents in growing in their understanding of gay issues.
- Dozens of new books were donated to our lending library and several videos are now on the shelves.
- We interviewed several students in higher education for a practicum in our office this spring.
- The union director at Penn State stopped by to get information on starting a GLB office on their campus.
- We co-sponsored three presentations in November: Filmmaker Yvonne Welbon ("Remembering We-fang, Remembering Myself"); Olympic diver Greg Louganis ("Breaking the Surface"); and Sabrina Sojourner, congressional representative from Washington D.C.
- We circulated a survey by a University of Maryland student on the leadership potential of gay and lesbian students.
- We agreed to participate in a study with the Kinsey Institute on high- and low-risk sexual activity among gay men.
- Staff designed a workshop, at the request of the Bloomington High Schools superintendent, on GLB youth issues for school principals.
- Staff participated in a four-week series on homosexuality at a local church.
- Staff assisted in presenting a program, titled "Lest We Forget," about the NAMES Project Quilt display in Washington, D.C., last fall.
- Staff participated in day-long retreat on campus diversity issues, sponsored by the Commission on Multicultural Understanding.

And the list goes on. We are proud of the varied services we provide to students, staff, faculty, alumni, parents, and friends. For more

information, write for a brochure, e-mail us at glbserv@indiana.edu, or check out our Web site at <http://www.indiana.edu/~glbserv>.

Doug Bauder
Office Coordinator

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IN THE LIMELIGHT: Meet Tom Sedgwick, IU Alumnus and proud gay man

Tom Sedgwick, BA'86, was born and raised in the small northeastern Indiana community of Rome City. He graduated from the IU School of Education in 1986. He recalls his years at IU with fondness, but remembers being somewhat isolated and secretive about his sexual orientation. Tom moved to New York City in 1987 to pursue his master's degree in social work at Columbia University. After graduating, he remained in New York, where he started his career as a psychiatric social worker. He currently works with organ transplant recipients at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center.

Tom met Michael Levine in 1988, and they soon started building a life together. Michael, a public interest lawyer involved in community development, is a graduate of Williams College and a member of their Gay and Lesbian Alumni Group. Tom attended some of the Williams' events in Williamstown and in New York; these experiences gave him the idea to consider a similar group for IU. He remembered his time at IU and how things could have been different for him had there been an organized group of gay alumni to support events and to provide mentoring.

In 1992, he wrote a letter to the *Alumni Review* asking that people interested in starting such a group to contact him. He initially received about 20 responses from across the country with only one negative response -- a postcard with magazine cut outs accusing him of being a communist. Tom then contacted the IU Alumni Association and spoke with John Hobson, director of constituency services, about his intentions to organize an alumni group. Tom says that John was supportive from the start, offering moral and financial support if anything could be organized. Responses to the letter and contacts kept trickling in. Tom says that it was difficult to organize an event with people who were in different parts of the country, and he acknowledges that soon it became somewhat overwhelming to continue to work and keep in touch with all of those who contacted him. He was pleased to meet Doug Bauder, GLB student support services office coordinator. Doug emphasized that developing a network of gay alumni was one of his top priorities. Tom gave Doug the initial list of names that contributed to the core of today's GLBAA.

Tom is pleased about the development of the GLBAA and decided to become a life member of the IUAA when the GLBAA was formally recognized and welcomed in December 1996. He has agreed to be the northeastern regional contact for the GLBAA and is looking forward to meeting everyone in the near future.

Contributing to the GLB community has always been important to Tom. He has been a volunteer with Gay Men's Health Crisis since 1988 and is currently working on their information telephone hotline. He also does intakes for POWARS (Pet Owners With AIDS Resources and Services), a group that provides pet care for people with AIDS. For the last two years, he has ridden in the Boston to New York AIDS Ride, a bike ride to raise money and AIDS awareness. Tom currently lives in Brooklyn, N.Y., with Michael, their dog, Molly, and their cat, Kate.

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WHAT'S UP WITH YOUR GLBAA BOARD?

- Your GLBAA board members are busy planning the coming year. In the wake of a very successful first Homecoming, we wanted to

continue the momentum and have bigger events in the future -- one of which is the soon-to-become-annual Bradford Woods picnic. We're hoping to make this an overnight get-together for the out-of-towners' convenience. You'll get more information later!

- We regretfully announce that Lisa Newlin-Blackwell has resigned as vice president because of family and work obligations. We are saddened by her absence, but appreciate all of her hard work. We are glad that Lisa will remain active in the GLBAA. Kelly Heck was elected to fill the vacant vice presidency, and Shannon Gregory was elected as member-at-large. Although Shannon and Kelly have worked with the GLBAA since its inception, we welcome the talents that their new presence brings.
- President Jeff McKinney outlined some major goals for the year. He intends to aggressively increase membership and create fund-raising projects. He challenged us to do our part to bring in more members -- friends, colleagues, loved ones. Word of mouth is often more effective than mailings.
- We also discussed the possibility of adding "T" to the GLBAA to include transgendered and transsexuals in our outreach. This issue raises serious concern to some of the members, and we hope to become more informed before addressing this issue at length.

Your opinions matter so please write the GLBAA at the Virgil T. DeVault Alumni Center, Attn: Allison Scott, or e-mail glbtaa@indiana.edu. We look forward to hearing from you.

-- Rebecca Keith
GLBAA Secretary/Treasurer

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OTHER STORIES

Speak out and tell your own story

The *Indiana Alumni Magazine* has commissioned an article documenting the experiences of gays and lesbians at IU. The author, Steve Sanders, is interested in interviewing alumni from all eras who are willing to share their experiences and reflections. It doesn't matter whether you were out, not out, or unsure of your identity at the time.

We want to know about the good and the bad memories, as well as the many contributions and accomplishments of this extraordinary group of alumni. Interviewees may be identified by pseudonym if they prefer.

Please spread the word! For more information, call Steve Sanders at (812) 855-2814; e-mail sanderss@indiana.edu; or write to him at Kirkwood Hall 104, Bloomington, IN 47405.

Graduation reception

Join us for a graduation reception on Friday, May 8, 1-3 p.m. Hosted by the GLBSSS, the event will take place in the State Room East of the Indiana Memorial Union. All graduates will receive a souvenir rainbow tassel.

We want to hear from you

Last October, the GLBAA hosted the first annual Homecoming Buffet Dinner. More than 30 members attended the event, which took place immediately following the parade, pep rally, and fireworks show. Most of the board members attended and said a few words about their goals for the future of the GLBAA. Even Dean of Students Richard McKaig joined us for a few minutes, welcoming our group and sharing his joy that now he too can brag to the other Big Ten schools about IU's GLBAA. The food was excellent -- some even say the food is the best they ever ate at an Indiana Memorial Union catered event! I was able to speak with a few members about their wants and needs for the GLBAA at the informal

dinner, but I wish to hear what all of you want to see happen in the future. Please send your ideas and comments to glbtaa@indiana.edu or to the attention of Allison Scott, Indiana University Alumni Association, Virgil T. DeVault Alumni Center, 1000 East 17th Street, Bloomington, IN 47408-1521. I look forward to hearing your comments and to seeing all of you at an even bigger buffet dinner at Homecoming 1998!

Kelly Heck, Vice President, GLBAA

Get connected: Meet your regional contacts

Your GLBAA is in need of regional contacts to help coordinate activities and build membership. Now is an exciting time to get involved because you can help define the role of these contacts. Several members have already agreed to serve as a contact in areas around the country. If you have program ideas in your community, please get in touch with these individuals. They want to hear from you.

- **Tyson Hurst** of Chicago can be reached by e-mail at tyson@mc.net.
- **Marc Kaplan** is the regional contact in Michigan. Marc is the coordinator of residence education at the University of Michigan and can be reached by phone at (313) 764-1108 or by e-mail at kaplan@umich.edu.
- **Tom Sedgwick** of Brookbe contacted by phone at (718) 875-3597 or by e-mail at tomsw1@aol.com. Write to him at 96 Schermerhorn St., PH-D, Brooklyn, NY 11201.
- **Jeff Todd** of Indianapolis can be reached via e-mail at jptodd@cord.iupui.edu. Write to him at 150 West Market #320, Indianapolis, IN 46204. Call him at (317) 232-2927 during the day or (317) 632-3320 in the evening.

We're grateful to these members for helping build the GLBAA by representing us in their areas. As you can see, many areas of the country could use a contact person. If you'd like to help, please contact the GLBAA at glbtaa@indiana.edu.

Julio Alonso

Help build our network

We are looking for gay, lesbian, and bisexual and GLB-friendly alumni and friends from around the country to become part of our growing network. If you wish to join that network or to contribute support, morale, energy, or funding for the GLB office of the GLBSSS office, please contact us at (812) 855-4252, or e-mail glbtaa@indiana.edu.

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