

NALGAP Reporter

Serving the Lesbian, Gay,
Bisexual, and Transgender
Communities since 1979

Volume. XX, No. 2 Summer, 2007

Historic NALGAP Conference in Nashville, TN September 5-8, 2007 WHY YOU NEED TO BE THERE!

This upcoming NALGAP Conference in Nashville (Sept. 5-8, 2007) is an historic one because it celebrates the completion of an invaluable training curriculum

to accompany the 2001 document, *A Provider's Introduction to Substance Abuse Treatment for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender*

Individuals. Additionally, NALGAP, in cooperation with NAADAC/TAADAC, is hosting CSAT and Prairielands ATTC "Training the Trainers" to teach the Curriculum. For the first time, we will have an official document to train other professionals on LGBT issues and provide a standard for LGBT cultural diversity training.

Ten years ago at the NAADAC

Conference NALGAP Member and Chair of NAADAC's LGBT Concern's Committee, Therissa Libby, challenged CSAT/SAMHSA from the floor to do **something** about LGBT concerns regarding alcohol and drug abuse. That started CSAT/SAMHSA's wheels rolling—resulting in the 2001 publication of *A Provider's Introduction to Substance Abuse Treatment for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Individuals*. NALGAP had a significant role in supplying many of

the editors, writers and reviewers of that landmark document which the government has distributed widely in the past six years.

Last year NALGAP was invited to a public hearing and our

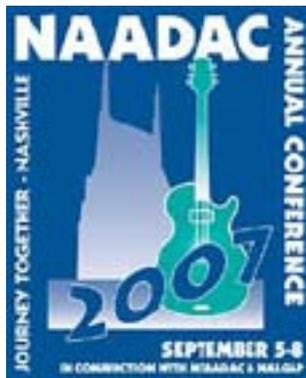
Secretary, Cheryl Reese, stood up and asked CSAT/SAMHSA "What have you done for LGBT concerns lately?" The result is that this year's NALGAP/NAADAC/TAADAC conference will be hosting CSAT and Prairielands ATTC "Training the Trainers" to teach the Curriculum written to accompany the Provider's Guide. Most of you reading this article already advocate for and assist in training other

professionals on LGBT issues. NALGAP has pushed for some type of standard for LGBT cultural diversity training. **HERE IT IS!** Be at the conference on Wednesday, September 5, and experience this labor of love that gives us an official document to train other professionals on LGBT issues. Be the first to get your copy of the curriculum and be part of the first group trained to train the trainers!

Barbara Warren, long time NALGAP member, who was instrumental in writing this document will be there as the trainer. At the end of the day NALGAP will honor her with our esteemed Finnegan-McNally Founder's Award.

Last year NALGAP rejoined NAADAC for our Annual Conference in Burbank, CA. It was truly the most successful NALGAP Conference in some time because we had a full NALGAP track at the conference and fully participated in such events as the President's Dinner and Awards Ceremony with NAADAC and CAADAC. The chair of TAADAC, this year's chapter host in Tennessee, pleaded with NALGAP to return: "So many of our people need what you have to offer, including our LGBT folks who need the support."

(continued next page)



Come to NASHVILLE! Get the first copies of the Training Manual hot off the presses! Become a trainer yourself and be part of a group that will be invited to suggest further implementation of this document.

Experience the NALGAP workshops, Membership Lunch, and our great Reception and Awards Ceremony. To register, go to www.nalgap.org and click on events with the Conference logo.

The NALGAP track includes the following presentations:

Barbara Warren to receive Founders Award

The Finnegan-McNally NALGAP Founders Award will be given, at the discretion of the NALGAP Board of Directors, to individuals whose professional and/or volunteer activities over a period of 25 years or more reflects the examples set by NALGAP's co-founders, supports and furthers NALGAP's mission, and improves opportunities for LGBT individuals to benefit from substance abuse prevention treatment, and recovery support programs and services.

Barbara Warren's accomplishments provide ample rea-

Wednesday, September 5, 9-5 pm
LGBT Cultural Competency in Substance Abuse Counseling
Barbara Warren, PhD

Thursday, September, 6, 2-3:30 pm
What Every Counselor Needs to Know When Working with LGBT Clients, Joe Amico, MDiv, CAS, LISAC & Penny Ziegler, MD

Thursday, September 6, 4-5:30 pm
Improving Outcomes for Males with a History of Trauma, Interpersonal Violence, and Childhood Sexual Abuse
Phil McCabe, CSW, CAS

Friday, September 7, 2-3:30 pm

Crystal Methamphetamine in the MSM Community: Clinical, Social and Treatment Issues, Stephen J. Lee, MD

Friday, September 7, 2-3:30 pm
Take What You Need: Lesbians, Spirituality, and AA, Carolyn Bradley, PhD, LCSW, LCADC

Friday, September 7, 4-5:30 pm
HIV and AIDS--The Alcohol and Other Drug Connection
Ralph Rynes, PhD, NCAC I

Friday, September 7, 4-5:30 pm
Clinical Issues in Addressing Client Sexual History, Edwin Hackney, MSW, LCSW, CADC

son for granting her the Founders Award which will be given immediately following her all-day Train the Trainers session on Wednesday, September 5th.



Barbara E. Warren Psy.D., CASAC, CPP is the Director for

Organizational Development, Planning and Research for the LGBT Community Center of New York City. She has 30 years of experience in the development and implementation of mental health, substance abuse and social service programs in community based settings. In 1988, she was hired as the founding director of the Center's Project Connect, one of the first LGBT-identified alcohol and drug abuse prevention and intervention programs in the country. In 1996, Dr Warren developed and implemented the Center's first smoking intervention program, Becoming Smoke Free With Pride, which today is the Center's LGBT Smoke Free Project, provid-

ing prevention, cessation and advocacy.

In addition, Dr. Warren has also represented the Center and the needs of the LGBT communities in an advocacy and policy capacity. Dr. Warren has been active in the funding and policy initiatives of the NYS Network of LGBT Health and Human Services Providers and the Nat'l Assoc. of Lesbian and Gay Community Centers and sits on the Exec. Comm. for the National Coalition for LGBT Health. As a consultant on policy and program development, she has worked with a number of city, state and federal agencies including the NYS Dept. of Health, the NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, the Federal Centers for Substance Abuse Prevention, Substance Abuse Treatment and, as the first Community Co-Chair of NYC's HIV Prevention Planning Group, with the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

A faculty member of the New York State Academy of Addiction Studies, Dr. Warren was the principal writer on the first official state-sponsored training curriculum addressing sensitivity to LGBT clients. She has taught in the graduate programs of Fordham, Hunter,

Yeshiva and Columbia, has developed and taught courses for alcohol and drug counselors locally and nationally, and provides diversity training to human services organizations and treatment facilities.

In 1990 Dr. Warren initiated the development of the Center's peer empowerment program for transgender and transsexual people, the Gender Identity Project, which has served as a model and a resource for transgender (TG) services worldwide. As a longtime member of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, she was an outspoken and effective advocate for the inclusion of TG professionals in the organizational membership and structure and for a consumer voice in the development of treatment standards and strategies. She maintains a private practice specializing in gender identity counseling, is the author of several articles on community approaches and HIV prevention for the TG communities, and is a noted speaker and trainer in this area.

Dr. Warren (with assistance from E. Nealey) is the original creator and writer of the curriculum designed to accompany *A Provider's Introduction to Substance Abuse Treatment for LGBT Individuals*.

Two NALGAP Members Receive The President's Award

Edwin M. Craft, Dr.P.H., M.Ed., LCPC, is one of this year's recipients of NALGAP's annual President's Award. He is currently the Senior Public Health Advisor; Systems Improvement Branch, Division of Services Improvement for CSAT/SAMHSA; US Department of Health and Human Services in Rockville, Md. He has had various posts within CSAT/SAMHSA since 1996. Close to NALGAP's "heart," Ed assembled and directed the group responsible for the publication of *A Provider's Introduction for Substance Abuse Treatment for LGBT Individuals* and has pushed for the production, implementation, dissemination and education of an accompanying training curriculum which is being premiered at this year's NAADAC/TAADAC/NALGAP Conference.

Privately, Ed has also been an advocate for NALGAP's mission. He serves as Vice President for Interdisciplinary Affairs of the Gay and Lesbian Medical

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Association (GLMA). In that position he has pushed for more recognition for other health care professionals within GLMA and secured exposure of NALGAP speakers at GLMA Conferences.

Ed was a Founding Vice President of the Washington

D.C. Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center which established a focal point for LGBT education, recreation, and fellowship in our nation's capital.

Ed has proudly represented NALGAP in other GLBT organizations, advocated for NALGAP's place "at the table" with government organizations like CSAT/SAMHSA, and is, therefore, a noteworthy member and ambassador of our organization.

Bill Lundgren, NCAC II, is the other recipient of NALGAP's annual President's Award. Bill first became interested in the addiction field while working for a pharmaceutical company. When he was diagnosed with impending blindness, he went into the

field full-time. He assumed the directorship of a small primary prevention agency in the suburbs, but lost that position

because the board of directors discovered he was gay. After a long fight, he left to start a private practice and consulting business in Philadelphia. He volunteered with the Eromin Center, a mental health center

for the GLBT community and became the primary resource in the Delaware Valley for training and treatment of GLBT persons who were addicted.

In the early '80's, he got involved in NALGAP and conducted many trainings for counselors about the needs of the GLBT community. Later, he conducted therapy groups and intensive weekends for gay men. Meanwhile, because his vision was deteriorating, Bill's interests expanded to

include the needs of persons with disabilities (PWD) who also have a substance abuse problem, conducted trainings in this area, and served with the

Mayor's Commission for PWD. In 2000, he left Philadelphia to attend a 10-month program in Denver, Colorado to learn how to manage as a blind person. He fell in love with the city and decided to stay, opening his practice in downtown Denver.

In his years there, he has served on the board of the State Counselor's Assoc., as Chair of the Denver Commission for PWD, on two of the Mayor's Task Forces, and on the Vestry of his Church. He facilitated a group for GLBT PWD, and presented a paper at the Soc'y for Disability Studies conference on developing positive self-identity as a GLBT PWD.

Currently, Bill (and his guide dog Archie) serves on the Commission for PWD and on the Steering Committee of Gay and Gray in the West. Most recently, he was elected to the NAADAC Nat'l Certification Commission. Bill

has long been a staunch advocate for GLBT substance abusers and for PWD. He is a long-term member and supporter of NALGAP.



Edwin Craft



Bill Lundgren

Prairielands ATTC Rolls Out National LGBT Training Curriculum

By: Anne Helene Skinstad, Ph.D.; Dir. of the Prairielands ATTC; Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Community and Behavioral Health, University of Iowa

The Prairielands Addiction Technology Transfer Center (Prairielands ATTC) is proud to announce the completion of a training curriculum to accompany *A Provider's Introduction to Substance Abuse Treatment for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Individuals*. The curriculum will be published during the 2007 Recovery Month. It will also be available on the Prairielands ATTC web page: www.pattc.org; on CD-ROMs; and in a limited number of black and white written copies.

This curriculum was developed in collaboration with Dr. Barbara Warren, the original author of the curriculum, who will conduct a six-hour training-of-trainers (TOT) program on Wednesday, September 5, at the NAADAC/ NALGAP conference in collaboration with the

Prairielands ATTC. This training event will be the first to be based on the complete training curriculum. In addition, Dr. Warren will, in collaboration with the Prairielands ATTC, offer a training program during the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA) conference (Sept. 26th-29th).

After the training-of-trainers program at the NAADAC/NALGAP conference has taken place on September 5th, the Prairielands ATTC will convene a group of providers to start planning a national roll-out of this curriculum. Together with the other 14

ATTC's across the country, the Prairielands ATTC will initiate a plan for a national roll out of this curriculum some time after October 1, 2007.

The curriculum is very comprehensive. It includes important information for all counselors who work with LGBT clients with substance use disorders. It consists of three parts: The first part—overview of treatment approaches, modalities, and issues of accessibility—includes four modules: (1) An overview of the program for providers who treat LGBT clients; (2) A consider-

ation of cultural issues relevant to working with LGBT clients; (3) A discussion of legal issues for programs treating LGBT clients; and (4) a comprehensive summary of treatment approaches, modalities, and issues of accessibility in the continuum of care for LGBT clients. The second part, the clinician's guide,

The training curriculum includes important information for all counselors who work with LGBT clients with substance use disorders.

includes nine modules: (1) the coming out process; (2) clinical issues with lesbians; (3) clinical issues with gay male clients; (4) clinical issues with bisexual clients; (5) clinical issues with transgender individuals; (6) clinical issues with GLBT youth; (7) fami-

lies of origin and families of choice; (8) case examples; and (9) health related issues. The third part, the program administrator's guide, includes four modules: (1) Policies and procedures; (2) training and education; (3) quality improvement; and (4) using alliances and networks to improve treatment. The curriculum also includes a trainer's guide which will be important for trainers who would like to use this curriculum in their institutions or among colleagues who work with LGBT clients with substance use disorders.

Background of National LGBT Training Curriculum

By: Marty Perry, LPC; Member, NALGAP Board of Directors; Nat'l Dir. of Community Relations, PRIDE Institute; Member, Prairielands Addiction Technology Transfer Center (PATTC) Advisory Board.

In 1999, the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) was commissioned to develop the first government-sponsored publication guiding treatment providers in best practices in the treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered (LGBT) substance abusers. Shortly thereafter, a systematic process began in which leaders in the LGBT chemical health community-clinicians, researchers, program and administrative managers, policymakers and independent experts were brought together for a series of intensive sessions. The goal was to develop a manual designed to improve and advance substance abuse treatment for a community of individuals whose health care needs are often ignored, deni-

grated, or denied. In 2001, *A Provider's Introduction to Substance Abuse Treatment for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Trans-gender Individuals* was published.

Shortly after publication, SAMHSA contracted with NALGAP member Barbara Warren, PsyD., CASAC, CPP (*see Founders Award article, this newsletter*), of New York City to develop a training curriculum based on the recently published *A Provider's Introduction* which was completed and prepared for distribution. Unfortunately, the newly-transitioned Bush administration decided to cut funding for this and other programs related to LGBT issues. The LGBT training curriculum sat undistributed during the next four years.

In 2006, SAMHSA revived its efforts to distribute the LGBT training curriculum. Because many years had passed since it was originally written, the Prairielands Addiction Technology Transfer Center (PATTC) was approached to help update and distribute the original training curriculum. PATTC (one of 14 regions within the National ATTC organization) was chosen to oversee the update and the national rollout because of its interest in the project and because of its previous efforts to promote best

practices in substance abuse treatment in the LGBT community. Industry leaders in the LGBT chemical health community were recruited to review the original curriculum for any outdated material. Relevant updates were added to the original curriculum, and it is now ready for implementation and distribution.

This fall, the PATTC is partnering with the National Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors (NAADAC) to use the Warren/PATTC training curriculum to teach future trainers to use the curriculum to educate interested parties in the chemical health field. The day-long training session is designed to educate interested chemical health professionals about the curriculum and to prepare them to teach other trainers to carry the educational sessions into the mainstream chemical health community. This "Train the Trainer" educational workshop, led by Barbara Warren, will be held on Wed., Sept. 5th during the NAADAC/TAADAC/NALGAP national conference in Nashville from September 5th through 8th.

If you are interested in the curriculum or in participating as a potential trainer, please contact Marty Perry for more information at mperry@pride-institute.com or 952-934-1027.

NALGAP Designates Kentucky Archives as Repository

(Copy provided by David Williams & edited by Edwin Hackney)

The National Association of Lesbian and Gay Addiction Professionals (NALGAP) has chosen an LGBT archives in Kentucky as the official repository of its publications and records.

“We’re really gratified to have NALGAP choosing us as its official repository,” says David Williams, founder of the

Williams-Nichols Archive & Library for GLBT Studies, which is now housed at the University of Louisville. “It speaks well for the efforts of Kentucky’s GLBT community that it has attracted the attention of such nationally important groups. We can’t be more pleased and honored.”

In recent years, the Williams-Nichols collection has received generous donations of publications from Cornell University; a near-complete edition of *Sojourner*, an important feminist magazine that has since gone out of business; the work of a major lesbian photographer from California; and continuing support from individual collectors in the

state’s GLBT community.

The Williams-Nichol Archive has indicated that materials donated by NALGAP will be searchable and available for research once they are completely catalogued. The collection—thought to be among the ten largest GLBT archives in the country—is now located in the Special Collections Division of Ekstrom Library on the main campus of the University of Louisville. Visiting hours are 9-4:30, M-F and other times by appointment. For more information, contact Delinda Buie at 502/852-6762 or David Williams at Williams-Nichols Institute, Inc., 1464 S. Second St., Louisville, KY 40208 KyArchives@aol.com

NALGAP Needs You!

NALGAP needs a person (or persons) who can write grants. In the past years, one member wrote a successful grant and got funds for NALGAP from the Gill Foundation. Since then we have been grantless—though we certainly have tried. Now, NALGAP has no grant writer—and no grants. We need money to carry out the long range plans of the organization, such as, creating an LGBT substance abuse bibliography or creating a NALGAP clearing house for important information.

NALGAP is short on cash, but long on dedication to its mission to educate, inform, and create networks. We need help in securing the cash to support this mission. Remember—NALGAP is the only national voice of conscience for the population of LGBT substance abusers.

If you (or someone you know) can write grants — PLEASE — help out by volunteering to write a grant application to fund NALGAP’s activities.

CONTACT: Joe Amico, President,
joecd1@aol.com

Announcement

*From Don McVinney,
MSSW, M.Phil., ACSW,
LCSW, CASAC, NALGAP
Member*

Don McVinney has announced that he is leaving the Harm Reduction Coalition, where he has been the Director of Education and Training at the Training Institute (HRTI) since 1999. In this position, he greatly expanded the scope and number of trainings offered annually in the New York office. HRTI's reputation is now that of both offering quality standardized core trainings and providing cutting edge workshops.



As Director, Don has presented at the last three national HRC conferences, at the first and second national Methamphetamine, HIV and Hepatitis conferences, as well as at International HRC conferences. Since 1999, HRTI has become an Education and Training Provider for the NYS Office of Alcoholism and

Substance Abuse Services; provides a field placement site for social work interns from Columbia University and Hunter College; and offers an internship for the Univ. of Michigan School of Public Health.

Don also created and taught for Columbia University the only graduate-level course exclusively devoted to harm reduction at a U.S. school of social work. He also

helped create a harm reduction course and teaching manual for Mataj Bel University in Slovakia. HRTI also received funding from the NYS Dept. of Health AIDS Institute as a *Center of*

Expertise in Emerging Issues on Drug Use and Harm Reduction.

Don has published several articles in peer-reviewed journals, the most recent being, "Harm Reduction, Crystal Methamphetamine, and Gay Men," in the *Journal of Gay and Lesbian Psychotherapy*. He conducted harm reduction training for SW educators, workers, and students at Israel's Hebrew University and

trained the first corps of drug counselors for the Drug Demand Reduction Program, a USAID and Soros-funded program in Central Asia, in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. Don notes that he has been "enormously enriched by these experiences."

Don states that he is "moving on to grow professionally." He has accepted a newly-created position as Director of Community-Based Services at the Foundation for Research on Sexually Transmitted Diseases (FROST'D) www.frostd.org. At FROST'D, he will oversee several programs: the Syringe Exchange Program, the Harm Reduction/Recovery Readiness Program, and the Mobile Counseling and Testing Program. "I am very excited about this new opportunity and I know that my knowledge and expertise will be valued at FROST'D." His new email address is dmcvinney@frostd.org.

NALGAP applauds Don McVinney's impressive and valuable contributions to our field. NALGAP is proud to have him as a long-term member.

Addiction Psychiatric Help: *The Doctor is Out...*

Dear Dr. Penny: My primary care physician is managing my health care and she has told me that my liver functions are getting worse. I have had Hepatitis C for years. Five years ago I had tests, including a liver biopsy. My numbers were good and the biopsy showed only early changes. I was offered treatment, but I was afraid it might lead to a relapse — I was in early recovery from my addiction to crystal methamphetamine and alcohol, and struggling with cravings every day. I had heard that the treatment makes you very depressed and irritable. Now my doctor is really pushing me to get treatment, and even though I'm 5 years sober in A.A. now, I'm still scared. Can you help?

— **Freaked in Frederick**

Dear Freaked:

Now is the best time to undertake the Hepatitis C treatment protocol, while you are still in good health and have a strong support system. The current treatment consists of a combined dosage of pegylated interferon (given by weekly injection) and ribavirin

(taken orally). There are toxic side effects, the most common of which are generalized tiredness, loss of appetite, loss of energy, depressed mood and headaches. If you have a history of episodes of depression, a psychiatrist should be part of the treatment team; he or she may want you to start taking an antidepressant medication either along with or before beginning the anti-viral medications. This "head it off" approach can give you an advantage in preventing severe mood symptoms during treatment. The length of time you will need to be on the medications will depend on the type of virus you have, and the response of your "viral load," which will be checked periodically. It could be as short as 3 months or up to as long as a year. The hope is that you will go into remission with an undetectable viral load.

You already have an understanding of the importance of support and using a peer group, due to your participation in A.A. The same thing will



apply here. First, know that you are certainly not alone. Hepatitis C is the most common blood-borne infection (much more common than HIV) in the U.S., with probably 5 million

people infected in this country. The most common route of transmission is injection drug use. Sexual transmission is uncommon except in the case of injury to mucous membranes with exchange of blood during unprotected anal intercourse, with the receptive partner being at the greatest risk. Many long-term sexual partners of infected individuals remain virus-free. Other sources of transmission are contaminated blood and blood products, medical instruments and tattooing. Up to 40% are "source unknown."

Since the treatment course is so long and often so difficult to tolerate, many communities have support groups for HCV patients going through treatment. If no such group exists in your community, try to get one started, or drive as far as you

must to find one— it can make all the difference in you being able to stick with the treatment long enough to rid your body of the virus and prevent further long-term complications.

These complications are related to the systematic destruction of liver cells by chronic infection with this virus,

and replacement of these cells with scar tissue. For years after the initial infection, the liver is able to replace most of the destroyed cells with new, functioning cells, but it is gradually losing ground. Over time, more and more of the healthy liver is lost, and more scar tissue develops. This leads to two types of problems:

1) The functions of the liver are impaired, leading to a build up of toxic materials usually cleared by the liver (causing mental confusion, jaundice, and other neurological problems), and a deficiency of blood products made by the liver, primarily clotting factors.

2) The scar tissue blocks the flow of blood through the liver, leading to back pressure in the veins traveling

through the liver from the gastrointestinal tract. This results in swelling of veins and bleeding into the gut, and usually the esophagus and stomach, and leaking of fluid out of the veins, causing swelling in the legs and belly.

Advanced disease of the liver is known as cirrhosis, and Hepatitis C has

become a more common cause of cirrhosis than alcoholism. It is now the most common cause of liver failure and liver transplant. By the time an individual is at this stage of advanced disease, treatment is not an option—he or she is too sick to tolerate it.

Luckily, you are years away from this stage, and treatment now, if successfully tolerated, can prevent you from ever reaching it. So I would encourage you to give it your best shot, with as much support as you can muster, using everything and every tool you've gleaned from the Twelve Step Program. One Day at a Time.

**Take care,
Dr. Penny**



Dr. Penny

Community Remembers Pioneer

*With thanks to:
Sarah Blazucki,
Philadelphia Gay News
Editor*

On April 28th, about 200 people gathered for the memorial service for gay-rights pioneer Barbara Gittings, who died Feb. 18 after a long battle with breast cancer. Held in Philadelphia, the service featured friends, colleagues, community leaders, and veteran and present GLBT-rights advocates and leaders. These included the Rev. Elder Troy Perry, founder of the MCC; Frank Kameny, co-founder of the Mattachine Society; HRC president Joe Solmonese; NGLTF Ex. Dir. Matt Foreman; Past chair of the American Psychiatric Assoc's Committee on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Issues Dr. Jack Drescher; and Kevin Jennings of GLSEN.

Longtime friend John Cunningham recalled first seeing Gittings on "The David Susskind Show" in 1971, using her real name. MCC founder Perry concluded the memorial, observing what a

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President's Corner

I have had the distinct privilege of delivering the Frank Bowdwin Memorial Lecture at the UK/European Symposium on Addictive Disorders for four years now.

Personally, it is both humbling and exciting. Taking the message of NALGAP abroad has raised certain questions and challenges for me. Should we change our name to "International" rather than "National"? Of course, that raises other name change issues. Our name is not inclusive of bisexuals and transgender, who

we say we serve but do not honor in our "name." Our name doesn't include intersex, queer, questioning or straight allies who we deem important these days in the movement, either. Yikes. Oh well, as the saying goes,

"What's in a name?" The Board has discussed the name issues and I'm sure will continue to do so over the next few months.

Let me get back to my first name issue: national vs. international. The more I speak abroad and the more inquiries we get from other

countries, the more I realize how vital and important our mission and goals are both here and in other countries.

During my talk in London this year, I had folks raise the question we've been addressing in the US since NALGAP's inception: how do you create safety for gay clients in

programs where their peers may be hostile to gays? After my address, I had a number of folks talk with me throughout the conference, and I believe it worth sharing these comments and

questions with you because, as I've already stated, these queries demonstrate the need for us to keep our message out there!

Two male nurses from a program in Malta stated they had looked forward to attending my presentation because they get quite a few GLBT identified clients and did not know what they should be doing to assist them. Malta! The little island off Sicily in the middle of the Mediterranean.

The CEO of a program in Cape Town, South Africa told me "I attend your presentation every year and require the staff I bring with me to attend. It is so vital to our work." He further shared that crystal meth is becoming a crisis of epidemic proportions there as we have seen in the US. We vowed to stay in touch with each other to see how NALGAP can assist them in serving the needs of their staff and clients.

A gay clinician from Durban, South Africa, shared with me his shock to discover research on the 380 LGBT youth in a program there reports that 58% of the

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"How do you create safety for gay clients in programs where their peers may be hostile to gays?"

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youth are using alcohol and other illegal drugs. He asked for assistance in getting connected with youth programs in the US who can aid them in developing programs that will help them turn back these statistics by meeting the needs of their queer youth.

Several UK counselors who are gay talked about their concerns that the GLBT community continues to deny the problems associated with alcohol and drug abuse and asked how can we address that in the queer community?

A lesbian marketer from Lebanon shared the experiences of numerous lesbians in Arab countries and the need for GLBT folks to

support each other in countries where it's still unsafe to attend public LGBT events.

With all this in mind, as though we don't have enough to do in the US, I am hoping we can continue to broaden the scope of our organization and continue to reach out to addiction counselors in other parts of our world to share our strength and hope with them. Let's dialogue both on how we can expand our own organization and what we need to do to assist our brothers and sisters across the globe.

Sincerely,
Joe Amico, President
Joecd1@aol.com

E! Network Entertainer at NALGAP's Reception



Bruce Bibby, known to many as Ted Casablanca of E! Network, will be the speaker at this

year's NALGAP Reception at the NAADAC/TAADAC/NALGAP

Conference. "Ted" is a globally recognized writer for his popular column, "The Awful Truth", the never-miss source for the latest, greatest celebrity news and dish. Ted has been seen dishing up Hollywood gossip on shows like The View, Good Morning America, the Today Show, Scarborough Country, and Chelsea Lately. Bruce promises to be an entertaining feature of NALGAP's contribution to Recovery Month at the conference!

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difference people can make. He spoke about three things for which history will remember Gittings.

- 1) her hope: In using her real name to speak out for gay rights, she demonstrated that she knew who she was and knew that she'd have problems, but did it anyway;
- 2) her belief that the community needed healing; and
- 3) her secular belief in heaven: Though not religious, she was spiritual and believed in getting a helping of heaven on earth.



Want to Join NALGAP?
 Visit our website and register online: www.nalgap.org

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