

# TAGLBIC News

The Newsletter of the Texas Association of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues in Counseling (A Division of Texas Counseling Association)

Volume 1, Issue 2, Fall/Winter 2001

## TAGLBIC: Our First Year

### *A letter from the TAGLBIC President*

Colleen M. Connolly, Ph.D.

What a first year this has been! First, I am pleased to announce that TAGLBIC is not only a division under Texas Counseling Association (TCA), but also a chapter under the national Association for Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues in Counseling (AGLBIC), a division of the American Counseling Association (ACA). San Antonio was the host city for the ACA Annual Conference 2001, and AGLBIC President Sue Strong presented the state charter at the awards brunch (see photo on page 5). This newsletter serves as an opportunity to highlight the events of this past national conference, look ahead to the state conference in Dallas this November, and provide an update on the status of TAGLBIC.

I would like to begin with a report on the March ACA annual conference. Dr. Colleen Logan, Secretary/Treasurer of TAGLBIC and cofounder of the division, received an award in recognition of her outstanding service. Colleen is Past-President of the national division of AGLBIC. Not only is Colleen's service record outstanding on the national front, but this award also recognized her cofounding TAGLBIC (see article and photo on page 7). Furthermore, Colleen's wedding to Deborah Bloom was honored at the awards brunch, with couples and individuals pledging their future support and acknowledging the couple's strength of commitment.

In addition, an AGLBIC lifetime achievement award, the *Joe Norton Award*, was presented to a fellow Texan, Dr. John Garcia, associate professor at Southwest Texas State University. This award

recognizes an individual who has dedicated his or her career to increasing awareness of sexual identity and gender identity issues. Dr. Garcia received this award for his significant contribution as a counselor educator and supervisor (see page 3 for more details).

Collaboration of AGLBIC and TAGLBIC created a successful booth at the conference.

Much information was disseminated, and since the conference was hosted in our state, we garnered some additional members through the excellent work of Texas booth supporters Melanie Harper and Cilly Jordan.

Now we are preparing for the TCA state conference that will be held in Dallas from Wednesday, November 14, through Friday, November 16.

Our second business meeting will be Wednesday night from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. Hopefully, we will have an opportunity to reconnect with our previous offerers of support and garner more leadership and assistance. TAGLBIC is sponsoring its very first luncheon on Friday, from 11:50 a.m. to 1:20 p.m. This luncheon will provide an opportunity for meeting new people, joining with old friends, and combining forces for making TAGLBIC a dynamic influence within TCA. If you are planning to attend the luncheon, please preregister if possible, as the "official" deadline for ticket purchases is Wednesday, November 14.

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*"Creating a foundation for TAGLBIC was the focus of the first year; solidification will be at the heart of this upcoming year."*

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# The 2001 Legislative Session

Cindy Ashby, TCA Government Relations Coordinator

With the bang of a gavel, the 77th Session of the Texas Legislature adjourned Sine Die May 28, 2001. With the speculation surrounding redistricting running rampant, most political pundits expected little legislative progress. As it turned out, quite the contrary was true. Progress was made on several major legislative initiatives for counselors, the counseling profession, and for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered individuals. Bills that would be of interest to TAGLBIC members are summarized below.

## **The James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Act—HB 587** *(Rep. Senfronia Thompson & Senator Rodney Ellis)—* **Passed**

In 2001, after years of gridlock, Senator Ellis and Rep. Thompson worked to pass the James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Act. The legislation gives prosecutors an effective tool to combat acts of hatred and prejudice in Texas. The Byrd Act stiffens fines and jail sentences for crimes proven to have been motivated by hate. It also builds on another Ellis bill passed in 1993, which created the Hate Crimes Reporting Statute requiring local law enforcement to compile statistics on acts of hate and report these acts to the Department of Public Safety.

- ∇ The legislation will provide aid to small counties prosecuting hate murders
- ∇ Clarify the definition of a hate crime to conform to Texas law with language upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in the landmark Wisconsin v. Mitchell decision
- ∇ Assign a prosecutor in the Attorney General's Office as a hate crimes director
- ∇ Raise the penalty for a crime by one level if a jury has concluded during trial that the crime was motivated by hate. (For instance, under current law, someone convicted of spray painting a swastika on a synagogue, a Class B misdemeanor, would be eligible for a maximum punishment of 180 days in jail and a \$2,000 fine. If convicted under the James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Act, the maximum punishment would be enhanced to that of a Class A misdemeanor, a \$4,000 fine and 1-year sentence.)
- ∇ Defines a hate crime as one that has been proven in court to have been motivated by race,

religion, color, disability, gender, sexual preference, national origin, or ancestry of the victim

## **Prohibition of discrimination by public educational institutions—HB 1296** *(Rep. Ehrhardt)—***Did Not Pass**

Would protect Texas' students and teachers from discrimination that is based on ethnicity, color, gender, gender identity, disability, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation in public schools and colleges.

- ∇ Passed out of the House of Representatives
- ∇ Referred to Senate Education Committee but did not receive a hearing

## **Prohibition of employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity—HB 668** *(Rep. Maxey)—***Did Not Pass**

Would protect Texans from discrimination that is based on sexual orientation or gender identity in employment.

- ∇ Received hearing in the House State Affairs Committee and was left pending.

## **Prohibition of employment discrimination by state agencies on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity—HB 816** *(Rep. Maxey & Rep. Dukes)—***Did Not Pass**

Would protect Texas state employees from discrimination at the workplace that is based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

## **Relating to a change of name and vital statistics information—HB 1587 & SB 879** *(Rep. Danburg & Sen. Van de Putte)—***Did Not Pass**

- ∇ Would facilitate the ability of people to have gender reassigned on Texas Drivers Licenses.
- ∇ Left pending in House Juvenile Justice and Family Issues Committee

## **Relating to authorizing harm reduction programs to reduce the risk of HIV infection, AIDS, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C—HB 288** *(Rep. Maxey)—***Did Not Pass**

Would increase funding for AIDS and HIV services, medication, and prevention efforts. Protected the privacy protections of people affected by HIV and people seeking HIV testing.

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# Dr. John L. Garcia: *Joe Norton Award Recipient*

Anthony Terndrup, Past-President of AGLBIC, presented the *Joe Norton Award* to Dr. John Garcia. This award honors Dr. Garcia's lifetime commitment and achievement in increasing awareness of sexual and gender identity issues. This event occurred at the AGLBIC Award Luncheon in San Antonio.

The *Joe Norton Award* is named after AGLBIC's founder. Joe Norton sparked the division's beginning in 1975 when he garnered the support of counselors interested in forming a lesbian and gay organization.

Dr. Garcia earned his Master of Education in 1986 and his Doctor of Education in 1990 from Vanderbilt University. He currently is an associate professor and counselor educator at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas. John's work as a professor, supervisor, and mentor involves a unique blend of theoretical and philosophical strength, Jungian balance, and passion for the disenfranchised.

Immediately after John began his position at Southwest Texas State University in 1992, he recognized the need for curriculum surrounding diverse populations. Responding to a university initiative to diversify curriculum, and at a time when many classes on multiculturalism focused predominantly or exclusively on ethnicity and race, John began the process of creating a course entitled Counseling Diverse Populations. This course dedicated a significant portion to the study of gay, lesbian, and bisexual issues in counseling. John's work was recognized with an award from the Center for Multicultural and Gender Studies. Additionally, the course Counseling Diverse Populations was so successful he created a second complementary class



*Dr. John Garcia was the 2001 recipient of the Joe Norton Award.*

to enable both a didactic and experiential focus.

Furthermore, John's work with issues surrounding loss and grief resulted in the creation of two more classes wherein disenfranchised loss and grief is highlighted, including that which is experienced by same-sex couples.

Although Southwest Texas State University still does not protect against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, John Garcia spearheaded an effort toward protecting against discrimination at a departmental level. He worked to create an evaluative instrument that mandates students must demonstrate respect for cultural differences — including sexual orientation — in order to progress in the program, and he strove to heighten gatekeeping standards. When TAGLBIC became a division, this university's student population made up more than half of the 50-member minimum required for the TAGLBIC to become a TCA division, a testament to the work of this innovator.

Rather than creating a compartmentalized notion of sexual minority issues, Dr. John Garcia continues to work diligently to infuse these issues into all courses. His interest in the symbolic, including metaphor, dreamwork, and intuition, supports his stance of "confusion" and "infusion" in counselor education and supervision. He provides safety to explore and discover, linger in ambiguity, and experience the differences and similarities in communities in an effort to unite humanity.

## TAGLBIC LEADERSHIP

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Colleen M. Connolly

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Submissions for publication in TAGLBIC News may be mailed or e-mailed to Colleen Connolly at Southwest Texas State University.

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*(Continued from page 1)*

In San Antonio, AGLBIC initiated an informal happy hour at the host hotel bar, and it was fun and helpful in connecting friends and our community. Colleen Logan and I invite you to join us on Thursday, November 15th at 5:30 p.m. at the Hotel Intercontinental's Bristol Lounge to share conversation and companionship during the first TAGLBIC happy hour. You will find a more comprehensive and detailed list of the upcoming events at the conference on page 6.

Several GLBT programs will be included at the conference. While TCA only allows two TAGLBIC-sponsored programs, I look forward to and encourage more and more of you to create proposals focusing on this population. The way to create more widespread affirmative counseling is to share knowledge, and anyone who would like advice, assistance, or mentoring in proposal creation and submission, please contact me and I will be happy to either help or connect you with a mentor or collaborator.

This year's TCA conference in November will be central to TAGLBIC's stabilization as a TCA division. You can help in the following ways:

- ▽ Attend our second business meeting
- ▽ Buy tickets to our first luncheon and attend
- ▽ Consider who you might want to nominate for President-elect and Secretary/Treasurer-elect this coming spring
- ▽ Staff the TCA booth for at least two hours
- ▽ Serve on the TAGLBIC board of directors
- ▽ Become a TAGLBIC trustee
- ▽ Serve on the membership or public relations committees
- ▽ Attend the TAGLBIC happy hour
- ▽ Attend GLBT-related sessions at the TCA conference
- ▽ Renew your membership, and encourage others to join

To volunteer or become more active in the division, please contact Colleen Logan or me (see contact information on page 3).

Several members offered time and energy in this first year of operation, and I was able to access that support on certain projects. I would particularly like to thank Melanie Harper for her collaboration in editing and launching the first newsletter. Melanie began a doctoral program in North Carolina this fall.

Although she is now living in another state, Melanie has graciously agreed to continue as assistant editor of the *TAGLBIC News* long distance. I would also like to announce that she has been nominated as AGLBIC of North Carolina President, which might enable an increase in state-to-state collaboration and cooperation. In addition, special thanks are extended to Liz Boas, a Southwest Texas State University Graduate Assistant. Liz applied her technological and editing skills in a local fashion to this newsletter, and proved to be an outstanding contributor and supporter of this project!

Also, I would like to provide an update on the status of TAGLBIC. As always, finances are a critical part of an organization (see the Treasurer's report, page 6). While our current membership stands at around 85, retention of existing members is uncertain as we move from a personally funded TCA division supported by Colleen Logan and me to the modest professional dues of \$10 and student dues of \$5. Growth of membership is dependent on spreading the word that this new division has formed and needs support to flourish.

I attended an all-day TCA President's Workshop on September 15th. A primary focus of the day involved assessing member needs and discovering identity barriers or concerns that impact meeting these needs. In particular, TCA sought feedback on impediments to the understanding, growth, and improvement of the counseling profession, its ability to serve the counseling and developmental needs of all clients, and its goal to increase diversity in TCA membership. In addition, TCA leadership requested responses on how TCA might address the diverse needs of division members.

Identity is certainly a key point in a TCA division focusing on GLBT issues in counseling. This workshop's focus was primarily on broader TCA issues. However, I opened up the dialogue on some unique concerns for this population. Later I identified other concerns, as highlighted below. TCA representatives spoke of marketing. I suggested a reframe of "outreach." I believe that outreach is particularly important with GLBT individuals, friends, families, allies, and communities. Moreover, creating an environment of safety — within the parent organization, inside the counseling room, and on our city streets and country roads — is pivotal.

Another primary concern of ours is a lack of  
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accurate information regarding GLBT issues in counselor educator programs, within TCA, and globally in the profession. We must support cultural diversity at large and specifically address this diversity element within our own division by not marginalizing transgendered individuals. The change is required not only on a divisional level, but also individually, within TCA proper, and within the legislative process. One important element, keeping informed on legislative issues and supporting antidiscrimination policies at all levels, is not only proactive but foundational to the process of positive change for this community. (For a legislative update on issues surrounding the GLBT population, see page 2.) I provide you with this update, and invite you to respond to these issues via e-mail to assist in best representing the division member's needs.

Finally, I found that the first year of operation involved forming a foundation: becoming an AGLBIC state chapter, preparing for the state conference, creating a website and newsletter, and coordinating with TCA on the requirements for a new division. Colleen Logan and I initially agreed that we had to learn all we could to enable us to mentor future leadership effectively and knowledgeably. This decision, of course, required each of us to operate as both a TAGLBIC division officer and also as a TCA Senator or Director.

After completing the first year of our two-year tenure as President and Secretary/Treasurer, it is now time to call upon those kind people who offered support and time to spread the leadership. I will be looking to you, hoping that your resolve remains, and looking forward to the prospect of others who might want to become involved in this dynamic division. Creating a foundation for TAGLBIC was the focus of the first year; solidification will be at the heart of this upcoming year. As always, I thank you for your past, present, and future recognition, participation, and support. TAGLBIC's longevity and success depends on collaboration and expansion to increase TAGLBIC's voice within the state.

## Texas legislature 2001

*(Continued from page 2)*

- ▽ Passed to 3rd reading in the Texas House of Representatives
- ▽ Laid on the table subject to call of the chair



▽ Was never finally passed

**Relating to the recognition of a same-sex marriage or civil union—a.k.a.—Defense of Marriage Act—HB 496 & SB 488 (Rep. Chisum & Sen. Harris)—*Did Not Pass***

Would prohibit recognition of same-sex marriages from out of state.

▽ Texas law already defines marriage as existing only between a man and woman

▽ Passed the Senate but was left pending in the House State Affairs Committee

**Relating to the repeal of the criminal offense of homosexual conduct—a.k.a.—Sodomy Law—HB 687 (Rep. Danburg)—*Did Not Pass***

Would remove Texas sodomy law from the books.

▽ For the first time passed the House Criminal Justice Committee with a 7-2 vote including 2 Republicans in favor of the legislation

▽ Did not get voted out of the House Calendars Committee

**Relating to the prohibition of certain discrimination based on sexual orientation—HB 813 (Rep. Coleman)—*Did Not Pass***

Would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing and employment.

▽ Left pending in the House State Affairs Committee

In past sessions, bills have been introduced that would ban gay and lesbian couples from adoption or foster parenting. However, that type of legislation was not reintroduced this legislative session. For questions or additional information regarding legislation, contact Cindy Ashby in the TCA office at (800) 580-8144 or by e-mail at [cashby@txca.org](mailto:cashby@txca.org).

*Sue Strong, President of AGLBIC, presents cofounders Colleen Connolly (center) and Colleen Logan (left) with the official charter recognizing TAGLBIC as an official chapter under national AGLBIC (see story on page 7).*

# Report from the TCA Senate Floor

Colleen M. Connolly, Ph.D., TCA Senator

I would like to report on the 2001 Senate meeting held June 9th and 10th. While there were no particular issues to be voted on involving GLBT issues, this forum provided an opportunity to be involved in the inner workings of TCA. The Senate meeting included approximately 70 people from across the state representing chapters and divisions, with TAGLBIC being the 11th and newest division.

As senator I provided the TAGLBIC report for the year. I was proud to announce a 100% increase in membership between the November and June meetings. We were squeaking by at 50 members in November and boasting of 99 at this June meeting! I think that these numbers lend credibility and power to our division, as they are comparable in number and actually exceed the membership of some older divisions.

I reported on TAGLBIC's other accomplishments, such as our website and newsletter. At the Senate meeting I addressed a challenge within the division at both a state and national level: the greater inclusion of transgendered people. Our mission statement certainly includes transgendered individuals, yet the name "TAGLBIC" does not reflect that fact, which can lead to this part of the community feeling marginalized. TAGLBIC, by requirement, adopted AGLBIC's name and mission statement, and so this issue has ramifications for the state and national divisions. I began the dialogue at the TCA Senate meeting about this current challenge with the hope of setting the stage for future conversation in this matter.

## Treasurer's Report

Colleen R. Logan, Ph.D., Secretary/Treasurer, AGLBIC of Texas

TAGLBIC officially began charging membership dues on July 1, 2001. To date, we have collected approximately \$110.00 in dues. Translated this amount means that we have twelve members who have paid their dues since July less the eight percent handling fee that TCA charges every division. The reality is we currently have

85 members, and 12 of us have reenrolled. Remember, some of us may experience "free" membership for a longer period than others depending, of course, on when our general TCA membership is up for renewal. Not to worry, as all of this will be sorted out in the next year. The bottom line is we have members — paying members even — and, yes, we need more!!!! As the months go on, more and more of you will be asked to renew your TCA membership, and for the first time be given the choice to officially join TAGLBIC by paying either ten dollars for professional membership or five dollars for student membership. Please join!!!! Spread the word, bring a colleague or friend, let's continue to grow, grow, grow!!!!!!!

I am looking forward to seeing all of you in Dallas. I encourage you to attend our annual fall business meeting, scheduled for Wednesday night from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. There, I will provide a complete and formal accounting of our income and expenses for the past year.

## TAGLBIC at TCA

### Wednesday, November 14

- ▽ Exhibit: TAGLBIC Booth #48. Open 3:00 p.m. Wednesday to 3:00 p.m. Friday.
- ▽ Business Meeting, Waterford B (8:00 to 10:00 p.m.), Hotel Intercontinental.

### Thursday, November 15

- ▽ Creating Safe Zones — Supporting the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Community (11:50 a.m. to 1:20 p.m.). Presenter: Lee Vandiver.
- ▽ Lesbian Relationships: Keeping Them Balanced and Healthy (1:40 to 3:10 p.m.). Presenters: Colleen M. Connolly, Ph.D., and Heather Watson.
- ▽ Informal Happy Hour, Bristol Lounge in the lobby of the Hotel Intercontinental (5:30 p.m.).

### Friday, November 16

- ▽ TAGLBIC Luncheon, Baccarat Room, Hotel Intercontinental (11:50 a.m. to 1:20 p.m.). \$30.
- ▽ Transgender Therapy 101 (8:00 to 9:30 a.m.). Presenter: Feleshia Porter.

# Dr. Colleen Logan Receives *AGLBIC Service Award*

In March, at the American Counseling Association's Annual Conference in San Antonio, our very own Dr. Colleen Logan was awarded the *AGLBIC Service Award*. Dr. Logan was given this award in recognition of her service at the state and national level, as well as her contribution to the cofounding of TAGLBIC.

Colleen served as cochair for the Association of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues in Counseling (AGLBIC), an organization affiliate of the American Counseling Association (ACA) from 1995 to 1996, and again from 1996 to 1997. AGLBIC had been operating as an unofficial division of ACA for approximately 25 years.

One year after Colleen Logan cochaired the division with Dr. Bob Barret, AGLBIC was recognized as an official division of ACA. In the ensuing years, Dr. Logan served as President-elect, President, and Past-President of the newly accepted division.

The *AGLBIC Service Award* also acknowledged Colleen Logan's outstanding contribution to Texas in the area of GLBT issues. Colleen sparked the idea to create a Texas division, and worked diligently in making it a reality. She cofounded AGLBIC of Texas, an official division of TCA.

Colleen Logan currently serves as Secretary/Treasurer of TAGLBIC, and has worked side-by-side with Colleen Connolly in forming and running the Texas division. In addition, she is serving a 3-year term as Director of TAGLBIC, representing our division on the TCA Board of Directors.

Dr. Logan's contributions to the counseling field — and especially her work toward providing affirmative counseling for the GLBT population — served as the basis for this *AGLBIC Service Award*. Moreover, her cofounding of TAGLBIC, and the substantial service associated with this task, makes us all proud of Colleen's national recognition in these endeavors.



## TAGLBIC: Now an Official Charter

In March, at the ACA national conference in San Antonio, TAGLBIC was officially chartered by AGLBIC, a national division of ACA (see photo on page 5). The chartering took place during the Jazz Brunch, a fun-filled annual event hosted by AGLBIC's current president, in this case, Dr. Sue Strong. With excitement and great pride, Dr. Strong warmly welcomed AGLBIC of Texas into the fold, noting with pleasure that, "TAGLBIC is now the third state division to be officially chartered." Dr. Colleen Connolly and Dr. Colleen Logan, TAGLBIC officers, accepted the charter on behalf of our organization. We look forward to our continued relationship with the national organization as we combine our efforts to meet the myriad needs of counselors and their sexual minority clients.

## To Join TAGLBIC

Remember that you must be a member of TCA to join TAGLBIC.

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*Dr. Colleen Logan's extraordinary service record was honored with the presentation of the AGLBIC Service Award by Dr. Bob Barret.*

Now on the Web at [www.taglbic.org](http://www.taglbic.org)

#### **TAGLBIC News**

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*Be sure to register  
early for our first  
TAGLBIC Luncheon!*