



ReVision

re (ri) *n.* I. anew, again **vision** (vizzh'en) *n.* I. the manner in which one sees or conceives of something

Clergy and Educators Unite in Georgia

The Dahlonega Ministerial Association (DMA) and North Georgia College & State University (NGCSU) have envisioned a partnership to bring together religious leaders, professional educators and community partners



Price Memorial Hall NGCSU Campus.

for the purpose of building a strong, healthy and united community. YES Institute is proud to be asked to participate in this initiative.

We have been asked to create the "Communication for Safer Learning Environments" seminar to specifically address many concerns now present in North Georgia. It will be open to all NGCSU Faculty including educators, coaches, and

administrators. Ministers, leaders and teachers from communities neighboring Dahlonega will also be invited. (See Pg. 2).

Leadership Across America

By **Andrea Freygang, Journalist**

With full intentions of being an observer, I found myself staying for the complete Leadership in Action Course held September 17 at YES. I had planned to stay for a few hours to observe and interview participants. However, I became engaged and empowered in the dialogue, and I, like everyone else, felt compelled to stay the entire course to see where I would end up.



Andrea Freygang, top center, observing the course.

With a flurry of hands, a click of a button and much communication, Martha Fugate and Joseph Zolobczuk led seven participants in-house, while Tim Wagoner used Video Conferencing to bring NGCSU into the dialogue. Nine others connected via web streaming simulcast in Texas as a result of the vision and leadership of Bekki McQuay, Director of OUTstanding Amarillo.

This course was requested for Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA) students at NGCSU by Dr. Donna Waddell, faculty advisor. "They have really perfected the technology," says Donna. "It was just like being in the same room. Having the folks in Texas integrate their discussion made the whole experience much richer. I'm so glad YES can think outside the box because it makes for a very exciting future."

This was the first YES course for Alecs Mohija, a teacher and transgender group facilitator in Amarillo. Alecs commented that it was great to have videoconferencing reach remote places like North Texas. (See Pg. 2).



Participants interacting in the YES Education Center.

Episcopalians Envision Justice for All



YES with the Episcopal Social Justice Committee.

The Southeast Episcopal Diocesan Social Justice Committee meets to discuss a wide variety of social issues. Every month the topic changes with the focus in September on recent discussions in the Episcopal church about gay clergy. Eva Leivas-Andino was invited by Bishop James Ottley to join this committee, representing YES.

"We have a problem dealing with the ordination and consecration of gays. Through working with YES we are finding a way to continue the conversation rather than cut off communication," says Ottley. "In God's world we don't have all the

“ We realized with YES that we can find a common ground to take back to our congregations, share what we've learned and look at our own issues in a more rational, non-judgmental way.”

- Bishop James Ottley

answers, but...we need to educate and invite clergy and as many members who want to come...since sexual orientation is one issue we don't understand." (See Pg. 2).

Visit www.yesinstitute.org to access upcoming speaking engagements, educational workshops and online contributions.

Metro Police Officers Serving, Protecting and Learning



Miami-Dade police at CIT training with YES speakers.

In the last decade, reports of police departments offering sensitivity training on orientation and gender topics has increased in US media. These articles cite improved community relations and a reduction in mis-understanding between police and citizens. Cities that include Atlanta, Washington

DC and New York have entire specialized units and personnel assigned to handle cases that involve gay and transgender victims. Habsi Kaba Robbins, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Educational Trainer for the 11th judicial circuit, has scheduled YES speakers to be a part of monthly CIT police training this year.

“ This was the first time in 15 years on the force I’ve seen this discussed openly and honestly. ”

- Miami-Dade police

To schedule a speaking engagement for your group, please contact Joseph Zolobczuk.

“Episcopalians” Continued from Page 1

Joseph Zolobczuk gave a brief preview of YES courses including our new gender workshops to the Social Justice Committee. YES youth speaker Lauren Vargas shared how she had “wished a car would roll over her” so she wouldn’t have to face another day after realizing she was gay. The room was riveted to her words, and completely silenced by her heartbreak.



Eva Leivas-Andino addressing clergy and lay ministers

“Lauren was wonderful and you could feel a heart change in the room after she spoke” said Rev. Lois Murray, a chaplain who has spent 40 years in Latin America.

“ YES does such a wonderful job...not set up to convince, but to experience and trust that through communication, people very diametrically opposed can meet and provide a safe environment for children. ”

- Rev. Lois Murray, Chaplain

“ Yes is a really good thing” said Ottley, “because they are not taking sides, but rather opening up opportunities for dialogue, understanding and communication. The beginning of wisdom is to know you don’t know it all,” he firmly wraps up. Reverend Thomas A. Bruffell added to Murray and Ottley’s praise, saying, “Thank God this work is being done in an organized manner.”

“Georgia” Continued from Page 1

“ The evaluations from the Gender Continuum class YES conducted for Master’s students this summer were so outstanding, we sought to expand this training to the entire NGCSU faculty. ”

- Dr. Bob Michael, School of Education, NGCSU

Each participant will design a project for their field of study related to what they learn in the course. Compelling factors in the region:

- Immigrant population in Georgia grew 233% in 10 years (1990-2000).
- 50% of male teen suicides are completed by gay youth.
- Educators are divided over definitions of science as fact or theory.
- Polarization occurs based on religious beliefs.

“Leadership” Continued from Page 1

Alecs also hopes YES will reach many other locations with the message that it doesn’t have to be about agenda, but a larger purpose of families and kids. “Too many people think it’s about us and them,” Alecs said. “This course helped reassure me and gave me more confidence to keep doing what I’m doing as a teacher in schools.”

Alecs wasn’t the only one who walked away with more confidence. Alfredo, 16, empowered



OUTstanding Amarillo participants in the Leadership in Action course.



On the town square in Dahlonega, GA.

How to best respond to these and other challenges of a rapidly changing culture will be part of the course. This innovative partnership was proposed by the DMA and NGCSU School of Education making it a particularly powerful model for workability.

by the course, will use it to strengthen his GSA at Krop High school. Bianca, 17 said, “It allowed me to think about myself and the choices I make as a leader; it is very effective when paired with the communication foundation I received in the last course.”

For Scott Burnette, a counselor at Miami Edison Senior High, the goal he brought to the course was starting a GSA for his students. Priscilla Dames, Safe Schools coordinator for Miami-Dade County Public Schools, also participated. Priscilla has taken just about every course YES offers. “I’m pleased because I didn’t expect to write a mission statement for my goals as a leader in this topic,” she says. “I also left with my first action, to meet with Safe Schools facilitators and work on how to assist them. I came in just for some more information, and left with a purpose.”

“ It was awesome to interact with allies in other states I never would have met otherwise. ”

- Richard , Killian High School

Kiaora Society Membership

We thank our magnificent friends and long time supporters Ed McAmis and Gerson Gonzalez for an additional generous summer contribution. Kiaora, the founding name of our donor society, comes from the name of the street where Ed and Gerson live. Their beautiful home is a most welcoming place where friends gather to enjoy the most exquisite and gracious repasts. "Kia-ora" is a Maori word meaning, "Greeting, welcome".

Another long time friend and supporter, Kevin Veilleux, not only renewed, but increased his contribution to become a Kiaora Champion. Kevin stated that as his business success increases, so are his contributions to YES, a reflection of the true Champion that he is.

Dr. Karen Raben brings her considerable leadership skills to contribute as a YES Board member. She also shares the abundance of her life, contributing as a Kiaora Leader. Her most popular contribution however, has been introducing all of us at YES to her mom and our other mom, June Raben, who once again renews as a Kiaora Mentor.

We thank the Betsy Gordon Foundation for generously awarding funding to YES Institute Distance Learning Program. We thank our mutual friends Bonnie Morrison and Brenda Brockway for introducing us to the Betsy Gordon Foundation. We are also very grateful for the Goldstein Foundation and thank them for their ongoing support.



Kiaora Society

Kiaora Society members donate \$1,000 or more to the YES Institute annually.

Trustee
\$50,000 or more
Jonathan Lewis

Luminary
\$25,000 or more
Lang Baumgarten

Visionary
\$10,000 or more
Adrienne Arsh
Tim & Meredith Birrittella
John Devaney
Jonathan & Tina Kislak
Ed McAmis & Gerson González

Champion
\$5,000 or more
Greg Baldwin & José Castro
Rosa & Carlos de la Cruz
Stephen E. Herbits
Ralph Luftrin & Alan Lewis
Peter Pilofti & Joseph Rodano
Kevin Veilleux
Rev. Marta S. Weeks
Carol & Ed Williamson

Leader
\$2,500 or more
Connie Barden & Martha Fugate
William A. Beckett & Luis Braganca
Paula Black
Tom Blount
Russ Bogue & Peter Lovello
Paula & Bob Brockway
Douglas DeBoer & Howard Kurzweil
Mel Heifetz
Larry Luing & Dario Espinosa
Kevin Miller & Allan Hunter
Paula Morabito & Maria M. Yip
Karen Raben & Andrea Pernick
Bill Ross
The Schaeffer Family
Cynthia & Emilio Vázquez
Trae Williamson & Daniel Carter

Mentor
\$1,000 or more
Dr. Patrick Abuzeni
Nancy Allen
José Alonso
Maria Alonso & Alex Montague
Alfredo Barbery
Gary Bremen & Roger Boone
Jorge R. Centurión
Jerry Chasen & Mark Kirby
Bruce A. Christensen
Bob Cole
Carlos Cuartas & Jim O'Connor
Scott Danksy & John Dawson
Michael G. Epstein Ph.D.
Carol Fenster
Audrey Finkelstein
Joseph F. Fitzgerald & Kenneth G. Rau
Hector J. Garcia & George Hernandez Jr.
Cali & Carmen García-Vélez
Carlos García-Vélez & W. Kent Davis
Victor Garcia & Tim Wagoner
Thomas Gellman & Carlos Yudica
Randall R. Gluss
Dr. Isabel Gómez-Bassols & Eric Vasallo
Walter F. Goodman & Robert A. Flanders
Barbara T. Gray
Allen R. & Jill Greenwald
Andrea Greenwald & Michele Hill
Ed Guedes & Ric Ryan
James C. Hanrahan, Jr.
Marty Harris & Nikki Korval
Joel Hoffman & John Stuart
Lawrence R. Hyer
Jan Kirchoff
Kevin Koro
Joseph M. Kraus
Kirk Landon
George L. Lindemann, Jr.
Retta Logan & Family
Dr. John J. Martin, Jr. & Forrest McSurdy
Richard Milstein & Eric Hankin
Marsha Oldakowski & John Butler
Robert Oldakowski & Luis Mendoza
Ramon Pacios
Magda Pantaleon
José Luis Peré
June Raben
Gordon Rhodes
Harry Rimm
Elisa Robles
Frank Rodriguez
Howard Perry Rothberg II & Paul A. Scolieri-Rothberg
Juan Carlos Sagera & Raphael Wagner
Marty Schildhouse & Ed Miller
Janice & Howard Scholl
Lee Brian Schragger
Mark Scott
Martin H. Smith
Hortensia V. Soriano
Mark Steinberg & Dennis Edwards
Gene C. Sulzberger
Thomas Taylor
Thomas E. Thielen
Juan Carlos Urquiola
Jose Valdés-Fauli & Shed Boren
William Vaughan
Jorge Vazquez & Robert Armada
Patricia & Milton Wallace
Lori Weems
Laura White
Robin Wolff & Kathy Gregory
Patricia Woodson-Weinman
Rosie Zamora & Florence Ferre
Anonymous Donors

Foundations & Corporations

Bank of America Foundation
Betsy Gordon Foundation
Citigroup Foundation
Coldwell Banker Cares Community Foundation
Coral Gables Congregational Church
Communion Foundation
Gilead Pharmaceuticals
Gill Foundation
Goldstein Foundation
Joseph H. & Florence A. Roblee Foundation
Ruth Anderson Foundation
Shepard Broad Foundation
Southeast Florida Episcopal Foundation
Southern Country South Florida, Inc.
Women's Community Fund
Women's Fund of Miami Dade

Thankful for Mom

By Tim Wagoner

The recent loss of a friend's mother, reminded me how thankful I am of mine. To honor her and all mothers, I am launching the "Giving Thanks

“She is nurturing, caring, gentle, strong, loving and kind. What other meaning could she have?”

- Victor Garcia

for Mom Scholarship Fund" at YES to coincide with the Thanksgiving holiday. Donations to this fund will be used to ensure the participation of youth in YES workshops. Every Thanksgiving I will be making a donation to this fund. I invite you to join me in honoring your mother. All donations will be listed in the name of the mother honored, and if you wish, our ReVision newsletter will be sent to her with our acknowledgement. You can make a donation by calling Eva Leivas-Andino or go online to: www.yesinstitute.org/donate/mom

Middle Schools Confront Gender

Consider some of this summer's news items: Ronnie Paris was convicted of manslaughter this summer by a Tampa jury for killing his three-year-old child. He would hit the boy, throw him around to "make a man out of him". Paris' worry was that he might grow up "soft" or be a "sissy" and gay (The Miami Herald). A teen was kicked out of a local Broward mall because the security guard judged the boy's attire as "for girls only" and was barred entrance (The New Times). Middle schools such as Robert Renick, Centennial, WR Thomas, and Henry Filer



“YES Institute made a significant contribution to our school. We will definitely keep inviting them back.”

- Jackie Donor, Art therapist
Renick Middle

are asking for more workshops on gender. Educators are recognizing the powerful connection of gender stereotypes and harrasment of youth. Contact YES today to schedule an engagement.

Innovative Internships for Students



Gerald Conde, Production Assistant.

YES is offering two internships for Production Assistants. This opportunity will provide hands-on experience with leading technologies in the distance learning and online education fields. YES currently utilizes the following technologies and is actively exploring other tools.

- Live H.323 video conferencing to universities across the United States.

• Web streaming simulcasts to individuals who do not have video-conferencing equipment, using desktop videoconferencing technologies such as Flash Media Streaming Server 2 and Breeze from Macromedia, Inc.

If you are looking to gain experience in the areas of pre-production design, setup, and coordination of audio components, video and lighting design, this is a great opportunity. If you already have experience in videography, digital video, and/or broadcast production, it would be an asset.

Interns will work with the production of live broadcasts, including cueing-up, switching cameras, remote audio/video feeds, graphics and sound. Following the broadcasts, all digital files are edited, encoded and archived. If you are interested and would like to add work experience to your resume, please contact Tim Wagoner.



October/November 2005
5275 Sunset Drive
Miami, FL 33143
www.yesinstitute.org

Ministers Partner with Educators

See inside...

Barry Social Workers Engage



Youth speaker Lauren Vargas (center) offered gripping testimony to Chi Sigma Iota, the International Honors Society for Counseling Students.

“This was fascinating. Great insights to have heading into the counseling field.”
-Barry Student

“Although this topic is against my religious beliefs, this presentation was impressive.”
-Barry Student

Social work students Suzanne Ferrero and Lisa Bailey are working to create awareness on the topic of orientation on campus. Part of their campus outreach included a presentation by YES speakers



305-663-7195 www.yesinstitute.org

Vision

A community in which ALL youth develop as healthy individuals free of suicide, violence and discrimination.

Mission

To prevent suicide and ensure the healthy development of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and ALL youth by initiating dialogue, providing education and creating support systems.

Board of Directors

- Tim Birrittella**, MBA, Chair
- Paula Black**, Vice-Chair
- Hon. Robert Oldakowski**, MBA, CPA, Treasurer
- Nancy Allen**, Secretary
- Connie Barden**, RN, MSN, CCRN
- Marty Harris**
- Jan Kirchoff**
- Karen Raben**, MD
- Bill Ross**, MBA
- Emilio Vazquez**
- Trae Williamson**, ESQ

Staff

- Martha Fugate**, Director - martha@yesinstitute.org
- Carolyn S. Garwood, PhD**, Educational Specialist Liaison, Miami-Dade County Public Schools
- Eva Leivas-Andino**, Resource Development - eva@yesinstitute.org
- Tim Wagoner**, Technology Services - tim@yesinstitute.org
- Joseph Zolobczuk**, Education & Training - joseph@yesinstitute.org

Statistics

Gay Youth:

- 33% of all teen suicides
- 50% rejected by their parents

Heterosexual Youth:

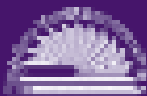
- 80% of youth harassed "as gay" actually identify as heterosexual
- 97% of all students hear anti-gay comments

Have we given youth permission to bully?

"An estimated 25-33% of US students are involved in bullying. Social acceptability of harassment is a consequence of many complex factors, including adults' approval and the influence of TV and video games that teach youth being mean is not only acceptable, but good."

- Dr. Howard Spivak, Tufts University

Accreditations



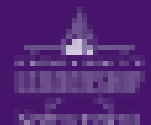
TEC-Accredited by the Dade-Monroe Teacher Education Center for Master Plan Points (MPP)



Florida State Board of Nursing providing continuing education to LPNs, RNs, and ARNP Professionals



Florida State Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, and Mental Health Counseling



North Georgia College and State University Professional Learning Units (PLUs)



Colorado Mountain College



Roaring Fork Valley School District (RE-1) Teacher Education

Next Courses

Gender Continuum - Saturday, November 5
9am-5pm - 8 CEU/TEC

Deciphering the Matrix - Saturday, November 12

Being & Belonging - Saturday, November 12
9am-1pm / 2pm-6pm - 4 CEU/TEC (each)

Essentials of Orientation - Saturday, December 10
9am-1pm - 4 CEU/TEC

Communication Solutions - Jan. 14 and 15, 2006
Saturday, 9am-5pm, Sunday, Noon-6pm