

# ifge's Thread

Volume 7, Issue 3

Winter 2001/2002

The International Foundation for Gender Education

## IFGE Board Members Attend HBIGDA Biennial Symposium

by Dr. S. Kristine James

The 17th Biennial Symposium of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association was held October 31 to November 4, 2001 at the San Luis Resort, Galveston TX. Galveston is the place that Harry Benjamin selected to start the HBIGDA on May 19, 1981. This symposium is held every two years at venues all over the world.

IFGE was well represented at this symposium by Board members Kristine James, Alison Laing, Hawk River-Stone, Dianne Ellaborn, and Jamison Green. Presenters included Rikki Swin and Marcos from RSI, Jason Cromwell, Sandra Samons, Phyllis Frye, Rosalynne Blumenstein and Barbara Warren of GIP in NYC, Jill Weiss, who will be one of speakers at our convention in 2002, Dr. Meltzer and staff, Drs. Schrang and Biber, Sheila Kirk, Ann Lawrence, Randi Ettner and more. We found many of our friends and members in the audience as well.

There were thirteen major symposiums and plenary sessions and, one early morning concurrent Workshop which covered 5 different subjects. Each symposium contained four separate papers authored by respected leaders in the community from all over the world. There were over 200 attendees from the USA, Canada and over 15 foreign countries.

HBIGDA provided IFGE with a table near the registration desk for three days, to pass out information and answer a lot of questions concerning what IFGE is all about and how the professional community can participate in our programs. We passed out many copies of Transgender Tapestry and signed up one new member under our Professional Membership Program. The primary objective of the IFGE Executive Committee, was to bring to the professional community, IFGE, its mission and purpose, and how it can work with care-givers to provide better service to our community. We believe that we have started to accomplish this goal.

HBIGDA is an organization whose members are the care givers, research and legal professionals that supply services and coun-

seling to the transsexual community. The sixth version of The Standards of Care for Gender Identity Disorders, published in 2001 are currently in effect. These standards are recognized as the guide lines for all surgeons, mental health professionals, hormone therapy and post-op follow-up of MtF or FtM during their transition.

Most of the presentations made on Thursday, were made by community leaders. Jamison Green set the pace with his talk on "The Language of Gender Variance". Is there a difference between transgendered, transsexual (or transexual), bi-gendered, queer, cross-dresser, transvestite? What are you? We discussed the fact that you can ask 100 people in our community and you are going to get 100 different answers to the question and therein lies the problem. In a profession that likes to put "everything in a box" and treat the problem according to the rules that fit that box, it is very difficult. This theme was carried out by many of the speakers that followed.

This was a great event that gave me ex-

tended coverage and direct contact with a portion of our community which many times is misunderstood by many of us. The discussions that I had with many of these service-providers and health care people were insightful and far-ranging. Most of the sessions that I attended, were focused, sometimes too detailed or lengthy, often controversial, but interesting.

The hotel was a wonderful venue with the Gulf of Mexico right out my front window. I was able to get some time in the Jacuzzi and the pool where I had an interesting conversation with Jill Weiss and friends. Although smoking may be bad for your health, several times when I stepped out the ballroom door into the patio area, I had the opportunity to speak with people whose names I have heard, but had never met. It was a wonderful experience, but I am not sure if I can go to the next one in 2003 in Denmark.

## TSELF Scholarship Awards Granted at SoCo Conference

The TSELF awards committee is pleased to announce that seven TSELF scholarships were awarded at the Southern Comfort Conference in Atlanta this past September.

Masen Davis of Los Angeles was awarded a special Leadership Award in Honor of Penne Ashe Matz for \$2000. Masen is attending the University of California in Los Angeles.

Charlotte Anjelica Kieltyka of Berwyn Illinois was awarded the Chicago Gender Society Award for \$1500. Charlotte is studying Social Work at Northwestern University in Chicago.

Bella Kaldera of Hubbardston Massachusetts was awarded a General Achievement Award for \$1250. Bella is studying for a Masters in Social Work at Salem State University in Massachusetts.

K. A. Fawcett was awarded a General

Achievement Award for \$1500. K. A. Fawcett is studying for a Masters in Public Health at the University of Washington in Seattle

Alexander Li-Hua Lee of Oakland California was awarded a General Achievement Award for \$2000. Alexander is studying for a J.D. at the Boalt Law School of the University of California in Berkely.

Garrett Aden Boardman of Tampa Florida was awarded the Youth Award for \$750. Garrett is studying Women's Studies with a focus on Social Work at the University of South Florida.

Malcom Himschoot of Denver Colorado was awarded the Lee Francis Heller Award for \$1000. Malcom is studying for a Masters in Divinity at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver Colorado

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## Dr Sharpe Convicted, IFGE and GLAD Make Joint Appearance

Dermatologist Richard Sharp was found competent to stand trial and convicted of murder last November for the shooting death of his wife. Dr Sharpe had plead not guilty by reason of insanity, and his defense council spent a lot of time citing his crossdressing as evidence of his poor mental condition. His crossdressing was also the major focus of the media's attention. The trial was nationally televised live in its entirety on Court TV.

Denise Leclair of the International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) was asked by Court TV to discuss transgender issues in a live interview from the Lawrence District Court in Massachusetts on November 16 during the trial. At Denise's invitation, Jennifer Levi, staff attorney from the Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD), also participated in the discussion. Ms Leclair stressed that the defendants gen-

der identity was no more relevant to his innocence or guilt than his religion and ethnicity are. Jennifer Levi also discussed the negative impact this portrayal has on transgendered people trying to live normal, productive lives. The interview concluded on a positive note, with one of the interviewers offering a personal story about a transgendered nurse who had helped her family.

## TG's Protected in Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD) ruled in last October that transgender people are protected under current Massachusetts laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex or disability. This makes Massachusetts the fourth state to bar discrimination of transgender people. Rhode Island, Minnesota and Con-

necticut also bar discrimination based on gender identity

The Commission did not actually decide on the case in question, but rather ruled that the case would have to be heard in lower court where it had previously been dismissed. It based its decision in part on the landmark 1989 US Supreme Court case, *Price Waterhouse v. Hopkins*. In that case, the Supreme Court had ruled that enforcing sex stereotypes is a form of sex discrimination. The MCAD also noted that although federal disability laws specifically excludes transsexualism, the Massachusetts law does not have the same exclusion.

Attorney Jennifer Levi, of the Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, who defended the case said "there is no principled reason, legal or otherwise, to graft an exclusion onto non-discrimination laws for transgender people."

## Excuse Us

### While We Remodel

IFGE has been undergoing a lot of changes over the last few months. The Synchronicity Bookstore has been relocated to the third floor within the main office. Changes in staff and a new accounting system have also resulted in some disorganization. As a result, we may have missed a few things. If you have any problems with a book order or subscription please let us know, and we will make sure it taken care of promptly!

## Winn-Dixie Protester Murdered

Terriane Summers of was found dead on December 12, in the driveway of her Jacksonville, Florida home. She died from a single .22 caliber gunshot wound to the back of her head, and reportedly had not been robbed. Many people are calling for the murder to be investigated as a hate crime.

Ms Summers was one of the leading activists and organizers in the protest against the Winn-Dixie grocery chain. Activists have been protesting Winn-Dixie for the firing of Peter Oiler, a 20 year employee, for crossdressing off the job.

Terriane Summers was a 22 year Navy veteran, and is survived by her spouse and two children.

## ifge's *THREAD*

The quarterly newsletter of the International Foundation for Gender Education

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### IFGE's offices and the Synchronicity Bookstore are located at:

14 Felton St  
 Third Floor  
 Waltham MA 02453

### Our mailing address is:

IFGE  
 PO Box 540229  
 Waltham, MA 02454-0229

Tel: (781) 899-2212

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## RSI Rikki Swin Institute for Gender Education, Research, Library and Archives Needs Your Input

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

RSI is preparing to begin production of the first in a series of digital video education films. This completed production will be disseminated to professionals and laypersons having potential influence regarding transperson-youth. We are primarily interested in identifying and offering possible solutions to issues they may encounter with these youth.

At RSI we have determined that our long range mission will best be served by first addressing those with influence over the acceptance and inclusion of transperson-youth in mainstream society. By aiding professionals and laypersons to teach non prejudicial attitudes toward transperson-youth, we will ultimately

reduce the number of adults that have little or no knowledge of transpersons. Furthermore we will begin to shift an increasing number of adults from harboring negative prejudices.

The video production format will be that of an interview conducted within an educational documentary. The "players" will be today's experts, i.e., those who have professional and personal experience with the issues. The questions and concerns can vary between cultures, while some will be universal.

This is an invitation for you to submit questions that you would like presented. We would like to know what you consider to be the most pressing issues surrounding the transperson-

youth of today. While we prefer straightforward questions that we will put to the experts, we will be happy to accept your contribution in whatever format you choose. Perhaps you have a firsthand experience you would like to share. We are open to your input.

The audience will be educators, school administrators, school boards, parents and family of transperson-youth, their peers, transperson youth, and their peers. The completed production will be distributed through marketing efforts targeted to reach these specific individuals. At this writing we have secured the endorsement of a major educational system in the Midwest. We feel that other such relationships can be readily accomplished, however this will be best served after the product is available. Along with in-person contact, other forms of marketing will include professional trade publications as well as other forms of media. This product will also be made available via digital streaming video on the Internet.

Please don't wait until we're done to comment. All too often people say, "I would have done it differently." Of course, that's only fair if you weren't asked for your opinion in the first place. This time you are being asked. Please take a moment and tell us what questions and issues you would like to see presented. If you feel like it, suggest potential interviewees. We value your thoughts. Please indicate if you choose to be identified as a contributor and we will include you in the credits if appropriate.

We also welcome your suggestions regarding future topics and/or audience groups to add to our potential list. The primary emphasis is, and will always be, our mission, which is to "Stimulate Changes in culture to improve transperson\* understanding and acceptance."

Sincerest thanks and best wishes,

Rikki Swin for RSI

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Chicago, IL. 60610

Phone (312) 440.9292, Fax (312) 255-0575

\*Transperson; a term that includes cross-dressers, transgenderists, transsexuals and others having a gender related issue.

PS: Feel free to share this request with those you deem appropriate.

## Nancy Cain Resigns as Executive Director of IFGE

Nancy Cain has resigned as Executive Director of the International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) as of the end September. Nancy left to take the position of Assistant Director of Food Purchasing at the Middlesex Human Service Agency (MHSA) in Waltham, Massachusetts. MHSA is a non-profit company which focuses on serving underprivileged residents of the greater Boston area. They provide a wide variety of services, ranging from battered women's and homeless shelters to drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs.

Nancy has remained very active with IFGE since her move, however, volunteering sev-

eral nights a week in the office to assist with strategic planning and publication of Transgender Tapestry. Nancy had been Executive Director since January of 1999, when she filled the vacancy left by outgoing Executive Director Nancy Nangeroni. Nancy Cain had previously held the position of Director of Operations at IFGE since 1996, and before that she had been a longtime volunteer.

Denise Leclair, manager of IFGE's Synchronicity Bookstore, has been named General Manager until a new Executive Director is appointed by IFGE's Board of Directors.

## Vanessa Hemingway Dies at age 69

Dr. Vanessa Hemingway, daughter of renowned author Ernest Hemingway, died on October 1, 2001 in the Miami-Dade Women's Detention Center from complications due to heart disease and high blood pressure. Hemingway, a former medical doctor and author, had been arrested for indecent exposure and resisting arrest without violence on September 25 in Key Biscayne Florida.

Ms Hemingway, who suffered from manic depression, was walking nude along the main thoroughfare in Key Biscayne carrying her

dress and shoes when she was arrested. She had attended a party the previous day in a nearby town where she had come out to a number of old friends, and had been described as being in good spirits at the time.

Vanessa Hemingway was a post-operative transsexual, born Gregory Hemingway, the third child of Ernest Hemingway. Unfortunately, most of the news services who reported the story continued to refer to Ms. Hemingway with masculine pro-nouns and by her birth name, disregarding her transition.

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*"Life is a work-in-progress. ... I've had therapy, I've hugged trees, I've chanted. I've done all that. What that does is it helps you control your responses to situations, but I don't think you can ever change who you are."*

— *Boy George to London's Gay Times, October issue.*

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## Calendar of Events

### Colorado Gold Rush

**March 7 - 10**

At the Red Lion Hotel, Denver CO  
Hosted by: the Gender Identity  
Center of Colorado  
Contact: GIC  
1455 Ammons Street Suite 100  
Lakewood CO 80215-4993  
Phone: (303) 202-6466  
E-mail: [gicofcolo@aol.com](mailto:gicofcolo@aol.com)

### The Georgetown Journal of Gender and the Law 2002 Symposium

"Crossing Boundaries, Redefining Gender:  
A New Front on Equality"  
**Wed., February 27th, 2002**, 2-6 p.m.  
Georgetown University Law Center,  
McDonough Hall  
Moot Court Auditorium  
600 New Jersey Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
Presenters include Jennifer Levi  
and Phyllis Frye

### Transgender 2002 IFGE's 16th Annual Convention

**April 3 - 7**

Embassy Suites Hotel, Nashville TN  
Hosted by the Tennessee Vals & IFGE  
Contact: CIOE Enterprises  
PO Box 61  
Easton PA 18044-0061  
Phone: (610) 759-1761  
E-mail: [SKristineJ@aol.com](mailto:SKristineJ@aol.com)  
Web [www.ifge.org](http://www.ifge.org)

### Magnolia Ball

**April 20th**

E. Independence Blvd. Holiday Inn,  
Charlotte, NC  
Hosted by: Kappa Beta chapter of Tri-Ess  
E-mail: [nctgunity@yahoo.com](mailto:nctgunity@yahoo.com)  
Web: [www.geocities.com/nctgunity](http://www.geocities.com/nctgunity)  
Phone (704) 565-5034

### Spring Fling Weekend

**May 10 - 12**

At the Provincetown Inn  
Provincetown Massachusetts  
Hosted by the  
Tiffany Club of New England (TCNE)

Informal weekend getaway,  
Saturday evening banquet.

Contact: Brenda R  
PO Box 540071  
Waltham MA 02454  
Phone: (781) 891-9325  
(Tuesdays 7-11pm)  
E-mail: [events@tcne.org](mailto:events@tcne.org)  
Web: [www.tcne.org](http://www.tcne.org)

### Esprit Gala

**May 13 - 19**

At the Red Lion Hotel,  
Port Angeles, WA  
Contact: Esprit  
PO Box 90816  
Portland, OR 97290  
Web: [www.espritagala.com](http://www.espritagala.com)

### National Conference on Gender 7th National Gender Lobby Day

**May 18 - 20**

Washington Hilton and Towers,  
Washington DC  
Hosted by: Gender PAC  
Contact: GPAC  
1743 Connecticut Ave NW, 4th FLR  
Washington DC 20009  
E-mail: [NCG@gpac.org](mailto:NCG@gpac.org)  
Fax: (202) 462-6744

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The next scholarships will be announced at the IFGE 2002 Convention in Nashville.

The International Foundation for Gender Education is providing these scholarships through its collaborative Transgender Scholarship and Education Legacy Fund (TSELF). TSELF scholarships are available for "out and proud" transgendered students of any age for post-secondary educational needs in the helping and caring professions in the United States and Canada.

Each scholarship will provide supplemental funding for post-secondary students who have a demonstrated ability in and commitment to affecting change in the transgender communities through their commitment to working and being educated in the helping and caring professions. These include, but are not limited to, Social

Services, Health Care, Religious Instruction (all denominations), Teaching and the Law.

CONTACT:

Carrie Davis, Project Director  
[carrie@tself.org](mailto:carrie@tself.org) or,

Julie Johnson, Chairperson IFGE  
[julie@tself.org](mailto:julie@tself.org)

Complete information and applications may be found at

<http://www.tself.org>

or through the IFGE web site at

<http://www.ifge.org>

In addition, you may contact TSELF directly at the International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE)

TSELF Awards Committee

P.O. Box 540229

Waltham, Ma 02454-0229

### "Be-All" You Can Be Conference

**May 29 - June 2**

Arlington Heights Illinois  
Sponsored by: Chicago Gender Society  
& Chi Chapter Tri-Ess  
Contact: Be-All 2002  
c/o Olivia  
PO Box 785  
Prospect Heights Illinois 60070  
Web: [www.be-all.org](http://www.be-all.org)

### A S.P.I.C.E.

### For All Times Conference

**July 10 - 14**

Richmond Virginia  
Hosted by SPICE  
For partners of crossdressers (no  
crossdressing allowed at the conference).  
Contact: SPICE  
PO Box 9481  
Virginia Beach, VA 23450-9481  
E-mail: [triess\\_spice@yahoo.com](mailto:triess_spice@yahoo.com)

### Full Circle of Women Conference September 15 - 17

At the Manzanita Village  
Buddhist Retreat Center  
A politically incorrect exploration  
of womanhood.  
Contact: Janis  
E-mail: [info@gendersanity.com](mailto:info@gendersanity.com)