



# ReVision

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

## It Takes a Village

On two consecutive Mondays, youth from The Village, a residential drug rehabilitation program, came to YES Institute to examine gender. Fifteen teenage boys arrived the first week, many reflecting the "male tough guise" posture they would soon learn about. Initial shyness began to fade as they circled together to solve gender puzzles. As the course progressed, they began to open up more and were quite savvy at connecting what they were learning with their daily experiences of gender.



Youth from the Village assemble a gender puzzle.

Seeing the boys' response, vocational therapist Maria James wanted the female residents to have the same learning opportunity. The girls were enthusiastic from the moment they arrived. Eager to learn new information, they had many questions about intersex births and how gender is managed in the medical community. We look forward to more courses with the Village youth.

## Citibank Engages

Invited by Leticia Carrazana and the Latin American Division of Citigroup, Martha Fugate and YES intern Allison Tinney spoke to Citibank employees as part of diversity awareness for Gay Pride month. First in Miami and a week later in Ft. Lauderdale, YES met with employees eager to discuss ways of maintaining the most inclusive and team-driven work environment.



Citibank and YES together.

YES is very proud of our partnership with Citigroup, one of the Fortune 500 companies to receive a 100% rating from HRC (Human Rights Campaign) on diversity. We thank Leticia Carrazana, Barbara Romani and Lula Folgosa for their ongoing support.

Visit [www.yesinstitute.org](http://www.yesinstitute.org) to access upcoming speaking engagements, educational workshops and make online contributions.

## Teaching Teachers



"On-air" with NGCSU.

By Susan Ferrell, Assistant Professor of Middle Grade Education, NGCSU School of Education

Late in May 2005, Dr. Bob Michael, Dean of the School of Education at North Georgia College and State University, asked if I would facilitate a graduate distance learning class on gender. He explained that the class was being taught by staff at the YES Institute in Miami. I agreed to help, mainly because the course syllabus and required readings looked interesting. Since my education included a degree in social work and a variety of experiences, I thought I knew a great deal about gender already - but boy was I wrong! This course changed the way I think about sex and gender. I now realize how everything we do as humans is shaped by and sifted through the filter we call



NGCSU class broadcast between Miami and Dahlonega.

gender. One of the most important things I've learned from this class is that people would rather die than be something other than who they really are. The implications of this fact are huge for those of us who teach.

Every day, middle school students around the country are harassed by their peers. The content of the taunting frequently centers on gender. I never knew exactly why these types of bullying behaviors impacted me in such a strong way until I facilitated the Gender Continuum class. This course was not what I expected. It is not about values and beliefs, nor is it about acceptance. It is about facts. It is the facts that I hope will help me think and not merely react when I hear or witness children attacking each other at my school.

**“I enjoyed our course more than any other that I have taken in my undergrad or graduate programs.”**

-Julie Hunt, Department Chair,  
Special Education,  
Riverwood High School, GA,  
Graduate Student NGCSU


**Look inside! Georgia graduate-level Gender Course**  
[www.yesinstitute.org/demo](http://www.yesinstitute.org/demo)


## Working With Pioneering Educators

By Martha Fugate, YES Director

US News & World Report ranks North Georgia College & State University 13th out of all public master's universities in the South. Observing presentations of students in our class was watching this excellence in action. We were very inspired seeing how easily they designed lesson plans introducing the concept of transgender to third grade students. In a million years, I would have never dreamed it up. Their idea to have third grade students review policies on gender through internet searches reminds me how schools, teaching and teachers are changing.



Tim Wagoner, tuning technology

Consumer's Digest also named NGCSU the 5th Best Value in Public Higher Education in the nation. We agree, and we are very proud to be working in partnership with these leaders in education.

# Awestruck by Gender Insights

Therapists, families and youth joined us for the recent Gender Continuum course. While therapists may sit comfortably with a clinical curiosity about gender discoveries, parents, grandparents and youth are often more fearful. One of the most rewarding aspects of this work is watching fear disappear and slowly be replaced with fascination and new personal insights. At each break, parents asked questions revealing how new information had

shifted their understanding. Eight hours exploring gender dissipated old misconceptions and led to many new ways of looking at what had once seemed so familiar.

**“I learned a great deal and I appreciate you opening my mind. This is like being at the beginning of a new world.”**

- Grandfather



Attendees in the Gender Continuum course.

# Voicing Purpose

A special visitor for our July Communication Solutions course was Bekki McQuay, Director of OUTstanding Amarillo. She spent an entire week at YES learning about our organization and how to take our education models back to Texas. Maria James returned to do the course with six youth from The Village drug rehab program. High school and visiting

university students joined parents, social workers and other community leaders, all interested in learning new methods of effective communication.

**“These were the best two days of my life. I have never been able to be as open as you guys helped me to be this weekend.”**

- Corey, Village youth participant



In the YES Education Center.

# Bridging the Language Gap

By Enrique Carrillo, Volunteer course leader

One of our surprises in adapting the YES courses to Spanish has been discovering how little of the most basic terminology exists in that language – words such as *straight*, *coming out*, etc. It's no wonder that this issue is so little

discussed in the Hispanic community; the fundamental tool of dialogue – language – is lacking altogether. Once again, YES is breaking new ground in facilitating vital information and education to the Spanish-speaking community. I am proud to be part of this new YES initiative in Spanish.

### Principios Esenciales YES Institute:

Friday, **SEPT 23**, 2PM - 6PM

Friday, **OCT 21**, 2PM - 6PM

**305-663-7195** para más información.



Dr. Tania Diaz, (right), speaks to Hispanic parents about the process of teenagers coming out.

# Therapists Listen and Learn



CAU students with YES speaker Richard Torres and Dr. Clark.

Carlos Albizu University has been a frequent destination for YES during the past two months. Youth speaker Richard Torres went to CAU on his first solo presentation for YES Institute. He enjoyed the opportunity to share his experiences of what life is really like for a gay, Hispanic teenager.



Eva and Dr. Tania Diaz with CAU students.

“They were surprised to see that a young person like me was not afraid to share my life story with strangers,” said Richard. YES staff member Eva Leivas-Andino joined new speaker Harry Congdon, LCSW, for another presentation to CAU graduate students. Students appreciated Harry's clinical expertise on the subject.

**“As a future clinician, this was a wonderful experience; more knowledge will allow me to be more sensitive with these youth.”**

- CAU student

**“Muchas gracias por su presentacion, me hicieron sentir muy comodo. Tenia miedo de venir y lo postpuse muchas veces... pero gracias... es lo que necesitaba para aprender y poder comprender a mi hija. No es facil como padre pero estoy tratando y este curso me ha ayudado.”**

- Padre de una hija gay

Translation: Thank you very much for the presentation, you made me feel very comfortable. I was afraid to come and I postponed it several times... but thanks... it is what I needed to learn and understand my daughter. It is not easy as a parent but I am trying and this course has helped me.

- Parent of a gay youth

# Kiaora Society Growing

Our dear friend Lang Baumgarten has once again shown bold leadership in his support to make the world safer for all youth. He becomes the first Kiaora Luminary with his pledge of \$25,000. In making his pledge, Lang issues an invitation to other friends of YES to increase their donations and contributions. We are very grateful for Lang's generous gift and friendship.

Long-time friend and community leader Adrienne Arshnt has also increased her contribution, renewing as a Kiaora Visionary. In addition to her support in Miami, she also continues her philanthropic family tradition by bringing YES programs to Delaware through the Arshnt Foundation of Delaware. We are very grateful to Adrienne for her ongoing support.

We thank stalwart supporter Steve Herbits for renewing as Kiaora Champion. We are very grateful to Russell Bogue & Peter Lovello for generously increasing their contribution to become Kiaora Leaders. Once again,

Southern Country South Florida, Inc. (SCSF) donated a portion of the proceeds of their annual Hoedown to YES. We thank all of SCSF, especially Gary Bremen and Roger Boone, for their support and hard work.

A big welcome and thank you to new Kiaora Mentors Carol Fenster and Kevin Koro. We are very grateful for the loyal support of Jose Luis Pere, Gene Sulzberger, Jorge Centurion, George Lindemann, Dr. Patrick Abuzeni, Howard Perry Rothberg II & Paul A. Scolieri-Rothberg, Dr. John Martin & Forrest McSurdy, and Tim Wagoner & Victor Garcia, all renewing Kiaora Mentors. We also thank Gilead Pharmaceuticals and Tino Quintero as well as the Shepard Broad Foundation for their funding and renewed support to YES.

A special thanks to YES board members Jan Kirchoff and Dr. Karen Raben for generously providing funding to hire our youth interns this summer (see page 4). It was great to be able to reward their extraordinary contributions.

For the fifth consecutive year Berensfeld, Spritzer, Shecter & Sheer, Certified Public Accountants, audited YES Institute's Financial Statements, **showing 92% of all revenues went to programs and 8% to administration and fundraising.** We are very proud to continue meeting the highest standards for effective resource management. Statement of Financial Position and Management letter is available to YES donors upon request. If you have any questions, please call Eva Leivas-Andino at 305-663-7195.

# Honoring a Courageous Mother

The American Institute for Public Service, established by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis in 1972, honors exemplary community service with the Jefferson Award. Based in Washington, D.C., the Institute works in partnership with local media outlets from around the country to pay tribute to "ordinary people who do extraordinary things." YES Institute's Eva Leivas-Andino was nominated for her courageous voice in the Hispanic community as the mother of a gay son. The loyal listeners of Radio Cadena Univision (WQBA) voted her Miami's winner and Jefferson Award recipient.

Eva Leivas-Andino and YES Director Martha Fugate attended the national ceremonies where winners from across the nation were honored. A three-day whirlwind schedule included an introductory dinner, tour of Washington, D.C. and a black-tie Senate reception where senators honored award winners from their states. The events culminated in a formal gala dinner where the menu included (in honor of Eva, we're sure) dulce de leche ice cream for dessert!

We thank radio personality and Kiaora member Dr. Isabel Gomez-Bassols for supporting Eva's work in the Hispanic community as well as Radio Cadena Univision for their partnership and the untold number of listeners who voted for Eva, opening their hearts to a new conversation for the Hispanic community.



Eva Leivas-Andino, Martha Fugate

**“As I stood in front of 200 attendees, I recalled my fear and shame when I first learned my son Paolo is gay. That fear is gone now thanks to the education provided by YES Institute.”**

- Eva Leivas-Andino

# Hoedown? YES!

YES Institute received a generous contribution from Southern Country South Florida, a community-based, all-volunteer nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion of Country & Western activities within the gay and lesbian community. Southern Country South Florida is also a member of the International Association of Gay and Lesbian Country Western Dance Clubs. Our thanks to all the SCSF dancers and members.



YES staff with a check from SCSF

## Kiaora Society

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



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**\$50,000 or more**  
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August/September 2005  
5275 Sunset Drive  
Miami, FL 33143  
www.yesinstitute.org

## First Graduate Course

Link inside...

## Books for You, \$ for Education

If you need to purchase **any book or other product** available through Amazon.com, go to:

<http://education.yesinstitute.org>  
and click "Bookstore"

YES Institute will receive a percentage donation from your purchase. Books listed in the bibliography of our graduate-level Gender Continuum course are shown as featured items.

## 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



### 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.

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## YES Youth Interns

Allison Tinney first came to YES Institute when she was 14. She returned this summer from Smith College, where she is a junior and a campus rep for Apple Computer, Inc.



Keren and Allison during the NGCSU Gender Continuum broadcast.

She has been working with Tim Wagoner as technical and video production intern, helping to produce our distance learning course. Keren Pilinger joined us again this summer and began work on the production of YES Institute's ten-year anniversary book, due for publication in 2006. Lauren Vargas, after taking a communication course in July, began



Lauren Vargas, Intern.

volunteering the following Monday and attended her first speaking engagement two days later! We welcome the talent and commitment of these young leaders. All three plan to return in January 2006 to participate in our first Train the Trainer class.

## Educational Accreditations



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



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



Colorado Mountain College



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



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



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



Accredited courses for counselors, nurses, teachers, and parents.

**Essentials of Orientation**  
**September 9 (4 CEU/TEC)**  
**Fri, 9am-1pm**

**Communication Solutions**  
**October 15 & 16 (12 CEU/TEC)**  
**Sat & Sun, Noon-6pm both days**

**Gender Continuum**  
**November 5 (8 CEU/TEC)**  
**Fri, 9am-5pm**

**Deciphering the Matrix and Being & Belonging**  
**November 12 (4 CEU/TEC each)**  
**Fri, 9am-1pm, 2pm-6pm**

Register at [yesinstitute.org/register](http://yesinstitute.org/register)  
or call 305-663-7195