



# New Perspectives: A Forum on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

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**Gilberto Pinela** (Moderator) is synonymous with Latino St. Louis. His interests are wide-ranging as are his influences. From radio and television pioneer, actor, civic leader to successful businessman, Pinela has traveled a long and ultimately fulfilling road to St. Louis beginning in San Juan, Puerto Rico with a stop in New York City. Pinela is the FIRST non-native Hispanic in the state of Missouri to host a Spanish language television variety talk show. Acting is also his passion. Pinela's feature film roles include being cast as an extra in "Alice", "Saving Grace" and most recently, "The Informant" with Matt Damon. On the theatre stage, he played roles as *Bildad* in "JOB" and a *TV News Anchor* in "P.S.... I got something to tell you mi Amor." Prior to discovering his passion for the media, Pinela was elected President, and later appointed as the first Executive Director of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan St. Louis

**Alana Fields** is a 2008 graduate of Washington University in St. Louis. She received her Bachelors of Arts in African and African American Studies with minors in Architecture and Visual Communications. She is currently a degree candidate for a Masters of Arts in American Culture Studies at Washington University. In the community, Alana is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, a past member and continued supporter of the Committee Organized for Rape Education (CORE), has created partnerships to aid underprivileged youth in closing the technology gap, and is constantly seeking additional opportunities to improve the quality of life for underserved minorities. During her undergraduate career at Wash U, Alana attempted to be substantially involved in GLBTQ community, as a member of students group and as an advocate. As a graduate of various diversity leadership initiatives, Alana has realized the need to initiate and facilitate discussion pertaining to the state of affairs and need for action for disadvantaged minorities. Alana plans to become more involved in advocacy, outside the Washington University community in an effort to END THE SILENCE about the injustices we face daily.

**Phil Efird** is the President of Marketing, Innovation & Growth and the current Chair of Wachovia Gay & Lesbian Employee Resource Network. Phil has worked with Wachovia since 1999. He is an honors graduate of the University of Texas at Austin where he earned his degree in Applied Learning & Development. He has been active in the Wachovia Securities' Gay & Lesbian Employee Resource Network and has served on the firm's Diversity Council. He enjoys distance cycling as well as Spanish and Portuguese language studies.

**Kevin Hawkins** is a native of St. Louis who currently working to complete graduate studies at University of Missouri St. Louis' School of Social Work. He has been very active over the past several years as an activist working for LGBT equality in the region. Through his work with organizations like PROMO, Planned Parenthood of St. Louis Region and National Conference for Community and Justice he has had the privilege of working with youth to provide support and education to foster empowerment. For the past 5 years, Kevin has been a volunteer advisor for Growing American Youth, a support organization for LGBTQ youth in the St. Louis area.

**Rob Good** is a high school social studies teacher at Ladue Horton Watkins High School where he teaches African-American Studies, Advanced Placement United States History, and United States History. He serves on Ladue's District Diversity Committee, the 4-A's committee, and he sponsors the Gay-Straight Alliance at the high school. He has facilitated diversity workshops and dialogue groups for A World of

Difference, the National Conference for Community and Justice, the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri and Focus St. Louis (Youth, Community, and Teacher Leadership Programs). He has also served on the staffs of NCCJ's Anytown Youth Leadership Institute, the Dismantling Racism Institute, and the Inclusion Institute for Educators. Rob for the past seven years, has had the unique privilege of working with you people at Ladue High School to raise awareness about sexual orientation and gender identity, and he has witnessed remarkable growth over those years. Because of these students's activism, the high school has become a safer and more inclusive community. While much work remains, the rapid change in attitudes at Ladue High School has been a source of hope and inspiration for him.

**Debbie Smith** is an ally to the LGBT community in a very personal way. Her spouse, Michelle, is transgender and transitioned in 2007 and her son Matthew recently came out as being gay. Debbie has been thrust into this role in a very short period of time and has responded through countless hours learning about and supporting the LGBT community through her involvement with Pride St Louis, support of the St Louis Gender Foundation which her spouse Michelle is Vice President and Outreach Coordinator, and by supporting her son Matthew's exploration of his newly accepted sexual orientation.

**Susan Block is** the Former Administrative Judge of the Family Court of St. Louis County. Susan possesses a wealth of experience in all areas of family law. Her professional publications, trial advocacy teaching, and distinguished judicial service reflect her comprehensive expertise to handle complex family law cases.