

The international resource for educators, researchers and therapists

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Federal funds create sexuality educator jobs

With the U.S. economy still in a tailspin, this is a bad time to be looking for work. Unless you happen to be a sexuality educator.

During the next five years, the federal government will spend \$375 million on sexuality education initiatives as part of the Teen Pregnancy Prevention program. The first wave of new monies — \$75 million — has arrived in checking accounts at 75 nonprofits, health agencies, school districts and universities nationwide.

"I've been in this field for 22 years and I've never seen the likes of this before," says Carole Miller, MEd, vice president of education for

But some enjoy
working
independently

Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest (PPGNW).

Miller's organization is part of a coalition of Planned Parenthood affiliates that is receiving \$4 million annually to

replicate the Teen Outreach Program, a federally-approved sexuality education curriculum, at 73 sites in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington.

In coming years, the coalition plans to hire 38 managers, trainers and sexuality educators. Some jobs have already been posted at the national Planned Parenthood website. (<http://bit.ly/2HyJR>)

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The U.S. Congress authorized spending \$375 million over five years on sexuality education initiatives. Photo courtesy of Wikipedia Commons

News of Members

Barry McCarthy (Washington, D.C.) and Michael Metz have authored another book: *Enduring Desire: Your Guide to Lifelong Intimacy*, published by Routledge. In the book, they describe their “good-enough sex” approach to the general public.

The AASECT Board of Directors approved the following individuals as members of the Student Membership Committee: **Heidi Woodruff** (Clarksville, Tenn.), **Sandra Greenfield** (Wilmington, Del.), **Rosara Robinson Torrisi** (Port Washington, N.Y.), and **Elizabeth (Beth) Boatman** (Fort Worth, Texas). **Rachel Needle** (West Palm Beach, Fla.) chairs the committee.

We would like to welcome 51 new and returning members to AASECT: **Jessica Boehme** (West Chester, Pa.), **Kathleen Scarbo** (Kapa’a, Hawaii), **Louise Suggs** (Charlotte, N.C.), **Sarah Trance** (Philadelphia, Pa.), **Dee Ann Walker** (Washington, D.C.), **Kristin Zeising** (San Diego, Calif.), **Lonnie Barbach** (Mill Valley, Calif.), **Jacqueline Barnes** (Saint Charles, Mo.), **Carlo Borea** (Miami, Fla.), **Karsten Byers** (Cambridge, Minn.), **Shannon Chavez** (Beverly Hills, Calif.), **Mimi Devine-Touhey** (Waukesha, Wisc.), **Raashida Edwards** (New York, N.Y.), **Loretta Fitzgibbons** (Hasbrouck Heights, N.J.), **Elizabeth Haas** (Ann Arbor, Mich.), **Rheuben Hicks** (Ann Arbor, Mich.), **Ng Hoi Nga** (Hong Kong, China), **Krista Holt-Shippey** (St. Louis, Mo.), **Jeannette Hopkins** (Kansas City, Mo.), **Karin Kennedy** (Coldwater, Mich.), **Sheryl Kridler** (Philadelphia, Pa.), **Frederick Mondin** (Boise, Idaho), **Kulkiran Nakai** (Chicago, Ill.), **Nancy Nowell** (Flourtown, Pa.), **Chris Nufer** (New York, N.Y.), **Adrienne Parker** (Chico, Calif.), **Pamela Pressman** (Voorhees, N.J.), **Constance Quinn** (Scarsdale, N.Y.), **Peter Roussos** (Del Mar, Calif.), **Shellie Ruge** (Phoenix, Ariz.), **Susan Tinsley** (Denver, Colo.), **Jennifer Williams** (Austin, Tex.), **Mara Yacobi** (Edgewater, N.J.), **Meghan Yarmak** (Anchorage, Alaska), **Helen Zwiebel** (Maryville, Mo.), **Francheska Aguinot** (Omaha, Nebr.), **Thomas Albert Chastain** (Ada, Okla.), **Erin Clouthier** (Lexington, Ky.), **Anna Doogan** (Portland, Ore.), **David Forrest** (Tacoma, Wash.), **Celeste Hirschman** (Sunnyvale, Calif.), **Cory Honickman** (Los Angeles, Calif.), **Carolyn Meagher** (Indianapolis, Ind.), **Ethan Schwab** (Seattle, Wash.), **Ronlad Shearon** (Bison, Okla.), **Heidi Shonkoff** (Berkeley, Calif.), **Holly Smith** (Brookings, Ore.), **Lanae St. John** (Mill Valley, Calif.), **Daryl Steiger** (St. Louis, Mo.), **Natasha Janina Valdez** (Dallas, Tex.), and **Faye Wallus** (Rochester, Minn.).

— *Hani Miletski*

contemporary sexuality

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From the Treasurer

By Debra W. Haffner, AASECT Treasurer

I am happy to report that AASECT is thriving financially. The Board of Directors is delighted with the outstanding new financial management of AASECT. We are receiving timely invoices, financial reports and check ledgers to review on a regular basis.

The audit for fiscal year 2010 is now completed.

The organization's deficit, which had been growing steadily for four of the past five years, has been reduced to less than \$4,000 from a high of over \$162,000 in 2008. For the second year in a row, revenues exceeded expenses significantly in order to begin to recoup the deficit that had been previously allowed.

In addition, AASECT doubled the change in net assets this year, and the Board of Directors is

confident that we will retire the accumulated deficit by the end of the current fiscal year. Revenues in fiscal year 2010 were \$677,275; expenses were \$573,021, a net of \$104,263. AASECT's annual conference and associated fundraising activities netted about \$50,000.

At the halfway mark in this fiscal year (July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011), the budget is on track. There were costs associated with the transition that were carefully planned for and not exceeded as we moved our operations to Washington, D.C.

Please know that the board is working closely with the AASECT management team to assure careful use of our resources within our budget.

Please join me in thanking the members of the Finance Committee — Joe DiNortcia, Don Dyson, Elizabeth Schroeder and Elizabeth Casparian — for their hard work.



“The Board of Directors is confident that we will retire the accumulated deficit by the end of the current fiscal year.”

— Debra Haffner

Interested in medical sexology? Join this special interest group

By Larry Siegel, Medical Sexology SIG Leader

In 2010, the AASECT Board of Directors approved the establishment of a new Special Interest Group (SIG) for those interested in Medical Sexology. More sexuality educators, counselors and therapists are seeing the importance of understanding sexuality and sexual issues from an integrated perspective. Many of us have been keenly aware of the dynamic interplay between biological, psychological, sociocultural and spiritual aspects of sex and sexuality. We are also keenly aware of the growing body of research on the neurochemical and physiological aspects of sexual functioning. This has led to both an over medicalization and a better understanding of sexual functioning.

The purpose of the Medical Sexology SIG is to help both AASECT members and the general public better understand some of the complex medical issues and underpinnings involved in sexuality, from the impact of illness and medications on sexual functioning to understanding the biology of gender.

We are seeking any and all AASECT members interested in being part of the Medical Sexology SIG. We are also interested in hearing what questions, issues, or concerns you may have that could be addressed by this SIG. If you are interested in participating and being invited to join the dedicated listserve, contact me at larry.siegel@sageinstitute.org.

AASECT Awards Call for Nominations

AASECT will be recognizing excellence in the sexuality field with awards in several areas at our 43rd annual conference in San Diego, April 27-May 1, 2011. Nominate yourself, a colleague, or a star in the field whose work you admire.

Awards will be given in these categories: Professional Standard of Excellence Award, Distinguished Service to AASECT Award, Humanitarian Award, AASECT Book Award and AASECT Audiovisual Award.

Nomination deadline is March 1, 2011.

More information on award categories can be found at aasect.org.

Jobs

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“I’ve been in this field for 22 years and I’ve never seen the likes of this before.”
— Carole Miller

Planned Parenthood of New York City and Planned Parenthood Greater Orlando will also receive federal grants of \$611,823 and \$477,790 respectively during each of the next five years. Another dozen or so Planned Parenthood affiliates are serving as subcontractors in other cities for some of the Teen Pregnancy Prevention grantees, Miller says.

In addition, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded \$25 million to 27 organizations to test innovative strategies for reducing teen pregnancies and preventing sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

Although exact figures aren’t available, it’s safe to say this influx of new dollars will create hundreds of new jobs nationwide.

“It’s the opportunity of a career,” Miller says.

So how can sexuality educators — especially recent graduates — take advantage of these opportunities? In this article, we asked those who do the hiring what they’re looking for in sexuality educators.

And for those with an independent streak, we interviewed sexuality educators who are making a go of it in the world of consulting, public speaking and other forms of self-employment.

Getting hired at Planned Parenthood

When Miller examines resumes of sexuality educators looking for a Planned Parenthood job, the first thing she looks for is experience inter-



Carole Miller



Jill Baker

acting with youth. Has the candidate served as a summer camp counselor, ropes course facilitator or had other similar experience? If so, that’s a plus.

“I want someone who loves to work with youth and is a kid magnet,” Miller says. “You’ve got to be able to connect with youth.”

Jill Baker, BS, education director for Planned Parenthood of Montana (PPM), agrees. When she quizzes candidates during job interviews, Baker asks for an example of a successful icebreaker the educator has used when teaching adolescents.

If the candidate can’t cite an example, that’s not a deal breaker. But if the candidate tells a story of a winning icebreaker, Baker says that person’s name goes to the “top of the list.”

During second interviews, Baker asks candidates to prepare a lesson plan and make an eight-to-ten minute presentation on the topic of their choice.

“I want to see to see public speaking skills in action,” she says.

Both Miller and Baker say in-depth knowledge of sexuality topics is a plus, but not a requirement for landing a Planned Parenthood job. Rather, public speaking skills and experience working with teens is key.

For educators lacking those skills, Baker recommends interning and volunteering. As a college student in the late 1990s, Baker worked as an intern at PPM. But when she graduated in 1997, the organization wasn’t hiring. So she spent several years expanding her skills at other nonprofits before landing a job there in 2002.

“As somebody who graduated from college and wanted to work at Planned Parenthood, my advice is to be patient and find opportunities to build up experience,” Baker says. “It all will help in the long run.”

For her part, Miller recommends job seekers earn a sexuality education certificate or patient education certificate at Planned Parenthood University, an online education venture sponsored by PPGNW and the Planned Parenthood Federation of America. To earn the certificate, applicants must complete an externship at a Planned Parenthood affiliate or health clinic.

That could help get one’s foot in the door.

“I would rather hire a known quantity than an unknown quantity,” Miller says.

For more information about Planned Parenthood University, call (206) 328-7715 or email education@ppgnw.org.

Freelancing isn’t easy

Working at Planned Parenthood isn’t for everyone. Megan Andelloux, BS, a 34-year-old sexuality educator now living in Rhode Island, worked for several years at two affiliates.

Every now and then, she crossed the line, imparting information to teenagers about sexuality that went beyond pregnancy and STI prevention. According to Andelloux, she was told, “Megan, you can’t say that.”

So she struck out on her own, creating a one-woman business speaking about sexuality to adults on college campuses, medical students, sex toy store employees and founding the Center for Sexual Pleasure and Health in downtown Pawtucket.



Megan Andelloux



Eli R. Green

But it hasn’t been easy.

“Running your own business is challenging,” Andelloux says. “You have to work like a dog to do this. That means you have to really love it.”

Speaking at colleges is Andelloux’s biggest source of income. Fifteen universities, mostly in the Northeast, are repeat customers, booking her annually. Her goal is to add at least four new campuses every year. In 2010, she did just that, speaking to university students in California, Washington and Oregon.

Getting those speaking gigs is time consuming. Andelloux often spends hours trolling university websites tracking down student groups that sponsor speakers. This needs to be done months in advance. Spring speaking engagements are often booked in September or October.

“Being obsessive about this job is helpful,” she says.

In the beginning, Andelloux sometimes spoke for free. After making a name for herself, she began earning \$300 per speaking engagement. Now she’s regularly charging \$600 for gigs in the Northeast and \$1,500 elsewhere in the U.S.

Her next goal is to publish a manuscript because “once you write a book you get more money,” she says.

One of the many challenges Andelloux faces is getting paid in a timely manner. Sometimes a full two or three months pass before a check arrives in the mail.

Eli R. Green, MA, MEd, can relate to that. For the past three years, he’s been working as a freelance consultant specializing in transgender

“Running your own business is challenging. You have to work like a dog to do this. That means you have to really love it.”

— Megan Andelloux

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Jobs

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issues and lesbian gay bisexual and transgender cultural competency.

“Consulting is a mystical word that sounds sexy,” Green says. “But in reality, it means you’re always working, you’re always on email, you’re always selling yourself. It’s much harder than anyone told you.”

And often, the 31-year-old educator is also waiting for a check to arrive. Many clients, Green says, don’t pay for 90 days. And sometimes, work just dries up. When the recession hit in 2009, he took a part-time job working for the Philadelphia office of the U.S. Census.

“One of things I had to do was swallow my pride,” Green says. “Did I want to work for the Census, even though I had two master’s degrees? No. Did I want to pay my bills? Absolutely.”

For the record, Green’s master’s degrees are in Applied Women’s Studies (Claremont University, 2004) and Human Sexuality Education (Widener University, 2008). He’s also completed coursework for his PhD, but hasn’t completed a dissertation yet. Before launching a consulting business, Green worked as an HIV educator at The Hetrick-Martin Institute in New York City.

Although freelancing has its downsides, it’s not without its attractions. Green sets his own schedule, choosing to spend Fridays at the beach (summer) or on the ski slopes (winter). He also likes working in collaborative settings with talented people. So when he’s working on a project, Green tries to convince the client that regular face-to-face meetings will improve the outcome.

And now, after three years of self-employment, Green is just starting to relax.

“I’m just beginning to feel relatively calm about it,” he says. “It’s taken a long time to figure out how to do it. It’s not something I would recommend as a lifelong career.”

Marketing experience is a plus

Unlike Andelloux and Green, Melanie Davis has decades of freelance experience. Before becoming a sexuality educator, Davis spent 25 years writing catalogs, telemarketing scripts and copy writing as an independent marketing consultant.

“When I was self-employed as a marketing person, I easily worked on six different projects every week,” she says. “I’m used to switching gears.”

Davis excelled at marketing, but she didn’t find it intellectually stimulating. So at age 45, she began taking sexuality courses at Widener University. Since graduating with an EdD, she became an AASECT-certified sexuality educator.

But Davis never really considered working

full-time for someone else. “I’m a big proponent of taking the entrepreneurial mindset,” she says.

Instead, she’s done a variety of jobs that “feed her soul,” including lecturing at medical schools, working as an adjunct professor, updating the Our Whole Lives sexuality curriculum for the Unitarian-Universalist Association and coordinating the Sexuality and Aging Consortium at Widener University.

Davis is pleased to see new funding for sexuality education programs nationwide, but she’s wary about looking to those monies as a panacea.

“The federal money is going to schools and educational organizations that are already existing,” Davis says. “I don’t think we can count on that for steady income. Sexuality educators need to take more control of their careers and think about what they want and what their goals are.”

This month, a newly elected Republican majority will take the oath of office in the U.S. House of Representatives. In recent years, that party has supported abstinence-only-until-marriage programs, not the more comprehensive approach being funded by President Obama and most Democrats in Congress.

Is Carole Miller of PPGNW worried about the shift in power?

“I’m really not,” she says.

Miller notes that the abstinence-only-until-marriage initiative began as part of the Welfare Reform Act of 1996 and despite few proven successes at preventing teen pregnancy or reducing STIs, Congress is still paying for the curricula.

Her point: Eliminating federal programs isn’t easy.

— Todd Melby

Contact us

If you know of an AASECT’s member’s illness or death in the family, please let the Membership Services Steering Committee know, so we can reach out and let that member know that he/she is in our thoughts.

Hani Miletski (Chair) — hani@drmiletski.com

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“The federal money is going to schools and educational organizations that are already existing. I don’t think we can count on that for steady income. Sexuality educators need to take more control of their careers and think about what they want and what their goals are.”

— Melanie Davis

LGBT youth more likely to be punished

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth have a tougher time winning societal acceptance than their heterosexual peers. A new study finds LGBT teens are also more likely to get punished by schools and the police.

A pair of Yale University researchers — Kathryn Himmelstein and Hannah Bruckner — examined eight years of data on 15,000 middle school and high school students who participated in the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health.

By isolating answers to questions relating to six forms of punishment (school expulsion, police stops, juvenile arrest, juvenile conviction, adult arrest and adult conviction), Himmelstein and Bruckner found that LGBT youth were 1.25 to 3 times more likely to be disciplined than their heterosexual peers.

“The most striking difference was for lesbian and bisexual girls,” Himmelstein says. “They were two or three times as likely as [heterosexual] girls with similar behavior to be punished.”

The study, titled “Criminal Justice and School Sanctions Against Nonheterosexual Youth: A National Longitudinal Study,” comes at a time of increasing concern about the mental health and safety of LGBT youth. Four months ago, a Rutgers University student committed suicide after a roommate posted webcam footage of him engaging in a “sexual encounter” with another man.

Interpretations of the study vary.

Stacey Horn, a psychology professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago, believes the bias against LGBT teens is similar to bias against racial minorities. “To me, it is saying there is some kind of internal bias that adults are not aware of that is impacting the punishment of this group,” she says.

Clara McCreery, the co-president of the Gay-Straight Alliance at Walt Whitman High School in Bethesda, Maryland, believes the reason for bias lies elsewhere.

“I find it tragic,” she says. “I wonder if some people misinterpret the way some gay girls choose to dress as a sign of aggression.” (*Washington Post* and *Pediatrics*, Dec. 6)

Follow-up calls to teen girls don't increase contraceptive use

Do follow-up phone calls to teenage girls visiting reproductive health clinics increase the likelihood of contraceptive use?

AASECT member Doug Kirby of ETR Associates and researchers at the University of California — Tina Raine and Abby Sokoloff — designed a study to answer that query. Between 2005 and 2007, they tracked the contraceptive use of 805 females ages 14-18 that sought services from a participating clinic, which is located in a low-income, racially diverse neighborhood.

Using a technique known as “motivational interviewing,” clinic workers attempted to make nine follow-up calls to clinic clients over the course of one year. This counseling style is “designed to elicit behavior change by helping clients explore and resolve ambivalence.”

The results: There was no significant difference between the control group (those not receiving the phone calls) and the participant group (those receiving the phone calls). Both groups saw hormonal contraceptive use increase from 11 percent at first clinic visit to 44 percent six months later.

The researchers speculate that the reason follow-up calls didn't motivate clinic clients was that they didn't receive many calls. On average, it took counselors eight attempts to reach a client on the telephone (the exact number is 7.8 attempts for every completed call). In total, counselors completed only 2.7 calls per patient.

“The study participants were high-risk women who, in many instances, were not available, did not wish to receive calls, had moved or had their phones disconnected,” the authors wrote.

Kirby and co-authors speculate that texting holds more promise. “While it may be challenging or even impossible to incorporate principles of motivational interviewing into a series of text messages, clinics may be able to use such messages to provide visit reminders and to inquire whether patients who have initiated a new method of contraception have any questions.” (*Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, December 2010)

“The most striking difference was for lesbian and bisexual girls. They were two or three times as likely as [heterosexual] girls with similar behavior to be punished.”

— Kathryn

Himmelstein

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New EC drug available in U.S.

A new emergency contraceptive drug is available in the United States.

Ulipristal acetate, which goes by the brand name ella and is owned by Watson Pharmaceuticals, is a drug that can help prevent pregnancy if taken within five days of intercourse.

Like the emergency contraceptive drug Plan B, ella is most effective within the first 72 hours after intercourse. Studies show only 1.9 percent of women who took ella in that time period became pregnant (5.6 percent is average overall). For women taking ella within the 48-120 hours after intercourse, 2.2 percent became pregnant.

Kristen Moore of the Reproductive Health Technologies Project welcomed the news. "Having another safe, effective method of birth control that can be used after sex to reduce the risk of pregnancy is always welcome news," she says.

Approved for use in 22 countries, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration sanctioned the sale of ella in August. In studies involving about 4,500 females, researchers found only minor side effects (headaches, dizziness, nausea and some abdominal pain).

Watson is selling ella for \$35.75 wholesale nationally, including at an online pharmacy. (*Washington Post* and PR Newswire, Dec. 1)

Pope's condom comment sets off flurry of speculation

During a visit to Africa in 2009, Pope Benedict XVI told reporters that condom usage could make the AIDS crisis that has killed millions worse, not better.

AIDS, he said, is "a tragedy that cannot be overcome by money alone, that cannot be overcome through the distribution of condoms, which even aggravates the problems."

Less than two years after that remark, Pope Benedict reversed his stance by telling a Catholic journalist that a prostitute who uses condoms may be making a "first step toward moralization."

The comment, which was published in a new book titled "Light of the World: The Pope, the Church, and the Sign of the Times," set off a worldwide analysis of the pontiff's words.

Some translations referred to the prostitute as male, other translations (including one in the Italian edition of the Vatican newspaper), listed the prostitute as female. By using a prostitute in

his explanation, Pope Benedict seemed to want to restrict the Church's endorsement of condoms to HIV prevention and not change the Church's longstanding opposition to birth control.

Among the reactions to the pope's condom comment:

"After having said that condoms make the AIDS epidemic worse, after getting involved in questions he has no expertise on, the pope seems to finally be taking account of the principles of reality," said Act Up Paris, in a statement.

Austen Ivereigh, a British Catholic journalist, believes the statement makes the church relevant again in discussions about AIDS. "The main consequence is that the Church can now talk about this issue with greater credibility," he says. "People have just shut off listening to the Church on this subject. They assume it has a dogmatic and inhumane stance." (Reuters, Nov. 21)

Study: New drug helps prevent HIV among gay men

A new pill, taken daily by healthy gay men, reduces the risk of HIV infection by 90 percent.

That's the conclusion of a *New England Journal of Medicine* study of 2,500 gay men taking Truvada, a mix of antiretrovirals, manufactured by Gilead Sciences.

Men who sometimes neglected to take the drug for a day or two were 44 percent less likely to contract HIV than the control group.

News of the study results were greeted with joy.

When told of the 90 percent effectiveness for those taking the pill faithfully, Anthony Fauci, a physician at the National Institutes of Health, said, "That's huge. That says it all for me."

Phil Wilson of the Black AIDS Institute also expressed support for the pill because it "does not involve getting permission from the other partner, and that's important."

The New York Times called the results "the best news in the AIDS field in years, even better than this summer's revelation that a vaginal microbicide protected 39 percent of all the women testing it and 54 percent of those who used it faithfully."

The study results still need to be replicated and tested on other groups, including heterosexual men and women and IV drug users. Some worry that recommending the drug for everyday use would cause drug-resistant strains of HIV. The current annual cost of taking Truvada daily is about \$13,000 when purchased from Gilead Sciences. (*New York Times*, Nov. 24)

"After having said that condoms make the AIDS epidemic worse, after getting involved in questions he has no expertise on, the pope seems to finally be taking account of the principles of reality."
— Act Up Paris

Member Spotlight

Melanie Davis, EdD (Somerville, N.J.)

Member Spotlight is a monthly column offering an opportunity for AASECT members to get to know more about each other. Each month, a different member's story will be introduced. If you would like to recommend someone to be interviewed for this column, please contact Hani Miletski, PhD, MSW, Membership Steering Committee chair, at Hani@DrMiletski.com.

Melanie Davis joined AASECT in 2005 when graduate students in Widener University's human sexuality program were advised to get involved in professional organizations. At her first conference in 2007, in Charlotte, North Carolina, Davis volunteered at the registration desk in order to meet people whose work she had been reading about. She made a point to strike up conversations with new people every day at the conference.

"It's a strategy I recommend to anyone entering the field," she says.

Davis became certified as a sexuality educator in 2009.

Davis' work in sexuality education began in 1984 as a volunteer patient educator for Planned Parenthood. Part of her job was to set up and remain in the exam room during patient medical visits.

Davis was a freelance journalist and copywriter for 25 years before she became a formal sexuality educator. She wrote magazine and newspaper stories on everything from business forecasts to African-American clergywomen, and won awards for her writing.

In 1999, Davis started facilitating the Our Whole Lives (OWL) sexuality education curriculum for her Unitarian Universalist congregation, which she still does with the help of her husband, Bill Kleppinger, and their oldest daughter, Brie (age 24).

After her first year with OWL, Davis started running workshops to help parents be at-home sexuality educators. She self-published a workbook called *Sexuality Talking Points: A Guide for Thoughtful Conversations Among Parents and Children* in 2001. By 2005, Davis decided that sexuality education was more personally fulfilling and socially useful than her writing career.

She enrolled in the Widener University Graduate Program in Human Sexuality, and earned a doctorate degree in 2010. "Coming full circle," she says, "I am now overseeing revisions to the OWL curriculum." Davis is now the OWL Program Associate for the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, which is based in Boston.

Along the way, Davis became a blogger (<http://www.honestexchange.com>), and in 2006, she founded Honest Exchange, LLC where she offers resource development and in-service sexuality education training for healthcare providers and educators.

In early 2008, Davis co-founded the New Jersey Center for Sexual Wellness (NJCSW) with Sandra Leiblum and Judith Hersh, through which she consults privately and provides workshops for teens and adults about a variety of sexual issues. "The partnership inspired my dissertation research, which focused on the possibilities for referral marketing among physicians, sexuality educators, and therapists," she says.

In early 2010, Davis was hired as the coordinator of the Sexuality and Aging Consortium at Widener University. This is an outgrowth of the consortium formed by Peggy Brick and the AASECT Special Interest Group on Sexuality and Aging. The consortium has 19 members working to ensure the quality of sexuality education, sexual health and sexual rights of adults in mid and later life. The new affiliation with Widener has expanded the consortium's ability to reach consumers, professionals and institutions such as long term care facilities. Consortium member Bill Taverner set up the group's increasingly popular Facebook page, while Davis worked with Widener and a great programmer to create a webpage, online magazine and newsletter. Though Davis recently resigned as coordinator of the consortium, she still manages the website.

Davis also teaches Human Sexuality and Marriage and The Family at Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pa.

Sunday mornings find Davis singing at her church or delivering lay sermons at Unitarian Universalist congregations throughout the Northeast. "Singing brings me a great deal of joy," she says. Davis misses the ballroom dancing lessons and shows she and her husband used to attend before she went to graduate school, but they still make time for skiing. They have three daughters, Brie, and twins Tai and Paige (age 18).

Davis was blessed with parents who created a sex-positive home where talking, questioning and finding humor in sexuality was possible. Her husband has been an enormous source of support and the faculty and students at Widener University have opened her eyes to new ways of looking at sexuality, education and personal and professional growth.

At the 2008 AASECT conference, Davis presented a workshop on branding and facilitated a pre-conference session with the Sexuality and Aging Consortium. At the 2010 conference, she



"Coming full circle,
I am now overseeing
revisions to the
OWL curriculum."

— Melanie Davis

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Educational Opportunities

Beyond The Puritanical:

A Cross Cultural Perspective for Public Sexual Health Education

Ongoing, online course

Presenter: Mark Schoen

More info: SexSmartFilms.com at

(626) 660-5823 or

drmark@SexSmartFilms.com

Website: <http://bit.ly/bkpzYj>

AASECT-approved for 2 CE credits

Secure Attachment and Deep Sexual Satisfaction a Telephone-Class (Four Sessions)

Ongoing, Listen to Recordings

Presenter: Sylvia Rosenfeld and

Barbara Gangi

More info: Sylvia@eintelligence.com

AASECT-approved for 4 CE credits

Clinical Sexology — Professional Training Program

Now–August 20

Beverly Hills, California

Presenter: Patti Britton

Sponsor: Institute for Sexual Health

More info: (323) 791-7801,

drpattiox@aol.com or

[http://sexualtreatmentprograms.com/](http://sexualtreatmentprograms.com/clinical-sexology-training.php)

[clinical-sexology-training.php](http://sexualtreatmentprograms.com/clinical-sexology-training.php)

AASECT-approved for 3.5 CE credits per module

Human Sexuality Program 2011

January 3–5, Piscataway, New Jersey

Presenter: University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey

More info: Shannon Bertha at

(732) 887-5840 or

shannon_bertha@yahoo.com

AASECT-approved for 21 CE credits

Sexual Attitude Reassessment (SAR)

January 13 and March 11

Piscataway, New Jersey

Presenter: Tracey Post

More info: (609) 933-3075

AASECT-approved for 10 CE credits

SAR is an AASECT Requirement for Certification

Restoring & Revitalizing Marital Sexuality

January 14, Columbia, Maryland

January 21, Ventura/Oxnard, California

January 28, Pasadena, California

February 25, Wilmington, Delaware

April 8, South Carolina

April 15, Charlotte/Pineville, North

Carolina

April 29, Providence/Warwick, Rhode

Island

May 6, New Orleans/Kenner, Louisiana

May 13, Edison, New Jersey

Presenter: Barry W. McCarthy

More info: (715) 552-9517 or

ssell@health-ed.com

AASECT-approved for 6 CE credits

Creative Retreat for ISIS Graduates and Their Partners

January 15–22, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

Presenter: Gina Ogden

More info: Monica Levine at

(413) 625-8382 or

monica@crocker.com

AASECT-approved for 18 CE credits

The Practice of Sex Therapy: A One Year Program

January 20–December 16 (once a month)

Location: Palm Beach, Florida

Presenter: Susan Lee, Richard Siegel

and Marilyn Volker

More info: (561) 833-0066 or

drsusanlee@mac.com

AASECT-approved for 120 CE credits

A Person-Centered Approach to Sexuality Issues in Long-Term-Care: A Training of Trainers

January 21–22

Kennett Square, Pennsylvania

Presenters: Peggy Brick, Robin Dessel,

Robin Goldberg-Glen and others

Sponsor: The Sexuality and Aging

Consortium at Widener University and

Kendal Outreach

Contact: Katherine Butler at

(330) 808-3272 or

butlerkz@gmail.com

AASECT-approved for 15.5 CE credits

Creative Retreat for Health Professionals and Their Partners

January 22–29, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

Presenter: Gina Ogden

More info: (413) 625-8382 or

monica@crocker.com

AASECT-approved for 18 CE credits

2 Day Sex Therapy Training: Integrating the Basics of Sexual Anatomy & Physiology and Medical/Health Factors into Your Practice

February 3–4, Atlanta

March 3–4, Las Vegas

Presenter: Joan Sughrue

More info: (770) 655-3082 or

Joan@RelationshipTherapy.net

AASECT-approved for 12 CE credits

Sexual Attitude Reassessment (SAR)

February 5, Atlanta

March 5, Las Vegas

Presenter: Joan Sughrue

More info: (770) 655-3082 or

Joan@RelationshipTherapy.net

AASECT-approved for 10 CE credits

Heart & Libido: Explorations in Intimacy for Couples

February 6–11, Big Sur, California

Presenter: Stella Resnick and Alan

Kishbaugh

More info: Esalen Institute at

(831) 667-3005 or

stellaresnick@sbcglobal.net or

[http://webapp.esalen.org/workshops/89](http://webapp.esalen.org/workshops/8918)

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AASECT-approved for 26 CE credits

Ignite Sex, Passion, and Sacred Love: A Valentine's Day Tantra Workshop for Couples

February 12–13, Boca Raton, Florida

Presenter: Sally Valentine

More info: (561) 391-3305 or

drsallyvalentine@me.com

AASECT-approved for 12 CE credits

The Heart & Soul of Sex: A Clinical Model for Exploring Desire and Intimacy

February 18–20, Big Sur, California

Presenter: Gina Ogden

More info: Esalen Institute at

(831) 667-3005

AASECT-approved for 11 CE credits

The Return of Desire — Opening Our Hearts, Trusting Our Bodies Enriching Our Lives

February 20–25, Big Sur, California

Presenter: Gina Ogden

More info: Esalen Institute at

(831) 667-3005

AASECT-approved for 26 CE credits

Promoting Sexual Healing After Trauma

March 10, Ottawa, Canada

Presenter: Peggy Kleinplatz

Sponsor: Sexual Assault Network of Ottawa

More info: Heather Robertson at

(613) 725-3601, ext. 104 or

sanottawa@familyservicesottawa.org

AASECT-approved for 6 CE credits

Couples Retreat

March 12–19, Boca de Tomatlan (near Puerto Vallarta, Mexico)

Presenter: Tammy Nelson

More info: (203) 438-3007,

tammy@tammynelson.org or

monica@crocker.com

AASECT-approved for 18 CE credits

SSTAR 2011 36th Annual Meeting: Innovations and Controversies in Sex Therapy and Research

March 31–April 3, Palm Beach, Florida

Sponsor: Society for Sex Therapy & Research

More info: Marion Johnson at

(202) 863-2570 or

mjohnson@acog.org

AASECT-approved for 22 CE credits

Luminous Sexuality — Healing and Celebration: A Weekend for Women

April 8–10, Asheville, North Carolina

Presenter: Gina Ogden and Chelsea Wakefield

More info: Chelsea Wakefield at

chelseaw@citcom.net

AASECT-approved for 12 CE credits

Sex Therapy Postgraduate Training Institute of New York

April 16, 2011–December 2, 2012

New York City

Presenter: Susan Lee and Ricky Siegel

More info: Susan Lee at

(561) 833-0066 or

drsusanlee@mac.com

AASECT-approved for 120 CE credits

Crucible Intimacy and Desire Clinical Workshop

May 15–17, Lenox, Massachusetts

More info: Kripalu.org or

(866) 200-5203

AASECT-approved for 10 CE credits

SexCon2011: Dynamic. Interactive. Creative.

43rd Annual AAASECT conference

April 27–May 1, San Diego

San Diego Marriott Hotel & Marina

More info: www.aasect.org

AASECT-approved for 20+ CE credits

20th World Congress for Sexual Health

June 12–16, Glasgow, United Kingdom

More info: www.kenes.com/was

AASECT CE credits pending

To promote an Educational Opportunity on these pages, send an email to info@aasect.org.

Member Spotlight

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presented a workshop on referral marketing, based on her dissertation findings and their applications for practice building. Davis is an avid follower of the AAASECT listserv and is always ready to provide resources and information.

Says Davis, “I’m happy to be of service to an organization that plays a large role in my professional development.”

— Hani Miletski



43rd Annual AAASECT conference
SexCon 2011: Dynamic. Interactive. Creative.

April 27–May 1, San Diego, California

San Diego Marriott Hotel & Marina

More info: www.aasect.org

Make plans to attend AAASECT’s annual conference. As always, this conference will include in-depth pre-conference workshops, insightful plenary speakers and great workshops.

See you in San Diego!