



IGLTA Fills Membership Manager Position

Aaron Riggins joins staff, filling an important role for a growing organization

Fort Lauderdale, Fla., July 21, 2009 – The International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association [IGLTA] this month announced Aaron Riggins as its new membership manager – a position designed to meet the needs of existing members while making use of an expanding network of partners and ambassadors to grow the organization’s international roster.

“I speak for all of IGLTA’s staff and board when I say that we are excited to welcome Aaron to our team,” IGLTA Executive Director John Tanzella said. “Having a dedicated membership role is critical for a growing organization like ours, and Aaron’s professional background and diverse skill set will go a long way in enriching the IGLTA experience for our current – and future – members.”

Riggins joins IGLTA from Destination D.C., a non-profit organization that manages and markets the United States capital as a premier global convention, tourism and special events destination. In his time there, Riggins’ duties spanned multiple departments, including the organization’s tourism and marketing divisions. Prior to beginning his professional career in Washington, Riggins studied tourism and mass communication at the University of Florida, where he participated in an international study program that he says cemented his interest in travel.

“Studying in London and traveling across Europe was a professional turning point for me,” Riggins said. “From that experience on, I knew that I wanted to devote my career to facilitating amazing travel experiences for others, which is why I am so excited to join the IGLTA family.”

The newest addition to IGLTA’s full-time staff will be based in Washington, D.C., co-located with IGLTA Partner Organization, NLGJA [National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association). Riggins officially assumed his new post on July 1. While his immediate goals include coordinating networking receptions and other events in North American cities that the organization has identified as having strong local membership base as well as potential for membership growth, Riggins’ long-term focus will be strengthening IGLTA’s international base in several key markets. Over the past year alone, the organization has aggressively expanded its outreach beyond North American borders, strategically naming new and expanded roles for its growing team of global ambassadors, and hosting panels and networking events in countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe.

“Between our growing list of industry partners and our strong global and U.S. support staff, the foundation is set for IGLTA to become a leader in LGBT travel in places that we never would have imagined when the organization was founded some 26 years ago,” Tanzella said. “While



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Aaron will always have a focused eye on the needs of the members that we already have, one of his most important ongoing projects will be helping to take IGLTA to that next level.”

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IGLTA, which has staff and representatives in 19 countries, is the leading global organization dedicated to connecting businesses in the LGBT tourism industry. Its membership spans 63 countries and consists of accommodations, airlines, tour operators, travel agents, destinations, media and other key players in the tourism industry. Since 1983, IGLTA has worked to help the tourism industry reach LGBT travelers and learn more about this market.

For more on IGLTA, please visit www.iglta.org or www.lgbt.travel

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