

JORDON BOSSE, Auburn, Maine  
BA Program in Individualized Studies

interview by Kelly Collar

*Jordon Bosse is just within reach of a bachelor's degree, finishing his last semester in Goddard's intensive residency BA program. With that degree in hand, he is eventually headed for a Ph.D. in psychology. Here are a few of his observations as his August graduation approaches, about the work he's done so far, his senior study and the inspiration for his photography.*

**I attended traditional college** for a year and a half. The classroom setting wasn't really for me, and I was very bored. It was also a challenge to make the classroom schedule and my work schedule fit together. Goddard has been my answer to all of those issues! It has been absolutely amazing. I have been able to study a variety of issues that I have been interested in, so it doesn't usually feel like work. I feel like I have gotten so much more out of my education than I would have if I had stayed in traditional college.

I've been addressing a variety of topics—art, addiction, scholarly personal narrative, GLBTQ [gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning] issues, trauma and recovery, and statistics are a few of the areas. Most of the work has somehow tied into psychology.

My senior study is looking at the experiences of GLBTQ folks growing up in Maine. Most of the data that we have about queer youth comes from large, urban areas. While I think many queer youth face similar challenges, I wanted to see if and how the rural experience is different. I designed a survey for the project with the help of two groups of GLBTQ young people and will conduct interviews to supplement the survey data.

Much of the research that is currently available paints a bleak picture of what it is like to be a GLBTQ young person in this society: increased rates of suicide, substance use, homelessness, HIV and other STIs, violence and discrimination,

[and] more likely to drop out of school.

I wanted to look, too, at the strengths of GLBTQ young people. What is it that they have either internally or in their schools, families and/or communities that allows many GLBTQ to not only survive but also thrive in the midst of all of these risks and challenges? What can we do better to increase the likelihood that more GLBTQ

youth will be in the thriving category instead of becoming another statistic of risk?

**When I have a camera in my hand,** I enter my own little world. Photography has been a passion of mine since the first time I watched a print come to life in the chemical bath—that was in high school. Through some work in the spring of 2005, my photography evolved and became part of a spiritual practice as well.



*"Pieces of Me," by Jordon Bosse*

I created "Pieces of Me" a few semesters ago when I was studying art therapy. For me, the piece is about bringing together all of the different sides (or pieces) of me—how others see me (which depends on how they know me) and how I see myself (which may also depend on context at times)—and bringing those together in a way that really works for me . . . embracing the overlapping places, the perfect fit places and the gaps. ■

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