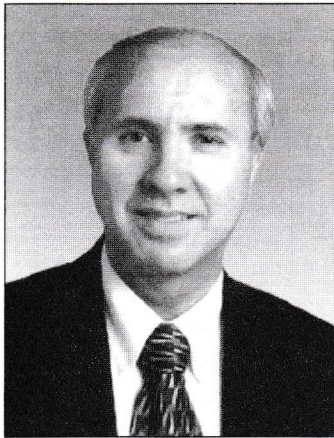# Recent Speaking Engagements
of NARTH Officers

A. Dean Byrd, Ph.D., M.B.A., M.P.H.

NARTH Vice President A. Dean Byrd was invited this Spring to participate in a four-part educational series on same-sex attraction sponsored by Graceland University in Lamoni, Iowa.

The subject was addressed in four sessions devoted to understanding homosexuality from personal, biblical, socio-cultural and scientific perspectives.

For each of the four sessions held this May, two speakers were invited to speak, each with an opposing position.

NARTH's Dr. A. Dean Byrd offered one of the two presentations from the scientific position. Dr. Byrd is president of the Thrasher Research Fund, a medical foundation specializing in pediatric grant funding. He is also Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, University of Utah School of Medicine, and Clinical Professor of Family and Preventive Medicine and Family Studies, University of Utah.

His education includes a Master of Science (MS), Doctor of Philosophy (PhD): Psychology, Brigham Young University; Master of Business Administration (MBA): University of Phoenix; and Master of Public Health (MPH): University of Utah. His professional interests include Child/Adolescent Psychology, Men's Issues, Gender/Sexual Disorders, Family Therapy and Behavioral Medicine.

Graceland's review of Dr. Byrd's presentation was as follows:

"After Dr. Byrd's presentation on the scientific perspective on issues of human sexuality, we received a lot of feedback, all of which was positive.

"With an audience of very diverse opinions, everyone seemed to come away from this session feeling like they gained a better understanding of the scientific perspective of human sexuality. He presented key research that has been done in this field. Dr. Byrd also gave a variety of perspectives on the research itself.

"Individuals attending the session said it was a 'very balanced, fair presentation.' They felt Dr. Byrd addressed the issue of reparative therapy in a context different from what any other person had done previously.

"Dr. Byrd approached it from the perspective that the individual is seeking help, to explore their options. Others felt that he did an excellent job reaching both the liberal and conservative spectrum. He did not offend, but challenged; very scholarly; 'would love to hear more from him.'"

Graceland University's president added, "We continue to have wonderful feedback. People have described it as 'the most educational presentation we have had.'"
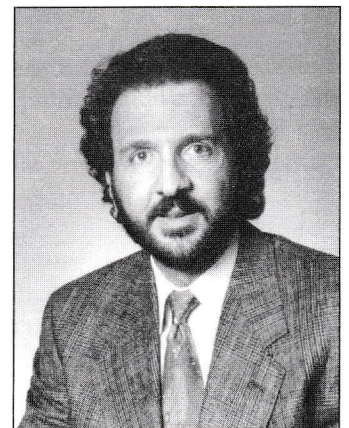
NARTH's Joseph Nicolosi also offered two presentations in Italy in May—one to members of the clergy in Rome, and the other to mental-health professionals in Milan.

He reports as follows:

The "good news" is that we had a quickly assembled half-day conference in Milan, with the help of Catholic psychiatrist, Dr. Chiara Atzori, yet in spite of the somewhat short notice, we were able to produce a truly phenomenal day with an audience of fifty very enthusiastic people. They were mothers, fathers, psychologists, individual strugglers, religious—and yes, a gay couple who walked out, infuriated. I used a power point presentation in Italian with the help of an English-to-Italian interpreter for audience questions, presenting an excerpt from the book I am working on which outlines treatment theory and techniques. The audience also included two under-cover Milan police officers, who proved to be a big help regarding the above-mentioned quite outraged gay couple."

Regarding the Rome conference, Dr. Nicolosi reports:

"I and several other Catholic mental-health professionals had planned a three-day Vatican conference, which ultimately was whittled down, over many months of slowly withdrawn support from the Catholic Church, to a one-and-a-half hour 'informal' (which has to be emphasized) presentation by only myself at the University of Santa Croce. The attendees were about 25-30, but again, these were individuals who feel a particular concern for the issue of homosexuality, especially as it impacts the Catholic Church."

Joseph Nicolosi, Ph.D.