



GREEN LIGHT

Newsletter of the Dartmouth Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Alumni/ae Association

Volume 14, Number 2 • December 2009

25TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION "FABULOUS"!

Co-Chair Sarah Burgamy '00 Reflects on the Reunion

When I volunteered for the job of co-chair of the DGALA Reunion for 2009, I had NO idea what I got myself into! There was much to worry about, but little did I know that I had just become part of an incredibly moving and inspiring team effort that brought together LGBTQ alumni from the classes of 1953 to the current first year class of 2013. I was blessed, and I do mean *blessed* to have Garrett Hornsby '87 bravely agree to be my co-chair. He helped to keep me sane throughout our work!

This was to be a 25th Anniversary Reunion?! That fact brought up a powerful acknowledgment: an anniversary is not always a cause célèbre. Anniversaries have an uncanny way to tap into our deepest memories, regrets, and painful moments, right alongside our celebration of time past, moments of connection and happiness. As a therapist, I try to hold a judgment-free position on the subject of anniversaries, and see them more as moments about which to be curious, aware, and inquisitive. However, I would be remiss not acknowledge how 25 years of DGALA figured into this reunion.

As we planned the reunion, it was important to reflect not only the class diversity, but also our racial/ethnic, gender, age, and SES status in ensuring that an All Class Reunion of DGALA would truly reflect our community. It was important that this be a reunion focused on our evolution from a marginalized and often overtly oppressed past, to a present characterized by a *huge* rainbow flag hanging from the front of Blunt Alumni

Burgamy, continued on page 2

**WHEN'S THE NEXT REUNION?
JOIN US ON CAMPUS IN JUNE FOR
DGALA'S ALL-CLASS MINI REUNION
June 18 -19, 2010**

Alums and students spanning six decades from classes of 1953 through 2013, together with spouses, children, guests, faculty and staff joined in a celebration of DGALA's 25th anniversary during the weekend of October 30 - November 1. Over 200 participated in the reunion events, which were held across the campus, including Baker Library, the Top of the Hop, Alumni Hall, Sanborn House,



President Kim Greets Alums at Welcome Reception

Collis Common Ground, the DOC House on Occum Pond, Rollins Chapel and many of the College's sparkling new structures.

Highlights on Friday included a dynamic presentation on the life and literature of Oscar Wilde by Professor Peter Saccio, followed by a student-faculty panel presentation on LGBT studies at Dartmouth today. Friday evening kicked off with a welcome reception by Dartmouth's new President, Jim Kim, in the main lobby of Baker Library. President Kim, who was warmly received by the crowd, described his work in fields pertinent to LGBT rights, and told those assembled, "Know that I've got

Reunion, continued on page 2

Center, and Jim Yong Kim, the President of Dartmouth College, sponsoring the opening reception – a welcome “home” to all LGBTQ alumni and – in the foyer of one of the preeminent building on the campus, Baker Library, and for him to commit, as President Wright has before him, to a continued open and real effort to build a truly inclusive Dartmouth community.

In such moments, I reflect on my own stitches in this evolutionary tapestry of LGBTQ life at Dartmouth. Graduating in the year 2000, nine short years ago, I can recall my 19-year-old self, and I can palpably feel her first-year fear, her trepidation at being out as a lesbian in this small town in New Hampshire, this small campus, in the locker room, in her sorority house, in her quest to find friends, to make safe connections, and feel embraced by this community. Fast-forward... My 32-year-old self stands confidently listening, and feeling truly, wholly valued by my College. I was fortunate to have a relatively positive experience as a queer student at Dartmouth. And, yet, in light of our 25th Anniversary of DGALA, I am readily aware that such positivity was a far cry from many who preceded me.

When desirous of illustrating a sentiment or message “just so,” I find that my own words fail me... I want to borrow a message from a great pioneer in the recognition of infallible personhood, across all aspects of identity, Martin Luther King, Jr.: “We may have all come on different ships, but we’re all in the same boat now.” Our experiences at Dartmouth College are many, are storied, are varied, are disparate and alike, connected and of equal merit. Yet, there is this sense, whether it be Bishop Gene Robinson’s message to own our own joy in the face of intolerance, or the reflections of Janet Jakobsen to examine our assumptions about identity and the politics of both the personal and public, or the personal journey of Joanne Herman to actualize our true selves, or an accounting of the life of Oscar Wilde through the historical lens of Peter Saccio, encouraging us to reflect on the whole of LGBTQ evolution beyond our own borders of country and time, or the evidence of how our microcosm at Dartmouth is changing in the form of Queer Studies courses, and an accounting of where we have been by Allen Drexel and Mikee Guzman, and I could go on..., this sense that we are always *moving*, we never stop evolving, and no matter which ships we boarded in our past, and how the journey fared for each of us, we find ourselves in the same boat now – the present. Thank you to all of our attendees – alumni, partners, spouses, friends, faculty, staff, students, presenters, and honorees – for making this celebration a meaningful moment in time. I sincerely hope you will join us as we keep sailing, to chart our course, sight the horizon, and journey into the next 25 years with DGALA. Thank you! Sarah Burgamy, Class of 2000. ❖

your back.” (See story, page 3.) Later on Friday, ga comedian Vidur Kapur entertained attendees with riffs o Dartmouth, reunions, and Vidur’s varied humorous lif experiences. After the show, alums and friends gathere at the Canoe Club on Main Street for drinks, music an socializing.

Saturday morning workout sessions at Alumni Gyr were followed by breakfast in the new Haldeman Cente and then by two alum-led seminars. First, Allen Drexel ’91 who wrote his undergraduate thesis in the field, and forme Gay-Straight Alliance chair Mikee Guzman ’06 led vigorous discussion of LGBT history at Dartmouth. Thos present noted the progress that had caused the College t go from being named a “10-worst” college for LGB students in 1999 to being named one of the top college for LGBTs by The Advocate in 2006. The second mornin seminar, led by Joanne Herman ’75, one of the College’ first openly transgender alumnae, was entitled “Gende Diversity: Transgender 101.” The multi-media semina presented an illuminating introduction to the meaning c “transgender.”

Acting Dean of the College Sylvia Spears hoste Saturday lunch in Collis Hall Common Ground. Dea Spears spoke of how the College has advanced in it respect for LGBT students. She said, “I reflect on wher we have been as a community, where are today and wha we have left to do in making this Dartmouth community th best it can possibly be. It is because of each one of yo that we are in a better place today.”

Saturday afternoon’s programming featured wha many cited as a highlight of the weekend, a stirrin presentation by Bishop Gene Robinson, world renown a the Episcopal Church’s first openly gay bisho. Bishop Robinson’s talk on “Faith and Sexuality” was at time humorous, and always moving and uplifting. Th afternoon’s second speaker, Dr. Janet Jakobsen ’81 Director of Barnard College’s Center for Research o Women, presented a talk entitled “Dartmouth Made M Gay,” which reflected upon some of her experiences as female at Dartmouth during the early years of coeducatio when hostility towards women was common. Jakobse also commented on the significant progress that ha occurred at Dartmouth, saying “Thing have change. *We’re here.* I just can’t believe this.”

Saturday evening featured the Gala Awards Dinner honoring and hearing from six leaders from Dartmouth’ LGBT alums and supporters. (Story, page 6.) The evenin concluded with a late-night “Halloween Extravaganza!” pu on by young alums at the DOC House.

Sunday began with a moving memorial service a Rollins Chapel, led by Josh Thomas ’00. Brunch followe at Occum Commons in the new McLaughlin Cluste modern dorms built on the north end of campus. Th brunch featured a “Meet the DGALA Board” segment, a which alums exchanged ideas to carry forward DGALA’ mission for the next 25 years. Alum reflections on th reunion are featured beginning on page 4. ❖

PRESIDENT KIM WELCOMES DGALA

Dr. Jim Yong Kim was named Dartmouth's 17th President earlier this year and assumed the presidency on July 1, 2009. President Kim held a reception for DGALA on Friday evening of reunion weekend at Baker Library, and he was warmly received by all. In his passionate extemporaneous remarks to DGALA, President Kim, a former Director of the World Health Organization's HIV/AIDS department, reflected on how his background has influenced his understanding and knowledge of LGBT people. We excerpt his remarks here:

Let me just say that I have worked very closely with organizations around HIV that have taught me so much about conditions that are so important to all of you. The work that ACT UP ... and others have done over the last 28 years has changed the world in a way that will make it impossible for us to go backwards. In 1981, I remember that I was a senior in college learning about HIV, and at that time, people talked about it as "GRID" – gay-related infectious disease; people said that this is God's punishment for being gay; people said that we don't have to worry about this because it's infecting populations [like] the "4H club": homosexuals, heroin users, hemophiliacs and Haitians. I happen to have been working with the Haitian community when that distinction came up, and let me just be blunt; people thought that it was OK to let this deadly disease continue unchecked. It was part of a process of many gay men, and it was mostly gay men at that time, coming out, declaring their commitment to the very survival of what they termed at that time "our people" that brought about transformation that I would say has changed the world in the most wonderful ways.

Please indulge me for a few seconds, because I need to tell you a story. It's a story that has affected me very, very deeply and has made me understand so clearly why it's so important for you to continue to come back to Dartmouth College. When it started out, it was a question of survival; friends, colleagues, partners, lovers were dying ... and nobody cared. There was no research being done; there were no dollars being put into prevention; it was as if the world had decided that it was OK for this particular group of people to die in extraordinarily frightening numbers. My friends, [AIDS activists] Mark Harrington, Eric Sawyer, Greg Gonzales – my heroes – said, "We have nothing more to lose; let's take this to the people in power!" They did things like take fake blood, sheep's blood, go into the National Institute of Health and *throw* it on people, because they weren't doing enough to do research on HIV. ... Mark Harrington was the first to do this; Mark was HIV-positive in the early 1980s; he took it upon himself to learn about the Food and Drug Administration, so that we could

accelerate the movement of promising chemicals through the process so that we could actually have drugs. They then pushed hard and participated in clinical trials so that we could get these medicines to market quickly. But the most stunning thing to me was that they said, after we *had* great drugs..., "damned if we will let this only be available to the wealthy!", and they were our greatest partners in ensuring treatment for Haitians and for Africans. They were always the ones I could count on; I would call them and say "Hey, we're stuck." I was very involved in that time in trying to get HIV drugs to people in Africa and elsewhere. They were the ones who when I called them they would show up. They would take over buildings; they took over *Pfizer*; (Eric Sawyer figured out a way to get inside Pfizer wearing suits; they took over this whole building in Manhattan!) because they'd learned something so essential about solidarity: That when you are part of a group that is outcast; that is discriminated against, you understand something about what it means to feel like that. And so this group of people took it upon themselves to say "Because we know what that's like, we're not going to let poor Africans in villages die because people think it's OK for them to die." That I think is one of the greatest acts of human solidarity that I have ever witnessed in my entire life.

I want to welcome you back and I want to encourage you to continue to come back. Your presence here makes us all better. It makes us think more broadly, but it makes us understand that the human experience and human solidarity of all people regardless of ... their gender, regardless of their sexual orientation – this is the reality of the world. And in fact it's not just that that's helpful or that we want to be tolerant because it's the politically correct thing to do; in the case of HIV/AIDS that sense of solidarity, that sense of connecting us all together, that sense that we're not going to tolerate discrimination and marginalization anymore.... Thank you for being here; know that I'm in your corner, know that I've got your back; know that we want you here; and more than anything else, we *need* you here; we need you here to make us all better. Thank you very much. ❖

ALUMS AND STUDENTS REFLECT ON REUNION

Rigel Cable '10: This year's DGALA all-class reunion was a phenomenal experience for the many undergraduate students who attended the event. Several students described the experience using the word "empowering," and I want to briefly elaborate upon why this word is so succinct. Current LGBT undergraduates at Dartmouth have a mostly ahistorical experience of the College. Yes, we have vestiges of Old Dartmouth: winter carnival, the greek houses, and secret societies; yet, we lack one key history that ties us into the fabric of the college: the story of our community, the LGBT community. When DGALA came back this fall, we were all suddenly reimmersed into a struggle that has lasted many decades. We understood for the first time that some of our negative experiences have a precedent, some of our positive experiences were put in place by thoughtful students before us, and we are part of a broader history of the Dartmouth LGBT community. This empowers us because we realize that we can make change at our College, our experience is not ahistorical, and our voice is not one voice but many voices that includes those who have spoken out before us. Thank you for reconnecting us with the Dartmouth fabric and for sharing your stories.

•

Katie Lynch '02: My years at Dartmouth were filled with discovery, both about the world around me and about myself. When I came out as a lesbian at the beginning of my senior year, I found myself facing accusations and judgments from my biological family, but

my Dartmouth family could not have been more supportive. Dartmouth not only helped me to find the courage to live honestly, but also trained me to become a stronger and more effective writer. Now, on the cusp of attaining my PhD and as the author of several lesbian romance novels, I am nurturing that courage in others through the power of teaching and the power of fiction.

When I returned to campus for the DGALA reunion, I was inspired by the stories of alumni and staff members who came



before me and humbled by their persistent efforts to transform Dartmouth

into the inclusive environment that it is now--often in the face of great resistance. "Welcome home," was a common phrase heard throughout the reunion, and I *felt* welcomed by the President, by the Dean, by Alumni Relations, by current students. The weekend was a powerful intellectual and emotional experience: I learned, I laughed, I cried, I cheered. And as I drove back down the hill toward the highway, the airport, and my daily responsibilities, I felt a renewed inspiration to pay Dartmouth's welcoming spirit forward, both personally and professionally, 'round the girdled earth.

•

Hal Washington '75: Thank you, Mr. Song '53 for your wisdom in declaring that in 1953 you had more important issues than sexuality to address. Praise you, Emeritus President Wright for allowing DGALA to

take root and blossom under your watch. Pam Misener, kudos, for nurturing all the exceptional spirits drawn to your Green Light as they continue to grow into strong *voces clamatis in deserto*. Oh, President Kim, I was privileged to hear you proclaim the unbounded worth of each Dartmouth grad you will shepherd through the college. Yet, it was you Bishop Robinson, who made me weep with your advice of "not allowing anyone the chance to rob you of your joy". I almost forgot how as a boy at Dartmouth my gayness was my joy. The years, adventures, misadventures, loss of friends and family have not taken that away from me. I salute you Joanne '75 for tackling problems in your life and having the generosity to write a book about it. Go Dartmouth! I urge all my twin spirited brethren to leave the legacy of their story, at the least, to the College. Thank you Prof. Saccio for reminding me of Oscar Wilde (Ballard of Reading Goal), who along with Gordon Merrick (The Lord Won't Mind), Mary Renault (The Persian Boy) and Thomas Mann (Death in Venice), molded my



psyche as to possibilities after Dartmouth. With the parents at this reunion, who brandished their children's pictures about, I giggled with joy because I never expected anything less from my fellow alums. Despite, my trepidations about dogma, the intrinsic worth of DGALA, I believe, is it gives opportunity to each member to declare their

self worth. This chance to get comfortable in one's own skin before changing the world is a special gift that all same-gender loving alumni need to strongly support.

•

Charif Shanahan MA '10: I'm in the 9-month MA program in Comparative Literature at Dartmouth, which means I've only been here two months and haven't had so much time to develop strong ties to the Dartmouth community, LGBT or otherwise. But I must say that I was overjoyed and, at times, extremely moved to see such a beautiful display of solidarity over the reunion weekend. I earned my undergraduate degree at Princeton-- a place which is thought to have a similar kind of culture, I think-- and the experience of LGBT life available here at Dartmouth is worlds better. After the reunion weekend, I want to be more involved with the community and already know that I will definitely return to Dartmouth after my brief 9 months here are over to celebrate and to contribute to the strength of its LGBT family.

•

Ed Hermance '62: It was great to see the transformation of the school since the days when I was there and even since '84, when I was there for the first gay reunion. Meeting so many of you folks who have made DGALA so big and energetic was a great experience. I have the impression that President Wright had a major role in changing the demographics of the College, but I think the combination of the student group and DGALA must be among the building blocks of the new environment. It was amazing to see two dyky-looking students kissing on the sidewalk in front of Dartmouth Hall. We in the early days worked hard, but at least I could

not have brought the organization to where it is now.

•

Alice Kessler '00: The DGALA 25th anniversary reunion was a great way to reconnect with old friends and network with new ones. The entire event -- from the top-notch programming and speakers to the celebratory dinner gala to the festive Halloween night party at the DOC house -- was a tremendous success. It is so wonderful to see the College's strong commitment to LGBT students and alumni -- no doubt the result of DGALA's tireless efforts over the years to make the campus inclusive and welcoming for all students. I'm proud to be a member of DGALA and can't wait for for the next reunion!

•

Ray Rodriguez '09: The DGALA 25th reunion was a fabulous time to network, catch up, and meet amazing LGBT alums that helped shaped the Dartmouth experience for the better and made it an incredible place for the younger alums like myself. Being my first reunion, and a recent graduate, I appreciated the history that was shared and passion for Dartmouth that links all of the DGALA classes. It truly was an incredible and inspirational weekend. Can't wait for the next reunion!

•

Vincenzo Bavaro, MALS '11 I am an Italian Fulbright student here at Dartmouth for the Master in Liberal Studies (2011). I was at the DGALA Reunion, and I loved it! The Lectures were excellent. But most of all, I was moved by the sense of community, a queer Dartmouth community celebrating its struggles, and its achievements. LGBT visibility on campus is still very low (compared to US and European urban realities), and it was a great opportunity for me to meet other LGBT

students. I arrived here few months ago, and it was the first time that I felt a sense of belonging to this place, this community and its history. Overall, it's been an incredible experience, and I am grateful to everyone who made it possible.

•

Mike Amico '07: I was encouraged to hear how many queer alumni wanted to record stories of their time at Dartmouth. But there's a problem: some of their anecdotes, let alone our already recorded histories of queer (and straight) Dartmouth, contradict each other. Any discussion about adding to the history of Dartmouth through personal testimony must take into account the effects of trauma on memory and meaning. Otherwise, the queer histories of Dartmouth will continue to be as distorted as many of the straight histories of Dartmouth.

•

Sarah Burgamy '00: I would only add a piece to reflect that this momentous celebration included alumni from the class of 1953, Mr. Thomas Song, through 2009 with many 2013 students in attendance as well. This gathering truly spanned the history of DGALA and GLBT individuals at the College. There are too many weekend "highlights" to name; however, I believe Bishop Gene Robinson's talk on Saturday afternoon was celebrated by many! We have come a long way at Dartmouth College in embracing GLBT students and alumni alike. Finally, I'd like to give a special "shout out" to those brave souls who joined me at Alumni Gym bright and early on Saturday morning of the Reunion! As a varsity athlete while at Dartmouth and an out lesbian, it was like coming full circle to feel truly embraced in all corners of campus! ❖

HIGHLIGHTS FROM GALA AWARDS DINNER

On Saturday evening of the Reunion weekend, DGALA honored six distinguished members of the alumni and College communities. They were President Emeritus James Wright '64a, Assistant Dean of Students and Advisor to LGBT Students Pam Misener, and alumni Trevor Burgess '94, Joanne Herman '75, Ed Hermance '62 and Alice Kessler '00. Space limitations prevent us from reproducing all but a tiny fraction of the inspiring words of the honorees to the assembled GALA dinner crowd, but here follow a few brief excerpts:

PRESIDENT EMERITUS JIM WRIGHT

I am honored to be recognized by you on behalf of this organization, an organization that we respect and to whom Dartmouth is grateful. ... It's a special privilege for me to be honored alongside people whom we respect. [President Wright references each of the other five honorees.] And finally my colleague Peter Saccio [whom DGALA honored in 2004]. Peter served as an advisor to you when it was at times a lonely assignment. And he has served as an advocate for you for a lifetime. Henry Adams once wrote that a teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops. I hope, Peter, that you see here around you your influence, and know that your influence is far from stopped. You are a true difference maker; thank you.

When I reflect on my 40 years at Dartmouth ... when I think of the way that this institution has changed and progressed in those forty years, I am sometimes in awe. My goal ...has been quite simple: I want Dartmouth ... to make certain that all students in this community feel fully a part of this community. That is my simple dream.... Dartmouth's magic comes from our richness and diversity rather than from trying to closet our identities in order to secure a false singularity. Joanne mentioned the pressure on those who might be different to blend in, to fade away ... We should never encourage our students to blend in and fade away. This has not always been easy... but it has been easier because of your support, ... and your energetic and stubborn insistence. And because you have modeled through the range of your many contributions the true richness and the marvels of a diverse community. I have enjoyed every year that I was President meeting on reunion week with you on Saturday morning at the DGALA breakfast ... and thanking you for your encouragement and support of the things that we have taken on. ... You need to take pride in your accomplishments... and



L to R: Caroline Kerr, DGALA VP, Jim Wright, Alice Kessler, Pam Misener, Joanne Herman, Ed Hermance, Trevor Burgess and Susi Kandel, DGALA President

you need to take pride as well in the sometimes too slow but always steady progress in American society. ... In the seventy years of my lifetime there have been some tremendous changes. ... There remains so much work to be done.... But work that remains to be done should not cause us to neglect to pause on occasion to pause and reflect and to take pride in the work completed.... We are grateful to the pathbreakers who are here and have challenged us to do no more and no less than to meet our country's and our College's highest purposes and highest principles. ... This College is based on the principle of all students being part of a community and being welcome as part of this community. These principles, simple and yet I believe sacred, sacred in the fullest secular sense, these principles of equality in being members of a community have no qualifiers or exceptions attached to them. And we should never again tolerate implicit qualifiers and exceptions: *all means all.*

I congratulate you for 25 years of service and support as an organization for Dartmouth, for each other and most importantly for our students. ... You have provided a lot of support for them. You have encouraged them. You remind them always that they are not alone, and by your own accomplishments you show them that they, like all Dartmouth students, can do absolutely anything that they wish to do.

Susan and I salute you, and we thank you. We're prepared to help you in any way we can as you take on the next 25 years. The tasks are awesome, but as we've already learned, the results will be consequential. And you always will be welcome here on this campus. Welcome home! I'm delighted to be with you.

JOANNE HERMAN '75

Joanne began by describing how she came to DGALA's second all-class reunion in 2004, as a newly out transgender person, where she was welcomed. And how Pam Misener was particularly

supportive and later discussed with Joanne possibly doing an Alumni Magazine article. Joanne replied:

Never!... You have to understand that for a long time transgender people were told that in order to be successful in life they needed to blend in and fade away. So the folks that you largely know as transgender are the folks who weren't able to do that, so by the old standards they were considered to be failures. Folks like me typically have faded away, and that's been really sad, because we need their support in order to obtain trans rights and they're not there. Maybe that will change, hopefully I can have a part in that. But the idea at that point of doing the Alumni Magazine article was totally out of the question. And so roll the clock forward, and former President Jim Wright at one of our mini-reunions gave me my class of 1975 reunion in my new name! And I think at that point I really started to see things differently. I really started to see how being visible and being out could be helpful. And so it took a little bit, but then I did do that Alumni Magazine article. And I wrote a book, and I not only wrote a book, but I'm on the cover. I am so out! [Laughter, applause.] I certainly didn't ever imagine that, but I think that you all had a part in that, ... and so I really want to thank ... all of you who are here tonight for powering me up to do what I do and making the College a better place for people like me.

ED HERMAN '62

As described in the Reunion program materials, Ed's brave and pioneering efforts in 1984 are the genesis of DGALA, and hence its 25th anniversary in 2009. In 1983, Ed wrote a letter to the Editor of the Dartmouth Alumni Magazine decrying the College's refusal to include sexual orientation in its non-discrimination policy. Ed's letter put forth a call for LGBT alums to band together to make their voices heard, and that letter led to the first assembly of LGBT alums at the College in 1984. (Ed is featured in the November/December 2009 issue of the Alumni Magazine.) Despite his bold leadership, Ed is a modest person, and his remarks on accepting his award were brief but poignant:

I ... only got into the gay movement, so to speak, about 11 or 12 years after I had graduated. At that time I didn't know any other LGBT alumni at all. And when I wrote that letter [to the editor of the Alumni Magazine in 1983], I had been active in the gay movement for a couple of years; it was another year yet before I ended up at Giovanni's Room bookstore, where I still am. So to be your guest, and to be featured so prominently in the Alumni Magazine, it's overwhelming. ... It's overwhelming too to meet with so many of you compared with the couple of dozen who came to that first reunion in '84. It's

overwhelming to see the strength and excitement in DGALA; and I want to say, as each of the generations of students – and I think you should count every four years as a new generation – and no matter what we alumni do, it's really the students who create the atmosphere here. We can help, but it's really they who are creating the future for other LGBT folks. Thank you very much. ❖

BISHOP ROBINSON ADDRESSES DGALA

On Saturday, openly-gay Episcopal bishop Gene Robinson addressed a full house of alums and students at Filene Auditorium on "Faith and Sexuality." While marveling at the progress that LGBT people have achieved over the past two decades, Robinson noted that much prejudice remains, 95% of which is of religious origin.



Robinson debunked what he termed the "seven texts of terror" that are commonly misused from the Bible to justify discrimination against gay people. He termed such discrimination "heterosexism" (as opposed to "homophobia"), for heterosexism is similar in nature to racism or sexism: a pervasive oppression by a longstanding group of the powerful against a historically less powerful group. Robinson said that gay people ultimately should not feel the need to seek approval of heterosexuals: "We are called upon not to change people's minds, but to bear our witness.... We should say to ourselves 'I'm going to live my life with so much joy that people will ask me what makes me tick.'"

After the reunion, Robinson told *Green Light*, "What a delight to be with the Dartmouth Gay & Lesbian Alum Association. This lively and energetic group offered me such a hospitable welcome, and it was clear they were having a FABULOUS time. I suspect that there is something very healing about returning to one's alma mater, where many were closeted and in pain, only to discover others (some in their own class) who had experienced something similar in their time at Dartmouth -- now to celebrate their identities with pride. I was honored to be among them!" ❖

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DGALA NOTES

It has been an incredibly busy fall for DGALA. As you will read in this issue of the Green Light, over Halloween weekend we hosted the DGALA 25th Anniversary All-Class Reunion, which was attended by over 200 alumni/ae, students, faculty and staff, and their families. Guests spanned six decades of class years - from 1953 to



2013. We were honored to have President Dr. Jim Yong Kim sponsor and give welcome remarks at our Friday night reception and to have Acting Dean of the College Dr. Sylvia Spears host a Saturday luncheon. Other highlights of the weekend included a lecture by Bishop Gene Robinson, a panel on LGBT history at Dartmouth and a comedy performance by Vidur Kapur. All of our deep thanks go out to reunion co-chairs Sarah Burgamy '00 and Garrett Hornsby '87 – and the many others who helped – for such fabulous work!



Garrett and Sarah

If you missed the reunion (or if you just can't get enough of DGALA), we hope that you will be able to join us for our June mini-reunion on the weekend of June 19, 2010.

We are also very excited about some new initiatives we will be launching in the coming year. In particular, we will be seeking DGALA member participation in a number of newly-formed board committees. Please stay tuned to your DGALA emails to find out how you can become more involved!

Finally, as you may know, the College is facing a significant budget deficit and we encourage you all to contribute to the Dartmouth College Fund. Through the DCF/DGALA Scholars Program, funds contributed to the Dartmouth College Fund by DGALA members will go to support LGBT-identified students -- something which is especially important, now more than ever.

As always, I would love to hear from you. Please feel free to contact me at susi@alum.dartmouth.org. ❖

Dues Envelopes Are Enclosed! In case you've not yet contributed or paid dues to DGALA this fiscal year (July 1 to June 30), we have enclosed a handy pre-addressed envelope in hopes that you will do so now. D-GALA operates almost entirely on the generosity of our supporters, and we put your contributions to good use through funding our All-Class Reunions, our free annual June mini-reunions, various regional events, on-campus events with alums and students, and supporting LGBT issues and events at Dartmouth, annual gift certificates for LGBT grads, our members directory, and, of course, this newsletter! We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, and so your contribution is tax deductible. If you prefer, you may also give at www.dgala.org.

Please also Support Students! If you'd like to help to fund LGBT student scholarships on campus, please support the DCF/DGALA Scholars Fund by giving to the Dartmouth College Fund (www.DartmouthCollegeFund.org). You may also support the Scholars Fund by enclosing a check for the DCF with the enclosed dues envelope. (Whichever way you choose, your contribution will automatically support LGBT students.)

More Reunion Content on our Website! For more on the reunion, including more photos and more words from our fabulous guests and honorees, go to www.dgala.org. ❖

ALUM NOTE

A special late addition to the reunion program was an opportunity for alums to hear our own Katie Lynch '02 read from her new novel in Sanborn House (that's her photo on page 4 at the reading). Katie also filled us in on what it's like to be a published author (while simultaneously trying to finish her PhD!). You can find out more about Katie's books at www.nellstark.com and www.everafterseries.com. ❖