



GREEN LIGHT

Volume 12, Issue 2 *Newsletter of Dartmouth's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Alumni/ae Association* December 2007

DGALA Celebrates Coeducation Reunion

A great group of DGALA alums attended the 35th anniversary celebration of coeducation at Dartmouth last month. DGALA director Sarah Burgamy '00 sent us this fabulous report on the event:

35 Years of Women at Dartmouth – Is That All It's Been ?!

Sarah Burgamy, '00

Phew! Re-entry is always a bit bumpy returning to the daily grind following a packed weekend in chilly Hanover. It seems it always takes the better part of a week or so just to distill thoughts, integrate memories with newly made connections, and simply digest the sheer magnitude and impact of being surrounded by close to 400 incredible women. “Almost 400 women?!”, you might say. *Where had I been? On an Coeducation. continued on*

Save the Date!

DGALA'S SECOND ALL-CLASS MINI REUNION June 13-15, 2008

**THE NEXT DGALA MINI REUNION ON CAMPUS
WILL BE JUNE 13-15, 2007**

**INCLUDING DGALA DORM HOUSING,
INTERACTIVE EVENTS WITH STUDENTS, ALUMS,
FACULTY AND STAFF AND MORE!**

**REUNIONING CLASSES THAT WEEKEND INCLUDE
'78, '83, '97-99, AND '03**

**BUT ALL DGALA ALUMS ARE INVITED
TO JOIN DGALA IN A FUN SUMMER WEEKEND**

DGALA Alums Enjoy June Mini-Reunion

Amidst sunny mild weather, some 100 DGALA alums, friends, partners and children attended DGALA's June 2007 mini-reunion on campus this year. The reunion featured a packed schedule of events over the College's June reunion weekend. The weekend kicked off on Friday (June 15th) with an afternoon open house in the LGBT Student Center at Robinson Hall, where alums relaxed, chatted and took in the gay-friendly atmosphere of the student center. . .



DGALA Alums Fund Four LGBT Scholars via Scholars Program

The second fiscal year of the DGALA/DCF Scholars program was as successful as the inaugural year of the program. DGALA alums donated over \$90,000 to the program with a participation rate of 43% (about the same as last year). Those donated funds enabled the Scholars Program to once more fund four (4) scholarships for LGBT students.

Three scholars have returned from last year, including Ray Rodriguez '09 and Meli Garber '08. (Profiles of Ray and Meli appeared in last December's *Green Light*.) No doubt speaking for all of the scholars, Ray Rodriguez recently wrote DGALA (from France, where he is studying abroad this term), "I am extremely grateful for DGALA's continuous aid and support through the Scholar's Fund. Thank you for your contributions and thoughts."

To fully fund four scholars next year, DGALA hopes to raise \$100,000 through the DGALA/DCF Scholars Fund. Any contribution made to the DCF this fiscal year (July '07 through June '08) will help to meet that goal. You may contribute on line by going to www.dartmouthcollegefund.org. There is no need to designate anything special – just by being a member of DGALA, your gift will support the Scholars Fund. But don't forget to renew your DGALA membership too!

Regional Updates

LA – Jason Deckbar '00: "The LA chapter of DGALA held a Homecoming-Away-From-Home event in October at The Abbey Food & Bar in West Hollywood. We had a strong showing of younger alums, and all were able to meet those newly relocated to the area and to reconnect with classmates. The group discussed ideas for events in the New Year, so be on the lookout! Send suggestions, etc. to jasond@alum.dartmouth.org.

Boston – Kate Huyett '05: "Boston DGALA had its first event in October, hosting a brunch in the South End. We had a fabulous time and all expressed interest for more events, plus new ways to enable members to connect."

Seattle – Sheila Hicks '04: "The Seattle area DGALA members and friends will be having a happy hour in January. Please contact me at sjh04@alum.dartmouth.org if you're in the area!"

Fall Campus Update

The LGBT community on campus has enjoyed an excellent fall term. As a strong class of 2011 appeared on campus in September, the GSA hosted an orientation week ice cream social, and a good number of LGBT students led first-year trips. In October National Coming Out Month (MCOM) brought an exciting schedule of events. Among the highlights was the NCOM Community Dinner at Collis Student Center on October 11 (National Coming Out Day). Special guest speaker at the dinner was Jeff Sheng (a 2004 Harvard grad and now UC Santa Barbara full-time instructor), who created the exhibition "Fearless," which was displayed at Collis and Alumni Gymnasium throughout NCOM. "Fearless" exhibits photographs of LGBT college and high school athletes. The exhibition includes photographs of DGALA member Andrew Goldstein '05 and current GSA co-chair Jamal Brown '08. On Saturday, October 13, DGALA directors Susi Kandel '00, Kamil Walji '03 and David Eichman '82 attended a casual dinner with Pam Misener (Dartmouth Assistant Dean and Advisor to LGBT Students) and ten LGBT students, at which the alums and students discussed DGALA and compared experiences from their days at Dartmouth. On October 18, Mark Doty, a contemporary poet and writer from Provincetown, presented the 8th annual Stonewall Lecture at Filene Auditorium. Doty's lecture and readings focused on how the AIDS epidemic influenced his writing and how his writings reflected that epidemic and its effects. ♦

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Friday night's activities included the Alumni Stars Concert at Spaulding Auditorium, featuring DGALA's own Matt Yee '82, an internationally known entertainer and recording artist. After the show, DGALA alums moved to the Canoe Club, a hot nightspot on Main Street, where DGALA and the Office of Alumni Relations treated all to cocktails and good times.

Saturday morning featured the annual DGALA reunions breakfast, held for the first time this year in the spacious Hinman Forum in Rockefeller Center to accommodate the large crowd, which has outgrown the old space in the Faculty Lounge of Hopkins Center. Besides a full hot breakfast, DGALA alums and friends enjoyed catching up with old and new friends and hearing from LGBT alums, faculty, staff and College President James Wright. The President's heartfelt words (see story,

page 4) were particularly warmly received.

A highlight of the weekend

occurred on Saturday afternoon, when retiring English Professor Peter Saccio delivered a special lecture to the DGALA alums in the Moore Theater in Hopkins Center. The lecture, entitled "Challenging Gay Stereotypes, Making Good Poetry," included handouts (shades of student days!) of two poems with LGBT subject matter, together with insightful analysis and moving readings by Saccio. After the

ALUM NEWS & NOTES

Calvin Glenn '92 is living in Irving, Texas. He publishes www.blackgayusa.com.

Richard Morell '86 writes from Albany, NY: "I work as a legal secretary at a downtown firm. Beyond my day job I am involved with the Classic Theater Guild here in Albany. I produced "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" and I played Mr. Harding in a production of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" and Capt. Hook in "Peter Pan." (Yarr! Odds, bobs, hammer and tongs, I did burn up the set!!!) I also do Tarot Card readings as part of the First Friday art-walks and I'm starting up an astrology business as well. My partner Joseph Dalton is a classical music critic for the Albany newspaper and local NPR affiliate."

Katie Lynch '02 and her partner Lisa Torrey '03 report that they attended the DGALA Mini Reunion this summer: "It was a blast!" Katie and Lisa live in Madison, Wisconsin, and Katie this year published "Running with the Wind" a lesbian novel with a sailing theme. Her pen name is Nell Stark. Check out her website: www.NellStark.com!

Matt Truesdale '01 writes "After a couple of years in advertising, I came to my senses and am now in my second year at Columbia Medical School."

DGALA Supports Trustees' New Plan

DGALA has expressed its support for the September 2007 actions by the College's Board of Trustees to expand the size of the Board and to make related reforms to enhance alumni democracy at Dartmouth. The Trustees acted following four consecutive alumni trustee elections in which "petition candidates" put forth by conservative alumni were elected in crowded fields with confusing voting rules. The Trustees new plan has two major aspects: (1) expanding the Board from 18 to 26 members, the eight additional trustees to be appointed by the Trustees, and (2) retaining alumni trustee elections for the eight "alumni trustees," but charging the Alumni Council and the Association of Alumni (who oversees the election process) with adopting a simpler and fairer election process. Board Chair Ed Haldeman '70, in a September 8, 2007 letter to the Dartmouth community, stated that the new appointed trustees would "represent[] even more diverse backgrounds."

DGALA has followed the trustee controversy closely since alumni trustee candidates espousing conservative anti-diversity messages began to take advantage of the alumni trustee election system to win by gaining small pluralities in a field of otherwise mainstream candidates. DGALA members raised the issue at DGALA's June breakfast meeting this summer, and DGALA subsequently sought and received further member feedback on the subject. Expressing the views of its members and DGALA's Board, DGALA President Susi Kandel '00 wrote to Trustee Chair Haldeman on September 14, 2007 expressing DGALA's support for the Trustees actions. On November 5, on behalf of the DGALA Board, Kandel again wrote to Haldeman (with

President Wright Addresses DGALA

DGALA members and friends who packed Hinman Forum in Rockefeller Center at the annual DGALA Breakfast on Saturday, June 16, heard President James Wright address the group for the seventh consecutive year. (Wright earned a friendly laugh from the group when he confessed that, like "a horse heading to his stable," he had first appeared at the Faculty Lounge for the event that morning, forgetting that it had been relocated to Rockefeller Center to accommodate the growing crowd of DGALA alums.)

Honoring the alums for providing leadership and positive role models for LGBT students at Dartmouth, President Wright said, "You are doing a terribly important thing," adding "You are models of our graduates making a difference in the world." Speaking of diversity on campus, Wright said that the College is continuously working to "protect what it is that we value here". He noted with pride that the College was recently named one of the "100 Best Colleges for LGBT Students" by *The Advocate*, yet Wright added "But we are not done; there are issues that must always be engaged." One question from a DGALA alumna focused on recent College Board of Trustees elections, which, she noted, have seen elected a series of trustees "inimical to diversity." President Wright replied that the Trustees had appointed a governance committee to study and make recommendations regarding the issue. (See story at left.) Wright continued that his goal was to make Dartmouth "a diverse community as fully welcoming as it can be" and that today "we're not doing that as well as we'd like". President Wright also honored retiring Professor Peter Saccio and thanked him for his many years of great service to the College's LGBT community. He ended to widespread applause, promising to return next June. ♦

Olivia cruise? At Michigan Women's Festival? An Indigo Girls' concert? Northampton, MA? No, no, no... The weekend of November 9-11 marked the 35th anniversary of coeducation at Dartmouth. These three days, in perennial Dartmouth fashion, were filled with events – from the opening reception in Alumni Hall on Friday night, to a closing brunch Sunday morning in Collis Commonground. Opening remarks on Friday night were made by Ann Fritz Hackett, '76, the first alumna trustee and Carol Folt, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Now, if you were in attendance, between shoveling as many of those little cheese pocket thingies (yes, "thingie" is a culinary term) as you could get, and taking in the energetic vibrations of Alumni Hall filled with the buzz of conversation and staccato of laughter, I don't know about you, but remarks pointed to the common experience of having been part of Dartmouth's storied history, and glancing around at women spanning graduating classes of 1976 to present, put a rather large lump in my throat. I felt proud. Proud of family members, proud of friends, and proud of myself. I felt proud of Dartmouth. Proud of a decision made 35 years ago by a Board of Trustees facing stark

opposition from those who feared the transition, to seek the very best Dartmouth could be. See! There I go again – a full week and a half later, the pride simply has not worn off! This feeling continued throughout the weekend. Even when the simply wicked start time of 7AM on Saturday morning for breakfast and a discussion regarding the impact of Title IX on women's athletics rolled around, somehow, I saw fit to drag myself from the stupor of slumber (running on Mountain Time here folks!) and enjoy lively tables of discussion, and a, poignant, humorous and compelling talk by Janet Judge, Harvard Graduate (well, by sheer number, we can't all attend Dartmouth) and President of Sports Law Associates, LLC. Her speech seemed to emphasize how little one could have predicted of the eventual mammoth impact of Title IX in the arena of women's participation and access to athletic endeavors. I cannot help but draw the parallel to Dartmouth coeducation: how one decision can change the course of history – not just of an institution, but the eventual

history for countless alumni, in this case, the women and men of Dartmouth.

It is hard to know what to share providing a "synopsis" of the weekend. Besides giving a "run down" of events, I want to share my feelings, thoughts, and reflections on this anniversary event. Undoubtedly, the graduates of Dartmouth never cease to blow my mind with their endeavors, their passion, and commitment to their fields, families, and the world. Multiple symposia sessions throughout the day on Saturday chronicled the varied life paths of Dartmouth's daughters. But if you really want to know what I took away from the weekend (aside from the truly fabulous mug I have here by my side as I write...It's true, I really like Dartmouth swag), my thoughts more immediately turn to conversations and new friends. An informal DGALA reception at

Canoe Club on Friday night and over 20 women packed into a tiny side room in the restaurant swapping stories, sharing memories of Dartmouth, and aspirations beyond, and simply laughing and enjoying the moment. Four packed DGALA sponsored tables on Sunday morning in Collis, comparing notes on Dartmouth in the 1970s and the Dartmouth of today with current students, the multiple occasions throughout the

weekend where a newly made acquaintance did not hesitate to wave a hand wildly in the air across the crowded West Gym, an invitation to join her table. It is amazing how, in only three days, I heard myself and countless others make offers without hesitation – "if you're ever in Denver-Boston-New York – California – New Hampshire, please come visit – come stay – I'll show you around – anytime..." I guess, this is what stays with me most, not hats with pink Ds on them (although I am contemplating buying some Rit dye to turn mine green – nothing against pink, but I like Dartmouth GREEN!), not catered meals or nicely decorated tables. It is you. It is the people who have crossed the Dartmouth green, each in his or her own time, leaving their footprints and breath in the cold air, and returning, bringing all you have learned, bringing your wisdom and humanity back to share – with all of us. Happy 35th Dartmouth, and thank you. ♦



DGALA Alums at Celebration

President's Message

As you can see from this edition of the Green Light, the past six months have been quite busy for DGALA. Our DGALA mini-reunion in June was a tremendous success with a large crowd attending the annual reunions breakfast. And Peter Saccio's lecture Saturday afternoon was poignant, both in its substance and as the last lecture of his official Dartmouth career. DGALA was pleased to be able to present him with our Leadership Award in honor of his tireless work on behalf of the Dartmouth's LGBTQA community. DGALA also had a fantastic showing at the 35th anniversary of coeducation celebration in Hanover last month. More than 30 DGALA members attended to reminisce about their experiences as students at Dartmouth and to wonder at the changes the College has undergone in the past three and a half decades. The four tables we hosted at the closing brunch were packed with DGALA members and partners, current students, and invited guests, and it was a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones.



Susi Kandel '00

If Hanover is too far away – or too cold this time of year – have no fear because our Regional Development program is bringing the action to you. This fall we hosted Homecoming-Away-From-Home events all around the country – San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York and Boston – and have more events coming up soon in Seattle and Burlington. We are always looking for ideas for activities and energetic folks to make things happen, so please be in touch if you'd like to help out or if there is something you'd like to do with DGALA.

Looking ahead, DGALA has a lot of activities in store. Mark your calendars now for next year's second DGALA mini-reunion June 13-15, 2008 and the next DGALA All-Class Reunion scheduled for October 9-11, 2009. We will also have a number of regional activities this winter and spring so keep your eyes on your inbox or on our website at www.dgala.org.

Finally, DGALA needs your help so that we can continue to grow. First, please tell your friends about DGALA and have them sign up for our email and mailing lists. Second, if you haven't paid your dues, please do so today (you can do it online at www.dgala.org/membership.html). These funds allow DGALA to sponsor all of the activities mentioned here and more. Third, become more active in any one of a number of ways, including joining the DGALA Board of Directors (elections are fast approaching, so please contact me if you're interested), becoming a Regional Development Chair, or simply showing up the next time a DGALA event takes place near you.

As always, I can be reached at susi@alum.dartmouth.org and would love to hear from you. ♦

DGALA NOTES

DGALA Schedules Next All-Class Reunion on Campus for the weekend of October 9-11, 2009! This will be the start of DGALA's 25th anniversary year celebrations!

DGALA Contacts New Deans Regarding Diversity. DGALA President Susi Kandel wrote this summer to the new College Deans of Admissions (Maria Laskaris '84) and of the College (Tom Crady). Besides introducing the Deans to DGALA, Kandel's letters reminded them of the importance of fostering a positive climate towards diversity at Dartmouth, and of some of the challenges that the College has recently faced in this regard. Both Deans responded positively to DGALA's letters, and we look forward to continuing a productive dialogue with them regarding issues of importance to DGALA alums.

DGALA director openings. The fifteen-person DGALA Board has three "classes" of three-year terms, and so there are five open seats on the Board at the start of each calendar year. If you might be interested in serving on the board, or in some other capacity, please contact Susi Kandel '00 (address at left) or DartGALA@gmail.com. The deadline for director applications is Monday, January 7th.

Directory Update. We've added talented new help to our "directory team" and so we hope that the new member directory will be published shortly!

Support DGALA! We've had a great response from our members in making contributions for our current fiscal year that began on July 1, but if you've not yet given, it's easy to do so at www.DGALA.org. Your help will let us keep doing all the great things reported on in this issue!

