



GREEN LIGHT

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

Volume 17, Issue 2 • December 2012

MISENER SPEAKS TO *GREEN LIGHT* AS SHE MOVES ON

In late June this year, Pam Misener, Assistant Dean and Advisor to LGBT Students, announced that she would be stepping down from her post at the end of the year. Pam will be moving to New York state to join her wife, former Dartmouth administrator April Thompson, who has become Dean of Students at Binghamton University. A search committee, comprised of Dartmouth faculty, staff, advisors, students, and alumni/ae, including DGALA President & Alumni Councilor, Caroline Kerr '05, is currently engaged in identifying the next Assistant Dean & LGBTQQIA Advisor. Pam recently sat down with *Green Light* for an interview reflecting on her thirteen years at Dartmouth as the College's first full-time LGBT student advisor:

How did you come to be at Dartmouth?

I came to Dartmouth in the fall of 1999 after finishing a MEd in Social Justice Education at UMASS Amherst.

Pam Misener, continued on page 2

SAVE THE DATE! NEXT *FREE* ALL-CLASS MINI REUNION June 14-15, 2013

INCLUDING DGALA DORM HOUSING,
EVENTS WITH STUDENTS, ALUMS, FACULTY AND STAFF

REUNIONING CLASSES THAT WEEKEND INCLUDE
'68, '69, '78, '83, '88, '97-'99, AND '08
BUT ALL DGALA ALUMS ARE INVITED

DETAILS TO FOLLOW VIA *GREEN LIGHT*,
DGALA E-NEWS AND AT WWW.DGALA.ME

JUNE MINI-REUNION COMBINES FUN AND REFLECTIONS

DGALA's traditional free June mini-reunion this year again enabled LGBTQA alums to engage with their fellow alums, families and partners, as well as College students, faculty and staff, in a variety of fun and thought-provoking activities. This year's initial event, the evening open bar reception, was held at the Hanover's brand new "boutique hotel", Six South Street, which provided a fabulous setting for initial



Alums Sign-in at Saturday Brunch—While Eating!

greetings of old friends and meetings of new ones. Saturday's activities got underway with the DGALA breakfast meeting in Rockefeller Center, which featured personal reflections by many alums (see comments page 3), an informative talk by College President Carol Folt (see excerpts, page 4), lots of friendly conversation, and great hot food from Lou's.

Later that morning, DGALA was treated to a private tour of the Hood

Mini-Reunion. continued on page 3

What was your initial role at the College, and how did that change over time?

Initially, this position was a half-time LGBT Coordinator. It was created in '94-'95 and held by two very talented people prior to my arrival. In July 2000, the position became the full-time Assistant Dean and Advisor to LGBT Students that it is today.

What do you think is the significance of the position of Assistant Dean & Advisor to LGBTQQIA Students?

I think the significance is primarily two-fold. One is to support LGBTQQIA students whether individually



or in groups. The other is to work with the campus comprehensively to help every area develop skill sets and professional practices that are inclusive of the experiences of LGBTQQIA people, in general, and students, in particular.

How have you seen Dartmouth evolve over time, particularly with regard to what the College offers its LGBTQA student body?

For the most part, I have seen the College "put its money where its mouth is." I have always said LGBTQA students should have the resources to thrive in their experiences here, not just survive. To that end, I have had opportunities to partner with many wonderful people to create and grow resources both on campus and off. I have also enjoyed wonderful support from past college leaders like Holly Sateia, Jim Larimore, and Jim Wright.

What are the most exciting areas in which you see the College growing or improving?

I think the creation and growth of OPAL (Office of Pluralism and Leadership) over the years has been critical to the kind of infrastructure needed to support historically under-represented students,

including those who identify as LGBTQ. This is especially exciting when we talk about the multiplicity and intersection of identity.

Of what accomplishments are you most proud?

I am most proud of the ways in which we have made LGBTQQIA experiences a fact of life here on the campus. Students are able to be more fully who they are in all the many circles they inhabit. Now, don't get me wrong. There is still plenty of work to do, but we are worlds away from 1999. I am also proud of the work I have done to bring engaged pluralism to our campus whether through one-on-one conversations, presentations, or something more sustained like social justice dialogues.

What have been some of the highlights of your time at Dartmouth?

There have been many highlights over the years, but some that come immediately to mind include the first LGBT film series at the Loew, expansion of the non-discrimination policy to include "gender identity or expression", watching students and student groups grow, and seeing our LGBTQA work become a fabric of the institution. And of course, all the many wonderful people we've brought to campus over the years, as well as the opportunities we've created to get students OFF campus (Montreal Pride, NGLTF, WPC). A personal highlight would be having met my amazing wife, April Thompson, who until recently was also a campus administrator!

What do you hope for LGBTQA students at Dartmouth in the future?

I hope that the campus continues to learn and grow in its understanding of student lives, and especially LGBTQA experiences. I hope all students will have the opportunity to develop skills and practices that create more social justice on this campus, and off. And lastly, I hope that LGBTQA students will continue to learn about each other and grow in their own understanding of the rich complexities and even complications of our lives. If we don't consider how sexual orientation, sexuality, gender identity or expression intersect with race, ethnicity, religion, spirituality, socio-economic experience, ability, and so on then we're not doing the important work to improve the human condition.

What have been some of your more memorable moments with DGALA/Dartmouth alumni/ae?

Getting to know DGALA members is always memorable. The exciting work of helping to

Museum's fascinating special exhibition comparing works of Jose Orozco (especially his Baker Library murals) and a young Jackson Pollock. Saturday afternoon's main event was a lecture at the Hop by English Department Professor Jeff Sharlet, who has received numerous LGBT awards for his writing and speaking. Professor Sharlet's talk, entitled "God, Guns and Gays: How American Culture Wars Get Fought Overseas," focused on the links between draconian anti-LGBT legislative initiatives in Uganda and right-wing American political forces.



Professor Sharlet Addresses DGALA Mini-Reunion

Later that evening, alums and students had an informal dinner at the Canoe Club restaurant on Main Street.

The weekend again featured DGALA dorm housing courtesy of the College, and Mother Nature contributed fair skies and mild temperatures. The mini-reunion will be held again next year, and all DGALA members and friends are invited, so save the weekend and plan to join us! (See box, page 1.) ♦

ALUM COMMENTS ABOUT THE 2012 MINI-REUNION

Jack Anderson '72

Although I did not leave Dartmouth 40 years ago with warm-and-fuzzies for the place, I have now developed them (better late than never) from my recent visit and attendance at the reunion, and in particular at the DGALA mini-reunion events. I am so pleased to see so many progressive developments supporting the GLBT community at Dartmouth, especially the idea of a GLBT living unit/ cultural center. I've been active in gay rights since 1974 and I am always pleased to see these great results from all the hard work that so many of us have put in over the last 50-odd years.

I want to thank all of you for the great job you did in putting the DGALA reunion events together. You've brought yet another errant black sheep back into the fold. Schedule and cash flow permitting, you may even see me at the mini-reunion next year - stranger things have happened.

Nicole Clausing '92

It's so great to have a resource like DGALA at reunion. I wasn't very comfortable out in college and it's nice to have a group like DGALA to come back to. It reminds me of how far both Dartmouth and I have come.

Bradley Weaver '92

I really enjoyed the Hood tour. That was something that I think we should do again. I also think it is important to ensure that the DGALA mini-reunion activities continue to be included in the main, individual "class itineraries." It's important to have visibility for awareness purposes.

Karen Rahmeier '87

Yes, add me to the 'out' list. Thanks for hosting the event and helping DGALA exist.



All Smiles at the Mini-Reunion

Erik Ochsner '93

I was so thrilled that [my partner] Masataka was "willing" to go with me to the reunion so I could introduce my Dartmouth family to my "real-life" family! I would expect DGALA to accept Masataka with open arms, but I was so happy that ALL of my friends who I saw didn't even bat an eye when I introduced my partner. It was nice to be back on campus - all rosy and friendly! I appreciate people's honesty at the DGALA breakfast about some reservations about the past, but we're living today, and things are looking up!

❖ (See one more reflection, page 5.)

PRESIDENT FOLT ADDRESSES DGALA MINI-REUNION

Following President Kim's appointment earlier this year to lead the World Bank, the College named Provost Carol Folt as President on an interim basis until a new President of the College takes office. Having assumed the presidency shortly before the June mini-reunion, President Folt took on the traditional address to the DGALA mini-reunion Saturday breakfast and remarked upon a number of key issues and developments at the College of interest to LGBTQQA alums. Excerpts of her remarks are below.

DGALA and Alumni Connections

I've learned that Dartmouth alums, both at reunions and otherwise, besides connecting with their class, really enjoy connecting with groups like DGALA and finding a new network of students and friends and alumni. What I particularly like about these networks is that they go from students on campus to students that have recently graduated all the way to alumni who have been out many years and who have different experiences in the world. So by doing these connections it brings you together, but you also bring back an incredible knowledge to the campus that we all find very helpful as we try to improve things here.

Response to Bias Incidents

I'd like to give you an update on some happenings that I know that people care about. I think that you all know that we did have a couple of bias incidents this year on campus involving harassment of LGBT students. When things like this happen, there is an incredible feeling of dismay. And isn't just among the administration and faculty, but it extends through our student organizations and it forces us to try to think of ways to handle this better – not only to support the students that are involved, but also to try to create a better community where these kinds of things are not happening and are not tolerated.... We're coming up with recommendations to



President Folt with Her New DGALA T-Shirt

respond to incidents of harassment... We are interested in learning best practices from all over; and I'd like to open up that conversation with you. I've also heard students talk about the lack of openly gay counselors at Dick's House, and we have just now hired two new openly gay counselors at Dick's House, and the whole team is being trained and equipped to deal with sensitive issues that might arise in the LGBT student community. The students have had forums and have otherwise been incredibly thoughtful on how to improve things. Dr. Jack Turco, Director of Health Services at Dick's House, is a national expert in transgender issues and he's worked with Dartmouth students around transitioning issues; again, we are trying to increase our portfolio and make available to students the support systems that they need during their entire time at Dartmouth.

LGBT Affinity House

We are locating an LGBT affinity house spot on campus; that's moving forward; I don't have details on it yet, but they plan to begin construction on it sometime in 2013, so presumably I will have details on it soon. I know that they have been looking at where to put it. I know that this is an issue that has been on people's minds for a number of years. Hopefully next year we'll be celebrating a shovel in the ground on another activity that is going to be really important to the community. [applause]

Overall Climate

Some of you may have seen in the Huffington Post that Dartmouth was recently named one of 28 campuses with the top 5-star LGBT-friendly rating according to Campus Pride. [applause] I take a look at those things and say "that's great", but that doesn't mean it's all OK. Its great to have that kind of marker, but that doesn't mean we can go work on something else. It just becomes a marker to say that we have a chance to have something of real distinction here; let's continue that press and let's continue to make this a place that we're really proud of. ... This is a year to stay very connected; we think we're building up the crest of the wave that the new president will come in and go forward on. ♦

ROB MARTIN '87: UNDERGRAD EXPERIENCE, DGALA

My undergraduate experience at Dartmouth was a Game of Masks. From 1983-87, there was tremendous gender- and social-role policing in the dorms, frats, athletics, and classrooms. The pressure to assimilate and conform came along multiple dimensions, including: -Geography (I was an admission "statistic" from New Mexico, NOT a New Englander), -Culture (bury those Anglo-Hispanic family traditions; learn the new Yankee ones) -Wealth (as public school kid whose financial aid included Dining Hall shifts, I usually arrived late at lectures, smelling of ketchup), and -Social class (only sibling to finish college, but nearly dropped out twice).

In the 1980's, though the College was making some visible efforts to be inclusive about these four categories, there was still a lot of bigotry. For example, the organized "smear the queer" newspaper campaign conducted by *The Dartmouth Review* my freshman year against the Gay Students Association. In frustration over how the College's Committee on Standards handled that affair, I decided to get myself elected to the COS. Initially, we mostly heard [routine] cases. But near the end of sophomore summer, when a couple of students protested/vandalized a sorority's medical decorations at party that celebrated Rock Hudson's death by AIDS, the cases began to get more and more visible and more political. The line of scrimmage in sexual, gender, and race issues was at last being contested. Date-rape, take-back-the-night, organized homophobia, the Shantytown erection, and later, the Shantytown attacks, gave me many late nights in the COS chamber at the top of McNutt. I became an unashamed liberal pretty much overnight in response. I don't remember my oral arguments within the COS making much of a difference, but I do recall the terror of casting my dissenting vote while community members observed, hoping to telegraph my solidarity to those activists who stood up.

I still wasn't brave enough to come out of the closet, having disguised myself with internalized homophobia for so long, and so I dated women as

camouflage. Surely my celibacy wounded them, collateral damage caused by the need for a "Closet". I graduated bitter, confused and relieved to vacate the hothouse of Dartmouth.

I returned to Hanover once for our 5th year Reunion, and found that very few people had reinvented themselves, as I was trying to do. So I stayed away from other reunions, though nearly always donated to the Alumni Fund.

Around 2007, I met DGALA director Brendan Connell '87 at an Alumni function, and heard about DGALA's efforts. Thus the seal was loosened on my bitterness, and I fell into the DGALA mini-reunion events around my 25th reunion. I ran into a female Dining Hall co-worker, who related a homophobic terror and misery just like mine, which drove her to the brink of suicide during our Dartmouth years. Her confession at the DGALA breakfast, and hearing why others became part of the group, was quite emotional for me. I also met LGBT undergraduates, toured the gender-neutral dorm floor, and saw some transgender-sensitivity training materials.

It all made me realize that change starts with only a few voices. DGALA may not be the biggest constituency in the Dartmouth community, and there are many alumni who need to be coaxed out of hiding, but our elder, survivor wisdom CAN have an influence on reforming the institution. It must. ♦

DGALA SCHOLARS UPDATE

DGALA alumni/ae set a new record with the largest number of donors and highest participation rate in 2012. As a result, six DGALA Scholars will be named this year, up from four in FY11. Since 2006, DGALA has partnered with the DCF to support DGALA Scholars, LGBTQ students who are receiving need-based financial aid at the College. For every \$30,000 DGALA alums contribute to the DCF, another DGALA Scholar is named. Many thanks and congratulations go out to DGALA alums, as well as special thanks for the generosity of a member of our community and her partner who set a \$15,000 matching challenge. ♦

REPORTS FROM CAMPUS

GNPFighting for an Inclusive Dartmouth

By Joseph Miller '14

Upon returning from a competition with the Dartmouth figure skating team on Sunday, November 6 of 2011, I saw the homophobic and derogatory slurs that defaced the common room windows to my floor – my home (see “Vandals deface ground floor of Fahey-McLane,” in The Dartmouth, November 10, 2011). As a resident of the Gender Neutral Program Floor (GNPF), the high of returning from a successful competition immediately cooled to a heavy realization that there were students on this campus that would reduce me to a label, and then discriminate and abhor me for it. My need to protect my fellow floor mates deepened tenfold when the administration reacted slowly and timidly in asserting its stance that Dartmouth would not condone such discriminatory behavior. When Dean Johnson visited the floor the following week to discuss the matter with us, my floor mates and I adamantly sought a standard reactionary procedure for these kinds of events where the administration would jump to our support, through releasing statements through campus news, immediately deploying security, and implementing and supporting community events and programs to celebrate and discuss diversity. I knew from this incident that I wanted to be the GNPF UGA so that I could directly participate in helping to not only foster safety and a welcoming atmosphere on Ground Floor McLane, but to also encourage the spread of gender neutral housing options on this campus and to ensure a Dartmouth that does not condone hate and marginalization.

As I complete my first term as the GNPF UGA, I feel so blessed and inspired to have had my residents; they have all been very active and passionate in floor meetings, where we have discussed how gender and sexuality is experienced on campus, and to events such as our dinner with Michael Lowenthal '90 and listening to former governor of Vermont Madeline Kunin speak on her new book “The New Feminist Agenda: Defining the Next Revolution for Women, Work, and Family.” As a floor, we have been able

to explore what it means to promote a Dartmouth that is accepting of all diverse backgrounds through our events and meetings with Dartmouth alumni and faculty members.

The dynamics of our floor – with a majority of sophomores, many of whom rushed the Greek system this fall - have been such that much of our discussion has surrounded the compatibility of the Greek system with various gender identities and sexual orientations. But rather than a point of contention amongst the floor, my residents and I have based our discussions off of our individual experiences that have been positive and supportive to our lives here at Dartmouth.

In line with my experience this spring with my internship with the Utah Pride Center, where we invited over 400 LDS members to march in the Salt Lake Pride Parade, I have personally taken a theme of ‘building bridges’ with my work on campus. Through my UGA position with my residents, and projects with Student Assembly, I am ensuring that my efforts on campus promote cross-campus inclusivity. As I saw with the Pride Center’s success in the spring, different communities come together first through a unifying force – a bridge. It is over these bridges where I see a Dartmouth that promotes positive multiculturalism, away from a Dartmouth where slurs are written in residence halls.

Pam Misener Addresses Student Groups

with Erin Klein '13

On November 5, Pam Misener addressed a diverse group of students in a forum at Casque & Gauntlet Senior Society on Main Street sponsored by the Women's Forum, Outreach Peer Mentors and the Queer Women's Group. The event, which included dinner, was entitled “A Queer Reflection: Looking Back, Looking Forward” and featured Pam reflecting on her experiences as the LGBTQ Advisor to Dartmouth students since 1999, followed by a dialogue with Pam on the accomplishments of the program over the years, and Pam's vision for the program's future! Pam took questions from the crowd ranging from how to be a good ally to the

ways in which the Dartmouth community has grown to be more accepting of LGBTQ individuals. Women's Forum hosts regular dinners and facilitated discussions on issues surrounding women, gender dynamics, and the Dartmouth



Pam Misener Addresses Student Forum at C&G

community. The Forum aims to provide a regular "safe space" in which women across communities can sustain important campus dialogues and connect. Through providing a neutral space for conversation, Women's Forum aims to foster the development of organic relationships and provide a framework for community building among women across campus with the objective of strengthening Dartmouth's community of women as a whole.

Outreach Peer Mentor Update

With Derek Racine '14

The OUTreach LGBTQ Peer-Mentor Program trains current Dartmouth students as mentors to provide confidential, peer-to-peer mentoring in developing a positive LGBTQ identity while successfully adapting to life at Dartmouth. The program is designed to help students explore their personal interests, take advantage of campus resources, and find their own sense of community and self-identity.

This Fall we held our annual mentor training in which we prepare student peers on a range of issues relevant to the LGBTQ community including coming out to friends and family, positive sexuality and mental health, heteronormativity, intersectionality, and trans issues. This year we also educated allies to partake in freshman floor facilitations and to be campus resources for questions about LGBTQ life. We held several community dinners with faculty, including Larissa Hopkins, T.M. Mosley, and Judy Williams, co-sponsored an event surrounding the progress of queer activism at Dartmouth with Women's Forum

and LGBTQ advisor Pam Misener, and threw a joint "Drag-o-ween party" with GSX. In addition, we worked with Dick's House staff and Pam to run a continuing medical education discussion aimed at creating a safe and comfortable space for LGBTQ students in health services. As part of an initiative to increase campus awareness, we are facilitating discussions with Greek houses on LGBTQ issues and sensitivity. ♦

Mike Lowenthal '91 Campus Events

By Professor Michael Bronski

Michael Lowenthal '91 came to Dartmouth on October 2 for a full day of events. In the afternoon Michael attended Professor Bronski's "Introduction of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Studies" course where the students did an Oral History of him to explore what LGBT life was like on Campus in the later 1980s. They were surprised at the amount of queer activism that was happening. Michael then gave a reading from his new novel "Paternity Test" in the Wren Room at Sanborn which thirty faculty, staff, and students attended. That evening he had dinner with thirty students (catered by Orient and funded by DGALA) which resulted in a very lively discussion about the role of Greek life on campus, the place of LGBT students in campus affairs, and the place of activism on the Dartmouth campus -- then and now. Michael's events were sponsored by Women's and Gender Studies, the Center for Women and Gender, and DGALA. ♦

Misener Interview, continued from page 2

reconnect alums who maybe haven't been involved with Dartmouth for some time, as well as supporting current students as "alums in residence" makes for a full circle of memorable experiences! In addition, I remain profoundly grateful for those of you who work so hard to keep Dartmouth moving forward, and those who keep connected to students. Your guidance, support, and mentorship are invaluable.

Anything else you'd like to share?

It has been a joy and an honor to be part of the DGALA "family". I hope you will continue to encourage, and even insist, that today's Dartmouth be one of full inclusion and not just "tolerance", as well as a place where learning outside of the classroom is valued as much as the learning within. As I relocate to Binghamton, NY, I hope we can stay in touch! ♦

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, DGALA! As we head into the holidays and final weeks of 2012, there is much to reflect on and celebrate. 2012 has been an exciting year for DGALA and the College. As you will read in this issue of Green Light, DGALA alums set a record in their support of the Dartmouth College Fund. Thanks to your generosity, six DGALA Scholars will be named, and DGALA's participation rate reached 47.3% (exceeding the overall DCF participation rate of 44.2%).

This is an important time for the College. In the coming months Dartmouth will name its next President, as well as the next Assistant Dean & LGBTQQIA Advisor in the Office of Pluralism And Leadership. Pam Misener, current Advisor to LGBTQQIA students, will be departing the College at the end of the year. I hope you will join me in celebrating Pam's tenure at Dartmouth and her collaboration with DGALA over the years. We wish Pam and her wife, April Thompson, all the best as they join the community at Binghamton.

I hope you will stay in touch during this period of transition. Share your perspective with your class officers, regional club leadership, and DGALA Alumni Councilors.

I also encourage you to bring together DGALA alums in your area and urge your Dartmouth friends who have not yet joined DGALA to do so. If you are interested in organizing a gathering (big or small), please be in touch. Our Programming Committee would be happy to support you in putting on an event. The DGALA Board of Directors is also currently seeking applications for the Board.

As always, please share your ideas and feedback. I hope to see you at a DGALA event in the near future!

S. Caroline Kerr '05

DGALA President & Alumni Councilor

s.caroline.kerr@alum.dartmouth.org ♦

DGALA NOTES

Dues Envelopes Are Enclosed

In case you've not yet contributed or paid dues to DGALA this new fiscal year (which runs from July 1 to June 30), we have enclosed a handy pre-addressed envelope in hopes that you will do so now. DGALA 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, supporting LGBT issues and events at Dartmouth, annual gifts for LGBT grads, 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.me.com.



President Caroline Kerr Falls for the New DGALA T-Shirt!

New DGALA T-Shirts Available

DGALA's ace director/designer Shounak Simlai '05 Th '07 has led our efforts to introduce this year a new DGALA t-shirt, featuring the DGALA rainbow pine in full colors together with true Dartmouth green lettering, all with a stylish v-neck look. The T's were a hot seller at this year's June mini-reunion, where they made their debut. You may order your own T on our enclosed return envelope!

Partnership with The Gay & Lesbian Review/WORLDWIDE (G&LR).

The G&LR is a bimonthly magazine of history, culture, and politics. Each issue is centered around a theme, and includes a handful of feature articles and an array of book reviews, as well as some poetry, interviews, theatre and movie reviews, and much more! As a member of DGALA, receive a free copy of the current (100th) issue when you subscribe online at www.glreview.com.

