



# GREEN LIGHT

NEWSLETTER OF THE DARTMOUTH GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER ALUMNI/AE ASSOCIATION

Volume 20, Issue 1 • March 2015

## 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY REUNION “BEST EVER!”

### Reflections By Reunion Chair Mel Pastuck '11

It was an absolute pleasure to serve as the 2014 DGALA All Class Reunion Chair. When first asked in 2013 to lead reunion planning, I was frankly a bit intimidated. However, a year later, after countless hours of email, planning calls, contract negotiations, program designs, registration solicitations, website updates, and other miscellaneous projects, it all managed to come together. I was also extremely fortunate to have the unwavering support of the DGALA leadership team, who provided timely responses to my questions and requests during the whole process.

Over the Reunion weekend, I found the energy, eagerness, and camaraderie among our alumni to be outstanding. Drawing six decades of alumni back to Hanover – we

*Reflection, continued on page 2*

**WHEN'S THE NEXT REUNION?  
JOIN US ON CAMPUS IN JUNE FOR  
DGALA'S ALL-CLASS MINI REUNION  
June 19 -21, 2015**

DGALA dorm housing will be available, but space is limited; e-mail us soon at [dartgala@gmail.com](mailto:dartgala@gmail.com) for more information.

Programming updates to come on our website <http://dgala.com> and in our e-mails.

Alums and students spanning nearly six decades of Dartmouth's LGBTQIA community gathered last autumn at the College to celebrate DGALA's 30th anniversary and the opening of Triangle House. Joining them were spouses, partners, children, guests, faculty and staff totaling well over 200 participants at various reunion events over the weekend of October 31 – November 2.



*Blunt Alumni Center Illuminates the Campus Night*

The festivities kicked off with a Friday evening reception hosted by President Hanlon at Rauner Special Collections Library. It being Halloween, the post-reception entertainment at Collis Commonground was “*Go Big Queen!*” A *Fabulously Dartmouth Halloween Adventure* hosted by Jim Noonan '01 and Jimmy McNicholas '01 and featuring the Dartmouth Aires. Many wore costumes (a contest was held on stage), and all enjoyed “the two Jim's” high-energy romp through Dartmouth LGBT history. After the show, the festivities

*Reunion, continued on page 3*

## Reflection, continued from page 1

strived to create a weekend schedule that would be exciting for alums of all ages and backgrounds. For me personally, one of the most striking takeaways from the reunion was a sense of unity across the many disparate class years. Although every DGALA member had a distinct experience at Dartmouth, the most powerful moments of the reunion celebrated the shared struggles and personal triumphs of the queer people from our community through every generation. Thank you all for having the courage to share your stories - you have helped to amplify our collective voice. These stories from the reunion have also invigorated me to bring more alumni into the fold, especially those whom Dartmouth did not embrace as students.

The arrival of Triangle House on campus also brings in a new era of institutional awareness and protection for the LGBTQ student community. Ultimately, I hope this facility will encourage more LGBTQ-identified and allied students to apply to Dartmouth, and spur existing students to engage in meaningful dialogue about LGBTQ topics. Additionally, it was fantastic to hear directly from President Phil Hanlon not once, but twice over the weekend – in his welcome address and also at the Triangle House. His commitment to further the College's intellectual mission and to provide all students the opportunity to grow and flourish at Dartmouth is palpable.

A special thank you to reunion attendees – alumni, students, faculty, and our awardees – without whom the Reunion could not have succeeded. Your presence created a very meaningful moment in time in Hanover for our community. We are thrilled that so many of you enjoyed the weekend and had the opportunity to reconnect both with friends and with Dartmouth. We are committed for our next All Class Reunion not only to replicate the successes, but also to make the reunion even better, incorporating the excellent suggestions many of you offered.

I sincerely hope to see you all at future DGALA events, including our upcoming Mini-Reunion in Hanover this June. Please continue to inspire and connect with DGALA, share your thoughts and suggestions with us, and help guide our organization in the coming months and years.

Thank you!

Melanie Pastuck '11 ♦

## REUNION FEATURES PROVOCATIVE LECTURES

Saturday's two reunion lectures began with Government Professor Sonu Bedi's breakfast talk entitled, "Should We Abolish Civil Marriage?" Notwithstanding being openly gay, Professor Bedi offered a skeptical take on recent court decisions overturning bans on same-sex marriage, questioning the intellectual foundations of those decisions. Bedi went on to inquire if the institution of state-sponsored marriage itself is fundamentally flawed and should be abandoned. After the lecture, he told *Green Light*, "It was such a pleasure to present my work to DGALA. I was also heartened and pleased to see all the hard work the organization has done to make such a positive contribution to student life."

That afternoon, Eric Fanning '90 described his career in government service primarily as a senior Pentagon official. Fanning was out of the Pentagon during the Bush years but returned during the Obama administration,



continually advancing through a series of key posts as the most senior openly gay official in the Pentagon. (Fanning's unique status led to various humorous situations that he recounted to the group.) Since his talk, Fanning has been named Chief of Staff to new Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter. Speaking of the reunion, Fanning told *Green Light*, "I'm honored I was included as part of the 30th reunion; it was an amazing experience. It was great to see so many people there, and to learn how far Dartmouth has come since I was an undergraduate." ♦

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## GREEN LIGHT

Newsletter of  
**Dartmouth's LGBT Alumni/ae Association**  
208 West 13<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10011-7702  
e-mail: [dartgala@gmail.com](mailto:dartgala@gmail.com)  
web: <http://dgala.com>

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Edited by Pete Williams '76

Most reunion photos in this issue courtesy of Matt Storm '13;  
see <https://www.flickr.com/photos/dgalaflkr/sets/72157649135322921/>.  
New masthead design courtesy of Shaun Akhtar '12.

continued with drinks at the Six South Street Hotel in downtown Hanover.

Saturday morning began early, with twenty brave alums and guests hiking to the Gile Mountain Fire Tower; even though the weather was not ideal, the hikers rated this event very highly. Next, over breakfast in Kemeny Hall, Government Professor Sonu Bedi gave the Featured Faculty Lecture. (See more on page 2.) After Professor Bedi's fun and provocative talk, attendees adjourned to the new Triangle House, for a moving celebration of the House's opening, followed by student-led tours of the House, and lunch on site under tents. (See Triangle House ceremony story, pages 5-6.)

After the Triangle House ceremony, afternoon programming got underway with the Featured



**Touring the Hood's Civil Rights Exhibition**

Alum Speaker, Eric Fanning '90, then Undersecretary of the U.S. Air Force, who provided an amusing and revealing insider's view of his career as an openly gay senior policymaker in various federal government posts under both Presidents Clinton and Obama. (See more on page 2.) Attendees then adjourned to the Hood Museum of Art, where they enjoyed sangria and a tour of the exhibition "Witness: Art and Civil Rights in the Sixties."

Saturday events continued with an inspiring Gala Dinner in the Grand Ballroom of the Hanover Inn. Drinks and photos before a reunion backdrop preceded the dinner. ♦

Periodically throughout the meal, guests were encouraged to make commemorative toasts; many were given, and this proved to be a particularly moving part of



**Fun at the Gala Dinner**

the evening. The dinner also included awards recognizing leaders in the DGALA community (see story, page 10). The evening culminated with 50 alums and guests making it to the DOC House to dance (music provided by a student DJ), to continue enjoying drinks and to take in the nighttime view of Occom Pond.

Sunday morning began literally and figuratively on a high note at the Celebration Service at the Top of the Hop, led by Reverend Nancy Vogele '85 and highlighted by several memorable performances by the Rockapellas, Dartmouth's all-female a capella group. (See open letter page 4.) The weekend



**Rockapellas at the Top of the Hop Celebration**

concluded with brunch and a community forum about the future of DGALA, where the enthusiastic reunion participants shared and planned exciting ways to move forward together. (See page 4 for alum comments and a student letter about the reunion.) ♦

## ALUMS COMMENT ON REUNION

"I had a great time at the reunion. It was funny, poignant, reassuring and heartwarming to hear out and proud LGBT students affirm who they are and emotional to have them express their gratitude to those of us who went before them."

– *Richard Otto '88*

"It was a great weekend to reconnect with alums from all classes. I really enjoyed seeing Triangle House; what an amazing testament to the work of decades of LGBTQIA alums and students. To have that physical building and to know the impact it will have was powerful and humbling."

– *Krista Perry '06*

"The moment before the Rockapellas began to sing shot through me like lightning and gave me reason why I came back at a time that I didn't want to. Thanks Charli and the Rockapellas for this performance!" – *Clive Dawkins '82, E'83*

"Creating new memories of community, solidarity and joy in a place that for many of us is fraught with pain yet also quite special is immensely gratifying. I will never think of Hanover in the same way again."

– *Amanda Rosenblum '07*

"We thoroughly enjoyed the reunion. High points included hearing the Recollections at the gala dinner and the Sunday morning service. I came home re-energized in my gay identity and activism." – *Mike Jarvis '63*

"We had a great time this weekend and enjoyed meeting so many new people!" – *Katy Kehoe '93*.

"It was really a warm and reflective reunion and an opportunity to bond with some great new Dartmouth friends. Really thankful that I found DGALA and am back in the fold." – *Paul Cunningham '78*.

"Selfhood and freedom themed its way throughout. The program at Collis was a barn-burner; it was Halloween and from the depths of good cheer we created one big sanguine chord for the future. The dedication of Triangle House was in the embrace of the New Hampshire elements of rain and air of splendid caress. How far we have come!" – *Richard Warren '72*.

## OPEN LETTER TO DGALA MEMBERS BY ROCKAPELLAS LEAD SINGER

To the brave and unrelenting members of DGALA:

As the Rockapellas and I prepared for our performance at the reunion's celebratory service, I found myself thinking back to my freshman year at Dartmouth. I was a somewhat-closeted queer girl from North Dakota and I met a number of now-alums who made a point to pull me into the community, surrounding me with support and understanding.

They told me about what those before us had gone through. The history of LGBTQIA people at this school is not without darkness, and although we still have so far to go, I was reminded often of how far we've come. The fact that I felt (and feel) safe here as a queer woman, that I do not fear telling strangers that I am not straight, and that I am not afraid to live in Triangle House speaks to the legacy of your work. We owe this safety to all of you, and I am humbled by it often.

When I looked out into the crowd while introducing "Same Love" on Sunday, I realized that I was looking at the people who built and fostered this community; the ones the others had told me about. I had viewed them as heroes who stood tall and brave in the face of intolerance and cruelty, but in that moment, I realized that they were real; that YOU are real. I was overcome with the thought that I was singing about our struggles in front of those who made it okay for me to sing those words at all, and I began to tear up at your dedication.

To all of you members of DGALA: I am grateful every day for your work here. Thank you for your existence, which reminds me every day that I am human and loved and worthy of all life has to offer. Every time I walk into Triangle House or the Rainbow Room, I think of how I might not have been able to do so without fear if it were twenty or thirty years ago. Your love and devotion to Dartmouth and this community does not go unnoticed or unappreciated, and I look forward to the day that I can meet you all again and express my gratitude.

Love,  
Charli Fool Bear-Vetter '15

# PRESIDENTS HANLON AND KERR, AND STUDENT MCKEE, ADDRESS TRIANGLE HOUSE CEREMONY

*A highlight of the reunion was the celebration ceremony held in the Triangle House courtyard to mark the opening of that historic structure and all for which it stands. The large crowd in attendance heard moving speeches by President Hanlon; Interim Dean of the College Inge-Lise Ameer; DGALA President S. Caroline Kerr '05; Reese Kelly, Director of the Center of Gender and Student Engagement; former DGALA Vice President and now Director of Religious and Spiritual Life at Dartmouth Rev. Nancy Vogele '85, and Triangle House resident and student leader Andrew McKee '15. Following the ceremony, lunch was served on the grounds, and the student residents of Triangle House gave tours of the House. Below are excerpts from a few of the speeches. (On page 8 you will find another student report on life in the House today.)*

## President Phil Hanlon '77

"This is a very special moment for the College, thank you for making the moment possible, thank you for all your contributions and hard work, and thank you for being here so we can share the moment together.

Today we celebrate two important things; first the vital role that Dartmouth's LGBTQIA community plays in the life of our campus, and second the importance of belonging in the lives of all of our students. Especially the sense of community in the residential space where so much of our college experience is shaped. Our vision for the future of our campus is a Dartmouth where the out of class experience is every bit as welcoming, compelling, engaging and rewarding as the in-class experience.

We see living places transformed into areas of positive engagement, unique learning environments, places where community is built, a sense of belonging. Which brings us to today and this fantastic new facility. Triangle House is setting the bar with its programming, exemplifying what a living-

learning community can be. And I think this represents a moment in Dartmouth's history that we can all be very proud of.

I want to thank the members of DGALA for contributing vital renovation funds and program funds, and I hope they will come back often to interact with the Triangle House students and share their energy for building a stronger Dartmouth. DGALA is the alumni group I like to highlight as truly epitomizing the concept of alumni leadership. Different generations of DGALA alumni experienced the campus in very different ways, many now finding the sense of welcome they needed during their college days. They return to campus with

the great desire to make life better for our current and future students, to

building a stronger Dartmouth. I'm fond of the proverb that says *"If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together."* I think this celebration of Triangle House stands as an exemplar of that. Think of just how far, with all of your help, our campus has come, and think of how far, working together, we can go. Thank you for being here today."



**President Hanlon Addresses Triangle House Ceremony**

*Addresses, continued on next page*

## Andrew McKee '15

*Andrew is a major in Women and Gender Studies and is co-founder and co-chair of Dartmouth Spectra, an LGBTQA student group:*

"Although I just began calling it my new home, Triangle House represents myriad meanings for me. It is a physical manifestation of community, respect, accountability, critical theory balanced with practice, and a true freedom of individual expression. From weekly brunch discussions with visiting speakers, to the planning of our group social justice project, or even to



### Andrew McKee '15

informal gatherings in the House, I have already experienced what makes Triangle House a successful living and learning community. I know that as we continue to settle into this new home, the sense of community that we are building will flourish exponentially.

As a senior, for whom the word Dartmouth has a number of ambivalent connotations, including feelings of alienation, discomfort and exclusion, I cannot express how important such a safe queer place is to my experience here. I am confident that the Triangle House will be lauded as a success story for the foreseeable future. On the same note I feel that it is my responsibility to state as emphatically as possible that our work is not finished. It is on all of us to continue learning, growing and advocating for change so that all spaces on this campus are as safe, open and as accountable as this one. In this vein, Triangle House is setting an example for the rest of this community.

Last, I would like to express how grateful I am to be involved in the inception of this groundbreaking innovation. To everyone involved in the creation of Triangle House, whether I know you or not, thank you so much! I look forward to seeing how the connections of community inspired by this house continue to expand far beyond its physical boundaries and to celebrating its opening with you all. Love in solidarity always! Thank you."

## S. Caroline Kerr '05

Few things move me more than seeing Dartmouth, a place and a community that I love deeply, at its best. And this is Dartmouth at its best. DGALA has driven a lot of change at Dartmouth, and Triangle House is perhaps the most meaningful representation of that. Alums have served on the planning committee, on the fundraising committee; and I am excited that we have exceeded the fundraising goal. I've heard stories from alums whose physical and psychological hell that they went through here was staggering to me. And the fact that they are back, some are here today and have contributed in support of this House is phenomenal. Your persistence – and your *insistence* – that this place change is, to me, Dartmouth at its best.

I want to thank the alumni who have been so supportive, and I want to thank the College who has been such a terrific partner in making this happen. There is such a bright future that lies ahead. Students, know that there is an alumni body out there that believes that you not only deserve this space, you deserve an entire Dartmouth that will be your experience. I cannot wait to see what you do with this space – it will impact not only this little community, but it will impact this big Dartmouth community well beyond the walls of Hanover. I am so proud to be able to go out there and say: "Dartmouth is leading in this area!"♦

## SIX ALUMS JOIN DGALA BOARD

At the beginning of this year, six new directors joined the 15-member Board of Directors of DGALA. The Board openings were widely publicized during the autumn of last year. A strong field of candidates applied, and the Board held elections in December. Below are brief introductions to the new Board members; for more see <http://dgala.com/about/board>.



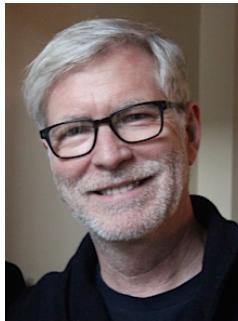
**Bryan Alston '11** is a third-generation native of San Francisco, where he lives on Castro Street and was an intern for Mayor Newsom during the city's brief legalization of same-sex marriage in 2008. Bryan has organized events for LGBT and African-American Ivy League

alumni in the Bay Area, and he looks forward to helping to lead the DGALA community locally and nationally.



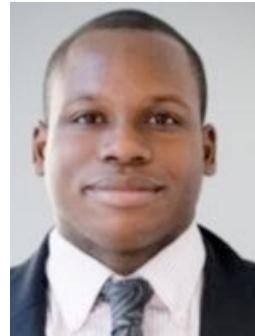
**Sharang Biswas '12 Th '13** currently lives in New York City, where he is pursuing a masters degree at the Interactive Telecommunications Program at NYU-Tisch. Sharang was a leader in the LGBT community at Dartmouth, including serving on the

Executive Board for IvyQ.



**Paul Cunningham '78**, originally from California, had a lengthy career in government that culminated with his service as the Chief of Staff to Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA). Paul left Capitol Hill last year to explore other worlds, and is pleased to be renewing his relationship with Dartmouth through DGALA. He and his husband of 30 years, Peter Kazon, live in Washington, DC, while spending as much time as possible in Provincetown, MA.

**Uthman Olagoke '11** lives in New York City, where he has already been involved in organizing DGALA events. In the City, Uthman works for a management consulting firm serving civic and public sector entities. At Dartmouth, Uthman was a leader in enhancing student life and diversity on and off campus.



**Kelii Opulaoho '96** is a native of Hawaii who was an active student leader with Native Americans at Dartmouth and the LGBT community. As an alum he has been a Class of '96 leader. Kelii has an MBA from Arizona State University and now serves as the Director of Learning & Organizational Development with NYC Health and Hospitals Corp's MetroPlus Health Plan, where he also serves on the LGBT Advisory Group. Kelii lives in the Bronx and is a proud parent of a 10-year-old son.



**Amanda Rosenblum '07** was a member of GSX and the Rainbow Alliance as a student at Dartmouth, and she served on the organizing committee that brought gender-neutral housing to the College. Amanda currently lives in Manhattan and works at Young Women's Leadership Network, a network of all-girls public schools, as a Girls Education Senior Manager. She founded the non-profit Trans Bodies, Trans Selves and serves as Vice President of the Board of Directors. ♦



# STUDENTS REPORT FROM CAMPUS

## V-February

by Gustavo Mercado Muniz '16

V-February is a month-long initiative to end violence and to promote gender equity with a series of performances, events and programs by the students through the CGSE (Center for Gender & Student Engagement). The events are centered on having people's voices heard, especially those that are not usually heard by the general public. Some of our events have included:

**Trans\* Women Day of Visibility** (February 11): This year, V-February includes the voices of trans\* women, a community whose voice is misheard, misrepresented, and too often left out of the conversation. This event was mixed media (videos and book readings) meant to help bring to attention the important problem of violence against trans\* women.

**Speak Out** (February 24): focuses on the issues of sexual assault, harassment, stalking, and relationship violence.

At Speak Out, survivors and their allies come together to share their experiences in a safe space. This event gives us an opportunity to support each other through hearing how violence has affected those around us. It is a chance to reflect on the healing process as both individuals and the Dartmouth community.

**Upstaging Stereotypes** (February 26): This is a student-created performance that explores and challenges ideas about masculinity here at Dartmouth and beyond. More than this, it is one of the few open and supportive spaces for masculine-identifying people on campus to come together to discuss what it means to "be a man" and how we define our own versions of masculinity.

**Voices** (March 3 & 4): A series of monologues written and performed by self-identifying Dartmouth women. ♦



Amber Gives Alums a Triangle House Tour during DGALA Reunion

## Triangle House

by Amber Aronian '17

During its second term at Dartmouth, Triangle House has developed and found its place as a home for both its living learning residents and the greater Dartmouth LGBTQIA+ community. New and returning housemates are crafting a communicative and constructive community that welcomes visitors into the multiple conversations that occur there. It is quite fitting that the theme of the discussions this term is creating resilient communities.

Saturday brunches (moved from Sunday for this term) could not be better. The new policy is that each week, a new group of students is in charge of the brunch shopping, preparing, and cleaning up, resulting in more quality time with housemates and much more imagination in the kitchen. Residents have been inviting visitors consistently each week to engage in the brunch discussions, so participation has increased across the board.

The space-sharing spirit has carried over into weekdays as well. Each Tuesday, Tee [talk] and Tea at the T, an event organized by the CGSE, brings Dartmouth students to the Triangle House for low-key socializing. In addition, the house has been used as a gathering location for Dartmouth students for talking about issues on campus, such as opinions on Moving Dartmouth Forward and responses to films shown at the Hop. These are great spaces for intellectual engagement surrounding issues that pertain to queer studies that perhaps do not appear in course curricula. In addition, Triangle House houses a classroom where a Women and Gender Studies course meets three mornings per week.

This sort of overlap between academic study, passionate discussion, community involvement, and residential life is a crucial part of the Triangle House experience, and it is one that can transform the Dartmouth experience overall. ♦

## DGALA/DCF 2015 Scholar Profile

In 2006 DGALA joined with the Dartmouth College Fund to create the DGALA/DCF Scholars Fund. Since then, every dollar that a DGALA alum contributes to the DCF is counted toward naming and funding DGALA Scholars: current LGBTQ students who receive need-based financial aid. For every \$30,000 that DGALA alums give to DCF, DGALA is able to name another DGALA Scholar.

Last year, DGALA alums made gifts to the DCF sufficient to support five DGALA Scholars. Below are excerpts from a letter of appreciation sent to us by one of this year's Scholars (all of our scholars thanked us).

By contributing to the DCF before June 30 of this year, you can help to fund DGALA Scholars for the coming academic year. You may contribute online at <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~alfund>. There is no need to make any special designation; just by being a DGALA member, your contribution will support this important program.

*Dear Members of the DGALA,*

*Thank you so much for making it possible for me to attend Dartmouth College! I have definitely been making the most of my time here. As a senior, I am finding it hard to believe that I will graduate soon!*

*I am a biology and psychology double-major on the pre-veterinary track. Another interest of mine is music; in my sophomore year I went on a Music Foreign Study Program in Beijing, China. I play clarinet in the Dartmouth College Wind Ensemble. My off-terms are dedicated to my veterinary interests. Last summer, I shadowed a horse vet in the Upper Valley and I interned at a wildlife rehabilitation center. I am currently applying to veterinary school.*

*The opportunity to be here and experience the years of legacy and excellence is amazing. With any luck, I can add to that history.*

*Best Regards,*

*Angela T. Jin '15 ♦*



## In Memoriam

With great regret we note the recent passing of two esteemed DGALA leaders.

**Thomas Song '53** was a gracious and beloved co-founder of DGALA. A refugee from post-WWII turmoil in the Far East, Thomas came to Dartmouth on a full scholarship. After graduation, he first returned to campus in 2004 for the DGALA 20<sup>th</sup> reunion. Here is part of what he wrote then in the post-reunion *Green Light*:



*It was a magnificent and triumphant homecoming! I finally returned home after half a century, together with my partner of 35 years [Chuck Burke, pictured above]. Fifty-six years ago, Dartmouth picked me up off the streets of Boston. For four years she sheltered me, fed me and educated me. I have never forgotten her kindness and I will always love her. Thank you DGALA officers and volunteers and the staff of Dartmouth who made this possible. You have accomplished a miracle.*

**Allison Smith '06** was killed in February when her car was struck by another on a New Hampshire highway. Allison's spirit and energy was remarkable. She immediately lit up a room, and anything was an excuse for a dance party. She lived genuinely, taking any chance she could to let her friends and family know how much she loved them, particularly her wife, Lucy Pollard '10, who survives her. The two were married in August 2014.



Allison was a proud Dartmouth alum, and she and Lucy are leadership supporters of Triangle House. Gifts to honor and celebrate Allison's life may be made to the Dartmouth Outdoor Programs Office, PO Box 9, Hanover, NH 03755. Contributions will support outdoor programs that teach others to appreciate and enjoy nature, as Allison did. Please indicate that your gift is in memory of Allison Smith '06. ♦

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am so honored to be DGALA's new president! For me, it is the culmination of many years of involvement with this organization that is so close to my heart. My first contact with our group was in the late 1990's when my friend Chris Hogan '90 and I organized an event in New York City to honor Pam Misener, then the College LGBT advisor. Over the years, I became more and more engaged with DGALA, first as a regional programming coordinator for New York, eventually as member of the Board of Directors, and ultimately assuming duties as one of our alumni councilors and, two years ago, as vice president. DGALA has enriched my life in ways that are too numerous to mention, but I am extremely grateful for the many friends that I have made in our community and most grateful to DGALA for introducing me to my partner Rich Yeung '93.

DGALA is in great shape thanks in no small part to the inspiring leadership of Caroline Kerr '05. During Caroline's tenure as our president, among many other accomplishments, DGALA worked closely with the College to make Triangle House a reality, and we gathered in Hanover last fall for a joyous and affirming celebration of our group's 30th anniversary. As many have noted, in succeeding Caroline, I have big shoes to fill!

Looking forward, I hope to focus our attention on programming around the country and abroad, ensuring that DGALA is offering events that appeal to all of our wonderfully diverse membership. Another item that is high on my agenda is an initiative that I am calling Vox DGALA, which will include an oral history project documenting our members' undergraduate experiences, this in partnership with the Dartmouth College Library.

In all of DGALA's efforts in the months ahead, I am so lucky to be working with the other officers on the leadership team - Vice President Mel Pastuck '11, Secretary Pete Williams '76, and Treasurer Tim Stanne '03. Congratulations to Mel and Tim on their elections and to Pete on his re-election! Working with the rest of the directors, we are committed to leading with imagination and vigor.

Thank you for the great privilege of serving you! Please be in touch soon with any thoughts or ideas. I am at [bdanconnell@gmail.com](mailto:bdanconnell@gmail.com).

With warm regards, Brendan Connell, Jr. '87 ♦

# LEADERS HONORED

The Saturday gala dinner at the reunion honored a few of the many dedicated leaders in the DGALA community. Lee Merkle-Raymond '86 won the Leadership Award for leading DGALA during critical early years, serving as DGALA's co-chair in the late 80s and early 90s, as well as Alumni Council representative, and recently as co-chair of DGALA's successful Triangle House fundraising campaign. Lee told *Green Light*, "The weekend was a tremendous opportunity to celebrate where



Brendan Introduces Lee While She and Students Look On at Awards Ceremony

we are today as individuals and as the Dartmouth community. I was honored to receive the DGALA Leadership award and blown away by the current leadership of current DGALA President Caroline Kerr, and Reunion Chair Mel Pastuck. I

look forward to the ideas of Brendan Connell and new board members as the DGALA community continues to grow and strengthen."

Sharing the Vanguard Award for up-and-coming leaders were Laura Erickson-Schroth M'09 and Amanda Rosenblum '07. Laura and Amanda were honored for innovatively addressing important but neglected issues in our community. They said to *Green Light*, "Winning the Vanguard award on behalf of *Trans Bodies, Trans Selves* was exciting for us on a personal and organizational level. Ever since we started working on the book, which was published in June 2014, we have felt increased solidarity with the many communities who have been waiting for a resource guide of this size and potential. To



Amanda and Laura Address the Dinner

count DGALA and Dartmouth College among our supporters then and now gives us

much hope for the places our non-profit can take us next in the realm of advocacy and empowerment of TGNC folks everywhere." ♦