



GREEN LIGHT

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

Volume 15, Issue 2 • December 2010

LGBT AFFINITY HOUSE DISCUSSIONS BEGIN

By Anna Roth '13, Christian Brand '12, and Stuart Ghafoor '14

A committee of students, backed by OPAL (Office of Pluralism and Leadership), ORL (Office of Residential Life), and the Administration, is working to put together a curriculum and mission for a Dartmouth LGBT Affinity House. This is something that has been discussed for a long time, and it will be an amazing addition to the LGBT community here.

Our current goal areas are:

1. Academic

We seek to enrich the understanding of participants and the campus in terms of the sexuality spectrum through discussion about how sexuality impacts our lives and our world.

2. Residential

We seek to create a safe and supportive environment for LGBTQ students and their allies where they can live, interact, and express themselves comfortably on a daily

Affinity, continued on page 2

SAVE THE DATE!
NEXT ALL-CLASS MINI REUNION
June 17-19, 2011

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

REUNIONING CLASSES THAT WEEKEND INCLUDE
'76, '81, '86, '00-'02, AND '06
BUT ALL DGALA ALUMS ARE INVITED

DETAILS TO FOLLOW IN
DGALA E-NEWSLETTERS AND AT DGALA.ORG

PRESIDENT KIM ADDRESSES DGALA MINI-REUNION

The longstanding tradition of the DGALA mini-reunion continued this past June during reunion weekend at the College. DGALA attendees were again treated to fabulous early summer Hanover weather as the weekend kicked off with an open bar reception at the Canoe Club nightspot on Main Street. On Saturday morning the alums gathered for a breakfast reception at Rockefeller Center, where about fifty alums,



President Kim Addresses DGALA Mini Reunion

friends and families shared good food and company and enjoyed a program that included inspiring extemporaneous words by College President Jim Kim, capping his first year in office by making an inaugural visit to the DGALA event. (See page 3 for some of President Kim's remarks.)

The day's events continued on Saturday afternoon with a lecture at the Hop by longtime DGALA friend Peter Saccio, reflecting on, among other things, his years

Mini-Reunion, continued on page 3

basis. As such, the house needs to be dually private and public, in that it functions as a community space where it is safe and comfortable for questioning or closeted members of the community to exist, but also as a space that is accessible to all of campus through outreach events hosted at the house.

3. Cultural/Community-based

This will serve as a much-needed physical plant that will function as community/social building space to bring together the largely dispersed and widely diverse LGBTQ community. It will also lend a sense of legitimacy and permanence to the LGBTQ community on Dartmouth's campus.

The process of acquiring a house takes time, but this is something that is moving forward, and we're excited to work with Dartmouth's LGBT community (of course including DGALA) to build momentum around it!

~Anna Roth, Christian Brandt, Stuart Ghafoor, Ad Hoc Committee co-chairs ♦

NEW YORK CITY BRUNCH

On a Sunday in early November, more than 20 DGALA members spanning classes from at least four decades joined forces to (successfully) tackle unlimited drinks and delicious Mexican cuisine at The Rocking Horse Café in Chelsea. While devouring endless portions of buttermilk "panqueques" and huevos beneditos, alums reminisced about life back at Dartmouth and took the opportunity to catch up on more recent endeavors. The brunch was subsidized by DGALA, and is one of many social gatherings organized by the NYC group throughout the year. Upcoming events include a holiday party, a dinner following the holiday party at the Dartmouth Club, and at least a few evenings at a bar or two. If you'd like to organize an event in your area, e-mail DartGALA@gmail.com. ♦



Brunch
at the
Rocking
Horse
Cafe

ADMISSIONS LGBT OUTREACH

The Admissions Office is now in its third cycle of comprehensive outreach to LGBTQA prospective students. Occasionally when I'm speaking at an admissions event someone asks me why this specific outreach is necessary (though many of those questions have quieted with the national attention that has been brought to LGBTQ teen suicide and bullying over the last several months.) My response includes that our prospective LGBTQA applicants are interested in studying all sorts of different subjects at the College. They are interested in a variety of careers and extracurricular activities, and they come from an incredible diversity of backgrounds. But first they – and their families – want to know that they will be safe and have the space to thrive academically, socially, and spiritually.

When reading one of the latest articles covering the growth of LGBTQA outreach in admissions, Doree Shafrir's "The Ivy League's Big Gay Admission" (*Details*, September 23, 2010) I was struck by the comments made by David Kamins '14 about his decision to attend Dartmouth. I am heartened to see that, in many ways, LGBTQA prospective students are experiencing that aspect of their college search and selection process like any other: they browse information on the web, visit campuses, attend welcome events, chat with current students and faculty members, and gauge if the environment feels right for them. This is how it should be.

Individuals from across the Dartmouth community make this possible for our prospective students. Alumni/ae have helped staff Dartmouth tables at LGBT-friendly college fairs, answered questions for prospective students and families, and supported DGALA scholarships through the Dartmouth College Fund. Many of you are also alumni interviewers for the College. Thank you. We have more work to do, but the work that is happening is having an impact.

- *S. Caroline Kerr '05, Vice President of DGALA & Associate Director of Admissions at Dartmouth* ♦



as an out professor at Dartmouth. The weekend's events concluded with an all-affiliated group reception outside of the Hop, generously sponsored by Alumni Relations. As in recent years, the College made DGALA dorm housing available to DGALA alums who attended, locating the alums in plush quarters in a modern dorm on the new north campus. The next mini-reunion will take place next June, so mark your calendar (see box, page 1) and keep tuned to DGALA's website (dgala.org) and to our e-newsletters for more details. ♦

Excerpts of President Kim's Words

[Fuller text of speech available at dgala.org]

Let me offer you my warmest welcome. Thank you so much for coming back. It was a very emotional experience for me to speak at the DGALA reception last fall.... I met Thomas Song '53; he was the first person of Korean descent ever to be at Dartmouth, and I was so glad to meet him. In welcoming him, tears flowed from both of our eyes. And told him it is so important



President Kim Greets Thomas Song '53 at 25th Reunion

for you to come back here, because our current students need you. They need to see that even though you may have had bitter experiences – and he did; he told me that he had bitter experiences – but he said that despite the marginalization and exclusion that he faced, that he still loved this place. ... The fact that people can have been here and have had bitter experiences, and yet still come back and love this place has taught me that this is a very special place. But it also taught me that we have a lot of work to do -- we have to make sure that that never happens in this day and age...

I grew up as an Asian American in Iowa, and there is something about being betwixt and between all the time that I think is a source of

great creativity. It was different for me than for all of you, but I think celebrating difference and embracing it is a path not just for a normal life but for a kind of heroism that I saw [during the early AIDS crisis].



President Kim Chats with Alums at Breakfast

So I don't think it's just a matter of tolerating different lifestyles; that's not what we're supposed to do here at Dartmouth... It's to give each student here, whatever their background, whatever their sexual orientation, whatever their identity, the sense that their personal experiences can lead to great acts of solidarity and heroism, just like gay men displayed [during the AIDS crisis]. We need to transform the way people in this country, and certainly the way people on this campus, think about sexual orientation – it's not a matter of lifestyle choice – but in a context where you can fear marginalization it can also lead to great heroism. That was my experience. That's the experience that I bring with me here.

And I want to say again, just as I said last fall, we need you to come back because we need you to interact with our students of today, and we need you to help us demand that everybody on this campus will leave here with a fully modern and enlightened view of what difference means. So I thank you for coming back. If you ever hear that I'm not responding to issues in the way that I should, I want you to be in contact with me directly. ... We are going to our best to be sure that our young people leave here fully prepared to deal with the modern world, and having a culture where people feel ostracized and attacked because of sexual orientation is something that we will not tolerate.

But moreover, we also want to be a campus that celebrates your community in a way that's appropriate, and we're working on it; I can't tell you the details yet, but we're working on a way to celebrate DGALA and current students in a way that we hope will make you proud. ... So thank you for coming back and thank you for your support of Dartmouth College. ♦

EIGHT ALUMS JOIN DGALA BOARD

DGALA's bylaws provide for 15 Board members, each serving staggered three-year terms so that five Board members are elected each Fall to begin their terms on the subsequent January 1. However, in the hectic time of last Fall's highly successful 25th Anniversary All-Class Reunion, the Board decided to defer last year's Board elections and combine them with this year's. As a result, an extra large number of new directors will be joining the DGALA Board beginning in January. Candidates were sought via a broad publicity campaign, and a rewardingly large and diverse number of alums stepped forward.

Eight new alums are joining the Board (and four current Board members were elected to a new term: Sarah Burgamy '00, Nick Chamousis '73, David Hankins '06 and Caroline Kerr '05). Here is a brief introduction to the new Board members:

Uriel Barrera-Vasquez '98 worked at Dartmouth from 2005 to 2008 as Associate Director, Alumni Diversity, and in that role was the Alumni Relations Office main liaison to DGALA. Today, Uri teaches middle school social studies at a KIPP charter school in the South Bronx. Uri is



Uri, with Coffee!

currently a board member of DALA (Dartmouth Association of Latino Alumni) and is a DALA Alumni Council rep. Reflecting on the changes that he has seen at Dartmouth, Uri said, "The LGBTQ community at Dartmouth has made tremendous strides on campus and these same strides are reflected in

its alumni community. DGALA has been crucial in raising the profile of all LGBTQ people on and off campus and I am excited to be part of this good work."

William Boulware '90 resides in Chicago, where he has been a leader in local DGALA activities.



William (far right) at Chicago PRIDE 2010

William is President of Native Land Development Company, which works with Native American tribes to provide non-gaming economic development for the tribes. William also serves as an adjunct professor at the Chicago-Kent School of Law, where he specializes in legal issues that affect Native Americans. William told *Green Light*, "My desire is to serve as a resource and to establish and create tangible opportunities for students and alumni to network, discuss career paths, explore political and socially relevant issues affecting the lives of students on campus and extending that reach to benefit the lives of people beyond the Dartmouth campus."

Rigel Cable '10, a native of the Upper Valley, graduated from the College in June with a major in Geography and a minor in Spanish. While in Hanover, Rigel was an active leader of the LGBT community, serving as President of GSX (formerly the GSA) and Co-Chair of three annual spring LGBT PRIDE celebrations.

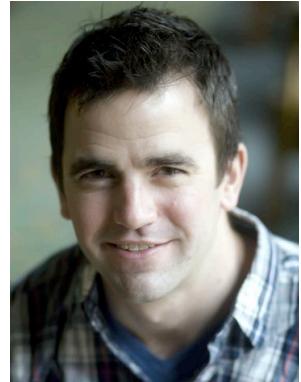


Rigel is now an analyst in the San Francisco home office of a large advertising firm. On his election, Rigel told *Green Light*, "I'm so honored to be newly elected to the DGALA Board. This organization was incredibly influential during my undergraduate life, and I'm thrilled to be involved as an alum so soon after graduation. As a recent transplant into the Bay Area of California, I look forward to strengthening the relationship between DGALA and the alumni of this region. I also hope to work closely with young alumni and undergraduates."

Dana Carne T'10, DMS

'10 also just graduated in June, but in his case with a joint MBA/MD degree earned over six years at Dartmouth (Dana was a University of Nebraska undergrad). Also in June, Dana married his partner at the United Church of Christ in Hanover.

About his wedding and his coming out process prior thereto, Dana said, "I know what it is like to go from embarrassed about being gay to having a gay wedding that I include as one of the happiest days of my life. I would love to help others experience this revelation." Dana is now a resident physician at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

**Brendan Connell '87** lives

in Brooklyn and serves as a senior manager and attorney for the Guggenheim Museum and Foundation in Manhattan. Brendan has served for several years as a DGALA regional coordinator for New York City, where he has helped to program a wide variety of events around the City. Brendan told *Green Light*, "DGALA has enriched both my personal and professional lives beyond measure. I hope to use my DGALA NYC programming experience and my knowledge of the organization and its members to plan and implement social and professional events around the country and the world."

**Isai Peimer T'05** was a

leader of the Tuck School Gay/Straight Alliance, where he organized the 2005 ReachingOut MBA Conference with the participation of over 500 LGBT MBA students and sponsors. Since graduation, he has been a frequent participant on diversity and career panels for current and admitted Tuck students. After beginning his business career in



Manhattan, where he was a pharmaceutical analyst on Wall Street, Isai recently moved to suburban Washington, D.C., where he is a principal in a venture capital firm specializing in pharmaceuticals. On joining the DGAL Board, Isai said, "I'm delighted to have been asked to join the DGALA board and am excited about this opportunity to make a difference. I look forward to working with our remarkable LGBTQQA alums to make our alumni/ae experience even more rewarding."

Tim Stanne '03 lives in Manhattan and is Director

of Graduate Admissions for New York University School of Law. Tim explained to *Green Light* some of his reasons for joining the DGALA Board, "'One of the more powerful moments I remember as a recent graduate of the College was moving to New York and realizing that a whole network of gay Dartmouth alumni existed, and was growing. Frankly, it surprised me--and with hindsight, maybe it shouldn't have--that men who attended the College earlier than me, when it must have been a more difficult experience, still had enough love for her to organize and rally for her to change. GLBT alumni groups are still not that common throughout U.S. higher education. I think it is important to remember the institutional statement made by Dartmouth for recognizing DGALA. For example, if I were to go back to when I was a prospective applicant, and I were to learn that the group existed, it would have made a positive impact on my thoughts about the College. I am grateful that I can now contribute to the governance of such an organization."

Bess Tortolani '98

currently attends St. George's University School of Medicine in Grenada in the West Indies, where she anticipates earning her M.D. next spring. When at Dartmouth, Bess captained the women's basketball and softball teams. Reflecting on her time at Dartmouth, Bess told *Green Light*, "As a high school athlete pursuing scholarship opportunities to play basketball at the college level, I innocently went on recruiting visits to various universities focusing on the team – their record, potential playing time, and enjoyment of the coach and players. I never considered



whether or not a college or team was conservative or gay friendly. At that time, I had just experienced my first gay relationship and did not know or understand the somewhat underground world of the gay community. Despite Dartmouth's reputation as a conservative institution, the insulation provided by teammates shielded me from knowing anything other than acceptance for who I was as a person. With my academic education came interaction with the entire student body. Soon I was attending gay-friendly events such as the Drag Ball, movie nights, and barbecues. My friendships with other gay students grew, and soon my basketball and softball games had a group of fans that I distinctly recognized. When not playing a game, I joined our LGBT community in cheering on other gay athletes, supporting art exhibits, and singing along at a capella nights. Our gay community at Dartmouth may have been small in number, but we supported each other in various endeavors.

Joining the DGALA Board of Directors is important to me because I want to help ensure current Dartmouth students have the opportunity to develop as gay adults in a supportive environment, and enjoy the valuable experiences that I so fondly recall. Furthermore, as a Board member I envision joining the efforts of DGALA event planning and coordination as a method of encouraging the revitalization of lost friendships. I look forward to the opportunity to grow the alumni community, and assist with gaining support for DGALA activities. In light of the recent media attention regarding suicides by gay teenagers and college students, involvement with an association that influences the development of a safe environment for the LGBT community is monumental. ♦

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208 West 13th Street

New York, NY 10011-7702

e-mail: DartGALA@gmail.com

web: <http://www.DGALA.org>

Vol. 15, No. 2

December 2010

Edited by Pete Williams '76

DGALA is a member-supported not-for-profit corporation incorporated under the laws of New York and registered under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to DGALA are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

NAD ALLIANCE FORMED

By Montana Wilson '13, NAD Founder and President

The NAD Alliance formed because of a cultural disconnect between Native American values and Western values. For being a gay Native American in the twenty-first century is completely different from being just a minority. We are different from straight men, yet women cannot fully relate to us. Our lives are a unique blend of rugged masculinity and refined gentility, of traditional (Native American) ways and western education. Gay Native Americans' path in this world is completely different than the well-worn paths of straight humanity. We differ from mainstream LGBTQ students, with our spiritual beliefs, traditional values, and our culture.



Montana
straight humanity. We differ from mainstream LGBTQ students, with our spiritual beliefs, traditional values, and our culture.

The purpose of the NAD Alliance is to focus on Two-Spirited Native Americans, or what is typically referred to as the Native LGBTQ community. However, we try to refrain from using the Western concept of "LGBTQ" for we try to honor ourselves in our traditional beliefs of what it means to be "gay." The Alliance is designed as a focus and support group amongst the two-spirited NADs. The group is not limited to two-spirited NADs, it is open to all supporters and non-Native students of the Dartmouth Community who want to learn or talk about Two Spirit issues.

In the beginning of the group, we lacked a name to encompass what I wanted to accomplish. The name, "NAD Alliance," was chosen because the group is designed to be a bridge between various groups, with the objective to create an "alliance." The groups that we want to build ties between are the two spirit NADs and the supporters within NAD, and create a network with Dartmouth's other LGBTQ groups.

Alliance meetings are a safe space for members to discuss issues that affect themselves, explore their spiritual beliefs, and try to heal or relax from a long week. Meetings vary from discussions to community meals--where we prepare, bless and eat our food together. We are trying to educate ourselves and the greater Dartmouth community to be more accepting of all LGBTQ people. ♦

FALL TERM STUDENT UPDATES

OUTreach

By Rob Avruch '11, OUTreach co-founder

With the arrival of the class of 2014, OUTreach successfully matched 15 mentees with upperclass mentors. After only two terms, the organization has grown to include over 50 members! As OUTreach continues to establish itself as a widely recognized campus resource, the program has hosted a number of LGBT-oriented social events and a National Coming Out Day celebration.

Targeting our outreach efforts to first-year students and collaborating with various campus affinity organizations, OUTreach hopes to unite LGBT students from different pockets of campus



Students Gather at GSX Fall Term Meeting

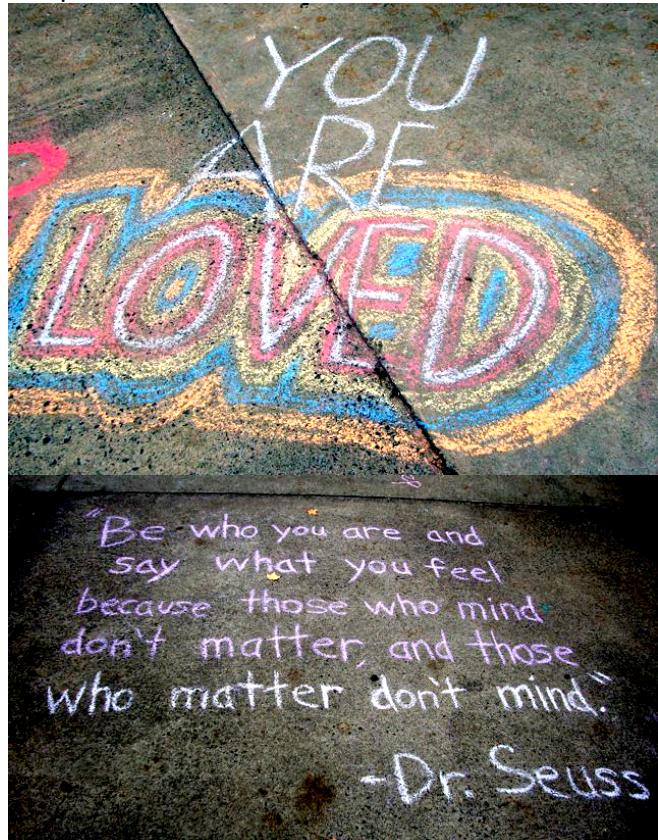
and make the diversity of LGBT experiences more visible. We are anticipating continued success as we make LGBT life at Dartmouth more inclusive and comfortable for all.

Any alums interested in the program or in mentoring a undergraduate about LGBT professional life are encouraged to e-mail our account at lgbtq@dartmouth.edu. [Alums interested in mentoring also may contact DGALA's networking committee chair, Nick Chamousis '73, at nchamousis@cs.com. Ed.] ♦

ANTI-SUICIDE INITIATIVE

By Anna Roth '13

This fall, GSX and Active Minds (a mental health awareness group) worked together to deliver a positive response to the well-publicized LGBT suicides around the country. Students from both groups used chalk to write messages such as "You are Loved" and "LGBTQ - You Are Respected at Dartmouth" on the sidewalks



Sidewalk Messages on Campus

leading to and surrounding Collis Student Center. It was inspiring to see such kind messages displayed prominently around campus, and a nice balance to all the negative press surrounding the issue. ♦

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As some of you know, this will be my last President's column in the *Green Light*, as my term will be expiring at the end of the year and I will be stepping down as DGALA President. Accordingly, I thought it would be fitting for this column to focus on the things I've enjoyed the most during my time as President and also the things I'm looking forward to continuing to work on in the coming year as a DGALA board member.



Susi Kandel '00

Of course, one of the highlights of the past few years has been the DGALA 25th Anniversary All-Class Reunion that was held in Hanover in October 2009. It was exciting to have so many GLBTQA alumni/ae return to the College to share their memories (both good and bad) of their time there and create new (hopefully only good) ones.

Another highlight has been the further development of the DCF/DGALA Scholars program, by which contributions by DGALA members to the Dartmouth College Fund have been used to provide scholarships to GLBTQA identified students. Since its inception, the DCF/DGALA Scholars program has raised nearly \$1 million for deserving GLBTQA students.

And it has been a pleasure to work with so many wonderful people. Among them have been six DGALA leaders who are stepping down from the Board this year after many years of great service. Let's us all tip our caps to David Eichman '82, Mikee Guzman '06 (who'll be continuing as one of DGALA's Alumni Council representatives), Cherie Holmes '79, Garrett Hornsby '87, Roger Klorese '77, and Kamil Walji '03. Looking toward the future, I am particularly excited about the new directors who will be joining the Board at the beginning of the year. This diverse group of alums reflects the Board's continuing desire to be as representative of

the alumni/ae community as we can be, including with respect to class year and College affiliation.

I am also eager to see the board committees continue to be developed. Although things have gotten off to a slow start, I believe that these committees will be an excellent way for DGALA members to become more involved with the organization and to have their voices heard. If you haven't yet signed up for a committee, please consider doing so as we would love to have you involved.

I hope you've enjoyed these President's columns -- I've tried to keep them entertaining. I have no doubt that whoever is elected to succeed me will also give you some good reading material. As always, if you wish to keep in touch, you can email me at susi@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.org.

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Bourne Student Fund Update. DGALA's Bourne Student Fund is a member-supported fund established nearly a decade ago to help Dartmouth LGBT students facing sudden hardship caused by being financially disowned as a result of their sexual orientation or gender identity. This past July DGALA sent an email to its e-list subscribers seeking help for a Dartmouth student who was facing such an emergency. We are happy to report that DGALA members responded generously and the student is doing well and greatly appreciates our support. Should you wish to contribute, there is a space on the enclosed envelope. ♦