



# GREEN LIGHT

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

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## DGALA GATHERS ON CAMPUS

DGALA's 2016 mini reunion on campus in June brought together scores of LGBT alums from across the country and the world. The weekend events combined fun, story-sharing, learning and campus updates. An amazing array of alums (classes of '63 to '16), guests, families and students partook in the all-free weekend. For more, see below, as well as pages 2 and 3. Next year's event, open to all, will take place during the weekend of June 17<sup>th</sup>. Plan to join us, and stay in touch for more details!



**Weekend events included drinks on Friday night at the Canoe Club on Main Street in Hanover, where we had a private room overlooking the street.**



**President Hanlon addressed the Saturday morning breakfast meeting.**



**Saturday's breakfast also included time for food, drink and chats.**



**Midday featured tours of Triangle House; here a group explores the House kitchen/dining area.**

## COMMENTS AND REFLECTIONS BY MINI REUNION ATTENDEES

*A tradition at the June mini-reunion breakfast is to pass the mic around so attendees may introduce themselves to the group, sometimes adding a few words. This time is often fun, moving or emotional. This year was no exception, from the acknowledgment of the Orlando massacre, which had occurred just days before the reunion, through the long applause for attendee Mike Jarvis '63 and his husband Craig, who have been together for 45 years, to some comments and reflections that Green Light asked if the speakers would expound upon after the event. Here are excerpts from a few of those comments and reflections.*

**Han Suh '15:** About the DGALA reunion, I was surprised by the diverse year/class make up of the group. It also seemed like people knew each other and tried to connect actively, so it felt like a real community instead of a brief event. As I've told you I'm getting out of Hanover into the real world soon so I am excited about the prospect of meeting and befriending DGALA people in Boston soon.

**David Beach '86:** I was profoundly moved by my entire reunion weekend. My only frustration was the lack of ability to go to every event because they frequently overlapped (e.g., I missed the Triangle House tour and the lecture because of Class of '86 events.) What struck me most about the DGALA breakfast was the diversity of the attendees, and the words of the one alum who stood up and addressed the recent grads and undergrads and said, "You are a miracle." And, sitting there with my husband and daughter, I realized I take so much progress for granted that at times it's good to remember how far we've come. The DGALA breakfast was a big part of how the



David Beach '86 (R) with husband Russell Granet and daughter Sadie at reunion's evening celebration (after the kids' face painting activity!)

weekend helped me understand how my undergraduate self turned into the person I am today. I am so grateful for all you do for Dartmouth.

**Paul Gambaccini '70:** When the mic was passed around I said "You are all a miracle". To me, DGALA is. I participated in a Class of 1970 panel and pointed out that when I was a student, homosexuals, to use the then-current word, did not officially exist. The complete lack of interest in our development as individual personalities, and the damage done to us by this ignorance, has always been the only downside of my Dartmouth experience. I suffered horribly, although that damage did not become apparent until I had left Dartmouth. This may seem a strange thing for a winner of the Barrett Cup to say, but in retrospect it is very sad that my beloved college failed me so deeply on the most human level while it was making possible a wonderful career on the professional level. This is, of course, not a specific indictment of Dartmouth, but a reflection on American society in the late 1960s. I appeared on a reunion panel for my fellow '70s and expressed my regret that most of our gay classmates never come back to Hanover. I was always in the mainstream and succeeded both as a student and in my work, so never felt alienated from my fellows, but several students, whom I would dearly love to see, have felt marginalized by Dartmouth all their lives and have never attended reunions. I have identified getting them to come to Hanover as the greatest goal I can imagine for our 50<sup>th</sup>. ♦

## ALUMS TOUR TRIANGLE HOUSE

A highlight of the mini-reunion was a midday visit to Triangle House, where Michelle Hector Kermond, Assistant Dean and Advisor for Sexuality, Women, and Gender, updated alums regarding the House. As of the reunion, Triangle House had just finished its second academic year of operation. Michelle



Alums enjoy pizza in Triangle House common room, while Michelle Hector-Kermond updates them on the House

reported that the House is proving to be very popular with students and would be open for the summer term (it's air conditioned!). Students already had been reviewed and accepted for the fall term, when the House would have a full complement of 25 students. The fall-term residents include six first-year students, described as "awesome" by Michelle, who reviewed their applications for the House.

Michelle gave small-group tours of the House and described its active programming, including topical Sunday brunches with guests and visiting faculty, campus outreach events and many seminars taking place in the House's common rooms. Michelle also announced that a successor has been named to follow Brianne Gallagher, the House's first live-in faculty advisor, who was about to take maternity leave. The new live-in advisor would be Assistant Professor Treva Ellison of the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies department. ❖

## PROFESSOR SWAYNE ADDRESSES ALUMS

*Another mini reunion treat was a Saturday afternoon lecture by Music Department Chair and DGALA member Steven Swayne. Steve provided us with a few reflections after the reunion:*

A thousand thanks to the members of DGALA for inviting me to speak at this year's all-class reunion! I had the opportunity to share some thoughts that I've been working on for several years now, which seem no less provocative than when I started thinking about them.

Many of us have our smartphones and iPods to ensure that we have music wherever we go. I shared with those in attendance that we use music routinely to arouse us and to modulate our moods, and I pointed out that both of these actions involve chemical changes in our bodies. One writer referred to iPods as dopamine-delivery devices, and that's pretty spot on: we are altering our neurological selves when we listen to music for three, five, seven or nine hours a day.



Professor Swayne chats with alums after his talk

You can go online and find versions of this talk that I've given elsewhere. [Also on the web is a related story by Steve that he handed out at the talk. It's in *Pacific Standard*: [link](#). - Ed.]

As always, I look forward to seeing the members of DGALA, either here in the Upper Valley or in my many travels on behalf of the College to various far-flung places. ❖



# DGALA FALL KICK-OFF GATHERINGS

*With Ashley Afranie-Sakyi '13*

Even without the granite of New Hampshire or the dramatic changing of the fall leaves in New Hampshire, DGALA members were still eager to kick off fall. On September 18th 2016, dozens of DGALA members gathered in four cities across the country to celebrate our first annual Fall-Kick Off. For this inaugural session we held events in Boston, Chicago, DC, and New York. A big thank you to our city hosts:

- Emily Reeves '15
- Andrew Rayner '10
- Spenser Mestel '11
- Ashley Afranie-Sakyi '13

We hope to continue to hold local events during the rest of the year and are eager to work with members across the country to do so. Keep an eye out for more events but also feel free to reach out to us directly with any suggestions for events. We look forward to continuing to bring the community together.



Ashley reports that the DC event had a nice mix: recent grads and more seasoned alums; members who have lived in The District for decades and some who were just passing through. Group consensus: we can't wait for the next DC event!



Andrew (R) reports: "So wonderful to hang out with William Boulware '90 and Chris Fletcher '11 (not pictured)! Looking forward to more events in Chicago, coming soon."



Emily writes: "The Boston DGALA chapter kicked off the fall with drinks and appetizers downtown. We're looking forward to having more events this year to connect alumni in the area."



Chuck Edwards A'86 reports on the NYC event: "What a great crew of folks. And there were so many more gals and guys that didn't get pictured, including some lateniks!"

# STUDENT FALL TERM UPDATE FROM CAMPUS

By Xander Johnson '18

Fall has been off to a crazy start here, with Homecoming just wrapping up alongside LGBTQIA+ History Month. The community on campus and the staff over at OPAL have been a major help in making it a success – we had a great turnout for a discussion on closets and coming out in honor of National Coming Out Day, and we have had programming related to intersectionality and LGBTQIA+ identity, notably with the Latinx and Native American communities on campus, both of which were impactful and well-attended.

It's been so exciting to see the new and returning students coming together and engaging with the community, which is starting to really thrive and flourish in a new way. The success of History Month and the energy on campus make me incredibly excited for the rest of this academic year and beyond. We're seeing a resurgence of some



**Staff of Dartmouth's Department of Student Affairs Celebrate SpiritDay on October 20. SpiritDay is celebrated nationally on the third Thursday of October each year as a visible day of support for LGBTQIA youth**

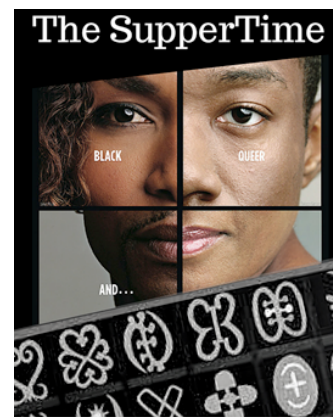
organizations that were previously rather dormant, and there are some projects on the horizon aimed at creating and promoting LGBTQIA+ student spaces on campus. I can see the community starting to coalesce and strengthen, and am eager to see how that takes shape over the coming terms. ♦

# THE SUPPERTIME

With Ashley Afranie-Sakyi '13

The SupperTime is a new undergraduate programming initiative on campus, implemented in the fall term of 2015. The program involves a one-per-term dinner that centers on the Black Queer experience. Each term a dinner guest who identifies within the community comes to campus, and students have the opportunity for a group dinner with him or her, to celebrate, to reflect, and simply to just be with one another in a space of openness, support, and safety.

DGALA Board member Ashley Afranie-Sakyi '13 was the alumni guest at the most recent SupperTime, for the dinner on October 14, 2016. She shared with *Green Light* that the event was a truly unique opportunity to connect with current undergraduate students in a meaningful way.



The centerpiece of the event is for the alum guest to speak to his or her own experiences during and after their undergraduate years. However, "what was particularly impressive were the insightful questions that the students asked", said Afranie-Sakyi. DGALA is excited by this intersectional programming created by Assistant Dean and Advisor to Black Students Kari Cooke, with assistance from Michelle Hector-Kermond, Assistant Dean and Advisor for Sexuality, Women, and Gender. Ashley added that she looks forward to additional opportunities to engage and support current queer Dartmouth students and hopes to continue this work through DGALA. "The mentoring program is a wonderful start and I hope we continue to expand the scope of our work with the Office of Pluralism and Leadership (OPAL). As a student, OPAL provided me with a space for guidance and support and is how I was first introduced to DGALA. I hope to provide the same opportunity for today's students." ♦



## ALUMNI COUNCIL REPORT

By Amanda Rosenblum '07

In October I went back to Hanover for my first Alumni Council as DGALA representative. I felt privileged to be there and know I have huge shoes to fill! There was no better person to shepherd me through the weekend than Mel Pastuck '11, DGALA VP and our other Alumni Councilor. After finishing our various commitments in New York on Thursday, we got on the road and rolled into Hanover after 3 AM Friday, and we were up at 7 to participate in



**Amanda and Mel  
stopping for coffee on  
their red-eye journey  
to the Council  
meeting**

committee meetings. Mel spoke on a panel in Dartmouth Hall called "Communities for All," alongside representatives of BADA, DAPA, and Women of Dartmouth. The panelists pushed attendees to ensure that their leadership is diverse, that events and programming are inclusive (which entails repeatedly asking who isn't in the room and why), and

that they are reaching out to affiliated alumni groups to collaborate. Over the weekend, we loved hearing from cherished professors about the upcoming Presidential election and from College leadership about initiatives for first generation College students. The highlight for many of us was a student athlete panel which underscored the power and brilliance of the student body at Dartmouth. And I got a special opportunity to sit at President Hanlon's table for the Saturday gala at the Hanover Inn, at which the College honored former DGALA Board of Director Shounak Simlai '05 with the Young Alumni Distinguished Service Award. My mind is still spinning, but I'm excited to be part of the Council and honored to represent this wonderful community. ♦

## OTHER FALL EVENTS



On October 22, DGALA members in New York met up with members of the College's LGBT Employee Network for a walking tour in Greenwich Village to celebrate LGBT History Month, culminating with lunch at Julius'. The Network supports staff and faculty of Dartmouth and the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center through monthly programming and special events.



Also in October, DGALA NYC struggled to stay upright at its get-together at a roller disco in Brooklyn's Prospect Park (disco lighting creating weird effects on some subjects!)



Providence, RI Gallery Reception (see page 8 for details)

# AN ALUM ANTICIPATES HIS 50<sup>TH</sup> REUNION

By Ora McCreary '67

*Ora McCreary's class of '67 will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> reunion in June of next year. The class is publishing a book of autobiographical essays by class members. Ora shared his with Green Light, and we excerpt it here.*

When I think back on my time at Dartmouth, my thoughts first go to music... [Here Ora describes his undergraduate years as an accomplished pianist and vocalist at Dartmouth. – Ed.]

Then my thoughts go elsewhere.

It wasn't easy being gay in the machismo environment of Dartmouth of the mid-sixties, where there was little support for a young gay man to openly explore his evolving identity. Many of the Dartmouth values from that time – celebration of masculinity, athletics, drinking, the party-school atmosphere, the frat-boy culture, the road trips to girls' schools – were not a comfortable fit for me.

While I also have many good memories and many strong positive feelings about Dartmouth, on balance I'd have to say that I left Dartmouth with mixed feelings. This ambivalence has affected my relationship with Dartmouth throughout the years, and regrettably has somewhat held me back from a continuing participation in alumni activities, particularly in the early decades after our graduation.

My experience as a gay man who came of age through America's period of increasing civil rights, I suspect, parallels the experience of many other minorities. I moved to New York in June 1969, the same week as the Stonewall Riots, which is now well known as the milestone event that marked the beginning of the modern LGBT rights movement. I wish I could tell you I was there on that famous night. But I did dance at the Stonewall before and after, and I participated in the demonstrations of

the following few days after the "riot." A year later I marched in the first gay rights march on the first anniversary of Stonewall Riot. Today's LGBT Pride parades are festive celebrations. But the first one, in 1970, was definitely a "march," a political protest event that took place under the threat of potential violence. Without a permit, we protestors marched up Sixth Avenue to a rally in Central Park, always keeping a wary eye on the police and the spectators, some cheering, some leering, some jeering.

I enjoyed the flowering of the gay liberation movement of the seventies onward. In the eighties I sang onstage at Carnegie Hall as a member of the New York City Gay Men's Chorus. I danced through the night at gay discos, which by then unapologetically celebrated the increasing acceptance of gay people. Then came the terrible days of the AIDS epidemic and its unspeakable but unforgettable darkness, as so many friends suffered and died. I survived the AIDS epidemic, though I and my community were bruised by all we lost. Times are a lot different now. We gay – LGBT – people are freer now than ever before, freer to love and freer to be fully visible as a part of American society. Just being able to write candidly now in this context is a clear marker of this fact.



Dan Bloom and Ora (right)

In 1974 I met my partner Dan Bloom. We got married in 2012 on the 38th anniversary of the day we met. (Attached is a picture of us on our honeymoon in Paris.) Because we had to postpone our marriage till later in life, our wedding program included an "in memoriam" section, remembering all the people no longer with us – parents, family, friends – who would have been able to celebrate with us if we had been able to get married at the "normal" time in our lives. [Ora concludes with upbeat words to his class anticipating the reunion, including reprising a popular 2-piano duet act with a classmate.] ♦

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Friends,

I am writing this on the train back from Providence, Rhode Island, where DGALA joined the Dartmouth Club of Rhode Island in co-hosting a gallery visit with the amazing artist and DGALA member Daniel Heyman '85. Daniel explained his work and process and thoroughly charmed everyone present, including my mother Carol, who was attending her first DGALA event! [Ed.: see photo, page 6.]

This success of this event reminded me of the strides that we have made in our programming in recent years. Upon becoming president of DGALA, one of my top priorities, enthusiastically supported by our board of directors, was to reimagine our organization's approach to programming and to confront head-on some of the criticisms that I had heard from our members, including "almost all of the events take place in New York City" and "most of the attendees are men." I am thrilled that this issue of the *Green Light*, especially the photos, shows some of the results of our ongoing efforts to capture the amazing diversity of our community in our programming as well as to host events in cities around the country and abroad. We really want to see you soon!

Autumn marks that start of our annual dues campaign, and as an independent not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, DGALA relies on your generosity to support our programming as well as the outreach to our students in Hanover that inspired many of us to become involved with DGALA in the first place. In 2016, we provided more than \$2,000 in funding to Dartmouth PRIDE in Hanover, our highest level yet, which made possible events

like the amazing Lavender Graduation for our students on a wonderful afternoon in May. Thanks in advance for your help this year!

As always, do not hesitate to contact me with your comments and suggestions at [bdanconnell@gmail.com](mailto:bdanconnell@gmail.com). Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season!

**Brendan**

Brendan Connell, Jr. '87

President of DGALA ♦

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## DUES ENVELOPES ENCLOSED

Enclosed are this year's dues envelopes, in a slightly different format (be sure that Treasurer Tim Stanne '03's address shows in the return envelope's window!). D-GALA operates almost entirely on the generosity of our supporters, and we put your contributions to good use through funding our All-Class Reunions, our 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, service events like our work with Harvey Milk School and this newsletter! Your contribution is tax deductible. If you prefer, you may give on line at <http://dgala.org/join-or-renew/>. ♦

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## GREEN LIGHT

Newsletter of

**The Dartmouth Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Alumni/ae Association**

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