



# GREEN LIGHT

NEWSLETTER OF THE DARTMOUTH LGBTQIA+ ALUM ASSOCIATION

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## SPEAKOUT LAUNCHES WITH STUDENT/ALUM INTERVIEWS

After several years of planning, SpeakOut, the DGALA-initiated oral history project for Dartmouth's LGBTQIA+ community, launched in April 2018 with its first 10 student interviewers. The student interviews were selected by representatives from both DGALA and Rauner Special Collections Library through a competitive application process during the winter 2018 term, and upon



During Training, SpeakOut Student Interviewers Do Research and Make Timeline of Recent LGBTQ History

accepting their spot in the program, began a training program with Caitlin Birch, Dartmouth's Digital Collections and Oral History Archivist, at Rauner.

Over the course of eight training sessions held during spring 2018 term, students learned the theory and practice of oral history, delved into the LGBTQIA+ history of both Dartmouth and the nation, acquired archival research skills, and engaged in focused research to prepare for their first SpeakOut

*SpeakOut, continued on page 2*

## JOIN US: DGALA'S FREE JUNE MINI-REUNION ON CAMPUS

DGALA will hold its annual mini-reunion on campus during the weekend of Friday, June 15 through Sunday June 17. All events are free (no registration required) and open to DGALA members, friends, family and allies. Both the Saturday breakfast and Sunday brunch and tour at Triangle House are family-friendly, and the Saturday afternoon talk will have more about SpeakOut. Full schedule below.



Last Year's Mini-Reunion Brunch at Triangle House

**FRIDAY 6/15 10PM – DGALA (AND ALLIES!) DRINKS AT CANOE CLUB ON MAIN ST.**

**SATURDAY 6/16 9 AM – CATERED BREAKFAST IN HINMAN FORUM, ROCKEFELLER CENTER**

**SATURDAY 6/16 2PM – RAUNER LIBRARY: SPECIAL COLLECTIONS ARCHIVIST/HISTORIAN CAITLIN BIRCH DISCUSSES SPEAKOUT AND SHOWS LGBTQ ARCHIVAL MATERIALS**

**SUNDAY 6/17 10 AM - BRUNCH AND TOUR OF TRIANGLE HOUSE**

interviews.

Beginning on May 14th and continuing through May 30th, each student conducted and recorded an interview with a DGALA member who volunteered to share their story with SpeakOut in response to the outreach from the College that DGALA's members received by email earlier this year. Student interviewers represent all four years currently on campus ('18-'21); the first round of interviewees spans a class range of 1962 through 2011.

Commenting on the SpeakOut launch, Caitlin Birch noted: "We were thrilled to have an enthusiastic response to our first call for volunteer interviewees, and we're looking forward to interviewing those we weren't able to include in this round soon. We also welcome many more volunteers, and encourage anyone interested to visit <https://goo.gl/forms/mVmhvuiBQ24lymVW2> and fill out our volunteer form."

Interviews will continue over the course of the next several years. A SpeakOut website will be up and running prior to the kickoff of the College's 250th anniversary celebrations in January 2019.

DGALA president Brendan Connell '87, who conceived SpeakOut, is thrilled by the progress that has been made: "The College's selection of SpeakOut as an official part of Dartmouth's 250th Anniversary celebration, and the generous funding and staff support from the College that comes with that, is all thanks to the herculean efforts of Caitlin Birch. The interviews of our members by our students that are happening this spring are something that I could only dream about just a few years ago. This is amazing!"

Birch and Connell will be speaking about the development of SpeakOut as this year's DGALA Lecture during the DGALA mini-reunion in Hanover. The lecture will take place in Rauner Special Collections Library on Saturday, June 16th at 2pm. ♦

## NEW DGALA T-SHIRTS!

Under the leadership of our our awesome director Lee Merkle Raymond '86, DGALA recently ran a contest among the students



Elizabeth Janowski '21

to design a new logo for the DGALA t-shirts. The winning entry, we think you will agree, is great. Artist and designer Elizabeth Janowski '21, a member of Spectrum, the LGBTQIA+ student organization will

receive a cash prize (and a free t-shirt) for her fabulous work! The T's (in both colors) will be on sale at the June 15-17 mini-reunion, so you have yet another reason to join us there! ♦



# Amid Opposition, College Scraps Plan to Move Rainbow Room

In late April of this year, DGALA was contacted by LGBTQIA students on campus asking if DGALA could offer support to students who were opposing an effort by the College to relocate the Rainbow Room from Robinson Hall to Triangle House at the end of the spring term. The Rainbow Room has been on the 1st floor of Robinson for some two decades as a safe space and resource room for LGBTQIA students. The College also proposed to eliminate a similar space used by Asian-Pacific students.

The College initially stated that the Robinson rooms were needed for more office space for OPAL (Office of Pluralism and Life) staff offices. The students responded that Robinson Hall has traditionally been a student-centered facility, and that spaces long-designated for historically marginalized students should not be eliminated by OPAL, an office whose mission is to support diverse students. Students further noted that in both cases the marginalized students' spaces were to be moved to the perimeter of the College campus (the Choates in the case of the PAC room), further underscoring their marginalization.

DGALA immediately joined the discussions, particularly communicating on a regular basis by telephone and email with Reese Kelly, Senior Assistant Dean and Director, Office of Pluralism and Leadership. DGALA also coordinated with DAPAAA (the Dartmouth Asian Pacific American Alumni Association). According to DGALA President Brendan Connell '87, "We emphasized that it is the strong desire of DGALA's leadership and many of its members that the College maintain the Rainbow Room as a centrally located 24/7 safe space as well as a resource center for the students in our community. I also let the senior leaders of the Alumni Relations Office and the College Fund know of the depth of passion in our membership regarding the Room."

Apparently in response to the efforts by students and alums, the College amended its plans for the two rooms. In a May 15 message to DGALA, Dean Kelly stated,

*"In receiving feedback from students and alumni, we've amended and refined our upcoming plans, which include the following:*

*The physical space of the Rainbow Room will remain called the Rainbow Room. It will include resources for LGBTQIA+ students and adornments celebrating the LGBTQIA+ community. We will work with DGALA on creating a commemorative display for the room to honor the legacy of the space and LGBTQIA+ life at Dartmouth. It will have blocked hours from 10pm to 8am to continue to serve as an LGBTQIA-centered space, and it will become reservable only between the hours of 8am to 10pm. These changes are an evolution of our work with and for LGBTQIA+ students. In the upcoming months, OPAL Dean Sebastián Muñoz-Medina will launch an audit of campus resources for LGBTQIA+ students (which will include student participation and input). We look forward to partnering with DGALA in this endeavor."*



Rainbow Room Today

In communicating the College's change of plans to DGALA members in a Facebook post [Ed: There is a DGALA Facebook group – please join!], Connell stated:

*"I wish to emphasize that at no point was DGALA's leadership negotiating with the College about Room operation details. We don't have that kind of power in Hanover, and further, this would not be appropriate. It is a student space, and the College determines how it is used in its sole discretion. That being stated, the College's change of course was prompted largely by student feedback along with the advocacy of DGALA's leadership that I have described. It is not the result that we desired, not the result that many of our students desired, but it is better than the College's original plan, which was to eliminate the Robinson Hall location altogether." ❖*



## DGALA DAY OF SERVICE

By Amanda Rosenblum '07

DGALA in NYC participated in the Dartmouth Day of Service on Saturday, May 5th, a tradition of which we are very proud. With a recommendation from DGALA Director Sheila Hicks-Rotella '04, we selected City Meals on Wheels for our project. They deliver nourishing meals to homebound adults. The organization was accommodating and easy to work with, and they were thrilled and grateful for our turnout! We had 20 people come out at 9:30am, including two children of DGALA members and many allies.



The DGALA Day of Service Team Members

We broke off into 8 teams and were given carts with about 60 meals to deliver to 20 apartments. The event was family-friendly, and the children in our group were especially popular with our “customers.”

Afterwards, we went to lunch to debrief and celebrate Cinco de Mayo! All attendees shared that they'd love to partner with City Meals again and many said they may come back on a Saturday on their own. We'd love to expand DGALA Day of Service to other cities. If you'd like to step up as a project coordinator wherever you may live, please contact DGALA and we will support you through all planning and funding of the event.❖

## DGALA HOSTS QUEER NEW YORK CITY COURSE

Professor Eng-Beng Lim's spring term seminar, WGSS 96 “Queer New York City” was hosted by DGALA during one of their visits to the City. With Guggenheim officer/DGALA President Brendan Connell and DGALA Board of Advisors member Chuck Edwards, the class toured the Guggenheim's Danh Vo: Take My Breath

Away exhibit on led by a Guggenheim educator who dramatically



presented insights into the work of the queer artist. Following the tour, the group dined in Greenwich along with gay writer and Dartmouth professor Alexander Chee, who discussed his new book “How to Write an Autobiographical Novel”, among other topics.

Back in Hanover, the class will collaborate with WGSS 18 “Introduction to LGBT Studies” to share their experiences with Dartmouth's campus and the Upper Valley community, to conceive of a queer Hanover. See poster at right.❖



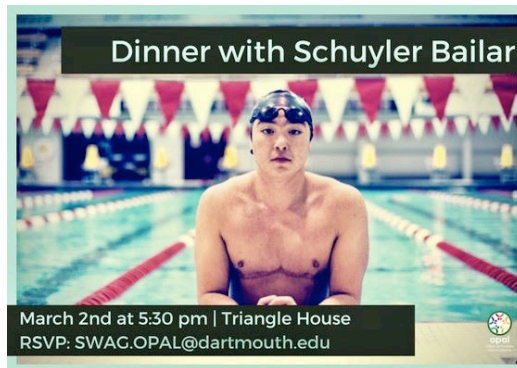


## SCHUYLER BAILAR SPEAKS AT TRIANGLE HOUSE

*Schuyler Bailar is the first transgender NCAA athlete. Although he inexplicably chose Harvard over Dartmouth, Schuyler remains close to the Dartmouth community, in part due to his father, DGALA ally Gregor Bailar '85 (see story in the Fall 2015 **Green Light** on our website). Schuyler recently visited the College to speak as part of V-February, Dartmouth's annual campaign to promote gender equity and end gender-based violence. V-February is a month-long program that expands on V-Day, a global movement to end violence against women and girls and at Dartmouth this year featured a series of performances, events and discussions throughout the month. After Schuyler spoke to the College community as a whole, he attended a dinner and discussion at Triangle House, sponsored by DGALA. Afterwards, we caught up with him for a brief interview:*

### How did you come to speak at Dartmouth?

Shira Evans (Dartmouth Sports nutritionist) saw the profiles that were done about me by 60 Minutes and The Olympic Channel and invited me to visit.



Poster for Triangle House Dinner Talk

They showed the Olympic Channel profile of me before we ate a tasty Indian meal. It was the first time I had ever watched that piece with an audience and to tell the truth, it was a bit unnerving. But it certainly got the discussion going.

### What sorts of discussions did you have there?

We talked about parents, coming out, finding voice, dating, staying the course, giving those you love time to catch up to your transition... and a lot of other things.

### What is your reaction to the House, its residents and others who attended?

It was an amazing place. It seemed like a very welcoming and well-run House. The residents seemed connected and engaged - which was great. ❖

### Could you tell us some highlights of your main presentation?

I spoke about my journey, what I struggled with before I really understood I was trans, what coming out meant to me and the challenges (and eventual relief) of choosing to swim on the men's team at Harvard. And Shira also asked me to cover some of the body image and nutrition issues I faced along the way.

### How was the event at Triangle House?

The dinner at Triangle House was great.



Schuyler (center) with the Group at Triangle House

## SPRING DGALA EVENTS



**Fun Wednesday Happy Hour in downtown San Francisco, fueled by a lot of margaritas and nachos**



**DGALA NY took a tour of the "No One Exists Alone: Queer Belonging" exhibition at The Whitney – featuring American art exploring gender, sexuality, and LGBTQ perspectives. Afterwards they gathered at the Rusty Knot in the West Village.**

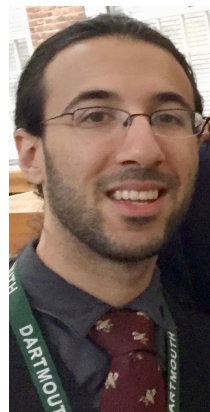


**DGALA LA gathers at El Coyote Mexican Restaurant in Los Angeles**

## DGALA NOTES

### **Shaun Akhtar '12 Joins DGALA Board**

Shaun is Metadata Librarian at the Dartmouth College Library and a volunteer co-coordinator for the College's LGBTQIA+ Employee Network. Shaun commented, "I'm honored to join this dynamic group of directors. I look forward to working with our members in support of DGALA's mission within the Upper Valley and around the world."



### **Updated Website**

Our refreshed website at [www.dgala.org](http://www.dgala.org) has the latest on DGALA's programming, student outreach, and our other initiatives. In addition, you will find director bios and photos, along with sections on DGALA's history and past *Green Light* newsletters. Keep checking in for the latest DGALA news!

### **Alumni Council Report**

Spenser reports: *"This AC focused on the College's new fundraising campaign, part of which will go to eliminating loans for most students and making admissions need-blind for international students. There were no explicitly LGBTQ issues, but as always, Amanda and I pushed our queer agenda in as many ways as possible."*



**DGALA's Alumni Councilors Amanda Rosenblum '07 and Spenser Mestel '11**

### **Dues Contributions**

A list of our contributors as of May 14 in the current fiscal year (July 1 – June 30) appears on at right page 7. Thank you to all donors for making our work possible! We hope the list is error-free, but please let us know if you find one (and if you do, we apologize!). You can still make a dues contribution and be on our final list by going to <https://dgala.org/join-or-renew/> ♦





# DGLA

DARTMOUTH LGBTQIA+ ALUM ASSOCIATION

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*Contributions received between  
July 1, 2017 and May 14, 2018.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi Friends,

We have had a busy DGALA Spring, with lots of great activity showing how far we have come together as an LGBTQIA+ community, and a few issues serving as a reminder that we can never be sanguine about our place in the world, including the Dartmouth campus.

A real highlight for me came last month, when I hosted Professor Eng-Beng Lim and the students in his Advanced Seminar in Gender Studies: Queer NYC class at the Guggenheim Museum for a special tour of our Danh Vo: Take My Breath Away exhibition. The students really enjoyed the midcareer retrospective of the work of this queer artist. We then traveled together to Greenwich Village for a lively Italian dinner, joined by Dartmouth professor Alexander Chee, who discussed his new book *How to Write an Autobiographical Novel*. It was a very special afternoon and evening with a focus on queer intellectual life at Dartmouth that reminded me why I have remained involved with DGALA for twenty years. These professors and students are inspiring!

This Spring also brought some unexpected developments that made me question how far we have actually come as a community. You may have read about the controversy about the status of the Rainbow Room safe space for our students, located in Robinson Hall. Everything that I want to say about the Rainbow Room and DGALA's role in saving it is posted in our Facebook group and on our website at [www.dgala.org](http://www.dgala.org). This issue and a few separate ones that have arisen with the College administration in the weeks since have been an alarm bell for me, a reminder that the need for LGBTQIA+ activism never diminishes.

Speaking of our website, my partner Rich Yeung '93 has done a great job in updating its look and keeping its content fresh – check it out!

Rich and I are looking forward to mini-reunion in Hanover, my last as your president, before we head west to start a new phase of our lives in Los Angeles. I hope to see you in New York City, Hanover, or on the West Coast very soon!

Brendan Connell, Jr. '87, President of DGALA ❖

## NEXT ALL-CLASS REUNION!

DGALA's next All-Class Reunion has officially been booked on campus for the first weekend in October of next year: from Friday, October 4 through Sunday October 6, 2019. This reunion will be extra special, as it celebrates DGALA's 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary and corresponds with the College's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Save the date! ❖



Rockapellas Perform at 2014 All-Class Reunion

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Quite a bit, we think! This edition of the *Green Light* marks the launch of our updated logo – you will see it in our masthead and in the logo on page 7 – changing the language “Dartmouth Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Alumni/ae Association” to “Dartmouth LGBTQIA+ Alum Association”.

Why the change? DGALA's board wants to make sure that our identity embraces all of our members, consistent with the most encompassing terminology for our community used in the world-at-large, and eliminating gender identifiers. This change was long overdue. We hope that you approve! ❖

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## GREEN LIGHT

Newsletter of

the Dartmouth LGBTQIA+ Alum Association

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