



GREEN LIGHT

NEWSLETTER OF THE DARTMOUTH LGBTQIA+ ALUM ASSOCIATION

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ALUMS LEARN IN PERSON ABOUT SPEAKOUT

A highlight of the June mini-reunion was a well-attended Saturday afternoon talk with Caitlin Birch, Digital Collections and Oral History Archivist at the Rauner Special Collections Library. Birch is overseeing SpeakOut, a DGALA-initiated oral history project focused on Dartmouth's LGBTQIA+ community. The first ten SpeakOut interviews, all done by current students, took

place in late May of this year. At the mini-reunion, Birch shared with alums some details on the project and answered a wide range of questions.

Birch underscored that student interviewers are a critical part of SpeakOut. Interested students applied

to be chosen as interviewers; chosen students during the spring term then underwent eight training sessions, learning about the theory and practice of oral history and conducting research on LGBTQIA+ history of both

Dartmouth and the U.S. Each student conducted one interview during the spring term.

Interviewees were drawn from a wide range of volunteer

alums, and an effort was

made to pair students with interviewees according to each student's interests. The project is not a class and is not for academic credit; however, each student receives a research stipend in acknowledgment of their contributions.



Caitlin Birch Addresses DGALA Alums Regarding SpeakOut

SpeakOut, continued on next page

After researching their interviewee and the relevant time period, the students create their own questions tailored to that interviewee. Enthusiasm was high, Birch said, “The students believed in what we are trying to accomplish,” as they record, help to understand and preserve heretofore undocumented parts of our history.

SpeakOut is supported by the Dartmouth as part of the College’s 250th anniversary, which will be celebrated in 2019; however, the project funding is for three years.

Funding includes the cost of transcribing interviews, a part-time staffer and eventually a website where interviews will be accessible and searchable.

Interviews will be made available on a rolling basis when ready. In specific cases, privacy concerns may restrict the timing or scope of publication.

While the project is expected to last three years, there is the possibility of a longer duration depending on interviewee interest and participation. The goal is to conduct 150 interviews during the first three years. It is hoped that interviewees will be drawn from the full diversity of the College’s LGBTQIA+ alums and beyond. As DGALA President Brendan Connell ‘87, who conceived of the project,

stated at the talk, “Everyone’s perspective is valid; we all have a story to tell.” Participation is not limited to the LGBTQIA+ community; indeed, interviewees may include some past antagonists to the community.

Initial interviews were conducted from a first wave of volunteer candidates. Going forward, project leaders may undertake various initiatives to seek out interview participants. Many interviews have been by telephone, but in-person interviews take place when possible. Alums are encouraged to

volunteer and to encourage others to participate. The volunteer form can be accessed on line (search “SpeakOut volunteer DGALA” for the link).

Interviews will not be limited to one’s time

at Dartmouth, but can cover periods both before and after college.

In response to questions, Birch underscored that the project is not intended to whitewash history. She said, “The idea is to make the College better. We are not a PR arm for the College.” In reply to a follow-up inquiry, Birch acknowledged the possibility that detractors might try to mischaracterize and/or condemn the project, but she said that the project will not be derailed. ❖



**SpeakOut Operates out of Rauner
Special Collections Library**

LATEST SPEAKOUT UPDATE

By Caitlin Birch

Summer was a quiet time for SpeakOut, as the majority of student interviewers were off during summer term. I spent that time working with Alex Liston, the member of Rauner's team who was hired specifically to assist with SpeakOut, to process the interviews that were recorded last spring. Processing means that each interview got a first listen, was indexed by keyword, was transcribed by a professional transcriptionist, got a second listen to audit and finalize the transcript, and has been stored safely in the College Archives. On the educational side of the project, I assessed the student work in each of the interviews and provided the students with constructive feedback to carry with them into their next interviews. Since fall term began in September, things have been picking back up for the students. Eight of 10 student interviewers are working for the project this term, applying the skills and knowledge they acquired last spring to a new round of interviews. I expect to have increased our total number of interviews to more than 20 by term's end, and most student interviewers will continue recording new interviews this winter as well. We're working on a website for SpeakOut with the goal of having it live for the kickoff of the College's 250th Anniversary celebration in January,

and we're beginning preparations for the recruitment of our second cohort of student interviewers this winter. And as always, we're seeking volunteers who would like to share their stories. ❖

VIEW FROM A STUDENT INTERVIEWER

Green Light recently spoke with one of SpeakOut's student interviewers, Abby Mihaly '21.

Abby praised the "good training process" that the interviewers went through during the spring term. Like many of the other



students, Abby conducted one interview in the spring and will be doing several more over the next few terms. She noted that the student interviewers meet from time to time to share what they are learning and hearing; Abby commented that they have been surprised by how many negative events have happened in recent College history that are often not talked about. The interviews, she added, are "a way to connect alums and current students; both are learning from each other." Abby and her colleagues look forward to when some of the initial interviews will be made available to the public in January. ❖

DGALA 2018 MINI REUNION



This year's June mini reunion on campus during June reunions kicked off with the traditional Friday night open-bar cocktails at the Canoe Club on Main Street in downtown Hanover. Many DGALA alums, friends and family enjoyed each other's company right up till closing time.

Saturday morning began with our annual breakfast meeting in Rockefeller Center. Not

everyone who helped to close down the Canoe Club on Friday made the breakfast, but many new faces joined us. The scores of alums present filled the large room to capacity as they dined on hot catered food, heard from DGALA and College leadership, and "passed the mic" around the room so that all could speak and share a bit about themselves. Among those sharing were many couples, including ones together for 16, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25 and 30 years. And some soon to be married announced their plans to the group!



DGALA President Brendan Connell '87 introduced President Hanlon and thanked him

Family member at breakfast models her DGALA rainbow bracelet



for having attended every DGALA mini-reunion breakfast meeting since his inauguration. Hanlon thanked Brendan for his two terms as President of DGALA and congratulated Mel Pastuck '11 who will succeed Brendan next year. Hanlon also spoke to the group about Dartmouth's upcoming 250th anniversary year and the Campaign for Dartmouth. Hanlon noted the importance of the LGBTQIA+ community to both initiatives, citing the SpeakOut

FEATURES FUN AND LEARNING

project and Triangle House. Former DGALA President Caroline Kerr '05 next addressed the group, noting that she is now in her third year as a member of the College's Board of Trustees. Caroline reported that she and her wife Darcy 'M10 will be moving back to Hanover in the fall together with their 3 children (who also attended the event!). Caroline noted how important her leadership of DGALA has been to her later serving as a Dartmouth trustee.

On Saturday afternoon, mini-reunion attendees visited Rauner Special Collections Library to learn about the SpeakOut initiative (see page 1). On Saturday evening DGALA hosted a group dinner with students at Base Camp Restaurant in downtown Hanover, where they dined on Himalayan/Nepalese cuisine and enjoyed each other company. Sunday morning featured a continental breakfast and tour of Triangle House (see below).



There will be another free mini-reunion on campus next June during reunions; all are invited to join us then! ❖

MINI-REUNION VISITS TRIANGLE HOUSE

During the Sunday breakfast visit to Triangle House, alums received an update on life in the House by Dia Draper, the House Advisor, who lives in the House apartment with her wife. Dia reported that the House is very popular: it had more



applicants than spaces during the past year, and the House was fully booked for the summer term. Residents last year included first-year students for the first time, nine in all, whom Dia reported were full of fun energy and excitement. Residents benefit from great programming, including DGALA Triangle Grant events and regular

Sunday dinners cooked by residents in the House kitchen, often with a speaker. The House is a campus safe space, open to all students from 10 till 10 daily. ❖

STUDENTS VISIT NYC ; HOSTED BY DGALA

By Jae Hong '20

Following up on last spring's "Queer New York City" seminar taught by Professor Lim, the Spectra student club this summer arranged a Queer History Experience trip to New York City. We wanted to see New York for its history and relevance to us as queer youth.



Jae and Mel (both at right) at illi

A group 5 students (including me) went to New York in order visit different museums and queer history sites. We visited the Whitney in order to see protest art and the David Wojnarwicz exhibit titled "History Keeps Me Awake at Night" and it was truly something I was in awe of. There was emotion flying through the rooms that held his art, and he touched us as queer youth experiencing the AIDS crisis through him. We then went to the Leslie Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art and saw a couple of exhibits, including "fierce pussy AND SO ARE YOU" that gave us a handle on lesbian visibility

efforts that arose out of ACT-UP. While some pieces were light-hearted (Jonathan Van Ness making a Bob Ross style video), others reflected on the erotic and sensual complications of being gay in the 70s and 80s (Leonard Fink's self-portraits).

We ended the trip being hosted by DGALA Vice President Mel Pastuck for a dinner at the stylish illi Lebanese restaurant where we got to talk about the differences between our Dartmouth experiences and how queerness played into our time there. It was an enlightening and highly entertaining dinner with laughter all around, just like every other DGALA meeting. ❖

BOSTON

Over the summer, DGALA Boston events included socializing at a local apartment and visiting the Museum of Fine Arts with Women of Dartmouth for a guided Oscar Wilde Tour. ❖





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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Friends,

This is my last message to you as DGALA's president! After almost 20 years of very active involvement with DGALA, the last 4 as your president, I have decided that it is time for me to become a member-at-large again and let others take the lead of this group that I love so much.

I am so proud of what we have accomplished over the last 4 years. I started to draft a



**Brendan and Rich Yeung
'93 at Triangle House
Wedding in June**

description of all of the initiatives that we have launched together, but I am not going to do that, you have read about them elsewhere. What I do want you to know is that the driving passion for me as your president has been to make sure that every single DGALA member and LGBTQIA+ student feels acknowledged and included by our group's outreach, feels that they are an embraced member of our community. SpeakOut, the DGALA Triangle Grants, our worldwide programming, they have all been inspired by these core values that I hold very dear.

DGALA has given me the opportunity to lead and to advocate. It has introduced so many beloved friends into my life. DGALA gave me my husband Rich, and our marriage in front of Triangle House this past June, eleven years to

the day after we met at a DGALA event in Hanover, was the happiest moment in my life. I am so grateful.

Thank you for the opportunity to be your president, it has been my privilege.

With affection,

Brendan

Brendan Connell, Jr. '87
President of DGALA

DUES ENVELOPES ENCLOSED

Enclosed are this year's dues envelopes and return cards (please 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 the *Green Light*, our All-Class Reunions, our annual June mini-reunions, lots of regional events, on-campus events with alums and students, and supporting LGBT people, issues and events at Dartmouth. Your contribution is tax deductible. If you prefer, you may give on line at dgala.org. A list of our contributors in our last fiscal year appears on page 7. We hope the list is error-free, but please let us know if you find one (and if you do, we apologize!). ❖

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