



# GREEN LIGHT

NEWSLETTER OF THE DARTMOUTH LGBTQIA+ ALUM ASSOCIATION

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## SPEAKOUT GOES LIVE

In March of this year, SpeakOut, the DGALA-originated oral history program, went live on the web. The program, first conceived by DGALA past-President Brendan Connell '87, was launched early in 2018 under the auspices of the Rauner Special Collections Library at Dartmouth. Led by archivist Caitlin Birch, SpeakOut trains student interviewers to interview volunteering Dartmouth alums about



**Caitlin Birch and Students Discuss SpeakOut  
at a Public Forum at Thetford Academy**

their lives before, during and after Dartmouth. Now that the program is "live," interviews can be heard or read on a dedicated website ([dartgo.org/speakout](http://dartgo.org/speakout)). The first cohort of interviews, conducted during the past year, are now being posted, and a second cohort is set to begin shortly. Volunteers are still encouraged to come forward, and may sign up on the Speakout website.

The interviews posted so far encompass a wide and diverse range of LGBTQ+ alums and their experiences, from the 1970s to the

*SpeakOut, continued on page 2*

## JOIN US ON CAMPUS! FREE JUNE MINI-REUNION

**FRIDAY 6/14 10 PM – DGALA (AND ALLIES!)  
DRINKS AT SIX SOUTH ST. (OPEN BAR)**

**SATURDAY 6/15 9 AM – CATERED BREAKFAST  
WITH PRESIDENT HANLON IN HINMAN FORUM,  
ROCKEFELLER CENTER (FAMILY FRIENDLY)**

**SATURDAY 6/15 3:30 PM – HOOD MUSEUM:  
PRIVATE TOUR FROM DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
JULIETTE BIANCO; MUSEUM JUST REOPENED!**

**SUNDAY 6/16 10 AM - BRUNCH AND TOUR OF  
TRIANGLE HOUSE (FAMILY FRIENDLY)**



**Fun at the last All-Class Reunion**

**SAVE THE DATE!  
NEXT ALL-CLASS REUNION ON  
CAMPUS:  
SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2020**

present decade. The amazing and riveting range of topics covered includes Activism, African-American experience, Alternative Commencements, Assaults, Athletics, Civil rights, Careers, Coming Out, The Dartmouth Review, Divestment, Family, Feminist movements, the Gay Students Association (GSA), Gender identity and expression, Greek life and organizations, HIV/AIDS, Homophobia, Latinx experience, Loss of family financial support, Mentorships, Marriage equality, Multiracial identities, Parenthood, Queer experience, Queer identity, Rainbow Room, Sexual assault, Substance use, and the Women's Issues League. Although the histories are sometimes harrowing, the interviews ultimately may leave the reader/listener with positive stories of struggle and perseverance in very challenging circumstances. All interviews, including abstracts of topics covered, can be reviewed on the website. *Green Light* spoke with a few of the student interviewers and alum interviewees. Below are some excerpts of what they had to say about the SpeakOut experience. ♦

## Comments from SpeakOut Interviewees and Interviewer

**Kelly Bonnevie '87:** I really enjoyed speaking with the student interviewer, who asked thoughtful questions. It felt important to remember my time during those years, both the good and the bad. I didn't want what my classmates went through to be forgotten. I feel indebted to the brave people who were out and who led the GSA during those years and wanted them to know how important they were to all of the rest of us.



Reflecting on it was helpful in trying to make sense of it. It was such a formative time and much of what was happening on campus politically is now being mirrored on a national stage with Laura Ingraham, Dinesh D'Souza and others. They got their hateful start in Hanover! For better or worse, my four years at Dartmouth made me the person I am now. It was validating to have a current Dartmouth student ask about it. I want my three teens to hear about it.

**Lee Knight '81:** I was the leader and public face of the gay students' group for most of that period. This was at a time when the risks were high indeed: one could be shunned by one's friends, disowned by one's parents, or even physically attacked. I'm not sure whether I was motivated by courage, idealism, naïveté, or all three. A lot of crazy stuff happened (illegal break-ins, malicious "outings," harassment, attempted murder, etc.) that I think few people know about. Nevertheless, in the face of all that, our little group carried on,

and some of us made great personal sacrifices, in order to provide support to LGBT students and raise consciousness among the greater community. Sometimes it didn't feel as though we were making much of a "mark," and indeed afterwards it seemed that our efforts had been more or less forgotten; but I believe that by simply being out and shaking things up, we gave other people who were too fearful to do so some comfort and hope, and perhaps built a foundation for better things to come. Now, thanks to the SpeakOut project, I'm glad some of us are getting the opportunity to tell our stories, in our own words.



**Barbara Olachea '19:** It has been an enriching experience getting to speak with alums from different periods of the College, and accomplished in such a variety of academic and career fields, about such intimate and crucial moments in their lives. Fundamentally I think they have a lot in common in terms of both their shared successes and challenges during their college experience, and transitioning after college to a truer version of themselves, which often only happens with the hindsight of the trials and tribulations of their formational years at Dartmouth. ♦



# DGALA DAYS OF SERVICE 2019

By Amanda Rosenblum '07

On Saturday, May 4th, DGALA NYC celebrated Dartmouth Day of Service. For the second year in a row, we delivered meals to homebound and elderly New Yorkers through City Meals on Wheels. This year we were placed at the Mullaly Recreation Center in the Bronx, which made this our first ever solo



Training...

trained us in ten minutes, and that is all the prep you need to volunteer, making this project easily replicable! We were informed that this site is often in need of volunteers, so they were very grateful to our group for



Implementation...

helping out. One DGALA ally lived close by and was able to direct us all to our assigned buildings. After our shift, we convened at Bronx

Drafthouse for lunch. Our Bronx resident on the board of directors, Sheila Hicks-Rotella '04, thankfully made us a reservation, as it was rowdy on the main street due to a Yankees game that day.

event in the Bronx! 15 people came out in the rain, including three Dartmouth kids. The City Meals volunteers

We have an upcoming day of service in Boston on June 23rd to support Rosie's Place, a women's shelter. This event is being organized by new DGALA board member Yeja Dunn '16 ([yejadai.m.dunn@gmail.com](mailto:yejadai.m.dunn@gmail.com)) in partnership with Women of Dartmouth Boston.



We would love for every city to host a DGALA Day of Service. If you're able and interested in organizing a meet up, please contact Amanda at [abrosenblum@gmail.com](mailto:abrosenblum@gmail.com).

These volunteer hours count towards the Dartmouth Call to Serve, an effort to capture 250,000 hours of service this year for the 250th. All alums should track volunteer hours



We're off!!

online at <https://250.dartmouth.edu/give-and-serve>. Every form of volunteering (outside of service for Dartmouth) counts, including board service, volunteering at a child's school, or helping out a non-profit. There is a drop-down menu for Affiliated group and you can indicate your affiliation with DGALA. You can track your hours on the site many times throughout the year! We'd love to showcase all the service DGALA members do for their communities. Make us proud, and track your hours! ♦

## DGALA GET-TOGETHERS

Besides the day of service activities in New York and Boston (page 3), DGALA alums recently gathered at Call to Lead events around the country as well as at locally organized DGALA events. We would love to sponsor an event – large or small – in your region any time this year (funding is available!). For more information, email us at [DartGALA@gmail.com](mailto:DartGALA@gmail.com).



## THREE JOIN DGALA LEADERSHIP

**Yeja Dunn '16** lives in the Boston metro area, where she works in education, particularly focusing on innovative ways to empower children in their own learning. While at Dartmouth, Yeja worked closely with OPAL and the CGSE on projects such as IvyQ, Pride, and LGBTQ+ History month. She told *Green Light*, “I’ve been looking to expand the scope of my volunteer work and

join an organization that connects back to the work I was doing within the LGBTQ+ community in college. When approached about the DAGALA Board seat, I was excited by the thought of re-immersing myself and working with so many of the incredible alums and students on amazing initiatives and projects in the community.”

**Rob Armstrong Martín '87** was a theatre major at Dartmouth and is now a hospital administrator in the NYC metro area. Rob



grew up in Texas, Washington and New Mexico. At Dartmouth he served on the Committee on Standards, where he decided student disciplinary cases involving sexual

harassment, hate speech, and the infamous shanty bashing and burning episode in Winter 1986. Rob is passionate about civil rights, social justice, and leveling health care disparities, and he currently writes plays in his spare time. Rob hopes to use his service on the DGALA board to continue to connect the many generations of LGBTQIA+ alums.

Like Yeja, **Brad Ursillo '98** hails from Boston, where he and his husband have hosted DGALA events in their home. Brad told *Green Light*, “I believe that an active LGBT alumni group is important to maintain our visibility within the alum community. And I look forward to giving back to Dartmouth via a group that is emotionally and personally meaningful to me.” ♦



# THE RAINBOW PIN(E) - VISIBILITY IN THE LAND OF WHITE COATS

By Stephanie Chavez-Yenter '14

When I graduated in 2014, I received a few parting gifts from DGALA that served to welcome myself and other 'family' colleagues into the strong alumni community. Among the package was a small rainbow pin in the shape of the lone pine, a symbol we have all come to know well. At the time, I found myself drawn to the pin for its simplicity and kept the pin safe as a reminder of the community I was able to build and rely on while in Hanover. In 2016, just two years later, I found myself placing the nickel sized pin on my short white coat a few days after matriculating into medical school. I confess at times I have often wondered whether the pin is even noticed by people interacting with me. Luckily, I've been reassured over the years by multiple comments, including "I like your pin", "where is that pin from", and even "where is your rainbow pin today." Without saying anything, the pin has allowed me to verbalize my commitment to LGBTQ-identifying patients and remind myself daily of the community from which I come.

As I and I'm sure many of you have experienced, the world of medicine is overwhelmingly heterosexual. Many health care providers will assume unless corrected



by you, that we are exposed to that same life experiences and risk factors as straight patients. Consequently, this cultural practice creates another space in which we must come out in order to be provided the care we need and deserve. I went into medicine in large part to help reduce this burden on our community. What has become clear in both

my personal and professional experience is small symbols, comments, or actions do not go unnoticed by the LGBTQ community when it comes to acceptance and accessibility.

Over the last 3 years, while many students have added pins to reflect their personalities or the many organizations to which they belong, the rainbow pine would turn out to be the only piece of memorabilia I have ever felt the need to keep on my coat. Why? Simple: visibility. The small pin reflects to patients, colleagues, and the many healthcare providers I interact, that I am a safe

place/provider and advocate for the LGBTQ community. Despite being small in size, the rainbow pine represents to me the strength in our community and our ability to continue to show up for one another as we move about our lives. Even if it makes just one member of our community more comfortable, it will have served its purpose. ♦

# DGALA AT THE ALUMNI COUNCIL

*By your DGALA Alumni Councilors, Amanda Rosenblum '07 and Spenser Mestel '11*

We headed up to Hanover a day early for the May Council meeting. This allowed us to spend some time on campus and have one-on-one meetings with campus staff. Amanda met with a few members of alumni relations. She also got to meet with Dia Draper, the new OPAL Director and advisor to Triangle House. Dia is an amazing advocate for LGBTQ\* students and for the work of DGALA.

Alumni Council itself was jam-packed, and included tours of campus, the new construction and the gorgeous new Hood Museum. Tee Lotson '82 ended her term as Council President. As she is a great ally to DGALA, we've already invited her to our DGALA Pride event in NYC to see the "After Stonewall" Exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum June 20th. Amanda publicly thanked her during Executive Session for elevating the leadership of affiliated groups in Council.

A lunch with Laurel Ritchie '81, Chair of the Board of Trustees, got intense when many alums asked questions about the class action lawsuit against faculty in the PBS Department and Dartmouth College leadership. Questions revolved around the College's decision to request that the anonymous plaintiffs reveal their names, which many alums felt threatened the safety and well-being of these members of our community. There were also questions around what went wrong for so many years, and how we can ensure this does not happen again. Laurel Ritchie did not have satisfying answers for many in the room and it was the most troubling part of the weekend. We later heard about the C3I - Campus Culture and Climate Initiative - and what steps are currently being taken to keep our students safe.



**Spencer and Amanda with DGALA past Leaders Kelii Opulaoho '96, Caroline Kerr '05, and Susi Kandel '00**

There was a Call to Lead event at the Hop and Hanover Inn Saturday night, with student and faculty speakers, where the College shared plans for their \$3 billion capital campaign. A video highlighting the history of Dartmouth got loud applause when it reached the year of co-education.

We are both attempting to make DGALA proud through our committee leadership positions. Spenser ended his year as Vice-

Chair of the Communications committee and will continue on as Chair for the 2019-2020 school year. Amanda was elected Vice-Chair of the Student and Alumni Engagement committee (formerly Student Affairs).

We made new friends and allies for DGALA.

If you have any questions or comments for us, please email them to [abrosenblum@gmail.com](mailto:abrosenblum@gmail.com) and [spenser mestel@gmail.com](mailto:spenser mestel@gmail.com).

If you have feedback for the College, please email it to the Alumni Liaison Committee at [alc@dartmouth.edu](mailto:alc@dartmouth.edu). We are proud that our DGALA President, Mel Pastuck, has served on that committee for the past school year.

It is an honor for us to serve in this role! ♦

## DUES CONTRIBUTIONS

A list of our contributors as of May 5 for the current fiscal year (July 1 – June 30) appears 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. Just go to [DGALA.org](http://DGALA.org) and click on "Support." ♦



## DUES GIFTS FY19 (TO MAY 5)

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*Contributions received between  
July 1, 2018 and May 5, 2019.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My name is Mel Pastuck '11, and I'm thrilled to announce that I have been elected to serve as your President by the Dartmouth LGBTQIA+ Board of Directors.

Having previously been elected as the Vice President of DGALA, as an Alumni Councilor on behalf of this community, and also as the 2014 All Class Reunion Chair, I am both excited and humbled to serve you all in this new role! To tell you a little more about myself, I currently live in Brooklyn New York with my partner Alice, work as an Account Executive at Google, and I play rugby with New York Rugby Club.

This spring, as I have been ramping up in my new role, I have had the opportunity to co-host a number of events as well as work directly with the College and staff to support both Pride and the Lavender Graduation. Two highlights for me were hosting DGALA at the Whitney Museum for a tour-de-force exhibit of Andy Warhol's works, as well as speaking at the Lavender Graduation in Hanover to culminate the campus PRIDE events. With over 15 alums gathering in NYC for the tour at the Whitney, it was great to both connect and reflect on the provocative works of the great queer icon - and enjoy one another's company afterwards for dinner. I love having the opportunity to meet with old friends, and facilitate cross-generational DGALA conversations.

Next, the Lavender Graduation (Queer Students Graduation for seniors) was an amazing event in which the voices and spirits of the current queer students were celebrated. It was incredible to be part of such a moving ceremony with over 50 students in attendance and to see how the new space at the Triangle House was being utilized - the energy of the event was positively contagious!

As I look towards my term as President, a few of my top priorities are:

1. Growing our organization to provide events and resources that reflect the full diversity (LGBTQIA+) of our alum and student communities.
2. Reflecting the global scope of our organization and reach in our programming - supporting and hosting events and opportunities for



alums to connect with each other wherever they are 'round the girdled earth.

3. Elevating the voices of our members and enabling them to tell their powerful stories on a broader stage: either through the SpeakOut Project, work across the College, interactions between alums / students, or informal gatherings.

4. Maintaining a top-of-mind presence in Hanover NH, which remains both our organization's basecamp, but also as a place where our visibility and energies are needed most by students and by our administrative partners.

5. Increased coordination with the College on areas for improvement: LGBTQIA+ student life and resources, mentorship, career / professional networking, and support for students in dire need.

This being said, I consider the most pivotal part of my role to be my representation of your ideas and priorities to the broader Dartmouth community. For this reason, I would greatly appreciate any suggestions or feedback you have about my list of priorities above. You can reach me directly at [mpastuck@gmail.com](mailto:mpastuck@gmail.com) or 908-310-3714 (cell).

I've been so proud of all the accomplishments of our new batch of Directors and Officers, and am excited for so much more to come. With Brad, Yeja, and Rob joining our Board, I'm enthusiastic about the energy and diversity brought in terms of class years, skills, and geographies. My new co-VPs, Amanda and Lee, have been extremely supportive, and helpful as I ramp. And our steadfast Treasurer (Tim) and Secretary (Pete) have continued to excel in their roles and improve our operational efficiencies. Additionally, our new webmaster Shaun (and Hanover native!) has done a fantastic job keeping our website up to date, so please check it out.

While our community has come a long way, I know that the level of support we provide, and the need for activism and vigilance, is as needed now as ever.

Thank you for your support. I look forward to serving all of you!

Mel Pastuck '11❖