



GREEN LIGHT

NEWSLETTER OF THE DARTMOUTH LGBTQIA+ ALUM ASSOCIATION

Volume 24, Issue 2 • November 2019

ALL-CLASS REUNION SET FOR SEPTEMBER

DGALA has set its next All-Class Reunion to take place on campus during the last weekend in September of next year. Although it's early in the planning stage, we recently caught up with one of the reunion co-chairs, Spenser Mestel '11, who



DGALA Alums Gather at the Top of the Hop
During the Previous All-Class Reunion

gave up this message to pass along to the DGALA community: *"Hopefully, by now you've all received your invitation to our All-Class, 35th anniversary DGALA reunion:*

All-Class Reunion, continued on page 4

DGALA ON CAMPUS IN 2020

MINI-REUNION:

JUNE 19-21

ALL-CLASS REUNION:

SEPTEMBER 25-27

COLLEGE "OWNS" LGBTQ+ HISTORY

The DGALA-inspired SpeakOut oral history project was the focus of a panel presentation held at Baker Library in mid-October. Special Collections Librarian Jay Satterfield told *Green Light* that the SpeakOut panel, and a companion panel on the Historical Accountability Student Fellowship program, are about "owning" Dartmouth's past as a way to "change the



way we see our future." He added that these "historical narratives ... allow everyone to make a claim that they belong at Dartmouth and this place is just as much theirs as it is anyone else's." (See sidebar, page 3 for fuller excerpts from Satterfield's remarks.)

Those on the SpeakOut panel were Mike Lownethal '90 (who famously came out in his valedictory address), Anne Pinkney '20,

SpeakOut, continued on page 2

who interviewed Mike as part of SpeakOut, and longtime DGALA Secretary Pete Williams '76, who spoke about the origins of SpeakOut. Archivist Caitlin Birch, overseer of SpeakOut, moderated the panel. See the separate comments and updates on these two pages for more from Mike, Anne and Caitlin.

Mike Lowenthal '90

As we all know, many LGBTQ students and alums have had a fraught relationship with the college, which has not always been embracing. But what a powerful message the library is sending now with the SpeakOut program: inviting us to record our LGBTQ stories so that they are literally part of the college's permanent historical record. Archivist Caitlin Birch and Special Collections librarian Jay Satterfield both spoke movingly about the need to look squarely at our sometimes painful history and turn it into a "usable past." It was deeply gratifying to be welcomed -- and celebrated -- by the institution that most truly symbolizes Dartmouth as a center of knowledge and learning.

Beyond that, it was a special pleasure for me that the event took place in what used to be the Current Periodicals room, where

I spent so many hours as a student in the late 80's, reading *The Advocate* and *Outweek*, which were lifelines to the larger queer world when the Dartmouth queer community was so small and embattled. I would go each week to read the new issues, holding the magazines up

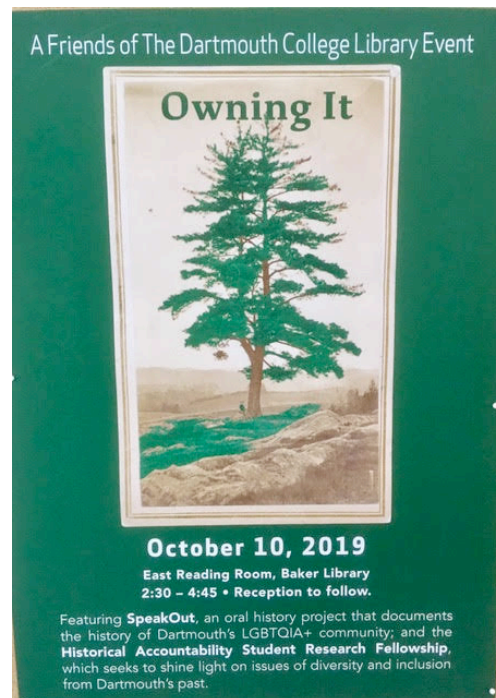
so their titles could easily be seen, hoping some other gay person might see what I was reading and make a connection. And now I was there as a guest of the Friends of the Library!

It was also thrilling to meet my SpeakOut interviewer, Anne Pinkney '20, in person. She did such a fabulous job with the interview, and I was eager to thank her. In the presentation, she was thoughtful and poised and almost frighteningly

articulate. If she's at all representative of the current generation of students, the future of Dartmouth is bright!

Anne Pinkney '20

My participation in the SpeakOut program has been one of the most meaningful research experiences of my academic career. When I applied to the program, I was excited to cultivate experience within the field of oral history and learn more about LGBTQ+ history at Dartmouth; what followed was an incredibly fulfilling set of interviews with engaging alums whose



candidness I appreciate more than I can put into words. I found the value of the program to lie within the space provided for alumni to speak about their experiences and connect with a cohort invested in preserving the mosaic that is the queer experience at Dartmouth.

Update on SpeakOut from Caitlin Birch

During the 2019 spring term, a new cohort of SpeakOut student interviewers completed their training, adding seven more student participants to the SpeakOut ranks. At the same time, we were busy populating the SpeakOut website with new interviews. The site as of this writing contains 22 interviews, just over half of the 40 interviews that have been recorded to date. We're working steadily at Rauner Library to process the interviews that aren't yet available and get them ready for the web.

Now that fall term is in full swing we're back to recording new interviews. We are still actively seeking volunteers who'd like to share their experiences with the project and we encourage anyone who's interested to visit dartgo.org/speakout and sign up.

Jay Satterfield, Special Collections Librarian

Right at the end of summer I was walking across the Green when I bumped into [an alum who mentioned] how pleased he was that Dartmouth was “airing its dirty laundry.” He was referring to the Podcast series “Hindsight is 20/19,” but I realized that could apply to several of the Library’s

250th initiatives, including SpeakOut and the Historical Accountability Student Fellowship program. The funny thing is that most of us who are working on these projects don’t think of them that way. We are not airing our dirty laundry, we are **owning it**. We are making it a full partner in our community. This is not some exercise in self-flagellation to atone for



our sins, it is an exercise in bringing forward parts of Dartmouth’s past that haven’t been particularly public—telling alternate histories of the College in order to find what we call a “usable past” ..., a past, or a series of pasts that change the way we see our future. Dartmouth has a long, complicated history, but one with a dominant narrative of privilege. The current community is incredibly diverse, and individuals may not see themselves in the standard histories of Dartmouth. If you can’t find yourself, or those like you, in the past, it can make you feel like an interloper: a trespasser in a space not built for you. But, if we dig deep, we can mine the archives and find a past, perhaps not always a positive one, but a real past that gives everyone ownership of this space. And that is what we mean by a usable past: a series of historical narratives that allow everyone to make a claim that they belong at Dartmouth and this place is just as much theirs as it is anyone else’s. It is using our past to build the future we all want to see at Dartmouth—a future where we own it. ❖

All-Class Reunion, continued from page 1

Friday, September 25, 2020 – Sunday, September 27, 2020. Though the turnout for our 30th anniversary reunion was incredible, 200 attendees, we're hoping to host even more of our LGBTQ+ family in Hanover next year. The program will include a panel on the arts, co-moderated by our handsome and revered president emeritus, Brendan O'Connell Jr., along with a tour of the renovated Hood Museum, intimate talks with Dartmouth faculty, and presentations from SpeakOut, a collection of oral histories from LGBTQ+ students and alumni. We've blocked out rooms at five hotels near campus ---- Six South Street, Hanover Inn, Courtyard by Marriott Hanover Lebanon, Element by Westin Hanover Lebanon, and Residence Inn by Marriott Hanover Lebanon. Though we've secured wonderful group rates, if you'd like to be paired with a roommate to help with the costs, please email us at dartgala@gmail.com.” ❖

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**Newsletter of
the Dartmouth LGBTQIA+ Alum Association**

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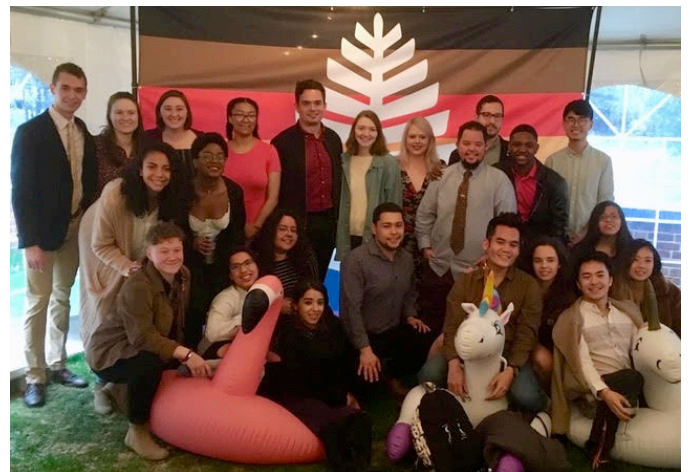
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Edited by Pete Williams '76

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LAVENDER GRADUATION 2019

DGALA was well represented at the May 2019 Lavender Graduation ceremony, held in a pair of tents on the lawn of Triangle House (the first tent for the ceremonies and the second tent featuring excellent food and drink). Mel Pastuck addressed the soon-to-be grads, and she and Pete Williams distributed the new DGALA t-shirts to each new grad. Some two dozen grads signed up to become DGALA members. We expect the 2020 lav grad to be just as great; watch our website for more information; all are welcome! ❖



JUNE MINI REUNION



over drinks on Friday evening, a family-friendly brunch on Saturday morning where President

This year's free DGALA mini reunion, held on campus during June reunion weekend, featured the customary mix of alums from many classes, spouses, kids, faculty and staff getting together to socialize



Hanlon addressed the group, an educational and fun tour of the newly renovated Hood Museum of Art on Saturday afternoon and a continental breakfast and tour at Triangle House on Sunday morning.



Next year's all-free mini reunion open to

all will take place during the weekend of June 19-21; plan to join us, and stay tuned to our website and emails for more details! ♦



DGALA DOINGS



DGALA member Auriel August, Med '17, recently was the subject of an amazing profile at Forbes.com. Dr. August speaks about being a gay black woman in medicine, and the great value of – and need for – diversity in the field.



DGALA's excellent 2019 Day of Service events wrapped

up in Boston in June when DGALA partnered with Women of Dartmouth: Boston to sponsor and cook a brunchtime meal for folks at Rosie's Place, a shelter that serves poor and homeless self-identified women. Our leader was DGALA director Yeja Dunn '16, and a similar event is in the works for 2020; reach out to Yeja for more info if you might like to get involved (yejadai.m.dunn@gmail.com).

Over the summer, John Brett '00 got a great group of Bay Area DGALA folks together for bowling and gourmet food and the chic



Mission Bowling Club in

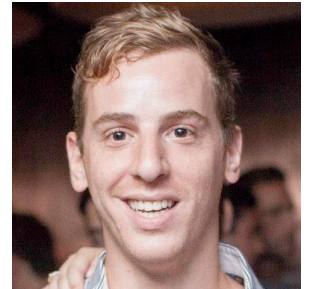
downtown San Francisco.

Meanwhile, up the coast DGALA'ers Bob Zinnes '79, Mike Jarvis '63 and spouse Craig Larson dined at a Sherpa restaurant at Mt. Rainier WA in August. Bob lives in New Hampshire but climbs almost yearly at Mt. Rainier.



Mike and Craig live nearby in Tacoma WA.

Spenser Mestel '11 is teaming up with Valerie Hartman '85, and Michele Lamberti '97 on Dartmouth Votes, a College-wide new initiative to get every eligible alum registered to vote; to educate them about how, where, and when to vote, especially in off-year elections; and to empower them to know their voting rights. If you might like to be involved, contact spensermestel@gmail.com; they're especially looking for website developers, regional club officers (especially TX, AZ, FL, GA, ND, and International), affiliated groups for underrepresented voters (BADA, NAAAD, DALA), lawyers with experience in voting rights, election volunteers (translators, poll workers, poll monitors, etc.), and civic volunteers (League of Women Voters, Democracy Works, etc.). ❖





THANK YOU FY19 SUPPORTERS!

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July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2020*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello DGALA!

As my first year as the President of DGALA comes nearly to its end, I'm extremely proud of what we have thus far been able to achieve as a new leadership team, and I'm energized by the work ahead of us yet to do.



In particular, we are extremely excited for our 2020 All Class Reunion next year, and planning is already well underway. We

look to build on the success of the 2014 – which had over 200 attendees, included three days of events, performances, panels, dinners, mixers, and special events – and we look forward to exceeding expectations again this year! This year will be particularly special as we will have the opportunity to feature the SpeakOut project – documenting the history of the LGBTQIA+ community at Dartmouth College – spearheaded by our former President Brendan Connell, Jr. '87. You can visit our website (dgala.org/reunion) to learn more about the reunion dates, hotel rates, and initial programming plans. And stay tuned in for a link to register for the event in the coming weeks!

There also are several other ongoing projects with the College of which we are

extremely proud this year – all of which directly impact the experience of students. For example, DGALA served as a co-sponsor for October's Queer History Month (for which the students selected the theme Trancestry). Additionally, we've begun work with the College's Admissions office on a project to help connect queer-identified admitted students to queer alums during the admissions process – and help them to learn more about Dartmouth, the Triangle House, and what LGBTQIA+ life looks like on campus.

As always, feel free to reach out to me personally if you have any projects, events, or ideas you would like to discuss (my email is mpastuck@gmail.com). I look forward to hearing from you soon and seeing you at our upcoming events! ❖

DUES ENVELOPES ENCLOSED

Enclosed are this year's dues envelopes and return cards (make sure the address shows through the window!). DGALA operates almost entirely on the generosity of our supporters, and we put your contributions to good use through funding *Green Light*, our All-Class Reunions, our annual June mini-reunions, regional events, on-campus events with alums and students, and supporting LGBTQIA+ people, issues and events at Dartmouth. Your contribution is tax deductible, and you may also give online at DGALA.org. ❖