

## ACTIVITIES RAMP UP



DGALA and Dartmouth's LGBTQIA+ community are among those happily welcoming the improvements this year in pandemic-related conditions. Those improvements have enabled our communities to resume and to increase in-person gatherings and programs, a heartening change from the past two years. In this issue, we share about some of those very

**Above, after a two-year pandemic-induced hiatus, President Hanlon renewed his annual practice of addressing DGALA's June mini-reunion breakfast on campus; at right, DGALA**

**alums listen with interest**

affirming community events. We look forward to more such gatherings in 2023 and hope that all members of our communities can and will participate.



Stay tuned to our website and emails for more events in 2023, and if you have an idea for one, please let us know ([dartgala@gmail.com](mailto:dartgala@gmail.com)); DGALA enthusiastically supports all local and regional gatherings of any size.❖

**At left, DGALA alums enjoy drinks during the mini-reunion at the newly refurbished bar and lounge at Six South in Hanover**

# TRIANGLE HOUSE RESTARTS

The two years of the pandemic were hard on Triangle House and its mission. As a residential hall, it was off-limits to those not resident in the building, and other pandemic-related circumstances hampered its mission to foster community, knowledge and action among LGBTQIA+ students.



DGALA  
raised  
these



issues with President Hanlon this summer, and his office arranged a meeting in September between DGALA leaders and Dean of the College Scott Brown, as well as other senior College leaders whose portfolio includes Triangle House and its programs. Happily, Triangle House and its programs are now (as described at the meeting) “in a re-start.” Here is a recent report to DGALA's members from Amina Zoklat '23, the House's new UGA:

*Triangle House is doing well! We now officially have both a dedicated Undergraduate Advisor (me!) and a live-in advisor, Ana Furtado Santos '22, who is a recent Dartmouth grad. We've kicked off the year with an event-filled fall term. Our welcome brunch had residents getting to know one another and building community. We've also hosted events with OPAL such as the DGALA panel [p.3] and movie nights. Our weekly meals are full of conversation and good food. And we just recently hosted a Halloween party with spooky music, dancing, and laughs. It has been such a pleasure getting to spend time as a community in the House, and we are looking forward to the year ahead! ❖*

**Photos are all from an opening week mixer  
at Triangle House**





# DGALA DIALOGUES WITH STUDENTS AT TRIANGLE HOUSE

On Tuesday evening, October 24, as part of the students' month-long Queer History Celebration, a panel of DGALA alums interfaced with students in a hybrid event held at Triangle House. The students had asked to be able to hear from and dialogue with a diverse panel of alums to

discuss their experiences as queer people at Dartmouth and since graduation. DGALA leader Val Werner '20 co-planned the event with student leader Jess Chiriboga '24. Panelists were Allie Asante '07, Sharang Biswas '12, E'13, Jamal Brown '08, and David Hankins '05. DGALA leader

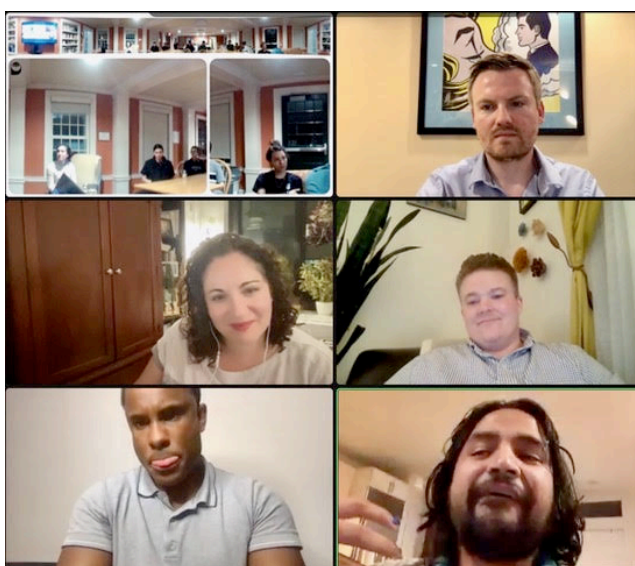
Amanda Rosenblum '07 moderated, and OPAL's Angelique Bouthot (see next page) facilitated at Triangle House.

The dialogue was candid and far ranging, and included not only students and the panelists, but also the diverse group of DGALA alums who joined on Zoom. Among the many topic discussed were the experiences of transgender alums and students; queer activism on campus "then" and "now;" advice for flourishing

as a queer person, both at Dartmouth and beyond; options to remain involved in LGBTQIA+ activism professionally; how students can continue to advocate for positive changes on campus once they become alums; and the very serious current topic concerning how the College

provides mental health services to students today and how those services should be improved.

The panelists all shared contact information with the students for any who might care to continue discussions individually in the future. Amanda added that DGALA also works constantly to support queer students and that they are encouraged to reach out at any time.



**Clockwise: Triangle House, Hankins, Asante, Biswas, Brown and Rosenblum**

Panelist Allie Asante commented to Green Light after the event, *"I enjoyed the opportunity to talk about my journey since leaving Dartmouth but I really loved hearing from the other alums and current students. It was inspiring to hear all the progress created by the current students, but also quite a reality check to hear their list of concerns (mental health care, sexual assault, racism, classism) be so similar to the issues from my time at Dartmouth."* ❖

# JUNE MINI-REUNION



After a two-year pandemic-caused hiatus, the longstanding tradition of the DGALA on-campus June mini-reunion returned this year. The campus was full



with an extra measure of reunioners, the



weather was welcoming and all agreed it was good to be back. The turnout was strong at both of DGALA's traditional flagship events, the Friday evening drinks at Six South Street hotel (where the spacious bar and lounge has just been spectacularly

redone) and the Saturday morning breakfast meeting, featuring President Hanlon, great food and conversation, and the traditional “pass the mic” among all present.



President Hanlon spoke movingly to the DGALA alums about his special affinity for the LGBTQIA+ community, how he had lost his



# RETURNS IN STYLE

beloved older brother to the AIDS pandemic in the 1980s and how he has made it a point to attend every mini-reunion during his decade at the helm of Dartmouth. The alums responded with a standing ovation as his remarks concluded.



The weekend's events concluded with a bonus impromptu tour of Triangle House, provided by Angélique Bouthot, the dynamic new Program Coordinator who's portfolio includes



the LGBTQIA+ students.



The mini-reunion will be back again next year during June reunions, with events on Friday, June 16 and Saturday, June 17. All again will be welcome; we hope to see you there! ❖



## Report from DGALA Alum Council Reps

*DGALA's Alumni Council Reps, Lee Merkle-Raymond '86 and Erik Ochsner '93, filed this report on the October meeting of the Council*

Early in the weekend, we participated in an event in front of Baker handing out apple cider donuts to students as part of the "Day Of Caring." The College has been very focused on increasing access to mental health counseling. Starting on November 1, currently enrolled students and staff have access to online mental health counseling via U Will, with the College paying for unlimited telehealth therapy. The flexibility of this service allows students to book times which are convenient for them, whether they are on campus, on an off term, or on a foreign study program. The administration believes this teletherapy will have a major positive impact on access to counseling; in addition, the number of counselors associated with the College increased to 17, including 6 who identify as BIPOC and/or queer.

On Friday night, four students spoke with the Council about activities in which they are involved. One of the students organized Pride events on campus, including the Drag Ball "Transform," which DGALA helped to sponsor. Saturday morning, we were given exclusive access to the newly renovated Dartmouth Hall. What an improvement! Thanks go to the donors who made this possible, mostly Women of Dartmouth. DGALA also made a contribution to the renovation fund. The dedication of the new Dartmouth Hall will be part of the 50th anniversary of Women at Dartmouth (Nov 11-13).



**Erik and Lee, with DGALA leader Shaun Akhtar '12, Councilor for the Upper Valley, pose beneath a poster honoring Amanda Rosenblum '07**

Saturday afternoon, we had talks from key College leaders, including the Dean of Admissions. Dartmouth is an incredibly difficult school to get into, with a 6.2% admission rate. The College also is one of only six schools in the US offering need-blind admissions to all US and international students.

Financial aid packages now have no more loans, only grants and scholarships. If a family has a net income of \$65,000 or less per year, they pay nothing to attend Dartmouth. DGALA alum contributions have funded scholarships for over a dozen students in the past few years (see next page).

Saturday night, we celebrated and honored President Hanlon; he soon ends his tenure as President of Dartmouth College. Lee and Erik spoke briefly with him to

thank him for his continued support of DGALA. Sunday morning, after breakfast strategizing with the other Affiliated Groups, Lee and Erik

had Q&A with Mike Harrity, the new Director of Athletics and Recreation, as well as two coaches and a student athlete. We were particularly struck by how much wellness support the student athletes seem to have access to, and how DEI plays an important part in the Athletics department. Rounding out the weekend was a chat with three Trustees of the College, where they spoke about the search process for the new President. All three Trustees are very excited and proud of how they selected Sian Leah Beilock. ♦



## STUDENT EVENT: QUEER HISTORY IN THE UPPER VALLEY

Before Council weekend began, Lee, Erik and Shaun attended a student organized event at Collis entitled Queer History in the Upper Valley. Food and drink were free, and David Ford, Executive Director of the Main Street Museum in White River



Lee enjoys one of the rainbow cupcakes provided by DGALA at the Queer History event

by train to White River Junction, and then transferred to a smaller train to arrive at the Everett Train station, just south of Hanover near the Everett Lake Dam. At that same time, there were bars in White River Junction which featured large burly men who worked at the bar during the day, but later in the evening appeared as female impersonators! ♦

## DGALA/DCF SCHOLARS PROGRAM UPDATE

Eighteen years ago, DGALA joined with the Dartmouth College Fund to create the DGALA/DCF Scholars Fund. Since then, every dollar that a DGALA alum contributes to the DCF is counted toward funding DGALA Scholars: current LGBTQIA+ students who receive need-based financial aid. For every \$50,000 that DGALA alums give to the DCF, DGALA is able to fund another DGALA Scholar.

We are happy now to report that, for the fiscal year ended this past June 30, DGALA members supported the scholarship program to the tune of \$244,126, raised from 380 donors (a 37% participation rate). This amazing generosity from DGALA's membership has enabled five DGALA Scholars to be supported in the school year that is now underway. In the next issue of *Green Light*, we will introduce some of this year's Scholars. One hails from Ukraine; another is Daphne Valenciano Coronado '25 from Los Angeles, whom we met this past spring.

By contributing to the DCF this year, you can help to fund more DGALA Scholars for the next academic year. You may contribute online at:

<https://www.dartmouthcollegefund.org>.

There is no need to make any special designation; just by being a DGALA member, your contribution will support this wonderful program. ♦

## DGALA IN BOSTON



**DGALA representing at GLAD's annual "Spirit of Justice" dinner in Boston: Richard Yurko '75, Joanne Herman '75, Kelly Bonnevie '87**

About this photo, Kelly Bonnevie '87 added, "The best thing is that it was not a 'Hey, let's get a Dartmouth alumni photo'—the three of us were just talking when the photographer came by and asked to take a photo and I later realized what the three of us had in common. "

## DGALA '72 GATHERING



The Class of '72 held its 50<sup>th</sup> reunion on campus the weekend before the DGALA mini-reunion, and so the class' DGALA members organized their own gathering. Jack Anderson '72 sent us this photo,

commenting, "Our DGALA dinner at Jesse's was Great! L to R: Jeffrey (with Wayne ... I did not catch his last name); Wayne Scherzer '72, Jere Kelly (husband of Paul); me, my partner Andy Chen , Paul Oostenbrug '72 and Dwight Sargent '72." The group declined DGALA's offer to provide funds for the gathering, asking that DGALA make a contribution to a DGALA cause, and so we are making a gift to the Consortium on Race, Migration and Sexuality in honor of the '72s.

## DGALA IN TOUCH WITH PRESIDENT-ELECT

Soon after her appointment was announced, the Board of DGALA wrote to President-elect Beilock, welcoming and inviting her to next June's mini-reunion. She replied, "Many thanks for your kind invitation and words of welcome. I am honored and thrilled to be joining the Dartmouth family and look forward to the future in Hanover. I would be happy to join the breakfast as long as my schedule allows. Please reach out as the date gets closer and we will get it on the books."

## DUES ENVELOPES ENCLOSED

Enclosed are this year's dues envelopes and return cards. DGALA operates almost entirely on the generosity of our supporters. Please provide any contact updates and make your tax-deductible gift using the envelope or at <https://dgala.org/support-dgala/>. ❖