



# GREEN LIGHT

NEWSLETTER OF THE DARTMOUTH LGBTQIA+ ALUM ASSOCIATION

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## NEXT ALL-CLASS REUNION SUMMER '25!

DGALA's leaders have announced that our next all-class reunion, celebrating DGALA's 40th anniversary, will take place on campus during the summer of 2025. The gathering will be over a weekend while students are on campus, the precise date to be fixed early next year. There will be an all-DGALA dorm



### Fun at the 30th Anniversary All-Class Reunion

for housing, as well as hotel room options. Having the reunion in the summer not only allows for dorm accommodations, but also for some events to be held outdoors. We will be reaching out to members to survey what sorts of events they would enjoy and to ask for volunteers to help out with discrete tasks that will not require excessive time commitment. Many more details to follow in the coming months; stay tuned to updated communications! ❖

## BEILOCK MEETS WITH DGALA

Just six days after she became the 19th President, and first female President, of Dartmouth, Sian Beilock met with DGALA alums at DGALA's annual mini-reunion breakfast meeting in June. President Beilock spoke broadly about coming to



Dartmouth and some of her goals, and she took questions from the large group in attendance before heading off to address the entire alumni community.

In August, Beilock returned – virtually this time – for a Zoom meeting with DGALA alums, again featuring a wide-ranging Q&A,

*Beilock, continued on next page*

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which ran well past the half hour scheduled for the event. The President said that she was “in listening and learning mode,” and was very glad to hear from DGALA alums. Indeed, Beilock noted that a unique strength of Dartmouth is its engaged alumni, and that she believes that it is important for diverse alums' voices to be heard and that she sees DGALA alums as an important such voice. True to her word, Beilock took numerous questions and heard about multiple matters from the DGALA alums,



**President Beilock on the Zoom**

which covered a variety of topics and expressed sincere and deeply-held concerns. Among the topics raised were: whether the President's emphasis on “brave spaces” is consistent with the importance of safe spaces at Dartmouth; the lack of attention to LGBTQIA+ issues in the College's fall 2022 DEI plan (“Toward Equity”) or in the recent “Campaign for Dartmouth;” the need for a more welcoming and inclusive atmosphere for LGBTQIA+ people; the need for more openly-queer faculty and staff, and more support for them; the need to change

traditional, entrenched thinking and practices at Dartmouth; and the need for better health and wellness support for students, faculty and staff.

One of the questioners, DGALA past-President Trevor Burgess '94 said to *Green Light* after the meeting, “I was excited to meet with President Beilock and was happy to learn about [DGALA past-President] Caroline Kerr [05]’s appointment as special advisor to the President. The latest capital campaign forgot about our community, and I’m committed to working with DGALA alumni



**President Beilock Takes Questions at DGALA Breakfast Meeting**

to both hold the college accountable to the LGBTQIA+ students, and to make sure that we as alums are focused on our giving to Dartmouth to advance the cause.”

DGALA's leadership has warmly thanked President Beilock for her special reach-outs to our members, and she has promised to join us again at the mini-reunion breakfast meeting on June 15th of next year. For a limited time, excerpts from the President’s Zoom meeting with DGALA are available on our website, [www.dgala.org](http://www.dgala.org). ❖

# DGALA AROUND THE COUNTRY

## BAY AREA

*By DGALA VP Lee Merkle-Raymond '86*

DGALA events have returned to San Francisco! We met at BareBottle Brewing cafe in Salesforce Park on Thursday 10/26. Over a dozen alums came during the course of the evening, and DGALA covered drinks and apps. BareBottle serves hot empanadas, as well as hot pretzels, plus a range of craft beers, and non-alcoholic drinks.



**The Gang Gathers, Making Good Use of Lee's '86 Class Banner as a Rendezvous Marker!**

We brought chips, salsa and guacamole from a nearby restaurant.

Folks came from around the Bay: Oakland, downtown SF, out by Ocean Beach and from Palo Alto representing a range of classes: from 1986 to 2018!

As the sun went down, we made plans to get back together after the New Year in Feb/March with a request for an activity as part of the gathering. Thanks to Anna Jaeger and Thea Stutsman for joining me as co-hosts for the night. Watch for details for the next Bay Area event! ❖

## NYC

Still hosting our largest contingent of alums, New York has recently had a variety of events. In honor of Pride month, in late June the Big Apple crowd gathered at the Goethe Institute in Manhattan to see a screening of the German film "No Hard Feelings,"



a semi-autobiographical film about the life of a young openly gay German-Iranian. "No Hard Feelings" won the 2020 Teddy Award for the best LGBT film at the Berlin Film Festival.

And in September, nationally-reported



flooding from heavy rains caused a planned family friendly picnic in the park to be moved to an indoor brunch, where a good time was had by all nonetheless. ❖

# JUNE MINI-REUNION

This year's mini-reunion during class reunions on campus in June brought many DGALA alums together for fun and edification. The weather was great almost all weekend, and things kicked off with DGALA's traditional Friday evening drinks and munchies at the fabulously redecorated bar and lounge at Six South



Hotel in downtown Hanover. The staff was friendly as ever, and many DGALA alums, as well as members of Dartmouth's faculty and staff LGBTQIA+ group, enjoyed getting together over victuals and conversation.



Saturday morning, we were honored to have

President Beilock start off her first week on the job by visiting and speaking at DGALA's Saturday morning breakfast meeting at Rockefeller Center. The food this year was catered by Dartmouth Dining Services, whose friendly staff made an extra effort to provide



a dazzling array of gourmet breakfast options. President Beilock welcomed all and outlined some of her goals and ideas as she begins to settle in.



# HIGHLIGHTS



Members then followed up with the traditional “pass the mic” around the room so that all could introduce themselves and find new and old classmates and friends. Later on Saturday morning, the wonderful and dynamic Angelique Bouthot, Assistant Director of the Office of Pluralism and Leadership, whose portfolio includes LGBTQIA+ Student Advising, took time off from visiting family to give DGALA alums

a fabulous tour of Triangle House. The mini-reunion will be back next year; all alums, friends and family are welcome; please plan to join us on next summer on June 14 and June 15! ❖



## TRIANGLE HOUSE'S NEW LIVE-IN ADVISOR

Triangle House was constructed with a full-sized built-in apartment for a faculty or staff member to live and act as an advisor to the students in the House.



Gary Xia (he/him) started this fall term as the new Live-in Advisor. Gary has been at Dartmouth for over three years, and he brings twenty years of experience working with

young people as a social worker and educational counselor. Gary knows that food is one way to build community: on Thursday nights he hosts a “snacks and chat” where students gather to have fun, share stories, share concerns, and hang with their fellow residents, and on some Sundays he cooks waffles for them. All of the time he actively encourages and supports the students to make the most of their educational opportunities. Gary's husband also is with the College. DGALA supports events at Triangle House via the Triangle Grants Program. ❖



**A Triangle Grant Pumpkin Carving  
at the House this Fall!**

## DGALA CHALLENGES ALUMNI MAGAZINE FEATURE

As detailed in our letter copied below from the September/October issue of the *Dartmouth Alumni Magazine* (page 10), DGALA pushed back against the magazine's publishing in its July/August issue a fawning interview and (online) a transphobic cartoon featuring an alum whose denigration of transgender people is a staple of his recent work:

### **Out of Toon**

Targeting people for a fundamental part of their identity is wrong. Transgender people are people. We condemn *DAM's* promotion of Steve Kelley '81 [“Continuing Ed,” July/August]. *DAM* gave a platform to someone whose denigration of transgender people is a staple of his work. And *DAM* published online one of Kelley's antitransgender cartoons. Directly above the cartoon, the title “It's Okay to Laugh” apparently offers readers permission to join in on the joke. Is it really okay to laugh at the fact that nonbinary people exist? Freedom of expression is not an excuse for publishing hateful content.

Apparently, the rising level of vitriol against transgender people in the United States has normalized such hatred. We as a board call upon *DAM* to publicly apologize for publishing this profile and transphobic cartoon and to publicly affirm the right of transgender and nonbinary people to have their gender identities respected. To fall short of this is to fail to serve, as is *DAM's* stated goal, “the entire Dartmouth family.”

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***The leaders of DGALA are grateful to every one of our donors, who make possible all of the work that we do. The list of donors on this page is for our last fiscal year, ending on June 30. If we have omitted your name in error, please let us know. If you are able, please lend your support this year; you may do so online at <https://dgala.org/support-dgala> or via the enclosed return envelope.***

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the newly elected DGALA President,



**Erik conducting on tour in Europe**

I would like to say how excited I am to continue my work with my fellow volunteer Board members.

Engagement is my theme! I just returned from Hanover where I spent a week attending LGBTQIA+ events on campus, having meetings with students and staff, and participating in the Alumni Council meetings. There are so many of us who are involved and engaged with the College, in various ways and at various levels. DGALA is an active member of the Affiliated Groups (including BADA, DAPAAA, DALA, and Women of Dartmouth). It's clear that we all enjoy celebrating our uniqueness in individual silos, but I would like to see us lower the silo walls more to celebrate together: bring more people together to a wider variety of events, not only DGALA events. We are taking that first step after President Beilock's Welcome tour visit to NYC and are planning an all-affiliated group gathering after her talk. Alumni Relations is on board and wants to support this. The intersectionality across groups is evident and remarkable. I would love to hear from our membership: reach out, connect, engage! I'd like to know more about why you are a member of DGALA, and how this group can offer

you more? If you're not yet involved, what might spark your interest? There are many ways to be involved. Let's engage! Write me at [erik.ochsner@dgala.org](mailto:erik.ochsner@dgala.org). ❖

## RAINBOW DARTMOUTH APPAREL LAUNCHES NOV. 10TH FOR 2 WEEKS ONLY!

As the winter skies turn grey, DGALA has the rainbows to brighten your day. We're thrilled to bring you rainbow Dartmouth t-shirts, sweatshirts and hoodies, launching on Friday, November 10th at <http://www.tinyurl.com/dgalagear>.

We will collect pre-orders for 2 weeks only, then produce and ship to you in December. FREE Shipping thanks to Dartmouth Alumni Relations! ❖



## DUES ENVELOPES ENCLOSED

Enclosed are this year's dues envelope and return card. 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/>. ❖