



GREEN LIGHT

NEWSLETTER OF THE DARTMOUTH LGBTQIA+ ALUM ASSOCIATION

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DGALA40: JULY 25-27!

The reunion committee is deep into planning for DGALA's 40th anniversary All-Class Reunion, which will take place on campus during the weekend of



July 25-27, 2025. Judging from the strong response to our on-line survey, enthusiasm is running high among DGALA alums, and we're expecting a



big turnout by alums from across the decades. Besides asking alums for programming, etc. preferences, the survey solicited and received lots of volunteers for various planning subcommittees. We also are gratified at how many alums responding to the survey

said that they would contribute to a fund to keep reunion cost from being a barrier to anyone. (If you missed the survey, feel free to email us at DartGALA@gmail.com with your ideas or volunteer offers.)

This will be our first all-class reunion held during the reunion summer: students will be on campus, and also that weekend the 5-year and 15-year-cluster alum classes will be present. It promises to be fabulous, as we celebrate four decades of LGBTQIA pride, activism and community! Families, kids and guests all will be welcome. Many more details, plus on-line registration



will be up in the spring. In the meantime, we will keep you posted, so do keep an eye on our various communications. ♦

DGALA/DCF SCHOLARSHIP FUND

DGALA's collaboration with the DCF to provide scholarships to LGBTQIA+ students is now in its 20th year! The program works like this: every dollar that a DGALA alum gives to the Dartmouth College Fund counts towards funding need-based scholarships for LGBTQIA+ students. For every \$50,000 that DGALA alums contribute, DGALA is able to fund another Scholar. The program operates on a fiscal year basis, so any DCF gift that is made by June 30 of that year will fund DGALA Scholars in the following academic year.



In each of the past three fiscal years, DGALA members have generously given over \$200,000 to the DCF, thus funding five DGALA Scholars (the College rounds up to the next \$50,000 once we hit a new threshold). Now that we are into FY25, any gift that you make between now and June 30 will support DGALA/DCF Scholarships for the academic year beginning next fall. If you are on our mailing list, there is no need to specify your DCF gift: the default is that your gift will support our Scholars. The url to give to the DCF is dartgo.org/dgala. The QR code above also will take you there.

Meet DGALA Scholar Aurora Wackford '26

We are happy to introduce one of our new Scholars for this academic year, Aurora Wackford '26 (two of our Scholars profiled in recent *Green Light*'s are Scholars again this year, we are pleased to see). Aurora shared these words with us (brackets added in case any readers, like your editor, need a bit of help):

Thank you all so much for your incredibly generous donations that make it possible for me to attend Dartmouth!

I am a biology major (and a likely studio art minor!), where I spend lots of my time being a nerd about



Aurora atop the Gile Mountain fire tower on a foggy day

all living organisms and using frameworks like queer ecology to reorient different methods of studying biology! When I am not in the LSC [Life Science Center], I can usually be found in BVAC [Black Family Visual Arts Center] making silly art, at Still North [Bookstore, on Main Street] pursuing my passion for London Fogs [a beverage!], getting really into discussion-based classes, or on a patch of grass soaking up the sun. Thank you so so much for supporting my education! ♦

DGALA Gets Results in Uganda Matter

In the June issue of *Green Light* (available on our website), we reprinted an April 22, 2024 letter from DGALA President Erik Ochsner '93 written to the College Board of Trustees on behalf of the DGALA Board of Directors. The letter decried the College's announced intention to award an honorary degree in June to an alum employed by Uganda Christian University, an aggressive denier of LGBTQIA+ rights.

We are happy to report that the College responded proactively to DGALA's letter: (1) In advance of the award of the degree to the alum, the College worked with DGALA Advisory Board member Nancy Vogeles '85, who is Chaplin and Director of the Tucker Center for Spiritual and Ethical Living, to modify the honorary degree citation to state that the alum "through [his] faith and mission work, [has] respected the dignity of every human." (2) The College added language to the commencement program stating that "Dartmouth is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free from discrimination, harassment and retaliation [and that any contrary] opinions, beliefs, viewpoints, and associations of Commencement participants today or at other times in their lives do not reflect Dartmouth's policies." and (3) Going forward, the College has revised its screening process for honorary degree recipients to add a regular outside review to screen in advance potential honorary degree recipients for issues such as arose in the Uganda matter. ♦

In Memory of Professor Peter Saccio

With deep regret we report the passing of Professor Peter Saccio in August of this year at age 83. DGALA honored Peter at our 20th anniversary all-class reunion on campus in 2004. In his remarks at the reunion, Saccio remembered his agonizing decision in 1984 whether to become advisor to Dartmouth's fledgling LGBT student group. Peter ultimately said "yes," thinking how he wished that some professor at his undergraduate college had done the same twenty years earlier. Peter also served as lead trustee of the Carpenter Foundation from its founding in 1985 until 2000. The Carpenter Foundation was established by Dr. Ralph Elias '32 to support LGBT students at Dartmouth at a time when Dartmouth would not accept funds for such a purpose. Following his passing, former DGALA leader Amelia Craig Cramer '82 wrote the following remembrance of Peter. The eulogies given by two of Peter's longtime friends and former students are on our website at <https://dgala.org> .

When I was a student at Dartmouth, Professor Peter Saccio inspired me to deeply love Shakespeare. His assignments included not just reading the words of the plays on the page, but listening to them on recordings, reading how commentators understood and interpreted them, and then expressing my own interpretations through written essays and even acting out scenes. I spent hours in an old wingback chair in the Sanborn House Library, a heavy volume of Shakespeare's collected works balanced on a board set across the arms of the chair, more hours in the basement of Baker Library

listening to records, and yet more hours on the steps of Dartmouth Hall happily immersed in playing the role of Viola from Twelfth Night. But what is most deeply etched in my memory of my undergraduate education at Dartmouth is Professor Saccio lecturing from the front of a large auditorium classroom, enrapturing me with his brilliance and his passion. I will forever be able to recall at will his unique voice, his thetic mannerisms, the beaming expression on his face, and his expansive gestures as he spoke about the nuances of language, the layers of meaning, the exquisite storytelling of Shakespeare. Professor Saccio is the reason I majored in English, rather than biology. He is the reason I quit the tennis team and made academic learning my priority in college - because the



Peter addresses DGALA's 30th anniversary reunion

practice time for tennis conflicted with the time of his class. And Professor Saccio is the reason my adult daughter, an actor, cherishes that old, worn volume of Shakespeare's collected works that I passed on to her, knowing it was one of my most prized possessions. Years after I graduated, when I was executive director of GLAD Law in Boston and had time to visit Dartmouth on a regular basis, Peter Saccio became my colleague and friend. He was the Dartmouth faculty member who led efforts to support LGBT students at the college, through the Carpenter Foundation and DGALA with which I was actively involved for

several years. I will never forget talking with Peter over lunch at the Hanover Inn, discussing how best to ensure that the abuses we had endured as openly gay and lesbian members of the Dartmouth community would not be inflicted upon others, how to support students from our community who were struggling. Peter's courage, in being out of the closet at a time when it was still dangerous, and even more impressively being an activist in support of LGBT students at that time, was inspiring. Peter's memory will live on and be cherished not only by me, but also by his fellow scholars of Shakespeare, his Dartmouth faculty colleagues, all the students he taught, as well as all of Dartmouth's LGBTQIA+ community.

By Amelia Craig Cramer '82

JUNE MINI REUNION

This year's mini reunion – during class reunions on campus during June – again brought together many DGALA alums for fun and edification.



FRIDAY EVENING DRINKS

The weather was great all weekend, and things kicked off with DGALA's traditional Friday evening drinks and munchies at the fabulously redecorated bar and lounge of the Six South Hotel in downtown Hanover.

The staff was friendly as ever, and many DGALA alums And guests, as well as members of Dartmouth's faculty and staff LGBTQIA+ group (which generously contributed to the cost of the event), enjoyed getting together over victuals and conversation.



CONTINUES POPULAR

SATURDAY BREAKFAST MEETING



Saturday morning's breakfast meeting featured a fun change of pace, as our traditional venue in Rockefeller Center was under construction and so we gathered in the spacious atrium of the new Irving Institute at the foot of Tuck Drive. We were honored to have President Beilock address DGALA and take questions from us as her first event on a busy day. The President purchased and then immediately donned one of our fabulous new rainbow Dartmouth t-shirts at the event. We sold out of those shirts at the breakfast and the midday reception of all the Alum Affiliated Groups, but we hope to have more in 2025. Although we have the DGALA40 all-class reunion weekend coming up in July, plans also are afoot to keep the traditional June events going as well, so stay tuned for details on that.❖



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Dartmouth's new (openly gay) Health & Wellness Officer addresses the meeting



Triangle House Live-In Advisor Gary Xi updates the breakfast meeting



DGALA UPDATES

Local Events

In the Bay Area, there were several Dartmouth events attended by DGALA members, including the Dartmouth Entrepreneurs Network (DEN) in September and a bonfire with s'mores at Ocean Beach hosted by Dartmouth Club of SF in October. ...



Looking ahead, John Brett '00 is organizing a "Night at the Tenderloin Museum" in early February [date TBD], providing a history of SF from the perspective of the area just off Union Square. ... What else? We'll plan a couple of additional events leading up to the 40th anniversary of DGALA, which will be held in Hanover July 25-27, 2025. To confirm the types of events you want to attend (or not) please respond to the survey that was sent to your email in late October.

In DC, Laura '04, Donald '04, Kamil '03, and Gustavo '14 met up at Licht Café in June 2024 for a Pride Month mixer hosted by the Harvard Club of DC. DGALA showed up for the earlier April mixer and, soon after this one,



Alex '19 and Devon '10 joined Kamil for the August mixer, too. In 2025, DC will host WorldPride festivities and salute the 50th Anniversary of Pride in DC. We're excited to be working with the



Dartmouth Club of DC to put together a special program in commemoration of DGALA's 40th Anniversary alongside DC's rainbow celebrations as well as continuing with more opportunities for social gathering. ♦

Two Alums Join DGALA Board

DGALA is pleased to announce the recent election to its Board of Directors of Diana Berger '90, G'96, and Kelii Opulauoho '96, P'26. Diana, who lives in Norwich, VT, is a physician who is focused on LGBTQ+ rights and who became interested in joining DGALA leadership after attending DGALA events at her 35th reunion this June. At our reunion breakfast meeting, she jumped right into an advocacy role by asking President Beilock about the recent student suicides at the College, noting that suicide is often a particular problem for our community. Diana has been married to her wife for 20 years and has an adult daughter who also is a member of the LGBTQ+ community.

Kelii, a native of Hawaii, lives in Honolulu, where he is an executive member of the Pride Power Employee Resource Group at Hawaiian Electric, where he advocates for inclusivity in the workplace.



While at Dartmouth, Kelii served as communications chair for DAGLO/DRA. As an alum, besides an earlier stint on the DGALA Board, Kelii has volunteered with the Native American Alumni Association, the Affiliated Group Roundtable and the Dartmouth Club of Hawaii. He told Green Light, "What drives me is the opportunity to connect individuals who share a love of our Alma Mater. I believe that by fostering connections and supporting initiatives within our LGBTQ+ community, and with allies, we can create a more inclusive and vibrant network for all alums." ♦



FY24 DONORS

Member gifts received
July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Benefactor (\$500+)

Trevor Burgess
Paul Camp
Brad Hise
Israel Sanchez
Gretchen Wetzel

Champion (\$250+)

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Robert Chaloner
Paul Cunningham
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Advocate (\$100+)

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Peter Van Buren

Our new and current fiscal year ends June 30. If you would like to make a dues contribution and appear on next year's supporter list, visit us at <https://dgala.org/support-dgala> or use the QR code below.



DGALA PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

RIP. A giant among us has passed. My sincere condolences to all who knew Professor Peter Saccio. He was an ardent supporter of LGBTQIA+ students on campus and of DGALA, but sadly I did not know him personally. While I was out to myself and some close friends while a student in the early 90s, I wasn't ready in my own coming out process to hang out with other LGBTQIA+ individuals or professors for fear of being "known." We are planning to celebrate Peter's life during our 40th anniversary all-class reunion on campus next summer July 25-27, 2025!

DGALA40. In 2025, the College and Alumni Relations ("AR") will be adding a third reunion weekend to the timeline. The 50th reunion will be June 13-15, the second weekend will be June 19-22, and the third will be July 25-27, where DGALA will celebrate our 40th, alongside the 5th year reunion and the 15th year clusters. AR is up against some limited-space challenges with current renovations and other events happening on campus. DGALA will receive the same support as any other class, so we are being offered a tent, assistance with food planning and event scheduling – but don't worry, we're working hard to make the event also very special for DGALA! (aka FABULOUS!)

Volunteers. I'd like to publicly welcome two new members to the DGALA Board of Directors: Diana Berger D'90 DMS '96 and Kelii Opulaoho '96, P'26 who is returning to the DGALA Board! Thank you for stepping up and volunteering! I'd also like to thank Val Werner '21 and Kamil Walji '26 for serving as our two Representatives on the Alumni Council. Did you know any of our members can serve on the AC? Wanna sign up for our next opening? Also, if you have a concern that you would like to voice to the College, you can e-mail the Alumni Liaison

Committee: alc@dartmouth.edu, or communicate with us, the Board, or our alumni representatives! Did you know that you can read committees' reports: <https://alumni.dartmouth.edu/alumni-council-committees>

Generosity. It really is very moving and encouraging to see how active and generous our DGALA members are. Here are three examples. In our survey about the 40th all-class reunion: (1) 63% of respondents said they would be willing to donate to an "Angel Fund" removing the financial barrier for others to attend the reunion! (2) We continue to show strong support by our members for the Dartmouth College Fund, resulting in offering a full year's financial support for five DGALA scholars. Helping others is so important and can be so rewarding. And (3) I extend my great thanks to each of the many members listed on the prior page who made annual dues contributions to DGALA. Your financial support allows DGALA to operate.



Erik Introduces President Beilock at the June 2024 Mini-Reunion

40th Anniversary Reunion
Thank you. A huge shoutout to those who have volunteered already, have been on calls and attended and contributed to meetings, voiced concerns, given great ideas, created a new logo, etc. It's wonderful to be working with so many talented, hardworking and generous individuals.

Commit and Engage. Think of events, join the Board, attend our mini reunions and our 40th anniversary "All-class" reunions in 2025, be kind to others with peace and respect, and to borrow from Amelia Craig Cramer '82 in her comments, let's all strive to live brilliant lives – full of passion!

Erik Ochsner '93
President