



GREEN LIGHT

NEWSLETTER OF THE DARTMOUTH LGBTQIA+ ALUM ASSOCIATION

Volume 30 Issue 2 • November 2025

DGALA40 "Wonderful"!



DGALA40 attendees gather on the Dartmouth Hall lawn during the weekend festivities

Among the many positive comments made by DGALA40 attendees in our post-reunion survey, "wonderful" was the word most often used. And, as our coverage in this issue we hope confirms, the word fits. We share lots more comments and photos on the pages to come, but here's one that encapsulates much of what was said by so many others:

"My husband and I were fortunate to attend DGALA's All Class 40th year reunion. It was a celebration, a solemn remembrance, a rejuvenation, and a party! We expected to have fun, but I didn't think we expected to be so moved. The organizers put together a meaningful program of events celebrating our history and looking forward with hope to our

future. The lobster dinner on Saturday evening and the memorial service earlier in the day allowed all of us to experience gratitude and remembrance. The opening night comedy and drag show at Collis were truly spectacular. The DGALA leadership and volunteers deserve tremendous praise for putting together a weekend that we will remember for a very long time. We have made new friends and feel closer to Hanover than ever. We cannot wait for the next all class event!" Glen Buchberger '04.

Glen and his husband were joined on campus by over 200 other DGALA alums, family and allies over the weekend of July 25-27 this summer. For more on the fabulous weekend, please read on! ♦

IN DGALA40 REMARKS, PRESIDENT BEILOCK STANDS STRONG FOR LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

Good evening, everyone! It is wonderful to celebrate an extraordinary milestone: 40 years of DGALA! I especially want to thank ... the many volunteers who came together to make this weekend happen. If there is one thing I have seen again and again in my first two years here, it is the tireless work that goes into building this tight-knit Dartmouth community. That does not just spring up overnight. It happens because [so many] do the work to make sure this is a place of inclusion and dignity for everyone who sets foot on our campus. And I can't think of a more powerful example than this DGALA community.

I don't need to remind anyone that 40 years ago, when DGALA first sought recognition from the College, the idea was met with reluctance. And yet because of the dedication of those early pioneers like Ed Hermance and Chuck Edwards and other leaders DGALA is honoring tonight; because of the ongoing work of so many of our students and alumni, we gather tonight at a very different moment. A moment when DGALA is not just recognized as a part of this Dartmouth family — but is valued as true partners in all we do. DGALA has been instrumental as we build the best Dartmouth we possibly can.

And even as we look at the remarkable work we've done together, we must also acknowledge this moment we're in. We're coming off a very eventful year, to say the least — not just for higher education, but for our country, our world. I know in LGBTQIA



communities around the country, this is a moment of anxiety, even fear. I want to say very clearly to our Dartmouth family here tonight: We will always, always support our community members. We will not allow government overreach into our academic mission. And we will continue to protect and

defend diversity in all forms on our campus — because we know having a big tent and different perspectives makes ALL of us better. That means continuing to be an inclusive campus and community — where everyone, no matter your gender identity or who you love, is valued and supported. That means continuing to provide gender-affirming care as a core value. And it means

continuing to uphold our strict nondiscrimination policy — so that every student is provided with equal opportunities and support services. Those values do not change no matter *who* is in office. When we create that kind of inclusive community, it allows us to live up to our academic mission. It means we can bring exceptional young people to Hanover, from all different walks of life, so they can engage in civil discourse; teach them how to think, not what to think; and help shape them into the leaders that our world desperately needs right now. That is the mission we are doubling down on right now. That is what, together, we can achieve. So let me offer a toast to 40 years of DGALA and to our work continuing to build an inclusive community that makes us all better. Cheers!❖

For space reasons, the text of the President's speech is condensed here; please see the full text at www.dgala.org. Ed.

DGALA 40TH ANNIVERSARY AWARDS DINNER

The DGALA40 Saturday evening dinner was special in many ways. The summer evening was beautiful, Rocky Courtyard was gaily decorated, the lobster bake dinner was great, and we were so proud to have the opportunity to recognize wonderful members of our DGALA community with our traditional all-class reunion awards. Here are the awards we presented:

community at Dartmouth: Longtime Dartmouth President Phil Hanlon '77 was this year's recipient, recognizing his unwavering support for Dartmouth's LGBTQIA+ community throughout his decade at the help of the College, including overseeing the completion and opening of Triangle House and speaking each year at DGALA's annual June reunion breakfast.



Vanguard Award: *For those whose pioneering work advances equality, visibility, and protections for LGBTQIA+ people:* Our honorees this year were Dr. Izzy Lowell and Raymond Rodriguez '09. Izzy, most notably part of our community via her wife Emily Walker M'06, was honored for her brave and tireless professional service caring for trans and nonbinary people in areas with the most need. Raymond was cited for his longtime work on Capitol Hill in support of our democracy.

President's Award: *For individuals whose years of tireless advocacy, effort, and genuine concern have played an integral role in enhancing the quality of life for the LGBTQIA*

Hero Award: *For those who have made unique and significant contributions to DGALA, its alums and/or the LGBTQIA+ community at Dartmouth:* Two heroes were honored. Caitlin Birch, the former Digital Collections and Oral History Archivist at Rauner Library was honored for her instrumental work in helping to create and to bring to fruition the groundbreaking SpeakOut oral history project, chronicling the histories of many LGBTQIA+ Dartmouth alums. And Stuart Lewan '79 was recognized for his brave and pioneering work as a Dartmouth student (see more about Stuart on page 8.)

Awards, continued next page

DGALA Leadership Award: *For individuals whose efforts have played an integral role in raising the visibility of DGALA and furthering the intellectual, social, cultural and educational well-being of LGBTQIA alumni/ae:* DGALA's Board chose the occasion of our 40th



Friends and Family at the Saturday Awards

anniversary to honor all of the DGALA Presidents, whose leadership has nurtured DGALA from its challenging beginnings to what we are today. Those past Presidents are Ed Hermance '62, Chuck Edwards GR'86, David Hamilton '85, Lee Merkle-Raymond '86, Eric Stults '80, David Eichmann '82, Trevor Burgess '94, Susi Kandel '00,



Awardees Hanlon (with wife Gail), Kerr and Edwards

Caroline Kerr '05, Brendan Connell '87, Melanie Pastuck '11 and Erik Ochsner '93. ❖

DGALA/DCF SCHOLARSHIP FUND UPDATE

DGALA's collaboration with the DCF to provide scholarships to LGBTQIA+ students is now in its 21st 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 this year will fund DGALA Scholars in the coming 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 FY26, 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.

We are just now connecting with this year's Scholars. We hope to bring you a profile or two in our Spring issue, and we'll update you on how the FY26 fundraising is going. ❖

DGALA40 DAY BY DAY

MOOSILAUKE OVERNIGHT

Some twenty DGALA reunion attendees showed up early on Thursday for an overnight trip to Moosilauke Ravine Lodge. Fun was had by all sharing meals, sitting around the fire and stargazing. A few hearty souls made the trek to the top for sunrise, while others enjoyed a slower morning coffee!



ARRIVING ON CAMPUS

Most attendees arrived on campus on Friday, checked in, swung by the DGALA tent on Moore Plateau, picked up their swag bags, and then headed to the nearby DGALA dorms (all of Wheeler and some of Richardson). A few comments from attendees: "Truly wonderful." "The swag was EPIC." "The tent was super fun!" "Our swag was the envy of the reunion weekend and that tote is going to be used so much!" "So many little details: the flowers! The shower curtains! The tent decorations! All designed to uplift the spirit!"



ICE CREAM SOCIAL AT TRIANGLE HOUSE

The first event of the weekend gathering was an ice cream social at Triangle House. The only raindrops of the reunion fell around that time, but all was well. Red Hat's ice cream cart was on the covered House porch, and folks could enjoy ice cream and chat on the porch or in the main living room. The amazing Angelique Bouthot, Assistant Director of OPAL and LGBTQIA+ Student Advisor, gave fun tours of the House.



"QUEER THEN AND NOW"

Later that afternoon, alums gathered in Berry Library to see an exhibition of some of Rauner Library's collection relating to Dartmouth's queer history. DGALA Director Val Werner '20, a research coordinator at Rauner, commented to *Green Light* how much he enjoyed making the presentation, adding "It was an important reminder that history is personal. It comes from us and our communities. As the perfect example of that, Jamal Brown '08 gifted Rauner two posters from Dartmouth's first Pride celebrations, of which he was a founder."



**Jamal Brown '08 Discusses
the Early Days of Pride at Dartmouth**

BLOCK PARTY MEALS

To help keep the reunion's cost down, DGALA joined up with the four reunioneing classes on campus with us for the weekend ('09-'11 and '20) for our Friday dinner and Saturday lunch. But we had our own rainbow tables to keep us together and a good time was had by all.



FRIDAY NIGHT'S SHOW

DGALA's Friday night show was open to all, and it packed Common Ground at Collis Hall with an enthusiastic crowd. The event kicked off with an intro from DGALA leader Kamil Walji '03 doing an alluring version of the welcome song from "Cabaret."



Kamil then introduced in succession two comedians, Gretchen McNeely '92 and the renown trans comedian Jay McBride. Following the humor, all eyes turned to a music-pumping, show-stopping performance



by the House of Lewan, Dartmouth's own student drag club. Performers included both current students and House of Lewan alums. Comments from attendees called the show "wonderful" and "fantastic" or as one alum put it "On campus drag and performance live is in full swing!"



AFTER HOURS

After the shows both Friday and Saturday nights, alums reconvened at the DGALA tent for drinks, pizza and socializing.



SATURDAY MORNING

Saturday morning offered a bit of low-key R&R for everyone. It kicked off with continental breakfast at the tent, followed by a light stretching fitness session. Next there was an all-DGALA family walk around Occum Pond, on what was a beautiful morning.



Later that morning the College hosted an outdoor brunch meeting for all reunining members of affiliated groups (BADA, DAPAAA, DALA, DGALA, NAAAD and Women of Dartmouth). And the morning wrapped up back at the DGALA tent with a meetup of DGALA women and TGNC individuals.



Lunch was a community cookout for all alums, family, students, faculty, staff and townspeople. There were games, ice cream and face painting.



LATER SATURDAY

Saturday afternoon brought a moving but uplifting Celebration of Life in Rollins Chapel, honoring all who have left us. The ceremony was led in part by DGALA's Rev. Dr. Nancy Vogle '85 and it featured a special memorial to Professor Peter Saccio. Many alums lit candles in memory of loved ones.



After the group photo in front of Dartmouth Hall (page 1), we gathered for a panel discussion led by community-member Dr. Estavan Garcia on building and maintaining LGBTQIA+ community in these times.



L to R: Garcia, Angelique Bouthot, Sharang Biswas '12TH'13 and Gary Xia, live-in Triangle House Advisor

Next was the Lobster Bake Awards Dinner and finally a College-wide Party on the Green. ♦



STEWART LEWAN '79 REFLECTS

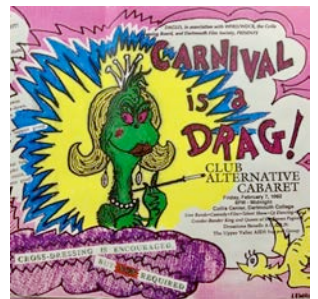
After DGALA40, Stewart Lewan '79, who received a Hero Award, sent us a powerful reflection. It recognizes many other pioneers and appears in full on our website, www.dgala.org. Here is just a snippet of Stuart's reflections:



Jaime Aranzabal '24, House of Lewan Founder, Presents Hero Award to Stuart

[W]hat is a "hero" anyway? ... Somewhere I'd heard that a hero was someone who felt fear but went ahead and acted anyway. So much of for what I was being recognized wasn't so scary at the

time, but simply my wanting life to be better in those barely co-ed days for everyone who didn't fit in the Webster Avenue mode. If anything, my "bravery" was more like naivete or foolish disregard and denial of consequences. That years later people were showing me appreciation for those sometimes silly, sometimes serious things made me realize we never quite know the extent of the impact we've had. ♦



Stuart's Poster, Feb. 1992



FOUR JOIN DGALA BOARD

Following DGALA40 four alums have joined the DGALA Board of Directors. Here is a bit about each of them; read more at our website, www.dgala.org.

Dr. Brian Jacobs '02 / Lawrence, NJ (he/him)

Brian majored in Music and French at Dartmouth, where he was deeply involved in LGBTQ+ life on campus and co-founded the second iteration of the Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA). He also sang with the Chamber Singers and the Dodecaphonics, serving as the group's director during his senior year. He now teaches French at The Lawrenceville School in Lawrenceville, NJ, where he also chairs the Language Department and advises several student organizations, including the Gender & Sexuality Alliance (GSA). A dual French and American citizen, Brian enjoys cooking, playing piano, and traveling with his husband, Hervé, and their 14-year-old twins, Emma and Noah.



Hannah Marr '20 / Somerville, MA and soon San Francisco CA (she/her)

Hannah graduated with degrees in Biology and Environmental Studies. In her time at Dartmouth, Hannah was a member and captain of the Ultimate Frisbee team, two-time national champions. She was also involved with the Dartmouth Outing Club, particularly the Mountaineering Club, and the Movement Against Violence sexual assault prevention education program. Hannah worked in healthcare consulting and biotech for 4 years before returning to school at Tufts University, where she is pursuing her Masters degree in Data Analytics. Hannah is excited to join the DGALA Board and engage more recent Dartmouth graduates in the important work that DGALA undertakes.



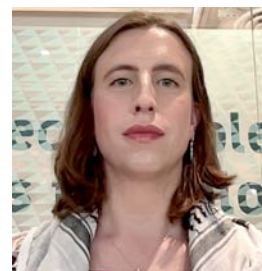
Jake Hanssen '22 / New York, NY (he/him)

Jake majored in Government modified with Economics and minors in Environmental Studies and Chinese. Jake was a member of the Dodecaphonics a capella group, The Tabard, and the Palaeopitus Senior Society. During his time in Hanover, Jake also helped develop programming for Dartmouth's annual LGBTQIA+ Pride Month. Jake has attended and helped plan many of DGALA and other alumni groups' events, including the DGALA 40th anniversary reunion, and is looking forward to taking a leadership role in the planning and execution of future events. Jake currently lives in New York City on the beautiful Upper West Side.



Lyra McKee '15 / Toronto, ON (she/her)

Lyra A. McKee is an M.A. student at the Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies at the University of Toronto. She graduated from Dartmouth College with a B.A. in Women's and Gender Studies in 2015 and from the University of British Columbia with an M.A. in Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice in 2018. Lyra is an active social justice advocate and community organizer as well as a member of the Queer & Trans Negativity Working Group at the Jackman Humanities Institute, Dartmouth Alumni for Palestine, the Performance Philosophy Network, and the Board of Directors of Fight Like a Grrrl Club. ♦



TRIANGLE HOUSE GRANTS UPDATE

DGALA Triangle Grants for student-initiated Triangle House events continued to support Triangle House gatherings this past summer and fall.

Two Triangle Grant events took place over the summer. About 20 residents and other community members attended a wellness



event (pictured), featuring face masks, essential oils, topical lip masks and hand masks, not to mention good food and drink.

And here's a student summary of the second event: "During the Gender Inclusive Greek Council regrouping event, over a dozen leadership members of four gender-inclusive Greek houses---Alpha Theta, Phi Tau, Epsilon Kappa Theta, and the Tabard---and one gender-inclusive undergraduate society (Amarna) met over dinner to discuss plans for



the 25X term and coming year. Attendees made plans to hold a dry pan-GIGC social event (open to campus) later in the summer, and agreed to

co-host more events in the future to increase accessibility. During the event, attendees ate take-out dinner from Chili's - West Lebanon,

and thanked DGALA and OPAL for supporting the purchase of the food via Triangle Grant."

This fall kicked off with an ice cream social at the House, and a community dinner is taking place during the first week of November.

DGALA SUMMER GATHERINGS

DGALA local events continued to happen over the summer, even with all of the DGALA40 doings. In June we held our



annual mini-reunion during June reunions, and in Washington, D.C. Raymond Rodriguez '09 organized a tour of the Library of Congress,

which was followed by drinks and snacks. In



September

DGALA sponsored in NYC a Dartmouth-only performance of

"Saturday Church" a bold and moving LGBTQIA+

musical featuring original songs by Grammy-nominated pop icon Sia. DGALA



sponsors local events; if you have one in mind, reach out to us at DartGALA@gmail.org. ❖



FY25 DONORS

Member gifts received

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Benefactor (\$500+)

David Hillman
Brad Hise
David King
Rob Saltzman
Israel Sanchez
Gretchen Wetzel

Champion (\$250+)

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Robert Chaloner
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Sarah Burgamy
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Advocate, cont'd

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Matthew Schwartz
Steve Stichter
Peter Van Buren
Jack Vitayanon
Jim Wiltshire

Contributions listed are those received through June 30, 2025. (Please let us know of any errors.)

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.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What an incredible pleasure to see so many of you in Hanover this past July. It was so moving to see how people traveled from near and far to reconnect with friends and make powerful new bonds. We had rainbow shower curtains; we experienced the House of Lewan with its namesake Stuart Lewan '79 present; we were greeted by President Beilock and Cheryl Bascomb among others; we mourned those we have lost, and we celebrated all together in our DGALA tent!

Thank you to all of the volunteers, thank you to the College for all of their support and planning, and a HUGE shout out to our Angel Fund donors who helped to sponsor approximately 30 people who otherwise might not have been able to afford the trip and/or the registration. We were all so pleasantly surprised by the large turnout – blowing away all of our estimates, especially initial estimates from the College! For our next all-class reunion, we will try to get back on our regular '4 and '9 cadence, so keep your mental calendar open for the summer of 2029!!

Here are a few of the comments we received: "It was a good time – met new folks, reconnected with others. Made me feel better about all the crap we went through (for me, in the '80s) to get to where we are and see how different it is for the younger classes. You guys knocked it out of the park!" "I am SO grateful to the organizers! Celebration of Life was so moving – just beautiful!" "I wish the rest

of the campus had access to the great speeches and awards from the DGALA dinner." "Dartmouth does a lobster dinner pretty well!" "It was great to learn more about the queer history of the institution, and I would love to learn more!" "Amazing progress this community has made to make campus feel safer and more inclusive since I attended Dartmouth." "Thank you all for making this such a memorable event!" "Thank you for making me feel a real part of Dartmouth and that our stories matter. See you for the 45th!"



A part of the speech I gave at the Awards dinner, I commented that in this particular political climate, part of our community is under assault: our trans brothers and sisters. Alan Cumming referred to them as "superheroes living among us who are born with

something special and magical about them." We are currently working with the Office of Pluralism and Leadership (OPAL) to explore ways of using our Bourne Fund to serve more members in our community who might need some form of financial assistance. We'll update you soon with more details.

In our post-Reunion bliss, I'm so thrilled that we have had four new Directors join the Board. We still have more room on the Board and are on the lookout for Regional Event Advisors! Keep in touch!

Erik Ochsner '93
President