



# GREEN LIGHT

NEWSLETTER OF THE DARTMOUTH LGBTQIA+ ALUM ASSOCIATION

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## COLLEGE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY STANDS STRONG



The Pride flag at the Top of the Hop in the lead-up to the 2026 Lavender Gala

Notwithstanding challenges (see, for example, report at right), the LGBTQIA+ community at Dartmouth is standing strong and is benefiting from the support of many, including DGALA. Various positive campus developments are covered inside (*see pp 2, 4-5*). Perhaps most notable was the Lavender Gala held on May 7 at the newly restored Top of the Hop. But that event was just part of a packed month of Pride activities, including great Triangle Grant events at Triangle House, sponsored by DGALA. ❖

## DGALA CHALLENGES RECENT COLLEGE ACTIONS



Student poster protesting appearance on campus of Laura Ingraham '85

The DGALA board of directors has challenged two recent developments on

*Challenges, cont'd on page 3*

### JOIN DGALA MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ON CAMPUS THIS JUNE!

Friday, June 19, 8 -10:30 PM:  
Drinks at Six South St. Hotel

Saturday, June 20, 8:30 -10:00 AM:  
Breakfast Meeting with President Beilock  
at the Hanover Inn!

Saturday, June 20, 1:30 -2:30 PM:  
Affiliated Groups Reception  
at Collis

# SUPPORT OUR DGALA/DCF SCHOLARS!

DGALA's collaboration with the Dartmouth College Fund ("DCF") to provide scholarships to LGBTQIA+ students is now in its 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 works on a fiscal year basis, so any DCF gift that is made by June 30 this year will fund DGALA Scholars in the coming academic year, starting in September.



In each of the past two fiscal years, DGALA members have generously given over \$200,000 to the DCF, thus funding 5 DGALA Scholars. If you can and have not yet

done so, please make a gift to support more DGALA Scholars for the coming year. (At press time our pace of giving was running a behind last year.) 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 link to give to the DCF is [dartgo.org/dgala](http://dartgo.org/dgala). The above QR code also will take you there.

Please meet two of this year's new Scholars:

## Rebecca Bruesehoff '29



From the bottom of my heart, I am so grateful for the incredible generosity from donors like you that make my education at Dartmouth possible. Inspired by a decade of national advocacy work centered on transgender youth, I'm hoping to major in

Government with minors in International Relations and Human Centered Design. I'm interested in expanding my existing understanding and impacting domestic and international policy. It is important to

me to bring LGBTQ+ voices to tables at which they have been historically unwelcome. As a young advocate, I saw how my unique perspective and experience had the power to change hearts and minds, and when combined with a commitment to intersectional justice, create real, sustained change. I know my Dartmouth education will provide me with the tools to scale and leverage this impact in ways that I can't yet imagine. When I'm not in class, you can find me singing with the Dartmouth Decibelles, playing on Dartmouth's club field hockey team, collaborating with the Congressional Equality Caucus on supporting transgender youth in sports, and educating corporate executives on how to create more inclusive workplaces that are ready for the next generation workforce. At a time when the LGBTQ+ community is under attack, I frequently reflect on the privilege I have to be a thriving member of the Dartmouth community, furthering my education, and taking full advantage of all that Dartmouth has to offer.

## Mark Harris '27

I want to thank DGALA donors for the donation that makes Dartmouth accessible to students like me.

I'm a dual major in Politics, Philosophy, Economics (PPE) and English—so I spend a lot of my time on campus with my nose in a book! Outside of the classroom, I keep myself quite entertained. I am the president of Epsilon Kappa Theta (and I am qualified to call campus security for the occasional bat invasion!) and the vice president of the Gender Inclusive Council. I have a passion for education, and I participate in Dartmouth TEACH through DCSI. I plan to pursue a Masters in Education with the long-term goal of educational research and consulting, equifying the ranges of education quality with a particular focus on classroom instruction and assessment. I was also recently named to Palaeopitus and I will be pursuing an honors thesis in the English major—my senior year is shaping up to be particularly busy! ❖



### *Challenges, cont'd from page 1*

campus: the invitation to Laura Ingraham '85 to speak on campus and the announcement that an honorary degree would be awarded in June to Greg Lukianoff, who is notorious for his demeaning of transgender people. DGALA spoke out in the form of a February 24 op ed in *The Dartmouth* regarding Ingraham and a May 8 letter to the Board of Trustees regarding Lukianoff. Excerpts follow; for full texts, go to [www.DGALA.org](http://www.DGALA.org).

#### **Ingraham**

“Laura Ingraham, former Editor-in-Chief of The Dartmouth Review, will be returning to campus on Feb. 25. She’s been invited by the Dartmouth Political Union for an “authentic, one-on-one exchange.” Yet for many alumni, she represents a dark period of Dartmouth’s history.

Shortly after Ingraham became *Dartmouth Review* editor in 1984, she sent a reporter to secretly tape-record a confidential meeting of the Gay Students Association, and she published the transcript, outing several students in the process. *The Review* repeatedly portrayed gay people as threatening and repulsive. In an edition published on May 14, 1984, they printed false statistics under the heading “How Gay Is Gay?”, stating: “The average homosexual has more than 500 sexual partners, most of them anonymous.” And they blamed the queer community for spreading AIDS to innocent heterosexuals.

Although four decades have passed, Ingraham’s strategy hasn’t aged a bit. She still weaponizes feelings of fear and disgust against her political enemies. In 2024, Ingraham warned viewers of “roving criminal gangs, random hoodlums and even potential spies and terrorists” among undocumented immigrants. Similar to her rhetoric about gay people spreading disease, she blamed migrants for infecting elementary school students with measles, speculating that they could bring all sorts of “contagious diseases” across the border.

The Dartmouth Political Union plans to have a

“conversation” with Laura Ingraham. When Ingraham targeted the GSA, she did not foster “conversation.” There was nothing “authentic” about the answers she disguised as questions to escape accountability. Given her similar patterns of behavior over 40 years later, we have no reason to believe she has learned or grown since then. But if she won’t learn, the rest of us can. We can learn to recognize malicious actors. We can learn not to mistake spectacle for constructive debate. We can learn that Laura Ingraham has nothing more to teach us than this.”

#### **Lukianoff**

To the Dartmouth College Board of Trustees:

On behalf of the board of directors of DGALA, I write for the second time in two years to express our great dismay that the Board of Trustees has once again announced plans to award an honorary degree that celebrates the denigration of LGBTQIA+ individuals. In 2024, it was a degree to an employee of Uganda Christian University, an aggressive denier of LGBTQIA+ rights. In reply to my letter, [the Board] gave assurances that steps would be taken to avoid such honoraria in the future.

Today, the nominee is Greg Lukianoff, an individual who regularly makes public statements claiming that “freedom of speech” justifies openly denying the basic humanity of transgender people.... Freedom of speech is an important value in our society, but it should not be weaponized to demean others. And yet, such demeaning is a main Lukianoff talking point.

The first qualification stated on the College’s website for an honorary degree recipient is that “Nominees must serve as role models for the graduating class and the greater Dartmouth community.” Is Lukianoff really the model that the Trustees seek to put forth to the Class of 2026 and to the greater Dartmouth community? We very much hope not, and yet honoring Mr. Lukianoff sends just such a deeply discouraging and, quite frankly, depressing message.

Erik Ochsner ’93, President

[College reply also reprinted on our website.]

# CAMPUS DOINGS

## GATHERINGS AT TRIANGLE HOUSE

DGALA's Triangle Grant program continues to foster diverse student-planned gatherings at Triangle House. Here are reports and photos supplied by the students:

**Is This Normal? Red & Green Flags in Queer Relationships** - This event was a success! We had a total of 14 attendees, and folks were engaged throughout the entire event. We watched several clips from popular TV shows that depicted a



Prepping for the Event

variety of queer relationships and had great food and conversation about constructive and destructive behaviors in the context of queer relationships. The feedback we got from attendees was that they appreciated having a space to talk about what to do when unhealthy patterns arise, and to be able to process with other people about what constitutes harmful behavior vs. healthy behavior.

**AAAA [Asexual, Aromantic, Agender Association] Dinner** - Thank you again for supporting the dinner—it was really fun meeting everyone! We bought our food Sunday afternoon and started



cooking around 5pm; everyone else started arriving around 6pm, then we shared dinner together, chatted and cleaned up. We had a taco bar, guacamole, and ice cream, and dinner ended up really tasty. Some of us already knew each other, but there were some new faces and people who only knew each other in other contexts, so it was great to have an informal dinner to spend time together!

## DGALA MEMBER SHARANG BISWAS '12, E'13 MEETS WITH STUDENTS

I was delighted to return to campus at the invitation of the Office of Pluralism and Leadership as one of the speakers for Dartmouth Pride. As an undergraduate I had frequently been involved in Pride celebrations as an organizer—so you can imagine what an honor this was!

In Collis Underground I read from my short story THE BIRDS I PULL (Tales & Feathers Magazine)—which was written while I was faculty at the College and partially set there—and from my first book THE IRON BELOW REMEMBERS. Complimentary copies of the book were made available to guests courtesy of OPAL .



The next day, I had lunch at Triangle House with students (courtesy of DGALA's Triangle Grant), where we discussed how queer life at Dartmouth had evolved over the years. Finally, that evening, OPAL had booked space in The 4th Place, Hanover's very own gaming and comics store, where I ran a tabletop roleplaying game set in the world of my book for a small group of students and Upper Valley community-members.

I had a wonderful time (special thanks to Angelique and Arrow from OPAL), and I hope I inspired some students to think about queerness, art, and speculative fiction in a new light! ❖



## LAVENDER GALA GRADUATION

On May 7th, the Office of Pluralism and Leadership's LGBTQIA+ Advising hosted their annual Lavender Gala to celebrate graduating students across all Dartmouth schools. Hosted by assistant director Angélique Bouthot, guest speakers included DGALA Directors



Keli'i Opulauoho '96 P26 and Val Werner '21, Dr. Jennifer Rosales, and various OPAL staffers. Our main speaker was Alyssa Kitt Hanley, burlesque extraordinaire, activist, and theater scholar who delighted with glitz, glamour, and heartfelt commencement remarks. Many students

received awards for their community building, advocacy and organizing, and research, and all graduating students were able to receive a rainbow or lavender tassel, a commemorative pin celebrating 50 years of coeducation, and a DGALA rainbow t-shirt.

From Angelique's remarks: "We are able to gather here together because many students and alums before you put in the work - Native and



Indigenous folks advocating for the space they were promised in our charter, Black and brown students building their social lives alongside their principled political activities in the 60s, women passing down learned lessons in the annual

Red Book, and LGBTQIA+ alums creating their own space when, for many years, this place refused to recognize them. We often think of history as what happened long ago, something for us to learn from, not the decisions we are making in the here and now. As we have access to the incredible resources and scholarship here, so too do we have a responsibility of stewardship for those who come after us. What will future generations learn from your history?" ❖

## BOURNE FUND SCOPE EXPANDED

In the early 2000s, with the support of member donors, DGALA created the Bourne Fund to assist Dartmouth LGBTQIA+ students facing a sudden hardship caused by being financially disowned as result of their sexual orientation or gender identity. In recent years, LGBTQIA+ students have faced increasing stressors in many respects, and DGALA leadership has recognized that there may be increased need for Bourne Fund support during these times.

And so late last year DGALA expanded the scope of the Fund beyond its original threshold of complete parental financial disownment. For example, if parents were to continue to support tuition and general living expenses but not gender-affirming care. In such a case, while the Fund is not intended to address medical expenses, support might be available for ancillary expenses for which other funding were not available. DGALA seeks to be flexible in assessing students' individual circumstances.

Angelique Bouthot, Assistant Director of Pluralism and Leadership, LGBTQIA+ Student Advising, told *Green Light*, "DGALA's commitment to clarifying the Bourne Fund's mission and application, in partnership with expanded promotion on campus, is critical in this moment. As many community organizations supporting the LGBTQIA+ community face budget cuts and we see trans antagonism growing, our students too may face increasing needs due to a lack of family support. Students can't engage in resources if they or their supporters aren't aware of them - I'm grateful to work in partnership with DGALA to promote this fund with students and colleagues as a vital piece of our resource landscape."

The Bourne Fund is entirely alum-supported; if you would like to help, please contact us at [DartGALA@gmail.com](mailto:DartGALA@gmail.com). ❖

## LOCAL DGALA GATHERINGS

DGALA kicked off Spring with back-to-back live theatre events on two continents.



**Seattle:** Jiachen Jiang '20 organized an outing to "Hurricane Diane," in which the Greek god Dionysus, disguised as a butch lesbian permaculture gardener, seduces four New Jersey housewives into backyard bacchanalia. Attendees spanning the classes of '06 through '20 came out for the show and talked for hours afterwards at a nearby dive bar. Lots of excitement for organizing more events this summer; ideas included excursions to art galleries, family-friendly picnics in the park, hot tub boats in the bay, and more.

**London:** Across the Atlantic in London, Benny Adapon '19 gathered a group for "Unfortunate: The Untold Story of Ursula the Sea Witch," a raunchy, campy, fourth-wall-demolishing retelling of The Little Mermaid that reimagines the



villainess as a flamboyant trans diva in a torrid affair with King Triton. "Diana, Karen, and I had

so much fun at the event on Saturday night," Benny reported. "We briefly met up for a drink at the theatre before popping in to see the show. We were laughing out loud the entire time. Absolutely hilarious!"

Inspired to organize your own local event and meet queer alums in your city? DGALA sponsors up to \$25 per attendee, including spouses and partners. Reach out to [jiachen.jiang@dgala.org](mailto:jiachen.jiang@dgala.org) to learn more. ❖

### JIACHEN JIANG '20 JOINS DGALA BOARD

Jiachen Jiang '20 (they/them) was the fifth amazing alum to join the DGALA Board last autumn (the prior four were written up in our November 2025 issue). At Dartmouth, Jiachen majored in Computer Science and minored in Human-Centered Design. As a student, Jiachen



**Jiachen (L) and their partner meet with Benny Adapon '19 and his partner, Mani, in London for some planning**

was part of the first-generation/low-income community, having previously participated in Dartmouth Bound, an outreach program for high school students from underserved communities. Jiachen lives in Seattle and works in product management, was the first non-binary President of Women in Computer Science, is in a committed T4T relationship, and is a stepparent to two kids. Jiachen said, "Participating in DGALA's 40<sup>th</sup> reunion this past July filled me with an urgency to become more involved; I want to contribute my time and energy to growing and strengthening the LGBTQIA+ alum community." ❖



## FY26 DONORS SO FAR

Membership gifts received

July 1, 2025 – May 15, 2026

### Benefactor (\$500+)

Trevor Burgess  
Davic Chen  
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David King  
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Karen Kaufman  
Tom Kennedy  
Michael Kenyon  
Rick Otto  
David Schnabel  
Matthew Schwartz  
Connor Turner  
Peter Van Buren  
Jim Wiltshire

Contributions listed are those received through May 15, 2026. (Please let us know of any errors.)

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

### Champion (\$250+)

Sarah Bates  
Bart Bingenheimer  
David Castleman  
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Paul Cunningham  
Eric Fanning  
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Kevin Jackson  
Michael Jarvis  
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### Advocate (\$100+)

John Arlington  
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Drew Desky  
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### Supporter (\$25+)

Thaddeus Bennett  
Bob Blum  
Kelly Bonnevie & Karen Kaufman  
Bob Bordone  
Joseph Brown  
Sarah Burgamy  
Laura Christman  
Nicole Clausing  
Andrew Goldstein



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

During our most recent Board meeting, I was so happy to see how engaged and concerned our Board members are. At a national level, there is upsetting and discouraging news happening at such a fast pace. And with our "Committee to Monitor Events and Policies," we also try to keep an eye on campus.

We always appreciate when members keep us aware of events happening in their neck of the woods. Regional Events Coordinator can help identify a talk, lecture, concert, exhibition, etc. which might appeal to DGALA members in their area. Keep ideas coming!



Reunions have now been split into two: June and July. All the more important for our members to gather, as the numbers will be smaller! Help spread the word about our June and July on-campus gatherings! All events are free and everyone is welcome!

Erik Ochsner '93  
President, DGALA

## JOIN DGALA MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ON CAMPUS — NOW DURING REUNION WEEKENDS IN BOTH JUNE AND JULY!

Friday, June 19, 8 -10:30 PM:  
**Drinks at Six South St. Hotel**

Saturday, June 20, 8:30 -10:00 AM:  
**Breakfast Meeting with President Beilock at the Hanover Inn!**

Saturday, June 20, 1:30 -2:30 PM:  
**All-Affiliated Groups Reception at Collis**

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Friday, July 24, 8 -10:30 PM:  
**Drinks at Six South St. Hotel**

Saturday, July 25, 10am -11:00 AM:  
**All-Affiliated Groups Brunch**

## RAINBOW MERCH IS BACK!

We crowd-tested items and styles at DGALA40, and these were the most in demand. We've got fabulous new rainbow gear for you in unisex and women's sizes. Visit [dgala.org/rainbows](http://dgala.org/rainbows) to shop for your rainbow Dartmouth hat, duffel bag, water bottle, t-shirts, hoodies and zip-ups. Stock up for Pride month with free shipping now!

