



GREEN LIGHT

Newsletter of the Dartmouth Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Alumni/ae Association

Volume 16, Issue 1 • May 2011

A CONVERSATION WITH DARTMOUTH'S FIRST OPENLY GAY TRUSTEE, JOHN RICH '80

DGALA member Dr. John Rich '80, was elected to Dartmouth's Board of Trustees in 2008. Recently, he sat down for a wide-ranging interview with *Green Light*, in which he shared his thoughts on such topics as current and past life for LGBT students on campus, LGBT studies, DGALA, and being the College's first openly gay trustee. See pages 6 and 7 inside for highlights of the interview (full interview at www.DGALA.org). ❖

JOIN US ON CAMPUS IN JUNE! DGALA ALL-CLASS MINI REUNION June 17 -18, 2011

FRIDAY, JUNE 17TH

10 PM: DGALA Reception with Open Bar at the Canoe Club on Main Street

SATURDAY, JUNE 18TH

8:30-10 AM: DGALA Reunions Breakfast with Remarks by President Kim @8:45
Hinman Lounge, Rockefeller Center

11 AM: Special Hood Museum Guided Tour for DGALA Members

2 PM: Prof. Michael Bronski
"A Queer History of the United States"
Moore Theater, Hopkins Center

10 PM: DGALA Gathering at Salt Hill Pub on Lebanon Street

Weekend-long: Access to College's great athletic facilities

All events are free. Please contact Brendan Connell '87 at bconnell@guggenheim.org if you plan to attend. For DGALA dorm housing information, contact dartgala@gmail.com

PRIDE 2011 REACHES OUT ACROSS CAMPUS

By PRIDE Co-Chair Nick Pulito '11

A rainbow flag once again adorned the columns of Collis Porch this year for Dartmouth's fifth annual PRIDE celebration. Held May 1st – 7th, this year's PRIDE saw the revival of popular events from years past as well as many new events geared toward bringing together communities across the College to celebrate issues of sexuality, sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression on campus. This year, we were especially fortunate to receive financial and programmatic support from various departments across the College,



Aerial Photo of Students Showing PRIDE on Green

including SPEC (the Special Programs and Events Committee), the President's Office, the Dean of the College, Alumni Relations, the Provost's Office, the Dean of the Faculty, Campus Life, Health Advising, the Dartmouth College Fund, the LALACs department, Greek Letter Organizations, and, of course, DGALA. This incredible support allowed an increase in the amount of PRIDE apparel we were able to distribute at the opening barbecue, allowed us to bring additional speakers to campus to celebrate with us, and enabled us to continue to offer

PRIDE, continued on page 3

Student Report on IvyQ 2011 Conference

By Hector G. Ruiz Llopiz '14

Greetings DGALA! My name is Gus (pronounced Goose), and I'm a freshman here at Dartmouth. I am also one of the 30 students who attended IvyQ and a brunch with DGALA in February.

IvyQ is an annual Ivy League conference for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer students and their allies. This year it was held at Columbia University on February 17-20. The conference had three main goals: networking to create a strong and social pan-Ivy LGBTQA community; educating students about the history of different voices of the movement; and empowering tomorrow's world leaders to be proud LGBTQA leaders.

Gender Sexuality XYZ (GSX) was the student organization in charge of Dartmouth's participation in the event. Before we left, GSX held a mixer at The Tabard as an icebreaker for the attendees. The trip to NYC also served as an introduction to the activities that would be taking place that weekend. During the five-hour drive we got to talk about college politics, LGBTQ life on campus, new projects, and even about our respective campus crushes! Both the mixer and the ride allowed us to meet Dartmouth students from every year, and with very different stories.

Over 400 students from every Ivy League institution attended, including over 60 delegates from both Brown and Penn. The event afforded us the opportunity to hear from some of the world's most prominent LGBT leaders and advocates, including Amanda Simpson, the first transgender presidential appointee; **Dartmouth alumna Joanne Herman '75**, an active spokeswoman for transgender rights and understanding; author David Mixner, and George Chauncey, Professor of History and American Studies, and chair of LGBT Studies at Yale University. Workshops explored issues and ideas relating to the LGBT community along seven different tracks: international topics, health, queer studies, education and campus life, identity, activism, and corporate sponsors. Some of the workshops included HIV Vaccine, The Archaeology of Sex and Gender, Discussion with LGBT Athletes, Mapping and Understanding LGBT Campus Communities, Religion and Sexuality,

LGBTQ Immigration, and Resume Writing and Interview Skills.

The Mapping and Understanding LGBT Campus Communities workshop on Saturday was especially interesting. The Director of the LGBT Center at Penn led a session during which students from most of the Ivy League schools used paper and markers to map the LGBTQ life on their campuses. Dartmouth students decided to take the assignment literally: we drew a campus map and located LGBT-friendly spaces as well as the centers of the different social circles at the College. Afterward, students presented their maps and talked about the student groups, resources, spaces, and support that exist at each institution. This was a very useful and empowering activity that

allowed us to compare our realities with those of peer institutions, inspiring us to implement changes that have proven successful at other Ivy League schools.

Later that day, we took the subway to Pio Pio Salon, a Peruvian restaurant on the Upper West Side.

There, we met some of the NYC-based DGALA alumni/ae over traditional Peruvian dishes and sangria (see photo above). This was a great way to connect with fellow members of the Dartmouth family with whom we share a bit more than our esteemed institution. Aaron McGee '14 said he "felt particularly comfortable around the alums in that low pressure situation." Stew Towle '12 felt the same: "The DGALA lunch was fabulous. Talking to alums whom I can relate to was wonderful for putting Dartmouth in perspective." I think I can speak for every Dartmouth IvyQ attendee when I say, thank you very much!

Attending IvyQ and meeting with DGALA alumni/alumnae in New York City has been one of the best experiences I've had thus far as a Dartmouth student. The weekend's activities made me feel empowered and supported by a whole network within the Dartmouth community and beyond. As Stew Towle put it, "IvyQ was a chance to gather. It was an incredible reminder of the power (and beauty) of the LGBTQ community at large. This event reminded us that we are part of a community, and that our community is full of intelligent people." Hopefully we will be able to visit NYC and meet with DGALA again very soon! ❖



DGALA CALLS FOR DIALOGUE ON ROTC

In a May 11 letter to President Kim and the Dartmouth College Board of Trustees, DGALA called for dialogue regarding College policies on ROTC. In the letter, signed on behalf of DGALA by President Caroline Kerr '05 and Director Tim Stanne '03, DGALA noted that there have been suggestions in both the national and College press that existing limitations on ROTC on campuses may be dropped in the wake of recent federal legislation providing for the end of the discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy in the U.S. military. DGALA's letter cautioned, however, that the discriminatory policy remains in effect and, under the new bill, will remain in effect unless and until 60 days after multiple certifications are made by multiple federal executive and military officials.

DGALA further noted that even the tentative federal legislation makes no provision to protect persons based upon their gender identity or expression and that thus there may in all events continue to be a conflict between the College's and the military's respective policies regarding discrimination with respect to gender identity or expression. DGALA's letter also noted that unresolved issues remain concerning the discriminatory treatment of military personnel in the past and up to the present. Finally DGALA noted that members of the Dartmouth community, including DGALA, have a range of views regarding the presence of the armed services on the College's campus.

DGALA's letter took no position regarding the desirability of any alteration of the College's policies with respect to ROTC in light of the recent federal legislation, but instead called for dialogue across the Dartmouth community, including with DGALA, before any changes are made. As Tim Stanne said to *Green Light*, "We knew we wanted to engage the College at this important political moment, and to reaffirm our openness to further discussion. We all hope the administration will take our suggestions to heart." The full text of the

DGALA letter is available on DGALA's website, at www.DGALA.org. ❖

DGALA MENTORS MEET WITH STUDENTS

On a snowy Sunday in February, DGALA members and leaders met with LGBT students in Collis' old Lone Pine Tavern for an informal session to discuss life after Dartmouth. Rob



Avruch '11, co-founder of LGBTQ Peer Mentors on campus, participated in the seminar, and

said afterwards, "It's nice that there's a network of Dartmouth LGBT alumni out there to reach out to. I wish we had more events like this to talk to alums one-on-one and hear about their experiences after Dartmouth, how they've navigated their careers and dealt with being gay in the professional world." More such events are planned; if you might be interested in helping to mentor students or young alums,



contact DGALA Networking Committee Chair Nick Chamousis '73 at nchamousis@cs.com. ❖

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The Dartmouth Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Alumni/ae Association

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Edited by Pete Williams '76

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a free culminating dinner for students and alumni at the Hanover Inn.

The week began with a very well attended pre-PRIDE mixer hosted by OUTreach peer mentors where students gathered to watch Michael Lowenthal '90's groundbreaking valedictorian speech. On Monday, Stinson's once again catered a community barbecue in front of Collis where students, faculty, and staff came together to pick up their PRIDE gear and enjoy opening remarks by Dean of the College Sylvia Spears. Monday night saw the return of TransForm, a gender-bending fashion extravaganza that has quickly become a staple of Dartmouth PRIDE. This year's TransForm, organized by Monte Reed '12, boasted nearly 40 student models and performers who strutted their stuff in front of a packed Collis Common ground. The event also raised money for J-Flag, the only LGBT advocacy group in Jamaica, where Javed Jaghai '12 will be working this summer to help establish a sustainable youth outreach program.

Throughout the rest of the week, students from many different campus communities came together to organize and attend events featuring speakers ranging from gay adult film star and safe sex activist Brent Corrigan, to self-proclaimed "Professional Bisexual" Robin Ochs. The PRIDE committee was also thrilled to organize a special Cinco de Mayo event led by California-based artist, performer, and scholar Celia Herrera Rodriguez. Another new event this year was the PRIDE read-a-thon, held in front of the HOP, where students and professors read aloud from queer-themed literature during the day on Friday.

At the culminating dinner Friday evening, Rob Avruch '11 was awarded the Henry Weiss '60 Award for his dedication to LGBTQA community on campus, including his work in creating OUTreach Peer Mentors and as an intern with the office of Pluralism and Leadership. Jordan Osserman '11 was awarded the Ezekiel Webber '00 Award for his outstanding scholarship related to LGBTQ issues, which he will continue as a Fulbright

Scholar in India next year. Finally, Aaron McGee '14 received the Beth Robinson '86 Emerging Leader Award for his outstanding leadership as a first-year student. Pam Misener, who presented the award, predicted that we should all look for big things from Aaron in his years to come. ❖

STUDENT REFLECTIONS ON PRIDE 2011

Stew Towle '12

One thing I appreciated about PRIDE this year was the sense of an often divided community coming together. Sunday night before PRIDE week proper the Mentors hosted a Pre-PRIDE Mixer, at which they screened a recording of Michael Lowenthal's valedictory address at the class of '90 graduation ceremony. Lowenthal came out during his speech and offered an interesting and poignant, even now, indictment of how Dartmouth treats its marginalized communities. The event itself was the largest group of LGBTQA Dartmouth students I'd seen in one room. As the forty to fifty-ish Dartmouth students laughed, gasped, and "Oh no he didn't!"-ed together PRIDE felt suddenly real. Coming together

without feeling like we had to present an event or perform, it was just about gathering the community before we set off into the week.

What I found even more incredible was how it all came full circle in the Alumni Sponsored Gala Dinner on Friday. Not only did the dinner have at least double the numbers of the Pre-PRIDE mixer, but it represented LGBTQA across all of our cultural and community divisions that exist during the rest of the year. Michael Lowenthal gave the opening remarks, commenting on his graduation speech as the midpoint of his life to date and regaling the next generation of Dartmouth queers with his exploits. The collective laughter that bubbled up from the audience hearing how Mike and his cohorts turned the flood lights pink and dropped banners bearing "Silence=Death" slogans from the Dartmouth Hall windows during the Homecoming pep rally was priceless. I found it empowering and reassuring throughout the week simply being with other



PRIDE Read-a-thon 2011

LGBTQA and I hope to see more and more gatherings and events in the future.

Melanie Pastuck '11

Over the course of my four years at Dartmouth, I have been so impressed and inspired by how PRIDE has truly become an annual campus event, one which the entire campus is open and willing to celebrate together. PRIDE is now a fixture in the spring term schedule, and I expect it to grow in prominence in the coming years. From the perspective of a senior, PRIDE this year in particular was inviting, open, and intellectually challenging, and made students from all LGBTQA backgrounds and parts of campus feel both included and important members of the Dartmouth community. ❖

MIKE LOWENTHAL '90: TWO DECADES AFTER VALEDICTORY

By Mike Lowenthal '90

Un-embattled.

That's the word I've come up with, after visiting Dartmouth for the Pride Week 2011 gala, to answer the question: "What are gay students like there now?"

I'd been excited when I was asked to speak at the dinner. But when I got to the Daniel Webster Room podium, and looked out at the scores and scores of LGBTQ students — vibrantly diverse in almost every imaginable way, some in Dartmouth hoodies, some in heels (including at least one man) — I wondered if what I'd planned to say would resonate with them. I intended to describe my undergrad years in Hanover, when my queer compatriots and I were a small, besieged group of outcasts, our days (and sometimes sleepless nights) filled with agitprop protests, letters-to-the-editor-writing sessions, In Your Face editorial marathons, and assaults on Trustees meetings. I'd say I knew how draining it could be to be gay at Dartmouth, but how the struggle could also be invigorating and — if they approached it the right way — fun; how their campus activism could pay unimaginable dividends: for example, when the straitlaced student-council president ends up, two decades later, spearheading the effort for marriage equality in New York. (Hi, Brian Ellner!)

But this crowd of current students — bigger by a factor of ten than any gay gathering

during my college career — didn't seem particularly in need of a pick-me-up. They looked so comfortable in the swanky setting, so self-assured in their identities not only as queer students but as Dartmouth students, that it seemed almost as if they felt entitled to a college-sponsored Pride dinner in the Daniel Webster Room . . . and why the hell not!

I don't want to paint too rosy a picture. Who am I to parachute in for just one evening and pretend I know what it's like to live at today's Dartmouth? I'm certain there are deep and continuing struggles, both for individual students and for the LGBTQ community as a whole.

But my overriding impression was that the students don't think of being gay, first and foremost, as a fight. On a gut level, I'll admit this makes me nostalgic; I associated gayness at Dartmouth so closely with activism that it's hard to imagine one without the other. But my better self knows that what activists fight for, in a way, is our own obsolescence. Plus, progress on issues of sexuality shouldn't be an invitation to complacency. The less students have to fight for their place on campus as queers, the more energy they'll have to advocate for other aspects of social justice.

Near the dinner's end, the reigning "Queen of Dartmouth" anointed a new student with that title and its accompanying tiara (a tradition with far more flair, if you ask me, than "freshman beanies"). Afterward, a tall, besuited member of the class of 2014 approached me to confide, less angry than ambitious: "*I wanted to win.*" I looked at him, this impeccably dressed, charmingly confident, first-year student, and I thought: "Oh, but you already have. You have!" ❖

OTHER SPRING CAMPUS DOINGS

By GSX Member Sharang Biswas '12

The GSX met regularly for Thursday lunchtime discussions, and PRIDE planning meetings happened once each week, which was cool.

OUTreach organized social events throughout the term to allow the LGBTQ...XYZ community to mingle in a safe and fun atmosphere. We had Q-tails, a cocktails event with all members of the queer community (not just, say, men or women) In my opinion, it was a great success!

As reported, IvyQ was great. Next year, each school will be actively involved in planning programming (IvyQ will be at Brown). And we're already working on it! ❖

CONSERVATION WITH DR. JOHN RICH '80, DARTMOUTH'S FIRST OPENLY GAY TRUSTEE

How did you come to be on Board? What are the accomplishments of the Board of which you are most proud?

I came to be on the Board in 2008 when I was elected as a Charter Trustee. I can say that it has been a wonderful experience... I think of all the things that I was able to be involved in and of which I am most proud was selecting Jim Kim. I knew Jim Kim for several years when I was in Boston, and I thought he was a great match for Dartmouth...

What is the role of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board that you chair?

Generally, the role of the committee is to support the academic mission of the College, to make sure that the Board is involved in supporting the Administration's efforts to have the most outstanding faculty, to continually review and update curriculum, and to think about the infrastructure needed to support academics, classes and courses...

How have your previous experiences as a student and an alum influenced your perspectives as a Trustee?

My initial perspective was that I grew up as a kid in Queens, New York, who went to parochial schools and I didn't know much about Dartmouth. So for me it was a very different world, but I loved Dartmouth and some of my deepest friendships that I forged there still remain. For me it was an eye-opening experience because I was not only living for the first time not in a city, but I was living in a community where the professors were so deeply engaged with the students. This background helps me to understand that my job as a trustee is to support maintaining the strengths that are Dartmouth, such as the deep engagement that we have with professors, while also realizing that increasingly Dartmouth will attract a more diverse group of students – how do we make sure that the fundamentals of the experience remains with those students so that Dartmouth has a good link to tradition but also the ability to grow and change as the world changes and as students change.

How have you seen Dartmouth evolve over time, particularly with regard to what the College offers its increasingly diverse student body?

As someone who involved with Dartmouth as a student, then because I was training as a medical student and a physician, there was a period when I was not so in touch in a day-to-day way with what was happening with Dartmouth... So since about 2006 when I became more involved with Dartmouth, I've been impressed by how much more diverse the student body is and how much more inclusive the environment is. To be a student of color at Dartmouth today is to feel more included; I



DGALA's David Eichman '82 with John Rich '80

think that LGBTQA students feel comfortable being out there if they choose to be – realizing that each of these communities is diverse. I think that there also has been an evolution to less of a silo-ed approach to diversity, in that students who are African-American are moving, much more than I did when I was there, across the whole spectrum of Dartmouth, so that they might have involvement with the African-

American society, but they also are deeply involved with other campus organization or they may be involved with the LGBTQA community. So I think that there is much more intermixing across various communities.

What are your thoughts about being the first openly gay member of the College's Board of Trustees?

I feel proud of that... I'm proud to be able to know that Dartmouth as an institution is interested in diversity in leadership – is interested in having a variety of perspectives. To me the value of diversity is that you can't have innovation and you can't have new ideas if you don't have a diverse group of people involved in those conversations. I also think it's important for students of color and LGBTQA students to have a sense of what's possible for them. To know that I have the opportunity to inspire students simply by my presence here, and I take that seriously. I think that's important. I would add that I wasn't out

when I was at Dartmouth, in part because I was not out to myself. So when I was at Dartmouth I was much more aware of difference from the perspective of being African-American. But it was clear to anyone when I was there from '76 to '80, when I was a student, that to be out was pretty brave. So one of the things that is very heartening to me again is that I think that the environment for students is better and safer today. Of course, there is no way to paint with a broad brush here - the LGBTQA community at Dartmouth is diverse, in itself. To me the most important issue is safety: how do we make sure that people are psychologically safe, physically safe, and that from the perspective of their health they're in a community that supports healthy sexuality, healthy intellectual development.

What do you believe Dartmouth does well to support its LGBTQA students?

I've heard that we are having a really successful PRIDE week. I think that Dartmouth's support of activities like PRIDE ... is important and reflects the strength of the community as well as of Dartmouth. And I think that Dartmouth's commitment to LGBTQA students is evidenced in the full-time position at OPAL. [Advisor to LGBTQA Students] Pam [Misener] and I met together after I joined the Board of Trustees to get a sense of what some of the issues are and how Dartmouth was supporting that. I know that DGALA, working with the College, supports the Bourne Fund to help students after they come out. I think that those are the kinds of support that allow students, that provide them with a safety net if issue arise for them as a result of their sexual identity, but making sure that there also is someone to go to, someone who is clearly identified as support to them...

What do you hope for LGBTQA students at Dartmouth today and in the future?

What I hope for LGBTQA students, and what I hope for all students, is that through this kind of support they have a greater sense of belonging and social safety. I know that we Trustees, and I in particular, are interested in making sure that we think about the diversity of the faculty and the student body and how they complement each other and as we recruit new faculty we're thinking about diversity in every possible way. And I hope that students will also see the potential for their future and that they can in very safe ways engage in debates about important and pressing issues of the

day, like gay marriage. That they can have the opportunity to engage and to develop their leadership skills, because I think Dartmouth is a place where you really can hone your leadership skills, so that when you get out into the real world you have confidence about your leadership...

What do you see as the value of LGBT-related academic studies, and is this an area that it might be desirable for the College to expand its academic offerings?

This is an issue that we'll be talking about more as I begin to lead the Academic Affairs Committee. [Dr Rich assumed the committee chair in February.] I think that LGBT- related studies are valuable. It does require that we think about making sure that we have the faculty in place to support those academic offerings and that we see them as cross-disciplinary with other critical areas of study so that we make sure that students across the school, whether they're concentrating in those areas or not, have access to them.

What is your view of affiliated alumni groups like DGALA, BADA and others?

I think affiliated alumni groups are very important for a couple of reasons. One, they really inspire undergraduates, because a critical part of the Dartmouth experience for me, and probably for others, was the ability to connect with folks who had gone on before me. But without these affiliated organizations, it would be hard for LGBTQA students to find LGBTQA alums. I also think that it is important to have diversity as part of the community because, with regard to issues that arise out in the world, it is really important that affiliated organizations are there to bring those to the fore and to keep Dartmouth on the cutting edge of what's happening across the country. And even around best practices as they relate to student recruitment or faculty recruitment, and actually doing the work of recruitment of students, I think they're really critical. They also very much add to the sense of inclusion that might have been lacking for students who graduated in our times, where they couldn't have been out or where there were pressing issues of race. So it keeps people engaged as the College improves and grows, enabling us to see the change that has happened and that gives a sense of the College to the alumni over time. ❖

[For full interview transcript and more on Dr. Rich, please go to www.dgala.org. Ed.]

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am very pleased to be serving DGALA as President, and I feel fortunate to have worked closely with Susi Kandel these past few years as she has led the Board and organization through a period of tremendous growth, including the 25th Anniversary and Reunion, the creation of a committee structure on the Board to focus our efforts in specific areas, and seeing us through a set of elections that brought six new directors onto the Board. Susi deserves a great deal of thanks for her exceptional leadership as President.

DGALA is poised at an exciting point in its evolution as an organization. Our new directors bring an array of skills, professional backgrounds, and connections to Dartmouth, including two alums of Tuck and the Medical School. Our recent Board meetings have focused on setting priorities for the coming year, and we hope to engage our membership through a wider range of social, educational, and networking events. We also hope to see LGBTQA alumni/ae who are not currently members of DGALA join us, and we hope you will reach out to your friends and classmates to encourage them to participate in events, join the mailing list and support our efforts. In response to your requests to mentor students, we have begun working with OUTreach Peer Mentors to developed a more structured way for alums to connect with current students.



**DGALA President
Caroline Kerr '05**

In the past few months, DGALA has hosted a range of regional events, including a NYC brunch with students who participated in the IvyQ conference, hosted this year at Columbia. Your contributions to the Dartmouth College Fund supported need-based financial aid for four LGBTQ students, who were named DGALA Scholars, and your contributions to the Bourne Fund have supported a student through a final year of classes at the College. Your contributions to DGALA have allowed us to be an annual supporter of Dartmouth PRIDE, produce two issues of Green Light and fund alumni/ae gatherings in Hanover and across the country.

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I hope to see many of you at our annual Mini Reunion, which will take place this year from June 17-18 and includes breakfast with President Kim and a special lecture by Professor Michael Bronski based on his new book, "A Queer History of the United States." Please don't hesitate to be in touch, particularly if you have ideas or suggestions for future DGALA initiatives. Thank you for your continued support of DGALA!

S. Caroline Kerr '05
s.caroline.kerr@alum.dartmouth.org ❖

PROGRAMMING UPDATE

The Programming Committee recently convened and discussed goals for the months ahead, with a focus on developing a vibrant schedule of social, networking, cultural, and sporting events to be offered around the United States and abroad. The Committee also discussed strategies for initiating programming in cities and regions that have not hosted events in the past.



**Programming Chair
Brendan Connell '87**

The schedule for June's free mini-reunion in Hanover, which includes cocktails at the Canoe Club, breakfast with President Kim, a Hood Museum tour, a lecture by Professor Michael Bronski, and cocktails at the Salt Hill Pub, is representative of the mix of events that the Programming Committee hopes to offer to our members in 2011 and beyond. If you are interested in joining the Programming Committee or in planning a DGALA event in your area, please contact Brendan Connell at bconnell@guggenheim.org. We look forward to seeing you at a DGALA event soon! ❖



DGALA t-shirts, featuring a stylish rainbow DGALA lone pine in place of the "A" in Dartmouth, will be available at the mini-reunion breakfast on June 18. We hope to see you there!