



GREEN LIGHT

Volume 12, Issue 1 *Newsletter of Dartmouth's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Alumni/ae Association* June 2007

College Alumni Elect Fourth Consecutive Petition Trustee

For the fourth time in the last four elections of alumni-selected seats on the Dartmouth College Board of Trustees, a conservative petition candidate has been elected. The winner, Stephen Smith '88, benefited from a constitutionally prescribed election system that divides the votes of mainstream alumni. That system requires a committee of the Alumni Council to nominate three candidates for each Board vacancy, thus causing mainstream votes to be dispersed across the field. The system also uses the "approval method" of voting, whereby each voter can vote for as many candidates as that voter deems qualified. Under this system, Smith received 9,984 votes of 32,941 total votes cast; however, Smith received a vote from 54 percent of the 18,186 alums who voted, a percentage

Election. continued on

JOIN US ON CAMPUS IN JUNE! DGALA ALL-CLASS MINI REUNION June 11 & 15-17, 2007

OPEN HOUSE, LGBT STUDENT CENTER

Monday, June 11th and Friday, June 15th, 3-5 PM
Robinson 107/109

SATURDAY, JUNE 16TH:
8:00 AM (HINMAN FORUM, ROCKEFELLER CTR)
DGALA REUNIONS BREAKFAST
WITH REMARKS BY PRESIDENT WRIGHT

3:00 PM (BENTLEY THEATER, HOPKINS CTR)

PROFESSOR PETER SACCIO:

"CHALLENGING GAY STEREOTYPES, MAKING GOOD POETRY"

PRIDE REIGNS ON CAMPUS

The Dartmouth Gay Straight Alliance hosted Dartmouth's first-ever PRIDE Week from May 7th to 11th this year. The weeklong event was intended to raise awareness about the LGBT community's experiences today and throughout Dartmouth's history. DGALA alums participated extensively in the event, and DGALA also provided significant



Students, Alums and Friends at PRIDE Dinner at Hanover Inn (Daniel Webster Looks On!)

not matched by any other candidate. DGALA had urged its members to support all of the three Council-nominated candidates. The Dartmouth College Board of Trustees is an 18-member body, eight of which are selected by the alumni. Four of those eight now have been elected by conservative alumni. About 28 percent of alumni voted in the election. An effort last fall to amend the Alumni Council Constitution to, among other things, permit head-to-head contests between Council-nominated and petition-nominated candidates failed to receive the required two-thirds vote for passage.

Smith's campaign was controversial even by standards of recent alumni elections. Early in his campaign Smith asserted that free speech was suppressed at Dartmouth, pointing mainly to the College's disciplining of a fraternity whose members had printed sexually demeaning comments about female undergraduates. In general, Smith painted a negative picture of Dartmouth, causing President James Wright publicly to object that the main factual premises of Smith's campaign were false and to assert that the campaign was harmful to the College. *The Dartmouth*, in an editorial published after the election, stated that it was "disheartened" by Smith's election. The student paper noted particularly that, in this first trustee campaign in which private expenditures were permitted, Smith's campaign had benefited from very substantial financial and other tangible support from sources that he refused to identify. DGALA President Susi Kandel '00 stated that DGALA was extremely disappointed by Smith's election, noting the importance of vigilance by Dartmouth's LGBT community, lest recent gains be lost. Professor Peter Saccio expressed just such sentiments last week, noting the importance of the

College's trustees in setting policies that impact LGBT students. (See article, page 1.) In his report from the Alumni Council below, DGALA representative David Eichman '82 expresses similar concerns and hints at a possible solution. ❖

DGALA ALUMNI COUNCIL REP REPORTS ON COUNCIL MEETING IN WAKE OF TRUSTEE VOTE

The Dartmouth Alumni Council allocates one seat to each of the five Affiliated Groups, including DGALA. David Eichman '82 is DGALA's current representative to the Council. The Council held its semi-annual meeting at the College on May 17-19, 2007, and David makes this report to DGALA:

The Alumni Council members at their recent meeting were very concerned about perceptions, procedures and the outcome of the recent alumni election. It is clear from comments of alums during the election that most alums do not understand the purpose of the Alumni Council and more importantly, do not realize that the Alumni Council is an organization that is separate and apart from the College and is not run nor directed by the College. In the last several trustee elections, petition candidates have gained a lot of votes by claiming that all Alumni Council members are "insiders" who are directed by President Wright and the administration. This is an outright lie and part of a campaign of misinformation that is used to campaign against Alumni Council-nominated candidates. The Alumni Council and especially the Nominating Committee of the Alumni Council (which is required by the current constitution to nominate 3 candidates for each vacancy) believes that it will be virtually impossible to find qualified candidates who will be willing to run under the current system. It seems clear that unless you are able to come up with hundreds of thousands of dollars for a trustee election campaign, you do not have a chance to win under the current system. I am saddened to think that a man who has not been involved with the College since his graduation in 1988, has never volunteered with any alumni organization and has not contributed a penny to the College is still able to get elected to our Board of Trustees. The Alumni Council is willing to work with the new leadership of the Association of Alumni to come up with solutions to the existing problems which "game" the system in favor of a petition candidate. Ultimately, the Board of Trustees will need to decide the best method for making sure that the best candidates are appointed to the Board of Trustees if it indeed wants Dartmouth College to remain the best college in the world. ❖

Green Light

**Newsletter of
Dartmouth's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and
Transgender Alumni/ae Association
208 West 13th Street
New York, NY 10011-7702
e-mail: DartGALA@gmail.com
web: <http://www.DGALA.org>**

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Edited by Pete Williams '76

DGALA is a member-supported not-for-profit corporation incorporated under the laws of New York and registered under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal

financial support. The week's events included a wide array of activities and events, including a CookOUT outside the Collis student center, coming out stories, free confidential HIV testing, evening lectures by DGALA members Keith Boykin '87 and Joanne Hermann '75, a concert that benefited a poor village in Kenya beset by AIDS, and a fabulous Gala Dinner and LGBTQA Awards Ceremony held in the main dining room of the Hanover Inn and on the Inn's terrace overlooking the Green.

Dinner Celebrates Past and Present

Some 150 students, alums, faculty and staff attended the Friday night dinner and awards ceremony at the Hanover Inn, which kicked off with drinks and hors d'oeuvres on the terrace at which the guests were treated to a preview of an in-progress student-made documentary film about LGBT history and current life at Dartmouth. (See following story.) After a fine dinner in the Inn's Daniel Webster dining room, the GSA, Pam Misener (Assistant Dean and Advisor to LGBT Students), keynote Speaker Professor Peter Saccio, DGALA Secretary Pete Williams '76 and other alums and faculty presented an engaging program of reflections, awards and commentaries.

GSA co-chair Jamal Brown '08, a lead organizer of PRIDE week, gave opening remarks about the importance of LGBT history at Dartmouth and the progress that has been made, but Brown cautioned that more needs to be done in bridging gaps both in the LGBT community itself and between that community and allied communities at Dartmouth. Brown also noted the great contributions to the Week made by Raymond Rodriguez '09 (a DGALA/DCF Scholar), Dinah Warren '10 and Rigel Cable '10.

Pam Misener next reviewed the past year's significant events at Dartmouth, including Dartmouth being named to *The Advocate's* list of the 100 Best Colleges for LGBT students, and DGALA members raising \$110,000 through the Alumni Fund to support the DCF/DGALA Scholars Fund for LGBT students. Tim Andreadis '07 (Student Body President) and Amanda Rosenblum '07 continued the history of the past year with a report on the successful initiative to have

gender-neutral housing offered by Residential Life beginning in the fall.

Retiring Professor Peter Saccio gave a moving keynote address, in which he too reviewed the history and struggles of LGBT people at Dartmouth, beginning with his days as the first openly gay advisor to LGBT students in the mid-1980s, to the creation of the Carpenter Foundation in the '80s, when Dartmouth refused to accept contributions earmarked for LGBT student programming, to the coming out during his valedictorian address in 1990 of Michael Lowenthal '90, to a student sit-in in President Freedman's office in support of modifying Dartmouth's non-discrimination policy to include sexual orientation, to protests about the College's support of ROTC despite its violations of the amended non-discrimination policy, to the creation in the mid-1990s as a result of those protests of an administration position to advise LGBT students and to support programming for them. Saccio noted a common theme to these struggles and progress: "It's the students!" who have been responsible for them. Noting that struggles still remain to combat homophobia and to avoid a resurgence of AIDS, which devastated so many alumni. Saccio ended to a standing

Students Preview Documentary Film on Dartmouth LGBT Life and History

A highlight of the PRIDE week Dinner and Awards Ceremony at the Hanover Inn on May 11 was the premiere screening of an in-progress documentary film capturing, in the creators' words "the rich and diverse history of the LGBTQA community at Dartmouth." The film, whose current working title is "**PRIDE: a Documentary in Progress**," is primarily the work of Dinah Warren '10 and Rigel Cable '10, who are creating it as an informal independent study in connection with PRIDE. The film already includes interviews and other historical information provided by DGALA alums, and Dinah and Rigel plan to add substantial additional material to the film over the next year or more. Accordingly, they have asked *Green Light* to "please stress to alumni that we are looking for opportunities to listen to their experiences and to receive photographs or any other information they might have." If you might be able to help out,

please contact Dinah and Rigel at Dinah.J.Warren@Dartmouth.EDU. DGALA hopes to screen the documentary at future DGALA events. ❖

DGALA ADDS NEW LEADERS

Dan Studnicky '85 and Kamil Walji '03, joined DGALA's fifteen-member board of directors following elections this past January. Five seats of the board are elected each year; reelected to new three year terms were Nick Chamousis '73, David Eichman '82 and Caroline Kerr '05.

Kamil is currently an M.A. candidate in Strategic Public Relations at USC, with an eye towards international development



Kamil

work. On the DGALA Board, Kamil hopes to put his skills to work helping DGALA to grow its membership, events and resources. Kamil told *Green Light*, "Being a part of DGALA's board is such an amazing opportunity. I hope to work for a more welcome, open and ultimately more rewarding Dartmouth experience. After all that Dartmouth has given me, I'm so glad that I can be a part of making Dartmouth a better place for years to come."



Dan

While at Dartmouth in the mid-1980s, Dan initiated what became the College's President's Council on Diversity following the "Shanty Town" incidents involving disputes between students protesting support of apartheid in South Africa and students who objected to those protests. Dan now lives and works in his native Washington, D.C., where his professional experience is in philanthropic planning, a field in which he has done much charitable work for diverse organizations. Dan told *Green Light*, "DGALA has accomplished so much in the past few years. The All Class Reunions have had a



great healing and gathering effect for the GLBT alumni

and the College itself. It is now time to fully engage the alumni and the students to be effective advocates for each other and to continue to foster for the College an environment of productive inclusion that could be a model for our country and our society overall. It is a great honor to join the Board at this exciting time!"

In a strong response to DGALA's recent call for alums around the country to become development chairs in their regions, eight DGALA members have already volunteered to help out. The development chairs will help to organize local events and to foster membership in their respective regions. Kate Huyett '05

(huyett@gmail.com),

Athena

an investment banker who was active in the DOC as an undergrad, is helping to cover the Boston area. Since graduation, Kate has assisted undergrads planning to move to Boston by connecting them with young alums in the area.

In New York City, Athena Maikish

'00 (maikish@gmail.com)



Laura

and Brendan Connell '87 (bdanconnell@hotmail.com) will join forces to take on the Big Apple. Athena told *Green Light*, "I'm delighted to be part of an organized effort to give shape to the gay Dartmouth alumni in

NYC. It's exciting to see the community that has developed on campus since I graduated in 2000 and to start thinking about how to extend that community building beyond the borders of Hanover."



Chris

Brendan adds that they hope to encourage DGALA

members who have not attended events in the past to join in the fun!

Outside of New York City, Laura DeNardis '88 is taking on the Stamford/New Haven, Connecticut region. Laura is a resident fellow at Yale Law School and lives in Stamford with her longtime spouse Deb Smith. Laura recalled for *Green Light* the anti-gay climate at Dartmouth when she arrived as a young lesbian in 1984 and says how impressed she is with the progress on campus since those days, in part through the efforts of DGALA. Also in the New York region is Chris LaBarbera '02 (christopher.philip.labarbera.02@alum.dartmouth.org), who will be covering Long Island. Chris is now wrapping up a

doctoral degree at Stony Brook University. Chris tells *Green Light*, "I'm looking forward to meeting alums on the Island and to becoming involved with bringing new membership to DGALA. I hope to organize some social events in this suburban environment!"

Brian Cina '98 (Brian.Cina.98@alum.dartmouth.org) has lived in Burlington, Vermont since graduation. Besides working in the social services field, Brian has been an activist and artist in Vermont's queer community. Brian looks forward to helping to connect Dartmouth queer

alumni as a regional development chair for Burlington and the Champlain Valley. Out west, Stephen Coppola '83

(CopsolSte@aol.com) is working on using his connections with casinos in his home state of Nevada to organize events, probably with other GALTs. And completing the journey westward is Sheila Hicks '04 (sheila.j.hicks.04@alum.dartmouth.org) who will be helping to organize DGALA's growing presence in the Seattle area. DGALA alums should feel free to

DGALA Adopts Mission Statement

Earlier this year, the Board of DGALA adopted a formal mission statement for the organization. The statement provides:

The Dartmouth Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Alumni/ae Association (DGALA) strives to foster community between and among the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Allied (GLBTQA) alumni/ae of the College by furthering the intellectual, social, cultural and educational well-being of GLBTQA alumni/ae and students and providing the College and the greater College community with active support in matters of mutual concern. DGALA also aims to enhance the experience of GLBTQA persons at Dartmouth and support the College's commitment to diversity by fostering communications between and among GLBTQA alumni/ae and students, faculty, staff, administrators, the other affiliated

In accepting his award, Amico honored the large group present, but also noted that a majority of LGBT students at Dartmouth remain in the closet and do not feel able to attend events like PRIDE. Indeed, Amico noted that students who are "out" in their college lives are making a sacrifice in the sense that closeted students who might like to know them do not feel comfortable interacting with out students, lest their "cover be blown." After receiving his award, Amico commented to *Green Light*, "I am deeply honored to be recognized by the LGBT community at Dartmouth. This award is a testament to the infinite number of ways that LGBT students can be activists on campus. Whether we are writers, artists, politicians, or something else entirely, our accomplishments and dedication to the community is equally appreciated."

Three graduating students were given the Ezekiel Webber '00 Award, named in honor of former DGALA director Zeke Webber. Michael Guzman '05 presented the award to Amanda Rosenblum '07, recognizing Amanda's work in bringing about gender neutral housing and in helping to unite lesbian voices on campus. Sarah Morton '05, a Webber award winner in her graduating year, presented the award to Shenen Wong '07, particularly noting Shenen's work with people of color. Finally, Pam Misener presented the award to Tim Andreadis '07. Tim, whose election last

President's Message

It's been a busy spring for DGALA and summer looks to be more of the same. As we welcome the latest class of graduating students to DGALA, here are some recent highlights and future plans.



Susi Kandel here. The banner made its debut at an alumni seminar of Greater San Francisco and the Alumni Association of Silicon Valley, entitled, "A Picture is Worth a Thousand Doctoring and Forensics," featuring Farid. The banner now begins its the country as part of the 2007 Tour, coming soon to a city near Development Chairs (see page 4). We are also looking forward to our



DGALA also was commended for its thoughtful -- and lengthy! -- creative process in the redesign of its banner, pictured here. The banner made its debut at an alumni seminar DGALA sponsored along with the of Greater San Francisco and the Alumni Association of Silicon Valley, entitled, "A Picture is Worth a Thousand Doctoring and Forensics," featuring Farid. The banner now begins its the country as part of the 2007 Tour, coming soon to a city near Development Chairs (see page 4). We are also looking forward to our DGALA "mini-reunion" over the weekend of June 16 in Hanover, which will include a student center open house, our annual Reunions breakfast, an afternoon lecture by Professor Peter Saccio, and an all Affiliated Groups reception. DGALA dorm housing is also available. We hope you'll join us. ♦

DGALA NOTES

DGALA continues to work with other affiliated groups. Besides our all-affiliated group reception coming up at the June mini-reunion, DGALA supports the other affiliated groups and students in many ways, including an ongoing effort to craft a joint proposal to the College regarding diversity issues, and DGALA's recent co-sponsoring with the Native American Alumni Association of Dartmouth of the recent 35th annual pow-wow event by the Native Americans at Dartmouth

Travel with DGALA? We received some replies after our note in December about member interest in a possible DGALA trip with the Alumni Relations Continuing Education and Travel Office but not quite enough to fill a boat yet! If this is something that you might find appealing (no commitment at all now!), please drop us a note at DartGALA@gmail.com so that we can continue to gauge potential member interest.

Directory Update. OK, we admit this has taken even longer than the banner! We'll spare you our excuses, but we're working on them and they really should be coming out soon!

Support DGALA! We've had a great response from our members in making contributions for our current fiscal year that ends on June 30, but if you've not yet given, it's easy to do so at

www.DGALA.org , and your help will let us keep doing all the great things reported on in this issue.

CAMPUS NOTES

Gender-Neutral Housing Coming to Campus! Openly gay student body president Tim Andreadis' campaign for the College to offer gender-neutral housing has succeeded, and the option will be available to students beginning this fall. In the words of the Office of Residential Life, "Gender neutral housing allows for same-gender, opposite-gender or other-gender identities to live together regardless of biological sex." Among the housing options will be a gender-neutral floor with programming on gender identity and expression in a supportive environment.

Admitted LGBTQA Students welcomed on campus! The Admissions Office "Dimensions of Dartmouth" program in April for admitted students offered several LGBTQA-friendly initiatives, including an LGBTQA hosting option (offered to both hosting students and visiting applicants), Queer Bar Night at the Lone Pine Tavern in the Collis Student Center and an open GSA meeting.