



GREEN LIGHT

Volume 13, Issue 1 *Newsletter of Dartmouth's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Alumni/ae Association* May 2008

DGALA Board Urges Vote for Unity Slate

On April 28, 2008 the DGALA Board of Directors wrote via e-mail to its members urging them to vote for the "Unity Slate" in the now-ongoing election for the leadership of the Dartmouth Alumni Association ("AoA"). The AoA, an organization created in 1854, consists of all Dartmouth alumni/ae. The AoA is governed by an 11-member executive committee; it is this governing committee that is currently being elected by all Dartmouth alumni/ae.

With the formation of the Dartmouth

Election, continued on

JOIN US ON CAMPUS IN JUNE! DGALA ALL-CLASS MINI REUNION June 13 -14, 2008

FRIDAY, JUNE 13TH

3-5 PM: LGBT RESOURCE CENTER OPEN HOUSE
10 PM-MIDNIGHT: DGALA RECEPTION WITH OPEN BAR AT THE CANOE CLUB ON MAIN STREET

SATURDAY, JUNE 14TH

8:30 AM: DGALA REUNIONS BREAKFAST WITH REMARKS BY PRESIDENT WRIGHT '64A

3:00 PM: PROFESSOR REBECCA BIRON:

"MASCULINITY AND GENDER IN LATIN AMERICA"

4:00 PM AFFILIATED GROUPS ANNUAL RECEPTION

2ND PRIDE DINNER HIGHLIGHTS PROGRESS

By DGALA Director Caroline Kerr '05

Looking over the 150 or so people gathered for the PRIDE Dinner on May 2, I was struck that the event seemed poised to outgrow the Daniel Webster Room by next year. I was also reminded that Dartmouth is a community of storytellers. The annual dinner allows students, alums, faculty, staff, friends and family to gather and celebrate the past year, the graduates who



Students Pick Up PRIDE T-Shirts and Gather

Around PRIDE flag during PRIDE Week

PRIDE, continued on page 3

Alumni Council in 1913 as the representative body of the alumni, the AoA's role has been limited to conducting College alumni trustee ballot contests. However, as reported in recent issues of *Green Light*, alumni trustee elections have become highly contentious at the College since 2004, when the first of four consecutive right-wing "petition" candidates were elected to the Dartmouth College Board of Trustees. The petition candidates were able to "game" the trustee balloting system by pitting a single highly-conservative and heavily-funded petition candidate against the required three mainstream candidates nominated by the Alumni Council, thereby splitting the votes of moderate alumni. In addition, at the most recent election of the AoA executive committee in 2007, conservative alumni won a single-vote majority (six to five) on that committee, thus seizing control of the AoA.

The conservative AoA executive committee members used their control of the AoA to vote to sue the College last October, challenging the College Trustees' September 2007 decision to expand the College Board of Trustees (by adding eight new Board-appointed trustees to the

current 18-member Board). In an April 28, 2008 letter from twelve mainstream members of the Board to Dartmouth alumni, those Board members reported that the lawsuit has cost the College at least \$2 million to defend. The suit filed by the AoA conservative majority is being prosecuted by a major Washington, D.C. law firm and is being funded by conservative special interest groups many with no connection

DGALA's Alumni Council

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

The Dartmouth Alumni Council currently allocates one seat to each of the five Affiliated Groups, including DGALA (though more representation is coming – see below!). David Eichman '82 is DGALA's current representative to the Council. The Council held its semi-annual meeting at the College on May 15-17 this spring, and David makes this report to DGALA:

It has been an honor to serve these past three years as the DGALA representative to the Dartmouth Alumni Council. I believe that I (along with the other affiliated group representatives) have been instrumental in making sure that the Council leadership understands the importance of diversity and how crucial it is to have the individual councilors reflect the diversity of the alumni body. I think my main achievement was to make sure that, as the Council expands to provide for one representative for each class (up to 50 years out), the number of representatives for each affiliated group also

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Vol. 13, No. 1

May 2008

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

are about to join the alumni community, and to reflect on the work that still lies ahead. In doing this, we share stories, and our stories seem to transcend the bounds of class year and identity. We look back on stories of triumph, progress, as well as struggle, all while keeping an eye on where the College still needs us most.

A common thread that emerges in these stories is the sense of responsibility that Dartmouth students and alumni have to leave Dartmouth a better place than they found it. This year's GALA Dinner keynote speaker, Trevor Burgess '94, urged the community to, "Enjoy PRIDE, but know that on Monday, it is time to re-double the efforts." He went on to ask this year's graduates to do three things. First, to stay involved with the College and make a difference, as we all owe it to the next generation to do so. Second, to remember that we are part of a multi-generational community. And finally, in the words of Dr. Seuss, "Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind."

At this year's Dinner, the community honored two members of the Class of 2008, Jamal Brown and Jon Hopper, winners of the Ezekiel Webber '00 Award and Henry Weiss '60 Award, respectively, for the ways in which they have made Dartmouth a better place: a more inclusive, visible, and dynamic place. On behalf of DGALA and the Board of Directors, I formally welcomed all the soon-to-be-graduates of 2008 to the alumni/ae community. And countless conversations, connections, and re-connections took place around the dinner tables. As individuals, we have stories that share common themes and experiences. Collectively, we create a presence and voice that gains momentum each year.

Trevor Burgess closed his keynote address by saying, "We are a community of gays, of lesbians, of queers, of lovers. We are

closet, but together we can change Dartmouth:

change the small homophobic mind of cartoonists, and advance the cause of fairness forever." Pam Misener, Advisor to LGBT students, and the annual GALA dinner host and MC, closed the evening with a reminder that resonated around the room: be kind to one another. She urged the audience to, "Stay committed to moving the College forward. Celebrate the good work that has been accomplished. But be kind to one another. Let's ensure that *all* students feel as though they have a place at Dartmouth."

The greater Dartmouth community would do well to hear this message, and take it to heart.

Thanks to all for another wonderful GALA Dinner. ❖

David Cleveland '78 Reflects on PRIDE Dinner

The PRIDE dinner was terrific. When my partner, Robert (of 18 years!) and I got to the Hanover Inn we were surprised to see my cousin's daughter, Caroline Kerr '05, whom I had not seen in a decade. She is an extraordinary woman and spoke beautifully, and it was beyond perfect to reconnect with her and meet her lovely girlfriend Darcy Arendt (DMS '09).

For me, the most poignant moment of the night was when Jamal Brown got up to accept his award, and he looked at the table of straight varsity running teammates, who had come to support him, and started crying. He essentially told them that their support meant everything to him. His impromptu speech was so moving to me. He had come to Dartmouth in the closet, yet through his 4 years he had found a family that welcomed him. His accomplishments are amazing not only on the track, but academically as well. And it was clear that he

Students Comment on Identity and PRIDE Issues

Green Light asked a couple of LGBT campus leaders to write about whatever was on their minds this term. Without coordinating with each other, the students wrote essays touching on similar issues. Here are some thoughts from recent GSX co-chair Sarah Wilson '08 and current co-chair Cody Lavender '10.

Kate Bornstein Visits Dartmouth

By Sarah Wilson '08

Kate Bornstein, world-renowned sex positivist and transgender activist, visited Dartmouth during the second annual PRIDE celebration. Although this was Kate's first trip to Dartmouth, she has interacted with students at various external events over the years, and had already had a large impact on the student body before she even arrived. For example, after listening to her speech at the Translating Identities conference this past fall, students were inspired to change the name of the Gay Straight Alliance to Gender, Sexuality, XYZ. Students were so moved by her speech and writings that they kept in contact with Kate after the conference and were able to arrange for her to speak at PRIDE for her last college touring event of the year. During her several



Kate Bornstein and Sarah

days at Dartmouth, Kate led a number of amazing events. On Monday she headed a dinner discussion on the gender-neutral housing floor. She emphasized the dangers of binarist thinking and cautioned students that it was fine to refuse to answer questions designed to force them into binaries. She diagramed the route of political influence in the United States today to show how most of public discourse is, in some way, shaped by the far right, because there is no large-scale radical political left as there is in Europe.

On Tuesday night Kate gave her groundbreaking performance, "Kate Bornstein Is a Queer and Pleasant Danger." She performed eight excerpts from various books and a play that she has written, assuming a myriad of different identities. Her open discussion about her past experiences with the church of scientology and her estrangement from her daughter brought many of the audience members to tears. One of the highlights of the night was her discussion of her most recent book [Hello Cruel World: 101 Alternatives to Suicide for Teens, Freaks and Other Outlaws](#). Kate said not to worry about what people say the consequences of one's actions will be in the next world and promised that, as long as

the audience members weren't mean, she would serve any time accrued in hell for them. As evidence of her deal with the devil for their benefit, every audience member received a "Get out of Hell Free" card.

For her final event, Kate led a workshop on coalition building, in order to better help students effect change on campus and off. In addition to her these three main events, Kate met with students during meals and talked about philosophy and shared anecdotes about her life. For example, she related that she had recently attended a BDSM Seder, titled "When We Were Slaves," and she questioned why all monotheistic religions are established around a gender binary. She also attended several classes in the Women and Gender Studies Department in which she gave lectures, listened to students critique her theories, and was involved in discussion. Kate was a wonderful addition to campus who set the bar high for next year's PRIDE.

"We're here, we're queer ... we're not even use to it?"

By Cody Lavender '10

"In the world today, there are increasingly more queer-straight people and increasingly more straight-queers." As Kate Bornstein pointed out

during PRIDE Week 2008, the LGBTQ community faces an ever-growing threat: the threat being ourselves. In light of increasing support for normalcy and lack of focus on inclusively, the LGBTQ movement is starting to look a lot like the "We're Just like You" Lesbian/Gay movement and less like the queer movement.

During an event which would decide on a new name for the GSA, a few students were very clear about their dislike for the word "queer." As these people stated, they did not want to be labeled different or abnormal, which the word queer implies. In reply, I stated "Who the hell wants to be considered normal?!" From the looks I received, clearly most of the people in the room did. What I began to realize was that despite hegemonic attitudes towards us (the queers, the fairies, the trannys, the dykes), most LGBTQ people want to get married and adopt some kids. Struggling and fighting for abnormalcy is something most people are unwilling to do. Implicit in the not wanting to fight for queerness is the omission of those who do.

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act and HRC's support of the non-inclusive bill is one such example of leaving behind the queerest-of-the-queers. HRC says they will "come back" to fight for trans-people, but right now they want to get the legislation that will be most effective to pass through. This falls under the same rhetoric as the marriage movement. They just want to share healthcare benefits and be like all the normal straight couples. As soon as gay marriage is passed and is recognized as a human right, there would be no reason to look behind and consider those who do not have healthcare, who are affected by race, gender, poverty, citizenship, age, and ability. There are so many trans-people out there for whom marriage is the last thing on their mind. I am sure they would rather have a job where they cannot be fired for their gender expression than a nice little certificate. Since I have come out, I have encountered the most discriminating reactions from my fellow LGBT brethren. Being Native American and queer means I am either eroticized or ignored. People of color do not fall under the to-do list of the gay agenda. Wait...there are several black lesbian activists, that's enough.



Cody Lavender '10

The face of the “We’re Just like You” Lesbian/Gay Movement is an upper-middle class, white gay male couple living in Manhattan. We only bring out the harnesses, whips and wigs during PRIDE. We give the trannys a nice float, because we tacked them on the end of OUR movement a few years back. We let the dykes ride out in front of the parade on their bikes. We also decided to put the “L” in front of the “G”. We even gave legitimacy to bisexuals by throwing the “B” into the mix. Homonormativity, heteronormativity in disguise, continues to taint the movement. Bisexuals, trans-people, lesbians, gays, allies, queers, queens, sex workers, prostitutes, queer-straight, heteroflexibles all deserve equal space and consideration in the queer movement. As the number of strong, viable queer-straight allies continues to grow, the queer movement becomes more complicated, as it should. How does a queer movement survive? By living and accepting tensions within it. We need to get angry at the normative structures of oppression which have been created before us and that continue to manifest themselves within our own movement! We resolve difference not by creating foundations of normalcy, but by developing paradigms of acceptance. ❖

The “D” Publishes 3-Part Series on LGBTs and Greek System

Early last month *The Dartmouth* published on its front pages a three-article series examining the experience of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students in Dartmouth's Greek community. Perhaps not unlike like other “D” journalism, the series was, in the words of GSX co-chair Cody Lavender '10, “a bit random and not as impactful as it could have been.” However, Cody added, “a lot of people were happy with the piece since it seemed to cover all of its bases.” Similarly, fall-term GSX co-chair Sarah Wilson '08, who was quoted in the series, stated, “In general I was happy that they had the series and that they thought that it was important enough to write about.”

The three parts of *The D* series were divided into stories on fraternities, sororities, and co-ed houses. In general, fraternities received the most “mixed” reports from the LGBT students interviewed for the story. Several students noted past incidents of fraternity men shouting homophobic epithets at LGBT students. Others commented critically on the “hetero-normative”

Fraternities. continued on

THREE JOIN DGALA BOARD

Three new alums joined the DGALA board of directors at the beginning of this year. They are Dave Dookeram '99, Mikee Guzman '06 and David Hankins '05.

Dave Dookeram graduated from Dartmouth with a double major in Biology and Spanish. Since earning a Master of Public Health degree from Emory University in 2001, Dave has worked as a health care executive in the Atlanta area.



Dave Dookeram

Dave was elected to a three-year term on the Dartmouth Alumni Council last year as an at-large member. Dave told *Green Light* "I am excited to join the DGALA Board this year. Despite our ranking as one of the 100 Best Colleges and Universities for LGBT students, Dartmouth is faced with unprecedented challenges. I am pleased to have this opportunity to work alongside other alumni leaders to improve the quality of the undergraduate experience."

Mikee Guzman also is a Dartmouth double major (Spanish and French). He is now pursuing a PhD in Philosophy – Hispanic

Sociolinguistics at the University

of Massachusetts (Amherst),

while also teaching Spanish at

UMass. At Dartmouth, Mikee

served as President and

Treasurer of the GSA, President of The Tabard

co-ed fraternity, and founder of the Dartmouth

chapter of the Lambda 10 Project (a clearinghouse

of LGBT issues in fraternities and sororities). He

is now serving a five-year term as Treasurer of the



David Hankins

class of 2006. Mikee takes advantage of his status as a recent grad living fairly close to Hanover to remain connected to the LGBT community on campus. Regarding his decision to join DGALA's Board, Mikee said, "DGALA is an organization for which I have great respect, not only for the important network it has created for LGBTQI alumni, but also for the incredible support DGALA has presented to the current LGBTQI community at Dartmouth today."

David Hankins majored in History with a minor in Arabic (he studied Arabic in Jordan during the summer of 2002). After graduation, David spent two years as an Assistant Director of Admissions at



Hamadi

'03, where they explored issues concerning sexual orientation and gender expression in the application process. ❖

Dartmouth. He is now teaching sixth grade English and Social Studies at an inner-city charter school in Las Vegas as part of the Teach for America program. David enjoyed working in Admissions with DGALA director Caroline Kerr '05 and DGALA member Lauren Foley

NEW DGALA / DCF SCHOLAR PROFILE

The DGALA Scholars Fund, launched with the Dartmouth College Fund (DCF), is now concluding its second year of funding scholarships

for LGBT students at Dartmouth. (The funds are collected before each academic year, so DGALA contributions to the DCF during the 2006-2007 year funded four students during the current academic year.) For this school year, DGALA members contributed over \$90,000 to fund four student scholarships. Current scholars Meli Gerber '08 and Ray Rodriguez '09 have been profiled in past *Green Light* issues.

In this edition, we introduce

Hamadi Henderson '10. Hamadi, of Far Rockway, New York, is a Psychology major (Music minor) who is a member of GSX and performs and teaches piano on campus. Hamadi plans to become a psychologist, specializing in childhood development.

By contributing to the DCF before June 30 of this year, you can help to fund DGALA/DCF Scholars for the upcoming academic year. You may contribute on line by going to www.dartmouthcollegefund.org. There is no need to make any special designation; just by being a member of DGALA, your contribution will support this important program. ❖

Gender-Neutral Housing Program Completes First Year

The first year of the first gender-neutral housing program at Dartmouth is now coming to a close, amidst praise by all concerned. The program, which was actively lobbied for by the LGBT community at Dartmouth, includes a gender-neutral housing program floor in Mclane, one of the new Tuck Mall dorms, comprised of a variety of suites and doubles housing 17 students.

Kris Gebhard '09 filed this report with **Green Light** about life on the gender-neutral program floor:

This year, Dartmouth finally gave students an option to live in gender-neutral housing. In a sense, I've been living in gender-neutral housing – while not by name, certainly by practice – since I got to Dartmouth. Although it was a long process realizing that a large amount of miscongruence and confusion in my life was because I am transgender, I always exhibited and performed my gender in a very masculine way. So when I was living with

other biofemales, a variety of gender dynamics were at work even though we couldn't necessarily identify them. Since coming out as trans, I've lived with folks of all sorts of gender identities – women, men, trans, genderqueer – and absolutely love it.

Most important in a living situation for me is that my roommate(s) are thinking critically about gender, both their own performance and performances in society. I may be transitioning to male, and society may view me as male, but I strongly identify as a transman and as queer. It is important to me that my roommates be open to understanding what that means, for all of us.

The Gender Neutral Program Floor, one of the gender-neutral living options, has been a great opportunity to explore gender identity within the dorm structure at Dartmouth. We have weekly dinner discussions led by different members of the floor. We all enjoy studying and chilling in the library at the end of the hall, which Pam Misener and OPAL graciously stacked with books relating to queerness and gender issues. Pam even helped us fill the closet

with a communal supply of clothes for gender bending and exploring. Gender-neutral spaces are very important at Dartmouth, where the binary is reinscribed in so many ways daily, by the Greek system, social customs, and so many other things. I found living on the Gender Neutral Program Floor to be a welcome relief, and a place to finally feel that I can be who I am. ❖

Fraternities. continued from page

attitudes that are inherent in fraternity culture. On the other hand, several gay student members of fraternities interviewed for the story reported improving environments at some fraternities, and felt that this progress would continue.

The “D” series coverage in its next two segments on the (less numerous) sororities and co-ed houses on campus was briefer, but generally more positive. LGBT sorority-member students interviewed reported that, although the hetero-normative culture also generally prevails in sororities, regular efforts are made by students to mitigate those assumptions. The LGBT sorority members also noted a sense of camaraderie among most women at Dartmouth stemming from the male and fraternity-dominated culture at Dartmouth.

Co-ed (or gender neutral) houses on campus were portrayed in *The D* as having the most welcoming environments for LGBT students. Interviewed students noted that the mixed genders of house members tends to mitigate the overemphasis on heterosexuality that is endemic at many fraternities and sororities. Students also noted that co-ed houses at Dartmouth also tend to have diverse memberships in terms of other factors, from race to personal interests. This diversity tends to create an integrated community that fosters mutual support of all kinds of members and guests, including LGBT students. Consistent with this openness, all co-ed houses on campus were willing to be interviewed by *The D* for its series, whereas a number of fraternities and sororities declined to be interviewed.

DGALA/DCF Scholar Ray Rodriguez '09, speaking with *Green Light* about this year's PRIDE week, noted positive support by the entire Greek system for PRIDE: “This year's 2nd annual PRIDE week was bigger and better than ever. We focused on collaborating with numerous campus

President's Message

As I write this on a rainy and cold morning, it's hard to believe that summer is just around the corner. And yet, it's true – the Class of 2008 will soon be graduating and some 30 newly minted Dartmouth alumni/ae will be joining DGALA. While welcoming these new folks into our fold, I'd like to share with you some of the things that will be keeping DGALA busy in the coming months.



Susi Kandel

As you will read in this edition of the *Green Light*, there is a crucial election taking place for the Association of Alumni officers and Executive Committee. DGALA has been working tirelessly to encourage its members and allies to support the Unity Slate and end the Association of Alumni's lawsuit against the College. Please visit www.dartmouthundying.org to learn more about the issues and to read an open letter from Peter Saccio, recipient of the DGALA Leadership Award, about the significance of this election. Voting by either electronic or mail-in ballot will continue through June 5 (or you can vote in person in Hanover on June 10).

DGALA is also busy getting ready for the second annual DGALA "mini-reunion" on Saturday, June 14 in Hanover, which will include our annual Reunions breakfast with President Wright, an afternoon lecture by Professor Rebecca Biron of the Spanish and Portuguese Departments on Masculinity and Gender in Latin America, and an all Affiliated Groups cocktail reception. DGALA dorm housing is also available. We hope you'll be able to join us.

Preparations are also underway for the next All-Class Reunion to be held Oct. 30-Nov. 1, 2009. (Please note that the date has been changed from Oct. 9-11.) We are looking for volunteers to serve on our three planning committees: 1) programming; 2) fundraising; and 3) marketing. If you are interested, please send an email to reunion co-chairs Garrett Hornsby '87 at garrett@garretthornsby.com or Sarah Burgamy '00 at dolph88@aol.com.

Finally, if you can't make it to Hanover for any of these events, you can still become involved with DGALA in your community. Our Regional Outreach Coordinators (formerly known as Regional Development Chairs) have been helping to expand our local activities throughout the country. If you're interested in becoming a Regional Outreach Coordinator and bringing DGALA 'round the girdled earth, I'd love to hear from you (xsmkandelx@gmail.com). ❖

DGALA NOTES

DGALA in the *Dartmouth Alumni Magazine*. The current issue (May/June 2008) contains a couple of DGALA items. First, we are now part of a new regular column in the *DAM*: "Affiliated Groups." It appears right after the Class and Club notes (page 103 this issue). It took some doing to get this column, so please keep an eye on it! Second, DGALA's own Rob Saltzman '76 is profiled on the back-page column ("Continuing Ed"). Rob is a new

commissioner on the 5-member Los Angeles Police Commission, and his column focuses on the importance of diversity (and it gives a nod to his partner of 28 years!).

Directory Update. They're out!!! Hopefully you received your copy in the mail in early April. Kudos to James von Rittmann '95 for critical help in getting them finished and making them so stylish! We're only publishing DGALA members who agree to be listed (and they're the only ones who get copies). If you'd like to be listed and receive a copy, please let us know at **DartGALA@gmail.com**.

Support DGALA! If you have not yet contributed to DGALA this fiscal year (July 1 to June 30), please do so today at **www.DGALA.org**. D-GALA operates almost entirely on the generosity of our supporters, and we put your contributions to good use through funding our All-Class Reunions, our annual June mini-reunion gatherings, various regional events, on-campus events with alums and students, supporting LGBT issues and events at Dartmouth, annual book gift certificates for LGBT grads, our members directory, and, of course, this newsletter! We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, and so your contribution can be tax deductible. ❖

CAMPUS NOTES

GSA is now GSX. As mentioned in two of the student columns in this issue (pages 4-5), last fall the Gay Straight Alliance changed its name to Gender, Sexuality, XYZ (GSX). A thoughtful and sometimes humorous column in *The Dartmouth* of April 2, 2008 ("What's in a Name?") by GSX member Jordan Osserman '11 discusses the serious reasons for this name change. (Back "D" issues are available at **TheDartmouth.com**.) ❖