



GREEN LIGHT

Volume 11, Issue 1 *Newsletter of Dartmouth's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Alumni/ae Association* June 2006

D-GALA Launches Scholarship Program

In a February mailing to its members, D-GALA announced that it has reached an accord with the Dartmouth College Fund (DCF) to create the D-GALA/DCF Scholars Program. Under the Scholars Program, all contributions made by D-GALA alums to the DCF will be applied to provide financial aid to LGBT students at Dartmouth. (D-GALA alums are free to designate their contributions to go to other priorities if they prefer.) For every \$20,000 collected under the D-GALA/DCF Scholars Program, one full financial aid package for one student for one year will be funded. In future issues of *Green Light*, we will profile students benefiting from D-GALA alum generosity. D-GALA President Trevor Burgess '94 expressed a widely held sentiment to *Green Light* recently in stating, "I'm thrilled to know that my giving will help the next generation of LGBT students."

Scholarships, continued on page 8

STUDENTS ELECT FIRST OPENLY GAY ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT

On April 26, 2006 the Dartmouth student body elected Tim Andreadis '07 to be Student Assembly President during the academic year beginning this fall. Andreadis, who co-chairs the Gay-Straight Alliance at the College, campaigned as an openly gay student, and, despite running as a write-in candidate, garnered a leading 1,025 first-place votes out of 2,435 total votes cast. The instant run-off voting system gave Tim a majority of all votes over his three opponents on the ballot.

Andreadis' election appears to reflect a continuing evolution on campus of attitudes relating to LGBT students. As D-GALA member and College Assistant for Alumni Diversity, Uri Barrera-Vasquez '98



Tim Andreadis '07, in front of Baker Library

recalled, most LGBT students and faculty were closeted as late as the mid-90s, but this situation began to change in 1995 with the College's hiring of D-GALA member Bart Bingenheimer '94 as a part-time advisor for LGBT students. D-GALA member Brian Ellner '92 recalled similar memories from his days, as he wrote to *The*

Election, continued on page 6

D-GALA June Reunion Events

Open House, LGBT Student Center
Monday, June 12th and Friday, June 16th, 3-5 PM
Robinson 107/109

Two Events on Saturday, June 17th at the Faculty Lounge, Top of the Hop:

- (1) **D-GALA ANNUAL BREAKFAST @ 8:30 AM**
- AND
- (2) **ALL AFFILIATED GROUP DESSERT RECEPTION @ 4:00 PM**

ALL ARE INVITED!

REUNIONING ALUMS, ALL OTHER ALUMS, STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF AND FRIENDS

CRUCIAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION VOTE LOOMS

The Dartmouth Alumni Association (DAA), to which all Dartmouth alums belong, will hold a critical vote this fall on a new constitution that will substantially improve the way that all alums, and especially LGBT alums, will be heard in many important aspects of the operation of the College. The new constitution essentially strengthens the DAA and morphs the Dartmouth Alumni Council into the new Alumni Assembly, which seeks to be more representative of the alumni community as a whole than its predecessors. In fostering this better representation, the new constitution provides that the Assembly will include two designated representatives from each of the College-recognized affiliated alumni groups of historically marginalized alumni. D-GALA is one of the five currently recognized affiliated alumni groups. Under the new constitution, affiliated groups would have eight percent of the total Assembly seats.

Reactionary elements of the alumni are opposing greater representation of affiliated groups, sometimes with crass rhetoric. For example, in March of this year, on the DAA-sponsored on-line forum to discuss the new constitution, Frank Gado '58 wrote: "I fail to see why the degree of melonin [sic] in one's skin or which orifice one prefers sexually has anything to do with Dartmouth as an educational institution. I certainly have no objection to any group organizing in terms of perceived commonalities, but I see only mischief in translating those bonding interests into political pressure groups."

The new constitution also appears likely to promote more representative outcomes in the alumni elections of College trustees. As reported in prior editions of *Green Light*, recent trustee elections have enabled conservative alumni "petition" candidates to win the last three alumni-elected seats on the Board with a small plurality of votes because of a process that split the votes of alumni who prefer the candidates put forth by the regular nominating committee. The new constitution encourages head-to-head elections so that the true voice of alumni can be heard.

D-GALA has been strongly supportive of the new constitution throughout the process of its creation. Indeed, D-GALA President Trevor Burgess '94 served as a member of the Alumni Governance Task Force that created the proposed

constitution. D-GALA also supported the recent change of the DAA constitution that was approved at the DAA's February 2006 meeting. That change now permits "all media" voting on future changes to the DAA constitution, and it reduced the required vote to approve such changes from $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$. As a result of the new all media voting, D-GALA members will not be required to travel to Hanover to support the new constitution when it is submitted to the DAA for an "up or down" vote this fall. Under the procedure approved in February, DAA members may vote either via a secure web site or by mail. The voting will take place from September 15 through October 31 of this year. It will be very important for D-GALA members to vote, as reactionary alumni are expected to vigorously oppose the new constitution. ♦

NYC Area Upcoming Events

D-GALA's NYC-area alums have an active schedule of events this month. Most excitingly, D-GALA will co-host (with the Dartmouth Alumni Association of New York City) a panel entitled "**Wearers of the Green: We Are Gay Athletes**" at the Yale Club, 50 Vanderbilt Avenue in Manhattan, on Wednesday, June 28, beginning with a reception at 6:00 PM. Among the athlete speakers will be Andrew Goldstein '05, all-American lacrosse goalie and 2006 GLAAD Award recipient, who was featured last year in an ESPN story on gay athletes. For more information on this and other events, contact Nick Chamousis '73 at nchamousis@cs.com.

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Newsletter of

**Dartmouth's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and
Transgender Alumni/ae Association**

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Edited by Pete Williams '76

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Female Athletes Step Forward

At *Green Light's* request two talented female athletes from Dartmouth's LGBT community have been kind enough to share with our readers some of their experiences and thoughts:

Krista Perry '06: Being a Gay Athlete at Dartmouth

I am a Dartmouth senior '06 and co-captain of the Women's Basketball team. I have loved my experience at Dartmouth and I want to leave this place better than I found it, as generations of people have done before me. I believe Dartmouth to be very accepting and supportive of GLBT students in general, with a strong Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA) organization. I do not think, however, the athletic community (on all levels)



Krista Perry '06

does a sufficient job of creating an open and accepting place for GLBT athletes. As an athlete, I find it frustrating that there are not more open and/or visible GLBT individuals in the athletic departments, not only at Dartmouth but also across the country. It is frustrating on two levels. First, for those of us who are questioning or curious it is necessary to see role models and others who share their experiences. These experiences don't need to fit a heterosexual/homosexual dichotomy, but can fall anywhere within the mix. In addition, it is frustrating because there is no dialogue about the variety of experiences and identities, including gender and sexuality, in such a close-knit community as athletics. Teammates want to learn and understand what we're dealing with, yet we are hampered by the seeming invisibility of the GLBT community. It is difficult to create a dialogue and challenge another's way of thinking when there is no one for them to see.

I recognized a need for a space for GLBT athletes to talk about common experiences, share our differences and most importantly a place to see that we are not alone. Thus, I decided to start a group on campus for gay athletes. The GSA is awesome and very productive, interactive and visible on campus. However, I know that many

athletes don't associate with the GSA and I felt like there was a strong enough group of athletes to benefit from a separate space. My interests were to create a more open and visible forum for gay athletes (1) to offer a comfortable area for gay athletes to meet, discuss, gather, etc. and (2) to pursue this with the hope that it would become large enough to be visible within the athletic community, and the wider campus. In this sense, we could start to create a safer space for gay athletes on all levels, which I believe starts with the acknowledgement and acceptance that there ARE gay athletes at Dartmouth. We exist, and we want to be out. Those were my thoughts.

This past fall I finally began a GLBT athletes' meeting/gathering/discussion/group (as you can tell I wasn't even sure what we should call it) that gets together once a week. I invited people I knew who would be comfortable to meet others, and from there I let others invite whomever. As the group grew through word of mouth and my invitations, we were able to create a fairly respectable gathering. We have athletes from a wide range of sports and classes. I have talked with two male



Krista on the Court

athletes about the group and they are interested, but so far it has been all women. It is a safe place for GLBT athletes, and there has been significant interest leading to awesome discussions and talks.

In terms of specific objectives, I discovered mine were a little more progressive than the group's goals. We met once a week and whether we had emotional discussions about coming out, or comical stories from team locker rooms, each week was a new and interesting mixture of people, sports represented, opinions, experiences, etc. The group's first main point was that this was going to be a safe place to meet. There was an accepted, semi-spoken confidentiality agreement, with hope that people who are not completely out would feel welcome at our "meetings." I believe that has been accomplished and we hope to continue it.

We also discussed bigger events, from as simple as "bring a friend" meetings where you could bring someone from your team or a friend to hear the discussion or experiences shared during these times, to creating a panel for coaches and players about fostering an open environment. There was definitely interest in these events, and they are a "work in progress."

We often discussed not only how we create this more open, accepting environment, but also how to keep that openness and comfort from continuing year to year. Because there seems to be a pattern of changing atmosphere based on people or personalities, either on a specific team, or within the entire athletic department, the GLBT atmosphere fluctuates with it. I think a common theme in these chats was "identity" and how people identify themselves, let alone how they identify to others. Ideally, we would be able to work towards a common level of comfort and acceptance with the hope that it will continue once we leave.

This winter I got a short list of alums from the GLBT advisor and contacted some of them about this group. I heard back from the majority of them and they all were excited to hear about the group, were very supportive of us and wanted to know how they could help. These responses were very encouraging and inspired me to put together a small gathering of alums and undergrads at a light brunch in February. Ten people were able to attend, five alums (from '89-'02) and five undergrads. We discussed our personal stories about being gay at Dartmouth and shared experiences, both similar and different, including what has changed (and what hasn't) in the past 15 years. I think it is a statement in itself to see how many of us there are. If nothing else, it helps people realize that they aren't the only ones dealing with identity at Dartmouth.

My hope is to build this network of GLBT athlete alums to be a constant resource in an ever-changing Dartmouth community. In this regard, we want to create a network of gay athlete alums (any type and level of athlete), so if you are interested in being involved please contact me at Krista.Perry@Dartmouth.edu.

Rachel Rochat '95 Competes at Torino

I was fortunate enough to play in the 2006 Torino Olympics as a member of the Swiss women's hockey team. How did I get there? Here is the short version ... I grew up playing ice hockey in New Jersey. Like many female athletes, I got into sports because my older brother played hockey. At 3 years old, I held a tantrum in the store until my mom agreed to buy me hockey skates rather than figure skates. I'm sure she had no idea that she would be watching me play in the Olympics 30 years later. But I loved the game, and still do, and it's how I ended up at Dartmouth, where I had four wonderful years and many great teammates. Three days after graduation – with the realization that I had nowhere to go the following September – I called the manager of one of the teams in Switzerland. Although I hadn't spent much time there as a kid, I had Swiss citizenship through my paternal grandparents, and it sounded like fun to spend a year playing hockey in Europe. It was five years before I came back to the US for grad school. After three years of playing in Switzerland, I became eligible to play for the national team. I continued to play while in graduate school at Johns Hopkins – SAIS. For better or worse, the Swiss don't have the same mentality of the Americans, who often train for months at a time, so my only obligation was to go back for a handful of weekends and major tournaments (usually the World Championships). Our team almost qualified for the 2002 Olympics at Salt Lake City, but fell just short in the final qualifying game.



Rachel Rochat (R) with teammates

The next year, I moved on to Wharton for the second part of my dual degree and continued to play for Team Switzerland. But I and many of my teammates had battled the management of our team for many years, and the frustration was enough that I all but left the team (the problem was that the team manager would have whoever she was dating at the time as our coach, until they broke up – not a good way to run a team and certainly not a strong gay role model). After obtaining my degrees, I started work in Boston and all but gave up on my Olympic dream. But that summer the team manager and coach

resigned, and some of my old teammates asked me to give it one more try by playing in the qualifying tournament in Beijing that November. My new employer kindly gave me the time off, and I went to Beijing with the team. Again, our final critical game came down to the very end, but this time, with 6 seconds left in the game, we scored the winning goal. It was awesome...

Then came a year and a half of preparation, getting up at 5am to train, worrying about getting hurt, stressing that maybe I wouldn't make the final cut.... It was all very surreal and I never thought the day would come, but on January 12, 2006 I officially made the team, and on February 10th I walked in the Opening Ceremonies. The Games themselves were a blur – the time is filled with skating, eating and sleeping (and going through security). I have a lot of mixed emotions regarding my time in Torino. Of course it was an incredible experience – walking into the stadium during the Opening Ceremonies, playing our first game against the US, and scoring a goal against Russia. I was lucky enough to share this experience with my family and my best friend. The Olympic Village, the city of Torino, the other athletes from all over the world, and seeing other sports that I haven't really seen before were all great. But our team – including myself – didn't play up to our potential, and as an athlete that has been hard to digest.

In any case, it has been very satisfying to have reached such a goal and to have done it with many of my close Swiss friends, many gay and many straight. As far as I know, there has never been any tension on the team regarding people's sexual orientation. As a team, people's partners, whether hetero- or homosexual, are welcomed. However, my teammates are pioneers in a fairly conservative society. For one, the development of women's hockey and women's team sports is about 20 years behind the US. For the second time in my life, I had to hear the typical comments: hockey is "a boy's sport", girls should not play such a rough sport, and what does your boyfriend think of all those bruises? And our team receives much, much less support than the men's team and less than any of the other hockey teams in Torino (for example, our coach receives 10,000 francs compared to the 700,000 francs that the men's coach receives). But it is slowly

getting better, and it has been interesting to see Switzerland progress down the same road that we did in the States (and one we are still on). If anything, we were a success at the Olympics because there were thousands of people watching back home. The Swiss TV networks did not intend to broadcast more than one game, but they broadcast an additional two games after we had such high ratings. And I realized just yesterday that even the US still has a long way to go. I was speaking to my 8 year-old nephew's second grade class about the Olympics, and one young girl said that her mom bought her figure skates, even though she wanted to play hockey.

On the gay rights side, Switzerland is also changing, although again in baby steps. I have never heard of any violence against gays and know many couples who openly live together; however, it is a topic that makes many people uncomfortable and is often pushed under the rug. With our former manager, for example, no one wanted to discuss the fact that she was mixing dating and the team's management. I'm sure the fact that she was gay made them uncomfortable – or made her actions somehow acceptable. Politically, Switzerland is also somewhat mixed. Unlike the States, there aren't many politicians who run on anti-gay platforms. Switzerland became the first country to pass a referendum to allow same-sex unions last July. However, as part of the same vote, gays are not allowed to adopt children, seek fertility treatments or take the same last name. This is a topic that certainly affects my teammates, particularly one of my best friends. She has been with her partner for about four years, but my friend feels stuck because she would like to have children. She was very surprised to hear that I have lesbian friends back in Boston who are conceiving and raising children

Now home in the States, I have jumped back into working. My mementos, posters, and pictures remain disorganized for the moment, as I try to get some space from hockey for a bit. I may play for Team Switzerland one more year but haven't made a final decision. I am sure I will always play somewhere, but it's also time to start thinking about life after Team Switzerland. Although inevitably a number of people have asked about Vancouver 2010 – I say "yes" but next time I'm going as a fan! ❖

Dartmouth on May 3, “When I was elected student body president in 1990, it was widely reported that I was the first-ever “non-Greek” to hold that office. It was never reported that I was gay. Sadly, winning that race as an openly gay candidate would not have been possible.” There is hope among the LGBT student community that Andreadis’ election will help to continue progress on campus. As Sasha Acher ’06 told *The Boston Globe* (which prominently reported the election), “For closeted [students today] it’s intense. It’s another face on campus to look at and say, ‘He’s out.’”

Interview with Tim Andreadis ’07

Green Light recently had the following brief interview with Assembly President-elect Tim Andreadis ’07:

Q. Why did you decide to run for the Student Assembly presidency?

A. I decided to run because I was dissatisfied with the other candidates and their apparent lack of regard for issues on campus that are often only being raised by women and minority communities, such as sexual assault; concerns over the strength and creation of ethnic studies programs, minors and majors; gender neutral housing, etc.

Q. How do you think your being an openly gay student affected how your candidacy and subsequent election were received?

A. As a result of the election, I have received national media attention because I’m openly gay; however, that aspect of my identity did not directly figure in the campaign. I think it is, however, important to recognize the fact that I am openly gay because for many it represents that Dartmouth is continually becoming more inclusive and accepting.

Q. What are some of the things that you hope to accomplish as SA President, and how do those goals related to the LGBT community at Dartmouth?

A. In relation to the LGBT community at Dartmouth, I hope to work toward the creation of an LGBT Studies department and I would like to see gender-neutral housing implemented. In addition, a lot more work needs to be done to make all spaces on campus safe for LGBT students. A number of students still voice concern over entering certain fraternity basements because of the pervasive heterosexism and the use of homophobic remarks by individuals in that space. Also, the campus has a lot of work to do in order to become trans-friendly, and I hope this will dictate much of GSA’s priorities for the coming terms.

Mike Amico ’07 on the Campaign

Mike Amico ’07, who along with Marie Choi ’06, managed Andreadis’s campaign, provided Green Light with insights on the LGBT community’s role in winning the election:

The most successful attribute of Tim's campaign was its ability to form coalitions. The LGBTQ community in particular--along with its allies--provided a core group of people who dedicated a significant amount of time and energy to the campaign. For example, some went door-to-door and face-to-face, not only soliciting votes but explaining why voting for Tim was vital for Dartmouth's future as a whole and why the issues he presented in his platform would benefit all Dartmouth students -- not just some. Additionally, word of mouth about the campaign spread quickly, no doubt a function of the many "gossip queens" who make sure that Dartmouth students know the latest buzz. I certainly did not hear anyone whispering about any of the other candidates, who, as a result, seemed far removed and aloof to the mass mobilization efforts of Tim's campaign. In fact, the campaign united many people--gay and straight--and demonstrated that the LGBTQA community is comprised of some of the most creative and productive leaders on campus. Once we commit to creating change on campus to the extent that we did during the campaign, there is no stopping us. At the least, people will certainly hear about it! ❖

STUDENTS HOLD FIRST QUEER FORMAL

By Jason Beeler '06

The first ever queer formal was held on Friday May 12th at the DOC House from 9 PM to midnight. The formal had Vic Glazer as the DJ with dancing in one room and a separate room with pizza and drinks.

Because the formal was far away from campus and it was raining, there was concern before the event that there would be a low turnout. In addition, there were two other formals scheduled at the same time. However, a large number of people did show up to the formal, with as many as forty at one time and others coming throughout the night. There were shuttles organized by the GSA throughout the night that helped bring people over.



Jason Beeler '06 (L) and David Ong '09 at Formal

This event demonstrated several important facts about the growing LGBTQA community at Dartmouth. While people have recently been noting the growth in attendance at events and meetings, the most striking fact to me is that people are genuinely excited to be part of this community at Dartmouth. It is not just the number of people actively coming to events or the fact that we can hold a queer formal that shows the most growth in the community, but the fact that it was actually an anticipated event that was a lot of fun for most of those attending. Another interesting factor was the number of allies that attended the event, often allies that had not recently come to other events.

The GSA did an excellent job organizing all aspects of this event. It is likely that the queer formal will become a tradition and continue to take place in future years. ❖

D-GALA HELPS HONOR NEW LGBT GRADS

D-GALA joined in a festive seventh annual LGBTQA Graduation ceremony on campus this past May 2nd. The event, held at Collis Common Ground, featured dinner, celebratory cake, remarks, and the presentation of the Webber Award, named in honor of former D-GALA director, Zeke Webber '00. New D-GALA director Caroline Kerr '05 addressed the grads, formally welcomed them as the newest D-GALA members and presented each of the 20 grads in attendance with a \$25 gift certificate to Borders books. (See the article on page 8 for more on Caroline and her work to support new LGBT grads.)

The Webber Award, established in 2004 by students and the LGBTQA Advisor in the Office of Pluralism and Leadership, serves to honor Zeke's memory by recognizing each year the senior or seniors who best exemplify his passionate dedication to LGBTQA activism. This year's honoree is Michael Guzman '06, who has served as a GSA chairperson as well as President of The Tabard. Mike was particularly honored for his leadership in establishing Lambda 10 at Dartmouth. Lambda 10 is a national project that seeks to abate homophobia in Greek systems throughout the US. After attending a Lambda 10 training session at the University of Virginia, Mike established the program at Dartmouth, and the first pilot session on campus was attended in late January by 30 members of Dartmouth's Greek community. Following the session, Guzman told *The Dartmouth* that the Lambda 10 project is needed at Dartmouth because, although the College has an "accepting" student body, homophobia from the past is still partially preserved by the Greek system.

LGBTQA Advisor Pam Misener reports that she expects about thirty new grads overall to take advantage of D-GALA's free membership for new grads. D-GALA extends to each of them a warm welcome to the ranks of D-GALA alums. ❖

CAROLINE KERR '05 JOINS D-GALA BOARD

Ultimately, I think that's what all D-GALA members want: to see a brighter future for those that follow in our footsteps.”

The Scholars Program is effective with the current DCF fiscal year, which runs from last July 1 through June 30 of this year. D-GALA member contributions will be credited to the Program even if they were made early in the fiscal year before the Program was announced. The Program already appears to be a well-received success. Several alums, who had made substantial donations to the DCF before the Program was announced, doubled their donations after the announcement. At a phonathon conducted by D-GALA volunteers in New York City on May 30th, every D-GALA member who was reached in person responded positively to the Program and made a contribution.

President Burgess also commented to *Green Light* on the more political side of generosity on the part of D-GALA alums: “Giving to the Dartmouth College Fund makes us part of the dialog at the College because, like it or not, money talks.” Indeed, a recent document released by the Alumni Governance Task Force discussing the AGTF's new proposed constitution, which would grant two seats on the new Alumni Assembly to each affiliated alumni group, including D-GALA (see story, page 2), notes that D-GALA participation in the DCF has risen fifteen percentage points in recent years.

Overall, D-GALA hopes to see record levels of DCF giving and participation by its members this year. As Burgess noted, “Participation is equally as important as amount given, as the College tracks alumni participation rates relentlessly. I'd encourage every D-GALA member to give what they can, but at least give \$10 each year to keep us on the participation map.” Burgess also notes that DCF gifts also automatically count towards each alum's class. Contributions to this year's D-GALA/DCF Scholars Program can still be made this year by going to www.dartmouthcollegefund.org between now and June 30th. There is no need to designate anything special – just by being a member of D-GALA, your gift will support the Scholars fund. ❖

Caroline Kerr '05, Assistant Director of Admissions in the Dartmouth Office of Admissions, joined D-GALA's Board of Directors at the beginning of this year. Caroline recently provided *Green Light* with some reflections on what she hopes to help achieve in her new role with D-GALA:

When I addressed members of the Class of 2006 at the LGBT Graduation Dinner a few weeks ago, I noted that although they are getting ready to leave Hanover, they are not leaving Dartmouth; they simply have the opportunity to seek Dartmouth elsewhere - the passionate, vibrant, visible community that characterizes campus, also characterizes alumni. It has been my experience as a young alumna that Dartmouth is everywhere. I find myself connected to a broader, more diverse Dartmouth than as an undergrad. DGALA is a great way to connect with Dartmouth and other LGBT alumni, and new and recent grads are ready to be connected to other alumni much sooner than in the past. I began to sense this closing gap between the undergraduate experience and involvement as an alum, during my internship with Pam Misener when I was reaching out to young alumni for the DGALA all class reunion; and when I contacted alumni as part of a documentary I was working on for a queer studies course I took with Professor Michael Bronski, examining the evolution of parts of the queer community at Dartmouth over the last ten years. Graduating students are ready to move right into their roles as alumni: they want to be connected with other alums, with the College, and with current student life and the experiences facing LGBT students. DGALA, as an affiliated alumni group, needs to be ready to welcome these young alumni. I believe there is much we do already to reach out to graduating students, but I also believe that one of the best ways to stay in touch with the current climate of the College, and the ever evolving composition of the alumni body, is by having the Board reflect the diversity of perspective and experience that the membership of DGALA holds. My desire to join the Board comes from a desire to push DGALA, and the College, to keep in touch with the concerns and perspectives of young alumni and current students - whether that is adding gender identity and expression to the Non-Discrimination Policy, or increasing the contact and opportunity for mentoring relationships between alumni and students, raising visibility for DGALA, or any of the other projects that alumni are excited to see DGALA as an organization take on. ❖

Joanne Herman '75 Brings a Face – and Progress – to Gender Identity/Expression Battle

The efforts by D-GALA, and other progressive forces within the College community, to achieve a broadening of Dartmouth's non-discrimination policy to include gender expression and identity have been greatly boosted this year by the active work of D-GALA member Joanne Herman '75. Joanne, an openly transgender woman, who transitioned to her true (female) gender in 2002, made her first return to Dartmouth since her graduation at the October 2004 D-GALA all-class reunion, and she was delighted by the much greater openness to diversity at Dartmouth since she was a student. Joanne (and her now recently-deceased wife of 30 years, Barbara) next attended her class's 30th reunion in 2005 – again, a positive experience. Joanne then accepted an invitation from the College's Office of Institutional Diversity and Equity to speak about transgender awareness at a staff diversity forum in October of last year. While Joanne's presentation was very well received (a group of '06 women who had attended stayed on afterwards for further discussion), Joanne learned at that time that Dartmouth's non-discrimination policy does not include gender identity and expression.



Joanne Herman '75
(Photo courtesy of Margaret Humphries Photography)

D-GALA, together with Assistant Dean of Student Life, Advisor to LGBT Students Pam Misener, had been working for years urging Dartmouth to amend its non-discrimination to include gender identity and expression. Although the College's Office of Institutional Diversity and Equity repeatedly represented that a change was “in the works,” it never happened. This notwithstanding the fact that five other Ivy League institutions, and the University of New Hampshire, all now have policies in place banning such discrimination.

Joanne waded into this seemingly intractable situation with a powerful three-page letter to President Wright describing her personal journey and the importance of protecting people from discrimination based on their gender identity and expression. (Joanne's letter also included generous contributions to Dartmouth's three LGBT-related funds, the LGBT Program Gifts Fund, the Stonewall Fund, and the Roger Klorese and David Haney LGBT Program Fund.) At the same time, D-GALA President Trevor Burgess '94 also wrote to President Wright asking that the College's non-discrimination policy be amended. Wright replied to both that he would look into the matter, and, indeed, progress soon followed! Most recently, during the last full week of May, the President's Executive Council approved the proposed change, and it will be on the agenda of the College's Trustees meeting in June. D-GALA has continued to lobby for the reform, contacting Trustees, and cautious hope exists that the College will very soon take this important step forward.

Joanne, meanwhile, has continued to be a strong and public voice in support of the LGBT community, particularly transgender people. Joanne is the first transgender member of the Boards of The Point Foundation, a scholarship lifeline for LGBT students, and Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, the New England LGBT rights organization that was critical in bringing same-sex marriage to Massachusetts with the help of D-GALA's own Hillary Smith Goodridge '78. Joanne also is publishing a very illuminating series at Advocate.com addressing “all your questions about being transgender, whether you were afraid to ask or not.” The installments to date, which are highly recommended by your Editor, are collected at www.joanneherman.com. ❖

President's Message

D-GALA NOTES

Happy June to all! In just a few days the class of 2006 will graduate and DGALA's ranks will grow by over 30 members. Can each of you think of 30 out, loud and proud members of your class? I know I can't! We all know that strength comes in numbers and DGALA is looking for our fellow gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender alumni/ae. Help us reach out to those that don't yet know about DGALA by telling your fellow alums about DGALA and encouraging them to visit www.dgala.org to join.

In this edition of *Green Light* you will read about some very exciting DGALA initiatives including our push to have gender identity and expression included in the college's non-discrimination policy. The Board of Trustees of Dartmouth College will vote on this positive change at their June board meeting. DGALA has been actively educating the College and we hope that we will have good news to

report in our next edition of *Green Light* - watch your mailbox or check our website for periodic updates between now and then.

Our new DCF/DGALA scholarship initiative is well underway. We have teamed up with the Dartmouth College Fund to have every

dollar we give as DGALA members fund scholarships for LGBT students. If you have yet to give to the Dartmouth College Fund this year, you have until June 30 to make a gift online at www.dartmouthcollegefund.org.

Please join us at any one of the many DGALA sponsored events we hold around the country each year or reach out to any board member if there is something you would like to see DGALA take on this next academic year.

Lastly, a hearty congratulations to our future DGALA member Tim Andreadis '07 who was elected as the first openly gay Student Assembly president. We all know that our own Brian Ellner '92 also held that position, but as Brian wrote to *The Dartmouth*; "It was never reported that I was gay. Sadly, winning that race as an openly gay candidate would not have been possible." My how times have changed in Hanover! ❖



Trevor Burgess '94

Membership forms enclosed! Enclosed with this *Green Light* is your D-GALA membership form (on the return envelope) for our new fiscal year that begins on July 1 (don't worry - if you send in your contribution today, it will count for the new year!) As you know, D-GALA operates almost entirely on the generosity of our supporters, and we strive to put your contributions to good use through funding our All-Class Reunions, our annual Breakfast Meeting in June, various regional events, on-campus events with alums and students, supporting LGBT issues at Dartmouth, annual book gift certificates for LGBT grads, LGBT charitable causes associated with Dartmouth, our members directory, and, of course, this newsletter! So please return your form with any contribution that you can afford. You may also renew or begin your membership (and contribute!) at <http://www.dgala.org/membership.html>. D-GALA is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation, and your contribution may be tax-deductible.

What about that directory? OK, after some delay, publication of the **new D-GALA Member Directory** is now planned for later this summer! All contributing members (who've agreed to be in the directory) will receive a copy.

New D-GALA Directors: Besides Caroline Kerr '05 (see page 8), Jessie Washington Tu '97, of the Washington DC area also joined the D-GALA Board this year. At the start of 2007 five more D-GALA Board seats will be filled, and so if you are interested, please let us know. Alums who'd just like to focus on helping with a particular task (like planning for the next all-class reunion) are also encouraged to write us at DartGALA@gmail.com.



D-GALA Directors Cherie Holmes '79 (far left) and Caroline Kerr '05 (far right) with students following lunch on campus during Alumni Council weekend in May. (D-GALA Alumni Council Rep David Eichman '82 is behind the camera!)