



# NOGLSTP

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NOGLSTP, PO BOX 91803, Pasadena CA 91109, phone/fax: 626 791-7689, <http://www.noglstp.org>

## NOGLSTP Helps Celebrate Pasadena Pride

NOGLSTP debuted its shiny new banners at an information table in the Technology Pavilion at the Pasadena Pride Festival this past October. The Technology Pavilion, sponsored by GayWired.com, was occupied by NOGLSTP, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and GayWired.com/Lesbianation.com. If you are interested in organizing an information table on NOGLSTP's behalf at a local pride festival, be sure to contact the NOGLSTP office to get plenty of brochures to pass out or to borrow the banners.



## 2001 NAMEPA/WEPAN Joint Conference To Address Engineer Shortage

The growing shortage of engineers and possible solutions will be the focus of the National Association of Minority Engineering Program Administrators and the Women in Engineering Programs & Advocates Network 2001 National Conference April 21-24, 2001. The meeting will be held at the Hilton Alexandria-Mark Center, Alexandria, Va. "There is no doubt that there is strength in collaboration. The joint WEPAN/NAMEPA Conference is a truly special event," says Susan Staffin Metz, WEPAN President. "This is the second time both organizations have joined forces to create a synergy of knowledge and experience on a national. Our conference theme 'Co-Champions for Diversity in Engineering' boldly states who we are in our efforts to recruit, retain, graduate, and employ staff, government agency representatives, student leaders, our corporate partners, and other organizations with similar missions to join us in Alexandria, Va., to what we anticipate to be a truly grand occasion," states Gregory Singleton, NAMEPA President.

For more information, point your web browser to:  
<http://www.eng.vt.edu/manepawepan2001/>

## A Theorist with Personal Experience of the Divide Between the Sexes

*from The New York Times*

SAN FRANCISCO - Speaking to a standing room only crowd at the annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America in Snowbird, Utah, Dr. Joan Roughgarden, one of the world's most influential theoretical ecologists, is methodically taking apart the way that biologists think about sex.

Providing details that make some titter and shift nervously in their seats, she is re-thinking orgasms and the architecture of female genitals, making arguments for the existence of more than two genders and presenting evidence for widespread homosexual copulation in the wild.

Described as a visionary and iconoclast who consistently ignores disciplinary and conceptual boundaries, Dr. Roughgarden always draws a good crowd. But on this August day the room is packed, in part because this is not just more talk about science, but the outgrowth of a personal experience that two years ago riveted this entire community of scientists.

That was when Dr. Roughgarden crossed the most rigidly enforced boundary of all, the divide between the sexes. Born Jonathan Roughgarden, she became Joan in the spring of 1998 - a profound transformation that has led her not only onto new paths in science but into San Francisco politics as well.

*This article was submitted by NOGLSTP member John Cortinas from <http://www.nytimes.com/2000/10/17/science/17ROUG.html>*

## Activism and Computing Power

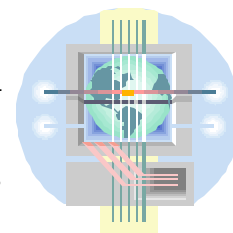
Scripps Institute is offering you an opportunity to use your spare computing power to generate and test millions of candidate drug compounds against detailed models of evolving HIV viruses

<http://www.fightaidsathome.org/>

It's similar to SETI@home, the "Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence"

<http://setiathome.ssl.berkeley.edu/>

which has been going on for years now -- using your computer's off hours to analyze portions of radio telescope data, looking for unusual patterns that might mean communication. Sorry, only Windows operating systems work with the Scripps project.



## Psychiatrists Cancel Gay Debate

*Associated Press*

CHICAGO (AP) -- The American Psychiatric Association canceled a scheduled panel discussion of whether homosexuality can be altered through therapy, a move that has upset some self-described former gays.

The debate over what is known as reorientation therapy was pulled from the APA's convention agenda on Wednesday after two psychiatrists who contend that the subject is too politically charged for scientific discussion withdrew from the panel.

The cancellation led to a protest by Exodus International, a non-denominational Christian organization that seeks to help gays switch their sexual orientation.

"I'm here as one representative for a virtually unseen but sizable population," said Exodus' national board chairman, John Paulk of Colorado Springs. "I once lived as a gay man, but now I'm heterosexual, something the American Psychiatric Association says does not exist."

Paulk said he is a former drag queen who has two sons with his wife, Anne, a former lesbian.

The canceled debate was organized by Dr. Robert Spitzer, the same person who spearheaded the APA's decision in 1973 to remove homosexuality from the list of mental disorders. At the time, the Columbia University psychiatry professor argued that homosexuality does not meet the criteria necessary to be considered a mental disorder, calling it instead an "irregular" form of sexuality.

Now Spitzer wants to explore whether homosexuality can be reversed for some people. He contends that the only way to determine whether that is possible is to conduct scientific experiments and share information.

"There is no documentary evidence showing someone's sexual preference can be changed by therapy," Spitzer said. "There is only anecdotal evidence, mostly from the therapists themselves, claiming that what they do works. That's not very scientific."

"On the other hand, there's no scientific evidence to show that this is impossible," said Spitzer, who called the cancellation distressing. "It hasn't been studied."

On the Net: American Psychiatric Association:  
<http://www.psych.org/>

## Gay and High Tech Correlation

There is an interesting article in the October 31, 2000 edition of the Washington Post. The article discusses the correlation of high-tech companies and large gay populations. Check it out online at:

<http://washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A52561-2000Oct31.html>



## gAyGU Dinner

The American Geophysical Union has its semi-annual meetings in the Spring (usually in Boston) and in the Fall in San Francisco. As there are 7000+ participants during the fall meeting, the 10% rule tells us that there may be as many as 700 gay, lesbian and transgendered scientists present. To accommodate this community the gAyGU was created, which promotes contact between the LGBT scientists of the AGU by organizing a dinner at both the Spring and Fall meeting.

This year the gAyGU dinner will most probably be held on Saturday, December 16, and persons that would like to join in are asked to RSVP to Martin Volwerk at [mvolwerk@igpp.ucla.edu](mailto:mvolwerk@igpp.ucla.edu). More info can be found at <http://users.erols.com/barton96/> (the official gAyGU website) and an announcement will also be placed on <http://www.geocities.com/tusenfem>.

If you would like to become a "member" of the gAyGU (i.e. be placed on the mailing list) please send a message to Martin Volwerk at [mvolwerk@igpp.ucla.edu](mailto:mvolwerk@igpp.ucla.edu). The list is confidential, and is only fully known to three persons and is not distributed.

If you visit the AGU this December in San Francisco, please join us for this family dinner and meet up with fellow LGBT scientists and have a good time. Announcement posters will be placed on various message boards during the meeting.

## Research Participants Sought for Sexual Orientation Study

University of Chicago researchers Khytam Dawood and Alan Sanders seek assistance in a research study entitled "Molecular Genetic Study of Sexual Orientation". The study seeks to recruit approximately 500 pairs of homosexual brothers and available parents in order to perform a linkage study to better understand the genetic contributions to this trait. A sample size of 500 brother pairs will allow the study to clear up some of the statistical uncertainty in this field of inquiry in previous work (~50 or fewer pairs of brothers each, and only examining the X chromosome, i.e., Dean Hamer's work and others). For further information, contact Alan Sanders, M.D., University of Chicago, phone: 773 834-3502, email: [asanders@yoda.bsd.uchicago.edu](mailto:asanders@yoda.bsd.uchicago.edu); website: <http://psychiatry.bsd.uchicago.edu/research/family-schizophrenia.html>

## US Patent Office Seeks Pride Participants

The United States Patent and Trademark Office, Office of Civil Rights, Subcommittee for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Issues seeks queer folk who hold patents and/or trademarks with the USPTO. In addition to simply identifying l/g/b/t inventors, they also seek inventors who would be willing to participate in their annual Pride event in June of 2001. People within commuting distance of the USPTO are especially encouraged to respond, due to budgetary limitations for travel support. For more information, contact Robert L. Pilaud, Patent Examiner, USPTO; Art Unit 3626, Crystal Park 5, Room 7U15; Phone: (703) 308-8156; email: [Robert.Pilaud@USPTO.GOV](mailto:Robert.Pilaud@USPTO.GOV)



# QUEER SCIENTISTS OF HISTORICAL NOTE



*Allan Cox* - 20th century American Geophysicist, specialist in paleomagnetism, and author of two well-know books on plate tectonics. Cox, originally a chemistry major as an undergraduate, discovered he had an instinctive eye for geology while performing summer field studies with his mentor and (future) lover Clyde Wahrhaftig. Cox and his colleagues developed a calendar showing the complicated and irregular schedule of polarity changes in the earth's past, and discovered evidence of plate tectonics. His work brought him many honors, include election to the National Academy of Sciences, and the American Geophysical Union's Fleming medal. Source: [www.agu.org/inside/awards/cox.html](http://www.agu.org/inside/awards/cox.html); Clyde Wahrhaftig, address to FLAG, 1990

*Sonja Kovalevsky* - 19th century Russian mathematician, developed Kovalevsky's theorem, editor of Acta Mathematica. Showing aptitude in mathematics at an early age, Kovalevsky is an example of a brilliant woman that encountered ridiculous barriers solely because of her gender. Women were not allowed to study in Russian universities, and her father considered it improper for her to study abroad. Kovalevsky entered a marriage of convenience and went to Germany to study with Karl Weierstrass. For her 1888 work "on the Problem of the rotation of a solid Body about a Fixed Point", she was awarded the famous Prix Bordin of the French Academy of Sciences. Source: [amazoncity.com](http://amazoncity.com) Museum of Women in Science and Technology

**Membership/Renewal Form (continued):**

Please list any other professional organizations that you belong to:

For New Members: How did you learn of NOGLSTP?

**WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP US WITH? (CIRCLE ANY THAT INTEREST YOU)**

- BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- HOLD OFFICE
- AAAS
- FUNDRAISING
- NEWSLETTER ARTICLES
- EDIT NEWSLETTER
- PRODUCE NEWSLETTER
- NEW PAMPHLET TOPICS
- GRANT WRITING
- G/L/B/T CAUCUS OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES (which one?)
- OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

**ABOUT NOGLSTP**

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF GAY AND LESBIAN SCIENTISTS AND TECHNICAL PROFESSIONALS, INC., is a nation-wide organization of lesbigay scientists and technical professionals, regional and caucus groups, and others interested in technical matters and the gay and lesbian community. NOGLSTP's goals include dialog with professional organizations, providing information, improving our member's employment and professional environment, opposing homophobia and stereotypes, educating the gay, scientific and general communities, and fostering inter-city contacts among our members. National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals, Inc. is a tax-exempt educational organization under IRS section 501(c)3, incorporated in the State of California (TAX ID # 95-4358685). Membership dues are \$15-25 (sliding scale) annually for non-students. Student dues are \$10 annually. After the first \$10, dues are tax deductible. \$5 extra for memberships outside the US for the extra postage. Please, US dollars only. Written correspondence may be addressed to: NOGLSTP, PO BOX 91803, Pasadena CA 91109-9813. For more information, see our web page at <http://www.noglstp.org/>

**Transitional Board:**

- Rochelle Diamond, Chair, Pasadena CA 626 791-4393  
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- Mark A. Tumeo, Member at Large, Cleveland OH 216 687-4860  
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**Regional/Caucus Board Representatives:**

- Actuaries Caucus:**  
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**Newsletter**

The **NOGLSTP Bulletin** is published quarterly. Articles are encouraged and gratefully received. Handwritten, typed, and magnetic (3.5" pc-FD) may be sent to the NOGLSTP office. If you have internet access, articles may be emailed the NOGLSTP Newsletter Editor, Charles Harless, at [charless@cs.ucla.edu](mailto:charless@cs.ucla.edu). Unauthorized reproduction, quotation, distribution, or plagiarism of this or any other NOGLSTP publication without the express consent of and attribution to NOGLSTP is prohibited.

WINTER NEWSLETTER INFORMATION  
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: **JANUARY 31**  
PUBLICATION MONTH: **FEBRUARY**