

NOGLSTP *Bulletin*

Summer 2013

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

NOGLSTP Nominee Binbin Chen Selected for "New Faces of Engineering College Edition"

NOGLSTP participates each year with the National Engineering Week Foundation's "New Faces of Engineering College Edition" on Facebook. The National Engineers Week Foundation and its partners (including NOGLSTP, a founding member of their Diversity Council) honor 15 of the most promising engineering students with the annual New Faces of Engineering College Edition. NOGLSTP's nominee this year was Binbin Chen of Georgia Tech, who was selected as one of the "New Faces of Engineering." He was featured on May 9 on the New Faces of Engineering College Edition's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/CollegeEdition>). He won a \$1000 scholarship from NOGLSTP in recognition of this achievement. He also won the best poster award at last Fall's Out to Innovate™ conference.

Binbin Chen is studying biomedical engineering, and his interest in medical research was inspired by undergraduate research on early cancer diagnosis and volunteer work with cancer patients. He has also done research on bone destruction in patients with sickle-cell disease. Binbin was awarded a NIH summer fellowship in 2012, and interned at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. He is a 2012 recipient of a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, an award given to undergraduates actively involved in research in mathematics, science or engineering; it is considered one of the nation's most prestigious awards given to undergraduates. Along with his research and academic achievements, Binbin has taken leadership roles in student organizations, and is involved in community service and activities in the engineering industry. He plans to continue his interests in research and clinical medicine by pursuing a Ph.D./M.D. Congratulations Binbin!



Binbin Chen and Barbara Belmont at the 2012 Out to Innovate™ summit

Twitter Welcomes NOGLSTP!

Social media is a central portal for connecting with and disseminating information to people online, including members of the scientific community. The combination of Twitter with Facebook enables organizations to reach many more people, including the up and coming generations of young scientists, and allows for greater access to support and resources. With that in mind, NOGLSTP is now actively engaging scientists and the LGBT community on Twitter under the handle @STEMforEquality. We're excited to use this fun and interactive medium to introduce scientists to our great organization and to grow the membership through social networking.

Leading the Twitter effort is Suzanne Kennedy, Ph.D., Director of Research and Development for MO BIO Laboratories, based in Carlsbad, California. Suzanne received her Ph.D. in microbiology and immunology in 1997 and has worked in both academics and in the life sciences industry. Her current work focuses on environmental microbiology (microbes in soil and water: think global warming research) and the human microbiome project, an effort to understand the variety of microbes living in and on the human body. You can connect with Suzanne via her own Twitter account, @Suzyscientist and also on linkedin.com. She loves networking and mentoring students and postdocs in careers in the life sciences.

If you haven't been bitten by the Twitter bug yet, why not give it a try? It's a great way to meet many more scientists across disciplines and provides a way to chat in real-time. It is fun when you build your following (called "tweeps") and start conversations with people with common interests. If you set up an account, go to the @STEMforEquality and "Follow" us and then look through our list of "Followers" to start connecting with LGBT and allied scientists. If you have any questions about Twitter and how it works, Suzanne is always happy to help answer your questions on social media.

You may see more activity on the NOGLSTP Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/NOGLSTP>) as well. We'll try to keep it updated with current events and interesting news for the scientific and LGBT community. Thanks for following, and we're looking forward to interacting with all of you through social media. Whether it is onTwitter, Facebook, or NOGLSTP's Linkedin page (<http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=1852925>), stay in touch!

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Office of Science and Technology Policy Student Volunteer Program *Application Deadline June 28*

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) is currently accepting applications for its Fall 2013 Student Volunteer Program. The Office of Science and Technology Policy advises the President on the effects of science and technology on domestic and international affairs. The office serves as a source of scientific and technological analysis and judgment for the President with respect to major policies, plans and programs of the Federal Government.

The application deadline is 11:59 p.m. Friday, June 28. Students who are U.S. citizens and who will be actively enrolled at an accredited college or university during the Fall 2013 semester are welcome to apply. More information and application instructions are available at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/about/student/>.

Student Volunteers are accepted for one of three annual terms (Spring, Summer, or Fall), which each last no more than 90 days. While these positions are without compensation, the assignments provide educational enrichment, practical work experience, and networking opportunities with other individuals in the science and technology policy arena.

For more information, please contact Rebecca Grimm at rgrimm@ostp.eop.gov

NOGLSTP Featured in *Science Careers* Article

NOGLSTP was featured in an online article on June 7 in the Science Careers section of *Science*, entitled: "Think Globally, Act Locally" by Jacqueline Ruttimann Oberst. The article can be found at: http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career_magazine/previous_issues/articles/2013_06_07/science.opms.r1300134

The article discusses many groups serving the STEM community to increase the "diverse fields of expertise, life experiences and perspectives," including NOGLSTP, recognizing that LGBTQ people play an important role in increasing diversity and inclusiveness in STEM fields. A focus of the article was on local chapters of national organizations that work to attract young people to science and technical fields, provide connections to mentors, role models and peers, and offer opportunities for scholarships, networking, developing professional skills and career advancement. NOGLSTP's signature program, the Out to Innovate™ Summit, was among the initiatives featured in the story, and NOGLSTP's own Rochelle Diamond was interviewed for the article.

NOGLSTP Raises Funds on National Give OUT Day

NOGLSTP raised some cash on RAZOO's National Give OUT Day on May 9, a nationwide online fundraising effort benefiting LGBTQA non-profits. Twenty-two donors gave to NOGLSTP in the 24-hour fundraiser, netting NOGLSTP over \$1000. NOGLSTP came in 33rd out of 233 National Small Group Non-Profits (with budgets < \$500K). Not a bad showing! Thanks to all of you generous supporters out there!! Everybody to their virtual rolodexes to prepare for Give OUT Day in 2014...

Nationwide Study of LGBTQ Experiences in STEM

A new nationwide survey seeks to understand the experiences of people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ) working in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. In the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), the social experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, or queer professionals are often overlooked. Those who work in STEM research or teaching know that LGBTQ colleagues are out there, if one knows where to look, but we know very little as a group about the LGBTQ folks who work in STEM. This systematic, nationwide survey seeks basic information about the work and lives of LGBTQ people in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Jeremy Yoder and Allison Mattheis conceived the study as a result of their own experiences as queer-identified researchers.

"In my field, there's a sort of unofficial network of LGBTQ folks," said Yoder, a postdoctoral associate in the Department of Plant Biology at the University of Minnesota. "But we're not especially organized, and we don't have any idea how many of us there are, or how we're doing as a group. I wondered if it's like that in other STEM career fields, and did some digging in the social science literature. But I didn't find much."

So Yoder contacted Mattheis, an educational policy and practice researcher who will begin a faculty position at California State University Los Angeles this fall. In their spare time, the two began building an online survey for LGBTQ professionals in STEM careers. They received Institutional Review Board approval for an anonymous, voluntary online questionnaire, and launched it on a dedicated website, www.queerstem.org, in early May.

"The response has been fantastic," said Mattheis. "We've had about 1,500 participants from across the U.S. and overseas, and we're receiving new responses daily." While they continue to collect responses to the online questionnaire, Mattheis and Yoder have begun the next phase of the study, sending a set of ten open-ended questions to participants who volunteer for follow-up inquiries. Phase three will involve individual interviews with a sample of these respondents.

Anyone working in a STEM field who identifies on the LGBTQ spectrum, or who knows friends or colleagues who do, can take the survey and help spread the word at www.queerstem.org.

NOGLSTP Collaborates on NIH Proposal for Research Mentoring Network

NOGLSTP joined with more than 20 other STEM professional societies to write a planning grant for developing a National Research Mentoring Network. Based on a NIH request for proposal, the consortium of societies hopes to provide a multi-organizational, multi-perspective, interdisciplinary approach for effective mentoring to the broadest range of underrepresented minority groups and women, including LGBTQ people, at different developmental stages of their careers. The goal is to increase the number of scientists among members of these groups, who would be intensively mentored in pursuing successful biomedical careers. Stay tuned to see if it is funded.

QuEST Activities

QuEST (Queer Engineers, Scientists and Technical Professionals of San Diego), a NOGLSTP affiliate, sponsored a 5.4 mile hike on May 25 in the Fortuna Mountains near San Diego. That was followed by a spring mixer on June 5th with 40+ people in attendance with a live performance provided by Ashley J. Currently, the focus of QuEST is on bringing the Queer STEM community around San Diego (from UCSD, Scripps Institute of Oceanography, Scripps Research Institute, and other regional institutions) together. They often plan hikes, career panels, or happy hours where members can meet each other and get a chance to share their own scientific interests with their peers.

QuEST has also partnered with other local groups (HRC San Diego, the UCSD LGBT Resource Center) for other events not specifically pertaining to the sciences, engineering, or mathematics. For more information on QuEST and its activities, visit www.sdquest.us

“It Gets Better” Videos from Caltech and NASA - Johnson Space Center

“It gets better” videos have been produced by people working at Caltech and the NASA Johnson Space Center.

Caltech’s “It gets better” video, featuring NOGLSTP folks, can be found at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=otQk1D7gILQ>

The Johnson Space Center/NASA “It gets better” video can be viewed at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yiCYoOjCcNw&feature=youtu.be>

ExxonMobil Shareholders Again Reject Gay Discrimination Ban

In late May, ExxonMobil again denied a bid to add sexual orientation to its official equal employment opportunity statement. Since 1999, this shareholder initiative has been voted on at the annual stockholder’s meeting. The proposal has been backed since 2010 by the office of New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli on behalf of the New York State Employees Retirement System.

An official from the New York State Comptroller’s office explained that the lack of specific protection of sexual orientation hurts the company’s ability to recruit employees from the broadest pool of talent. As social attitudes and the policies of other corporations on gay rights have changed drastically, Exxon Mobil has moved farther from the mainstream. According to the Human Rights Campaign, 88 percent of Fortune 500 companies have adopted written nondiscrimination policies prohibiting harassment and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, as have all the major oil companies that compete with ExxonMobil. ExxonMobil ranks last in the Human Rights Campaign Corporate Equality index of the Fortune 1000 corporations, with a score of negative 25 out of a possible 100.

Twenty-one states, the District of Columbia and more than 160 cities and counties have laws prohibiting employment discrimination based on sexual orientation. ExxonMobil maintains that it isn’t bound by these laws because of the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which supersedes state and local law. A constitutional challenge to DOMA is awaiting a decision by the Supreme Court. In countries where it is mandated by law, ExxonMobil has policies barring discrimination against gay and lesbian employees, and extends spousal benefits to same-sex married couples, but the company has gone to great lengths to avoid doing so in the United States. Mobil Oil had polices protecting gay and lesbian employees from discrimination, and provided benefits to same-sex couples, but these were rescinded when Exxon acquired Mobil in 1999.

IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES?

Check your mailing label. Your renewal date is in the upper right section of your address block. Your membership number is just to the left of your expiration date. If you have a trial membership, it says “trial” instead of a membership number. You may renew online at www.noglstp.org/memberservices, or fill out the form below (and on the other side of this page), and return it with your check to NOGLSTP, PO Box 91803, Pasadena CA 91109. You may also use this form to inform us of any address or area code changes. LAGLS and NOGLSTP-CR people: please renew through your regional group to enjoy discounts on dues.

Membership Form

To renew your NOGLSTP membership or become a member of NOGLSTP, support its activities, and receive a newsletter, complete this form and send it with a check or money order to:

NOGLSTP
PO BOX 91803
Pasadena CA 91109

Annual Membership Dues are:
\$40 (tax deductible after the 1st \$10)
\$20 for postdocs
\$45 NOGLSTP/National Postdoc Association discounted joint membership dues
\$10 for students and unemployed*
*inquire about our limited free memberships to ‘starving students’
Please pay in US Funds only.

Renewal New Info change only

Date:

Name:

Address:(don't forget your zip code!)

Newsletter preference: print email

Telephone:

Email/URL:

Latest Degree/Subject:

Job Title:

Do you want your name and phone/email printed on a membership roster to be released to other NOGLSTP members?
 YES NO

Do you want your email/URL to be placed on the NOGLSTP web page?
 YES NO

Don't forget to fill out the other side



Mark Your Calendars

- June 24-27: Expanding the Circle Summer Institute, San Francisco, CA



Membership/Renewal Form (continued): Special Techno-Interests or Expertise:

Please list any other professional organizations/societies that you belong to:

Are you a member of any of these groups?

- American Astronomical Society
- American Chemical Society
- Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Scientists
- Mathematics Association of America or American Mathematical Society
- National Postdoctoral Association
- NOGLSTP—Chesapeake Region
- NOGLSTP at Indiana University
- NOGLSTP at Purdue
- OSTEM
- San Diego QuEST

For New Members: How did you learn of NOGLSTP?

What would you like to help us with?

(CHECK ANY THAT INTEREST YOU)

- Serve on Board of Directors
- Serve as Chair or Secretary
- Help at AAAS events
- Organize or host local event
- Write newsletter articles
- Edit the newsletter
- Speak about/on behalf of NOGLSTP at an event
- Serve on recognition awards committee
- Assist with the Mentoring Program
- Assist with Out to Innovate career summit
- Write a grant proposal
- Evaluate scholarship applications
- Help with fundraising
- Start/represent a GLBT caucus at my professional society: _____
- Don't know but would like to help with something

NOGLSTP Recognition Awards - Submit Your Nominations

NOGLSTP is accepting nominations for their 2014 awards. We have many potential nominees out there, so here is your chance to nominate some of those well-qualified scientists, educators, engineers, and technical professionals to be the next award recipients. Nomination forms are available on the NOGLSTP web site under "recognition awards," and are editable Word documents for easy information entry and emailing. Please take the time to fill out a nomination now, don't wait until the deadline — we accept nominations at any time. We are looking forward to the next round of honorees for Scientist of the Year, Engineer of the Year, and Educator of the Year!

Member Services

The NOGLSTP member services site allows for self-serve member update and automated renewal notices. This member services area is also the gateway to access protected members-only areas, such as the Membership Roster, the NOGLSTP OutList, the opt-in e-list, and links to our social networking groups on Facebook and Tribe, and our professional networking group on LinkedIn.

Point your web browser to www.noglstp.org/memberservices and log in to explore or update your profile, or to renew your annual dues. Of course, you're welcome to renew or join the old-fashioned way with pen, paper, and check. You can use the clip-out form in this newsletter, or fill out a downloadable form from our website. We're happy to have your support any way you want to give it! *Attention LAGLS and NOGLSTP-CR Members: Please renew manually through your regional group and enjoy a significant discount on your NOGLSTP annual dues.*

ABOUT NOGLSTP

National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals is a 501(c)(3) educational organization and professional society of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people (and their advocates) employed or interested in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) fields. NOGLSTP empowers LGBTQ individuals in STEM by providing education, advocacy, professional development, networking, and peer support. NOGLSTP educates all communities regarding scientific, technological, and medical concerns of LGBTQ people. Written correspondence may be addressed to: NOGLSTP, PO BOX 91803, Pasadena CA 91109-9813. For more information, see our web site at www.noglstp.org

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