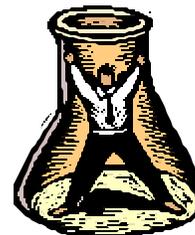




NOGLSTP



Bulletin Winter 2001

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

AAAS ANNUAL MEETING

Despite the dreary weather over President's Weekend, San Francisco was an exciting place to be when NOGLSTP hosted its 7th Annual Reception at the recent AAAS Annual Meeting. The catered affair was attended by 40-50 people, many of them first-time AAAS convention-goers who had never heard of NOGLSTP and were thrilled to find fellow travelers. Fortunately, there were sufficient longtime NOGLSTP members circulating to meet and greet all the newcomers. Mark your calendars for President's Weekend 2002, which is when the next AAAS meeting will be held in Boston.



At the NOGLSTP business meeting during that same convention, the board discussed plans to make some changes in order to add value to your membership in NOGLSTP, with plans for an updated web site, information about GLBT groups, and potential career networking opportunities within the next 6 months. Long range plans include a higher profile position in the community, greater contact with industry, and the creation of national awards for GLBT scientists and technical professionals. If you have ideas and/or opinions about these plans, be sure to share them with the NOGLSTP Office or a Board Member.

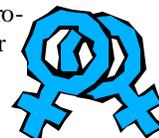
NOGLSTP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NOGLSTP has a new Board of Directors in place. A few familiar faces and a couple of new ones. Lets welcome the new Board of Directors and wish them the best of luck in organizing wonderful NOGLSTP events in the future. If you would like to contact any of the Directors, see the last page of this newsletter for names, telephone numbers, and email addresses.

MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Marriage Equality California
<http://www.marriageequalityca.com>

On Valentine's Day, Rep. Jerold Nadler (D-NY) introduced legislation, entitled the "Permanent Partner Immigration Act," that would allow all U.S. citizens to sponsor their partners to become U.S. residents. Although 75 percent of the 1 million green cards and immigrant visas issued each year go to family members of U.S. citizens and permanent residents, this opportunity is not afforded to same-sex couples. As a result, "dual passport" gay and lesbian couples are often forced to live apart, maintaining their relationships through infrequent phone calls and visits.



The United States currently lags far behind such democracies as Canada, South Africa, the United Kingdom and Australia in extending fair treatment in immigration policies to same-sex couples. The Nadler bill is an appropriate step in establishing equality in immigration standards for same-sex couples, allowing them to stay in committed relationships.

The PPIA would change the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) to include the term "permanent partner" in the sections of the law that grant immigration rights to "spouses." Currently, U.S. citizens are unable to use a committed relationship as grounds for sponsoring a same-gender partner's immigration application. By contrast, hundreds of thousands of heterosexual spouses are granted immigrant visas to the U.S. each year. The discrepancy means that gay and lesbian couples are often forced to live apart, move to a country with more accommodating immigration laws, or live illegally in the U.S. under the constant threat of deportation.

"This bill seeks to recognize the reality that a gay or lesbian couple is a family," said the ACLU in a statement. The PPIA might also open the door for unmarried opposite-sex couples to apply for immigration rights. The Board of Directors of Marriage Equality USA has voted to endorse this legislation.

Take Action! You can read more about this legislation and send a FREE FAX to your Representative, asking that U.S. immigration policy apply equally to the permanent partners of all American citizens. The information and fax form is on the ACLU web site at: <http://www.aclu.org/action/permanentpartner107.html>



EMPLOYEE NEWS

By Patti Michelle Sheaffer

Hello: My name is Patti Michelle Sheaffer and I am a senior MTS at The Aerospace Corp. in El Segundo, CA. I am a laboratory researcher in the field of gas-phase environmental chemistry, studying the effects of rocket launches on the ozone layer.

As a result of my efforts, and the support of management, we recently received the green light to form an LGBT caucus here which will be part of our existing corporate minority caucus network, which is called the Aerospace Diversity Action Committee (ADAC), and is composed of the Women's, Black, Asian-Pacific-Islander, and Latino Caucuses. We also were notified that the words "sexual orientation" will be included in our Diversity and Equal Employment Opportunity and anti-harassment policies. The company has never before acknowledged its LGBT employees during its prior 40 year history of supporting the Air Force Space Launch Operations.

The focus of our caucus, called Aerospace Gays, Lesbians and Friends (AGLAF) will follow the model of other caucuses in our ADAC and support and encourage employee involvement and achievement as well as role modeling and education about LGBT issues and thereby to the community at large. We have attended joint meetings with Boeing's LGBT group (BGLAF) and TRW's group and held discussions with the Cate Heneghan, the founder of JPL's LGBT caucus, Lambda. To support our outreach and education efforts, we have formed ties with PFLAG and wish to maintain contacts with other employee groups.

Official announcement will be made in April, and the first year's efforts will focus on outreach to employees already "in the closet" at Aerospace.

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FEDERAL AND POSTAL EMPLOYEES

FEDreport.com



Several lawmakers in the House of Representatives have been busy introducing legislation designed to help federal employees in a variety of ways. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) introduced the Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act of 2001, H.R. 638. Under this bill, a federal employee's same-sex or opposite sex domestic partner would be entitled to some of the same benefits as a spouse. The bill would allow federal employees' domestic partners to be eligible for retirement benefits under either the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) or the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS); life insurance benefits; health insurance; and compensation for work injuries. To be eligible, the federal employee would have to file a certificate of eligibility with OPM, and would have to inform OPM of the death of the partner or the dissolution of the partnership.

AIDS VACCINE SHOWS PROMISE

Reuters

Friday, March 9, 2001

A "one-two punch" of vaccinations appears to have scored a virtual knockout on the AIDS virus in monkeys. But will it work on people? Researchers reported on Thursday that an AIDS vaccine kept monkeys healthy for months after infection with an HIV-like virus, and scientists plan to begin testing early next year whether the same approach works with people.

Scientists called the results encouraging but cautioned that they did not know whether a similar vaccine would work in humans and that further study would take years. A vaccine is considered the best hope for stopping the AIDS epidemic, and several possible vaccines are in testing. But research has been slow with many failures. The new animal findings provide "some of the best evidence to date that a preventive HIV vaccine may protect against AIDS," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), which funded the research conducted with Emory University.

The vaccine did not prevent infection, but it did keep the virus in check at nearly undetectable levels for several months, according to research published in the journal *Science*. The hope is that such a vaccine could keep people healthy for years without the need for expensive and side effect-laden drugs and reduce chances of transmitting the virus to others.

The team plans to begin testing in humans early in 2001, looking first at whether a similar vaccine produces an immune response just as strong in people. "To learn whether it can actually protect against development of AIDS would take many more years," Moss said. The study was promising, though, because the researchers waited seven months to expose the monkeys to the virus, "showing immunological memory for a long period of time," Moss said.

PROPOSALS FOR APF PLACEK AWARDS

The American Psychological Foundation will offer two categories of Placek awards in 2001 and 2002 to fund research on lesbian, gay, and bisexual issues. Both types of awards are made possible by a large bequest from Wayne F. Placek to Evelyn Hooker. Both award competitions are open to researchers with a doctoral-level degree (Ph.D., Ed.D., MD, etc.) in any of the social or behavioral sciences.

The Placek Award is intended to encourage scientific research "to increase the general public's understanding of homosexuality and to alleviate the stress that gay men and lesbians experience in this and future civilizations." Several small grants -- up to \$5,000 each -- will be awarded for smaller - scale research projects consistent with the Placek Award program's goals.

For more information on both awards, please see the URL: <http://www.placekawards.org>. Application materials can also be obtained by US mail from: Wayne F. Placek Awards, American Psychological Foundation, 750 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20002-4242.

ORGANIZING AT CONVENTIONS

Do you attend your professional society conventions? Consider organizing a gathering of gblt colleagues while you're there. The NOGLSTP office will be happy to provide brochures and lend you a banner for the occasion. Does a reception seem like too much effort? How about simply gathering for dinner or drinks? Take pictures of your gathering and we'll put them in the newsletter. Contact the NOGLSTP office for more information.



TECHNOQUEERS IN THE BIG TIME MEDIA

The Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Scientists' own Kate Hutton, staff seismologist at Caltech, is practically the centerfold in the March 13th issue of *The Advocate*. Out since 1984, "the earthquake lady" is

well known for her calming presence and patience with television reporters whenever Southern California has a notable earthquake. Featured in the same issue is an article about Lynn Conway, an MTF transsexual and computer engineer who was a pioneer in the field of very large-scale integrated circuits. Conway is also credited with coming up with the technology to allow computers to simultaneously perform multiple tasks even if the tasks aren't in sequential order. This is an *Advocate* worth reading; several of its stories are about high tech and our community.

GLBT MATHEMATICIANS

GLBT Mathematicians held their 7th Annual Reception at the Joint Meetings of the MAA (Math. Assoc. of America), AMS (Amer. Math. Soc.), SIAM (Soc. for Industrial and Applied Math.), and AWM (Assoc. for Women in Math.) this past January.

NATIONAL LESBIAN HEALTH CONFERENCE

Please submit your abstracts now online at www.gлма.org for the National Lesbian Health Conference 2001. Plan on joining us there!

ATTENTION QUEER CHEMISTS!

The American Chemical Society National Meeting is April 1-5 in San Diego. Arrangements are not yet complete as this newsletter goes to press, but NOGLSTP chemists are planning a get-together during the ACS National Meeting. Point your web browser to <http://www.noglstp.org/lgbchem/meetings.html> to stay informed of last-minute updates.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Joint conference of National Association of Minority Engineering Program Administrators and Women in Engineering Programs and Advocates Network: April 21-24, 2001, Alexandria VA.



IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES?

Check your mailing label. If it says 200103-200105, it is time to renew your dues. If it says 200011-200102, or trial2, it is past time to renew or join, and this will be your final newsletter unless we hear from you. We need and appreciate your continued support. Please 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*. Remember to add \$5 US if you are subscribing outside of the US. Thank you. You may also use this form to inform us of any changes.

cut here and return form

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:

\$15-25 (sliding scale) (tax deductible after the 1st \$10)

\$10 for students and unemployed*

*inquire about our limited free memberships to 'starving students'

\$5 extra for memberships outside of the US
(for the extra postage) (US Funds only, please!)

Renewal New Info change only

Name: _____

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

Telephone: _____

Email/URL: _____

Technointerest or profession:

Latest Degree/Subject:

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 →

QUEER SCIENTISTS OF HISTORICAL NOTE

Leonardo da Vinci - 15th century Italian artist, scientist, and engineer, researcher of human anatomy, mathematics, and the potential for human flight. He was publicly denounced as a "sodomite" at age 24, along with a 17-year-old friend and two other young men. He never married, and willed all his possessions to a young man, Francisco Melzi. *Source: The Gay 100, Paul Russell, Citadel Press, Carol Publishing Group, NY, 1994*



Bruce Voeller - 20th century American biologist and AIDS researcher who pioneered the use of nonoxynol-9 as a spermicide and topical virus-transmission preventative. A prominent gay rights activist, Voeller cofounded the National Gay Task Force, and served as its executive director for 5 years. He established the Mariposa foundation, to conduct human sexuality research, placing special emphasis on reducing the risks of sexually transmitted diseases. At the time of his death, Voeller's research centered on the reliability of various brands of condoms in preventing the spread of diseases., and on viral leakage studies for the (then) recently approved "female" condom. *Source: New York Times Obituaries, 1994*

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/>

Board of Directors:

Rochelle Diamond, Chair, Pasadena CA <i>diamond@its.caltech.edu</i>	626 791-4393
John Burke, Member at Large, Dallas TX <i>j-burke@raytheon.com</i>	972 503-6867
Mark Tumeo, Member at Large, Cleveland OH <i>m.tumeo@csuohio.edu</i>	216 687-4860
Arnold Zwicky, Member at Large, Palo Alto CA <i>zwicky@csl.stanford.edu</i>	

Regional/Caucus Board Representatives:

Actuaries Caucus:

Ron Gebhardt'sbauer, Washington DC <i>gebhardt'sbauer@actuary.org</i>	202 244-8395
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Alternative Modalities Caucus :

Alice Rozic, Athens OH <i>ar176589@oak.cats.ohiou.edu</i>	614 592-1709
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Atmospheric Scientists' Caucus:

Sim Aberson, Miami FL <i>ABERSON@aoml.noaa.gov</i>	305 361-4334
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LGBT Chemists and Allies:

Barbara Belmont, Pasadena, CA <i>barbara@dreamweaverproductions.net</i>	626 791-7689
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Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Scientists :

Rochelle Diamond, Pasadena, CA <i>diamond@its.caltech.edu</i>	626 791-4393
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Natural History Group:

Lionel Ruberg, New York, NY <i>LionelRuberg@bestweb.net</i>	914 276-0654
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Statisticians' Caucus:

Frank Vitrano, Baltimore MD <i>fvitrano@census.gov</i>	410 366-0906
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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 e-mailed to the NOGLSTP Newsletter Editor, Charles Harless, at 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.