

# NOGLSTP *Bulletin*

Fall 2004

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

## 2005 AAAS Symposium

### Defining Male and Female: Biology and the Law

NOGLSTP will be presenting the above entitled symposium in the Societal Implications for Medical Advance track at the American Association for the Advancement of Science Annual Meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup> in Washington D.C. This topical event has been well received by the AAAS press office, and is supported by the AAAS Section on Societal Impacts of Science and Engineering (Section X). AAAS has already assigned a press officer to the presentation and is scheduling a press briefing for the day before the symposium. The symposium has been co-organized by NOGLSTP Board Members Rochelle Diamond and Mark Tumeo, and will be moderated by AAAS Section X's Stephanie Bird. This Symposium presenters and their topics are:

- Eric Vilain (UCLA School of Medicine, Department of Human Genetics): *Intersexualities*
- William Reiner (Oklahoma University Health Science Center): *When upside down is right side up*
- Mara Keisling (National Center for Transgender Equality): *Laws: Protections, Prohibitions, and Their Affect on Communities*
- Susan Becker (Cleveland-Marshall College of Law): *The Legal Challenges of Sexual Identity*

#### Symposium Abstract

In a maelstrom of politics, court rulings, and proposals to amend constitutions to defend the concept of marriage, the definition of male and female gender has become a serious issue. Both current laws and proposed city, county, state, and federal legislative acts are relying on a definition of gender based on sexual dimorphism. The state of that definition is

*(Continued on page 3 "Symposium Abstract")*

## NOGLSTP Member Writes a Commentary

Every once in a while a participant on the NOGLSTP e-list raises his/her activation state and brings the discussion to the outside world. Such was the case on November 19<sup>th</sup>, when Steven Jacquier's opinion piece was picked up by the United Press International entitled "Outside View: Gender & the marriage debate". Steven resides with his partner and children in Anchorage, Alaska, and has worked in the sciences and education for more than 20 years as a teacher, researcher, and university professor. He is a senior fellow of the Alaska Science Consortium. Read the article at:

[www.washingtontimes.com/upi-breaking/20041117-092204-4819r.htm](http://www.washingtontimes.com/upi-breaking/20041117-092204-4819r.htm)

## NOGLSTP Represented at Fall Out and Equal Leadership Summit

Two members of the NOGLSTP board of directors — Rochelle Diamond (representing NOGLSTP) and John Burke (representing Raytheon) — attended the early October Out and Equal 2004 Workplace Summit Conference in Tempe AZ. It was a very exciting meeting of nearly 800 participants representing many corporate entities. From the NOGLSTP perspective there were at least 63 corporate sponsors of the conference, 22 or more who employ scientific and technical professionals (see below). Most all of these companies have glbt employee resource groups or are actively organizing for one. It was a fun-filled few days of networking, glad-handing, and raising the visibility of NOGLSTP to the corporate world. By the end of the meeting NOGLSTP had exhausted its supply of business cards, membership brochures, and newsletters.

One interesting development that occurred during the course of this summit, was that NOGLSTP was approached by representatives of IBM. Apparently they had been looking for us to discuss a mutual interest. Rochelle Diamond met briefly with members of their EAGLE (Employee Alliance for Gay & Lesbian Equality) group who have subsequently sent us an informal proposal to us regarding the creation of an international society for technical students. A committee has been formed to explore the possibility of a mutual partnership between NOGLSTP and EAGLE/IBM for such a project.

Corporate Out and Equal participants who employ scientists and technical professionals were Raytheon, IBM, Intel, Motorola, Texas Instruments, General Motors, Proctor and Gamble, Northrup Grumman, GlaxoSmithKline, Chevron/Texaco, Daimler Chrysler, Dell, Ford, Freescale, HP, Kodak, Microsoft, Sun, Boeing, Genentech, Los Alamos, Oracle, Kaiser Permanente, SC Johnson, General Electric, Pfizer, Cargill (IMC Global), Dupont, and Merck.

## Inside this Issue of the NOGLSTP Bulletin:

<i>Defining Male and Female: Biology and the Law; NOGLSTP Member Writes a Commentary; NOGLSTP Represented at Fall Out and Equal Leadership Summit</i>	1
<i>Thanks to Raytheon; Child Development Study: Teens adjust well with gay parents; AIDS Infections are at all-time high; Researchers stimulate AIDS antibodies; Study finds genetic factors; 3rd Annual Corporate Equality Index Available; Advertisement: University of Toronto</i>	2
<i>Kansas judge dismisses trans gender fraud case; Call for GLBT Scientist/Engineer of the Year Nominations; NOGLSTP Activities at 2005 AAAS Meeting; Membership Renewal Form</i>	3
<i>Technoquer of Contemporary Note: Amanda Simpson—Rocket Scientist/ Politician; About NOGLSTP</i>	4

*Many thanks to Raytheon Company for its generous donation of \$2000 to NOGLSTP this past summer.*

### **Child Development Study: Teens adjust well with gay parents**

A paper published in the November issue of *Child Development* entitled "Psychosocial Adjustment, School Outcomes, and Romantic Relationships of Adolescents With Same-Sex Parents" by Jennifer L. Wainright, Stephen T. Russell, and Charlotte J. Patterson concluded that there is no difference in school performance, psychological adjustment, and sexual behavior in terms of depression, anxiety, sexual activity, self-esteem and school grades among children reared by same-sex parents compared with those reared by opposite-sex parents.

#### **Bad new/good news:**

### **AIDS Infections are at all-time high**

AIDS virus infections have reached a record high in the world this year, and the number of women with H.I.V. has risen in every region of the world, the United Nations said in its annual report on AIDS in advance of the December 1<sup>st</sup> World AIDS Day. An estimated 39.4 million people are living with the virus, up from 38.1 million in 2003. AIDS-related deaths will reach an estimated 3.1 million this year, researchers reported, the highest death toll in the 23-year history of the disease. The UN report emphasizes the increase in women, who make up nearly half of infected adults. The steepest increases in this group over the last two years have occurred in East Asia, followed by Eastern Europe and Central Asia. In Africa, the most heavily affected continent, women account for nearly 60 percent of infected people.

In the United States, the disease has historically been the highest among gay and bisexual men and remains so, representing the largest proportion of new infections, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Other high-risk groups in the U.S. include youth and people of color, particularly African Americans, who make up only 13 percent of the population but account for more than half of new infections.

The Bush administration has pledged to spend \$15 billion over five years to fight AIDS worldwide, but will it be enough?

### **Researchers stimulate AIDS antibodies**

French researchers have announced that, in laboratory conditions, they had stimulated antibodies that dramatically barred the AIDS virus from infecting human immune cells. The study, lead-authored by Ara Hovanessian of the Pasteur Institute and National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), was recently published in the specialist journal, *Immunity*. The researchers have targeted a tiny area of a surface protein that is common across the range of HIV types. This area, CBD1, is part of the gp41 protein. CBD1 binds to a protein in the T-lymphocyte immune cell called caveolin-1, which the Aids virus docks to and infiltrate its target. They made antisera in rabbits to their synthesized CBD1 peptides. Exposing human T-cells infected with the AIDS virus to the antisera proved to be a remarkable shield against a range of sub-types of HIV-1 which opens up the possibility for an active vaccine.

### **Study finds genetic factors, along with cultural / early experiences, influence male homosexuality**

Reminiscent of the Dean Hamer studies a decade ago, an October paper in the *Biological Sciences Proceedings of the Royal Society* concludes that there is an increase in homosexuality in the maternal line of gay men. Again a linkage to the X chromosome seems to be involved but other chromosomes are probably involved as well that could partly explain male homosexuality. The results are based on a study of 98 homosexual and 100 heterosexual men and about 4,600 of their relatives. The scientists compared the frequency of gay men on the maternal and paternal lines of the families. Among homosexuals there were a greater number of gay men in the maternal line of the family, as well as greater fertility in the female relatives. The higher fertility rate may keep the gay trait in the genealogical line regardless of the gay men's childlessness.

### **3rd Annual Corporate Equality Index**

HRC Foundation published its third annual report card on corporate America's treatment of LGBT employees in September. Called the Corporate Equality Index, the report card rates Fortune 500 and other major companies on a scale from 0 to 100 percent on seven key indicators of fair treatment. These include policies prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity and health care benefits for employees' partners. The number of companies that scored 100 percent doubled in one year to 56, the report found. You can download the report from: [www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org)

#### *Paid advertisement—University of Toronto*

The Department of Geography and Program in Planning, University of Toronto, invites applications for a tenure-stream appointment in the field of **Physical Geography**. The appointment will be at the rank of **Assistant Professor** and will begin on July 1, 2005. We seek candidates with expertise in physical geography and with interests in landscape processes and/or paleoenvironments. Field, laboratory and experimental approaches are an important asset and would complement the Department's considerable strength in these areas.

The successful candidate will be expected to develop an externally funded research program and undertake graduate supervision and teaching. Teaching at the undergraduate level will be in both B.Sc. and B.A. programs. The successful candidate must have a Ph.D. in geography or a closely related discipline, an established record of high quality scholarly research and publication, and a demonstrated commitment to teaching. Additional information on the Department can be obtained through the World Wide Web at <http://www.geog.utoronto.ca/>

Please send applications to Professor Joseph R. Desloges, Chair, Department of Geography and Program in Planning, University of Toronto, 100 St. George Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 3G3. Applications should include a curriculum vitae, a statement outlining current and future research interests, examples of publications, and materials relevant to teaching experience. Applicants should also ask three referees to write letters directly to Professor Desloges. Materials must be received by **January 10, 2005 (no e-mail applications will be accepted)**.

The University of Toronto is strongly committed to diversity within its community and especially welcomes applications from visible minority group members, women, Aboriginal persons, persons with disabilities, members of sexual minority groups, and others who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas. We offer opportunities to work in many collaborative programs, including Aboriginal, Canadian, environmental, ethno-cultural, sexual diversity, gender and women's studies. The University of Toronto offers the opportunity to teach, conduct research and live in one of the most diverse cities in the world.

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.

**Nominate an out colleague for GLBT scientist or engineer of the year for outstanding contributions to their profession. Details can be found at [www.noglstp.org/awards.php](http://www.noglstp.org/awards.php) Deadline Extended to December 15, 2004**

## IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES?

Check your mailing label. If it says 200408-200412, it is time to renew your membership. If it says 200404-200407, 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. You may renew online (and pay with a credit card) at [www.noglstp.org/memberservices.php](http://www.noglstp.org/memberservices.php), 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. Remember to add \$5US if you are subscribing outside of the US. You may also use this form to inform us of any address or area code changes.

cut here

### 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:  
**\$15-35 (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 

### Kansas judge skirts issue of defining male and female in dismissing transgender fraud case

Leavenworth County District Judge Frank Stewart has ruled that MTF bride Sandy Gast was not guilty of "false swearing," when she filled out a marriage license application as a female last February. She was arrested on a misdemeanor charge of fraud after she filed as female on forms last February preparing to marry Georgi Somers who filed as a male but is also MTF. Gast was represented by the ACLU and contested the charge. The judge ruled that Gast may not have intended to defraud the state, and that she may have truly believed she was female, since the state had no way of knowing what was on her mind the charge of lying could not be proven.

(*"Symposium Abstract", Continued from page 1*)

biologically confusing in real life for a significant number of people. What is the biological definition of male and female? Is sex determined by DNA, external genitalia, or some other defining characteristic(s)? How is sexual identity formed? The frequency of live births that deviate from the ideal male and female anatomical gender may be as high as 2 percent in the population (Blackless, et al American Journal of Human Biology Vol. 12, Issue 2, pp. 151-166). Many biological diversities make up this statistic, but the common thread is that they all deviate from the platonic ideal male or female. Many intersex babies, born with ambiguous genitalia, receive "corrective" surgery after birth. Some babies born "ideal" have the misfortune of a birthing "accident" and, no longer considered ideal, receive "corrective" surgery changing their gender. Recent evidence indicates that the surgery has negative physical and psychological results for many intersexuals (Reiner and Gearhart, New England Journal of Medicine vol. 350, Jan. 22 2004). These and other kinds of developmental, biological conditions can contribute to gender bending as well. Still, these biological expressions are not alone in the confusion of defining gender. The complex and changing anatomies of transexuals and transgenders also complicate gender defined legal determinations. How these biological and anatomical aspects relate to the implementation of current and future law formulated on the basis of sexual dimorphism will be discussed.

Individual presentation details can be found by following the links at [http://php.aaas.org/meetings/MPE\\_01.php?detail=487](http://php.aaas.org/meetings/MPE_01.php?detail=487)

### Save the Dates: NOGLSTP Activities at the AAAS Annual Meeting, Washington DC, Feb 17-21, 2005

- February 19, 2005, 8-11 am, **NOGLSTP Symposium: Defining Male and Female: Biology and the Law** (you must be registered for the AAAS meeting to attend; [www.aaas.org/meetings/Annual\\_Meeting/01\\_REG/Register.shtml](http://www.aaas.org/meetings/Annual_Meeting/01_REG/Register.shtml))
- February 19, 2005, 4-6 pm, Marriott Wardman Park, Embassy Room, Washington DC: **NOGLSTP Reception and Awards Ceremony** (all interested people welcome to attend)
- February 20, 2005, 11-1 pm, Marriott Wardman Park, Park Tower Suite 8211, Washington DC: **NOGLSTP Business Meeting** (all NOGLSTP members interested in participating in organizational matters are welcome to attend)

**Technoqueer of Contemporary Note:  
Amanda Simpson – Rocket Scientist/ Politician**

Amanda Simpson has a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics, a Masters of Science degree in Engineering, and an MBA in Business Administration. She has been in the aerospace industry for 23 years, working at Raytheon Missile Systems Company since 1983. Her duties at Raytheon have included contributing scientist, flight trainer, and currently chief engineer. She also co-owned a professional flight training school while working at Raytheon. She has been an airline transport pilot and has flown over 50 aircraft types. What sets this engineer apart from her colleagues is her genuine passion for making the state of Arizona a better place to live for all citizens. She has sat on a city of Tucson commission on LGBT Issues working to pass inclusive anti-discrimination ordinances and domestic partner registries, the only city in Arizona to do so. She has served on the board of Arizona Human Rights Fund and has been a speaker on gender and gender issues. She is also a member of the Southern Arizona Gender Alliance and consulted for the National Center for Transgender Equality, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Gender PAC and the Human Rights Campaign. Her passion for her fellow citizens led her to seek the office this year, running for the Arizona State House of Representatives of the 26<sup>th</sup> District. She received the endorsement of several Arizona state representatives, city council members, county administrators, as well as a U.S. Congressman and her area's Indian Tribe chief of police. Alas, she was defeated, but she put up a courageous fight securing over 20% of the vote ( the two incumbents had 32% and 28% respectively). If she had been elected, Amanda would have been the first person elected to office as an out transgender person. She says that she learned a lot from the experience and she plans to run again. We wish her well in her next campaign.

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

Please list any other professional organizations that you belong to:

Special Techno-Interests or Expertise:

For New Members: How did you learn of NOGLSTP?

**WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP US WITH?** (CHECK 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 lesbigaytrans scientists and technical professionals and others interested in technical matters and the glbt 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 queer, 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), and is an affiliate of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Written correspondence may be addressed to: NOGLSTP, PO BOX 91803, Pasadena CA 91109-9813. For more information, see our web page at [www.noglstp.org](http://www.noglstp.org)

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**Newsletter**

The **NOGLSTP Bulletin** is published quarterly. Contributed articles are encouraged, and may be e-mailed as plain text to office@noglstp.org . Next publication deadline: January 15, 2005

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