

NOGLSTP *Bulletin*

Late Spring 2009

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

NOGLSTP Appoints New Board Members

We are pleased to announce three new Members at Large have been appointed to the NOGLSTP Board of Directors. Elected by acclamation at a recent Board Meeting were Dr. Christopher Bannoche, Ms. Marcie Mathis, and Dr. Ken Shepard. Bannoche is a chemist, and is a past recipient of the Walt Westman Award for his service to NOGLSTP. Mathis is an electrical engineer, and Shepard is a professor of electrical engineering. Their two-year terms begins July 1.

Would YOU like to be involved in NOGLSTP leadership in some way? If you have ideas, comments, or interest in actively participating in the navigation of this organization, feel free to contact the NOGLSTP office.

Round 3...

Invasion of the Privacy Snatchers

In the fall of 2007, NOGLSTP presented a workshop at the Out and Equal Workplace Summit entitled "*Security Clearance Issues: Special Concerns for LGBT Scientists*" which opened up a discussion regarding Jet Propulsion Laboratory employees' outrage over new security policies imposed by NASA and Homeland Security. These draconian policies include disclosure of financial, medical, and psychiatric records and forcing workers to sign a waiver giving access to virtually all personal information in order to obtain an identification badge needed to keep their jobs. The government also wanted permission to gather information by third party interviews and at one point posted an internal memo with an "issue characterization chart" that indicated they would be looking for a "pattern of irresponsibility as reflected in credit history...sodomy...incest... abusive language... unlawful assembly" in addition to stating that homosexuality could be a security issue under some circumstances. (source: Tim Rutton, *LA Times* 6/6/09). Twenty-eight JPL scientists filed suit and an additional 300 scientists and staff signed a petition saying they had agreed to the questionnaire and waivers only because they had been coerced with the threat of losing their jobs. It has been traveling through the courts ever since. The original suit was rejected in by a federal judge, but a three-judge panel of the US 9th Circuit Court of Appeals stayed the background checks. The Department of Justice appealed and demanded another hearing by a larger panel. This was rejected by the court on June 5th, however three justices dissented, which will invite a review of the majority's decision by the U.S. Supreme Court with Chief Judge Alex Kozinski arguing that the high court ought to decide more definitely whether there is a "constitutional right to informational privacy". Attorney General Eric Holder Jr. will now decide whether the appeal will go to the federal Supreme Court. NOGLSTP has always been concerned with privacy rights, having written two educational pamphlets on the subject through the years.

Rescinding Domestic Partnership Benefits

Arizona legislators have inserted a provision in the state budget that would legally define "dependents" of state employees who are entitled to health insurance coverage as a spouse or a child younger than 19 — or younger than 23 if a full-time student. This would gut the regulations put into place by then Governor Janet Napolitano (now heading Homeland Security for the Obama Administration) which added domestic partners into the Arizona employee benefit pool. According to the state about 750 workers who have signed up for the benefits would be affected which they claim adds \$3 million cost to the state facing a budget deficit. University employees, state engineers, geologists, and laboratory workers and others would be affected, which may cause the state to lose valuable talent as University of Michigan found out when they lost Dr. Michael Falk (2008 NOGLSTP Educator of the Year) last year to John Hopkins University. (source: *365gay.com*)

On another front, Exxon/Mobil again fought off domestic partner benefits for company employers at their annual stockholder meeting held at the end of May in Dallas. The voting is getting closer with 39.3% shares voting in favor compared to 8.2% in 2000. In addition, shareholders at the world's largest oil company continued to reject a proposal by the New York City Comptroller, New York City Pension Funds, and the Human Rights Campaign to add "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" to the company's official equal employment opportunity policy. LGBT workers had been included in employment policies at Mobil. In December 1999 when Mobil merged with Exxon and under Exxon's direction, the policy was abandoned. At the same time, it closed Mobil's domestic partner benefits program to any more employees. (source: *365gay.com*)

Inside this Issue:

Page 1: NOGLSTP Appoints New Board Members; Invasion of the Privacy Snatchers, Rescinding Domestic Partnership Benefits

Page 2: Regional and Caucus News, New Face of Engineering, Out and About with NOGLSTP

Page 3: Member Services, Networking with NOGLSTP Members, Mark Your Calendars, Renewal Form

Page 4: Uniting American Families Act Gets Hearing in Congress, Gay Penguin Partners Make Warm Parents, About NOGLSTP

Regional and Caucus News

NOGLSTP- Chesapeake Region

The National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals - Chesapeake Region had a fun start to June's LGBT Pride Month with a Pride Kickoff Barbeque on Sunday, May 31, at an Annapolis home of a NOGLSTP-CR member. June will be a busy month for NOGLSTP-CR, with their presence at both the Capital Pride Festival on Sunday, June 14, and the Baltimore Pride Festival on Sunday, June 21.

NOGLSTP at Purdue

NOGLSTP at Purdue is proud to announce their incoming officers for the new academic year. They include President Alex Reyes, Treasurer Eric Plant and Professor Keith Bowman as advisor to the group. Stepping down as their president, Kay Johnson will continue as their NOGLSTP representative to the NOGLSTP board of directors. Kay was instrumental in founding the group and setting up an infrastructure that will ensure their presence on the Purdue campus. In addition, the group has changed the culture on campus by virtue of its visibility, activism, and events on campus. It has created important documents including:

- *Creating an LGBTQ Inclusive Purdue*
- *Enhancing recruitment and retention of LGBT graduate students to increase the number, quality and diversity of Graduate School applicants*
- *Purdue Campus Single User Restrooms* (survey with map)

These can all be perused at: <http://www.noglstp.net/purdue/>.

The group had a busy spring meeting with the Mayor of West Lafayette. They discussed a survey sent out by the West Lafayette Human Relations Commission, getting gender expression in the West Lafayette anti-discrimination statement, and comments made by Randy Truitt, West Lafayette city councilor, regarding Purdue students. The Mayor seemed very interested in and concerned about dialogue with the university, especially in regards to the environment for queers on and off campus. They sponsored a GAYPRIL career forums by IBM and Shell Oil on campus both highlighting LGBT workplace equality policies and friendly environments for their employees.

Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Scientists

LAGLS enjoyed a March outing to the Data + Art exhibit at the Pasadena Museum of California Art, followed by dinner out.

Association of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Mathematicians

NOGLSTP member George Bradley organized a reception for LGBT folk at the Joint Mathematics Meeting this past January. Next event: January 2010 in San Francisco.

LGBT Chemists and Allies

LGBT Chemists and Allies will have a reception at the national American Chemical Society meeting this August in Washington DC. The event is scheduled for Tuesday August 18, 5:30-7pm, at the Renaissance Washington, and is sponsored by the ACS President. The group is also planning dinner out that evening after the reception. Check www.noglstp.net/lgbtchemists periodically for updates and details.

New Face of Engineering

NOGLSTP is pleased to announce that Robert Castor, our nominee for E-Week's *New Faces of Engineering* campaign, was featured among 14 other young engineers in a full-page ad in *USA Today* during Engineers Week 2009 in February. A graduate of the University of Texas, Austin, with a degree in chemical engineering, Mr. Castor combines his passion for environmental protection and sustainability with his engineering background. He maintains compliance with government regulations regarding air emissions, waste water, and storm water for Freescale Semiconductor. Full story at <http://www.eweek.org/site/Engineers/newfaces2009/castor.shtml>

Out and About with NOGLSTP

NOGLSTP Chair Rochelle Diamond and Treasurer Barbara Belmont staffed an information table at the West Coast Out for Work Career Fair in April. Pictured in photo, left to right:



Alex Gant (Out for Work), Rochelle Diamond, Barbara Belmont.

NOGLSTP held its annual Recognition Awards Reception during the AAAS Annual Meeting in Chicago this past February. The crowd was appreciative and animated, and many interesting discussions were overheard. Pictured above:



NOGLSTP-CR representative Bob Ryan (left), NOGLSTP Board Member Tim Wilson (second from left), NOGLSTP at Purdue Representative Kay Johnson (middle), NOGLSTP Board Member John Burke (mid-right).

After the reception, Board members and Awardees enjoyed dinner out. Pictured below: 2009 GLBT Engineer of the Year Anthony Gingiss (second from right), 2009 GLBT Scientist of the Year James Nowick (second in from left of middle), and many more.



Member Services

NOGLSTP upgraded its member services site last year to a more robust package that allows for self-serve member update, email notification of manual dues updates, automates renewal notices, and integrates on-line and off-line data keeping. You will receive email reminders to renew your membership — two weeks before expiration, and 30 and 60 days after expiration if you don't renew. 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. If you don't know how to log in, enter your email address and you will be sent your user name and password. Of course, you're welcome to renew or join the old-fashioned way with pen, paper, and check. You can use the tear 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.*

Networking with NOGLSTP Members

In addition to NOGLSTP's opt-in e-list, where you can make announcements and engage in discussions, you can now connect with your fellow members through the popular LinkedIn, Facebook, and Tribe websites. The LinkedIn group is intended for professional networking. The Facebook and Tribe groups are intended for social networking. Links to each of these groups can be found in the Members Only Area of NOGLSTP's Member Services section of our website: www.noglstp.org/memberservices. You need to be logged in to view the links.

Mark Your Calendars

- June 15-17: American Society for Engineering Education annual conference, Austin TX; NOGLSTP will be staffing a shared Diversity Exhibit sponsored by DuPont
- August 18: LGBT Chemists and Allies reception at American Chemical Society National Meeting in Washington DC
- October 6-9: Out and Equal workplace Summit, Disney's Coronado Springs Resort FL
- October 15: Society for Women Engineers workshop "LGBT and Allies in the Workplace", sponsored by DuPont
- October 16: Society for Advancement of Chicano and Native American Scientists reception for LGBTQ attendees, 8:30-9:30 pm, Sheraton Hotel, Dallas TX
- January 2010: Association of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Mathematicians reception during the Joint Mathematics Meeting, Moscone Center, San Francisco CA, details TBA
- January 2010: American Meteorological Society reception for LGBT attendees, details TBA
- February 2010: NOGLSTP Recognition Awards reception, Symposium, and Career Roundtable during American Association for Advancement of Science Annual Meeting, San Diego CA, details TBA

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.



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:

\$25-40 (sliding scale) (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!)

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 →

The "Uniting American Families Act" Gets Hearing in Congress

The Senate Judiciary Committee held the first-ever Congressional hearing on obstacles faced by lesbian and gay couples under U.S. immigration law June 3rd. The "Uniting American Families Act" would allow Americans in a same-sex relationship to sponsor their "permanent partners" for legal residency in the United States, a right currently afforded only to opposite-sex couples under immigration law. Sponsored by Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Congressman Jerold Nadler (D-NY) in the House, the bill would add the term "or permanent partner" to those sections of the Immigration and Naturalization Act that apply to legally married couples." Permanent partner" is described as an adult who is in a committed, intimate relationship with another adult in "which both parties intend a lifelong commitment." The legislation would afford equal immigration benefits to permanent partnerships - but would also apply the same restrictions and enforcement standards.

One of the people testifying was Gordon Stewart, a native of Vermont who was forced to sell his family's farm and relocate to London to be with his partner, who is Brazilian. Stewart, who transferred his job with Pfizer Pharmaceuticals to the United Kingdom, has been welcomed in that country, where his partner received a visa to be with him. Under U.S. immigration law, his partner was unable to join him in the United States, and Stewart was forced to leave his family behind to be with the person he loves.



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

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
- MENTORING PROJECT
- NEWSLETTER ARTICLES
- EDIT NEWSLETTER
- PRODUCE NEWSLETTER
- NEW PAMPHLET TOPICS
- GRANT WRITING
- G/L/B/T CAUCUS OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES (which one?)
- OTHER _____

Gay Penguin Partners Make Warm Parents

A pair of gay male penguins in the Berlin's Bremerhaven Zoo are raising a chick from an egg abandoned by its parents in late April. The males incubated it for some 30 days before it hatched and have continued to care for it. The chick's gender is not yet known. Bremerhaven zoo veterinarian Joachim Schoene said the male birds, named Z and Vielpunkt, are one of three same-sex pairs among the zoo's 20 Humboldt penguins that have attempted to mate. (Source: AP wire)

ABOUT NOGLSTP

NOGLSTP is a national organization of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people (and their advocates) employed or interested in scientific or high technology fields. NOGLSTP's goals include educating the scientific and general communities about LGBT issues in science and the technical workplace; educating the queer community about relevant topics in science; dialogue with professional societies and associations; improving our members' employment and professional environment; opposing queer phobia and stereotypes by providing role models of successful LGBT scientific and technical professionals; and fostering networking and mentoring among our members. NOGLSTP is a non-profit educational organization under IRS section 501(c)(3) (TIN # 95-4358685), and is incorporated in the State of California. NOGLSTP is an affiliate of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a participating professional society in the MentorNet® Affiliated Partners Plus program, a sustaining member of the National Postdoctoral Association, an endorsing society of National Engineers Week, and a Founding Partner of the Engineers Week Coalition Diversity Council. 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

Board of Directors (append each incomplete address with noglstp.org):

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Newsletter: The *NOGLSTP Bulletin* is published quarterly, most of the time. Contributed articles are encouraged, and may be e-mailed as plain text to [office@](mailto:office@noglstp.org). Next publication deadline: August 15 2009. Please acknowledge the *NOGLSTP Bulletin* as your source if you choose to reproduce any of these articles.

