

# NOGLSTP *Bulletin*

Spring 2013

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

## Report from NOGLSTP at AAAS Boston

As usual, the weather in Boston was dreary for NOGLSTP's big weekend during the AAAS Annual Meeting over President's Weekend in February. Fortunately, all of the associated hotels and convention center were connected via an indoor mall, which made it possible to move about without a winter coat. After a bumpy flight and quick hotel check in, your



intrepid reporter made a bee-line for a quick bowl of very good chowder, then headed off to represent NOGLSTP at the business meeting for the AAAS Section on Societal Impacts of Science and Engineering. The next morning, Tim Wilson and Barbara Belmont facilitated a career workshop on "Navigating LGBT Issues in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics." People at all stages of their career attended, and the group was small enough that everyone got to participate in the discussion. Highlight of the workshop: A Trans high school student with an interest in science was brought to the Boston AAAS meeting all the way from Michigan by their father. The father described himself to the group as "a supportive parent."



Sunday morning was very snowy, and NOGLSTP Board Members Tim Wilson, John Burke, and Barbara Belmont hosted the Annual Business meeting. John brought donuts, and Board members who couldn't make the trip called in from across the nation. That afternoon about 30 people – never all at the same time – enjoyed the NOGLSTP Reception. Many of them had met us at the previous day's career workshop. This reception has developed quite a following of allies who make a point to stop by each year to show support and find out more about NOGLSTP projects. They come for the food, but stay for the company, and all made a point to mention how much they've enjoyed our openness and hospitality over the years.

- Barbara Belmont

## Out to Innovate™ Scholarships for 2013 **Deadline June 2**

NOGLSTP is offering Out To Innovate™ Scholarships for LGBT STEM Students in 2013. The scholarships were established following NOGLSTP's inaugural Out to Innovate™ Career Summit ([www.outtoinnovate.org](http://www.outtoinnovate.org)), with lead funding support from Battelle. This year the funding will be provided by a grant from the Motorola Solutions Foundation. The scholarships are intended for undergraduate and graduate students pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) programs who are either lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) or are an active ally of the LGBT community. These scholarships are designed to promote academic excellence and increased visibility of talented LGBT students in STEM careers.

The scholarships, funded at a minimum of \$5,000 each, will be awarded for the Fall 2013 academic year. Students currently enrolled at any U.S.-based college or university are eligible to apply.

Student applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Successful completion of a minimum of two years of post-high school education at an accredited college or university.
- Maintenance of a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 for the entirety of college/university enrollment.
- A declared major in an accredited STEM or STEM-related teaching field.
- Be an active supporter of and participant in programs or organizations that promote LGBT inclusion and visibility.

Online scholarship applications will be available through the NOGLSTP website ([www.noglstp.org](http://www.noglstp.org)) on April 1. Applications must be submitted with supporting documentation no later than **June 2**. Scholarship recipients will be notified on August 1.

For more information, visit the website at [www.noglstp.org](http://www.noglstp.org) or contact: Rochelle Diamond, Chair, at [chair@noglstp.org](mailto:chair@noglstp.org) or David Crombecque, Ph.D., NOGLSTP Scholarship Program Coordinator at: [scholarships@noglstp.org](mailto:scholarships@noglstp.org).

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## Sequestration – Only Time Will Tell

by Rochelle Diamond

The political axe fell on March the first, but the pain has yet to hit our lives. The total federal budget will be reduced by 2.3 percent, but the discretionary budget (non - Medicare, Social Security, etc.) is where most of science and technology is funded, so this will seem more like a reduction of five to eight percent (or more) if the cuts stand. Science and innovation as funded by government agencies like NIH and NSF is not like a construction project. You can't just call off a project and come back to it a year later because the intellectual resource – postdocs, grad students, and technicians will have moved on. Once you cull the mice, the mice are gone. NIH will let its institute directors decide how to meet the target by reducing the amount and number of grants to be funded. Major facilities and the Department of Energy's national labs will be furloughing people, and some facilities may be shut down and may not open again. Our students who are "Out to Innovate" and staying the course may lose the educational grants needed to complete their educations, or graduate only to find the pipeline closed off and our technology grinding slower and slower. Our economic growth and our intellectual resources are both placed in jeopardy by the long-term affects of this meat axe. Only time will tell the timeline and the outcome. Why is it relevant to our NOGLSTP membership? I get a queasy feeling whenever I think that times may not have really changed for the better. We need to come together now as a community to support one another, network, mentor, and give a hand as we weather this situation together. We will need to be Out to Innovate more than ever.

## ASA Files Amicus Brief with U.S. Supreme Court in Marriage Equality Cases

The American Sociological Association (ASA) filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court outlining social science research that shows "children fare just as well" when raised by same-sex or heterosexual parents. The results of our review are clear," said ASA President Cecilia Ridgeway. "There is no evidence that children with parents in stable same-sex or opposite-sex relationships differ in terms of well-being. Indeed, the greater stability offered by marriage for same-sex as well as opposite-sex parents may be an asset for child well-being."

Founded in 1905, the ASA has more than 14,000 members and a long history of presenting the consensus research findings of sociologists to American courts for their use in evaluating evidence and legal issues. In March, the U.S. Supreme Court is scheduled to hear cases on the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which denies federal recognition of same-sex marriages already legalized under the law of several states, and Proposition 8, which revoked the right of same-sex couples to marry in California.

"An issue at the heart of these cases is whether family composition, per se, affects the well-being of children and thus, provides a justification for limiting the right to marry," said Ridgeway, the Lucie Stern Professor of Social Sciences in the Sociology Department at Stanford University. "This core question is an empirical one and is the subject of a broad range of social science research. As a scientific body, ASA has a duty to provide the court with a systematic and balanced review of the evidence to assess what the consensus of scholarly research has shown."

In their briefs to the court, the Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group of the U.S. House of Representatives, which is defending DOMA, the Hollingsworth Petitioners, which are defending Proposition 8, and their respective supporters assert that children fare better with opposite-sex parents than with same-sex parents.

"When the social science evidence is exhaustively examined — which the ASA has done — the facts demonstrate that children fare just as well when raised by same-sex parents," states the ASA amicus brief. "Unsubstantiated fears regarding same-sex child rearing do not overcome these facts and do not justify upholding DOMA and Proposition 8."

Wendy Diane Manning, Professor of Sociology, Director of the Center for Family & Demographic Research, and Co-Director of the National Center for Family and Marriage Research at Bowling Green State University, led ASA's examination of the social science evidence.

## Corporations File Supreme Court Brief Favoring Marriage Equality

In late February, dozens of American corporations, including Apple, Alcoa, Facebook, eBay, Intel, and Morgan Stanley, submitted an amicus brief in the landmark *Hollingsworth v. Perry* case, arguing to the U.S. Supreme Court that laws banning same-sex marriages, like California's ballot initiative Proposition 8, are unconstitutional under the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the Constitution. The companies argue that such laws "send an unmistakable signal that same-sex couples are in some way inferior to opposite-sex couples, a proposition that is anathema to amici's commitment to equality and fair treatment to all." Other companies that have signed on include AIG, Becton Dickinson, Cisco, Cummins, Kimp-ton, Levi Strauss, McGraw Hill, NCR, Nike, Office Depot, Oracle, Panasonic, Qualcomm, Verizon, Cablevision and Xerox.

Although the brief adopts all arguments of the main brief challenging the constitutionality of Proposition 8, it also argues that "recognizing the rights of same-sex couples to marry is more than a constitutional issue. It is a business imperative." Further, the companies assert that "By singling out a group for less favorable treatment, Proposition 8 impedes businesses from achieving the market's ideal of efficient operations -- particularly in recruiting, hiring, and retaining talented people who are in the best position to operate at their highest capacity. Amici are competing domestically and internationally with companies inside and outside the United States in places where all couples, regardless of whether they are of the same sex, are afforded equal access to marriage." Was also stated that when "potential recruits or employees are members of a same-sex couple," they "may forgo the opportunity to work in California, and prefer other states (like Iowa, New York, and Massachusetts) or other nations (like Spain, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, Portugal, or Belgium) where they can be married and obtain equal treatment and respect under the law."

The brief further contends that laws like Proposition 8 "leave companies in the untenable position of being compelled implicitly to endorse the second-class status to which their gay and lesbian employees, clients, customers, and business associates are relegated." "Until the law no longer relegates same-sex couples to second-class status as inferior "domestic partnerships," our adherence to the law compels us to abide by a distinction that stigmatizes and dehumanizes gay men and lesbians."

### NOGLSTP Welcomes a New Caucus: Working Group on LGBTIQ Equality within the American Astronomical Society

The American Astronomical Society established the Working Group on LGBTIQ Equality (WGLE) last year, which is tasked with promoting equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and questioning (LGBTIQ) individuals within the astronomy profession. The group has officially become a NOGLSTP caucus affiliate. For more information about WGLE, point your web browser to <http://wgle.aas.org>

### Calling All Chemists - ACS Spring Meeting

Mark your calendars for April 7-11, the dates of the Spring National American Chemical Society meeting in New Orleans. On Monday, April 8, The PROF Sub-division for Gay and Transgender Chemists and Allies will present a poster on "Collaborations and outreach: A review of ACS presence at the 2012 Out to Innovate™ career summit for LGBT people in STEM" during Sci-Mix. On Tuesday, April 9, NOGLSTP and the ACS President are sponsoring a reception for LGBT Chemists and Allies. Details about these events, as well as others that may be of interest, will be posted at <http://prof.sites.acs.org/lgbtandallies.htm> and on the ACS Network group for LGBT Chemists and Allies.

### Minnesota Queer Science Sponsors Edit-a-thon to Highlight Achievements of LGBT Scientists

Did you know that Julia Serano, trans activist and author of *Whipping Girl*, has a Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular biophysics? It's time we showed the world how many amazing LGBT scientists are OUT there. One fun and easy step is to add, expand, and improve their Wikipedia entries, highlighting both their STEM accomplishments and their proud LGBT identities. Break out your writing and editing skills, and join Minnesota Queer Science for a Wikipedia mass edit-a-thon on Wednesday, April 24th. The main event is 6-9 p.m. CDT -- join us either in person on the University of Minnesota campus (310 Walter Library) or in an online forum bringing together participants far and wide. Want to organize your own local gathering? We can help. Can't make the mass movement on the 24th? Sign up for your favorite(s) and edit any time that week. More information, including a list of current and suggested entries, is available at <https://sites.google.com/site/mnqsci/wikipedia-edit-a-thon>. Contact [mnqsci@gmail.com](mailto:mnqsci@gmail.com) with questions or to RSVP for dinner (local attendees only).

### More College Student Health Plans Providing Coverage for Gender Reassignment Surgery

A growing number of colleges and universities are now offering students health insurance plans with coverage for gender reassignment surgery. When Brown University announced in February of this year that its student health plan would be extended to cover sex-change surgery beginning in the fall semester, advocates for transgender students said Brown would become the thirty-sixth college to do so. Twenty-five other colleges, including Princeton and Yale, do not cover surgery, but their student plans do cover related hormone therapy. Twenty universities offer health insurance plans that cover some or all sex-change treatments for their employees. The institutions that cover some or all of these treatments include many leading American universities — Harvard, Stanford, Cornell, Penn, Emory, Northwestern, MIT, Washington University, and the University of California system. Princeton, which notes on its website that it has been named a "top 10 trans friendly university" and has developed an online guide for transgender students, is among the institutions that are considering adding surgical coverage to current insurance coverage of hormone therapy. In 2007, Campus Pride added insurance coverage of sex reassignment to its annual "inclusiveness index," used in rating colleges and universities.

## 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](http://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:  
\$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!)

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

- March 20-21: Capitol Hill Day, Washington, DC
- April 7-11: ACS Spring Meeting, New Orleans, LA
- April 24: Minnesota Queer Science Edit-a-thon, Minneapolis, MN
- May 9: National Give OUT Day
- June 24-27: Expanding the Circle Summer Institute, San Francisco, CA

## NOGLSTP to Participate in National Give OUT Day on May 9

NOGLSTP will be a participating organization in the First annual National Give OUT Day, to be held on Thursday, May 9. Give OUT Day is a new national initiative that will involve hundreds of nonprofit organizations, and mobilize thousands of people on a single day across the country to donate in support of organizations that benefit the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community. It provides a fundraising opportunity for LGBTQ groups that focus on a wide range of issues and activities, and is an opportunity for members of the LGBTQ community and allies to stand together and show support on one day. For more information, visit: [http://giveout.razoo.com/giving\\_events/giveout13/home](http://giveout.razoo.com/giving_events/giveout13/home)

## NOGLSTP Back to Capitol Hill with SWE

NOGLSTP has been asked to co-sponsor the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Capitol Hill Day this year. Capitol Hill Day in 2013 is entitled "Diversity and Inclusion Fuels Innovation in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)." It will be held March 20-21, 2013, in Washington, D.C. NOGLSTP will focus on increasing awareness in Congress of the need for and the importance of diversity and inclusion in the STEM workforce. This Capitol Hill Day is being made possible by a grant from the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation to SWE. There will be no charge for NOGLSTP to be listed as a co-sponsor. Members of NOGLSTP-Chesapeake Region will be representing us and scheduling Congressional visits.

## 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](http://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](http://www.noglstp.org)

### Board of Directors (append each incomplete address with [noglstp.org](http://www.noglstp.org)):

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**NOGLSTP Bulletin** is published quarterly, most of the time. Contributed articles are encouraged, and may be e-mailed as plain text to [editor@](mailto:editor@noglstp.org). Next publication deadline (for Summer newsletter): June 7. Please acknowledge the **NOGLSTP Bulletin** as your source if you choose to reproduce any of these articles.

### 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