

# NOGLSTP *Bulletin*

Spring 2014

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## NOGLSTP Nominees Announced for New Faces of Engineering College Edition

In a webinar held February 13, DiscoverE announced finalists for its New Faces of Engineering College Edition awards, including NOGLSTP nominees Brittany Bennett, Matt Satcher, and Mitul Verma. On April 2, one of these three will be announced as winner of a \$1000 NOGLSTP College Edition scholarship at [www.facebook.com/CollegeEdition](http://www.facebook.com/CollegeEdition), with the runners-up receiving \$500 scholarships.

DiscoverE's New Faces of Engineering College Edition awards recognize students involved in engineering professional societies for their academic accomplishments, leadership within student organizations, communication skills, non-engineering community service, and involvement with industry.

Bennett, from Winston-Salem, North Carolina, is a junior majoring in Engineering Science at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. She is project manager for Smith's Engineers for a Sustainable World organization and is also a member of the Society of Women Engineers. Satcher is from Liberty Township, Ohio, and is a senior in Aerospace Engineering at Saint Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri. He is active in SLU's Engineers Without Borders chapter, where he has served as treasurer and vice-president. Verma, a senior in Engineering and Mathematics at Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, California, hails from New Delhi, India. He is active in residence life, serving as a proctor and as orientation director.

In addition to NOGLSTP, participating engineering societies include AISES (American Indian Science and Engineering Society), AIChE (American Institute of Chemical Engineers), ASABE (American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers), ASCE (American Society of Civil Engineers), ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers), ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers), CIE-USA (Chinese Institute of Engineers, USA), IEEE-USA (Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers, USA), NACME (National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering), NSBE (National Society of Black Engineers), NSPE (National Society of Professional Engineers), SHPE (Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers), SME (Society of Manufacturing Engineers), and SPE (Society of Petroleum Engineers).

DiscoverE, formerly known as the National Engineers Week Foundation, unites, organizes, and supports engineering and technology volunteer communities to promote visibility of engineering and technology careers and educational opportunities. As a founding member of DiscoverE's Diversity Council, NOGLSTP has worked with our DiscoverE partners such as AISES, SEW, and NSBE, in bringing a broad definition of diversity to engineering that includes lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning, and intersex individuals.

## Annual NOGLSTP Business Meeting Report and AAAS Meeting Review

NOGLSTP held its annual business meeting in conjunction with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Annual Meeting on February 16 in Chicago, IL. A review of the past year was delivered by Rochelle Diamond and Barbara Belmont, along with a financial report and a report on partnerships and projects including meeting representation at SWE, ASEE, ACS, SACNAS, Joint Mathematical Meetings, AAAS, American Astronomical Society Working Group, DiscoverE Week, US Science and Engineering Festival and of course, Out to Innovate™. In addition, NuclearPride was voted into the NOGLSTP ranks as a new caucus.

NOGLSTP presented a career development workshop for AAAS to around 20 attendees on February 15, called "Reaching OUT – LGBTQ and Allies in STEM: Mentoring and Resources." It was a good discussion that spilled over into the hallway after our time was up. Several NOGLSTP members were spotted at the AAAS exhibition having a blast. Later on Sunday, NOGLSTP held a nice reception for AAAS LGBTQA attendees and Chicago area NOGLSTP members and friends who later went to dinner.

## Out to Innovate™ Scholarships for 2014

*Deadline June 7*

NOGLSTP is offering Out to Innovate™ Scholarships for LGBTQ STEM students in 2014. These scholarships will be awarded for the Fall 2014 academic year, and will be funded by the Motorola Solutions Foundation. Students currently enrolled at any U.S.-based college or university that meet the eligibility requirements are encouraged to apply. 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, or transgender (LGBTQ) or are an active ally of the LGBTQ community. These scholarships are designed to promote academic excellence and increased visibility of talented LGBT students in STEM career tracks. They are funded at a minimum of \$5000 each. For more information and on-line application please visit the NOGLSTP website ([www.noglstp.org](http://www.noglstp.org)). The deadline for submission of applications is June 7.

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## Trouble in Africa

A new analysis by *The Mirror* newspaper has found that 40% of the world's gay population is living in countries that still criminalize gay sex – including a handful with the death penalty – that means 165 million gay people. 2.4% of the world's gay population lives in countries which have the death penalty.

In February, Uganda enacted a new law strengthening existing punishments for anyone caught having gay sex, imposing jail terms of up to life for “aggravated homosexuality,” including sex with a minor or while HIV-positive. It criminalizes lesbianism for the first time and made it a crime to help individuals engage in homosexual acts. Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni had said a week before signing the bill that he was putting the bill on hold to give scientists a chance to prove that homosexuality could be triggered by genes and was not a “lifestyle choice.” According to a Reuters 2/24/14 article Museveni said, “They found no such evidence.”

Yet, at an event called “The Science of Sex and Attraction,” held offsite in Chicago during the AAAS Annual Meeting, a controversial researcher, Dr. J. Michael Bailey from Northwestern University, discussed his ongoing non-published research on the genetics of sexual orientation. Bailey noted that he and colleagues have recently replicated the 1993 *Science* article findings of the NIH's Dr. Dean Hamer. Those 1993 studies reported that a gene on the x chromosome increased the likelihood of some men to be gay. According to attendees (Elsiever Connect and other press organizations), Bailey said, “Hamer found that among gay brothers, the concordance rate for markers from the Xq28 region were significantly greater than expected.” He stated that the Hamer study “was highly controversial and condemned as people feared it could lead to eugenics.” Dr. Bailey and his Northwestern colleague Dr. Alan R. Sanders have now done their own study because they thought the numbers used by Hamer (114 families) were too low to be conclusive. “I did not expect to replicate Dean's findings,” Dr. Bailey said, “but we did.”

Research on sex, sexual orientation, and other topics revolving around subjects that societies and cultures consider taboo have rarely been accepted, or have been deemed controversial. Unfortunately, the societal impact on science and technology regarding these areas of research do have a major bearing on human rights and the understanding of what is human nature.

*See page 4 of this issue for an editorial by NOGLSTP Chair Rochelle Diamond on the Ugandan law.*

## Nominations Open for NOGLSTP Awards

### *Deadline August 1*

It is once again time to nominate your fellow queer peers for the NOGLSTP recognition awards to be presented at the Out to Innovate™ conference this November at Georgia Tech University in Atlanta. Nomination forms are available on the NOGLSTP website, [www.noglstp.org](http://www.noglstp.org), under the Programs/Recognition Awards links, and we are accepting nominations for Scientist of the Year, Engineer of the Year, Educator of the Year, Walt Westman Award, Institution/Organization Award, and Corporate Award. The purpose behind these awards is to recognize the incredible work being done by our own to ensure that the queer community does not get overlooked for its tremendous contributions to science and technology. Please look around at your friends, coworkers and associates and consider nominating them to increase the awareness of their work and our cause. All nominations are due by August 1, 2014, and details are available on the website and in the nomination form.

## SWE Capitol Hill Day 2014

*By David Kaplan, NOGLSTP-CR*

In my capacity as Chair of NOGLSTP - Chesapeake Region, it was my honor and pleasure to participate in the Society of Women Engineers' 2014 Capitol Hill Day, “Diversity & Inclusion Fuels Innovation in STEM” in Washington, DC, on March 5 and 6. This was my third time participating, and the fifth time SWE has held the event. I was joined by NOGLSTP-CR member Bruce Murrie, a retired statistician formerly of the United States Department of Education. NOGLSTP was one of 37 organizations co-sponsoring the event with SWE, representing a broad cross-section of industry groups. The purpose of the event is to “increase awareness of the need for and the importance of increased diversity and inclusion in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) workforce” through Congressional outreach.

The events included a presentation by Kelly Janowski, SWE's Director of Public Relations and Social Media, on tips for successful use of social media as a part of the Congressional outreach process. The next presentation was an examination of public policy issues concerning women and diversity in STEM as well as the current political environment. Paula Stenzler, Chair of SWE's Government Relations and Public Policy Committee, and Melissa Carl, SWE's Washington Representative (and the organizer of Capitol Hill Day), discussed the importance of educating members of Congress about how “a commitment to attaining a diverse and inclusive United States STEM workforce” positions the nation to successfully innovate and compete in the global economy. In our meetings with members of Congress, we were asked to seek their support for diversity education programs provided by the National Science Foundation and to encourage them to look to NASA as a leader among federal agencies due to their diligence in carrying out the requirements of Title IX. We also received guidance from within the government from Bevelee Watford, NSF Program Manager for Broadening Participation in Engineering, and Eric Hammond, Senior Legislative Assistant to Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX).

Erin Prangley, Associate Director of Government Relations for the American Association of University Women, led a roleplaying scenario that demonstrated the roles of various employees of a typical Congressional office. At an evening reception held in the Rayburn House Office Building, four members of the House of Representatives took time from their schedules to speak to us over the next two hours. These included Richard Hanna (R-NY), Kerry Bentivolio (R-MI), Aaron Schock (R-IL) and Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX). On Thursday morning, there was a talk by Jason Day, Senior Policy Advisor to Representative Daniel Lipinski (D-IL) and administrator of the House STEM Education Caucus. Bess Evans, Senior Policy Advisor for Public Engagement in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, who also spoke, encouraged us to make personal connections in meetings with members of Congress and their staffers, explaining that “Data make us credible, but stories make us memorable.” Bruce and I shared information about NOGLSTP, and in particular we pointed out that it is very meaningful to us when we hear LGBT Americans mentioned alongside other groups that contribute to the diversity of our nation.

SWE's Capitol Hill Day is an excellent event that brings together a disparate group of organizations to find common ground in promoting excellence in STEM education and industries, and to position the United States to effectively compete in those fields. I feel that NOGLSTP's participation was productive and worthwhile, and will have a beneficial effect in directing government spending toward programs that support those worthy goals.

## Announcements

### NOGLSTP- CR at the USA Science and Engineering Festival

NOGLSTP will have a networking table staffed by members of NOGLSTP-Chesapeake Region at the 3rd USA Science and Engineering Festival Expo in Washington, DC, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. Founded to address the severe shortage in science and tech talent, the USA Science and Engineering Festival is the nation's largest science festival, with the goal of igniting the next generation's interest in considering careers in science and engineering. In recognition of the Festival's role in making STEM a national priority, Congress recently designated the last week in April as "National Science Week" and made the Festival a focal point.

### L'GASP Gains NOGLSTP Caucus Affiliation

In January 2014, the Lesbian and Gay Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists (L'GASP) group affiliated with NOGLSTP as a caucus. L'GASP is also a caucus of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. The group consists of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and allied speech-language pathologists, audiologists and speech/hearing scientists who seek to actively encourage LGBT students and professionals to work and study professionally, openly, and without fear of discrimination. They also work to increase sensitivity to and support of LGBT issues in the communication sciences and disorders professional fields.

In 1982, a small group of gay men participating in the annual convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association met socially. From that year on, the group grew through word-of-mouth and in 1988, the group decided to become a formal professional organization and pursue recognition from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Recognition from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association was gained in 1991.

Since its first formal presentation on homophobia in 1992, L'GASP members have discussed the health and communication needs of individuals living with HIV/AIDS, LGBT discrimination in educational and healthcare settings, and communication intervention with transgendered clientele, among other LGBT-related topics. The L'GASP membership very much looks forward to forging new collaborations with NOGLSTP members as well as contributing to NOGLSTP's mission. If you would like information about L'GASP, its membership, speech-language-hearing-deglutition sciences, and/or if you are interested in scholarship/service collaborations with L'GASP, please contact Patrick R. Walden, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Co-Chair L'GASP and NOGLSTP Liaison for L'GASP at [patrick@patrickwalden.com](mailto:patrick@patrickwalden.com).

### oSTEM Chapter Launched at Penn

The University of Pennsylvania's chapter of Out in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (oSTEM) held its kickoff event this February. oSTEM, with more than 55 chapters around the country, seeks to increase the participation of LGBTQ students in STEM-related fields. This marked the return of an LGBTQ interest group for students in STEM fields after Penn's chapter of Queer Undergraduates in Science and Technology (QUEST) folded in 2010. Matthew Feczko, who founded QUEST while he was an undergraduate at Penn, joined the national board of oSTEM as Vice President of Membership upon graduating in 2010. The main focus areas of the new oSTEM chapter are to introduce members to the LGBTQ community, cultivate leadership, and make the organization sustainable by involving more undergraduates. John Henry Towne Professor and Chair of Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics Robert Carpick, who previously advised the QUEST chapter, is faculty advisor for the group. Carpick left the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2006 to work at Penn, seeking a more welcoming environment where employee benefits were extended to same-sex partners.

## 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:

\$40

\$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'

\$1000 for Lifetime Membership

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

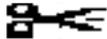
Do you want your email/URL to be placed on  
the NOGLSTP web page?

YES     NO

**Don't forget to fill out the other side**

## Mark Your Calendars

- April 25-27: USA Science and Engineering Festival, Washington, DC
- June 7: Out to Innovate™ Scholarship application deadline
- August 1: NOGLSTP Recognition Awards nomination deadline
- Early November: Out to Innovate™ Summit and oSTEM National Meeting, Atlanta, GA



**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

## Editorial on the Ugandan Law from NOGLSTP Chair Rochelle Diamond

It comes as no surprise to the National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals (NOGLSTP) that Michael Bailey's research findings presented at the American Association for the Advancement of Science's Annual Meeting confirm Dean Hamer's early work that there is a genetic component to homosexuality. What concerns NOGLSTP is that some world leaders politicize homosexuality gender expression without regard to scientific facts. Ugandan President Museveni recently declared that he would not sign a pending bill into law harshly criminalizing homosexuals and allies, if scientists were able to demonstrate a biological basis to homosexuality — that sexual orientation is not merely a matter of choice.

In light of Dean Hamer's prior research and Bailey's newly reported findings, NOGLSTP stands on the side of science, scientific facts, and diversity/inclusion and deplores the recent announcement of Uganda to criminalize homosexuality. NOGLSTP takes seriously its integrity as an organization rooted in sound scientific research and discovery and adds its voice to other organizations advocating for human rights protections of LGBT persons throughout the world.

### 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)

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