In honor of National Coming Out Day on October 11th, we asked Dartmouth Students: “What are the best parts of coming out?”

Here’s what they said:

- The enormous sense of relief that comes with acceptance of who you are
- Being able to dress in every color you want!!!
- Dating people taller than me!
- You are short listed to be every girl's backup date to sorority semis or formals!
- Finally allowing myself to look around and see all the possibilities...
- My closet now has more room for clothes!
- Finally getting to be yourself
- Having my friends respond “no kidding.” They knew me better than I knew myself
- People think your clothing and style choices are deliberate and not just what your Mom bought you for Christmas...
- Feeling better about yourself
- Realizing there was a reason I didn’t have a thing for the lax captain in high school, like every other girl at my school...
- Feeling like I had put together the pieces of a puzzle - the parts of me that never felt quite right finally made sense
- Even if all goes well--the adrenaline rush you get right before the words leave your mouth. It’s a mix of anxiety, nervousness, and excitement, all rattling you at the same time, from the inside out
From your OPAL Advisor... Pam Misener

Recognizing some of our Impactful LGBTQ Alums

October 11 is National Coming Out Day, but here at Dartmouth we recognize and celebrate “coming out” all through the month. I thought I would take this opportunity to “come out” to you about some Dartmouth LGBT History. In particular, I’d like you to meet some amazing LGBTQ alums who have certainly impacted me over the years. There have been LGBT students here from Dartmouth’s beginning. We may not know with absolute certainty their names, but rest assured they have been here. The earliest alums that I have known were from the 1930’s. I only knew them briefly, but how much richer my experience has been as a result. These particular alums knew they were gay while students at Dartmouth, but coming out can sometimes be a long process. I’ve known alums coming out in their 60’s, 70’s, and even 80’s. I believe that Dartmouth’s ever changing welcome has allowed an increasing number of previously disenfranchised alums to reconnect with today’s campus and finally come home as their whole selves.

Space is limited, but here’s a snapshot of some amazing alums:

- Ed Hermance ’62 who still owns and operates Giovanni’s Room, the oldest gay bookstore in Philadelphia (and perhaps the country).
- Joanne Herman ’75 who is among Dartmouth’s first trans-identified alums, an author and lecturer in her spare time, as well as a board member of the Point Foundation.
- Hillary Goodridge ’78 who was a lead plaintiff in the case that won first-in-the-nation civil marriage in Massachusetts (2005).
- Matt Yee ’82 who went corporate right after graduation, but soon decided entertaining is his calling and is a top cruise line performer.
- Beth Robinson ’86 who lead the case in Vermont resulting first in the creation of first-in-the-nation civil unions (2000), and then civil marriage (2009).
- Keith Boykin, ’87 who was an LGBT advisor to President Clinton, and now is a leading political commentator, as well as author and speaker.
- Brian Ellner ’92 who continues to create successful marriage equality campaigns like the one in NY.
- Andrew Goldstein ’05 who came out while playing lacrosse here and went on to be recognized by ESPN and others for his efforts.

Look these folks up, and learn more about them. They’ll make you proud to be a part of the Dartmouth “family”.

Did you know...

- GSX and Outreach Peer Mentors are two student groups that exist to support the LGBT community at Dartmouth
- The LGBTQ Resource Room (nicknamed the Rainbow Room) is located on the first floor of Robinson Hall
- The OPAL Office has tons of LGBTQ resources, including popular films, books and movies available for students to check out.
- Dartmouth sponsors a Gender Neutral Housing program located in McLane
Program Highlights of the Past Two Weeks

The Occum Scholars Program Kicks Off!

The Occum Scholars Program is proud to announce the 2012-2013 selections! The Program was developed to educate students about the opportunities, products and benefits of academic research. Occum Scholars was originally designed to engage first year students with undergraduate research and has recently expanded into a four year program to better support each student's academic goals throughout their entire time at Dartmouth. In a global context, Indigenous education priorities are coming to the forefront and this Program is an essential part of that shift. The Occum Scholars Program is part of the continuing commitment to Native education directly stated in Dartmouth College's 1769 charter and reinforced under the Kemeny, Wright, and Kim administrations. The Program is designed to expand the student's current way of thinking about scholarship with Indigenous communities, incorporating Indigenous methodologies and drawing upon the knowledge that they already possess as a Native student. Participants will benefit from faculty and peer mentoring, individualized guidance in developing a project that will meet the interests and goals of each student, support for internship and presentation opportunities, strong cohort of fellow students, etc., with the goal of completing a senior thesis in their fourth year.

The 2012-2013 selected participants are: Taylor Woolrich '16, Madeline Mladek '16, Bridget Sixkiller McNulty '16, Morgan Talty '16, Jackie Eagle '15, Kirsten Bahe '16, Lydia Cash '16, Spencer Lone Fight '16, James Broflos '15, Cade Cross '15, and Mariah Claw '15.

Introducing the Native Men’s Wellness Project

One of the many moving parts of the Native American Program (NAP) includes the “Native Men’s Wellness Project”. Initially, as part of our 40th year program, the “Native Men’s Wellness project” has been a new piece of how the NAP aids in the development of our Native Men. The Native American Students at Dartmouth (NAD), the umbrella organization for Native students is very diverse with many different tribal expressions of masculinity and sexual identity. Preston Wells ‘15 says this about being a Native man at Dartmouth, “For me, it can sometimes be challenging to live a healthy lifestyle at Dartmouth. I have to be socially, mentally, and physically responsible -which is a bit easier, for me, if I have a strong group of male friends to lean on and build up.”

In helping to bring the Native men together the NAP made the committed to the men of the Native Americans at Dartmouth (NAD) student organization to bring to campus a exemplary leader in Native America who could speak with our men, drum with them, help them to learn new songs, and have healthy discussion about Native maleness with its many facets. The month's featured leader is Derek Oxendine (Lumbee) who serves as the Assistant Director, Multicultural Student Affairs at North Carolina State University, and is the president of the National Native fraternity, Phi Sigma Nu. Derek was on campus Friday and Saturday 10/5 and 10/6 to spend time with our Native student community.

Shades of Black Panel Part II: Real Talk 101

The Afro-American Society opened up the 2012-2013 academic year with “Shades of Black Panel Part II: Real Talk 101” on September 12. This event has been an event that brings the community together in order to welcome the first year students, in this case the 16s. With a panel of 6 upperclassmen and 6 discussion groups for intimate conversation, the event was a proven success. The upperclassmen packed the room with only standing space in order to engage with the 16s as well as one another. The school year has started off with the community investing in one another by committing time and knowledge to guide 16s as they create their own journeys at Dartmouth College.

The Afro-American Society has also kicked off this year’s Big Sib/Little Sib program and a series of dialogues aiming to provide tips to our peers about the importance of self-care and stress management.

PAC: Christen Sheperd Visit

On Thursday, Sept. 27th, Christen Shepard ’00, a former PAC Intern and former DAO board member, shared her thoughts on post-graduation plans over a delicious Yama’s dinner. She was a Computer Science major and is currently working for the National Security Agency. Students from the Pan Asian Community who were interested in pursuing a career in the government or intelligence field benefited from Shepherd’s insights. The students present at the dinner, including an English Major, a Studio Arts Major, and a Biology Major, represented a diverse slice of Dartmouth’s academic offerings.
Looking Ahead: Upcoming Events

**Monday, 10/8**

Women’s Forum and Women of Color Collective dinner with Dean Johnson
6 pm at C&G (across from Collis)

Come listen, ask questions, and learn from Dean Johnson about her involvement in the landmark supreme court case Grutter v. Bollinger that solidified affirmative action in higher education. Engage in small-group discussion on the meaning of diversity and its role in a college community & the ways in which diversity could be celebrated, maintained, or improved at Dartmouth.

**Wednesday, 10/10**

GSX hosts Coming out Stories
8:30 PM in Collis 303

All are welcome - come and share your story or just listen.

**Thursday, 10/11**

“Do the Math: Girls Gone Global”

As part of the Campus Compact Service Learning Conference, the CWG invites you to a poster presentation on the International Day of the Girl.

Contact the CWG for more details!

**Friday, 10/12**

Latina/o Community Dinner
“The Importance of the Latino Vote”
6:00pm - 7:30pm in the Faculty Lounge at the Hopkins Center

Join us as we celebrate the new year, the Class of 2016, and the election season with us over dinner. We’ll also be discussing the changing demographics and importance of the Latino Vote in this and future elections. You don’t have to be Latino to attend, feel free to invite all your friends!

*RSVP to latino.student.advising@dartmouth.edu*

**Friday, 10/20**

Diversity Peer Leadership Program (DPP) Retreat

Founded in 2000, the Diversity Peer Leadership Program (DPP) empowers student participants to utilize DPP curriculum and programs to heighten awareness of diversity and social justice issues as well as create a path to action and change within the entire Dartmouth community and beyond. For the fall, the DPP team hopes to focus on exploring and emphasizing the many ways participants can transform their insights and lessons from the DPP experience into positive campus change.

**Look out for an email this week detailing the upcoming DPP opportunities this month!**

**Tuesday, 10/16**

MMUF Info Sessions at the Research Information Session for Sophomores
5:30-7pm in Collis Common Ground

MMUF, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, seeks to reduce, over time, the serious underrepresentation on faculties of individuals from minority groups, as well as to address the consequences of these racial disparities for the educational system itself and for the larger society that it serves. These goals can be achieved both by increasing the number of students from underrepresented minority groups who pursue PhDs and by supporting the pursuit of PhDs by students who may not come from underrepresented minority groups but have demonstrated a commitment to the goals of MMUF. MMUF matches students with faculty mentors and provides programming (including research grants) that demystifies academic careers.

**Questions:** Prof. Michelle Warren, Mellon.Mays.Program@Dartmouth.edu

**Sunday 10/21**

International Issues Personal Perspective, I2P2
6PM in MIR, McCulloch International Residence

I2P2 gives international students an opportunity to describe their culture, traditions and values. Through sharing their experience growing up in diverse places, the Dartmouth community is allowed to immerse themselves into a deeper cross-cultural understanding and the opportunity to engage in a healthy learning space about perspectives different than our own. Speaker TBD.
**Week Overview**

- Monday: Cherríe Moraga visit
- Monday: Women’s Forum on Women in the Upcoming Election
- Tuesday: Madeleine Kunin Lecture on The New Feminist Agenda
- Wednesday: Link Up Proud to be a Woman Dinner featuring Professor Susan Brison

**Link Up’s 9th Proud to be a Woman Dinner**

Wednesday, October 17th

The Proud to be a Woman Celebration invites ’16 women, upperclass women, and Dartmouth faculty & staff to come together as the community of women on campus. Come hear Susan Brison, Professor of Philosophy, speak about her experience as a woman and her relationship to the arts.

**Blitz Link Up to RSVP**

**Madeleine Kunin Lecture**

**Including a reading, discussion and book signing**

Tuesday, October 16th at 4:30
Feline Auditorium in Moore Hall

Madeleine Kunin was the first woman governor of Vermont and the first woman in the U.S. to serve three terms as governor. She served as Deputy Secretary of Education and Ambassador to Switzerland in the Clinton administration. Kunin is the author of *The New Feminist Agenda; Pearls, Politics and Power* and *Living a Political Life*. She is also a Marsh professor at the University of Vermont, a commentator on Vermont Public Radio, and a founder and board member of the global Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC), a nongovernmental organization focused on climate change and civil society.

Sponsored by the Dartmouth College East Wheelock Program. Co-sponsored by the Nelson A. Rockefeller Center, WGST Program, the CWG and the Norwich Bookstore

**Awesome Feminist Fun Week (October 15th - 19th)**

Monday, October 15th: Cherríe Moraga visit
Location TBD (contact Jessica.l.jennrich@dartmouth.edu)

Cherríe Moraga is a playwright, poet, and essayist whose plays and publications have received national recognition, including a the Pen West Award for Drama, the American Studies Association Lifetime Achievement Award, the National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies Scholar Award, the National Association of Latino Arts and Culture Master Artist Award, the David R. Kessler Award (for LGBTQ Studies) from The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies, CUNY, and a United States Artists Rockefeller Fellowship in Literature. Moraga is the co-editor of the watershed feminist anthology *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color*, which won the Before Columbus American Book Award in 1986. She is the author of the now classic *Loving in the War Years: Lo Que Nunca Pasó Por Sus Labios* (1983/2003) and *The Last Generation* (1993), published by South End Press of Cambridge, MA. In 1997, she published a memoir on motherhood entitled *Waiting in the Wings* (Firebrand Books). Her most recent book is a new collection of writings -- *A Xicana Codex of Changing Consciousness: Writings 2000-2010*, published by Duke University Press in 2011.

For more information about Ms. Moraga's visit, please contact Professor Irma Mayorga at irma.mayorga@dartmouth.edu
1. The inside scoop: What’s your favorite campus secret?
Ashley: My favorite treat is the Smoked Salmon Roll, frequently featured at Novack and Collis. Smoked salmon, cream cheese, cucumbers, all wrapped up in rice and seaweed makes for the optimal light snack. I’ve been getting them too much recently, but that’s because they are delicious. But be careful not to get the Philadelphia Roll by mistake; tomatoes: not good.

Aaron: Nowadays I grab a cup and pop up to the very front of the smoothie line for my choice of frozen fruits! My favorite combination is mango, peaches and strawberries topped off with some honey. Chilly and refreshing, and cost-effective. You heard me right, no waiting in the lines for this secret treat.

2. Who is your favorite class or faculty/staff member and why?
Ashley: Pam of course! Cause she’s the boss and my boss. But actually Pam is great. She’s always willing and eager to meet with students and is a great resource.

Aaron: Spanish Postmodern Film! With Txetxu Aguado. It was a fascinating class that I took last spring, and I really enjoyed it because of the smaller setting. But it’s impossible to pick ONE favorite class because I’ve gotten a chance to take a lot of cool classes in my major. The best classes are in the upper division, in my opinion.

3. What has been a formative Dartmouth Experience for you?
Ashley: This one time two thousand people screamed at me to run around a really hot fire. I hated that the left side of my body was roasting; I loved the experience though because it made me feel officially welcomed into the Dartmouth community. I totally didn’t run around 113 times, but did anyone other than the cross country team?

Aaron: Getting a chance to go abroad. I’m not saying that leaving Dartmouth was the best part of being here, but Dartmouth gives us the opportunity to expand our learning to a global setting. I got a chance to befriend upperclassmen I wouldn’t have met otherwise. And the food and clubs in Europe are quite a bit better than DDS and frat row. Nothing against either, but actually.

4. What advice do you have to ‘16s?
Ashley: I’m sure you’ve heard this before, but remember that the education you get here is not limited to the classroom. I find myself better able to engage myself in the material that I’m learning in the classroom when I can apply it to a personal outlet outside of the classroom. Being involved with OPAL is one way I’ve applied my classroom experiences to real life.

**Continued on Page 7**
OPAL Interns: Ashley & Aaron Continued

4. What advice do you have to ‘16s?
Aaron: If you think you’re stressed out now, it’s because you have found something that you enjoy doing. Remember that there are long-term benefits for all of the work you are doing, both academic and extracurricular. Chances are you’ll get more and more involved in your activities, so you should welcome the stress to come. But don’t forget to take a break from all of the stress of your daily life; everyone needs a bit of me time.

5. What’s your role in OPAL? What drives you to do the work you do?
Ashley: Dartmouth should be a good school for everyone. My hope is that the work I do will help OPAL with its greater mission of making this campus a more all inclusive campus. “Gay Friendly Spaces” should need to be labeled they should be the norm.

Aaron: I’m passionate about helping create a more unified LGBTQ Community on this campus. I want to serve as a liaison between various LGBTQ campus organizations. Only be working together can we be a force for change.

Many thanks to Aaron and Ashley for sharing their wisdom with us this week!

Lucy Pollard ‘10: LGBT LAH (Life After Hanover)

Hello from Cambridge! My name is Lucy Pollard and I am a LGBT identified ‘10 writing to share my perspective on coming out at Dartmouth and being LGBT in LAH (Life after Hanover).

I migrated to Dartmouth from Oklahoma, having never met a gay person under 50 and knowing very little about LGBT issues. I came out during my sophomore year and credit an unbelievable group of friends and my inclusive, open Greek house for helping me through that experience. Though I recognize that all parts of the Dartmouth community are not 100% tolerant and welcoming to the LGBT community, I was lucky to have an overwhelmingly positive experience as an LGBT student at Dartmouth. The acceptance and support I experienced at Dartmouth significantly altered my views about being gay: I came to Dartmouth terrified that my coming out would erect one hurdle after another between my goals and me. I left Dartmouth proud of my LGBT identity and confident about the tide of LGBT rights in the wider world.

Since leaving Dartmouth, I continue to become even more hopeful about the rights of LGBT citizens in this country. Besides celebrating the major LGBT rights accomplishments of the past few years, I’ve seen the changing reality of LGBT rights impact in my immediate professional life. I spent last year managing a boutique cupcake bakery and had the pleasure of coordinating cupcake orders for several LGBT weddings (and yes, lesbian brides are just as crazy as their straight counterparts). I even represented my company at the Massachusetts LGBT Wedding expo. There, I was floored by the number of vendors who came to a random hotel in Quincy, Massachusetts to make themselves known as LGBT friendly wedding vendors.

I’ve since left the cupcake world and reentered the education realm as a Masters student at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE). Even in my first few weeks as a student, I’ve been inspired by the emphasis HGSE places on issues relating to LGBT youth. I’ve already attended a book talk on how to better support LGBT students in K-12 schools and will be attending two other talks on gender non-conforming LGBT youth in schools and one on LGBT youth in rural areas, in the next month. HGSE even offers full courses dedicated to issues like bullying and gender and sexuality in schools! Overall, it’s really empowering to see so many educators concerned and interested in positively impacting the lives of LGBT students.

I’m really thankful and lucky to have lived in tolerant places since leaving Dartmouth- may the rest of this country become as tolerant as Massachusetts. Regardless, I share quick snippets of my post grad life a) because a ’13 OPAL intern who I respect asked me to and b) because I wanted to illustrate that being LGBT in my version of the real world has been great thus far. ’13’s, you should all move to Boston- just kidding. Happy National Coming Out Month everybody!