

Queer Scientist of Contemporary Note: Frank Kameny, Gay Activist

Rarely but truthfully can it be said that our civil rights movement has owed more to any one individual than we owe to Franklin Edward Kameny and his selfless fight for equality.

Born in 1925, Franklin Kameny entered college at the age of 15 to study physics. His education was interrupted by service during World War II, yet he succeeded in earning his Ph.D. from Harvard in astronomy by 1956. The following year, he was dismissed from his position as an astronomer for the U.S. Army Map Service in Washington, D.C. because of his homosexuality. In 1958, he was barred from all future employment with the federal government, and Kameny began his life long career as a gay rights activist.

Kameny's long crusade against the government to restore his job included an attempt to take his petition to the U.S. Supreme Court, which was denied in March 1961. Nevertheless, Kameny continued to confront the U.S. Civil Service Commission to overturn its discriminatory rulings — and when the unjust regulation finally collapsed, it is fair to say much of the credit goes to Kameny's direct action, lobbying and modern public relations strategies that had not existed before. "Can't Fire Deviates, U.S. Told," wrote The Associated Press in 1969.

Kameny co-founded the Mattachine Society of Washington to fight for fair and equal treatment of homosexuals in the federal government by opposing security clearance denials, employment restrictions and dismissals, and by working with other groups to achieve full equality. Through his life, Kameny worked to overturn sodomy laws, helped remove the classification of homosexuality as a mental disorder from the American Psychiatric Association's manual of mental disorders, became the first openly gay candidate for the U.S. Congress, launched the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, D.C., and co-founded National Gay Task Force (the precursor to the Human Rights Campaign).

Kameny was also a friend to NOGLSTP. He was a resource and collaborator on one of NOGLSTP's first educational pamphlets, "Security Clearances: Your Rights and the Law".

Kameny has recently made a historic gift to the Library of Congress of his more than 70,000 memorabilia, papers, artifacts and records — a result of the Kameny Papers Project. He was recently honored for his lifetime achievements with the Human Rights Campaign GLBT Civil Rights and Legend National Capitol Area Leadership Award.

for more information: www.kamenypapers.org

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

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, and an endorsing society of National Engineers Week. 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

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

NOGLSTP Outreach at Out and Equal Workplace Summit

NOGLSTP presented a workshop at the 2006 Out and Equal Workplace Summit held this September in Chicago. The workshop, entitled "LBGT-Targeted Science and Technology Mentoring Programs: Employee Resource Group Participation", highlighted strategies that Corporate Employee Resource Groups can do to partner with existing LBGT and minority-targeted mentoring resources to bring LBGT students into the science/technology workforce. Rochelle Diamond, NOGLSTP chair, presided over a panel that included Chase Hawkins of Ratheon Corp., Michael O'Neal of Intel's IGLOBE, and Stephanie Fox of MentorNet.

NOGLSTP was able to share a booth this year at the summit with oSTEM, a new national organization for students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Thanks go to IBM for their generous donation of their booth space. NOGLSTP representatives networked with many high technology, biotech, and pharmaceutical human resource and LGBTQ employee resource group representatives throughout the summit.

Dupont and NOGLSTP sponsor Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Event

A successful workshop entitled "Homeward Bound, Part II. Welcoming the Whole You!" led by Dupont was presented at the SWE 2006 National Conference in St. Louis October 13th. Immediately following the workshop a Meet and Greet was sponsored by NOGLSTP. This event was back by request of SWE and featured a panel discussion of several companies that discussed the different ways that they welcome individuality and the importance of having employees feel comfortable being themselves at the workplace so that they can unleash the power of creativity and innovation from diversity. This workshop also explored gender expression, including what leading edge companies are doing to provide a welcoming environment for employees and families of all types of gender expression, gender identities, and sexual orientation. NOGLSTP was also featured in the discussion. Several attendees volunteered to help organize for next year's meeting. Thanks go to Gayle Gibson of Dupont for organizing the workshop and overseeing the meet and greet!

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NOGLSTP Sponsors Events for the LGBTQA Attendees at the Society for the Advancement of Chicano and Native American Scientists (SACNAS) National Conference

For the second year in a row, NOGLSTP participated in the SACNAS National Conference. This year's conference held in Tampa Florida in late October provided two hard fought events for the LGBTQ attendees. The conference provided rooms but no additional funding for the events. In light of that NOGLSTP stepped in to provide a mixer/reception hosted by that was originally scheduled for early in the conference but moved to the end by the conference organizers. A resource forum put on by an ad hoc LGBTQA committee of hardworking volunteers including Rochelle Diamond and Dr. Amy Ross was held prior to the reception. The forum provided a discussion from three viewpoints – Patrick Brit Ventura, a doctoral student at the University of New Mexico talked about student and academic issues; Stephanie Power of Raytheon discussed working in the high technology corporate environment; and Dr. Amy Ross provided NOGLSTP insight into NOGLSTP's mentoring program and the issues and concerns that NOGLSTP brings to the table. NOGLSTP leadership would like to see if a caucus of LGBTQA SACNAS members and supporters could be formed to better serve their community to negotiate events like these with the SACNAS administrators. Interested people should contact the NOGLSTP office.

Introducing NOGLSTP—Chesapeake Region

We welcome aboard our newest regional group, the NOGLSTP—Chesapeake Region, spearheaded by our members in Maryland. This group joins our growing family of affiliates which includes our chemists' caucus, LGBT Chemists and Allies, and regional group Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Scientists.

Instead of chapters, NOGLSTP has CAUCUS and REGIONAL GROUP categories of group membership. A CAUCUS is a group of people -- within the same discipline, or professional society, or company -- with some common viewpoint. A REGIONAL GROUP is a group of people within a specific geographic area. These groups affiliate with NOGLSTP through group annual dues or a formally organized critical number of NOGLSTP members, and have representation on our Board of Directors. Guidelines for group affiliation are available through the NOGLSTP office.

Science News:

Gay in the wild

Next time someone tries to argue “that ain’t natural”, send them for an educational visit to the “Against Nature” exhibit at Oslo Natural History Museum in Norway, which shows same-sex animal pairs. The exhibit documents homosexuality among penguins, parrots, giraffes, whales and other animals and insects. A translation from Norwegian into English of a statement at the exhibit says “We may have opinions on a lot of things, but one thing is clear — homosexuality is found throughout the animal kingdom, it is not against nature.” According to Geir Soeli, the project leader of the exhibit, “Homosexuality has been observed for more than 1,500 animal species, and is well documented for 500 of them.”

Source: Reuters via YahooNews

Advances in HIV Vaccine Research

The slow pace of AIDS research can be pinned, in no small part, on something akin to the square-peg-round-hole conundrum. The HIV-1 virus won't replicate in monkey cells, so researchers use a monkey virus -- known as SIVmac, or the macaque version of simian immunodeficiency virus -- to test potential therapies and vaccines in animals. But therapies and vaccines that are effective on SIV don't necessarily translate into human success. Now, using a combination of genetic engineering and forced adaptation, researchers at Rockefeller and the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center have created a version of the AIDS virus that replicates vigorously in both human and monkey cells -- an advance that has the potential to revolutionize vaccine research.

In a paper published in the October 10th issue of *Science*, Paul Bieniasz, associate professor and head of the Laboratory of Retrovirology, describes how he and his colleagues maneuvered around the intrinsic immunity of primate cells by replacing just a few parts of the human virus — the ones responsible for blocking replication in monkey cells — with components from SIV.

Source: http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2006-10/ru-hga101006.php

2006 Corporate Equality Index: Corporate America More GLBT-Friendly Than Ever

Good news! A record number of U.S. companies are competing to expand benefits and protections for their gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender employees and consumers, according to a new Human Rights Campaign report. More and more companies are including GLBT people in their non-discrimination policies and offering benefits to employees' domestic partners. HRC's Corporate Equality Index rates companies on a scale from zero to 100 based on their treatment of GLBT workers, customers and investors — and this year, 138 companies, the highest number ever, received the top score.

For more information: www.hrc.org/cei

Check out this new workplace networking site:
www.glbworkplace.com

oSTEM – New national student group for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

In October 2005, IBM sponsored a focus group where students from across the United States convened at the Human Rights Campaign headquarters in Washington D.C. The students discussed topics relevant to LGBTQ communities at their own colleges and universities and debated how to structure an organization serving students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. oSTEM, which stands for Out in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, emerged from this focus group as a new national technical student society for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities. Although young, oSTEM has the potential to propel the LGBTQ community forward with innovative opportunities.

oSTEM is a national LGBTQ-affirming organization which aims to: 1) Provide services and support for students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; 2) Create a dynamic network between students and professionals in industry and academia; 3) Provide education, outreach, and professional resources to high school students; and 4) Actively recruit and address the needs of diverse groups within our community, inclusive of those who are historically underrepresented with regards to gender and ethnic background. Chapters are currently being established at various universities around the United States, including Pennsylvania State University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, University of Maryland, North Carolina State University, University of Texas, University of Illinois, and Ohio State University. Please send an email to info@ostem.org if you are interested in aiding an existing or establishing a new oSTEM chapter!

Recognition Awards – Call for nominations

NOGLSTP is proud of its annual recognition awards which create LGBT science and engineering role models through recognition of professional achievement. These awards will be presented at our Annual Recognition Awards Ceremony, to be held during the 2007 AAAS Meeting in San Francisco. Each year at this time we put a call for nominations for the following categories:

- ▽ The Walt Westman Award - for a NOGLSTP member who has shown dedication and commitment to the advancement of NOGLSTP's mission.
- ▽ GLBT Scientist of the Year Award – for a GLBT scientist, who has made outstanding, sustained contributions to the field or discipline.
- ▽ GLBT Engineer of the Year Award – for a GLBT engineer, who has made outstanding, sustained contributions to the field or discipline.
- ▽ GLBTA Educator of the Year Award – for a GLBTA educator who has enabled GLBT students in science or technology through teaching, counseling, advocacy, role modeling or other educational roles.
- ▽ National Institution/Organization Award – for the institution/organization who has demonstrated outstanding support of NOGLSTP, its programs and objectives.
- ▽ National Corporate Award — for the corporation or company which has demonstrated outstanding support for NOGLSTP.

The public is welcome to make nominations for all categories. Except for the Walt Westman Award, nominees need not be NOGLSTP members. Nomination deadline for this year is November 15, and nomination forms can be downloaded from www.noglstp.org/awards.php

Mark Your Calendars

- ▽ November 2, 2006, 2 pm: NOGLSTP participates at Diversity Forum and Reception at Southeastern Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society, Augusta Marriott Hotel, GA; open to all meeting attendees
- ▽ February 18, 2007, 1:45 pm: NOGLSTP Symposium “Electronic Mentoring Programs: Benefits to Minority Communities in Science and Technology” at AAAS Annual Meeting in San Francisco; open to all meeting attendees.
- ▽ February 18, 2007, morning: NOGLSTP Annual Business Meeting, San Francisco; open to all NOGLSTP members
- ▽ February 18, 2007, late afternoon: NOGLSTP Annual Recognition Awards Ceremony and Reception, San Francisco; open to all interested people

Thank You, Raytheon!

Raytheon Company, recipient of the NOGLSTP 2005 Corporate Award, has continued its generous support of NOGLSTP with a \$2000 grant to sponsor our 2007 Recognition Awards Ceremony and Reception.

Equality Forum celebrates GLBT History Month

This October, Equality Forum is celebrating GLBT History Month with a biography a day of 31 GLBT people of note. Included in the project are two science and technology role models:

- ▽ Tim Gill, founder of the highly successful computer company Quark, Inc. and creator of the Gill Foundation, one of the first major foundations to benefit the GLBT community, and
- ▽ Alan Turing, English mathematician, logician, and cryptographer, and “father” of modern computer science

To enjoy the biographies and short web-videos, point your web browser to <http://www.glbthistorymonth.com/glbthistorymonth/>

NOGLSTP has been asked to nominate a role model for next year's project.

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Let Live For Today Travel help plan your next vacation—you deserve it! E-mail us at: info@livefortodaytravel.com or call us at 336-638-4585. Let us know you are a member of NOGLSTP and we'll give you a \$25 gift card when you book your next vacation.

International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association
IGLTA

IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES?

Check your mailing label. If it says 200610-200612, it is time to renew your membership. If it says 200606-200609, 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, 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.

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 →