

# NOGLSTP *Bulletin*

Spring 2006

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

## News from NOGLSTP

The first two quarters of the year have been a very busy time for NOGLSTP.

In January, we launched our Mentoring Project with lead funding from IBM. The first phase of the project was to become an Affiliated Partner Plus of MentorNet, the E-Mentoring Network for Diversity in Engineering and Science. This affiliation allows NOGLSTP members to participate in MentorNet's e-mentoring network, including the One-on-One Mentoring Program.

In February, we held our Annual Meeting and Reception during the AAAS Annual Meeting in St. Louis, MO. At the reception, we held our 3rd Annual Recognition Awards Ceremony, honoring Kerry Sieh, Peter Ventzek, Denice Denton and Michael Parga for their outstanding contributions to science, engineering, education, and NOGLSTP, respectively.

That same week, NOGLSTP participated as an endorsing society of National Engineers Week (E-Week). One of our E-Week activities was the aforementioned honoring of Peter Ventzek, our GLBT Engineer of the Year. The other activity was to participate in the E-Week Global Marathon, a 24 hour series of short teleconference forums. NOGLSTP Mentoring Project Coordinator Amy Ross presented "Mentoring gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered science and technology students: bridging the academic-corporate gap", and moderated post-forum Q and A. This presentation is now available as a podcast, accessible from the Mentoring Project section of the NOGLSTP website.

Amy Ross continued to spread the word about the NOGLSTP Mentoring Project by giving presentations to potential sponsors Intel, Boeing, and Booz Allen Hamilton. In addition, Amy promoted our cause as a special guest on one of Q Television Network's On Topic episodes, and gave interviews to several free lance reporters.

In the meantime, Amy Ross and NOGLSTP Chair Rochelle Diamond have participated in a number of conference calls with the Diversity Committee of the National Postdoctoral Association, helping to identify LGBTQ inclusivity goals for that organization. This relationship with NPA has been made possible by NOGLSTP's association with NPA as a sustaining member. See the next article for more information about this project.

Much much more is in the works. And it is all made possible by volunteer efforts. To jump on the bandwagon, contact the NOGLSTP office with your offer to help with contribution of time, expertise or financial support!

## NOGLSTP Joins the National Postdoctoral Association

This past spring, NOGLSTP became a sustaining member of the National Postdoctoral Association, joining a distinguished list of 92 sustaining members including 7 professional societies. The National Postdoctoral Association (NPA) is a member-driven organization that provides a unique, national voice for postdoctoral scholars. The NPA represents approximately 30,000 postdoctoral scholars who comprise a significant portion of the science and technology workforce. By supporting the NPA, NOGLSTP is supporting the next generation of young investigators in academia and industry. And, by becoming a sustaining member of NPA, NOGLSTP and its members have an opportunity to have a direct voice in matters such as LGBTQ inclusivity and equal employment opportunity.

According to the NPA web site, [www.nationalpostdoc.org](http://www.nationalpostdoc.org), members of NPA's sustaining members are entitled to NPA's individual membership benefits. This implies that NOGLSTP's postdoctoral members may have access to NPA individual member benefits, which include reduced registration fees to the NPA Annual Meeting, access to members-only NPA web content and features (The Institutional Postdoctoral Policies Database, The Postdoctoral Association (PDA) Toolkit, and portions of the International Postdoc Survival Guide), and access to group health insurance through NAGPS. NOGLSTP members who are interested in any of these benefits should contact the NOGLSTP Office for further information.

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## Good News

### Point Foundation Awards 30 Scholarships

PlanetOut Network reports that the Point Foundation awarded thirty scholarships were awarded in late May to outstanding lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students. The students were chosen from among more than 1,300 who applied. The average award is \$12,500, renewable annually. Founded in 2001, the Point Foundation is devoted to providing higher education subsidies to LGBT students. Last year, it awarded 20 scholarships. Point Scholars are chosen for their demonstrated leadership, scholastic achievement, involvement in the LGBT community and financial need. As of June 2006, there are 65 Point Scholars in school and 12 alumni. (*Editor's note: Wouldn't it be cool if NOGLSTP could offer a scholarship to LGBT science / engineering students through the Point Foundation? Maybe we will someday...*)

### Geneticist Esnayra Receives Eli Lilly Welcome Back Award

Dr. Joan Esnayra, geneticist, LGBT activist, and depression community activist, is one of five recipients of the 2006 Eli Lilly "Welcome Back Award". Each year, an independent committee of mental health leaders chooses five honorees to receive this award for their commitment to helping others in the depression community. Dr. Esnayra was honored for her founding of the Psychiatric Service Dog Society and developing a therapeutic model around training dogs to do tasks such as waking up their owner in the morning, encouraging exercise and even reminding their owner to take his or her medication. Through this project, she has helped thousands of mentally ill individuals learn how to train and use their own PSD. She is conducting research on the efficacy of these canine partnerships and will publish her results in clinical journals.

## Interesting News

### Brain Response to Putative Pheromones in Lesbian Women

In a continuation of studies reported in 2005, Swedish researchers Berglund, Lindstrom, and Savic have demonstrated brain responses of lesbians to putative pheromones. In the 2005 positron emission tomography studies, they found that smelling 4,16-androstadien-3-one (AND) and estra-1,3,5(10),16-tetraen-3-ol (EST) activated regions primarily incorporating the sexually dimorphic nuclei of the anterior hypothalamus, that this activation was differentiated with respect to sex and compound, and that homosexual men processed AND congruently with heterosexual women rather than heterosexual men. These observations indicate involvement of the anterior hypothalamus in physiological processes related to sexual orientation in humans. In their present study, they expand the information on this issue by performing identical positron emission tomography experiments on 12 lesbian women. In contrast to heterosexual women, lesbian women processed AND stimuli by the olfactory networks and not the anterior hypothalamus. Furthermore, when smelling EST, they partly shared activation of the anterior hypothalamus with heterosexual men. These data support the previous results about differentiated processing of pheromone-like stimuli in humans and further strengthen the notion of a coupling between hypothalamic neuronal circuits and sexual preferences. (Source: *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2006 May 23;103(21):8269-74. Epub 2006 May 16.)

## Bad News

### "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Discharges Climb

(Source: Associated Press, May 25, 2006)

The number of military members discharged under the Pentagon's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on gay men and lesbians rose by 11 percent last year -- the first increase since 2001. Discharges under this policy peaked at 1,227 in 2001, then fell to 885 the following year, 770 in 2003, 653 in 2004, then 726 during the 2005 budget year that ended Sept. 30. The policy prohibits the military from inquiring about the sex lives of service members but requires discharges of those who openly acknowledge being gay. Neither the White House nor the Pentagon has given any indication of dropping their long-standing support for the policy, implemented in 1993 under the Clinton administration.

### Transsexual Files \$4.5-Million Discrimination Suit On Two Continents

(Source: 365Gay.com )

An American transsexual working in the UK as an IT specialist has filed discrimination suits against Hitachi Data Systems in both British and US courts.

When Jessica Bussert, 41, began transitioning she, the woman she married while still identifying as male and their two children, transferred from Hitachi in Indiana to the company's British operation, believing the UK to be a more tolerant society. In 2004 when other workers began to comment on Bussert's long hair and other physical changes due to hormone therapy she began to let people know she was transitioning.

In her court filings Bussert says that her boss, Steve Larkin, made a disparaging remark about transsexuals and said he did not want any of "these people" working for him. The lawsuits also claim that Larkin without consulting Bussert made changes to business agreements she had reached, destroying her credibility with colleagues. The following year Bussert took six weeks' sick leave, out of the six months to which she was entitled and returned to the US for breast surgery. When she reported back for duty in England, Bussert's suit says, she was effectively demoted although her \$168,000 salary remained the same. As the work environment continued to worsen Bussert filed a discrimination claim with Hitachi but the lawsuits claim the situation still deteriorated and she suffered "stress causing clinical depression, with anxiety and panic disorder". When she returned to sick leave Hitachi stopped paying her.

## Give a Helping Hand

We probably don't need to remind you that the success of NOGLSTP outreach programs depends on corporate and individual generosity. Of course you know that! NOGLSTP is a 501c3 educational organization, so any donation you give to us is tax-deductible. You can let us decide how best to use your donation, or you can restrict it for use on a specific project. You can write us a check, transfer assets of stock, or designate NOGLSTP as a beneficiary of your estate, insurance policy, and retirement accounts. Point your browser to <http://www.noglstp.org/donate.php> for details.

While you're poking around the NOGLSTP web site and feeling philanthropic, we hope you will be inspired to get involved with one of our projects. Sign up to become a mentor, offer to represent NOGLSTP at your professional society meeting, write a series of articles for the newsletter, spearhead some local events, consider joining the board of directors, or simply encourage your colleagues to join the organization!

## Center for Disease Control Commemorates 25 Years of AIDS

Nearly 25 years after the first report of a handful of cases of a nameless deadly disease among gay men in New York and Los Angeles, there are still over 1 million persons living with HIV in the United States. The "new" syndrome discovered 25 years ago has become one of the deadliest epidemics in human history, killing more than 25 million people around the world. Although major advances in prevention and treatment for HIV/AIDS have prolonged and improved the lives of many, the epidemic is far from over. As hopes of a vaccine dwindle, the only certain cure is prevention. Visit the CDC website for a complete report, including a view of the 1981 Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report that contained the first article on an opportunistic infection associated with what we now call the human immunodeficiency virus.

## Mark Your Calendars

The events in bold will have some degree of NOGLSTP involvement, details to be announced as the time approaches.

- ∇ Summer pride links—international events  
[http://www.interpride.org/12/2006\\_Events.htm](http://www.interpride.org/12/2006_Events.htm)
- ∇ August 3-6, 2006: 31st National Conference on Men and Masculinity Creating Connections for Gender Justice and the 18th Annual Men's Studies Association Meeting , Ramapo College of New Jersey
- ∇ August 13-18, 2005: XVI International AIDS Conference, "Time to Deliver" , Metro Toronto Convention Center
- ∇ **September 10 - 14, 2006: American Chemical Society Meeting & Exposition , San Francisco, CA USA**
- ∇ **September 14-16, 2006: 16th Annual Out & Equal Workplace Summit, "Everyone Counts", Hyatt Regency Chicago**
- ∇ October 11-14, 2006: 24th Annual Conference of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, Renaissance Parc 55 Hotel, San Francisco
- ∇ October 12-14, 2006: Society of Women Engineers National Conference, Kansas City Convention Center, Kansas City, MO
- ∇ **October 26-29, 2006: Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science National Conference, Tampa Convention Center; NOGLSTP Sponsored Reception for LGBTQA People October 27, 8-9pm**
- ∇ **November 1-4, 2006: Southeastern Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society, Augusta GA**

## IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES?

Check your mailing label. If it says 200606-200609, it is time to renew your membership. If it says 200602-200605, 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](http://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.

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### 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

## Queer Scientist of Contemporary Note: Kerry Sieh

Kerry Sieh is the Robert P. Sharp Professor of Geology in the Geological and Planetary Sciences Division at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California. He joined Caltech in 1986 after obtaining his Ph.D. in geology from Stanford University. His research in earthquake geology (neotectonics and paleoseismology) documents ancient earthquakes and slip rates along California, Sumatra, and Taiwan faults has set the standard for quantitative estimates of the probability of future destructive earthquakes. He has authored over 80 papers, co-authored three books, and received many awards for his research and public service. Kerry has not only made great strides in pushing earthquake science forward, but reached out to bridge the divide between science and policy to better the lives of millions of people who live in earthquake prone zones from Southern California to Taiwan to Sumatra, where he and his colleagues initiated an educational program to teach Sumatran citizens about earthquakes and tsunamis and to warn them of the hazards several years prior to the great earthquakes of 2004 and 2005, thereby saving many lives. In addition, throughout his career, Kerry has been openly gay and has provided clear leadership within the GLBT community through his service as a faculty advisor to Caltech's Student Pride Association. He is a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union, Geological Society of America and a member of the National Academy of Sciences. Because of his outstanding achievements in earth science, public education, as well as his leadership in the GLBT community, Dr. Kerry Sieh was the recipient of the 2006 NOGLSTP GLBT Scientist Award.

### 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](http://www.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@noglstp.org](mailto:office@noglstp.org). Next publication deadline: August 1, 2006

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