Queer Scientist of Contemporary Note: Frank Kameny, Gay Activist

Rarely 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 continued pursuing his interest in astronomy. By 1956, Kameny earned his B.S. from the University of Chicago. During his years in Chicago, Kameny worked with other groups to achieve full equality.

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 in Chicago. 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, and 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 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

NOGLSTP Outreach at Out and Equal Workplace Summit

NOGLSTP presented a workshop at the 2006 Out and Equal Workplace Summit. A 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, provided opening remarks, followed by networking sessions. Hawkins of Ratheon Corp., Michael O’Neil of Intel’s IGOBLE, and Stephanie Fox of MentorNet.

Kameny was able to share a booth this year at the summit with STEM, 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 LBGTQ 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. What’s 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 to help organize for next year’s meeting. Attendees at the Society for the Advancement

NOGLSTP Outreach at Out and Equal Workplace Summit

NOGLSTP presented a workshop at the 2006 Out and Equal Workplace Summit. A 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, provided opening remarks, followed by networking sessions. Hawkins of Ratheon Corp., Michael O’Neil of Intel’s IGOBLE, and Stephanie Fox of MentorNet.

Kameny was able to share a booth this year at the summit with STEM, 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 LBGTQ 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. What’s 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 to help organize for next year’s meeting. 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 Aloc LGBTQ 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 Britt Ventura, a doctoral student at the University of New Mexico talked about student and academic issues; Stephanie Palmer of Raytheon discussed working in high technology corporation; 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 LGBTQ SAAS 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.

Inside this Issue:

Page 1: NOGLSTP at OWE Workplace Summit; Dupont and NOGLSTP sponsor SWE Event; NOGLSTP sponsors events for the LGBTQ at SACNAS National Conference; Introducing NOGLSTP—Chesapeake Region; Page 2: Science News; 2006 Corporate Equality Index; Workplace networking site: www.gblitworkplace.com; ASTEM, Recognition Awards -- Call for Nominations; Page 3: Mark Your Calendars, Thank You, Raytheon!; Equality Forum celebrates GLBT History Month; Advertisement: Live for Today Travel; Membership Renewal Form; Page 4: Queer Scientist of Contemporary Note: Frank Kameny, Gay Activist; About NOGLSTP

Fall 2006

NOGLSTP Bulletin

©National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals, Inc.
NOGLSTP, PO BOX 91803, Pasadena CA 91109, phone/fax: 626 791-7689, www.noglstp.org

NOGLSTP Bulletin

Fall 2006

NOGLSTP Bulletin ISSN 1099-338X

Page 1

NOGLSTP Bulletin ISSN 1099-338X

Page 4

NOGLSTP Bulletin ISSN 1099-338X

Page 4

NOGLSTP Bulletin ISSN 1099-338X

Page 4

NOGLSTP Bulletin ISSN 1099-338X

Page 4

NOGLSTP Bulletin ISSN 1099-338X
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 com- drum. The HIV-1 virus won’t replicate in monkey cells, so re- searchers use a monkey virus — known as SIVmac, or the ma- caque simian immunodeficiency virus — to test po- tential 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 engi- neering and a form of adaptation, researchers at Rockefeller and the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center have created a ver- sion of the AIDS virus that replicates vigorously in both hu- man and monkey cells — an advance that has the potential to revitalize 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 manu- factured a new strain of the HIV-1 virus that replicates in monkey cells. The SIV virus is used as a model for the HIV virus because the two viruses cause similar diseases. The new strain, called SIVmac251, is highly infectious and can be used to study the replication of the HIV virus in monkey cells.

The slow progression of AIDS research can be attributed to the difficulty of replicating the virus in a non-human primate model. The SIV virus, which causes AIDS in monkeys, does not replicate in human cells, making it difficult to test potential treatments in a human-like setting. However, the new strain of SIVmac251 has the potential to provide a more accurate model for studying AIDS.

The new strain of SIVmac251 has several advantages over previous models. First, it replicates more efficiently in monkey cells than previous strains. This allows researchers to study the virus at earlier stages of infection, which can provide valuable insight into the virus's early stages of replication. Second, the new strain is more similar to the HIV virus, which is important for testing potential treatments that target the virus's replication in human cells. Finally, the new strain is more similar to the HIV virus in terms of its disease phenotype, making it a more effective model for studying the effects of the virus on the host.

In conclusion, the new strain of SIVmac251 represents a significant advance in the field of AIDS research. By providing a more accurate model for studying the virus, it can help accelerate the development of new treatments and vaccines for AIDS.

Mark Your Calendars

- November 2, 2006, 2:pm: NOGLSTP participates at Diversity Forum and Re- ception at Southeastern Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society, Augustus Marriott Hotel, Gatlinburg, TN.
- 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 Fran- cisco; 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 technol- ogy role models:

- Tim Gill, founder of his 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 Tougas, 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.glblhmonthon.com/glbthistorymonth/

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

Paid Advertisement:

LABOR FOR TODAY TRAVEL

“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn’t do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines, sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.” — Mark Twain

A vacation creates unforgettable memories that last a lifetime. It is the ultimate tool to reduce the pressures of everyday life and stimulate stress. Stress thre- atens people’s wellness, affecting the function of the immune system, cardiovascu- lar health, emotional well-being and overall quality of life.

Planning a vacation is exciting, it stimulates the imagination, and makes us have fun. Vacations are a way to increase the quality of time spent with family, friends, and loved ones. The personal benefits and memories from a vacation last a lifetime.

At Live For Today Travel we put together fun and exciting vacations for the gay and lesbian community, their family, and friends. We arrange travel plans from suppliers who specialize in gay and lesbian travel. We also work with mainstream tour operators. We have a range of options to suit every traveler’s budget to cre- ate their dream vacation. We provide our customers the greatest personal service at the absolute lowest possible prices all at no cost.

At Live For Today Travel, we put together fun and exciting vacations for the gay and lesbian community, their family, and friends. We arrange travel plans from suppliers who specialize in gay and lesbian travel. We also work with mainstream tour operators. We have a range of options to suit every traveler’s budget to cre- ate their dream vacation. We provide our customers the greatest personal service at the absolute lowest possible prices all at no cost.

For more information, check us out at www.labordailytravel.com or call us at 336-638-4585. Let Live For Today Travel help you plan your next vacation—you deserve it! Email us at: info@livefortodaytravel.com or call us at 336-638-4585. Let Live For Today Travel help you plan your next vacation—you deserve it! Email us at: info@livefortodaytravel.com or call us at 336-638-4585.

For more information, check us out at www.labordailytravel.com or call us at 336-638-4585. Let Live For Today Travel help you plan your next vacation—you deserve it! Email us at: info@livefortodaytravel.com or call us at 336-638-4585. Let Live For Today Travel help you plan your next vacation—you deserve it! Email us at: info@livefortodaytravel.com or call us at 336-638-4585.