

# NOGLSTP *Bulletin*

Winter 2006

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

## NOGLSTP to Honor Sieh, Ventzek, Denton, and Parga at 2006 Awards Ceremony in February

The National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals is pleased to announce this year's recipients of its GLBT Scientist, Engineer, and Educator of the Year Awards and the Walt Westman Award: Dr. Kerry Sieh, Dr. Peter Ventzek, Dr. Denise Denton, and Mr. Michael Parga, respectively. These awards will be presented to the honorees at a ceremony during the NOGLSTP Reception at the upcoming 2006 AAAS Annual Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri on February 19th at the Renaissance Grand Hotel.

**Dr. Kerry Sieh** of West Hollywood, California, has been selected as the recipient of the 2006 NOGLSTP GLBT Scientist Award. This award is made to the GLBT Scientist who has made outstanding contributions in their field, recognizing sustained contributions in research and education as well as the societal significance of these contributions and achievements. Dr. Sieh has been chosen to receive this award because of his outstanding achievements in earth science as well as his leadership in the GLBT community. His research in earthquake geology (neotectonics and paleoseismology) documenting 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. Throughout his career, Dr. Sieh 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. Dr. Sieh has been a Professor of Geological and Planetary Sciences at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California since 1986. He is a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union, Geological Society of America and a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

**Dr. Peter Ventzek** of Austin, Texas, is the recipient of the 2006 NOGLSTP GLBT Engineer Award. This award recognizes a GLBT Engineer who has made outstanding contributions in their field, and recognizes sustained contributions in design, production, management, or research. Dr. Ventzek has been chosen to receive this award because of his outstanding technical achievements and his leadership in the GLBT community. This award honors his major contributions to improvements in the semiconductor industry, with specific emphasis on modeling and simulations to enhance etching processes while reducing costs and time to market, as well as his support of

*(Continued on page 2, Recognition Awards)*

## Meet Us in St. Louis...

Please join us in St. Louis MO during the American Association for the Advancement of Science Annual Meeting for



**NOGLSTP Annual Business Meeting**  
**Sunday, February 19th, 11 am - 1 pm,**  
**Kingsbury Room, Renaissance Grand Hotel**  
*Board members and interested NOGLSTP members make plans and strategies for the coming year. Contact the NOGLSTP office (office@noglstp.org) before 2/16/06 to arrange to participate by conference call.*

**NOGLSTP Reception and**  
**Recognition Awards Ceremony**  
**Sunday, February 19th, 4:30-6:30 pm,**  
**Westmoreland Room, Renaissance Grand Hotel**  
*Meet and greet LGBT scientists and engineers from varied disciplines and geographies, and give tribute to our recognition award recipients.*

## IBM Provides Lead Funding for NOGLSTP Mentoring Project

NOGLSTP received a \$10000 donation from IBM in late December, designated to support our developing Mentoring Project. The goals of this Mentoring Project are

- ▽ to connect LGBT science and engineering students, early career professionals, and transitional career professionals with career advice and opportunities from corporate, academic, and professional society sources, and
- ▽ to help the corporate world to fill its pipeline of potential employees with the next generation of the LGBT community's best and brightest science and technology candidates

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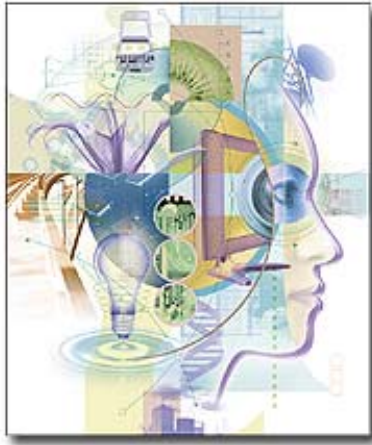
*HRC Report: The Best Places to Work; About NOGLSTP*

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GLBT employees at Freescale and participation in the Freescale EQUAL employee group. Dr. Ventzek has a Ph.D. in nuclear engineering from the University of Michigan. He is currently the manager of Advanced Products Research and Development Laboratory at Freescale and the chair of the Plasma Science & Technology Division of the American Vacuum Society (AVS).

**Dr. Denice Denton** is the recipient of the 2006 NOGLSTP Educator Award. This award is made to the GLBTA Educator who has enabled significant growth for GLBT students in science or technology - through teaching, counseling, advocacy, role modeling, or other educational roles. Dr. Denton has been chosen to receive this award because of her outstanding achievements in engineering and education in addition to her leadership in the GLBT community. Throughout her career in education, she has been committed to the ideal of excellence and to its close compatibility with diversity, diverting or creating the necessary resources to make it happen. In May 2004, she was among nine scholars honored by the White House with a Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring, recognizing her role as a major leader in enhancing diversity in science and engineering. At the same time she has been an outstanding role model to the GLBT community by showing that being out at work, including a life-partner in a public manner, and obtaining career success, are not mutually exclusive parameters. Dr. Denton is currently Chancellor of the University of California, Santa Cruz. She also holds a UCSC appointment as Professor of Electrical Engineering. Previously she was Dean of the College of Engineering and Professor of Electrical Engineering at the University of Washington (UW), the first woman to hold such a position at an NRC-designated Research One university. She has held academic appointments at the University of Massachusetts, the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zürich, and the University of Wisconsin- Madison.

**Mr. Michael Parga** of La Mirada, California has been selected as the recipient of the 2006 NOGLSTP Walt Westman Award. Named for one of NOGLSTP's founders, this award is the highest national award given to a NOGLSTP Member who has shown dedication and commitment to the advancement of NOGLSTP's mission. This prestigious award recognizes the unselfish and outstanding contributions of the honoree, whose activities -- carried on continuously over a period of years -- have brought honor and esteem to the Organization by their very character. He or she symbolizes, as did Walt Westman, the ideal role model to GLBT engineers and scientists today by preaching aloud that "it can be done". Mr Parga was chosen to receive this award because of his long time support of and continuing involvement with NOGLSTP infrastructure. Before he was even a NOGLSTP Member — and before NOGLSTP was a non-profit corporation — Michael took on the task of doing all the legwork for incorporation and filing for non-profit status on behalf of NOGLSTP. He contacted the IRS and California Franchise Tax Board, acquired all the forms, filled them out, and sent them in, shepherding the process from beginning to end. His early efforts on behalf of NOGLSTP enabled the organization to become the non-profit entity that it is today.



**Celebrate  
National  
Engineers  
Week  
February 19-25,  
2006**  
[www.eweek.org](http://www.eweek.org)

*NOGLSTP is an Endorsing Society of E-Week, and will be celebrating with the presentation of its GLBT Engineer of the Year Award to Peter Ventzek on February 19th.*

**news from 365gay.com:**

**GLMA Receives Grant to Study Meth Use**

The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association has received a \$320,000 grant from Hythiam, a healthcare services management company that specializes in substance abuse. The unrestricted grant will be used by the GLMA to examine methamphetamine use in the gay community and treatment options, and to make recommendations about how health care providers can get meth-addicted patients into treatment. Crystal methamphetamine is one of the most common so-called party drugs used by gay men at raves and other events and its use has been linked to risky sex.

**IRS: Gender Reassignment Just Cosmetic Surgery**

A transgendered woman who sought a tax deduction for gender reassignment surgery has been told by the IRS that the operation is considered cosmetic surgery and not eligible for a break. The case is now before IRS Office of Appeals. The Internal Revenue Service's Office of Chief Counsel told the appeals tribunal that gender reassignment is not necessary surgery and therefore cannot be deducted as a medical expense for tax purposes.

**Military Discharged Hundreds Of Gay Health Professionals**

Hundreds of officers and health care professionals have been discharged in the past 10 years under the Pentagon's policy on gays, a loss that while relatively small in numbers involves troops who are expensive for the military to educate and train. The 350 or so affected are a tiny fraction of the 1.4 million members of the uniformed services and about 3.5 percent of the more than 10,000 people discharged under the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy since its inception in 1994. Opponents of the policy on gays acknowledge that the number of those discharged is small. But they say the policy exacerbates a shortage of medical specialists in the military when they are needed the most. Late last year Army officials acknowledged in a congressional hearing that they are seeing shortfalls in key medical specialties.

*(Mentoring Project, Continued from page 1)*

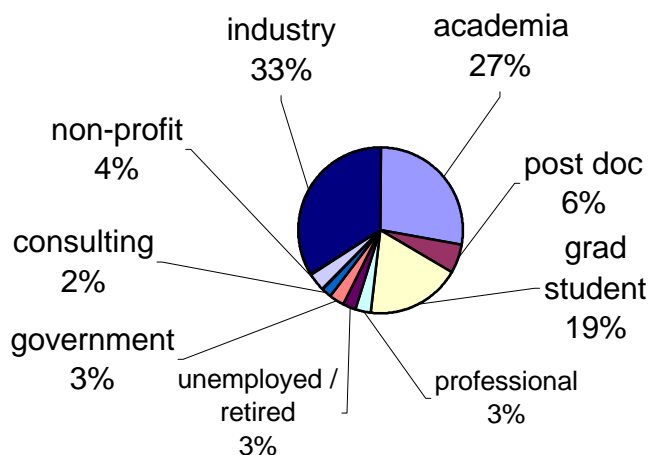
As the first phase of the NOGLSTP Mentoring Project, NOGLSTP has partnered with MentorNet®, the E-Mentoring Network for Diversity in Engineering and Science, to provide on-line mentoring opportunities for its gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered students in the sciences, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The NOGLSTP-MentorNet partnership provides NOGLSTP with a national e-mentoring network that unites academic institution, corporate institution, and scientific and technical professional society mentors with GLBT college and graduate students, post-doctoral scholars, and early-career faculty through MentorNet's award-winning One-on-One Mentoring Programs. With this partnership, participation in the MentorNet® One-on-One Mentoring Program is free to all NOGLSTP members. For more information, point your web browser to <http://www.noglstp.org/mentoringproject.php>.

### Call for Mentors

Become an e-mentor in the NOGLSTP Mentoring Project through MentorNet's One-on-One Mentoring Program, and make a big difference in the life of a student in as little as 20 minutes a week. This is your opportunity to provide "real world" information, encouragement, advice, and access to networks for LGBT science, engineering, and technology students. Because mentors and students communicate entirely by email, they can communicate wherever and whenever they choose. Mentoring relationships last 8 months. Here's how to sign up for the One-on-One Mentoring Program:

1. If you are a NOGLSTP member, make sure your membership status is current. You can do this by examining the date code on your most recent newsletter label, or check with the NOGLSTP Office. If you are not a NOGLSTP member, you may online or use the form on page 3 of this newsletter.
2. Request your personal noglstp.net email address from the NOGLSTP Office.
3. Register as a member of the MentorNet® community, using your @noglstp.net email address, and create a mentor profile. This may involve submitting references that will verify your employment and expertise status.
4. Wait to be notified of a potential protégé match. This may take several months.
5. When notified of a potential match, confirm your availability. Please note: your matches will be based on the priorities and interest areas you indicate in your profile, not necessarily exclusively with LGBT people.

### NOGLSTP Member Employment in a Nutshell:



## IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES?

Check your mailing label. If it says 200602-200605, it is time to renew your membership. If it says 200510-200601, 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.

cut here

### 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 →

## HRC Report: The Best Places to Work

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation released Best Places to Work for GLBT Equality last month, a new online resource that gives job seekers the information they need to find out which employers support gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender employees and consumers.

The list of more than 100 companies is based on data from the HRC Foundation's 2005 Corporate Equality Index, an annual report card on corporate America's treatment of GLBT employees, consumers and investors. Corporations are rated on a scale from zero to 100 on key criteria, including protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, parity of health care benefits for domestic partners and other criteria. The entire list can be found at <http://www.hrc.org/placestowork/>

The following companies on the list are those known to the editor to utilize scientists and technical professionals:

Aerospace and Defense: Raytheon; Chemicals and Biotechnology: Dow Chemical; Computer Software: Adobe, Intuit, Microsoft; Computers: Apple, Dell, HP, IBM, Lexmark, Sun Microsystems, Tech Data, Xerox; Oil and Gas: BP America, Chevron; Pharmaceuticals: GlaxoSmithKline, Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer; Technology: Agilent, Avaya, Bausch & Lomb, ChoicePoint, Cisco, Corning, Eastman Kodak, Freescale, Intel, Lucent, Motorola

### 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, 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 . Next publication deadline: April 20, 2006

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