



# p.a.m Bulletin

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News for the Physics-Astronomy-Math Division of SLA

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## Message from the Chair

**Laura Palumbo**

I am writing this as I prepare to head out to the SLA Leadership Symposium, where I was asked to bring along a flyer with some facts about our Division. I thought I would share a few with you:

- The PAM Division is in its 46th year and has a vibrant membership of 209 members listed in the SLA Membership Directory this January. Although we are a small division, we have played an active role in SLA.
- In between SLA Annual Conferences, we communicate with each other through PAMnet, our open e-mail list, which has been in operation since 1991.
- In 2015, PAM conducted a survey of its membership concerning their professional development needs. We found that PAM appreciates the opportunity that SLA provides to meet the specialized educational requirements of our subject areas, and the ability to connect with our colleagues and content publishers.
- We enjoy cordial relationships with our publisher sponsors, and recognize that their support is key to a successful conference experience.

The other key to a successful conference experience is you! I want to thank everyone who has contributed to and continues to work so hard on annual conference planning, and also our PAMily of committee volunteers. You are all amazing!

Speaking of amazing, I would like to thank our 2017

Editor: [Kayleigh Bohémier](#)

Assistant Editor: [Emily L. Poworoznek](#)

The P.A.M. Bulletin is published quarterly in February, May, August, and November.

Board members who have just finished their terms, Deb Kolah, Past Chair, and Margaret Lam, Treasurer. We appreciate all of the work you've done for us. Welcome to new Board members John Kromer, Chair-elect, and Anya Bartelmann, Treasurer, and thank you to Sheila Bryant who continues as Secretary. I would especially like to thank Beth Brown, our now Past Chair, for all of her service to PAM and for her guidance as Chair. Finally, a shout out to Jeff Bond, the PAM liaison to the Annual Conference Advisory Council, for his help with conference planning. It's reassuring to know that he's in our corner!

It's hard to believe, but we are past the midway point between SLA Phoenix and SLA Baltimore! Registration is open, so make plans now to attend in June. More information on our conference programming follows.

It is an honor to serve as Chair of PAM. So many of you have already filled this position so capably, and with everyone's support, I will try to live up to the high standards you've set.

**SLA 2018 Conference  
in Baltimore**  
**Laura Palumbo, SLA PAM 2018  
Conference Planner**

The 2018 Conference website is up with registration and hotel information:

<https://www.sla.org/attend/sla-2018-annual-conference/>

The following PAM sessions have been approved by SLA, although they haven't been finalized in the schedule yet. The moderators are hard at work securing speakers and making arrangements, so stay tuned for more information.

**Astronomy Roundtable: The Librarian's Guide to the Stars**

Moderators: Donna Thompson and Kelly Durkin Ruth

**Let's Get the Story Straight: Communicating Science Effectively (Physics Roundtable)**

Moderators: Sara Tompson and Therese Triumph

**Mathematics Roundtable**

Moderators: Jenny Hart and Carol Hutchins

**New Ideas in Physics, Astronomy, and Mathematics Publishing, Collections, and Services (by the Publisher Relations Committee)**

Moderators: Zari Kamarei and Andy Shimp

**Data Management, Data Analysis, and Visualization using Excel**

Presenters: Thurston Miller and Parker Ladwig

**Putting a Frame Around STEM Instruction: Lightning Talks on Successful Implementations of the ACRL Framework in STEM Information Literacy Instruction**

Co-sponsored by DBIO, Chemistry, Engineering, and SciTech Divisions

Moderators: Neyda Gilman (DBIO) and Laura Palumbo

The following PAM social events have been approved by SLA and details are still being finalized.

**PAM First Night Dinner**

Hosts: Matt Wascavage and John Kromer

**PAM Open House Reception**

**PAM Annual Business Meeting and Breakfast**

**PAM Tour**

Host: Matt Wascavage

**Louise Leckner Award**

**Louise Leckner Memorial Travel Stipends for Attending SLA Conference**

The SLA-PAM Professional Development Committee is pleased to announce that IOP Publishing is once again sponsoring conference travel stipends to help new librarians with the expenses of attending the SLA Annual Conference. The stipends aim to

accelerate the advancement of new librarians entering science/technology librarianship by mentoring them to access educational and professional opportunities within SLA.

These travel stipends were renamed the Louise Leckner Memorial Travel Stipends to memorialize our dear friend and colleague. Louise was so proud to be a part of this program, which both supports new librarians and deepens the relationships between those librarians and the PAM Division. This is the tenth year running that IOP Publishing and the PAM Division have proudly offered these travel stipends.

The selected recipients will each receive a stipend to assist in defraying the cost of attending the 2018 SLA conference in Baltimore, MD, in June 2018. 2-4 individuals will be awarded stipends (based on the number of applicants, their strength, and whether they match eligibility requirements), and the amount will be split evenly among the awardees from the \$4000 fund.

Learn more about the Louise Leckner Memorial Travel Stipends today at <http://pam.sla.org/manual/awards/travel-stipend/> and nominate yourself or someone you know.

### Eligibility

- Applicants must be graduates of a library science program.
- Applicants must have less than 3 years of professional library information experience.
- Applicants must work in a library focusing on one or more of the PAM disciplines (physics, astronomy, mathematics, or computer science) or act as a library's subject specialist for one or more of these disciplines.
- Applicants must be first-time attendees of the SLA annual conference, or first-time attendees in a PAM discipline.
- International applicants must be eligible to travel to the United States and must be available to participate in US-based PAM activities throughout the year.
- Previous stipend winners are not eligible to apply; however, prior applicants who were not se-

lected are welcome to reapply.

The committee reserves the right not to grant any of the 2-4 awards if not enough applications meet all eligibility requirements and adhere to all the application procedures.

Only applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements at the time of application are submitted to the SLA-PAM review committee for travel stipend consideration.

### Candidate Expectations

- Candidate must attend the SLA Annual Conference the year the award is given.
- Candidate must attend the PAM Division Annual Business Meeting and Breakfast.
- Candidate must be willing to attend PAM sessions and events at the Annual Conference and participate in a group photo session administered by SLA.
- Candidate must be available to participate in US-based PAM activities throughout the year.

### Application Procedure

- Prepare a brief letter (approximately 750 words), answering the questions:
  - How do you meet the criteria?
  - What do you hope to gain from attending the 2018 SLA conference?
  - How do you expect/hope to be involved with the PAM division in the short and long term?

Submit current curriculum vitae/resume.

Applications can be submitted via e-mail to Kayleigh Bohémier at [kayleigh.bohemier@yale.edu](mailto:kayleigh.bohemier@yale.edu) (subject line should begin with Louise Leckner Memorial Travel Stipend). Applications will be accepted until **Thursday, March 1, 2018**. Late applications will not be considered.

### Notification

Applicants will receive notification of award status by Tuesday, March 20, 2018. (Please note that Early Bird Registration ends on March 30.) The award

check will be presented at the PAM Division Annual Business Meeting and Breakfast. No money transfer will be made in case the award recipient cannot attend the conference for any reason.

*The PAM Division is deeply grateful to IOP Publishing for their continued involvement with and support of librarians at the SLA conference, and most especially for their generous commitment to the professional development of new science librarians.*

#### **Selection Committee Members:**

*Sharice Collins*, Vice President, Marketing, IOP Publishing, Inc.

*Kayleigh Bohémier*, PAM Professional Development Chair

*Laura Palumbo*, PAM Chair

*Jennifer Hart*, PAM Mentoring Committee Co-Chair

## **PAM Physics Roundtable 2018** **Therese Triumph &**

Wednesday, June 13th from 10:15-11:30 am

Therese Triumph and Sara Tompson are returning to co-chair the Physics Roundtable, and once again are trying something a little different! The 2018 Roundtable will be an interactive “show-one, do-one” workshop that will help you communicate science effectively.

Our speakers will include two practicing scientists and one science communicator. They will share techniques on how to clearly communicate difficult/theoretical science to anyone. The audience will then get to work on a short communicate themselves about the presentation. The session will conclude with volunteers sharing their work with the rest of

the audience.

The roundtable will feature:

- Dr. Joel Green, astronomer (and musician) from the Space Telescope Science Institute.
- Dr. Katie Mack, theoretical astrophysicist, now at North Carolina State University, and a strong presence on Twitter.
- Natasha Metzler, Science Communicator at the

## **Astronomy Roundtable** **Kelly Durkin Ruth**

The Librarian's Guide to the Stars: This session will include short updates from librarians on ongoing projects used by astronomy librarians (e.g. Unified Astronomy Thesaurus, Astrophysics Data System.) We hope to take advantage of being close to Space Telescope Science Institute and invite a speaker to share information about the upcoming James Webb Science Telescope.

We would like to gather ideas from you for the discussion portion of the session. What topics would you like to discuss with your fellow PAM librarians? From collaborative projects to instruction to data to ORCID to anything in between -- the sky's the limit! Please send your ideas to Kelly Durkin Ruth at [durkinru@usna.edu](mailto:durkinru@usna.edu). We look forward to hearing

## **PAM Division Awards** **Nomination Call** **Marsha Bishop**

For all who have been eagerly awaiting the call for the PAM Division Awards nominations – now is the time!

To recap the Awards for which the PAM Division Awards Committee has responsibility, they are:

#### **PAM Division Award**

This award is “given for a significant contribution to the literature of physics, math-

ematics or astronomy or to honor work that demonstrably improves the exchange of information in physics, mathematics or astronomy.” It “should also significantly benefit libraries or enhance the ability of librarians to provide service. It should be special - above and beyond the normal job requirements of the individual(s) or group concerned.”

### **PAM Achievement Award**

The Achievement Award “is reserved for those recipients whose professional work is marked by distinction and dedication to librarianship in astronomy, mathematics and/or physics. The purpose of the award is to recognize those Division members who have made outstanding contributions to the Division.”

Now is your opportunity to propose the most deserving colleague – perhaps you – and the group or individuals who contributed the most to the PAM group this year!

Send your nominations to the Chair of the PAM Division Awards Committee at [mbishop@nrao.edu](mailto:mbishop@nrao.edu). Any additional information on the nominee is appreciated and welcomed.

## **PAM Mentoring Subcommittee**

Jennifer Hart, Khue Duong  
(co-chairs)

The PAM mentoring subcommittee offers professional development opportunities for new PAM professionals, and those transitioning from other areas of work. It also offers more experienced PAM members a way to give back to the profession by sharing their knowledge and expertise. We do this through a few programs and resources we offer:

### **PAM Mentoring Program**

For PAM’s formal Mentoring Program the Mentoring Subcommittee sets up a partnership between a PAM mentor volunteer and a PAM member who would like to be mentored. Mentoring can be centered on a specific topic, i.e. collection development, data management, writing for publication. Or, it can be more broad and general mentoring for those new to the profession. Mentor pairs are based on expressed strengths/needs and preferences. The time commitment and duration of a mentorship vary but usually lasts a year or two. For more information, please see our page on the PAM website (<http://pam.sla.org/projects/mentoring-services/>).

### **Conference Buddy Program**

The Conference Buddy Program is designed to help those new to the SLA Annual Conference navigate the conference and make the most of their experience. The Mentoring Subcommittee matches new attendees with more experienced conference-goers. Depending on preferences, you can share as much time, information and/or fun as you want, or even just meet for a chat at the PAM Suite. As buddies are just for the conference, it’s a short-term commitment but a great way to network and learn about the conference. So, if you’re interested in either mentoring/being mentored or have questions about it, please let us know. And consider the buddy program for this year in Baltimore (you can contact us now or in May when we send out The Buddy Call). For more information, please contact Jenny Hart ([hartj@uchicago.edu](mailto:hartj@uchicago.edu))

### **Database of Experts**

<http://pam.sla.org/mentoring-experts/> (password: mentor)

PAM members with extensive experience in areas related to PAM librarianship have volunteered to consult with and mentor PAM Members in their areas of expertise. Feel free to contact these experts if you are new to a topic and need some guidance. Areas of expertise include promotion and tenure, grant-writing, instruction and outreach and many more. the conference and make the most of their

# Treasurer's Report

<b>2017 Treasurer's Report</b>	
<b>Margaret Lam</b>	
Account Balance (As of 12/31/2017)	
ASSETS	
Bank Accounts	
PAM Division Checking Account	\$20,486.92
SLA Pooled Fund Account	\$35,056.28
TOTAL Bank Accounts	\$55,543.20
TOTAL ASSETS	\$55,543.20
LIABILITIES	\$0.00
OVERALL TOTAL	\$55,543.20
INCOME: 1/1/2017 - 12/31/2017	
Dues Allotment	\$1,467.00
Meeting Income	\$539.62
Other Income	\$67.49
Sponsorships*	\$25,300.00
Unrealized Gains on Investment	\$1,775.36
TOTAL INCOME*	\$29,149.47
EXPENSE: 1/1/2017 - 12/31/2017	
Meeting Expense	\$18,526.37
Miscellaneous Expense	\$70.43
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$18,596.80
NET INCOME*	\$10,552.67
<p>*Note: Sponsorships - \$5,500 of \$25,300 were from 2016 sponsorship checks, so the actual 2017 sponsorship total was \$19,800.</p>	

## SLA Leadership Summit

### John Kromer, PAM Chair-Elect

For the first time since 2015, SLA held an in-person Leadership Summit. From January 28<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>, librarians gathered in New Orleans to plan for the year ahead and to enhance their leadership skills. Sunday sessions were dedicated to an open meeting of the SLA Board, other committee/planning meetings, and some socializing before the main Summit began on Monday. Jay Younger of McKinley Advisors steered the Leadership Exploration and Development “LEAD” activities on Monday, ranging from the serious (the River of Life, StrengthsFinder, acting as a change agent) to the more fun (paper airplane making, in which our own Jeff Bond (Jeff!) flew one of the more successful planes). Summit attendees were of a general consensus that the activities and the presentation were both informative and entertaining. Tuesday activities revolved around SLA as an organization and leading within SLA.

While not confirmed by SLA staff, PAM appeared to be the best-represented Division at the Summit. Jeff Bond (member and chair-elect of the Annual Conference Advisory Council), Sheila Bryant (PAM Secretary), Barbara Kern (SLA Board of Directors), John Kromer (PAM Chair-Elect), Dee Magnoni (SLA Past-President), and Laura Palumbo (PAM Chair) were in attendance. Members of the PAMily managed to find some time outside of the conference to enjoy some of the fine foods offered in New Orleans and to escape from two different New Orleans escape rooms. I highly recommend the Leadership Summit if you’re able to attend next year, whether or not you’re in a leadership position.

## Members’ Corner

### Anya Bartelmann

**Steven W. Rockey** retired from Cornell University in December. He can be contacted at [steven.rockey@cornell.edu](mailto:steven.rockey@cornell.edu) and spotted each year at Grand Teton National Park.

In September, **Donna Thompson** participated in SLA New England's first Lightning Talks meeting and spoke about the historical literature project at ADS. In December, she published a blog post to the SLA New England site: <http://newengland.sla.org/archives/140955>.

**Sara Tompson** has been appointed 2018 Chair-Elect of the Aerospace Section in the SLA Engineering Division.

After 38 years as a science librarian at Princeton University, most recently as Astrophysics, Mathematics, and Physics Librarian, **Jane Holmquist** retired on September 1st, 2017 and was granted emeritus status. She'll always treasure her PAM friends and colleagues, and hopes our paths cross in coming years. Since September she has been splitting her time between Annandale, Virginia and Willmar, Minnesota with occasional trips home to Lawrenceville, New Jersey.