

p.a.m Bulletin

V46(3) February 2019

News for the Physics-Astronomy-Math Division of SLA

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Message from the Chair

John Kromer

Happy new year, PAMily!

It is my honor to be writing this, my first Letter from the Chair. I want to thank you all for the faith you've placed in me to lead the Division, and I hope to live up to those expectations. But even more importantly, I want to thank everyone who has made my role easy up to this point and continues to do so. Right now we're finalizing plans for the conference, so look for my update later in this issue of the Bulletin. But in the meantime, I want to highlight some of the activities we're engaging in outside of the annual conference.

In January, five PAM members attended the Leadership Symposium: Donna Thompson, Jeff Bond, Barbara Kern, Kayleigh Bohémier, and yours truly. Look for a report on it from Donna later in this issue, but I want to give a special shout-out to our team for successfully completing two escape rooms, including one of which we finished 15 minutes faster than the team from SLA HQ.

Heidi Tebbe and Becca Greenstein, as part of the Professional Development Committee, have started regular PAMnet discussions around topics of interest to our community. So far there have been engaging conversations around library spaces and open educational resources. They are also in the midst of planning a webinar, so stay tuned for details soon!

Finally, I want to welcome Donna Thompson and Kelly Durkin Ruth into their new roles as PAM Chair-Elect and Secretary, respectively. I am excited to work with both of them, and to continue to working with Laura Palumbo as Past-Chair and Anya

Editor: [Emily Poworoznek](#)

Assistant Editor: [Katie Frey](#)

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

Bartelmann as Treasurer. Finally, I want to express my utmost gratitude to Beth Brown for finishing her term as Chair-Elect/Chair-Past-Chair and Sheila Bryant for finishing her term as Secretary. Thank you!

I'm looking forward to a great year of PAM, and I welcome any suggestions or input you have for activities throughout the year. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve!

Conference Update

By John Kromer

The Annual Conference is fast approaching! This main programming for this year's conference will run from Sunday, June 16, through Tuesday, June 18, with the Early Bird Dinner happening on Saturday, June 15, and a PAM Tour on Wednesday, June 19. We're still waiting to hear final details on a couple of our sessions, but the details we have are:

Saturday, June 15

6:00-8:00 PM

Early Bird Dinner

Taza Lebanese Grill
1400 West 6th Street
Cleveland, OH 44113

Sunday, June 16

2:30-4:00 PM

Vendor Update

Joy Painter and Travis Warwick, Co-Moderators

4:15-5:30 PM

Listen to the Stars: Astronomy Roundtable

Meg Eastwood and Donna Thompson, Co-Moderators

Speakers:

Julie Steffen, Director of Publishing, American Astronomical Society

Kathy DeGioia Eastwood, Ph.D., Professor Emerita of Physics and Astronomy, Northern Arizona

University

Wanda Diaz-Merced, Ph.D., Post-doctoral Researcher, South African Astronomical Observatory, Office of Astronomy for Development

7:15-9:15 PM

PAM Open House Reception

Monday, June 17

9:00-10:30 AM

Making Science Relevant: Physics Roundtable

Laurie Neuerburg and Andy Shimp, Co-Moderators

Speakers:

Joseph W. Connolly, Aerospace Engineer, NASA Glenn Research Center

Alison S. Ricker, Head, Science Library, Oberlin College

Mano Singham, Author, Retired Director of University Center for Innovation in Teaching and Education, Case Western Reserve University

Tuesday, June 18

7:00-8:30 AM

Annual Breakfast and Business Meeting

10:15-11:30 AM

Mathematics Roundtable

Khue Duong and Lauren Gala, Co-Moderators

Speakers:

Nick Gurski, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, Case Western Reserve University

Kivmars Bowling, Publications Director, Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics

Robert Harington, Associate Executive Director, Publishing, American Mathematical Society

5:00-7:00 PM

Last Night Dinner

Pho Thang Café

815 Superior Ave E.
Cleveland, OH 44114

Wednesday, June 19

PAM Tour

Rock & Roll Hall of Fame
1100 E 9th St
Cleveland, OH 44114

Publishing, American Mathematical Society

5:00-7:00 PM

Last Night Dinner

Pho Thang Café
815 Superior Ave E.
Cleveland, OH 44114

Wednesday, June 19

PAM Tour

Rock & Roll Hall of Fame
1100 E 9th St
Cleveland, OH 44114

Astronomy Roundtable

**Meg Eastwood & Donna
Thompson**

Our 2019 Astronomy Roundtable focuses on accessibility in astronomy. We'll have one virtual speaker, Dr. Wanda Diaz-Merced, who has done amazing work in data sonification -- check out her TED talk on [hearing the stars](#). Our two in-person speakers are Dr. Kathy Eastwood, who's working with Wanda on a project to teach astronomy to blind students, and Julie Steffen, the Director of Publishing at AAS, who'll be telling us about new efforts to make AAS journals accessible to all readers. As part of our roundtable planning, we'd love to hear about what accessibility projects you're working on at your institutions -- please email Donna and Meg with details!

Mathematics Roundtable

Khue Duong and Lauren Gala

The Math Roundtable this year includes a panel with three speakers discussing various aspects of mathematics journal publishing. This session aims to increase the audience's awareness of trends and issues related to user-focused collections and scholarly communication.

If you have any questions, please contact Lauren and Khue.

Physics Roundtable

**Andy Shimp &
Laurie Neuerburg**

The 2019 Physics Roundtable centers around "Making Science Relevant" and will feature presentations by a NASA scientist, a science librarian who views librarianship as a "force for science," and a theoretical physicist and author (formerly an educator and teacher trainer). The speakers will share how they make scientific topics accessible and relevant to an audience of students and non-specialists. Join us in a discussion of methods for engaging non-scientists in scientific discussions, encouraging scientific thinking, and using active learning techniques to explore scientific concepts. We invite audience participation to share ideas and techniques used to spark interest in science information in what we expect will be a lively discussion moderated by Andy Shimp (Librarian for Engineering & Applied Science, Chemistry and Mathematics, Yale University) and Laurie Neuerburg (Sciences Reference & Outreach Librarian, University of Iowa).

We are pleased to present the following speakers for the 2019 Physics Roundtable:

Joseph W. Connolly, Aerospace Engineer, NASA
Glenn Research Center
Alison S. Ricker, Head, Science Library, Oberlin
College

2018 Treasurer's Report

Anya Bartelmann

SLA Leadership Symposium 2019

Donna Thompson

Over Martin Luther King Jr. Day weekend, the SLA Leadership Symposium was held in New Orleans. This was the first time that I have attended and I found it to be quite informative and enjoyable. During the three days of this meeting, I interacted with many SLA members in a supportive environment. The first day, I learned a little about the behind-the-scenes business of organizing sessions for the annual conference and attended the open board meeting. The second day, Jon Hockman facilitated the group in many activities that introduced us to each other and to our individual leadership styles. The third day was a detailed introduction to the Special Libraries Association and in particular to let the new unit leaders know whom to contact with questions and concerns while we are organizing the 2020 conference. Since I spend much of my time at the annual conference at PAM activities it was very valuable to interact with members of other Divisions and to discuss the plans of other groups. I expect that this networking will help me to enhance the PAM programming for the 2020 meeting by collaborating on some unique sessions.

The PAM Division was well represented at the Symposium. Jeff Bond (chair of the Annual Conference Advisory Council), John Kromer (PAM chair), Barbara Kern (SLA Board of Directors), Kayleigh Bohémier (SLA New England chair-elect) and Donna Thompson (PAM chair-elect) were all in attendance. In addition to spending time together during the Symposium, the PAMily members in attendance managed to find some time to socialize over dinner and a few escape room adventures were arranged.

The Symposium is a great introduction to SLA and I would recommend that any PAM member attend whether or not you are in a leadership role.

Account Balance (As of 12/31/2018)	
ASSETS	
Bank Accounts	
PAM Division Checking Account	\$22,914.43
SLA Pooled Fund Account	\$35,056.28
TOTAL Bank Accounts	\$57,970.71
TOTAL ASSETS	\$57,970.71
LIABILITIES	\$0.00
OVERALL TOTAL	\$57,970.71

INCOME: 1/1/2018 - 12/31/2018	
Meeting & Other Income	\$1,302.00
Sponsorships	\$18,200.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$19,502.00

EXPENSE: 1/1/2018 - 12/31/2018	
Meeting Expense	\$17,064.49
Miscellaneous Expense	\$10.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$17,074.49

NET INCOME*	\$2,427.51
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Louise Leckner Memorial Travel Stipends

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 eleventh 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 2019 SLA conference in Cleveland, Ohio, in June 2019. A maximum of 4 individuals will be awarded stipends (based on the number of applicants, their strength, and whether they match eligibility requirements) in the amount of \$1,000 each.

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 in a PAM discipline.

Applicants must work in a library focusing on one or more of the PAM disciplines (physics, astronomy, mathematics, statistics, or computer science) or act as a library's subject specialist for one or more of these disciplines.

Applicants must be first- or second-time attendees of the SLA annual conference.

International applicants must be eligible to travel to the United States.

Previous stipend winners are not eligible to apply; however, prior applicants who were not selected are welcome to reapply.

The committee reserves the right not to grant any of the 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 2019 SLA conference?

How do you expect/hope to be involved with the PAM division in the short and long term (for example, by serving on a PAM committee, participating in discussions on the listserv, acting as a roundtable moderator at a future conference, etc.)?

Submit current curriculum vitae/résumé.

Applications can be submitted via email to Heidi Tebbe at hjtebbe@ncsu.edu (subject line should begin with Louise Leckner Memorial Travel Stipend). Applications will be accepted until **Friday, March 1, 2019**. Late applications will not be

considered.

Notification

Applicants will receive notification of award status by Tuesday, March 19, 2019. (Please note that Early Bird Registration ends on April 1.) 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.

Heidi Tebbe, PAM Professional Development Chair

John Kromer, PAM Chair

Khue Duong, PAM Mentoring Committee Co-Chair

SLA-PAM International Travel Award

Overview

EDP Sciences is generously sponsoring an award that will help two international librarians attend the SLA conference in 2019. The award is open to librarians who live outside of the United States with a specific requirement that one shall be from Europe. The award is in the amount of \$1000 for each candidate, and is expected to contribute towards the awardee's cost of attending the conference. Candidates must submit their applications for this award to the PAM International Relations Committee by **3/18/19**.

Eligibility

Applicants must be graduates of a library science program.

Applicants must attend the 2019 SLA conference in Cleveland, OH, USA.

Applicants must currently reside and work outside of the United States.

Applicants from all countries (outside the US) will be considered including developing countries, with one candidate being selected specifically from a European country.

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 eligible to travel to the United States.

Only applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements at the time of application submission will be considered for the award.

Candidate Expectations

Awardee must attend the 2019 SLA Annual Conference in Cleveland, OH.

Awardee must attend PAM sessions and events at the Annual Conference, including the Annual Business Meeting and Breakfast where he/she and EDP will be recognized.

Awardee must join SLA and the PAM Division, and maintain that membership for one year.

Awardee must participate in the PAM International Relations Committee for one year.

Application Procedure

Prepare a brief letter (~500 words), answering the questions:

How do you meet the criteria?

Have you attended an SLA conference before?

How will this award help you to attend the 2019 SLA conference?

What do you hope to gain from attending the 2019 SLA conference?

Applications can be submitted to Mangala Krishnamurthy at mkrishna@ua.edu. Please include SLA International Travel Award in the subject line. Applications must be received by 5:00 pm EDT on March 18, 2019 to be eligible.

Notification

Applicants will receive notification of award status by Tuesday, March 26, 2019 (please note that Early Bird Registration for the conference ends on April 01, 2019). The award check will be presented at the PAM Division Annual Business Meeting and Breakfast. No money transfer will be made if the award recipient cannot attend the conference for any reason.

Selection Committee Members:

Mangala Krishnamurthy, Chair, PAM International Relations Committee

Charlotte Van Rooyen, Chair-Elect, PAM International Relations Committee
Debal Kar, Member, PAM International Relations Committee
Sian Prosser, Member, PAM International Relations Committee

If you've any questions, feel free to contact one of us on the committee.

SLA 2018 Conference Reflection Sian Prosser, PAM International Award Winner

When I first heard about the SLA conference while working as a graduate trainee librarian a decade ago, it sounded like an amazing event, and an excellent professional organisation to join, but I never thought I would be able to attend. Several years later I am delighted to have joined the PAM division of SLA, and I am truly grateful for the PAM International Travel Award generously sponsored by EDP Sciences which enabled me to come to the SLA Conference in Baltimore in 2018. It has been a fantastic learning experience and a great chance to broaden my network.

My introduction to PAM was in 2014, when I was lucky enough to attend LISA VII in Naples a few weeks after starting my current role as librarian and archivist of the Royal Astronomical Society in London, UK. The programme ranged from managing astronomical heritage collections to compiling telescope bibliographies, and as someone new to the field, it was fascinating to me that there was so much diversity of practice within astronomy librarianship. As a solo librarian it was incredibly valuable to network within such a friendly and welcoming community, and learn about the PAM division. Three years later I returned to LISA VIII in Strasbourg to catch up with fellow astronomy librarians, and take part in the poster session. Following these positive experiences, I was eager to go to the SLA conference for the first time, not only to learn from librarians who share my specialty, but to learn from those who work in other specialist libraries.

The PAM strand of sessions was especially relevant to my interests. I use ADS every day and often

demonstrate the database to new library users, so it's important to learn about the latest developments. The update on the Unified Astronomical Thesaurus has prompted me to analyse the in-house keywords and classification in the RAS Library, which badly need to be updated. There was a really inspiring session on science communication, during which astrophysicist Dr. Katie Mack talked about the various ways that the universe could end. After a brief science writing exercise, some of the participants shared their lyrical responses to the phenomena of heat death and vacuum decay.

Other memorable sessions outside the PAM strand included a fascinating talk by a materials engineer who has trained as a conservator and now researches environmental monitoring, evaluates past treatments and develops new methods for evaluation, subjects which relate to my role managing a collection of fragile manuscripts and early printed books. The session on library marketing basics was a timely reminder that researching your audience is fundamental to promoting your service effectively, and it informed the library-related questions I managed to insert into a membership survey a few months later. I passed the insights from a session on negotiating with vendors onto my local network of learned society librarians in London.

In addition to formal learning opportunities, and seeing amazing keynote speakers like Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden, I really valued the one-to-one conversations that took place during the breaks, and as the social side of the conference, like the Open House reception. While in Baltimore I signed up to the Solo Librarians division; although I now have an assistant working with me a couple of days a week, I work mainly on my own in the library, and it's good to be in a network of people that understand what it's like. I also got involved with the European chapter of SLA, by helping past-president of SLA Europe Katharine Schopflin with the stall on main street - it was great fun to sign people up to our raffle for a selection of European delicacies, carefully selected by Katharine. Since the conference, I've been taking part in some of the vibrant events organised by SLA Europe in London. I spent most of my time in the conference venue, but was very pleased to learn that it was next door to a baseball stadium. I've played softball for many years, and it was marvellous to finally see an actual baseball game between the Baltimore Orioles and the Boston Red Sox.

The SLA conference was a brilliant opportunity to learn, to meet librarians and information professionals from across the world, and to maintain contact with my valued network. It has caused me to

reflect critically on my practice and share my learning with others back in the UK. I'm thrilled that the Royal Astronomical Society will be hosting the next LISA meeting in 2020, the year of our bicentenary, and look forward to seeing many of you next year.

New Condensed Matter Physics Book

Reviewed by Bob E. Noel

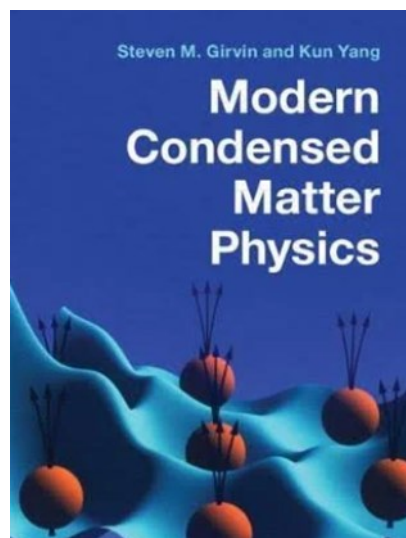
One of the most heavily borrowed physics texts of the past 40 years has been *Solid State Physics* by Ashcroft & Mermin, originally published in 1976 by Holt, Rinehart, & Winston and now available, in its first edition with the iconic white cover, from Cengage (U.S.). Most universities with graduate programs in physics still have a few copies of this, and it remains a high-demand, core book, particularly for physics graduate students, despite its 40-year-old publication date.

This spring, Girvin and Yang's [*Modern Condensed Matter Physics*](#) will be published and available to all of us, and it may very well be the Ashcroft of the 21st century. Girvin's writing style is accessible and advances in condensed matter in the past 40 years are presented with clarity, and in careful detail. As they state in the Preface (p.xvii): "*The present text is aimed primarily at graduate students and researchers in quantum condensed matter physics and provides encyclopedic coverage of this very dynamic field.*" Indeed, the book is over 800 pages, and covers new territory including modern aspects of quantum magnetism, quantum entanglement, Bose-Einstein condensation, superfluidity, and superconductivity, among many other things.

An online version for institutions is not yet offered, but Cambridge University Press' print version is available at a reasonable price. See Google Books for the table of contents, and snippets from the first six chapters. Those of us who still have a few dollars left in a one-time print, monograph budget may want to look in to picking up this new title, and your department may eventually want a copy placed on Reserve.

Girvin is the Eugene Higgins Professor of Physics and deputy provost for science and technology at Yale University. Yang received his PhD from Indiana University in 1994, and is currently a physics professor at Florida State.

Acknowledgements: Permission to reprint the dust jacket of *Modern Condensed Matter Physics* was supplied by Permissions Sales UK at Cambridge University Press (Rights@cambridge.org). This review was inspired by a brief conversation with Indiana University physicist John Carini.



Members' Corner News

Anya Bartelmann

Marion A Kreiter, one of the founding members of the PAM Division, died on November 18, 2018 after a lengthy illness. These highlights of Marion's life and career were compiled by Lance Utley, PAM Archivist, PAM members, and Valerie Ryder, SLA Philadelphia Chapter.

Throughout Marion's varied career she was actively involved in SLA at chapter and divisional levels. Marion joined SLA in 1950 and was a Life Member until January 2011.

Career Highlights:

Obtained her undergraduate degree (A.B.) at Cornell University in 1943 and a degree in library sciences (MLS) from Columbia University.

Worked as a librarian for the U.S. Army in Manila, Philippine Islands and Okinawa.

Assistant Librarian at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City, SD

Most of her career (1952 – 1986) was spent as the head of the Mathematics-Physics-Astronomy

Library at the University of Pennsylvania,
from where she retired in 1986.

SLA Philadelphia Chapter:

Treasurer of the SLA Philadelphia Chapter for
June 1959 to May 1960.

Chair of Rankin Fund for Chapter Publications,
1968 to 1976.

Liaison for SLA Philadelphia conference, 1965.

SLA Nuclear Science Division:

Treasurer, 1969 – 1970.

SLA Physics-Astronomy-Mathematics Division:

Charter Member as one of five petition signers to
form Division in 1973.

PAM Treasurer for a two-year term of July 1976
– June 1978.

Chair, PAM Nominating Committee in 1975 and
1982 as well as a member in 1974 and 1981.

PAM Ad Hoc Committee on Fund Raising in
1986 – 1987.

PAM Membership Committee in 1981

PAM By-Laws Committee in 1973 (Division
formed) and 1976.

Attended the IFLA Meeting held in Washington
DC in November 1974 as a PAM
Representative.

Workshop Facilitator on a discussion of topical
problems of Physics literature and its
management at the 1977 SLA Annual
Conference in New York City.

Marion made a generous donation in 1985 in
celebration of the 10th anniversary as a full Division,
and continued giving even after her retirement; in
December, the Division received her bequest of
\$1,000.

Sara R. Tompson reports that she now lives in
Lawrence, Kansas, just blocks from her sister and
works at McFarlane Aviation Products. She has
joined the Kansas/Western Missouri chapter of SLA.
Sara looks forward to seeing the PAMily at the
annual conference in Cleveland, and hopes to get a
crew together there to visit a kitty cafe!