

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

John Kromer

Greetings from Arizona, where we don't observe Daylight Saving Time, so we're finally back on the correct time zone!

I want to take the opportunity to thank you all for allowing me to serve as the PAM Chair this past year, and your faith in me to perform the role. It has been quite the adventure coordinating with SLA HQ to make sure that conference went off as smoothly as possible. We did learn of some troubling financial figures during the conference, and while PAM remains strong financially (and interpersonally!), it inspired us to convene a new Future of PAM Task Force, led by Kayleigh Bohémier.

No matter what happens as a result of the Task Force, I am excited about the future of PAM. I am excited to welcome Chris Doty as the PAM Chair-Elect for 2020 and Alison Verbeck as the PAM Treasurer for 2019-2020. I know that I am leaving PAM in good hands as Donna Thompson assumes the Chair role and Kelly Durkin Ruth continues as Secretary. I also want to extend a huge thank-you to Laura Palumbo and Anya Bartelmann as they finish their terms on the PAM Executive Board. We continue to have awesome members who are

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willing to step up when the need arises!
Mostly I want to thank everyone in the PAMily who made sure that I was never alone and were ready to step in whenever I needed help. From the bottom of my heart: thank you.

2020 SLA Conference Update

Donna Thompson

I am happy to inform you that all of the requested PAM programming for the 2020 conference was approved. We will have an astronomy session (“The Universe is a Slide of Glass—the history, preservation, data mining of astronomical plate”); a math session (“Mathematics Beyond the Academy”); a physics session (“Fostering Diversity in STEM”); and a PAM Vendor and Librarian Panel focusing on the role of identifiers. In addition, we will co-sponsor the “Challenges in Taxonomy” session which will include the history of astronomy thesauri as one of the case studies.

I would like to thank all of the session moderators for their hard work in developing the session outlines and their continuing work on putting the sessions together. This year’s session moderators are Meg Eastwood, Henrik Spoon, Laurie Neuerburg, Mangala Krishnamurthy, Lauren Gala, and Samuel Hansen. They’ve managed to come up with some different ideas and speakers and I’m excited to participate in these programs next June. And thanks to all of the PAM members who took the time to vote in SLA’s first member review of educational sessions.

In addition, we’ve been approved for our PAM

Business Meeting and Breakfast, the PAM Open House Reception, and the popular First Night Dinner and Last Night Dinner. Thank you to the Hospitality Committee—Sheila Bryant, Patricia Hartner, Danny Dotson and Kathleen Lehman—for organizing these events for us. And thanks in advance to our Fundraising Committee, Mea Warren, and Heidi Tebbe, and our sponsors, without whom these sessions would not be possible.

I know that the venue presents some challenges for some of our members and I am so sorry about this. We will work to find ways to participate for the PAMily members not in attendance.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Charlotte, North Carolina, June 6-9, 2020.

Update from the Future of PAM Task Force

Kayleigh A Bohémier

The Future of PAM Task Force held its first meeting in October 2019. Over the next month, the task force will design a survey to be distributed the first week of December. The survey will be open to both PAM members and non-members (including those not in SLA). We will collect basic demographic information and ask questions about the future of the PAM Division. Before sending the survey, we will provide the community with information about changes within SLA. The Task Force is Chaired by Kayleigh Bohémier. The members of the task force are Donna Thompson (ex officio), Leslie Eager, Samuel Hansen, and Sharice Collins.

PAM Election Results for 2020

Heidi Tebbe

From the PAM Nominations & Elections Committee: Therese Triumph, Heidi Tebbe, Ted Baldwin:

Congratulations to the PAM Division board members! Welcome Chris and Alison! And thanks to everyone who voted.

Chris Doty

Chair-Elect 2020, Chair 2021

Chris Doty has been the Librarian for Chemistry and Physics at Emory University in Atlanta, GA since 2014. Prior to arriving at Emory, Chris was the Librarian for Physics and Materials Science & Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Chris was a recipient of a Louise Leckner Memorial Travel Stipend in 2014 and served as co-moderator of the Physics Roundtable in 2015. He has served on the Membership Committee and has been the Webmaster & Chair of the Networking Committee since 2016. Chris earned a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Arizona and a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin. Following research stints in Liverpool, England and Ann Arbor, MI, Chris earned a M.S. in Information Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Alison Verbeck

Treasurer 2020-2022

Alison Verbeck has been the Physics Librarian at Washington University in St. Louis since 1998 and has been the interim Math Librarian there since March 2019. Alison is an active member of the Special Libraries Association Physics-Astronomy-Math Division and the St. Louis Metro Area Chapter. She has previously served as Treasurer for both those units as well as serving on various committees for each. Her job has expanded to include being the publications editor, webmaster and social media coordinator for the Physics Department in addition to running all aspects of the departmental library. She holds a bachelor's in physics and a master's in library science, both from University of Missouri - Columbia.

Call for Nominations: 2020 PAM Division & Achievement Awards

Laura Palumbo

The Awards Committee is now accepting nominations for our two awards, the PAM Achievement and the PAM Division Award. Please help us honor our colleagues, so many of whom are deserving of recognition!

The PAM Achievement Award honors a current PAM member “whose professional work is marked by distinction and dedication to librarianship in astronomy, mathematics and/or physics” and has “made outstanding contributions to the Division.” To be eligible, the nominee must also have been a PAM Division member for at least five years and be currently

working as an information professional. Jeffra Busmann and Thurston Miller are the most recent winners, and you can see the full list of our amazing awardees [here](#), all the way back to 1997.

The PAM Division Award is “given for a significant contribution to the literature of physics, mathematics or astronomy or to honor work that demonstrably improves the exchange of information in physics, mathematics or astronomy.” Individuals or groups can be nominated, and they do not need to be PAM members. Past recipients include ADS, arXiv, and MathJax. Click [here](#) for a full list of prior winners.

Please send an email to the Chair of the Awards Committee, including the nominee's name and a brief justification of why you believe this person (or group in the case of the Division Award) is deserving of this recognition. Any documentation to support your case is appreciated. The Committee will send confirmation of receiving your nomination and may follow up if more information on the nominee is needed to help the committee make a decision.

PAM Awards Committee

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A Brief Report on the Reflections and Experiences from Attending SLA 2019 Conference

Emmy Medard Muhumuza

Greetings from Busitema University Library – Uganda.

Wednesday, 12th June 2019, saw me boarding Brussels Airlines and United Airlines heading for Cleveland, Ohio, in the United States to attend the Special Libraries Association (SLA) conference. This was as a result of receiving the International Travel Award (ITA) from Physics, Astronomy and Mathematics (PAM) a division of SLA and from EDP Sciences for my attendance and registration. I wish to appreciate Mangala Krishnamurthy of PAM and Charlotte Vanrooyen of EDP Sciences for their continuous communication.

Since it was my first time, I presume the conference was well attended with a neatly and well-arranged INFO-EXPO Exhibition area where the registration took place. I enjoyed many moments meeting attendees from different institutions and countries and learning about their activities in information management. Overall, I sincerely loved this great conference at Huntington Cleveland Convention Centre.

Opening Session

Mutuality, Diversity, Sharing, and inclusion:

This was the main kind of slogan used during the official opening and thus: SLA welcomes all attendees to the Annual Conference. Our members, both new and seasoned, came together to develop new skills and hear fresh perspectives from peers in diverse industries. More than 622 different organizations were represented.

That SLA promotes diversity, inclusion, community and equity in association activities and that it is committed to making the annual conference accessible to all. The SLA President, Hal Kirkwood, emphasised the value of SLA to make connections that lead to deeper relationships and partnerships with industry colleagues in the LIS profession.

During the Conference

We were all about building connections during

the conference and about 1,200 attendees connected by attending sessions, business meetings, social events and learning from colleagues to build our professional networks. I attended the Fellows and First-Timers breakfast reception and the IEEE Xplore breakfast meeting which was very beneficial to my institution since it offers science-based disciplines, especially computer engineering. The Physics Department at Nagongera Campus of Busitema University offers Astronomy and Space Science, headed by Dr. Bartillas Amabayo, who organized the celebration of 100 years of astronomy in February this year.

I then attended the PAM and EDP Sciences breakfast reception where I met expert professional members and made a brief of my experience since it was my first time attending. This is where I received my International Travel Award and want to thank, together with my in-



Receiving the International Travel Award from PAM's Mangala Krishnamurthy and EDP Sciences' Charlotte Vanrooyen during the breakfast reception (left to right: John Kromer, Mangala Krishnamurthy, Emmy Medard Muhumuza, Charlotte Vanrooyen).

The Newly Constructed Central Library at Busitema University Main Campus



stitution, Busitema University, PAM and EDP Sciences for sponsoring my attendance at the SLA 2019 conference.

INFO-EXPO

Attendees were granted full access to over 100 exhibitors showcasing the latest technology and trends, products and services. This was also where all the poster sessions were held.

Closing Session

I also attended the closing session which characterised the issuing of Awards and Honors to members. To crown the conference, the SLA President reiterated that “I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. And that we are tied together in a single garment of destiny. That we have come together through SLA to share experiences tackling the key challenges, but we can only achieve our common goal if we help each other to be what we ought to be.”

Closing Keynote address by Dr. Safiya Umoja Noble, an Associate Professor at UCLA and a visiting faculty member to the University of Southern California-Anneberg School of Communication, author of a book on racist and sexist algorithmic bias in commercial search engines, especially Google, thus “*Algorithms of Oppression: How Search Engines Reinforce Racism.*”

She reiterated what algorithms say about society by providing findings from her investigations on how biases are revealed in search engine results.

Membership Update

Aaron Lercher

PAM membership is currently 131, which is a bit higher than it has been recently. Membership seems to fluctuate, as far as I can tell.

Bill Jacobs and Kayleigh Bohémier have joined the membership committee, along with Rebecca Hutchinson and Travis Warwick. We have several projects going. Asking newly hired librarians in PAM-related jobs is the most labor-intensive. We also contacted librarians in PAM-related jobs at ARL libraries. Any new ideas would be appreciated; please send them to me at alarchel@lsu.edu

And, of course, we pester people to renew their memberships.

So if you don't want to be pestered, renew!

Lost & Found:

Vignettes

Dana L. Roth

Years ago, before the consolidation of Caltech's branch libraries, I was responsible for hiring shelvees, who came mainly from our local junior college. I tried to help them understand why I was hiring them for the 'most important job in the library' ... in the sense that if books are mis-shelved they are basically lost. This seemed to work pretty well for me and the article, that really brings this concept home, is the one below:

“Christopher Columbus’ son created a huge library. The book unlocking its secrets has been

found.”

L.A. Times April 26, 2019 p. E2

<https://www.latimes.com/books/la-et-jc-hernando-colon-library-book-discovery-20190426-story.html>

“The "Libro de los Epítomes," which served as a guide to Hernando Colón's massive collection of books, had been missing for centuries....”

The book turned up in a collection at a university in Copenhagen among several works of Icelandic literature.

Members' Corner News

Anya Bartelmann

John Kromer recently published an article:

John Kromer (2019) How Much!? Determining the Cost of an Assignment in an Organic Chemistry Class, Science & Technology Libraries, 38:3, 326-333.

DOI: [10.1080/0194262X.2019.1622479](https://doi.org/10.1080/0194262X.2019.1622479)

David Stern offered three webinars in the SLA Learning and Success online learning programs:

Free or Less Expensive - and Better: Open Educational Resources as Catalysts for Enhanced Pedagogy October 14-23, 2019

Monday, Oct 14, 2:00-2:30 pm EST

Session 1: The Options

- Explain OER and other less expensive textbook options
- Describe existing alternative library resource options
- Review value-added commercial options

and how libraries can collaborate with campus units to create free equivalents

Friday, Oct 18, 2:00-2:30 pm EST

Session 2: The Implementation

- Embedding OERs and other alternative resources into courses
- Enhanced Student Assignments and Testing utilizing OERs
- Collaboration/Initiatives with disciplines/courses/departments

Wednesday, Oct 23, 2:00-2:30 pm EST

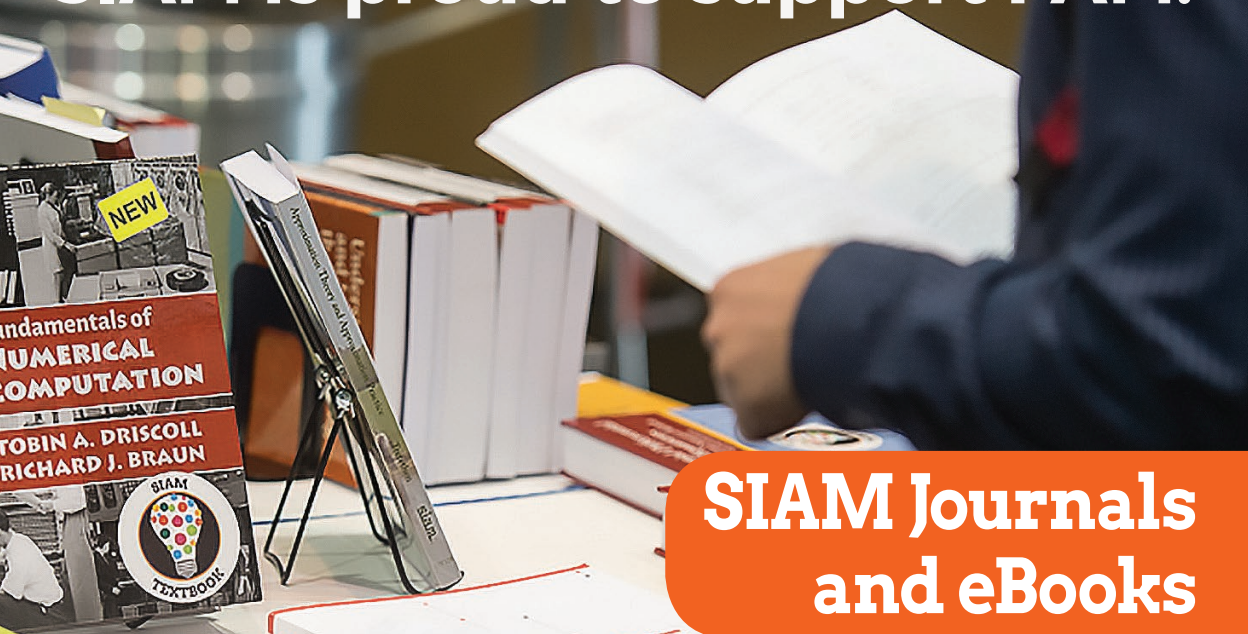
Session 3: The Outcomes

- Potential grants and support for entrepreneurial efforts
- Promoting Teacher Experiences
- Student Savings and Beneficial Outcomes

One can register for replays at:

https://hq.sla.org/cvweb_sla/cgi-bin/Registerdll.dll/RegistrationForm?sessionaltcd=OER-001-19&wrp=RegistrationFormQ.html

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