



# p.a.m. Bulletin

V47(3) February 2020

News for the Physics-Astronomy-Math Division of SLA

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## Message from the Chair

**Donna Thompson**

Happy New Year from Cambridge, MA. I am very honored to be the PAM Chair this year and what an interesting year it is starting to be!

First I'd like to say that I am so happy that PAM continues to be a great community and that we all talk with, listen to and support each other. I'd like to thank Laura Palumbo as she ends her year as Past Chair and Anya Bartelmann for her term as Treasurer. Both did outstanding work for the Division. I'd like to thank John Kromer for his leadership during the past year and I look forward to continuing to work with him this year. Kelly Durkin Ruth continues to be the most efficient Secretary ever. I am grateful to Chris Doty and Alison Verbeck for stepping up to join the PAM Board as Chair-Elect and Treasurer.

Two weeks ago five PAM members attended the SLA Leadership Symposium: Chris Doty, Kayleigh Bohemier, Sara Tompson, Zac Painter and myself. We participated in several leadership building exercises led by Karyn Nishimura Sneath and completed our own DISC personality assessments. We attended discussions and presentations about the SLA restructuring. And we discussed the SLA restructuring with SLA members from other divisions, chapters and caucuses. Since returning from the Symposium I have

Editor: [Katie Frey](#)

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

attended a number of conference calls and webinars to find out more about the SLA restructuring initiative.

This is probably a good segue into mentioning the ongoing work of the Future of PAM Task Force that was convened late in 2019. Kayleigh Bohemier (chair), Samuel Hansen, Sharice Collins, Leslie Eager and myself compiled a survey and were extremely pleased with the number of PAM members who participated and all of the comments and suggestions that you provided. The Task Force is still working on compiling the data and writing up a final report so stay tuned. And thank you to all of the Task Force members for their time and effort in this timely endeavor.

I look forward to hearing from you during this time of transition and I know that PAM will continue to work to find the best solution for our Division. And I will keep you posted on updates from SLA about the restructuring.

## **2020 SLA Conference Update**

**Donna Thompson**

The annual conference will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina June 6 to 9. I want to tell you that our session moderators have organized great topics and speakers and I will let them describe the sessions later in this bulletin. Specific times are not yet available but I will post them to PAMNET as soon as they are. I'd like to thank Meg Eastwood, Henrik Spoon, Lauren Gala, Samuel Hansen, Laurie Neuberger, Mangala Krishnamurthy and Jenny Hart for all of their work in organizing our sessions. Personally I would like to thank Danny Dotson and Jeff Bond for their work on the Annual Conference Advisory Committee—I appreciate all you did to make my job easier!

## **Astronomy Roundtable**

**Meg Eastwood & Henrik Spoon**

Our 2020 Astronomy Roundtable is inspired by PAM member requests to learn more about astronomical glass plates. Come learn about mining data from historical collections, digitizing fragile large-format materials, preservation techniques, and science history, as told through the stories of the glass slides that first unlocked the secrets of the universe.

From the 1880s until the early 1990s, astronomers captured images of the night sky on large glass plates, gathering data that fueled our understanding of astronomy, from the discovery of celestial bodies like Pluto to the first evidence that our universe is expanding. Those data are still used today to detect changes in astronomical objects over the decades. These glass plates were more stable than the photographic films available at the time for wide-field imaging, but the plates provide unique storage and preservation challenges not found in your average collection. Today, plate collections are beginning to take on a new life, thanks to digitization projects that seek both to capture the high level of detail recorded on the plates and to present the data in a format that's easily accessible to today's astronomers.

Our speakers for this 60 minute session will be Lindsay Smith, an Archivist at Harvard College Observatory, who has extensive experience preserving these glass plates, and PAM's own Barbara Kern, the Director of the Science Libraries at The University of Chicago Library, who will be telling us about their project to digitize glass plates from Yerkes Observatory. We hope to see you in Charlotte!

# Mathematics Roundtable

**Lauren Gala & Samuel Hansen**

Mathematics is not confined to the academic ivory tower. Indeed, mathematics is regularly applied in the world, in both apparent and non-apparent ways, and impacts our lives and society in countless ways. These applications occur in fields as far afield as designing medical treatments to training professional athletes to legislative redistricting and beyond.

In this session we will hear from mathematicians both about how they bridge the gap between abstract mathematics and gerrymandering and about a project which uses mathematics and its applications to help engage underserved young women with the subject.

# Physics Roundtable

**Laurie Neuerburg & Mangala Krishnamurthy**

Co-moderators Mangala Krishnamurthy and Laurie Neuerburg welcome you to the 2020 PAM Physics Roundtable, “Fostering Diversity in Science.”

This is a session for librarians and information professionals to learn ways to promote and support diversity, equity, and inclusion in scientific educational and research settings. Three scientists—one physicist, one computer and information scientist, and one nanoscientist—will speak about their passion and activities to engage underrepresented groups in science.

There will be time for participants to share their experiences and ideas in a discussion to wrap up the session.

Featured speakers:

- Rosario Porras-Aguilar, Assistant Professor at UNC Charlotte in the Department of Physics and Optical Science and official advisor of the SPIE Women in Optics Chapter at INAOE, in Puebla, Mexico, in which she has implemented various workshops based on optics to inclusive audiences and organized a Journey “Science for School Girls” in Puebla
- Siobahn C. Day, Assistant Professor in Library and Information Sciences at NC Central, awarded the 2019 BlackcomputeHER Award, and selected in 2019 as an AAAS IF/THEN® Ambassador by the American Association for the Advancement of Science and Lyda Hill Philanthropies, which “brings together 125 women from a variety of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics careers to serve as high-profile role models for middle school girls”
- Daniel J. C. Herr, Professor & Nanoscience Department Chair at UNC-Greensboro and serves as Lead-PI on a NIH ‘Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) U-STAR award, which provides support for undergraduate students, who are underrepresented in the biomedical sciences to improve their preparation for high-caliber graduate training at the Ph.D. level

# PAM Mentoring Subcommittee

**Jennifer Hart & Khue Duong**

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:

## 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 your preferences, you can share as much time, information and/or fun as you want, or just meet for a chat at the PAM Suite. Buddy pairings are only for the conference. It's a short-term commitment but a great way to network and learn how to navigate the different offerings. If you're interested in being a buddy for this year's conference, please let us know! For more information, contact Jenny Hart ([hartj@uchicago.edu](mailto:hartj@uchicago.edu))

## Mentoring Program and Expert List

We also have a **Mentoring Program** where we will pair you with a more experienced PAM member who can help you develop expertise in your areas of need. If you are interested, please see our page on the PAM website: <https://connect.sla.org/pam/mentoring/formalmentors>

PAM members with extensive experience in areas related to PAM librarianship have vol-

unteered to be mentoring experts and consult with and mentor PAM Members in their areas of expertise. Feel free to consult the **Expert List** 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: <https://connect.sla.org/pam/mentoring/mentoringexperts>

# Louise Leckner Memorial Travel Stipends Ruth Kneale

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 librarians entering librarianship in a PAM discipline through mentorship and access to 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 twelfth 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 2020 SLA conference in Charlotte, North Carolina, in June 2020. A maximum of 4 individuals will be awarded sti-

pend (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 <https://tinyurl.com/PAM-Leckner-Awards> 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 Ruth Kneale at [ruth.kneale@gmail.com](mailto:ruth.kneale@gmail.com) (subject line should begin with Louise Leckner Memorial Travel Stipend). Applications will be accepted until **Friday, February 28, 2020**. Late applications will not be considered.

### **Notification**

Applicants will receive notification of award status by Tuesday, March 18, 2020. (Please note that Early Bird Registration ends on March 25.) 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 can-

not 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.  
*Ruth Kneale*, PAM Professional Development Chair  
*Lauren Gala*, Professional Development Committee  
*Nico Carver*, Professional Development Committee

## 2019 Treasurers Report Anya Bartelmann

Account Balance	As of 12/31/2019	As of 01/31/2020
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Bank Accounts		
PAM Division Checking Account	\$32,461.03	\$26,743.03
SLA Pooled Fund Account*	\$37,246.22	\$33,068.59
Total Bank Accounts	\$69,707.25	\$59,811.62
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$69,707.25</b>	<b>\$59,811.62</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$69,707.25</b>	<b>\$59,811.62</b>

\*Estimated based on Quick-Books

<b>INCOME: 1/1/2019-12/31/2019</b>		
Meeting & Other Income	\$1,894.85	
Dues Allotment*		\$1,422.00
Sponsorships*	\$19,700.00	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$21,594.85</b>	<b>\$23,016.85</b>

\*Received January 2020  
 \*includes \$500 from late 2018 sponsorship

<b>EXPENSES: 1/1/2019-12/31/2019</b>		
Meeting Expense	-\$12,048.25	
SLA HQ Expenses*		-\$640.00
SLA HQ Conference Expenses*		-\$6,500.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>-\$12,048.25</b>	<b>-\$19,188.25</b>

\*Leadership Symposium, website fee, QuickBooks fee  
 \*AC2019 Billback for A/V

Net income	\$9,546.60	\$3,828.60
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\*Notes: SLA HQ Annual Conference Billback with HQ expenses paid in January 2020  
 Dues Allotment received in January 2020 as credit on AC Billback  
 SLA Pooled Fund Statements for Q3 & Q4 not yet distributed from SLA HQ



# Early 2020 Professional Development

Ruth Kneale

Hello there, PAMily! We wanted to give you a look at what your Professional Development Committee have been working on, and ask you an important question.

1. Invitations have gone out to apply for the **Louise Leckner Memorial Travel Stipends**. Thank you again to IOP Publishing for supporting new librarians in our PAM fields! You can also read all about it elsewhere in this newsletter.
2. We're working on setting up our **annual conference surveys** for everyone who attends sessions to fill out. As you all know, this information is important to PAM for planning future conference events - please let your voice be heard!
3. And last but most definitely not least: tell us what you'd like to learn more about this year! We've had great fun brainstorming **webinar ideas** and would now like to hear from YOU. Please check out <https://tinyurl.com/PAM-2020-Webinars> and tell us what you want to know more about!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask any one of us:

Ruth Kneale, [ruth.kneale@gmail.com](mailto:ruth.kneale@gmail.com)

Lauren Gala, [milaur@upenn.edu](mailto:milaur@upenn.edu)

Nico Carver, [nicholas.carver@cfa.harvard.edu](mailto:nicholas.carver@cfa.harvard.edu)

# Members' Corner News

Aaron Lercher

**Alison Verbeck** has been appointed as the new Math Librarian at Washington University, in addition to her job as Physics Librarian.

**Sara Tompson**, longtime PAM member and current Chair of the Engineering Division, is retiring as of the end of January 2020. In addition to her SLA work, she is focusing on obtaining her aviation Commercial Rating. When asked whether she planned to work as a commercial pilot, Sara explained:

“Not precisely. The Commercial Rating allows one to charge for one's pilot services, so, for instance, I could fly for Pilots and Paws, or Angel Flight, or do banner tows, etc.

The ‘big iron’ pilots actually have the ATP-Airline Transport Pilot rating - which comes after the Commercial. I'm too old (!) and too blind (i.e. wear glasses) to do that!”