

# p.a.m Bulletin

V 47 (4) May 2020

News for the Physics-Astronomy-Math Division of SLA

## Table of Contents

Message from the Chair .....	1
2020 Leckner Travel Stipend Awards .....	2
PAMily Watercooler Chat .....	3
SLA Awards .....	3
Members' Corner News.....	4

## Message from the Chair

**Donna Thompson**

Greetings from my dining room! Like many, if not all, of you I am adjusting to the new reality of working from home. Still pretty sure that I wouldn't do this by choice but I am finally getting used to it. I hope that you and your loved ones are all well and hunkered down in your own bunkers.

Traditionally the May Bulletin is devoted to updates about the annual conference in June but since the conference is now rescheduled for October, we will provide the updates in the August issue instead. The dates for the rescheduled conference are October 15-18 in Charlotte North Carolina.

Despite the unusual times in which we live, PAM has been very busy this year and I am going to take the time to summarize some of the work that is going on and some of our plans for the rest of the year.

As you know the Special Libraries Association is going through some restructuring initiatives and the PAM Executive Board has been keeping up with all of the announcements and discussing how these changes will affect PAM. Late last year then PAM Chair John Kromer convened the Future of PAM Task Force and the Task Force has completed its work and the Board is now following through with their recommendations. We'll be asking for your valuable input into the process so look for some updates on PAMNET very soon.

Editor: [Katie Frey](#)

Assistant Editor: [Mei Ling Lo](#)

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

## 2020 Louise Leckner Memorial Travel Stipend Awardees Ruth Kneale

Just today SLA announced the 2020 Association Awards and I am pleased to share that two PAM members are among the award winners. Jeff Bond will be recognized as a Fellow of SLA and Kelly Durkin Ruth will be awarded a James M. Matarazzo Rising Star award. Congratulations to Jeff and Kelly!

Also please join me in congratulating our 2020 Louise Leckner Memorial Travel Stipend winners: Samuel Hansen and Erika Weir. Samuel Hansen is the Mathematics and Statistics Librarian at the University of Michigan. Erika Weir is the Physical Sciences Librarian at Michigan State University. I look forward to seeing you in Charlotte in October. I would also like to thank the Professional Development Committee members—Ruth Kneale, Nico Carver and Lauren Gala—and Sharice Collins for their work on the selection process. And once again, PAM would like to say a special thanks to IOP for graciously sponsoring these awards. Many of the past recipients have become very active participants in the PAMily.

We will have the PAM Board meeting virtually in early June and will provide you with a summary of the activities of the Division in the August Bulletin.

The Professional Development Committee is planning several webinars for the next few months. And the PAMily Weekly Watercooler Chat, hosted by Jeffra Bussmann, will continue on Fridays from 12:30-1:30 (Pacific time). I hope to see all of you at some of these PAM gatherings.

I do not yet know the location or dates of the 2021 meeting but will keep you posted as soon as I do. In the meantime, please send any programming ideas to me or to our Chair-Elect Chris Doty.

Until we meet in person or online, stay healthy and well.

Since 2009, IOP Publishing, a generous and long-time supporter of libraries and librarians, has provided funding for new PAM librarians and SLA Annual attendees with up to four stipends to help defray the costs of traveling to the SLA Annual Conference. In 2013, the PAM 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 supports new librarians and deepens the relationships between those librarians and the PAM Division. We are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2020 Louise Leckner Memorial Travel Stipend: Samuel Hansen and Erika Weir!

**Erika Weir** is the Physical Sciences Librarian at Michigan State University. She recently joined the Libraries after completing her MSLIS at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she worked in a specialty reference unit of the library. In her current position, she is the library liaison to the Departments of Chemistry, Physics-Astronomy, Facility for Rare Isotope Beams, and Abrams Planetarium. In that role, she manages the library's physics and chemistry collections, provides library instruction, and assists patrons with the use information resources. She also provides reference and research assistance to the entire MSU community as part of the library Reference unit. When not juggling chemistry and astronomy, Erika likes to hike with her dog, Oaty.



**Samuel Hansen** is the Mathematics & Statistics Librarian at the University of Michigan. They received their MLIS from the University of Wisconsin, Madison and MS in Mathematics from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Samuel is also the producer and host behind the mathematics podcast *Relatively Prime: Stories in the Mathematical Domain*, and has produced many other mathematics podcasts through the years including *Strongly Connected Components* and *Math/Maths*. Over the past few months Samuel has served as a member of The Future of PAM Taskforce and co-convenor of the Mathematics Roundtable for SLA 2020. Outside of the podcast room, Samuel likes to cycle in the brisk Michigan air.



Erika's and Samuel's stipends will be awarded in October in Charlotte; please make sure to say hello to them when you see them. Should SLA have to cancel Charlotte, their stipends will carry over into 2021.

We would like to thank all who applied for this stipend. We appreciate the time and effort you put into your application letters, and we look forward to welcoming you into the PAM Division.

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

*The PAM Professional Development Committee:* Sharice Collins, Nico Carver, Lauren Gala, and Ruth Kneale (Chair).

## PAMily Watercooler Chat

**Jeffra Bussmann**

In these times of intense change and uncertainty, it is good to spend time with family and dear friends, so why not include your PAMily in this group of social connections? Jeffra Bussmann is hosting a weekly PAMily Watercooler Chat via Zoom, Fridays, 12:30(Pac)/3:30pm(Eas) - 1:30 (Pac)/4:30pm(Eas). If you are interested in joining some lovely discussion and socialization (& you haven't been zoomed out yet), please email Jeffra ([jeffra.bussmann@csueastbay.edu](mailto:jeffra.bussmann@csueastbay.edu)) for the Zoom link. All are welcome (librarians and vendors alike).

## SLA Awards

Two of our very own PAM colleagues have been recognized for their achievements in librarianaship.

Jeff Bond is a Fellow of SLA!

Fellowship in SLA is bestowed on active, mid-career SLA members in recognition of past, present and future service to thxe association and the profession.

Kelly Durkin Ruth is a Rising Star!

The James M. Matarazzo Rising Star Award is bestowed annually to recognize outstanding new SLA members who show exceptional promise of leadership and contribution to the association and profession.

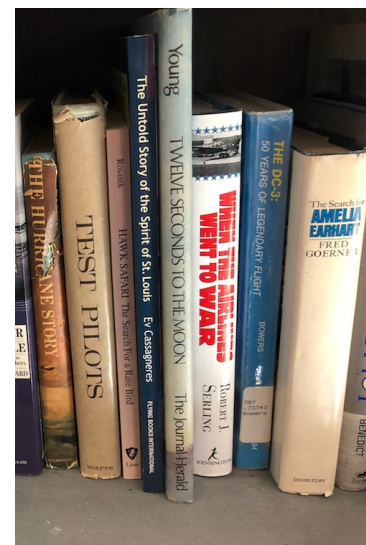
# Members' Corner News

Aaron Lercher

Longtime PAM member Sara Tompson retired (earlyish she says!) at the end of January, since she was blessed to be able to afford to do so. She'd only been retired about two weeks when a friend from her flying club (she is a private pilot) told her that a nearby Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) chapter had an amazing library of books in their new hangar, and needed them better organized! So, Sara went to that hangar and was very impressed.



Working with several club officers, they decided on an Excel file for the master list, with author, title, publisher, date fields, plus a Y/N field re signed-by-author (they have many), and Sara's addition of Library of Congress Subject Headings to enhance searchability. Everyone was so friendly at the chapter, Sara joined it, even though she is not really a builder of planes. She took photos of all the spines of the books (see example), then searched them at home on WorldCat to verify information and grab the subject headings. The spine photos yielded about a 94% success rate in finding citations for the books. Sara was able to revisit the hangar several times to verify the list-in-process before the corona virus pandemic restrictions closed the hangar. She reports she is about done with the list, and looks forward to being able to get to the hangar later this year.



Sara highly recommends volunteer cataloging or other library work as a retirement gig! Once a librarian always a librarian.