



# p.a.m. Bulletin

V 48 (1) August 2020

News for the Physics-Astronomy-Math Division of SLA

## Table of Contents

Message from the Chair .....	1
Professional Development Committee.....	2
Call for Nominations: 2021 PAM Chair-Elect and Secretary .....	3
Astronomy Roundtable .....	3
Mathematics Roundtable .....	3
Physics Roundtable .....	4
Summer Virtual Roundtables .....	4
Members' Corner .....	5

## Message from the Chair

**Donna Thompson**

Once again I write to you to update you on the Annual Conference which will now take place virtually mostly in mid-October although much of the programming will be available for you to view at your leisure. I will be working with the session moderators and the hospitality committee to firm up our plans in the next couple of weeks. Please watch PAMNET for updates as they become available. There are still four educational sessions and two social/business sessions planned. I hope you will join us.

It's been a pleasure seeing everyone so often online this summer and I hope that we will continue to do this online programming in the future even when we have an in-person conference in the future. I'd like to thank Ruth Kneale and the Professional Development Committee for their work in putting together four summer roundtables. Lots of fun and interesting topics. And a big round of applause to Jeffra Bussmann for her master "Zoom"ing skills that made the transitions seamless. Jeffra's watercooler chats have been the hit of the summer and I am so happy that Samuel Hansen is taking over hosting the sessions.

Editor: [Katie Frey](#)

Assistant Editor: [Mei Ling Lo](#)

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

And thanks to the wonderful PAMBoard for all that you do. What a wonderful group of people to work with. I look forward to working with all of you in the future.

Hope to see you at the conference!

**Professional  
Development  
Committee**  
**Ruth Kneale**

Well, we've certainly had a busy summer here in the PDC! After the [Open Mic](#) events we had in the Spring, we embarked on a Summer of Virtual Roundtables, with a Webinar tossed in just for fun. With the help of Jeffra Bussmann, an amazing Zoom administrator, we've had some wonderful sessions!

In early June, we had a really great webinar session from Dr. Kenneth Monks on "[Creating an online Differential Equations course using Overleaf and its collaborative tools](#)." This was a great continuation of the Open Access discussions we had in the spring, and Dr. Monks gave a great presentation. Later in the month, we had our first [Roundtable: Physics](#). Roughly 40 folks turned out for this, and topics discussed were Anti-Racism & Allyship; Collection Management; Favorite Resources; Open Data/Access/Education; and Strategies for Instruction & Outreach.

July was also busy; in mid-month we had the [Astronomy Roundtable](#). With 24 attendees, we talked about Social Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusivity, and Allyship; Popular, Fun, or Favorite Resources; and Open Access, Open Data, and other Open Things.

Coming the week after this was written is the [Vendor Update](#). In mid-August, we'll be holding the [Mathematics Roundtable](#). Watch PAMnet for announcements and registration information!

The PDC, with the most welcome help of Chris Doty, now has a section on PAMweb (in the main menu area, the grey bar at the top of the site) devoted to these activities. We're posting event notes regularly - please keep an eye on them for the upcoming events, too!

We hope you'll join us for future events, and please continue to let us know about any professional development opportunities you'd like to see from the committee.

Thank you,  
*Ruth Kneale (chair), Lauren Gala, Nico Carver, Sharice Collins, and summer member Jeffra Bussmann*

## **Call for Nominations: 2021 PAM Chair-Elect and Secretary**

PAM Members,

This is the official Call for Nominations for the next PAM Chair-Elect and Secretary.

We welcome nominations of PAM members who would be good candidates for either open Board position! Email any member of the Nominations & Elections Committee directly (contacts below) to express your own interest or to suggest names. The deadline for nominations is August 31, 2020. For more info and details on Board positions, see the PAM Nominations and Elections webpage and PAM Governing Document (“Officers” paragraph).

Thanks and let us know if you have questions. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

### **Astronomy Roundtable Meg Eastwood**

Our 2020 Astronomy Roundtable has successfully gone digital – our two speakers have agreed to do a mock live session, where they pre-record their talks and we watch the talks together with time for questions. We’ll

be learning about the glass plates that astronomers used from the 1880s until the early 1990s to capture wide-field images of the night sky, allowing them to discover celestial bodies like Pluto and the first evidence that our universe is expanding. These data are still used today to detect changes in astronomical objects over the decades. PAM’s own Barbara Kern, the Director of the Science Libraries at The University of Chicago Library, will be telling us about their project to [digitize glass plates from Yerkes Observatory](#) in order to present this data in a format that’s easily accessible to today’s astronomers. Lindsay Smith, an Archivist at Harvard College Observatory, will tell us about the unique storage and preservation challenges presented by these glass plates. Thanks to the lobbying efforts of our PAM Chair Donna Thompson, we still have a 60 minute session to learn about these glass slides that first unlocked the secrets of the universe.

### **Mathematics Roundtable Samuel Hansen and Lauren Gala**

“Mathematics Beyond the Academy”  
Mathematics is not confined to the academic ivory tower. Indeed, mathematics impacts our lives and society in countless ways, in both apparent and non-apparent ways. The mathematics roundtable will explore a couple of examples of mathematics outside of the academic walls. Dr. Francesca Bernardi is an Assistant Professor of Mathematical Sciences

at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute and the co-founder of the [summer camp Girls Talk Math: Engaging Girls through Math Media](#). She will share experiences working with young women and gender non-conforming people in mathematics and methods to increase the accessibility and inclusivity of mathematical fields. Dr. Gregory Herschlag is an Assistant Research Professor of Mathematics at Duke University. He will speak about his work on quantifying and analyzing gerrymandering, some of which was presented as evidence in [Rucho v. Common Cause](#).

## Physics Roundtable

### Laurie J. Neuerburg

The 2020 PAM Physics Roundtable will center around “Fostering Diversity in Science.” Three speakers are lined up to share their passion and experiences in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion. 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, 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, has been 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, 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. Librarians and information professionals are invited to be inspired about ways to promote and support diversity, equity, and inclusion in scientific educational and research settings. This session will be co-moderated by Mangala Krishnamurthy (Reference Librarian/Associate Professor, The University of Alabama) and Laurie Neuerburg (Sciences Reference and Outreach Librarian, University of Iowa).

## Summer Virtual Roundtables

The summer virtual roundtable series organized by the Professional Development Committee was an opportunity for small group discussion between PAM members on various topics. Notes from these roundtable discussions can be found here: <https://connect.sla.org/pam/profdev/summerroundtables>

## Members' Corner

Donna Thompson received the SLA New England Chapter Achievement Award for her ongoing work on the program planning committee for SLA New England.

Laura Palumbo reports that she, Jeffra Bussmann, and Barbara Kern just got an article accepted, and forthcoming in *College & Research Libraries*.

Palumbo, L., Bussmann, J.D., & Kern, B. (2021). The value of subject specialization and the future of science liaison librarianship. *College & Research Libraries*. (). Retrieved from <http://dx.doi.org/doi:10.7282/t3-6b34-dk85>