

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 Donna Thompson

Thank you, PAMily! The 2020 SLA conference is now over. (However, if you were registered the videos are still available until November 13 and I suggest you watch what you may have missed.) PAM members contributed a number of presentations—both talks and posters—covering a great array of topics and new information. We also had our share of social events and some relaxing time together in the PAM Suite.

Just like most of 2020, the program planning was anything but usual. The session moderators and the hospitality committee basically prepared at least two different programs, changing venues, times, speakers and platforms multiple times since March and they deserve our applause. Thank you Samuel Hansen, Lauren Gala, Laurie Neuerburg, Mangala Krishnanthy, Henrik Spoon, Meg Eastwood, Jenny Hart, Barbara Kern, Sheila Bryant, Danny Dotson and Patricia Hartner for adjusting to all of the changes and delivering quality PAM content at the conference.

In January 2021, Lance Utley will become PAM President-Elect and Debal Kar will become PAM Secretary. Thank you to the Nominating and Elections Committee members, Ted Baldwin, Beth Brown and Alan Tourtlotte for their work in recruiting candidates and running the election.

Editor: [Katie Frey](#)

Assistant Editor: [Mei Ling Lo](#)

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

Continuing on the PAM Board for the following year will be Chris Doty as President, Alison Verbeck as Treasurer and myself as Past Chair.

John Kromer will finish his term as Past Chair and Kelly Durkin Ruth will complete her term as PAM Secretary. Many thanks to John and Kelly for all that they have done for PAM and for SLA. John has been a great resource for SLA matters and I've turned to him for advice on this during my term as Chair. Kelly quietly kept us on track and reminded us of upcoming deadlines and this was great gift to PAM as well as to me personally. Thanks for being so helpful.

While my term as PAM Chair didn't quite go as smoothly as I wanted, I am still honored to have worked with and for you over the past year. I have acquired some new skills and new appreciation for working within a large organization. As SLA is restructuring I will spend time next year as Past Chair updating our PAM Practices Manual and PAM Governing Document and appreciate input from you as I go forward with this task.

I am sorry that we won't be together in person until 2022 but I look forward to working with you through 2021 and I wish you all continued health as we get through this pandemic. PAM continuously proves to me that when we work together we can get through anything. Thank you, PAMily!

2021 SLA Conference Planning Update Chris Doty

Conference planning is underway for 2021. As you have probably heard, next year's conference will also be virtual. It is tentative scheduled to take place in either July or August. PAM is planning to host the four educational sessions that we usually do: Physics, Astronomy, and Mathematics Roundtables, and the Vendor Update. We also plan to have the virtual PAM Suite and a few additional virtual events hosted by the Hospitality Committee.

This year's roundtable moderators are Sarah Siddiqui & Mark Chalmers [Physics], Henrik Spoon & Nico Carver [Astronomy], and Samuel Hansen & Emma Moore [Mathematics]. Many thanks to all of them for volunteering!!!

While the official call for session proposals has not gone out yet, it's not too soon to be thinking about the programming for next year's conference. Please send me any ideas you have about session topics, speakers, or virtual events you would like to see next year. We are also waiting on information about the 2021 SLA Leadership Symposium. I will keep you updated of any developments via PAMnet. More to come!!!



PAM Election Results for 2021 Ted Baldwin

Congratulations to the newly-elected PAM Division Board members! Welcome Lance and Debal. Thanks to all who voted.

Lance Utley Chair-Elect 2021, Chair 2022

Lance Utley has been the Observatory Librarian at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, headquartered in Virginia, since 2019. Prior to that role, Lance was the general librarian, webmaster, and database administrator for the Observatory library and served in a paraprofessional role while a library student. Lance was a recipient of a Louise Leckner Memorial Travel Stipend in 2010 and served as co-moderator of the Astronomy Roundtable in 2013. He has served as PAM Archivist since 2011, managed the NRAO hosted PAMNet listserv since 2016, served as President of the Virginia Chapter of SLA in 2016, and as VASLA Webmaster from 2011 – to present. Lance earned a B.A. in English Literature from Michigan State University, an M.S.L.I.S. from Drexel University, and an M.S. in Database Technology from Regis University.

Dr. Debal Kar Secretary 2021-2023

Dr. Debal Kar has been the Librarian at the Dr B R Ambedkar University Delhi since 2011 and as well as Mathematics Librarian. Before that he was Librarian and Fellow at The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) as well as Librarian for Physics and Energy-Material Science Engineering from 2001 to 2011, and Information Scientist at TERI since

1987. He is an M. A. (NBU) and a Master's in Library and Information Science (AU) and PhD from University of Delhi, India. He has served Asian Chapter as Secretary (2005-2006), President (2008 & 2017) & Award Committee Chair of S&T Community (2020-2021). He received SLA Fellow (2017), SLA Presidential Citation Award (2009), SLA Member Achievement Award (2011) and Endeavour Executive Fellowship 2014 from Government of Australia and worked as Visiting Fellow at University of Technology, Sydney, Australia, in 2014.

From the PAM Nominations & Elections Committee: Ted Baldwin (chair), Elizabeth Brown, Alan Tourtlotte

Astronomy Roundtable: Yerkes Observatory Glass Plates Project Barbara Kern

I would like to thank the organizers of the PAM Astronomy Roundtable session for giving me an opportunity to share information about work a team at the University of Chicago is doing at Yerkes Observatory with astronomical glass plates.

The University of Chicago Yerkes Glass Plates Project is a strong partnership and team effort. Our team includes a faculty member in the Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics, a dedicated group of undergraduate students, experts at Yerkes Observatory who have an in depth knowledge of the history of Yerkes and the glass plates/logbooks collection and, on the Library side, we are working with the

preservation department, digitization specialists and the subject specialist for the history of science.

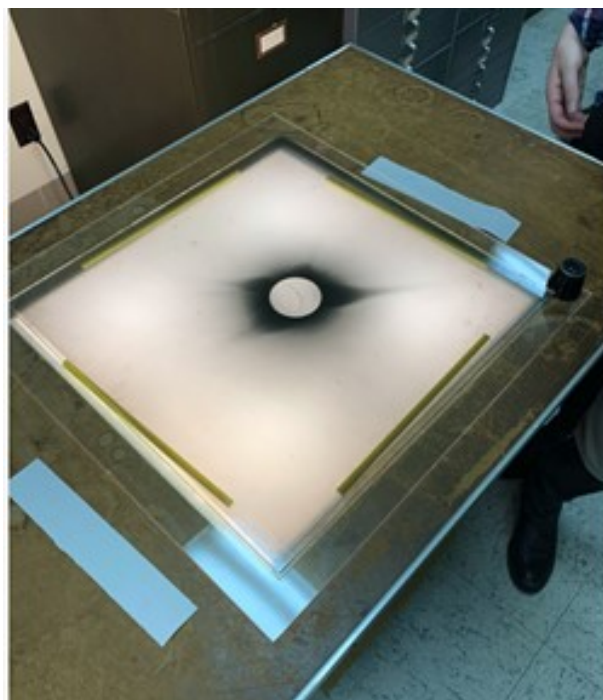
The Yerkes 40” telescope has been referred to as “one of the wonders of the world” and has a long and significant history. Some highlights include: George Ellery Hale made the first astronomical observations using the telescope in the summer of 1897; images taken by Edward Emerson Barnard using the telescope were published in the Photographic Atlas of Selected Regions of the Milky Way (Vol 1 & 2); Frank Elmore Ross re-photographed some of Barnard's previous work and made new discoveries by comparing the plates; in 1913 Edwin Hubble conducted his research at Yerkes, writing his 1917 PhD thesis using images he took on the 24-inch reflector; and Gerard Peter Kuiper arrived at Yerkes in 1936 as a member of the faculty of the University of Chicago.

There are approximately 170,000 astronomical images on photographic glass plates at Yerkes Observatory. The history of glass plates and their use in astronomy is



fascinating and could take up an entire article/talk, however briefly, the use of glass plates made collecting astronomical data more precise, capturing crucial details that was not possible in hand drawn illustrations. The technology was constantly improved throughout the 1880's and beyond, with the

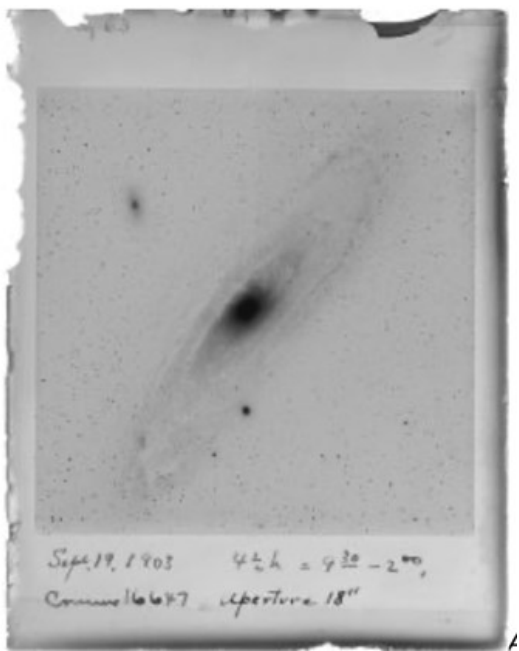
goal of making the production of the plates easier, exposure time shorter and the plates more sensitive to light. At Yerkes Observatory, the glass plates we are typically working with are coated on one side with a dry photosensitive emulsion which is composed of small silver halide crystals suspended in gelatin. When looking at a plate, one can see the emulsion side, and, in many cases, that emulsion deteriorating, which speaks to the importance of digitization and preservation.



Astronomical glass plates contain a lot of useful data that can be used for scientific and well as historical research today. When thinking about the data, we think about time domain astronomy: looking at a region in the sky that was captured 100 years ago and looking for changes and we think about studying a particular object and gathering data about it. We also look at the annotations – historical markings - on the non-emulsion side of plate. These markings are an astronomer's notes or highlighted areas or points of interest.

For our project, we are focusing on a subset of glass plates – approximately 300 that we

have transferred to campus - as a starting point. These are Barnard plates, specifically the ones that appear in *The Photographic Atlas of Selected Regions of the Milky Way*, plus Ritchey, Ross and Hubble plates. We are interested in exploring the digitization of the plates using low-cost, off the shelf equipment for scanning. And, to do the scanning with both scientific and historical research in mind. This involves thinking about resolution, setting parameters of the equipment and balancing the level of detail that can be captured with scanning time and the size of the resulting files. At this point, the plan is to analyze two primary types of equipment: flatbed scanners and digital cameras. For this work, the University of Chicago Preservation Department has been heavily involved, providing their expertise and support. On the science side, Faculty member Rich Kron has been working together with a dedicated group of undergraduate students to make scans and conduct research on them.



We are in the early stages of our project and in the coming months I will have more information about the equipment being used, how our testing is being conducted and the results we are finding, along with critical next steps.

In all of this and throughout, we are constantly looking to and talking with colleagues at observatories and institutions who are doing this work or even just thinking about doing this work. Our project is guided by the experience and expertise of others, coupled with our excitement about testing, trying, exploring and finding solutions.

If you are interested in glass plates and would like to join an informal group of librarians and astronomers, please contact me for more information.

**Mathematics
Roundtable
Lauren Gala and
Samuel Hansen**

The PAM Community’s Mathematics Roundtable “Mathematics Beyond the Academy,” sponsored by Annual Reviews, World Scientific Publishing, AIP, and SPIE, was held on October 14, 2020. The live 60-minute session featured Dr. Francesca Bernardi, Assistant Professor of Mathematical Sciences at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and Dr. Gregory Herschlag, Assistant Research Professor of Mathematics at Duke University.

Dr. Bernardi’s presentation, “REPRESENTATION + COMMUNITY: Increasing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Mathematics” focused on two projects that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in STEM. She spoke about Girls Talk Math, a free two-week mathematics and media camp for female and gender non-conforming high school students that she co-founded and about increasing the visibility of women and

underrepresented minorities through Wikipedia Edit-a-thons. Dr. Herschlag's presentation, "Claiming the Power of the Vote: How Mathematics and Scientific Computing Can Break Gerrymandering (and why it matters)" centered on his work with Jonathan Mattingly and the Duke University team, and other collaborators. He explained the mathematical techniques used to analyze gerrymandering and data visualizations of the results. He also posed thought-provoking points related to the gerrymandering, like the concept of fairness. The session attendees discussed the presentations and asked the panelists questions through chat.

Physics Roundtable

Mangala Krishnamurthy and Laurie Neuerburg

The 2020 PAM Physics Roundtable focused on "Fostering Diversity in Science." Mangala Krishnamurthy (Reference Librarian/ Associate Professor, The University of Alabama) and Laurie Neuerburg (Sciences Reference and Outreach Librarian, University of Iowa) co-moderated the session. Many thanks to our PAM sponsors who were World Scientific, AIP Publishing, SPIE, and Annual Reviews.

Two speakers shared their passion and experiences in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in the sciences, followed by discussion with the audience revolving around how librarians and information professionals can support individuals from underrepresented and minority populations in the sciences. We appreciated that the audience was enthusiastic, thoughtful, and willing to share their own ideas in the discussion following the presentations. Our first speaker was Dr. Rosario Porras-

Aguilar, Assistant Professor at UNC Charlotte in the Department of Physics and Optical Science. She was official advisor of the SPIE Women in Optics Chapter at INAOE, in Puebla, Mexico, and she has implemented various workshops based on optics to inclusive audiences and organized a Journey "Science for School Girls" in Puebla. Rosario started off by talking about the stereotypes involved in "what a scientist looks like" and how she redefines what a scientist looks like through her outreach in SPIE, Women in Optics, K-12 outreach, college student mentorship, and online forums. She shared guidance for creating a "nutritious social climate in education" that she uses to lead her diverse research group and how she incorporates the stories of early women and Mexican astronomers as well as multicultural understandings of science into her teaching. Through outreach to all ages, celebration and recognition of multicultural achievements, and her guidelines for educational environments, Rosario inspired us to think deeply about how to break the stereotypical image of scientists to create a new vision embracing diversity and inclusion.

Our final speaker was Dr. Siobahn C. Day, Assistant Professor in Library and Information Sciences at NC Central. She was 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." She expressed how important volunteering, mentoring, and paying it forward are in creating a more diverse STEM field for future generations. Siobahn talked about an initiative she is involved in to raise the visibility of woman scientists through the establishment of a large collection of statues

of female scientists happening in Dallas, which will include a statue of herself as an IF/THEN Ambassador. Additionally, Siobahn talked about how she received a grant to create her own initiative to promote diversity in STEM. She named her initiative “STEM-It-Yourself” and developed it to give underrepresented youth the opportunity to participate in a series of STEM activities modeled by scientists who look like themselves.

PAM Vendor and Librarian Panel Summary

Jenny Hart and Donna Thompson

The PAM Vendor and Librarian panel session this year consisted of two parts. We first gave a presentation on the results of a survey we sent to the PAMnet listserv about librarian and vendor use of information object identifiers (e.g. DOI, ISBN, ORCID). For the second section we held a panel discussion about identifiers in publishing with Stephen Flockton, Digital Content Manager at IOP Publishing and David Ruddy, Director of Information Technology at Project Euclid.

We received 60 responses in total to our survey, mainly from librarians (51). Notable results were shared. DOIs and ORCID were considered the most important and useful identifiers for librarians. We also found that ISBNs in particular were a great source of confusion. Reasons given were that there were so many of them it was difficult to distinguish between them. Also that multiple identifiers were assigned for different

editions and formats of the same title made it more difficult to search for the same content in multiple formats at once. Publisher supplied identifiers also cause confusion for librarians. Vendors received a separate set of questions on the survey and there were fewer vendor responses (9) with only a handful filling out the full survey. Ones who did agreed that DOIs and ORCIDs were important identifiers and noted they collected them from their authors.

In the discussion Stephen Flockton and David Ruddy addressed questions we posed. We asked about developing standards for author and institutional identifiers. They agreed ORCID was very useful and discussed what they were doing to capture ORCID on their end. They also considered why there are so many different identifiers generated and thought that funding agencies’ mandates drive some of the identifiers now required. We also raised the question of publication dates and page numbers no longer signifying the same thing as they once did. They discussed whether the official date of publication might in the future change to the initial date the publication appeared online, and that any updates would also be noted by date. They also considered the issue of multiple and changing DOIs for different versions of a single information object. Both thought Crossref offered useful ways for managing and resolving some of these problems. In addition they discussed the issue of datasets associated with a particular article receiving their own DOI. They both agreed that in the near future there would continue to be diverse identifiers assigned to content and issues of aligning them with each other would continue. They also thought identifiers with metadata behind them such as the ORCID would continue to gain importance.

2020 PAM Awards

Laura Palumbo

Congratulations to our PAM members who received well-deserved awards from SLA this year! Carrying on the tradition of excellence are:

Jeff Bond, 2020 SLA Fellow
Kelly Durkin Ruth, 2020 SLA Rising Star

Thank you both for your contributions to PAM and SLA!

At our annual business meeting the Awards Committee presented a PAM Achievement Award and a PAM Division Award to recognize exceptional contributions to PAM.

The PAM Achievement Award is reserved for those recipients whose professional work is marked by distinction and dedication to librarianship in astronomy, mathematics and/or physics. The purpose of the award is to recognize those Division members who have made outstanding contributions to the Division. This year's recipient is **Zary Kamarei**. In addition to several library leadership roles in her distinguished career, she has been an active member of PAM since 1999 and was PAM chair in 2009. Other roles she has filled in PAM are Treasurer, Chair of the International Relations Committee, and Co-Chair of the Fundraising Committee. She has also served more than once on the PAM Roundtables and Vendor Sessions, the Public Relations Committee, and the Mentoring Committee.

Not only does Zary volunteer on the mentoring committee, she also inspires early career librarians to engage with their peers and

members of PAM. She ensures that opportunities, such as the Louise Leckner Travel Stipends, are shared with potential applicants and encourages participation. In addition, she has generously shared her time and expertise by serving on several Library Advisory Boards, to ensure that the special needs of librarians are integrated into vendor plans.

We are all grateful for her many professional contributions to PAM, but perhaps more so for her warmth, friendship, kindness, and her nurturing of new librarians and PAM members. Zary is part of the reason that all of us continue to find PAM a welcoming and supportive place, one that we want to always come back to. It was with great pleasure that the PAM Awards Committee presented the 2020 PAM Achievement Award to Zary Kamarei.

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. The contribution also significantly benefits libraries or enhances the ability of librarians to provide service. It is a special recognition above and beyond the normal job requirements of the individual(s) or group concerned.

Founded in 1956, the **National Radio Astronomy Observatory** provides state-of-the-art radio telescope facilities for use by the international scientific community. NRAO telescopes are open to all astronomers regardless of institutional or national affiliation.

Astronomers around the world use radio telescopes to observe the naturally occurring radiowaves that come from stars,

planets, galaxies, clouds of dust, and molecules of gas ([NRAO](#)). Astronomical observations at radio wavelengths allow scientists to address fundamental questions about our Universe such as:
When and how did galaxies form in the early Universe? How do supermassive black holes form at the hearts of most galaxies? How are stars and planets born?

In addition to helping to answer these cosmic questions, a more mundane but invaluable activity that NRAO has undertaken since 2011 is the preservation of the PAM Division Archives, under the watchful eye of Lance Utley, the PAM Archivist. NRAO is also responsible for the maintenance of the PAMnet listserv. On August 1st, 2016, PAMnet migrated to the National Radio Astronomy Observatory with Marsha Bishop and Lance Utley as the co-owners of the list. Debra Kolah, 2016 Chair of PAM, received multiple generous offers from vendors and several universities to host PAMNET, and the PAM Board decided that with Lance & Marsha's support, and the IT support at NRAO, it would be the best fit ([pamnet](#)).

For its contributions both great and small, the PAM Awards Committee was pleased to present the 2020 PAM Division Award to the National Radio Astronomy Observatory and Lance Utley.

Presented at the 2020 SLA PAM Annual Business meeting, Thursday, October 8th

PAM Awards Committee
Anya Bartelmann
Sharice Collins
Laurie Neuerburg
Laura Palumbo

Call for Nominations: 2021 PAM Division & Achievement Awards Anya Bartelmann

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. Zary Kamarei and Jeffra Bussmann 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. NRAO is the most recent winner; past recipients include NUMDAM, ADS, and arXiv. [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
[Anya Bartelmann](#) (Chair)
[Kelly Durkin Ruth](#)
[Laurie Neuerburg](#)
[Emily Poworoznek](#)

2020 PAM Annual Business Meeting Minutes Kelly Durkin Ruth

Thursday October 8, 2020 11 a.m. via
GoToWebinar
Minutes approved by the PAM Executive
Board via email 10/30/2020

1) Welcome: Donna Thompson, Chair
Donna called the meeting to order at 11:03 AM and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2) Secretary Report: Kelly Durkin Ruth
The following documents have been approved, by the Executive Committee via email, since last year's business meeting. They don't need to be approved again:

- 2019 PAM Business meeting minutes: 8/5/2019
- 2019 PAM Board meeting minutes: 8/5/2019
- July-December 2019 Executive Board Decisions and Discussions: 6/16/2020
- January-June 2020 Executive Board Decisions and Discussions: 6/16/2020

These documents, plus all executive board meeting minutes, will live in the PAM Dropbox. Email Kelly if you'd like any of them sent to you.

The following is a summary of the June 18 executive board plus advisory board meeting:

- The executive board reported on its activities. Members of the advisory board reported on their committee activities since the 2019 board meeting.
- PAM Transition Task Force Chair Laura Palumbo provided an update on that group's work: The PAM Transition Task Force was convened in May 2020 at the request of the PAM Executive Board. The members of the Task Force are Kayleigh Bohemier, Sharice Collins, Leslie Eager, Samuel Hansen, Jenny Hart, Laura Palumbo, Donna Thompson, and Valerie Tucci. The Task Force's charge is to explore possibilities for the existence of a PAM-like group outside of SLA; by investigating potential partnerships with other organizations, and by consulting with groups that exist independent of a parent organization. The Task Force has established a one-year timeline to produce a report outlining recommendations for a possible new organizational home for PAM members.

The minutes from today's business meeting will be published in the next PAM Bulletin.

3) Treasurer's report: Alison Verbeck
I officially started as treasurer on January 1, 2020. On January 8, 2020, the PAM executive board met with SLA leadership via web conference call to discuss the SLA restructuring plan. PAM was notified that SLA HQ would be centralizing all funding and financial accounts and PAM would no longer be allowed to maintain separate bank accounts. As the last remaining

division controlling our own finances, it was not terribly surprising that they removed the option for us.

The last payment made from PAM bank accounts was the final \$5,718 for the 2019 conference. Shortly after that cleared, the PayPal and PAM bank accounts were closed with all remaining funds, \$26,672.79, wired to SLA HQ on March 3, 2020.

The only expenses that I have been made aware of since that time was a reimbursement of \$20.24 for Awards Committee supplies on March 6. That money was paid by a PAM member and reimbursed by SLA HQ. Since any future income and expenses will be going through SLA HQ, I will not necessarily be made aware of them.

Because the current and next SLA Annual meetings will be virtual, it is hard to determine what role the treasurer might play going forward. At this point, I'm primarily involved with working with the PAM Board for planning purposes.

At the October 7 SLA board meeting, SLA's treasurer, Bill Noorlander, shared SLA's finances with the membership.

- For the fiscal year ending December 31, 2019, total income was \$2.5 million and total expenses were \$2.5 million – a loss of \$139,642.
- For the current fiscal year through August 31, 2020, SLA's revenues and expenses have both been lower than budgeted. This year is obviously a difficult year because of changes to the annual conference. Expenses have been just over \$1 million and revenue has been \$456,686. Currently, that leaves a \$584,067 loss, which is less than expected. He stated that the numbers seem to have improved some in the past month.

4) Past-chair report: John Kromer

It is the Past-Chair's responsibility to update the practices manual each year. However,

given the current state of flux at SLA and the major questions introduced through the restructuring, I won't be making any major updates this year. I will still be collecting any suggested updates that I can pass along to Donna next year, so if you have any recommendations, please send them to me at john.kromer@asu.edu.

5) Chair-elect report: Chris Doty

- 2021 will also be a virtual conference, with a tentative date of July/August. We are also waiting on word about a 2021 Leadership Symposium.
- The plan is to have the usual sessions: Physics, Astronomy, and Math Roundtables and the Vendor Update.
- 5 of the 6 co-moderator spots for next year have been filled, and I hope to have the last spot filled shortly.
- In the new virtual format we are hoping to go back to a more traditional vendor update format, along the lines of what we did over the summer.
- Once the dust settles on this year's conference, I will be reaching out to other communities to investigate cross-programming opportunities for 2021.
- Please send me (or anyone on the PAM Board) any ideas you have about sessions, topics, or speakers that you'd like to see next year. The feedback for this year's events is especially critical. While participating in this year's conference, please think about ways next year's virtual conference can be improved.
- I have also spoken with a number of you about committee positions for the coming year, and once the conference is over that will ramp back up.

6) Chair report: Donna Thompson

Donna provided an update on SLA news and PAM events since the last business meeting.

- At our June 2019 meeting, we were

looking for ways to include folks that couldn't be with us in person at the conference. Those ideas helped us get through a difficult year and put us ahead of the curve in preparing programming ideas for the annual conference.

- Thanks to the Fundraising Committee for its work. PAM has worked for a long time to develop vendor relationships. We appreciate our sponsors and look forward to events after the conference that will engage them.
- Thanks to the roundtable moderators and speakers who were flexible in dealing with many changes and challenges.
- When we return to in-person events, we should consider continuing with virtual programming as it enabled more contact with PAM members throughout the year. Thanks to the PAM summer roundtable organizers and the watercooler chat coordinators for their work.
- SLA reports membership at 3,433 members
- In early 2021, membership feedback will be sought on SLA's strategic plan
- SLA's rebranding is slated to launch summer 2021 and will likely involve a name change
- SLA reported 859 registrants for the conference; they anticipated 500 people
- Thanks to the PAM Board for a great year. PAM is a great community and I am proud to be part of both the past and the changing future. I look forward to what happens to us in the future and I look forward to working with you all in various ways.

7) PAM Awards: Laura Palumbo

Laura, on behalf of the Awards Committee, presented the PAM Achievement Award to Zary Kamarei and read the following statement:

Our PAM Achievement Award winner has been a Physical Sciences Librarian at Notre Dame; a Science Librarian in Isfahan, Tehran; Head of the Math/Physics, Chemistry, and

Science Libraries at UNC-Chapel Hill; Director of the Science and Engineering Libraries at the University of Rochester; and is currently the Director of Library Services for Taylor Health Sciences Library at the Arkansas Colleges of Health Education. She has been an active member of SLA and the PAM Division since 1999, and was PAM Chair in 2009. Other roles she has filled in PAM are Treasurer, Chair of the International Relations Committee, and Co-Chair of the Fundraising Committee. She has also been active in local SLA chapters, as well as recently serving as Chair of the SLA Academic Division.

In addition to her accomplishments within her distinguished career as a science librarian and as a leader in PAM and SLA, our awardee is known for her willingness to serve wherever she is needed, contributing more than once to the PAM Roundtables and Vendor Sessions, the Public Relations Committee, and the Mentoring Committee. Not only does she volunteer on the mentoring committee, she also inspires early career librarians to engage with their peers and members of PAM. She ensures that opportunities, such as the Louise Leckner Travel Stipends, are shared with potential applicants and encourages participation. In addition, she has generously shared her time and expertise by serving on several Library Advisory Boards, to ensure that the special needs of librarians are integrated into vendor plans. Her previous supervisor said, "She is well respected for her domain knowledge and expertise in the sciences libraries, and she is always willing to share her knowledge to mentor early career librarians. This is a well-deserved award."

We are all grateful for her many professional contributions to PAM, but perhaps moreso for her warmth, friendship,

kindness, and her nurturing of new librarians and PAM members. She is part of the reason that all of us continue to find PAM a welcoming and supportive place, one that we want to always come back to. It is my great pleasure to present the 2020 PAM Achievement Award to Zary Kamarei.

Zary received the award and gave remarks.

Laura presented the PAM Division Award to the National Radio Astronomy Observatory and Lance Utley. She read the following remarks:

Founded in 1956, the National Radio Astronomy Observatory provides state-of-the-art radio telescope facilities for use by the international scientific community. NRAO telescopes are open to all astronomers regardless of institutional or national affiliation. Observing time on NRAO telescopes is available on a competitive basis to qualified scientists after evaluation of research proposals based on scientific merit. NRAO also provides both formal and informal programs in education and public outreach for teachers, students, the general public, and the media.

Astronomers around the world use radio telescopes to observe the naturally occurring radiowaves that come from stars, planets, galaxies, clouds of dust, and molecules of gas. Astronomical observations at radio wavelengths allow scientists to address fundamental questions about our Universe such as:

When and how did galaxies form in the early Universe?

How do supermassive black holes form at the hearts of most galaxies?

How are stars and planets born?

In addition to helping to answer these cosmic questions, a more mundane but invaluable activity that NRAO has undertaken since 2011

is the preservation of the PAM Division Archives, under the watchful eye of Lance Utley, the PAM Archivist. NRAO is also responsible for the maintenance of the PAMnet listserv. On August 1st, 2016, PAMnet migrated to the National Radio Astronomy Observatory with Marsha Bishop and Lance Utley as the co-owners of the list. Debra Kolah, 2016 Chair of PAM, received multiple generous offers from vendors and several universities to host PAMNET, and the PAM Board decided that with Lance & Marsha's support, and the IT support at NRAO, it would be the best fit.

For its contributions both great and small, I am pleased to present the 2020 PAM Division Award to the National Radio Astronomy Observatory and Lance Utley.

Lance gave the following remarks:

It is my distinct honor to accept this award on behalf of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, THANK YOU!

The founding members of PAM included an NRAO Librarian. The overwhelming majority of all librarians to serve NRAO have been PAM members

Being a member of PAM has easily been the most rewarding part of my own career.

PAM provides connections to our peers and their organizations in turn that are so meaningful and difficult to quantify. Working in a small library at an observatory surrounded by astronomers it is easy to feel professionally isolated. This beautiful PAMily is the perfect antidote to any notion of isolation.

PAM has given so much to the librarians who have served NRAO. To give back to such a wonderful group is truly the least

one can do.

I am honored to be able to work for an organization like NRAO that is eager to give its support in return to PAM. And having such affection for this PAMily makes it so easy to appreciate what an honor you have given to NRAO today.

On behalf of NRAO, thank you so much, PAMily!!

8) Louise Leckner Memorial Travel Stipends: Ruth Kneale

Ruth, on behalf of the Professional Development Committee, presented this year's Louise Leckner Memorial Travel Stipends, sponsored by IOP, to Samuel Hansen and Erika Weir and read the following:

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-convener of the Mathematics Roundtable for SLA 2020. Outside of the podcast room, Samuel likes to cycle in the brisk Michigan air.

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 of 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 and Erika's awards will carry over to SLA 2022. In 2021, the Professional Development Committee will be looking for two new awardees, who will also carry over to SLA 2022. In the meantime, please welcome Samuel and Erika into SLA and PAM!

Ruth thanked Jeffra for her help coordinating the summer roundtable series

The Professional Development Committee is responsible for event feedback. Ruth reminded attendees to fill out the virtual feedback form for any PAM session.

9) Announcements and other business

Donna asked Kelly Durkin Ruth and Jeff Bond to repeat their SLA awards speeches, which many did not get to hear due to technical difficulties.

Kelly read the following statement:

Greetings from Annapolis, Maryland! I wish we could all be together in person to celebrate; this virtual celebration is the next best thing.

I'm honored and humbled to receive this Rising Star Award. Thank you to the SLA Awards and Honors Committee for selecting me as a recipient and thank you to those who nominated me.

I'm grateful for the colleagues throughout

this and my past careers and for the friend/mentors (friendtors) who have challenged me, helped me grow and supported me as an early career librarian.

Although I'm a member of many different SLA communities, my professional home is the Physics Astronomy Math division. Thanks to PAM for being such a welcoming community. I am happy to be a member of the PAMily and I'm proud to continue the legacy of excellence in our community.

Last but not least, my enduring gratitude to my spouse, Corey, for his endless support throughout 3 moves over two countries and almost 10 years of living with a librarian.

Jeff read the following statement:

I am humbled by this honor. I have many to thank, starting with the SLA Awards Committee and Roberto Sarmiento, its chair. I want to thank my mom for always being there for me. I want to thank my supervisor Linda Chenoweth and the Dean of the TCU Library Tracy Hull.

SLA is a group of wonderful people. I want to thank the following individuals for supporting, encouraging, and mentoring me in my career journey so far:

Ruth Kneale,
Debra Kolah,
Richard Huffine,
Brandy King,
Zary Kamarei,
Tina Franks, and
Lauren Gala.

I also want to thank all of the members of the 2019 SLA Annual Conference Advisory Council for all your support and hard work on making the conference a success.

I want to thank the Texas, Academic, and Sci-Tech Communities for their support.

Lastly, I want to thank the Physics-Astronomy-Mathematics Division of SLA, better known as "PAM." PAM is a special group of people that cares greatly for the information needs of physicists, astronomers, and mathematicians, but also cares about supporting each other as librarians and as people. Thank you, PAM Family, or as we like to call it, the "PAMily."

Thank you to everyone in SLA for this honor.

Attendees made the following announcements:

Chris Doty asked who was attending STELLA the next day. Many attendees planned to participate.

Danny Dotson reminded attendees about the PAM game night next Friday at 5pm

Stella Ota asked attendees to participate in a screenshot photo opportunity

Sharice Collins confirmed that there will be an IOP mug this year

10) Adjournment

John Kromer moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 11:52AM

PAM Game Night

Daniel Dotson, Sheila Bryant, & Patricia Hartner

Game night had people trying to see who could figure out what exactly 20 patent images were trying to convey. Items ranged from the simple (a slide rule and a beaker cover) to more complex (specialized astronomical equipment and a musical slide rule). We then moved into Mad Libs, which included a Halloweenish story about three departed scientists having a conversation. A _____ time was had by all.

A Ghostly Conversation

The ghosts of three famous scientists were meeting for a chat. These scientists were:

- Marie Curie
- Maria Mitchell
- Alan Turing

Whenever these three got together, always when Asteroid Donna was directly overhead of Cornell University, they argued about modern science and scientists.

What was the best scientific achievement of the past 50 years? Marie Curie believed it was the bitcoin. This scientist was adamant that this invention was the best thing since the cotton gin. “Ridiculous!” yelled Maria Mitchell. “The best invention of the past 50 years is clearly the iPhone. And to top it off, the best invention of all time is clearly the guillotine!”

Alan Turing let out a sigh. “I don’t know why I talk to you two nitwits. You two clearly don’t understand the modern world, let alone the past! The best invention in the past 50 years is

clearly the Instant Pot. And I think I might even be more important than the fountain pen. If we had this in MY day, the world would be a much better place today!”

The two others scoffed. The esteemed physicist pointed her finger at the mathematician. “You, my friend, are more delusional than Maryam Mirzakhani! Why, that dimwit thought that counting by quaternions was a good way to get to sleep.”

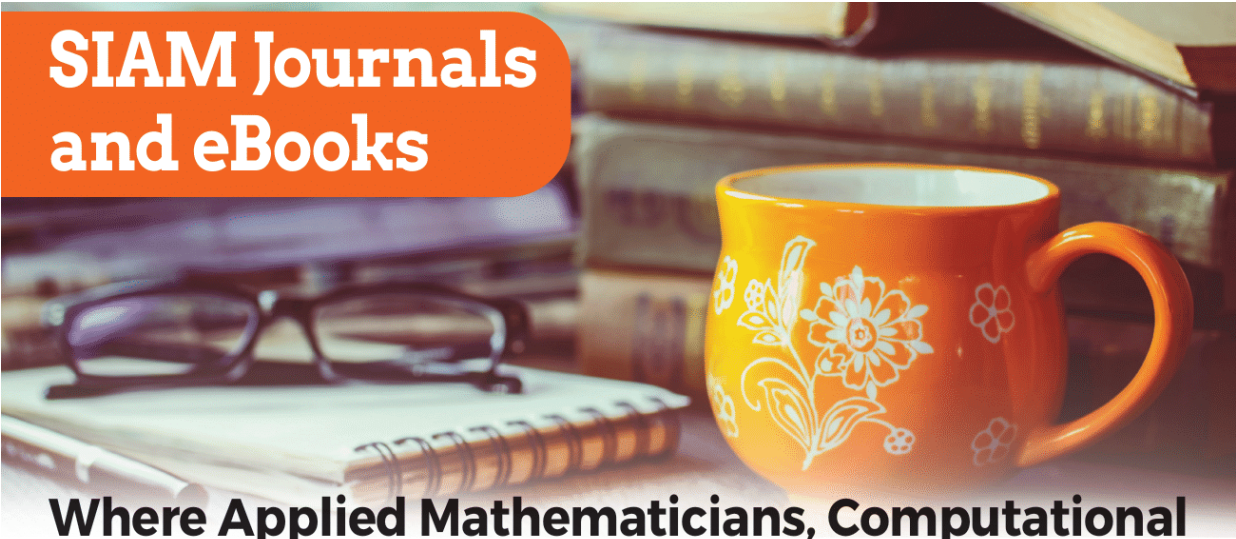
“Oh yeah?” yelled the mathematician. “Why, Richard Feynman thought that polonium should be consumed daily at breakfast in order to lead a healthy life!”

The astronomer stifled a laugh. The physicist turned and said “Well those two may be dumb, but Carl Sagan thought there was life on Sirius. And in fact, thought it was intelligent life. HA!”

The chat descended into chaos until the clock struck midnight. They all disappeared suddenly. They had to go haunt Neil deGrasse Tyson.



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