

NOGLSTP *Bulletin*

Spring 2020

©National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals, Inc.
NOGLSTP, PO BOX 91803, Pasadena CA 91109, phone/fax: 626 791-7689, www.noglstp.org

NOGLSTP Receives Anonymous Donation to Establish “Ben Barres Fellowships”

NOGLSTP has received an anonymous donation to establish the Ben Barres Fellowship for trans, intersex, and non-binary graduate students and post-doctoral fellows in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The fellowship is named after Ben Barres, a prominent passionate transgender Stanford scientist who researched the role of microglia, an immune cell of the brain, and its interaction with neurons in development and disease. Barres was an ardent campaigner for equal opportunity in science, speaking his truth in media before telling his story through a posthumous memoir released after Barres’ death from cancer in 2017 at the age of 63. This is a merit-based award, and the support provided is intended, broadly construed, for the recipient’s professional enhancement. Examples of eligible purposes include research support; conference, workshop, or research travel; equipment; research assistant or translation services; and/or other professional uses. The fund is not intended to support personal expenses unrelated to research, such as food or rent. The application portal and criteria will appear on the NOGLSTP website this June. Depending on the number of application proposals submitted, there will be multiple awards for this first year. Recipients of the fellowship will retain the option of remaining anonymous in public announcements of the award. Awards will range from \$2000 to \$5000 per recipient.

New One-time Scholarships for Undergraduate Engineering Students

NOGLSTP is pleased to announce the David McLennan Memorial Scholarship for the 2020/2021 academic year. This one-time scholarship will fund \$2500 to each of two LGBTQ+ undergraduate engineering students. The memorial scholarship honors David McLennan, the donor’s uncle, who enabled the donor to go to college her first year. David McLennan was born in Richmond, Virginia and was the fifth of seven children. He enlisted in the Air Force during the Korean War and served as a pilot. He used the GI bill to complete his higher education, earning a Doctorate in Electrical Engineering from the University of Tennessee in 1967. He accepted a teaching position at Tennessee Technological University, ultimately becoming a full professor. McLennan worked on several contracts for NASA and dreamed of becoming an astronaut if the program had accepted gay men at that time. In 1976, he took a year's leave of absence and traveled to California to explore the developing micro-processing industry in the region, relocating to San Francisco in 1979 to start his own business. He lost his partner and many friends to HIV and was diagnosed with the virus in 1985. He lived for another 39 years. All Out to Innovate™ Scholarship applicants who are undergraduate engineering majors will also be considered for this scholarship.

Out to Innovate™ Scholarships 2020 Accepting Applications Until June 6

NOGLSTP’s 10th Out to Innovate™ Scholarship application window is now open, and will close on June 6, 2020. The scholarships are for the 2020 fall academic year. Scholarships will fund undergraduate students as well as graduate students in STEM. The scholarship awards will be paid in the fall semester/quarter only. The number of scholarships available will depend on funding available and must be used in support of the recipient’s education or research. As an embodiment of pride in LGBTQ+ and STEM communities, all scholarship applicants will receive a complimentary student membership in NOGLSTP. The winners will be honored at the November Out to Innovate™ two-day summit in conjunction with oSTEM’s National Conference in Anaheim, CA. For information about eligibility, more details, and the application portal, go to: <https://www.noglstp.org/programs-projects/scholarships/>

Out to Innovate™ 2020 - Joint Event with NOGLSTP and oSTEM

NOGLSTP and oSTEM continue to work together to plan and prepare for this year’s Out to Innovate™ symposium, to be held on November 12-15 in Anaheim, CA. Please plan to attend. This will be an excellent opportunity to meet, support, and celebrate LGBTQ+ people in STEM. Learn more at: <https://ostem.org/page/conference-2020>

Between now and June 15, you can also submit a proposal to present at the event. If you have a topic to present — based on your research, personal, or professional experience — please review the presentation guidelines and submit your idea here: <https://ostem.org/page/conference-2020-rfp>

Inside this Issue:

Page 1: NOGLSTP Receives Donation to Establish Ben Barres Fellowships; New Scholarships for Undergraduate Engineering Students; Out to Innovate™ Scholarships Accepting Applications; Out to Innovate™ Joint Event with oSTEM in 2020

Page 2: Members of NOGLSTP’s AAS Affiliate Named AAS Fellows; Victoria Orphan Named Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; Leading the Way - Sean P.J. Whelan

Page 3: COVID-19 Resources for the LGBTQ Community; Anti-Transgender Bills on the Rise; Member Services

Page 4: Calendar; NOGLSTP Seeks New Board Members; Skype a Queer Scientist for June Pride Month

Members of NOGLSTP's AAS Affiliate Named AAS Fellows

Stephen Lawrence, Todd Henry, and William "Van" Dixon, members of NOGLSTP's American Astronomical Society (AAS) affiliate, have been named Fellows of the AAS. Fellows are recognized for innovative contributions to astronomical techniques or instrumentation, original research and publication, significant contributions to education and public outreach, and noteworthy service to astronomy and to AAS itself. The American Astronomical Society, the major organization of professional astronomers in North America, established this honor this year, with an initial induction of more than 200 Legacy Fellows selected by the organization's Board of Trustees. These inductees include past recipients of awards from the AAS or its topical divisions, distinguished AAS elected leaders and volunteer committee members, and previously unrecognized individuals with long histories of outstanding research, teaching, mentoring, and service. Dixon, at the Space Telescope Science Institute, Henry, at Georgia State University, and Lawrence, at Hofstra University, are among those receiving this honor.

Victoria Orphan Named Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences



Victoria Orphan
www.kni.caltech.edu

Victoria J. Orphan, Caltech's James Irvine Professor of Environmental Science and Geobiology and the director of the Center for Environmental Microbial Interactions (CEMI), has been honored as a new member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAAS). Dr. Orphan holds the Alan V.C. Davis and Lenabelle Davis Leadership Chair for CEMI. Her research focuses on

communities of microbial life involved in the cycling of elements such as sulfur, carbon, and nitrogen. In a recent study, she and her co-authors discovered a symbiosis between methane-eating bacteria and deep-sea worms upon whose respiratory organs they live. After the bacteria harvest carbon and energy from methane, the worms digest the bacteria to absorb those benefits. She has spent decades studying the partnership of a species of bacteria and a species of archaea that live within deep-sea methane seeps in what is called a consortia, a kind of symbiotic aggregate of multiple species. In a process called syntrophy, the two microbes work together to consume up to 80 percent of the methane released from vents on the ocean floor, thereby preventing that methane from contributing to climate change by becoming a greenhouse gas in the atmosphere. Dr. Orphan, named a MacArthur Fellow in 2016, helped to discover this symbiosis, and her team later showed that the two species can share electrons to complete their task even when not in physical contact. Dr. Orphan has participated in several of NOGLSTP's Out to Innovate™ Summits for LGBTQ+ People in STEM.

Leading the Way

In February, NOGLSTP was pleased to announce its 2020 Recognition Awards for LGBTQ+ Scientist, Engineer, Educator, and Organization of the Year. Dr. Sean P.J. Whelan was awarded Scientist of the Year for his outstanding research and groundbreaking discoveries in the field of virology. Little did we know at the time how important Dr. Whelan would be to the times that we are all living in. In July of 2019, Dr. Whelan was named head of the Department of Molecular Microbiology and the Marvin A. Brennecke Distinguished Professor of Microbiology at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. Previously, he was the head of the virology program and Professor of Microbiology and Immunobiology at the Harvard Medical School, where he still directs a Virology Center for Excellence in Translational Research, working to find small molecules that prevent viruses from entering or replicating inside cells. Whelan is thus a significant global leader in advancing the understanding of emerging viral infections. His virology research provides crucial insights into the function and structure of emerging diseases. "Since 1980, there has been a new, emerging infectious disease of humans on average every six months. Almost two-thirds of those agents are enveloped viruses, and the techniques we apply can rapidly provide insight into them," Whelan said. His studies focus on how viruses attach to cells, slip inside and hijack our bodies. Dr. Whelan identified the protein that the Ebola virus uses to latch onto cells and also the molecular process that the rabies virus uses to invade cells. His research framework especially applies to the recent emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic. Most approved antiviral drugs target the molecular machinery that viruses use to replicate, but such drugs do not exist for negative-sense RNA viruses, the category to which our current viral nemesis belongs. Understanding the molecular underpinnings of viral invasion and replication provides new targets for the development of antiviral therapeutics.

Whelan is a gay man whose openness has created opportunities to connect, network, and work with other LGBTQ+ scientists. He wants to encourage colleagues to be open and provide examples for students and young scientists. "It is important for LGBTQ students to understand that they may encounter some barriers, but those barriers are not insurmountable, and they can progress and succeed," Whelan said. We have a hero in our midst who can potentially lead us out of this pandemic. Thank you, Dr. Sean Whelan, for your insights and service in bringing health and safety closer for all of our communities.



Sean P.J. Whelan
www.medicine.wustl.edu

COVID-19 Resources for the LGBTQ Community

The world community faces tough times now and ahead, but science will rise to occasion and find a way out of this contagion that afflicts so many. It will take time, money, energy, and a will to do the right thing in the name of science. We need to buy time to allow science to find and deliver solutions. Some of us are self-isolating, waiting for our colleagues to come up with the right testing, remedies, and vaccines, while others are on the frontlines in research and health-care. We salute you and send our best wishes for your success. Below you will find some general information and some information specifically targeted to the LGBTQ+ community.

Human Rights Campaign has published an in-depth research brief entitled: The Lives and Livelihoods of the LGBT Community are at Risk Amid the COVID-19 Crisis. You can find it at this URL: https://assets2.hrc.org/files/assets/resources/COVID19-IssueBrief-032020-FINAL.pdf?_ga=2.252662537.1874595738.1587866155-1097943930.1587665425

The National Transgender Center for Equality has a COVID-19 Guide found at this URL: <https://transequality.org/covid19>

World Health Organization information can be found here: https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab_1

Center for Disease Control information can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Anti-Transgender Bills on the Rise in U.S.

Idaho Governor Brad Little signed into law two anti-transgender bills, making Idaho the first to enact them among states that introduced some 40 such bills this year. At the end of March, the Republican governor signed a bill that prohibits transgender people from changing the sex listed on their birth certificates, and another law that bans transgender girls and women from competing in women's sports.

Member Services

The NOGLSTP member services site allows for self-serve member update and automated renewal notices. Point your web browser to www.noglstp.org/memberservices and log in to explore or update your profile, or to renew your annual dues. Of course, you're welcome to renew or join the old-fashioned way with pen, paper, and check. You can use the clip-out form in this newsletter, or fill out a downloadable form from our website. We're happy to have your support any way you want to give it!

Attention LAGLS Members:
Please renew through lagls.org and enjoy a significant discount on your NOGLSTP annual dues.

IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES?

Check your mailing label. Your renewal date is in the upper right section of your address block. Your membership number is just to the left of your expiration date. You may renew online at <https://www.noglstp.org/memberservices>, or fill out the form below (and on the other side of this page), and return it with your check to NOGLSTP, PO Box 91803, Pasadena CA 91109. You may also use this form to inform us of any address or area code changes. LAGLS members: please renew through your regional group to enjoy discounts on dues.

Membership Form

To renew your NOGLSTP membership or become a member of NOGLSTP, complete this form and send it with a check or money order (US Funds only) to:

NOGLSTP, PO Box 91803, Pasadena CA 91109.

Annual membership dues enclosed:

- \$40 for working professionals
- \$20 for post-docs
- \$10 for students and unemployed
- \$1000 for Lifetime Membership

Circle payment type:

Renewal New Info change only

Date:

Name:

Address (don't forget your zip code!):

Circle newsletter preference: print email

Your pronouns:

Telephone:

Email:

URL:

Latest Degree/Subject:

Job Title:

Employer (or school if student):

Alum of (latest degree):

Do you want your name and contact information in the NOGLSTP membership roster (to be released to other NOGLSTP members)?

Yes No

Don't forget to fill out the other side →

Call to Action: NOGLSTP Seeks New Board Members

NOGLSTP is opening a call for new board members in May. Up to six new board members will be elected in order to significantly expand the board and enable an expansion of our mission. This is your chance to shape the future of NOGLSTP and contribute to the LGBTQ in STEM community. All members are encouraged to self-nominate and/or reach out to friends and colleagues who would be interested. Please check the NOGLSTP website for details on the application process and deadlines: <https://bit.ly/2XfB1f1>

Mark Your Calendars

- June 6: Out to Innovate™ Scholarship deadline
- November 12-15: Out to Innovate™ and oSTEM Joint Symposium, Anaheim, CA



Membership Form (continued)

Special Techno-interests or expertise:

Please list any other professional societies that you belong to:

Are you a member of any of these groups?

American Astronomical Society
American Chemical Society
American Geophysical Union
American Institute of Chemical Engineers
American Nuclear Society
L'GASP Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists
LAGLS: Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Scientists
Mathematics Association of America or American Mathematical Society
National Postdoctoral Association
NOGLSTP at Purdue
NOGLSTP at U Nebraska - Lincoln
PrideSTEM at Texas Tech
Queer Science (U Minnesota)
Queer in STEM at CSUN
Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace

For new members: How did you learn of NOGLSTP?

What would you like to help us with?

Serve on Board of Directors
Serve as Chair or Secretary
Help at AAAS events
Organize or host local event
Write newsletter articles
Edit the newsletter
Speak about/on behalf of NOGLSTP at an event
Serve on recognition awards committee
Assist with the Mentoring Program
Assist with Out to Innovate summit
Write a grant proposal
Evaluate scholarship applications
Help with fundraising
Start/represent an LGBTQ+ caucus at my professional society: _____
Don't know, but would like to help with something

Skype a Queer Scientist for June Pride Month

Our allies at Skype a Scientist will be helping us fly our rainbow flags during the first three weeks of June by facilitating Skype a Queer Scientist. This series of video conference Q and A sessions targeted to K-12 children and families will feature an LGBTQ+ scientist talking about and answering questions about their profession. Topics confirmed as of publication of this newsletter are: "Meet Me in Orbit"; "Wildlife Forensics"; "Understanding How People Perceive Nature"; "Paleontology with Triceratops"; "Designing Missions to the Moon and Mars"; "The Elusive Space Fireworks"; "Hagfish Slime" and "Disaster Drones". Also planned are Thursday "Science after hours" Trivia nights for adults, and a special LGBTQ+ Only Science Trivia night on Wednesday June 17. For more information about the schedule, point your browser to <https://www.skypeascientist.com/livestreams.html>

ABOUT NOGLSTP

National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals is a 501(c)(3) educational organization and professional society of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, asexual, queer people, and allies employed or interested in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) fields. NOGLSTP empowers LGBTQ+ individuals in STEM by providing education, advocacy, professional development, networking, and peer support. NOGLSTP educates all communities regarding scientific, technological, and medical concerns of LGBTQ+ people. Surface mail may be addressed to: NOGLSTP, PO BOX 91803, Pasadena, CA, 91109-9813. For more information, see our website at www.noglstp.org.

Board of Directors (append each address with noglstp.org)

Rochelle Diamond, Chair, Pasadena CA, [rd-chair@](mailto:rd-chair@noglstp.org)
Chris Bannochie, Member at Large, Augusta GA, [cb-board@](mailto:cb-board@noglstp.org)
Terry Demby, Member at Large, Lancaster CA, [td-board@](mailto:td-board@noglstp.org)
Marcie Mathis, Member at Large, Bremerton WA, [mm-board@](mailto:mm-board@noglstp.org)
TJ Ronningen, Member at Large and Secretary, Columbus OH, [tj-board@](mailto:tj-board@noglstp.org)
Barbara Belmont, Treasurer, Pasadena CA, [bbelmont@](mailto:bbelmont@noglstp.org)

Affiliates: (more info at: <https://tinyurl.com/y9kq2lps>):

500 Queer Scientists
AAS SGMA: American Astronomical Society (AAS) Committee for Sexual Orientation and Gender Minorities in Astronomy
AIChE (American Institute of Chemical Engineers).
CSUN QueerSTEM
gAyGU (American Geophysical Union)
L'GASP: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists
LAGLS: Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Scientists
LGBTQ Chemists and Allies (ACS Prof Gay and Transgender Chemists and Allies)
NOGLSTP at Purdue
NOGLSTP at University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Diversity and Inclusion in American Nuclear Society Committee (formerly NuclearPride)
LGBTQ STEM at Oklahoma State University
PrideSTEM at Texas Tech
Queer Science (University of Minnesota)
Spectra: The Association for LGBT Mathematicians
SPEEA: Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace

Mentoring Program Coordinator: [mentoring@](mailto:mentoring@noglstp.org)
Scholarship Program Coordinator: [scholarships@](mailto:scholarships@noglstp.org)
Recognition Awards Program Coordinator: [awards@](mailto:awards@noglstp.org)
Newsletter Editor: Daniele Cherniak, [editor@](mailto:editor@noglstp.org)

NOGLSTP Bulletin is published quarterly, most of the time. Contributed articles are welcome and encouraged, and may be e-mailed as plain text to [editor@](mailto:editor@noglstp.org). Next publication deadline (for Summer newsletter): **July 17, 2020**. Please acknowledge the NOGLSTP Bulletin as your source if you choose to reproduce any of these articles.

