

# NOGLSTP *Bulletin*

Winter 2020

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NOGLSTP, PO BOX 91803, Pasadena CA 91109, phone/fax: 626 791-7689, www.noglstp.org

## NOGLSTP's 2020 Recognition Awards Recipients Announced

NOGLSTP is proud to announce the winners of its 2020 recognition awards for LGBTQ+ professionals in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). In addition, NOGLSTP recognizes the group Queer Science as National Organization of the Year for 2020.

**Dr. Sara E Brownell** has been awarded Educator of the Year. NOGLSTP names Brownell the 2020 LGBTQ+ Educator of the Year for her combination of research, leadership, and personal commitment to improving science education, especially for underrepresented minorities.

Dr. Brownell's career was completely transformed, from a focus on neuroscience research to a focus on exploring how to make undergraduate biology education more inclusive, by her postdoctoral research mentor, Dr. Kimberly Tanner. Brownell's work with Tanner opened her eyes to the divergent experiences and resources that students bring with them into the classroom and how those differences impact students' experience and success in science education. Compelled by that experience, Brownell has dedicated her career to researching and implementing improvements in biology education that aim to diversify who becomes a scientist.

Brownell is an Associate Professor in the School of Life Sciences at Arizona State University. Her research focuses on strategies to improve undergraduate biology education, making it more inclusive for students with varying ethnicities, financial backgrounds, religious beliefs, LGBTQ+ identity, and gender identity. She applies quantitative and qualitative research methods, and she is highly motivated to publicize and implement those research conclusions. "What I learn can be implemented the next day in my classroom, so the impact on students can be immediate," Brownell said.

As a gay woman, Brownell believes her journey of accepting her sexual orientation and finding how to be open about it professionally provides her with insight into the experiences of students and colleagues, who are also struggling to merge their personal identities and career aspirations. She did not have LGBTQ+ examples or mentors as a student, and she is happy that she can now be this role model for her students, advisees, and colleagues. "Every semester, I come out to my 300-person class on the first day of class, and I feel so privileged to be able to share my identity in a way that can make the next generation of LGBTQ+ students feel more comfortable and accepted in the classroom," Brownell said.

**Jonathan Dell** has been awarded Engineer of the Year. NOGLSTP is naming Dell the 2020 LGBTQ+ Engineer of the Year for his significant contributions to advancing aerospace power engineering and his rapid advancement as an engineer and leader at Collins Aerospace.

In 2019, Jonathan Dell started a new position as an engineering manager, took on the leadership of an LGBTQ employee resource group, and earned his Masters of Engineering degree. Even with all

*continued on p. 2*

## NOGLSTP Represents at 2020 AAAS Annual Meeting in Seattle

NOGLSTP Board members Rochelle Diamond, Barbara Belmont, and Marcie Mathis attended the American Association for the Advancement of Science Annual Meeting February 13-16 at the Washington Convention Center in Seattle. NOGLSTP is an affiliate of AAAS and held several events at the meeting, and staffed a NOGLSTP booth at the AAAS Expo. Rochelle attended the Affiliates meeting and organized a scientific session entitled: "How to Counter Intersectional Bias in Social Media." Jon Pincus moderated, Monica McLemore (UCSF) discussed "Leveraging Social Media to Scale Communications in Clinical and Public Health, Evelyn Valdez-Ward (UCIrvine) gave a talk on "When Your Field – or your existence – is 'Controversial,'" and Lindsay Blackwell (Facebook) discussed "The Research Perspective: Harassment, Hate speech, Algorithmic Bias, and More." On Saturday, NOGLSTP anchored a LGBTQ+ Coffee Hour in the Expo for AAAS, which was a resounding success. On Sunday, Barbara and Rochelle presided over a NOGLSTP business meeting and then presented a Career Development Workshop entitled "OUT on the Job Search: Finding a Welcoming Environment," which was followed by a reception.

## *Rainbow Reception at Ocean Sciences Meeting*

The Ocean Sciences Meeting, co-organized by American Geophysical Union, The Oceanographic Society, and the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography, held its first ever Rainbow Reception for the LGBTQIA+ community in San Diego this past February. Nearly 300 people attended this reception, which was at the conference center terrace overlooking the gorgeous San Diego Bay. Many valuable connections were made, and attendees enjoyed a sense of pride, solidarity and hope.

### Inside this Issue:

*Page 1: NOGLSTP Recognition Awards Recipients, NOGLSTP at AAAS Annual Meeting; Rainbow Reception at Ocean Sciences Meeting*

*Page 2: Out to Innovate™ Joint Event with oSTEM in 2020*

*Page 3: National GiveOUT Day; ACS Subdivision of Gay, Transgender and Allies at ACS National Meeting; National Postdoctoral Association Annual Conference; Caroline Bertozzi Profiled in Chemical & Engineering News; Jon Freeman Joining NIH's Advisory Committee to the Director of Diversity*

*Page 4: Calendar; Committees Seek Volunteers; Out to Innovate™ Scholarship Applications Open in April*

## NOGSTP Recognition Awards Recipients

*continued from p. 1*

of these changes, one of his most powerful memories from this year is the opportunity to mentor an LGBTQ graduate student. This student struggled with her place in science, and Dell was able to share his experience and serve as a mentor in a way he would have valued as a student and young professional.

Dell is an Engineering Manager for New Business and Technology Development at Collins Aerospace. At Collins, he leads research into engineering electrical generators for aerospace applications. Dell's team works with leading airplane manufacturers to customize the latest generator advancements for their aircraft and looks ahead to what will be possible in the future, such as more electric aircraft. Dell has been awarded five US patents for engineering innovations he contributed to.

Dell is a gay man and his process of being out earlier in his career overlapped with finding his place within the engineering profession. Since joining Collins in 2011, he has found a successful balance of being open about his personal truths and achieving professional success. "In engineering, it is crucial to have difficult conversations to solve challenging problems with a team. Coming out served as a personal experience of the value of authenticity and transparency and now helps me to be a more effective manager," Dell said.

**Dr. Sean P.J. Whelan** has been awarded Scientist of the Year. NOGLSTP has named Whelan the 2020 LGBTQ+ Scientist of the Year for his outstanding research and groundbreaking discoveries in the field of virology.

Dr. Whelan's 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 two-thirds of them," Whelan said. His research framework applies to the recent emergence of the COVID-19 disease.

Whelan is the Marvin A. Brennecke Distinguished Professor and Chair of Molecular Microbiology at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. Before taking this position in 2020, he was Professor of Microbiology at Harvard Medical School. Stemming from his postdoctoral research, where Whelan developed genetic approaches to engineer vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV), he studies how diverse viruses that cause diseases such as rabies, Ebola, Lassa, and SARS infect cells and replicate. Whelan's technique allows the surface proteins of those highly hazardous viruses to be incorporated into VSV variants that can be studied rapidly and safely in the laboratory. He has also made major contributions to understanding the structure and function of the VSV replication machinery.

Whelan is a gay man, and his openness has created opportunities to connect, network, and work with other LGBTQ+ scientists. He chose to be open and encourages colleagues to be open to provide examples to 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.

**Queer Science** has been named Organization of the Year. NOGLSTP has awarded Queer Science the 2020 Organization of the Year for its commitment to promoting LGBTQ+ diversity in STEM and its example of how to reach high school students with a positive and encouraging message about their place in STEM.

Queer Science is a first-of-its-kind organization engaging LGBTQ+ high school students in hands-on scientific experiments and demon-

strations to encourage their passion in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Queer Science's events introduce these high school students to LGBTQ+ people working in STEM to ensure that participants see themselves represented in STEM fields as they make choices about their education and career paths.

Queer Science was formed in 2016, primarily by graduate students at the University of Minnesota and scientists in industry. Queer Science's events have so far had over 150 student participants and engaged hundreds of others at youth-led events. Queer Science engages LGBTQ+ professionals and graduate students to design a hand-on demonstration or activity for the students to complete. Students have built robots, purified lake water, hiked a science reserve, and studied the spectra of astronomical objects. Volunteers and students also have time to talk, share, ask questions, and learn from one another.

Queer Science founder Julie Johnston is working to spread the word about Queer Science's successes and encourage other organizations to engage in this direct outreach. She hopes that other LGBTQ+ and STEM-focused organizations see this as an opportunity and that Queer Science becomes of a first-of-its-kind organization with many others also contributing.

"NOGLSTP's Recognition Awards were established in 2005 as a means to document and honor the contributions of outstanding LGBTQ+ science, engineering, technology, and mathematics professionals. They also honor corporations, academic institutions, and businesses that support LGBTQ+ professionals so that advancements can be made in those fields," said Rochelle Diamond, chair of the NOGLSTP board of directors.

Additional information on past awards are available at <https://www.noglstp.org/programs/projects/recognition-awards/>. The 2020 Recognition Awards were announced during the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA on February 14, 2020.

## Out to Innovate™ 2020, Joint Event with oSTEM

Mark your calendars! NOGLSTP is hosting its Out To Innovate™ symposium, on November 12-15, 2020, as a joint event with oSTEM's 10th Annual National Meeting. oSTEM and NOGLSTP have agreed to partner on this decadal milestone for both groups with the goal of supporting the biggest (over 1000 attendees are expected) and best LGBTQ in STEM symposium yet. This will be the second time that both organizations will have come together to hold a joint national conference.

The event, in Anaheim, California, will include presentations, workshops, networking socials, student research presentations, recognition awards, a hack-a-thon, and a sponsor expo. The event is intended for LGBTQ students and professionals in STEM to provide support, community, and professional growth opportunities. The event will be a chance for NOGLSTP members to meet and talk with the NOGLSTP board.

In addition to attending, you can support the event as a volunteer with the Program Committee (contact TJ Ronningen, [tj-board@noglstp.org](mailto:tj-board@noglstp.org)). You can also help by spreading the word, recruiting your company to sponsor the event, and applying to present a panel or workshop. Additional details will be posted at [outtoinnovate.org](http://outtoinnovate.org) and [ostem.org](http://ostem.org).

## Support NOGLSTP on Give OUT Day, April 23, 2020

Give OUT Day is the only national day of giving for the LGBTQ Community. Please consider making a donation to NOGLSTP to support our scholarships, recognition awards, mentoring, Out to Innovate™ Summit, and professional society networking. Point your browser to: <https://www.noglstp.org/support-us/make-a-donation/>

We at NOGLSTP are all volunteers, so every dime you donate goes to our programming.

## ACS subdivision of Gay, Transgender, and Allies (GTCA) at March 2020 Philadelphia Meeting

The GTCA will be extraordinarily busy at the ACS National Meeting in Philadelphia on March 22-23. The LGBTQ+ Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Scholar Research Symposium organized by L. Eytel and T.P. Yoon runs over two days, with 47 presentations and a panel discussion at the end of the first day. Following the 4:30 p.m. panel discussion in the GTCA symposia on Sunday, there will be a Diversity Reception sponsored by the Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Board.

## National Postdoctoral Association Annual Conference – March 27-29, 2020 – in San Diego

NOGLSTP is a sustaining member of the National Postdoctoral Association, and as such it is committed to enhancing the postdoctoral experience. If you are interested in a joint membership between NPA and NOGLSTP, please contact Rochelle Diamond at [rd-chair@noglstp.org](mailto:rd-chair@noglstp.org).

## Carolyn Bertozzi Profiled in *Chemical & Engineering News*

The American Chemical Society's publication *Chemical & Engineering News* January 31, 2020 (vol. 98, issue 5) edition profiled Carolyn Bertozzi and her research in glycoscience. Bertozzi was selected as NOGLSTP's 2007 LGBTQ+ Scientist of the Year! The article outlined the importance of her work on the sugar structures coating cancer cells and her rise in building biotech companies that utilize the function of these molecules. Bertozzi has shown that cancer cells use sialic acid-capped glycans to evade the immune detection, and her company is developing drugs that remove the cloaking mechanism.

## Jon Freeman Joining NIH's Advisory Committee to the Director on Diversity

Jon Freeman has been appointed to NIH's Advisory Committee to the Director on Diversity. Jon is excited to enhance diversity in the scientific workforce, including emphasizing the need for sexual orientation and gender identity (SO/GI) data (adding additional pressure to NSF, who controls the nationwide STEM census surveys) and more generally for NIH diversity initiatives to address the challenges LGBTQ people are facing in STEM fields. In addition, Jon is working with AAAS, the House Science Committee and the National Academies on getting NSF to include SO/GI measures in the NSF's nationwide STEM census surveys. Jon led the efforts last year to petition NSF for this inclusion.

## 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 →

## Mark Your Calendars

- March 23-25: ACS National Meeting, Philadelphia, PA
- March 27-29: National Postdoctoral Association Annual Conference, San Diego, CA
- April 4-7: Experimental Biology 2020 meeting, San Diego, CA
- April 23: National Give OUT Day
- 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

## Committees Seek Volunteers

NOGLSTP's Programs Committee is organizing at least four events in 2020: the Out to Innovate™ symposium, professional recognition awards, presentations and presence at the AAAS National Meeting, and the Out to Innovate™ scholarships for graduate and undergraduate students. Volunteers are needed to support each of these. Volunteers will raise awareness of NOGLSTP, provide high quality programming to members and to the public, and reach LGBTQ people and allies with our message. Learn more and volunteer by contacting TJ Ronningen, [tj-board@noglstp.org](mailto:tj-board@noglstp.org)

## NOGLSTP's Out to Innovate™ Scholarship Applications Open in April

NOGLSTP's 10th Out to Innovate™ Scholarship application window will open on April 1st (no fooling) and close on June 6, 2020. When the application cycle is open, there will be a link on [scholarships@noglstp.org](mailto:scholarships@noglstp.org) for more information. The scholarships are for 2020 fall academic year. 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.

### 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](http://www.noglstp.org).

#### Board of Directors (append each address with [noglstp.org](mailto:noglstp.org))

Rochelle Diamond, Chair, Pasadena CA, [rd-chair@noglstp.org](mailto:rd-chair@noglstp.org)  
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Barbara Belmont, Treasurer, Pasadena CA, [bbelmont@noglstp.org](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@noglstp.org](mailto:mentoring@noglstp.org)  
Scholarship Program Coordinator: [scholarships@noglstp.org](mailto:scholarships@noglstp.org)  
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