



ASSOCIATION FOR SYMBOLIC LOGIC

BUSINESS OFFICE: ASL, DEPT. OF MATHEMATICS, UNIV. OF CONNECTICUT
341 MANSFIELD ROAD, U-1009, STORRS, CT 06269-1009, USA
PHONE: 1-860-486-3989; FAX: 1-860-486-4238; EMAIL: asl@uconn.edu
WEB: <http://www.aslonline.org>

ASL NEWSLETTER

September 2020

- **2020 Sacks Prize.** The ASL invites nominations for the 2020 Sacks Prize for the most outstanding doctoral dissertation in mathematical logic. Nominations must be received by September 30, 2020. The Sacks Prize was established to honor the late Professor Gerald Sacks of MIT and Harvard for his unique contribution to mathematical logic, particularly as adviser to a large number of excellent Ph.D. students. The Prize was first awarded in 1994 and became an ASL Prize in 1999. The Fund on which the Prize is based is now administered by the ASL and the selection of the recipient is made by the ASL Committee on Prizes and Awards. The Sacks Prize will consist of a cash award plus five years free membership in the ASL. For general information about the Prize, visit <http://aslonline.org/other-information/prizes-and-awards/>. Anyone who wishes to make a nomination for the 2020 Sacks Prize should consult the webpage <http://aslonline.org/other-information/prizes-and-awards/sacks-prize-recipients/sacks-prize-nominations/> for the precise details of the application process. A brief summary of the procedure is provided here.

Students who defend their dissertations (equivalent to the American doctoral dissertation) between October 1, 2019, and September 30, 2020, are eligible for the Prize this year. This is an international prize, with no restriction on the nationality of the candidate or the university where the doctorate is granted. Nominations should be made by the thesis adviser, and consist of: name of student, title and 1–2 page description of dissertation, date and location of the thesis defense, letter of recommendation from the adviser, an electronic copy of the thesis in pdf form, or the address of a website from which an electronic copy in pdf form can be downloaded, and an independent second letter of recommendation. Nominations and questions about the Prize should be sent to the Committee Chair, Justin Moore; pdf files sent as attachments by email to justin@math.cornell.edu are preferred. The form of such letters and other pertinent details can be found at the website above, and need to be read prior to submitting a nomination.

Those wishing to contribute to the Sacks Prize Fund may send contributions to the ASL Business Office (see address at the top of this Newsletter). All such contributions are tax-deductible within the USA.

- **2020 Alonzo Church Award** The ACM Special Interest Group on Logic (SIGLOG), the European Association for Theoretical Computer Science (EATCS), the European Association for Computer Science Logic (EACSL), and the Kurt Gödel Society (KGS) have announced that Ronald Fagin, Phokion G. Kolaitis, Renée J. Miller, Lucian Popa, and Wang Chiew Tan have been selected as the winners of the 2020 Alonzo Church Award for Outstanding Contributions to Logic and Computation. The award recognizes their ground-breaking work on laying the logical foundations for data exchange, described in papers in *Theoretical Computer Science* (2005) and *ACM Transactions on Database Systems* (2005).

Data exchange is the problem of transforming data structured under a schema, called the source schema, into data conforming to a different schema, called the target schema. In addition to gaining theoretical insights, the results and techniques developed have influenced the development of industrial and academic tools. The 2020 Church Award was selected by a panel consisting of M. Dezani, T. Eiter (chair), J. Esparza, R. Jagadeesan and N. Shankar.

- **The 2020 ASL Election.** At the end of this year the ASL will elect two members of the Executive Committee and two members of the Council. All terms are for three years beginning January 1, 2021. The 2020 Nominating Committee consists of Veronica Becher, Lev Beklemishev, Deirdre Haskell, Juliette Kennedy, Michael Rathjen, Ernest Schimmerling, and Alex Wilkie (chair).

Nominations for these positions, in addition to those to be made by the Committee, may be made by petition

signed by 20 or more ASL members; such petitions should be received by the ASL Secretary-Treasurer (email asl@uconn.edu or ASL, Department of Mathematics, University of Connecticut, 341 Mansfield Road, U-1009, Storrs, CT 06269-1009, USA) no later than November 1, 2020. In a contested election, each candidate has the opportunity to make a 100-word statement to be distributed with the ballot.

- **ASL Sponsorship of Meetings.** The ASL often sponsors research meetings and conferences in logic, all over the world. Sponsorship is granted to those meetings that uphold high standards of scholarship and rigor and whose purpose is in concert with the mission of the ASL. Student members of the ASL may apply to the ASL for travel support to attend sponsored meetings, as described below, and a report on each sponsored meeting subsequently appears in the *Bulletin of Symbolic Logic*. Meeting organizers who wish to request ASL sponsorship of their meetings should do so at least six months before the beginning of the meeting, following the instructions at <http://aslonline.org/sponsorship-of-meetings/>.
- **Mailing of Journals.** For some months during the current pandemic, Cambridge University Press was unable to maintain its usual schedule of printing and mailing ASL journals to our members. The mailing of journals has now resumed, but it will take time to work through the backlog and catch up. All journals remain available online to members as always, but the arrival of printed copies still could be significantly delayed. CUP has apologized to the ASL Publisher for the delays, and requests that we all recognize the significant challenges it faces in this extraordinary situation.
- **Renewing memberships.** Many logicians, when becoming members of the ASL, opt out of receiving email from Cambridge University Press, which administers the membership program. In such cases, due to European Union regulations regarding opting-out, these members do not receive any electronic notification of the expiration of their memberships, and we are aware of cases where memberships have lapsed simply because the member was unaware of the expiration date. The ASL is working with CUP to develop a better system, still conforming to the EU regulations. In the meantime, we encourage all those whose memberships expire in 2020, especially those who may have opted out of email, to be careful to renew their memberships in a timely fashion! At <http://aslonline.org/membership/individual-membership/>, a link is available for online renewal with CUP, and paper renewal forms are also available there that can be returned by snail mail or email. Renewals for the year 2021 should be received starting in late November 2020; the November Newsletter will contain more details.

STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS

- **Student Travel Awards: ASL and ASL-Sponsored Meetings.** Student members of the ASL may apply for travel grants to ASL and ASL-sponsored meetings. To be considered for a travel award, please (1) send a letter of application, and (2) ask your thesis supervisor to send a brief recommendation letter. The application letter should be brief (preferably one page) and should include: (1) your name; (2) your home institution; (3) your thesis supervisor's name; (4) a one-paragraph description of your studies and work in logic, and a paragraph indicating why it is important to attend the meeting; (5) your estimate of the travel expenses you will incur; (6) (for citizens or residents of the USA) citizenship or visa status; and (7) (voluntary) indication of your gender and minority status. Women and members of minority groups are strongly encouraged to apply. Application by email is encouraged; put "ASL travel application" in the subject line of your message.

For all ASL or ASL-sponsored meetings except the Logic Colloquium and the North American Annual Meeting, applications (from student members of the ASL) and recommendations must be received at least three months prior to the start of the meeting, via email to asl@uconn.edu or at the ASL Business Office (address at the top of this Newsletter). Decisions will be communicated at least two months prior to the meeting.

INFORMATION ON MEETINGS

- **Status of scheduled meetings.** Under the extraordinary circumstances of the coronavirus and the measures in place to combat it, many logic meetings scheduled for 2020 have already been canceled, and it is likely that more will be canceled. Information appearing here is current as of the publication of this Newsletter, but ASL

members should use the URL given in each item to confirm the ongoing status of any meeting they may consider attending. For completeness, the listings here include short items for canceled meetings.

We urge all logicians to use caution and common sense in planning their schedules, and to avoid unnecessary travel during these unusual times.

- **Online logic seminars.** To replace canceled meetings and seminars, certain regular online logic seminars have sprung up. A list of existing seminar series with talks available online appears at <http://miguelmath.com/webminars.html>. Additionally, the site <http://lagrange.math.siu.edu/calvert/OnlineLogicSeminar.html> has been created to host a new, purely online logic seminar. The site ctaseminar.computability.org hosts an online seminar entitled *Computability Theory and Applications*, and the Logic Supergroup at logic.uconn.edu/supergroup/ runs an online seminar on logic across linguistics, mathematics, and philosophy. Finally, since the ASL North American Annual Meeting of March 2020 was canceled, the Program Committee for that meeting created the webpage <http://aslonline.org/virtual-2020-annual-meeting/> with links to audio presentations (with slides) of several talks that would have been presented there.

ASL MEETINGS

- **2021 ASL Winter Meeting (with APA)** *January 4–7, 2020, New York, NY (virtual)*. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Eastern Division of the American Philosophical Association, which was scheduled for New York City, but will now be held virtually. The ASL invited speakers are A. Bacon, E. Cresto, R. French, M. Fusco, H. Lin, and S. Shieh. The members of the Program Committee are G. Russell, G. Sagi (chair), and S. Walsh. Further information can be found at apaonline.org/event/2021eastern.
- **2020-2021 ASL Winter Meeting (with Joint Mathematics Meetings)** *January 8–9, 2021, Washington, DC (virtual)*. This will be held as a virtual meeting in conjunction with the Joint Mathematics Meetings, which take place on January 6-9, 2021. (The JMM, originally scheduled for Washington, DC, will be entirely online instead.) The invited speakers are D. Bartořova, A. Bernshteyn, G. Conant, B. Csima, R. Miller, C. Rosendal, and C. Steinhorn. The members of the Program Committee are A. Montalban (chair), A. Tserunyan and C. Laskowski. Information about the JMM can be found here: <http://jointmathematicsmeetings.org/jmm>.
- **2021 ASL North American Annual Meeting** *May 18–21, 2021, South Bend, Indiana*. This meeting is planned to be held at the University of Notre Dame. The Program Committee consists of G. Bezhanishvili, C. Franks, S. Ng, D. Sinapova, M. Thomas and H. Towsner (chair). The Organizing Committee consists of T. Bays, J. Beall, P. Blanchette, P. Cholak, C. Franks, J. Knight (co-chair), A. Pillay (co-chair), and S. Starchenko.

Abstracts of contributed talks submitted by ASL members will be published in *The Bulletin of Symbolic Logic* if they satisfy the Rules for Abstracts (below). Abstracts must be received by the deadline of February 15, 2021, at the ASL Business Office, preferably by email: asl@uconn.edu. Applications and recommendations for student travel awards must be received by February 15, 2021 by the Program Chair, Henry Towsner, at htowsner@math.upenn.edu.

- **2021 ASL European Summer Meeting (Logic Colloquium)** *July 19–24, 2021, Poznań, Poland*. This conference was originally scheduled for July 13-18, 2020, but was postponed due to the pandemic. It will be hosted by Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, and organized by the AMU Faculty of Psychology and Cognitive Science and the AMU Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science. The members of the Program Committee are W. Buszkowski, A. Dawar, G. Primiero, M. Soskova, H. Towsner, M. Viale, and B. Zil’ber (chair). The Local Organizing Committee consists of W. Buszkowski, J. Golińska-Pilarek, L. Kołodziejczyk, P. Łupkowski, R. Murawski (co-chair), M. Nasieniewski, J. Pogonowski, T. Skura, K. Świrydowicz, M. Urbański (co-chair), and A. Wiśniewski. See <https://lc2021.pl/> for further information.
- **Rules for Abstracts.** The rules for abstracts of contributed talks at ASL meetings (including those submitted “by title”) may be found at <http://aslonline.org/rules-for-abstracts/>. Please note that abstracts *must* follow the rules as set forth there; those which do not conform to the requirements will be returned immediately to the authors who submitted them. Revised abstracts that follow the rules will be considered if they are received by the announced deadline.

ASL SPONSORED MEETINGS

- **European Model Theory Conference for Young Researchers** *September 9–11, 2020, Freiburg, Germany*. This meeting has been postponed to 2021. The conference website is <https://home.mathematik.uni-freiburg.de/palacin/EMTY/>.
- **Hilbert-Bernays Summer School on Logic and Computation 2020** *October 12–16, 2020, Göttingen, Germany (online)*. The Georg-August-Universität Göttingen organizes this meeting as an online event. This summer school offers a unique opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to experience compelling lectures on logic and computation. Students may anticipate a high professional outcome in a dedicated international environment. Topics to be covered include Gödel's Incompleteness Theorems, the axioms of Zermelo and Fraenkel, recursion and complexity, and connexive logic. The deadline for registration and grant applications is September 12, 2020. Further information about the summer school can be found at www.math.uni-goettingen.de/summer. Any questions should be directed to summer@math.uni-goettingen.de.
- **Model Theory Conference in celebration of Ludomir Newelski's 60th birthday** *December 16–22, 2020, Szklarska Poreba, Poland*. The organizing committee made the decision to postpone this conference from June to December. At last report, confirmed speakers include: M. Bays, A. Berenstein, E. Bouscaren, J. Gismatullin, L. Haykazyan, E. Hrushovski, A. Ivanov, F. Jahnke, T. Kaiser, D. Macpherson, R. Moosa, L. Newelski, A. Pillay (tentatively), N. Ramsey, T. Rzepecki, P. Simon, P. Tanović, K. Tent, C. Terry, T. Tsankov, and F. Wagner. For more information, visit <http://www.math.uni.wroc.pl/~pkowa/ln20.html>.

CALENDAR OF OTHER MEETINGS

- **Sao Paulo School of Advanced Science on Contemporary Logic, Rationality, and Information** *July 13–24, 2020, University of Campinas, Brazil*. This School has been postponed, with no rescheduled date yet set. See <https://splogic.org/> for updates.
- **World Logic Day event** *January 13–15, 2021, Lima, Peru*. This event is organized by the Peruvian Society of Epistemology and Logic, to mark *World Logic Day*, as proclaimed by UNESCO, on January 14, 2021. It will feature talks and round-table discussions of various areas of logic, and will be the subject of a subsequent special issue of the *South American Journal of Logic*. The conference website is spel.org.pe/en/wld-2021/, where it will be announced whether the conference is to be held online or in person.

IN MEMORIAM

- **In memoriam: Sergei Ivanovich Adian (1931-2020).**

Sergei Ivanovich Adian, an outstanding mathematician, passed away of natural causes on May 5, 2020 in Moscow at the age of 89. He was the head of the Department of Mathematical Logic at the Steklov Mathematical Institute (since 1975) and held the rank of Professor at Moscow State University (since 1965).

Sergei Adian became famous for his work in the area of computational problems in algebra and mathematical logic. Among his numerous contributions two major results stand out. The first one is the Adian-Rabin Theorem (1955) on algorithmic unrecognizability of a wide class of group-theoretic properties when the group is given by finitely many generators and relators. Natural properties covered by this theorem include those of a group being trivial, finite, periodic, and many others.

Another seminal contribution of Sergei Adian is his solution, together with his teacher Petr Novikov, of the famous Burnside problem on periodic groups, posed in 1902. The deceptive simplicity of its formulation fascinated and attracted the minds of mathematicians for decades: is every finitely generated periodic group of a fixed exponent n necessarily finite? The Novikov-Adian Theorem (1968) states that for sufficiently large odd numbers n this is not the case. The methods of Novikov and Adian subsequently led to solutions of several other outstanding problems in group theory. To name a few, Adian gave the first explicit examples of independent

infinite series of group identities and developed new operations of periodic products of groups, solving a problem posed by Mal'tsev.

Sergei Adian served on the editorial board of several leading mathematical journals: *Russian Mathematical Surveys*, *Mathematical Notes*, and *Izvestiya Mathematics*. He was an honorary editor of the *International Journal of Algebra and Computation* since its founding in 1991. Among his numerous honors are membership in the Russian Academy of Sciences (2001), foreign membership in the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia (2008), the State Prize of the Russian Federation (1999), and the Order of Honor of the Russian Federation (2011).

Throughout his life, Adian was actively involved in, and in many ways determined, the life of the mathematical logic community in Moscow and Russia. He supervised many students, including Gennady Makanin, Alexander Razborov, Igor Lysenok, and Lev Beklemishev. His energetic nature, straightforwardness, and deep and passionate devotion to people around him will be long remembered by everyone who was blessed to have Sergei Ivanovich in his or her life.

Sergei Ivanovich Adian is survived by his son Ivan and two daughters, Vera and Lena. He will be deeply missed by his family and numerous students, friends, and colleagues.

• **In memoriam: Kenneth Kunen (1943-2020).**

Kenneth Kunen passed away on August 14, 2020 in Madison, Wisconsin, of heart failure. Born in 1943 in Queens, New York, he received his undergraduate degree from the California Institute of Technology, and earned his PhD in set theory from Stanford University under the direction of Dana Scott in 1968. In his remarkable thesis he proved the surprising result that in the smallest model of set theory with a measurable cardinal there is a unique normal ultrafilter. In 1971 he gave an upper bound for the hierarchy of large cardinals by showing that Reinhardt's Axiom (there is a nontrivial elementary embedding of the universe into itself) is inconsistent with the usual axioms of set theory. This was the first and probably best result of this kind.

He spent his career at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he became a full professor in 1972 and was a leader of the group in Mathematical Logic until his retirement in 2008. He advised 28 graduate students and published over 120 papers in set theory, set theoretic topology, and computer science. Ken was an editor for the *Annals of Mathematical Logic*, the *Journal of Symbolic Logic*, the *LMS Journal of Computation and Mathematics*, and the *AMS Transactions*. With Jerry Vaughan, he edited the influential *Handbook of Set-Theoretic Topology*. Ken also edited the set theory section of the *Handbook of Mathematical Logic*. He wrote two textbooks: the influential and much used *Set Theory: An Introduction to Independence Proofs*, and more recently, *The Foundations of Mathematics*, a beginning graduate level introduction to mathematical logic.

He loved to teach and was a superb and enthusiastic lecturer, a brilliant teacher, excited about mathematics and endlessly patient with his students. He was known for giving crystal clear conference talks with impeccable logic and clarity, and for this reason was much in demand.

He is survived by his wife Anne, sons Adam and Isaac, daughters-in-law, and two grandchildren.

NEW BOOK (Also see <http://www.aslonline.org>.)

- **Oeuvres Choies de Marc Krasner.** Editors: Luc Bélair and Bruno Poizat (L'Harmattan, 2019, ISBN 978-2-343-16573-8), 546 pages. Marc Krasner (1912-1985) was a French mathematician, who is mostly known for his pioneering work in ultrametric analysis, valued fields, and the p -adic numbers. But he also did original work pertaining to mathematical logic with his general Galois theory and his foundational definitionism. The papers are all reproduced from the original published papers (all in French), and presented with short introductory notes by the editors, with contributions by Gilles Christol and Paulo Ribenboim. The book also contains two exceptional documents: excerpts of two letters from Krasner to his friend Paulo Ribenboim, where he essentially tells the story of his (mostly mathematical) life, from his childhood in Ukraine to his life in France from the late 1920s on (including his time in the French army in World War II). The book is available in electronic form at <https://www.editions-harmattan.fr/index.asp?navig=catalogue&obj=livre&no=64040>.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS (Also see <http://aslonline.org/announce/>.)

- **Ph.D. Abstracts in Logic being Published in the Bulletin of Symbolic Logic.** The ASL has begun to publish abstracts of Ph.D. theses in logic in the *Bulletin of Symbolic Logic*. Christian Rosendal is the editor for this new section of the *BSL*. For further information, visit <http://aslonline.org/journals/the-bulletin-of-symbolic-logic/logic-thesis-abstracts-in-the-bulletin-of-symbolic-logic/>.
- **Free Individual ASL Membership Program for Individuals in Developing Economies.** The ASL invites applications for an initial two-year free membership in the Association for new and lapsed members from countries classified as developing economies. The list, found at <http://aslonline.org/membership/world-bank-list-as-of-october-2019-for-2020-memberships/> includes Brazil, Bulgaria, Colombia, India, South Africa, and many other countries classified as “upper middle income” or below on the World Bank’s annual list for four of the last five years. To apply, please send an email to the ASL Committee on Membership at asl-membership@googlegroups.com. Include your name, full mailing address, and your academic affiliation. For information about the ASL and membership benefits, visit <http://aslonline.org/membership/individual-membership/>. After the initial two-year period new members under this program will pay the reduced membership dues, US\$18 for 2020, as long as their country of residence is on the ASL’s list of developing economies.
- **Reduced Dues for Individuals and Institutions in Developing Economies.** The ASL offers reduced dues for individuals and institutions in developing economies. For 2020, the reduced dues are US\$18 for individuals and US\$130 for institutional basic membership, US\$180 for institutional full membership. These dues apply to individuals and institutions in countries whose economies are classified as “upper middle income” or below on the World Bank’s annual list for four of the last five years. For more information, visit <http://aslonline.org/membership/individual-membership/> or contact the ASL Business Office: ASL, Dept. of Mathematics, Univ. of Connecticut, 341 Mansfield Road, U-1009, Storrs, CT 06269-1009, USA; tel: +1-860-486-3989; fax: +1-860-486-4238; email: asl@uconn.edu.
- **Emeritus and Retired ASL Individual Membership.** The ASL offers retired individual members two membership options. Emeritus membership includes all the privileges of regular individual membership and is available to retired individuals who have been members of the ASL for 15 years. The dues for Emeritus membership for 2020 are US\$51. The privileges attached to Retired membership include the ASL newsletter and the right to vote in ASL elections, but do not include subscriptions to the ASL journals. Retired membership is offered to retired individuals who have been members of the Association for 20 years and is free. For more information about both options, visit <http://aslonline.org/membership/individual-membership/>.

The next newsletter will be mailed in November 2020. Items to be included should reach the Secretary-Treasurers before November 6, 2020.

Submitted by Russell Miller & Reed Solomon, co-Secretary-Treasurers.