



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 2024

- **The 2024 ASL Election.** At the end of this year the ASL will elect its new President and Vice-President, two at-large members of the ASL Executive Committee, and two at-large members of the ASL Council. All terms are for three years beginning January 1, 2025. The ballot will be included as a pdf attachment to the electronic November ASL Newsletter, and also included along with hard copies of that Newsletter.

Per the ASL Constitution, the ASL Executive Committee appointed a Nominating Committee to nominate candidates for these offices. It has nominated Natasha Dobrinen (Notre Dame University), the current Vice-President, for President; Matthias Aschenbrenner (University of Vienna) for Vice-President; Su Gao (Nankai University) and Henry Towsner (University of Pennsylvania) for the at-large seats on the Executive Committee; and Juan Aguilera (Technische Universität Vienna) and Xavier Caicedo (Universidad de los Andes) for the at-large seats on the Council. The Nominating Committee consisted of V. Becher, V. Fischer, A. Kechris, J. Kennedy, U. Kohlenbach, R. Miller, and R. Shore (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, 2024. In a contested election, each candidate has the opportunity to make a 100-word statement to be distributed with the ballot.

- **2024 Sacks Prize.** The ASL invites nominations for the 2024 Sacks Prize for the most outstanding doctoral dissertation in mathematical logic. Nominations must be received by September 30, 2024. 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 2024 Sacks Prize should consult the webpage <http://aslonline.org/other-information/prizes-and-awards/sacks-prize-recipient/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, 2023, and September 30, 2024, 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 advisor, 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 advisor, 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, Jouko Väänänen; pdf files sent as attachments by email to jouko.vaananen@helsinki.fi 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.

- **Cambridge U.P. technical disruption.** Cambridge University Press publishes three ASL journals and the two ASL book series. This past summer, CUP's website suffered a cybersecurity incident and required significant reconstruction. CUP shut down its website, which was then unavailable for a lengthy period of time during its reconstruction and is only now coming back to full capacity. Details are available at <https://www.cambridge.org/universitypress/about-us/news-and-blogs/cambridge-university-press-publishing-update-following-technical-disruption>.

As of this writing, the three journals published by CUP are all available online once again. Moreover, membership services have been restored and appear to be functioning normally once again. (If any members are still encountering difficulties related to the technical disruption, please email asl@uconn.edu to inform us about them!) However, the journals are still catching up to their usual publication schedule: many accepted articles that would normally have appeared online by now have been delayed by a month or two. We expect that this backlog will be whittled down and eventually eradicated during the autumn.

- **Membership is now available to logicians in China.** The ASL continues to remind logicians that as of 2023 we can once again accept members from the People's Republic of China. Under PRC regulations we remain prohibited from mailing journals to members in China. However, we now can offer online access to the ASL journals through Cambridge University Press for members in China. Logicians employed in China who are interested in joining the ASL as new members are encouraged to apply to the ASL Committee on Membership for a free initial two-year outreach membership by emailing their mailing address and professional affiliation to asl-membership@googlegroups.com. After two years, outreach members should contact Shannon Miller at asl@uconn.edu to pay for continued outreach membership at USD 18 per year. Details are available at <https://aslonline.org/membership/individual-membership/>. Questions about this arrangement can be directed to Shannon Miller, Russell Miller or Reed Solomon.

Logicians in China, not being on the current membership list, may not see this Newsletter. We therefore encourage all ASL members to spread the news of this welcome change, especially to colleagues based in China.

- **Links to Articles.** For the convenience of our members, the e-mail edition of this Newsletter includes an attachment providing titles of many articles currently in press for the *Journal of Symbolic Logic*, *Review of Symbolic Logic*, and *Bulletin of Symbolic Logic*, along with active links for downloading them from our journal websites. The attachment is also available at <https://aslonline.org/other-information/617-2/>.

- **Open-Access Options for ASL Journals.** Authors of research articles in logic, who may wish to consider submitting those articles to the *Bulletin of Symbolic Logic*, the *Journal of Symbolic Logic*, or the *Review of Symbolic Logic*, should be aware that these journals now offer the option of open-access publication. Indeed, many universities now have contracts with Cambridge University Press, our publisher, that allow their researchers to publish open-access articles at no charge. These are often called *read-and-publish* or *transformative agreements*.

All three journals are now hybrid. They still accept article submissions exactly as before, and they will still publish accepted articles just as before if the author does not opt for open access. However, for authors with mandates to publish open-access articles (or who simply prefer to do so), this option is also available. Details appear at <https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/open-access-policies>. To ascertain whether your university is among those with an agreement as described above, use <https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/open-access-policies/read-and-publish-agreements>.

- **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 are ASL members and wish to request ASL sponsorship of their meetings should do so at least five months before the beginning of the meeting, following the instructions at <http://aslonline.org/sponsorship-of-meetings/>.

- **Call for Conference Proposals.** The Committee on Logic in Europe seeks proposals for hosting the Logic Colloquium in early summer 2026. Inquiries should be sent to the chair: andrew.arana@univ-lorraine.fr.

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, as identified in the listings below. 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; and (6) (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.

The deadline for the 2025 North American Annual Meeting (see page 4) is February 13, 2025, and that for the 2025 Logic Colloquium will be announced soon. For all other meetings, applications and recommendations should be submitted via email to asl@uconn.edu or to the ASL Business Office (ASL, Dept. of Mathematics, Univ. of Connecticut, 341 Mansfield Road, U-1009, Storrs, CT 06269-1009, USA). They must be received at least three months prior to the start of the meeting, and membership in the ASL is required. Decisions will be communicated at least two months prior to the meeting.

Official ASL meetings include the Logic Colloquium, the North American Annual Meeting, the Asian Logic Conference (ALC), the Simposio Latino Americano de Lógica Matemática (SLALM), the ASL Winter Meeting, and the ASL-APA annual joint meeting. Many other logic meetings are sponsored by the ASL; these are identified as such in the list of upcoming meetings that appears below.

ASL MEETINGS

- **2025 ASL Winter Meeting (at JMM)** *January 10–11, 2025, Seattle, Washington, USA.* The 2025 ASL Winter Meeting will take place during the last two days of the 2025 Joint Mathematics Meetings, at the Seattle Convention Center. The Program Committee consists of A. Chernikov (chair), N. Dobrinen, and J. Miller. The invited speakers are M.F. Balcan, A. Bernshteyn, A. Block Gorman, T. Slaman, D. Turetsky, J. Ye, and A. Zucker. The first two days of the JMM, January 8–9, will include the ASL Tutorial in Logic, presented by S. Starchenko, and also the *ASL Special Session on Combinatorial Set Theory*, organized by J. Cummings and S. Unger. A preliminary program for the Winter Meeting is attached to electronic copies of this Newsletter.

To participate in either the ASL Winter Meeting or the events of the larger JMM, one must register for the entire Joint Mathematics Meetings, whose website is <https://jointmathematicsmeetings.org/jmm>. The deadline for submitting abstracts for ASL contributed talks was September 1, 2024. The deadline for student travel applications is October 8, 2024. Applications should be sent to Shannon Miller at asl@uconn.edu, following the rules directly above.

- **2025 ASL Winter Meeting (with APA)** *February 20–22 and February 27–March 1, 2025, virtual.* The 2025 APA Central Division Meeting is fully online and will take place over two consecutive weeks, with the ASL sessions being held between Thursday, Feb. 27 and Saturday, March 1. Registration will give you access to the full online meeting. The website for the APA conference is <https://www.apaonline.org/mpage/2025central>, where registration is available. The ASL invited speakers are D. Blue, C. Franks, S. Gandon, V. Halbach, O. Magidor, and G. Sagi. A preliminary program is attached to electronic copies of this Newsletter.

The Program Committee consists of B. Halimi, J. Kennedy (chair), and A. Villaveces. The deadline for submission of abstracts for contributed talks is September 20, 2024: abstracts must abide by the Rules for Abstracts (see above), should be sent to Shannon Miller at asl@uconn.edu. Likewise, student travel award applications (see directly above) should be sent to asl@uconn.edu by September 20, 2024.

The APA holds three regional annual meetings each year, one of which (on a rotating geographical basis) is designated as joint with the ASL. In 2025, this one APA regional meeting is being held virtually, while the other two are in-person. The ASL welcomes opinions from participants on the success or shortcomings of this

online meeting, as we consider whether to designate the online meeting or an in-person regional meeting as the ASL-APA joint meeting in subsequent years. Such opinions may be sent to asl@uconn.edu.

- **North American Annual Meeting** *May 13–16, 2025, Las Cruces, New Mexico, USA*. The 2025 ASL North American meeting will be held at New Mexico State University. The Program Committee consists of U. Andrews, V. de Paiva, I. Shapirovsky, C. Terry, and S. Thomas (chair), while the Organizing Committee includes J. Harding (chair), A. Kornell, J. Lucero-Bryan, P. Morandi, B. Olberding, I. Shapirovsky, and S. Tran.

The deadline for both contributed talk submissions and student travel applications is February 13, 2025. Abstracts, which must abide by the Rules for Abstracts (see below), should be sent to Shannon Miller at asl@uconn.edu. Student travel applications should likewise be sent to Shannon Miller, following the rules on p. 3 above. Updated information may be found online at <https://aslonline.org/meet/>.

- **Logic Colloquium (European Summer Meeting)** *July 7–11, 2025, Vienna, Austria*. The 2025 Logic Colloquium will be hosted by the Technische Universität Wien. The Program Committee is to be chaired by J. Kennedy, and the Organizing Committee consists of J. Aguilera (chair), M. Baaz (co-chair), K. van Berkel, M. Gamsakhurdia, M. Iannella, T. Kouptchinsky, A. Lolic (co-chair), S. Mahler, R. Mohammadpour, and G. Stepanov. Further information will be available soon.
- **Rules for Abstracts**. The rules for abstracts of contributed talks at ASL meetings (including those submitted “by title”) may be found at 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

- **Computability and Mathematical Definability** *October 11–13, 2024, Berkeley, California, USA*. This conference, at the University of California at Berkeley, will celebrate the 70th birthday of Theodore Slaman. The invited speakers are V. Becher, C.T. Chong, M. Groszek, S. Lempp, P. Lutz, A. Marks, A. Montalbán, J. Reimann, A. Sorbi, and H. Woodin. For details please see <https://www.computability.org/cmd2024/>.
- **2024 Annual Meeting of the Australasian Association for Logic** *November 26–28, 2024, Sydney, Australia*. The annual conference of the AAL will be held in a hybrid format, with its in-person activities at the University of Sydney. The invited speakers are A. Conversano, M. Droste, and N. Greenberg. The website <https://sites.google.com/view/aalogic/aal-conference-2024>, describes how to register for either in-person or online participation. This meeting is organized by G. Badia, S. Rubin, and S. Standefer.
- **Model Theory Meets Geometric Group Theory** *February 3–7, 2025, Münster, Germany*. Model theory and geometric group theory exhibit a rich interplay, and this meeting at the Universität Münster will bring together young researchers in both areas. It will include mini-courses given by S. André, M. Casals, and T. Koberda; and talks by L. Ciobanu, J. Fruchter, R. Gupta, A. Kerr, J. Lopez De Gamiz, and C. Perin. The local organizers are M. Amelio, B. Brück, and Z. Mohammadi. More information is available at https://www.uni-muenster.de/MathematicsMuenster/events/2025/MT_meets_GGT.shtml.

CALENDAR OF OTHER MEETINGS

- **Journées sur les Arithmétiques Faibles** *September 9–11, 2024, Passau, Germany*. The 43rd edition of JAF is scheduled for September 9–11 at the IT-Zentrum in Passau, bringing together researchers who study weak arithmetics in various contexts. The Programme Committee includes P. Cégielski, J. Cervelle, A. Córdon-Franco, C. Dimitracopoulos, A. Enayat, A. Esbelin, and N. Thapen, and the Organizing Committee is chaired by A. Gaysin. To register, send your details (full name, affiliation, planned dates of arrival and departure) to azza.gaysin@gmail.com. For more information, see <https://www.uni-passau.de/en/jaf>.

- **Proof Society Annual School and Workshop** *September 9–13, 2024, Birmingham, UK*. The Proof Society has organised an annual school and workshop since 2018. This one follows the British Logic Colloquium in the same location. The School, held on September 9–11, will be aimed at Master’s and PhD students interested in proof theory. The workshop, on September 12–13, is aimed at all researchers, from students to professors, working around proof theory and its applications. Please see <https://proofsociety2024.com/> for further information.
- **MAMLS Fall Fest 2024** *November 1–3, 2024, New Brunswick, New Jersey, USA*. Rutgers University is reviving its traditional Mid-Atlantic Mathematical Logic Seminar autumn meeting, now organized by F. Calderoni and D. Sinapova. The invited speakers are W. Brian, M. Foreman, V. Harizanov, C. Higgins, L. Jimenez, S. Kivimaki, P. Lutz, J. Moore, A. Poveda, and S. Starchenko. The meeting will open on Friday afternoon and will close around mid-day on Sunday. Some travel support for students and young researchers is available through the NSF MAMLS grant: contact the organizers at fc327@math.rutgers.edu for details. The meeting website is <https://sites.math.rutgers.edu/~fc327/MAMLS2024/index.html>.
- **New England Recursion & Definability Seminar** *November 17, 2024, Hanover, NH, USA*. NERDS is a one-day meeting focused on computability theory, broadly interpreted. The Fall 2024 meeting will be hosted by Dartmouth College. Further information is available at nerds.math.uconn.edu.

IN MEMORIAM

- **Nuel Belnap (1930–2024)** We regret to announce the passing of Nuel D. Belnap, Jr., on 12 June 2024. A memorial is expected in a future Newsletter.

- **W. W. Tait (1929–2024)**

The eminent proof theorist and philosopher of mathematics William Walker (“Bill”) Tait died March 15, 2024 in Naperville, IL. He was 95.

Tait was born on January 22, 1929, in Freeport, NY, and received a B.A. from Lehigh University in 1952, where he was taught by Adolph Grünbaum. He undertook graduate studies in philosophy (1952–54) and mathematics (1955–58) at Yale University and spent the 1954/55 academic year at the University of Amsterdam as a Fulbright Scholar. After receiving his Ph.D. from Yale (under the supervision of Frederic Fitch with a thesis on “The theory of partial recursive operators”) in 1958, Tait held appointments at Stanford University (1958–64) and the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle (1965–71) before joining the University of Chicago Department of Philosophy as Professor in 1972. He was a member of the Institute for Advanced Study in 1961/62, a Guggenheim Fellow 1968/69, and a Visiting Professor of Mathematics at the University of Aarhus in 1971/72. He retired from teaching in 1996 but remained active scientifically. He was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2002 and delivered the Tarski Lectures in 2016.

Tait’s work up until 1980 concentrated on proof theory, specifically cut-elimination, functional interpretations, the ε -substitution method, type theory and lambda calculus. In ‘A nonconstructive proof of Gentzen’s Hauptsatz for second order predicate logic’ (*Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society* 72 (1966): 980–3) he proved the consistency of second order logic, settling the Takeuti conjecture positively. His two most well-known contributions are perhaps the development of the Schütte-Tait method of proving cut elimination (‘Normal derivability in classical logic,’ J. Barwise, ed., *The Syntax and Semantics of Infinitary Languages*, pp. 204–36, Springer, 1968) and the method of proving normalization for lambda calculus using Tait computability predicates (‘Intensional interpretations of functionals of finite type I,’ *The Journal of Symbolic Logic* 32 (1967): 198–212). He is also sometimes credited with the observation that the Curry-Howard correspondence between formulas and types and proofs and lambda terms extends to normalization of natural deduction and reduction of the corresponding lambda term.

After 1981, Tait published extensively in philosophy, especially on finitism, mathematical realism, set theory and type theory. With his writings on Cantor and Gödel, and on Plato and Wittgenstein, Tait made important contributions to the history and philosophy of mathematics and logic. His proposal to identify Hilbert’s “finitary standpoint” with what’s primitive recursively computable and provable in primitive recursive arithmetic PRA

has come to be known as “Tait’s thesis.” His philosophical essays are collected in *The Provenance of Pure Reason* (Oxford University Press, 2005).

Tait is survived by his partner Rebecca West, his daughter, Sophia Bartelt, son-in-law, Scott Bartelt, and his grandsons, Kyle Bartelt and Alexander Bartelt.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS (Also see aslonline.org/announce/.)

- **Ph.D. Abstracts in the *Bulletin of Symbolic Logic*.** Since 2018, the *Bulletin of Symbolic Logic* has published abstracts of recent Ph.D. theses in logic. Sandra Müller is the editor for this section of the *BSL*. Please visit aslonline.org/journals/the-bulletin-of-symbolic-logic/logic-thesis-abstracts-in-the-bulletin-of-symbolic-logic/ for further information or to inform the editor of a newly completed dissertation.
- **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 <https://aslonline.org/membership/world-bank-list/>, includes Brazil, Bulgaria, China (see p. 2), 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. Visit aslonline.org/membership/individual-membership/ for information about the ASL and membership benefits. After the initial two-year period, new members under this program pay the reduced membership dues, US\$18 for 2024, 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 2024, 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 aslonline.org/membership/individual-membership/ or contact the ASL Business Office (address in the Newsletter masthead).
- **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 2024 are US\$54. 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 aslonline.org/membership/.
- **New ASL Books.** To see new books in the ASL’s *Lecture Notes in Logic* and *Perspectives in Logic* series, visit aslonline.org/books/lecture-notes-in-logic/ for LNL volumes and aslonline.org/books/perspectives-in-logic/ for Perspectives volumes.
- **Book and Journal Discounts for ASL Members.** Several publishers offer discounts on books and journals to ASL members. For a detailed description of these discounts, see aslonline.org/membership/member-services-and-resources/ or write to the ASL Business Office.

The next newsletter will be mailed in November 2024. Items to be included should reach the Secretary-Treasurers or asl@uconn.edu by November 8, 2024.

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