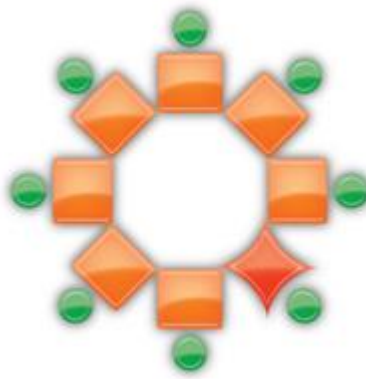


The Peer Leader



PEER-LED TEAM LEARNING
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

July 2023

Issue No. 29 Contact: newsletter@pltlis.org¹

- ***APLL* – Third Issue Deadline: Extended to August 31st**
- **Apply for Positions!**
- **Save the Dates: PLTLIS 2024 Conference**
- **Finding the Language for the Experience of PLTL**
- **Join a Committee**
- **Profiles – New Members of the Board of Directors**
- **Tell Me a Joke...**

¹<mailto:newsletter@pltlis.org>

Message from the President



Dear members of the PLTLIS community,

As we embark on a new academic year, I extend a warm welcome to each and every one of you. It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I address you today as the President of this esteemed organization.

First and foremost, I am sincerely grateful to all our community who have contributed to the success of our organization thus far. Your hard work, dedication, and unwavering support have been instrumental in achieving our shared goals and objectives.

As we enter this new year, we find ourselves in a rapidly changing and evolving world. We face numerous challenges and opportunities that require us to adapt, innovate, and collaborate. I am confident that with our collective talent, resilience, and determination, we will not only overcome these challenges but also thrive in this dynamic environment. We will seek new partnerships, expand our networks, and leverage our collective expertise to create meaningful solutions to the pressing issues of our time.

As we enter this new year, we find ourselves in a rapidly changing and evolving world.

We will continue to focus on bringing value to the PLTLIS Community! I also want to emphasize the importance of personal growth and development. We will invest in our alumni, peer leaders and practitioners by providing opportunities for training, mentoring, and professional advancement. We will ensure that integrity, excellence, and inclusivity remain at the heart of everything we do. We will strive to foster a culture of respect, open communication, and collaboration, where everyone's voice is heard and valued.

In closing, I am honored and humbled to serve as your President. Together, let us seize the opportunities that lie ahead and make this year a truly remarkable one. I have full confidence in our collective ability to achieve great things and to leave a lasting legacy.

Warm regards,

Kimshi Hickman, Ed.D.

PLTLIS President, Board of Directors

Deadline Extended: August 31st for APLL Issue #3

Interested in expanding peer-led learning and research in peer-led education methods? Submission guidelines are posted for the publication of the third issue of *Advances in Peer-Led Learning (APLL)* Journal, published by the Peer-Led Learning International Society. Read the first two issues and find out more by visiting journal.ptlis.org (*file:///C:/Users/sdelg/Downloads/journal.ptlis.org*).

Apply for Positions

Dominican University (River Forest, Illinois)

Open position: Coordinator role involved with our NSF-funded PLTL program. The official posting went live on our HR page last week: <https://jobapply.page.link/JSyT9>³. Apply now!

University of Texas Permian Basin (Odessa, Texas)

Open positions include: *Laboratory Technician - Chemistry* University of Texas, Permian Basin, Odessa, TX Visit our careers site to complete your application: 1. Use this link to access our careers site:

https://zahr-prd-candidate-ada.utshare.utsystem.edu/psp/ZAHRPRDADA/EMPLOYEE/UTZ_CG/c/HRS_HRAM_FL.HRS_CG_SEARCH_FL.GBL?Page=HRS_APP_JBPST_FL&Action=U&FOCUS=Applicant&SiteId=10&JobOpeningId=10081&PostingSeq=1

2. If you are not an existing user, select the *New User* link to create an account or Sign in to access your account. 3. Review the job description and select the *Apply* button to begin your application.

Save the Dates! PLTLIS 2024 Conference

The 12th Annual PLTLIS conference will be hosted by the University of Rochester in Rochester, New York, from Wednesday, May 29 to Saturday, June 1, 2024. Information will be forthcoming in newsletters and on the website after September.

²<http://www.ptlis.org/>

³[https://urldefense.com/v3/https://secure-web.cisco.com/16TIwf46yzF0yMBvFsVlu_XVZtGHmmvh-reNobf71bAEaSRfxX9On7C88vC5RsThlxmN1ogHBFXLs86tX_A2ObjqmXaRykPBHsRCCN2ByVNI7BiuTwg8Tis9e5A6qQwA2d4TQOriJSgL_rzm6xFA8fWc7iy7U-0N9rfGr0GZ-yCgfuJn_uTUyGxHGM8GLd_3Tk_8J9vgCK8j6P1Bq90aXdzsXWaxfOe1S9IVBBIfUjtjha-6NConjDmGP9_N-qk70rcWv1E11gWQWjFLmja1L9h2O2fER9dKONgr38zsK3_MGqHbx4Ju7g2JFfCx0-D_1_7Xe09AYI2Mk_QoPotA/https*3A*2F*2Fjobapply.page.link*2FJSyT9_;JSUIJQ!!FjuHKAHQs5udqho!Pcw8VPIR-9DaBLxMGT8vY1Savyv0qQt0hyZPkc7J_Kbny75j4Cl9sLjvIOAqk6QD5VC8w_pg3mowAGeoYw\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://secure-web.cisco.com/16TIwf46yzF0yMBvFsVlu_XVZtGHmmvh-reNobf71bAEaSRfxX9On7C88vC5RsThlxmN1ogHBFXLs86tX_A2ObjqmXaRykPBHsRCCN2ByVNI7BiuTwg8Tis9e5A6qQwA2d4TQOriJSgL_rzm6xFA8fWc7iy7U-0N9rfGr0GZ-yCgfuJn_uTUyGxHGM8GLd_3Tk_8J9vgCK8j6P1Bq90aXdzsXWaxfOe1S9IVBBIfUjtjha-6NConjDmGP9_N-qk70rcWv1E11gWQWjFLmja1L9h2O2fER9dKONgr38zsK3_MGqHbx4Ju7g2JFfCx0-D_1_7Xe09AYI2Mk_QoPotA/https*3A*2F*2Fjobapply.page.link*2FJSyT9_;JSUIJQ!!FjuHKAHQs5udqho!Pcw8VPIR-9DaBLxMGT8vY1Savyv0qQt0hyZPkc7J_Kbny75j4Cl9sLjvIOAqk6QD5VC8w_pg3mowAGeoYw$)

Finding the Language for the Experience of PLTL

During the 11th Annual Conference in June 2023, participants both in-person and virtually joined together to discuss the best way to convey to those unfamiliar with PLTL why we all are practitioners. From these discussions, we found that although PLTL has many variances in the expanding number of institutions where it is practiced, we all are united in reaping the benefits and impact on our students, our Peer Leaders, our institutions, and ourselves. The fruits of these meetings are shown in word cloud form in the www.pltlis.org⁴ homepage. We thank Sally Faulkner and Redwan Shahid, both of Queen Mary University London for their work in capturing the words for the word clouds! We also thank those who facilitated the three sessions, in person and online: Cecilia Barone and Robin Frye, University of Rochester; Ana Fraiman, Northeastern Illinois University; Sofia Delgado, University of Texas at El Paso; Allison McKee, University of Houston – Downtown; Reagan Hudson, University of Texas Permian Basin; Meria Marcel-Lewis, University of the Virgin Islands; and Lesley Howell, Sally Faulkner, and Redwan Shahid, Queen Mary University London.

Have something to add? Contact newsletter@ptlis.org⁵ to contribute to the word cloud!

Become an Active Member of a PLTLIS Committee!

Interested in serving on the **Editorial Committee** for the PLTLIS Journal, *Advances in Peer-Led Learning*? The APLL team welcomes Peer Reviewers, as well as help coordinating the production of the Third Issue. Let the Editor of APLL know by sending an email to journal@ptlis.org⁶

Are you interested in contributing to the Workbooks series? Have you developed challenging materials for a course that incorporates PLTL? Interested in marketing or expansion of **the workbook series**? See the list of available workbooks at <https://shop.pltlis.org>⁷, and send an email to <https://shop.pltlis.org/index.php/contact/>

Of course, the best way to support the organization is to spread the word! If this is a task you would like to be involved with, we invite you to join either the Outreach Committee or the Conference Committee. The **Outreach Committee** oversees projects like contributing to the Newsletter, to PLTLIS social media, and connecting PLTL programs on campuses. Perhaps the largest committee year-round is the **Conference Committee**, which was responsible for the wonderful conference this past June! This is a great committee for anyone looking for event planning experience. Send email to info@ptlis.org⁸ to sign up!

The success of the Peer-Led Team Learning International Society is dependent on the continued support of practitioners like yourself. Whether you've known about PLTL for only one or more than twenty years, the PLTLIS Board of Directors invites you to join a committee and impact the growth of PLTLIS. If you would like to be involved and don't see your interest listed here, we have plenty of other ways for you to get involved, and we look forward to inquiries of interest to newsletter@ptlis.org⁹.

⁴<http://www.pltlis.org/>

⁵<mailto:newsletter@ptlis.org>

⁶<mailto:journal@ptlis.org>

⁷<https://shop.pltlis.org/>

⁸<mailto:info@ptlis.org>

⁹<mailto:newsletter@ptlis.org>

Profiles – New Members of the Board of Directors

At the end of the 11th Annual Conference, the PLTLIS Board of Directors had its June meeting. New Board Members were welcomed and are profiled here; a full list of the Board Members can be found at www.pltlis.org¹⁰ under the About tab, then Board of Directors 2023-2024.

Cecilia Barone

University of Rochester



1 - (Maria) Cecilia Barone

(Maria) Cecilia Barone is Assistant Director for the PLTL Workshop Program at the Learning Center at the University of Rochester (UR) since 2015. She teaches several sessions of the peer-leader training course and works closely with faculty to implement PLTL in various disciplines including chemistry, optics, and computer science. Cecilia earned her PhD in Biochemistry from the University “La Sapienza” in Rome, Italy, and worked as a research scientist for several years, studying the regulation of cellular respiration by free radicals and mechanisms of neuronal cell death and neuroprotection in mammals and fruit flies (University of Rome “La Sapienza”, University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of Rochester Medical Center). While at the UR Medical Center, Cecilia participated in several Outreach programs (in K-12 schools, nursing homes, Science Museum) through the Life Sciences Learning Center and started teaching at local colleges (Finger Lakes Community College, Nazareth College, SUNY Brockport). These experiences, combined with her own observations as a member of several research teams, have contributed to her belief that a participatory, community-oriented, constructivist approach is at the core

¹⁰<http://www.pltlis.org/>

of both scientific innovation and a just and equitable education system and that one cannot be pursued without the other.

Why become a member of the PLTLIS Board of Directors?

Why become a member of the PLTLIS Board of Directors? Cecilia explained: “PLTL offers an ideal platform to promote a culture of collaboration and community-orientation in a disciplinary and institutional context and to bring together students, faculty, staff and administrators around a common goal, student success. This can lead to profound changes in the study and practice of specific disciplines and in our educational system overall. As a PLTL practitioner I value the role that the PLTL International Society plays in i) offering resources and advice for PLTL implementation, ii) providing a forum for innovation and sharing of best practices in PLTL, iii) connecting practitioners from different institutions to catalyze partnerships and collaborations, iv) providing professional development opportunities for all practitioners and for peer leaders in particular. As a member of the Board, I am interested in supporting the Society by i) contributing to outreach efforts, ii) finding additional ways to build community among PLTL practitioners (which may result in joint projects and collaborations), iii) identifying new professional development opportunities for peer leaders (which may include collaboration among different institutions).”

Hector Leal



2 - Hector Leal

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Hector Leal was born in Mexico City, Mexico and grew up in Monterrey, Mexico until he graduated from high school. At that point he moved to McAllen, Texas to attend The University Of Texas Pan American (now the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley) to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science. He continued his education with a Masters of Science in Physics Education. In 2019, he began a doctoral degree in Science Education from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and is expecting to complete his dissertation on the effects of PLTL in improving self-efficacy and retention rate in General Chemistry in Fall 2023. Hector has worked in higher education since 1997, first as an undergraduate student assistant teaching Physics, Astronomy and Physical Science labs, then as a Laboratory Supervisor

until 2018. He has been a part time lecturer for Astronomy since 2011. In 2018 he moved to the Learning Center as a Program Coordinator for the PLTL program and in 2021 he became Program Manager overseeing Peer Collaborative Programs.

In the past two years Hector has served as a member of the Editorial Committee of *Advances in Peer-Led Learning*, the PLTLIS Journal.

Why become a member of the PLTLIS Board of Directors? Hector explained: “In the last five years I have worked in the Learning Center at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley with the Peer-Led Team Learning program and have come to appreciate the effect and influence that the PLTL program has on students’ success. I wish to help continue spreading the word about the benefits and importance of PLTL.”

Allison McKee



3 - Allison McKee

University of Houston – Downtown

Allison McKee is a senior chemistry student at the University of Houston-Downtown (UHD) with Texas certification as a pharmacy technician (CPhT). Allison presented research on a silver(I) complex at the Texas Academy of Sciences’ 2019 meeting and the UHD Student Research Conference as a poster presenter. She has presented research on a rhenium(I) complex at the Capitol of Texas Undergraduate Research Conference 2019 and Texas Academy of Science 2020 meeting. During summer 2022 she participated in an energy chemist internship at Solugen in Houston, Texas.

Since 2020, Allison has been the PLTL training coordinator at UHD and presented at the PLTLIS 2021 Conference on the transition of PLTL peer leader training from in-person to online. Allison has been a Peer Leader at the University of Houston – Downtown (UHD) since 2018.

In 2020, I began to shadow and eventually take over as our training coordinator at UHD.

Allison commented: “Since 2018, I have been active as a Peer Leader under the supervision of Professor Mitsue Nakamura and the Peer Leaders before me, and it is through all of them that I am grateful for being introduced to PLTL. In 2020, I began to shadow and eventually take over as our training

coordinator at UHD. It was also during this time that we had to modify our training materials so that they were better suited for the new online modality. This endeavor continued to undergo alterations over several semesters to best suit the online nature of the training as well as the needs of the peer leaders in training. Additionally, I have also partaken in doing further investigation on how to re-strengthen the sense of belonging that PLTL has helped to provide the first time in college (FTIC) students as we have come back to in-person learning, as well as study other methods to further enhance our existing training materials for future students. I believe my experiences with online training and improving the training material will help the Society's pursuits in training facilitators as we continue to use hybrid modalities.

Early on, my time as a Peer Leader and mentor became very enriching to my time in undergraduate studies, helping me to realize the value in strengthening the peer-to-peer bond and how it can help students in all aspects of their academic careers. PLTL is a true embodiment of how this kind of relationship is successful for both the students and peer leaders. It is because of this that I am eager and honored to serve PLTLIS moving forward."

Tell me a Joke!

During the 2022 Conference, a discussion board on WHOVA featured jokes submitted by participants, and it was a very popular section for discussion. This year, the conversation continued, with many more submissions. We feature here some of our favorites, but if you participated in the 2023 Conference, you can visit WHOVA and look at all the great jokes participants shared. A special thank you to Jose Collazo from the University of Texas Permian Basin and Taylor Newton from the University of Houston – Downtown who created the discussion boards "Science Jokes" and "Math Jokes" respectively.

Jose Collazo started the "Science Jokes" discussion by asking: Did you Hear Oxygen went on a date with Potassium? It went OK!

To which Sofia Delgado replied: Did you hear that Oxygen went on a date with Magnesium? Potassium said Omg!

Marice Diaz asked: What do you call it when a biologist takes a picture of themselves?

Answer: a cell-fie!

Robert Funderburg contributed a different pun: What happens if someone slaps you at a high frequency?

Answer: It Hertz

Taylor Newton also had a science joke to share: Why did the bear dissolve in water?

Answer: It was Polar!

Then Taylor started the "Math Jokes" discussion with an image of two rats on an island having a conversation.

Rat 1: How many paces away be the treasure?

Rat 2: 3.14 Cap'n

Below the rats, the caption reads: Pi Rats of the Caribbean

Jose Collazo contributed some geometry puns to “Math Jokes” as well.

Question: Why did the obtuse angle go to the beach?

Answer: Because it was over 90 degrees

Question: Which triangle is the coldest?

Answer: An ice-sosceles triangle

Connect on Social Media!

PLTLIS is proud to connect past and present Peer Leaders and all who are interested in Peer-Led Team Learning. What is happening at your campus? What opportunities do you know about where peer leading would be a valuable attribute? *Follow, like, and link* with us on Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn:

Instagram: [@pl_tl_is](#)

Facebook: [Peer-Led Team Learning Society](#)

LinkedIn: [Peer-Led Team Learning International Society](#)

Contribute to the Peer Leader!

Do you want to share news with the PLTL community? Send news items, story suggestions, and updates from your campus Peer-Led Team Learning program to newsletter@pltlis.org¹¹.

¹¹<mailto:newsletter@pltlis.org>