

The Math–Science Connector

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110th Annual Convention Reflections

By SSMA President Balka

With exceptional weather, a splendid location, and a beautiful view of Pikes Peak, almost 200 mathematics and science educators from throughout the United States, Canada, and Taiwan attended our 110th Convention in Colorado Springs.

Our keynote speakers ---Ron Furstenau (United States Air Force Academy), Paul Kuerbis (Colorado College), and Neil Heffernan (Worcester Polytechnic Institute)---provided us with interesting “magic” with

“water,” what works to help students learn, and professional development and instruction for K-5 science and mathematics students.

Many members traveled to the Flying W Ranch on Friday evening for dinner and a musical performance by the Flying W Wranglers. Our trip included a short trip through the Garden of the Gods, with spectacular views of the red rock, and a return trip through the University of Colorado – Colorado Springs.

Special thanks go to Catherine Kelly from the University of Colorado - Colorado Springs, a SSMA Director, who worked over one year planning our convention, reviewing speaker proposals, and doing the many tasks involved in running our convention. Catherine enlisted the help of other UCCS faculty and other local contacts to assist her in this endeavor. We appreciate their efforts.

Thanks also go to Dr. Mary Snyder, Dean of the College of Education at the University of Colorado – Colorado Springs, who provided staffing assistance during the year and financial support for our Thursday reception, and to Wiley-Blackwell, publishers of our journal, for their financial support of the reception.

We also offer our special thanks to SSMA Executive Directors Julie Thomas and Juliana Utley, and their graduate assistants for their upfront and behind the scenes efforts in making our convention at Cheyenne Mountain Resort such an enjoyable event.

A special highlight of our convention on Thursday was the presentation of the George G. Mallinson Award to Carol Steussy, Texas A & M University and past president of SSMA. The Mallinson Award is presented to an educator who exemplifies the utmost lifetime level of teaching, service, and research. SSMA is honored to recognize her contributions to science education and to our organization.

Additionally, we presented the SSMA Connections Award to Susie Hassett, a 4th grade teacher from Littleton Elementary School in North Fort Myers, Florida, who involves her students in a recycling program that integrates many areas of science and mathematics.

Save the date!

*2012 Annual
Convention*

*Birmingham,
Alabama*

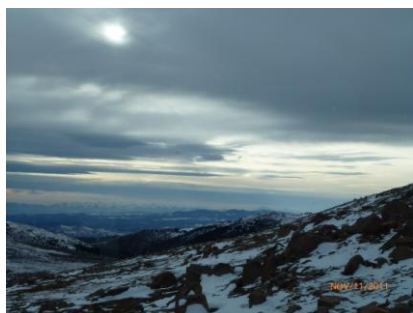
Nov. 8-10, 2012

Your SSMA Board of Directors met before and after the convention to deal with organization business. Our financial condition is good; our move to Wiley-Blackwell for publication of the SSM Journal has been profitable. Membership is over 400. The Membership Committee has plans to initiate a drive to increase our membership. In the coming months, we intend to publicize opportunities for members to donate to the SSMA Endowment Fund. The Conventions Committee has recommended, and the Board has approved, future convention sites: San Antonio (2013), Savannah (2014), and Oklahoma City (2015).

Planning for our 111th Annual Convention has already begun. SSMA Director Melanie Shores will serve as chair for this event that is scheduled for November 8 -10, 2012, in Birmingham, Alabama at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel. The attached Jefferson-Birmingham Convention Complex also houses the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame. Speaker proposals are now being accepted. The deadline date for submission is February 10, 2012. Check the SSMA website for further information.

Finally, special thanks go to our outgoing Directors Catherine Kelly and Diane Schmidt, both of whom chaired our annual conventions the past two years and also took care of their responsibilities on the Board, and to outgoing Past President Alan Zollman who has “run” for the last four years through a myriad of responsibilities to represent our organization.

We hope to see you next year in Alabama!



Can you see Alabama from here?



Presidential confusion?



Yes! We are STEM



Keynote speaker, Neil Heffernan



Keynote Speaker, Paul Kuerbis with Program Chair, Catherine Kelly



Smoking Presentation? By Ron Furstenuau



Can you see it?



There was snow!



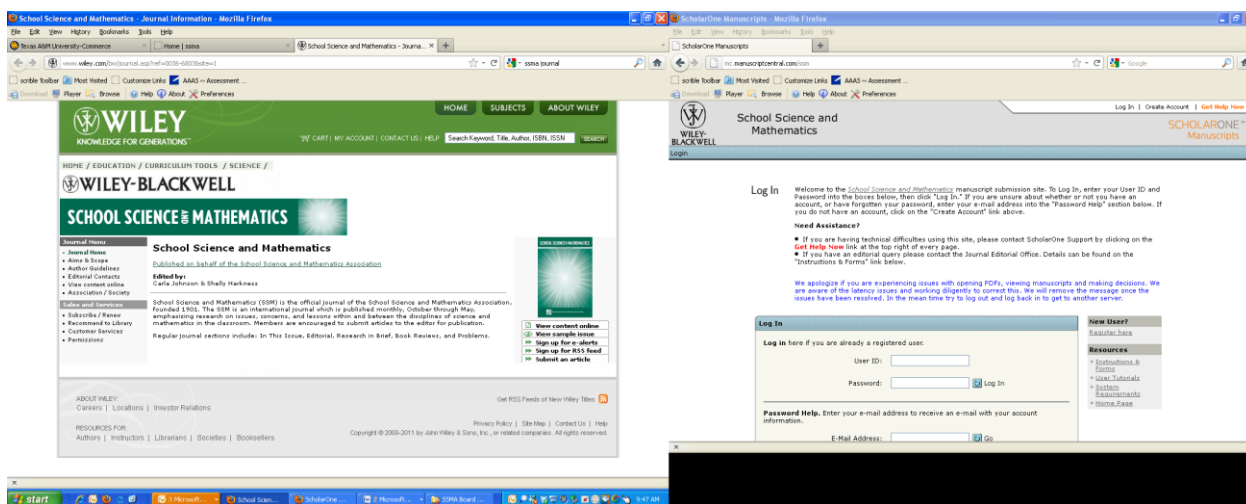
Whose session did they attend?

School Science and Mathematics, the SSMA Journal

Dr. Carla Johnson, Editor, and Dr. Shelly Harkness, Co-Editor, University of Cincinnati
johnsc2@ucmail.uc.edu harkneml@ucmail.uc.edu

Please see an issue of the Journal or visit <http://www.wiley.com/bw/journal.asp?ref=0036-6803> for more information about article submission. The journal's focus is on data-based research manuscripts on K-12 teaching or learning of science or mathematics, or their integration.

Manuscript submissions for *School Science and Mathematics* are now online through the ScholarOne website at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ssm>. Hard copy submissions are no longer accepted. See the current issue of the journal for information about calls for manuscripts.



If you would like to be a Reviewer, please contact the Editors. Reviewers prepare comments, reviews, and recommendations for 1-2 manuscripts a year in their area of specialization. Reviewers are needed in all areas of expertise, especially teacher preparation and professional development.

Congratulations to:

2011 George G. Mallinson Distinguished Service Awardee



Dr. Carol Stuessy, is a professor of Science Education at Texas A&M University in the Department of Teaching, Learning and Culture. She received her Ph.D. in Science Education from The Ohio State University in 1984. She has authored and co-authored over 30 research articles on integrating methods of teaching mathematics, technology and science. Her publications have appeared in the *Journal of Science Teacher Education*, *Journal of Research in Science Teaching*, and *School Science and Mathematics*. Dr. Stuessy has been an author and/or director of numerous grant projects in excess of \$20 million dollars that targeted professional development of mathematics and science teachers.

At TAMU, she has served on the dissertation committee of 22 graduates, directing 11 PhD's. In 2010 Dr. Stuessy received the *Outstanding Educator, Dean's Council*, at Texas A&M University.

Carol is a long-standing and energetic member of the SSMA for 23 years that has actively recruited many new SSMA members, including many of her doctoral students. She has presented annually at SSMA since 1992 – usually co-presenting with graduate students she brought to their first SSMA Convention.

Due to her work in the SSMA, she was nominated and elected to its Board of Directors twice, in 1994 and again in 2002. She served as an Associate Editor of *School Science and Mathematics* from 2005-2008. She was nominated to and elected to the Association's office of President (2004-2006). Without question, Carol is a dedicated member of SSMA and deserving of the Association's highest honor.

2011 SSMA Connections Awardee

Susie Hassett is a teacher who integrates mathematics and science through recycling in her 4th grade classroom at Littleton Elementary School in North Fort Myers. She was a fabulous speaker and provided so many insights regarding a recycling program that included (1) recycling school waste, (2) composting cafeteria food, (3) vermiculture and (4) urban gardening techniques. She integrated these components of her project with many of Florida's state standards. In her presentation she provided fabulous websites, books and other resources, as well as wonderful pictures of the children in her school engaging in recycling projects. She is inspiring, engaging, and knows her stuff. (excerpted from nomination)

Congratulations to President Elect John Park



After a long successful career at North Carolina State University teaching in the Department of Mathematics, Science, and Technology Education, Dr. Park has retired and will be moving to Texas. He will join the faculty at Baylor University in Waco starting in January.

Congratulations to New Board Members



Suzanne Nesmith

Assistant Professor of Science Education
Baylor University
Waco, TX



Lynn Columba

Associate Professor of Mathematics Education
Lehigh University
Bethlehem, PA

Thank you to outgoing Board members.



Diane Schmidt



Catherine Kelly



Carla Johnson

Nominations for SSMA Board of Directors

To nominate a candidate to serve on the SSMA Board of Directors, a petition of twenty-five (25) signatures can be sent to Georgia Cobbs, Chair of the Nomination and Election Committee. Self-nominations are accepted as well.

Please contact:

Georgia Cobbs
Department of Curriculum & Instruction
The University of Montana
Missoula, MT 59812
georgia.cobbs@mso.umt.edu

Call for SSMA 2011 Awards

The SSMA Awards Committee invites the membership to submit nominees to be considered for the following awards:

- **GEORGE G. MALLINSON DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**
 - How nominee has shown substantial participation and leadership in SSMA activities
 - How nominee has exhibited scholarship, leadership, and/or teaching excellence in mathematics/science education

- **AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN INTEGRATING SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS**
 - How person or group has fostered, promoted, and extended the integration of mathematics/science at the elementary, secondary, or university level
 - How person or group has impacted science/mathematics education

- **SSMA CONNECTION AWARD**
 - How an individual or group in support of an exemplary teaching and learning project has fostered and promoted connections between science and mathematics
 - How the project has improved students' math and science learning

The criteria for each award can be found online at <http://www.ssma.org/awards>. Any member of SSMA is free to nominate a person(s) satisfying the criteria noted above. An application may remain active for three years. Winner receives a complimentary conference registration. The recipients of these awards will be recognized at the SSMA Annual Convention.

Materials (for each award) are to be sent electronically to **Zhonghe Wu** (zwu@nu.edu) prior to **March 5, 2012**.

2012 SSMA Convention ***November 8-10, 2012***

Sheraton Hotel Birmingham

2101 Richard Arrington Junior Boulevard North
Birmingham, AL 35203

Toll Free Reservations: (800)325-3535

Main Phone: (205)324-5000

<http://www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/property/photos/index.html?propertyID=115>



Convention Information

CALL FOR PROPOSALS - The proposal announcement will be located on the SSMA webpage in the upcoming weeks. ***The proposal due date will be February 10, 2012.*** This will ensure that speakers are notified of their acceptance prior to the ending of the academic year.

Types of Sessions – Research Presentations, Regular Session, Symposium/Panel, Workshop, Round Tables and Poster.

Planning your trip to Birmingham, Alabama – We invite you to take advantage of the special hotel rates and plan an extra day or two to enjoy the historic downtown area. You can walk to the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame, the McWane Science Center, the Birmingham Museum of Art, the Birmingham Civil Rights Museum, and the Civil Rights Historic District; you can take a trip to the Birmingham Zoo or Botanical Gardens; you can visit Vulcan Park and Museum, Southern Museum of Flight, Alabama Historic Radio Museum, and much more.

Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport (<http://www.flybirmingham.com/>) is Alabama's largest airport serving the Greater Birmingham area and surrounding Southeastern cities. Offering more than 100 daily flights to over 25 cities throughout the United States, Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport (BHM) presently ranks in the country's top 75 airports in terms of passengers served annually.

Entertainment – The local planning committee is working to arrange a number of special entertainment packages for Friday and Saturday. These will be highlighted in the pre-conference registration materials. Convention participants and family members will be able to register and prepay for these activities through the SSMA website when convention registration begins.

About Our Organization...

SCHOOL SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS ASSOCIATION

College of Education
Oklahoma State University

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Stillwater, OK 74078

Phone:
(405) 744-8018

Fax:
(405) 744-6290

E-Mail:
office@ssma.org
We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://www.ssma.org/>

Membership in the School Science and Mathematics Association is open to any person who supports the objectives of the Association, who has paid membership dues, and completed an application.

Benefits of SSMA Membership include:

- Membership in an association encompassing both science and mathematics teaching and learning.
- 8 issues of the official journal *School Science and Mathematics*.
- 2 issues of the SSMA newsletter *The Math-Science Connector*.
- Opportunities to submit presentation proposals for the Annual Convention.
- Voting privileges for Association business and election of officers.
- Opportunities to serve on an SSMA Committee or Leadership Team.

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Additional information about SSMA is available at our website (<http://www.ssma.org>) or by contacting **Julie Thomas and Juliana Utley** (office@ssma.org).

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To contribute news items for inclusion in the SSMA newsletter (*The Math-Science Connector*), please contact **Gil Naizer** (gilbert_naizer@tamu-commerce.edu).

Contact information for all SSMA Board Members and Committee Members can be found online at <http://www.ssma.org/>