

The Math–Science Connector

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109th Annual Convention

Convention reflections: SSMA President Balka

Holding an alligator in my hands, and then a crocodile, were certainly unique experiences that many other SSMA members also shared during our visit to Ft. Myers, Florida. Almost 200 mathematics and science educators

from throughout the United States and abroad attended our 109th Convention.

With a theme focused on “Sustainability,” our keynote speakers ---Win Everham (Dr. Disturbance), Mike Savarese, and Peter Corcoran---led us through issues dealing with events such as fires, floods, and hurricanes, climate change, coastal ecosystems, and sustainability of our environment. Our local Saturday morning sessions featured walks through the Six Mile Cypress Slough, the J. N. Darling National Wildlife Refuge, and the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed, led by experts in environmental science. Other attendees focused their thoughts on STEM education: What is it? What is the latest federal legislation? Who are the players? What can SSMA do to enhance its role?

Special thanks go to Diane Schmidt from Florida Gulf Coast University, a SSMA Director, who also performed a tireless task in chairing our convention and arranging for the 130+ sessions that were available. Diane enlisted the assistance of many members of the Florida Gulf Coast University family, the School District of Lee County, and the assistance of volunteers from the various outdoor locations. These people not only contributed their talents to the success of our meeting, but also arranged for financial support that significantly impacted the cost for our members.

We also offer our special thanks to SSMA Executive Directors Julie Thomas and Juliana Utley, and graduate assistant Nicole Colston for their attention to all the details of running an international convention.

A special highlight of our convention was the presentation of the George G. Mallinson Award to Charlene M. Czerniak, University of Toledo and past president of SSMA. The Mallinson Award is presented to an educator who exemplifies the utmost lifetime level of teaching, service, and research.

Now, our 110th Annual Convention begins to take shape. SSMA Director Catherine Kelly will serve as chair for this event that is scheduled for November 10 -12, 2011, in Colorado Springs at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort. Plan now to submit a proposal to speak and to attend in majestic Colorado.

Finally, a special thanks goes to SSMA Past President Alan Zollman for his efforts in leading our organization for the past two years and promoting SSMA throughout the United States as “the” organization for STEM education.

Save the date!

*2011 Annual
Convention*

*Colorado
Springs, CO*

Nov. 10-12, 2011



Board meeting too hot for hotel?



SSMA goes green with electronic program



Saturday field trips were a hit!



SSMA has joined the American Chemical Society as a partner in promoting and celebrating the International Year of Chemistry.

See <http://www.chemistry2011.org/> for information about celebrating chemistry.



President Zollman makes a friend



Co-presenting via Skype



Keynote speaker, Win Everham (Dr. Disturbance)



Check out the new and improving SSMA website



Stimulating conversation at roundtables



Can't wait for alligator ribs!

Incoming Editors for *School Science and Mathematics*, the SSMA Journal

The SSMA Board is pleased to announce Dr. Carla Johnson, Editor, and Dr. Shelly Harkness, Co-Editor, from the University of Cincinnati as the new SSM Journal editors for the July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2016 term.

The editors included this statement in their proposal:

“Our vision for the SSM Journal is to continue to meet the needs of the membership. It is understood that the primary membership of SSMA consists of higher education faculty and that the SSM Journal is an outlet for publication of their research on the integration of science and mathematics. We embrace this focus and believe that only through research on best practice can classrooms be transformed. ... we also recognize the gap between our research and K-12 practice. We hope to work with the SSMA leadership to determine the best avenue to begin to close the gap.”

The incoming editors have garnered strong support from the University of Cincinnati for the editorial office and will continue to produce a strong journal that SSMA can publish with pride. The current Wiley-Blackwell submission system will remain in place and the turnover in the editorship should be seamless.

Please see an issue of the Journal or visit <http://www.wiley.com/bw/journal.asp?ref=0036-6803> or <http://ssmj.tamu.edu/> 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.

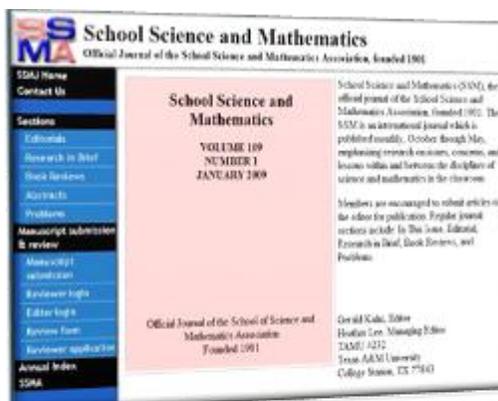
Manuscript submissions for *School Science and Mathematics* are now online through the ScholarOne website at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ssm>. Hard copy submissions are no longer accepted. See the current issue of the journal for information about calls for manuscripts, including a new section Research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

If you would like to be a Reviewer, please contact the editor. Contact information is available at <http://ssmj.tamu.edu/>. 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.

The SSM online submission and review site will remain the same with the new editorial team:

<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ssm>



Congratulations to:

2010 George G. Mallinson Distinguished Service Awardee



Dr. Charlene M. Czerniak, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, at the University of Toledo Judith Herb College of Education, was presented the SSMA George G. Mallinson Distinguished Service Award.

The Mallinson Award is the *highest award* of the School Science and Mathematics Association. It is presented to an educator who exemplifies the utmost lifetime level of teaching, service, and research.

Professor Czerniak has authored and co-authored over 50 articles. For five years, she served as editor of the *Journal of Science Teacher Education*, the professional journal of the Association for Science Teacher Education. She currently is the Past President of the National Association for Research in Science Teaching (NARST).

Dr. Czerniak received the 2008 Distinguished Alumni Award for Service from The University of Toledo Judith Herb College of Education and the 2008 Research Award from the College of Education. Professor Czerniak has been an author and director of numerous grant-funded projects in excess of \$21 million dollars that targeted professional development of science teachers.

Due to her work in the SSMA, she was nominated and elected to its Board of Directors in 1996. And later, she was nominated to and elected to the Association's office of President (1998-2000). Without question, Charlene (a past elementary school teacher) is a revered member of SSMA and one of the finest science educators in the world!

Congratulations to new Directors at Large



Ron Zambo
Associate Professor
Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College
Arizona State University
Phoenix, AZ



Zhonghe (John) Wu
Associate Professor
Teacher Education
National University
Costa Mesa, CA

Thank you to outgoing Board members.



John Park, Board Member



Alfinio Flores, Board Member

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 SCIENCE AND MATH GRANT AWARD**
- **OUTSTANDING EARLY CAREER SCHOLAR AWARD**

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 **Zhonge Wu** (zwu@nu.edu) prior to **March 5, 2011**.

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

2011 SSMA Convention
November 10-12, 2011
Cheyenne Mountain Resort
3225 Broadmoor Valley Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80906
Hotel phone number 719.538.4000
<http://www.cheyennemountain.com>



Will Rogers Lounge at Cheyenne Mountain



View from the Resort

Convention Information

CALL FOR PROPOSALS - Look for the proposal announcement in the upcoming weeks. ***The proposal due date will be February 10, 2011.*** This will ensure that speakers are notified of their acceptance prior to the ending of the academic year.

In addition to regular sessions Round Tables and Poster Sessions are encouraged.

Round Tables – Proposals that will support discussion of current topics and issues related to the sustainability of quality science and mathematics education are invited and encouraged.

Poster Session – Poster proposals that illustrate successful professional development initiatives are also invited and this year. A special time will be designated for full participant review and conversation.

Planning your trip to Colorado Springs – We invite you to take advantage of the special hotel rates and plan an extra day or two to enjoy the majestic Rocky Mountain area. You can hike [Pikes Peak](#), take a drive to historic [Cripple Creek](#), or have a drink at the [Broadmoor Hotel's Golden Bee](#). Local attractions include the [Air Force Academy](#), the [Olympic Training Center](#), the [Cheyenne Mountain Zoo](#), [Cave of the Winds](#), [Seven Falls](#), [Historic Manitou Springs](#), and much more.

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.

We look forward to seeing everyone in scenic Colorado Springs!

About Our Organization...

SCHOOL SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS ASSOCIATION

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Oklahoma State University

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Stillwater, OK 74078

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(405) 744-8018

Fax:
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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.

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



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

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