

# The Math–Science Connector

## 115th Annual Convention Reflections

### SSMA Family

Each year I look forward to the fall with anticipation for the School Science and Mathematics Association Convention. Every convention brings with it the promise of great sessions, interesting keynote speakers, a new place to visit and explore, and most importantly



**SSMA President Stacy Reeder**

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wonderful conversation with old and new friends. SSMA is often referred to as a family and that is certainly a true characterization. The convention each year is an opportunity to learn, reunite, re-connect, and collaborate with colleagues and friends all interested in the improvement of science and mathematics teaching and learning – so, a great family indeed! This year’s convention in Phoenix was no exception!

Special thanks goes to Ron Zambo, Juliana Utley, and Adrienne Redmond-Sanogo for their work hosting and organizing our convention this year. The more than 170 attendees at this year’s convention enjoyed selecting from 125 sessions including 117 individual sessions along with syllabus share sessions and roundtable discussions. In keeping with our SSMA tradition of encouraging new attendees, we had 61 new attendees. Also exciting, was the number of graduate students in attendance, 34. Thursday’s keynote speaker, Richard Lawrence from the Arizona Game and Fish Department, shared with us his experience with implementing GIS and internet projects in the areas of environment, health, and natural resources. Friday’s keynote speaker, David Williams, was “out of this world” as he educated us about asteroids and the work underway at NASA. David shared with us about his research in volcanology and planetary geology.



### Dissertation Award to Erin Dixon

Before passing the gavel to me during Friday's business meeting, SSMA President Gil Naizer presented this year's dissertation award to Erin Dixon. Further, Michael Daiga, Brenna Heaton, Erin Pearce, and Michelle Cetner each received a John Park Graduate Student Travel grant in the amount of \$400. We certainly hope to see these, and many more, graduate students at next year's convention in Kentucky!



### John Park Graduate Student Travel Grant Recipients:

Michael Daiga, Brenna Heaton, Erin Pearce & Michelle Cetner (not pictured)



This year also marks the third year of the publication of the SSMA Convention proceedings. Thank you to Margaret Schroder-Mohr and Jonathan Thomas for their work reviewing and publishing the proceedings. If you have not had a chance to review the proceedings from the past two conventions, please check them out at <http://ssma.org/convention-proceedings/>. If you are an author of a proceedings paper, please consider extending your manuscript to full-length and submitting it to SSMA's prestigious and venerable journal, School Science and Mathematics Journal. The journal editors are always looking for outstanding manuscripts!

Your SSMA Board of Directors met before and after the convention to deal with organization business. We were pleased to welcome Christa Jackson and Toni Ivey to the board for their 2016-2019 term. Toni will be chairing the Policy Committee and Christa will serve as chair for the Awards Committee. Finally, special thanks goes to SSMA Executive Directors Melanie Shores and Tommy Smith, and their assistants for their upfront and behind the scenes efforts in making our convention such an enjoyable event.



The wonderful Arizona weather and the beautiful setting and scenery of the Arizona Grand Resort were certainly welcome and helped make the convention enjoyable as well. Even if you did not find time to enjoy and ride along the lazy river in the water park, I trust that your experience at this year's convention was as meaningful and enjoyable as mine.

*Stacy Reeder*  
SSMA President

## Phoenix Convention Photos



**Past Presidents**



**Breakfast Time!**



**Informal Round Table Talks and more!**



**3-D Fashion Glasses!**



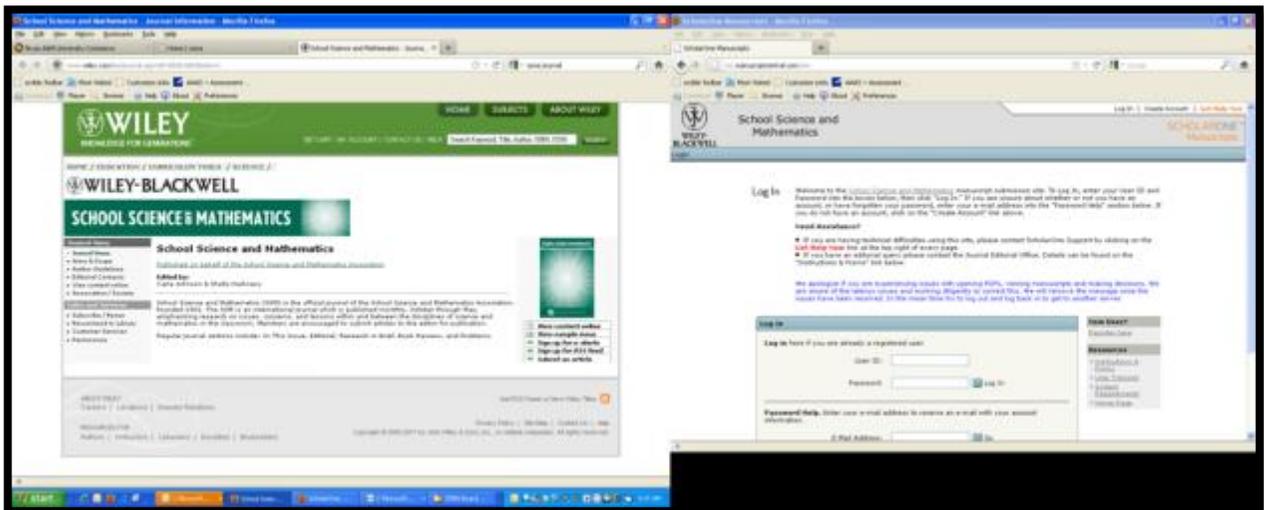
## *School Science and Mathematics, the SSMA Journal*

Dr. Carla Johnson, Editor  
[carlacjohnson@purdue.edu](mailto:carlacjohnson@purdue.edu)

Dr. Shelly Harkness, Co-Editor  
[harkneml@ucmail.uc.edu](mailto: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 ([carlacjohnson@purdue.edu](mailto:carlacjohnson@purdue.edu) or [harkneml@ucmail.uc.edu](mailto:harkneml@ucmail.uc.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.



**Want to serve on the Board  
or  
nominate someone  
to serve?**



***Nominations for SSMA Board of Directors***

To nominate a candidate, a petition of twenty-five (25) signatures can be sent to Ken Miller, Chair of the Nomination and Election Committee. Self-nominations are accepted as well.

Please contact:

**Ken Miller (KMiller@msubillings.edu)**

**Department Chair,**

**Educational Theory & Practice,**

**Montana State University-Billings**

**Billings, MT 59101**

## Call for SSMA 2017 Awards

### Deadline for submission of nominations: March 15, 2017

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

- **GEORGE G. MALLINSON DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

The award is given to those who have been a member of SSMA for at least ten (10) years and who have shown substantial participation and leadership in SSMA activities such as paper presentations at meetings, committee work, membership work, reviewing for journal, and so forth. Nomination is limited to SSMA members who are nominated by a current member of SSMA.

- **AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN INTEGRATING SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS**

The award is given to a person or group who/which has fostered, promoted, and extended the integration of mathematics/science. The nominee should be a person or group who is active in science/mathematics education and in the development of curricula for the preparation of teachers, educational research, or other activities of significant educational value; thereby showing an impact on science/mathematics education. The competition is open to non-SSMA members but all applicants must be nominated by an SSMA member.

- **SSMA CONNECTIONS AWARD**

The nominee should be a person working in K-12 who has been a leader of an exemplary teaching and learning project that is school-based and focused on connections between science and mathematics.

- **OUTSTANDING EARLY CAREER SCHOLAR AWARD**

The nominee should be a person, within five years of receiving a doctoral degree, with an exemplary and productive program of research related to science and/or mathematics education. The nominee must be an SSMA member in good standing for at least 1 year prior to the submission of an application.

- **SSMA OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION AWARD**

The Award is given for dissertations related to science education, mathematics education, or integrated science and mathematics education. Competition is open to non-members, but all applicants must be nominated by an SSMA member. The nominee's dissertation must have been completed within the last three years.

Criteria details for each award can be found online at <http://www.ssma.org/award-descriptions-and-requirements>. Any member of SSMA is free to nominate a person(s) satisfying the criteria noted above.

Materials (for each award) are to be sent electronically to Melanie L Shores (mshores@uab.edu) & the SSMA office (office@ssma.org)

## 2017 SSMA Convention



November 2 – 4, 2017

Lexington, Kentucky

Hilton Lexington –  
Downtown!



**Call for Proposals: January 5, 2017**  
**PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE: March 15, 2017**  
**ACCEPTANCE NOTIFICATION: May 30, 2017**

**Proposal submission will be completed electronically and will be available soon through the SSMA website at:**

[www.SSMA.org](http://www.SSMA.org)

*We will host Research Presentations, Regular Sessions, Symposium/Panel sessions, Interactive/Hands-On Workshops, Roundtables along with several new formats.*

**Program Chairs:**

**Conference Chair – Dr. Margaret Mohr-Schroeder ([mmohr2@g.uky.edu](mailto:mmohr2@g.uky.edu))**

**Conference Co-Chairs – University of Kentucky Department of STEM Education**



## About Our SSMA...

### SCHOOL SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS ASSOCIATION

School of Education  
University of Alabama  
Birmingham  
Birmingham, AL 35924

**Phone**  
(205) 934-5067

**Email**  
office@ssma.org

**OR**  
*See us at:*

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

Contact information for  
all SSMA Board Members  
and Committee Members  
can be found online 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 **Melanie Shores and Tommy Smith** ([office@ssma.org](mailto:office@ssma.org)).

To contribute news items for the SSMA newsletter (*The Math-Science Connector*), please contact **Georgia Cobbs** ([georgia.cobbs@umontana.edu](mailto:georgia.cobbs@umontana.edu)).

