



The Math–Science Connector

114th Annual Convention Reflections



SSMA President Gil Naizer

Exceptional!

What an exceptional SSMA Annual Convention in Oklahoma City! The Convention is always a great place to meet new colleagues and reconnect with friends - not to mention a great place for about 200 attendees to learn new ideas for Mathematics and Science Education.

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There were roughly 130 scheduled sessions that included 142 lead presenters and 172 co-presenters; plus syllabus sharing, roundtables, the innovation showcase & two outstanding keynote speakers. A special thanks to Tim Laubach & Stacy Reeder for planning and carrying out such a great convention in an outstanding venue.

How about that view from the Devon Tower – I could almost see my home in Texas from there. ☺

We maintained our emphasis on welcoming new members as approximately 85 SSMA first timers and over 50 graduate students -most of whom were first time convention attendees - were welcomed to the SSMA family.

I had the opportunity to meet many of the first time attendees with every one mentioning that they were extremely pleased with the convention, commenting on great sessions, friendly attendees and encouragement during their presentations. Several of these first-timers mentioned that SSMA 2016 is already on their calendar.

Thanks 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. This being their second convention as Executive Directors, they are still learning the nuances of running a convention, but they were clearly up to the task and carried it off without a hitch.



Intersecting the Past and the Future of Science and Mathematics Integration, the theme of the convention was apparent in the keynote presentations. The past was clearly presented in Dr. Magruder's informative presentation about Galileo's World and the resources in the University of Oklahoma Libraries History of Science Collections, while the future was evident in Steve Goodgame's presentation about emerging possibilities of robotics in education.

The SSMA Outstanding Dissertation Award was presented for the first time. The awardee was Dittika Gupta from Midwestern State University for her recent dissertation related to fractional understanding in early elementary school.



Research to Practice (RTP) - School Science and Mathematics journal companion articles going live on SSMA website. Staying true to the vision for our RTP articles, the SSMA Board decided this fall to dedicate space on the SSMA website (www.ssma.org) for posting the RTP articles to increase visibility and ease of access for K-12 teachers. Look for the RTP articles on our website beginning in January 2016.





A bittersweet moment during the business meeting was the posthumous awarding of the George G. Mallinson Award to John Park. Lory Park challenged us to “see the good” in others during her touching remarks reflecting on John’s career.

Thanks to Margaret Mohr-Schroeder and her committee for the outstanding effort in publishing our Convention Proceedings. Congratulations to all members who submitted papers for the proceedings and successfully endured the peer-review process. The 2015 SSMA Convention Proceedings can be found on the SSMA website and are freely available to all.

Your SSMA Board of Directors met before and after the convention to deal with organization business. We were pleased to welcome Margaret Mohr-Schroeder and Ken Miller to the board for second terms (Ken’s previous term was 2005-2007). Additionally, we welcomed Stacy Reeder into the President-Elect position. The Board devoted considerable time to reviewing and editing the Bylaws – more information about suggested changes will be forthcoming. The association is financially sound and we continue planning for ways to steward the resources and increase membership.



Preparation for our 115th Annual Convention is well under way. Ron Zambo and Julian Utley are heading up the event that is scheduled for October 20th – 22nd, 2016 at the world famous Grand Resort in Phoenix, Arizona. The Resort offers an on-site water slide and golf course, so plan to arrive early or stay after the convention to take advantage of the gorgeous venue. Keep an eye on your SSMA email and the SSMA website for further information about speaker proposals, etc.

See you in Phoenix --- I am already looking forward to seeing 200 old and new friends and continuing to learn from each of you.

Gil Naizer
SSMA President



Oklahoma City Convention Photos



School Science and Mathematics, the SSMA Journal

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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.

The image shows two overlapping browser windows. The background window is the Wiley-Blackwell journal page for *School Science and Mathematics*. It features the Wiley logo, navigation tabs (HOME, SUBJECTS, ABOUT WILEY), and a sidebar with links for Journal Home, About & Scope, Author Guidelines, Editorial Contents, View content online, and Association/Society. The main content area includes the journal title, editors (Carla Johnson & Shelly Harkness), and a 'Submit an article' button. The foreground window is the ScholarOne Manuscripts submission site, showing a 'Log In' section with fields for User ID and Password, and a 'Password Help' section with an email address field. A 'New User?' section is also visible on the right side of the ScholarOne page.

If you would like to be a Reviewer, please contact the Editors (carlacjohnson@purdue.edu or harkneml@ucmail.uc.edu). Reviewers prepare comments, reviews, and recommendations for 1-2 manuscripts



*Congratulations
to*



SSMA President Gil Naizer presents to **Stacy Reeder** for serving on SSMA Board



Lory Park presents **John Park** Graduate Travel Awards

Outstanding Dissertation Award



SSMA President Gil Naizer presents to **Dittika Gupta**

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 2016 Awards

Deadline for submission of nominations: March 15, 2016

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)

2016 SSMA Convention

October 20-22, 2016

Phoenix, Arizona

Grand Resort

www.arizonagrandresort.com



Call for Proposals: January 5, 2016

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE: March 1, 2016

ACCEPTANCE NOTIFICATION: April 22, 2016

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

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:

Ron Zambo, Ronald.zambo@asu.edu

Adrienne Sanogo Adrienne.redmond@okstate.edu

Julia Utley (Juliana.utley@okstate.edu)

About Our Organization...

SCHOOL SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS ASSOCIATION

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Email
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We're on the Web!

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).

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