

The Math–Science Connector

108th Annual Convention

WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND:

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Recession Special

Given the current economic times, the SSMA Program Planning Committee and the Board of Directors worked to keep convention costs to a minimum. The registration form is available on the SSMA website (<http://www.ssma.org/>) for convenient online registration.

Teacher Saturday

Sessions that will be of special interest to K-12 teachers have been scheduled on Saturday, October 24. With a special one-day fee of \$25, we hope to meet many of the teachers within driving distance of Reno. We hope all of our members will take advantage of this unique opportunity to network with area teachers and introduce them to our organization.

Local Activities

The planning committee has arranged several optional activities highlighting the local attractions. You will need to register and pay for these separately from your conference registration. *Look for email announcements and check the SSMA website for costs and registration procedures for these events.*

- **Virginia City History Tour:** After a full day of sessions on Friday, you can board a chartered bus for dinner and an evening out in Virginia City. We have arranged to have several local experts accompany us on the trip to share information on the unique history of this “Old West” town. For a little background information, you may wish to visit this site: <http://www.visitvirginiacitynv.com/>



*2009 Annual
Convention*

*October 22-24,
2009*

*Grand Sierra
Resort Hotel*

Reno, Nevada





- **Experience Lake Tahoe:** Don't miss the opportunity to visit beautiful Lake Tahoe. Register for a lovely afternoon and evening excursion to Lake Tahoe. The charter bus will leave the Grand Sierra shortly after the conclusion of the convention sessions on Saturday afternoon. Plan to stay an extra day to take advantage of this opportunity.



- **Texas Hold 'em Poker Tournament:** Test your poker skills against those of other SSMA members. Half of the prize pool from this private SSMA event will go to the SSMA endowment fund. The other half will be distributed among the tournament winners. Tournament date, time, and entry fee to be announced.

Keynote Speakers

The Nevada Test Site

A unique national resource, the Nevada Test Site is a massive outdoor laboratory and national experimental center that cannot be duplicated. Larger than the state of Rhode Island, approximately 1,375 square miles, the Nevada Test Site is one of the largest restricted access areas in the United States. The remote site is surrounded by thousands of additional acres of land withdrawn from the public domain for use as a protected wildlife range and for a military gunnery range, creating an unpopulated land area comprising some 5,470 square miles. Charles Costa will speak on a brief history of the Nevada Test Site and will highlight the important role a museum plays in the educational community and how a museum can be a great resource for teachers.

It Pays to Understand the Slot Machine Math

Friday's Keynote address will feature Ken Moberly, a consultant in the Gaming Industry. Ken was the Director of Professional Services at International Game Technology and held the positions of General Manager and Vice-President of Slot Operations for the Peppermill Hotel Casino in Reno, as well as the Corporate Slot Director for five Nevada gaming properties owned by Peppermill, Incorporated. Ken also served as a Vice-President for Mills-Jennings Slot Manufacturing. Ken is currently an industry consultant and guest speaker on casino slot department management and operations. Ken has been a guest speaker and an instructor in the Gaming Management Program at the University of Nevada, Reno for over twenty years. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Business from U.N.R.

MSP Poster Session

If you are involved in a Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) grant, we invite you to submit a poster presentation of your project. The poster session will provide opportunities to share information and ideas about planning, implementing, and evaluating MSP projects.

Please email your MSP poster information to Ken Miller at kmiller@msubillings.edu by August 1, 2009 for inclusion in the Program Booklet. Please include your poster title and presenter information (Name(s), Institution, and Email Address).



Bring the Family

The Grand Sierra is a family resort with something for everyone, including:

- Camp ground
- Spa and Health Club with a fully equipped fitness centre, whirlpool, sauna, steam room, massage, and swimming pool
- Children's adventure centre
- Video Game Parlor, simulator rides, and laser tag
- Movie Theater
- An aquatic golf driving range staffed with professional instructors
- An indoor golf simulator
- An 80,000 square feet casino,
- A 50-lane championship bowling facility
- A Wedding Chapel



With nine restaurants under one roof, the Grand Sierra Resort offers superb dining to fit every taste. Whether you're looking for the elegant tableside service of a truly gourmet steak house, seafood or outstanding Italian food, you'll find just what you're looking for at the Grand Sierra Resort. To see the many amenities offered at the Grand Sierra, visit the resort's website: <http://www.grandsierraresort.com/>

Check the SSMA website (ssma.org) throughout the summer for conference registration information, convention updates, and registration information for special activities and events.

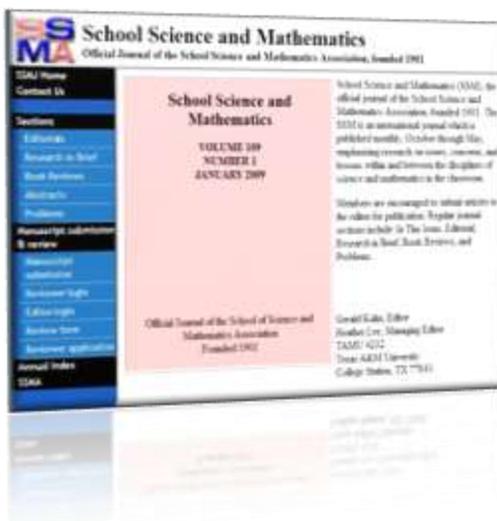
SSMA Journal

All manuscript submissions and reviews for *School Science and Mathematics* are now online through the journal website at <http://ssmj.tamu.edu/>. Hard copy submissions are no longer accepted. Please visit the web site for guidelines and to submit manuscripts. See the October 2008 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 go the Journal website at <http://ssmj.tamu.edu/> and complete an application form. 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.

Quality manuscripts for the Journal are needed. Please see an issue of the Journal or visit the website for content areas and guidelines for submission. Members are especially encouraged to submit data-based research manuscripts on K-12 teaching or learning of science or mathematics, or their integration.

The SSM online submission and review site:
<http://ssmj.tamu.edu/>.





Monograph Submission Guidelines for School Science and Mathematics Association

The SSMA Monograph Guidelines are a three-stage approval process.

Interested parties should submit a general interest inquiry to the chair of the Publications Committee:

Gil Naizer
Associate Professor
Department of Curriculum & Instruction
College of Education and Human Services
Texas A&M University - Commerce
PO Box 3011
Commerce, TX 75429-3011
Phone: (903) 886-5538
Fax: (903) 886-5581
Email: gilbert_naizer@tamuc.edu

This query letter should include the Monograph Editor, probable authors, rationale, background, and introduction and range of topics of the focus subject. A brief Editor's vita should accompany the letter.

Stage One. Query Letter: First, a general interest inquiry is to be submitted to, and then reviewed by, the Publications Committee. This query letter should include the Monograph Editor, probable authors, rationale, background, and introduction and range of topics of the focus subject. A brief Editor's vita should accompany the letter.

Stage Two. Proposal: Upon approval of the letter of interest, a proposal is to be submitted electronically to the Chair of the Publications Committee. This proposal should include a proposed Table of Contents, the introductory (or editorial) chapter, outlines of each chapter (or article) with description and rationale for each, and a timeline of submission of the full monograph. This proposal must first be approved by the Publications Committee, and then forwarded to Board of Directors for Board approval.

Stage Three. Draft of Full Monograph: Upon Board approval of the proposal, a draft of the full monograph is to be submitted to the Chair of the Publications Committee. This full proposal is to be reviewed by the Publications Committee, then, if approved, by the Board of Directors for approval. The final draft of the full monograph is the responsibility of the monograph editor.

Note: Approval of any stage of the submission can be rescinded if the Monograph Editor misses the timelines approved by the Committee and the Board. The Chair of the Publications Committee will act as a liaison between the Board and the Monograph Editor and will be responsible for checking concurrence with the timeline.



Call for SSMA 2010 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.php>. 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 **Alfinio Flores** (alfinio@udel.edu) prior to **March 5, 2010**.



2008 SSMA Award for Excellence in Integrating Science and Mathematics
The Ohio Resource Center for Mathematics, Science, and Reading
Margaret Kasten, Executive Director



2007 SSMA Outstanding Early Career Scholar
Bharath Sriraman



2008 George G. Mallinson Distinguished Service Award
Dr. William R. Speer

SSMA Election Results***President-Elect***

Don S. Balka, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus
Mathematics Department
Saint Mary's College
Notre Dame, IN 46556

Directors-At-Large

Carla C. Johnson
 Director, FUSION STEMM Center
 Associate Professor of Science
 Education
 University of Cincinnati
 Cincinnati, OH 45221



Georgia A. Cobbs, Ph.D.
 Professor, Curriculum &
 Instruction
 The University of Montana
 Missoula, MT 59812-6346

***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 Kees de Groot, Chair of the Nomination and Election Committee. Self-nominations are accepted as well. Please contact:

Cornelis (Kees) de Groot
University of Rhode Island
School of Education
709 Chafee
Kingston, RI 02881
degrootc@mail.uri.edu

Newsletter Editor

Gil Naizer
 Associate Professor
 Department of Curriculum &
 Instruction
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The SSMA Board of Directors approved the Publications Committee's recommendation to appoint Gil as the newsletter editor. His term as editor begins following the 2009 Annual Convention.

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

Notes from SSMA's President

From Alan Zollman's desk

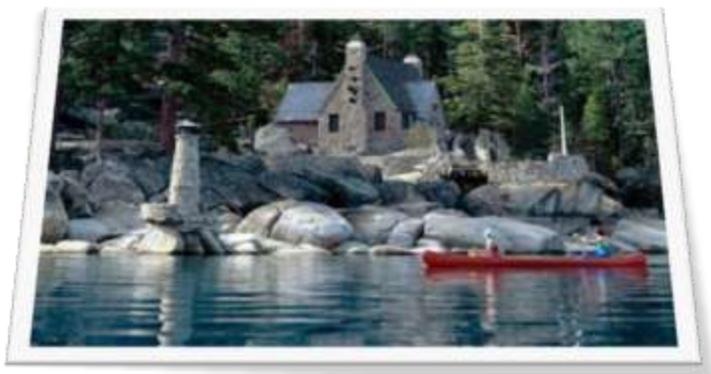
This is the 108th year of the Association! So where are we going? I had the opportunity to be in Washington, DC several times in the past few months. Things are changing, mostly due to the Stimulus Bill and the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5) is the economic stimulus package enacted by the 111th United States Congress and signed into law by President Barack Obama in February, 2009.

In my meetings with Department of Education, Department of Energy, National Science Foundation, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and Congressional staffers, it is clear that all have a potential effect for us as mathematics and science educators. The biggest impact will be in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education. The new emphasis is sTEem. Every agency is stressing the increased importance of technology and engineering, with a de-emphasis of science and mathematics as the *leading* areas in STEM. I heard of not wanting to see silo-ing STEM, where each was a separate yet connected topic. I also heard of wanting to see technology and engineering educators leading grant proposals with mathematics and science added into the plan, not vice-versa. From everyone, I heard of the vital importance of STEM as the leading curricular issue of the new decade.

Two other issues arose in my discussions. The first issue was the dearth of mathematics and science consultants in state departments of education. Perhaps because of the pressure to raise test scores, the state curriculum personnel are either leaving or retiring. With state budget crunches, these vital people are not being replaced. Many states now do not have science or mathematics consultants. In those states that do, these personnel are assigned specifically to managing the DOE math-science partnership grants, with little time to assist schools or teachers.

The second issue was the new emphasis on getting national, not state, mathematics and science standards. The comment was, "Why should the mathematics a third grader needs to know in Vermont be different in Iowa?"

I wanted to close by asking is our glass half-full or half-empty, but I am afraid someone will ask me for my scoring rubric. Good luck out there!



**SCHOOL SCIENCE AND
MATHEMATICS
ASSOCIATION**

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We're on the Web!

See us at:
<http://www.ssma.org/>

2009 SSMA Convention

October 22-24, 2009

Grand Sierra Resort

2500 East 2nd Street – Reno, NV 89595

(800) 501-2651

- ✚ Grand Sierra Resort
-- <http://www.grandsierraresort.com/>
- ✚ Nevada Commission on Tourism
-- <http://reno.travelnevada.com/>
- ✚ The Official Visitors and Vacation site for Reno and Lake Tahoe
-- <http://www.visitrenotahoe.com/>
- ✚ The Best Things to Do in Reno
-- <http://www.10best.com/Reno,NV/>
- ✚ Reno, Nevada City Guide
-- <http://www.helloreno.com/>
- ✚ Reno-Sparks Chamber of Commerce
-- <http://www.reno-sparkschamber.org/>
- ✚ Reno-Tahoe Travel Guide
-- <http://www.gotorennotahoe.com/>



*Planning
Ahead ???*

*2010 Annual
Convention*

Ft. Myers, FL

Nov. 4-6, 2010

About Our Organization...

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*.
- 3 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 Sandi Cooper** (office@ssma.org).

To contribute news items for inclusion in the SSMA newsletter (*The Math-Science Connector*), please contact **Valeria Amburgey** (vamburgey@insightbb.com).