

The Math–Science Connector

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

2013 Convention Information	1
Preview of the 112 th Convention	2
Social Activities/Local Attractions	3
Endowment Campaign	5
Spring Board Meeting Report	6
SSM Journal Information	7
Call for Executive Director	8
Welcome New Board Members	9
Call for Newsletter Editor	9
Call for Awards	10
Call for Nominations	11
Save the Date – Jacksonville	12
SSMA General Information	13



The Menger Hotel

204 Alamo Plaza
San Antonio, TX 78205
Phone: (210)223-4361

112th Annual Convention
**“Learning Mathematics &
Science through Media
Literacy”**

San Antonio, TX

Nov. 14 - 16, 2013

Menger Hotel Accommodations

To make on-line reservations:

- 1) Go to: www.mengerhotel.com
- 2) Click on "Reservations"
- 3) Select PROMO/CORPORATE and enter the group code: SSMA13

To make telephone reservations, be sure to reference the SSMA Convention November 11-18, 2013:

**1-800-345-9285
1-210-223-4361 x7373**

➤ Look for an email with Convention registration information in July or check the website:

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

The Conference will be held at the Menger Hotel located right across the street from the Mission San Antonio de Valero (the Alamo) and a block from the the heart of the River Walk. The San Antonio River Walk is a public park, open every day of the year. Dozens of bars, shops and restaurants line the walkways along the banks of the San Antonio River, one story below downtown San Antonio.

The Menger Hotel is the oldest continuously operating hotel west of the Mississippi.

The Menger is often known at “the most haunted hotel in Texas” with Teddy Roosevelt often seen sipping a drink at the Menger Bar and Roy Rogers (& Trigger) making occasional nighttime visits.

Convention Travel Information

San Antonio International Airport (<http://www.ci.sat.tx.us/aviation/>) offers an average of 260 daily domestic and international departures and arrivals and is served by all major airlines. San Antonio International Airport is located in Northern San Antonio, approximately eight miles or 15 minutes from the downtown area. Airport shuttle service and taxi service available.

Convention Preview

The theme for the 2013 annual SSMA Convention is *Learning Mathematics and Science through Media*. The Convention starts at 8:30 A.M. Thursday morning and concludes Saturday afternoon. The 2013 convention will offer general sessions, research presentations, roundtable discussions, and interactive/hands-on workshops. Additionally, the convention will feature a new open format type session, *Innovations Showcase in Math and Science*, on Saturday afternoon during lunch. These special sessions will highlight innovative ideas that showcase hands-on, technology-related, open ended problem solving activities.

Keynote Speakers:

Dr. Doug Rogers, Baylor University – Thursday Morning Opening Session

Layering Learning: Augmented Reality Comes to the Classroom

Straight from the scifi moves of the future, Augmented Reality (AR) is a new application available in many forms on newer mobile devices (iPads, tablets, smart phones, etc.) that allows the user to look through the mobile device's camera and see additional information layered over the image in front of the camera. The keynote will introduce the concept of AR, identify a variety of educational possibilities with AR, and demonstrate a brief tutorial on creating AR applications for the local classroom.

Dano Johnson Partner – Writer, Director, and Animator Collection Agency Films – Thursday Evening with Reception

The Making of Flatland and Sphereland

The classic mathematical novels 'Flatland' and 'Sphereland' have been used in classrooms around the world for decades. Filmmaker Dano Johnson walks you through the process of bringing these worlds to life using computer animation. From adapting the novels to animating 4-dimensional characters, learn the surprising amount of mathematics and creativity used to make these films with the goal of encouraging young minds to use mathematics to understand our 3-dimensional world.

Steve Wolf, Recipient of Time Warner Cable's "S.T.E.M. Presenter of the Year" award! – Friday Luncheon

Science in the Movies

An exciting live performance revealing the exciting ways science is used to create movie stunts and special effects.

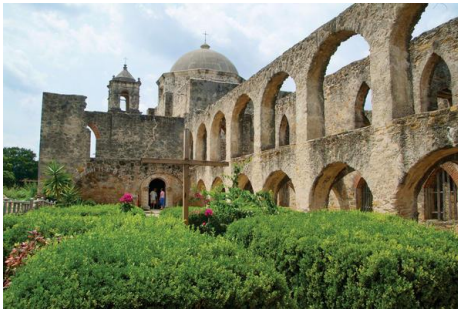
***Top Downtown San Antonio Attractions***

- [The Alamo](#)
- [River Walk](#)
- [Market Square](#)
- [Spanish Missions National Historical Park](#)
- [San Antonio Museum of Art](#)
- [Buckhorn Wild West Museum](#)
- [La Villita Historic Arts Village](#)
- [San Antonio Children's Museum](#)
- [Spanish Governor's Palace](#)
- [Hemisfair Park and Tower of the Americas](#)

Other Top San Antonio Attractions

- [San Antonio Zoo](#)
- [Sea World San Antonio](#)
- [Witte Museum](#)
- [King William Historic District](#)

We look forward to seeing everyone in San Antonio!



The links below provide more information about San Antonio and the River Walk

<http://visitsanantonio.com/>

<http://www.thesanantonioriverwalk.com/>

<http://www.sanantonioriverwalk.com/>

<http://riverwalkguide.com/>

\$\$ SSMA Endowment Campaign \$\$

The School Science and Mathematics Association Endowment Fund channels the generosity of contributors through the creation and funding of grants, awards, honors, and other projects that support the improvement of science and mathematics teaching and learning.

The SSMA Board will continue to campaign for additional donations to the SSMA Endowment. We are approaching a goal that will allow the use of generated interest to support the its original mission (see above). The 2013 Endowment Campaign will once again include a Silent Auction to be held at the Convention in San Antonio.

The Silent Auction will take place Friday near the Convention Registration area. Bids will be taken throughout the afternoon. Winning bids will be collected via cash or check only.

Certainly, SSMA Members are invited to donate items to the Silent Auction. Board members will also take an active role in securing donated articles for the auction such as: items from San Antonio buisnesses, Hotel weekends, bottles of wine, books from esteemed SSMA authors.



SSMA is now on Facebook! See:

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/School-Science-and-Mathematics-Association/110197605734717>

SSMA President's Column: John Park

The Board of Directors met May 19th-21st at the Menger Hotel in San Antonio, Texas which will be the location of our Annual Convention November 14-16. The Menger is both beautiful and functional as a venue for our organization. SSMA director and convention co-chair Suzanne Nesmith gave us a tour of the Menger's convention facilities.

We had a record number of session submission for the fall convention. As in the past, we will have a presidential reception for graduate students and the Board. Be sure to invite your graduate students to the convention. The registration for graduate students has been reduced to \$195 for the entire convention due to donated funds specifically for that purpose.

We are very close to our \$50,000 goal for donated funds towards the SSMA endowment. We are encouraging continued giving to the endowment through the end of the year and beyond. Feel free to bring something to the silent auction. Last year's initial auction was lots of fun, and provided a boost towards our goal.

Membership is a bit lower that it was last year at this time, down to about 430 members. Be sure to renew to continue receiving all the benefits our organization provides. We continue to remain financially stable, enjoying a profitable relationship with our journal publisher, Wiley-Blackwell.

The board was informed of some sad news for us: Julie Thomas and Juliana Utley are ending their term as Executive directors one year earlier than anticipated. They are finishing at the end of June 2014. That will give us some time to search for a new executive director, and for this new director to gear up for the job beginning July 1st, 2014. Julie is in her second term as executive director, being a co-director with Sandi Cooper. Juliana joined Julie as co-director during Julie's second term. We thank you for your service to SSMA, and are looking forward to serving with you this next year.

School Science and Mathematics Journal Information

Upcoming SSM Special Issue on Integrated STEM Education

The March 2014 issue of the School Science and Mathematics Journal will be devoted to a special issue on Integrated STEM Education. In a growing era of STEM related policy, research, and practice, there is an emerging need to disseminate cutting edge educational research focused on Integrated STEM Education in PK-20. Some potential topics that will be addressed in the issue include:

- Implications of STEM related policy at the federal, state, or local levels
- Studies of teachers and or schools/districts implementing Integrated STEM programs and/or themed schools
- Early childhood Integrated STEM experiences
- Integration of STEM careers into K-12 curriculum
- Partnerships between private and public organizations, higher education, and K-12 schools to address regional, state, or national STEM talent shortages
- Studies of the impact of integrated STEM instruction on student achievement in science and/or mathematics

ALSO - Look for two special sessions at the SSMA Conference this fall focused on Publishing in the Journal and Reviewing for the Journal.

The Editorial Team, Dr. Carla C. Johnson and Dr. Shelly Harkness from the University of Cincinnati have continued to do an outstanding job with the Journal and welcome submission of quality articles.

Manuscript Submission

Visit this site to read information for authors, search recent articles, and/or submit an article for review:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/%28ISSN%291949-8594>

For manuscript guidelines, see the inside back cover of the Journal, or the journal website.

Is SSMJ in your University library? Believe it or not, faculty have a great influence on librarians. If the Journal is not in your library, have a talk with your librarian about the value of SSMJ and the 100+ years of quality STEM research.

Call for Proposals
Executive Director(s)
School Science and Mathematics Association

The School Science and Mathematics Association is seeking proposals for the position of Executive Director for a five-year term for the period July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2019. The Executive Director provides leadership and significant service at the national level and works directly with the President and the Board of Directors to achieve the goals and objectives of the Association. The Executive Director serves as an appointed member of the Board of Directors and acts in an advisory (non-voting) capacity. The Executive Director is directly responsible for the staff and operation of the Central Office of the Association, which is housed at the Executive Director's institution.

The Central Office handles all business and financial operations, membership management, and day-to-day operations of the Association. The Central Office also maintains the primary web site at <http://www.ssma.org>. A full-time Executive Assistant and a graduate student or assistant, who are dedicated to the operation of the Central Office, are supervised by the Executive Director.

Other duties of the Executive Director include treasurer and chief financial officer of the Association. In that capacity, the Executive Director manages financial affairs, pays bills, and signs contracts in the name of the Association. The Executive Director also arranges for board travel and accommodations at Spring and Fall Board Meetings and arranges for all meeting rooms and catering for SSMA conventions and events. The Executive Director assists all committees with their assigned and regular responsibilities and works closely with the Conventions Committee to coordinate the planning of future conventions.

We seek qualities in a Director that include training and experience in science and/or mathematics education; expert computer skills including extensive work with databases and spreadsheets; management skills in hiring and supervising office staff; contractual negotiating skills; and financial accounting skills.

The host university is expected to provide staffing and support such as half-time release for the Executive Director, a full-time Executive Assistant dedicated to the position, and a graduate student or assistant. The Association, recognizing the importance and scope of the position, offers financial support in the amount of \$35,000 to assist the host university in developing an effective model of operations for the Central Office. The host institution is reimbursed beyond this amount for Association-related long distance calls, duplication and printing, and mailing. All position-related expenses for travel done in the name of the Association, including Board and Convention meetings, are likewise covered. The host institution will provide the office space and furniture sufficient to support the Executive Director, full-time Executive Assistant, and a graduate assistant or assistant. Space must also be supplied for file cabinets, Association-owned computer equipment, and storage of publications and records.

Candidates for the position must submit a written application by October 1, 2013, that includes the following information: (1) Brief Introduction, (2) Curriculum Vita, (3) Operational and Organizational Plan for the Central Office; (4) Proposed Budget describing how the \$35,000 from SSMA and financial commitments from the host institution would be distributed; and (5) Endorsement Letter from a qualified superior committing the host institution to the terms mentioned above. The School Science and Mathematics Association is interested especially in applications involving institutions that value this type of service in its faculty members and look favorably on such contributions with regard to matters of faculty retention and promotion.

Interested parties may contact the Chair of the Search Committee, Don S. Balka, at 574-784-3382 for more information. Formal selection is expected to occur at the November 2013 Board Meeting. Completed applications should be emailed to:

Dr. Don S. Balka
SSMA Executive Director Search Committee
donbalka@sprintmail.com

Newsletter Editor Opening

After 4 years as newsletter editor, as Gil prepares to take on the position of SSMA President Elect, the position of Newsletter editor becomes vacant.

The newsletter editor is responsible for publishing the official SSMA newsletter, *The Math-Science Connector* twice a year.

The newsletter editor serves as an ex-officio member of the Publications Committee and the SSMA Board of Directors and is attends the summer and fall Board meetings.

Persons interested in this position, please contact SSMA President John Park:

John_C_Park@baylor.edu

Welcome Incoming Board Members

The SSMA Board welcomes our new members who take their place on the board at the fall Convention



Tim Laubach

*Assistant Professor of
Science Education
University of Oklahoma
Norman, OK*



Melanie Shores

*Associate Professor
The University of
Alabama Birmingham
Birmingham, AL*

Call for SSMA 2014 Awards

Deadline for submission of nominations: March 15, 2014

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 Shores** (mshores@uab.edu) prior to **March 15, 2014**.

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 Stacy Reeder, Chair of the Nomination and Election Committee. Self-nominations are accepted as well.

Please contact:

Stacy Reeder
Instructional Leadership and Academic Curriculum
University of Oklahoma
Norman, OK 73019
reeder@ou.edu

The Association always seeks volunteers for its six standing committees: Awards & Endowment, Conventions, Finance, Nomination & Election, Policy, and Publications.

If you are interested in any of the committee positions, just contact SSMA President John Park, John_C_Park@baylor.edu, or the SSMA Office at office@ssma.org.

Save the Date:

SSMA 2014 Annual Convention

Jacksonville, FL

November 6 - 8, 2014

Where: Omni Hotel

<http://www.omnihotels.com/FindAHotel/Jacksonville.aspx>

CALL FOR PROPOSALS - Look for the proposal announcement at the fall convention.



[SSMA 2015 Convention – Oklahoma City](#)
[Details coming soon.](#)

About Our Organization...

SCHOOL SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS ASSOCIATION

College of Education
Oklahoma State University

245 Williard
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.
- Choice of electronic or print subscription to the 8 issues of the official journal *School Science and Mathematics*.
- Free electronic access to archive articles of the previous 110 years of Journal
- 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@tamuc.edu).

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