

# Society for the Scientific Study of Reading

## SSSR Newsletter, August 2000

This edition of the SSSR Newsletter contains information about the recent 2000 SSSR Meeting, the Call for Papers for the 2001 meeting, and additional information about SSSR. This Newsletter, along with the Call for Papers and other useful information, will be found also on the SSSR web-page. We expect this to be the last SSSR newsletter to be printed and distributed by regular mail. The SSSR web-site is now the official source of information for the Society:  
<http://www.gse.utah.edu/edst/sssr>

### **The Stockholm Meeting**

The 2000 meeting of SSSR took place in Stockholm in July, the first meeting of the Society outside North America. There were about 75 spoken papers, including a symposium on cross-orthography comparisons of reading acquisition, plus 46 posters. The 2-day meeting concluded with stimulating invited addresses by Peter Bryant and Dick Venezky, SSSR's 1999 research award winners. As one who can take no credit for arranging this meeting, I feel free to praise it as a terrific meeting in a beautiful venue. In addition to its high scientific caliber, the large turnout of reading researchers from outside North America gives clear evidence for the international character of the Society. Surely, the Society must consider the world as its meeting place.

### **2001 Meeting**

In 2001, SSSR will hold its annual meeting in Boulder Colorado on June 1, 2, and 3<sup>rd</sup>. The meeting will take place at an attractive resort, the Regal Harvest House. Information provided by the Resort includes the following:

“Guests enjoy the ambiance and activity of a complete resort. Situated on 16 acres at the base of the Rocky Mountains, the Regal Harvest House is located in a very convenient part of Boulder with easy access to Downtown Denver and Denver International Airport. There are 15-20 restaurants within walking distance of the hotel in addition to our own Fancy Moose Restaurant. Also, the University of Colorado, eight movie theaters, the Crossroads Mall and the Pearl Street Mall are all nearby and give your attendees plenty of options for recreational activities. Our full range of accommodations and recreational amenities make our hotel an ideal location for your guests. They can tend to their daily business as well as take some time to relax and unwind.”

Boulder is reached easily from Denver's airport by direct buses from the terminal.

Room rates are \$119 .00 for Single and Double Occupancy. Rates do not include tax, which is currently 9.70%. You can reach the hotel web page by starting with

[www.regalhotel.com](http://www.regalhotel.com) and going to the Boulder location. You will need to call or fax the hotel directly at 303 443 3850 (fax 303 443 1480) and announce that you are with the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading to get the SSSR room rate.

Please make your reservation now to have the best chance for a room with mountain views. Even if you are not absolutely sure you will attend, your early reservations will allow us to expand our reduced-rate block, if that proves necessary. The rooms are quite large and contain either a king size or two double beds. If you plan to extend your stay in Boulder, the hotel will offer the same conference room rate. Space should be available after the conference. However, Boulder is hosting a large (45,000 runners) 10 K race the weekend and Monday prior to the conference, so space may not be available then.

### **Call for Proposals**

Proposals should be postmarked, OR PREFERABLY E-MAILED, by **October 15, 2000**. (Note that this is an extension of the October 1 deadline given in the July 6 emailed call for papers.) The program will be distributed in February, but notice of acceptance will be made as soon as possible so travel plans can be made. The program will consist of scientific papers that report original research in reading. Topics include but are not limited to the following: reading acquisition, skilled reading processes, spelling, text comprehension, writing systems, individual differences in reading, connections between spoken and written language processes, reading instruction, reading difficulties, and socio-cultural influences on reading.

Papers may be presented by voting members, active members, and student members of the Society. Proposals from active members and student members consist of a title, a maximum 100 word abstract, and a 1-2 page (2 page maximum) summary, which explains the major questions and methods of the study and the importance of the results. Priority goes to the studies that are completed. Papers will be reviewed by a program committee consisting of SSSR members. Although an attempt will be made to accommodate all proposals judged favorably, space limitations may be a factor in the final selection of papers. If space limits the number of spoken papers, an author's willingness to give a poster instead of a spoken paper increases the chances of the paper's inclusion on the program. First authors will be notified by email of the acceptance or rejection of the paper.

Proposals submitted by voting members, who need to include only titles and abstracts, will be accepted without review. Generally, voting members' papers will be accepted as spoken presentations; however, some may be assigned as posters, if space for spoken papers is limited.

All papers at the Stockholm meeting were 15 minutes, with 5 minutes for discussion and movement between the parallel sessions. This worked very well,

so we will continue this procedure for the 2001 meeting. Session chairs will impose strict clocks on speaking time to synchronize the parallel sessions. Generally, parallel sessions will be scheduled, but the program committee may nominate a small number of papers to be presented at a general session.

Proposals for posters from members at all levels are encouraged. It has been encouraging to see an increase in the number of posters presented by senior researchers. This is an excellent format for presenting research in a way that encourages real discussion.

All authors of papers will be listed in the program, with the first author designated as the presenter. Any author who becomes unable to present a paper listed in the program should contact the program chair immediately by email. Failure to do so may result in loss of eligibility at the next year's meeting.

All presenters must register for the conference and pay the registration fee. International members may pay registration fees in cash (U.S.) at the time of the meeting at the advance registration rate.

Proposals should be submitted to the program chair at the address below, (PREFERABLY BY EMAIL). Accepted email submissions will have their abstracts included in the conference web-page program. To submit your proposal by email, send it to: [rolson@psych.colorado.edu](mailto:rolson@psych.colorado.edu) (not the SSSR list serve). Include "Call for Papers" as the subject. We prefer that you include the full submission in your email message, not as an attachment. If you send it as an attachment to your email, please send it as a regular text file. Include the following information in your email proposal, in this order:

1. Paper Title
2. Presenting Author, with (a) affiliation, (b) address, (c) phone, (d) E-mail
3. Co-authors and affiliations
4. Membership Status: (a) Voting, (b) Active, (c) Student, (d) Application for membership submitted.
5. Preference for participation (a) Spoken paper but willing to give poster if necessary, (b) Poster, (c) Spoken paper only.
7. Are you willing to chair a session? (a) yes, (b) no.
8. 100 word (maximum) abstract
9. 250 to 500 word summary

Your email submission is taken to affirm your understanding that proposals for this meeting are original and affirm that your identical proposal has not been published nor presented at another professional meeting.

Proposals by regular mail should include 4 copies of the abstract and summary, and one copy of the proposal cover sheet (which includes points 1-7 for the email submission). All proposals by regular mail must include a self-addressed stamped envelop for notice of program participation. The deadline for both regular and email submissions is October 15, 2000.

The address for regular mail submission is:

Richard Olson  
Department of Psychology, CB 345  
University of Colorado  
Boulder, CO 80309

### **Registration**

To register for the conference, fill out the enclosed registration form and return it with payment (non U.S. members may pay without late penalty at the meeting) to Darlene Beeman in Kansas City (see address on form).

### **Membership in SSSR**

To join SSSR, please visit the SSSR Web Page (<http://www.gse.utah.edu/edst/sssr>) and follow the procedures there, downloading a form for membership.

Dues are as follows: Students = \$40.00; Active, Voting, and Charter Members = \$100.00. A \$25.00 late fee will be charged for dues paid after 31 March of each year, except for non-U.S. members who may pay at the meeting without a late charge.

### **SSSR Updates**

At its 2000 meeting, the SSSR Board approved a modification in the Society's awards procedure. Under this modification, the SSSR makes a single award, the Distinguished Scientific Contributions Award. The award recognizes empirical, theoretical, or scholarly work or collections of works that have served significantly to further the scientific understanding of reading, its processes, its acquisition, or its instruction. Normally, the award will be made at least every other year.

Additional issues taken up by the Board or by the membership at the annual business meeting include the following: (1) The creation of a new student research award to appropriately honor the late Alvin Liberman and Isabelle Liberman, two champions of research-informed reading practices. A specific proposal will be developed in the coming months. (2) The possibility of combining a future meeting of SSSR with the meeting of the Society for Text and Discourse. The idea is for a meeting on adjacent dates in the same location. (3) A decision to make the SSSR web-page the primary source of information about meetings and other SSSR affairs and to discontinue the mailing of a printed newsletter. As part of this change, the web-page will contain the Society's membership roster,

including e-mail addresses. Members will have the right to decline to have their names and addresses listed. A password will be sent to members by email for access to the membership roster, to avoid any unauthorized use of the list. (4) Informally, there is some sentiment for increasing the frequency of meetings outside North America beyond the current once in 5 years. The international character of the Society makes this a very reasonable goal.

Input from members on any of these issues is welcome.

### **2000 SSSR Award**

As announced at the Stockholm meeting, the winner of the 2000 award for Distinguished Scientific Contributions is Keith Stanovich. The award recognizes Stanovich's wide ranging and influential work in important areas of basic research and his commitment to promoting science-informed instruction. Congratulations, Keith!

### **SSSR Board**

The current composition of the SSSR is as follows: President, Charles Perfetti; President-elect, Richard Olson; Vice-President, Joanna Williams; Past-President Ralph Reynolds; Secretary, Benita Blachman; Treasurer, Don Compton; Historian, Kathleen Brown; International Coordinator, Brian Thompson; Elected Board Members, Anne Cunningham, Pieter Reitsma, Hollis Scarborough; Chair of Publications Committee, Phil Gough

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