

Society for the Scientific Study of Reading

SSSR Newsletter, September 2003

This edition of the SSSR Newsletter contains a look back at the 2003 meeting, information about the 2004 meeting in Amsterdam, the 2005 meeting in Toronto, and additional information about SSSR, including SSSR membership, new voting members, plans for updating the SSSR web site, a note from Frank Manis, our SSR Editor, and my reflections on the 10th anniversary of SSSR.

The 2003 Meeting in Broomfield/Boulder Colorado

SSSR held its 2003 meeting in Broomfield on June 12-15. The Board regretted moving the meeting from Toronto in response to the WHO travel advisory regarding SARS, and we look forward to holding our 2005 meeting in Toronto (see below).

The Renaissance Suites at Flatiron Hotel was available on short notice and provided a remarkably inexpensive but high level of luxury and convenience for our 2003 meeting. Some enjoyed the world-class shopping across from the hotel, while others traveled to Boulder for hiking and our group dinner at Chautauqua Mountain Park.

The SSSR scientific program, skillfully coordinated by Joanna Williams, included 81 posters and 66 oral presentations. The total registration count was 236, reflecting a remarkably high level of participation under the circumstances of our moving the meeting from Toronto. The presidential address included some reflections on the tenth anniversary of SSSR that are attached at the end of this newsletter.

2004 Meeting in Amsterdam

The 2004 SSSR meeting will be held in Amsterdam, June 27-30, organized by Pieter Reitsma. The call for papers was sent out on the list serve on September 17. Proposals are due by December 7. See the Call for Papers on the Society Home Page <http://www.ed.utah.edu/edst/sssr/> . Pieter would like to encourage submissions of proposals for symposia. He will soon announce, on the list serve and SSSR web page, the specific location for our meeting in Amsterdam, and he will provide the names of hotels in the area that will offer special rates for SSSR members.

Please forward this newsletter to anyone you think might be interested in presenting at or attending the 2004 SSSR meeting, but may not have received the call for papers through the SSSR list serve.

2005 Meeting in Toronto

There was strong support from the Board and membership to hold our 2005 meeting in Toronto. We are close to finalizing a contract with the Marriott Eaton Centre Hotel for June 24-26, 2005. A note will be sent out on the list serve and posted on the SSSR web site when arrangements are completed.

Membership in SSSR

To join SSSR, please go to the SSSR Web Page (<http://www.ed.utah.edu/edst/sssr>) and follow the procedures there, downloading a form for membership. Membership in the Society includes a subscription to the Society's Journal, *Scientific Studies of Reading*, published by Lawrence Erlbaum.

Voting Membership

At its 2003 meeting, the Board approved the applications of 3 new voting members. They are Stephanie Al Otaiba (Florida State University) Frances Martin University of Tasmania), and Teresa Roberts (California State University). Congratulations to all!

The Board strongly encourages current Active members to examine the criteria for Voting membership and apply for consideration at the 2004 Board meeting. The criteria and Voting membership forms can be found at the bottom of the Conference page on the SSSR home page.

SSSR Web Site

You may notice that when you access the SSSR web site at <http://www.ed.utah.edu/edst/sssr> , your browser switches immediately to <http://www.umkc.edu/education/sssr>. You should update your favorites list to reflect this change, though the Utah URL will continue to work until further notice. The SSSR web page is currently being updated with a number of new features, including the capability for web payment of dues and registration, and member access to the electronic SSR Journal. We hope to have the new web page completed by the end of the year.

SSR--the Society's Journal, from the Editor

Scientific Studies of Reading continues to prosper, and to attract outstanding research contributions, as we finish off volume 7 and move into volume 8. The SSSR membership has responded by sending its best work in to the journal and we are attracting contributions from reading researchers around the world. The journal is becoming available in more libraries, but this is a slow process, given the reluctance of libraries to add new periodicals. To the extent possible, it is important for members to cajole the libraries they use to adopt the journal. Libraries have the option of buying the journal as hard copies or both hard copy and electronic copies.

There is other work to be done to further the cause of the journal. The Society is working to make the journal electronically accessible to all members. The journal is not yet in the Social Science Citation Index, as some members pointed out, but the publisher is aware of this and is engaged in the sometimes arduous process of getting that approved.

The upcoming issues have a lot to offer. We have a special issue on Morphological Processes (edited by Verhoeven and Perfetti) that came out late this summer, and a special issue on brain imaging and reading due out in Fall, 2004. There are other

outstanding papers due to come out in the last issue of 2003, as well as the first two issues of 2004. I have some interesting proposals for special issues for the 2005 volume under consideration in October by the Editorial Board.

I would like to express my thanks to the membership of SSSR for continuing to produce high quality research studies, and to consider SSR as an outlet for their work. My sincere appreciation also goes to the Editorial Board and to the many ad hoc reviewers who have given generously of their time and scientific acumen, in reviewing the 30-40 papers (along with revisions) that come our way each year. You have been an invaluable resource to me.

Keep up the good work, and keep sending it to SSR first!

Frank Manis
Editor

SSSR Board and Elections

The composition of the current SSSR Board is as follows: President, Richard Olson; President-elect, Joanna Williams; Vice-President, Pieter Reitsma; Past-President Chuck Perfetti; Secretary, Lesly Wade-Wooley; Treasurer, Don Compton; Historian, Anne Cunningham; International Coordinator, Victor van Daal; Publications Chair, Hollis Scarborough. Elected Board Members are Marilyn Adams, Benita Blachman, and Hugh Catts.

Voting members will soon receive a ballot for the election of a new Vice President and a Board member. Joanna Williams will take over as President, and Pieter Reitsma will become President Elect on January 1, 2004. As I leave the office of President, I would like to thank the Board for all their help in guiding SSSR.

Reflections on the 10th Anniversary of SSSR

(The following is the first section of my presidential address paper titled SSSR, Environment, and Genes, now in press in SSR.)

It has been more than 10 years since I received a letter from Ron Carver inviting me to be a charter member in a new organization titled the "Society for the Scientific Study of Reading." Ron's letter caused two immediate reactions: The name of the organization seemed a bit odd (do we really have to say we are "scientific"?), and the last thing I needed at the time was another conference to attend. AERA, IRA, NRC, SRCD, IDA, BDA, BGA, and the Psychonomics Society were quite enough, thank you. On further reflection, the list of 88 invited charter members included many of the top researchers in reading, and I was honored to be on the list. Meeting with this group in a small organization could be fun. Another thing that intrigued me about the list was that it included a very broad range of research perspectives, including those from general education, special education, psychology, linguistics, and neuroscience, though I was the only person on the list with research related to the potential contribution of genes to reading. Such a broad range of perspectives on reading research was unmatched in my other organizations, and this is still true today. So, I signed on, and many thanks to Ron Carver and the first Board for starting SSSR.

Another characteristic of Ron's list of proposed charter members was its international representation. That representation has grown significantly over the last 10 years. Our first meeting outside the U.S. was a very successful one in Montreal (1999), followed by a successful but smaller meeting in Stockholm (2000), and we look forward to our 11th annual meeting in Amsterdam (2004). In my view, our broad international representation is just as important and unique as our interdisciplinary perspective. While the majority of our membership is still from the U.S., we benefit greatly from learning about research and developing collaborations with SSSR members from other countries, cultures, and languages. My hope is that our international perspective in SSSR will continue to grow, and that more of our U.S. members will participate in SSSR meetings outside the U.S. and Canada. If a name change for SSSR is ever to be considered, "International" should be part of it.

Finally, it has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as president of SSSR, but I do look forward to having less responsibility and more time to hear talks, view posters, and chat with SSSR members at our annual meetings.