

Society for the Scientific Study of Reading President's Newsletter 2010

Seventeenth Annual Conference

Our annual conference was held at the Freie University in Berlin, Germany. The recently opened Seminaris CampusHotel conference center served as a superb venue. Thanks to the huge efforts of Don Compton, President-Elect, and the local assistance of Art Jacobs, it was a very successful meeting. It was our largest conference yet with 454 registrants and 413 presentations. We also had an excellent plenary session in which Hollis Scarborough delivered her DSC award presentation via internet connection. All who attended enjoyed the food, beverage, entertainment and culture of Berlin.



Also, in conjunction with the conference, Helene Deacon organized a pre-conference on structural equation modeling, led by David Francis. The preconference included 57 participants, of which 52 were early career researchers or students, and 5 were more established researchers.

Awards

The recipients of two awards were announced at this year's conference. The Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award was given to Maggie Snowling for her many significant contributions to the field of reading. The Rebecca Sandak Award was presented to Eva Marinus. This award recognizes an early career researcher who holds great promise and dedication to the field. In addition to these awards, the Board has approved the recognition of Honorary Member which may be given to an individual who has made an exceptional contribution to the affairs of the Society over a sustained period.

Pieter Reitsma is the first recipient of this recognition. We thank Pieter for his long and distinguished service to the Society.

SSR Journal

The Society's journal, *Scientific Studies of Reading*, has continued to do well. Although the impact factor dropped last year to 2, it still is the highest rated of all reading journals, and number 10 out of 139 education journals. We had a 50% increase in submissions over the previous year (N=126), and continue to have enough high quality papers to fill 6 issues a year. Thanks to Rauno Parrila, Editor, and to Helen Deacon and Paul van den Broek, Associate Editors, for their valuable service to the organization.

Membership

Our membership continues to grow in size and diversity. We currently have 816 members from 33 different countries. Our student membership of 251 also holds promise for the future. Please remember to pay your membership dues for 2011 by April 1 to avoid a late fee. We rely on dues, and the income from the journal, to underwrite the annual conference, to pay administration costs, to sponsor the pre-conference workshop and to make travel awards (of which there will be two \$1000 awards this coming year). Also, at the time of registration we will be gathering information about membership nationality and country of origin to better document our international membership.

Patrick Snellings (University of Amsterdam), Young-Suk Kim (Florida Centre for Reading Research), Arne Lervag (University of Oslo), Shelly Xiuli Tong (University of Western Sydney), and Jessie Ricketts (University of Warwick) were granted voting membership this year. I encourage all other qualified members to apply for voting status so that our election results are representative of the membership. Prospective voting members must have authored at least three empirical papers in peer-reviewed journals, be the first author of at least one of these, be an active member of SSSR and have given a spoken or interactive paper at the annual SSSR conference. Instructions for applying for voting membership can be found in the members section of the SSSR website.

Board Membership

I am pleased to announce that in the recent election, Athanassios Protopapas was selected as the new elected board member. New appointed board members include Lesly Wade-Woolley (Secretary), and Ana Luiza Navas (International Coordinator). Becky Chen also completed her first year in our new Executive Secretary position. I would like to thank Peter de Jong who is ending his term as an elected board member for his service to the organization.

2011 Conference

Next year's annual conference will be held July 13-16 at the Don CeSar Beach Resort in St. Petersburg Beach, FL. It may be warm in Florida during the summer, but the hotel is

located right on a beautiful beach that is great for swimming. Plus, Don tells me that we have never held a meeting at a venue as nice as this one. Please put the dates on your calendar, and if you have not submitted a proposal, you have until December 15th to do so.



<http://www.loewshotels.com/en/Don-CeSar-Beach-Resort>

Prepared by Hugh Catts, President SSSR