

Society for the Scientific Study of Reading President's Newsletter 2013

Happy New Year to all SSSR members. I am pleased provide you with an update of another great year for the Society.

Twentieth Annual Conference



Our twentieth annual conference was held at the Yasumoto International Academic Park, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. It marked the 50th anniversary of the university and the 20th anniversary of the society. It was our first conference in Asia and by all accounts it was a huge success! I want to thank Cammie McBride for the hard work she put into bringing the group to Hong Kong. The conference was well attended with 38 symposiums, 190 spoken papers, and 143 interactive poster presentations. Please join me in thanking Cammie and her wonderful students on a job well done. Highlights of the program included open session talks by



Michael Posner “Attention and School Learning” and Robert Plomin “Research on DNA Alone Confirms Twin Study Findings for Reading Abilities and Disabilities.” We were also fortunate to offer another very successful preconference organized by Lee Branum-Martin and Kate Cain.

Twenty-First Annual Conference

Next year’s conference will be held July 16-20 in Santa Fe, New Mexico (details can be found at <http://www.triplesr.org/conference/14conf.php>). Lesly Wade-Woolley will take over the reins as the program chair. This will be a very exciting experience for us and I can personally attest to the beauty, wonder, and spirituality of the high desert in Santa Fe. You won’t want to miss Rick Wagner’s address associated with the Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award given jointly to him and Joe Torgesen in 2012.



Awards

The Rebecca Sandak Award was presented to Fabienne Chetail, a post-doctoral researcher at the Université Libre de Bruxelles. Travel Awards were given to Francis K. Sampa from Zambia and Julia Lee from Malaysia. The Nata Goulandris Travel Award was given to Anna Tsakalaki.

SSR Journal

The Society’s journal, *Scientific Studies of Reading*, continues to do well. In 2012, the journal’s 1-year impact factor was 1.40 (slipping from 1.86 the previous year) and its 5-year impact factor was 3.4 (down from 3.58) making *SSR* the highest impact reading journal. The number of articles submitted in 2013 remains high, which continues to provide enough high quality papers to fill 6 issues a year. Initial turnaround for paper decisions continues to be good (on average about 2 months) and the acceptance rate continues to hover around 15%. The editorial team of Kate Cain (Editor) and Helene Deacon and Peter de Jong (Associate Editors) has recently changed with Peter stepping down as Associate Editor and Karin Landerl skillfully replacing him. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kate, Helene, Peter, and Karin for their fantastic leadership with the journal. **Later this month we will announce the search for a new editor of SSR as Kate’s term ends in March 2015.** We have also made some changes to the Publications Committee. Anne Castles, Anne Cunningham, and John Kirby are stepping down from the committee after many years of faithful service. Thanks so much Anne, Anne, and John! The committee will now be chaired by Nicole Patton-Terry with Suzanne Adlof and Athanassios Protopapas serving as President appointed members. John Kirby has graciously agreed to continue on as a committee member until a new editor is appointed.

Membership

The Society continues to have a larger membership. We currently have 882 Active Members (644 Regular, 228 Student, 10 Emeritus). Membership data shows that we truly are an international organization with members from over 30 different countries attending the 2013 conference. We will be sending out a reminder soon to pay your membership dues for 2014. Please pay your dues on time to avoid a late fee.

Website

A new website will be rolled out later this month. It will look and feel very different. I would like to thank Matt Fields for his tireless work on the old website. His commitment to the society has been extraordinary!

SSSR Board

There are several changes to the SSSR Board. As you all know Hugh Catts will now transition off the Board after 8 years of continuous service. I will move from the role of President to Past President after 16 years of being on the Board. I will continue to chair the Membership Committee and serve on the Awards Committee. Cammie will take over as President and Lesly as President Elect. Ludo Verhoeven was elected to the position of Vice President and Alexandra Gottardo was elected as a Board member, congrats to both of you.

On a personal note it has been an honor to serve SSSR as a Board Member and President. The commitment of the membership to our homegrown society is truly inspiring. As I leave the position of President I ask that we find new ways to support our students and junior members as well as members from evolving countries. If this one wish defines my legacy as President I will feel truly effective.

Sincerely Donald Compton
President SSSR