

# eNARST NEWS

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NARST

*A worldwide organization for improving science  
teaching and learning through research*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



**J. Randy McGinnis**  
*President*

### **Invitation to Attend the 2012 NARST Annual International Conference**

**March 25-28, 2012**

The theme of our 2012 NARST Annual International Conference is *"Re-Imagining Research in 21st Century Science Education for a Diverse Global Community."*

As conference program chair my intent by setting this conference theme was to place emphasis on the need for our association to look forward imaginatively, courageously, and comprehensively while engaging in science education research for a global community characterized by diversity. I believe this is truly a momentous time in the history of our association to re-examine our research and to engage in refreshing re-conceptualizations of studies in science education by both veteran and new scholars. The quality of our electronically submitted proposal submissions of papers, posters, and symposia (nearly 900, total), as assessed via masked review, was exceptional. I am pleased to share that we were able to accept a record breaking 78%. I look forward to thanking personally at the conference all the many NARST members who donated generously their expertise (in submissions as well as proposal review and strand scheduling of sessions) and also our association's support staff who collectively brought to fruition the dream of the conference through many hours of hard work. Thank you.

Our keynote speakers who will speak to our conference theme come from both outside and within our association's membership. From the mathematics education research community, we will hear from Paul Cobb, Vanderbilt University, USA, and Kara Jackson, McGill University, Canada. From our science education research community we will hear from Okhee Lee-Salwen, New York University, USA. Plus we also will have many symposia and research sessions related to this theme.

Our conference hotel is new, with many attractive features. It is also the largest JW Marriott Hotel in the world, built to accommodate the many football fans who will travel to Indianapolis, Indiana, USA in the early winter to enjoy the 2012 Super Bowl and the many NSTA members who will attend their annual conference immediately following our conference in the spring. As a slightly smaller conference, NARST benefits tremendously from our Executive Director's recommendation to artfully schedule our conference at this venue between these two major events in Indianapolis. You can go on a tour of the NARST conference hotel and local attractions by visiting our 2012 NARST Conference homepage and selecting the link for tourism in Indianapolis.

This year our conference will begin on Sunday, March 25th, with pre-conference workshops in the morning followed by research sessions in the early afternoon, our first plenary in the late afternoon, and in the evening several member events open to all conference attendees (including the Mentor/Mentee Nexus and the Presidential Welcome Reception where I look forward to greeting you). Our conference will end on Wednesday, March 28th

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2012 NARST | March 25-28



ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
Re-Imagining Research in 21st Century Science Education for a Diverse Global Community  
JW Marriott Indianapolis | Indianapolis, Indiana

at 4:15 pm, followed by a meeting of the NARST Board of Directors, which is open to guests. Regular events including the presidential, committee, and strand sponsored sessions, research sessions, committee meetings, the lunchtime NARST Business Meeting, the JRST Business meeting/dinner, the Graduate Student and New Career Scholars Forum, the ever-popular Equity & Ethics Dinner, the eventful evening Social, the Awards Luncheon, the New Researcher and Junior Faculty Early Career Discussion and other mainstay events are scheduled for the conference. This year's conference will also feature three new events that I am very pleased to bring to member's attention: an early morning Fun Run/Walk (special thanks go to Julie Luft and Angela Calabrese-Barton for suggesting and organizing this member initiated and conducted event), a meeting of our first Research Interest Group (RIG) meeting ("Continental and Diasporic Africa in Science Education", a proposal submitted by Mary Atwater and a group of NARST members to the fall NARST Board of Directors Meeting that was approved), and a virtual presentation session of

papers by researchers from remote sites in several United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) .700 Nations (Ethiopia, Nigeria, and South Africa). The intent of the latter pilot program is to enable science education researchers who reside in UNDP nations (who otherwise would be unable to attend and present at the NARST Annual International Conference) the opportunity to be on the program via virtual presentation.

Finally, as I have shared in previous communications, I urge all NARST conference attendees to be as "green" as possible in how you approach travel and participation at our conference. Ideas for promoting sustainable practices in travel and in action while at the conference are available at many accessible and reputable web sites and other sources (including in the 2008 February Issue of the 2008 *ENARST News*).

### NARST Board of Directors Update

Concerning the work of your elected NARST Board of Directors, for which I am the presiding officer, I am pleased to share that the board recently made a series of decisions that will impact significantly the association's future. One was the decision to appoint at least one graduate student member to all the association's standing committees, with only a few exceptions (such as a few award committees that the chairs felt required more committee member experience to make informed decisions). NARST continues to benefit from our growing graduate student membership (approximately 1/3 of our total membership), and organizational changes such as this one reflect the appreciation of the association's leadership for all the energy, new ideas, and commitment to generating scholarship that makes a difference our graduate students bring to the association. NARST is truly moving forward by growing young. A second was the decision by the board to support a study in early 2012 of the association that is expected to collect essential empirical data provided by the membership that can be used by the board to chart strategic new directions in multiple dimensions. A third was the decision to re-appoint our hardworking and artful Executive Director for another final term. And, finally, I am pleased to announce that after a long delay brought about by factors outside the board's control, the 2013 NARST conference venue has been finalized: Wyndham Rio Mar, Rio Grande, Puerto Rico. I hope that you look forward to learning more about this alluring 2013 NARST conference venue at the 2012 NARST Awards Luncheon.

I look forward to seeing you in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA in late March, 2012 for the **85th Annual International Conference of NARST: A Worldwide Organization for Improving Science Teaching and Learning Through Research.**

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT-ELECT



**Sharon Lynch**  
*President-Elect*

## Virtual Presentations to be Tried at the 2012 NARST International Annual Conference in Indianapolis

Strand coordinators Len Annetta, Isha DeCoito, Linda Keen-Rocha, Anita Welch (co-chair) and Sharon Lynch (co-chair) formed an Ad Hoc committee for Virtual Presentations to explore adding a virtual component to the 2012 Annual International Conference. With good advice from Randy McGinnis, Sibel Erduran, Bill Kyle and Toni Sonderfeld, we decided to provide the opportunity to researchers in “UNDP .700 and below” nations.

The intent is to enable science education researchers who reside in UNDP nations, otherwise unable to attend and present in person, the opportunity to be on the program via remote presentation, while encouraging NARST members who regularly attend the Conference to continue to do so. This initiative broadens opportunities for researchers from UNDP Nations who face insurmountable barriers to attending the NARST Conference person, and provides a way to participate, virtually, in a collegial exchange of ideas.

The Ad Hoc Committee reviewed proposals and were able to accept three proposals from scholars residing in African nations. Their virtual presentations will be integrated into program strand sessions, so many NARST members will have the opportunity to hear about their work and participate via SKYPE at the 2012 Conference.

The members of this committee, led by the extremely knowledgeable and enthusiastic Anita Welch as co-chair, have been especially responsive, creative, and capable should be commended for this thoughtful work, added to their substantial strand duties. Anita will host all of the virtual sessions at the Annual Conference, managing the technology to make the virtual sessions as seamlessly integrated into the program as possible.

## Science Education Policy Sessions at NARST's 2012 Conference

Two important policy-related sessions have been organized by Andrew Shouse (Strand 15) and Christopher Wilson (EPRC), with John Falk as the chair of EPRC. In the past, similar sessions have experienced standing room only, and 2012 promises to keep members up-to-date on policy developments within the US. The sessions are:

### **Next Generation Science Standards:**

#### ***Tracking the Federal Research Agenda:***

Building on the successful joint invited sessions from the last two years, Strand 15 (Policy Research) and the External Policy and Relations Committee (EPRC) will be co-sponsoring two sessions at the NARST 2012 meeting, focusing on the implications for research of the new Framework for K-12 Science Education and the subsequent Next Generation Science Standards. The first of these sessions will take a national perspective, and will examine the research implications of these important documents at the federal level. Representatives from the NRC and Achieve will provide an overview of the framework and standards, and the types of research that are needed to support their implementation. Leaders in science education research will speak to specific research needs in areas including professional development, curriculum, and assessment. Representatives from federal funding agencies will then connect these research needs and the upcoming standards with their funding priorities.

### **Opting in: State Education Agencies and the Next Generation Science Standards:**

Since new standards will present significant assessment, curriculum and professional development challenges to state level education systems, the second session will focus on the research that is needed to support Next General Science Standards at the state level. In collaboration with the Council of State Science Supervisors and Achieve, this session will explore issues related to implementation in three state cases. State representatives will be paired with NARST researchers in a session that is designed to generate cross talk and collaboration between state policy makers and

*Continued on page 4*

science education researchers. Together, these two sessions will assist NARST members in connecting their research with this highly significant transition in science education policy.

### **NARST Joins 80 Partners in a Multi-Sector Movement to Tackle US Need for 100,000 Excellent Math and Science Teachers in 10 Years**

The “100Kin10” Initiative has been organized to recruit, develop, and retain excellent STEM teachers for US public schools, securing nearly \$20 Million in funding. More than 80 partners—from NASA and Google to the New York City Department of Education, Stanford University, and Teach for America—have joined 100Kin10, an effort to respond to the call to prepare, deploy, and support 100,000 excellent STEM teachers over the coming 10 years. The effort is led by Carnegie Corporation of New York and Opportunity Equation. (For more information, see: <http://100kin10.org/page/september-2011-commitments#increase>)

#### **NARST’s Commitments are:**

1. JRST will publish manuscripts submitted by 100kin10 partners on innovative, effective, and sustainable practices in science teacher preparation, provided the manuscripts are accepted for publication under JRST’s peer review guidelines.
2. Build the Movement - Will leverage its membership of science education researchers to connect with 100Kin10 partners - forging research partnerships, improving the quality of research on science teacher preparation, and widening the scope of these efforts.

There was some discussion among NARST Board about new commitments for NARST to actually engage in science teacher education research as an organization, especially to catalog the number of teachers prepared via the institutions that NARST members represent, or to track the retention of a sample science teachers prepared by such institutions. However, at present, we have no mechanism within NARST to launch research of this sort. This is something that we may want to think about for the future.

The “100Kin10” Initiative has been organized to recruit, develop, and retain excellent STEM teachers for US public schools, securing nearly \$20 Million in funding. More than 80 partners—from NASA and Google to the New York City Department of Education, Stanford University, and Teach for America—have joined 100Kin10, an effort to respond to the call to prepare, deploy, and support 100,000 excellent STEM teachers over the coming 10 years. The effort is led by Carnegie Corporation of New York and Opportunity Equation. (For more information, see: <http://100kin10.org/page/september-2011-commitments#increase>)

#### **Call for New Committee Members Soon to be Issued: Increased Opportunities for Graduate Students to Serve on Committees**

A large number of people will soon be rotating off of their positions as leaders and members of NARST’s standing committees. We all appreciate the hard work, creativity, organizational skills and intelligence that it takes to serve on our standing committees and are grateful for the contributions of these NARST members. They are what make the organization work.

We need a substantial number of members to step up and fill open and new slots. This is an excellent way to understand the workings of NARST, dig deeply into science education research, and to make new friends from across the globe. The committees are open to all members of NARST, and we anticipate a new electronic means of applying for open committee slots via the JRST website, thanks to Bob Geier and JRST editors.

In addition, the NARST Board unanimously passed a motion to add new slots to each standing committee specifically for graduate students. We will be phasing in those positions over the next year. Rest assured that the call and website will specify those designated slots, as well as all of the other openings. The health and vibrancy of NARST depends on the committee members to renew its efforts to improve science education research.



# A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Bill Kyle**  
*Executive Director*

Best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year! I look forward to seeing you at the 85th NARST Annual International Conference, 25 – 28 March 2012, at the JW Marriott, Indianapolis, IN, USA. The Program Committee has been working diligently to ensure you have an outstanding conference experience. You will enjoy all that Indianapolis has to offer – it is a wonderful city with many attractions.

## Remember To Renew Your Membership...

You received the dues renewal notice for your 2012 membership. NARST membership is based upon the calendar year. Please renew your membership as soon as possible to ensure uninterrupted access to *JRST* / *e-JRST*. I recommend each NARST member identify a colleague whom you believe would benefit as a result of joining NARST (e.g., classroom

## Remember to Renew Your Membership and Invest in the Future

teachers, graduate students, non-collegiate educators). If we wish to expand upon the services, programs, and outreach opportunities sponsored by NARST committees, then we must continue to grow our membership. Identifying new members is but one way in which current members can invest in the health of NARST.

Another way to invest in the health of the association is by making a donation to NARST to support a variety of worthy initiatives that NARST has begun to invest in recently. You now have the opportunity to donate to NARST in any of 5 voluntary contribution categories in a single transaction when you renew your membership. This option is a result of listserv discussion in March 2011 in which the desire to be able to more visibly / easily donate to NARST was expressed vs. only having access to the 'Donate to NARST' link from the homepage.

Finally, while it may not seem like an investment in NARST or the future, your commitment to staying at the conference venue each year and ensuring that NARST meets its contractual obligations is an investment in NARST and your personal (fiscal) future. Please keep in mind your conference registration fee only covers about 80% of the total conference expenses. Each year our conference contract provides **free conference space**. That is, conference attendees are not paying daily room rentals for the concurrent rooms in which the sessions are held. This space is free contingent upon meeting the room block guarantee and spending our contractual obligation on food and beverage.

You may be interested in knowing that in 2011, for the 3rd consecutive year, NARST had a commissionable conference contract (2009 was the first commissionable contract in NARST's history). Since moving to commissionable contracts we have met the contractual obligations each year. In 2011 we earned a commission of \$38,181.88. Over the past 3 years NARST has earned approximately \$110,000 in conference commissions that we have been able to invest in special projects/initiatives. By meeting the contractual obligations of a commissionable contract we are able to ensure lower conference registration fees to you on an annual basis.

In 2012, in order to ensure that your room nights count towards the contractual room block, you must stay at the JW Marriott. While the Marriott brand has numerous options all within walking distance of the JW Marriott, these options are not part of the contract and do not count towards meeting our contractual obligation. By staying at these other Marriott's you may save \$10 or so per night, but your savings is at the expense of what NARST has negotiated for you for the overall conference experience. And, in the event NARST would not meet its contractual obligation, such short-term savings would result in conference registration fees increasing in the future from what we consider to be a very reasonable \$225 to the \$400-\$500 range. The Board works diligently to serve your interests; please ensure that you work with the association to meet its contractual obligations as we offer you the very best in conference facilities for the size of our Annual International Conference.

## Finally...

For more than 80 years, NARST has been a voice of and for science education researchers. Historically, that has often implied disseminating knowledge through publications and conferences. Your ideas and recommendations for future outreach and action-taking initiatives that fulfill the NARST mission are encouraged at this time! Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any recommendations and / or concerns related to NARST and your membership. Your efforts to enhance science teaching and learning through research are greatly appreciated.

# EQUITY & ETHICS COMMITTEE



Felicia Moore Mensah and Julie Bianchini  
Co-chairs

The Equity and Ethics Committee has been busy since our last communication in eNARST News. The E&E Committee provides leadership and guidance to the organization on issues of equity and ethics including, but not limited to, gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, disabling conditions, sexual orientations, language, national origin, and religion. Since the 2011 annual conference, the committee has engaged in four primary activities. These activities include both revisiting existing efforts and identifying new initiatives to provide better leadership to NARST on issues of equity and diversity.

We solicited applications for the 2012 Jhumki Basu Scholars Program in fall 2011. We will review these applications and announce the Scholars by February. The Scholars will receive a financial award to help defray the costs of attending the annual meeting, an invitation to attend the Equity and Ethics Committee pre-conference workshop, and the opportunity to present at the 2013 annual conference. We sent out a brief survey to past Basu Scholars (n=75) over the summer. We will use the feedback we received to plan relevant sessions and to provide greater support for the Scholars and others interested in equity research.

For the upcoming conference, the E&E Committee has organized one workshop and two sessions. Briefly, our pre-conference workshop **“Enacting Equity and Social Justice in Science Education Careers”** will engage scholars of color and other interested individuals on current topics and methods of equity and social justice research. Our first session **“Teaching and Learning Science in Diverse Contexts: Local and Global Perspectives”** will spotlight five emergent scholars—last year’s recipients of the Jhumki Basu Scholars Award—whose studies will help us broaden our knowledge of science education from the

United States to India and to Korea. Our second session is in response to past feedback from the pre-conference workshop. The co-chairs of the E&E Committee have organized **“Re-Imagining Our Research by Using New Theoretical Frameworks in Science Education.”** In this session, a panel of presenters will share how they conceptualize a research and professional agenda in science education, and how their research has taken on new meaning and focus by engaging in new theoretical or methodological approaches. Everyone is encouraged to attend these workshops and sessions sponsored by the E&E Committee.

The E&E Committee also created an ad-hoc committee to examine the NARST Policy on Harassment and to craft a Code of Ethics. The committee volunteers, along with NARST President Randy McGinnis, will present a draft of this code at an open meeting during the annual conference. All NARST members are invited to attend to discuss and offer feedback.

Finally, the annual Equity Dinner will be held at Buca di Beppo, an Italian restaurant, in downtown Indianapolis. Please register and pay for the dinner along with your registration to the annual conference. We had more than 70 people in attendance last year for networking!

We welcome all NARST members to attend the E&E Committee’s early morning meetings at the annual conference. During these meetings, we discuss official business of the committee, as well as plan for the next annual conference activities and events. We look forward to seeing you!

## Co-Chairs:

**Julie Bianchini** – [jbianchi@education.ucsb.edu](mailto:jbianchi@education.ucsb.edu)  
**Felicia Moore Mensah** – [moorefe@tc.columbia.edu](mailto:moorefe@tc.columbia.edu)

## Members:

**Doris B. Ash** – [dash5@ucsc.edu](mailto:dash5@ucsc.edu) (12)  
**Jim Ellis** – [jdellis@ku.edu](mailto:jdellis@ku.edu) (12)  
**Sarah Barrett** – [sbarrett@edu.yorku.ca](mailto:sbarrett@edu.yorku.ca) (12)  
**Matthew Weinstein** – [mattheww@u.washington.edu](mailto:mattheww@u.washington.edu) (13)  
**Geeta Verma** – [geeta.verma@ucdenver.edu](mailto:geeta.verma@ucdenver.edu) (13)  
**Bhaskar Upadhyay** – [upadh006@umn.edu](mailto:upadh006@umn.edu) (13)  
**Rola Khishfe** – [rk19@aub.edu.lb](mailto:rk19@aub.edu.lb) (14)  
**Regina Wragg** – [wragg@biol.sc.edu](mailto:wragg@biol.sc.edu) (14)  
**Deborah Roberts-Harris** – [drobert1@umd.edu](mailto:drobert1@umd.edu) (14)

# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE



**Sibel Erduran**  
NARST International Coordinator and  
Chair of International Committee

The International Committee is pleased to offer scholarships to support the participation of members from outside of the US at the annual conference. The scholarships range from \$300–\$1200 per scholarship on the basis of income-level category of the applicant's country of work. The total amount of scholarship monies granted per conference will not exceed \$10,500. The deadline for applications was **December 15, 2011**. Detailed information and the application form for the scholarships are posted on the NARST website:

<http://www.narst.org/applications/scholarships.cfm>

The Linking Science Educators (LSEP) program is also soliciting proposals for a grant scheme to support science education researchers from low-income countries. LSEP is an initiative designed to contribute to improvement of science educators in countries interested in science education reform. In particular, the program intends to support representatives from countries that are either economically disadvantaged (e.g., UNDP Human Development Index 0.80 or below), or educational disadvantaged countries (e.g., low financial support towards science education with respect to their gross national product for education), but not limited to, who will implement new ideas on science educational reform in their countries. However, the program is also open

to representative with science educational reform ideas but cannot attain enough financial support otherwise. The proposed project will take place from February 1, 2012 to December 2012. The **application deadline** for proposals was **January 15th, 2012**. Further information and application forms are available on the NARST website which also contains example reports from previous funded projects held in South Africa (2010), Nigeria (2009) and Malawi (2008).

Two sessions sponsored by the International Committee will take place at the annual conference in Indianapolis, IN in March 2012. The first session will focus on the work of the LSEP (Linking Science Educators Program) which has been awarded to Dr Paul Denley and colleagues in 2011. The title of the session will be **“Supporting More Learner-Centred Approaches in Rwandan Science Classrooms”**. The project promotes collaboration between researchers in the United Kingdom, Rwanda and Ethiopia. The proposed project will have involvement of science educators at the Kigali Institute of Education in Rwanda and will engage Mengesha Ayene from Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia as another resource person. The second NARST conference session sponsored by the International Committee will have contributions from members of the European Science Education Research Association.

## **Chair – International Coordinator:**

**Sibel Erduran**

University of Bristol (13)

## **Members:**

**Hye-eun Zew**

Nanyang Technological University  
Singapore (12)

**Marie-Claire Shanahan**

University of Alberta (12)

**Issam Hafez Abi-El-Mona**

Rowan University (13)

**Deniz Peker**

Virginia Tech (13)

**Ismail Marulcu**

Boston College (13)

**Christina Siry**

University of Luxembourg (14)

**Ji Shen**

The University of Georgia (14)

**Meredith Anne Park Rogers**

Indiana University (14)

**Eva Erdosne Toth**

West Virginia University (14)

# MEMBERSHIP & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE



Renee Schwartz and Bryan Brown  
Co-chairs

## 2012 Elections: Board of Directors and President-Elect



### Look for the 2012 elections to begin soon.

NARST members have an impressive slate of candidates for Board of Director and President-elect. The three people elected to the Board will also serve as Chair of the Research Committee, Chair of the External Policy and Relations Committee, and Chair of the Awards Committee. When the ballots are available, an announcement will be sent over the NARST listserv. Watch for it and respond! Let your voice be heard by voting!

## A Self Study of NARST

In an effort to improve its capacity to serve the membership of the NARST community, the Membership and Elections committee has initiated a self-study of the organization. The completion of a comprehensive self-study will allow the Board of Directors and membership access to information necessary to improve NARST in ways that matter most. In this way, a self study will allow us to build a database of critical information regarding members' opinions about ways to improve NARST's services and planning. To complete this survey, NARST will contract with an individual or an organization to conduct a comprehensive survey of our membership. We are in the final stages of completing our request for proposals and look forward to providing the membership with more information about this process.

## Getting involved: NARST Wants YOU!



NARST is primarily a volunteer association, and committee work is one of the best ways to become involved, meet other members, and contribute to the mission of NARST. Please consider volunteering for a committee.

*If you have questions regarding committee work, please contact:*

**Sharon Lynch**, *President-elect* — slynch@gwu.edu

*OR one of the Chairs of the M&E Committee:*

**Renee Schwartz** — r.schwartz@wmich.edu

**Bryan Brown** — brbrown@stanford.edu

## M&E Committee Sponsored Sessions During the 2012 NARST International Conference

The M&E Committee is sponsoring three sessions at the 2012 international conference in Indianapolis, IN. These sessions are intended to support early career researchers and help new NARST members to get acquainted with the conference, the organization, and other members. The 2011 **Mentor-Mentee-Nexus** is being organized by Corinne Lardy and Mike Smith. This session brings new NARST members and experienced NARST members together for good conversation and conference planning and to facilitate networking among our newer members. We encourage all experienced NARST members to consider sharing their wisdom and experience by being a mentor at the 2011 conference. The other two sponsored sessions are the **Graduate Student Forum**, organized by Jomo Mutegei, Kathryn Drago, and Eileen Carlton Parsons; and the **New Researcher and Junior Faculty Early Career Discussion**, organized by Reizelie Barreto-Espino. These sessions bring together outstanding NARST members to offer insights, guidance, and great discussion for attendees at these critical stages of their careers. We highly encourage those who participate in these sessions to continue the conversations throughout the year. Plans are underway to facilitate informal gatherings and discussion forums for special interest groups that are organized from these sessions. If you would like to help with the formation and functioning of such groups, please contact one of the session organizers.

### Graduate Student and Early Career Scholars Group

[GSECS group] Congratulations to the graduate students and early career scholars who initiated the informal social at the 2011 NARST conference and who have taken action to more formally organize their group. This group is creating opportunities to network, collaborate, and become involved in NARST governance. Look for meeting announcements and information about the social gathering in Indianapolis. You might also become a friend on their facebook page: Science Education Graduate Student and Early Career Scholars. Anyone interested in science education is welcome to join!

### 2011–2012 M&E Committee Members

**Corinne Lardy** (12)

**May Hung May Cheng** (12)

**Kathryn Drago** (13)

**Eileen R. Carlton Parsons** (14)

**Mike Smith** (14)

**Julie Luft** (12)

**Jomo Mutegei** (13)

**Reizelie Barreto-Espino** (13)

**Yehudit Judy Dori** (14)

### Co-Chair Elections:

**Dana Zeidler**, *Past President*

### Ex-officio:

**Bill Kyle** and

**J. Randy McGinnis**



# PUBLICATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Jan Van Driel

Jan and Carolyn wish to thank the members of the Publications Advisory Committee (PAC) for their valuable contributions to NARST. If there are any questions, comments, or you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Carolyn at [carolyn.wallace@indstate.edu](mailto:carolyn.wallace@indstate.edu).

We are excited to announce the following sponsored sessions taking place at the 2012 meeting of NARST in Indianapolis.

## Sponsored Sessions

**Discussion with the Editors of Various Science Education Journals**  
(Sponsored by the Publications Advisory Committee)

Carolyn S. Wallace and Jan van Driel



Carolyn Wallace

This session will allow participants to hear commentary and ask questions about the nature, scope and foci of several of the major journals in science education as a guide to judging the best outlet for manuscript submissions. Editors or editorial representatives from journals such as, *Science Education*, *International Journal of Science Education*, *Research in Science Education*, *Journal of Science Teacher Education*, *Cultural Studies in Science Education*, *Studies in Science Education*, *Journal of Science Education and Technology*, and *Journal of Research in Science Teaching* will serve as panel members to discuss the types of manuscripts that are the most suitable for their journal, characteristics of high quality manuscripts, and special advice for junior and/or international authors on getting published. The session will provide a unique opportunity to meet and interact with science education journal editors first hand.

### **The Anatomy of a Good Article: Publishing in the Journal of Research in Science Teaching**

Angie Calabrese Barton and Joe Krajcik, *JRST Co-Editors*; Bob Geier, *Assistant Editor*

The purpose of this session is to engage potential authors in dialog about what constitutes a high quality article that aligns with the scope and focus of JRST. The session will offer perspectives on the anatomy of a high quality article from multiple perspectives: Editors, published authors, and reviewers. The editorial team will first present their model for how manuscripts are reviewed, including the publication guidelines that reviewers of the *Journal of Research in Science Teaching* use when reviewing submitted manuscripts. Their presentation will be followed by comments from three panelists who represent the author and/or reviewer position. The panelists will reflect a range of expertise in research

approaches. A substantial portion of time will be devoted to open discussion. This session welcomes those who are new to academia and are interested in submitting to and getting published in JRST or anyone who would like to become a reviewer for the journal.

## Preconference Workshop

**Developing High Quality Reviews for the Journal of Research in Science Teaching**

Angie Calabrese Barton and Joe Krajcik  
and *JRST Associate Editors*

The purpose of this preconference workshop is to provide professional development for JRST reviewers. It will also provide valuable information to new researchers on what reviewers look for in a manuscript and how to prepare a manuscript for publication. During this 4-hour workshop we will work with reviewers to develop knowledge and skills for preparing high quality reviews for JRST, foster conversation on expectations for and purposes of reviews, and discuss how to handle common reviewer problems and questions. This session welcomes returning reviewers as well as those who are new to academia and are interested in submitting to and getting published in JRST or anyone who would like to become a reviewer for the *Journal of Research in Science Teaching*. JRST Editors and Associate Editors will facilitate the session.

## NSTA Reading List

We are once again pleased to announce that the PAC will produce an NSTA Reading List for those JRST articles of most benefit to practitioners. In early 2012, a subcommittee consisting of 3 members of the PAC will select articles from the last volume of JRST for the list. Selection will be based on a rubric focusing on practicality and usefulness for science teachers (elementary, secondary, informal, higher, teacher educators) with the subcommittee making the initial nominations. The chairs of the PAC and the subcommittee will discuss this initial selection and subsequently five articles will be selected. NSTA will include these papers, together with papers from other journals, in a publication to be called *Current Research for Teachers*. The same five articles will be made available freely on the JRST website, and hard copies will be given away at the NARST booth at the NSTA conference.

# NEWS FROM NSTA

**Kate Scantlebury**  
NSTA Representative to NARST



## NSTA's 2012 National Conference

NSTA's 2012 National Conference on Science Education, "*At the Crossroads for Science Education*" is scheduled **March 29-April 1** in Indianapolis.

Later in the spring, NSTA has organized a STEM Forum and Expo, **May 17-19**, 2012 in Atlantic City.

For more information, see the website at:  
<http://www.nsta.org/conferences/2012atl/>

## NSTA's 2012 Area Conferences

Louisville, Kentucky | October 18–20

Atlanta, Georgia | November 1–3

Phoenix, Arizona | December 6–8

## The 2013 Annual Conference

*Next Generation of Science Standards*

San Antonio, Texas | April 11–14

Proposals for the 2013 national conference, which will focus on the "*Next Generation of Science Standards*," are due by **April 15, 2012** and can be submitted at:

[http://science.nsta.org/sessions/proposal\\_submission.asp](http://science.nsta.org/sessions/proposal_submission.asp)

NARST's Publications Advisory Committee is identifying "*Good Research Worth Reading*" articles for NSTA's Summer Reading Program for teachers.

# RESEARCH COMMITTEE

**Stephen Norris**  
*Committee Chair*

The Research Committee has been very busy since its report to you last June. Individual members have taken leadership roles in implementing the agenda of the Committee for the benefit of NARST as a whole and they deserve much thanks for their hard work. I will give just a brief idea of some of the activities of the Research Committee.

The Committee will sponsor two very exciting pre-conference workshops at our annual international conference. One of these will be led by Dale Baker of Arizona State University on moving research into practice. The workshop is central to NARST's mission to improve science teaching and learning through research. The ultimate goal is to help science teachers implement research-based practices in their classrooms. The second workshop is being led by Irene Neumann of the Leibniz Institute for Science and Mathematics Education on the topic of instrument development and validation. The workshop is directed primarily towards science education researchers, including graduate students, who depend upon a myriad of instruments to measure variables of interest in their studies. The Research Committee believes that each of these workshops will be outstanding and encourages your participation.

The Research Committee will also sponsor a session during the regular conference program on "Next Generation Science Standards." This session will be conducted by a stellar panel of individuals who have been involved in the work thus far on these new standards. The focus mainly will be on the research and development priorities that intersect with the development, adoption, and implementation of the standards. The development of these standards is a U.S. initiative, yet we are confident that the session will be relevant and of interest to NARST members from around the world.

As you know from previous issues of *e-NARST News*, there will be a new *NARST-NSTA Liaison* position beginning this spring. The deadline for applications was the end of November, 2011, and the Research Committee is overseeing the vetting of applications and will be recommending an appointment to the Board of Directors. The position marks a tremendous opportunity for NARST

to create even closer ties to one of its most important affiliates. Listen at the annual international conference for the name of the new appointee!

Finally, just a brief report on last summer's *Sandra K. Abell Institute for Doctoral Students* that was hosted jointly by BSCS and Penn State University in Colorado Springs and organized by Janet Carlson and Joseph Taylor of BSCS and Scott McDonald and Carla Zembal-Saul of Penn State. Our feedback information says that the institute was a tremendous success.

The Research Committee has established a sub-committee to make recommendations to the Board of Directors on how the next institute can benefit from the experience last summer in Colorado. A hearty thank-you to the dedicated organizers from BSCS and Penn State and to the great team of mentors they recruited for the institute!

**Chair:**  
**Stephen Norris (13)**

**Members:**

**Benjamin Herman (12)**  
**Abdulkadir (Kadir) Demir (12)**  
**Jim McDonald (13)**  
**Celestine H. Pea (14)**  
**Shari Britner (14)**

**Alandeom Oliveira (12)**  
**Allan Feldman (13)**  
**Toni Sondergeld (13)**  
**Senay Purzer (14)**

# AWARDS COMMITTEE



**Xiufeng Liu**  
Awards Committee  
Chair

**N**ominations have been closed for the following annual awards: Distinguished Contribution to Science Education through Research Award (DCA), Outstanding Paper Award (OPA), Outstanding Doctoral Research Award (ODA), and Early Career Research Award (ECA). The above award selection committees are currently reviewing the nominations according to established procedures and criteria. The review of the Journal of Research in Science Teaching Award is also progressing according to the schedule. Award winners will be announced at the annual conference in March, 2012. I would like to thank all of the award selection committee chairs and members for their hard work and service to our organization.

In order to increase the pool of papers nominated for the annual NARST Outstanding Paper Award (OPA), from the 2012 annual conference, a nomination form will be available at each session for NARST members to nominate outstanding papers for the award. This nomination mechanism is in addition to our normal nomination process.

The Awards Committee will sponsor the following session at the 2012 annual conference to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana:

## **Symposium — Distinguished Contributions In Research**

**Presenter: Norman G. Lederman**  
Illinois Institute of Technology

In this symposium, Norman G. Lederman, the recipient of the 2011 Distinguished Contribution to Science Education through Research Award (DCA) will reflect on his own research work in the context of what is happening in science education research internationally. In addition he will offer his thoughts on what the future might and should hold for science education research. This is an opportunity to hear from a greatly respected international leader in the field of science education and also to pay respect to his achievements. The DCA selection committee co-chairs will also be available to provide information on DCA selection process and criteria.

## FROM THE EDITORS OF THE JOURNAL OF RESEARCH IN SCIENCE TEACHING (JRST)

Angela Calabrese Barton and Joseph Krajcik

### A Call for JRST Editorial Board Members

The JRST editorial team uses NARST researchers as important participants in the review process. Each year, one-third of the 42 member Editorial Board is replaced by new members. The appointment is for three years, contingent on performance. NARST policy requires that a member of the JRST editorial board must review each JRST manuscript. All NARST members in good standing who have published in JRST at least once, and who have experience as a JRST reviewer in Manuscript Central, may apply for this scholarly service. Duties

include in-depth review of 6 to 8 manuscripts yearly and attendance at the annual JRST Editorial Board Meeting/Dinner at the National Association for Research (NARST) Conference. Applications from International members are especially welcomed.

#### To apply, please submit:

- A cover letter, which includes a description of your research expertise.
- A two-page curriculum vita (highlight publications in prominent refereed journals in science education and your previous reviewing or editing experience).

Applications should be submitted electronically between **January 15** and **February 15, 2012** to:

<http://eJRST.net>

If you have any questions please contact the following editors of the *Journal of Research in Science Teaching*:

**Angela Calabrese Barton**  
acb@msu.edu

OR

**Joseph Krajcik**  
krajcik@msu.edu