

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT J. RANDY MCGINNIS, PRESIDENT OF NARST



I would like to begin by presenting positive news. I am pleased to share that our association's health is robust and vibrant. Evidence for my diagnosis flows from multiple dimensions. Our recent annual international conference held in sunny Orlando, Florida USA was quite a success. Attendees exceeded 1100, an extremely impressive number for an association whose membership is approximately 1500, with over 35% sited outside the USA. Success to this level is testimony to the hard work of our association's members who merit special acknowledgment: Dana Zeidler (2011 NARST Conference Program Chair), Toni Sondergeld (Conference Program/Scheduling Coordinator), the Strand Coordinators, proposal reviewers, Robin Turner and Alex D'Imperio (Drohan Management personnel), and Bill Kyle (NARST Executive Director), who was assisted by a team of graduate students.

A memorable event for me at the conference was to attend the Equity and Ethics (E&E) Dinner. The Co-Chairs of the E&E committee (Julie Bianchini and Felicia Moore Mensah) arranged the transportation for attendees and conducted a very supportive program at the event (see the E&E committee report). Our Executive Director assisted the E&E committee by locating a convenient restaurant and negotiating a very reasonable price for a delicious meal (including drink). I encourage members when registering for the 2012 NARST International conference who are drawn to equity and ethics issues, good food, and company (a very pleasing mixture) to sign up for the E&E offsite dinner event.

Our association is sound financially. As our research journal outlet (Journal of Research in

Science Teaching, JRST) continues to lead the field worldwide, the royalties we receive from our publisher (Wiley-Blackwell) increase. Our members merit acknowledgment for sending their scholarly work to our journal for publication review by JRST's expert editorial team, under the leadership of Angela Calabrese Barton and Joe Krajcik, Editors, assistant editor Bob Geier, and their expert editorial board consisting of appointed members as well as a pool of expert reviewers located worldwide. Our members' decision to publish in JRST results in royalties coming back to our association that can be used to benefit NARST by keeping membership and conference registration fees low, support receptions and other amenities at the conference venue, as well as allowing NARST to engage in other affirming activities for our members such as scholarships to attend the annual conference, and summer institutes for graduate students. Of course, additional revenue via donations to NARST would permit us to expand our activities for members. For those who wish to contribute to the association please go to our website (narst.org) and click on "donations."

Our leadership remains strong. The 2011 election and appointment of new board members Sharon Lynch, President-elect, Bryan Brown, Co-Chair of the Membership and Elections Committee with Renee' Schwartz, Felicia Moore Mensah, Co-Chair of Equity and Ethics Committee with Julie Bianchini, and Carolyn Wallace, Co-Chair of the Publications Advisory Committee with Jan van Driel, bodes very well for the collective leadership of NARST. We are fortunate, too, to have a new NSTA Representative, Kate Scantlebury, and Troy Sadler as our inaugural NARST Liaison to NSTA, join our Executive Board. I am enjoying working with our current board members who are chairing other committees (John Falk, External Relations and Policy, Xiufeng Liu,

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Awards, and Stephen Norris, Research) and our new team as we move forward productively in a number of areas (please see the committee updates in this issue, respectively).

As for me, it is an honor and privilege to serve as President of NARST. Since I joined our association 19 years ago as a first year doctoral student in science education and continued as a member throughout my career in higher education, I have learned much about our association as a conference attendee, presenter, presider, discussant, board member, and JRST Editor. However, in my present role as President, I continue to be impressed at how much more there is to learn about NARST --and to do! What I am learning is that while NARST has achieved success historically as an organization, our actions in the context of today's current challenges and opportunities define our future. Profound changes are occurring in our world, both in the social and the physical environments, which obligates us as researchers to re-frame our conceptual positions and consider new directions. Therefore, I believe it is timely, and prudent, for the NARST association to re-think how we think of ourselves and what activities we decide to engage.

Out of this belief flows the theme I set with the Program Committee (consisting of 31 hardworking Strand Coordinators) for this coming year's annual international conference in Indianapolis, Indiana USA (March 25-March 28, 2012): "Re-imagining Research in 21st Century Science Education for a Global Diverse Community." A core activity for NARST to continue is certainly our commitment to science education research worldwide for all, of all types, and using multiple theoretical perspectives and methodologies. Research's essential role in improving science learning and teaching is a non-negotiable position that we should hold as a fundamental component of our organizational identity. I believe it is strategic for NARST to be viewed within and outside as a "think tank" for the field of science education worldwide, in which researchers create a collegial, professional community characterized by the reporting, discussion, and debate of research that investigates the most important problems of our day. Therefore, under my leadership I am working with the Publications Advisory Committee to develop a new electronic outlet for the reporting and discussion of our research beyond our conference presentations

and in JRST, which connects directly with our current 15 Strands. I look forward to reporting in future communication with the membership more about this imaginative initiative enabled by advances in technology. I also am working with an ad hoc committee chaired by President-Elect Sharon Lynch to pilot virtual presentations at the 2012 NARST Conference for members from UNDP HDI .700 and below countries (for a list of the eligible countries, see <http://www.narst.org/join/undpcountries.cfm>). Where this small-scale imaginative initiative may lead post-2012 for NARST is undetermined, but certainly it has the potential to increase participation in our community by researchers located worldwide who cannot afford the expense of travel to our annual conferences. One immediate outcome will be to lessen the presenters' carbon footprints, which is an action I encourage all members to consider whether it be by use of carbon mitigation Internet sites, or through other everyday actions. I also am actively reaching out to make connections between NARST and other non-profit foundations and associations engaged in science education. For example, at the NSTA conference in San Francisco, it was my pleasure to meet with the President and Executive Director of the Siemens foundation to explore synergistic activities. I have also had conversations with presidents of two other prominent science education associations, National Science Teachers Association (Patricia Simmons, President) and the Association for Science Teacher Education (Randy Bell, President), with the goal of establishing substantive activities, such as collaborating on policy statements for science education and sponsored sessions at our conferences, respectively. I look forward to reporting in the future where this initiative may lead us in new, imaginative directions. In addition, I am working with the NARST board to continue our concerted commitment to equity and ethics throughout NARST, as articulated eloquently by Penny Gilmer, when she was NARST President, in the July 2007 issue of E-NARST News. For example, a current initiative I am leading is to encourage committee chairs to identify key qualifications for their committees beyond simply being a member in good standing with a stated desire to serve on a particular committee, which will be shared with potential committee applicants and then used to select and appoint committee members. Finally, as representative of NARST, I recently attended the Council of Scientific

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Presidents meeting in Washington, DC, co-chairing its Science and Mathematics Committee, and I look forward to attending ESERA in the fall 2011, serving as discussant of NARST's sponsored session led by Sibel Erduran, President, NARST International Committee, with papers presented by NARST members (see the International Committee report).

I encourage NARST members to submit their research proposals to the 2012 NARST Annual International Conference. The call for the conference is available on the NARST website. Please align your workshop and research proposals, wherever it is conceptually feasible, with the conference theme that focuses on looking forward imaginatively, courageously, and comprehensively while engaging in science education research for a diverse, global community. The deadline for submission is August 15, 2012.

The conference's hotel and venue are stellar. The hotel only recently opened in February 2011, the JW Marriott Hotel. It is the largest hotel in the Marriott chair of hotels worldwide, and it is within walking distance of Indianapolis's downtown extensive mall shopping facilities. It is also close to the White River Park, Zoo, and many museums. This year's conference immediately precedes the National Science Teachers Association's annual meeting in Indianapolis. Planning is underway (spearheaded by Kate Scantlebury and Troy Sadler) to continue building upon the meaningful connections between our affiliated associations. Once again, it is my pleasure to serve NARST as President. I look forward to seeing you in Indianapolis, Indiana USA for the 2012 NARST Annual International Conference. Please do not hesitate to contact me (jmcginni@umd.edu) if you have questions, suggestions, and/or comments.

MESSAGE FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT

Orlando Conference Reflections

Good day, everyone. I was quite pleased with the results of our 2011 Orlando conference! I am constantly amazed that there are so many people in our association who give so much of their time and energy to ensure that a high caliber professional event comes to fruition. The NARST board, along with invaluable help from Toni Sondergeld, Robin Turner, Alex D'Imperio, and numerous graduate students, helped to ensure a smooth running program. I would also like to extend my gratitude to our new president, J. Randy McGinnis, who provided thoughtful reflection and an abundance of energy to help with the many tasks I needed to accomplish. Special recognition goes to Bill Kyle, our Executive Director, who must deal with the nitty-gritty logistics of legal, culinary, social and event-planning aspects related to our conference each year. He also has to help provide guidance to the NARST board – which is in constant flux, in making prudent decisions about the long-term financial health of the association. We have been fortunate indeed, to be able to have his talents available to us!

From my perspective, the conference was well attended (we broke past attendance records!) but more importantly, the sessions themselves were very well attended. The overall quality of the sessions was quite impressive, which no doubt reflects the efforts of everyone involved in all aspects of the review process. I hope you had the opportunity to hear the keynotes this year and found them to be engaging and enlightening.



*Dana L. Zeidler,
Past President*

Most of all, since my first NARST conference in 1982, I have been pleased to see how we have evolved as a community of scholars, colleagues and friends. My fervent wish is for us to continue to move in the same trajectory.

If you so desire to view my presidential address, you may find it on the NARST website (http://www.narst.org/annualconference/Zeidler_address.pdf). I am certainly looking forward to seeing all of you in Indianapolis for 2012!

I hope you enjoyed the sunny skies of Florida this past April. I wish you much success in your own research and teaching. Thank you for the privilege of serving as your president for 2011.

Best,
Dana

CONNECTING SCIENCE EDUCATION RESEARCH TO POLICY AND PRACTICE



*Sharon Lynch,
NARST President-Elect*

NARST is increasingly active in connecting science education research to both policy and practice. The Annual Meeting's Strand 15 focuses on science education policy research. The External Policy and Relations Committee (EPRC) has developed a series of outreach activities that link NARST to the policy world and bring policy-relevant sessions to the Annual Meeting. I have been working as a coordinator of Strand 15 and as a member of EPRC for the last three years. As president-elect of NARST, I will support activities that use the talents of NARST researchers to connect to policy and translational research (building practical applications from theory), as we craft cross-organization affiliations that can provide NARST members new venues to pursue their work.

At the 2011 NARST Annual meeting, there were two standing-room only symposia co-sponsored by Strand 15 and EPRC.

The first symposium, Exploration and Critique of the NRC's New Conceptual Framework for Science Education Standards, was chaired by Andrew Shouse. Heidi Schwiengruber from the National Research Council (NRC) discussed the goals of the NRC Science Education Framework and described its progress. Andy Anderson, Nancy Brickhouse and George DeBoer responded with some provocative and unabashedly political commentary. This was a strong and open discussion of document that could change the face of preK-12 science education in the U.S. The NRC Framework is supposed to be issued any day now, fast-tracked from committee; to draft form and commentary from scientists, researchers and teachers; to final form in about two years. This is record speed for such a document. The NARST membership may be pleased to know that the draft of NRC Science Education Framework clearly showed the impact of NARST members' research.

I chaired the second symposium, The Development of New Science Standards Aligned with NRC's Framework that featured Steve Pruitt from Achieve. Based in Washington, DC, Achieve is an independent, bipartisan, non-profit organization created in 1996 by the U.S. nation's governors and corporate leaders with a goal to help states raise academic standards and graduation requirements and improve assessments and strengthen accountability. Achieve will develop a new set of science standards that follow from the NRC's Framework for Science Education. Achieve is responsible for the Common Core standards in mathematics and English Language Arts being adopted by the majority of states. Steve described the processes in place to develop the new set of science standards, focusing on how members of the NARST community might be involved. Discussants for this session included Joe Krajcik, Francis Eberle, and Jerome Shaw.

Credit for the organization of such sessions must be extended to Strand 15 coordinators Sarah Carrier and Andrew Shouse (and to Judy Dori who helped get this Strand off the ground), and to the members of the External Policy and Relations Committee under the spirited and careful leadership of outgoing Board Member, Betsy Davis. This effort continues by new NARST Board member, John Falk, the new chair of EPRC and who writes about EPRC's goals and activities in this issue of eNARST News.

This news just in: A subcommittee of strand coordinators has met and will conduct a pilot study for virtual presentations for NARST members from economically developing countries at the 2012 NARST annual meeting. Details about this small experiment will be forthcoming, following the formal call for papers. Thanks to the subcommittee that included Len Annetta, Linda Keen Rocha, Isha DeCoito, Sibel Erduran, Randy McGinnis, Bill Kyle, Robin Turner, and Toni Sondergeld. The co-chair of this group, Anita Welch, has been invaluablely knowledgeable about virtual presentations in various formats. We hope NARST members will participate in the pilot sessions and provide feedback about their place at our annual meeting and their potential.

NARST 2011 AWARDS

NARST Awards Committee
Xiufeng Liu, Chair

The following awards were presented at the NARST 2011 Annual International Conference in Orlando, FL.



Distinguished Contribution through Research Award **Norman G. Lederman, Illinois Institute of Technology**

Dr. Norman Lederman has made an outstanding and distinguished contribution to science education during the course of his career. More than anyone, his name is associated with a line of studies exploring how the nature of science is taught, the challenges the topic poses for teachers, how nature of science is assessed, and the implications for the curriculum.

His studies of pre-service and in-service teachers' knowledge structures of subject matter and pedagogy, pedagogical content knowledge, and teachers' concerns and beliefs in this field have all made a significant contribution to knowledge. Through his passion for this topic, he has established a program of research and made a major contribution to positioning the subject as a central concern for scholarship in the field of science education. His work, consisting of over 200 articles in leading journals, is widely cited.

Norm Lederman's leadership has been outstanding. He has mentored a large number of doctoral students, some of whom have gone onto win prestigious awards for their own work. He has played a major role in NARST as a member of its Board and then as its President. In addition, he has edited the Handbook on Research in Science Education, co-edited School Science and Mathematics for 10 years, served on numerous Editorial Boards and Boards of Directors, and participated in the international science education community. Dr. Lederman is a most deserving recipient of the 2011 NARST Distinguished Contributions through Research Award.



Early Career Research Award **Katherine L. McNeill, Lynch School of Education, Boston College**

The Early Career Research Award recognizes Dr. Katherine McNeill for her outstanding professional accomplishments. Dr. McNeill's record of research and publications make her well known and respected as an emerging scholar in science education. Colleagues have described her research as having major influence on practice, especially in the domains of scientific

explanations and arguments, and science curriculum design and implementation. Her scholarly contributions are based on theoretical models supported by data, but with due consideration for how her work can be meaningfully situated in classroom science learning experiences. Dr. McNeill is an early career scholar who has created an outstanding program of research that deals with important issues for the reform of science education. As a recipient of the NARST Early Career Research Award, Dr. McNeill joins her predecessors in setting high standards for future awardees.

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JRST AWARD



Daphne D., Minner, Education Development Center, Inc. Massachusetts
Abigail Jurist Levy, Education Development Center, Inc. Massachusetts
Jeanne Century, University of Chicago

Article title: *Inquiry-Based Science Instruction — What is it and does it matter? Results from a research synthesis years 1984 to 2002.*

Citation: Minner, D. D., Levy, A. J., & Century, J. (2010). Inquiry-Based Science Instruction — What is it and does it matter? Results from a research synthesis years 1984 to 2002, *Journal of Research in Science Teaching*, 47(4), 474-496.

NARST OUTSTANDING DOCTORAL RESEARCH AWARD



1) **Catherine Eberbach**, Learning Research and Development Center, University of Pittsburgh

Dissertation Title: *The Effect of Parent Knowledge and Conversational Style on Children's Observations of Biological Phenomena*

Institution awarding degree: University of Pittsburgh
Advisor: Kevin Crowley

Institution where Catherine Eberbach is currently working: Rutgers University



2) **Jeffrey J. Rozelle**, Michigan State University

Dissertation Title: *Becoming a Science Teacher: The Competing Pedagogies of Schools and Teacher Education*

Institution awarding degree: Michigan State University.
Advisor: Suzanne M. Wilson

Institution where Jeffrey J. Rozelle is currently working: Syracuse University

OUTSTANDING PAPER AWARD AT NARST 2010



Matthew J. Kloser, Stanford University School of Education

Article title: *The Unique Nature of Biology, the Changing Nature of Biological Research and Questions Raised for Biology Education*

EQUITY & ETHICS COMMITTEE

Julie Bianchini and Felicia Moore
Mensah, Co-chairs

We begin by thanking our hard-working outgoing Equity and Ethics Committee members: Michiel Van Eijck, Sumi Hagiwara, and Kathy Fadigan. Our current committee includes Doris Ash, Jim Ellis, Sarah Barrett, Matthew Weinstein, Geeta Verma, Bhaskar Upadhyay, Rola Khishfe, Regina Wragg, and Deborah Roberts-Harris. We encourage all NARST members, including current graduate students, to get involved in our committee's work! Below, we describe some of the activities hosted by the Equity and Ethics Committee.

The E&E Pre-conference Workshop

The annual Pre-conference Workshop supports researchers from underrepresented groups and provides opportunities for scholars of color and scholars who do research on equity to share ideas and develop relationships. This year's Pre-conference Workshop, "Equity Internationally – Scholarship, Research, and Service for a Global Science Education Community", was well attended with forty-one NARST members. Participants commented that the workshop was informative and inspiring.

The Jhumki Basu Scholars Program

The purpose of the Jhumki Basu Scholars Program is to help early career science educators from underrepresented groups contribute to science education research, scholarship, and leadership; and to provide support and mentorship to these new scholars



Annual Equity Dinner

as they become full members of the science education research community. Thirteen new researchers were named 2011 Jhumki Basu Scholars: Tracey Addy, Nievita Bueno Watts, Vanashri Nargund-Joshi, Irasema Ortega, Seema Rivera, Jean Rockford, Idaykis Rodriguez, Minjung Ryu, Ingrid Sanchez Tapia, Nai-En Tang, Tang Wee Teo, Felicia Thadison, and Morgan Yarker. They will be invited to attend the annual conference next year to present their research. Congratulations to these amazing Scholars!

Sponsored Symposia

The E & E Committee sponsored three symposia at the annual conference. The New Scholars Symposium showcases the work of scholars who are underrepresented in the science education research community. Three 2010 Jhumki Basu Scholars presented their research: Tapati Sen, Ashraf Shady, and Reizelie Barreto-Espino. The title of this symposium was "Global Sustainability and Public Understanding of Science – The Role of Science Education in the International Community." The second symposium was "Thinking Globally, Acting Locally: Initiatives to Improve Science Learning for All." The third symposium was a

poster session, featuring authors in the forthcoming book, *Moving the Equity Agenda Forward: Equity Research, Practice, and Policy in Science Education*. The volume is edited by past chairs of the E & E Committee, Julie A. Bianchini, Valarie L. Akerson, Angela Calabrese Barton, Okhee Lee, and Alberto J. Rodriguez. All three symposia provided useful information and examples of cutting edge research to address equity issues across multiple contexts.

Equity Dinner

Over 70 NARST members registered for the annual Equity Dinner held at Bahama Breeze. Everyone had a wonderful time! As a reminder, to attend the Equity Dinner, please register for the event when you register for the 2012 International conference. Members are also encouraged to donate or purchase an extra ticket when registering or go to the online donation page on the NARST website. At the dinner we acknowledge personal and professional "Good News"!

E & E Committee Ongoing Business

Members of NARST are welcomed to attend the Equity and Ethics 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. As a final note, please respond to messages or calls regarding applications for the 2012 Jhumki Basu Scholars Program and participation on the Equity & Ethics Committee!
Co-chairs, Julie Bianchini
(jbianchi@education.ucsb.edu) or
Felicia Moore Mensah
(moorefe@tc.columbia.edu)



Jhumki Basu Scholars Symposium

EXTERNAL POLICY AND RELATIONS COMMITTEE

John Falk, Chair

The External Policy and Relations Committee (EPRC) works on efforts related to fostering the development of partnerships and collaborations with professional organizations and groups concerned with the quality of science teaching and learning. The Committee also works to support increased awareness among NARST members about national and international policy issues relevant to science education.

EPRC's focus over the next year will be in 4 areas: Completing Memorandums of Understanding agreements with affiliates; Co-sponsoring a relevant policy session at the 2012 national meeting in collaboration with the Policy Strand (15); Hosting a NARST booth at the 2012 NSTA meeting; and Initiating efforts to support dissemination of policy information to NARST members.

Policy for Affiliation with NARST

NARST should have meaningful affiliations with other science education organizations. Our recently-approved policy regarding affiliations indicates that affiliations might work toward collaborative organization of conference sessions, writing of position or policy statements, development of research studies, sponsorship of professional learning communities—or other joint ventures we haven't thought of yet! In 2010/11 EPRC made great strides in reviewing all existing affiliations and developing revised MoUs with existing affiliate organizations. The current goal is to finalize these MoUs this year and then consider expanding relationships with other organizations next year. If you have thoughts about additional groups you think NARST might productively affiliate with please email your suggestions to John Falk at falkj@science.oregonstate.edu.

Co-Sponsored Policy Session at NARST 2012

EPRC co-sponsored several policy-related sessions at the most recent NARST meeting in Orlando. The EPRC committee has generated a list of potential sessions for the 2012 NARST annual meeting in Indianapolis and is awaiting comment and input from the members of Strand 15, the Policy Strand. Suggestions for future policy-related sessions are always welcome, please email John Falk at falkj@science.oregonstate.edu.

NARST at NSTA 2012

NARST will once again host a booth at the 2012 NSTA annual meeting. We use the booth as a means to raise our visibility among K-12 classroom teachers. Thanks so much to all the NARST members who helped staff the 2011 booth. This is a great way to provide service to the organization and work to improve connections between NARST and the membership of NSTA! If you anticipate going to NSTA next year in Indianapolis and are interested in helping to staff the booth, please email either Meredith Houle mhoule@mail.sdsu.edu or John Falk at falkj@science.oregonstate.edu.

Informing NARST Members about Science Education Policy

NARST as an organization is committed to building greater awareness and involvement of its members in policy-related issues relevant to science education at home and abroad. EPRC committee members began exploring strategies for how best to support this commitment. Over the course of this year some initial strategies will be put in place for helping interested NARST members stay abreast of major policy trends. As above, anyone interested in

helping with this endeavor, please contact John Falk at falkj@science.oregonstate.edu.

If you have any suggestions, comments, or questions about any of the above activities or have an interest in becoming involved in the External Policy and Relations Committee, please email the EPRC Chair John Falk (falkj@science.oregonstate.edu) or any of the EPRC members.

Members:

- (12) Mike Barnett
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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE



Sibel Erduran - International Coordinator

Chair:

(13) Sibel Erduran, University of Bristol

Members:

(12) Hye-eun Zew, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

(12) Marie-Claire Shanahan, University of Alberta

(13) Issam Hafez Abi-El-Mona, Rowan University

(13) Deniz Peker, Virginia Tech

(13) Ismail Marulcu, Boston College

(14) 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

The International Committee has awarded 15 scholarships to support the following doctoral students and early career researchers to attend the NARST 2011 Annual Conference in Orlando: Aik Lin Tan, Caroline Cormier, Yilmaz Kara, Hanife C. Sen, Erdinc Isbilir, Andri Christodoulou, Billy Wong, Rachel Oser, Jee-Young Park, Elif Adibelli, Behzat Bektasli, Yael Shahrabani, Sevgi Kingir, Jan Nielsen and Mustafa Topcu. Congratulations to all the applicants!

The International Committee has also awarded a grant to the proposal titled "Supporting more learner-centred approaches in Rwandan science classrooms" by Dr Paul Denley, University of Bath, UK as part of the Linking Science Educators Program. The project will promote 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.

NARST will have representation at the European Science Education Research Association Conference due to take place in September 2011 in Lyon, France. The International Committee-sponsored session on the theme of "Globalisation and Science Education" will be presided by Sibel Erduran, and J. Randy McGinnis will act as a discussant. The paper presentations will be given by Dana L. Zeidler, Mitch Ruzek, Ben Herman, Jeff Orasky & Wardell Powell (USA), Lyn Carter (Australia), Larry Bencze (Canada), Uri Zoller, Israel, Sonya N. Martin (USA) and Christina Siry (Luxembourg).



Recipients of the International Committee Scholarships with committee members at the NARST Annual Meeting in Orlando

MEMBERSHIP AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Renee' Schwartz & Bryan Brown, Co-Chairs

The purpose of the Membership and Elections Committee is to seek “new members from a variety of backgrounds and retain active members by soliciting interest in committee membership throughout the organization as well as for elected offices. In addition to developing a slate for annual elections, the committee would be concerned with recruitment, retention, and responsiveness of the organization to members’ interests.” (NARST Policies & Procedures, p. 8).



Jomo Mutegi and David Stroupe at the social 2011 for graduate students and early-career scholars

We send a big “Thank you” to the members of the M&E Committee, who make great efforts to uphold the purpose of our committee and mission of the NARST organization. We especially thank the outgoing members who served for the last three years, April Adams and Aidin Amirshokooi. The current M&E committee members are: Julie Luft, Corinne Lardy, May Hung May Cheng, Reizelie Barreto-Espino, Kathryn Drago, Jomo Mutegi, Mike Smith, Eileen Carlton Parsons, and Judy Dori. We also welcome immediate Past-President Dana Zeidler as a co-Chair for 2011.

The M&E Committee welcomes Deniz Peker from the International Committee and Doris Ash from the Equity and Ethics Committee who are serving as representatives from their respective committees to advise the M&E committee during the year. We strive to build a NARST

membership and leadership team that is truly representative of our mission as a diverse and global organization.

M&E Committee Sponsored sessions at the 2011 NARST International Conference

The M & E committee sponsored three sessions at the 2011 international conference in Orlando, FL. These sessions were intended to support early career researchers and help new NARST members to get acquainted with the conference, the organization, and other members. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the members of the M&E committee who

organized and facilitated these sessions. The 2011 Mentor-Mentee-Nexus was organized by April Adams and Corinne Lardy. This session brought new NARST members and experienced NARST members together

for good conversation and conference planning and to facilitate networking among our newer members.

The New Researcher and Junior Faculty Early Career Discussion, organized by Julie Luft and Reizelie Barreto-Espino, brought together new and experienced scholars for discussions about how to successfully navigate through the early years in a science education career.

The Graduate Student Forum was organized by Jomo Mutegi and Kathryn Drago. This session had a diverse panel of NARST members who addressed questions and gave guidance to the nearly 100 people in attendance!

The conversations continued after the session at a pool-side informal social for graduate students and early-career scholars. NARST members Takumi Sato, Daniel Capps, and Maya Patel organized the social, including “speed introductions”

where attendees were able to meet and greet nearly everyone.



Get connected through Facebook!

Several graduate students have taken the initiative to create a Facebook group that is open to anyone interested in science education research and interests of early career scholars. It is already up to 96 members! Anyone can join by going to the Facebook site “Science Education Graduate Students and Early Career Scholars,” and sending a request. We thank Takumi Sato, Maya Patel, and Daniel Capps for getting the group started!



Daniel Capps and Takumi Sato welcoming graduate students and early-career scholars

2012 Elections: Board of Directors and President-Elect

The process of electing three new Board members and President-elect is underway for the 2012 elections. The changes approved at the April 2011 Board meeting are intended to streamline the process for clarity and transparency. Thank you to all NARST members who made helpful suggestions as we revised the procedures.

The M&E Committee values and continues to welcome your input. Please contact Renee' (r.schwartz@wmich.edu) or Bryan (brbrown@stanford.edu) with your questions, suggestions, and/or interest in working with the committee.

PUBLICATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*Jan van Driel and
Carolyn Wallace – Co-chairs*



The Publications Advisory Committee wants to thank their outgoing members, Len Annetta, Kate Popejoy, and Gill Roehrig for their contributions in the past 3 years. We welcome three newly appointed members: Julia Plummer, Danielle Ford and Gili Ad-Marbach, plus a new co-chair, who was elected as a new NARST Board member earlier this year, Carolyn Wallace. The other current members of the PAC are Heidi Carlone, Martina Nieswandt, Debra Tomanek, Eric Wiebe, James Minogue, and Tahsin Khalid.

The PAC sponsored two sessions and one pre-conference workshop at the NARST 2011 meeting in Orlando. The editors of the *Journal of Research in Science Teaching*, Angela Calabrese-Barton and Joe Krajcik, together with Bob Geier organised a very well attended pre-conference workshop on developing high quality reviews for JRST and a session about publishing in JRST. The last session was called *Managing the Digital Intellectual Life(stream) of a 21st Century Science Education Scholar*, and was organized by Scott McDonald, Eric Wiebe, and Carla Zembal-Saul. Thanks to all of you for making these sessions highly successful!

Scholarships for classroom teachers and informal science educators

These scholarships aim to increase engagement of people with NARST, who wouldn't otherwise attend the NARST conference. For the 2011 Annual meeting, the PAC sent out a call in September via the NARST listserv for 10 scholarships, each worth \$500. Proposals were due in December. The PAC had developed a procedure and a rubric to review the applications. Seventeen Applications were received by the deadline. These were reviewed by the members of the PAC; each proposal was scored on the rubric by three PAC members. On the basis of the scores, a ranking was made. The ten applicants with the highest scores were informed about the scholarship being granted to them.

For the 2012 meeting the NARST Board decided to raise the scholarship to \$600. A call for applications will go out in September of this year.

NSTA reading list

In February 2011, a subcommittee consisting of PAC members Martina Nieswandt, Len Annetta and James Minogue worked with Jan van Driel, to make a selection of 5 articles from the 2010 volume of JRST for the NSTA reading list. The articles were selected on the basis of relevance and readability for science teachers. A simple procedure was developed, where each individual focused on 2 or 3 issues from the 2010 volume, and nominated papers. This led to an initial selection of 12 articles. These articles were then read and ranked by each member of the subcommittee. A discussion about the individual Top 5s, led to consensus about 5 articles. These articles will be made available to NSTA members. Hard copies of these 5 articles were available at the NARST booth during the NSTA annual conference.

This is the Top 5 Articles from JRST 2010 for NSTA: Articles Teachers Should Read!, in alphabetical order of first author:

- Inan, J.Z., Trundle, K.C., & Kantor, R. (2010). Understanding natural sciences education in a Reggio Emilia-inspired preschool. *JRST*, 74(10), 1186-1208.
- Johnson, P., & Papagerogiou, G. (2010). Rethinking the introduction of particle theory: A substance-based framework. *JRST*, 47(2), 130-150.
- Minner, D.D., Levy, A.J., & Century, J. (2010). Inquiry-based instruction: What is it and does it matter? Results from a research synthesis years 1984 to 2002. *JRST*, 47(4), 474-496.
- Olitsky, S., Loman Flohr, L., Gardner, J., & Billups, M. (2010). Coherence, contradiction, and the development of school science identities. *JRST*, 47(10), 1209-1228.
- Varelas, M., Pappas, C.C., Tucker-Raymond, E., Kane, J., Hanks, J., Ortiz, I., & Keblawe-Shamah, N. (2010). Drama activities as ideational resources for primary-grade children in urban science classrooms. *JRST*, 47(3), 302-325.

NARST endorsement of publications

Last year, the PAC received a request to endorse a book publication. This volume, *Moving the Equity Agenda Forward: Equity Research, Practice, and Policy in Science Education* was discussed in the PAC which led to a consensus to support the request to endorse. Next, the NARST Executive Board agreed to endorse this publication. This volume examines current research on issues of equity and diversity, and identifies future directions for such research. It includes 16 chapters from emerging to well-established scholars in the US. It also provides a set of international responses to this work. The volume is

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RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Stephen Norris, Chair

New NARST Position—NARST Liaison to NSTA

At its meeting of October last, the Board of Directors approved a motion made by Troy Sadler on behalf of the Research Committee to create a new NARST position—the NARST Liaison to NSTA. In this article I wish to tell you a bit about this new position and the upcoming advertisement to fill it. Creating this position is an important step for NARST in forging even stronger bonds with the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA). I encourage all NARST members to consider applying for this position and to urge other qualified NARST members to apply.

The NARST Liaison to NSTA will be a three-year appointed position to serve on the NARST Board of Directors as an ex officio member. The Liaison also would serve on the Research Committee as an ex officio member. Ex officio members of the Board and of its committees may participate fully in Board discussions and deliberations, but they do not possess voting rights. The person holding this position will serve as NARST's Alliance of Affiliates (AoA) representative to NSTA. The AoA serves in an advisory capacity to the NSTA Board of Directors. Through its AoA, NSTA works with other science teaching and educational groups around the United States to further the goals of science education. The purpose of this Board position is to ensure clear lines of communication exist between NARST and NSTA and to demonstrate to NSTA our commitment to partnering with them in substantive ways.

The successful individual will be appointed to the NARST Board as of the 2012 Annual International Conference, and the official duties with NSTA as AoA representative will begin 1 June 2012.

Some duties of the position will be: participating in the specially designated AoA session at the NSTA national conference; participating in the annual NSTA National Congress on Science Education; serving as a liaison between the NARST Research Committee and NSTA to coordinate NARST-sponsored sessions at NSTA area conferences and at the NSTA national conference.

If you are someone who wishes to take a leadership role in improving science teaching and learning through research and enjoy collaboration with science teacher organizations, this position marks a great opportunity for you to serve NARST! Watch for the advertisement and please consider making an application!

Research Committee Members

(12) Benjamin Herman	University of South Florida
(12) Alandeom Oliveira	Univeristy at Albany
(12) Abdulkadir (Kadir) Demir	Georgia State University
(13) Allan Feldman	University of South Florida
(13) Jim McDonald	Central Michigan University
(13) Toni Sondergeld	University of Toledo
(14) Celestine H. Pea	National Science Foundation
(14) Senay Purzer	Purdue University
(14) Shari Britner	Bradley University

PUBLICATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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edited by current and past chairs of the NARST Equity and Ethics Committee: Julie A. Bianchini, Valarie L. Akerson, Angela Calabrese Barton, Okhee Lee, and Alberto J. Rodriguez. Indeed, this project grew out of an ad hoc committee formed a few years ago at the NARST Annual Conference and charged with assessing the strengths and weaknesses of existing equity-related work in science education. The book will be published by Springer in their Cultural Studies of Science Education series, edited by Ken Tobin and Catherine Milne.

As a result of the discussion about the endorsement of this volume, the guidelines for the endorsement process have been slightly adapted. If you consider to propose

a publication for NARST endorsement, in the cover letter which supports the request the following information should be included— (a) a statement of how the publication supports or advances the mission of NARST; (b) author information, highlighting NARST membership; (c) publisher information; (d) involvement/endorsements of other associations (if applicable); (e) a statement of commitment by the publisher to market the publication among NARST membership.

The PAC continues to welcome your feedback. Since Carolyn Wallace is currently shifting jobs, please contact us at Driel@iclon.leidenuniv.nl with your questions, suggestions, and/or interest in working with the committee.

CALL FOR 2012 AWARD NOMINATIONS

Nominees are invited for the following NARST 2012 awards which will be presented at the awards luncheon at the 2012 NARST Annual International Conference in Indianapolis, IN.

NARST 2012 Distinguished Contribution through Research Award Nominees

The National Association for Research in Science Teaching seeks to improve science education through research. To this end, the Association desires to recognize and reward individuals who have made significant contributions to, provided leadership in, and had impact on, science education through research. Research contributions may be of several types-including, but not limited to empirical, philosophical or historical research, evaluative studies, policy-related research, and studies reflecting new techniques to be applied in research.

The recipient of the Award should have contributed over a period of at least 20 years since the award of his or her doctorate. This award is the highest recognition NARST can bestow for contributions to science education through exemplary, high quality research.

Nominations are due not later than July 15, 2011 to the address below.

All members are encouraged to consider nominating a colleague for this award. Self-nominations are not permitted.

Please note that the award will be made to an individual who over a period of at least 20 years has:

- made a continuing contribution to science education through research;
- provided notable leadership in science education through research; and
- had substantial impact on science education through research.

All that is necessary to start the nomination process is for a NARST member to send a name with a letter (of no more than two-pages) supporting the nomination of the person.

Please send the names of nominees no later than July 15, 2011 to Peter Hewson (co-chair with Jonathan Osborne) at pwhewson@wisc.edu. Note: Please note that the date for nominations to be received is earlier than in previous years. This change is reflected in NARST's Policy & Procedures (available on the NARST website).

NARST 2012 Early Career Research Award

The NARST Early Career Research Award acknowledges contributions to science education through research by individuals during the five years immediately following receipt of the doctoral degree. To qualify for the award this year, the nominee must have received the doctoral degree on or after January 1, 2006. All NARST members are encouraged to consider nominating an eligible and deserving early career member.

Nominations for the award must be accompanied by the following supporting material:

- A letter of nomination which discusses the nominee's impact on the field;
- The nominee's vita;
- A two-page summary of the nominee's research interests, prepared by the nominee;
- Three of the nominee's best papers; and
- Two additional letters of support to be sent separately. The supporting letters need to discuss the context and significance of the nominee's scholarship so that the accomplishments shown on the nominee's vita may be better understood.

Nomination materials should be received by the Committee Co-Chair, Grady Venville at grady.venville@uwa.edu.au (co-chair with Maria Varelas) no later than November 15, 2011.

All nomination packages and materials should be sent electronically in PDF format.

Note: Each candidate is reviewed independently by eight committee members. If you are interested in seeing the rating sheet that is used in this process, please request it directly from the co-Chairs of the Committee.

NARST 2012 Outstanding Doctoral Research Award

The NARST Outstanding Doctoral Research Award Selection Committee invites all current NARST members who completed a dissertation within the 15 months prior to September 15, 2011 to submit an expanded ten-page abstract (in PDF format) to the committee for consideration for the 2012 NARST Outstanding Doctoral Research Award. Submissions are sought from as wide a field of candidates as possible, inclusive of gender, age, and ethnicity.

Judging will occur in two rounds. The first round of judging will be based on the ten-page abstract. From

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CALL FOR 2012 AWARD NOMINATIONS

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these, a small group of applicants will be asked to submit one copy (in PDF format) of the complete dissertation. The final decision of the committee will be based on the complete dissertation. All applicants will be notified of their status after the first round of judging is completed in early November.

The committee welcomes doctoral dissertations from all research perspectives. The ten-page abstract should be structured to describe clearly the following: (1) purpose or objectives of the study; (2) conceptual/theoretical framework; (3) research approach/methods; (4) data sources and methods of analysis; (5) findings or results; (6) conclusions and implications; and (7) significance of the study. It is suggested that nominees model their abstracts after conference proposals submitted for NARST: Abstracts should foreground rationale, methods, and results.

Judging in both rounds (for abstracts and dissertations) will be based on the following three central questions: (1) Is the research question(s) being asked of importance to the community of science educators? (2) Is the research approach and its implementation thorough and appropriate for the research question(s) asked? And (3) Are the results and conclusions appropriate for the context of the study? Specific criteria considered in relation to these questions include: The significance of the research problem/area; conceptual/theoretical background; thoroughness of the research approach and methods; identification of conclusions/outcomes and their implications for science education; clarity and coherence of communication; and overall originality or creativity. In the past successful applicants have been those who were able to make a case for the significance of their study to the science education community as a whole and/or who convinced the reviewers of the originality of the questions asked or methods employed.

Submission Procedure

An all-electronic submission process will be used. Persons wishing to be considered for the award should submit an e-mail with the following three attachments (in PDF format): (1) one file containing a ten-page, double-spaced abstract (margins limited to one inch all around using 12 cpi font); (2) one file containing a five-page abbreviated bibliography; (3) one file containing a cover sheet which includes the author's name, address where they can be reached through December 2011, e-mail address, telephone and fax numbers, title of the study, the name and address of the institution where the dissertation was

completed, a list of the members of the dissertation committee, and the date the dissertation was passed. This cover sheet should be signed by the major advisor/professor/supervisor or chair of the dissertation committee. An electronic signature is acceptable.

Alternatively, the dissertation supervisor/director can send an e-mail to the Chair of the Outstanding Doctoral Research Award Selection Committee endorsing the application and attesting to the accuracy of the information provided in the application. (Note: The title of the study should appear on the first page of the abstract, but the author's name and other identifying information should appear ONLY on the cover sheet.)

An e-mail with all three attachments must be received by Judith Lederman at ledermanj@iit.edu and Michael Ford at mjford@pitt.edu no later than September 15, 2011. We regret that the committee will be unable to consider incomplete or late applications.

Questions regarding this award should be e-mailed to the co-chairs of the Committee: Judith Lederman at ledermanj@iit.edu and Michael Ford at mjford@pitt.edu.