

# eNARST NEWS

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NARST

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

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Sharon Lynch**  
*President*

### Riding the STEM Wave with NARST

**An Invitation to the Annual Conference in Puerto Rico: April 6–9, 2013**

The Conference Theme: No matter where we live, it seems we are inundated by news of economic worries, if not impending disasters. More enlightened views expand the conversation to concerns about environment, energy policy, and growing gaps in income inequality within and across nations. Invariably, such discussions turn to STEM education as both a problem to be solved, as well as a crucial component in the solution.

Science education is front-and-center in such discussions. Our 2013 Conference theme, “**The S in STEM Education: Policy, Research and Practice**” is right on target. Although there is no one agreed upon definition of STEM education, in informed policy circles, STEM education is increasingly linked to interdisciplinary curricula with an emphasis on project-based-learning. Problems to be solved are contextualized by placing them in real world situations. Such instruction, skillfully enacted by innovative teachers, leads students develop 21st Century Skills. Technology is employed as a source of information and learning; as the glue to connect learners, teachers and experts; and, as a means for students to demonstrate what they have learned. Students become more empowered learners who stand a better chance of success in STEM majors, jobs or careers. A recent report indicated that students in any fields with such skills and sensibilities will have more opportunities, job flexibility, and higher earnings.

The 2013 Annual International Conference in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico offers a chance to discuss, elaborate, or critique the connections between science education and new notions of STEM education.

The Conference Venue and Program: The 2013 NARST Annual International Conference will be held at the beautiful Wyndham Rio Mar Hotel in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico. The expansive resort is situated on a beautiful sandy Caribbean beach, nestled at the foot of El Yunque

**NARST 2013**  
Annual International Conference

Wyndham Rio Mar  
Río Grande, Puerto Rico  
April 6-9, 2013  
Visit: [www.wyndhamriomar.com](http://www.wyndhamriomar.com)

**NARST**  
A Worldwide Organization for  
Improving Science Teaching &  
Learning through Research  
[www.narst.org](http://www.narst.org)

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### El Yunque Rainforest

National Forest, the only tropical rainforest in the US National Forest system. The hotel is about an hour's drive to Old San Juan, perhaps the most beautiful old town in the US. Puerto Rico is a popular vacation venue because of the variety terrain and microhabitats, to say nothing of towns and villages that provide unique cultural experiences. This is NARST's first venue in a bilingual Spanish / English setting. NARST members who wish to extend their stay to explore Puerto Rico will find much to discover and enjoy.

Conference proposal submissions for the 2013 NARST Annual International Conference reached an all-time high. The conference program will offer exciting speakers, symposia, and paper and poster sessions. This year our conference will begin on Saturday, April 6th, with pre-conference workshops in the morning and an opportunity to take an excursion to El Yunque National Forest sponsored by NARST science educators who have a project in El Yunque that unites K-12 students with scientists to study the rainforest. The pre-conference sessions are followed by research sessions in the early afternoon and our first plenary in the late afternoon (speaker TBA). That evening, there are several events open to all conference attendees, including the Mentor/Mentee Nexus, Research Interest Group Meetings, and the Presidential Welcome Reception. I look forward to greeting you. The second plenary session will feature Dr. William Tate from Washington University in St. Louis. The title of his talk is "*Research on Ecological Context and Place: Investigating the Landscape of STEM Opportunities*". Our conference will end on the evening of April 9, with the option of an evening trip to Old San Juan organized by NARST's Equity Committee; you will be able to register for the trip and the Equity Dinner with your conference registration.

It is also exciting to announce two new NARST Research Interest Groups (RIGs) that will meet for the first time at our Conference in Puerto Rico. The Conference STEM theme is ideal for the start-up of the Engineering Education RIG, and our venue in Puerto Rico is a perfect place to initiate the Latino/a RIG (LARIG). Look for these new opportunities in the Conference Program schedule.

### NARST DIPS TOES in POLICY WATERS: NARST Leadership Team Task Force Response to the NGSS

Science education policy talk is in the air. The NARST leadership team is putting together a broad stroke response to the anticipated US Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), focusing on implementation issues. The goal of the Task Force is to develop a set of succinct position statements that focus on the infrastructure likely needed for the rollout and adoption of the NGSS. The substance, scope and design of the NGSS are the product of many years of research from the

science education and learning sciences communities; represent current research about how to improve the teaching and learning of science in the US; and, anticipate the needs of 21st century science literacy. The NGSS have been carefully worked through and vetted through drafts of the NRC Framework for K-12 Science Education (2012) and of the first draft NGSS. The NGSS are likely to be rolled out in 20+ states in 2013.

While aspects of the NGSS are not likely to be absolutely acceptable to each member of the NARST community, disagreement with particular features of the NGSS may be less important in the long run than the challenges faced by teachers, schools, school districts, and states trying to implement the NGSS. On the other hand, the NGSS could be an opportunity for substantive improvements in science education, stimulating the development of comprehensive, coherent K-12 curriculum materials; new ambitious professional development activities for science teachers across the grades; or a restructuring of preservice teacher education. The NGSS will inevitably be accompanied by assessments, which, if well aligned and designed, could provide information about the developmental nature of student science learning and the changes needed in schools to respond to learning needs of diverse groups of students.

For these reasons, NARST is mounting a broad-stroke response to create a set of research-based position statements focusing on systemic changes that must accompany the implementation of the NGSS, and designed to be helpful to the researchers, policymakers, educators, and parents who will ask questions that need thoughtful answers. The NARST Leadership Team Task Force will craft a series of position papers on the implementation of the NGSS, written by NARST members, and based upon research. Topics to be included are: preservice teacher education, professional development, curriculum materials, assessment, accountability, equity, engineering, and informal science education. Internal and external advisory boards for the project have been formed, and are identifying individuals to lead the writing teams. Eventually, drafts will be available for review and comment by all NARST members. We will invite some formal comments from members who reside outside the US to provide insights from international perspectives.

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## LONG RANGE CONFERENCE PLANNING: Survey Results and a Peek into Future Priorities

Those of you who attended the Awards Luncheon at the 2012 NARST Annual International Conference may recall that questionnaires were provided on each table to ask for your feedback about long-range conference planning. In addition, any NARST members not registered for that Conference were asked to participate in the survey electronically. The survey netted a 52% of 547 responses return rate, the highest survey participation rate in NARST history. Assuming that the results are somewhat generalizable to the entire membership population, we learned a lot about the composition of the membership and member preferences.

Respondents self-reported as 67% Female, 29% Male, and 3% left this category blank. About 76% indicated that they lived within the US, and about 34% indicated that they were graduate students. The breakdown by ethnicity (without regard to country of residence) was:

Ethnicity of NARST Conference Survey Participants		
Category	Freq.	%
African/African American	42	7.7
Asian/Pacific Islanders	65	11.9
European/Caucasian	346	63.3
Latino/Latina	27	4.9
Middle Eastern	10	1.8
Indian	6	1.1
Other	16	2.9
Blank	35	6.4

These data are interesting because NARST has not historically collected such information, and this is the best estimate we have of the membership composition.

There were 20 questions on the questionnaire. The vast majority of members indicated that they preferred the NARST Annual International Conference to be held at an urban center where walking and running, and access a variety of cultural venues are easy options. A high priority was keeping down costs of travel, hotel, and food. Most members did not feel strongly about whether the conference was scheduled before or after AERA or NSTA. More members who reside outside the US prefer to keep the NARST conference linked with AERA, and more graduate students prefer it to be linked to NSTA. Most members prefer that NARST continue to avoid religious holidays, but women more so than men. Most members prefer to keep the date of the conference in the spring, and it seems to make sense to continue to align the NARST Conference with AERA and NSTA conferences on alternate years, given the preferences of international members and graduate students, and the desire of most members to keep costs down.

We can share these data in more detail at the NARST business meeting at the 2013 Conference. It looks as if the Pittsburgh conference venue confirmed for 2014 meets many of the preferences of the respondents. (We imagine NARST members running briskly from the conference hotel to find inexpensive places to eat, drink, and entertain themselves.) NARST Executive Director Bill Kyle is looking into conference sites in Chicago for 2015 to find venues based upon the survey response data.

If registrations continue to increase each year and we expand the conference accordingly, then the likelihood of finding a single hotel to host the conference will diminish, and we may find ourselves in more than one conference hotel. Executive Director Bill Kyle can expand on these points, with great expertise.

Kudos to NARST Long Range Planning Conference Committee for conducting this survey, to past president Randy McGinnis for charging me with this work, to Bill Kyle and Robin Turner of Drohan Management for being so enterprising and expeditious in getting the survey out, and especially to NARST Board member Xiufeng Liu and his graduate student at SUNY Buffalo for analyzing the data and compiling the results.

## NARST ACTIVITY in CHINA

In October, 2012, I had the honor of representing NARST and giving a plenary session that discussed my current research at the ICSE 2012 (International Conference on Science Education) at the University of Nanjing. The conference was organized by NARST members Baohui Zhang, Hongshia Zhang, Shujin Peng and Xiufeng Liu, and was attended by over 120 science educators from China and around the world. It was an extremely successful conference. It was fascinating to contrast approaches to science education in various countries and to compare issues that nations face in common. There was far more of the latter than the former, suggesting that we have so much to offer one another. In addition, I was able to visit and give a talk at Beijing Normal University, thanks to the generous invitation given by Professor Lei Wang, Chair of the Department of Chemistry Education. The graduate students who showed us around Beijing and Nanjing could not have been more knowledgeable and helpful. This was an eye-opening and productive experience, made special by our hosts.



*I look forward to seeing you all in Puerto Rico and to a great conference!*

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

## FORTHCOMING CALL FOR NARST COMMITTEE MEMBER VOLUNTEERS

**A**s President-elect, one of my responsibilities is to recommend to the NARST Executive Board the appointment of new committee members to the eight NARST standing committees. The call seeking applications for committee members will be distributed in late January 2013, but I would like to take this opportunity to encourage NARST members to considering applying for one of over fifty committee positions that will be available.

Participation in committee assignments is one of the best ways to get involved in NARST and to influence decisions and policies. We have eight standing committees. Details about each committee's charge and other information may be found in the NARST Policy and Procedures Manual, which is available on our website, [www.narst.org](http://www.narst.org), under the left-side tab "About NARST".

Committee members must be NARST members in good standing. The goal is to have the composition of the committees reflect the diversity of the NARST membership. Members worldwide and at all points in their career (including those in graduate programs) are encouraged to apply.

Those appointed to a committee are expected to attend the annual meeting. At the annual meeting, committees will meet at least one morning at 7 AM (with a free continental breakfast that you can take into your meeting room). Some committees meet also for the second day. Information about the committee meetings will be posted in the NARST International Program schedule. Committee members should plan to provide input during the meeting and contribute throughout the year in a timely fashion, as all committees have meaningful work to do in advancing the mission of our organization.

Serving on a committee is a serious responsibility, but one in which you will learn about your committee's focus, the work within the organization, and our greater efforts to improve science education worldwide. Those of us who have served NARST on committees can attest to the rewarding camaraderie

and networking opportunities formed with others on a committee. I hope that you will consider applying for one of the openings when the call comes out in January. In the meantime, if you have any questions related to service on committees, please feel free to email me at [labryan@purdue.edu](mailto:labryan@purdue.edu).

### Virtual Sessions at the 2013 NARST Annual Meeting

On behalf of the Ad hoc Committee on Virtual Presentations, I am pleased to announce that there will be seven virtual presentations at the 2013 NARST International Conference in Rio Grande. Virtual presentations allow researchers in UNDP .700 and below nations whose stand-alone paper proposals are accepted through the regular online submission and review process to present their work from remote sites.

As co-chairs of the Ad hoc Committee on Virtual Presentations, Anita Welch and I currently are seeking technology-savvy NARST members to volunteer on the committee. Members of the Ad hoc Committee on Virtual Presentations will work with the co-chairs to ensure that those who are delivering a virtual presentation at the 2013 annual meeting are well supported in the process of presenting. For example, Ad hoc committee members will arrange for a test-run of each virtual presentation and attend at least one 2013 annual meeting session in which a virtual presentation will

occur, to introduce the scholar(s) and troubleshoot any technical problems that may arise. If you are willing to lend your technology skills and expertise to the Ad hoc Committee on Virtual Presentations, please send an email to Lynn Bryan at [labryan@purdue.edu](mailto:labryan@purdue.edu).

On a personal note, I am enjoying this opportunity to serve NARST and our members, and welcome your voice, input and participation.

**Lynn Bryan**, *President-Elect*  
Purdue University

Serving on a committee is a serious responsibility, but one in which you will learn about your committee's focus, the work within the organization, and our greater efforts to improve science education worldwide.

# MESSAGE FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT

It has been my pleasure to  
“grow up”  
professionally in a dynamic  
and influential worldwide community  
of practicing researchers  
in science education.

**J. Randy McGinnis**  
*Past President*



As this year's Past President, I have worked to position NARST securely in the 21st Century. My actions have been focused in three areas.

## **Co-Chairing the Membership and Elections Committee**

First, I worked with the Committee to recruit for consideration on the NARST Election slate a numerous and wide range of candidates from around the world. I believe the final slate the Committee recommended for Board of Directors, International Coordinator, and President-Elect that was approved unanimously by the Board at the Fall Executive NARST Board of Directors is exceptional. I encourage all members to vote on the next generation of leaders in your Organization. I also would like to express my sincere appreciation to all (those who were selected this year by the Committee by use of a very carefully conducted rating and ranking process to stand for election and those who were not). NARST's future depends on members willing to be considered for such leadership positions and to serve if elected. Second, I worked with a subcommittee (chaired by Bryan Brown) of the Committee on application review and selection of the newly created Graduate Student Board Position. The establishment of this new position on the Board is one that I supported throughout my presidency, since it gives a leadership voice to our increasingly large graduate student membership. Truly, NARST is going forward by growing the next generation of leaders.

## **Updating the NARST's Policy and Procedures Manual and Generating a New Handbook to Accompany it**

NARST's bylaws provide the macro-level structure for our Organization; our Policy and Procedures (P&P) Manual provides the fine-grain information on how all activities in NARST should be conducted. As such, the P&P is extremely important in ensuring that our Organization's activities are carried out in a transparent manner, a hallmark of an equitable professional society. Building on the work begun by Dana Zeidler, I worked closely with the NARST Board of Directors and our Executive Director Bill Kyle (and assisted throughout by a NARST supported GA (Jodi Devonshire) to make our P&P document current, readable and succinct. The process

entailed the culling from the previous P&P material that more appropriately belongs in a new accompanying Handbook. The Handbook documents include forms that committee members use to conduct their work. The Board at the Fall Executive Board Meeting approved both the P&P and the Handbook unanimously. And, I am pleased to report in a nod to our modern times, these two documents have been formatted as eBooks and are posted on our Organization's website.

## **Working with the Membership to Develop and Select a New Logo for Our Organization**

This final initiative of my term on the Board that I am leading is one that has me charged up since it represents an inclusive way to blend creativity and the practical in our Organization's activities. As result of the name change strategy for our Organization that I proposed during my President-Elect term (an action that was supported enthusiastically by then President Dana Zeidler), we need to replace our former logo used on our website and official documents for one that represents our current information (i.e., “**NARST: A Worldwide Organization for the Improvement of Science Teaching and Learning**”). As I draft this text, I am pleased to report that I am leading a subcommittee of the Membership and Elections Committee that is developing a technology supported way for the membership to participate throughout the new NARST logo development and selection process. The goal is to have our new logo for use this coming spring at the NARST Annual International Conference in Puerto Rico (which I am very pleased that as President I was able to recommend as a venue for NARST).

Finally, since this will be my final column in the *eNARST News*, I end on a personal note. As someone who has served on the NARST Board for the past consecutive 12 years (elected board member, Editor of JRST, President-Elect, President, and Past President), I can attest firsthand to the terrific opportunities for professional growth leadership that NARST offers. It has been my pleasure to “grow up” professionally in a dynamic and influential worldwide community of practicing researchers in science education. Over the years, I worked with many dedicated science education researchers (NARST Board members, executive directors, JRST Editorial Board members, authors and reviewers, and committee members). I learned from them, and I made many friendships. I look forward after my Past President term ends at the Awards Luncheon at the 2013 NARST Annual International Meeting to continue working in NARST as an active member.

***See you in Puerto Rico!***

# 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 **86th NARST Annual International Conference, 6–9 April 2013**, at the Wyndham Río Mar, Río Grande, Puerto Rico. The Program Committee has been working diligently to ensure you have an outstanding conference experience. In addition to the conference, I hope you have the opportunity to enjoy some of the cultural amenities that Puerto Rico has to offer—it is a wonderful location with many attractions.



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

You received the dues renewal notice for your 2013 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. In addition to renewing your membership, please identify a colleague whom you believe would benefit as a result of joining NARST (e.g., classroom 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.

### Conferences

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 2012, for the 4th consecutive year, NARST had a commissionable conference contract. Since moving to commissionable contracts, we have met the contractual obligations each year. In 2012 we earned a commission of \$31,118. Over the past 4 years, NARST has earned approximately \$140,000 in conference commissions that we have been able to invest toward offsetting the projected conference deficit, as well as being 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.

### Finally

For over 85 years, NARST has been a voice of and for science education researchers. 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  
Chair

The Equity and Ethics Committee is excited to update you on our work and activities. The Equity and Ethics (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. A theme for the year and planning for the 2013 conference may be summed up as ‘collaboration.’

## Committee Sponsored Sessions

The Equity and Ethics Committee has been involved in several activities this year and efforts will continue for 2013. These activities include both revisiting existing efforts and identifying new initiatives to provide better leadership to NARST and to support members in their work as it relates to equity and diversity. Briefly, we introduce some of our activities, with additional details following: Revision of the policies and procedures of the E&E Committee for more transparency and accessibility to NARST members; Planning of the Preconference Workshop and the New Scholars Symposium to support our Jhumki Basu scholars, doctoral students, and early career scholars; Development of the NARST Statement of Conduct; and Collaborations with the CADASE-RIG and the LA-RIG.

## E&E Planning for Puerto Rico

There are some exciting things planned for you in Puerto Rico! We will take advantage of the culture and location so that activities sponsored by the Equity and Ethics Committee will be educational, fun, and impactful. There are two E&E Committee Sponsored Sessions for the upcoming 2013 NARST meeting. These sessions will highlight and spotlight the work and goals of the E&E committee through sessions and activities that will be educational, fun, and impactful at the 2013 conference.

**Educational**—The New Scholars Symposium will highlight 12 of our 2012 Basu Scholars. They will present their research in a poster session, “STEM Education: Social, Cultural, Epistemological, and Pedagogical Issues.” The E&E Committee and the Continental and Diasporic Africa in Science Education Research Interest Group, or the CADASE-RIG, will co-sponsor a session to discuss the findings from the Horizon Research Group. Horizon has conducted a large-scale study examining the distribution of resources (human and other kinds) across K-12 schools and classrooms nationally. Horizon will present their findings, and in a following session, a panel of invited science education researchers will comment on equity issues relevant to the report. **Fun**—The E&E Committee is excited to hold our annual Equity Dinner at the La Barrachina Restaurant, the birthplace of the (in)famous Piña Colada. The committee would like to thank Alberto Rodriguez for his hard work in securing a venue for the Equity Dinner and post-dinner activities. There will also be

opportunities for shopping and dancing, with members of the Latino/a Research Interest Group, the LA-RIG, to serve as cultural guides and translators. **Impactful**—The E&E Committee is sponsoring a local elementary school in Puerto Rico, Domingo Nieves Ortiz Elementary School. We will hold a book drive to provide resources for the school. More details will be shared with the membership on how you can participate in this Social Action Project.

## New and On-going Initiatives

The E&E Committee is happy to make two announcements: First, the publication of the book, *Moving the equity agenda forward: Equity research, practice, and policy in science education* (2013, Springer) is available. The book, endorsed by NARST, and edited by Julie A. Bianchini, Valarie L. Akerson, Angela Calabrese Barton, Ohkee Lee, and Alberto J. Rodriguez, past chairs of the E&E Committee, brings this exciting volume of research on celebrating, challenging, and attempting to move forward our understanding of equity and diversity in science education. Congratulations to all NARST members who were contributors to this influential and educational resource.

Second, the Hedy Moscovici Teacher Education Research Grant is a new initiative to award and acknowledge the work of two emergent scholars from underrepresented groups within the NARST organization. Scholars who are within the critical timeframe of pre-tenured (years 3-6) are eligible for this award. It is a one-time award that supports a project to enhance our understanding of or engagement with issues related to diversity and equity broadly defined in the area of teacher education and to acknowledge the work of our friend and colleague, Hedy. The two awardees of the teacher education grants will be announced at the 2013 Equity Dinner.

We welcome all NARST members to support the many activities and initiatives of the Equity and Ethics Committee. If you have suggestions or want to become more involved in the work of the E&E Committee, please contact me [fm2140@tc.columbia.edu](mailto:fm2140@tc.columbia.edu), or one of the E&E Committee members.

**Chair** – Felicia Moore Mensah

### Members:

Matthew Weinstein  
Geeta Verma  
Bhaskar Upadhyay  
Rola Khishfe  
Regina Wragg

Deborah Roberts-Harris  
Seema Rivera  
Irene Osisioma  
Jacqueline Samuel  
Cassie Quigley

# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE



**Sibel Erduran**  
*Committee Chair*

## International Committee Travel Scholarships

The NARST international committee scholarships were established to demonstrate NARST's commitment to excel as an international organization by financially supporting international science education scholars from various countries in order to encourage discussion on science teaching and learning from a global perspective. To achieve this goal, travel scholarships will be offered to provide international graduate students and early career faculty or researchers with financial assistance to travel to and participate in the annual NARST conference. Scholarships are awarded ranging from \$300–\$1000 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 does not exceed \$10,500. **The deadline for the scholarships was December 15th, 2012.** The outcomes of the evaluation will be communicated by February 2012.

## Linking Science Educators Program

The NARST International Committee is pleased to announce funding for the Linking Science Educators Program (LSEP) 2013. NARST is a worldwide organization committed to help all learners to achieve scientific literacy as an ultimate goal and to cooperate with other educational and scientific societies to influence science education policies. The Linking Science Educators Program, initiated by the International Committee of NARST, 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 representatives with science educational reform ideas but cannot attain enough financial support otherwise. An application form and more information are available on the NARST Website ([www.narst.org](http://www.narst.org)). The deadline for applications was January 15th, 2013.

## New PhD School Scholarship Scheme!

NARST is pleased to announce a new scholarship scheme for doctoral students to attend PhD Schools of other science education research associations. As an international association, NARST promotes the improvement of science teaching and learning through research. Researchers from a wide range of career stages constitute the membership of the association. Doctoral students are a key part of the NARST community, representing the future scholarship in science education. As part of its increased focus on international communication and collaboration, NARST will be funding 2 doctoral students to participate in doctoral schools around the world. The main purpose of the funding is to support the learning experiences of science education doctoral students by providing an opportunity to meet with science education researchers and peers from other parts of the world. The first scholarships will be used towards participation at the SAARMSTE Research School to be held in South Africa in 2013 ([www.saarmste.org](http://www.saarmste.org)). The longer-term agenda is to encourage links with and participation in the doctoral schools of other associations as well. Please visit the NARST website ([www.narst.org](http://www.narst.org)) for more information.

**Chair – International Coordinator: Sibel Erduran**, University of Bristol (13)

### Members:

**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** (15)  
Indiana University (14)

**Eva Erdosne Toth**  
West Virginia University (14)

**Minsu Ha**  
(graduate student member)  
The Ohio State University (14)

**Aybuke Pabuccu**  
Abant Izzet Baysal University  
Turkey (15)

**Deb McGregor**  
University of Wolverhampton, UK

### Ex-Officio:

**Sharon Lynch**  
George Washington University

**Bill Kyle**  
University of Missouri  
St. Louis

# PUBLICATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE



**Carolyn S. Wallace**  
*Committee Chair*  
Indiana State University

The functions of the Publications Advisory Committee are to work closely with our association's publication, the Journal of Research in Science Teaching, to produce the e-NARST News, to sponsor the Classroom Teacher Scholarship Competition, to sponsor special sessions at the annual conference and to select JRST articles for the NSTA Summer Reading List for Teachers. The PAC will also play a role in overseeing the new NARST policy statements surrounding the NGSS.

Look for the following special sessions in the upcoming conference in Puerto Rico to celebrate the 50th anniversary of JRST!

## **Celebrating Fifty years of JRST: Editors' Perspectives on its Past, Present, and Future**

In this session sponsored by the Publications Advisory Committee, current and former editors of the Journal of Research in Science Teaching will gather to discuss past, present and future issues and trends in science education research. The moderated discussion topics will include the editors' reflections on the prominent themes in science education, key articles and accomplishments, and possible missed opportunities during their tenure as editors. They will also share their perspectives on current research trends. The panel will conclude with an interactive discussion of the editors' perspectives on the future of our field, its publications, and the ways in which we share research among the international science education community and broader audiences in light of rapidly changing information technologies and expectations for research.

## **Reflections from Contemporary Researchers on the Influence of Past JRST Scholarship**

In recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Journal of Research in Science Teaching, the Publications Advisory Committee has organized a session to reflect on the ways in which past JRST scholarship has influenced the research community. Our goal in this session is to take a personal look at the stories of NARST members and the articles they selected as influencing the direction of their scholarship. In this session, four science education scholars, scholars, Greg Kelly, Katherine McNeil, Troy Sadler and Nancy Songer, who began their career during various decades of JRST publication, will share the ways in which previous JRST literature shaped the direction of their own research. In this way, we hope to elicit a discussion around how JRST has influenced the direction of science education research over the past 50 years.

The PAC will also sponsor one more iteration of Joe Krajcik and Angie Calabrese Barton's pre-conference workshop on the topic of writing an excellent review for manuscripts submitted to JRST. If you haven't participated in this workshop before, consider attending in 2013 as this will be the last time it is offered.

### **Members:**

**James Minogue**  
**Eric Wiebe**  
**Tahsin Khalid**  
**Gili Marbach-Ad**  
**Julia Plummer**  
**Danielle Ford**  
**David Long**  
**Anat Yarden**  
**Daniel Myer**  
**Kimberly Barss**  
**Bryan Nichols**



**Kate Scantlebury**  
NSTA Representative to NARST

NARST's Publications Advisory Committee is identifying "good research worth reading" articles for NSTA's Summer Reading program for teachers.

NSTA's 2013 National Conference on Science Education

***Next Generation Science: Learning, Literacy, and Living***

April 11–14 | San Antonio, Texas

Later in the Spring, 2013, NSTA has Organized:

**STEM Forum and Expo**

May 15–18 | St. Louis

For more information see [www.nsta.org/conferences/2013stl](http://www.nsta.org/conferences/2013stl)

**NSTA's 2013 Area Conferences:**

October 24–26 | Portland, Oregon

November 7–9 | Charlotte, North Carolina

December 12–14 | Denver, Colorado

Proposals for the area conferences are due January 15, 2013 and can be submitted at [http://science.nsta.org/sessions/proposal\\_submission.asp](http://science.nsta.org/sessions/proposal_submission.asp)

**The 2014 Annual Conference:**

April 3–6 | Boston, Massachusetts

Proposals for the 2014 national conference are due by April 15, 2013 and can be submitted at [http://science.nsta.org/sessions/proposal\\_submission.asp](http://science.nsta.org/sessions/proposal_submission.asp)

# RESEARCH COMMITTEE

In September, the Research Committee reviewed proposals for the Sandra K. Abell Institute for Doctoral Students to take place in the summer of 2013, and for the pre-conference workshops to take place at the start of the 2013 annual meeting in Puerto Rico. Several competitive proposals were received in each category, a strong sign of the continuous growth of our association.

**Stephen Norris**  
*Committee Co-Chair*

**Maria Varelas**  
*Committee Co-Chair*



The Sandra K. Abell Institute for Doctoral Students is a biennial event that started in 2009. Two highly successful institutes have already been hosted: the first one by the University of Missouri (2009) and the second one by BSCS and Penn State University (2011). The theme of the 2013 Institute, which will take place in Washington, DC on July 15–19, is “Connecting Research to Policy and Practice.” Co-organizers of the Institute are Julie A. Luft of University of Georgia and Angie Calabrese Barton of Michigan State University. The Institute will be co-sponsored by the University of Georgia, Michigan State University, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

The purpose of the Sandra K. Abell Institute for Doctoral Students is to support the education and professional development of doctoral students involved in the study of science education. The Institute affords opportunities for science education doctoral students and established researchers, who serve as mentors, to share perspectives, discuss current research, and collaborate. In the 2013 Institute, doctoral students will be supported in developing an understanding of the science education research community and their place within this community; advancing their own research interests, directions, and projects; developing a proposal for the 2014 NARST conference; and connecting their emergent research to policy and practice. Students and mentors will interact through a variety of formats, including small group seminars dedicated to the discussion of student research projects, workshops, research presentations by mentors, social events, and proposal writing sessions.

We wish the organizing team success in their recruitment efforts and look forward to hearing about what we are confident will be an exciting and rewarding Institute.

Two exciting Pre-Conference Workshops were selected using a comprehensive evaluation rubric. One workshop is entitled “Developing a Competitive Proposal for Programs in NSF’s Division of Research on Learning in Formal and Informal Settings” and will be presented by Ellen McCallie, Sandra Toro, Elizabeth VanderPutten, Julio Lopez, and Janet Kolodner. This workshop will help build participants’ capacity to write competitive, high quality proposals. It will comprise multiple short sessions and opportunities for collaborative work, discussion, and questions. Novice and experienced proposers are equally welcome, and are encouraged to bring proposal concepts and letters of interest for discussion.

The other workshop is entitled “Exploration of a New ‘Words-to-Images’ Tool for Analyzing Videos of Science Teaching” and will be presented by Kathleen Roth, April Gardner, and Molly Stuhlsatz. This workshop will allow participants to explore the tool Guide for Video Analysis of Science Teaching: Coherence and gain free access to its online version. This tool addresses a common problem in science education research: namely, although we may agree about the words we use to describe effective science teaching, we often have very different images in our minds of what these words mean in practice.

Both workshops promise to provide wonderful learning opportunities for participants, so be on the lookout for guidelines on how to register for a pre-conference workshop when the 2013 meeting program is released.

## Co-Chairs:

(13) **Stephen Norris**      (15) **Maria Varelas**

## Members:

(13) **Allan Feldman**      (14) **Julianne Wenner**  
(13) **Jim McDonald**      (15) **Hye-Eun Chu**  
(13) **Toni Sondergeld**      (15) **Joy Barnes-Johnson**  
(14) **Shari Britner**      (15) **Jessica Thompson**  
(14) **Richard Lamb**      **Ex Officio:**  
(14) **Celestine H. Pea**      **Kate Scantlebury**  
(14) **Senay Purzer**      (15) **Deborah Hanuscin**

**Xiufeng Liu**  
*Committee Co-Chair*

**Patricia Friedrichsen**  
*Committee Co-Chair*

## NOMINATIONS 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 JRST Awards is also progressing according to the schedule. Award winners will be announced at the annual conference in April, 2013. We would like to thank all the award selection committee chairs and members for their hard work and service to our organization.

The Awards Committee Will Sponsor the Following Session at the 2013 Annual Conference To Be Held In Rio Grande, Puerto Rico:

### **SPECIAL SYMPOSIUM:** **Distinguished Contributions in Research**

In this symposium, Andy Anderson and Larry Yore, the winners of the 2012 Distinguished Contribution to Science Education through Research Award (DCA) will present the highlights of their research work in the context of what is happening in science education research internationally. In addition they will share their thoughts on what the future might and should hold for science education research. This is an opportunity to hear from two greatly respected international leaders in the field of science education and to honour their achievements. The DCA selection committee co-chairs will also be available to provide information on the selection process and award criteria.

### **SPECIAL SYMPOSIUM:** **Outstanding Doctoral Research Award**

Interested in learning more about the NARST Outstanding Doctoral Research Award? Who is eligible for this award? What materials are needed for the application? In this informal session, members of the selection committee will share information about the award, including the details of the application process and the criteria for selection. We will review the mostly commonly asked questions related to the application process, and be available to answer any other questions.

# EXTERNAL POLICY AND RELATIONS COMMITTEE

John Falk | Committee Co-Chair

John Settlage | Committee Co-Chair

The External Policy and Relations Committee (EPRC) works to support increased awareness among NARST members about national and international policy issues relevant to science education. The Committee also 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.

EPRC's primary focus this year were in two key areas:

- 1) Initiating efforts to create a structure to allow NARST to become more actively engaged in policy issues at the national and international level;
- 2) Co-sponsoring one more relevant policy sessions at the 2013 national meeting in collaboration with the Policy Strand (15).

## Building the Capacity for NARST to Be More Actively Engaged with Science Education Policy

NARST as an organization is committed to playing a greater role in public debates related to science education issues; we wish to make the expertise and voice of NARST members more relevant to science education policy at home and abroad. EPRC committee members began exploring strategies for how best to support this commitment. At the Spring NARST Board Meeting a resolution was passed initiating a process whereby NARST members can initiate the development of NARST position statements. Over the next several months we will be rolling out an alpha version of web-based this process; stay tuned for more information on this exciting development. Anyone interested in more details can contact EPRC Co-Chair, John Falk at [falkj@science.oregonstate.edu](mailto:falkj@science.oregonstate.edu).

### Co-Chairs:

**John Falk** | [falkj@science.oregonstate.edu](mailto:falkj@science.oregonstate.edu) (13)  
**John Settlage** | [john.settlage@uconn.edu](mailto:john.settlage@uconn.edu) (15)

### Members:

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**Eugene Judson** | [Eugene.Judson@asu.edu](mailto:Eugene.Judson@asu.edu) (15)  
Arizona State University

### Ex-Officio:

**Executive Director: Bill Kyle** | [bill\\_kyle@umsl.edu](mailto:bill_kyle@umsl.edu)  
**President (current): Sharon Lynch** | [slynch@gwu.edu](mailto:slynch@gwu.edu)

## Co-Sponsored Policy Session at NARST 2013

The EPRC will join with Strand 15 (Policy) in Puerto Rico in 2013 to present a co-sponsored: *Symposium on Climate Change Education: Policies and Implications*. The symposium follows the 2012 Climate Change symposium co-sponsored by Strand 14 (Environmental Education) and Strand 15 (Policy). The 2013 symposium will examine climate change education and each presenter will discuss policy related impacts and implications. In addition, EPRC will sponsor a seminar: *Blowing Up the Silos: What Will it Take to Change 21st Century Science Education?* — a discussion of current efforts to reform public education. For additional information on either of these sessions please contact either Sarah Carrier [sarah\\_carrier@ncsu.edu](mailto:sarah_carrier@ncsu.edu) or John Falk at [falkj@science.oregonstate.edu](mailto: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 one of the EPRC Co-Chairs:*

John Falk at [falkj@science.oregonstate.edu](mailto:falkj@science.oregonstate.edu)

John Settlage at [john.settlage@uconn.edu](mailto:john.settlage@uconn.edu)

OR any of the EPRC members