

NARST

Graduate

Student

Newsletter

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#NARSTGrads: The Here and Now... and Beyond

**Meet the Immediate Past and
Present NARST Graduate Student
Coordinators of the NARST
Graduate Student Committee:
Christa Haverly and Theila Smith**

The Graduate Student Coordinator is the committee chair and also the committee's liaison to the NARST Board of Directors.

Christa Haverly is the past Graduate Student Coordinator (the committee chair and liaison to the NARST Board of Directors). Her two-year term just completed at the 2021 Annual Conference. She is a postdoc at Northwestern University, working with Jim Spillane on an NSF-funded grant studying how school districts are supporting instructional reform in elementary science in response to the NGSS. Christa is married with a one-year-old and a dog who keep her busy and also bring immense joy through all the uncertainty and difficulty of this pandemic. She doesn't have much time for hobbies these days, but she enjoys walking her dog in the mornings to Lake Michigan, including over the winter when the water freezes and creates beautiful ice shelves that look other-worldly.

Theila Smith is the current Grad Student Coordinator. She is a 3rd year PhD student (complete in 2022) at the University of Groningen, Netherlands. Her PhD research project focuses how children, those from the Afro-Caribbean community, in particular, come to form, negotiate, and author their science identities through their engagement in a community-based S.T.E.A.M. enrichment programme: [ROOTS: "Ik ben Science!"](#). Theila is part of the Caribbean diaspora living in Brooklyn, N.Y., having been born and raised in Jamaica. She relishes the times she gets to visit her family in Jamaica, spending time with her two beautiful nieces, sister, mother and many cousins.

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Alt text: Author standing against a brick wall and smiling

When everything changes, where do we go to learn?

David Schouweiler

This question drives both my research and my practice as a Science teacher. I began my career as a high school Chemistry teacher with few resources and little professional support from my school -- I was simply given a laptop, a set of classroom keys, and a warm smile that communicated the utmost confidence in my abilities. This was particularly problematic given that my undergraduate major was in Biology. As the sole high school Chemistry teacher in a small school district, I had no one I could turn to for support with teaching my newfound subject area. The other Science teachers in my department were phenomenally supportive in helping me navigate the school and the community, and they provided me with plenty of advice, moral support, and sounding board sessions. However, it was up to me to develop my curriculum and to learn the ins and outs of teaching my content to my students.

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About the NARST Graduate Student Newsletter

Thank you for reading the NARST Graduate Student Committee Newsletter. This newsletter is a space to share knowledge, resources, and community within the NARST graduate student community. This newsletter is released at the beginning of the year, following the NARST Conference, and the end of July or beginning of August. If you have an idea for a newsletter article, please submit your idea [here](#). Please note new newsletter posts will be located on the NARST website [here](#).

As part of the NARST newsletter, we want to celebrate the wins of NARST graduate students. If you have exciting news to share or want to celebrate the achievement of a NARST graduate student, please submit this information to our cheer corner [here](#).

Donating to the Graduate Student Committee

Donations to the NARST graduate student committee help to fund scholarships to the NARST conference for graduate students and other NARST graduate student initiatives. You can donate to the NARST graduate student committee when you renew your NARST membership each year.

[READ HERE](#)

WANT TO COMPLETE THAT DISSERTATION, MANUSCRIPT, ABSTRACT, COURSE ASSIGNMENT, CONFERENCE PAPER, FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION, ETC.?

WRITING GROUP

COME JOIN US TO PROGRESS YOUR WRITING PROJECTS

Join us the NARST grad student committee
M-F 1:00-3:00pm EST/10:00-12:00 PST
Round 1: Jan 4- April 30, 2020

HERE IS THE LINK TO REGISTER

<https://psu.zoom.us/j/7811111111>

Want to complete that dissertation, manuscript, abstract, course assignment, conference paper, fellowship application, etc.?

Come join us to progress your writing projects

Join us, the NARST grad student committee

Register here: <https://bit.ly/3arta1K>

This writing group will continue to meet through August 27