New 2020-21 SSEC Officers

At the annual SSEC corporation meeting in July, the Board of Directors elected Greg Samuels (University of Montevallo) to serve as 2020-21 SSEC President. The Board selected Kathryn Engebretson (Indiana University) to fill the office of Vice-President. As outgoing President, Michael Berson remains on the Board as Past President. We are grateful that Jim Davis will continue as SSEC Treasurer.

2021 SSEC Virtual Conference:
“Learning from the past?
Social Science Explorations across Time and Place”

While the prospects of a widely available effective COVID vaccine have cheered us all, the Board believes it is still too soon to schedule a face-to-face conference this summer. Instead, we are planning a VIRTUAL conference scheduled for June 26-27 (with a pre-conference Zoom meet-and-greet on the evening of the 25th). As in the past, we will issue a call for papers in January, and we are planning a variety of creative virtual sessions that we think you will find attractive - all with an eye to maintaining person-to-person interaction SSEC has always valued. Mark your calendars and stay tuned.

SSEC at NCSS 2020

Because of the COVID pandemic, NCSS and CUFA ran virtual conferences this year: CUFA met online from November 30 to December 4 and NCSS met from December 4 to 6. SSEC had a Zoom session at CUFA that highlighted our latest book, The Divide Within: Intersections of Realities, Facts, Theories, and Practices (2021). The session proposal was spearheaded by one of the co-editors, Laura Handler, who also led the session, held on Monday, November 30 beginning at 11:15 AM.

Honors

In November, SSEC member Mary Haas was honored by the National Social Studies Supervisors Association Board of Directors with the 2020 Mel Miller Outstanding Social Studies Leader Award. First conferred in 1993, the award recognizes NSSSA members who best exemplify the qualities of leadership expressed in the NSSSA Position Statement on the Role of the Social Studies Supervisor. Mary is professor of Social Studies Education at Western Virginia University and long-time SSEC member. Congratulations to Mary on this well-deserved recognition.

Past SSEC president Michael Berson was awarded the 2020 Irving Morrissett Award for Excellence in Social Science Education. Each year since 2003, the SSEC Board of Directors has presented this award to an SSEC member who has devoted his/her career to improving social studies/social science education. Criteria for award selection include documented evidence of improving the field, significant scholarly publications, continuing commitment to the field, and continuing commitment to the Social Science Education Consortium. The award is presented at the annual meeting of the organization.

Berson Brings Computer Science into Middle School History Classrooms

“University of South Florida (USF) professor Michael J. Berson, PhD, is partnering with Virginia-based nonprofit CodeVA and math-science nonprofit TERC on a multi-year research project to broaden middle school students’ participation in meaningful and culturally relevant computer science instruction during their history classes. The project, “An Interdisciplinary Approach to Supporting Computer Science in Rural Schools,” will develop a computer science program for teaching history to underserved middle school students in the state of Virginia. The project is supported by a four-year, $2.99 million grant funded by the National Science Foundation’s (NSF) Discovery Research PreK-12 (DRK-12) program and was developed as part of a national push to increase computer science K-12 literacy and participation in

(continued on next page)
computer science-related fields and industries among underrepresented and minoritized student populations. Michael J. Berson, a Professor of Social Science Education, will serve as co-principal investigator for the project. He and Ilene R. Berson, a Professor of Early Childhood Education who will also contribute to the project, have collaborated on groundbreaking international research in digital citizenship and cybersecurity for students that has informed global policy and practice” (Sampling University of South Florida press release).

**Publications/Presentations by SSEC Members (past & present)**

**Jacob Bennett** (Vanderbilt University, TN)


**Carole Hahn** (Emory University, GA)


**Michael Berson** (University of South Florida, FL)

KidCitizen: Digital interactive for K-5 learners to promote historical inquiry and civic engagement by investigating primary sources. Episodes capitalize on the active and social nature of young children’s learning. They use primary sources for demonstrations, interactions, and models of inquiry. Each KidCitizen episode draws on a set of primary photographs from the Library of Congress. Highlighted in 2020-21 K-12 Social Studies Distance-Learning Resources, published by the Social Studies Innovation Network. Information about the current KidCitizen Guest Director Contest is available here.


**Allan Jales Coutinho**

(Ed.M., International Education Policy, Harvard University)


**James A. Banks** (Kerry and Linda Killinger Endowed Chair in Diversity Studies Emeritus, University of Washington, WA)


**Sara Demoiny** (Auburn University, AL)


Sara also recommends members check out the Abolitionist Teaching Network podcast – “a podcast committed to sharing ideas that strengthen the everyday lives of Black and Brown students within our schools and communities. Each episode is aimed at empowering our knowledge for collective liberation.”
Publications/Presentations by SSEC Members (continued)

**Greg Samuels** (University of Montevallo, AL)


**Mark Schug** (Prof. Emeritus, Univ. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, WI)


**Robert White** (St. Francis Xavier University, NS, Canada)


**Chara Haeussler Bohan** (Georgia State University, GA)


**SSEC Publications**

**SSEC Book Series (IAP)**

The 2019 conference book from the conference in Charlotte, NC, is now available. *The Divide Within: Intersections of Realities, Facts, Theories, and Practices* (2021) is the second of our new [SSEC Book Series](#) published by Information Age Publishing. The book is edited by Tina Heafner, Laura Handler, & Tracy Rock. It is listed on the IAP SSEC Book Series page. SSEC members in good standing will receive a free copy as a member benefit.

**BOOK LAUNCH MEET THE AUTHORS EVENT**

Mark your calendars. SSEC is hosting a Book Launch/Meet the Authors web session for the newly-released *The Divide Within* on January 27, 2021, from 7:00 – 8:30 PM EST (4:00 – 5:30 PST). For information about the online session, contact SSEC Board Member Laura Handler (lkhoeing@unc.edu).
Do we have your email address? Communicating via email saves postage. Email us at ExecDirector@ssec-inc.org.

Teaching the Social Sciences and History in Secondary Schools: A Methods Book

Formerly published by the Social Science Education Consortium through Waveland Press (2000) and Wadsworth/Thomson/ITP (1996) the new digital edition (2014) continues to be ordered for pre-service secondary social studies courses. In addition to having its content comprehensively updated, each chapter includes active web links to a wide variety of Internet-based social studies teaching resources. The text can be purchased in PDF format for $26.06. Contact publications@ssec-inc.org for more information.

SSEC Member Links Social Education Article to SSEC Website

SSEC Vice-President Kathryn E. Engerbretson published “What Does it Look Like? Telling the Story of Global Women’s Political Participation through Photographs” in the September 2020 issue of NCSS’s Social Education journal. She explores how examining photographs of women participating in elections around the world can help students make important connections to the Nineteenth Amendment. As an added premium, readers were directed to the SSEC website to find additional photographs teachers can use to supplement examples in the print article. This linkage between the SSEC website and print-based publications is important to demonstrate the value of SSEC’s internet presence.

In the Works: SSEC Webinar Series

The SSEC Board established a subcommittee to explore the development of 1 to 1½ hour web events presented at regular intervals during the year. The Board is committed to maintaining the social connectedness that SSEC is known for. The January book launch web event announced above will be the first, providing an opportunity to discuss the implication of authors’ work on methods and classroom instruction. Other possible events may include interviews with influential members of the field, discussion of new books, sharing ideas on emerging research ideas and plans, digging deeper into a particular piece of research, discussion of contemporary issues and the role of social science education, sharing innovative classroom applications, and the like. To be most useful, we need to hear from you about your interests. What kinds of web events would catch your interest and the interests of your peers? Please send along all your ideas good to ExecDirector@ssec-inc.org.

Support the work of SSEC!

We welcome your tax-deductible donations in any amount to support the work of SSEC, especially our Young Scholars program. Advanced graduate students, post-docs, and pre-tenure faculty are selected to present at our annual conferences and receive free conference registration and partial travel reimbursement. For donations of $100 or more, we are pleased to send you a small thank you gift – the official SSEC coffee mug pictured here.

Member News

Susumu Oshihara (Ehime University, Japan)

Dr. Oshihara is a professor of Social Studies Education, Faculty of Education, Ehime University in Matsuyama, Japan. He serves as the principal of Ehime University’s School of Special Needs Education. His particular interest is the historical development of the Global Studies in social studies education, in both U.S. and Japan. Integrating globality in social studies instruction is a fundamental aim of his teaching. This interest he has shared with teachers from the Philippines, Korea, and Malawi.

Professor Oshihara serves on the board the Japanese Educational Research Association for the Social Studies, the Japanese Association for the Social Studies, the Japanese Association of Global Education, the Japanese Association for Civic Education, and the Japan Society for Study of Newspapers in Education. He also volunteers as vice president of the Sacramento and Matsuyama Sister City Corporation.

He has been a member of SSEC, NCSS, CUFA, and the International Assembly (IA) since 2009 and was awarded an IA Conference Travel Grant Award in 2015.

Robert White (St. Francis Xavier University, NS, Canada)

“Even though I retired in January, things have been very hectic. I am teaching a course on Critical Research literacy that includes both quantitative and qualitative research designs. This is an online course and has been thus for the past decade. As a result, we have not had to scramble like so many other universities in order to be ready with new technology that we remain unfamiliar with. The Gods have smiled upon us, this time.

“At the moment, I am working on one article and two books. The article is “Educational leadership in the Anthropocene: Preparing for an uncertain global future.” The title of the first book, co-authored with
David Young is titled, "Policy Matters" and the second book, co-authored with Stephanie Chitpin is called, Leading under Pressure." Both books are in the educational leadership genre.

“When I am not chained to my desk, I am working on a cabinetry project. I find it is important to give my head a rest by working with my hands. The cabinet project will eventually find its way into my 1893 house, that I have been restoring for the past decade and a half.”

Murry Nelson (Professor Emeritus, Penn State University)

“I can share news, but almost none of it would be social studies related. I did, though, get an inquiry about optioning one of my books for a film. I agreed to have an offer made but have received none and may never have that happen. I have been interviewed on Brazilian television, interviewed by a Brazilian newspaper/media service, gotten requests for assistance from a Belgian television station and a Spanish media outlet. All of this regarding various basketball history writings. I am trying to get another book published (again on basketball history). With COVID and other health issues, I find it unlikely we’d be at another SSEC conference in the near future, but one never knows. We miss seeing all our SSEC colleagues and friends.”

Tedd Levy (Past President, NCSS)

An SSEC Teacher Associate in the last century, I’ve been involved in local history for the past few years in Old Saybrook, CT. After retiring from public education, I worked with the National Consortium for Teaching About Asia, Smith College, and then volunteered with my local Historical Society. Most recently, I was project director for an America Battlefield Protection Program project, a National Park Service effort designed to promote understanding and appreciation of the “Siege and Battles at Saybrook Fort and the Pequot War (1636-1637).” This year the project received an Award of Excellence from the American Association of State and Local History. My third book on Old Saybrook was published this fall by The History Press: Old Saybrook: A Main Street History.”

SSEC Needs Your Feedback

After the new year, be on the lookout for a poll we’ll be sending all members, asking about a variety of matters, including future conference sites, conference themes, publications interests, and web-based resources. Your ideas will help SSEC provide support for social science education professionals at all levels.