In this Issue

With this summer issue of the newsletter, we can report on our highly-successful international conference in Dublin, Ireland. First, though, we’ll catch you up on member news and publications, changes on the SSEC Board, new SSEC publications, and organizational plans for the future. If we’ve missed your important news, our website’s News and Calendar pages feature items throughout the year. Just send items to Charlie White at publications@ssec-inc.org.

Honors

James A. Banks is the 2022 recipient of the Irving Morrissett Award for Excellence in Social Science Education. Conferred at SSEC’s international conference in June, the Morrissett Award recognizes an individual 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.

Jim is the Kerry and Linda Killinger Endowed Chair in Diversity Studies Emeritus and is the founding director of the Center for Multicultural Education at the University of Washington, which is now the Banks Center for Educational Justice. He was the Russell F. Stark University Professor at the University of Washington from 2001 to 2006. Professor Banks is a past president of the American Educational Research Association and of the National Council for the Social Studies. He is a specialist in social studies education, multicultural education, and diversity and citizenship education and has written widely in these fields.

Professor Banks is the editor of the Handbook of Research on Multicultural Education; The Routledge International Companion to Multicultural Education; Diversity and Citizenship Education: Global Perspectives; the Encyclopedia of Diversity in Education, and Citizenship Education and Global Migration: Implications for Theory, Research, and Teaching. He is also the editor of the Multicultural Education Series of books published by Teachers College Press, Columbia University. He is a member of the National Academy of Education and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Research by Professor Banks on how educational institutions can improve race and ethnic relations has greatly influenced schools, colleges, and universities throughout the United States and the world. He is often called the “Father of Multicultural Education.” Professor Banks has given lectures on citizenship education and diversity in many different nations. SSEC is proud to count Professor James Banks as a member.

In response to news of the award, Prof. Banks wrote the following:

I am delighted that SSEC has awarded me the 2022 Irving Morrissett Award for Excellence in Social Science Education. I am honored to receive the Award not only because it recognizes my work in social studies education and SSEC, but also because I was a friend and colleague of Irving Morrissett, who was executive director of SSEC when I was elected in the early 1970s. Please extend my warm thanks and gratitude to the Award Selection Committee and convey to them how sorry I am that I cannot be in Dublin to personally receive the Award. I have accepted an invitation to give a keynote address in Haifa, Israel in June and consequently will not be able to come to Dublin, a city that I greatly admire and in which I have given keynote addresses at colleges and universities on several occasions in past years, including a lecture at Dublin City University in 2007.

New Board Members and New Officers

As of the June annual corporation meeting, two of the SSEC’s dedicated board members rotated off the board. Laura Handler (Greensboro College, North Carolina) played an indispensable role in planning the outstanding 2019 SSEC conference.

Kathryn Engebretson (Indiana University) completed her term as SSEC President this year, but will stay on as Past President in 2022-23.

Laura and Kathryn have exemplified the new level of board engagement and initiative, and they deserve our great thanks and appreciation.

Two new board members began their three-year terms at the July board meeting. Eric Claravall is assistant professor in the College of Education at California State University – Sacramento. His research interests fall within the intersection of disciplinary literacy, critical pedagogy, and learning differences.
New Board Members and New Officers

Joining Eric is Associate Professor Brandon Haas from the University of North Georgia. Brandon teaches Social Foundations and Leadership Education in the Department of Middle Grades, Secondary and Science Education. He is skilled in curriculum design and development, professional learning communities, Social Studies instruction and content development, and the development and implementation of educational program initiatives. Thanks to both for their willingness to serve on the board.

We have new officers as well. Former Vice-President Sara Demoiny has ascended to SSEC President. Sara is an assistant professor of Elementary Education in the Department of Curriculum and Teaching at Auburn University. Her research interests focus on the manner in which race and whiteness are taught in social studies teacher education. Our new Vice-President is Dean Vesperman, a faculty member and Program Coordinator for the Broadfield Social Studies in the College of Education and Professional Services at the University of Wisconsin – River Falls.

What’s New at SSEC

Webinar Series: Upcoming Events

The 2022-23 webinar series will begin with a discussion on “Facing the Challenges of the Social Sciences in the Past and Present.” Scheduled for Wednesday September 28th, 2022 from 6:30 to 8 PM ET, the webinar will feature presenters whose experiences span recent decades in the field – its controversies, its priorities, and its future.

On Wednesday, October 26th, SSEC will host a book launch webinar introducing the latest addition to the SSEC Book Series, Teaching Through Turmoil: Re-Learning, Re-Teaching, And Re-Imagining History And Social Science (see below). Editor Dean Vesperman will gather several of the chapter authors to share their work and engage participants in discussion.

We’ll send a reminder with registration information as the webinar dates approach. Webinars are recorded and uploaded to SSEC’s YouTube channel.

Are there topics you’d like to see addressed in an SSEC webinar? Would you like to host one of our webinars? Let us know.

Member News

Dean Vesperman was the recipient of the UWRF College of Education and Professional Services award for Research, Creative and Scholarly Activity for 2021. This award was given for his SSEC/IAP book chapter he co-authored with Dr. Jill Leet-Otley titled “Primary Contradictions: Qualitative Transformations of White Social Studies Teacher Identity.” In July, Dean was tapped by the Superintendent of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction to help co-lead the redesign of the scope and sequence for civics of elementary grades.

Amy Allen has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Social Studies in the Elementary Education Program at Virginia Tech University in Blacksburg, VA. She completed her doctoral studies at the University of Oklahoma this spring. Amy is a member of the SSEC Board and a 2018 Young Scholar.

B. Scott Durham is beginning his new position as Assistant Professor in the College of Education, Health, and Human Services at Kent State University, Kent, Ohio. Scott completed his doctorate at Western Michigan University. Scott was a 2020 Young Scholar.

Publications, Presentations, & Productions

Allan Michel Jales Coutinho


Kathryn Engebretson and Keith Barton (Indiana University)


Chara Haeussler Bohan (Georgia State University)

Bohan, C.H., Baker, H.R., King, L. (2022) Teaching Enslavement in American History Lesson Plans and Primary Sources. Bristol UK, Peter Lang Publisher. (https://www.peterlang.com/document/1152333). The text provides classroom teachers with the resources necessary to navigate one of the most difficult topics in any history course. This volume is the product of a collaboration between three university professors and a team of experienced middle and high school teachers.

Has your contact information changed? Email us at ExecDirector@ssec-inc.org.
SSEC Publications

IAP Expands SSEC Book Series

Teaching Through Turmoil: Re-Learning, Re-Teaching, and Re-Imagining History and Social Science.

Edited by Dean Vesperman, Teaching Through Turmoil responds to today’s contested environment for teaching and learning history and social science and considers possible responses from the field. Planned for a fall release, this is the latest installment of the SSEC Book Series published by Information Age Publishing, our official publisher. Members as of June 30, 2022, will receive a free copy as soon as it is available.

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 adopted for pre-service secondary social studies courses. 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 (including processing). Contact publications@ssec-inc.org for more information.

Donate to the Young Scholar Program

We are most grateful to those who have supported the Young Scholar program in the past, and we invite others to participate. Young Scholars often become long-term SSEC members and contribute to our ongoing mission. At the 2022 Ireland conference, SSEC supported Young Scholars selected for both the cancelled Kyiv conference and this year’s conference in Dublin in the form of conference registration waivers, partial travel reimbursement, or both. This drew down our capital account by a bit over $13,000. We are committed to continuing the Young Scholar initiative, but we depend on the generosity of members to help replenish our capital funds through donations. You can click on the “Make a Donation” button above. The Board is grateful for donations received during the 2021-22 fiscal year from Jim and Sharyl Davis, Charlie and Debbie White, and Murry and Elizabeth Nelson. SSEC is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and donations are tax deductible to the limits set by federal law.

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2020/2022 Young Scholar Cohort

2020 Young Scholars

Lauren Bradshaw
University of North Georgia

Scott Durham
Kent State University

Kelsey Evans-Amalu
Delta State University

2022 Young Scholars

Jenni Conrad
Temple University

Patrick Keegan
Purdue University Northwest

Chenyu Li
Teachers College Columbia

From Our Partners

Information Age Publishing

Again this year, IAP provided support for the annual conference and our Young Scholars. Our publisher arranged for an online bookstore, which included discounts for conference participants. With two years of Young Scholars, IAP provided two $250 awards for the outstanding Young Scholar paper presentations by Scott Durham (2020) and Patrick Keegan (2022) and a selection of four books each for Scott, Patrick, and two runners-up: Lauren Bradshaw and Chenyu Li.

IAP continues to support SSEC by posting a public version of the biannual SSEC Newsletter, Calls for Proposals, the SSEC Book Series. The latest in the series will be out this fall (see above) and our proposal for next year’s book based on the Ireland conference will be submitted shortly.
CivXNow and iCivics have worked diligently to support the bipartisan, bicameral Civics Secures Democracy (CSD) Act. SSEC is a signatory to the following letter to be sent to Congress asking that the Senate-revised bill be reintroduced to the House for approval. The letter reads:

Strong civic education is essential to the very future of our constitutional democracy. We strongly support the bipartisan, bicameral Civics Secures Democracy (CSD) Act and urge you to consider cosponsoring this generational investment in K–12 civic education and American history. CSD would afford the opportunity for every and every K–12 student in this country to have access to the kind of civic education needed to become informed stewards of U.S. constitutional democracy.

Unfortunately, civic education has been marginalized in our nation’s schools, with just 5 cents of federal investment per K–12 student. By contrast, we know strong federal investment can make a difference, as evidenced by the $50 per student invested in STEM.

CSD is the first bipartisan initiative to support states and local school districts in offering the civic education necessary to equip youth in the United States with the civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions to become informed and engaged members of society.

This comprehensive piece of legislation would provide a $1 billion annual investment in civic education at the local level, specifically in students, teachers, schools, and districts, as well as an investment in research and data and diversifying the teacher pool. Importantly, this investment is deficit-neutral as CSD contains fiscal offsets.

The bill’s dramatic increase in support for civics and American history is a model of federalism. With 85 percent of funds directed to states to in turn be passed down to districts, all curricular decisions under CSD would remain matters of state and local control. In fact, as a rule of construction, CSD forbids the imposition of any federal curriculum or standards.

First introduced in 2020 in both the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives by Senators Chris Coons (D-DE) and John Cornyn (R-TX) and Representatives Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Tom Cole (R-OK), and Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), the Civics Secures Democracy Act now has 4 new cosponsors in the Senate—2 Republicans, 1 Democrat, and 1 Independent.

Recently reintroduced in the Senate with language that clarifies the role that the federal government would play in allocating funding and a “pay-for,” we seek similar reintroduction in the House this summer and ask that you join Representatives DeLauro, Cole, and Blumenauer as original cosponsors of the attached, revised bill. Help pass the bipartisan, bicameral Civics Secures Democracy Act in the 117th Congress and make a generational investment in the strength and sustainability of our constitutional democracy.

Reflecting on . . .

The 2022 SSEC Ireland International Conference
Dublin, Ireland, June 21-26, 2022

The stars aligned to produce a 2022 SSEC Conference that exceeded all our expectations. Ireland was a big draw. Members were also eager for the first face-to-face SSEC conference since 2019. The extraordinarily meticulous work of Board members Amy Allen and President Kathryn Engerbretson was indispensable. Finally, we were gifted with tremendous partners at the Centre for Human Rights and Citizenship Education (CHRCE) of the DCU Institute of Education – Anne Marie Kavanagh, Caitriona Ni Cassaithe, and Peter Whelan.

The result was the largest SSEC conference in recent memory. The program featured 47 sessions, including 3 plenary sessions, 8 workshops, and 36 paper sessions. The total of conference presenters, invited speakers, and conference attendees reached 75. As a traditionally family-friendly conference, we were joined by another 36 guests and family members (including 10 children). Planning to accommodate the needs and interests of 111 conference attendees presented a significant but enjoyable challenge for conference planners.

Julie Hale, SSEC’s webmaster, is hard at work uploading a detailed programmatic and visual retrospective for our website. Check in the next week or two and you should see it. In the meantime, here’s a taste of our days in Dublin and environs.

From Our Partners (continued)