



EDITORIAL

Building on a Legacy: The Future of JRSMTE Under New Leadership

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We – Michael Bowen and Gerald Tembrevilla – would like to introduce ourselves as the incoming Editors-in-Chief for JRSMTE, taking over from Dr. Stephen Cessna who has shepherded the journal over the last 4 years. During his tenure Stephen accomplished many things, including introducing the annual Special Issue for graduate students, now in its fourth year, and arranging for the journal to be indexed in DOAJ, Sherpa Romeo, and Index Copernicus. Dr. Cessna also started the process of having the journal indexed in other sources, and we plan on continuing these efforts, building upon the steps he has taken.

Last year was, again, a successful year for the journal. We had 8 papers across our 3 regular issues and 9 papers in our third Graduate Student Special Issue (there was a very good response to our call for papers for the latter). Renee Schwartz also wrote quite a good editorial – Why Teach NOS? Combatting Science Denial and Mistrust – in the first issue of this past year which we recommend you look at. The medal recipients in our Graduate Issue were:

Gold: Shim, J., & Yoon, S. A. (2024). Improving STEM education through resource activation. *Journal of Research in Science, Mathematics and Technology Education*, 7(SI), 1-26.

Silver: Pinilla, R. K. (2024). Defining spatial reasoning. *Journal of Research in Science, Mathematics and Technology Education*, 7(SI), 141-176.

Bronze: Daniel, A., & DiNapoli, J. (2024). Investigating pedagogies in undergraduate precalculus. *Journal of Research in Science, Mathematics and Technology Education*, 7(SI), 61-83.

We have further plans for improving and expanding JRSMTE through a number of initiatives we will introduce over the next year. Both of us have an interest in broadening our readership and providing scaffolds into the STEM education research community for teacher practitioners and other non-researchers.

1. **Topical Interviews:** Each issue will feature a transcribed interview with either a researcher or classroom teacher addressing a pressing issue in STEM education. These interviews aim to bridge theory and practice, offering insights for our diverse readership.
2. **Commentary Articles:** We are excited to introduce the "Commentary" article format, designed to explore topics ranging from introductory disciplinary discussions, such as Nature of Science, to emerging issues like the implications of ChatGPT in education. These commentaries will also spotlight potential areas for research, such as classroom cellphone use in STEM settings or universal strategies such as Self-Regulated Learning. Topics will be curated by the editorial team – with input from our readership – who will invite individuals to contribute their commentary. We aim to feature at least two commentaries annually.
3. **Research Collaborations:** Starting this year, each issue will include a “Research Collaborations” document, listing academic researchers seeking collaborators. Submissions to this resource will include the researcher’s name, institution, position, a brief project description (< 50 words), the type of collaboration you’re looking for/skills you’re looking for in your collaborator(s), and contact details (email and Google Scholar/Researchgate link if available). This initiative is intended to foster networking and collaboration opportunities, supporting field studies, pilot projects, and co-authorships.

Anyone interested in looking for collaborators for academic research projects should submit an email to jrsmtc.collaboration@gmail.com with the above information.

4. **Annual Summary:** Starting this year, the first issue of each year will present a comprehensive summary of the previous year's publications, including keywords and abstracts, serving as a quick reference for our JRSMTE's readers.

Finally, we are also discussing having a "Focus" section, in one issue each year, on a topical issue in STEM education. These articles will undergo the regular peer review process, with selected papers on that Focus topic appearing in a regular issue within the twelve months following the call.

To help JRSMTE thrive, we encourage your involvement by drawing on part of Stephen Cessna's 2023 editorial when it comes to how you can support the journal...

- Submit your manuscripts! We prioritize a swift review process and provide constructive feedback, as highlighted in our annual author surveys.
- Engage with our articles by reading and citing them in your own work.
- Amplify the visibility of JRSMTE articles by sharing them on academic platforms like ResearchGate, Academia, ORCID, Google Scholar, LinkedIn and elsewhere on other social media platforms.
- Share the word about JRSMTE within your professional networks.
- If you use X or Bluesky please follow journal updates @jrsmte (at X) or @jrsmte.bsky.social

We are enthusiastic about the opportunities ahead as Editors-in-Chief and are eager to hear from you. Your ideas and feedback are invaluable as we continue to grow and improve the journal. Please don't hesitate to contact us at editor@jrsmte.com.

Thank you for your continued support of JRSMTE and your dedication to advancing STEM education.

G. Michael Bowen

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Editors-in-Chief