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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

# SERA Spring 2014

Southwest Educational Research Association

WWW.SERA-EDRESEARCH.ORG

## POINTS OF

## INTEREST:

•Recipients of SERA  
2014 Awards

•Preview the 2015  
Conference!

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## The Prez Says...

Thanks to everyone for making the 37th Annual SERA Conference in New Orleans a huge success! We had over 250 sessions, including 25 workshops, innovative sessions, and/or symposiums, presented by almost 350 presenters. Sessions were well attended and many praises were heard about the quality of the research presented. Each of our two training sessions provided participants with sought after training. Those who attended are now more versed in using N-Vivo and R for research thanks to our scholarly trainers, **Pauline Sampson, Kim Nimon, Paeng Angnakoon, and Forrest Lane.**

I am not sure how many of you realize that the SERA conference is organized solely through volunteers. None is paid for their service. Consequently, it is my privilege to recognize the exceptional service of so many dedicated volunteers, beginning with our past-president, **Stacey Edmonson**, who provided excellent leadership, which enables SERA to continue to thrive as a supportive scholarly organization. Behind the scenes at each conference providing history, leadership, and organization, is **Bruce Thompson**, SERA Executive Director for almost two decades. Bruce has led SERA in providing



Susan Troncoso Skidmore

a supportive environment for scholars, including student scholars, to develop their scholarship. He officially stepped down as SERA Executive Director after the business luncheon on Tuesday, February 11, leaving SERA in the capable hands of **Linda Zientek**. Linda is now the SERA Executive Director. Bruce remains on the Board as Deputy Historian and Executive Director Emeritus.

The 12 Division Chairs deserve special recognition for all their efforts including managing division proposals, sending proposals out for review, writing acceptance letters, compiling and forwarding reviewer comments, and serving as primary points of contact on proposal submissions. The division chairs were: **Sandra Acosta, Aileen Curtin, Tommy DeVaney, Bob Elliott, Diane Goldsby, Forrest Lane, Cynthia Martinez-Garcia, Lori Petty, Mark Reid, Martha Tapia, LaVonne Williams-Fedynich, and Ken Young.**

See page 2 for more...

# The Prez Says from Page 1



The work of Division Chairs is facilitated when so many of the membership agree to serve as proposal reviewers. I encourage you to continue to serve in this capacity. I would also like to thank the 13 discussants, who shared their research expertise with the Division VI work-in-progress presenters. Discussants included **Julia Ballenger, Julie Combs, Bob Elliott, Jim Hardy, Bill Jasper, Prathiba Natesan, Rebecca**

**Robles-Piña, Pauline Sampson, Nate Session, Jim Telese, Winona Vesey, Celia Wilson, and Ken Young.**

A special thank you goes to **Sonya Carr** for taking care of all the local arrangements. No one understands the amount of work involved until you have walked in her shoes. The luncheon menu was delicious, especially the crème brûlée! I cannot thank her enough for making everything run so smoothly. The audio-visual committee headed by **Prathiba Natesan** efficiently distributed and collected all the projectors before and after each session. **Prathiba** also provided the SERA membership with the useful guidebook app so that members could opt out of a printed program. Thank you to our wonderful registration desk Cochairs **Janet Tareilo** and **Forrest Lane** and to those who served at the registration desk. Members were greeted warmly as they picked up their registration materials and cheerfully directed to the appropriate session rooms. Thank you to **Pauline Sampson** who ensured that photos were taken of graduate student presenters during the conference. **Mary Margaret Capraro** once again served as the official “SERA Trinket Maven” and procured the official SERA luggage tag for conference attendees. I hope that all of you will continue to serve SERA, and that new members will volunteer and become an active part of our organization.

The 38th annual conference will be held on February 4th–6th, in San Antonio. Planning is underway and information on the conference and on submitting proposals is provided later in this newsletter. I hope to see you all in San Antonio!

**Susan Troncoso Skidmore**

*President*

*Sam Houston State University*



2014 SERA Presidential Invited Speaker

Reflections on Where Educational Research is as a Scientific Discipline

**Daniel H. Robinson**

*Director and Professor of the School of Education*

*Colorado State University*

# News from Our Past President



Stacey Edmonson

SERA 2014 in New Orleans was fantastic!! I hope you had a wonderful time attending this year's conference and that the sessions you attended were useful and meaningful. We appreciate everyone who presented their research and expertise during our workshops, paper presentations, symposiums, and special sessions. It is the contributions of our members that make this conference special, and without your time, effort, and scholarly endeavors, none of this would be possible. Special thanks go to Program Chair and current President, **Susan Skidmore**, and also to our local arrangements chair, **Sonya Carr**, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make the conference run efficiently and smoothly. Thank you also to Executive Director **Bruce Thompson** and Deputy Executive Director **Linda Zientek**, who maintain the

focus and vision of SERA, to **Bill Parker** for his leadership of graduate student awards and activities, to **Susan Skidmore** for serving as the program chair, and to **Mary Margaret Capraro**, our "SERA Trinket and PosterMaven." Special thanks also go to **Prathiba Natesan** for developing the SERA program Smartphone app again this year. I would also like to thank the anonymous reviewers who judged papers for the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper, which was awarded to **Tracey Hodges** from Texas A&M University. Please make plans to attend and present at SERA 2015 in San Antonio next year. Our President-Elect, **Shirley Matteson**, and the local arrangements chair, **LaVonne Fedynich**, along with the SERA Board, are planning a great event at the historic Menger Hotel.

We look forward to seeing you there!

**Stacey Edmonson**

*Past President*

*Sam Houston State University*

## 2014 Board Members and Terms

President	<b>Susan Skidmore</b> <i>Sam Houston State University</i>	<b>Graduate Student Representative</b> <b>Mordecai Ian Brownlee</b> <i>Blinn College</i>	
President-Elect/ Program Chair	<b>Shirley Matteson, Texas Tech University</b>		
Past-President	<b>Stacey Edmonson,</b> <i>Sam Houston State University</i>		
Secretary	<b>Forrest Lane, The University of Southern Mississippi</b>	Historian	<b>John J. Hedl, Jr.</b>
Treasurer	<b>Kim Nimon, University of North Texas</b>	Members-at-Large: 2012 - 2015	<b>Rebecca Frels, Lamar State University</b> <b>La Vonne Williams-Fedynich, Texas A&amp;M University-Kingsville</b> <b>Pauline Sampson, Stephen F. Austin State University</b>
Executive Director	<b>Linda Zientek</b> <i>Sam Houston State University</i>	Members-at-Large: 2013 - 2016	<b>Julia Ballenger, Texas A&amp;M University-Commerce</b> <b>Janet Tareilo, Stephen F. Austin State University</b> <b>Celia Wilson, Texas Wesleyan University</b>
Executive Director Emeritus/Deputy Historian	<b>Bruce Thompson</b> <i>Texas A&amp;M University</i>	Members-at-Large: 2014- 2017	<b>Bettye Grigsby, University of Houston—Clear Lake</b> <b>Lesley Leach, Tarleton State University</b> <b>Prathiba Natesan, University of North Texas</b>
		AV Chair	<b>Ken Young, Lamar University</b>

# Reflections of the Deputy Executive Director

Professor Hedges will also host an informal "Fireside Chat" with only graduate students, which is an opportunity for graduate students to raise any questions that they might like to discuss.

Thanks to everyone for helping to create a great conference! We had a great meeting in New Orleans. The sessions were well attended, and people with whom I spoke with were looking forward to the 2015 SERA Conference. The **2015 meeting** will be held in **San Antonio** at the historic **Menger Hotel**, which is a historic town with many attractions. We look forward to another great turnout in San Antonio!

Those of you who chose to take the survey regarding the conference training provided us with some great feedback. Thank you for taking the time to express your ideas! Based on the survey results, we have one pre-conference workshop planned for the 2015 meeting. **Anthony Onwuegbuzie** and **Rebecca Frels** will conduct a ticketed training session on Wednesday on mixed methods research. Please visit the newsletter to find out further details about the training session.

The Presidential Invited Speaker in San Antonio will be **Larry V. Hedges** of Northwestern University. The title of his talk is *A Brief Review of Meta-analysis and How It Has Fundamentally Affected Education and Many Other Disciplines*. Professor Hedges will speak on meta-analysis, including the history of meta-analysis, a sketch of the process, and its impacts across disciplines over the years. Dr. Hedges will also host an informal "Fireside Chat" with only graduate students, which is an opportunity for graduate students to raise any questions that they might like to discuss with the invited speaker.

The conference in New Orleans had many interesting speakers and wonderful sessions. The Presidential Invited Speaker at the 37th SERA annual meeting was **Dan Robinson**, Colorado State University. Professor Robinson provided reflections on where educational research is as a scientific discipline. The graduate students were once again enthusiastic and took advantage of the opportunities that were afforded to them, which included sessions about writing the dissertation and important components of completing a doctoral program. SERA takes pride in their support of graduate students, and the SERA Board was happy to hear of the enthusiasm of the graduate students.

The SERA Board looks forward to seeing you and your colleagues in San Antonio and hope that you enjoy the many opportunities to learn from and develop collaborations with colleagues at the SERA Conference.

**Linda Reichwein Zientek**  
SERA Executive Director  
Sam Houston State University



## Look Who's Been Honored!

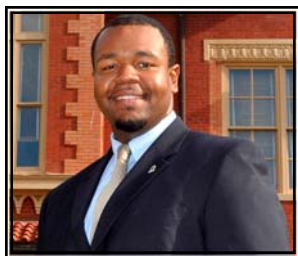
**Bruce Thompson** has been selected to receive the **2014 American Psychological Association Division 5 Jacob Cohen Award for Distinguished Contributions to Teaching and Mentoring**. This award is presented each year to recognize an individual with demonstrated excellence in teaching and mentoring within the areas of Division 5: assessment, evaluation, measurement, quantitative and qualitative research methods, and/or statistics. The Award will be presented in the Division 5 Award Symposium at the 2014 Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, which this year is being held in Washington, D.C. from August 7th to August 10th. During the Symposium, Bruce will be introduced, given a plaque and be allocated at least 35 minutes to present some aspect of his work. In addition to the public recognition at the 2014 Convention, Division 5 will provide Bruce with an honorary membership in the division for a year, and permanent recognition in the list of those who have received the Jacob Cohen Award for Distinguished Contributions to Teaching and Mentoring. Past recipients include Stephen G. West, Barbara M. Byrne, Lisa L. Harlow, and Gregory R. Hancock.



*Nothing is more fun than winning something...especially if it is a free hotel room at the conference!*

# Graduate Student Representative Report

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**Mordecai Ian Brownlee**

Greetings Southwest Educational Research Association Graduate members! On behalf of the SERA Board of Directors, I would like to thank each and every one of you for making our 37<sup>th</sup> Annual SERA Conference such a smashing success. Despite some of the challenges that the cold weather and rain in New Orleans presented, our SERA members showed up strong and ready to contribute to the overall body of educational research. A special thanks goes out to all of our graduate student presenters and volunteers, because of you our SERA graduate members have once again set a high-bar of excellence which we plan to continue for years to come.

In addition, I would also like to thank all of SERA graduate student leaders who contributed throughout the 2013-2014 season. First, to my dear friend and former SERA Graduate Student Representative **William “Bill” Parker** (Lamar University), thank you sir for all over your countless hours of hard work and diligence. Over the past year Bill assisted in the recruitment of conference presenters, the SERA Dean’s Award, coordination of conference photography, and various other roles for which SERA is grateful. Furthermore, many thanks to the 2013-2014 Graduate Student

Council for their service throughout the year. This past year’s council included **Saler Axel** (SMU), **Jeff Herr** (Texas Wesleyan), **Kari Hodge** (Baylor), **Laura Jacobs** (Univ. of Houston), **Sandra Montgomery** (at-large, Texas A&M-Kingsville), **Bilgin Navruz** (Texas A&M), **Joy Russell** (Texas Tech), **Joanna Tucker** (Sam Houston State), **Mike Wicker** (SFA), **Xin Cindy Xin** (UNT).

With another successful conference behind us, now the time has come for us to prepare for our 38<sup>th</sup> Annual SERA Conference, which is set to take place February 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in San Antonio, Texas. As you all know, the mission of SERA is to further the education of graduate students by providing educational resources, mentorship, and opportunities to present papers at the SERA annual conference. What better to advance this mission than to attend next year’s conference and present on your educational research! SERA is a wonderful opportunity to network with researchers in the field of education, as well as utilize your skills to assist others in furthering the field of educational research.

At this time I would like to announce and congratulate our SERA Graduate Student Council for the 2014-2015 season. This year’s council includes **Jessica Salazar** (Texas Wesleyan), **Robbie Johnson** (Stephen F. Austin), **Sarah Ferguson** (North Texas), **Kevin Wells** (Baylor), **Tracy Hodges** (Texas A&M), **Thanh Phan** (Texas Tech), **Eunjin Hwang** (Sam Houston),

**Brian East** (Lamar), and **Mary Elliot** (at-large, Tarleton State). In addition, I would like to thank **Celia Wilson**, Assistant Professor at Texas Wesleyan University, for her continued role as Graduate Student Council Advisor. Her leadership and expertise is greatly appreciated. I also would like to congratulate **Lesley Leach**, Associate Professor and Doctoral Program Coordinator at Tarleton State University, on her new role as Graduate Student Council Co-Advisor.

To all graduate students, as you prepare your doctoral research, please keep in mind that SERA’s Call for Proposals includes a call for submissions from its graduate student membership. Each year, outstanding student submissions may be submitted for consideration of a Dean’s Award and/or the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award. In addition, the SERA Conference provides a wonderful opportunity to develop additional research skill and knowledge with its pre-conference workshop and presentations network with other researchers in the field of education. Best of luck graduate students in all your educational endeavors, and I look forward to seeing you February 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual SERA Conference in San Antonio, Texas.

**Mordecai Ian Brownlee**  
*Blinn College*

# Past Graduate Student Representative Report

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**William Parker**

As I reflect upon an outstanding SERA 2014 Conference, it is with amazing memories that I write this note. On behalf of all of the graduate students, I wish to thank the SERA Board for – once again – putting on an outstanding conference. My service to the Board last year allowed me to “look behind the curtain” to learn from some of the most amazing mentors for which a graduate student could ask.

As I wrote in the fall newsletter, SERA is among the most student-friendly conferences in America, and I am proud to be a member. SERA 2014 only confirmed that sentiment. Among the special events afforded our graduate students was the Fireside Chat with Daniel H. Robinson, a raucous Graduate Student Meeting (with over 100 attendees), and a memorable Graduate Student Social at Pat O'Brien's – or as we now call it...the night the lights went out on Bourbon Street.

As always, I cannot overstate my gratitude to our deans for their financial support in funding their Deans' Awards. For SERA 2014,

the following universities funded Deans' Awards: **Baylor University, Lamar University, Sam Houston State University, Stephen F. Austin State University, Texas A&M University, Texas A&M University – Commerce, Texas Tech University, Texas Wesleyan University, University of Houston-Clear Lake, University of North Texas, and The University of Southern Mississippi.** This year over 40 papers were considered, and the authors of 14 papers from five universities received awards.

I would like to thank each member of this year's **Graduate Student Council**, including **Kari Hodge**, Baylor; **Mordecai Brownlee**, Lamar; **Mike Wicker**, SFA; **Joanna Tucker**, SHSU; **Saler Axel**, SMU; **Bilgin Navruz**, TAMU; **Sandra Montgomery**, TAMU-Kingsville; **Joy Russell**, TTU; **Jeff Herr**, TWU; **Cindy Xin**, UNT; and **Amanda Leimer**, USM. Each one of these individuals did an outstanding job of representing their university. Their many responsibilities included communicating SERA news to others, confirming and securing Deans' Awards support, encouraging conference participation, Deans' Award submissions review, conference photography, and promotion of graduate student events. SERA 2014 would have been a much different conference without their selflessness.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to **Celia Wilson**, Graduate Student Advisor, for her assistance, guidance, and encouragement throughout the year. She is an amazing resource and truly practices empowerment and relevance toward graduate students. Thank you Celia!

Congratulations to **Mordecai Brownlee** from Lamar University, who will lead the Graduate Student Council in 2013-2014. Mordecai is an excellent leader and will serve the graduate students well as we look forward to SERA 2015.

Have a great year as we move forward learning, and cultivating the relationships born at SERA 2014. Now...stop reading and start writing!!

Thanks for a great year,

**William Parker**  
*Lamar University*

## 2014 SERA Bruce Thompson Outstanding Paper Award

**Kary A. Johnson**

*Texas Wesleyan University*



### **Multicomponent Treatment of Rapid Naming, Reading Rate, and Visual Attention in Single and Double Deficit Dyslexics**

This 2 x 3 x 2 within-within-between repeated measures multivariate experimental study investigated a novel multicomponent reading treatment for individuals with rapid naming (RAN) type dyslexia. Differences in treatment outcomes were examined by comparing groups (treatment/control) and by level of deficit (single RAN deficit or double deficit in RAN and phonological awareness). Univariate response for RAN and related skills of visual attention (VA) and reading rate were also examined. Statistically and clinically significant findings indicated overall treatment success and specific positive outcomes in terms of VA, confirmed differential response by deficit level, and confirmed the need for early intervention.

## 2014 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper

**Tracey S. Hodges**

*Texas A&M University*



### **The Effects of Teacher Technology Proficiency on Student Technology Use**

The purpose of this study was to examine how teacher proficiency with technology influences student activities that implement technology. Teachers were surveyed using an instrument created by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to assess their technology skills and students' technology skills and learning. To quantify the magnitude of correlation between the years' teaching experience and grade level taught with the teacher technology proficiency and student activities using technology, a path analysis was conducted. Results demonstrated that teacher technology proficiency is not a prominent variable when predicting how often teachers will use technology in their classrooms for student uses.

# 2014 SERA Extended Service Award



## Mary Margaret Capraro *Texas A&M University*

The SERA Extended Service Award is given to individuals who have made significant, sustained contributions to SERA over an extended period of time. In the 37+ year history of SERA, this award has been given only 4 times!

**SERA  
would like  
to thank  
Mary  
Margaret  
Capraro for  
her  
outstanding  
dedication  
over the  
many years!**

Mary Margaret Capraro received her Ph.D. at the most recent turn of the century, the same year in which she presented her first paper at SERA. Since then, she has attended and presented one or more papers at every SERA annual meeting. From 2002 until 2006 she served two terms as an At-Large member of the SERA Board. In 2008-2009 she served as SERA President-Elect/Program Chair, in 2009-2010 she served as SERA President, and in 2010-2011 she served as SERA Past-President. For many years she has served in the unofficial, but much appreciated role of "SERA Poster Maven," which means she prepares the posters of the program sessions on display each year near the conference registration desk. She has also served in the unofficial, but much appreciated role of "SERA Trinket Maven," which means she obtains the memento trinkets distributed to members each year when they arrive at the annual meeting, such as this year's luggage tag with an SERA logo.





## What a Luncheon!



# 2014 Dean Awards

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School	1st Author	Title
Baylor University	Hodge, Kari	An analysis of secondary data: Linear Regression Analysis of Variance in Scores due to Form and ESL
	Yara, Farah	Questioning Practices in Gifted Education: Relationships between Question Type and Number of Student Responses
Sam Houston State University	Lertora, Ian	Study Abroad: Students' Preparedness and Perceptions of Support Services
	Tucker, Joanna	Seeking Access and Opportunity in an Alien World
Texas A&M University	Hodges, Tracey	The Effects of Teacher Technology Proficiency on Student Technology Use
	Wright, Katherine	First, Do No Harm: The Impact of Reading Intervention on Students' Motivation to Read
Texas Tech University	Phan, Than	Online Learning: Challenges and Benefits from the Views of Online Instructors and Students
	Xiao, Feiya	The Relationship between Math Achievement and Internalizing Problem Behavior: A Latent Growth Model
Texas Wesleyan University	Herr, Jeff	The Offspring of Control: The Evolution of Cuba's Revolutionary Education
	Shultz, Katrina	An investigation of Bullying Using the School Crime Supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey
University of Houston - Clear Lake	Corrales, Antonio	Examining the Relationship between School Funding and Graduation Rates of Hispanic Students
	Milovanovic, Edith	Teacher Attitudes Towards the Inclusion of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students
University of North Texas	Applewhite, Gary	A Comparative Analysis of State Funds on Student Achievement of At-Risk Elementary Schools in Independent and Consolidated School Districts and Charter Schools in the State of Texas
	Ferguson, Sarah	Simulation Study to Extend I-index Effect Size for Large and Disparate Samples



# 2014 Dean Awards

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Baylor University



Sam Houston State University

**Congratulations to the DEAN'S AWARD WINNERS!**



Texas Wesleyan University



Texas Tech University



University of North Texas



Texas A&M University

# Meet Your Newest Board Members



**Mordecai Ian Brownlee** is a doctoral student in the Center for Doctoral Studies in Educational Leadership at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas. He has experience working in both four-year university and two-year college systems as a student affairs professional. Currently, Mordecai serves as the Dean of Student Life for the Blinn College District which includes four campuses: Bryan, Sealy, Schulenburg, and Brenham. His dissertation research will focus on the impact of student success initiatives at the two-year college level. Mordecai plans to complete his Ed.D. in Educational Leadership in May 2015.



**Prathiba Natesan** is Assistant Professor of Research, Measurement, and Statistics in the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of North Texas. This is her second tenure as an elected board member. During her previous tenure as SERA's elected board-member-at-large, she initiated and set up the guidebook app to facilitate program access for the SERA conference. She is also one of the facilitators of the SERA early career faculty mentor program, which aims to bring together mentors and mentees to create a network of educational research professionals. Dr. Natesan is a graduate of Texas A&M University. Her research interests include item response theory, structural equation modeling, and Bayesian estimation. She has published in leading educational research journals such as *Applied Psychological Measurement*, *Educational and Psychological Measurement*, and the *Journal of Experimental Education*. She has 15 peer reviewed journal articles to her credit.



**Ken Young** is in his fifth year as an Assistant Professor of educational leadership at Lamar University in Beaumont, TX. He came to Lamar in January of 2009, after completing his doctoral studies in educational psychology at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. Dr. Young's primary teaching responsibilities include courses in research methods and design, statistics, and adult learning theory, but he has also taught doctoral level courses in leadership and ethics, multiculturalism, and scholarly writing. During his time at Lamar, Dr. Young has made approximately 20 presentations, secured 10 refereed articles and book chapters, and served as a co-editor for *Learning for Democracy: An International Journal of Thought and Practice*. Dr. Young's affiliation with SERA began in 2009 as a conference presenter. After his first conference, he became involved as a conference discussant for works in progress and as a reviewer for outstanding graduate papers. For the last two years, he has also served as a co-chair for Division I: Educational Administration, Policy, Leadership, and Program Evaluation. Dr. Young is married to Carrie Bertin Young, and they have four children. When he is not working, you will most likely find him hanging out with his family, reading, running, hunting, fishing, or cooking.

# Meet Your Newest Board Members

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**Lesley Leach** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at Tarleton State University where she teaches research methods courses and coordinates the doctoral program in Educational Leadership. After receiving her Ph.D. in Educational Research from the University of North Texas in 2006, Lesley served as research scientist for the Charles A. Dana Center at The University of Texas at Austin. In her role at the Dana Center, Lesley most recently managed the research arm of the PARCC Mathematics Prototyping Project for the forthcoming national CCSS-based mathematics assessment. Prior to joining the professoriate, Lesley spent five years as a fifth grade mathematics teacher. Lesley's substantive research interests involve STEM education, particularly for females in rural areas; her methodological interests include online informed consent and factors that impact effect sizes in general linear model analyses. Lesley is a member of AAUW, TCPEA, and the American Educational Research Association, currently serving the latter as program chair of the Professors of Educational Research Special Interest Group.



**La Vonne Williams-Fedynich** is an Associate Professor and Program Coordinator for the Educational Leadership and Counseling Department at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. She teaches masters student in the Educational Administration Program and Doctoral students in the Educational Leadership Program. She has been a member of SERA for seven years and a co-chair of Division VI for six years. Dr. Fedynich has presented completed research studies at international, national, state, regional, and local conferences. Her research interests include graduate student academic success, online education pedagogy and multicultural education.

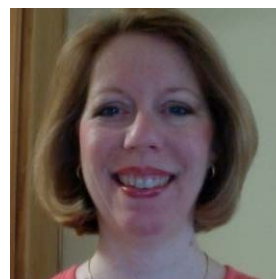


**Bettye Grigsby** received her undergraduate education in Biology and administrator certification at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas. She acquired a Master of Education in Counseling at Prairie View A&M in Prairie View, Texas. Her doctorate was obtained in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis on Multicultural Education at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. Bettye has been a public school classroom teacher and served as an administrator on the secondary level for more than 18 years. Currently, she is an Associate Professor at the University of Houston – Clear Lake and Program Coordinator in the area of Educational Administration. She has participated in SERA through presentations, as a discussant for graduate student sessions, and served on the board as a member-at-large. Bettye has worked as an educational consultant with school districts providing professional development to support them in improving instruction for all students. She has presented at national conferences on issues related to educational administration and principal preparation programs. Her research interests are multicultural education, administrators as curriculum leaders, and the education of African American male students. Her publications include areas concerning leadership mentoring, hiring practices and roles and responsibilities of administrators as curriculum leaders.

# Meet Your 2014-2015 Graduate Student Council

**Mary Elliott**

Tarleton State University  
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**Sarah Ferguson**

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**Thanh Phan**

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**Eujin Huang**

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**Brian East**

Lamar University  
Email: [beast@beaumontk12.tx.us](mailto:beast@beaumontk12.tx.us)



# Meet Your 2014-2015 Graduate Student Council

**Robbie Johnson**

Stephen F. Austin State University

Email: [rmckjon@gmail.com](mailto:rmckjon@gmail.com)

**Kevin Wells**

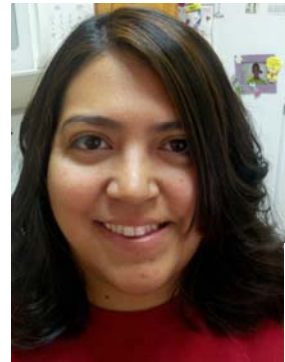
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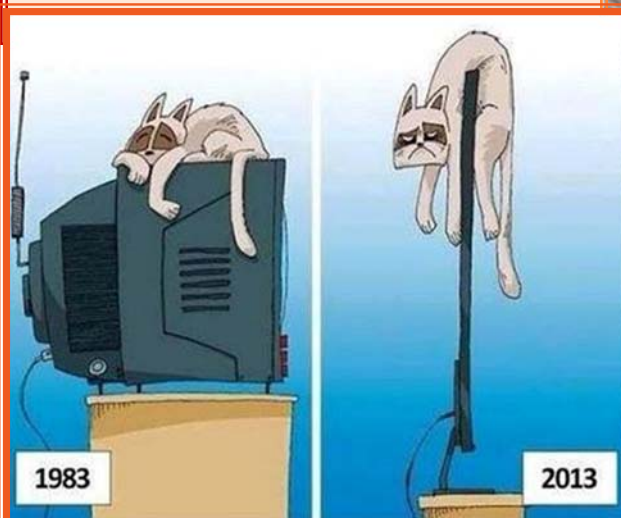


Kari Hodge	Baylor University
Tonya Trepinski	Baylor University
Carl Husband	Lamar University
Crezetta Guess	Lamar University
Hunter Keeney	Lamar University
Mara Cooper	Lamar University
Mordecai Brownlee	Lamar University
William Parker	Lamar University
JoAnna Tucker	Sam Houston State University
Renee Fauria	Sam Houston State University
Janis Fowler	Sam Houston State University
Brett Grayson	Southern Methodist University
Saler Axel	Southern Methodist University
Sarah Guthery	Southern Methodist University
Mike Wicker	Stephen F. Austin State University
Ali Bicer	Texas A&M University
Bilgin Navruz	Texas A&M University
Katherine Wright	Texas A&M University
Megan Giebert	Texas A&M University
Tracey Hodges	Texas A&M University
Xueying Hu	Texas A&M University
John Sherill	Texas Tech University
Joy Russell	Texas Tech University
Jeff Herr	Texas Wesleyan University
Shane Naterman	Texas Wesleyan University
Amanda Leimer	The University of Southern Mississippi
Cindy Xin	University of North Texas
Sarah Ferguson	University of North Texas

**Thank you to all of the 2014  
Graduate Student  
Photographers!**



**Just for fun...**



# 2015 SERA Annual Meeting: Program News

The SERA Executive Board is pleased to announce that the 38th Annual SERA conference will again be held at the historic Menger Hotel in San Antonio. The 2015 SERA Conference begins on Wednesday, February 4, 2015 and concludes on Friday, February 6, 2015. Several great workshops and training sessions are being planned that focus on supporting members' professional development needs. We sincerely hope you will find the scheduled training sessions to be helpful and enjoyable.

Two years ago **Julia Ballenger** and **Sonya Carr** implemented the **SERA Early Career Faculty Mentoring Initiative**, which is designed to strengthen the mission of SERA by adding an additional tier of support for junior faculty. The purposes of this initiative include: (a) furthering scholarly research, (b) supporting career advancement, and (c) enhancing leadership opportunities for members who are junior faculty. This initiative plays a vital role in expanding the SERA membership and providing future leaders. **Prathiba Natesan** maintains the LinkedIn page where we invite mentors and mentees to join the initiative.

See [http://www.linkedin.com/groups?homeNewMember=&gid=6504406&trk=eml-grp-sub&fromEmail=&ut=3BBf\\_JLoke7RY1](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?homeNewMember=&gid=6504406&trk=eml-grp-sub&fromEmail=&ut=3BBf_JLoke7RY1)

Other sections of this Spring Newsletter provide details concerning the Wednesday afternoon ticketed training session and our Presidential Invited Speaker, **Larry Hedges**. Immediately following Thursday's luncheon, graduate students will have the opportunity to enjoy a Fireside Chat with the 2015 Presidential Invited Speaker. Several others sessions during the conference also will focus on our graduate students.

Proposals for the 2015 SERA annual conference are due on September 21, 2014. Complete details regarding the proposals are available within the 2015 Call for Proposals which can be found at the end of the newsletter and is also

available at the SERA website at <http://sera-edresearch.org>

We encourage you to submit a proposal and present at the 2015 Conference in San Antonio. The SERA conference is a great outlet to exchange research ideas and network with other scholars in your field and across the region. SERA conference program information will again be available in both print and as an app that allows you to easily search, customize your schedule, and set reminders. Paper copies will again be available for a small fee.

I would like to extend a special thank you to **LaVonne Williams Fedynich** who has been hard at work securing arrangements for our annual meeting in San Antonio. The local arrangements chair negotiates our hotel rates and room accommodations, and handles all the logistical challenges normally associated with hosting a large meeting, including the wonderful luncheon menu. I would also like to recognize the efforts of **Pauline Sampson, William "Bill" Parker, and Mordecai Brownlee** who will undertake the huge task of photographing the conference events, with special emphasis on photographing graduate students. The location of the Menger Hotel, near the Riverwalk and the Alamo, is a favorite of those of us who have been SERA members for a number of years. For those of you joining us for your first conference, you will find many options for food, entertainment, and drinks within walking distance of the hotel.



**Shirley M. Matteson**  
*President-Elect and Program Chair*  
*Texas Tech University*

## SERA 2015 Annual Conference in San Antonio, Texas

Come join us in San Antonio at the Menger Hotel for our SERA 2015 annual conference from February 4 to 6, 2015. You can be assured of a very academically stimulating conference and a good time for all. San Antonio has always been a cross-roads for travelers, explorers, and those on a quest for liberty. Its sights, sounds, tastes and past captivate, while friendly people, the relaxing river and superb climate entice visitors to come back for more. From its important role in Texas independence to its fusion of cultures, San Antonio is a truly unique and authentic destination. While in San Antonio for the conference, you will have many places to visit for shopping, dining, and entertainment.

The Alamo, The Riverwalk, Tower of Americas, the Buckhorn Hall of Fame and several museums such as the Witte, McNay Art Museum, and San Antonio Museum of Art are great places to see if this is your venue of choice. If you like to shop, make sure to take some time to stroll through La Villita for a very unique shopping experience. Are you more into the fun “party crowd” localities? You will find such places as Dick’s Last Resort, Howl at the Moon, Swigs, Pat O’Brien’s, and Dirty Nellie’s to choose from. The Roosevelt Bar is a must see piece of history that is located in the Menger Hotel. Teddy Roosevelt enlisted his Rough Riders there and Carrie Nation chopped up the bar during prohibition.

The Menger has a very extensive and interesting history, the hotel first opened its doors

in 1859 making it the oldest continuously operating hotel west of the Mississippi River. Many famous people have stayed at the hotel such as Babe Ruth, Mae West, Roy Rogers and his wife Dale Evans, General Sam Houston, Presidents McKinley, Nixon, Reagan, Johnson, Clinton and Bush. It’s been said that the hotel has many ghosts and spirits, so don’t be too surprised to catch a glimpse of them roaming around the hotel.

Cheers and see you in San Antonio!



**La Vonne Williams-Fedynich**

*Local Arrangements Chair*

*Texas A&M University-Kingsville*

*From its important role in  
Texas independence to its  
fusion of cultures, San Antonio  
is a truly unique and authentic  
destination.*



Photo courtesy of San Antonio Convention & Visitor's Bureau



## Larry Hedges

*Board of Trustees Professor  
Northwestern University*

On Thursday of the SERA annual meeting, Larry V. Hedges will present the 2015 SERA Presidential Invited Address, titled “A Brief Review of Meta-analysis and How It Has Fundamentally Affected Education and Many Other Disciplines.” He will speak on the general topic of meta-analysis, including the history of meta-analysis, a sketch of the process, and its impacts across disciplines over the year. Professor Hedges will also host an informal “Fireside Chat” with only graduate students, which is an opportunity to raise any questions that students might like to discuss.

**Larry Hedges** is a national leader in the fields of educational statistics and evaluation and one of eight *Board of Trustees Professors* at Northwestern University, which is the university’s most distinguished academic position. He holds appointments in statistics, psychology, and education and

## A Brief Review of Meta-Analysis and How It Has Fundamentally Affected Education and Many Other Disciplines

social policy. Previously, he was the Stella M. Rowley Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago.

Hedges’ research straddles many fields—in particular those of sociology, psychology, and educational policy. He is best known for his work to develop statistical methods for meta-analysis (a statistical analysis of the results of multiple studies that combines their findings) in the social, medical, and biological sciences. It is a key component of evidence-based social research. Examples of some his recent studies include: Understanding the costs of generating systematic reviews, differences between boys and girls in mental test scores, the black-white gap in achievement test scores, and frameworks for international comparative studies on education.

Widely published, he has authored or co-authored numerous journal articles and eight books, including the seminal *Statistical Methods for Meta-Analysis* (with I. Olkin, Elsevier, 1985) and *The*

*Handbook of Research Synthesis and Meta-Analysis* (with H. Cooper and J. Valentine, Russell Sage, 2009).

He is an elected member of the National Academy of Education and is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Statistical Association, the American Psychological Association, and the American Educational Research Association. He is a member of the National Education Sciences Board and president of the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness, which he helped found. He was nominated by President Barack Obama to the Board of Directors of the National Board for Education Sciences and was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in June 2012. He was recently elected “Statistician of the Year” by the Chicago chapter of the American Statistical Association for 2013–14.

# 2015 Pre-Conference Workshop



On the first day of the conference, Wednesday, February 4, **Tony Onwuegbuzie** and **Rebecca Frels** will conduct a 5 1/2-hour pre-conference workshop beginning at noon:

## Mixed Methodology in Educational and Social Science Research

### About the Presenters

**Anthony J. Onwuegbuzie** is Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling at Sam Houston State University. He teaches doctoral-level courses in qualitative, quantitative, and mixed research. His research areas primarily involve social and behavioral science topics, including disadvantaged and underserved populations such as minorities, children living in war zones, students with special needs, and juvenile delinquents. Also, he has conducted numerous research studies on factors that predict educational achievement at the primary, secondary, and tertiary levels. Additionally, he writes extensively on qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methodological topics applicable to numerous social and behavioral science disciplines.

Anthony (Tony) Onwuegbuzie has secured the publication of more than 330 works, including more than 260 journal articles, 50 book chapters, and two books. His articles have been published in prestigious journals such as *The Lancet*, *Educational Researcher*, *American Educational Research Journal*, *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*, *Educational Administration Quarterly*, and *Educational and Psychological Measurement*. His current *h-index* is 45. Tony Onwuegbuzie has made more than 600 presentations that include more than 20 keynote addresses at regional, national, and international conferences. Also, he has delivered more than 90 workshops all over the world on various topics.

**Rebecca K. Frels** is an Assistant Professor at Lamar University and a recent graduate of Sam Houston State University. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor, Professional School Counselor, and Production Editor for *Research in the Schools* (a nationally/internationally refereed journal). In her first two years in academe, she has publications numbering more than 35. Her more than 60 presentations at regional, national, and international conferences include the American Evaluation Association, the American Educational Research Association, and the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision. International experiences include teaching duties at UNIBE University (Costa Rica) and workshops at the Mixed Methods International Conference (England) and the International Conference on Education (Kenya). In the area of literature reviews, she has presented numerous workshops, and most recently, she and Anthony Onwuegbuzie are co-authoring a textbook for Sage Publications integrating research techniques, ethics, Web 2.0 resources, and cultural considerations in a step-by-step approach within the literature review.

Tony Onwuegbuzie and Rebecca Frels co-present each year a refresher course in mixed methodology for The Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa.

# Top 12 Reasons to Attend SERA in San Antonio

The 2015 SERA  
Conference is  
Wednesday  
February 4  
through Friday  
February 6.

Linda Zientek, Executive Director

Bruce Thompson, Executive Director Emeritus

You want to experience the seasonal weather in San Antonio given that the likelihood of a major ice storm in San Antonio is minimal—even though ice storms shut down the SERA annual meeting in San Antonio in 2011.

You want to see if any of your professors have "too much fun" at Dick's Last Resort, and fall into the 3 feet deep river in San Antonio.

You want to meet one of the many reported ghosts at the Menger Hotel, such as the maid Sallie White who might bring you clean towels in the middle of the night!

You want your picture taken while you are presenting at the conference, and have it posted on the web, so that you can direct your friends and family to the SERA website to see you in academic action.

You want to ride to the top of the "Needle" (i.e., the Tower of the Americas), made for the 1968 World's Fair, in Hemisfair Park, and enjoy the view.

You like to ride the street car from the hotel to El Mercado, and eat Mexican food while you listen to mariachi bands.

You want to visit the Historic Menger Bar where Theodore Roosevelt recruited men for the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry.

You want to ride the boats on the Riverwalk at night. Be sure to watch for bats!

You want to visit the incredible Institute of Texan Cultures museum, located in Hemisphere Park, and only a short walk from the historic Menger hotel (the oldest continuously operating hotel west of the Mississippi River, and home of the Roy Rogers suite, where Roy and Dale Evans, and possibly their horse Trigger, stayed for extensive visits).

You like to visit La Villita to do some window shopping.

You like to visit the Alamo! Coonskin hats are available for purchase.

You want to attend SERA and visit with colleagues across the region and meet new friends!



Photo courtesy of San Antonio Convention  
& Visitor's Bureau

SACVB

# The SERA Early Career Faculty Mentoring Initiative

The SERA Early Career Faculty Mentoring Initiative goal is to help further the development of early career faculty members by providing educational resources, mentorships and opportunities to network among the membership, and to present papers at the annual conference. We hope to accomplish this goal by:

1. Establishing one-one-mentoring relationships
2. Using social media and social events to build relationships and connections with each other
3. Building group support within the organization

If you are interested in having a mentor or working with a mentee, go to the SERA website and complete the mentoring application. Also see [http://www.linkedin.com/groups?homeNewMember=&gid=6504406&trk=eul-grp-sub&fromEmail=&ut=3BBf\\_JLoke7RY1](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?homeNewMember=&gid=6504406&trk=eul-grp-sub&fromEmail=&ut=3BBf_JLoke7RY1)

[http://www.linkedin.com/groups?homeNewMember=&gid=6504406&trk=eul-grp-sub&fromEmail=&ut=3BBf\\_JLoke7RY1](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?homeNewMember=&gid=6504406&trk=eul-grp-sub&fromEmail=&ut=3BBf_JLoke7RY1)

If you would like to serve on this excellent committee for building collaboration and resources through mentorship, please let us know!

**Julia Ballenger**, Committee Chair

**Prathiba Natesan**, Committee Member

**Sonya Carr**, Committee Member



The following excerpt highlights the value of mentoring, and how it creates a new generation of academics and researchers through synergy in the relationship—for both the mentee and the mentor (Frels, Newman, & Newman, in press). The American Psychological Association's (APA) Presidential Task Force on Mentoring (2006) defined a mentor as a coach who “provides advice to enhance the mentee's professional performance and development” (p. 5) and distinguishes informal mentoring (spontaneously developed) and formal mentoring (within an organizational structure). One of the authors Isadore Newman explains one of many mentoring experiences:

*During my doctoral studies, my advisor was one of my statistics professors. He was an excellent teacher who I sought to emulate as a role model. At that point, our relationship was that of professor – student. I'm not sure it met any of the characteristics of a mentoring relationship other than he was my professor who had skills I respected, and he respected my statistical skill. I was also very impressed with how well organized he was for each class and how he valued good research and the people who did it. I learned to see the academic world and the importance of publishing through his eyes. Over the years, after I graduated we became close friends and wrote a number of books and articles together. Because I, and many others, held him in high academic esteem, my own self-efficacy increased. He made it obvious that he valued me academically.*

## References

- American Psychological Association. (2006). Introduction to mentoring: A guide for mentors and mentees. Retrieved from <http://www.apa.org/education/grad/intro-mentoring.pdf>
- Frels, R. K., Newman, I. & Newman, C. (in press). Mentoring the next generation of mixed and multiple method researchers. In S. Hesse-Biber & R. Burke Johnson (Eds.). *Oxford handbook for mixed and multiple method research*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.



In this newsletter, we honor one of our past presidents, **Kim Nimon**, for her service and vision for global change by featuring *Threads of Hope*.



The following message is from the current director for Threads of Hope.

**Threads of Hope** is a transformational economic development project which seeks to empower impoverished artisans around the world. There are currently two main projects, one in Lima which effects approximately 100 families in which the artisans create the indigenous narrative textiles known as “arpilleras.” The second project, in the mountainous region of south central Peru, works with over 600 artisans who create exquisite boucle embroidery. Threads of Hope facilitates the sale of these vibrant handcrafted textiles with the help of volunteers, churches, and businesses throughout the United States, as well as an online web store. Due to this extraordinary collaboration with volunteers throughout the U.S., ToH is able to return 100% of the profit generated from textile sales to participating artisans in the form of directed grants. Grants are awarded in areas that directly alleviate

poverty: education, housing, healthcare, and small business / community development. Since 1999 ToH has returned over \$1M into the artisan’s lives and their communities, breaking the cycle of poverty and empowering women and children, as well as the generations that will follow. **Threads of Hope textiles can be purchased by hosting or attending a sale in your area, or they can be ordered online at:**

<https://squareup.com/market/threads-of-hope>

**Kim Nimon founded Threads of Hope in 1999** to honor her father, the man who taught her that poverty is not relieved by one meal at Thanksgiving, but by walking with the poor and empowering them through economic development to rise out of poverty.



**Cinde Rawn, Director**

*Threads of Hope*

cinde@threadsofhopetextiles.org  
972.809.7500



## Important Dates to Remember

- SERA Proposal System Opens: Approximately August 15
- SERA Proposal System Closes September 21
- Conference Registration Due October 15
- Dean's Award Papers Due: January 11
- Division VI Graduate Student Papers Due to Discussants January 11
- Graduate Student Outstanding Paper Due January 11
- Outstanding SERA Paper Due February 5th
- **Conference: February 4-6 in San Antonio**

See You in San Antonio!



# SERA 2014



# What a Great Conference!

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# ***SOUTHWEST EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION***

## **CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE 2015 ANNUAL MEETING FEBRUARY 4 - FEBRUARY 6, 2015 MENDER HOTEL SAN ANTONIO**

### **Program Chair:**

**Shirley M. Matteson**  
**Texas Tech University**  
**Curriculum & Instruction**  
**Lubbock, Texas 79409-1071**  
**806-834-3841**  
**shirley.matteson@ttu.edu**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southwest Educational Research Association will be held

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4 THROUGH FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2015**

at the Menger Hotel • 204 Alamo Plaza • San Antonio, TX 78205

Tel: (210)223-4361 • Fax: (210)228-0022 • <http://mengerhotel.com/>

### **General Proposal Guidelines**

Both members and non-members may submit proposals for consideration. **Only original work** that has not been previously (a) published, or (b) presented at SERA, or (c) presented at another professional meeting, is eligible for consideration. If a portion of the work has been previously presented, but not published, and the new original contribution is substantial, the work is eligible for consideration, but only if the prior work is explicitly acknowledged. For example, one year a student presented a paper explaining the precepts of computing "clinical significance," and the next year wrote a paper reporting a meta-analysis of clinical significance tests reported in a given literature. The primary focus of the second paper was the meta-analysis, the prior presentation was explicitly referenced, and the second paper was a co-winner of the SERA Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award. Questions regarding the "originality of work" requirement may be addressed to the Program Chair. *The general principle is that SERA is not a venue for reporting work already reported either elsewhere, or previously.* Proposals for papers, tutorials, symposia, innovative format sessions, and graduate student seminars will be considered for inclusion in the program and should be submitted electronically to the SERA website at: <http://sera-edresearch.org/>

Submit by midnight **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2014.**

*Proposals are invited on topics from all disciplines related to education.*

**Authors and co-authors are required to register for the annual meeting and principal authors are expected to present their papers in person.** If circumstances prevent principal authors from doing so, they must designate a substitute to make their presentations. Each contributor may participate as principal/first author in no more than three (3) sessions.

*All authors and co-authors must preregister and pay registration fees for the annual meeting by the October deadline. Registration fees include the annual member dues. Include as co-authors only persons who have made a substantial contribution to the paper. All persons who benefit from the presentation of papers at the annual meeting (i.e., all authors and co-authors) are expected to contribute to our scholarly community by helping to pay association conference expenses (i.e., register/pay annual dues).*

All meeting rooms at the annual conference will be equipped with an LCD projector and screen. Presenters must supply all other audio-visual equipment. Participants are advised to bring their own laptop computer.

**PLEASE NOTE** that **conference registration and payment \*\*\*RECEIPT\*\*\*** are **\*\*\*STRICTLY required\*\*\*** within roughly one month (i.e., **By OCTOBER 8th for check or Purchase Order payments and by OCTOBER 15, 2014 for PayPal payments**) of the proposal submission deadline in order for proposals to be considered.

First, registration must be completed on-line at <http://sera-edresearch.org/>

Second, payment may be made either using the SERA Registration web site and its Pay Pal features, which includes a credit card option, or by postal mailing a check or purchase order BY THE PAYMENT **RECEIPT** OCTOBER DEADLINE to the address indicated on the conference registration form.

Any persons who have all of their proposals rejected may request a conference registration refund by contacting the Treasurer. All such requests for refunds must be received by December 5, 2014, and must include (a) a postal mailing address, (b) a copy of the proposal rejection(s) and (c) a copy of the SERA registration form. Conference registration payment by all authors/co-authors is a condition for proposal review, includes annual dues, and is not otherwise refundable unless all an individual's proposals are rejected. The **proposals of any persons not completing both conference registration and payment BY THE OCTOBER DEADLINE will be rejected.**

Persons submitting proposals will be notified of the disposition of their proposals by the end of November. The DRAFT program will be posted on the SERA website in early December, and the final program will be posted in January.

**THE FIRST SESSION WILL START ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2015 AT ROUGHLY NOON.**

### **Implicit Permission to Take and Use Photographs**

During the annual meeting photographs are taken of presenters and participants in public spaces (e.g., meeting rooms, hallways, at the luncheon), which may then be displayed during the annual meeting, in SERA newsletters, or on the SERA website. THE SUBMISSION OF A PROPOSAL IS DEEMED A GRANT BY ALL AUTHORS TO SERA TO USE SUCH PHOTOS FOR NONPROFIT USES.

## **PROPOSALS**

**ALL PROPOSALS** for inclusion in the program must be submitted electronically using the link posted on the SERA website: <http://sera-edresearch.org>. Proposals should be no more than two (2) single-spaced pages in length.

### **1. Proposals for Paper Sessions**

Paper sessions are organized around topic areas selected by the Program Committee. Participants will each be given between 11-13 minutes to present papers in summary fashion. To propose a paper for a paper session, authors should prepare a summary including (a) a statement of the problem, (b) perspective(s) or theoretical framework, (c) methods and procedures, (d) results and conclusions, and (e) the educational or scientific importance of the study. Where feasible, sessions will be organized around themes to promote discussion and audience interaction. Session Chairs are typically one of the presenters from that session, so please be sure to check the program ahead of time to determine who is chairing a given session. An asterisk (\*) next to a presenter's name in the conference program indicates selection as the session chair.

### **2. Tutorials/Training Sessions**

Tutorials or Training Sessions provide an opportunity to provide instruction and/or information on a specific topic to the audience in approximately 50 minutes. To propose a tutorial/training session, authors should prepare a summary to include (a) a statement of the topic, (b) perspective(s) or importance of the topic, (c) information about the topic, and (d) how it might be applied to a research project.

### **3. Proposals for Symposia**

A symposium provides an opportunity to address a specific problem or a complex topic from a variety of perspectives. It is the responsibility of symposia organizers to identify topics, solicit speakers, and, if appropriate, provide discussants for symposia sessions. Organizers must designate a chairperson in the proposal (typically the organizer). Being a presenter does not preclude a person from also serving as chair. The organizer is also responsible for notifying other symposium presenters of the disposition of the proposal. The summary should include the following information: (a) objectives of the symposium; (b) summaries of the point of view or conclusion(s) to be drawn from each presenter; (c) a statement regarding the scientific or

educational importance of the symposium; and (d) a list, on a separate page, of the symposium presenters (including a discussant, if appropriate) and their institutional affiliations.

#### **4. Proposals for Innovative Format Sessions**

Proposals for sessions employing innovative formats are accepted. Proposals for structured debates on specific, controversial issues are encouraged. Persons wishing to submit a proposal for an innovative format presentation should explain how the format will be structured and what topics or issues will be discussed. A list of presenters should be included on the cover sheet. The organizer is responsible for notifying all presenters of the disposition of the proposal.

#### **5. Graduate Student Division ONLY for RESEARCH IN PROGRESS (Submit to Division VI only)**

To encourage participation by graduate students, seminars will be scheduled to allow graduate students to summarize research proposals, including theses or dissertations **still in the developmental stage that have not yet been defended**. A distinguished researcher will lead session discussions. Students who wish to submit a proposal for a graduate student seminar should prepare 3 copies of a 2-page, typed (size 12 font), single-spaced summary. The summary should include (a) a statement of the problem, (b) the significance of the study, and (c) a description of the proposed methods and procedures. Please be sure to indicate that the submission is research in progress. Students whose seminar presentation proposals are accepted should send a copy of their seminar paper to the session discussant so that the copy is **RECEIVED on or before Sunday, January 11, 2015**.

NOTE: Completed research by graduate students is *not* appropriate for these Division VI seminars. **Of course, graduate students may submit proposals for presentations not suitable for Division VI to any of the other five divisions, based on a match of presentation topic to the division's coverage.**

#### **Remember:**

- There is a **limit of 3 submissions** by a principal/first author.
- All authors/co-authors and workshop, symposia, and innovative session presenters must register for the annual meeting.
- The Program Committee may exclude any proposal that does not meet the guidelines specified in this publication.
- Presenters are expected to bring **10-15 copies** of their papers to the annual meeting for distribution to the audience, **OR** upload a digital copy of the paper to the SERA Paper Repository website. More information about the Repository will be disseminated in the Fall.
- All meeting rooms at the annual conference will be equipped with an LCD Projector, but you must bring your own laptops. Presenters are encouraged to put their presentations on a flash drive and all the presenters load their presentation onto one laptop before the session begins. **Presenters must supply all other audio-visual equipment.**

**PLEASE NOTE** that conference registration and payment \*\*\*RECEIPT\*\*\* are required within one month (i.e., BY THE OCTOBER DEADLINE) of the proposal submission deadline.

#### **PAPERS**

The SERA annual meeting is intended as a venue in which presenters have written **an actual prepared paper, which is made available to interested members**. In other words, SERA is *NOT* a venue for *extemporaneously delivering off-the-cuff remarks*. In short, the primary communication medium of the conference is in the form of exchanging written, formal, archival scholarly papers, and not oral.

Most papers have 10-18 pages of narrative, references, and many have tables and/or figures. All papers should have a cover page listing the title, authors, and a note at the bottom saying, **"Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southwest Educational Research Association, San Antonio, February (date), 2015."** Also, *please, in the UPPER RIGHT CORNER of your cover page, type the Session Number in which the paper is being presented (e.g., "T2.3", "W1.4", "F3.1")*, as indicated by the conference program posted to the web in December prior to the annual meeting.

Many previous SERA papers from the past 37 years of conferences are available as ERIC "ED" documents. If you want to see some actual previous papers. You can go to <http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICWebPortal/search/extended.jsp> and search on "Southwest Educational Research Association" as a KEYWORD, and then in the ED/EJ box click on ONLY ED (which are non-journal articles, and mostly conference papers). Most of these will have a link to the PDF version of the SERA paper.

If you know the ERIC "ED" "accession number" for the PDF file, you can also go to:  
<http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICWebPortal/basicSearch.do> and type the accession number as the SEARCH TERM to get the PDF file. Here are 3 sample recent SERA papers: ED499991, ED499990, and ED500497.

**Submit proposals online at: <http://sera-edresearch.org/>**

**Proposals should be submitted to only one division.** The program committee reserves the right to reject all proposals that appear to be “duplicate” submissions by the same author(s). Please feel free to contact one of the following division chairs if you have questions.

#### **Program Division Chairs**

**I. Educational Administration, Policy, Leadership, & Program Evaluation**

*Ken Young*  
*Lamar University*  
*ken.young@lamar.edu*

*Aileen Curtin*  
*Texas Wesleyan University*  
*ecurtin@txwes.edu*

**II. Instruction, Learning & Cognition**

*Diane Goldsby*  
*Texas A&M University*  
*dgoldsby@tamu.edu*

*Sandra Acosta*  
*Texas A&M University*  
*sacosta@tamu.edu*

**III. Methodology, Measurement & Evaluation**

*Tommy De Vaney*  
*Southeastern Louisiana*  
*tdevaney@selu.edu*

*Lesley Leach*  
*Tarleton State University*  
*leach@tarleton.edu*

**IV. Teachers & Teacher Education**

*Bob Elliot*  
*Eastern New Mexico University*  
*Robert.Elliott@enmu.edu*

*Lori Petty*  
*loripetty83@gmail.com*

**V. Special Populations & Counseling**

*Nara Martirosyan*  
*Sam Houston State University*  
*nxm021@SHSU.EDU*

*Tonya Jeffery*  
*Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi*  
*tonya.jeffery@tamucc.edu*

**VI. Graduate Student Seminars for Work in Progress**

*LaVonne Williams*  
*Texas A&M University-Kingsville*  
*LaVonne.Fedynich@tamuk.edu*

*Martha L. Tapia*  
*Berry College*  
*mtapia@berry.edu*

## **POSSIBLE DESCRIPTORS**

Following is a list of *suggested* terms you may use to describe your proposal:

Achievement	Early Childhood	Learning	Reading
Adult Education	Education	Learning Styles	Reflective Thinking
Arts	Educational Reform	Mathematics Education	Research Methods
At-Risk Students	Effective Schools	Minority Recruitment	Schools
Attitudes	Efficacy	Minority Retention	School Environment
Classroom Management	English Education	Multicultural Education	School Improvement
Clinical Issues	Evaluation	Novice/Expert Studies	School Restructuring
Cognition	Exceptional Education	Parent Education	Science Education
College Students	Field Experience	Parent Involvement	Self Perception
Computer Education	Finance	Performance Assessment	Social Sciences
Constructivism	Gender Issues	Policy	Statistics
Critical Thinking	Gifted Education	Post Secondary	Student Motivation
Culture	Higher Education	Education	Student
Curriculum	In-service Education	Preschool Education	Violence/Conflict
Development	Instruction	Preservice Education	Teacher Characteristics
Discipline	International Education	Principals	Technology
Drug Education	Language	Private Schools Professional	Tests
		Development	Vocational Education

Remember:

- There is a **limit of 3 submissions** by a principal/first author.
- All authors/co-authors and workshop, symposia, and innovative session presenters must register for the annual meeting.
- **Note** that once the proposal is submitted, authors/co-authors may not be changed. That is, once proposal are submitted, co-authors may not be added. And once the proposal is submitted, authors/co-authors may not be deleted.
- The Program Committee may exclude any proposal that does not meet the guidelines specified in this publication.
- Presenters are expected to bring 10-15 copies of their papers to the annual meeting for distribution to the audience, or to submit copies of the paper to the SERA Digital Repository.
- All meeting rooms at the annual conference will be equipped with an LCD **projector and screen**. **Presenters must supply all other audio-visual equipment.**

**Submit all materials electronically (to be received by midnight SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2014)**  
**using the SERA website:**  
<http://sera-edresearch.org/>

## 2015 SERA BRUCE THOMPSON OUTSTANDING PAPER AWARD

Authors are encouraged to submit five (5) single-sided copies of the paper submitted for presentation at the 2015 annual meeting to the SERA Executive Director, Linda Zientek, by **NOON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2015**. The winner of the BRUCE THOMPSON OUTSTANDING PAPER AWARD will be announced in the newsletter, present the paper at one of the sessions of Outstanding Papers from the State and Regional Research Associations at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, and be recognized at the luncheon during the next year's SERA annual meeting. Because of the 2015 conference date, the paper might actually be presented at the 2016 AERA conference. A stipend of \$750 to help defray the costs involved in attending the AERA meeting will be awarded to the winner.

### *Rules for Outstanding Paper Award Competition:*

- Five (5) single-sided hard copies of the presented paper (i.e, NO electronic copies) must be submitted to the Executive Director for consideration. MEMBERS INTERESTED IN ENTERING THE COMPETITION ARE **STRONGLY** ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT THEIR 5 SINGLE-SIDED COPIES AT THE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION DESK DURING THE ANNUAL MEETING, OR **MAIL THE PAPER COPIES PRIOR TO THE ANNUAL MEETING**.
- The Executive Director must **receive** completed papers on or before the deadline. Late papers are **not** eligible for consideration. At the discretion of the Executive Board, an award may not be made if fewer than 3 meritorious papers are submitted for competition, or if the award committee deems that no award should be made. Should this occur, all participants will be advised that the award will not be made.
- An individual may submit only one paper on which the member is a co-author. Papers with any common co-authors will not be considered.
- Papers will not be considered for the award unless all co-authors have paid preregistration fees by the October deadline for payment receipt.
- Persons who authored the SERA Outstanding Paper in the immediate prior year are not eligible for award consideration in the following year.
- **Active officers of the SERA Executive Council, including appointed officers, are not eligible for this competition.**

*Send completed papers for 2015 SERA Outstanding Paper Award  
by POSTAL/COURIER SERVICE ONLY to:*

**LINDA ZIENTEK, SERA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
2015 SERA OUTSTANDING PAPER AWARD  
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPT. OF MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS  
BOX 2206  
HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS 77341  
lrzientek@shsu.edu**

## 2015 SERA OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER AWARD

An award of \$500 and a certificate will be given for the best paper presented by a graduate student member at the annual meeting. For a paper to be eligible, **the work must be completed before the annual meeting** and then presented in a paper or symposium session. Student authors should **electronically** submit completed copies of their papers to the SERA President to be **RECEIVED BY 5:00 P.M. SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2015**. The award winner will be announced at the SERA luncheon on Thursday, February 5, 2015. Please note that the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award competition is for **completed** graduate student research (i.e., **ONLY Division I through V papers**), and may include theses or dissertations, as well as other graduate student research. Students who present thesis or dissertation research should submit a **condensed version** of the work, not the full thesis or dissertation. **Work in-progress** presented in graduate student seminars (i.e., only Division VI) is **not** eligible for this award, nor are preliminary works, such as literature reviews or class projects and proposals.

### *Rules for Graduate Student Paper Award Competition:*

- The SERA President must **receive** completed papers on or before the **January 11, 2015**, deadline. Late papers are **not** eligible for consideration.
- If multiple authors write the paper, the first author must be a graduate student.
- Papers will not be considered for the award unless all co-authors have preregistered by the October deadline for payment receipt.
- At the discretion of the award committee, an award may not be made if fewer than 3 meritorious papers are submitted for competition. Should this occur, all participants will be advised that the award will not be made.
- Graduate students must indicate their student status on the title page of the paper.
- The Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award competition is for **completed** graduate student research.

*Send completed papers for 2015 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award  
by E-MAIL ATTACHMENT ONLY to:*

**Susan Troncoso Skidmore**

**Sam Houston State University**

**Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling**

**Huntsville, TX 77341-2119**

**skidmore@shsu.edu**

## 2015 SERA DEANS' AWARDS FOR EXCEPTIONAL GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH

Approximately fifteen \$150 awards and certificates will be given for graduate student research papers based on their contribution to educational research.

Dean's awards will be given to students from universities that choose to participate in this opportunity. There are at most two awards given per participating university. The respective Dean of the College of Education for each university sponsors these awards. An e-mail will be sent to members in the Fall announcing the final list of participating universities.

**Eligibility:** To be eligible, a student must be from one of the participating universities and must attend the 2015 SERA annual meeting. Student authors should **electronically submit** completed papers to the SERA graduate student representative to be:

**RECEIVED BY 5:00 P.M. Sunday, January 11, 2015.**

**Submission Criterion:** These awards are for completed graduate student research or research work in-progress (i.e., papers submitted to **any** division, I through VI). Papers can be in any form; literature reviews, explanations of statistical concepts, case studies and will judged from the perspective of how it will further the theory of educational research.

The awards will be announced at the SERA luncheon on Thursday, February 5, 2015.

### ***Rules for the Deans' Awards Competition:***

- The SERA graduate student representative **must receive** completed papers on or before the January 11, 2015 deadline. Late papers are not eligible for consideration.
- The paper must be authored **only** by graduate students.
- If multiple authors write the papers, the choice can be made for the award to be given to the first author or split among all the authors.
- At the discretion of the awards committee, an award may not be made if fewer than 3 meritorious papers are submitted for competition from that university. Should this occur, all participants will be advised that the award will not be made. Also, awards will not be given for institutions at which Deans decide not to participate.
- If you do not receive a receipt confirmation via E-mail **by 5:00 P.M. January 11, 2015**, please contact the graduate student representative immediately.

*Send completed papers for the 2015 Deans' Awards  
by E-MAIL ATTACHMENT ONLY to:*

**Mordecai Brownlee  
SERA Graduate Student Representative  
Blinn College – Brenham, Sealy Schulenburg Campuses  
902 College Avenue  
Brenham, TX 77833  
Mordecai.Brownlee@blinn.edu**