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# SERA Spring 2015



## Southwest Educational Research Association

WWW.SERA-EDRESEARCH.ORG

SPRING 2015

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## The Prez Says...

Thanks to everyone for making the 38th Annual SERA Conference in San Antonio a huge success! We had over 260 sessions, including 35 workshops, innovative sessions, and/or symposiums, presented by over 380 presenters. Sessions were well attended and many praises were heard about the quality of the research presented. Our Wednesday training session provided participants with sought after training on mixed-methods research. Thank you to our scholarly trainers, **Anthony Onwuegbuzie** and **Rebecca Frels**.

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, **Susan Troncoso Skidmore**, who provided excellent leadership, which enables SERA to continue to thrive as a supportive scholarly organization. This past year **Linda Zientek** assumed the role of SERA's Executive Director. **Bruce Thompson**, Executive Director Emeritus, provided a supportive environment for scholars, including student scholars, to develop their scholarship for almost two decades. Bruce remains on the Board as Historian and provides insight, leadership, and guidance on SERA matters.



Shirley Matteson  
Texas Tech University

The 12 Division Chairs deserve special recognition for all of their efforts which includes 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, Robert Elliott, Diane Goldsby, Tonya Jeffery, Lesley Leach, Nara Martirosyan, Lori Petty, Martha Tapia, LaVonne Williams-Fedynich, and Ken Young**. 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 15 discussants, who shared their research expertise with the Division VI work-in-progress presenters. Discussants included **Julia Ballenger, Julie**

See Matteson, Page 2

## The Prez Says from Page 1

**Combs, Lesley Casarez, Robert Elliott, Jim Hardy, Bill Jasper, Tonya Jeffery, Kary Johnson, Lesley Leach, Pauline Sampson, Nate Session, Janet Tarello, Judy Taylor, Ken Young, and Linda Zientek.**

A special thank you goes to **LaVonne Williams-Fedynich** for taking care of all the local arrangements. No one understands the amount of work involved until you have walked in her shoes. She is involved not just with securing facilities, but also works on the menus for the continental breakfasts and luncheon. I cannot thank her enough for making everything run so smoothly. The audio-visual committee headed by **Ken Young** efficiently distributed and collected all the projectors before and after each session. **Prathiba Natesan** 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 Co-chairs **Forrest Lane** and **Janet Tareilo** 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 **Julia Ballenger, Pauline Sampson, and Bettye Grisby** for preparing the instructions for the session chairs as this helped to keep sessions running on time. Thank you to **Lesley Leach, Celia Wilson, Mordecai Brownlee, and Bill Parker** 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 ceramic mug and spoon combo conference attendees. She also assists in the

printing of the large posters of the session times and locations. I hope that all of you will continue to serve SERA, and that new members will volunteer and become an active part of our association.

The 39th annual conference will be held on February 10th–12th, in New Orleans at the Hotel Monteleone. Planning is underway. Information on the conference and on submitting proposals is provided later in this newsletter. The newsletter will also provide training session details and more information on **Rex Kline**, our Presidential Speaker. I hope to see you all in New Orleans!

**Shirley M. Matteson**  
*President*  
*Texas Tech University*

## Dr. Larry Hedges with SERA Graduate Students



Above: Dr. Larry Hedges, Professor of Statistics and Education and Social Policy, Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University stands with SERA graduate students after his Presidential invited address.

# News from Our Past President



Above: Shirley Matteson (left) presents Susan Skidmore (right) with a plaque in recognition of her service as President of SERA



*“It is the contributions of our members that make this conference so wonderful.”*

The SERA 2015 conference was a great success! I hope you had a wonderful time connecting with fellow SERA members and trust that you benefitted from the sessions you attended. We appreciate everyone who presented their research and shared their expertise through workshops, paper presentations, symposiums, and innovative sessions. It is the contributions of our members that make this conference so wonderful, and without your time, effort, and scholarly contributions, none of this would be possible.

I want to take a moment to thank a few of the many people who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make the conference run efficiently and smoothly. Kudos and thank you to the Program Chair and current President, **Shirley Matteson**, and also to our local arrangements chair, **LaVonne Williams - Fedynich** who was responsible for planning and organizing the schedule, rooms, and food. Thank you also to Executive Director **Linda Zientek** and Executive Director Emeritus and Historian

**Bruce Thompson**, who maintain the focus and vision of SERA, to **Mordecai Brownlee** for his leadership of graduate student awards and activities, and to **Mary Margaret Capraro**, our “SERA Trinket and PosterMaven.” Special thanks also go to **Prathiba Natesan** for making the SERA program app available 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** and **Katherine Wright** from Texas A&M University. Please make plans to attend and present at SERA 2016 in New Orleans next year. Our President-Elect, **Prathiba Natesan**, and the local arrangements chair, **Sonya Carr**, along with the SERA Board, are planning a great event at the historic Hotel Monteleone.

We look forward to seeing you there!

**Susan Troncoso Skidmore**  
*Past President*  
*Sam Houston State University*

# 2015 SERA Awards

## Extended Service Award



Above: **Linda Zeintek** (Left)  
**Kim Nimon, Recipient of the 2015 SERA  
 Extended Services Award** (Right)

The winner of the 2015 SERA Extended Services Award first became an SERA member in 2005. She created and runs the web-based SERA Paper Repository system. She was Newsletter Editor/Co-Editor for 2009 and 2010. She has served as SERA Treasurer for several years, and unlike the SERA Treasurer in 1992, who stole every penny of SERA monies until recovery some 9 months later, she has (so far) not stolen any SERA money. She served as Program Chair/President Elect in 2011 (the most difficult job in the organization, by far, requiring quite extensive technical expertise). She subsequently served as President and Past-President. She earned her first PhD in 2007, and her second PhD in 2013 (both of which are real PhDs from real universities).

## Bruce Thompson Outstanding Paper Award

Congratulations to **Grant Morgan** and **Kara Styck**, winners of the Bruce Thompson Outstanding Paper Award, for their manuscript titled *“Behavioral Outcomes of Early Exposure to Violence”*. Children who are exposed to violence tend to exhibit internalizing and externalizing behavior problems. Previous research on the effects of violence exposure has exclusively investigated children at the elementary- and secondary-school levels using a variable-centered approach, leaving a gap in the literature regarding the impact of early exposure to violence on preschool aged children. Furthermore, a person-centered approach may better explain individual differences in the behavioral outcomes of witnessing violence in early childhood. Consequently, this study used a person-centered approach to investigate the relationship between violence exposure and behavioral outcomes.



**Grant Morgan**  
 Baylor University



**Kara Styck**  
 University of Texas at  
 San Antonio

As winners of this award, they received a \$1000 stipend and were invited to present their findings at the distinguished paper section at the annual meeting of American Educational Research Association (AERA). This year’s meeting will be held in Chicago, IL April 16—20, 2015.

# Midwestern State University Undergraduate Students

## Present at SERA through EURECA Grant



**Kelly Calame**

*Midwestern State University*

**Danielle Schwertner**

*Midwestern State University*

**Kelly Calame** and **Danielle Schwertner**, both undergraduate students, were recipients of this year's Enhancing Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (EURECA) grant from Midwestern State University. Funding from this grant helped to support their project titled, "*Applying Undergraduate Research: The Texas General Education Communication Core Curriculum, Tracking Trends 2013-2015*". Their work was guided by faculty advisors **Sally Henschel**, Assistant Professor of English and **Mitzi Lewis**, Assistant Professor of Mass Communication.

The results from their project revealed that there was an overall decrease in number of required English and Speech courses in the TCC implemented during the fall of 2014 at both Texas state community colleges and

universities. At the community college level, there was a significant decrease in the number of required specific second semester English courses (from 38 to 24), which partially was offset by an increase in number of required choice of English courses (from 15 to 21).

Community colleges also had a significant decrease in the number of required choice of speech courses (from 39 to 29), also partially offset by an increase in the number of required choice of English and/or speech courses (from 0 to 5).

State universities also showed a significant decrease in the number of required choice of speech courses (from 10 to 4), but a less significant decrease in required specific second semester English courses (from 26 to 23).



**EURECA**  
encourages  
students to  
engage in high-  
quality research  
and creative  
activities through  
an  
interdisciplinary  
environment.

# Reflections of the Executive Director



**Linda Zientek**  
Sam Houston State University

Thanks to everyone for helping to create a great conference! We had a great meeting in San Antonio. The sessions were well attended, and people with whom I spoke with were looking forward to the 2016 SERA Conference. The **2016 meeting** will be held in **New Orleans** at the historic Monteleone Hotel, which is a town with many attractions. We look forward to another great turnout in New Orleans!

One conference workshop is

planned for the 2016 meeting. Members who are interested in learning more about publishing can attend a ticketed training session on Wednesday afternoon by **Bruce Thompson**. Please review the newsletter to find further details about the training session.

The Presidential Invited Speaker in New Orleans will be **Rex Kline** of Concordia University in Montréal. The title of his talk is **Becoming a Behavioral Science Researcher**. In 2009, Professor Kline published a book with the same name. His presentation will offer guidance from the analysis stage to the presentation stage, including the summarization of the results in written form. Dr. Kline 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 San Antonio had many interesting speakers and wonderful sessions. The Presidential

Invited Speaker at the 38th SERA annual meeting was **Larry Hedges**, Northwestern University. Professor Hedges provided insight into the history of meta-analysis and a sketch of the process as well as reflections on how meta-analysis has had an impact across disciplines. 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 New Orleans and hopes 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



Registration desk duty finds Janet Tareilo and Stacey Edmonson happily assisting attendees.



Presidential Invited Speaker, Larry Hedges.

## Past Graduate Student Representative Report



Thanks to the continued support and participation our graduate students, the 2015 SERA Conference was a grand success. On behalf of all graduate students, I wish to thank the SERA Board for all their hard work and diligence in creating a wonderful opportunity for students to share their research and works with fellow educators in a supportive environment.

Congratulations to all of our Deans' Award recipients, and a HUGE thank you to the following universities which funded the awards on behalf of their graduate programs: **Baylor University, Lamar University, Texas A&M University–Commerce, Stephen F. Austin State University, The University of Southern Mississippi, Tarleton State University, University of North Texas, Texas A&M University – College Station, Southern Methodist University, Texas Tech University, Sam Houston State University, Texas Wesleyan University, University of Houston–Clear Lake, and Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi.** This year over 20 papers were considered, and the authors of 13 papers from nine universities received awards.

I would like to thank each member of this year's **Graduate Student Council**, including **Jessica Salazar**, Texas Wesleyan; **Robbie Johnson**, Stephen F. Austin State

University; **Sarah Ferguson**, University of North Texas; **Kevin Wells**, Baylor University; **Tracy Hodges**, Texas A&M University; **Thanh Tran**, Texas Tech University; **Eunjin Hwang**, Sam Houston State University; **Theresa Hefner Babb**, Lamar University; **Mary Elliot**, Tarleton State University; and **Antonio Corrales**, University of Houston – Clear Lake. 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, reviewing Deans' Award submissions, photograph attendees, and promoting graduate student events.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to **Celia Wilson** and **Lesley Leach** for serving as the Graduate Student Advisors. Both advisors have served as amazing resources and provided great support to our graduate council. Thank you Celia and Lesley!

Congratulations to **Sarah Ferguson** from the University of North Texas, who will lead the Graduate Student Council in 2015-2016. Sarah is an excellent leader and will serve the graduate students well as we look forward to SERA 2016.

Have a great year as we move forward learning, and cultivating the relationships born at SERA 2015. Now...stop reading and start writing!!

Thanks for a great year,

**Mordecai Ian Brownlee**  
*Lamar University*



*“I wish to thank the SERA Board for all their hard work and diligence in creating a wonderful opportunity for students”*

# Graduate Student News



**Sarah Ferguson**  
*University of North Texas*

Greetings to all graduate student members of the Southwest Educational Research Association! As the current Graduate Student Representative and on behalf of the SERA Board of Directors, thank you for helping to make the 38th Annual SERA Conference a success. Other than San Antonio weather being a few degrees below normal, the conference this year went off without a hitch. The success of this conference is in large part due to you as the graduate student volunteers, presenters, and attendees, so thank you for your continued support of SERA!

The SERA conference is also when the new SERA Graduate Student Council is selected and the previous leadership steps down. As such, I would like to thank the 2014-2015 Graduate Student Representative **Mordecai Brownlee** (University of Charleston) for his year of service to the SERA Board of Directors and the graduate student membership. For the last year, Mordecai has represented the interests of all graduate students in the SERA

community and has served as our voice on the SERA Board of Directors. His work in support of SERA graduate students and assistance with the annual conference was noticed and appreciated! Additionally, I would like to thank the 2014-2015 SERA Campus Representatives for their service: **Jessica Salazar** (Texas Wesleyan University), **Robbie Johnson** (Stephen F. Austin State University), **Kevin Wells** (Baylor University), **Tracy Hodges** (Texas A&M University), **Thanh Phan** (Texas Tech University), **Eunjin Hwang** (Sam Houston State University), **Theresa Hefner Babb** (Lamar University), **Antonio Corrales** (University of Houston, Clear Lake) and **Mary Elliot** (at-large, Tarleton State University).

The new Graduate Student Council for the 2015-2016 year was selected at the annual conference and these new members have already begun their term of service. I am excited to welcome **Catherine Leamons** (Tarleton State University), **Thom Suhy** (Southern Methodist University), **Melissa Leigh** (Stephen F. Austin State University), **Kathryn French** (Lamar University), **Paul Rodriguez** (Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi), **Brandolyn Jones** (Sam Houston State University), **Robin Wilson** (Baylor University), **Sheldon Smart** (Texas Wesleyan University), **Ping Zhu** (University of North Texas), **Alexandra Foran** (Texas A&M University), and **Wan-Chun Tseng** (Texas Tech University). Additionally, I am happy to announce that **Celia Wilson**, Assistant Professor at Texas Wesleyan University, and **Lesley Leach**, Associate Professor, Doctoral

Program Coordinator and Department Head at Tarleton State University, are continuing in their roles as Graduate Student Council Co-Advisors.

The 39th Annual SERA Conference will be held February 10-12, 2016 in New Orleans, and it is never too early to start preparing! The annual conference is an excellent opportunity for graduate students to network with other members from across the region, present current scholarship in a supporting environment, and learn from other presenters through workshops and presentations. As we move through the spring semester and into the summer, I encourage all graduate student members to think about projects and papers currently in development that might be appropriate for presentation at SERA next year. Additionally, outstanding graduate student work may be submitted for a Dean's Award and/or the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award. More details on these will be included in the call for proposals when it is released later this year. I hope to see all of you this next year in New Orleans!

**Sarah Ferguson**  
*SERA Graduate Student Representative*  
*University of North Texas*



## A Night at the Menger: Hotel Drawing Winners

Each year, graduate students' names are randomly drawn for paid hotel room nights during the business luncheon. To qualify, students have to be registered at the hotel in which the conference is being hosted and be present at the luncheon. This year, we had a total of eighteen lucky winners! Congratulations to those of you who won a free night.



*Free hotel room nights are raffled each year to students who attend the annual SERA Business Luncheon.*



**Winners of the 2015 Free Hotel Night Drawing.**



# Congratulations to All Our Winners

## 2015 Dean's Awards

### **The Role of Doctoral Studies on the Relationships Between Select Doctoral Students and their Partners: A Collective Case Study**

John Jordan, Rachael Wilcox, David Paitson, and Mitch Parker  
*Sam Houston State University*

### **Classroom Management Styles and Incidents of Behavior**

Melissa M. Leigh, Dare Chronister, Betsy Mijares, Patterson Hill, and Nathan Bruner  
*Stephen F. Austin State University*

### **Student Views of Balancing Project-Based Learning, State Standards and Accountability in Science**

John Branch, Elijah Granger, Marcus Brannon, Stephanie Johnson  
*Stephen F. Austin State University*

### **Flipping for Statistics?: Student Perceptions of the Efficacy of an Inverted Doctoral-level Educational Research Course**

Catherine G. Leamons  
*Tarleton State University*

### **Impact of Delivery Method on Speaker's Level of Speech Anxiety**

Tracey M. Holley  
*Tarleton State University*

### **Comparing Groups in Quasi-Experimental Education Research with Propensity Score Matching**

Tracey S. Hodges and Katherine Wright  
*Texas A&M University*

### **Exploring a Science Education Study Abroad Experience via Personal Narrative and Photography**

Stephanie R. Medina  
*Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi*

### **Mathematical Vocabulary: A Look Back to Make Meaning of the Present and Future**

Shere Salinas  
*Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi*

### **Successful Practices in a First Year Teacher Mentoring Program: Lessons Learned from Junior High Mentors**

Marsha Sowell  
*Texas Tech University*

### **Effectiveness of the Student Success Course on Persistence, Retention, Academic Achievement and Engagement**

Kris R. Kimbark  
*University of Houston—Clear Lake*

### **Examining Pre-Service Teacher Field Based Capstone Experiences Using Web 2.0 Technology: Factors Influencing Intent, Level of Use, and Ability**

Melissa Botkin  
*University of Houston—Clear Lake*

### **A Comparative Analysis of Racial Gaps in Gifted Identification and Advanced Placement Participation**

Jeb S. Puryear  
*University of North Texas*

## 2015 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award



Congratulations to Tracey Hodges Texas and Katherine Wright from Texas A&M University who were selected as our 2015 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper awardees for their paper titled “Comparing Groups in Quasi-Experimental Education Research with Propensity Score Matching.” This is quite a prestigious award for our graduate students. We applaud your exemplary efforts!



*Papers must be submitted by January 10, 2016 to be considered for this year’s Dean’s Award and Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award.*

## 2015 Dean’s Awards



**Top Row:** Melissa Leigh, Melissa Botkin, John Branch, Stephanie Medina, Tracey Hodges  
**Bottom Row:** Jessica Salazar, Catherine Leamons, Jeb Buryear, Marsha Sowell, Shere Salinas, Tracey Holley

## A Preview of New Orleans: 2016 SERA Annual Meeting



**Sonya Carr**  
Educational Consultant

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the 2016 SERA Annual Meeting at the historic **Hotel Monteleone**. The **Hotel Monteleone**, our conference hotel, was founded in 1887 and has been offering hospitality in the French Quarter for over 127 years (<http://hotelmonteleone.com/>).

There are many reasons to look forward to your visit. In addition to the numerous professional opportunities that await during the conference, New Orleans is an award-winning destination with outstanding cuisine, music, art and architecture as well as a rich history and culture.

Want to explore this wonderful city? There are so many free things to do:

**GET JAZZED.** Stroll along Bourbon or Frenchmen, where jazz pours out onto the street or duck into a few clubs for the full experience.

**DIVE DEEPER INTO OUR MUSICAL HERITAGE.** After you've heard your fair share of jazz, learn about its roots at the New Orleans Jazz National Historic Park (916 N. Peters).

**BROWSE ART.** It seems like you can find art in every corner of New Orleans—the galleries on Julia and Royal Streets, the Mid-City and Bywater art markets, Jackson Square vendors and so much more.

**EXPERIENCE OUR PARKS.** Walk among the centuries-old oaks of City Park, picnic in picturesque Audubon Park or enjoy views of the Mississippi River at Woldenberg Park.

**IMMERSE YOURSELF IN NEW ORLEANS HISTORY.** Stop by The Historic New Orleans Collection (533 Royal) for a crash course on the city's history that spans almost 300 years.

**VIEW FRENCH QUARTER ARCHITECTURE.** You can spy wrought-iron balconies, a cornstalk fence, and hidden courtyards.

**TAKE YOURSELF ON A LITERARY TOUR.** See where Tennessee Williams (722 Toulouse), William Faulkner (624 Pirate's Alley), Truman Capote (711 Royal), Thornton Wilder (623 Bourbon), Walker Percy (1820 Milan) and Anne Rice (1239 First) lived.

**BE MOVED BY OUR SPECTACULAR CHURCHES.** The large Catholic population of New Orleans gave rise to breathtaking churches such as St. Louis Cathedral, St. Augustine and Our Lady of Guadalupe.

**SAVOR YOUR SENSES.** Savor the smells of more than 1,400 restaurants as you walk the streets of the French Quarter and Riverfront.



Photo Courtesy of the New Orleans Visitors and Convention Bureau

Adapted from *30 Free Things To Do – Every Reason to Choose New Orleans*, New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau, March 2015.



“Savor the smells  
of more than  
1,400 restaurants  
as you walk the  
streets of the  
French Quarter  
and Riverfront.”

**Other ideas?**

- The Outlet Collection at Riverwalk has reopened its doors as the nation’s first outlet center in the heart of a downtown area. The space is leased by a mix of national and local retailers and offers an exciting shopping experience only a few blocks from the Monteleone.
- Relax in the courtyard of the historic Napoleon House, take a carriage ride through the French Quarter, or go on a Haunted History walking tour.
- A short walk or streetcar ride away, you can visit the Audubon Insectarium, Aquarium of the Americas, Ogden Museum of Southern Art, National World War II Museum, Blaine Kern’s Mardi Gras World, and the world-class Audubon Zoo.



Photo Courtesy of the New Orleans Visitors and Convention Bureau

**What do others say?**

- TripAdvisor named New Orleans one of the top “13 Destinations to Book Your Next Adventure,” February 2015.
- *Ebony Magazine* named New Orleans one of its “14 Top Travel Spots for 2015,” February 2015.
- *The New York Times* named New Orleans one of its “52 Places to Go in 2015,” January 2015.
- New Orleans won top honors on *Travel + Leisure’s* Favorite Cities list, ranking number one in the “Festivals,” “Notable Restaurants,” “Historical Sites” categories and more, October, 2014.
- *Conde Nast Traveler* named New Orleans one of the Top 25 Cities in the World, one of only five U.S. cities to make the list, October 2014.

New Orleans is a special city and we anticipate great things in 2016!

**Sonya Carr**

*Board Member at Large  
2016 Local Arrangements Chair*



Photo Courtesy of the New Orleans Visitors and Convention Bureau

**For more information:** New Orleans Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau, 2020 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70130 504-566-5019. <http://www.neworleanscvb.com>

# 2016 SERA Presidential Invited Address

Rex Kline, Concordia University



## “Becoming a Behavioral Science Researcher”

The 2016 SERA Presidential Invited Address is titled “Becoming a Behavioral Science Researcher,” and will be delivered by Professor Rex Kline. Professor Kline is a prolific scholar, and he teaches on the faculty at Concordia University in Montréal. Rex Kline completed his PhD in clinical psychology at Wayne State University (Detroit). He is currently Professor of Psychology at Concordia University (Montréal). Major areas of teaching include courses in statistics and methods of psychological assessment at the graduate level and courses in psychopathology, psychometrics, statistics, and thesis or special topics seminars for honours and specialization programme students at the undergraduate level.

Dr. Kline is the author of seven books, including three editions (1998, 2005, and 2010) of Principles and Practice of Structural Equation Modeling, a widely cited work in this area. Another work is Becoming a Behavioral Science Researcher (2009), which was written for undergraduate students who are completing a thesis research project. The book offers guidance about conducting the analysis, summarizing the results in written form, and the preparation and delivery of oral presentations. Professor Kline has also been invited to give seminars for graduate students and faculty members at other universities or research centres around the world. He has also published over 40 articles in refereed journals and over 10 book chapters in areas that include the psychometric evaluation of children’s cognitive abilities, child clinical assessment, statistics reform, latent variable modeling, research methods, and computer program usability.

For more information, see <http://psychology.concordia.ca/fac/kline/rexbkline.html>

## 2016 Pre-Conference Training Session

### How to Write (Successfully) for Publication

Bruce Thompson, Texas A&M University

This two-hour SERA training session will be offered by Bruce Thompson during the 2016 SERA annual meeting. The session is for any one interested in learning more about publishing. There will be ample opportunity during the session for Q&A interactions.

Bruce Thompson is Distinguished Professor and College Distinguished Research Fellow of Educational Psychology, and Distinguished Professor of Library Sciences, Texas A&M University, and Adjunct Professor of Allied Health Sciences, Baylor College of Medicine (Houston). He was co-editor of the teaching, learning, and human development section of the American Educational Research Journal (AERJ:TLHD), and past editor for nine years of Educational and Psychological Measurement, the series, Advances in Social Science Methodology, and two other journals. He published his first article before he obtained his bachelor's



**Bruce Thompson**  
Texas A&M University

degree, and his first book chapter while he was a master's degree student. Since then he has authored more than 200 articles, authored or edited 11 books, including the recently published Foundations of Behavioral Statistics and Exploratory and Confirmatory Factor Analysis, and authored 20 book chapters.



**Left:** Rebecca Frels and Tony Onwuegbuzie host a training session on mixed methodology in Educational and Social Science Research at the 2015 Conference in San Antonio.



*The 2016 Pre-Conference Training Session will held in the afternoon on Wednesday February 10th.*

## 2016 SERA Annual Meeting: New Orleans



**Prathiba Natesa**  
*University of North Texas*

The SERA Executive Board is pleased to announce that the 39th Annual SERA conference will again be held at the Hotel Monteleone in New Orleans. The 2016 SERA Conference begins on Wednesday, February 10, 2016 and concludes on Friday, February 12, 2016. Several great workshops and training sessions are being planned that focus on supporting members' professional needs. Distinguished Professor **Bruce Thompson** from Texas A&M University will be providing a ticketed **training session on publishing**. We sincerely hope you will find the scheduled sessions helpful and enjoyable.

Two years ago **Julia Ballenger, Sonya Carr, and I** 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. This year **Bettye Grigsby** takes the baton from **Julia** and me. She will continue to work with **Sonya Carr** in providing support for SERA members. 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. If you are seeking a mentor or interested in serving as a mentor, please complete the application found on the SERA Website by clicking on the link in the Early Career Faculty Mentoring Initiative section: <http://sera-edresearch.org/>.

Furthering our efforts to support our members' professional development, we are developing a new **SERA Research Grants Program**. **Bettye Grigsby** is spearheading this initiative. Two competitive research grants – one for doctoral candidate and one for assistant professor – will be awarded each year beginning in 2016. More information will follow in our Fall newsletter. The submission deadline will be in January.

This Spring Newsletter provides details about the Wednesday afternoon ticketed training session and our Presidential Invited Speaker, **Rex B. Kline**. Immediately following Thursday's luncheon, graduate students will have the opportunity to enjoy a Fireside Chat with the 2016 Presidential Invited Speaker. Several others sessions during the conference also will focus on our graduate students.

Proposals for the 2016 SERA annual conference are due on September 20, 2015. Complete details regarding the proposals are available within the 2016 Call for Proposals which can be found at the end of the newsletter and at the SERA website: <http://sera-edresearch.org/>

We encourage you to submit a proposal and present at the 2016 Conference in New Orleans. The SERA conference is a great outlet to exchange research ideas and network with other scholars in your field and across the region. The SERA conference program information will be available in both print and as an app. The online app allows you to easily search, customize your schedule, and set reminders. Paper copies will be available for a small fee.

I would like to extend a special thank you to **Sonya Carr** who has been hard at work securing arrangements for our annual meeting in New Orleans (this is the 5th time she is handling New Orleans local arrangements!). 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 also recognize the efforts of **Lesley Leech, Celia Wilson, and Sarah Ferguson** who will undertake the huge task of photographing the conference events, with special emphasis on photographing graduate students. The location of Hotel Monteleone, in the famous French Quarter, 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, fine jazz and other entertainment, and drinks within walking distance of the hotel.

**Prathiba Natesan**  
*President-Elect and Program Chair*  
*University of North Texas*

## Join us at the Hotel Monteleone

February 10 –12, 2016  
New Orleans, Louisiana



*Hotel  
reservations must  
be made by  
calling  
(504) 523-3341  
The group rate is  
\$149 per night.*

### Important Dates & Reminders

#### Proposals & Registration

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| September 20, 2015 | Conference proposals due  |
| October 7, 2015    | Due date for conference registration through check or purchase order* |
| October 14, 2015   | Due date for conference registration through PayPal*                  |

\*Conference registration is required for all proposals

#### Awards

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| January 10, 2016  | Division VI graduate student papers due to discussants         |
| January 10, 2016  | Dean's Award papers due to Shirley Matteson                    |
| February 11, 2016 | Bruce Thompson Outstanding Papers due by noon to Linda Zientek |

(For more important dates see: <http://sera-edresearch.org/>)

# SERA Board Members and Appointments

<p><b>President</b> Shirley Matteson <i>Texas Tech University</i></p>	<p><b>Secretary</b> Julie Combs <i>Sam Houston State University</i></p>
<p><b>President-Elect/ Program Chair</b> Prathiba Natesan <i>University of North Texas</i></p>	<p><b>Graduate Student Representative</b> Sarah Ferguson <i>University of North Texas</i></p>
<p><b>Past-President</b> Susan Skidmore <i>Sam Houston State University</i></p>	<p><b>Members-at-Large: 2013—2016</b> Scott Bailey <i>Stephen F. Austin State University</i>  Sonya Carr <i>Educational Consultant</i>  Celia Wilson <i>Texas Wesleyan University</i></p>
<p><b>Treasurer</b> Kim Nimon <i>University of Texas—Tyler</i></p>	<p><b>Members-at-Large: 2014—2017</b> Bettye Grigsby <i>University of Houston—Clear Lake</i>  Tonya Jeffrey <i>Texas A&amp;M University—Corpus Christi</i>  Lesley Leach <i>Tarleton State University</i></p>
<p><b>Executive Director</b> Linda Zientek <i>Sam Houston State University</i></p>	<p><b>Member-at-Large 2015-2018</b> Forrest Lane <i>Dallas Independent School District</i></p>
<p><b>Executive Director Emeritus/ Historian</b> Bruce Thompson <i>Texas A&amp;M University</i></p>	<p>La Vonne Williams-Fedynich <i>Texas A&amp;M University-Kingsville</i>  Ken Young <i>Lamar University</i></p>
<p><b>Deputy Historian</b> Vic Willson <i>Texas A&amp;M University</i></p>	

# Welcome! New Board Members

**Scott Bailey** is an Assistant Professor in both the Principal Preparation Program and Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership at Stephen F. Austin State University. Before coming to the university, he worked in public schools for 14 years as a teacher, assistant principal, curriculum director, and principal. His research interests focus on leadership development, improving instructional practices, and ensuring equity and access for all students.



**Member-at-Large**



**Ken Young** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership at Lamar University. He has been actively involved with SERA since participating as a graduate student at Baylor University. He has authored numerous articles and book chapters and has served as a co-editor for *Learning for Democracy: An International Journal of Thought and Practice*. For the last two years, Ken has served as a co-chair for Division I: Educational Administration, Policy, Leadership, and Program Evaluation, and most recently a co-chair for conference audio/visual set-up.

**Member-at-Large**

**Sonja Carr** is an Educational Consultant and Leadership Coach in the greater New Orleans area. She has been an active member of SERA for many years, currently serves as the local arrangements chair for the 2016 SERA Annual Meeting and is one of the facilitators of the SERA Early Career Faculty Mentoring Initiative. She previously served three terms as a Council Member-At-Large on the SERA Executive Board and received the SERA Extended Service Award in 2010. Sonya retired as a Professor of Special Education in the Department of Teaching and Learning at Southeastern Louisiana University. At Southeastern, she held both the Pennington and the W. L. Billups Endowed Professorships in Special Education. Her work has been published in peer-reviewed journals including: *Teaching Exceptional Children*, *Intervention in School and Clinic*, *Reading & Writing Quarterly*, and *Teacher Education and Special Education*.



**Member-at-Large**



**Julie Peterson Combs** is an associate professor and director of the doctoral program in Educational Leadership at Sam Houston State University. Julie has been an active member of SERA since 2005, participating in the annual conference each of the past 10 years. She has also worked for two Special Interest Groups of the American Educational Research Association (4 years as program chair, a combined 6 years as treasurer/secretary). At Sam Houston State University, Julie's teaching efforts focus primarily on academic writing. She has published 65 journal articles, seven book chapters, and three books.

**Secretary**

# 2015-2016 Graduate Student Council

<p><b>Alexandra Foran</b> Texas A&amp;M University Email: <a href="mailto:aliforan@tamu.edu">aliforan@tamu.edu</a></p>	
<p><b>Sarah Ferguson</b> University of North Texas Email: <a href="mailto:sferguson86@gmail.com">sferguson86@gmail.com</a> Graduate Student Representative</p>	
<p><b>Brandolyn Jones</b> Sam Houston State University Email: <a href="mailto:bej007@shsu.edu">bej007@shsu.edu</a></p>	
<p><b>Catherine Leamons</b> Tarleton State University Email: <a href="mailto:sw_cleamons@tarleton.edu">sw_cleamons@tarleton.edu</a></p>	

# 2015-2016 Graduate Student Council

<p><b>Melissa Leigh</b> Stephen F. Austin State University Email: <a href="mailto:lissaleigh23@gmail.com">lissaleigh23@gmail.com</a></p>	
<p><b>Paul Rodriguez</b> Texas A&amp;M University-Corpus Christi Email: <a href="mailto:paul.rodriguez@ccisd.us">paul.rodriguez@ccisd.us</a></p>	
<p><b>Ping Zhu</b> University of North Texas Email: <a href="mailto:Ping.Zhu@unt.edu">Ping.Zhu@unt.edu</a></p>	
<p><b>Robin Wilson</b> Baylor University Email: <a href="mailto:robin_wilson1@baylor.edu">robin_wilson1@baylor.edu</a></p>	

# 2015-2016 Graduate Student Council

<p><b>Thom Suhy</b> Southern Methodist University Email: <a href="mailto:tsuhy@smu.edu">tsuhy@smu.edu</a></p>	
<p><b>Wan Chun Tseng</b> Texas Tech University Email: <a href="mailto:wan-chun.tseng@ttu.edu">wan-chun.tseng@ttu.edu</a></p>	
<p><b>Sheldon Smart</b> Texas Wesleyan University Email: <a href="mailto:s smart@txwes.edu">s smart@txwes.edu</a></p>	
<p><b>Kathryn French</b> Lamar University Email: <a href="mailto:kathryn.french@bridgecityisd.net">kathryn.french@bridgecityisd.net</a></p>	

# Thank You For Joining Us in San Antonio!



See You in New Orleans  
February 10-12, 2016

# ***SOUTHWEST EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION***

## **CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE 2016 ANNUAL MEETING FEBRUARY 10 - FEBRUARY 12, 2016 HOTEL MONTELEONE NEW ORLEANS**

### **Program Chair:**

**Prathiba Natesan**

**University of North Texas**

**Educational Psychology**

**Denton, Texas 76203**

**940-565-4988**

**prathiba.natesan@unt.edu**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The 39th Annual Meeting of the Southwest Educational Research Association will be held

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10 THROUGH FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2016**

at the Monteleone • 214 Royal St • New Orleans, LA 70130

Tel: (504)523-3341 • Fax: (504)681-4491 • <http://hotelmonteleone.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 20, 2015.**

*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).*

**Current SERA membership** is NOT a requirement for proposal submissions. Instead, what is required is that all authors and all coauthors must register and pay the registration fees for the conference for which the presentation is being submitted. The SERA Registration web pages are typically opened in late August, and payments must be received (not sent; received) by the October deadlines posted on the SERA Home Page.

**All meeting rooms at the annual conference will be equipped with an LCD projector** with a VGA cable (3-row 15-pin connector) and a projector screen. **Presenters are responsible for providing working computers and VGA adapters for their computers if needed.** Also, wireless internet is NOT provided, so presenters should either bring presentations on a flash/thumb drive or have capability of providing a wireless hotspot if your presentation is stored on a virtual space. **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 7th for check or Purchase Order payments and by OCTOBER 14, 2015 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, 2015, 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 10, 2016 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.

The program chair, in conjunction with the president, will hold workshops according to the space available in the conference program. If a workshop, symposium, or innovative session proposal is not accepted because of space limitations, researchers will have the opportunity, when submitting a proposal, to identify if they would be agreeable to a paper session format.

### ***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 10, 2016**.

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.
- There is a **limit of 7 coauthors** per submission.
- 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.** For instance, mac users may want to bring their own dongle. SSD laptops may require a HDMI-VGA cable.

**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, New Orleans, February (date), 2016.**" 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 38 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*

*James Hardy*

*University of Texas Arlington*

*[jimhardy@uta.edu](mailto:jimhardy@uta.edu)*

##### **II. Instruction, Learning & Cognition**

*Mordecai Brownlee*

*University of Charleston*

*mordecaibrownlee@ucwv.edu*

*Dittika Gupta*

*Midwestern State University*

*[dittika.gupta@mwsu.edu](mailto:dittika.gupta@mwsu.edu)*

##### **III. Methodology, Measurement & Evaluation**

*Tommy De Vaney*

*Southeastern Louisiana*

*tdevaney@selu.edu*

*Lesley Leach*

*Tarleton State University*

*[leach@tarleton.edu](mailto:leach@tarleton.edu)*

##### **IV. Teachers & Teacher Education**

*Bob Elliott*

*Eastern New Mexico University*

*Robert.Elliott@enmu.edu*

*Lori Petty*

*Mary Hardin-Baylor University*

*[lpetty@uhmb.edu](mailto:lpetty@uhmb.edu)*

##### **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](mailto: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](mailto:mtapia@berry.edu)*

**POSSIBLE DESCRIPTORS**

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

Achievement	Early Childhood Education	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 Education	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 Development	Tests
			Vocational Education

**Submit all materials electronically (to be received by midnight SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2015)**

**using the SERA website:**

<http://sera-edresearch.org/>

## 2016 SERA BRUCE THOMPSON OUTSTANDING PAPER AWARD

Authors are encouraged to submit five (5) single-sided copies of the paper submitted for presentation at the 2016 annual meeting to the SERA Executive Director, Linda Zientek, by **NOON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2016**. 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 2016 conference date, the paper might actually be presented at the 2017 AERA conference. A stipend of \$1000 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 2016 SERA Outstanding Paper Award  
by POSTAL/COURIER SERVICE ONLY to:*

**LINDA ZIENTEK, SERA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
2016 SERA OUTSTANDING PAPER AWARD  
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPT. OF MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS  
BOX 2206  
HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS 77341  
lrzientek@shsu.edu**

## 2016 SERA OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER AWARD

An award of \$750 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 10, 2016**. The award winner will be announced at the SERA luncheon on Thursday, February 11, 2016. 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 10, 2016**, 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 2016 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award  
by E-MAIL ATTACHMENT ONLY to:*

**Shirley Matteson**  
**Texas Tech University**  
**shirley.matteson@ttu.edu**

## 2016 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 2016 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 10, 2016.**

**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 be 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 11, 2016.

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

- The SERA graduate student representative **must receive** completed papers on or before the January 10, 2016 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 10, 2016**, please contact the graduate student representative immediately.

*Send completed papers for the 2016 Deans' Awards  
by E-MAIL ATTACHMENT ONLY to:*

**Sarah Ferguson  
SERA Graduate Student Representative  
University of North Texas  
sarah.ferguson@unt.edu**