

Spring 2016



# SERA Newsletter

*Southwest Educational Research Association*

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## EDITOR:

Forrest Lane  
Sam Houston State University

## The Prez Says...



Prathiba Natesan (Left) is presented a plaque of the 2016 Program by Shirley Matteson (right)

Thanks to everyone for making the 39th Annual SERA Conference in New Orleans a huge success! We had over 250 sessions, including 16 workshops and/or symposiums, presented by almost 360 presenters. Sessions were well attended and many praises were heard about the quality of the research presented. Bruce Thompson's training session on *How to Write Successfully for Publications* received very positive feedback from attendees.

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, **Shirley Matteson**, who provided excellent leadership, which enables SERA to continue to thrive as a supportive scholarly organization. Behind the scenes at each conference providing leadership and organization, are **Linda Zientek** - SERA Executive Director and **Bruce Thompson** - SERA past Executive Director for 15 years and current Executive Director *Emeritus*. Bruce has led SERA in providing a supportive environment for scholars, including student scholars, to develop their scholarship. He also now serves as the SERA Historian.

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, **Mordecai Brownlee**, **Tommy DeVaney**, **Bob Elliott**, **Dittika Gupta**, **James Hardy**, **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 13 discussants, who shared their research expertise with the Division VI work-in-progress presenters. Discussants included **Mordecai Brownlee**, **Hansel Burley**, **Lesley Casarez**, **Julie Combs**, **Robert Elliott**, **Bettye Grigsby**, **Jim Hardy**, **William Jasper**, **Tonya Jeffery**, **Leigh Kackley**, **Effie Laman**, **Forrest Lane**,



Photo Courtesy of the New Orleans Convention & Visitors Bureau

[Continued on Page 2](#)

## In Memoriam: Bettye Grigsby (1966–2016)

*"Bettye was greatly appreciated by all who knew her. Her presence will be profoundly missed by SERA."*



It with great sadness that we announce the passing of Bettye Grigsby on Sunday, February 7, 2016. She was an at-large member of the SERA Board and had served in this capacity since 2011. She was also chair of the Department of Leadership and Policy Analysis at the University of Houston – Clear Lake. Before joining the faculty at UHCL, she spent 16 years with the Beaumont Independent School District where she served in multiple capacities including principal, assistant principal and teacher.

Colleagues at UHCL cited her “substantial, outstanding, continuing contributions to her profession in the area of teaching, educational activities, research, and service to the university.” Bettye was greatly appreciated by all who knew her. Her presence will be profoundly missed by SERA.

A scholarship fund has been established in her name. Contributions can be made through the Office of University Advancement Office at the University of Houston – Clear Lake, or by visiting <https://giving.uh.edu/clake/>.

## The Prez Says from page 1

### SERA Repository

The SERA Paper Repository is now open. The use of the Repository is optional, but we highly encourage you to upload a digital copy of your paper. This provides both documentation of your effort and is a great way to access the papers presented by other members at this year's conference.

You can access the repository by going directly to the SERA website or by clicking on the following link:

[Repository Link](#)

**Suzanne F Lindt, Gil Naizer, Sonya Sherrod, Judy Taylor, Trena Wilkerson, 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! I cannot thank her enough for making everything run so smoothly. The audio-visual committee headed by **Ken Young** and **Julie Combs** efficiently distributed and collected all the projectors before and after each session. **Lesley Leach** provided the SERA membership with the useful guidebook app so that members could opt out of a printed program and go green! Thank you to our wonderful registration desk chair **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 **Celia Wilson, Lesley Leach, and Sarah**

**Ferguson** 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 pencils for conference attendees, and also served in the capacity of “SERA Poster Maven” (i.e., she is the one makes the posters of the program that are displayed every year near the registration desk). 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 40th annual conference will be held on February 15th–17th, in San Antonio. Planning is underway and information on the conference and on submitting proposals is provided later in this newsletter. We are also planning a celebration of 40 years of SERA! I hope to see you all in San Antonio!

**Prathiba Natesan**  
President  
University of North Texas

## News from Our Past President

SERA 2016 in New Orleans was fantastic with the weather terrific!! I hope you had a wonderful time attending this year's 39th annual 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.

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. Special thanks go to Program Chair and current President, **Prathiba Natesan**, and also to our local arrangements chair, **Sonya Carr**, who was responsible for planning and scheduling the rooms and the food. Thank you also to Executive Director **Linda Zientek** and Executive Director Emeritus/Historian **Bruce Thompson**, who maintain the focus and vision of SERA, to **Sarah Ferguson** for her leadership of graduate student awards and activities, to **Susan Skidmore** for serving as

the "IT Maven," and to **Mary Margaret Capraro**, our "SERA Trinket and Poster Maven." Additional thanks to **Rex Kline** for his Presidential Invited Address and session with our graduate students and to Bruce Thompson for his session "How to Write (Successfully) for Publication."

Special thanks also go to **Lesley Leach** for her work on the SERA program Smartphone app this year. I would also like to thank the anonymous reviewers who judged papers for the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper, which was awarded to **Katherine Wright** from Texas A&M University and **Tracy Hodges** from the University of Southern Mississippi. Please make plans to attend and present at SERA 2017 in San Antonio next year. It will be our 40th annual conference! Our President-Elect and local arrangements chair, **LaVonne Williams-Fedynich**, along with the SERA Board, are planning a great event at the historic Menger Hotel.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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



**Shirley Matteson**  
Texas Tech University

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*"Next year's meeting in San Antonio will mark our 40th annual conference!"*



The 2016 Business Meeting Luncheon at the Hotel Monteleone



## 2016 SERA Extended Service Award



Bruce Thompson (Left) presents Susan Troncoso Skidmore (Right) with the 2016 SERA Extended Service Award

From time to time an SERA committee consisting of the sitting SERA President and the previous winners of the SERA John J. Hedl, Jr. Lifetime Service Award select new winners of the Hedl Award, and of the SERA Extended Service Award. In 2016 the SERA Extended Service Award was made.

The winner of the 2016 SERA Extended Service Award is **Susan Troncoso Skidmore**, Sam Houston State University. Susan attended her first SERA annual meeting as a graduate student in 2008, and this paper, her first presentation, was the winner of the 2008 SERA Bruce Thompson Outstanding Paper Award. In 2010 she served as an At-Large member of the SERA Board. In

2011–2012 she served as Secretary of SERA. In 2013–2014 she was SERA President Elect/Program Chair, in 2014–2015 she was SERA President, and in 2015–2016 she was SERA Past President.

For years she has served as the "SERA Webmaster/Information Technology Maven." Being SERA's IT Maven involves tasks such as updating software on the SERA computers prior to the annual meeting, printing all the registration tickets and receipts prior to the annual meeting, running the web-based payment system for on-site registration at the annual meeting, and updating the SERA web pages on an on-going basis as the need arises.

## 2016 SERA Bruce Thompson Outstanding Paper Award

*This year's winners will present their findings at the Distinguished Paper Session at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association.*

Congratulations to **Katherine L. Wright**, Texas A&M University, and **Tracey S. Hodges Texas**, University of Southern Mississippi, who were selected as our 2016 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper and SERA Bruce Thompson Outstanding Paper awardees for their paper entitled "The Student Writing Affect Survey: Measurement Development and Validation." This is quite a prestigious award for our graduate students. We applaud your exemplary efforts!

This study described the validation of a new measure of self-efficacy towards writing.

The Student Writing Affect Survey (SWAS) was administered to over 500 students in grades six through eight. This sample was then split conduct exploratory, confirmatory, and higher order factor analyses. This survey was also administered to a smaller group of students and scores were correlated were with writing behaviors and teacher ratings to provide external validity. Findings indicated that the SWAS scores demonstrated evidence of validity and reliability as a measure students' self-efficacy towards writing.



**Tracey Hodges**  
The University of Southern Mississippi



**Katherine Wright**  
Texas A&M University

## Congratulations to the 2016 SERA Dean's Award Winners



Dean's Award winners and paper titles are listed on page 6.

*Twenty-five papers from thirteen different colleges and universities were honored at this year's annual SERA meeting.*

## Reflections from the Executive Director

Thanks to everyone for helping to create a great conference! We had a great meeting in New Orleans. The sessions were well attended. The people I spoke with were looking forward to the **2017 SERA Conference**, which will be held in **San Antonio** at the historic **Menger Hotel**. San Antonio is an historic town with many attractions. We look forward to another great turnout in San Antonio!

The SERA Board is happy to announce a pre-conference workshop by **Forrest Lane**, *Sam Houston State University*. This will be a ticketed training session on Wednesday. The training session will be on evidence-based research practices.

The Presidential Invited Speaker in San Antonio will be **Li Cai** of the *University of California, Los Angeles*. The title of his talk is *Playing In Others' Backyard: A Personal Story Of Applying and Innovating Quantitative Methodology*. Dr. Cai will speak about the importance of including the methodologist as a partner in research design and will base his talk on personal stories and experiences. Dr. Cai 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 39th SERA annual meeting was **Rex Kline**, *Concordia University*. Dr. Kline provided reflections on becoming a behavioral science researcher. 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



**Linda Zientek**  
Sam Houston State  
University

## 2016 Dean's Award Recipients

*The SERA Deans' Awards are presented to students from participating universities. Congratulations to all 2016 winners!*

*Siblings: Good for Rivalry or Success for Low-Income Gifted Students?: Findings Regarding the Influence of Sibling Attendance at a Summer Enrichment Program*  
**Rachel Renbarger**, Baylor University

*Examining the Influence of Instructional Coaching on Teacher Efficacy and Student Achievement*  
**Heather Block**, University of Houston - Clear Lake

*Bayesian Methods: The Future of Educational Statistics*  
**Peter Boedeker**, University of North Texas

*Underrepresentation of Title 1 Students in STEM*  
**Erin Childress**, Stephen F. Austin State University

*Meaning of a Calling: A Phenomenological Study of Principals Experiencing a Calling*  
**Jack Exum**, Lamar University

*An Evaluation of First Generation College Student-Athletes: Implications for Academic Planning and Student Success*  
**Brittany Fish**, Stephen F. Austin State University

*Evaluating Clinical Competency Using the Creighton Competency Evaluation Instrument (C-CEI) in Multi-Patient Nursing Simulations*  
**Julie Fomenko**, Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi

*Predicting Interest in Mathematics from Views on Math Utility and Self-Efficacy*  
**Ryan Glaman**, University of North Texas

*An Investigation of the Relationship of Leadership and Managerial Styles with Job Satisfaction of Higher Education Faculty*  
**Karley Goen**, Tarleton State University

*Exploring the Impact of STAAR on Teacher Turnover*  
**Brett Grayson**, Southern Methodist University

*Learning How to Teach: Examining the Relationship between Practice Teaching Opportunities and Preparedness for Student Teaching*  
**Amanda Griffin**, The University of Southern Mississippi

*Life after Sexual Assault: Likelihood to Report and Persistence in College after Sexual Assault*  
**Amanda Griffin**, The University of Southern Mississippi

*Qualitative Development of a Resilience Survey*  
**Sarah Guthery**, Southern Methodist University

*Difficulties, Coping Strategies, and Victories of the Selected Asian International Graduate Students from an Ecological Perspective: A Phenomenological Study*  
**Eunjin Hwang**, Sam Houston State University

*Examining the Relationship between Science Teachers' Self-Efficacy and Student Achievement*  
**Cynthia Hopkins**, Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi

*An Investigation of the Contributing Factors to the Increasing Number of Texas Students Required to take Remedial Classes for College Admission*  
**Carolyn A. Ikens**, Texas Wesleyan University

*Understanding the Effects of Gamification on Student Engagement And Motivation*  
**Sharon Manson**, Texas Wesleyan University

*Developing a Program Assessment Infrastructure for Improved Learning Outcomes*  
**Nhung Pham**, Texas Tech University

*Differences in Student Writing Ability as a Function of Student Characteristics at one Texas University*  
**Jeff Roberts**, Sam Houston State University

*The Teacher-Curriculum Relationship: How Teachers Interact with District Adopted Digital Science Curriculum Materials*  
**Gail Smith**, Texas Tech University

*Moderating the Negative Effects of Instructors' Misbehaviors on Students' Intent to Persist in College with Family Support and Student-to-Student Connectedness*  
**Meagan Sovine**, University of Houston -Clear Lake

*An Equity Audit for Reducing High School Drop-Out Rates in At Risk Student Populations in K-12 Online Learning Environments*  
**Maridale Still**, Lamar University

*A Case Study: The Effects of the AutisMate Application on a 12 Year-old Boy with ASD*  
**Natalie Wall**, Baylor University

*Cluster and Latent Class Cluster Analysis: A Comparison of Methods for Educational Research*  
**Katherine Wright**, Texas A&M University

*Interpreting Multiple Regression Results:  $\beta$  Weights and Structure Coefficients*  
**Leily Zigliari**, Texas A&M University



## Congratulations to our Hotel Drawing Winners



Winners (above) of the free night drawing at the Hotel Montelone.

*Graduate students staying at the conference hotel are eligible to participate in a paid hotel room night drawing.*

## Ask the SERA Historian...

**SERA graduate student member Priscilla Farktoasthoustonhousen writes in to ask the SERA Historian:**

"Dear Dr. SERA Historian: At the SERA annual luncheon, lottery drawings are held to award free room nights in the conference hotel to 15-20 students present at the annual SERA luncheon. I can sort of figure out why one requirement for free room night eligibility is presence at the luncheon when the lottery drawings are conducted. But why is there a second eligibility requirement that students be officially registered in the conference hotel (for example, as opposed to unofficially sleeping in a friend's hotel room closet or bathtub, or staying in another hotel)? Thank you in advance for your insightful explanation."

**Dr. SERA Historian responds:**

Well, Priscilla, there are two reasons:

1. When SERA contracts with the conference hotel for meeting room space and hotel room nights, SERA contracts that a certain number of hotel room nights will be booked by SERA members in exchange for free or reduced cost meeting room space. If

the contracted number of room nights are not booked by SERA members, then SERA must nevertheless itself pay for those unused room nights. This can easily cost many thousands of dollars. This has sadly happened in the past. So SERA tries to do everything it can to motivate people to stay in the conference hotel.

2. The mechanism by which SERA pays for the room nights is to pay the hotel to credit the bills of the room night winners directly, rather than issuing numerous checks to the winners. This insures that (a) room night winners indeed are registered in the hotel and (b) the SERA Treasurer doesn't have to write 15-20 additional checks beyond the dozens of checks she already has to write (e.g., to the hotel for food, to numerous Dean's award winners, outstanding paper winners, the invited speaker for travel expenses). Furthermore, tragically the SERA Treasurer has profound chronic carpal tunnel syndrome, and is already barely able to write the checks she already has to write.

**Bruce Thompson**

SERA Historian and Executive Director Emeritus



**Bruce Thompson**  
Texas A&M University

## Past Graduate Student Representative Report



**Sarah Ferguson**  
University of North Texas

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*"Congratulations to Alexandra Foran from Texas A&M University, who will lead the Graduate Student Council in 2016-2017!"*

Another year behind us, and another successful SERA conference completed! The conference this year was a great success and I am so glad to see the graduate students in SERA continue to participate and learn through this great organization. On behalf of all the graduate students in SERA I want to thank the SERA Board members for all of their planning and hard work in organizing and putting this conference together. Thank you for all that you do for the benefit of the southwest region!

I also want to congratulate the 2016 Deans' Award winners! This award would not be possible without the support of the university Deans, so a HUGE thank you to the following universities which funded the awards on behalf of their graduate programs: **Baylor University, Lamar University, Stephen F. Austin University, University of Southern Mississippi, Tarleton State University, University of North Texas, Texas A&M - College Station, Southern Methodist University, Texas Tech University, Sam Houston State University, Texas Wesleyan University, University of Houston - Clear Lake, and Texas A&M Corpus Christi.** This year 45 manuscripts were submitted, and 25 papers from 13 universities received awards!

The Dean's Awards and the graduate student events at the conference would not have been possible without the support of the **Graduate Student Council**. I would like to extend my thanks to **Catherine Leamons**, Tarleton State; **Thom Suhy**, Southern Methodist; **Melissa Leigh**, Stephen F. Austin; **Kathryn French**, Lamar; **Paul Rodriguez**,

Texas A&M - Corpus Christi; **Brandolyn Jones**, Sam Houston State; **Robin Wilson**, Baylor; **Sheldon Smart**, Texas Wesleyan; **Ping Zhu**, North Texas; **Wan-Chun Tseng**, Texas Tech; and **Alexandra Foran**, Texas A&M. Each one of these individuals did an outstanding job of representing their university, including communicating SERA news to students at their university, confirming and securing Deans' Awards support, encouraging conference participation, reviewing Deans' Award submissions, taking photos at the conference, and promoting graduate student events. Thank you all for your service this last year!

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to **Celia Wilson** and **Lesley Leach** for serving as the Graduate Student Advisors on the SERA Board. Both were amazing resources and supporters for me and our graduate council this year. Thank you Celia and Leslie!

Congratulations to **Alexandra Foran** from Texas A&M University, who will lead the Graduate Student Council in 2016-2017! Ali is passionate about SERA and the needs of graduate students, and I have every confidence she will represent the graduate student council well as we look forward to SERA 2017.

I hope you all have a wonderful and productive year, and that you already have plans to attend SERA 2017. Hopefully I will see you there!

**Sarah Ferguson**  
University of North Texas



## SERA Research Grants

Two research grants are available to SERA members.

The **SERA Early Career Research Grant—Assistant Professor** is available to those individual who meet the following criteria:

- An assistant professor employed at a 4-year institution in a tenure-track position
- Attended and presented at SERA within the last three years
- Collaborate with a designated mentor. Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with a mentor through the SERA Mentoring Initiative.

The **SERA Early Career Research Grant—Doctoral Candidate** is available to those individuals who meet the following criteria:

- A doctoral candidate who has defended a dissertation proposal approved by the dissertation committee.
- Attended and presented at SERA within the last 3 years.

Both SERA Research Grant awards provide up to \$1,000 for 1-year projects and may be awarded each year. Institutions may not charge indirect or overhead costs on these awards. Application requirements are listed on the SERA website.

### Funding restrictions

Previous award winners cannot reapply for the same award in subsequent years. SERA Board Members (either elected or appointed) are not eligible.

### Evaluation criteria

The evaluation criteria will include: Quality of literature review, relevance of the topic, relevance of research questions, the strength of the methodology section, and quality of writing. An additional criterion will be whether or not the analytic methods fit the research questions.

### Reporting requirements

All Research Grantees will be required to submit a SERA proposal and send a copy of the proposal to the Executive Director. In order to receive the final grant funds (see funding disbursement), a manuscript, in article format with the quality for submission to a peer-reviewed journal, must be submitted by the first day of the February Annual Conference the following year. For example, an award made in 2017 would require grant recipients to submit their manuscript prior to the 2018 annual conference.

### Funding disbursement

Grantees will receive \$250.00 at the SERA luncheon and up to \$750.00 after presenting at the next February SERA Annual Conference (receipts must be submitted). Travel expenses to conferences are not included. The award amounts will not be channeled through institutions; thus, there are no overhead or indirect costs.

### Application Deadlines

Proposals for Research Grants will be once a year. Proposals must be submitted to the SERA Executive Director, Linda Zientek at [LRZ002@SHSU.EDU](mailto:LRZ002@SHSU.EDU) by December 15 of each year.

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*SERA Research  
Grant awards  
provide up to  
\$1,000 for 1-year  
projects may be  
awarded each year.*

## Professional Development Webinars

We recognize that opportunities for continued professional development are important to our membership. As such, we are please to announce a new initiative . Throughout the academic year, SERA will host various webinars about topics of interest to the membership. Our first two webinars are listed below. Webinars are hosted using the Adobe connect platform and can be accessed by going to the following [link](#) on the day of the webinar. We hope you will join us for one of these great opportunities. For questions or concerns regarding access these webinars, please contact [forrest.lane@shsu.edu](mailto:forrest.lane@shsu.edu).



**Tuesday March 29, 2016 (12–1pm CST)**

**“An Introduction to NCES Data”**

**Matthew Fuller**

Sam Houston State University



**Monday April 25, 2016 (12–1pm CST)**

**“Qualitative Research: A Refresher for Scholars and Practitioners”**

**Tony Onwuegbuzie**

Sam Houston State University

## Graduate Student News

*“We especially want to thank all of the graduate student presenters, volunteers, and attendees for helping set such a high standard of research excellence and for supporting SERA”*

Greetings to the graduate student members of Southwest Educational Research Association! On behalf of the SERA Board of Directors, I would like to thank each of you for making the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual SERA Conference such a success. I hope you got some time to enjoy New Orleans and all of its festivities, but also to experience the plethora of incredible presentations that occurred at the conference. We especially want to thank all of the graduate student presenters, volunteers, and attendees for helping set such a high standard of research excellence and for supporting SERA. We hope this will continue for many years.

I would personally like to thank all of the SERA graduate student campus representatives who contributed during the 2015-2016 term. Most of all to the wonderful SERA Graduate Student Representative **Sarah Ferguson** (University of North Texas) who left big shoes to fill as the I take over her position. Sarah truly represented the body of graduate students well and assisted greatly in preparing for this year’s conference. Her countless hours of service helped this conference to flow effortlessly and we are all very grateful for the experience she helped to provide. Moreover, I would like to show my appreciation to the 2015-2016 SERA Graduate Student Campus Representatives for their year of service: **Kathryn French**, Lamar University, **Brandolyn Jones**, Sam Houston State University, **Catherine Leamons**, Tarleton State University, **Melissa Leigh**, Stephen F. Austin State University, **Paul Rodriguez**, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, **Sheldon Smart**, Texas

## Graduate Student News

Wesleyan University, **Thom Suhy**, Southern Methodist University, **Wan-Chun Tseng**, Texas Tech University, **Robin Wilson**, Baylor University, **Ping Zhu**, University of North Texas.

A new year of the SERA Conference brings a new opportunity to elect the Graduate Student Council. This year's campus representatives have already begun working for their campuses to prepare for another wonderful conference next year. On that note, I am excited to introduce **Peter Boedeker**, University of North Texas, **Erin Childress**, Stephen F. Austin State University, **Cindy Hopkins**, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, **Kristi Lewis**, Lamar University, **Sharon Manson**, Texas Wesleyan University, **Samantha Meister**, Texas A&M University, **Rachel Renbarger**, Baylor University, **Rachael Wilcox**, Sam Houston State University, and **Terrance Youngblood**, Texas Tech University. Furthermore, I would like to thank **Celia Wilson**, Associate Professor at Texas Wesleyan University, and **Lesley Leach**, Associate Professor, Doctoral Program Coordinator, and Department Head at Tarleton State University, for their continued support of the Graduate Student Council and their roles as Graduate Student Council Co-Advisors.

As we look forward to the next year of SERA, we will be celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference February 15-17, 2017 at the Hotel Menger in San Antonio, Texas. If you have not had the opportunity to present at

the SERA before, I encourage you to consider presenting in at this conference. Please also consider the call for submissions in the Graduate Student Division, which creates additional opportunities to receive feedback on works in progress. It is the mission of SERA to provide educational resources, mentorship, networking, and opportunities for graduate students to present at their annual conferences. The pre-conference workshop and presentations provides an exciting opportunity for further research development. From a personal perspective, I can say that there are few opportunities that you will receive like the ones at SERA. I encourage all graduate students to think about papers in development that may be appropriate to present next year as we move further into the spring semester and approach the summer. It's never too early to get started. There will be opportunities to submit outstanding work for Dean's Awards and/or the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award.

I wish all of the graduate students the best of luck in their research and educational endeavors this year. We all look forward to seeing you at the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual SERA Conference in San Antonio!

**Ali Foran**  
SERA Graduate Student Representative  
Texas A&M University



**Ali Foran**  
Texas A&M University

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*"I can say that there are few opportunities that you will receive like the ones at SERA"*

Sarah Ferguson (left) recognizes this year's 25 winners of the Dean's Award at the 2016 SERA business meeting luncheon.





## SERA Annual Meeting: San Antonio, TX



La Vonne Williams—Fedynich  
Texas A&M University—  
Kingsville

*“We encourage you  
to submit a proposal  
and present at the  
2017 Conference in  
San  
Antonio...Proposals  
for the 2017  
SERA annual  
conference are due on  
September 18,  
2016.”*

The SERA Executive board is pleased to announce that the **40th Annual SERA Conference**, which will again be held at the historic Menger Hotel in **San Antonio**. The 2017 SERA Conference begins on Wednesday, February 15, 2017, and concludes on Friday, February 17, 2017. Several great workshops and training sessions are being planned that focus on supporting members’ professional development needs. A ticketed session on evidence-based practices will be provided by **Forrest Lane** on Wednesday. We sincerely hope you will find the scheduled training sessions to be helpful and enjoyable.

SERA has several initiatives to support students and faculty. The **SERA Early Career Faculty Mentoring Initiative** was 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 (see SERA website). In addition, students and early career faculty can apply for **research grants**. More information on research grants is provided in the newsletter. Please contact **Jana Willis** for questions about the Mentoring Initiative or Research grants. I also would like to recognize the efforts of **Celia Wilson**, **Lesley Leach**, and **Suzanne Lindt** who will undertake the huge task of photographing the conference events, with special emphasis on photographing graduate students.

Other sections of this Spring Newsletter



Photo Courtesy of the San Antonio  
Convention & Visitors Bureau

provide details about the session provided by our Presidential Invited Speaker, **Li Cai**. Immediately following Thursday’s luncheon, graduate students will have the opportunity to enjoy a Fireside Chat with the 2017 Presidential Invited Speaker. Several other sessions during the conference also will focus on our graduate students.

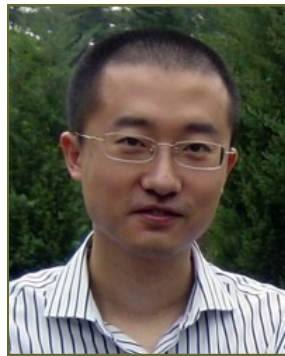
Proposals for the 2017 SERA annual conference are due on September 18, 2016. Complete details regarding the proposals are available within the 2017 Call for Proposals which can be found at the end of the newsletter and is also available on the SERA website at (<http://sera-edresearch.org>). We encourage you to submit a proposal and present at the 2017 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 also serve as the local arrangement chair and have been hard at work securing arrangements for our annual meeting in San

Continued on Page 15

## 2017 Presidential Invited Address

***“Playing in others' backyard: A personal story of applying and innovating quantitative methodology”***



**Li Cai**

University of California, Los Angeles

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*“Quantitative methodologists should aim to understand and contribute to the substantive missions of the research in order to make the most out of the collaboration and to advance methodology.”*

Li Cai is Professor of Advanced Quantitative Methodology and co-Director of the National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards, and Student Testing (CRESST) at the University of California, Los Angeles. He is the recipient of the Gulliksen Psychometric Research Fellowship, the AERA Outstanding Quantitative Dissertation Award, the NCME Brenda H. Loyd Outstanding Dissertation Award, the APA Anne Anastasi Early Career Award, the Society of Multivariate Experimental Psychology, Cattell Early Career Award, and the prestigious **Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers**.

His research encompasses educational assessment, psychometrics, computational statistics, multilevel modeling, and research design. A key component on this research agenda is item response theory (IRT) modeling, which provides much of the technical foundations of modern measurement techniques in the social and behavioral sciences. With past and ongoing federal grant support, he has developed new computational methods that significantly improved the applicability of multidimensional IRT models. These technical developments formed the basis of some of the most widely-used IRT software programs (IRTPRO and flexMIRT) used in item banking and computerized adaptive testing projects in both health outcomes research and large-scale educational assessment. His substantive research has been in the areas of assessment validity, assessment system design, mental health statistics, and patient-reported outcomes.

Li Cai will share personal stories and experiences of working in collaborator capacity as a quantitative methodologist in interdisciplinary research teams. It is argued that quantitative methodologists should aim to understand and contribute to the substantive missions of the research in order to make the most out of the collaboration and to advance methodology. Substantive researchers should also avoid seeing methodologists as merely data analysts with bags of tricks, but rather a partner in research design.

## A Preview of San Antonio, TX

*“The Menger Hotel  
first opened its  
doors in 1859  
making it the oldest  
continuously  
operating hotel west  
of the Mississippi  
River.”*

Come join us in San Antonio at the Menger Hotel for our SERA 2017 annual conference from February 15 to 17, 2017. You can be assured of a very academically stimulating conference and a good time for all. San Antonio has always been a crossroads 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 site-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



Photo Courtesy of the San Antonio Convention & Visitors Bureau

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!

**LaVonne Williams-Fedynich**

President-Elect, Local Arrangements Chair  
Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

## Important Dates

- SERA Proposal System Opens: Approximately August 10, 2016
- SERA Proposal System Closes: September 18, 2016
- Research Grant Proposals Due: December 15, 2016
- Deans Award Papers Due: January 8, 2017
- Graduate Student Papers Due to Discussants: January 8, 2017
- Graduate Student Outstanding Paper Due: January 8, 2017
- SERA Bruce Thompson Outstanding Paper Due: February 16, 2017
- SERA Meeting February 15 –17, 2017



## 2017 Pre-Conference Training Workshop

### “Identifying and Implementing Evidence Based Practices in Educational Research”

Forrest Lane, Sam Houston State University

Educational researchers and practitioners are increasingly expected to provide and implement practices that are evidence-based. The challenge is that identifying these practices may not always be clear to consumers of research. For example, how are evidence-based practices defined and what studies are considered eligible under these definitions?

This two-hour workshop at the 2017 SERA Annual Meeting will review best-practices in research design. We will discuss what it means to conduct evidence-based research and examine criteria used by grant funding agencies to evaluate education related studies. We will also explore organizations such as What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) and review design protocols for topic areas such as:

- Early Childhood Education
- Developmental Education
- Postsecondary Education
- Teacher Training, Evaluation, and Compensation

The goal of this workshop is to provide individuals with a better working knowledge of how to both design effective studies and differentiate between high and low quality research.

Forrest Lane is an assistant professor in the developmental education administration doctoral program at Sam Houston State University. He holds a Ph.D. in Educational Research from the University of North Texas. He is the author of more than 30 peer-reviewed publications and presentation and serves on the editorial boards of the *Journal of College and Character*, *Student Affairs Research and Practice*, and the *Journal of the First Year Experience and Students in Transition*. His research interests include the use of propensity score matching in quasi-experimental design and student development in college.



**Forrest Lane**  
Sam Houston State  
University

## SERA Annual Meeting from page 13

Antonio. The local arrangement 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

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.

### **La Vonne Williams-Fedynich**

*President-Elect, Program Chair and Local Arrangements Chair*  
Texas A&M University-Kingsville

## Book Review



**Christian S. Winn**  
University of Houston—  
Clear Lake

**Jeffery Benson. *Ten steps to managing change in schools: How do we take initiatives from goals to actions?* Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), 2015. 56pp. Softcover: \$12.99. ISBN-13: 978141662132-4**

Reviewed by Christian S. Winn, Doctoral Student, University of Houston—Clear Lake; Gary Schumacher, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Houston—Clear Lake

Faced with a number of different approaches to school change, astute school leaders must carefully choose the methods and timelines that are manageable within their current school context. Even when there is certainty in “fit,” all approaches pose challenges, and leaders soon discover that a one-size model rarely fits all. Jeffrey Benson presents the realities of school change; challenges to creating robust, lasting change; strategies for avoiding common pitfalls and setbacks; and the day-to-day work to which school leadership teams must commit to effectively manage school change. This book provides school leaders with a change model that can be adapted to various types of change initiatives in an effort to deeply embed these principles in the way school change is approached and managed, and to prevent leaders from reinventing the wheel with each new initiative.

Benson presents his model for managing school change in a framework of ten steps that are explained as general principles, recommendations and advice, and even tools to apply throughout the change initiative. The author highlights several phrases that have the power to become mantras for school change. Some of

Benson’s most provocative thoughts from the text reference being nimble in your leadership and in adapting to your circumstances, and remembering that school change is a process, not an event; it’s never completely done.

Often referring back to his role as a teacher, special education program coordinator, principal, and most currently as an educational consultant, Benson outlines a comprehensive change model into ten critical steps. The following ideas summarize these steps with the most pertinent “take-aways” school leaders need to implement in an effective change campaign.

Steps 1-4 involve understanding the environment in which the change initiative is taking place. First, Benson recommends that school leaders understand the catalysts for change, whether they are pushed down from the state or district as regulatory directives, or change initiatives that derive from a crisis or genuine need and desire. Regardless of the origin, all eyes shift to the leader for direction. Benson also emphasizes the gains leadership teams make when they spend time objectively analyzing the environment to avoid changing areas that are not a real priority.

Steps 5-7 focus leaders’ attention on gathering the right data and choosing the most impactful actions. Gathering data must become routine and not be viewed as another thing to do, Benson asserts. Data should be used by school leaders for more than reporting and compliance purposes.. Benson declares the data should be influential to the leadership team’s decisions in determining priorities and key action steps.

The remaining steps, (Steps 8-10), shed light on the importance of deciding who does

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*“Some of Benson’s most provocative thoughts from the text reference being nimble in your leadership and in adapting to your circumstances”.*

Continued on Page 17

## Book Review from page 16



what with the data and the impact that decision can have on the overall school culture, as well as recommendations for drafting the action plan, to finally sustaining the change including the role each stakeholder will play in the change initiative. In organizations that are the most effectively managed, the people understand their roles and the expectations of them fulfilling those roles. Benson further warns school leaders about the uncertainty of roles, noting that confusion or too much autonomy can ultimately derail the change initiative. He reminds school leaders that substantial change happens over time and a

commitment to reconvening the planning team will ensure the initiative remains on target. Lastly, sustaining change takes time, and all the good work that comes from a change initiative can only be accomplished through ongoing attention to it.

The recommendations found in steps 4 and 8 are two of the most important in the overall model presented in this book. Gathering the right data and using effective tools to analyze it provide school leadership teams with the information needed to make informed decisions. As well, designing clear roles and responsibilities for all team members erases any doubt and uncertainty of each person's contribution to the organization as a whole.

Benson makes many important claims regarding lasting change efforts. Most importantly, school leaders should assess data intensely. Without data, decisions are based on mere assumptions and hunches. As the author states, owning the data is an integral part of the change process. Additionally, understanding the school environment, including its political aspects, can make or break the change initiative. Benson's suggestions for defining the organizational hierarchy are critical in that confusion is diminished, and eventually erased, when ranking power and responsibilities are equitably distributed.

This book presents a practical, step-by-step model that would be a useful guide to districts and or school teams when considering implementing a change initiative.

*"Without data, decisions are based on mere assumptions and hunches."*



**Gary Schumacher**  
University of Houston—  
Clear Lake

SERA is interested in receiving reviews of recently published books. Please contact Forrest Lane at [forrest.lane@shsu.edu](mailto:forrest.lane@shsu.edu) for more information about this opportunity.



## SERA Board Members and Appointments

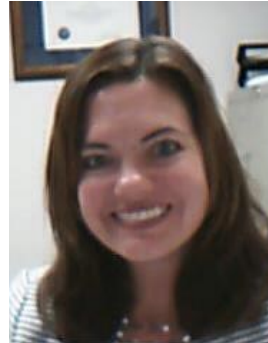
<b>President</b>	Prathiba Natesan <i>University of North Texas</i>	<b>Secretary</b>	Julie Combs <i>Sam Houston State University</i>
<b>President-Elect/ Program Chair</b>	La Vonne Williams-Fedynich <i>Texas A&amp;M University—Kingsville</i>	<b>Graduate Student Representative</b>	Alexandra Foran <i>Texas A&amp;M University</i>
<b>Past-President</b>	Shirley Matteson <i>Texas Tech University</i>	<b>Members-at-Large: 2014–2017</b>	Tonya Jeffery <i>Texas A&amp;M University—Corpus Christi</i>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Kim Nimon <i>University of Texas—Tyler</i>		Lesley Leach <i>Tarleton State University</i>
<b>Executive Director</b>	Linda Zientek <i>Sam Houston State University</i>	<b>Members-at-Large: 2015–2018</b>	Jana Willis <i>University of Houston—Clear Lake</i>
<b>Executive Director Emeritus Historian</b>	Bruce Thompson <i>Texas A&amp;M University</i>		Grant Morgan <i>Baylor University</i>
<b>Deputy Historian</b>	Victor Willson <i>Texas A&amp;M University</i>	<b>Members-at-Large: 2016–2019</b>	Forrest Lane <i>Sam Houston State University</i>
<b>Director of Information Technology</b> (Non Board Appointment)	Susan Troncoso Skidmore <i>Sam Houston State University</i>		Ken Young <i>Lamar University</i>
			Mordecai Brownlee <i>University of Charleston</i>
			Suzanne Lindt <i>Midwestern State University</i>
			Celia Wilson <i>Texas Wesleyan University</i>

Individuals are nominated by the membership each fall to serve on the SERA board. All current members are eligible to vote and receive an electronic ballot. SERA elections use the Hare system and selected candidates serve a three-year term beginning at the end of each annual meeting.

The SERA board welcomes the following new board members-at-large to serve a three-year term beginning in 2016: Mordecai Brownlee, *University of Charleston*, Suzanne Lindt, *Midwestern State University*, and Celia Wilson, *Texas Wesleyan University*. Grant Morgan, *Baylor University*, will replace La Vonne Williams-Fedynich, *Texas A&M University—Kingsville*, who was elected to serve as 2017 Program Chair and President-Elect.

## Welcome to Our New Board Members

**Suzanne F. Lindt** is an assistant professor of Educational Psychology at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, TX. She is a former middle school English teacher and received her PhD from the University of Houston in 2010. Currently, Suzanne serves on many committees and is current Chair of the university's Human Subjects and Review Committee (IRB). Her research interests include college student engagement and content area movement integration.



**Grant Morgan** is an assistant professor and coordinator of the quantitative methods program in the Department of Educational Psychology at Baylor University. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina in 2012. His methodological research interests involve advanced quantitative methods, such as latent variable models, classification, and psychometrics.

**Mordecai Brownlee** is the Dean of Students and an Adjunct Professor at the University of Charleston, located in Charleston, West Virginia. He received his Ed.D in Educational Leadership from Lamar University, M.S. in Human Resource Management and B.A. in Mass Communication & Political Science degrees from Houston Baptist University, and his A.A. in Liberal Arts degree from Kingwood College.



**Celia M. Wilson** is an associate professor of education at Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth. She received her Ph.D. in Educational Research from the University of North Texas in 2010. She teaches courses in educational research methods, statistics, and curriculum and instruction. Her research interests include the impact of score reliability on general linear model statistics and construct validity issues in instrument development.

## 2016–2017 Graduate Student Council

**Peter Boedeker**  
*University of North  
Texas*



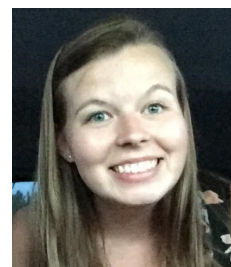
**Samantha Meister**  
*Texas A&M University*



**Erin Childress**  
*Stephen F. Austin State  
University*



**Rachel Renbarger**  
*Baylor University*



**Cindi Hopkins**  
*Texas A&M University—  
Corpus Christi*



**Rachael Wilcox**  
*Sam Houston State  
University*



**Kristi Lewis**  
*Lamar University*



**Terrance Youngblood**  
*Texas Tech University*



**Sharon Manson**  
*Texas Wesleyan  
University*



# ***SOUTHWEST EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION***

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE  
2017 ANNUAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 15 - FEBRUARY 17, 2017  
MENGHER HOTEL  
SAN ANTONIO  
7/11/2016**

## **Program Chair:**

**LaVonne Williams-Fedynich  
Texas A&M University-Kingsville  
Educational Leadership and Counseling  
Kingsville, Texas 78363  
361-593-4312  
lavonne.fedynich@tamuk.edu**

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The 40th Annual Meeting of the Southwest Educational Research Association will be held

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15 THROUGH FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2017**

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

Tel: (210) 223-4361 • Fax: (210) 228-0022 • <http://www.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 **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2016.**

*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 computers.**

**PLEASE NOTE that conference registration and payment \*\*\*RECEIPT\*\*\* are \*\*\*STRICTLY required\*\*\* within roughly one month (i.e., By OCTOBER 5th for check or Purchase Order payments and by OCTOBER 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016 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, 2016, 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 15, 2017 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 accept workshops according to the space available in the conference program. Because Innovative Session and Workshop formats both require substantial program time, only a very **limited number** of proposals for these two formats may be accepted.

### **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. *Proposals for Symposia*

A symposium consists of a set of paper presentations organized by the symposium organizer. As with paper sessions, all symposium papers must be written, and must be distributed to the audience in paper form, or submitted to the SERA Paper Repository, or both. The difference between Paper Sessions and Symposia is that papers in Paper Sessions are grouped by the Program Chair, while the papers in Symposium Sessions are grouped by the organizer. 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. The submission system requires that *each symposium paper has a title and a given set of authors*.

## 3. *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.

## 4. *Proposals for Innovative Format Sessions*

Proposals for sessions employing innovative formats will be considered. 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**. Authorship on Division VI proposals are *limited to graduate students*. 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 8, 2017**.

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, San Antonio, Texas February (date), 2017.**" 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 40 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*

#### 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 Elliott*

*Eastern New Mexico University*

*Robert.Elliott@enmu.edu*

*Lori Petty*

*Mary Hardin-Baylor University*

*lpetty@uhmb.edu*

#### V. Special Populations & Counseling

*Nara Martirosyan*

*Sam Houston State University*

*nxm021@SHSU.EDU*

*Tonya Jeffery*

*Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi*

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

*Don Jones*

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*Martha L. Tapia*

*Berry College*

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## **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

**Submit all materials electronically (to be received by **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2016**)  
using the SERA website:  
<http://sera-edresearch.org/>**



## 2017 SERA BRUCE THOMPSON OUTSTANDING PAPER AWARD

Authors are encouraged to submit five (5) single-sided copies of the paper submitted for presentation at the 2017 annual meeting to the SERA Executive Director, Linda Zientek, by **NOON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2017**. 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 2017 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 2017 SERA Outstanding Paper Award  
by POSTAL/COURIER SERVICE ONLY to:*

**LINDA ZIENTEK, SERA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
2017 SERA OUTSTANDING PAPER AWARD  
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPT. OF MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS  
BOX 2206  
HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS 77341  
lrzientek@shsu.edu**

## 2017 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 SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2017**. The award winner will be announced at the SERA luncheon on Thursday, February 16, 2017. 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 8, 2017**, 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 2017 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award  
by E-MAIL ATTACHMENT ONLY to:*

**Prathiba Nateson**  
**University of North Texas**  
**prathiba.natesan@unt.edu**

## 2017 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 2017 SERA annual meeting. Student authors should **electronically submit** completed papers to the SERA graduate student representative to be:

**RECEIVED BY Sunday, January 8, 2017.**

**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 16, 2017.

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

- The SERA graduate student representative **must receive** completed papers on or before the January 8, 2017 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 January 8, 2017**, please contact the graduate student representative immediately.

*Send completed papers for the 2017 Deans' Awards  
by E-MAIL ATTACHMENT ONLY to:*

**Alexandra (Ali) Foran  
SERA Graduate Student Representative  
Texas A&M University  
aliforan@tamu.edu**