

Fall 2017



# *SERA Newsletter*

*Southwest Educational Research Association*

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## EDITOR:

Tracey S. Hodges  
University of Alabama

## The Prez Says...

SERA Board of Directors and I look forward to seeing each of you in New Orleans for another great conference. The annual conference is a fantastic way to establish and renew collaborative relationships with scholar-practitioners in educational research, share cutting-edge research, and explore new research possibilities.

The 41th Annual meeting of the SERA will be held at the Hotel Monteleone in New Orleans on February 14-16, 2018. Throughout this newsletter you will find details about the conference, including links to the annual meeting, conference information from the **Program Chair, Forrest Lane**, as well as information about the presidential invited address, training sessions, and awards. One highlight we are very excited about is this year's presidential speaker, **Camilla Benbow**, Dean of Education and Human Development at Vanderbilt University's Peabody College. More information about this session is available in our Program Chair News.



LaVonne Williams-  
Fedynich

from the Executive Director as the conference dates get closer.

The **SERA Early Career Faculty Mentoring Program**, organized by **Jana Willis** will continue with another session at this year's conference. The project aims to provide support for junior faculty in the form of mentoring and grants. Look for a junior faculty strand in the 2018 program to find ways you can be mentored as a junior faculty member, apply for grants, or serve as a mentor if you are a more experienced SERA member.

The SERA repository will be up and running again this year. Based on the positive feedback we received, we will continue to offer SERA members the opportunity to upload their papers before the conference begins as well as download the papers for other presentations. Although only first authors will be able to upload and remove papers from the repository, **EVERYONE** will be able to login to the SERA repository site with the same e-mail address they used when submitting their proposals. They will then be asked to establish a unique password in order to maintain the integrity of the system and ensure that only the authors of papers can upload or delete papers from the repository. More information about the SERA repository will be communicated via e-mail. Be sure to check e-mails



Photo Courtesy of the New Orleans  
Convention & Visitors Bureau



RIGHT: Members at the 2017 luncheon in San Antonio, TX.

LEFT: Dr. Li speaks to graduate students at the 2017 annual meeting.



## The Prez Says from page 1

### SERA Repository

The SERA Paper Repository will open on **January 15, 2018**. 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](#)

We are pleased to offer the conference program as an app so that members can choose to go paperless. With the guidebook app on your Smartphone, you can easily browse through the conference program and mark the presentations/speakers/topics you want to attend as well as their respective venues. Just download the **guidebook app** (<http://guidebook.com/>) and watch for updates in your e-mail after the program schedule is finalized.

### State of the Organization

Membership numbers in SERA continue to remain strong. Like other professional organizations, budget constraints appear to have impacted the increase in membership we had experienced for several years. However, membership is stable and neither membership nor conference attendance have decreased. The Board strives to ensure that SERA membership dues remain low and that the conference is a student-friendly, affordable opportunity for current and aspiring scholars to engage in the exchange of research. The SERA conference has something for everyone. If this is your first SERA conference, I recommend that you attend the Navigating Through and Getting the Most from SERA Session provided by **Linda Reichwein Zientek**, and **Susan Troncoso Skidmore**. If you are interested in building your research skills, make sure to attend one of the SERA training workshops. I also encourage you to attend as many paper sessions as you can that are related to your research area.

Be sure to take the time to mingle with colleagues at breakfast and conference breaks. The SERA conference offers the perfect opportunity to develop new research ideas, strengthen your existing ideas, and make connections to effectively turn your ideas into publications. I look forward to seeing you in New Orleans!

**La Vonne Williams-Fedynich**

*President*

*Texas A&M University-Kingsville*

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*"If you are interested in building your research skills, make sure to attend one of the SERA training workshops."*

## News from Our Program Chair

The 2018 conference begins on Wednesday afternoon, February 14, in the historic French Quarter of New Orleans, at the **Hotel Monteleone**. The conference will begin with a virtual workshop session by **Elizabeth Albro**, Associate Commissioner for Teaching and Learning at the National Center for Education Research. Participants will learn about current research grant opportunities available through the research centers at the **Institute of Educational Sciences**, and a set of strategies and suggestions about preparing applications to fund their education research projects. This is a free workshop but limited to the first 60 participants. Sign up early to reserve your space.

**Camilla Benbow**, Dean of Education and Human Development at Vanderbilt University's Peabody College, is this year's Presidential Invited Speaker. She has served on the National Science Board and on the board of the American Psychological Foundation. She is also a recipient of the David Imig Award from the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, the President's Award from the National Association for Gifted Children, and the Distinguished Alumna Award from Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Benbow will present the presidential invited address on Thursday, February 15th, immediately following the annual SERA luncheon. Graduate student SERA members will have an opportunity to meet and visit informally with Dr. Benbow at the traditional "Fireside Chat" immediately afterward. Additional graduate student activities are scheduled Thursday afternoon and evening.

Numerous additional workshops and presentations are planned throughout the conference on topics such as the dissertation process, academic writing, and tips and tools for conducting quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods research.

More than 250 proposals were submitted for the 2018 SERA conference. Division VI continues to be a popular avenue for dissemination of graduate student members' "work in progress." This division provides graduate students the opportunity to present research in progress, including dissertations or theses that have not yet been defended. All sessions in Division VI are led by discussants who have distinguished careers as researchers. Papers presented in Division VI will need to be submitted to the discussant **on or before January 8th**.

The draft program should be complete by early December and will be posted to the SERA website. Authors can check their presentation dates and times from the posted program and make travel plans accordingly.

During the conference, projectors for laptops will be provided in all presentation rooms. Presenters will need to bring their own laptop and their presentation on a flash drive. One computer per session should be used to minimize transition between presentations. Presenters will have 10-13 minutes for each presentation, with a few minutes left for questions or discussion. We recommend limiting your presentation to about 10 slides. Please note that Power Point presentations are *not required*.



**Forrest Lane**  
Sam Houston State  
University

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*"The draft of the program should be completed by early December."*

## News from Our Program Chair from page 3

*"All presenters should bring 10-15 copies of completed papers."*

Presentations are strictly limited to a maximum of 13 minutes in order for *all* presenters to have sufficient time to present their research. All presenters should bring 10-15 copies of *completed* papers ("in progress" papers for Division VI) for distribution during their presentation. Alternatively, presenters can submit their paper electronically to the SERA repository. The SERA website will contain the most up to date information on conference activities so please visit <http://sera-edresearch.org/> for the latest news.

We look forward to seeing you in New Orleans for the 41<sup>st</sup> annual SERA conference!

**Forrest C. Lane**  
2018 Program Chair/  
President Elect  
**Sam Houston State University**

## Pre-Conference Workshop

### *Preparing Grant Applications for the Institute of Education Sciences: A Workshop*

This workshop will provide attendees with an opportunity to learn about available funding opportunities through the National Center for Education Research and the National Center for Special Education Research within the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). The Centers seek research applications designed to examine ways to improve student learning through curriculum and instruction, through improving teacher quality, and by understanding how the education system influences student achievement. Participants in this workshop will leave with an understanding of the current research grant opportunities available through the research centers at the Institute of Education Sciences, and a set of strategies and suggestions about preparing applications to fund their education research projects. After

providing an overview of the funding process at IES, the presenter will discuss in detail the components of successful grant applications, and will provide opportunities for potential applicants to ask questions about the grant application process. The presenter will provide detailed insights into the grant preparation, submission, and review process.

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#### **Elizabeth R. Albro**

Associate Commissioner for  
Teaching and Learning  
National Center for  
Education Research  
Institute of Education  
Sciences



## Pre-Conference Training Session

### *How to Write (Successfully) for Publication*

This two-hour SERA training session will be offered by Bruce Thompson during the 2018 SERA annual meeting. The session is for anyone interested in learning more about publishing. There will be ample opportunity during the session for Q&A interactions.

Bruce Thompson was 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 degree, and his first book chapter while he was a master's degree student. Since then he has au-

thored more than 200 articles, authored or edited 11 books, including *Foundations of Behavioral Statistics* and *Exploratory and Confirmatory Factor Analysis*, and authored 20 book chapters. Related resources include Bruce's popular Youtube video, "Writing for Publication," available through the URL:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=emL\\_SsxiPBg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=emL_SsxiPBg)

and his recent article in *Research in the Schools*, "On the Various Aspects of Publishing Journal Articles and Academic Books," available through the URL:

<http://msera.org/docs/rits-2016-spring-v23n1.pdf>

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#### **Bruce Thompson**

Texas A&M University and  
Baylor College of Medicine  
(Houston)




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*Bruce Thompson's pre-conference training session is \$40 for members.*



## 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 2018 would require grant recipients to submit their manuscript prior to the 2019 annual conference.

### Funding disbursement

Grantees will receive \$250.00 upon award selection and up to \$750.00 after presenting at the next February SERA Annual Conference (receipts must be submitted). Travel expenses to conferences may not exceed 30% of award total. 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 **April 1** of each year and awardees will be selected by **May 1**.

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

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*Apply by April 1st!*

## SERA Bruce Thompson Outstanding Paper Award

Applicants must submit 5 single-sided copies of the paper at the conference registration desk during the annual conference or mail with paper submission to the SERA Executive Director, Linda Zientek. Electronic submissions are not accepted. An individual may submit only one paper on which he/she is author or co-author. The winner of the Outstanding Paper Award in the prior year is not eligible for consideration. Active officers of the SERA Executive Council, including appointed officers, are not eligible.

**Award:** \$1,000; present paper at AERA in 2018

**Deadline:** February 15, 2018 (12:00pm)

### Postal/Courier Service Only

Linda Zientek, SERA Executive Director  
2015 Outstanding Paper Award  
Sam Houston State University  
Dept. of Mathematics & Statistics  
Huntsville, Texas 77341

## SERA Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award

The first author must be a graduate student. Papers must be completed graduate student research (Division I through Division V); may be a condensed version of a thesis or dissertation, as well as other research; and are presented as papers or symposiums at the conference. Works in progress (Division VI) and preliminary works, such as literature reviews, class projects, proposals, are not eligible for the award.

**Award:** \$750.

**Deadline:** January 8, 2018 (by 5:00 pm)

### Submit Electronically

LaVonne Williams-Fedynich  
SERA President  
lavonne.fedynich@tamuk.edu

Paper award winners will be featured in the Spring 2018 newsletter.

## SERA Dean's Awards

Papers for consideration of the SERA Dean's Award must **only** be authored by graduate students. The award may be given to the first author only or to all authors. Completed graduate student research (Division I – V) and works in progress (Division VI) are eligible.

Papers can be in any form (i.e., literature reviews, explanation of statistical concepts, case studies, other), and will be judged from the perspective of how well they will further the theory of educational research.

Student recipients must be from a university that provides an award and must attend the 2017 SERA annual conference. More deans are expected to enroll soon. Students who are not enrolled in a university whose Dean of the College of Education supports this award are not eligible.

**Awards:** \$300 per university for two \$150 awards

**Deadline:** January 8, 2018 (5:00 pm)

### Submit Electronically Only

Peter Boedeker  
SERA Graduate Student Representative  
peter.boedeker@unt.edu

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Fall 2017

*Email  
forrest.lane@sbsu.edu  
with questions.*



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*SERA provides  
professional  
development  
webinars on topics  
of interest to the  
membership!*

## Professional Development Webinars

SERA is pleased to offer a series of professional development webinars to our membership. These webinars are FREE and can be accessed by going to the following link on the day of the webinar:

<https://lamar.adobeconnect.com/sera/>.

### **“An Introduction to Stata”**

**Tuesday, October 3, 12 p.m.—1 p.m. (CST)**

**Chuck Huber**

Senior Statistician  
StataCorp

#### **About the Presenter**

**Chuck Huber** is a Senior Statistician at StataCorp and Adjunct Associate Professor of Biostatistics at Texas A&M University. In addition to working with Stata’s team of software developers, he produces instructional videos for the Stata Youtube channel, writes blog entries, develops online NetCourses and gives talks about Stata at conferences and universities. Most of his current work is focused on statistical methods used by psychologists and other behavioral scientists. Dr. Huber currently teaches introductory biostatistics at Texas A&M where he previously taught categorical data analysis, survey data analysis, and statistical genetics.

[Click here to register.](#)



### **“Publishing in Professional Journals: Questions and Dialogue”**

**Thursday, November 9, 12 p.m.—1 p.m. (CST)**

**Richard Watts**

Professor of Counseling  
Sam Houston State University

#### **About the Presenter**

**Richard E. Watts** is a Distinguished Professor at Sam Houston State University and a Texas State University System Regents’ Professor. He has over 140 professional publications and has served as reviewer, associate editor, or editor for several peer-reviewed journals over the past 23 years. Currently, he is a senior associate editor for the Journal of Counseling and Development, the flagship publication of the American Counseling Association.

[Click here to register.](#)



## Graduate Student News

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 40<sup>th</sup> Annual SERA Conference a success. 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!

During the conference, the new SERA Graduate Student Council was selected and the previous leadership stepped down. I would like to thank the 2016-2017 Graduate Student Representative **Ali Foran** (Texas A&M University) for her year of service to the SERA Board of Directors and the graduate student membership. For the last year, Ali has represented the interests of all graduate students in the SERA community and has served as our voice on the SERA Board of Directors. Her work in support of SERA graduate students and assistance with the annual conference was noticed and appreciated! Additionally, I would like to thank the 2016-2017 SERA Campus Representatives for their service: **Erin Childress** (Stephen F. Austin State University), **Cindi 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).

The new Graduate Student Council for the 2017-2018 year was selected at the annual conference and these new members have already begun their term of service. I am excited to welcome **Chris Eckford** (Sam Houston State University), **Charity Embley** (Texas Tech University), **Julie Fomenko** (Texas A&M, Corpus Christi), **Carolyn Ikens** (Texas Wesleyan University), **Rachel Martin** (Texas A&M - College Station), **Mandolen Mull** (University of Texas - Tyler), **Jay Raadt**

(University of North Texas), **Rachel Renbarger** (Baylor University), **Asia Smith** (Stephen F. Austin State University), and **Neelu Tajani** (University of Houston). Additionally, I am happy to announce that **Celia Scott**, Associate Professor at Texas Wesleyan University, and **Lesley Leach**, Associate Professor and Doctoral Program Coordinator at Tarleton State University, are continuing in their roles as Graduate Student Council Co-Advisors.

The 41<sup>st</sup> Annual SERA Conference will be held February 14-16, 2018 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. Division VI provides graduate students a venue for feedback on works-in-progress and 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. 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. I hope to see all of you next year in New Orleans!

**Peter Boedeker**  
SERA Graduate Student Representative  
University of North Texas



**Peter Boedeker**  
University of North Texas

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*"Thank you to the  
2016-2017 SERA  
Campus  
Representatives, and  
welcome to the 2017  
-2018 Campus  
Representatives!"*

## 2018 Presidential Invited Address

### ***Mathematically Talented Children All Grown Up: At Age 50, Did They Become the Leaders of Tomorrow?***



**Camilla Benbow**  
Vanderbilt University

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*Dr. Benbow will  
also hold a  
“fireside chat” for  
graduate students!*

Camilla Persson Benbow is Patricia and Rodes Hart Dean of Education and Human Development at Vanderbilt University's Peabody College. She has led Peabody, one of the nation's leading colleges of education and human development, since 1998. A prominent scholar of talent identification and talent development, Dean Benbow also co-directs the Study of Mathematically Precocious Youth, a longitudinal study examining the developmental trajectories of more than 5,000 individuals now in its 45th year. She is particularly interested in developing intellectual talent and excellence in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Findings from the first midlife follow-up of 1,650 participants from the Study of Mathematically Precocious Youth's (SMPY) two oldest cohorts will be presented. During 1972-1974 or 1976-1978, participants were identified at age 12 as in the top 1% in mathematical reasoning ability. They were surveyed over the web from January 2012 to February 2013 on their accomplishments, family, and personal well-being. Particular attention will be devoted to their occupational status, creative accomplishments, and mate preferences as well as how they invest their time and future plans. Sex differences in occupational preferences, personal views, and life values will be reviewed. This presentation will conclude with a discussion of the long-term impact of educational interventions during adolescence on accomplishments as well as with satisfaction with respect to: career success, career direction, relationships, and life.

## A Preview of New Orleans for the 2018 SERA Annual Meeting

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the 2018 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 130 years (<http://hotelmonteleone.com/>).

There are many reasons to look forward to your visit. In addition to numerous professional opportunities, the SERA Annual Meeting occurs during the year when we are honoring the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of New Orleans.

Join us in celebrating our rich history, unique traditions, and diverse culture during the New Orleans Tricentennial. There's so much 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 A SELF-GUIDED 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.

- **STROLL THE FRENCH MARKET** Nearly three centuries of history and six blocks of unique arts and crafts, souvenirs, and local food stall to discover.
- **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. (Adapted from *25 Free Things To Do – Every Reason to Choose New Orleans*, New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau, September, 2017.)

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*Welcome to  
New Orleans!*

### What do others say?

- **Food & Wine** named New Orleans "One of the Best Food Cities in the World", July 2017.
- **Travel + Leisure** named New Orleans the "No. 4 City in the U.S.", July 2017.
- **Travel Weekly** named New Orleans one of the "United States' Best Music Experiences", July 2017.
- **Trip Advisor** named New Orleans one of the "Top Value Cities for an Epic Getaway", April 2017.
- **Southern Living** named New Orleans one of the "South's Best Cities", March 2017.
- **Expedia Viewfinder** named New Orleans one of the "Most Creative Places in America" as a part of their list of America's Most Artistic Towns, March 2017.
- **Travel + Leisure** named New Orleans one of "America's Most Charming Cities", January 2017.

New Orleans is a special city and we anticipate great things in 2018!

**Sonya Carr**

SERA 2018 Local Arrangements Chair

## SERA Board Members and Appointments

<b>President</b>	La Vonne Williams-Fedynich <i>Texas A&amp;M University—Kingsville</i>	<b>Secretary</b>	Leslie Leach <i>Tarleton State University</i>
<b>President-Elect/ Program Chair</b>	Forrest Lane <i>Sam Houston State University</i>	<b>Graduate Student Representative</b>	Peter Boedeker <i>University of North Texas</i>
<b>Past-President</b>	Prathiba Natesan <i>University of North Texas</i>	<b>Members-at-Large: 2015–2018</b>	Grant Morgan <i>Baylor University</i>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Kim Nimon <i>University of Texas—Tyler</i>		Julie Combs <i>Sam Houston State University</i>
<b>Executive Director</b>	Linda Zientek <i>Sam Houston State University</i>	<b>Members-at-Large: 2016–2019</b>	Ken Young <i>Lamar University</i>
<b>Executive Director Emeritus Historian</b>	Bruce Thompson <i>Texas A&amp;M University</i>		Mordecai Brownlee <i>St. Philip's College</i>
<b>Deputy Historian</b>	Victor Willson <i>Texas A&amp;M University</i>	<b>Members-at-Large: 2017–2020</b>	Suzanne Lindt <i>Midwestern State University</i>
<b>Director of Information Technology</b>	Susan Troncoso Skidmore <i>Sam Houston State University</i>		Celia Scott <i>Texas Wesleyan University</i>
			Sandra Acosta <i>Texas A&amp;M University</i>
			Scott Bailey <i>Stephen F. Austin University</i>
			Dittika Gupta <i>Midwestern State 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.

## Welcome to Our New Graduate Student Representative

**Peter Boedeker** is a doctoral student in Educational Psychology specializing in Research, Measurement, and Statistics at the University of North Texas. He taught middle and high school mathematics for four years before pursuing his doctorate. His current research interests include the application of Bayesian statistics in educational research, parameter estimation in meta-analysis, and missing data solutions.



## Welcome to Our New Newsletter Editor



**Tracey Hodges** is an assistant professor of Elementary Education and Literacy at the University of Alabama. Her current research interests develop methods, strategies, and interventions for improving writing instruction in grades K-8 and integrating children's literature in literacy instruction. She conducts mixed methods research in higher education and school settings.

## Looking for Volunteer Opportunities through SERA?

A great way to get involved in SERA is to volunteer. Some opportunities include serving as a proposal reviewer, division co-chair, or assisting with technology needs and services. Another great opportunity is to help with conference registration. Volunteers will welcome participants and provide various conference materials. Anyone interested in serving as a registration desk volunteer should contact Forrest Lane at [forrest.lane@shsu.edu](mailto:forrest.lane@shsu.edu) or by phone at (936)294-4287.



## 2017–2018 Graduate Student Council

**Jay Raadt**  
*University of North  
Texas*



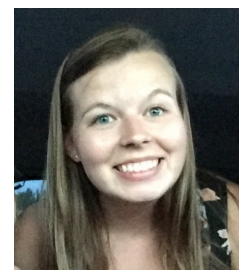
**Rachel Martin**  
*Texas A&M University*



**Asia Smith**  
*Stephen F. Austin State Univer-  
sity*



**Rachel Renbarger**  
*Baylor University*



**Julie Fomenko**  
*Texas A&M University—Corpus  
Christi*



**Christopher Eckford**  
*Sam Houston State  
University*



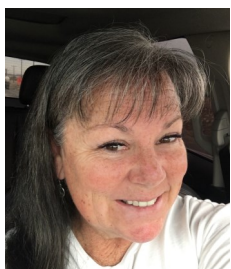
**Mandolen Mull**  
*University of Texas at Tyler*



**Charity Embley**  
*Texas Tech University*



**Carolyn Ikens**  
*Texas Wesleyan  
University*



**Neelu Tajani**  
*University of Houston*





*Electronic ballots  
coming to your  
inbox soon!*

## 2017 SERA Election Ballot

People who were members prior to August 2017 are eligible to vote in the SERA 2017 election and will receive an electronic ballot. If you experience any difficulty accessing your ballot or have any questions concerning the election, please contact Linda Zientek at [lrzientek@yahoo.com](mailto:lrzientek@yahoo.com) and Susan Troncoso-Skidmore at [skidmore@shsu.edu](mailto:skidmore@shsu.edu).

Please take the time to cast your vote. Each vote represents a valued choice and provides you an opportunity to have your voice heard. **Polls will open on October 16th and close at 11:59 p.m., U.S. central daylight time on November 1st.**

## Candidates Selected for the Ballot

Position	Candidate	Institution
Program Chair	Grant Morgan	Baylor University
Program Chair	Jana Willis	University of Houston at Clear Lake
Member-at-Large	George Moore	Sam Houston State University
Member-at-Large	Sandra Nite	Texas A&M University
Member-at-Large	Dan Robinson	University of Texas at Arlington
Member-at-Large	Sonya Sherrod	Texas Tech Univeristy
Member-at-Large	Marsha Diane Sowell	Texas A&M University at Kingsville

## About the HARE Electoral System

SERA elections use the Hare system. This system reallocates votes in races with more than 2 candidates until each position obtains a majority of the votes cast. Sometimes this system is also called the "Instant Run-off Voting System." For example, if 3 candidates were running for one office, and the first round rankings were:

Geri	Sue	Bob	Voter		Geri	Sue	Bob	Voter
3	1	2	"A"	<p>Because no candidate received 5 or more of the 9 first place votes, Voters "A's", "B's", "D's", and "I's" ranks for the last-place candidate, Sue, would be reallocated to the remaining candidates, and Sue would be eliminated as a candidate, as follows:</p> <p>At this point, Bob has a majority of the 9 votes, and would be elected, even though Geri had more first place votes than Bob in the initial round of vote counting.</p>	(2)		(1)	"A"
3	1	2	"B"		(2)		(1)	"B"
1	3	2	"C"		1		2	"C"
3	2	1	"D"		(2)		1	"D"
1	3	2	"E"		1		2	"E"
2	3	1	"F"		2		1	"F"
1	3	2	"G"		1		2	"G"
1	3	2	"H"		1		2	"H"
3	2	1	"I"		(2)		1	"I"
4	2	3	First place votes		4		5	First place votes

**Join us at the Hotel Monteleone  
New Orleans, LA  
February 14-16, 2018**

**Important Dates:**

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| • Conference Registration Deadline (pay by check)        | 10/05/2017     |
| • Conference Registration Deadline (pay by Paypal)       | 10/12/2017     |
| • 2017 Election Ballot Opens                             | 10/16/2017     |
| • 2017 Election Ballot Closes                            | 11/01/2017     |
| • Proposal Disposition Decisions sent to 1st Authors     | Early November |
| • DRAFT of Conference Program Available                  | Early December |
| • Graduate Student Paper Award Submission                | 1/8/2018       |
| • Dean's Award Submission                                | 1/8/2018       |
| • SERA Bruce Thompson Outstanding Paper Award Submission | 2/15/2018      |



*Photo courtesy of New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau*

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