

Fall 2020



## ***SERA Newsletter***

*Southwest Educational Research Association*

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### EDITOR:

Wendi K. Zimmer  
Texas A&M University

### The Prez Says...

The SERA Board of Directors and I look forward to seeing each of you for another great conference. As you know, SERA 2021 will be a virtual conference experience due to COVID-19 and our commitment to the safety and well-being of our members. 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. More information will be made available in this newsletter regarding the necessary changes and innovations we are planning.



Grant Morgan  
Baylor University

The 44th Annual meeting of the SERA will be held virtually February 3-5, 2021. Throughout this newsletter, you will find details about the conference, including links to the annual meeting, conference information from the **Program Chair Celia Scott**, 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, **Gregory Hancock**, Professor and Educational Measurement & Statistics Program Director at the University of Maryland. More information about this session is available in our Program Chair News.

The SERA repository will be up and running again this year. We will continue to offer SERA members the opportunity to upload their papers before the conference begins as well as download 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 from the Executive Director, Linda Zientek, as the conference dates get closer.

The SERA Early Career Faculty Mentoring Program, organized by **Michelle Peters**, will continue with another session at this year's conference. The program aims to provide support for junior faculty in the form of mentoring, networking, resource sharing, and grants. Look for a junior faculty session in the 2021 program to find

Continued on Page 2

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

### SERA Repository

The SERA Paper Repository will open on **January 15, 2021**. The use of the repository is optional, but we highly encourage you to upload a digital copy of your paper. This provides documentation of your effort and is a great way to access the papers presented by other members at this year's conference. Additionally, with the virtual format of this year's conference, paper copies are not an option.

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

[Repository Link](#)

## The Prez Says from page 1

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 Early Career Research Grants Program, guided by **George Moore**, will have several recipients presenting their research projects at a special session during the annual conference. The early career grant initiative provides up to \$1000 in funding for a doctoral student and an assistant professor at a 4-year institution.

Membership numbers in SERA continue to remain strong. 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 you are interested in

building your research skills, make sure to join one of the SERA training workshops. I also encourage you to access as many paper sessions as you can that are related to your research area.

The SERA conference offers the perfect opportunity to develop new research ideas, strengthen your existing ideas, and make connections to turn your ideas into publications effectively. I look forward to seeing you online!

**Grant Morgan**  
SERA President  
*Baylor University*



LEFT: SERA members enjoy the conference luncheon.

RIGHT: Michael Feuer presents the 2020 Presidential Address to SERA participants.



## News from Our Program Chair

The 2021 SERA virtual conference begins Wednesday afternoon, February 3, with one of our three ticketed training sessions. **Forrest Lane** from Sam Houston State University will offer **“Non-Randomized Groups: Implications and Strategies using Propensity Score Analysis.”** **Emma P. Bullock** from Sam Houston State University will provide **“Do MORE than Just Finish: How to Thrive During the Dissertation Process and Write a Well-Funded, Award-Winning Dissertation that Propels You into A Sustainable Research Agenda and Career,”** and **Julie Combs** of Sam Houston State University will offer a workshop on **“Managing Literature Reviews.”**

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.

At the 2020 SERA conference in Arlington, TX, there were nearly 250 research presentations, workshops, symposia, and innovative sessions. Division VI continued 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 that have distinguished careers as researchers. Summary 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 the presentation instructions for specific information regarding the format and uploading of presentations.

Paper presentations are strictly limited to a maximum of 15 minutes. All presenters should plan to submit their paper electronically to the SERA repository either before or after the conference. The SERA website contains 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 for the 44th annual SERA conference!

### Celia Scott

2021 Program Chair/President-Elect  
Texas Wesleyan University



Celia Scott  
Texas Wesleyan University

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*“The draft program should be completed by early December and will be posted to the SERA website.”*



Left: 2019-2020 SERA President, Shirley Matteson and 2020-2021 SERA President, Grant Morgan.

Right: SERA members network at the 2020 conference.



## Pre-Conference Workshops

### *Non-Randomized Groups: Implications and Strategies using Propensity Score Analysis*

Group comparisons are common in educational research, but results from these comparisons can be biased when individuals are not randomly assigned to them. Researchers may be familiar with ANCOVA, but this approach is not well-suited for quasi-experimental design. This workshop will demonstrate potential issues with non-random assignment and provide statistical alternatives through the use of propensity score analysis (matching, inverse probability of treatment weighting). Participants will engage with heuristic data in SPSS and R.

Forrest Lane is an Associate Professor and chair of the Department of Educational Leadership at Sam Houston State University.



**Forrest Lane**  
Sam Houston State University

### *Do MORE than Just Finish: How to Thrive During the Dissertation Process and Write a Well-Funded Award-Winning Dissertation that Propels you into a Sustainable Research Agenda and Career*

As the winner of five major dissertation awards and six additional graduate student research awards while procuring over \$20,000 in funding to support her dissertation scholarship, Emma Bullock, Ph.D. (2018 SERA Bruce Thompson Outstanding Paper Award) knows how to approach the dissertation process so you earn multiple job interviews (Emma had 25 phone interviews and 10 on-campus interview requests in her last year of grad school) and propel your career. From conceptualization to defense and the job interview, Emma will share how to effectively and efficiently select your committee, select your topic and research question(s), hone your research skills, write a literature review, pilot your ideas, build your academic network, procure funding, use the resources your school and professional organizations offer, write in 30 minute increments, present and defend your findings, solicit spectacular letters of recommendation, and apply for awards that will propel you into a successful job interview process that promotes your research agenda and future career. You do not need to settle for just finishing. Bring YOUR dissertation ideas and learn how to use the dissertation process as the means toward accomplishing your academic and professional dreams in this interactive and fun workshop.

Emma Bullock is an Assistant Professor in Mathematics Education at Sam Houston State University.



**Emma Bullock**  
Sam Houston State University

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*Each pre-conference workshop is \$20 through online registration.*



## Pre-Conference Workshops Continued

### *Managing Literature Reviews*

Academic authors frequently encounter frustrations and delays when writing literature reviews. In this interactive workshop, we will discuss strategies for (a) starting, (b) maintaining focus, (c) managing overwhelm, and (d) organizing materials. Participants will leave with several applications that can be used in their writing practices.

Julie Combs is a Professor and Ed.D. Program Director in the Department of Educational Leadership at Sam Houston State University.



**Julie Combs**  
Sam Houston State University

## Updated Policy on Conducting Research at SERA

No surveys, data collection, interviews, or any sort of human subjects research shall be conducted at the SERA annual meeting, or from the SERA membership, unless the research is first approved by the SERA board. SERA members in violation are subject to being removed from membership, and any SERA Board member in violation is subject to being removed from office for cause.

## Mark Your Calendar for Future Conference Dates and Locations



### **2022 Conference**

*At the Hotel Monteleone (New Orleans, LA)*

*Wednesday, February 23rd—Friday, February 25th*

Photo courtesy of Hotel Monteleone



### **2023 Conference**

*At the Menger San Antonio (San Antonio, TX)*

*Wednesday, February 15th—Friday, February 17th*

Photo courtesy of the Menger Hotel

## SERA Research Grants

Two research grants are available to SERA members.

The **SERA Early Career Research Grant—Assistant Professor** is available to those individuals 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 2021 would require grant recipients to submit their manuscript prior to the 2022 annual conference.

### Funding disbursement

Grantees will receive \$500.00 upon award selection and \$500.00 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

Applications for these Research Grants will be open once a year. Grant proposals must be submitted to the Grant Coordinator, George Moore at [gwm002@shsu.edu](mailto:gwm002@shsu.edu) and the SERA Executive Director, Linda Zientek at [lrzientek@shsu.edu](mailto:lrzientek@shsu.edu) by **April 1** of each year and awardees will be selected by **May 1**.



**Michelle Peters**

University of Houston—Clear Lake



**George Moore**

Sam Houston State University

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*Apply by April 1st!*

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

## SERA Bruce Thompson Outstanding Paper Award

Authors are encouraged to email copies of the paper submitted for presentation at the annual meeting to the SERA Executive Director, Linda Zientek. 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 2022

**Deadline:** November 15, 2020 (12:00pm)

### Submit Electronically

Linda Zientek  
SERA Executive Director  
[lrzientek@shsu.edu](mailto:lrzientek@shsu.edu)

### Postal/Courier Service

Linda Zientek, SERA Executive Director  
2021 Outstanding Paper Award  
Sam Houston State University  
Dept. of Mathematics & Statistics  
Box 2206  
Huntsville, TX 77341-2206

## 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, 2021 (by 5:00 pm)

### Submit Electronically

Grant Morgan  
SERA President  
[grant\\_morgan@baylor.edu](mailto:grant_morgan@baylor.edu)

Paper award winners will be featured in the Spring 2021 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 2021 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, 2021 (5:00 pm)

### Submit Electronically Only

Rebecca DeLozier  
SERA Graduate Student Representative  
[Rebecca.delozier@ttu.edu](mailto:Rebecca.delozier@ttu.edu)

## Graduate Student News

The SERA Graduate Student Council would like to encourage your attendance and participation at the 44th Annual SERA Conference, held virtually, February 3-5, 2021. While the upcoming conference has moved to a virtual format, it will continue to be one of the most student-friendly research conferences in the United States. The virtual format will allow for a schedule of both synchronous and asynchronous presentations, to enable students to attend more sessions while still receiving valuable feedback on their work in progress. The planned workshops and networking sessions will provide opportunities for graduate students to build their skills as researchers while building relationships with graduate students and professors from universities around the region. This year, there will be several graduate student activities held virtually during the conference. Whether this is your first year attending or you are a seasoned regular, we hope you will join us for these fun and enriching events.

### Gift Card Drawing

One of the perks of attending the annual SERA Business Meeting as a graduate student is entering the drawing for an Amazon gift card. To win, you must be present virtually at the meeting, AND you must be a registered graduate student.

### Fireside Chat

Immediately following the Presidential Invited Address, we invite graduate students to participate in a small-group, informal discussion with the speaker. This year the Presidential Invited Speaker is Gregory Hancock, Professor and EDMS Program Director at the

University of Maryland-College Park. Dr. Hancock will host the "Fireside Chat" with graduate students immediately following the presidential invited address. The Fireside Chat is an excellent opportunity for students to discuss their thoughts and ask questions.

### Graduate Student Meeting

We invite all graduate students to attend the Graduate Student Meeting on February 5th (check program for meeting time). At the meeting, we will:

- a) thank the outgoing SERA Graduate Student Council for their service,
- b) select the SERA Graduate Student Council for the coming year (2022),
- c) elect the SERA Graduate Student Representative who will serve as a voting member of the SERA Board, and
- d) award door prizes (must be present to win!).

Each university represented by five or more graduate students at the meeting is eligible for one position on the council. For universities with fewer than five graduate students at the meeting, one at-large position will be elected collectively. Serving as a campus representative is an excellent way to build skills working with graduate students at your university, and build a reputation as a leader with faculty and administration. The current SERA Graduate Student Representatives have represented you very well this year. We greatly thank all of them for their service. If you believe that you might be interested in serving as a student representative for your university at SERA 2022, please contact your current representative.



**Rebecca DeLozier**  
Texas Tech University

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*"We invite all graduate students to attend the Graduate Student Meeting on February 5th."*



## Graduate Student News Cont.

### Graduate Student Social Event

If you have attended SERA in the past, you may remember that there is a graduate student social after the Graduate Student Meeting. While we are apart this year, we wanted to maintain that tradition of camaraderie and networking with a virtual happy hour. Join us to meet graduate students with similar research interests, discuss life as an educational researcher, and just hang out with people who want to hear about your research!

### Paper Awards

There are three different categories through which student-authored submissions may receive awards.

**1. The Deans' Awards** are sponsored by individual universities. Entries must be submitted by students from a sponsoring university, and only students from participating universities are eligible to win these awards. Paper submissions for the Deans' Award are due to Rebecca DeLozier at [Rebecca.delozier@ttu.edu](mailto:Rebecca.delozier@ttu.edu) by January 8, 2021. The paper must be authored only by graduate students. If multiple authors write a paper, the choice can be made to give the award to the first author or split among all the authors.

If 3 or fewer submissions are received for a given university, at the discretion of the awards committee, based on their reviews of the submissions, either 0, 1, or 2 Dean's Awards may be made. All participants will be advised if no awards will be made. Also, awards will not be given for institutions at which Deans decide not to participate.

**2. The Outstanding Graduate Student Paper** is 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. The award winner will be announced at the SERA annual business meeting on February 4<sup>th</sup>. 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 and other graduate student research. Submissions are due to Grant Morgan at [grant\\_morgan@baylor.edu](mailto:grant_morgan@baylor.edu) by 5:00 pm on January 8, 2021.

**3. The SERA Bruce Thompson Outstanding Paper** is chosen from all papers submitted and is due November 15, 2020. Submission should be sent to Linda Zientek at [lrzientek@shsu.edu](mailto:lrzientek@shsu.edu).

For complete submission guidelines, please see the [call for proposals](#). Even though we are meeting virtually this year, I look forward to connecting with all of you synchronously in February.



Left: Graduate students meet with Michael Feuer for a fireside chat at the 2020 SERA conference

## 2021 Presidential Invited Address

### Stop Being So Mean!: Complementary Analytical Methods for Research Questions Focused On Variability



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

**Gregory Hancock**

University of Maryland—College Park

Gregory R. Hancock is Professor, Distinguished Scholar-Teacher, and Director of the Measurement, Statistics and Evaluation program in the Department of Human Development and Quantitative Methodology at the University of Maryland, College Park, and Director of the Center for Integrated Latent Variable Research (CILVR). His research interests include structural equation modeling and latent growth models, and the use of latent variables in (quasi)experimental design. His research has appeared in such journals as *Psychometrika*, *Multivariate Behavioral Research*, *Structural Equation Modeling: A Multidisciplinary Journal*, *Psychological Bulletin*, *Psychological Methods*, *British Journal of Mathematical and Statistical Psychology*, *Journal of Educational and Behavioral Statistics*, *Educational and Psychological Measurement*, *Review of Educational Research*, and *Communications in Statistics: Simulation and Computation*. He also co-edited with Ralph O. Mueller the volumes *Structural Equation Modeling: A Second Course* (2006; 2013) and *The Reviewer's Guide to Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences* (2010), with Karen M. Samuelsen the volume *Advances in Latent Variable Mixture Models* (2008), and with Jeffrey R. Haring the volume *Advances in Longitudinal Methods in the Social and Behavioral Sciences* (2012).

He is past chair of the SEM special interest group of the American Educational Research Association (three terms), serves on the editorial board of a number of journals including *Psychological Methods* and *Structural Equation Modeling: A Multidisciplinary Journal*, and has taught dozens of methodological workshops in the United States, Canada, and abroad. He is a Fellow of the American Educational Research Association, the American Psychological Association, and the Association for Psychological Science, and received the 2011 Jacob Cohen Award for Distinguished Contributions to Teaching and Mentoring by the American Psychological Association.

## A Preview of the 2021 SERA Virtual Meeting

We look forward to welcoming you to the 2021 SERA Annual Meeting! By taking part in the 2021 SERA Annual Meeting, you will join us as we make history during the *first* ever SERA virtual conference!

There are many reasons to look forward to the 2021 SERA virtual meeting. During the conference, you will have the opportunity to engage in the numerous professional development sessions that will help foster your growth in research methods and many other topics related to education! Also, you will have access to hundreds of presentations related to research in education—at all levels.

### During the virtual conference you can:

**Participate...**for the low cost of \$50. The cost *includes* your yearly membership fees!

**Present...**if your proposal is accepted, you will be able to present your work in a low stress, virtual environment.

**Save...**money by avoiding travel time and costs!

**Get to know...**our Presidential Speaker *Gregory R. Hancock* from the University of Maryland-College Park.

**Participate...**in our graduate students only fireside chat with Dr. Hancock as he answers your questions in a small group setting!

**Learn...**during three paid (cost is \$20) workshops offered by field experts Forrest Lane, Emma Bullock, and Julie Combs.

**Learn more...**by attending free workshops on topics such as doctoral studies, dissertation work, qualitative and quantitative research methods, publishing, the post-graduation job search, and a variety of other education related topics.

**Learn even more...**in sessions where colleagues and friends present the results of their research. In these sessions you will be exposed to some of the most current educational research happening in the southwest and beyond.

**Receive...**feedback! If you submit your in-progress work to Division VI and it is accepted, a field expert will review your work and provide feedback and suggestions for your research.

**Access...**Some SERA members have uploaded digital copies of their conference papers to the voluntary SERA conference paper Digital Repository, which is available to SERA members on a login basis.

**Network and Collaborate...**get to know students and scholars from the southwest region as you participate in networking and collaboration sessions throughout the conference.

**Get Involved...**with SERA! Opportunities exist for faculty members and graduate student to represent their university by serving SERA at the conference and in leadership roles. For graduate students, representation at your university exists through opportunities to serve as a graduate student representative. Learn how SERA supports graduate students and early career faculty and network with faculty from many universities.

Whatever your reasons for attending, we sincerely hope you will join us at the 2021 SERA Virtual Annual Meeting, February 3-5, 2021! We look forward to seeing you soon!

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*The cost  
includes your  
yearly  
membership  
fees!*



## SERA Board Members and Appointments

<b>President</b>	Grant Morgan <i>Baylor University</i>	<b>Secretary: 2019-2021</b>	Lesley Leach <i>Tarleton State University</i>
<b>President-Elect/ Program Chair</b>	Celia Wilson Scott <i>Texas Wesleyan University</i>	<b>Webinar Coordinator</b>	Forrest Lane <i>Sam Houston State University</i>
<b>Past-President</b>	Shirley Matteson <i>Texas Tech University</i>	<b>Graduate Student Representative</b>	Rebecca Delozier <i>Texas Tech University</i>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Kim Nimon <i>University of Texas—Tyler</i>		Sandra Nite <i>Texas A&amp;M University</i>
<b>Executive Director</b>	Linda Zientek <i>Sam Houston State University</i>	<b>Members-at-Large: 2018—2021</b>	Aaron Zimmerman <i>Texas Tech University</i>  Marsha Sowell <i>Texas A&amp;M University—Kingsville</i>
<b>Director of Information Technology</b>	Susan Troncoso Skidmore <i>Sam Houston State University</i>		Michelle Peters <i>University of Houston—Clear Lake</i>
<b>Executive Director Emeritus Historian</b>	Bruce Thompson <i>Texas A&amp;M University</i>	<b>Members-at-Large: 2019-2022</b>	George Moore <i>Sam Houston State University</i>  Juanita Reyes <i>Tarleton State University</i>
<b>Deputy Historian</b>	Victor Willson <i>Texas A&amp;M University</i>		Faye Bruun <i>Texas A&amp;M University—Corpus Christi</i>
<b>Deputy Treasurer</b>	Grant Morgan <i>Baylor University</i>	<b>Members-at-Large: 2020-2023</b>	Emma Bullock <i>Sam Houston State University</i>  Lynn Burlbaw <i>Texas A&amp;M University</i>
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Wendi Zimmer <i>Texas A&amp;M University</i>	<b>SERA Early Career Faculty Mentoring Initiative</b>	Michelle Peters <i>University of Houston—Clear Lake</i>
<b>Audio Visual</b>	Aaron Zimmerman <i>Texas Tech University</i>	<b>SERA Early Career Research Grant Initiative</b>	George Moore <i>Sam Houston State University</i>  Chrissy Cross <i>Stephen F. Austin 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 at-large member candidates serve a three-year term beginning at the end of each annual meeting.



## 2020–2021 Graduate Student Council

**Anna Payne**

*Baylor University*



**Michelle Spoonemore**

*Texas Tech University*



**Ann Le**

*Sam Houston State University*



**Ida Joiner**

*Texas Wesleyan University*



**Karen McIntush**

*Texas A&M University*



**Stephen Gruber**

*Sam Houston State University*



**Jesse Brock**

*Tarleton State University*



**Courtney Matthews**

*University of Texas Arlington*



**Mayra Alvarez**

*Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi*





*Electronic ballots  
coming to your  
inbox soon!*

## 2020 SERA Election Ballot

People who were members prior to August 2020 are eligible to vote in the SERA 2020 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@shsu.edu](mailto:lrzientek@shsu.edu) 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/ President-Elect	Wendi Zimmer	Texas A&M University
Secretary	Audrey Meader	West Texas A&M University
Member-at-Large	Chrissy Cross	Stephen F. Austin State University
Member-at-Large	Kevin Kalinowski	Sam Houston State University
Member-at-Large	Jeffrey Keese	Texas A&M University
Member-at-Large	Tonya Jeffery	Stephen F. Austin State University
Member-at-Large	Katherine Vela	Utah State University
Member-at-Large	Aaron Zimmerman	Texas Tech University

## 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 our Virtual Conference February 3-5, 2021

### Important Dates:

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| • Conference Registration Deadline (pay by check)        | 10/05/2020     |
| • Conference Registration Deadline (pay by PayPal)       | 10/12/2020     |
| • 2020 Election Ballot Opens                             | 10/16/2020     |
| • 2020 Election Ballot Closes                            | 11/01/2020     |
| • Proposal Disposition Decisions sent to 1st Authors     | Early November |
| • SERA Bruce Thompson Outstanding Paper Award Submission | 11/15/2020     |
| • DRAFT of Conference Program Available                  | Early December |
| • Graduate Student Paper Award Submission                | 1/8/2021       |
| • Dean's Award Submission                                | 1/8/2021       |

