



The Southwest Educational Research Association News

Southwest Educational
Research Association

Spring, 2001

From the President

Dianne Taylor

The 2001 SERA annual meeting held in New Orleans was a success by all accounts. Session topics ranged from higher education concerns to K-12 issues, and from statistical and analytic methods to uses of technology at all levels of education. Papers were presented on women's and minority issues, and symposia included tips for writing a grant and research on aging. Rounding out the sessions were three sessions devoted to graduate student research as well as special sessions on publishing and landing a job after graduation, in keeping with the SERA tradition of graduate student mentorship.

The annual meeting couldn't take place without the able assistance of a number of people. **Sharon Spall** and **Patrick Jenlink** of Stephen F. Austin State University, **Gilbert Naizer** and **Tyson Bennett** from the University of Texas-Commerce, **Lea Witta** and **Steve Sivo** of the University of Central Florida, **Kevin Rowell**, from the University of Central Arkansas, and **Ron McBride** of Texas A&M gave generously of their time to serve as division chairs. **Betty Davidson** of the University of New Orleans and **Sonya Carr** from Southeastern Louisiana University pitched in to handle local arrangements. They were helped by **Pamela Thorpe** from University of Southern Mississippi, and by **Ingrid Graves** of Texas Tech University who was a tremendous help at the registration table.

Outgoing graduate student representative on

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From the Past President

Vince Paredes

Another SERA annual meeting is behind us. It is really gratifying to see how the efforts of so many people, all volunteer, came together to create a smooth meeting and a good time. From graduate students jumping in at the registration table to old timers lending a hand, so many people contributed to the success of the meeting. Make sure to be with us in Austin in 2002 where we will celebrate a quarter of a century as an association.



I would like to take the opportunity to thank and compliment members of the Executive Council for their hard work this past year. Many unseen hours are devoted by the members of the Board. Thanks for contributing all the time out of your busy schedules.

This year's Executive Council is sure to do lots of good things. Dianne Taylor, the current president, is already hard at work. Dianne brings a special energy and diligence to the job that are sure to be a benefit to the association. And, Randy Schumacker, program chair for the 2002 conference, is overflowing with ideas.

Remember that throughout the year you can stay in touch with SERA by visiting the website (<http://sera-edresearch.org>). You can look up phone numbers and addresses of members. You can update and correct your phone and address information using the password printed in the upper right corner of the mailing label that comes with this newsletter. I also encourage you to use the online registration form next year so you don't have

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SERA Offices:

President:

Dianne Taylor

President-Elect/Program Chair:

Randall Schumacker

Immediate Past President:

Vince Paredes

Executive Director:

Bruce Thompson

Treasurer:

Jan Scott

Secretary:

Kelly Shapley

Members at Large:

Tyson Bennett

Robin Henson

Kathy Mittag

Kyle Roberts

Kevin Rowell

Lea Witta

Graduate Student Rep.:

Menthia Clark

Membership Chair:

Terri & Vince Paredes

Historian:

John Hedl

Graduate Student Advisors:

Mary Tallent-Runnels

Claire Ellen Weinstein

Co-Editors:

Robin Henson

Kyle Roberts

("From the President," Continued from page 1)

the SERA Executive Council, **David Allen** of Texas Tech University, arranged for Lawrence Erlbaum to donate books that were given to graduate students and he coordinated other graduate student activities. At the graduate student business meeting, **Menthia Clark** of Louisiana State University, was elected as the new graduate student representative. In addition to these individuals, there are the many people who reviewed proposals and many others who pitched in as needed to take care of business.

As I look over this list, I am gratified by the number of people willing to give their time and energy to SERA. On behalf of Executive Council, I want to extend a sincere thanks to each of them as well as to the many who are unnamed but whose work made the annual meeting such a success. As I review the above list, I am struck by the number of universities and states represented among the active members of SERA. The association can only get better as the number of involved members grows. Let me encourage you to volunteer your time on behalf of the association. Please contact either me, Dianne Taylor (dtaylor@lsu.edu), or SERA Executive Director, Bruce Thompson (bbt6147@acs.tamu.edu) and we will

help you get involved!

Speaking of executive director, the executive council voted last September to appoint a past-president of the association as executive director. Bruce Thompson of Texas A&M University was selected. Bruce has already volunteered hours of his time as executive director to advising the council on business matters and to identifying new ways the association can serve the membership. We are glad to have Bruce on board!

Looking ahead, the 2002 meeting is a special event in the life of the association. It will mark the 25th anniversary of SERA and will be held in Austin, the site of the 1st annual meeting. Those of you who have visited Austin know what an exciting town it is; those who haven't yet experienced Austin should redouble your commitment to attend the 2002 meeting. Special events are being planned to commemorate the association's silver anniversary. These plans promise to stir old memories while creating new ones. Plan now to attend the meeting in Austin and urge your colleagues and graduate students to do so as well.

("From the Past President," Continued from page 1)

to sort through your piles to find the paper form! Just fill out the form online (it does the addition for you) and mail it in. Before the conference, you can also check to see if you registration has been entered.

Please consider attending next year's conference and bring your fellow students and colleagues. I hope that all you will continue your involvement with SERA.

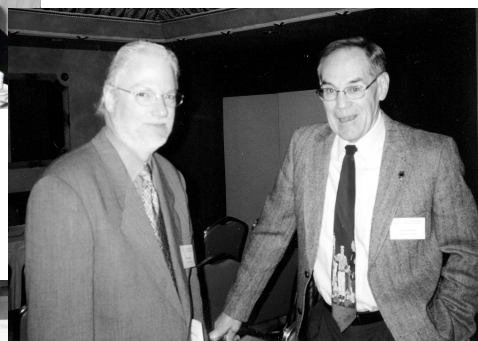


Vince Paredes (right) giving a certificate of appreciation to Ron McBride for service to SERA.

SERA's 25th Anniversary

Watch for
the upcoming "Call
for Papers" for the
Austin 2002
Conference!!!

2001 ANNUAL MEETING NEW ORLEANS, LA



Graduate Student Page!

Outgoing Graduate Student Rep.

David Allen

I must say this year has passed rather quickly. The recent conference in New Orleans was filled with a great deal of excitement as I was able to meet many new graduate students as well as reunite with those that I had met last year. I want to thank those of you who took the opportunity to come to the graduate student meeting. During this meeting I had the pleasure of welcoming Menthia Clark into the SERA family. Menthia was elected as the new Graduate Representative to the Executive Council. She has demonstrated an enthusiasm that will help to stimulate collaboration within the graduate student community of SERA.

I hope, as I step aside and Menthia begins her tenure as the graduate representative, that the discussions related to graduate student representation and voice within SERA will continue. I believe the SERA Executive Council is continuously seeking ways to facilitate that representation process. I would encourage new graduate students involved with SERA to promote the organization within their own campus. My experience with SERA has been very rewarding. I firmly believe that SERA provides graduate students with an open and responsive platform from which to present and develop research ideas.

I hope that each of you will take a chance to subscribe to the new list-serve for graduate students. You can do this by sending an email message to lyris@lyris.acs.ttu.edu. Make sure that within the body of the message you type **subscribe SERA-Grad**. In order to send messages to the list-serve you will need to use the following address: SERA-Grad@lyris.acs.ttu.edu.

Finally, I would like to extend my gratitude to the SERA Executive Council for allowing me to serve as the Graduate Representative during the past year. I wish all of you the best in the coming year.

Newly Elected Graduate Student Rep.

Menthia Clark

Greetings graduate students!

As the newly elected Graduate Student Representative for SERA, I look forward to representing you and sharing your concerns with the Executive Board. I cannot do this alone; therefore I encourage you to contact me with any questions, thoughts, or suggestions that will enable us to develop professionally.

I must thank David Allen for his leadership and influence in this position. When I met him in New Orleans, he informed me of the position and he is continuing to provide direction and support. I also thank Amy Dellinger, my Graduate Instructor, for her nomination.

Graduate Students! Subscribe to the New Graduate Student Listserve!

You can subscribe to the new graduate student listserve by sending an email message to lyris@lyris.acs.ttu.edu. Make sure that you type **subscribe SERAGrad** within the body of the message. In order to send messages to the listserve, you can use the following address: SERA-Grad@lyris.acs.ttu.edu.

The SERA Conference in New Orleans was a tremendous success in many ways. The presentations were well attended and supported, and as a result, great networking opportunities developed. We must aim to build upon that success and increase participation at the next conference, which will be held in Austin, TX. Tell a colleague, student, or an instructor about SERA, and about the opportunities to present papers. Also, tell people from other universities, so that we can grow as an organization, and increase our

prestige in the academic realm. Finally, I recommend that you utilize the new graduate student listserv as an opportunity to commune and dialogue with fellow SERA members. You can find instructions for the listserve elsewhere in this newsletter.

Once again, thank you for choosing me as your Graduate Student Representative. I will serve you diligently and we will be in communication regarding Graduate Student affairs. Please contact me at: Menthia P. Clark, LSU, 111 Peabody Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, or via email at menthia@hotmail.com, or via phone at (225) 578 – 6918.

A Preview to the 2002 Conference – in Austin!

Randall Schumacker

(2002 Program Chair)

Austin has been selected for the next SERA annual meeting in 2002. Has it really been that long since we last visited the music scene on 6th street?

For many of us this means another round of encouraging students in our classes to submit paper presentations, helping them put the finishing touches on their papers, getting the materials in “on time”, and patiently waiting for the Division Chairs to reply. If you plan ahead, you too can join the rest of us in Austin!

The 2002 program promises to be just as exciting as the last one in New Orleans. I really enjoyed attending the various sessions and hearing about issues currently affecting education. The special speakers were also quite informative.

I would encourage you to think ahead about the SERA Outstanding Paper Award, which includes a \$500.00 stipend to offset costs of subsequently attending and presenting the paper at AERA. Furthermore, many universities provide some travel money for graduate students who present papers at conferences. If not, SERA will randomly select student

names at the annual luncheon and give \$100 travel awards to several graduate students. So be sure to sign-up at the registration desk when you check in next year.

The SERA Executive Council is working hard to make hotel arrangements, organize Division Chair activities, arrange for breakout sessions, corporate sponsors, and next years speakers. Won't you come join us? Please feel free to e-mail me (rschumacker@unt.edu) with any questions. I look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting in Austin. You can find out more and register online at: <http://www.sera-edresearch.org/>.



**Make Plans Now to Attend the
SERA 2002 Conference
In Austin, Texas
At the Austin Marriott
At the Capitol
A call for papers will soon appear in your mailbox!!**

2001 Outstanding Paper Winner

Congratulations to Stephen J. Caldas (University of Louisiana, Lafayette) and Carl L. Bankston, III (Tulane University), winners of the 2001 Outstanding Paper competition! An abstract to their paper follows. They will represent SERA by presenting their paper at AERA in Seattle at the special session devoted to the Outstanding Papers from the various State and Regional Educational Research Associations.

Coercive School Desegregation in Lafayette Parish: The Disintegration of a School System?

This study examines 35 years of archival, interview, survey, socioeconomic, demographic, and test data to help gauge the effects of school desegregation policy on the Lafayette, Louisiana public school system. During the early years of school desegregation, when students were allowed to attend schools of the other race, but before more coercive policies were implemented, white students actually left nonpublic schools to enroll in Lafayette's public schools. White flight from the district's public schools began with more coercive desegregation

efforts in the 1970s. Recent, coercive court-ordered desegregation appears to have drastically accelerated White flight from the system, which will likely create an even more racially segregated district. Moreover, the unsettled school situation has likely been a factor in recent business re-location from the area, as well as an increasingly uncertain housing market.

(The authors can be contacted at caldas@louisiana.edu and cbankst@tulane.edu, respectively.)

**For more information on how to become a member of SERA or to become more involved in the organization, you can access our website at
www.sera-edresearch.org
or contact
Dianne Taylor at dtaylor@lsu.edu.**



**Southwest Educational
Research Association**

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Thompson Named SERA Executive Director



At its Fall meeting in New Orleans the SERA Board agreed to present a constitutional amendment to the membership creating the position of SERA Executive Director. Other regional research associations (e.g., MSERA) have found

this position helpful in maintaining a sense of continuity within the organization and in filling liaison functions with non-organizational groups (e.g., banks, AERA, the AERA SIG for State and Regional Research Associations).

At the 24th annual meeting in New Orleans former SERA President Bruce Thompson, Texas A&M University, was selected to

serve as SERA's first Executive Director. Doubtless this role will evolve with time. But the office does provide another communication vehicle for SERA members. Thompson may be contacted via e-mail ("bruce-thompson@tamu.edu") or through SERA's web page at: "<http://www.sera-edresearch.org>".

SERA Web-Site:
www.sera-edresearch.org

-Note-

If your mailing label does not say "01" or "02", your membership has expired.

*Please direct all renewal of membership requests to
Vince Paredes,
membership chair (address above).*