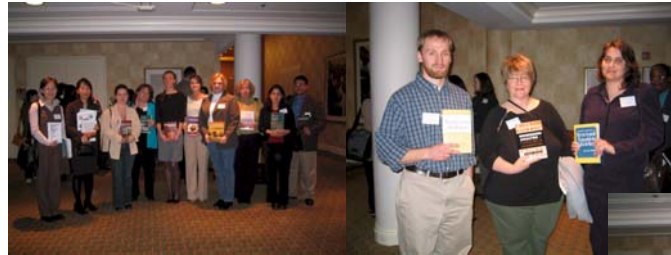




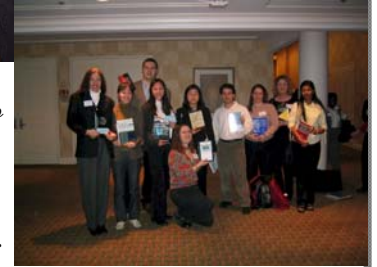
# Southwest Educational Research Association Newsletter

SPRING 2004



*Grad student members gather to express thanks to  
SERA meeting sponsors,*

*Lawrence Erlbaum, SAGE and Guilford Press.*



## *DALLAS* **SERA** *2004*

*Invited Speaker, Abbas Tashakkori,  
speaks with meeting participants and  
graduate students.*



*Antoinette  
Duffey  
named new  
Grad Student Rep!*

*2004 Grad Student Meeting a Record  
Breaking SUCCESS!*



*SERA 2005*  
*Annual Conference*  
*February 9-12, 2005*  
*Hotel Monteleone,*  
*New Orleans, LA*



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

**\$125/night Wed–Friday**

**\$199/night Sat (Valentine's Day Weekend)**

Hotel Deadline is **January 10th, 2005**. Please register early!

*See the Call for Proposals included with this Newsletter*

---

---

## **NOTICE**

### **Training Sessions Available during SERA 2005**

Two statistics training sessions will be conducted in conjunction with the 28th annual meeting of the Southwest Educational Research Association (SERA) in the New Orleans French Quarter, \*\*\*February 9-12, 2005\*\*\*.

#1 EXPLORATORY AND CONFIRMATORY FACTOR ANALYSIS presented by Bruce Thompson, Texas A&M University and Baylor College of Medicine (Houston) on Friday afternoon, 02/11/05, and Saturday morning, 02/12/05. (Note: participants will receive Professor Thompson's new book on factor analysis, "Exploratory and Confirmatory factor analysis: Understanding concepts and applications.")

#2 HIERARCHICAL LINEAR MODELING presented by Kyle Roberts, University of North Texas, and Natasha Beretvas, University of Texas Austin, on Wednesday afternoon, 02/09/05.

See <http://www.coe.tamu.edu/~bthompson/training.htm> for registration forms and information.



# McBride Passes Gavel to Mittag



## Letter from the Immediate Past President

What a difference a year makes! Just one year ago I nervously accepted the SERA Presidential Gavel and now have happily passed it on to my predecessor. That one-year interim, however, was both tremendously rewarding and fulfilling.

Change perhaps best describes this past year—some quite noticeable, others rather subtle. We went from pilot testing an online conference submission protocol a year ago to a totally electronic process. Those familiar with technology know that it is not "if" but "when" something will go amiss. Though the Grinch may have stolen Christmas, he was not allowed to steal SERA! Due to an unforeseen glitch, the submissions were accepted and then dropped. However thanks to the efforts of many hard working individuals, almost all were resubmitted and retrieved. Thanks to Kyle and Kathy for their diligent efforts here. And thanks to the membership who, upon notification, resubmitted your proposals. We thank you for your patience and understanding.

You may have noticed that our luncheon now includes an agenda item whereby our treasurer reports the financial statement of the SERA to the membership. This small but important change keeps all constituents informed about the budget and how our dollars are spent. Jan Scott is to be commended for her efforts here. The Presidential Speaker time slot was moved back to immediately following the luncheon and, judging by the overflow crowd, was most successful. Changes are good for any organization—they keep it moving forward and energized and will continue next year in New Orleans. We will begin a day earlier (Wednesday) to accommodate those who might wish to extend their stay over Saturday.

This year's conference in Dallas was again highly successful. While success is usually equated with high attendance figures (yes, they were high), there are also other indicators. The sessions were well attended and generated much collegial discussion and scholarly debate in the rooms, hallways, and meeting areas of the Radisson Hotel. Despite early technological problems, we again enjoyed an outstanding number of submissions. Our Invited Presidential Speaker, Abbas Tashakkori was unarguably, the mainstay speaker of the conference. The graduate student meeting, held in the Presidential Suite, was full to overflowing and the spirit and camaraderie amongst SERA members continues to shine through.

When I ran for President, my emphasis was on the strength and involvement of the membership. As I step down I wish to reiterate this message. The annual SERA conference could not be held if not for the dedication of a host of hard working individuals. Session Chairs receive and distribute proposals to reviewers, local arrangement people spend hours upon hours negotiating and setting up the conference site, volunteers operate the registration desks and perform duties too numerous to list here, all under the orchestration of *this year's* President-Elect-Kathy Mittag. Thank you one and all!

I also wish to thank the members of the 2003-2004 Executive Committee. Working with this group of individuals was without doubt the highlight of the past year. Their commitment to the SERA organization and dedication to service are truly without equal. Finally, my heartfelt thanks to the SERA membership. You are what make this organization special. Keep submitting those proposals, keep encouraging your colleagues to submit proposals, keep bringing them to our conferences, keep bringing your graduate students, and continue to be involved.

I look forward to seeing you in New Orleans.

## Letter from the President

Howdy! Hope everyone enjoyed SERA 2004 in Dallas as much as I did. It was a great conference thanks to the efforts of many people. First, I would like to thank the 300+ speakers. Without the speakers, we would not have a conference. They were wonderfully understanding of the proposal submission "virus" and all the effects of the virus. This year we had many educators and research and development professionals attend and present at the conference, and I hope this trend continues. Results from educational research will ultimately affect children, and our conference is an excellent outlet for current research results.

Thanks for a successful conference go to many others. Here is a partial list: Ron McBride, past-president; John Hedl and Kyle Roberts, local arrangements co-chairs; Bruce Thompson, executive director; Jan Scott, treasurer; Kyle Roberts, webmaster; Vince and Teri Paredes, membership chairs; Angela Garcia, graduate student representative; Amy Dellinger, newsletter editor; Gil Naizer, audiovisual equipment; Mary Margaret Capraro, meeting room organizer; and the six division chairs. Special thanks go to Bruce Thompson for helping fund the Friday evening reception. Finally, I would like to personally thank Dr. Deborah Armstrong, Dean College of Science, and Dr. Betty Travis, Science and Mathematical Studies Department Chair, at the University of Texas at San Antonio who co-sponsored the printing of the conference program.

The Executive Council is the governing body of SERA and these members volunteer much time and effort to the organization. People ask me how they can become involved with SERA. I tell them to start presenting and networking at the conferences and volunteer to review proposals for Division Chairs. Tell Council members that they are interested in becoming Division Chairs and running for Council positions. Nine of the current Council members began attending SERA as graduate students. In my opinion, SERA is one of the most *friendly* yet *professional* organizations educators and researchers can join.

Jan Scott is the new president-elect and program chair for 2005 and I look forward to working with her this year. I hope I can help her as much as Ron McBride, immediate past-president, helped me last year. I would like to welcome newly elected council members-at-large Amy Dellinger and Fred Bonner and graduate student representative Antoinette Duffy. Mary Margaret Capraro was reelected as a member-at-large and Kelly Shapley was reelected secretary.

SERA 2005 will be in **New Orleans, Louisiana** and everyone who plans to attend the 2005 conference needs to be aware of changes we have made to the conference schedule. The conference will start at **3pm Wednesday, February 9**, instead of the normal Thursday starting day. February 9 is Ash Wednesday so we were able to negotiate very reasonable hotel rates (\$125/night) at the Monteleone Hotel in the middle of the French Quarter. We have had two previous SERA conferences at this hotel and everyone enjoys the facilities and ambiance. Sessions are scheduled all day Thursday and Friday.

Bruce Thompson will offer a professional development and training course on exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis on **Saturday, February 12**. This will (a) give you a chance to stay an extra day in New Orleans and (b) learn about both exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis. Participants will receive a copy of his **new factor analysis book**, just published by the American Psychological Association (see <http://www.apa.org/books>). Also, Kyle Roberts and Tasha Beretvas will offer a training session on hierarchical linear modeling **Wednesday afternoon, February 9, 2005**. (Continued on pg. 4...)



## Message from the Executive Director of SERA

Bruce Thompson

There were a number of stand-out features at the 2004 SERA annual meeting. First, the presence of graduate students was strongly felt again this year. Angela Garcia from the University of Northern Florida did a super job. And the graduate student annual business meeting was the best attended in SERA history. We are also excited about the new graduate student representative to the SERA Council, Antoinette Duffey from the University of North Texas, who we know will ably fill Angela's shoes.

SERA continues to support graduate students by giving them the opportunity to present ideas in research proposals under development in special sessions overseen by senior faculty members who discuss the proposals with the students. There were seven such graduate student sessions with 31 papers presented this year.

Also, as we do annually, 10 students receive scholarships toward one night of hotel room expenses!!! These winners are drawn by lottery at the annual luncheon. To win, students must be **(a) present at the luncheon and (b) registered in the conference hotel**. Don't void your chances to be a big winner at the 2005 meeting in New Orleans, by failing to meet these conditions.

Again this years three publishers, Guilford, Erlbaum, and Sage, were corporate sponsors. As part of their sponsorship, they shipped books to be displayed. At the end of the conference the books were raffled off to the graduate students **who attended the annual graduate student business meeting**. Many thanks go to our corporate sponsors!

The 2005 meeting in New Orleans promises to be another grand success. This is the chance to work hard and to play hard. It's a chance for students to see their professors engaged in serious scholarship, and also to see the human side of faculty in more relaxed circumstances! Don't miss SERA 2005 in The Big Easy!

### Letter from President

(continued from pg. 3)

All speaker proposals for the 2005 New Orleans meeting must be submitted electronically by **September 15, 2004** and the Call for Proposals is included with this newsletter as well as being available at the SERA website [www.sera-edresearch.org](http://www.sera-edresearch.org)

SERA 2005 will be another chance for everyone to have the opportunity to learn new ideas, reinforce statistics and research methodology skills, discuss current issues in education and research as well as network with colleagues. Since the conference is in New Orleans, Louisiana, attendees will also be able to eat delicious food, drink wonderful libations, hear great music, and fun "will be had by all".

As they say in the Big Easy, "Let the Good Times Roll!"

Kathleen Cage Mittag,  
President

### Greetings Grads!

How exciting that you elected me as the SERA graduate representative; thank you for the opportunity to serve. I have the same goals for you as I have for myself — full participation in our organization! SERA is quite the haven for professional growth. With an eye towards taking our place in academe, I see two immediate areas of development for us — networking and conferences. To that end, Dr. Roberts and I are hosting the SERA list serve at UNT. Because a short title and id are required, the name is UNT-SERAGrad. To subscribe, send an email message to [listserv@unt.edu](mailto:listserv@unt.edu). The content will be the one line as follows: subscribe unt-seragrad First\_Name Last\_Name. After your subscription is accepted by the server, you will receive a message explaining everything you need to know to successfully use the list. This will be a welcome venue to dialogue about educational issues, dissertations, conference presentations, and other networking opportunities. Additionally I would like to start a listserv topic of other conferences (education, research, or otherwise) that are graduate student friendly in order to facilitate our development regionally, nationally, and internationally.

At SERA '04, we had several graduate presentations, and 147 of 278 attendees were graduate students. I'm sure that next year in New Orleans, we could easily increase our presentation numbers and our presence. It's never too early to start thinking about next year! Everyone agrees that SERA is graduate-student friendly, so get involved in all our opportunities. While attending SERA is fabulous on its own, heighten your experience by proposing (be sure and join the listserv to keep apprised of all this action)! If you are a little shy about submitting an individual proposal, then collaborate with peers and/or professors this year. Remember that Malcolm X said, "Education is our passport to the future because tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today". Start planning now and get the word out about SERA '05. See you in New Orleans!



Antoinette  
Duffey

GRADUATE STUDENT CORNER



*The following is a brief summary from the winning submission to the 2004 Outstanding Paper Award competition.*

*Congratulations go to this year's winners: Anthony Onwuegbuzie, University of South Florida, and Nancy Leech, University of Colorado Denver.*

## **A Call for Qualitative Power Analyses**

In quantitative research, there appears to be unequivocal agreement that sampling plays a very important role. In particular, there is general accord that an inappropriate sample size threatens both external validity (Campbell & Stanley, 1963; Smith & Glass, 1987) and internal validity (Onwuegbuzie, 2003a). As a result, many authors of statistic textbooks espouse the use of a statistical power analysis. Given the importance placed on sampling within quantitative research, it is interesting that sampling has not been given the same prominence in qualitative research. Yet, as noted by Onwuegbuzie (2003b), when conducting thematic analyses on data stemming from interviews, focus groups, etc., qualitative researchers make *inferences* from the sample of words to each respondent's truth space. Indeed, just as quantitative researchers hope that their samples are representative of the underlying population, qualitative researchers hope that the sample of words is representative of each respondent's voice (i.e., truth space; Onwuegbuzie, 2003b). Second, in situations where the purpose of the qualitative research study is to generalize the findings, both the size of the sample and sampling scheme used clearly are crucial. However, sampling should be a consideration in all qualitative inquiries, regardless of purpose of research.

Therefore, the purpose of this paper is to advocate the use of qualitative power analyses. We contend that *all* qualitative research studies should involve some form of qualitative power analysis. The current paper is divided into several sections. First, we discuss the role of power analyses in quantitative research. In so doing, it is noted that many of the sample size guidelines provided in introductory research methodology and statistics textbooks, if followed, would lead to statistical tests with inadequate power because they are not based on power analyses.

Second, we discuss the importance of sampling in qualitative research. We contend that in qualitative studies, one or more of the following generalizations nearly always are made: from the sample of words to the voice; from the sample of observations to the truth space; from the words of key informants to the voice of the other sample members; from the words of sample members to those of one or more individuals not selected for the study; and

from the observations of sample members to the experience of one or more individuals not selected for the study. Thus, prolonged engagement and persistent observations help to increase the researcher's chances of understanding the underlying phenomena, as advanced by Lincoln and Guba (1985). However, although not described by Lincoln and Guba as such, the concepts of prolonged engagement and persistent observations represent sampling concepts. Next, we discuss the 22 designs for selecting a sample in qualitative research identified by Onwuegbuzie and Leech (in press), comprising 5 probability sampling schemes and 17 non-probability sampling schemes. We then discuss the importance of selecting a sample size that yields data that have a realistic chance of reaching saturation. Based on the literature, we then provide sample size guidelines for several qualitative research designs. Thus, we provide a framework for conducting qualitative power analyses.

## **References**

- Campbell, D. T., & Stanley, J. C. (1963). *Experimental and quasi-experimental designs for research*. Chicago, IL: Rand McNally.
- Lincoln, Y. S., & Guba, E. G. (1985). *Naturalistic inquiry*. Beverly Hills, CA: Sage.
- Onwuegbuzie, A. J. (2003a). Expanding the framework of internal and external validity in quantitative research. *Research in the Schools*, 10, 71-90.
- Onwuegbuzie, A. J. (2003b). Effect sizes in qualitative research: A prolegomenon. *Quality & Quantity: International Journal of Methodology*, 37, 393-409.
- Onwuegbuzie, A. J., & Leech, N. L. (in press). Taking the "Q" out of research: Teaching research methodology courses without the divide between them. *Quality & Quantity: International Journal of Methodology*.
- Smith, M. L., & Glass, G. V. (1987). *Research and evaluation in education and the social sciences*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.

If you or someone you know are interested in contributing to the

*methodological moment*

column, please contact:

**Amy B. Dellinger, Ph.D.**

[abdellinger@cox.net](mailto:abdellinger@cox.net)



**SPRING 2004**

Vince Paredes  
Evaluation Software Publishing  
1510 West 34th St., Suite 200  
Austin, Texas 78703-1433

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**SERA 2005 Annual Conference in  
The New Orleans French Quarter!  
Plan now to attend, February 9-12, 2005.**

### **SERA BOARD MEMBERS**

*President:*

*Kathleen CageMittag*

*Secretary:*

*Kelly Shapley*

*President-Elect/Program Chair:*

*Janine Scott*

*Graduate Student Rep.:*

*Antoinette Duffey*

*Immediate Past President:*

*Ron McBride*

*Membership Chair:*

*Terri & Vince Paredes*

*Treasurer:*

*Janine Scott*

*Historian:*

*John J. Hedl, Jr.*

*Members at Large:*

*Tyson Bennett*

*Graduate Student Advisors:*

*Kyle Roberts*

*Tasha Beretvas*

*Executive Director:*

*Bruce Thompson*

*Kevin Rowell*

*Newsletter Editor:*

*Amy B. Dellinger*

*Kyle Roberts*

*Kelly Shapley*

*Mary Margaret Capraro*

*Amy Dellinger*

*Fred Bonner*

