



Southwest Educational Research Association  
**Newsletter**

Spring/Summer  
2005



*SERA 2005 New Orleans*  
*A Resounding Success!*



*Join Us in Austin in 2006*  
*Look Inside for Details!*

## Letter from the President



For most of us the semester is over or almost over and we've all been hard at work preparing for finals, whether you are teaching or taking classes.

The 2005 Annual Meeting was a big success. There were over 275 presentations, with approximately 385 different authors. The pre- and post-sessions were a great success. Thanks to Kyle Roberts, Tasha Beretvas, and Bruce Thompson for their tireless (and unpaid) leadership roles in these. The proceeds brought in \$2025 into the Foundation Account. Two more sessions are planned for next year. On Wednesday afternoon of the 2006 Annual Meeting in Austin, Tony On-

wuegbuzie and John Slate will present a 4-hour session on mixed methods. An 8-hour two part workshop on Hierarchical Linear Modeling will be presented by Kyle Roberts and Tasha Beretvas. The sessions will be conducted on Friday afternoon (HLM I) and Saturday morning (HLM II).

The SERA Executive Council met at AERA to work on plans for the 2006 Annual Meeting in Austin. Kyle Roberts, program chair, and Kelly Shapley, local arrangements chair, are busy with preparations for the Austin meeting. The Annual Meeting, February 8-12, will be at the Marriott Capitol. It is near the State Capitol and a few blocks from Austin's 6<sup>th</sup> Street District. It will be easy to sample the many food, shopping, and music venues. I urge you to include the 2006 Annual Meeting in your plans.

While at AERA, I had the privilege of attending the presentation by Helenrose Fives and Michelle Buehl, winners of the SERA 2005 Outstanding Paper. They were invited to present their paper *Assessing Teachers' Beliefs about Pedagogical Knowledge: Developing an Instrument* at the State and Regional Educational Research Association SIG session. Their presentation was excellent and well-received. Their paper portrayed the excellence that the SERA Outstanding Paper represents each year. To assist them in their travel to AERA, they received \$500 from SERA. Next year, plan to submit your paper in the competition and be ready to attend and present at AERA in San Francisco!

Information for proposals will be available on the website soon. Please circulate the website to colleagues. Make a special effort to encourage graduate students to participate. We will again sponsor travel awards to assist them with expenses and award the Outstanding Graduate Paper.

As SERA finishes its third decade of existence, I want to thank you for your support of our organization. I believe that we can be proud of its accomplishments. SERA has long taken pride in its role not only in the promotion of quality educational research, but also in the promotion of the development of educational researchers. I, along with the other members of the Executive Council, welcome your input as we seek to continue to meet the needs of our many constituencies.

*Jan Scott, SERA President*



## *Letter from the Immediate Past President*

First, I would like to thank the SERA membership for giving me the opportunity to serve as 2004-2005 president.. From 1997-2003, I served on the Executive Council as a Member-at-Large. During that time I observed seven presidents at work and had wonderful examples to follow. As president-elect, you are overwhelmed being program chair then you get to be president which is much more fun. Now I am immediate past-president and that is the most fun! The last duty I have to perform is conducting the fall 2005 election. Time really did fly but my work is not over. Our new president, Janine Scott, had to step down from being treasurer and the board appointed me as the treasurer. Hopefully, I can begin to fill Jan's shoes but that will be very hard since she did such a great job. Let me express enormous thanks to Jan for serving as SERA treasurer from both the membership and the Executive Council.

What a wonderful conference we had in New Orleans this year! A good time was had by all. Attendance was either the second highest or the highest in our 28-year history. We did have a record number of speakers. Each year changes are made in the program and it seems that starting the conference on Wednesday instead of Thursday was a success. The pre and post conference workshops taught by Kyle Roberts, Tasha Beretvas and Bruce Thompson were also resounding successes. The Presidential Speaker, Lisa Towne, gave us valuable information regarding the National Research Council. There was standing room only at the graduate student meeting and increasing graduate student participation is one of the goals of our organization. Antoinette Duffy was a superb graduate student Executive Council representative and we are all looking forward to working with our new graduate student representative, Elizabeth Alexander.

One of the amazing things about SERA is that people stay involved year after year. One of our great supporters was honored at the luncheon in New Orleans. Vince Paredes, membership chair and past president, was given the John J. Hedl, Jr. Lifetime Service Award. John presented the award to Vince and expressed the organization's great appreciation for all of Vince's contributions. There are so many people to thank for helping organize and supervise the conference. The Executive Council and local arrangements chairs are invaluable before and during the conference. The program chair, with help from the division chairs, webmaster (Kyle Roberts) and Vince, reviews proposals then organizes and prints the program. Jan Scott did an awesome job as 2005 program chair.

We are now in the process of planning SERA 2006 to be held in Austin February 8-11 so put it on your calendars. Kyle will be doing double-duty in since he is the new president-elect and webmaster. He will be one happy person February 11, 2006. As stated before, we could not have a conference without speakers so please continue to encourage speakers to submit proposals. The conference is extremely educational and the collegiality is both beneficial professionally and personally. The people are one of the most important things about SERA. Let's continue our trend of increasing membership.



"Happy Trails to You All until Austin 2006."

*Kathy Mittag*



Look for the Call for Proposals  
Included with this Newsletter

# SERA 2006

## Annual Conference

February 8-11, 2006  
Capital Marriott  
Austin, Texas

*Plan to enjoy Friends, Food, and Texas-size Fun!*

### PLUS Two Workshops

Mixed Methods Data Analysis Strategies Tony Onwuegbuzie & John Slate Wednesday, Feb. 8	Hierarchical Linear Modeling Tasha Beretvas & Kyle Roberts Friday & Sat., Feb. 10 & 11
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### A Preview of the 2006 Conference in Austin, TX

J. Kyle Roberts

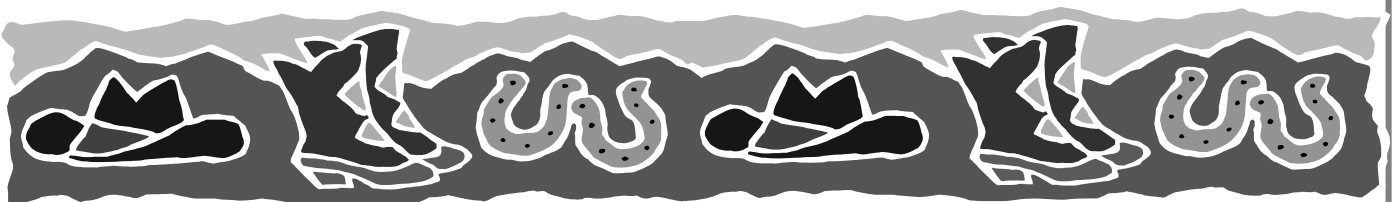
2006 Program Chair

Coming off of an outstanding conference this year in New Orleans, we are excitedly looking forward to another outstanding conference in 2006. We will be returning to Austin, TX, this year to the same hotel in which we held the conference in 2002 – the Austin Marriott at the Capitol. This hotel has been recently renovated and will be an exciting place in which to hold the conference while enjoying time with friends and colleagues.

As SERA continues to grow, we are expanding the opportunities for collegiality and professional development. In New Orleans this past year, we offered for the first time two professional development opportunities. Dr. Bruce Thompson held an 8-hour training session on Exploratory and Confirmatory Factor Analysis and Drs. Tasha Beretvas and I offered a 4-hour training session on Hierarchical Linear Modeling. In Austin, we are going to continue these offerings by inviting Drs. Anthony (Tony) Onwuegbuzie and John Slate to present a 4-hour training session on Mixed Methods Analysis and Tasha and I are going to expand our training to 8-hours to allow for a more “hands-on” lab-type setting to learning HLM. We will also cover some more advanced topics.

The call for papers for the 2006 annual meeting will soon hit your desks, and I encourage each of you to prepare papers and presentations for the conference. SERA is a wonderful outlet in which to share ideas and debate topics. We hope that you will join us this next year and contribute to continuing SERA’s longstanding commitment to excellence in educational research.

*See you in Austin!*



# SERA is Graduate Student Friendly!

**SERA sends a special *THANK YOU* to sponsors of the 2005 SERA Conference**



**\*SAGE\***

**\*Guilford\***

**\*Riverside Publishing\***

Hi, fellow Graduate Students.

It's an honor to represent you, and my intention is to play an active role in addressing your needs and concerns. During the summer, I will brainstorm topics, one of which will become the Graduate Student Symposium at next year's conference. There are lots of subjects we could cover... from how to hone and refine exemplary research skills, to getting published in quality journals. Look out for an opportunity to shape the focus of that Symposium in a future newsletter. In the meantime, if you've an idea we could cover in 90 minutes, get in touch!

Plus, I've been tapping into resources here at UT Austin to amass a quantity of free books for distribution among next year's conference attendees (grad students only!). The Division of Instructional Innovation & Assessment (DIIA) has supplied over a dozen already. I hope to have quite a collection by the time I see you in February 2006.

I'm here to serve your interests but need to know what those interests (and needs) are. Email me with your thoughts, suggestions, constructive criticisms – together let's make the graduate student arm of SERA the best, most effective it can be. Best wishes,

*Elizabeth*

Elizabeth Alexander  
SERA Graduate Student Representative  
Department of Educational Psychology  
College of Education  
The University of Texas at Austin  
Email: [esalexander@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:esalexander@mail.utexas.edu)



**GRADUATE STUDENT CORNER**

# SERA: A Brief History and Perspective

John Hedl  
Historian

The first organizational meeting was held in 1977 (Spring) at the Faculty Club at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. The primary question addressed was "Did we want or need a state or regional research association along the lines of the American Educational Research Association?" Following several further discussions, the answer to the first question was "Yes," but it was a resounding "NO" to the second. The founding fathers and mothers wanted a kinder, gentler organization.

The original goals envisioned were to:

- Conduct a meeting for educational researchers to present and discuss current research
- Provide a meeting for members to actually learn new things
- Provide for professional networking
- Provide a forum for mentoring future educational researchers and SERA leaders (graduate students).
- And provide a place to have fun.

Have we met these goals? I would say **YES** to all five.

## *Snapshots: SERA Annual Meeting in New Orleans*



*Thanks to Kerry Stamey for providing great pictures of the 2005 annual meeting in New Orleans.*

# Vince Paredes Awarded Lifetime Service Award



At our annual meeting luncheon in New Orleans, SERA's Executive Council awarded the John J. Hedl, Jr. Lifetime Service Award to Vince Paredes. He is the third recipient of this award since its inception.

Vince has been associated with SERA since the early 1980s, beginning as a graduate student. Since that time, Vince has been heavily involved in SERA activities and held multiple leadership positions. A brief list of his accomplishments follow:

- Has served as program chair
- Has served on the Executive Council and was our 22<sup>nd</sup> President (2000-01)
- Has assisted with local arrangements on multiple occasions
- Has served as our membership liaison to the council for many years
- Has developed the software that we continue to use today to manage membership, annual meetings, etc.

SERA's website is hosted on his company's server. Vince continues to work with council members on association business.

And it's been a family affair. Vince's spouse, Theresa, has been an active contributor as well.

## SERA PACK RATS UNITE!

For our upcoming 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in San Antonio, the board would like to exhibit all of our previous programs. Unfortunately our archive is missing four programs. They are:

- 1985 – Austin
- 1986 – Houston
- 1987 – Dallas
- 1997 – Austin

We are asking our SERA members to search their files for these. If you find one or more, could you kindly forward them to:

John Hedl  
520 Goodwin Drive  
Richardson, TX 75081

If you wish to keep the actual program, please forward a copy, including the front and back covers to the above address.

Thanks to our members who save everything!



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



## SERA BOARD MEMBERS

President: *Janine Scott*

President-Elect/Program Chair: *Kyle Roberts*

Immediate Past President: *Kathleen Cage Mittag*

Members at Large:

*Mary Margaret Capraro*

*Amy Dellinger*

*Fred Bonner*

*Tony Omwuegbuzie*

*Robin Henson*

*Sonya Carr*

Secretary: *Kelly Shapley*

Graduate Student Rep.: *Elizabeth Alexander*

Membership Chair: *Terri & Vince Paredes*

Historian: *John J. Hedl, Jr.*

Graduate Student Advisors:

*Kyle Roberts*

*Dianne Taylor*

Executive Director: *Bruce Thompson*

Newsletter Editors:

*Amy B. Dellinger*

*Robert Capraro*

