



# SERA Newsletter

**Spring 2007**

*Special Interest Articles:*

- [Extended Service Award](#)
- [Graduate Student News](#)



*Kathy Mittag receiving the Extended Service Award with John Hedl and Bruce Thompson*

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Southwest Educational Research Association – <http://www.sera-edresearch.org/news>

## Extended Service Award-Kathleen Mittag

At SERA's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in San Antonio, Kyle Roberts announced the awarding of the organization's first "Outstanding Service Award" to Kathleen Mittag in recognition of her nearly 10 years of meritorious and continuous service to SERA. She has served in elected and appointed positions:

- From 1997 – 2001 she was elected three times to serve as a board member at large.
- She was elected as our SERA president in 2003. This entails three years of service (2003-2005), first as president elect and program chair, president, and then immediate past president.

- In 2005 Kathy was appointed as treasurer, a position she holds today.
- She has served as our local arrangements chair multiple times (including 1999, 2003, 2005, & 2007).

Kathy also serves in other capacities. Most prominently as our self-appointed margarita maven at for our annual meetings, but we cannot remember when this tradition started.

The board was delighted to recognize Kathleen Mittag's significant achievements on behalf of the Southwest Educational Research Association.

[By John Hedl](#) - U -Texas SW Med Center-Dallas

## Grad Student News

First and foremost, I would like to acknowledge all our immediate past graduate student representative, Obed Matus, has done, especially for getting the deans to contribute money for outstanding graduate papers. I hope these awards endure as long as SERA. Thanks for starting a great tradition, Obed!

Next, I would like to welcome our newest graduate student leadership council members. Obed initiated a self-selected council of graduate students from schools with high representation at SERA. The current council members are: Dwain K. Augustine, Robin Capt, Rick Kane, Norma A. Ramos, Jennifer Roberts, Ting Sha, Barb Shrout, Cindy Warren, and Julia H. Yoo. Their affiliations are noted in the committee listing that follows. Congratulations, and welcome aboard!

We began the year strong, with a record attendance at SERA 2007, the second meeting of the leadership council, and the presentation of the first round of deans' awards. If you have not yet received your award, please contact me.

I am in the process of contacting the deans to ensure the awards will continue for years to come.

To ensure SERA 2008 in New Orleans is even larger, I encourage all campuses to get the word out now. Many campuses are having local educational "mini-conferences" in preparation for AERA. These are great opportunities to contact educational graduate students in a variety of research disciplines about presenting at SERA.

Finally, I set up an online bulletin board for communication and collaboration among graduate students of educational research. Check it out at:

<http://devel.cecs.unt.edu/seradocs/>

In addition to posting information about upcoming conferences, the board can be used for informal polling and requesting help with research. Please join today and share your thoughts and ideas!

Cheers,  
[Kevin E. Kalinowski](#)  
University of North Texas

## Past Graduate Representative

It was a pleasure serving as your graduate student representative this past year. I enjoyed meeting many of you and working with and for you. There are so many of you who helped us to have a successful SERA annual meeting. I want to thank Elizabeth Alexander and other past graduate student representatives who have kept things going so smoothly to allow us to concentrate on a few additions.

Probably what impacted the most graduate students was the creation of the Deans' awards. I am grateful to the eight universities (Houston, Lamar, North Florida, North Texas, Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, and Sam Houston) who donated money to be used for \$100 awards, which were distributed to winners from each university. There were thirty-six students who submitted papers, from among whom we chose fifteen winners. I would like to congratulate the winners of the first Deans' awards. This year's awards were a great success, and we hope to make next year's even better. The number of participating universities may even be expanded.

The leadership committee was also created this year. The 2007 leadership committee was composed strictly of volunteers. The committee members were able to generate

many good ideas and were able to promote SERA to other graduate students on their campuses. In addition, they were responsible for coordinating the graduate student judges for the Dean's awards. I thank all the members of the 2007 leadership committee for their hard work: Colin Turey (North Florida), Chris Wike (North Texas), Cynthia Warren (Texas A&M), Walter Doué (Texas Tech), Julia Yoo (Texas), Kimberly Schoger (Houston), Dorothy Gray (Lamar), Norma Ramos (Sam Houston), and Kevin Kalinowski (North Texas) who is the 2008 graduate student representative. They truly made my responsibilities much easier.

I'm excited about the newly elected 2008 leadership committee as well as the new 2008 graduate student representative, Kevin Kalinowski. Each committee member is excited about working for the graduate students and is full of great ideas. The 2008 leadership committee has already had its first meeting, and has come up with some very good ideas that are being developed. Contact any of the committee members if you have any suggestions or ideas. I hope to see you all at SERA 2008 in New Orleans.

[By Obed Matus](#), Texas A&M University

## Leadership Committee 2008

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## The Pres Says ...



*The gavel exchange symbolizing the transition from Kyle Roberts' to Gilbert Naizer's presidency.*



*Graduate Students with Scientific Workplace*

What a wonderful 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in San Antonio! Thanks to past-president Kyle Roberts for leading another great year for SERA. The 2007 conference was a big success with several records and firsts. We had a record number of conference registrants and a record number of lunches sold. The required pre-registration made things work much smoother for onsite registration. Thanks to Vince Paredes for his continued leadership with membership, registration and payments. The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at the San Antonio Museum of Art was outstanding. Thanks to Kathy Mittag, Bruce Thompson and John Hedl for their work on this event. Thanks to the hard work by past graduate student representative Obed Matus, we awarded the first Dean's Awards for graduate papers. We also initiated a new service award, deservingly presented to Kathy Mittag for outstanding service to the association.

The pre- and post-sessions were once again a great success. Based on the great response from these sessions, two more sessions are planned for next year. We will have an outstanding opportunity with a four hour workshop on publishing led by several current and former journal editors. The eight hour session, which will focus on qualitative research, will be led by Yvonne Lincoln and Ruth Harrington.

By Gil Naizer, Texas A&M-Commerce

The SERA Executive Council is continuing discussions regarding the 2008 Annual Meeting in New Orleans and is locking down the location for the 2009 meeting. President-elect/program chair Robert M. Capraro will work with division chairs to ensure another quality conference in New Orleans. The 31<sup>st</sup> annual meeting will be February 6-9 at the Monteleone Hotel in the French Quarter. I urge you to include the 2008 Annual Meeting in your plans and make your hotel reservations early.

Information for proposals is included in this newsletter and will be available on the website as well. 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 and the new Dean's awards for graduate student papers.

I look forward to seeing what the next 30 years produce in SERA. We have a great tradition of promoting quality educational research, the development of educational researchers and lasting friendships without sacrificing an enjoyable time at the conference. See you in New Orleans.

## Tidbits from the Executive Director

### TIDBITS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The 2007 30<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of SERA was a resounding success, with record attendance, record sale of luncheons, and huge attendance at both the 4-hour Wednesday and the 8-hour Friday-Saturday training sessions. As usual, during the luncheon 10 graduate students via lottery drawing won a gratis room night in the hotel, provided the students (a) were registered in the hotel and (b) attended the luncheon. Congratulations to our 10 winners who met these eligibility criteria!

#### 2007 SERA Outstanding Paper Award

The winner of the 2007 SERA Outstanding Paper Award is Constructing an

Understanding of the Equal Sign: Do Chinese Textbooks Make a Difference?, by Meixia Ding, Texas A&M University, and Xiaobao Li, Western Carolina University. This paper will be presented at AERA in Chicago in April, during one of the sponsored sessions for presentation of the outstanding paper winners from the state and regional educational research associations. The winner receives \$500 from SERA to help support travel expenses.

The authors of the SERA 2007 Outstanding Paper Award will present at AERA on **Thursday April 12th between 8:15am and 10:15am**. To find the location, look in the AERA program for the sessions organized by the **SIG: State and Regional Research Associations**.

*"Keep away from people who belittle your ambitions.*

*Small people always do that, but the really great, make you feel that you too can become great."*

**Mark Twain**

## SERA in New Orleans in 2008

SERA will be back in New Orleans at the Monteleone Hotel in 2008. This is always an exciting venue. The 4-hour training session on Wednesday of the 2008 annual meeting will be conducted by editors of FOUR journals on the topic, "How to Publish in Scholarly Journals." This session should be of particular interest to graduate students, and provides **an excuse to arrive early at the convention**, and begin learning (and having fun) ASAP!!!

**Where oh Where SERA in 2009???** The SERA Board is struggling with the important decision of where we will meet in 2009. This is a legislative year in Texas, so Austin is out. After an initial flirtation, Albuquerque is out. The Board is currently considering Padre Island, Corpus Christi, Ft. Worth, or a return to San Antonio. Board members will visit Padre Island and/or Corpus Christi hotels in the next few days to gather information. Also being considered in Ft. Worth are the Marriott Renaissance Worthington or the new Ft. Worth Omni slated to open in November, 2008. The St. Anthony was bought by the group that owns the Driskill Hotel in Austin, and will be COMPLETELY renovated before 2009 (creation of one new restaurant, remodeling of



Uri Treisman  
speaking with  
graduate students



Gil as Program Chair

[By Bruce Thompson](#)

## Board Members and Terms

### **President: 2007-2008**

Gilbert Naizer, Texas A&M – Commerce

### **President-Elect: 2007-2008**

Robert M. Capraro, Texas A&M – College Station

### **Executive Director: Lifetime**

Bruce Thompson, Texas A&M University

### **Secretary**

Sandra Harris – Lamar University

### **Past President: 2006-2007**

Kyle Roberts, Baylor College of Medicine

### **Member-at-Large**

Mary Margaret Capraro 2006-08  
Texas A&M University

Amy Dellinger 2006-08

University of New Orleans

Bill Jasper 2006-08

Sam Houston State University

one old restaurant, complete remodeling of the Peacock's Walk lobby area, with creation of a new bar in this area).

We have tried to be very sensitive to the needs (and interests) of students in making the decision. We are looking at hotels that are affordable without being complete dumps, and that are in places with exciting venues, especially restaurants, nearby (preferably walkable).

If you have strong feelings, feel free to contact an SERA Board member:

"Pres '08"

<Gilbert\_Naizer@TAMU-Commerce.edu

"Pres '09" rcapraro@coe.tamu.edu

"Pres '07" jkrobert@bcm.edu

"Treasurer" kmittag@utsa.edu

"'09 sec: Sandy" sandra.harris@lamar.edu

"student rep: Kevin" kevski@kevski.com

"historian" jhedl@mednet.swmed.edu

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rick\_mauderer@birdville.k12.tx.us

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"Newsletter" lrzientek@yahoo.com

"Exec Dir" bruce-thompson@tamu.edu

Kim Bilica 2007-09

University of Texas – San Antonio

Jason King 2007-09

Baylor College of Medicine - Houston

James Telese 2007-09

University of Texas – Brownsville

### **Graduate Student Representative**

Kevin E. Kalinowski

University of North Texas

### **School District Representative**

Rick Mauderer – Birdville ISD

### **Historian**

John J. Hedl- U -Texas SW Med Center-Dallas

### **Membership Chair**

Vince Paredes

### **Newsletter Editor**

Linda Reichwein Zientek – Blinn College



## Grad Student Award Winners –



Winners of the Dean's Awards are:  
J.D. Taliaferro Jr. and Donna Gober, Jason Lambert and Mike Wallace from Lamar University. Joe Young and Susan Borg from Sam Houston State University. Hsien-Yuan Hsu and Prathiba Natesan from Texas A&M University. Robert W. Elliott and Yen M. To from Texas Tech University. Bobbie Koen and Ting-Ling Sha from the University of Houston. Jeane Richards from the University

of North Florida. Mitzi Lewis and Raymond S. Koss from the University of North Florida. Elizabeth S. Alexander and Lindsay M. Lamb from the University of Texas at Austin.



*"Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved".*  
(Helen Keller)

By [Obed Mattus](#) – Texas A&M University



*Graduate Students with Sage Publications*



*Graduate Students with Guilford Publications*

## Program Chair – New Orleans Feb. 6-9, 2008

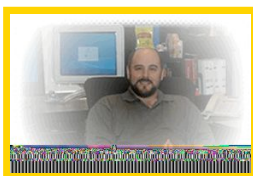
### A Preview of the 2008 Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana

We have a number of special events planned and exciting workshop sessions planned for New Orleans. It is rumored that a recent woman president of the American Educational Research Association is considering our invitation to be the invited presidential speaker. Yvonna Lincoln, Distinguished Full Professor and Ruth Harrington Chair of Higher Education, has agreed to conduct an eight-hour qualitative training workshop for researchers and graduate students.

increased diversity and an increase in the representation from school districts. SERA is the place where your *Dreams are Goals with Deadlines* and a wonderful outlet 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 New Orleans!*

Robert M. Capraro, Texas A&M University  
2008 Program Chair/President Elect

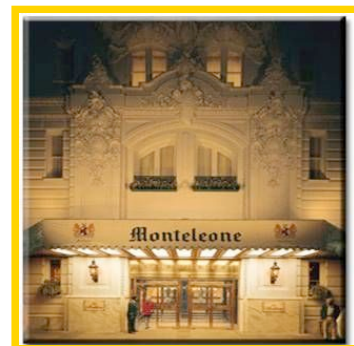


Robert M. Capraro,  
Texas A&M University  
College Station

*"Success is going from failure to failure without a loss of enthusiasm."*  
Abraham Lincoln



*Former SERA Presidents*



*Hotel Monteleone  
New Orleans, Louisiana*

## Southwest Educational Research Association

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## Educational Research: Making Measurable Differences

### We're on the Web!

See us at:  
<http://www.sera-edresearch.org>

## SOUTHWEST EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

## Meet the Board –

*Kimberly Bilica, Sandra Harris, Jason King, Rick Mauderer, & James Telese*

### **Kimberly Bilica, Assistant Professor**

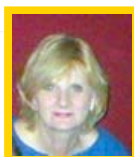
Kim Bilica is an Assistant Professor of Curriculum & Instruction at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Kim earned her graduate degrees at Texas Tech University during which time she also served a term as SERA Graduate Representative. Her research examines the controversy associated with teaching evolution in public schools and issues related to teacher empowerment through action research. Prior to her graduate career, Kim taught interdisciplinary, systems-based high school science in Worthington, Ohio.



*Kimberly Bilica  
University of Texas –  
San Antonio*

### **Sandra Harris, Associate Professor**

Dr. Sandra Harris is an associate professor of Educational Leadership at Lamar University where she is Director of the Center for Doctoral Studies in Educational Leadership. She teaches qualitative research, a doctoral elective on communication in a global society, and other cultural studies courses. A former public and private school teacher and administrator, Sandra has authored or co-authored 13 books and is published widely in educational journals. She is also editor of the National Council of Professors of Educational Administration journal, the Education Leadership Review.



*Sandra Harris,  
Lamar University*

### **Jason King, Assistant Professor**

Jason King is a Member at Large on the SERA Council and has served as Division III Chair. He received his doctorate from Texas A&M University and is currently an assistant professor at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. Research interests include logistic regression, robust statistics, and structural equation modeling. In his free time he can occasionally be found up to his chest in saltwater fishing for reds.

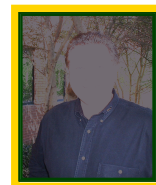
*Jason King,  
Baylor College of Medicine -  
Houston*



### **Rick Mauderer, Assistant Principal**

Rick Mauderer is owner of Wise Learning Systems, and Assistant Principal in Birdville ISD. He attended St. Paul Bible College, Minnesota State University, earned his bachelor's degree in Chemistry at the University of Wyoming (with teaching minors in mathematics, physics, and biology). He completed additional Physics coursework at the University of Texas in Arlington, and earned his M.Ed. from the University of North Texas. He is currently doing doctoral work in Curriculum and Instruction at the University of North Texas. He has taught a Batterer's Intervention Program for ANIMO, associated with Tarrant County Court Services, and wrote and facilitated the Evening Family Education Group for Birdville ISD. He is also a trained facilitator of "Positive Steps", a juvenile first offender program developed by the Dallas Police Department.

*Rick Mauderer,  
Birdville ISD*



### **Jim Telese, Associate Professor**

Jim is now serving on the SERA Board as a member-at-large. He is extremely happy to be able to serve the association in this capacity. Jim looks forward to working with everyone on the board to make SERA the best it can be. He has been teaching mathematics methods and masters level research courses at the University of Texas, Brownsville/Texas Southmost College since 1995. During this time, he has also conducted research on mathematics and science education, as well as conducted program evaluations. He is currently working on program evaluations for UT-Pan American's Regional Biotech Lab funded by the National Institutes of Health and the Howard Hughes Medical School, and grants from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. He challenges his students to interpret his favorite quote from Confucius, "True knowledge is when you know, to know that you know, and when you do not know, to know you do not know."

*Jim Telese  
University of Texas,  
Brownsville*



# ***SOUTHWEST EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION***

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE  
2008 ANNUAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 6 - FEBRUARY 9, 2008  
THE HOTEL MONTELEONE  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

**Program Chair:**

**Robert M. Capraro**

**Texas A&M University**

**Department of Teaching Learning and Culture**

**College Station, TX 77843 – 4232**

**979-845-8007**

**rcapraro@tamu.edu**

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southwest Educational Research Association will be held

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6 THROUGH SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2008**

at the Hotel Monteleone, 214 Rue Royale, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70130-2201 Phone: (504) 523-3341,  
Toll Free: (800) 535-9595, [reservations@hotelmonteleone.com](mailto:reservations@hotelmonteleone.com).

### **Directions to the Monteleone:**

**From Mississippi, Alabama, etc.:** Head I-10 West toward Baton Rouge. Exit Orleans Ave./Vieux Carre (235A). Proceed down ramp and turn left at the light onto Orleans Ave. Continue on Orleans Ave under Interstate. Orleans Ave. becomes Basin Street. Continue on Orleans/Basin for .6 miles. Turn left on Conti Street. Continue six blocks (.5 miles), turn right on Decatur Street, then right on Bienville St. You will see the garage for Hotel Monteleone on your left side approximately 2 blocks down.

**From Airport, Baton Rouge, Texas, etc.:** Head I-10 East toward New Orleans Business District and Slidell. Exit Superdome/Poydras Street (Exit 234B). Proceed down ramp and continue straight for 8 blocks, staying in left hand lane. Turn left onto Camp Street and continue 4 blocks to Canal Street (a big 2-way Boulevard).~ Cross over Canal Street which turns into Chartres Street (in the French Quarter). Go 2 blocks on Chartres St and turn left on Bienville Street.~ Halfway down the street, you will see the garage entrance for Hotel Monteleone on the left. The Hotel Monteleone is **located in the New Orleans French Quarter**.

Both members and non-members may submit proposals for consideration; however, conference registration is required within one month and registration includes annual membership. Proposals for papers, tutorials, symposia, innovative format sessions, and graduate student seminars will be considered for inclusion in the program and should be submitted electronically to SERA website at:

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

by **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2007**. Proposals are invited on topics from all disciplines related to education.

**PLEASE NOTE** THAT CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT ARE \*\*\*STRICTLY REQUIRED\*\*\* WITHIN ONE MONTH (I.E., BY OCTOBER 14, 2007) OF THE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE IN ORDER FOR PROPOSALS TO BE CONSIDERED.

**First**, registration must be completed on-line using the SERA website: <http://www.sera-edresearch.org>

**Second**, payment may be made either using the web site and its Pay Pal features, which includes a credit card option, or by postal mailing a check or purchase order to the address indicated on the conference registration form.

Any persons who have all of their proposals rejected may request a conference registration refund. The **proposals of any persons not completing both conference registration and payment BY OCTOBER 14th, 2007 will be rejected.**

Persons submitting proposals will be notified of the disposition of their proposals by the end of November. The DRAFT program will be posted on the SERA website in early December, and the final program will be posted in January.

THE FIRST SESSION WILL START ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6 AT NOON.

### General Regulations for Participation

**Principal authors are expected to register for the annual meeting and present their papers in person.** If circumstances prevent principal authors from doing so, they must designate a substitute to make their presentations. Each contributor may participate as principal author in no more than three (3) sessions. *All persons making presentations must register for the annual meeting.* **All meeting rooms at the annual conference will be equipped with an LCD projector and screen. Presenters must supply all other audio-visual equipment.**

### PROPOSALS

**ALL PROPOSALS** for inclusion in the program must be submitted electronically using the SERA website. <http://www.sera-edresearch.org>. Proposals should be no more than two (2) single-spaced pages in length.

#### 1. *Proposals for Paper Sessions*

Paper sessions are organized around topic areas selected by the Program Committee. Participants will each be given approximately 12 minutes to present papers in summary fashion. To propose a paper for a paper session, authors should prepare a summary including (a) a statement of the problem, (b) perspective(s) or theoretical framework, (c) methods and procedures, (d) results and conclusions, and (e) the educational or scientific importance of the study. Where feasible, sessions will be organized around themes to promote discussion and audience interaction. Session Chairs are typically one of the presenters from that session, so please be sure to check the program ahead of time. An asterisk (\*) next to a presenter's name indicates selection as the session chair.

#### 2. *Tutorials/Training Sessions*

Tutorials or Training Sessions provide an opportunity to provide instruction and/or information on a specific topic to the audience in approximately 50 minutes. To propose a tutorial session, authors should prepare a summary to include (a) a statement of the topic, (b) perspective(s) or importance of the topic, (c) information about the topic, and (d) how it might be applied to a research project.



### **3. Proposals for Symposia**

A symposium provides an opportunity to address a specific problem or a complex topic from a variety of perspectives. It is the responsibility of symposia organizers to identify topics, solicit speakers, and, if appropriate, provide discussants for symposia sessions. Organizers must designate a chairperson in the proposal (typically the organizer). Being a presenter does not preclude a person from also serving as chair. The organizer is also responsible for notifying other symposium presenters of the disposition of the proposal.

The summary should include the following information: (a) objectives of the symposium; (b) summaries of the point of view or conclusion(s) to be drawn from each presenter; (c) a statement regarding the scientific or educational importance of the symposium; and (d) a list, on a separate page, of the symposium presenters (including a discussant, if appropriate) and their institutional affiliations.

### **4. Proposals for Innovative Format Sessions**

Proposals for sessions employing innovative formats are welcomed. Proposals for structured debates on specific, controversial issues are particularly encouraged. Persons wishing to submit a proposal for an innovative format presentation should explain how the format will be structured and what topics or issues will be discussed. A list of presenters should be included on the cover sheet. The organizer is responsible for notifying all presenters of the disposition of the proposal.

### **5. Graduate Student Division ONLY for RESEARCH IN PROGRESS (Submit to Division VI only)**

To encourage participation by graduate students, seminars will be scheduled to allow graduate students to summarize research proposals, including theses or dissertations **still in the developmental stage that have not yet been defended**. A distinguished researcher will lead session discussions. Students who wish to submit a proposal for a graduate student seminar should prepare 3 copies of a 2-page, typed (size 12 font), single-spaced summary. The summary should include (a) a statement of the problem, (b) the significance of the study, and (c) a description of the proposed methods and procedures. Please be sure to indicate that the submission is research in progress.

Students whose seminar presentation proposals are accepted should send a copy of their seminar paper to the session discussant so that the copy is **RECEIVED on or before Monday, January 28, 2008**.

NOTE: Completed research by graduate students is **not** appropriate for these Division VI seminars. **Of course, graduate students may submit proposals for presentations not suitable for Division VI to any of the other five divisions, based on a match of presentation topic to the division's coverage.**

#### **Remember:**

- There is a **limit of 3 submissions** by a principal author.
- All authors and workshop, symposia, and innovative session presenters must register for the annual meeting.
- The Program Committee may exclude any proposal that does not meet the guidelines specified in this publication.
- Presenters are expected to bring **10-15 copies** of their papers to the annual meeting for distribution to the audience.
- All meeting rooms at the annual conference will be equipped with an LCD Projector but you must bring your own laptops. Presenters are encouraged to put their presentations on a flash drive and all the presenters load their presentation onto one laptop before the session begins. **Presenters must supply all other audio-visual equipment.**

**PLEASE NOTE** that conference registration and payment are required within one month (i.e., BY OCTOBER 14, 2007) of the proposal submission deadline.

**Proposals should be submitted to only one division.** The program committee reserves the right to reject proposals that appear to be “duplicate” submissions by the same author(s). Please feel free to contact one of the following division chairs.

**Division**

**Division Chairs**

**I. Educational Administration, Policy, Leadership, & Program Evaluation**

Sandra Harris  
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sandra.harris@lamar.edu

Judith Ann Adkison  
University of North Texas  
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Email: adkison@unt.edu

**II. Instruction, Learning & Cognition**

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Dianne Goldsby  
Texas A&M University  
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**III. Methodology, Measurement & Evaluation**

Jason King  
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Houston, Texas  
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## **POSSIBLE DESCRIPTORS**

Following is a list of *suggested* terms you may use to describe your proposal:

|                      |                           |                          |                         |
|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Achievement          | Early Childhood Education | Learning                 | Reading                 |
| Adult Education      | Education                 | Learning Styles          | Reflective Thinking     |
| Arts                 | Educational Reform        | Mathematics Education    | Research Methods        |
| At-Risk Students     | Effective Schools         | Minority Recruitment     | Schools                 |
| Attitudes            | Efficacy                  | Minority Retention       | School Environment      |
| Classroom Management | English Education         | Multicultural Education  | School Improvement      |
| Clinical Issues      | Evaluation                | Novice/Expert Studies    | School Restructuring    |
| Cognition            | Exceptional Education     | Parent Education         | Science Education       |
| College Students     | Field Experience          | Parent Involvement       | Self Perception         |
| Computer Education   | Finance                   | Performance Assessment   | Social Sciences         |
| Constructivism       | Gender Issues             | Policy                   | Statistics              |
| Critical Thinking    | Gifted Education          | Post Secondary Education | Student Motivation      |
| Culture              | Higher Education          | Preschool Education      | Student                 |
| Curriculum           | In-service Education      | Preservice Education     | Violence/Conflict       |
| Development          | Instruction               | Principals               | Teacher Characteristics |
| Discipline           | International Education   | Private Schools          | Technology              |
| Drug Education       | Language                  | Professional Development | Tests                   |
|                      |                           |                          | Vocational Education    |

Remember:

- There is a **limit of 3 submissions** by a principal author.
- All authors and workshop, symposia, and innovative session presenters must register for the annual meeting.
- The Program Committee may exclude any proposal that does not meet the guidelines specified in this publication.
- Presenters are expected to bring 10-15 copies of their papers to the annual meeting for distribution to the audience.
- All meeting rooms at the annual conference will be equipped with an LCD **projector and screen**. **Presenters must supply all other audio-visual equipment.**

**Submit all materials electronically (to be received by September 14, 2007)  
using the SERA website:**

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

## 2008 SERA OUTSTANDING PAPER AWARD

Authors are encouraged to revise and submit five (5) copies of the paper submitted for presentation at the 2008 annual meeting to the SERA Executive Director, Bruce Thompson, by **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2008**. The winner of the OUTSTANDING PAPER AWARD will be announced in the newsletter, present the paper at one of the sessions of Outstanding Papers from the State and Regional Research Associations at the annual meeting of the 2008 American Educational Research Association, and be recognized at the luncheon during the 2009 SERA annual meeting. A stipend of \$500 to help defray the costs involved in attending the 2008 AERA meeting will be awarded to the winner.

### *Rules for Outstanding Paper Award Competition:*

- Papers presented at the annual meeting may be revised before being submitted for the competition.
- Five (5) hard copies of the presented paper (i.e, NO electronic copies) must be submitted to the Executive Director for consideration.
- The Executive Director must **receive** completed papers on or before the deadline. Late papers are **not** eligible for consideration. At the discretion of the Executive Board, an award may not be made if fewer than 3 meritorious papers are submitted for competition. Should this occur, all participants will be advised that the award will not be made.
- **Active officers of the SERA Executive Council, including appointed officers, are not eligible for this competition.**

*Send completed papers for 2008 SERA Outstanding Paper Award by POSTAL/COURRIER SERVICE ONLY to:*

**BRUCE THOMPSON, SERA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**2008 SERA OUTSTANDING PAPER AWARD**  
**DEPT. OF EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY**  
**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**  
**COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS 77843-4225**  
**VOICE: 979- 845-1335**  
**FAX: 979- 862-1256**  
**bruce-thompson@tamu.edu**  
**<http://www.coe.tamu.edu/~bthompson/>**



## 2008 SERA OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER AWARD

An award of \$250 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 presented in a paper** or symposium session. Student authors should **electronically** submit completed copies of their papers to the SERA President to be **RECEIVED BY 5:00 P.M. FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2008**. The award winner will be announced at the SERA luncheon on Thursday, February 7, 2008. 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, as well as other graduate student research. Students who present thesis or dissertation research should submit a **condensed version** of the work, not the full thesis or dissertation. **Work in-progress** presented in graduate student seminars (i.e., Division VI) is **not** eligible for this award, nor are preliminary works, such as literature reviews or class projects and proposals.

### *Rules for Graduate Student Paper Award Competition:*

- The SERA President must **receive** completed papers on or before the **January 11, 2008**, deadline. Late papers are **not** eligible for consideration.
- If multiple authors write the paper, the first author must be a graduate student.
- At the discretion of the award committee, an award may not be made if fewer than 3 meritorious papers are submitted for competition. Should this occur, all participants will be advised that the award will not be made.
- Graduate students must indicate their student status on the title page of the paper.
- The Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award competition is for **completed** graduate student research.

*Send completed papers for 2008 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award by E-MAIL ATTACHMENT ONLY to:*

**Gil Naizer, Ph.D.**

**2008 SERA OUTSTANDING GRADUATE PAPER AWARD**

**Gil Naizer**

**Texas A&M-Commerce**

**Department of Curriculum & Instruction**

**Commerce, TX 75429 – 3011**

**903-468-3236**

**[gilbert\\_naizer@tamu-commerce.edu](mailto:gilbert_naizer@tamu-commerce.edu)**

## 2008 SERA DEANS' AWARDS FOR EXCEPTIONAL GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH

Sixteen \$100 awards and certificates will be given for graduate student research papers based on their contribution to educational research.

Two awards will be given to students from each of the following universities should they choose to participate:

*The University of Texas, Texas Tech University, the University of North Texas, Sam Houston State University, Lamar University, the University of North Florida, the University of Houston, and Texas A&M University.* The respective Dean of the College of Education for each university sponsors these awards.

**Eligibility:** To be eligible, a student must be from one of the universities listed above and must attend the 2008 SERA annual meeting. Student authors should **electronically submit** completed papers to the SERA graduate student representative. Papers must be

**RECEIVED BY 12:00 P.M. CST, FRIDAY, December 21, 2007.**

**Submission Criterion:** These awards are for completed graduate student research or research work in-progress (i.e., papers submitted to **any** division, I through VI). Papers can be in any form (i.e., literature review, explanation of statistical concepts, case studies) and will judged from the perspective of how it will further the theory of educational research.

The awards will be announced at the SERA luncheon on Thursday, February 7, 2008.

### ***Rules for the Deans' Awards Competition:***

- The SERA graduate student representative **must receive** completed papers on or before the December 21, 2007 deadline. Late papers are not eligible for consideration.
- The paper must **only** be authored by a graduate student or students.
- If multiple authors write the papers, the choice can be made for the award to be given to the first author or split among all the authors.
- At the discretion of the awards committee, an award may not be made if fewer than 3 meritorious papers are submitted for competition from that university. Should this occur, all participants will be advised that the award will not be made.
- If you do not receive a receipt confirmation via E-mail by 1:00 P.M. CST, Friday, December 21, 2007, please contact the graduate student representative immediately by phone.

*Send completed papers for the 2008 Deans' Awards by E-MAIL ATTACHMENT ONLY to:*

Kevin E Kalinowski, SERA Graduate Student Representative  
Department of Technology and Cognition  
University of North Texas  
sera@kevski.com  
(214) 563-9934