



SERA Newsletter

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

Spring 2008

Special Interest Articles:

- [President's Message](#) 1-2



Presentation of award for Robert Capraro's presidency by Gilbert Naizer.

Individual Highlights:

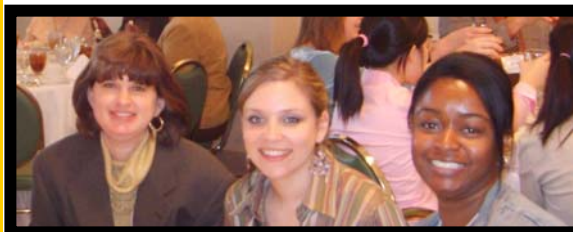
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The Pres Says ...

What a wonderful 31st Annual Meeting in New Orleans! Thanks to president Gil Naizer for leading another great year for SERA in 2008. The conference was a big success with another record year for attendance. The Division Chairs did an incredible job handling a record number of proposals this year, which contributed toward making the program such a big success.

The pre-registration made things work much smoother for onsite registration. Our two workshops were filled to capacity. We are gearing up to make further improvements to the registration process. For the 2009 conference, we will have tickets for the luncheon and each of the two workshops.

Special thanks to Vince Paredes for his leadership with membership and his willingness to now be leading a team of chairs to improve the SERA experience. Kevin Kalinowski has accepted the role of technology chair and J. Kyle Roberts will be the new Web Chair. The technology chair will be responsible for technology related to registration and will support board members responsible for presenter technology. J. Kyle Roberts will be



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renovating our web space so you can look forward to more features and an improved conference proposal submission experience. Kudos to John Hedl, Kathy Mittag, and Bruce Thompson for the support and continuity they provide the board.

I hope you are preparing for a relaxing summer and return in the fall refreshed. The Executive Board members have been busy preparing for the 32nd Annual Meeting on South Padre Island, TX. Make sure you mark your calendars for Wednesday, February 4 through Saturday, February 7. Details about hotel reservations and meeting preregistration can be found on the website and in the newsletter. I look forward to seeing every member at the annual meeting!

We also are planning outstanding training sessions this year, including a training session on **Lit Reviews** by Jim Telese and a 1 hour **Mixed Methods + Lit Reviews = Mixed Research Synthesis** by Nancy Leech, Qun Jiao, Kathy Collins, Tony Onwuegbuzie.

The Pres Says (continued)...

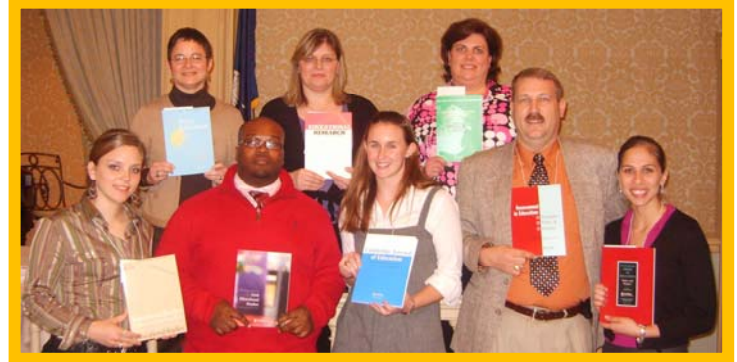
I am very pleased and excited to announce that **Bob Linn**-Former President of AERA will be our invited presidential speaker for SERA 2009.

The SERA Executive Board is finalizing plans for the 2010 Annual Meeting in New Orleans at the Hotel Monteleone. President-elect/program chair Mary Margaret Capraro will work with division chairs to provide another quality conference on South Padre Island.
[Robert M. Capraro](#)

News from Past President

Another successful Annual Meeting has come and gone and we are looking forward to the future of SERA. The hard-working, all-volunteer Executive Board continuously looks for ways to improve the organization and conference. In recent years we have joined the electronic age, going from electronic submission of proposals & online conference registration to providing multi-media projectors at the conference for the first time this year. The Executive Board welcomes your input as we seek to continue to meet the needs of our varied membership. Suggestions can be proposed to any board member who will bring up the idea at the upcoming fall board meeting.

We are eagerly anticipating the 2009 meeting and a new conference site as we move to the South Padre Island venue for the first time under the capable hands of Mary Margaret



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Capraro, President-Elect/Program Chair, & Co-local arrangements by Kathy Mittag & Jim Telese.

Many thanks to Robert Capraro for an excellent 2008 program and Sonya Carr for her outstanding local arrangements. Also thanks to Vince Paredes for his outstanding work maintaining the membership rolls, pre-registration, and setting up on-site registration. Thanks also to all the behinds-the-scene assistance of Executive Board members and graduate students who assisted with registration & projector duty.

The last responsibility I have as Past-President is conducting the upcoming election; be on the lookout for more information.

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service to the Association. I am looking forward to future conferences and continued growth of SERA as I join the long list of Past Presidents who remain actively involved in the organization.

[Gil Naizer](#) - SERA Immediate Past President

"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



The gavel exchange symbolizing the transition from Gilbert Naizer's to Robert M. Capraro's presidency.

Program Chair – Padre Island Feb. 4-7, 2009



A Preview of the 2009 Conference in South Padre Island, Texas

Next year will be the first time SERA will be holding its annual conference in South Padre Island, Texas: where “Paradise meets the Gulf”. We hope you will support our new location and come and have a chance to meet new people in a beautiful location directly on the Gulf of Mexico. We have a number of special events and exciting workshop sessions planned including mixed methods and how to write a literature review. The 2009 call for papers is attached to this newsletter, and I encourage each of you to submit a proposal to present at the 2009 conference.



SERA is a place where you can comfortably share your research ideas and discuss topics with other interested colleagues. We hope that you will join us next year and contribute to SERA’s continuing long standing commitment to excellence in educational research.

See you in South Padre!

[Mary Margaret Capraro](#), Texas A&M University
2009 Program Chair/President Elect

Board Members and Terms

President: 2008-2009

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

President-Elect: 2009-2010

Mary Margaret Capraro, Texas A&M –University College Station

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Gilbert Naizer, Texas A&M – Commerce

Executive Director: Lifetime

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James Telese 2007-09
University of Texas – Brownsville

Sonya Carr 2008-10

Southeastern Louisiana University -- Hammond

Stacey Edmonson 2008-10

Sam Houston State University – Huntsville

Linda Reichwein Zientek 2008-10

Sam Houston State University - Huntsville

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Ting-Ling Sha - University of Houston

School District Representative

Rick Mauderer

Historian

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

Membership Chair

Vince Paredes

Newsletter Editor

Linda Reichwein Zientek – SHSU - Huntsville

Associate Newsletter Editor

Julia Ballenger – Stephen F. Austin - Nacogdoches

The Executive Director Says ...

Thoughts (About Food) From the SERA Executive

Everybody I talked to in New Orleans reported great enthusiasm about the 31st annual SERA meeting (e.g., "great food," "great Keynote Speaker," "great training sessions"). We are going to have an equally *fun* AND *academically productive* time in 2009 on South Padre Island. The hotel has given us a great deal on rooms, and the hotel property is very nice:
<http://www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/property/overview/index.html?propertyID=909>

If you are flying into one of the two nearby airports, the challenge will be getting onto the island by shuttle. As noted elsewhere in the newsletter, you might be well advised if flying to (a) travel with some others, and (b) share expenses for a rental car that you reserve in advance. It won't cost as much as the shuttle and will be much more convenient.

Meanwhile, here are some of the nearby restaurants recently featured by travel writers

SERA 2008 Outstanding Paper Award

The winner of the SERA 2008 Outstanding Paper award goes to **Susan Skidmore**, for her paper titled, "Experimental Design and Some Threats to Experimental Validity: A Primer."

focusing on South Padre Island. These are all places that are cheap, but that have good food!

Cap'n Roys. 1313 Padre Blvd. Seafood and Tex-Mex. Try the seafood tacos. Yum.

<http://restauranteur.com/capnroys/>

Dolphin Cove Oyster Bar. Channel View Road. 956/761-2850. Great oysters--however you like them.

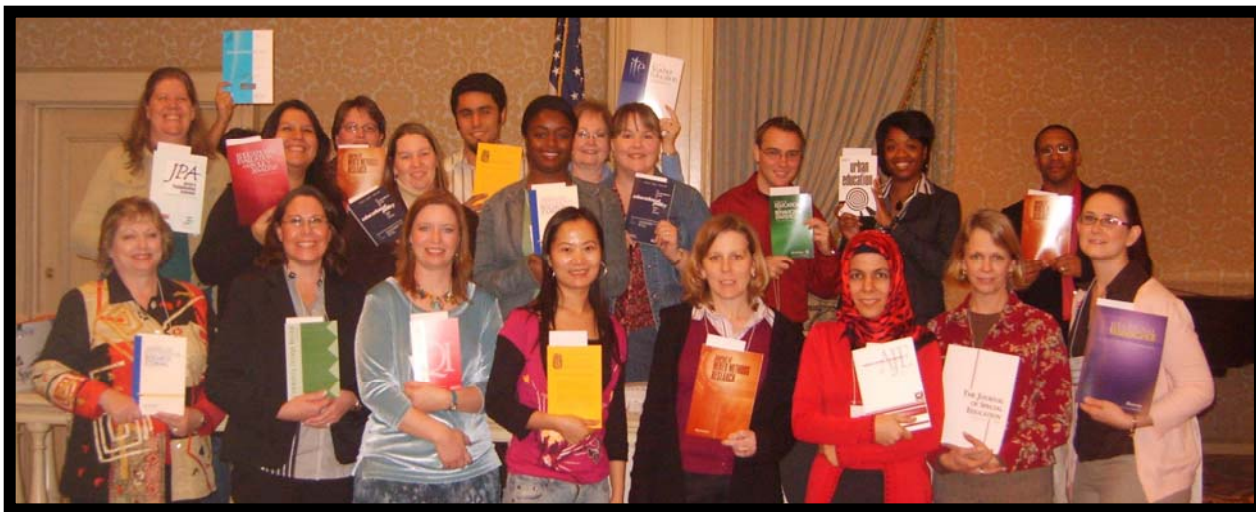
<http://www.spisland.com/dolphincove/>

The Lost Galleon. 202 E Queen Isabella (back on the mainland just before you enter the causeway for Padre Island). 956/043-4400. Try seafood stuffed jalapeños.

<http://www.restaurantrow.com/MoreInfo.cfm?Code=211618>

See you soon!

Bruce Thompson



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Grad Student News

I would like to thank all of the graduate students for electing me to serve as the 2009 graduate student representative. I enjoyed meeting many of you and look forward to meeting more throughout the year and at our 2009 SERA conference in South Padre Island. I would also like to thank our immediate past graduate student representative, Kevin Kalinowski, for all the behind the scenes work in getting the deans to continue to contribute money for outstanding graduate papers, for making the 2008 conference such a successful one for the graduate students, and for the organized assistance to my transition into this role. I hope that I will be able to maintain the level of graduate student participation and interest at our future SERA conferences.

I would also like to introduce our new graduate student leadership council members. These council members were selected to represent the colleges with high representation at our annual graduate meeting, in addition to one at-large member. The 2009 leadership council members are: Jacob Chandler, Kristina Gill, Kevin E. Kalinowski, Danielle Kotara, Gabrielle Ligon-Polk, Suzanne Lindt, Darla M. Martinez, Liz Ward, and Ann Marie Willette. Congratulations! I look forward to working with you.

Thanks to Kevin and the 2008 leadership council, we had a wonderful graduate student turn out, and an excellent graduate student attendance at the workshops. Please encourage other graduate students to join



*James
Popham
Presidential
Address*



*Ting-Ling Sha
and
James Hardy*

SERA or to attend our 2009 SERA conference in South Padre Island, Texas. As the Spring semester comes to a close, we should seize the moment now to encourage graduate students from a variety of research disciplines to join SERA and consider submitting their work for an opportunity to present their candidacy or dissertation papers at SERA.

Please contact your university leadership council member (or the at-large member) with your contact information, as we hope to disseminate graduate student information throughout the year.

It is an honor to represent you. My goal is to be an active representative in addressing your needs and concerns. Please make sure that you contact me with your ideas, comments, suggestions, requests, thoughts, and critiques. Knowing the desires and needs of the graduate student community will better enable me to serve as an effective representative of the graduate students' voices.

Best wishes for a collaborative and productive year,

[Ting-Ling Sha](#), University of Houston



*Graduate
Students
Review
Books
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Publishers*

Grad Student Award Winners –

It was great seeing everyone in New Orleans this year. Even if you did not arrive early for the Mardi Gras festivities, I hope you had a chance to socialize in the French Quarter and beyond. A group of us had a blast listening to excellent zydeco while bowling a few frames at the Rock 'n' Bowl Thursday night after our graduate student meeting. Let's try to make an informal student social event a yearly tradition.

For the second annual Deans' Awards, sixteen papers from six area universities were submitted for consideration. Three universities did not have the required minimum number of papers, so the leadership council blindly rated 11 papers from the remaining 3 universities. I am happy to announce the winners: **Russell Warne** and **Prashanti Chennamsetti** (Texas A&M), **Robert W. Elliott** and **Yen M. To** (Texas Tech), and **Kimberly Schoger** and **Ting-Ling Sha** (Houston). In addition to a certificate, their deans have generously donated \$100 to each recipient. Congratulations to all on a job well done! Please make sure you read the 2009 Deans' Awards announcement in this newsletter for next year's submission instructions.



Dean's Award Winners

I would like to thank all of the members of the 2008 Graduate Student Leadership Council for their fantastic ideas, hard work, and polite reminders over the past year. With all that we do for our families, jobs, and degrees, it is great to have an outstanding group of people working together towards mutual goals.



Travel Award Winners

I am very excited about the newly elected leadership council, led by the 2009 Graduate Student Representative, Ting-Ling Sha from the University of Houston. They've already had their first meeting in New Orleans, and Ting has been hard at work with the SERA Board on next year's conference on South Padre Island!

Finally, it appears as though the definition of a "typical" graduate student has changed over time. So that the leadership council and SERA can better meet your needs, Ting and I will be sending out a quick survey in the next few weeks. We hope to gather information about how being a graduate student fits in with the other aspects of your life. Please take the time to answer this survey. Thanks in advance!

Until Padre, best of luck on your papers and exams!

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



SERA: A Brief History

The first meeting was held in Spring 1977 at the Faculty Club on the campus of Southern Methodist University in Dallas. The basic question was “Did we want or need a state or regional research association along the lines of AERA? After considerable discussion the answer to the first question was “Yes,” but a resounding “No” to the second. We wanted a kinder, gentler AERA. The first SERA meeting followed in 1978 in Austin.

Our original goals were to:

1. Conduct a meeting for researchers to present and discuss current research;
2. Provide an opportunity to actually learn new things;
3. Provide an opportunity for professional networking;
4. Provide a forum for mentoring future educational researchers and SERA leaders (graduate students);
5. And, provide a place to have some fun.

Have we met these goals? I would say yes to all 5.

Next year we celebrate our 32nd meeting, and are still going strong. SERA is a terrific place to meet and talk with researchers of all ilks. The social events are a great way to network and have fun. Of our 30 presidents I believe at least 12 started as graduate students. In fact, 6 of the last 8 started that way with SERA.

And I believe strongly that we have created a sense of family. As such we rejoice in the

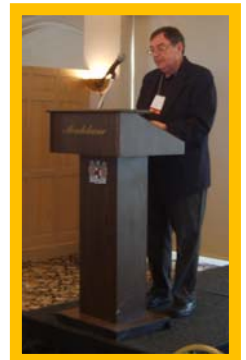


professional and personal successes of our members. And we grieve when we lose our long-standing friends. In recent years there have been several that have left us for a better place.

We continue to strive to improve things for our membership. Recent changes include:

- Website updates
- Improved ways to submit papers and receive notification.
- We have added a graduate student representative to the executive council.
- We have restructured the executive council and added an executive director.
- The treasurer is now appointed as well.
- And we have added a new position to the council to have continuous input on school research issues.

What does it take to become involved? (Remember no one is paid.) Just volunteer your time. It now takes a small army to conduct our annual meeting. Attend the social functions, meet and greet. Talk with our council members and let them know your interests. That’s how easy it is to become involved.



[John Hedl, Historian](#)

On a personal note, I have never missed a SERA meeting in its history. I receive too much from my association on both a professional and personal level. SERA is full of terrific colleagues and friends.

I hope to see everyone next year at our South Padre meeting. Mark your calendars now.
John Hedl

Southwest Educational Research Association

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

**SOUTHWEST
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RESEARCH
ASSOCIATION**

Meet the Board –

[Sonya Carr](#), [Stacey Edmonson](#), & [Linda Zientek](#)

Sonya Carr, Professor

Sonya Carr, Ph.D., is a Professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning at Southeastern Louisiana University. She is also the W.L. Billups Endowed Professor in Special Education. Her research interests currently focus on alternative assessment, differentiated instruction, and teacher induction and mentoring. Sonya is active in the state and national special education community. She was recently elected as a Member-at-Large and serves on the SERA Executive Board for 2008-2010. Sonya has also served SERA as Division V Chair and local arrangements chair (2008 SERA Annual Meeting). She has been a member of SERA since her days as a doctoral student.



*Sonya Carr,
Southeastern
Louisiana
University*

Linda Reichwein Zientek, Assistant Professor

Linda Zientek is an assistant professor of mathematics education at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville Texas. For ten years, she was a community college mathematics instructor. Her research interests include the preparation of high quality mathematics teachers and quantitative research methods. She has presented her research at regional, state, and national conferences. Dr. Zientek has served as president of the Texas Mathematical Association of Two-year Colleges, conference chair for the 2007 American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges Southwest Regional Conference, and as a member of the Texas Community College Teachers Association Legislative Committee and the Texas Higher Education College Readiness Vertical Team. Linda currently serves as the SERA Newsletter Editor.



*Linda Reichwein Zientek
Sam Houston State University*

Stacey Edmonson, Associate Professor

Stacey Edmonson is currently an associate professor and director of the Center for Research and Doctoral Studies in Educational Leadership at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, where she teaches courses including qualitative research, school law, and instructional theory. Formerly, she served as a teacher, principal and central office administrator in Texas public schools. Her scholarship agenda includes stress and burnout among educators, legal issues in education, and educator ethics. She publishes and presents at regional, state, and national conferences on these and related topics. She is also actively engaged in a number of educational leadership organizations at the state and national level, including serving on the executive boards of the Southwest Educational Research Association, the National Council of Professors of Educational Administration, and the Texas Council of Professors of Educational Administration.



*Stacey Edmonson,
Sam Houston State University*

Embedding SERA Participation into the Lamar University Doctoral Program

Sandra Harris, Ph.D.
Director, Center for Doctoral Studies in Educational Leadership
Lamar University
Beaumont, Texas

Lamar University started a new EdD program in educational leadership in the fall 2004, which emphasized Higher Education, Multicultural/Diversity, and Effective Schools as cognates. The program is designed around a scholar-practitioner model and most of the students are full-time employed at different levels of K-16 schools. While all of the students have attended different practitioner conferences for professional development, few, if any, have ever attended a research conference, such as SERA.

The culminating activity of the Lamar doctoral cohort program is writing and defending a traditional dissertation. However, because students are practitioners and have little experience as researchers, doctoral faculty decided that attending a research conference early in their experience as doctoral students would be essential. With this in mind, we required members in the first cohort when they were in their second year of the program to submit proposals to present at the SERA conference in Austin in 2005. The students found the experience informative and helpful. When we returned from that experience, students gave powerful feedback about the positive value of such a conference. Students discovered ideas for dissertation research. They met students from other universities and developed friendships that resulted in sharing research ideas. They also talked of the value of spending time with fellow cohort members away from the university classroom setting.

Because of the positive feedback from students about SERA attendance, as we continued to evaluate the doctoral program and revise the program, we implemented the following policy:

First and second year cohort students are required to attend SERA. First year students go to observe. Second year cohort students are required to submit a research proposal and present their paper if it is accepted. Third year students, at dissertation stage, are encouraged to submit a proposal and attend, but this is not required.

We tell the students about this requirement when they interview for the program. We provide them with the conference dates and location as soon as these are available. Since our program has a week-end meeting format, we include the SERA conference as one of the nine required doctoral week-ends. In other words, we build SERA participation into our program.

Each year, when we return from SERA, I invite students to provide feedback about the conference. The comments below are a sample from this year's 36 Lamar University doctoral students who attended SERA.

- I found it very enlightening as to how the process of research and publishing works.
- In one word – Fantastic! My evolution over the two years is really amazing. I now have a much greater understanding of the research process.
- While I have attended many conferences, never have I attended one quite like SERA. Every session I had the opportunity to attend was packed with information that if applied could lead to a better educational situation for all. People of all ages, races, and cultural experience were represented this week. This allowed me to see problems through their eyes as well as possible solutions.
- The value of the SERA trip is worth restating. It was a good time for the cohort and I heard even more quality research presented than I remembered from the year before.

- I enjoyed the format for the presentations--and I was able to learn about a wider array of topics and research styles.
- I enjoyed the conference for the same reason I enjoy our cohort. There are many views of the world being discussed and researched in a conference setting such as SERA.
- I enjoyed the conference. It was a different format from the various conferences I usually attend. There was something for everyone in this conference. The information presented was great and the papers we collected shall be great for examples to follow. The one major thing that I came away with was confidence. I look forward to presenting next year.
- The topics were very interesting and I enjoyed the networking with other doctoral students. I also liked the way the sessions were organized into topics.
- Because I attended last year's conference I knew what to expect. Many of the session topics related to areas that we have discussed in our doctoral courses and were very interesting.
- I collected more papers this year than last. But I think most importantly, I felt like I belonged there. I spoke to students that I remembered from last year and I even made a few comments to presenters regarding their work.
- Overall, it was a great conference and I really enjoyed it. I intend on attending next year!
- I particularly enjoyed going to hear papers presented about topics I am interested in studying. The papers are good resources because of the references. Attending this helped my self-confidence somewhat.
- Attending SERA was also a unity building experience within the cohort group. It is an equalizer because we experience something unique together in comparison to most of our past experiences. Those that we experience it with have been and will always be held closer in our hearts and minds as a result. I have never been to any type of conference quite like this...I am glad to have had the opportunity.
- It was interesting to see the types of research being done by others and the presentations gave me additional ideas to use as I begin to plan my own research. I also have a clearer understanding about how to present next year. The format is quite different from what I've seen at previous conferences. I also realized how important it is for me to learn more of the language and procedures for research.
- I was intrigued by the information presented and developed many ideas for research. With the short sessions, I gathered data on many different aspects of the educational system, all of which will make me a more informed administrator. I'm ready to present next year!
- This was my first experience attending a research conference. I enjoyed the range of topics and I liked the way they were categorized or themed together.
- Thanks again for including us in this experience – it was worth the time and efforts. And I loved being with our cohort. What another great way to build relationships and collegiality!
- This was my first SERA conference, so I was not sure what to expect. I truly enjoyed seeing my colleagues from Lamar and other universities present their papers.
- It was great to have an opportunity to hear people from around the region present findings of their recently completed or ongoing research. One thinks one has a fairly good grasp on how wide the fields of educational research, but attending a conference like SERA tends to expand those horizons and shrink one's vantage point.
- Overall, I was surprised at the amount of information available and realized that, like a tourist's first visit to Paris; one never gets to see it all.
- Now I look at this conference and the possibility of presenting as an honor for doctoral students.

Building attendance at SERA into our doctoral program has been a valuable experience for students and for faculty as well. This is a great way to introduce students to a more formal world of research and at the same time build community within the cohort and across universities.

SOUTHWEST EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE
2009 ANNUAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 4 - FEBRUARY 7, 2009
SHERATON SOUTH PADRE ISLAND BEACH HOTEL
SOUTH PADRE, TEXAS**

Program Chair:

Mary Margaret Capraro
Texas A&M
Department of Teaching, Learning, and Culture
College Station, TX 77843-4232
979/845-8227
mmcapraro@tamu.edu

GENERAL INFORMATION

The 32nd Annual Meeting of the Southwest Educational Research Association will be held
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4 THROUGH SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2009
at the Sheraton South Padre Island Beach Hotel, 310 Padre Boulevard · South Padre Island, Texas 78597.
[Ph.: 979/845-8227].

Driving Directions to the Hotel:

From North

Take U.S. 77/83 southeast to Exit Highway 100. Travel east to the end of Isabella Causeway, and the hotel is 1 block south on Padre Boulevard.

From West

Take U.S. 77/83 southeast to Exit Highway 100. Travel east to the end of Queen Isabella Causeway and proceed south 1 block on Padre Boulevard.

From South

Take Highway 48 northeast to Junction Highway 100. Travel east to the end of Queen Isabella Causeway and proceed south 1 block on Padre Boulevard.

Both members and non-members may submit proposals for consideration. 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 **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2008**. 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 Monday, OCTOBER 13, 2008) of the proposal submission deadline.

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, 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 13th, 2008 will be rejected**. Payment of registration is a precondition for proposal review, and payments ARE NOT under any circumstances refundable unless all a proposer's submissions are 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 4TH 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. 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) pages in length. Make sure your abstract is descriptive of your session since it will be used in the program.

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

Tutorials provide an opportunity to provide instruction and/or information on a specific topic to the audience in a paper-type format of approximately 12 minutes. Like the paper session format, sessions will be organized around specific topic areas selected by the Program Committee. To propose a paper for 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 Seminars 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. (NOTE: Completed research by graduate students is *not* appropriate for these seminars.) 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.

Graduate students are encouraged to submit **ALL RESEARCH EXCEPT Thesis or Dissertation Research In Progress TO ONE OF THE OTHER DIVISIONS, I through V**. Division VI is (a) only for graduate students and (b) only for thesis or dissertation research in progress (i.e., not completed), while Divisions I through V are for BOTH faculty and students presenting all other research.

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 19, 2009**.

*Conference registration and payment is required within one month of proposal submission.
All presenters must register for the annual meeting.*

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 15-20 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 13, 2008**) of the proposal submission deadline. The **proposals of any persons not completing both conference registration and payment BY OCTOBER 13th, 2008 will be rejected**.

SUBMIT PROPOSALS ONLINE AT: [HTTP://WWW.SERA-EDRESEARCH.ORG/](http://www.sera-edresearch.org/)

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 with queries.

Division

Division Chairs

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

Sandra Harris
drsandy@flash.net

Judith Ann Adkison
adkison@unt.edu

II. Instruction, Learning & Cognition

G. Don Allen
dallen@math.tamu.edu

Dianne Goldsby
dgoldsb@neo.tamu.edu

III. Methodology, Measurement & Evaluation

Jason King
jasonk@bcm.tmc.edu

Tommy De Vaney
tdevaney@selu.edu

IV. Teachers & Teacher Education

Shirley Matteson
matteshi@earthlink.net

Patricia Watson
patricia.watson@ttu.edu

V. Special Populations & Counseling

Sonya Carr
scarr@selu.edu

Elsa Cantu-Ruiz
ecruiz@utsa.edu

VI. Graduate Student Seminars for Work in Progress

LaVonne Williams
kflck00@tamuk.edu

Martha L. Tapia
mtapia@berry.edu

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 Professional Development	Technology
Drug Education	Language		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 15, 2008)
using the SERA website at: <http://www.sera-edresearch.org>**

2009 SERA OUTSTANDING PAPER AWARD

Authors are encouraged to revise and submit five (5) copies of the paper submitted for presentation at the 2009 annual meeting to the SERA Executive Director, Bruce Thompson, for **RECEIPT by noon on THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2009**. 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 2009 American Educational Research Association. A stipend of \$500 to help defray the costs involved in attending the 2009 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 must be submitted to the Executive Director for consideration. E-mailed digital copies are NOT accepted.
- 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 the 2009 SERA Outstanding Paper Award competition by POSTAL/COURRIER SERVICE ONLY to:

BRUCE THOMPSON, SERA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2009 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/>

2009 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 Program Chair to be **RECEIVED BY 5:00 P.M. FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2009**. The award winner will be announced at the SERA luncheon on Thursday, February 5, 2009. Please note that the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award competition is for **completed** graduate student research (i.e., **ONLY** Division I-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 (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 Program Chair must **receive** completed papers on or before the **January 16, 2009**, 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 **ONLY** for **completed** graduate student research.

*Send completed papers for the 2009 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award competition by **E-MAIL ATTACHMENT ONLY** to:*

Robert M. Capraro, Ph.D.

E-mail: rcapraro@tamu.edu

2009 SERA DEANS' AWARDS FOR EXCEPTIONAL GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH

Fourteen \$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 these universities again choose to participate: *Texas Tech University, the University of North Texas, Sam Houston State University, Lamar University, Texas A & M Kingsville, 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 2009 SERA annual meeting. Student authors should **electronically submit** completed papers to the SERA graduate student representative. Papers must be

RECEIVED BY 5:00 P.M. CST, FRIDAY, December 19, 2008.

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

The awards will be announced at the SERA luncheon on Thursday, February 5, 2009.

Rules for the Deans' Awards Competition:

- The SERA graduate student representative **must receive** completed papers on or before the December 19, 2008 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 5:00 P.M. CST, Friday, December 19, 2008, please contact the graduate student representative immediately by email.

Send completed papers for the 2009 Deans' Awards **by E-MAIL ATTACHMENT ONLY** to:

Ting-Ling Sha
SERA Graduate Student Representative
University of Houston
tsha@uh.edu