



SERA Newsletter

Co-Editors:

Julia Ballenger, Stephen F. Austin State University, and Kim Nimon, University of North Texas

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

Fall 2009

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A research association serving educators, researchers, and professors of education.

The Pres Says ...



Your SERA Board has been busy preparing for the 33rd Annual Meeting at the Monteleone Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Make sure you have saved the date on your calendar. You can find out about hotel reservations and meeting pre-registration elsewhere in this newsletter. I look forward to seeing every member at the annual meeting!

Many thanks to Linda Zientek, President-Elect and Program Chair, for her hard work, and endless hours of coordination with the Program Division Chairs. We also thank the conscientious proposal reviewers. Examining the proposals submissions, we are expecting outstanding attendance at the conference. Be sure to check the SERA website for the conference schedule sometime in December.

We are proud and honored that Catherine Snow will be the President's Invited Speaker. Her talk will immediately follow the luncheon and this is something you will want to attend. Sonya Carr, Local Arrangements Chair, has worked closely with the hotel staff, planning a superb experience and a delicious luncheon! Please note the

deadlines in the newsletter for hotel reservations and meeting preregistration. As in the past two years, if you do not register by the deadline your proposal will be rejected.

SERA depends on the commitment and active involvement of its members. Many have served as division chairs and reviewers for the proposals this year and we are adding new seats to our board. During the conference, each graduate student session will have a discussant, the discussant's duties include introduction, time management, but most importantly to facilitate discussion and provide insights; all other sessions will have a presenter designated as chair and whose role will be introducing the presenters and time-keeper. If time permits, the chair may also wish to facilitate discussion regarding the presentations. **Do not** wait to be asked!

Consider submitting your paper to the **Outstanding Paper Award**. Graduate students can submit their paper to the **Outstanding Graduate Paper Award** and **Deans Paper Award**.

See you in February!! Plan on coming early and enjoying Mardi Gras in New Orleans!! Party but not too hard so you can still have an enjoyable conference!

Mary Margaret Capraro

SERA President

Texas A&M University

2010 SERA Annual Meeting

New Orleans, LA
February 17-20, 2010

Program Chair

The planning for the 2010 Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana at the Hotel Monteleone 214 Rue Royale, New Orleans is well underway. An incredible number of diverse proposals have been submitted. In total, there were 309 proposals. The division chairs are ensuring that all proposals are receiving a fair review. The reviews and the Division Chairs' acceptance decisions will be made available at the end of October, and the draft program will be posted on the SERA web-page for review the first week in December.

We are very excited to have two training sessions being offered this year. The first is offered on Wednesday afternoon, which is the first day of the SERA annual meeting in New Orleans and is entitled "Quantitative Consultation for Researchers." During this session, **Robin Henson** (University of North Texas) will lead a panel of consultants, which include UNT professors **Darrell Hull, Kim Nimon, and Abbas Tashakkori**, and researchers will receive two hours of quantitative consultation that will enable them to apply knowledge learned to their own data set. The fee for the Wednesday session is \$30.

A second session begins on Friday afternoon and continues on Saturday morning. During the Friday afternoon session, **Tammi Vacha-Haase** and **Robin Henson** will provide an introduction to the measurement meta-analytic method called "Reliability Generalization". During the Saturday morning session, **Victor Willson** will provide a "Gentle Introduction to Meta-Analysis

of Substantive Issues". The fee for the Friday/Saturday session is \$60. Workshops will also be provided during the conference.

We are excited to have **Catherine Snow**, Henry Lee Shattuck Professor of Education from the **Harvard Graduate School of Education** and Past-President of the American Educational Research Association, as the 2010 SERA Presidential Invited Speaker. More information about Dr. Snow and the training sessions can be found in the newsletter. Graduate students will have an opportunity to participate in a Fireside Chat with **Catherine Snow**. This is an opportunity for informal interaction limited only to Graduate Students.

Graduate Students should also remember to get your Outstanding Student Paper Award submission to **Mary Margaret Capraro** no later than 5:00 pm January 11, 2010. The graduate paper award winner will be announced at the annual luncheon.

The SERA board looks forward to seeing each of you this year in New Orleans for another wonderful event for SERA members. We hope you enjoy this opportunity to share research findings and form collaborations with researchers in your field.

Linda Reichwein Zientek

*Program Chair/President-Elect
Sam Houston State University*

Division	Submitted
I. Educational Administration, Policy, Leadership, & Program Evaluation	85
II. Instruction, Learning & Cognition	58
III. Methodology, Measurement & Evaluation	70
IV. Teachers & Teacher Education	34
V. Special Populations & Counseling	12
VI. Graduate Student Seminars for Work in Progress	50

Graduate Student News

Greetings fellow graduate students! While the fall semester is in full swing now, the spring semester and the SERA conference will be here before we know it. Your graduate leadership council is in the process of contacting deans about renewing their participation in the Deans' awards. Also, at the recent board meeting, the board graciously approved some changes that will put more \$\$\$ in students' pockets! Please read below for the many exciting things we have to look forward to.

Staying Connected

Recently I created a Face Book (FB) Group (SERA Students) for those of you who would like to get updates and stay in touch via FB. Even though after the conference I will no longer represent the SERA in my current role, the FB group can be available for the incoming graduate representative. If you have a FB account, join us!

Getting Together in New Orleans

Make plans to attend New Orleans' Rock 'n' Bowl on Thursday, February 18, 2010. We will meet in the hotel lobby about 7:30 pm to share cab rides. Thursday is Zydeco night. Come meet new people, reconnect with old friends, relax and have fun!!!

Give-A-ways

Donated books and journals will be given away to selected graduate students. You must come to the Graduate Student Meeting to be a winner!

Also make sure to *attend the luncheon* as the board has graciously increased the number of single room nights given away to students who are *staying at the Hotel Monteleone* to 15 room nights! (That means **15** luncheon student attendees who are staying at the Hotel Monteleone will get one of their room nights *FREE!!!*)

Award Opportunities

Remember to send me your paper by Monday, January 11, 2010 to be considered for the Dean's Award and a \$100 prize!!! You can also submit your paper for the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award by Monday, January 11, 2010 for a prize of \$500 (doubled prize amount from last year!!!) You can even submit to the Outstanding Paper of the Year Award by Monday, February 22,

2010 for a prize of \$1000! (doubled prize amount from last year!!!) See the 2009 SERA Spring newsletter for complete details.

Especially for Grad Students

Is your vita the best it can be? Could you use some tips from experienced faculty search committee members from various universities? Join us for a *CV training session*. You can even bring your own CV for an opportunity to get some feedback from expert faculty members!

And if you are preparing your CV, perhaps you are also gearing up to look for a job in higher education? Need some tips for negotiating the job search process? Join us as we learn to navigate through the maze of the job search through job negotiation process in the third annual *After the Dissertation: Finding a Job in Higher Education*.

Traditionally the SERA has an invited renowned expert in the field that serves as the Presidential speaker and also holds a *fireside chat exclusively for graduate students*. **Catherine Snow** is the SERA 2010 Presidential speaker from the Harvard Graduate School who will share her time and expertise with us at the graduate student fireside chat. In addition, we are also honored to have **Tammi Vacha-Haase**, Reliability Generalization Training Session co-presenter, from Colorado State University sharing her time and expertise in a *second* fireside chat!!!

Finally, please remember that universities with strong attendance at the SERA are eligible to elect members to the Graduate Leadership Council. The current council members are **Brian Abel** (Lamar), **Maria Benzon** (UH), **Anita Klierer** (UNT), **Lisa Peterson** (A&M), **Andrea Stehle** (At-Large), **Michelle Williams** (SFA), and **Amani Zaier** (TXTech). If you would like to be a part of SERA, this is a great opportunity. Ask any of the council members for more information.

I look forward to seeing everyone in New Orleans!!!

Susan Troncoso Skidmore

*Graduate Student Representative
Texas A&M University*

SERA 2010 Training Sessions

Wednesday Training: "Quantitative Consultation for Researchers"



Kicking off the 2010 SERA annual meeting in New Orleans, a panel of UNT professors will provide 2 hours of quantitative consultation for researchers. Participants will present specific research scenarios for the panel to consider. Partici-

pants will simultaneously learn about data analysis while applying the knowledge to their own datasets. Of course, participants may also elect to participate simply to listen to the dialog of the consultations, and need not have their own data. Led by **Robin Henson**, the panel includes professors **Qi Chen, Darrell Hull, Prathiba Natesan, Kim Nimon, and Abbas Tashakkori.**

Friday/Saturday Training: "Gentle Intro to Meta-Analysis"

The 2010 SERA annual meeting in New Orleans will close with a Friday afternoon/Saturday morning training session on meta-analytic techniques. A meta-analysis is a study of previous studies, rather than a study of people.



The **Friday afternoon** session will be an introduction to the measurement meta-analytic method called "Reliability Generalization" (RG), and *will assume no previous training* in conducting RG. RG studies investigate (a) typical (e.g., mean, median) score reliability for a measure across studies, (b) how variable or stable score reliability for a measure is across studies, and (c) what design or sampling conditions predict variability in score reliability.

The "RG" meta-analysis training will be conducted by Tammi Vacha-Haase, *Colorado State University*, and Robin Henson, *University of North Texas*. **Tammi Vacha-Haase** invented "RG" in her seminal 1998 article in *Educational and Psychological Methods*. That article, and a companion article published in 2000, have been cited 129 and 124 times, respectively!!! **Robin Henson** also has published influential articles. For example, his 2001 article in *Measurement and Evaluation in Counsel-*

ing and Development has been cited 200 times!!!

The **Saturday morning** session will be "A Gentle Introduction to Meta-Analysis of Substantive Issues" (e.g., whether or not "talk therapy" works in treating depression, whether or not smaller class sizes improve student achievement). Again, *no prior knowledge* of meta-analysis will be assumed in the Saturday morning introduction.



The Saturday morning meta-analysis session will be conducted by Victor Willson, *Texas A&M University*. **Victor Willson** was a Ph.D. student of Gene Glass, who most people credit as having invented meta-analysis, and popularizing meta-analysis in his 1976 AERA presidential address. Victor is the author of 118 articles and author/editor of 5 books, including (with Glass and Gottman) *The design and analysis of time-series experiments*. He has served on numerous editorial boards, including [American Educational Research Journal](#), [Learning and Individual Differences](#), [Scientific Study of Reading](#), [Reading Psychology](#), [Reading Online](#), and [Journal of Literacy Research](#).

Membership News

Hugh F. Morris, the University of North Florida, has received preliminary approval to proceed with "Factors which influence capital funding at selected universities within Florida." The formal proposal has not yet been made.

SERA 2010 Presidential Invited Address

Catherine Snow



The 2010 SERA Presidential Invited Address will be presented by **Catherine Snow**, Harvard Graduate School of Education. Her presentation is titled, "Classroom Discussion: Powerful, Engaging, and Rare." Cath-

erine will also meet in a scheduled informal "Fire-side Chat" **limited only to Graduate Students**, to talk with students about whatever questions or interests they may have.

Catherine E. Snow is an educational psychologist who has contributed significantly to theories of bilingualism and language acquisition through parent-child interaction. More recently, Snow's research has focused on early childhood literacy, investigating linguistic and social factors that contribute to or detract from literacy. With Brian MacWhinney, Snow founded the Child Language Data Exchange System (CHILDES) database, a corpus of children's speech used by numerous language acquisition researchers. Snow is a Professor of Education in the Harvard Graduate School of Education and past president of the American Educational Research Association (2000-2001).

Dr. Snow is an expert on language and literacy development in children, focusing on how oral language skills are acquired and how they relate

to literacy outcomes. Snow has chaired two national panels: the National Academy of Sciences committee that prepared the report "Preventing Reading Difficulties in Young Children," and the Rand Reading Study Group that prepared "Reading for Understanding: Toward an R&D Program in Reading Comprehension." Her research activities include a longitudinal study of language and literacy skills among low-income children who have been followed for 15 years since age three; following the language development of young children participating in the Early Head Start intervention; studying the vocabulary development of first- and second-language learners; and considering aspects of transfer from first to second language in the domains of language and literacy. Her book, *Preparing Our Teachers: Opportunities for Better Reading Instruction*, is one of several efforts she is involved in to develop consensus among teacher-educators about what pre- and in-service elementary teachers need to know about language and literacy. Snow has also written about bilingualism and its relation to language policy issues such as bilingual education in the United States and in developing nations, and about testing policy. She is currently involved in efforts to improve middle-school literacy outcomes, in partnership with other Boston area researchers and the Boston Public Schools.

Election News

I am pleased to announce the most diverse slate of potential candidates in SERA history. This year's nominating committee put forth an incredible slate. However, the committee's job is very difficult. To help the committee, please consider self nominating. It is really hard for the committee to predict who will or will not be interested in serving on the SERA Board. A great deal of time is spent checking to determine if potential candidates are interested. So to improve efficiency, self-nomination make someone's interest explicit

and reduces the work of the committee - only considering those who are both interested, committed, and willing to serve. If you see members of SERA at the upcoming conference, feel free to express your interest in running for the board! Look for your ballots in the mail in two weeks - please vote.

Robert M. Capraro

Past-President

Texas A&M University

SERA 2010 Conference Preview

2010 SERA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, February 17-20, 2010

We are looking forward to the 2010 SERA Annual Meeting in New Orleans at the Hotel Monteleone. In addition to encouraging you to participate in the many professional opportunities available, we want to urge you to take advantage of what the city has to offer! There is so much for you to do in February. The joy for living that you find in much of the South is very evident in New Orleans. You'll experience this joy in our food and our music, and in the people you meet.

In the French Quarter you will find wonderful shops, restaurants, historic homes, and museums. You should consider a visit to the Historic New Orleans Collection on Royal St. (free), the 1850 House, and the wonderful Mardi Gras exhibit at the Presbytere (both part of the Louisiana State Museum Complex). Often on week-ends you can find free live music performances at the New Orleans Jazz National Historic Park or the Louisiana Music Factory. You can also easily walk to Snug Harbor, the House of Blues, and other music clubs.

Other ideas? Relax in the courtyard of the historic Napoleon House, take a carriage ride through the French Quarter, or go on a Haunted History walking tour. A short walk or streetcar ride away you

can visit the Audubon Insectarium, Southern Food & Beverage Museum (SoFAB in the Riverwalk), Aquarium of the Americas, Children's Museum (in the warehouse district), Ogden Museum of Southern Art, National World War II Museum, and the world-class Audubon Zoo. A short (free) ferry ride away you can visit Blaine Kern's Mardi Gras World in Algiers. Mississippi River cruises are also available.

We invite you to explore! Your support means a lot to the residents of New Orleans. You can find more information by visiting the New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau website <http://www.neworleanscvb.com/>

Laissez les bons temps rouler

Sonya Carr

Local Arrangements Chair

SERA Member-At-Large

Southeastern Louisiana University



Board Members, Appointments and Terms

President: 2009-2010

Mary M. Capraro, Texas A&M University

Executive Director: Lifetime

Bruce Thompson, Texas A&M University

President-Elect: 2009-2010

Linda Zientek, Sam Houston State University

Treasurer:

Kathleen Mittag, University of Texas - San Antonio

Past-President: 2009-2010

Robert Capraro, Texas A&M University

Secretary: 2009-2011

Kim Bilica, University of Texas - San Antonio

Historian:

John J. Hedl, University of Texas SW Medical Center - Dallas

Membership Chair:

Vince Paredes

Newsletter Editors:

Kim Nimon, University of North Texas

Julia Ballenger, Stephen F. Austin State University

Graduate Student Representative: 2009-2010

Susan Troncoso Skidmore, Texas A&M University

Members-at-Large: 2008-2010

Sonya Carr, Southeastern Louisiana University

Stacey Edmonson, Sam Houston State University

Jim Hardy, University of Texas - Arlington

Members-at-Large: 2009-2012

Shirley Matteson, University of Texas - San Antonio

Bill Jasper, Sam Houston State University

Elsa Ruiz, University of Texas - San Antonio

Book Reviews

Theoharis, G. (2009). *The school leaders our children deserve: Seven keys to equity, social justice, and school reform*. New York: Teachers College Press.

Using the work of actual principals, Theoharis provides an authentic view of the barriers and challenges faced by school leaders committed to a social justice-oriented agenda. The descriptions of what the principals achieved through their commitment, why they did it, what barriers they faced, and how they sustained themselves both personally and professionally provide a convincing account of both the costs and rewards of school leadership grounded in social justice. As a product of the analysis of the actions and words of the participating principals, Theoharis provides a framework for leadership that places social justice leadership traits and consciousness at the core, surrounded by specific challenges, such as improving core teaching and curriculum and advancing inclusion.

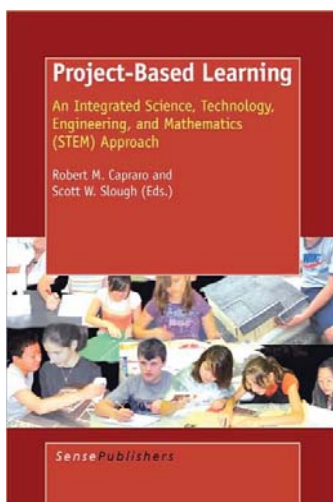
Part of the appeal of the book is its unique description and definition of characteristics that resonate with any school leader who shares a

commitment to equity. One of the characteristics, resilience, receives an entire chapter of review and reflection as Theoharis examines how the principals within the study sustained themselves professionally and personally while they undertook the tasks connected with social justice leadership. Theoharis' succinct review of social justice literature, concrete examples of social justice leadership, and authentic consideration of the outcomes of social justice leadership afford current and future educators a lucid view of the processes involved in school reform focused on equity for all students.

Janet Shefelbine, Ph.D

*Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership
University of Texas - Brownsville
Brownsville, TX*

Capraro, R. M., & Slough, S. W. (Eds.). (2008). *Project-based learning: An integrated science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) approach*. Rotterdam, The Netherlands: Sense.



The actual doing of Project-Based Learning (PBL) within STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) classrooms at the secondary level is the primary focus of this book. However, that does not explain why a group of faculty and graduate students here at Texas A&M University have gotten

involved in PBL. The authors of each chapter deeply and strongly believe that it is possible to have both equity and excellence in all of our K-12 schools, regardless of who the students are who attend these schools. By equity, they mean schools that do not have achievement gaps

based on race, ethnicity, language or culture, ability, income level, or gender, and by excellence; they mean that virtually all children can reach high standards in STEM classrooms. Equity and excellence in ALL of our schools with ALL of our children is the book's vision and the reader's challenge. The authors hope that this book will provide the reader with some key tools for working on this dream. A companion book with teacher friendly PBL ideas and lessons will be published in 2010.

Mary Margaret Capraro, Ph.D

*Assistant Professor Mathematics Education
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX*

Meet the Board



Susan Troncoso Skidmore - Graduate Student Representative

Doctoral Candidate

Texas A&M University, College Station

Susan Troncoso Skidmore is currently a doctoral candidate in the Department of Educational Psychology in Research, Measurement and Statistics at Texas A&M University. In the spring, she will join the faculty of the Department of Psychology and Anthropology at the University of Texas Pan American. Her research interests include statistical technique usage in the literature, effect sizes, and experimental and quasi-experimental designs. She joined SERA in 2008 and currently serves as the SERA graduate student representative.



Kathleen Cage Mittag - Treasurer

Professor

The University of Texas at San Antonio

Kathleen Cage Mittag is a professor in the mathematics department at The University of Texas at San Antonio specializing in mathematics education. She is currently treasurer of SERA and was 2004-2005 president, board member for several years as well as local arrangements chair for four SERA conferences. SERA awarded her the first Outstanding Service Award in 2007. She has presented papers and workshops at 126 international, national, regional and state conferences as well as consulting at many school districts on curricular and pedagogical issues.



John Hedl - SERA historian

Professor

UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas

John has been with SERA since its inception in 1977. Having served as a member of the original founding group he was the association's fifth president. And he has been involved ever since, attending all annual meetings. John is professor of health education and research at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.



Vince Paredes - Membership Chair

Strategic Development Architect

Schools Interoperability Framework Association, Austin, Texas

Vince Paredes is currently the Strategic Development Architect for the Schools Interoperability Framework Association (SIFA). Vince is leading the development of a comprehensive PK-12 data model for education under a contract with the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

Vince was most recently Vice President of Research and Development for ESP Solutions Group in Austin. Vince holds a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from The University of Texas at Austin. He is a past president of SERA, a former high school band director, and manages the membership database for SERA.

Join SERA

To join SERA, please contact Vince Paredes (vparedes@sifassociation.org).