



# SERA Newsletter

**Spring 2009**

## Special Interest Articles:

- [The Pres Says](#)

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*Presentation of award for Mary Margart Capraro's presidency by Robert Capraro*

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

## The Pres Says ...

We experienced another successful conference in San Antonio on the Riverwalk. For the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting we had over 375 presenters – a record number! Sessions were full and many compliments were heard about the quality of the research presented. The 12 Division Chairs did an outstanding job reviewing all the proposals in a shortened time frame due to Hurricane Ike. Thanks to president, Robert Capraro, for leading the conference and making it a huge success. Each of our two workshops were attended by over 25 participants. The attendees are now more versed in *Structural Equation Modeling* and *How to More Effectively Write a Literature Review* thanks to our scholarly presenters. Behind the scenes at each conference is Bruce Thompson, our executive director, who puts in an amazing amount of hours to keep all of us on track. I personally thank him for all his support and in answering my and many others' endless questions concerning details about the program.

A conference cannot run without the support of so many volunteers. I thank each and every one of them. A special thanks goes to Kathy Mittag for taking care of all the local arrangements. No one understands the amount of time such an undertaking involves until you have walked in her shoes. The luncheon menu was delicious, especially the chocolate pyramid! I cannot thank her enough for making everything run so smoothly. Thanks also to Vince Parades who diligently keeps our membership up to date and accurate. I particularly liked his new format design for the nametags including the tear-off tickets. These tickets were much more efficient for admitting attendees to workshops and the luncheon. The audio-visual committee headed by Kim Bilica did an efficient job of distributing and collecting all projectors before and after each session.

Kyle Roberts kept the website up to date, and all the board members gave of their time at the registration desk. Susan Skidmore organized pictures of all the grad students, which Kyle uploaded to the SERA website.

Next year's meeting will be held at the beautiful Hotel Monteleone in the fun city of New Orleans.



Running February 17-20, the conference begins the day following Mardi Gras! See <http://www.nolafunguide.com/event.php?id=6643> to keep you posted and give you details of the 2010 Mardi Gras celebrations and activities.

The executive board has arranged workshops (one on Applied Research and another on Meta Analysis) and secured Catherine Snow from the Harvard Graduate School as the SERA 2010 Presidential speaker.

Proposals for next year will be due on September 15 (check the Call at the end of the newsletter for more details). The website at [www.sera-edresearch.org](http://www.sera-edresearch.org) is another important source of information about the upcoming conference. Please share it with all your colleagues to make next year even more successful! I hope to see all of you in New Orleans in 2010!!

*Mary Margaret Capraro, SERA President*

## News from Past President

The 2009 SERA meeting is behind us and planning for the 2010 meeting is well under way. I thank all of you who participated in the sessions as attendees, presenters, discussants, or session chairs. Thanks to Mary Margaret Capraro, the program ran smoothly and the conference book was excellent. Hats off to all those, whose behind the scenes work made the conference enjoyable for all. Special thanks to Gil Naizer, past president for his support, Vince Paredes for the incredible improvements to the registration process, Kathy Mittag for the local arrangements, and finally Bruce Thompson, Executive Director, for his support, guidance, and clear perspective - without whom much of what we have come to expect from SERA would not be possible. Finally, it is wonderful to be grounded by those whose vision founded SERA - John Hedl, was presented with the SERA gavel in an impromptu vote of the board in recognitions of his dedication to SERA and because we did not have a gavel when we became president. Our new president was charged with purchasing the new gavel.



Linda Zientek, program chair and president elect, and Sonya Carr, local arrangements chair, are busy with preparations for the 2010 annual meeting in New Orleans. As you may know, this meeting will celebrate our 33<sup>rd</sup> meeting and everyone loves to be in New Orleans around Mardi Gras time.

Let me reflect on the events in SERA's recent past history. In the last two years SERA has had its first woman scholar to provide a training workshop, the board and the Division Chairs have seen greater representation in terms of universities and ethnicities, graduate students continue to enjoy one of the best places on earth to hone presentation skills and they have an expanded presence through the Dean's Awards and established an advisory board to the graduate student representative from which the next graduate student representative is selected. The board has established committees to make the conference more enjoyable for all (see the comments in The Pres Says section of this newsletter). Importantly, the Board took steps to ensure the health and well-being of SERA for years to come by establishing a life-time appointment for the executive director, and developing a transition strategy for the other appointed positions.

SERA has long taken great pride in its role in nurturing the development of educational researchers. I, along with the other members of the board, welcome your input as we seek to continue to meet the needs of our many constituencies.

*Robert M. Capraro, SERA Immediate Past President*

## Board Members, Appointments, and Terms

### President: 2009-2010

Mary M. Capraro, Texas A&M University

### President-Elect: 2009-2010

Linda Zientek, Sam Houston State University

### Past President: 2009-2010

Robert Capraro, Texas A&M University

### Secretary: 2009-2011

Kim Bilica - University of Texas-San Antonio

### 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- Huntsville  
Elsa Ruis, University of Texas-San Antonio

### Executive Director: Lifetime

Bruce Thompson, Texas A&M University

### Treasurer: 2008-2010

Kathleen Mittag, University of Texas-San Antonio

### Graduate Student Representative: 2009-2010

Susan Skidmore, Texas A&M University

### Historian

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

### Membership Chair

Vince Paredes

### Newsletter Editors

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

## Program News – We Look Forward to Seeing you in New Orleans!

The SERA Executive Board hopes to see you in New Orleans for another great SERA conference. The Executive Board is planning several events, including workshops that are designed to help individuals improve their research skills. As noted in The Pres Says article, we are honored to have Catherine Snow as our 2010 SERA Presidential Speaker.

As usual, we will “bookend” the conference with training sessions. We will start the conference with a 2 hour training session on Wednesday. The conference concludes with an 8 hour training session, starting Friday afternoon and continuing through Saturday morning. Wednesday's workshop will focus on Applied Research issues and allow participants to simultaneously learn about data analysis while applying the knowledge to their own datasets. The Friday/Saturday workshop will focus on Meta-Analysis, including Reliability Generalization Measurement Meta-Analysis.

The 2010 call for proposals is included later in this newsletter and has also been posted on the SERA website. Each of you is encouraged to submit a proposal and present at the 2010 conference in New Orleans. Attending the conference is an excellent opportunity for you to share research ideas and learn from ongoing research. Attending the conference allows each of us an opportunity to develop future collaborations and to nurture current collaborations with colleagues within our field.

The conference will be held at the Hotel Monteleone. I would like to extend a special thank you to Sonya Carr who has been diligently making local arrangements this past year. The local arrangements chair is the person who acquires our excellent hotel rates and accommodations, and handles all the logistical challenges (i.e., nightmares) normally associated with holding a large meeting.

*Linda Zientek, SERA Program Chair*



## Sonya Carr's Top 10 Things You MUST Do in New Orleans

1. **Participate in the SERA 2010 Annual Meeting**  
Share your research, learn something new, attend sessions, collaborate with colleagues, meet old friends and make new ones.
2. **Experience the French Quarter**  
The historic French Quarter is comprised of over 100 square blocks of art, dining, shopping, entertainment and architectural treasures.
3. **Take A Musical Journey**  
No city loves music more than New Orleans. The rhythms fill the streets, clubs, churches, and concert halls.
4. **Speak Culturally & Artistically**  
The New Orleans Arts District and Magazine Street are vibrant, diverse neighborhoods alive with galleries, shopping, dining, and special events.
5. **Be Entertained**  
Entertainment, cultural and performing arts options are as unique as the city itself. From comedy to symphony, enjoy it all!

6. **Watch the Parade!**  
Learn about the history, traditions, and pageantry of Mardi Gras and see how the floats are constructed.
7. **Take A Culinary Journey**  
Experience America's most delicious city. You'll wonder why everyone doesn't celebrate this way!
8. **Feast Your Eyes**  
New Orleans is a city rich in living history, traditions, and customs that are woven into the fabric of everyday life.
9. **Explore the Outdoors and More**  
From the Zoo, Aquarium, and Insectarium to year-round golfing, fishing, and more, New Orleans is a true urban resort.
10. **Take A Trip with History**  
Ride the famous St. Charles Avenue Streetcar Lines and enjoy the convenience of the Canal Street and Riverfront lines.

*Photos and Top 10 List are courtesy of the New Orleans Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau.*



## SERA's 2010 Presidential Speaker



Catherine Snow is the Henry Lee Shattuck Professor of Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She received her Ph.D. in psychology from McGill and worked for several years in the linguistics department of the University of Amsterdam. Her research interests include children's language development as influenced by interaction with adults in home and preschool settings, literacy development as related to language skills and as influenced by home and school factors, and issues related to the acquisition of English oral and literacy skills by language minority children. She has co-authored books on language development (e.g., Pragmatic Development with Anat Ninio) and on literacy development (e.g., Unfulfilled Expectations: Home and School Influences on Literacy, with W. Barnes, J. Chandler, I. Goodman & L. Hemphill), and published widely on these topics in referred journals and edited volumes.

## Wednesday Training: Quantitative Consultation for Researchers



Kicking off the 2010 SERA annual meeting in New Orleans, a panel of UNT professors will provide quantitative consultation for researchers. Participants will present specific research scenarios for the panel to consider. Participants will simultaneously learn about data analysis while applying the knowledge to their own datasets. Led by Robin Henson (pictured below), the panel includes professors Darrell Hull, Kim Nimon, and Abbas Tashakkori.

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



Tammi Vach-Haase

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.



Robin Henson

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 "RG" meta-analysis training will be conducted by Tammi Vach-Haase, *Colorado State University*, and Robin Henson, *University of North Texas*. **Tammi Vach-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 Counseling and Development has been cited 200 times!!!



Victor Willson

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. He 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.

## From the Desk of the Executive Director

The **2009 SERA annual meeting** was another rousing success, with a record registration. People seemed to find the sessions intellectually stimulating, and the Riverwalk fun. Our Local Arrangements Chair, Kathy Mittag, again did a great job getting things organized, and Vince Paredes, the SERA Membership Chair, also did a great job getting badges organized and the printers and computers talking to each other. Other highlights of the our 32nd annual meeting in San Antonio were:

Invited Presidential Speaker Bob Linn, a former President of both AERA and NCME, gave an informative lecture, and also met informally in the annual "Fireside Chat" exclusively for the graduate students. Some students had not previously heard of the **National Academy of Education (NAE)**, of which Bob is a member, so students got to interact personally with a living, walking, talking, NAE member!

Susan Skidmore, now the SERA Graduate Student Representative on the SERA Board of Directors,

organized digital photos being taken of all student presenters. These photos are posted at: <http://www.sera-edresearch.org/grads/>! Hopefully, the students will make this an annual event.

The **2010 SERA annual meeting**, our 33rd, will be in New Orleans, at the Monteleone Hotel in the French Quarter, and will begin the Wednesday after Mardi Gras 2010. The New Orleans venue is always extremely popular, because the food is so great, and the entertainment is so varied. For example, the last time SERA was in The Big Easy, the students organized an evening trip over to the "Rock 'N Bowl," which brings together adult beverages, Cajun music, and dancing in bowling shoes. It sounds crazy, but it works!.

The Call for Papers for the New Orleans meeting will soon be posted on the SERA web site. Keep your eyes peeled!

*Bruce Thompson, SERA Executive Director*



*Bob Linn (left) addresses SERA Graduate Students (center and right) at the annual Fireside Chat*

## Graduate Student News

I am so thankful for the exciting opportunity to serve as the 2010 SERA graduate student representative. It is truly an honor to serve my fellow graduate students especially in an organization such as SERA that is so supportive of graduate student development, mentorship and research. If you are new to SERA, *Welcome!* I trust you will soon recognize why this is such an exciting organization to be a part of. If you are a SERA 'veteran', I hope you will not only continue to benefit from the numerous networking, development, and training opportunities afforded by SERA but consider taking on leadership roles such as mentoring, joining the graduate student council, serving as a reviewer, or any of the numerous other service opportunities.

I truly enjoyed meeting many of you in San Antonio and look forward to meeting many more throughout

the year and at our 2010 SERA conference in New Orleans. I would like to thank our immediate past graduate student representative, Ting-Ling Sha, for all her support and efforts to make the 2009 conference such a wonderful experience for all. Ting-Ling continues to provide direction and support as I transition into my new leadership role. In addition, it is important to recognize the behind-the-scenes efforts that the entire graduate leadership council engages in throughout the year to make each conference successful. Please consider joining the team next year!

I would like to extend a big thank you to all the students that helped me with the picture taking! Our goal was to take a picture of EVERY primary author that was a graduate student. It was a task that required teamwork, patience, and flexibility.

## Graduate Student News (continued)

The 2009 SERA photography group was Sencer Corlu from Texas A&M University, Hsien-Yuan (Mark) Hsu from Texas A&M University, Anita Kliewer from University of North Texas, Gabrielle Ligon-Polk from University of Houston, Suzanne Lindt from University of Houston, Serkan Ozel from Texas A&M University, Lisa Peterson from Texas A&M University, and Ting-Ling Sha from University of Houston. I am working hard to have those pictures up on the website soon. Just think, years later, when we are all hugely successful academicians, practitioners or industry leaders, we can look back and remember where it all began! I also would like to thank everyone that was so patient with us as we snapped away pictures. If you have any other pictures from the conference that you would like

to share please feel free to send those to your university's leadership council representative, at-large member or myself. Early Friday morning at SERA, the new 2010 leadership council members met along with our Graduate Student Advisor, Dr. Jim Hardy and, our Transition GSR Advisor, Ting-Ling Sha. The enthusiasm at our new leadership council meeting was truly energizing. Leadership council members are ready to make SERA 2010 an enjoyable experience for all graduate students. Please remember we are here to serve you but we cannot serve your needs if you don't share your needs or ideas with us! Please contact us with your ideas about how to make SERA the best experience it can be for everyone involved.

*Susan Skidmore, SERA Graduate Student Rep.*

## Graduate Student Council and Advisors

 <p><b>Brian Abel</b> Lamar University Rep Dept of Developmental Studies Adjunct Instructor <a href="mailto:bbabel@my.lamar.edu">bbabel@my.lamar.edu</a></p>	 <p><b>Maria Benzon</b> University of Houston Rep College of Education Dept of Educational Psychology Individual Differences <a href="mailto:marlabenzon1974@yahoo.com">marlabenzon1974@yahoo.com</a></p>
 <p><b>Anita Kliewer</b> University of North Texas Rep College of Education Dept of Educational Psychology Project S.T.A.R.S. Autism Research <a href="mailto:Anita.Kliewer@unt.edu">Anita.Kliewer@unt.edu</a></p>	 <p><b>Lisa Peterson</b> Texas A&amp;M University Rep College of Education &amp; Human Development Dept of Educational Psychology School Psychology <a href="mailto:lisa0012@tamu.edu">lisa0012@tamu.edu</a></p>
 <p><b>Andrea Stehle</b> Walden University At-Large Rep <a href="mailto:magistrastehle@yahoo.com">magistrastehle@yahoo.com</a></p>	 <p><b>Michelle Williams</b> Stephen F. Austin State University Rep Dept of Elementary Education Educational Leadership Program <a href="mailto:williamsdm@sfasu.edu">williamsdm@sfasu.edu</a></p>
 <p><b>Amani Zaier</b> Texas Tech University Rep College of Education Dept of Educational Psychology <a href="mailto:amani.zaier@ttu.edu">amani.zaier@ttu.edu</a></p>	 <p><b>Susan Skidmore</b> Graduate Student Rep Texas A&amp;M University College of Education &amp; Human Development Dept of Educational Psychology Research, Measurement &amp; Statistics <a href="mailto:sskidmore@tamu.edu">sskidmore@tamu.edu</a></p>
 <p><b>Ting-Ling Sha</b> Transition GSR Advisor University of Houston Dept of Educational Psychology Individual Differences <a href="mailto:tsha@uh.edu">tsha@uh.edu</a></p>	 <p><b>Dr. Jim Hardy</b> Graduate Student Advisor University of Texas at Arlington Associate Professor Educational Leadership &amp; Policy Studies <a href="mailto:jimhardy@uta.edu">jimhardy@uta.edu</a></p>



## Past Graduate Student Representative Report

It was great to see all of the graduate students who attended the SERA conference this year! We broke past records for attendance, both at the conference and at the luncheon. In addition to the great sessions, excellent workshops, and interesting presidential speaker, it was a fantastic week of bonding, collaborating, and socializing. Although it was not our first time to have a SERA conference in San Antonio, it was the first time a group of graduate students got together to experience San Antonio's First Friday events. Thanks to all of you who joined in the festivities!

I would also like to thank all of the members of the 2009 Graduate Student Leadership Council for their hard work throughout the year, which included promoting SERA at their respective campuses, making suggestions for the 2009 conference, reading and rating of the Dean's Awards submissions, manning the registration table, taking pictures of graduate students, and assisting all of the graduate students during the conference.

Attending the SERA conferences has been a fantastic opportunity for many graduate students throughout the years, not only as a medium in which to present their research findings, as an experience in which they can meet other graduate students and bounce ideas off of each other, and as a chance to learn from experts in their fields, but also as an opportunity for their excellent papers to be recognized through either the Graduate Student Dean's Award or the Outstanding Paper Award.

Congratulations to Lisa Peterson (Texas A&M University) and Terrence Fung (University of North Texas), winners of the SERA Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Awards, given by the board of SERA. Lisa's paper was entitled "Clinical Significance: A Review of Studies. Terrence's paper was entitled "An Evaluation of Four Standardized Tests for SACS Core Requirements in General Education. The Board awarded Lisa and Terrence a certificate and \$250.

Ten papers from three universities were submitted for consideration for the third annual Dean's Awards. The leadership council blindly rated nine of these submissions, as one university submission did not meet the minimum number of required submissions. Although each submission had their own merits, four with the highest ratings were announced at the annual luncheon: Marcia Montague and Russell Warne (Texas A&M University) and Bobbie Jean Koen and David Villareal (University of Houston). Thanks to the generous donations from the deans of each respective university, each winner was also the recipient of \$100 in addition to their certificate for outstanding manuscripts. Congratulations to these graduate students, as well as all of the students who had their submissions accepted by SERA for presentation at the conference. We hope to see more submissions for next year's conference, Graduate Student Dean's Award, and SERA Outstanding Paper Award.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to work with such an esteemed group of individuals. It was my honor to work with you all as the 2009 Graduate Student Representative. As the immediate ex-GSR, I am very excited to be part of the incoming leadership council, under the excellent leadership of Susan Skidmore, 2010 Graduate Student Representative. As a 2009 leadership council member, Susan was already working hard throughout the months prior to the conference, coordinating the photographing of all graduate student presenters and critiquing the dean's award submissions. Thank you Susan, I know great things will come from the 2010 leadership council. In her new roll as the new 2010 GSR, Susan has also been hard at work with the SERA Board and the enthusiastic new leadership council, all of whom have been coming up with new and exciting ideas to make the next SERA conference even more fruitful for graduate students. I can't wait until the next SERA conference!

*Ting-Ling Sha, SERA Past Graduate Student Rep.*



*Pictured (left to right): L. Peterson, T. Fung, M. Montague, R. Wayne, D. Villareal, and B. J. Koen*

## Meet the Board –

James (Jim) Hardy, Bill Jasper, Shirley Matteson, Elsa C. Ruiz

### James (Jim) Hardy, Associate Professor

James (Jim) Hardy is an Associate Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at The University of Texas at Arlington. He teaches quantitative research methodology courses in the new K-16 Educational Leadership PhD program. Prior to coming to UT-Arlington, Jim served on the faculty of TAMU-Commerce. His higher education administrative experiences include institutional research positions at Stephen F. Austin State University and Assumption College (Massachusetts). Jim's research interests include teacher preparation, quantitative research methodologies, and organizational planning. He is a frequent SERA presenter and twice served as the chair/co-chair of Div VI. For the upcoming conference, he will serve as the Graduate Student Advisor.



*James (Jim) Hardy  
University of Texas-Arlington*

### Bill Jasper, Associate Professor

Bill Jasper has been an Associate Professor of Mathematics Education in the Mathematics and Statistics Department at Sam Houston State University for the past 9 years. Bill has been the director for his university on the Texas Mathematics for English Language Learners (MELL) initiative for the past five years, and has made more than 50 presentations at national, regional and state conferences on his primary research interest – helping ELLs be more successful in mathematics. Over the past nine years, Bill has managed over \$1,000,000 in grant funding. Bill has been very active in SERA, presenting at the past eight conferences and serving on the Board of Directors from 2006-2008. He chaired Division IV proposals for annual conferences and volunteered at conferences in the registration area, technology, and graduate student sections.



*Bill Jasper  
Sam Houston State University*

### Shirley Matteson, Assistant Professor

Shirley Matteson, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Middle Level Education in the College of Education at Texas Tech University. She teaches courses in curriculum and philosophy, middle level mathematics methods, and graduate level mathematics education. She has over 25 years of teaching experience in public schools and holds certifications in multiple content areas. She is also a National Board Certified Teacher in Early Adolescence Mathematics. Dr. Matteson's research interests focus on students' understandings of mathematical representations on standardized assessments, student conceptual development of the "big ideas" of algebra, and problem-solving strategies. She has presented her research at regional, state, and national conferences. Dr. Matteson has served SERA as co-chair for Division IV for the past two years.



*Shirley Matteson  
Texas Tech University*

### Elsa C. Ruiz, Assistant Professor

Elsa C. Ruiz, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of mathematics education and Curriculum and Instruction in the Department of Interdisciplinary Learning and Teaching at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Formerly, she served as a middle and high school mathematics teacher, assistant principal and central office administrator in Texas public schools. Her research interests currently focus on the motivation of Latino students in mathematics, culturally relevant strategic mathematics instruction for Latino students, and the efficacy of mathematics teachers of Latino students. She was recently elected as a Member-at-Large for the SERA Executive Board for 2009-2011. Elsa has also served SERA as Division Chair for Divisions IV and V for the past two years.



*Elsa C. Ruiz  
University of Texas-San Antonio*



## SERA 2009 Outstanding Paper

Scheduled for presentation at AERA in San Diego in the 8:15 a.m. session on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>

### Validity of the Cultural Awareness and Beliefs Inventory of Urban Teachers: A Mixed Methods Design

*Natesan, Prathiba - Florida International University*

*Roberts-Walter, Patricia F. - Del Mar Community College*

*Webb-Johnson, Gwendolyn, & Carter, Norvella P. - Texas A&M University*

The increasing gap between the predominantly White, female teachers and their Eurocentric teaching styles and the increasingly ethnically diverse student population and their culturally different learning styles compels the need to student the cultural awareness and beliefs of teachers. This student developed and validates an instrument that measures the cultural awareness and beliefs of urban teacher using the mixed methods framework.

## SERA 2009 Outstanding Graduate Student Papers

### An Evaluation of Four Standardized Tests for SACS Core Requirements in General Education

*Fung, Terrence - University of North Texas*

The Southern Association for Colleges and Schools (SACS) requires its members to comply with the core requirements for accreditation. Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) has issued a set of exemplary educational objectives (EEO) for colleges and universities in Texas to meet the SACS core requirements in General Education. Recently, many commercialized tests appear in the market for assessing student achievements in colleges. This study evaluates four standardized assessments tests (CAAP, CLA, College BASE, & MAPP for their effectiveness in measuring student achievements regarding the THECV's EEOs.

### Clinical Significance: A Review of Studies Representing the Various Methods

*Peterson, Lisa S. - Texas A&M University*

Clinical significance is a set of statistical methods that can be used to evaluated the effectiveness of an intervention in a research study in which diagnostic criteria are an indicator of effectiveness. This paper will use published studies using clinical significance methods to demonstrate the simple applicability of the methods and to guide future educational research.

## Let's Not Forget ...



*Victor Willson's Structural Equation Modeling Workshop*

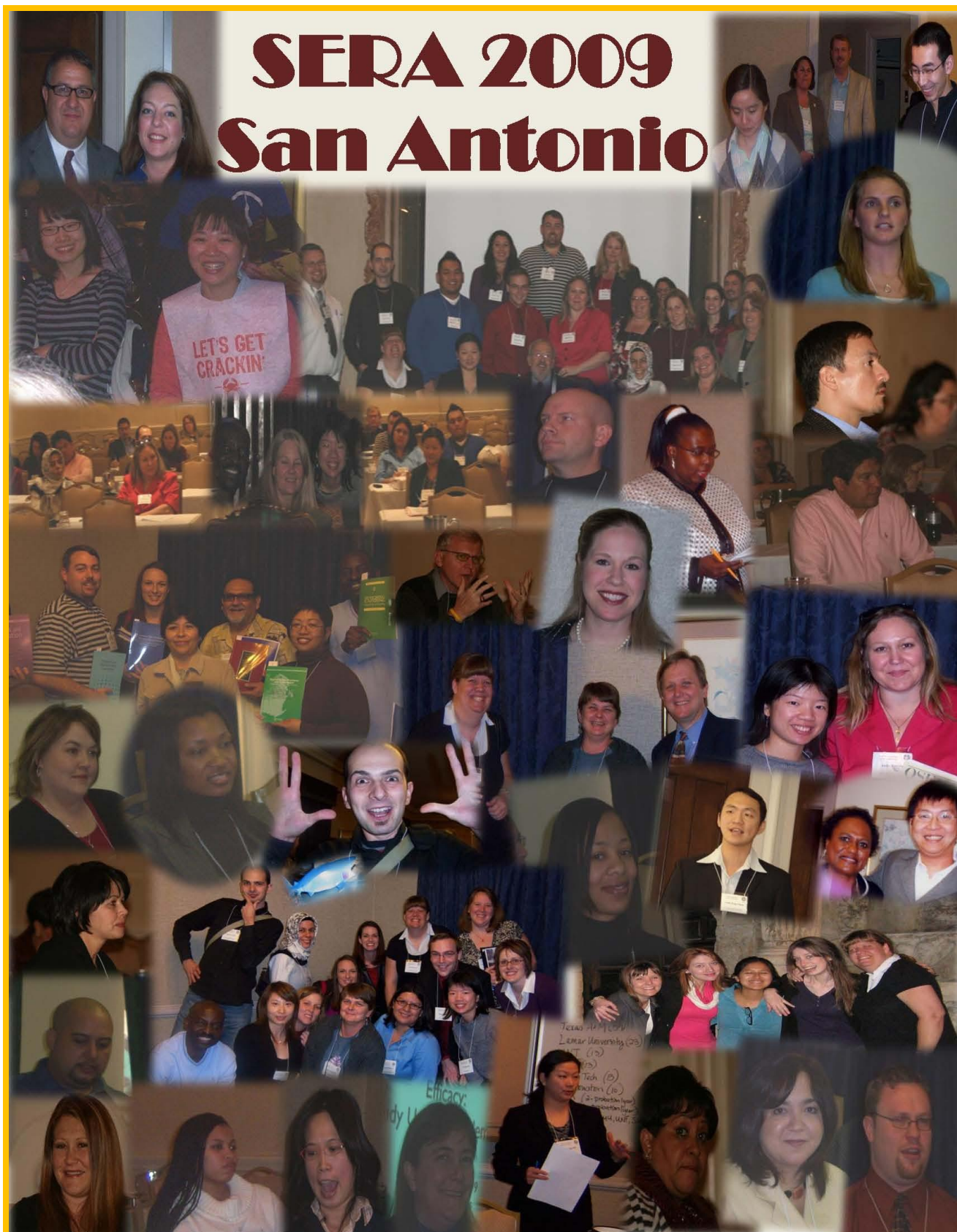


*Routledge's Generous Donation*



*Literature Review Workshop led by Tony Onwueguzie*

**Let's Not Forget ... (continued)**



**SERA's FANTASTIC GRADUATE STUDENTS!!!!!!!!**

# ***SOUTHWEST EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION***

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE  
2010 ANNUAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 17 - FEBRUARY 20, 2010  
THE HOTEL MONTELEONE  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

## **Program Chair:**

**Linda Reichwein Zientek  
Sam Houston State University  
Department of Mathematics and Statistics  
Huntsville, TX 77431  
936-294-4874  
lrzientek@shsu.edu**

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southwest Educational Research Association will be held

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 THROUGH SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2010**

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. 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 **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2009**. Proposals are invited on topics from all disciplines related to education. **PLEASE NOTE** that conference registration and payment \*\*\*RECEIPT\*\*\* are \*\*\*STRICTLY required\*\*\* within one month (i.e., **BY OCTOBER 15, 2009**) 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 **BY THE PAYMENT RECEIPT DEADLINE OF OCTOBER 15th** to the address indicated on the conference registration form.

Any persons who have all of their proposals rejected may request a conference registration refund by contacting the Treasurer. The **proposals of any persons not completing both conference registration and payment BY OCTOBER 15th, 2009 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 17 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. Participants are advised to bring their own laptop computer.**

### **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.

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

Paper sessions are organized around topic areas selected by the Program Committee. Participants will each be given between 9-12 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, February 8, 2010**.

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 \*\*\*RECEIPT\*\*\* are required within one month (i.e., BY OCTOBER 15, 2009) of the proposal submission deadline.

**Submit proposals online at: <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.

**Division**

**Division Chairs**

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

*Sandra Harris  
Lamar University  
sandra.harris@lamar.edu*

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

**II. Instruction, Learning & Cognition**

*G. Don Allen  
Texas A&M University  
dallen@math.tamu.edu*

*Diane Goldsby  
Texas A&M University  
dgoldsb@neo.tamu.edu*

**III. Methodology, Measurement & Evaluation**

*Tommy De Vaney  
Southeastern Louisiana  
tdevaney@selu.edu*

*Jason King  
Baylor College of Medicine  
jasonk@bcm.tmc.edu*

**IV. Teachers & Teacher Education**

*Shirley Matteson  
Texas Tech University  
shirley.matteson@ttu.edu*

*Rebecca Ortiz  
Texas Tech University  
rebecca.ortiz@ttu.edu*

**V. Special Populations & Counseling**

*Sonya Carr  
Southeastern Louisiana University  
[scarr@selu.edu](mailto:scarr@selu.edu)*

*Cynthia Martinez-Garcia  
Sam Houston State University  
[cynthia3687@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cynthia3687@sbcglobal.net)*

**VI. Graduate Student Seminars for Work in Progress**

*LaVonne Williams  
Texas A&M University-Kingsville  
[kflck00@tamuk.edu](mailto:kflck00@tamuk.edu)*

*Martha L. Tapia  
Berry College  
[mtapia@berry.edu](mailto: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 TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2009)  
using the SERA website:**

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

## 2010 SERA OUTSTANDING PAPER AWARD

Authors are encouraged to revise and submit five (5) copies of the paper submitted for presentation at the 2010 annual meeting to the SERA Executive Director, Bruce Thompson, by **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2010**. 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 American Educational Research Association, and be recognized at the luncheon during the 2011 SERA annual meeting. Because of the 2010 conference data, the paper might actually be presented at the 2011 AERA conference. A stipend of \$500 to help defray the costs involved in attending the 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. MEMBERS INTERESTED IN ENTERING THE COMPETITION ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT THEIR 5 COPIES AT THE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION DESK DURING THE ANNUAL MEETING.
- 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.
- An individual may submit only one paper on which the member is a co-author. Papers with any common co-authors will not be considered.
- Persons who authored the SERA Outstanding Paper in the immediate prior year are not eligible for award consideration in the following year.
- **Active officers of the SERA Executive Council, including appointed officers, are not eligible for this competition.**

*Send completed papers for 2010 SERA Outstanding Paper Award by POSTAL/COURRIER SERVICE ONLY to:*

**BRUCE THOMPSON, SERA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**2010 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/>

## 2010 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. MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2010**. The award winner will be announced at the SERA luncheon on Thursday, February 18, 2010. 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., only 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, 2010**, 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 2010 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award by E-MAIL ATTACHMENT ONLY to:*

**Mary Margaret Capraro**

**Texas A&M University**

**Department of Teaching Learning and Culture**

**College Station, TX 77843 – 4232**

**979-845-8227**

**mmcapraro@tamu.edu**

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## 2010 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 2010 SERA annual meeting. Student authors should **electronically submit** completed papers to the SERA graduate student representative to be:

**RECEIVED BY 12:00 P.M. FRIDAY, January 11, 2009.**

**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; literature reviews, explanations of statistical concepts, case studies and will be 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 18, 2010.

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

- The SERA graduate student representative **must receive** completed papers on or before the January 11, 2009 deadline. Late papers are not eligible for consideration.
- The paper must **only** be authored by a graduate student.
- 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. Also, awards will not be given for institutions at which Deans do not wish to participate.
- If you do not receive a receipt confirmation via E-mail by 1:00 P.M. Friday, January 11, 2009, please contact the graduate student representative immediately by phone.

*Send completed papers for the 2010 Deans' Awards by E-MAIL ATTACHMENT ONLY to:*

**Susan Troncoso Skidmore  
SERA Grad Student Rep  
Research, Measurement & Statistics  
Department of Educational Psychology  
Texas A&M University  
sskidmore@tamu.edu  
(979) 862-6588**