



SERA Newsletter

Editor:

Kim Nimon, University of North Texas

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

Spring 2010

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The Pres Says . . .

The 33rd SERA Conference in New Orleans was a great success. There were approximately 370 presenters and 283 sessions! The sessions were full and our members became more knowledgeable from the quality research that was presented. Thanks to all of the division chairs for an outstanding job. Thanks also to President **Mary Margaret Capraro** for her role in leading the conference and helping make it a huge success. Both training sessions were also well received. Thanks to **Robin Henson** for leading the training session *Quantitative Consulting for Researchers* involving several University of North Texas faculty, and to Robin Henson, **Tammi Vacha-Haase**, and **Victor Willson** for presenting *Gentle Intro to Meta-Analysis*. Because of their willingness to share their expertise, our members are more sophisticated in their research skills.

A special thank you goes to **Bruce Thompson**, the Executive Director of SERA, who spends many hours behind the scenes to ensure everything goes smoothly. I also want to thank all of the Board members who worked as a team to make the conference a success. This includes **Bill Jasper** and **Stacey Edmonson** who were in charge of the pre-registration desk; **Elsa Ruiz** and **Sonya Carr** who were in charge of on-site registration desk; **Kimberly Bilica** who was in charge of AV equipment; **Shirley Matteson** who was in charge of photographs; **Robert Capraro** and **Jim Hardy** who were in charge of room greeters; **Susan Skidmore** who assisted with technology; **Kyle Roberts** who is our Web Chair, and **Kim Nimon** and **Julia Ballenger** who were our 2009 Newsletter editors. They are the reason the conference is a success. There are of course many other volunteers, and I wish to thank each of them for their support.

The graduate student participation continues to increase and many thanks are extended to the graduate student representative, Susan Skidmore, and graduate student advisor, Jim Hardy. Both Susan and Jim have done a phenomenal job this past year. Susan Skidmore

worked closely with Shirley Matteson to ensure almost every graduate student's picture was taken and Kyle Roberts uploaded the pictures onto the SERA website. We look forward to another successful graduate student year under the direction of new student representative **Maria Benzon** and Jim Hardy.

Each year the conference would not be possible if it were not for the local arrangements chair. A very special thank you to Sonya Carr who was our local arrangement chair and has been the local arrangements chair or co-chair each year the conference is held in New Orleans. Sonya is the person who is responsible for the wonderful room accommodations and luncheon menu, which was delicious. Thanks also to **Vince Paredes** who was in charge of membership and proposal submissions, our treasurer **Kathleen Mittag** who keeps the books in order, and **John Hedl** who provides an historical perspective.

We look forward to seeing you at next year's meeting, beginning Wednesday, February 2, 2011, at the historic Menger Hotel on the Riverwalk in San Antonio and right across from the Alamo. Professor **James McLean**, Dean of the College of Education at The University of Alabama, will be the Presidential Invited Speaker. The Executive Board has arranged two training sessions (one on Multivariate Analysis to be presented by Bruce Thompson and one on grant writing led by **Deb Simmons**). We hope you enjoy these training sessions. Proposals for next year are due on September 15th. Please check the Call at the end of the newsletter for further details. The SERA website (www.sera-edresearch.org) is another source of information about previous and upcoming conferences. Please share this information with all of your colleagues and invite them to attend. The Executive Board looks forward to seeing all of you in San Antonio in 2011!!

Linda Reichwein Zientek
President

Sam Houston State University

News from Past President



The 2010 SERA meeting is complete and the board is already planning for the 2011 meeting in San Antonio. I sincerely thank all of you who attended and participated in the conference as attendees, presenters, proposal reviewers, division chairs, discussants, workshop presenters, or session chairs. Thanks to **Linda Zientek**, the program ran without a hitch and the conference book was easy to follow. My appreciation to all those whose behind the scenes work made the conference enjoyable for all. Special thanks to **Robert Capraro**, past president for his support, **Susan Skidmore** for her organization with all the graduate student awards and activities, **Jim Hardy** for serving as the grad student advisor, **Shirley Matteson** for taking pictures of all the graduate students during their presentations, **Kim Billica** for making sure all the AV equipment was in place, **Vince Paredes** for the registration procedures, **Sonya Carr** for the wonderful local arrangements, **Elsa Ruiz** who organized the registration desk, and finally **Bruce Thompson**, Executive Director, without whom SERA would not be possible. We look forward to next year when **Bill Jasper** will fulfill

the position of program chair/ president elect and **Kathy Mittag** will handle local arrangements. These two will be busy with preparations for the 2011 annual meeting in San Antonio. Contact them if you have any time to help. Volunteers are always needed.

Congratulations to **Maria Benzon**, graduate student from the University of Houston, who won the outstanding graduate student paper award. At the luncheon she was presented with a check for \$500 for her paper entitled, *Motivation in Kindergarten: Effects of Teacher Perceptions and School Differences*. Looking back on the events of SERA, I am proud to say that we had a strong woman researcher, **Catherine Snow**, from Harvard Graduate School as the presidential speaker. Her talk was certainly inspirational to all who attended. She along with **Tammi Vacha-Haase**, workshop provider on Reliability Generalization, both were excellent role models for all women attendees. These two full professors certainly demonstrated how strong research skills, collegiality, and perseverance pay off in the professoriate and academia.

Mary Margaret Capraro,

Past President

Texas A&M University

Board Members, Appointments and Terms

President:

Linda Zientek, Sam Houston State University

President-Elect/Program Chair:

Bill Jasper, Sam Houston State University

Past-President:

Mary Margaret Capraro, Texas A&M University

Secretary: 2009-2011

Kim Billica, University of Texas - San Antonio

Treasurer:

Kathleen Mittag, University of Texas - San Antonio

Historian:

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

Membership Chair:

Vince Paredes

Graduate Student Representative:

Maria Benzon, University of Houston

Members-at-Large: 2008-2011

Jim Hardy, University of Texas - Arlington

Susan Troncoso Skidmore, University of Texas-Pan American

Members-at-Large: 2009-2012

Shirley Matteson, Texas Tech University

Sonya Carr, Southeastern Louisiana University

Elsa Ruiz, University of Texas - San Antonio

Members-at-Large: 2010-2013

Julia Ballenger, Stephen F. Austin State University

Kim Nimon, University of North Texas

James Telese, University of Texas, Brownsville

Executive Director:

Bruce Thompson, Texas A&M University

The Executive Director Asks

Are You **PUZZLED**...?



PUZZLED

Are you as puzzled as young Australian Mr. Finnegan Fidler (pictured herein) about whether you should attend the 34th annual meeting of SERA near the Riverwalk and the Alamo in San Antonio, February 2-5, 2011? Let me offer you and Mr. Fidler some reasons why you indeed should attend the San Antonio meeting:

- The meeting will be in the historic Menger Hotel (<http://mengerhotel.com>) which was built in 1859, only 100 yards from the Alamo.
- Two extraordinary training sessions will, as usual, "book end" the conference. The first will

start the conference on Wednesday 2/2/11 and will deal with writing grants to obtain research funding, and will feature a prominent grant-getter, and (pending expected federal government approval) a prominent grant-giver from the National Institutes of Health. The second will be on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning 2/4-5/11, and will be an introduction to multivariate statistics.

- The Presidential Invited Speaker is a highly respected educational researcher and teacher educator who also has a very long history of personal involvement in regional educational research associations.

- Last, but not least, the Riverwalk (and the nearby Mercado with its two authentic Mexican restaurants) is just plain fun!!!

The trainers and speaker are described in more detail elsewhere in this Newsletter. So, *don't be puzzled, or a baby like Mr. Fidler, and instead plan on joining the learning and the fun next year in San Antonio.*

Bruce Thompson

*Executive Director
Texas A&M University*

2010 Service Awards



During the SERA 2010 luncheon, the John J. Hedl, Jr. Lifetime Service Award and the SERA Extended Service Award were presented to two SERA members for their steadfast commitment

to the organization. The **John J. Hedl, Jr. Lifetime Service Award** was first presented to, and was named after, John J. Hedl, Jr., and is awarded to an SERA member who has made major sustained contributions to SERA over a significant time period. John was a founding member of SERA and has attended all annual meetings of SERA. This award has only been given three times previously. The **SERA Extended Service Award** recognizes major multiyear contributions to SERA, and has previously only been awarded once.



Kathleen Mittag was presented with the **John J. Hedl, Jr. Lifetime Service Award**. She has been a member since attending as a student in 1993. She has been a Board member, Program Chair, and President. She has served as Treasurer for

several years and has been the local arrangements chair or co-chair for all the recent meetings in San Antonio.

Sonya Carr was presented with the **SERA Extended Service Award**. Sonya has been a member since attending as a student in the 1980s, has served several terms on the Board, and has been a local arrangements chair or co-chair for all the meetings in New Orleans.

Program News: Join Us for SERA 2011 in San Antonio!



The SERA Executive Board hopes to see you in San Antonio for another great conference! We are very enthusiastic that SERA 2011 in San Antonio will also be great. The 34th Annual SERA conference will be held from Wednesday, February 2, 2011 until Saturday, February 5, 2011. We are honored to have Professor **James McLean** as our Presidential Speaker for SERA 2011.

At the start and at the end of our conference, we have planned exceptional training sessions. These are great opportunities to enhance our knowledge from experts in the field of educational research. On Wednesday afternoon, **Deborah Simmons** and **Peggy McCardle** (pending approval) will focus on Fundamentals of Submitting Research Grants for Federal Funding. At the end of the conference on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, **Bruce Thompson** will focus on An Introduction to Multivariate Statistics.

We are very pleased to announce that our conference hotel will be the historic Menger Hotel on Alamo Plaza. Many thanks to **Kathy Mittag**, our local arrangements chair for this conference, for making this happen. As local arrangements chair, she is the person who acquires our excellent hotel rates and accommodations and who handles all of the challenges (and sometimes even nightmares!) that are encountered with planning such a large meeting.

The 2011 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 to present at the 2011 conference in San Antonio. This is an excellent opportunity to share research ideas and to learn from the research of other educators. By attending the conference, you have a chance to nurture existing collaborations with colleagues within our field, as well as to develop future collaborations.

We look forward to seeing you in San Antonio for SERA 2011!

Bill Jasper

*SERA 2011 Program Chair/President-Elect
Sam Houston State University*

Hotel Information:



SERA is excited about using a different hotel for the February 2-5, 2011 conference in San Antonio. We will be meeting at the Historic Menger Hotel, which has a rich history and authentic quality. It is the oldest continuously operated hotel

west of the Mississippi River opening in 1859. The Menger is located 100 yards from the Alamo and has the world famous Roosevelt Bar. Several special graduate and other events will be planned for the conference. After a day attending sessions at the conference, you can walk across the street to Pat O'Brian's and the Riverwalk for food, entertainment and drinks. San Antonio is a fantastic destination city and "fun will be had by all."

Join SERA

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

Conference Training Sessions:

Wednesday:

Fundamentals of Submitting Research Grants for Federal Funding

As usual, the 2011 annual meeting will be "book ended" with two important training sessions open to both students and faculty. The SERA 2011 **Wednesday (2/2/11) afternoon** training session is titled "*Fundamentals of Submitting Research Grants for Federal Funding*." This session will not assume any prior background in submitting proposals for federal funding. The session will cover basics, such as building the case for your research, and building a grant budget. Some common pitfalls will also be listed.

About the Trainers



Deborah C. Simmons, Ph.D., is Professor of Special Education, Texas A&M University. Professor Simmons is widely published, with three of her articles being cited each more than 100 times. Her awards include the AERA 1997 Palmer O. Johnson Memorial Award for the Best Paper published in the

American Educational Research Journal for a given year (cited 287 times as of 3/1/10), the 1998 NASP Award for Best Journal Manuscript published in *School Psychology Review*, the 2002 Jeanette Fleischner Award from the Division for Learning Disabilities of the Council for Exceptional Children for outstanding contributions to the field of learning disabilities, and the 2008 Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award from the Texas A&M University College of Education and Human Development. She sits on the editorial boards of *Reading and Writing: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, *Journal of Learning Disabilities*, *Journal of Direct Instruction*, *Reading and Writing Quarterly*, *Exceptional Children*, and *Learning Disabilities Quarterly*. Her grants funded by the U.S. Department of Education include "Project ISEE: Preparing Intervention Scientists in Special Education," \$799,635; "Project Early Reading Intervention," \$2,885,628; "Enhancing the Quality of Expository Text Instruction and Comprehension Through Content and Case-Situated Professional Development," \$1,498,530; and "Proj-

ect Words of Oral Reading and Language Development (WORLD)," \$1,292,086.



Pending (anticipated) travel approval from the federal government, Peggy McCardle is also expected to participate as a trainer. **Peggy McCardle, Ph.D., M.P.H.**, is the chief of the Child Behavior and Development (CDB) Branch of the National Institute for Child

Health and Development (NICHD), and directs the Language, Bilingualism, and Biliteracy Program and the Reading, Writing, and Related Learning Disabilities Program. Dr. McCardle holds a bachelor's degree in French, a Ph.D. in linguistics, and a master's degree in public health. She has been a classroom teacher and a speech-language pathologist and has held university faculty positions at South Carolina State College, the University of Mississippi, the University of Maryland, and the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences; she also held hospital-based clinical positions at Womack Army Community Hospital, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C. Her publications address various aspects of public health and developmental psycholinguistics (e.g., language development, bilingualism, and reading). She was the NICHD liaison to the National Reading Panel, currently serves as liaison to the National Institute for Literacy, and leads and/or serves on various interagency working groups. She co-edited *The Voice of Evidence in Reading Research* (2004, Brookes Publishing), which presents information about reading research and its findings for educators, administrators, and others concerned with getting research results into the classroom; and *Childhood Bilingualism* (2006, Multilingual Matters), which addresses research issues in the development of bilingual language abilities; as well as various thematic journal issues on these and related topics.

Presidential Speaker:

James E. (Jim) McLean:

What My 40+ year Career in Educational Research Has Taught Me: With Hints for Young Scholars



Dr. James (Jim) McLean

is currently a University Professor and the Dean of the College of Education at The University of Alabama. He has graduate training in statistics,

measurement, evaluation, research, and educational psychology coupled with over 40 years experience teaching and researching in these areas. He also has over 25 years of administrative experience as a program chair, area head, director, assistant dean, and dean. During the past 33

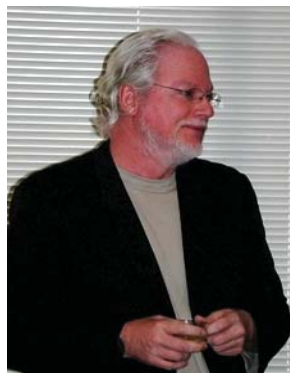
years he has directed, co-directed, or administered well over 100 research, assessment, and evaluation projects funded for more than six million dollars. Professionally, he has served as the President of the Mid-South Educational Research Association (MSERA), Chair of the AERA Special Interest Group for Professors of Educational Research, Vice President for Research of the Holmes Partnership, and is on the Board of the Alabama Association for Teacher Education. Dr. McLean holds B.S., M.Stat., and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Florida.

Conference Training Sessions (cont.):

Friday-Saturday: An Introduction to Multivariate Statistics

The Friday afternoon-Saturday morning training session at the 2011 SERA annual meeting will be "An Introduction to Multivariate Statistics." The session will presume no prior background on multivariate statistics. This session has previously been presented numerous times at AERA and APA annual meetings.

About the Trainer



Bruce Thompson is Distinguished Professor and College Distinguished Research Fellow of Educational Psychology, and Distinguished Professor of Library Sciences, Texas A&M University, and Adjunct Professor of Allied Health Sciences, Baylor

College of Medicine (Houston). He was co-editor of the teaching, learning, and human develop-

ment section of the *American Educational Research Journal* (AERJ:TLHD), and past editor for nine years of *Educational and Psychological Measurement*, the series, *Advances in Social Science Methodology*, and two other journals. He is the author of 206 articles, author/ editor of 11 books, including the recently published *Foundations of Behavioral Statistics* and *Exploratory and Confirmatory Factor Analysis*, and the author of 18 book chapters. His contributions have been especially influential in moving the field as regards greater emphasis on effect size reporting and interpretation, and promoting improved understanding of score reliability. His work on the LibQUAL+(R) protocol has influenced libraries around the world. Bruce won the 2007 AERA Division D Significant Contribution to Educational Measurement and Research Methodology Award, for his 2006 chapter in the AERA Handbook of Complementary Methods, "Research synthesis: Effect sizes."

Meet the Board



Julia Ballenger

E. J. Campbell Distinguished Professor in Educational Leadership

Stephen F. Austin State University

Dr. Julia Ballenger is a Scholar-Practitioner who began her career as a classroom teacher, counselor, principal, central office director, and later moved to the state level where she championed issues such as excellence and equity for all children. Currently, she serves as a Professor of Educational Leadership at Stephen F. Austin State University where she was named the E. J. Campbell Distinguished Professor Chair in Educational Leadership in 2001. Dr. Ballenger has been a member of SERA since 2001. She has served as the former co-editor of the SERA Newsletter and is quite pleased to be serving the organization as a new member-at-large.



Kim Nimon

Assistant Professor

University of North Texas

Kim Nimon is an Assistant Professor in the Learning Technologies Department at the University of North Texas. A corporate veteran of the high-tech industry, Kim is committed to teaching and applying methods that bridge the gap between research and practice. Her research agenda focuses on improving human performance through the practice of workplace spirituality, the measurement & evaluation of employee attitudes, and the development of quantitative statistical methodologies to assess human performance technology interventions. Kim has been a member of the Southwest Educational Research Association since 2005 when she made her first presentation as a graduate student. She is pleased to continue her service to SERA as a member-at-large and Newsletter Editor.



Jim Telese

Professor

University of Texas, Brownsville/Texas Southmost College

Jim is a Professor of Mathematics Education and Secondary Education at the University of Texas, Brownsville/Texas Southmost College. He recently completed an appointment as the Director of the Center of Teaching and Learning. He returned to the faculty where he teaches mathematics education and educational research methods courses, since 1995. He is currently working with San Benito Consolidated Independent School District in evaluating an innovative program designed to develop thinking skills in elementary students. He is very pleased to serve SERA as a member-at-large. SERA is an organization where you can establish friendships and collegial relationships that can last your entire career. Jim dabbles with poetry at times and would like to share a Haiku that he recently wrote: Present moments fly; created by yesterday; thoughtful acts fulfilled.

Membership News

Kim Bilica, University of Texas at San Antonio, was recently promoted to Associate Professor, effective Fall, 2010.

Dionne Jackson, Doctoral Candidate-Baylor University, Waco, Texas, was recently hired as Assistant Professor of Education at Hendrix College, Conway, Arkansas.

Graduate Student Council & Advisors:



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Graduate Student News:

I am extremely excited and honored to serve SERA as the 2011 graduate student representative (GSR). I have participated as an attendee and presenter in the past three SERA annual meetings, attended special SERA workshops, and met many bright, diligent and caring students and professors. As your new GSR, my primary goal is to foster a graduate student experience at SERA that is memorable, nurturing, and enriching.

As I transition into this leadership role, I would like to acknowledge a few key people. First, I would like to thank our past GSR, **Susan Skidmore**, for her support and efforts to make the 2010 conference a wonderful experience. She juggled planning, preparing, presenting, and organizing without looking stressed! She has

provided much insight to the behind-the-scenes planning for SERA success.

Second, I would like to recognize the efforts of the previous Graduate Leadership Council (GLC): **Brian Abel** (Lamar University), **Anita Klierer** (University of North Texas), **Lisa Peterson** (Texas A&M University), **Andrea Stehle** (Walden University), **Michelle Williams** (Stephen F. Austin State University), **Amani Zaier** (Texas Tech University), **Ting-Ling Sha** (Transition GSR Advisor), and **Dr. Jim Hardy** (Lamar University, Graduate Student Advisor). This amazing group tirelessly reviewed many proposals and papers, recruited colleagues to attend SERA, and welcomed participants at the check-in table.

(continued on pg.9)

Graduate Student News (cont.):

(continued from pg. 8)

The 2010 GLC also took pictures of each primary author who was a graduate student. This task required organizing volunteers, room assignments, cameras, and SD cards! This is a tradition we will continue in the upcoming year. The hope is that in the near future, when we have become well-known educational leaders, researchers, and consultants, we can look at the SERA photos and remember our colleagues as we knew them when.

Third, I would like to thank the current GLC for their enthusiasm and dedication to increase graduate student involvement at the upcoming SERA 2011 (see page 8 for representatives). One of our GLC goals is to recruit our fellow classmates to present completed research and work-in-progress. We will further encourage colleagues

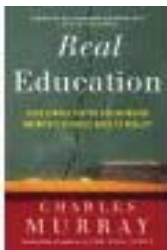
to submit their papers for awards (Outstanding SERA Paper, Outstanding Graduate SERA Paper, and Deans' Awards). Another goal is to prepare social and networking activities for graduate students such as a game night, karaoke, and exploring South Town's First Friday Street Festival. If you have any suggestions of activities you would like to do in San Antonio, please share them with us so we can begin planning.

I really enjoyed meeting many of you in New Orleans and look forward to seeing you again and meeting others at the 2011 SERA Annual Meeting in San Antonio. Together, we will make SERA memorable, nurturing, and enriching!

Maria Benzon

*Graduate Student Representative
University of Houston*

Book Review:



Charles Murray's (2008) "**Real Education: Four Simple Truths for Bringing America's Schools Back to Reality**" takes on America's educational system by using data and statistics coupled with common sense arguments.

Truth One: Ability Varies. Murray uses Howard Gardner's multiple intelligences framework, specifically linguistic, logical-mathematical, and spatial abilities, as an illustration of the different abilities we all possess on a scale from low to high. The truth, as said by Murray, is that abilities vary a lot and the above-mentioned three are highly correlated with each other and intelligence, which translates into academic ability. Therefore, if a child is low in one of the three abilities, there is a very high likelihood that he will be low in the other two as well.

Truth Two: Half of the children are below average. If abilities vary, then it follows that there will be some people that are below average in some abilities. Murray proposes that half of America's students are below average in their linguistic and

logical-mathematical abilities.

Truth Three: Too many people are going to college. In Murray's estimate, only 10 to 20 percent of students have enough academic ability to excel in completing genuine college-level work and that a liberal education is no longer appropriate at the college-level for most students.

Truth Four: America's future depends on how we educate the academically gifted. Murray claims that whether we like it or not, the "cognitive elite" run the country. These leaders are unelected individuals that impact America's "culture, economy, and politics" (Murray, 2008, p. 108) and they must learn to be wise because of their positions of power.

It is too early to conclusively tell the impact "Real Education" will have on the educational system, but it is fair to say that it will stir further discussion about ways to educate all of America's students.

Ursula Johnson

University of North Texas

Outstanding Paper

Institutional Efficiency and Student Attrition

Terrence Fung – University of North Texas



Under the George W. Bush U.S. presidential administration, the federal government pushed for greater accountability among institutions of higher education for educational outcomes. Graduation rate is a key performance indicator of institutional accountability. Previous researchers of student attrition, including Tinto (1975), Pascarella and Terenzini (1977, 1980, 1983), Bean (1979) and Astin (1993), focused primarily on the effects of student level factors on student persistence/withdrawal behavior. Recently, researchers such as Astin (1997), Goenner and Snaith (2003) and others put more focus on the effects of institutional characteristics on graduation rates, but most of these studies were exploratory and based on multiple regression models. No institutional model has existed to synthesize their results within a theoretical framework. Such an institutional model is needed to explain the process of student persistence at the institutional level. The purpose of this study was to develop a model of institutional performance in graduation rate for four-year, public and private not-for-profit, Title IV institutions in the United States. This study validated the institutional model based on the IPEDS dataset using the structural equation modeling (SEM) technique. Further group comparison analyses are conducted by fitting the same SEM model to several subgroup datasets based on grouping variables such as control, geographical region and state. Benchmarking analyses were conducted to demonstrate how administrators and policy-makers can use the institutional model to compare the performance of an institution with its peers and what policy changes can they pursue to improve graduation

Outstanding Graduate Student Paper

Motivation in Kindergarten: Effects of Child and School Differences

Maria Benzon – University of Houston



Early childhood marks the beginning of the formal schooling process and can set the pace for future academic motivation. Using Hierarchical Linear Modeling (HLM), this study explored three research questions. How are teacher perceptions of student behavior and attitudes related to student motivation? Does student motivation vary based on school level differences? Third, how does school characteristics explain the relationship between student behavior and motivation? In this study, variance in student motivation is best explained through child-level variables than school-level variables.

Let's Not Forget . . .



UNT's Quantitative Consultation for Researchers Workshop
(l-r, Henson, Nimon, Natesan, Hull, Chen)



Executive Director
Bruce Thompson



Robin Henson and Tammi
Vacha-Haase's Introduction to
Reliability Generalization



Victor Willson's Gentle
Intro to Meta-Analysis of
Substantive Issues



Catherine Snow's
Pres. Invited Address

Past Graduate Student Representative News:

I want to express my sincere gratitude for having had the opportunity to serve you throughout the year as your representative to the SERA Executive council. I also want to thank the graduate student council members for the time and energy they devoted to making this year's conference great! Your graduate student council members worked hard throughout the year to prepare for this year's conference by promoting SERA at their respective campuses, encouraging submissions to the Dean's Awards, garnering support from their respective campus deans to fund the Dean's Awards, reading and rating the Dean's Award

submissions, manning the registration table, taking pictures, and eagerly assisting wherever they were needed throughout the conference.

It was great to see both old and new graduate student faces in New Orleans. I hope that everyone was able to share their research, learn from others, network and generally benefit from the whole conference experience. In addition to the great presidential speech, trainings and workshops, we had not one but TWO fireside chats! Thanks go to the board for continuing to offer trainings that are timely and relevant to graduate students.

New Graduate Student Representative

At the graduate student meeting, students also have the opportunity to elect the NEW Graduate Student Representative (GSR). This year there were three candidates from among the graduate council members that were eager to serve as your new GSR. Maria Benzon from the University of Houston was selected as your 2011 GSR. Congratulations Maria!! Maria is full of great ideas to

make SERA a wonderful experience for graduate students. This year she organized the Wednesday night Trivia Game night and I know that she, together with the enthusiastic new graduate student council members, are already planning great things for next year's conference. It's going to be a great conference – don't miss it!

Pictures



This year we continued the tradition (2nd year marks a new tradition!) of taking pictures of graduate student presenters. Under the leadership of **Dr. Shirley Matteson** from Texas Tech University, over 170 sessions were covered by volunteer photographers. A big thank you to all the graduate student volunteer photographers: (L to R, top) **Brian Abel**

(Lamar), **Kristin Craft** (Sam Houston), **Angela Gibson** (American Public University), **Lucilia Green** (Texas Tech), **Anita Kliewer** (UNT), **Lisa Peterson** (TAMU), **Alime Sadikova** (Texas Tech), (L to R, bottom) **Xioabo She** (Texas Tech), **Andrea Stehle** (Walden), **Michelle Williams** (SFA), **Amani Zaier** (Texas Tech) and **Amira Zebidi** (Texas Tech).



Past Graduate Student Representative News:

Dean's Awards

The Dean's Award competition is fully funded each year by the deans from each participating university. Without the support of each dean, the Dean's Award would not be possible – make sure to thank your deans for supporting graduate student research.

Submissions to the Dean's Award are blindly reviewed by graduate council members. The winners are announced at the annual luncheon on Thursday. This year, there were a total of ten graduate student winners from five participating universities (Sam Houston State University, Texas A&M University, Texas Tech University, University of North Texas and University of Texas). The University of North Florida also graciously donated monies.

Congratulations to all the winners on being selected for recognition by your peers!!

The Dean's Award winners (pictured at right l-r, top-bottom) were **Caroline Smith** (University of Texas), **Fatih Ari** (Texas Tech University), **Isma-han Ari** (Texas Tech University), **Terence Fung** (University of North Texas), **Deborah Potvin** (University of Texas), **Cedric Stewart** (Sam Houston State University), **Anita Kliewer**, (University of North Texas), **Jamie Bone** (Sam Houston State University), **Song Ju** (Texas A&M University) and **Eric Oslund** (Texas A&M University, not pictured).



Luncheon



Why are these people smiling? Because they won a free hotel night thanks to the SERA board. To have the opportunity to be a winner of a FREE HOTEL

NIGHT you must (a) attend the luncheon, (b) stay at the conference hotel and (c) smile really big when you win!!!

Past Graduate Student Representative News:

Graduate Student Meeting

The graduate student meeting is a great place to connect with graduate students from other universities. In addition, elections for the new graduate council and the book raffle are held at each year's meeting. This year, a total of 19 books and 1 online course were awarded.



Thanks to the **Routledge, Taylor and Francis Group** for donating the *Handbook of Education Policy Research* to **Pam Wells** (Sam Houston State University) and *Constructivist Instruction* to **Ziad Shaker** (University of North Texas).



Kristin Craft (Sam Houston State University) received the donated online statistics course from **statistics.com**.

Thank you to **Information Age Publishing** for donating seven texts for the graduate student book raffle. The donated texts and winners were (pictured clockwise from top left):

Advances in Latent Variable Mixture Models to **Jennifer Travis** (Texas A&M University); *Real Data Analysis* to **Harvey Zuniga** (Lamar University);



Contemporary Issues in Educational Policy and School Outcomes to **Cathy Amonett** (Stephen F. Austin State University); *Race, Ethnicity and Education: What is Taught in Schools* to **Tonya Jeffery** (University of Houston); *Understanding Teacher Stress in an Age of Accountability* to **Lucy Green** (Texas Tech University); *Academic Motivation of Adolescents* to **Amani Zaier** (Texas Tech University); and *Creativity, Giftedness, and Talent Development in Mathematics* to **Maureen Cullen** (Sam Houston State University).

Susan Troncoso Skidmore
Past Graduate Student Representative
Texas A&M University

Congratulations to Everyone!



Let's Not Forget continued...

2010 SERA, NEW ORLEANS



SOUTHWEST EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE
2011 ANNUAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 2 - FEBRUARY 5, 2011
THE MENDER HOTEL
SAN ANTONIO, TX**

Program Chair:

William A. Jasper

Sam Houston State University

Department of Mathematics and Statistics

Huntsville, TX 77431-2206

936-294-1575

jasper@shsu.edu

GENERAL INFORMATION

The 34th Annual Meeting of the Southwest Educational Research Association will be held

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2 THROUGH SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2011

at the Menger Hotel, 204 Alamo Plaza • San Antonio, TX 78205 • Tel: (210) 223-4361 •

Fax: (210) 228-0022

<http://mengerhotel.com/>

The Menger Hotel is located in downtown San Antonio, next to the Alamo and adjacent to Rivercenter Mall, the IMAX Theater, and River Walk, and two blocks from the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center. The hotel fronts Alamo Plaza.

General Proposal Guidelines

Both members and non-members may submit proposals for consideration. **Only original work** that has not been previously (a) published, or (b) presented at SERA, or (c) presented at another professional meeting is eligible for consideration. If a portion of the work has been previously presented, but not published, and the new original contribution is substantial, the work is eligible for consideration, but only if the prior work is explicitly acknowledged. For example, one year a student presented a paper explaining the precepts of computing "clinical significance," and the next year wrote a paper reporting a meta-analysis of clinical significance tests reported in a given literature. The primary focus of the second paper was the meta-analysis, the prior presentation was explicitly referenced, and the second paper was a co-winner of the SERA Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award. Questions regarding the "originality of work" requirement may be addressed to the Program Chair. *The general principle is that SERA is not a venue for reporting work already reported either elsewhere, or*

previously. 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 **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2010**. Proposals are invited on topics from all disciplines related to education.

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.**

PLEASE NOTE that conference registration and payment ***RECEIPT*** are ***STRICTLY required*** within one month (i.e., **BY OCTOBER 15, 2010**) 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, 2010 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 2, 2011 AT NOON.

Implicit Permission to Take and Use Photographs

During the annual meeting photographs are taken of presenters and participants in public spaces (e.g., meeting rooms, hallways, at the luncheon), which may then be displayed during the annual meeting, in SERA newsletters, or on the SERA website. **THE SUBMISSION OF A PROPOSAL IS DEEMED A GRANT BY ALL AUTHORS TO SERA TO USE SUCH PHOTOS FOR NONPROFIT USES.**

PROPOSALS

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

1. Proposals for Paper Sessions

Paper sessions are organized around topic areas selected by the Program Committee. Participants will each be given 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, January 24, 2011**.

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, 2010) 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	<i>Sandra Harris</i> <i>Lamar University</i> <i>sandra.harris@lamar.edu</i>	<i>Rebecca Bustamante</i> <i>Sam Houston State</i> <i>Bustamante@shsu.edu</i>
II. Instruction, Learning & Cognition	<i>G. Don Allen</i> <i>Texas A&M University</i> <i>dallen@math.tamu.edu</i>	<i>Diane Goldsby</i> <i>Texas A&M University</i> <i>dgoldsb@neo.tamu.edu</i>
III. Methodology, Measurement & Evaluation	<i>Tommy De Vaney</i> <i>Southeastern Louisiana</i> <i>tdevaney@selu.edu</i>	<i>Jason King</i> <i>Baylor College of Medicine</i> <i>jasonk@bcm.tmc.edu</i>
IV. Teachers & Teacher Education	<i>Sonya Carr</i> <i>Southeastern Louisiana</i> <i>scarr@selu.edu</i>	<i>Sandra Richardson</i> <i>Lamar University</i> <i>slrichardso1@lamar.edu</i>
V. Special Populations & Counseling	<i>Cynthia Martinez-Garcia</i> <i>Sam Houston State University</i> <i>cynthia3687@sbcglobal.net</i>	<i>Angela Gibson</i> <i>American Public University</i> <i>angelamgibson@hotmail.com</i>
VI. Graduate Student Seminars for Work in Progress	<i>LaVonne Williams</i> <i>Texas A&M University-Kingsville</i> <i>kflck00@tamuk.edu</i>	<i>Martha L. Tapia</i> <i>Berry College</i> <i>mtapia@berry.edu</i>

POSSIBLE DESCRIPTORS

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

Achievement	Early Childhood	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	Student Motivation
Culture	Higher Education	Education	Student
Curriculum	In-service Education	Preschool Education	Violence/Conflict
Development	Instruction	Preservice Education	Teacher Characteristics
Discipline	International Education	Principals	Technology
Drug Education	Language	Private Schools Professional	Tests
		Development	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 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2010)
using the SERA website:**

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

2011 SERA OUTSTANDING PAPER AWARD

Authors are encouraged to revise and submit five (5) copies of the paper submitted for presentation at the 2011 annual meeting to the SERA Executive Director, Bruce Thompson, by **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2011**. 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 2011 conference data, the paper might actually be presented at the 2011 AERA conference. A stipend of \$750 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, OR MAIL THE PAPER COPIES IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO 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 2011 SERA Outstanding Paper Award by POSTAL/COURIER SERVICE ONLY to:

BRUCE THOMPSON, SERA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
2011 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/>

2011 SERA OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER AWARD

An award of \$500 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. TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2011**. The award winner will be announced at the SERA luncheon on Thursday, February 3, 2011. 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, 2011**, 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 2011 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award by E-MAIL ATTACHMENT ONLY to:

Linda Reichwein Zientek
Sam Houston State University
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
Huntsville, TX 77341-2206
936-294-4874
lrzientek@shsu.edu

2011 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 2011 SERA annual meeting. Student authors should **electronically submit** completed papers to the SERA graduate student representative to be:

RECEIVED BY 12:00 P.M. TUESDAY, January 11, 2011.

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 3, 2011.

Rules for the Deans' Awards Competition:

- The SERA graduate student representative **must receive** completed papers on or before the January 11, 2011 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 14, 2011, please contact the graduate student representative immediately by phone.

Send completed papers for the 2011 Deans' Awards by E-MAIL ATTACHMENT ONLY to:

Maria B. Benzon
SERA Grad Student Rep
University of Houston
mbenzon@mail.coe.uh.edu
713-384-5038