

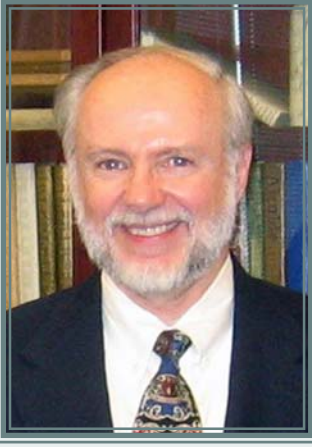
SERA Newsletter

Southwest Educational Research Association
www.sera-edresearch.org

Editor: Susan Troncoso Skidmore, Sam Houston State University



FALL 2011



The Pres Says...

The SERA Board of Directors is looking forward to seeing each of you in New Orleans for another great conference. This is a great opportunity to establish and renew collaborations with other educational researchers, to share your research findings, and to investigate exciting new research possibilities.

The 2012 SERA Annual Conference will be held at the Hotel Monteleone in New Orleans on February 1-4, 2012. Please read this newsletter to find out details about the conference, including links to the annual meeting arrangements, conference information from the Program Chair Kim Nimon, and information about the presidential invited address, training sessions, and awards. Our presidential speaker will be Dr. Patricia Alexander, Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Maryland, who will talk on *Things I Have Learned (So Far)*.

What is New? This will be the 35th annual SERA Conference, so we are planning several special festivities to celebrate. At press time for this newsletter, plans were still underway, so check your emails from the executive director or the SERA website for further details as the conference dates approach.

State of the Organization. The membership in our organization has been increasing over the past 10 years. In fact, this past year's conference was the largest ever, with 460 presenters registered – even though the ice storm in San Antonio prevented some of those from attending. We currently have 493 SERA members, and 319 of these are graduate students. These are both record high numbers, and we continue to grow due to the outstanding support of our doctoral programs from universities in our region. The SERA Board Members represent many of our major universities and agencies, and would welcome any inputs about the future of our organization.

Tips on How to Get the Most out of the Conference. This is a very graduate-student friendly conference, and there are many opportunities for researchers at all levels to collaborate and share research ideas. This is a great environment for researchers to start their careers in academe. If this is your first SERA conference, we recommend that you attend the *Navigating Through and Getting the Most from SERA* Session provided by Kathy Mittag and John Hedl on Thursday morning during the annual meeting. If you are interested in improving your knowledge, there will be three workshops during the conference. On Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, world-renowned Dr. Yvonna Lincoln will share her expertise on qualitative research. On Wednesday afternoon, Dr. Bruce Thompson, Dr. Tony Onwuegbuzie, and Dr. Robin Henson will give hints on how to publish, and on Friday, Dr. Kim Nimon and Dr. Kyle Roberts will help you understand the free “R” statistical software program. Throughout the program, there will also be numerous other workshops and symposia.

If you are a graduate student, there are special events and sessions designed for you. Immediately following the Presidential Invited Address on Thursday, Dr. Alexander will hold a “fireside chat” for *graduate students only*, and this is a great time for you to interact with an experienced researcher. Three interactive training sessions, on tips for writing an effective vita, finding a job in higher education, and contract negotiation tips, will be offered on Thursday and Friday. Further information for items of interest to graduate students will be detailed in this newsletter by the Graduate Student Representative, Sandra Nite.

Again, we look forward to seeing you in New Orleans.

Bill Jasper

SERA President
Sam Houston State University

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IMPORTANT DATES

TO REMEMBER

- Proposal Acceptance/Rejection Decisions were sent to the first author *only* on November 2, if you have not heard back please contact the appropriate Division Chairs ([Call for Proposals](#), p. 5).
- DRAFT conference program will be posted to the web for member proofreading in early December.
- Be sure to reserve your room at the Hotel Monteleone at the discounted SERA block rate by **December 15, 2011**.
- Paper Award information and deadlines available on page 11.
- Division VI 'Student Works in Progress' Papers due to session discussants on or before **Friday, January 20, 2012**.
- Additional important dates available at www.math.tamu.edu/~snite/SERA.html.

MEET THE BOARD



In 1977 **John Hedl** was a founding father of SERA. He served as the organization's third president. He has attended all of its meetings to date. He was appointed the SERA historian by the Board, an ex

officio position. He is the first recipient of the SERA Lifetime Service Award, an award named after him. He serves on several ad hoc committees for the board. John retired as Professor at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas in August 2010, after 38 years of service.

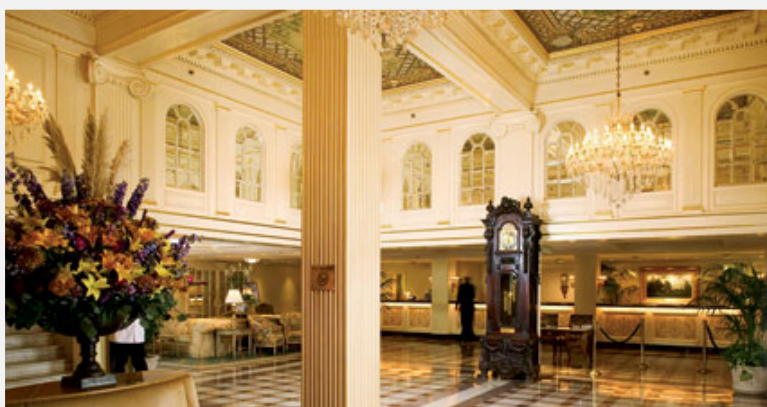


Shirley Matteson is an Assistant Professor of middle

level education at Texas Tech University, a position she has held since Fall 2008. She also teaches mathematics methods classes to both undergraduate and graduate students. A former middle school mathematics teacher, she completed her doctoral studies at Texas A&M University. Her initial involvement with SERA was as a graduate student and she also co-chaired for Division IV for two years. Dr. Matteson is completing her third year as a SERA board member. You probably have seen her moving in and out of sessions during the annual conference as she takes pictures of many of the graduate student presenters. Primarily a qualitative researcher,

her research interests include preservice and inservice teacher education, mathematical representations, and mathematics and science integration at the middle level. She has published in such journals as *Mathematics Teaching in the Middle School*, *Action in Teacher Education*, and *Qualitative Inquiry*. Dr. Matteson is a National Board Certified Teacher in Early Adolescence Mathematics and enjoys making presentations about the National Boards certification process.

HOTEL MONTELEONE



SERA 2012 will be held at the historic Hotel Monteleone. Located in the heart of the French Quarter and at the foot of Royal Street, the Hotel Monteleone is just steps away from streets that lead to Jackson Square, the Old French Market, and the River Walk. After a day of attending sessions at the conference, you can walk less than 160 yards to Bourbon Street for food, entertainment, and drinks. Be advised that staying at the Hotel Monteleone may not be for the faint-hearted. The Hotel Monteleone is known for being one of the premier haunted hotels in North America!



Photos courtesy of Hotel Monteleone.

PROGRAM CHAIR NEWS



The 2012 SERA Conference begins on Wednesday afternoon in New Orleans, February 1, with a ticketed training session, “How to Publish”, led by Robin K. Henson, Anthony Onwuegbuzie, and Bruce Thompson. The Presidential Invited Speaker is Dr. Patricia A. Alexander, the Jean Mullan Professor of Literacy and Distinguished Scholar-Teacher in the Department of Human Development at the University of Maryland, and her presentation is titled “Things I Have Learned (So Far).” On Thursday, February 2, the SERA Luncheon will be followed by Dr. Alexander’s address, and then she will have a “fireside chat” with graduate students. Other graduate student activities are scheduled for Thursday afternoon and evening. Graduate students should take advantage of the opportunity to visit with Dr. Alexander in a small group setting and converse with fellow graduate students from various universities.

On Friday, Kim Nimmon and J. Kyle Roberts will host the second ticketed training session, “Using R for Educational Research.” Beginning Friday afternoon, Yvonna Lincoln will host the third ticketed training session, “A Primer on Qualitative Research Methods.” Her session will start on Friday afternoon and continue on Saturday morning. Many additional workshops are planned during the conference, on topics such as creating a curriculum vita, conducting and publish research, and academic writing.

Over 270 proposals were submitted for our 2012 SERA Conference in New Orleans, and Division Chairs are managing the review of these proposals. The greatest number of proposals was submitted to Division VI – Graduate Student Seminars for Work in Progress. Division VI is unique in that it provides graduate students an opportunity to present research in progress, including theses or dissertations that are still in the developmental stage but have not yet been defended. A distinguished researcher will lead session discussions.

Acceptance decisions on all proposal submissions will be completed by the end of October and authors will be informed accordingly. I anticipate posting the program on the SERA Website in early December, so authors can check their proposals and the draft schedule for presentation times and dates, and plan their travel accordingly.

After your proposal is accepted, you should move forward in preparing your conference materials. Individuals who have had their paper proposals accepted into Divisions I-V should prepare complete research papers as well as presentation materials to convey the salient points of their research. Presenters who have had their *innovative/workshop/training session* accepted into Divisions I-V should prepare appropriate session materials.

Students whose Division VI proposals are accepted must send a copy of their seminar paper to the session discussant so that the copy is **RECEIVED on or before Friday, January 20, 2012**. For Division VI, students should prepare 3 copies of a 2-page, typed (12 font), single-spaced summary that includes: (a) a statement of the problem, (b) the significance of the study, and (c) a descriptive of the proposed methods and procedures.

You should bring to the conference all of your conference materials in electronic form. This includes complete papers and presentation materials for Divisions I-V and research summaries for Division VI. Session presenters will have an opportunity to submit their papers (Division I-V paper session), research summaries (Division VI graduate student research in progress), or presentation materials (Division I-V innovative/training/workshop) to a password protected, online repository during the conference. This is a *new* repository system that was developed this past year. You may choose to bring hard-copies of conference materials. Often, presenters bring copies of presentation materials to handout during their presentation. Alternatively, they provide an opportunity for participants to submit a request for presentation materials.

During the conference, projectors will be provided. Presenters will need to bring a laptop and also have their presentation slides on a memory stick. To keep the sessions moving on schedule, one computer will be used for all of the presentations in a session. Presenters should plan on a short summary of their work, and will have 10-13 minutes for their presentation, and a few minutes for questions and discussion. If one presenter takes too long, then other presenters will not have enough time for their presentations, as only 15 minutes per paper are allocated during each session. My advice is to limit your number of slides to around 10, providing the highlights of your research. Some presenters do not use Power Point, which is fine. The SERA website will contain the latest information on conference activities, so visit it at <http://www.sera-edresearch.org> frequently to stay up to date.

Plan to attend all of the exciting events of our 35th Annual SERA Conference in New Orleans!

Kim Nimmon

*SERA 2012 Program Chair/President-Elect
University of North Texas*

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Greetings, fellow graduate students! The fall semester is already half over, and SERA 2012 will be here in less than four months. The Graduate Leadership Council has been working hard to ensure support for the Dean's Awards for graduate student papers. We have also been working on a photography plan to continue the tradition of taking photos of as many of you as possible, during your presentations and planning special events for graduate students.



Connections

Remember the Facebook page for SERA Students for updates and networking with others for roommates and travel plans. You can also quickly check dates and deadlines on the following website that I created for you: <http://www.math.tamu.edu/~snite/SERA.html>

New Orleans Graduate Student Social

About 60% of those who responded to the survey indicated they would like to continue the tradition of a social event for graduate students at SERA. The talent show was not popular, but the other three choices were very close in popularity. In view of the fact that some indicated that transportation is an issue for events away from the conference hotel, we will have the game night on Thursday, February 2, at 7:30 p.m. Everyone, graduate students and professors alike, are invited to play games or just visit together. For those who prefer one of the other venues, I would encourage you to use the Facebook page to make connections with others from your own or other universities who would like to attend the same venue.

Drawings for Free Stuff

Plan to attend the *Luncheon* on Thursday at noon, if at all possible. Not only will it be a wonderful event, but if you are staying at the conference hotel, you are eligible for the drawing for one of the fifteen (15) free room nights. You must be present to win. Winners of the Dean's Awards will also be announced at the luncheon.

Paper Awards

There are three (3) different paper awards for which graduate students are eligible. The *Dean's Award* is sponsored by individual universities, and only students from that university are

eligible. Papers must be submitted **to me** by **Wednesday, January 11**. The *Outstanding Graduate Student Paper* is chosen from those submitted from any university. Submissions are due to **Bill Jasper** by **Wednesday, January 11**. The *Outstanding SERA Paper* is chosen from all papers (graduate students and professors) submitted. Submissions are due to **Bruce Thompson** by **Thursday, February 2**. Please see the chart on page 11 for more information about the paper awards.

Fireside Chat

The Fireside Chat with the Presidential speaker is an informal event especially for graduate students. This year **Patricia Alexander**, from University of Maryland, will share her experiences in the field. She has not only been involved in teaching and research at universities in the United States but has been a visiting scholar in Israel, New Zealand, Italy, Spain, Netherlands, and Singapore. She has a vast array of experiences from which she can share tidbits with us.

Graduate Student Meeting

Be sure to attend the Graduate Student Meeting on Thursday at 5:30 p.m. There will be a short session on creating an effective CV. After the CV training session, the new Graduate Leadership Council will be chosen, with representatives from each university that has a strong attendance at the meeting. The current members are Daelynn Copeland (BU), Patricia Curry (SFA), Carlton J. Fong (UT), Donna Fong (Lamar), Helen Jackson (SHSU), Kary Johnson (TWU), Alime Sadikova (TTU), Andrea Stehle (At-Large), Dan Taylor (UH), Heather Turner (UNT), and Rayya Younes (TAMU). Please consider stepping up to take a leadership role for next year.

Logo Competition for 35th SERA Anniversary

In honor of the 35th anniversary of SERA, the Board would like to spruce up the website and future newsletters, etc. with a new logo. Graduate students may submit a logo in tif format to Sandra Nite (snite@math.tamu.edu) by January 1, 2012. Please limit colors to black, white, and one other color (blue is a traditional SERA color). It is suggested that you not stray too far from the old logo, which you can see on the website <http://www.sera-edresearch.org>. The winner will receive a free room night at the Hotel Monteleone.

Sandra Nite

Graduate Student Representative
Texas A&M University

ELECTION NEWS

Below is the slate of excellent potential SERA officers put forward by the Association Board. The SERA ballots, which will contain the biographies of the candidates, are postal mailed to all persons who were current SERA members as of the last annual meeting.

Position	Candidate	Institution
President	Stacey Edmonson	Sam Houston State University
Member-at-Large	Robin Capt	West Texas A&M University
Member-at-Large	Rebecca Frels	Lamar University
Member-at-Large	Shirley Matteson	Texas Tech University
Member-at-Large	Pauline M. Sampson	Stephen F. Austin State University
Member-at-Large	Jana Willis	University of Houston – Clear Lake
Member-at-Large	Ken Young	Lamar University

Linda Reichwein Zientek

Past President
Sam Houston State University

ABOUT THE HARE ELECTORAL SYSTEM

SERA elections use the Hare system. This system real-locates votes in races with more than 2 candidates until each position obtains a majority of the votes cast. Sometimes this system is also called the "Instant Run-off Voting System."



For example, if 3 candidates were running for one office, and the first round rankings were:

CANDIDATES

Geri	Sue	Bob	Voter
3	1	2	"A"
3	1	2	"B"
1	3	2	"C"
3	2	1	"D"
1	3	2	"E"
2	3	1	"F"
1	3	2	"G"
1	3	2	"H"
3	2	1	"I"
4	2	3	First place votes



Because no candidate received 5 or more of the 9 first place votes, Voters "A's" and "B's" ranks for the last-place candidate, Sue, would be reallocated to the remaining candidates, and Sue would be eliminated as a candidate, as follows:

Geri	Sue	Bob	Voter
(2)		(1)	"A"
(2)		(1)	"B"
1		2	"C"
(2)		1	"D"
1		2	"E"
2		1	"F"
1		2	"G"
1		2	"H"
(2)		1	"I"
4		5	First place votes

At this point, Bob has a majority of the 9 votes, and would be elected, even though Geri had more first place votes than Bob in the initial round of vote counting.

BOARD MEMBERS, APPOINTMENTS AND TERMS

Name	Title	Term Expires	Affiliation
Bill Jasper	President	2012	Sam Houston State University
Kim Nimon	President Elect & Program Chair	2012	University of North Texas
Linda Zientek	Past President	2011	Sam Houston State University
Kathleen Mittag	Treasurer	2012	University of Texas - San Antonio
Susan Skidmore	Secretary	2013	Sam Houston State University
Bruce Thompson	Executive Director	indefinite	Texas A&M University
John Hedl	Historian	indefinite	
Vince Paredes	Membership Chair	indefinite	
Susan Skidmore	Graduate Student Advisor	2013	Sam Houston State University
Sandra Nite	Grad Student Rep	2012	Texas A&M University
Elsa Ruiz	At-Large	2012	University of Texas - San Antonio
Shirley Matteson	At-Large	2012	Texas Tech University
Sonya Carr	At-Large	2012	
Ellen "Aileen" Curtin	At-Large	2013	Texas Wesleyan University
Jim Telese	At-Large	2013	University of Texas - Brownsville
Julia Ballenger	At-Large	2013	Texas Wesleyan University
Winona Vesey	At-Large	2014	University of Houston - Clear Lake
Bettye Grigsby	At-Large	2014	University of Houston - Clear Lake
Prathiba Natesan	At-Large	2014	University of North Texas
Bruce Thompson	Deputy Historian	indefinite	Texas A&M University
Linda Zientek	Deputy Executive Director	indefinite	Sam Houston State University
Kim Nimon	Deputy Treasurer	indefinite	University of North Texas

ABOUT THE DEPUTIES

Editor's Note. Several years ago the SERA By-Laws were amended to facilitate an orderly transition in key Board appointed offices, should key appointed officers (i.e., the Executive Director, the Treasurer, the Historian) resign, become incapacitated, or die either unexpectedly, expectedly, or mysteriously (e.g., in tragic blimp collisions). Here the biographies of the three current Deputies are presented.



Deputy Historian

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 development 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 212 articles, author/ editor of 11 books, including the recently published Foundations of Behavioral Statistics and Exploratory and Confirmatory Factor Analysis, and the author of 20 book chapters. His work on the LibQUAL+[®] 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." Bruce is a previous recipient of the SERA John J. Hedl, Jr. Lifetime Service Award.

Linda Zientek is an Assistant Professor at Sam Houston State University. She has served as SERA President, Program Chair, Newsletter Editor, and as an At-Large Member of the Board of Directors. Linda currently serves as SERA Deputy Executive Director and is responsible for the SERA proposal system. For ten years, she was a community college mathematics instructor. Her research interests include mathematics education, the preparation of mathematics teachers, community college and P16 initiatives, and quantitative research methods. Dr. Zientek's research has been published in the *American Educational Research Journal: Teaching, Learning, and Human Development*, *Educational Researcher*, and *The Journal of Educational Research*. Dr. Zientek has served as president of the Texas Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges, Conference Chair for the 2007 Southwest Regional Conference of the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges, and as a member of Phase I of the Texas Higher Education College Readiness Vertical Team.



Deputy Executive Director



Deputy Treasurer

Kim Nimmon (Ph.D., University of North Texas, 2007) was a workforce development consultant for 20 years before she completed graduate work in human resource development. She is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of North Texas and teaches quantitative research method courses. Before joining UNT, Dr. Nimmon was a Research Assistant Professor at Southern Methodist University where she coordinated the data management functions and conducted the statistical analyses for two IES grants. She currently serves as an external evaluator for a NSF grant and as a Research Partner for a Carl Perkins grant. Her research is focused on the development of quantitative research methodologies, specializing in the area of human resource development. She has been a member of SERA since 2005 when she began attending as a graduate student. Kim currently serves as Program Chair/President Elect and Deputy Treasurer for SERA.

A Preview of New Orleans for the 2012 SERA Annual Meeting February 1-4

We would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone planning to attend the 35th SERA Annual Meeting in New Orleans. This is a wonderful opportunity to expand your professional knowledge and skills while also experiencing the delights of the most authentic and fun city in America!

In New Orleans, we celebrate our food, our music, art, athletics and more. New Orleans is home to hundreds of special events- large, small and in-between. Here is a taste of the events that you will find in early February 2012:

Cultural Events:



Photo courtesy of Blue Man Group.

- Take the Canal Streetcar to the New Orleans Museum of Art for unique exhibits <http://www.noma.org/>
- Enjoy walking through the Besthoff Sculpture Garden next to the New Orleans Museum of Art in City Park.
- Participate in PROSPECT 2, the second edition of New Orleans' acclaimed international contemporary art biennial. See the work of over 60 local, national, and international artists from more than 20 countries. <http://www.prospectneworleans.org/>
- View the free exhibits at the Historic New Orleans Collection, 533 Royal Street <http://www.hnoc.org/>
- Enjoy BLUE MAN GROUP at the Mahalia Jackson Theater of Performing Arts, February 1-5, 2012 <http://www.broadwayinneworleans.com/>
- Engage in free park ranger programs and live music performances on Wednesdays and Saturdays at the New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park. Park brochure: <http://www.nps.gov/jazz/>



[planyourvisit/upload/JAZZbrochure.pdf](#)

- Experience The National World War II Museum and see *Beyond All Boundaries*, a 50-minute multisensory film telling the story of the Greatest Generation's journey from Pearl Harbor to America's final victory in World War II. <http://www.nationalww2museum.org/>
- Enjoy live music seven (7) nights a week.

Sport Events:

- See NBA basketball at the New Orleans Arena <http://www.neworleansarena.com/site.php>

There's also Music, Food, early Mardi Gras events, AND SO MUCH MORE!

- Plan Your Food Experiences <http://www.neworleanscvb.com/things-to-do/dining-entertainment/>



Shopping

New Orleans shopping—from the French Quarter to Magazine Street—offers an array of choices. Visit The Shops at Canal Place, Saks Fifth Avenue, The Riverwalk, Jax Brewery, as well as hundreds of boutiques, art galleries and antique stores throughout the city. **For more information:** <http://www.neworleanscvb.com/>

The **Hotel Monteleone**, our conference hotel in the French Quarter, is the site of many outstanding SERA Annual Meetings. This historic landmark is a member of Historic Hotels of America and boasts 600 newly renovated rooms and suites, two award-winning restaurants, the famous Carousel Bar, Logo Shop, heated rooftop pool, Spa Aria, state-of-the-art exercise facility, business center, and valet parking. <http://hotelmonteleone.com/>

Please call the Hotel Monteleone, toll free at 866/338-4684, by **December 15** to reserve your room at the conference rate (Rate for single or double \$139.00).

Sonya Carr

Local Arrangements Chair and SERA Member-At-Large

WEDNESDAY: TRAINING SESSION

THE "HOW TO PUBLISH" TRAINING SESSION ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON AT THE 35th SERA MEETING

The "How to Publish" training workshop will be held in the early afternoon on the Wednesday that the 35th annual SERA meeting begins. The workshop has a \$30 ticket price, and seats are limited. As the following biographies suggest, the three trainers are well qualified to address this training topic.



Robin K. Henson is Professor of Education at the University of North Texas. Dr. Henson served as Associate Editor of *Educational and Psychological Measurement*. Dr. Henson is widely published, and has previously served as a member of the

SERA Board.

Anthony Onwuegbuzie is Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling at Sam Houston State University. He teaches courses in qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods research,



and writes extensively on topics related to all three areas. Dr. Onwuegbuzie has secured more than 200 refereed journal articles and book chapters, and has made approximately 400 presentations and keynote addresses at regional, national, and international conferences and venues. He served as an Editor of *Educational Researcher* and is a Co-editor of *Research in the Schools*.

Bruce Thompson is Distinguished Professor, Texas A&M University. He served as a Co-editor of the teaching, learning, and human development section of the *American Educational Research Journal (AERJ:TLHD)*, and past editor of *Educational and Psychological Measurement*, the series, *Advances in Social Science Methodology*, and two other journals. He is the author/editor of roughly 210 articles, and several books, including the recently published *Foundations of Behavioral Statistics*, and *Exploratory and Confirmatory Factor Analysis*.



2012 SERA PRESIDENTIAL INVITED SPEAKER



The 2012 SERA Presidential Invited Address Speaker is **Patricia A. Alexander**. Her topic is "**Things I Have Learned (So Far)**." Dr. Patricia Alexander is the Jean Mullan Professor of Literacy and Distinguished Scholar-Teacher in the Department of Human Development at the University of Maryland. She has served as President of Division 15 (Educational Psychology) of the American Psychological Association, Vice-President of Division C (Learning and Instruction) of the American Educational Research Association, and Past-President of the Southwest Educational Research Association. A former middle-school teacher, Dr. Alexander received her reading specialist degree from James Madison University (1979) and her Ph.D. in reading from the University of Maryland (1981). Since receiving her Ph.D., Dr. Alexander has published over 230 articles, books, or chapters in the area of learning and instruction. She has also presented over 300 papers or invited addresses at national and international conferences. She currently serves as the senior editor of *Contemporary Educational Psychology*, was past editor of *Instructional Science* and Associate Editor of *American Educational Research Journal-Teaching, Learning, and Human Development*, and presently serves on over 10 editorial boards including those for *Journal of Literacy Research*, *Educational Psychologist*, and the *Journal of Educational Psychology*.

Among her many honors and awards, Dr. Alexander is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and the American Educational Research Association, and was a Spencer Fellow of the National Academy of Education. She was recently named the second most productive scholar in Educational Psychology, and was the 2001 recipient of the Oscar S. Causey Award for outstanding contributions to literacy research from the National Reading Conference. She is also the 2006 recipient of the E. L. Thorndike Award for Career Achievement in Educational Psychology from APA Division 15 and the 2007 recipient of the Sylvia Scribner Award from AERA Division C. In addition, she has received various national, university, and college awards for teaching.

Friday: Using R for educational research: An introductory workshop to break the learning curve



R is a **FREE** statistical programming language and environment that supports Unix, Windows, and Mac families of operating systems. R can be used to (a) teach statistical concepts, (b) perform statistical analyses, and (c) perform Monte Carlo simulation research. R not only does statistical analyses, but also has powerful graphical capabilities.

This workshop is aimed at helping individuals fast track

their way through the R learning curve and does not presuppose any familiarity with R or programming. Participants will learn how to install R, use built-in help features, and ask questions the smart way when posting to the R help list serve. In addition, participants will learn how to read in data, analyze data, and create graphs that are sure to wow sophisticated audiences. As time permits, inferential statistics across the general linear model will be demonstrated including ANOVA, Multiple Linear Regression, MANOVA, Canonical Correlation, and Hierarchical Linear Modeling.

Participants are encouraged to bring laptops. All registered workshop participants will receive wireless connectivity as part of the workshop fee.



This four hour workshop will be held on Friday at the 35th annual SERA meeting. The workshop has a \$15 ticket price, and seats are limited. The workshop will be facilitated by **Kim Nimon** and **Kyle Roberts**. Kim is an Assistant Professor at the University of North Texas and uses R to teach statistical concepts, analyze large datasets from the U.S. Army and Air Force, and conduct Monte Carlo studies. Kyle is an Associate Professor at Southern Methodist University and uses R to teach a complete sequence of statistical courses and analyze large datasets from school districts across the United States. Their work on R has been published in publications such as *Behavior Research Methods*, *Journal of Applied Measurement*, *Multivariate Behavioral Research*, and *Research Methodologies for Conducting Research on Giftedness*. They are also authors of the *yhat* package (available from the Comprehensive R Archive Network) that provides software to fully interpret regression and canonical effects.



FRIDAY AND SATURDAY: QUALITATIVE METHODS



Yvonna S. Lincoln is a Texas A&M University Distinguished Professor of Higher Education and Educational Administration and holder of the Ruth Harrington Chair. She is author, coauthor, or editor of books such as *Naturalistic Inquiry* and *Fourth Generation Evaluation* (both with Egon G. Guba), and *Organizational Theory and Inquiry*. She served as the Vice President of Division J (Postsecondary Education) of the American Educational Research Association and as the president of the American Evaluation Association. Dr. Lincoln co-edited, with Dr. Norman Denzin, the various editions of the *Handbook of Qualitative Research*. She is the Co-Editor of *Qualitative Inquiry* and has been Co-Editor also of the *American Educational Research Journal: Teaching, Learning and Human Development*.



Dr. Julia Ballenger is now at Texas Wesleyan University, Fort Worth, Texas. She is an associate professor and member of the Graduate Faculty. She teaches in both Curriculum and Instruction and Educational Leadership cognates in the School of Education doctoral program.

	2012 SERA Outstanding Paper Award	2012 SERA Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award	2012 SERA Deans' Awards for exceptional Graduate Student Research
<p>Due Date:</p> <p>Authorship:</p> 	<p>Thursday, February 2, 2012 (by noon)</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Wednesday, January 11, 2012 (by 5:00 P.M.)</p> <p>The first author must be a graduate student.</p>	<p>Wednesday, January 11, 2012 (by 5:00 P.M.)</p> <p>The paper must only be authored by graduate student(s). Choice can be made for the award to be given to the first author or split among all the authors.</p>
<p>Eligibility:</p> 	<p>Must submit their 5 copies at the conference registration desk during the annual meeting, or mail the paper copies immediately to the annual meeting.</p> <p>Presented as a paper at the conference.</p>	<p>Presented as a paper or symposium session.</p> <p>Completed Graduate student research (ONLY Division I through V papers), may include condensed version of the thesis or dissertation, as well as other graduate student research.</p>	<p>Completed graduate student research or research work in-progress (i.e., papers submitted to any division, I through VI are eligible).</p> <p>Papers can be in any form (e.g., literature review, explanation of statistical concepts, case study) and will be judged from the perspective of how it will further the theory of educational research.</p>
<p>Ineligibility:</p> 	<p>Persons who authored the SERA Outstanding Paper in the immediate prior year are not eligible for award consideration in the following year.</p> <p>Active officers of the SERA Executive Council, including appointed officers, are not eligible for this competition.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Student must be from a university that provides an award and must attend the 2012 SERA annual meeting. (currently Univ. of Texas, Texas Tech, North Texas, Texas A&M, Sam Houston, Lamar, Stephen F. Austin, Baylor, Texas Wesleyan, and Univ. of Houston)</p> <p>Students not from a university whose Dean of the College of Education does not support these awards are not eligible.</p>
<p>Completed papers to:</p> 	<p>Postal/ Courier Service Only Bruce Thompson, SERA Executive Director 2012 SERA Outstanding Paper Award Dept. of Educational Psychology Texas A&M University College Station, Texas 77843-4225 Voice: 979-845-1335</p>	<p>Electronically submit papers to the 2012 SERA President: Bill Jasper Sam Houston State University Department of Mathematics and Statistics Huntsville, TX 77341-2206 936-294-1575 mth_waj@shsu.edu</p>	<p>Student authors should electronically submit completed papers to the 2012 SERA graduate student representative: Sandra Nite SERA Graduate Student Representative Texas A&M University snite@math.tamu.edu 979-248-0653</p>
<p>Award:</p>	<p>\$750 and present paper at AERA 2012</p>	<p>\$500</p>	<p>\$200 per University for two \$100 awards</p>
<p>Questions? Contact your SERA Grad Student Representative.</p>			