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REBECCA FRELS
LAMAR UNIVERSITY

SERA Fall 2012



Southwest Educational Research Association

WWW.SERA-EDRESEARCH.ORG

FALL 2012

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- JUNIOR FACULTY
MENTORING PRO-
GRAM NEW TO
SERA 2013
- GOING PAPERLESS
AT THE
CONFERENCE

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The Pres Says...

The SERA Board of Directors is looking forward to seeing each of you in San Antonio for another greater conference. The annual conference is a great way to establish and renew collaborative relationships with scholar-practitioners in educational research, share cutting-edge research, and consider new research possibilities.

The 2013 SERA Annual Conference will be held at the Menger Hotel in San Antonio on February 6-9, 2013. This newsletter con-

tains details about the conference, including links to the annual meeting arrangements, conference information from the Program Chair **Stacy Edmonson**, as well as information about the presidential invited address, training sessions, and awards. Our presidential speaker will be **Karen R. Harris**, the Mary Emily Warner Professor in the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College at Arizona State University. The topic of Karen's address is "Things You Probably Should Know About Publishing".



Kim Nimon

What is New?

Since our last conference, we have made a significant investment in restructuring our SERA website and registration system. The website has a fresh look and a user interface that allows select

See Nimon, Page 2



Stacey Edmonson

Program Chair News

The 2013 SERA Conference begins in San Antonio at the historic **Menger Hotel** on Wednesday afternoon, February 6, with a training session entitled "Conducting and Writing the Literature Review: A Comprehensive, Step-by-Step Approach." This ticketed session will be conducted by

Tony Onwuegbuzie from Sam Houston State University and **Rebecca Frels** of Lamar University.

We are pleased to welcome **Karen Harris**, Mary Emily Warner Professor in the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College at Arizona State University,

See Edmonson, Page 3

Nimon: The Pres Gives Tips from Page 1

board members to easily make updates. We are continuing to work out some of the bugs in the new registration system, but we hope members will take advantage of the system's ability to add events (e.g., lunch, workshop) to existing registrations.

The SERA repository was piloted last year. Based on the positive feedback we received from the pilot, we are planning to offer SERA members the opportunity to upload their papers and download papers that other authors have uploaded. Members will login to the SERA repository site with the same e-mail address they used when submitting their proposals. They will then be asked to establish a unique password in order to maintain the integrity of the system and ensure that only the authors of papers can upload or delete papers from the repository. More information regarding the SERA repository will be communicated via e-mail. So, be sure to check our e-mails from the Executive Director as we get closer to the conference.

Sonya Carr and **Julia Ballenger** developed an outstanding proposal for

the junior faculty mentoring project. Building on the success of mentoring graduate students, the project aims to provide support for junior faculty. Look for a junior faculty strand in the 2013 program which may include a session implemented in the same format as a speed dating session with a variety of topics that will be of interest to junior faculty.

State of the Organization

The membership in our organization is solid. Like other professional organizations, budget constraints appear to be impacting the increase in membership we had been experiencing. To help review this issue, a committee of board members will be investigating ways that we can add more value to the SERA membership.

Tips on How to Get the Most of the Conference

If this is your first SERA conference, I 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 interesting in building your research skills, make sure to attend one of the SERA training workshops.

Kicking off the SERA conference on Wednesday afternoon,

Anthony Onwuegbuzie and **Rebecca Frels** will be providing a step-by-step approach to conducting and writing a comprehensive literature review. On Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, **Patricia Goodson** and **Dominique Chlup** will be presenting an 8 hour extended training session focused on "Becoming an Academic Writer". (Both training sessions require a ticket to attend). In addition to the training sessions, my advice is to attend as many paper sessions you can that are related to your research area. Also, take time to mingle with colleagues at breakfast and conference breaks. The conference is a great time to think of research ideas and to get a team of like-minded folks together to make those ideas a reality!

I look forward to seeing you in San Antonio!

Kim Nimon

SERA President
University of North Texas



**"Take time to
mingle with
colleagues at
breakfast and
conference
breaks."**



Edmonson: Program Highlights from Page 1

as the 2013 SERA Presidential Speaker. In her address, **Karen Harris** will discuss the ever-important topic of *Things You Probably Should Know About Publishing*. Professor Harris's address will take place on Thursday, February 7, following the SERA luncheon. She will also host the traditional "fireside chat" for graduate students that afternoon, an opportunity for graduate students to meet and visit informally with Professor Harris in a small group setting with other graduate students from a variety of universities. Additional graduate student activities are scheduled for Thursday afternoon and evening.

The 2013 conference will close on February 9 with the SERA Extended Training Session, to be held Friday afternoon and Satur-

day morning. **Patricia Goodson** and **Dominique Chlup** from Texas A&M University will host this 8-hour training session entitled "Becoming an Academic Writer." A wealth of additional workshops and presentations are planned throughout the conference on topics such as vita development, effective academic writing, and conducting scholarly research.

More than 230 proposals were submitted for the 2013 SERA Conference. All proposals are currently being reviewed under the direction of our Division Chairs. Division VI continues to be a distinctive attraction for SERA proposals; this division is designed specifically to allow graduate students an opportunity to present "work in progress," including dissertations or theses that have not yet been defended. All sessions in Division VI are led by discussants who have distinguished careers as researchers. Papers presented in Division VI will need to be submitted to the discussant in advance.

Acceptance decisions will be made by the end of October, and authors will be notified immediately thereafter. The draft program should be complete by early December and will be posted to the SERA website.

Photo courtesy of San Antonio Convention & Visitor's Bureau Menger/SACVB



Authors can check their presentation dates and times from the posted schedule and make travel plans accordingly.

During the conference, projectors will be provided in all presentation rooms. Presenters will need to bring their own laptop and their presentation on a flash drive. One computer per session should be used to minimize transition time between presentations. Presenters will have 10-13 minutes for each presentation, with a few minutes left for questions or discussion. We recommend limiting your presentation to about 10 slides, or none, in order to stay within the time limit. Please note that PowerPoint presentations are not required. Presentations are strictly limited to 15 minutes in order for all presenters to have sufficient time in each session. The SERA website will contain the most up to date information on conference activities, so please visit www.sera-edresearch.org for the latest news.

We look forward to seeing you in San Antonio at the 36th Annual SERA Conference!

Stacey Edmonson
2013 Program Chair/President-Elect

Sam Houston State University

"The draft program should be complete by early December and will be posted to the SERA website."

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	Susan Skidmore	Sam Houston State University
Secretary	Kevin Kalinowski	University of North Texas Health Science Center
Member-at-Large	Julia Ballenger	Texas A&M University - Commerce
Member-at-Large	Forrest Lane	Southern Mississippi
Member-at-Large	Lesley Leach	Tarleton State
Member-at-Large	Lori Petty	University of Texas - Brownsville
Member-at-Large	Janet Tareilo	Stephen F. Austin State University
Member-at-Large	Jim Telese	University of Texas - Brownsville
Member-at-Large	Celia Wilson	Texas Wesleyan

About the Hare Electoral System

SERA elections use the Hare system. This system reallocates 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:

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", "B's", "D's", and "I'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: ➡

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.

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

Check your
mailbox for
your ballot and
REMEMBER
TO VOTE!

Graduate Student News



**Pat
Curry**

The SERA Graduate Student Council would like to encourage your attendance and participation at the 2013 SERA Conference at the Menger Hotel in San Antonio, February 6-9. The conference provides graduate students a wonderful opportunity to extend their research presentation skills, to participate in a wide-variety of professional development sessions, and to build relationships with graduate students and professors from universities around the region. Students are also invited to several activities hosted by the SERA Graduate Student Council.

Graduate Student Meeting

We would like for all graduate students to attend the Graduate Student Meeting on Thursday, February 7, immediately after the Fireside Chat (check the program for room number). The purpose of this meeting is to thank the outgoing SERA Graduate Student Council for their service, to select the SERA Graduate Student Council for the coming year, and to elect the SERA Graduate Student Representative who will serve as a voting member of the SERA Board. Universities with five or more graduate students present at this meeting are eligible for one

position on the council. Of those with fewer than five graduate students present, one at-large position will be filled. Please consider representing your university in this capacity. The current SERA Graduate Student Representatives have done an outstanding job this year, and they are as follows: **Leah McAlister Shields**, SHSU; **William Parker**, Lamar; **Teresa Phelps**, Texas Wesleyan; **Nicola Ritter**, Texas A & M; **Huda Sarraj**, Texas Tech; **Heather Turner**, North Texas; and **Tonya Trepinski**, Baylor.

Graduate Student Social Event

Immediately after the Graduate Student Meeting on Thursday February 7, graduate students and their guests will gather for fun and fellowship at Pat O'Brien's, at 121 Alamo Plaza, just down the street from the Menger. We look forward to meeting and welcoming you to the organization.

Free Hotel Room Drawing

Those who attend the noon luncheon on Thursday will have an opportunity to win one of fifteen free room nights at the conference. To be eligible to win a free room night, you must be present at the luncheon, and you must be a registered guest at the Menger Hotel.

Paper Awards

There are three different types of paper awards which graduate students are eligible to win. The **Deans' Award** is sponsored by individual universities, and only students from participating universities are eligible to win these awards. At this time, each SERA Graduate Student Representative's university has made the financial commitment, as well as University of Houston, Clear Lake.

Paper submissions for the Deans' Award are due to Pat Curry by January 11, 2013. The **Outstanding Graduate Student Paper** is selected from among all papers submitted and is due to Kim Nimon by January 16, 2013. The **Outstanding SERA Paper** is chosen from all papers submitted and is due to Bruce Thompson by February 7, 2013. Please see <http://sera-edresearch.org/seraCALL.pdf> for more information.

Fireside Chat

An annual conference highlight, the Fireside Chat is a wonderful opportunity for graduate students to visit informally with the Presidential Invited Speaker. This year the Presidential Invited Speaker is Karen Harris, Mary Emily Warner Professor in the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College at Arizona State University. Professor Harris will present *Things You Probably Need to Know About Publishing* immediately after the luncheon on Thursday, Feb. 7, and just before the Fireside Chat. For more information, please see page 10 of the Spring Newsletter.

The SERA Graduate Student Representatives and I look forward to meeting you at the conference!

Pat Curry
Graduate Student Representative
to the Board

Stephen F. Austin State University

*This year, the
Presidential
Invited Speaker
is Karen Harris:
speaking about
"Things You
Probably Need
to Know About
Publishing."*

Awards for Papers

Each year the SERA recognizes outstanding research with three different types of awards - the SERA Outstanding Paper Award, the SERA Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award, and the SERA Deans' Award for exceptional Graduate Student Research.



Each year, SERA recognizes outstanding research with three different types of awards.

SERA Outstanding Paper Award

An individual may submit only one paper on which he/she is author or co-author. Papers with any common co-authors will not be considered. Applicants must submit 5 single-sided copies of the paper at the conference registration desk during the annual conference or mail with paper submission to the SERA Executive Director, Bruce Thompson. Electronic submissions are not accepted. The winner of the Outstanding Paper Award in the prior year is not eligible for consideration. Active officers of the SERA Executive Council, including appointed officers, are not eligible. See Call for Proposals: <http://sera-edresearch.org/seraCALL.pdf>

Award: \$750; present paper at AERA in 2013. Deadline: February 7, 2013 (Noon) Postal/Courier Service Only
Bruce Thompson, SERA Executive Director
2012 Outstanding Paper Award
Department of Educational Psychology
Texas A & M University
College Station, TX 77843-4225
voice: 979-845-1335

SERA Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award

The first author must be a graduate student. Papers must be completed graduate student research (Division I through Division V); may be a condensed version of a thesis or dissertation, as well as other research; and are presented as papers or symposiums at the conference. Works in progress (Division VI) and preliminary works, such as literature reviews, class projects, proposals, are not eligible for the award. See Call for Proposals: <http://sera-edresearch.org/seraCALL.pdf>

Award: \$500. Deadline: January 16, 2013 (by 5:00 pm)

Submit Electronically

Kim Nimon

SERA President and Treasurer

Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award

Learning Technologies Department

University of North Texas

940-369-7684

kim.nimon@unt.edu

Deans' Awards

This paper must **only** be authored by graduate students. The award may be given to the first author only or to all authors. Completed graduate student research (Division I – V) and works in progress (Division VI) are eligible. Papers can be in any form (i.e., literature reviews, explanation of statistical concepts, case studies, other), and will be judged from the perspective of how well they will further the theory of educational research. Student recipients must be from a university that provides an award and must attend the 2013 SERA annual conference. At this time the following universities are participating: Baylor, Lamar, Sam Houston State, Stephen F. Austin, Texas A & M, Texas Tech, Texas Wesleyan, and U of H Clear Lake. Students who are not enrolled in a university whose Dean of the College of Education supports this award are not eligible. See Call for Proposals: <http://sera-edresearch.org/seraCALL.pdf>

Awards: \$200 per university for two \$100 awards Deadline: January 11, 2013 (5:00 pm)

Submit Electronically Only

Pat Curry

SERA Graduate Student Representative to the Board

Deans' Awards

Stephen F. Austin State University

936-525-7604

patcurryeducon@gmx.com

SERA Junior Faculty Mentoring Initiative



The SERA Board members are implementing a Junior Faculty Mentoring Initiative for members of SERA who have recently completed a doctoral program and/or are in the early stages of a career in higher education.

The purpose of the SERA mentoring program is: (a) to further scholarly research, (b) provide opportunities for career advancement, and (c) enhance leadership opportunities for members who are junior faculty through a formal mentoring program.

Please plan to attend the special SERA session, Junior Faculty Mentoring Initiative, at the 2013 SERA

Annual Conference to learn more about this new mentoring opportunity for junior faculty members.

Committee members:
Julia Ballenger
Texas A & M Commerce

Sonya Carr

Prathiba Natesan
University of North Texas

Consider the benefits of participating in the SERA Junior Faculty Mentoring Initiative. Look in the 2013 program guide for more information.

Want to Go Paperless?

For the first time in SERA, you will be able to easily browse through the conference program, mark the presentations/speakers/topics you want to attend, and their venue on your smartphone!

Just download the guidebook app (<http://guidebook.com/>) and watch out for updates in the email after the program schedule is finalized.

Do you have a something new to share? If so, please contact rebecca.frels@gmail.com to share it in Membership Happenings.

Membership Happenings

Matthew Fuller, Ph.D., was appointed as the coordinator of Sam Houston State University's Master of Arts in Higher Education Administration.

The Sam Houston State Master of Arts in Higher Education Administration and Graduate Certificate in Academic Advising are accepting applications for admission for the Spring 2013 cohort of students through Dec. 1, 2012. For more information please contact Matt Fuller at [936.294.3399](tel:936.294.3399) or highered@shsu.edu.

Top 10 Reasons to Attend the 36th Annual SERA Meeting

Bruce Thompson
SERA Executive Director



Photo courtesy of
San Antonio
Convention &
Visitor's Bureau
Richard Notwiz/
SACVB

1. How likely is it that a major ice storm will once again almost shut down the SERA annual meeting San Antonio, like it did at the meeting in San Antonio in 2011 (or like it did the 1980 meeting in San Antonio, the 1985 meeting in Austin, or the 1995 meeting in Dallas)?
2. Don't you want to see if any of your professors have "too much fun" at Dick's Last Resort, and fall into the 3 feet deep San Antonio River?
3. Don't you want your picture taken while you are presenting at the conference, and have it posted on the web, so that you can direct your friends and family to the SERA website to see you in academic action?
4. Don't you like to ride the street car from the hotel to El Mercado, and eat Mexican food while you listen to mariachi bands?
5. Don't you like to ride to the top of the "Needle" (i.e., the Tower of the Americas), made for the 1968 World's Fair, in Hemisfair Park, and enjoy the view?
6. Don't you like riding on the river boats?
7. Don't you like to visit the incredible Institute of Texan Cultures museum, located in Hemisphere Park, and only a short walk from the historic Menger hotel (the oldest continuously operating hotel west of the Mississippi River, and home of the Roy Rogers suite, where Roy and Dale Evans, and possibly their horse Trigger, stayed for extensive visits)?
8. Don't you like looking at the huge outdoor mural at the Convention Center on the River Walk?
9. Don't you like to visit La Villita to do some window shopping?
10. **Don't you like to visit the Alamo?**



Presidential Invited Speaker: Karen R. Harris

**Mary Emily Warner Professor in the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers
College at Arizona State University**

Things You Probably Should Know About Publishing

"SERA will be in town for the First Friday Art Walk in South Town, which has live music, food and art to purchase. ends at 10pm and is lots of fun."

Conference Preview: SERA 2013

SERA would like to cordially invite everyone to our annual conference at the Menger Hotel in San Antonio, Texas from February 6-9, 2013. It will be a very intellectually stimulating conference as well as a "good time for all." San Antonio has always been a crossroads for travelers, explorers, and those on a quest for liberty. Its sights, sounds, tastes and past captivate, while friendly people, the relaxing river and a superb climate entice visitors to come back for more.

From its important role in Texas independence to its fusion of cultures, San Antonio is a truly unique and authentic destination. Explore the routes of the conquistadors, the settlements of the first missions, and the Shrine of Texas Liberty—the Alamo. San Antonio's heart is in its past—but its future is in its celebration of cultures. Sites to see around downtown are the Alamo, The River walk, La Villita, Tower of Americas, the Buckhorn Hall of Fame

and several museums such as the Witte, McNay Art Museum, and SA Museum of Art. **SERA will be in town for the First Friday Art Walk in South Town, which has live music, food and art to purchase. It starts at 6pm and ends at 10pm and is lots of fun.** There are many fun "party crowd" places such as Dick's Last Resort, Howl at the Moon, Swigs, Pat O'Brien's, and Dirty Nellie's.

The Roosevelt Bar in the Menger Hotel is a must see. Teddy Roosevelt enlisted his Rough Riders there, and Carrie Nation chopped up the bar during prohibition.

The Menger, opened in 1859, is the oldest continuously operating hotel west of the Mississippi River. The hotel has many ghosts and spirits, so watch your back. Hope you are a sound sleeper!

Please call the hotel at 210-223-4361 for reservations.

Single/Double rooms are **\$129 per night**. Cheers and see you in San Antonio!

**Kathleen Mittag
Local Arrangements
Chair**

University of Texas - San Antonio



Photo courtesy of San Antonio Convention & Visitor's Bureau
SACVB

More About Karen R. Harris Presidential Invited Guest Speaker



Karen R. Harris is the Mary Emily Warner Professor in the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College at Arizona State University. She has worked in the field of education for over 35 years, initially as a general education teacher and then as a special education teacher. Her research focuses on informing and improving theory, research, and practice related to writing development among students with high incidence disabilities, students who struggle academically, and normally achieving students. She is interested in validating instructional approaches for heterogeneous classrooms derived from integrating multiple, evidence-based theories. She developed the Self-Regulated Strategy Development (SRSD) model of strategies instruction; SRSD has been most extensively researched in the area of writing, although researchers have also addressed applications in reading, math, and homework. A former editor of the *Journal of Educational Psychology*, Karen Harris is senior editor of the *American Psychological Association Educational*

Psychology Handbook (2012). She is a senior editor (along with Steve Graham) of the *What Works for Special Needs Learners* series published by Guilford Press. She is co-author or co-editor of several books and numerous articles, and has served on editorial boards for journals in special education, educational psychology, and general education. She is a Fellow of both the American Psychological

the Advancement of Writing Research. She has received several awards including the Career Research Award from the International Council for Exceptional Children, the Samuel A. Kirk Award from the Division of Learning Disabilities, and the Distinguished Researcher Award from the Special Education Interest Group of the American Educational Research Association.

Her current research focuses on practice-based professional

Professor Harris's address will take place on Thursday, February 7, following the SERA luncheon.

Association and the American Educational Research Association. She has served as President of the Division for Research of the Council for Exceptional Children and as an officer or committee member for the American Educational Research Association and the American Psychological Association. She has also served on committees or panels for organizations, including the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the International Reading Association, and the International Society for

development in SRSD for general and special educators (focusing on outcomes among both teachers and students), and on using technology to improve literacy instruction.

The SERA Presidential Invited Guest Speaker event is Thursday, February 7th, following the luncheon: ***Things You Probably Should Know About Publishing***



Important Dates

- **Proposal Acceptance/Rejection Decisions** will be sent via email in late November/early December.
- **DRAFT conference program** will be posted to the web for member proofreading in early December.
- **The last day to reserve your room at the Menger Hotel (210-223-4361) with assurance of getting the discounted SERA block rate is December 12, 2012.**
- **The last day to register for a room at the Menger Hotel (210-223-4361), if rooms are still available is January 14, 2012** (see <http://mengerhotel.com/>).
- **Dean's Award Papers Due: January 11, 2013 at 5:00 pm.**
- **Graduate Student Outstanding Paper deadline: January 16, 2013 at 5:00 pm** (See call for proposals: <http://sera-edresearch.org/seraCALL.pdf>).
- **Graduate Student Papers (only for Division VI: Student Research in Progress) is due to Discussants by January 18, 2013** (See call for proposals: <http://sera-edresearch.org/seraCALL.pdf>).
- **The deadline for receipt of the paper submission for SERA Outstanding Paper Award is February 7, 2013 at 12:00 pm. Due: February 7, 2013** (See call for proposals: <http://sera-edresearch.org/seraCALL.pdf>).
- **SERA 2012: February 6-9, 2013**

The 2013 annual meeting Registration System is ***CLOSED**** until early December.

Registration payment by all proposal co-authors was a precondition for proposal review. For the current cycle, *registration for students is \$58, and for faculty is \$83.*

SERA 2013 Conference Paper Digital Repository

Consider sharing a digital copy of your conference paper to the voluntary repository.

See [SERA Conference Paper Repository](http://sera-edresearch.org/files/login.php):

<http://sera-edresearch.org/files/login.php>

Other Conference Tidbits



Audience at the 2012 Presidential Invited Address

Pre-Conference Workshop

On the afternoon of Wednesday, the first day of the SERA annual meeting in San Antonio, **Tony Onwuegbuzie** and **Rebecca Frels** will conduct a 4-hour training session: Conducting and Writing the Literature Review: A Comprehensive, Step-By-Step Approach.

The purpose of this interactive workshop is to provide a meta-framework—integrating mixed research techniques, ethics, Web 2.0 resources, and cultural considerations—for conducting and writing comprehensive literature reviews, applicable for graduate students,

beginning researchers, and experienced researchers alike.

In the workshop, they will provide a step-by-step guide illustrating how to identify databases; use extensive search strategies via multiple MODES (Media, Observation, Documents, Experts, Secondary Data); store and organize selected literature; analyze and synthesize the information using computer software (e.g., Excel, QDA Miner, SPSS); and present the report coherently. Each step concludes with what we describe as the CORE of the process, namely, Critical Exploration, Organization, Reflections, and Evaluation.

About the Presenters

Anthony J. Onwuegbuzie is professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling at Sam Houston State University. He teaches doctoral-level courses in qualitative, quantitative, and mixed research. His research areas primarily involve social and behavioral science topics, including disadvantaged and under-served populations such as minorities, children living in war zones, students with special needs, and juvenile delinquents. Also, he has conducted numerous research studies on factors that predict educational achievement at the primary, secondary, and tertiary levels. Additionally, he writes extensively on qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methodological topics applicable to numerous social and behavioral science disciplines.

Anthony (Tony) Onwuegbuzie has secured the publication of more than 330 works, including more than 260 journal articles, 50 book chapters, and 2 books. His articles have been published in prestigious journals such as *The Lancet*, *Educational Researcher*, *American Educational Research Journal*, *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*, *Educational Administration Quarterly*, and *Educational and Psychological Measurement*. His current *h-index* is 45. Tony Onwuegbuzie has made more than 600 presentations that include more than 20 keynote addresses at regional, national, and international conferences. Also, he has delivered more than 90 work-



Tony Onwuegbuzie

shops all over the world on various topics. Tony Onwuegbuzie is former editor of *Educational Researcher*, being part of the Editor team of *Educational Researcher* (2006-2010) (alongside Patricia B. Elmore, Gergory Camilli, Marla H. Mallette, and Julie P. Combs) that secured a first impact factor of 3.774, representing #1 in the Education and Education Research rankings, out of 177 journals. He is currently a co-editor of *Research in the Schools*. He is extremely passionate about the importance of conducting rigorous literature reviews, and in addition to co-authoring numerous articles and book chapters on this topic, he has co-authored a forthcoming Sage Book with Rebecca Frels that provides a step-by-step guide to conducting comprehensive literature reviews.

Rebecca K. Frels is an Assistant Professor at Lamar University and a recent graduate of Sam Houston State University. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor, Professional School Counselor, and Production Editor for *Research in the Schools* (a nationally/internationally refereed journal). In her first two years in academe, she has



Rebecca Frels

publications numbering more than 25. Another notable recognition includes an outstanding paper award at SERA (2010). Further, she co-authored an editorial on APA errors that was posted by the American Psychological Association on APA's blog post, APA's Twitter, and APA's Facebook.

Rebecca Frels served as a guest co-editor of two special issues for the *International Journal of Multiple Research Approaches*. Her more than 60 presentations at regional, national, and international conferences include the American Evaluation Association, the American Educational Research Association, and the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision. International experiences include teaching duties at UNIBE University (Costa Rica) and workshops at the Mixed Methods International Conference (England) and the International Conference on Education (Kenya). In the area of literature reviews, she has presented numerous workshops, and most recently, she and Anthony Onwuegbuzie are co-authoring a textbook for Sage Publications integrating research techniques, ethics, Web 2.0 resources, and cultural considerations in a step-by-step approach within the literature review.

Tony Onwuegbuzie and Rebecca Frels recently co-presented a mixed methods 6-day refresher course in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Post-Conference Training Session

Patricia Goodson and **Dominique Chlup** will present an extended training session (8 hours) beginning Friday afternoon (2-8-2013) and concluding at noon Saturday morning titled *Becoming an Academic Writer*. Their training model is based on (a) the work of writing theoretician Peter Elbow, (b) the empirical research done by Robert Boice (and others) on the writing productivity of college professors, and (c) the research into the practice patterns of elite performers (such as Olympic athletes). These principles and practices have been developed and tested over time. Yet, when applied to the task of writing, most applications have targeted non-academic writers, such as fiction authors. This training session will focus on these successful principles that are applicable to the writing needs of college professors and students.



Pat Goodson



Dominique Chlup

If you have not already registered for either the Pre-Conference or Post-Conference Sessions, check when you arrive to see if there are extra slots.

About the Presenters

Pat Goodson is Professor of Health Education in the Department of Health and Kinesiology at Texas A&M University, and Director of the College of Education and Human Development's Writing Initiative (P.O.W.E.R. Services), a college-wide writing support service for graduate students. Her P.O.W.E.R. Writing Initiative at A&M, like her SERA training session, is based on the P.O.W.E.R. model described in her 2012 book, *Becoming an Academic Writer: 50 Exercises for Paced, Productive and Powerful Writing*

<http://www.sagepub.com/books/Book237363>

She has also authored the book, *Theory in Health Promotion Research and Practice: Thinking Outside the Box*, as well as numerous journal articles, and has served as a book review editor for *The Journal of Sex Research*.

Dominique T. Chlup is the Associate Director of Texas A&M University's P.O.W.E.R. (Promoting Outstanding Writing for Excellence in Research) Writing Initiative. She is an Associate Professor of Adult Education and also an affiliate faculty member in the Women's and Gender Studies Program at Texas A&M University.

Dominique Chlup's scholarship has focused on the socio-historical dynamics of women's learning in early twentieth century prison reformatories, the politics and practice of contemporary corrections—prison and jail—education, and the development of reading, writing, and creative/artistic abilities in adult learners. Her most recent interests include the development of writing productivity amongst graduate students and faculty members. She aims to create supportive writing communities and assist students and faculty in gaining power over their writing process.

She received both a Masters and Doctorate in education from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education. She also has a M.F.A. in fiction writing from Sarah Lawrence and undergraduate degrees in English and History from Columbia University. She has authored over 85 publications and delivered over 80 presentations to national and international audiences. She is a consulting editor for three journals—*Adult Learning*, *Adult Education Quarterly*, and *TC Record*. Dominique Chlup has been the Principal Investigator or Co-PI of 12 grants since 2004 totaling over \$5.3 million in funding, and she procured \$250,000 in graduate fellowship funds.

Each
newsletter, we
spotlight one
or more of the
SERA board.
Meet Linda
Zientek,
Deputy
Executive
Director and
Vince Paredes,
Membership
Chair.

People to Know

Linda Zientek is an Assistant Professor in Mathematics Education at Sam Houston State University. She is an active member of the Southwest Educational Research Association (SERA) and has served as President, Program Chair, Newsletter Editor, and as an At-Large Member of the Board of Directors. Linda Zientek currently serves as SERA Deputy Executive Director. For ten years, she was a community college mathematics instructor. Her research interests include mathematics education, the preparation of mathematics teachers, and quantitative research methods. She has presented her research at regional, state, and national conferences and published her research in *American Educational Research Journal: Teaching, Learning and Human Development*, *Behavior Research Methods*, and *Educational Researcher*. Linda Zientek has served in various leadership roles, which include 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 (AMATYC), and Chair of the AMATYC Developmental Mathematics Committee.



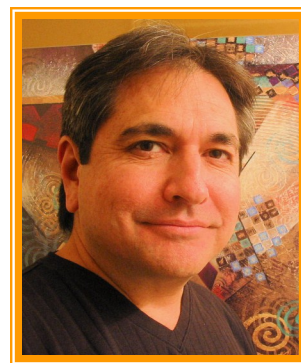
Linda Zientek
Sam Houston State University
Deputy Executive Director
SERA President 2012

Vince Paredes is currently the Strategic Development Architect for the Schools Interoperability Framework Association (SIF Association), a nonprofit organization based in Washington, DC. Vince works with education technology providers, instructional designers, assessment providers, education content providers, and educators in the US, UK, and AU to build learning systems that support the information-enabled teacher.

Vince was most recently Vice President of Research and Development for ESP Solutions Group in Austin, Texas where he led the de-

velopment strategic technology implementations for states and school districts.

Vince holds a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology - Learning, Cognition, and Instruction from The University of Texas at Austin, is a former band director, and is the recipient of SERA's John J. Hedl, Jr. Lifetime Service Award. He is also a Past President of SERA and has managed the membership database since 1996.



Vince Paredes
Schools Interoperability Framework Association
Membership Chair

People to Know

“Begin planning for the SERA 37th Annual Meeting to be held in New Orleans in 2014.”

Sonya Carr is currently an Educational Consultant and Leadership Coach in the greater New Orleans area. She has been an active member of the Southwest Educational Research Association (SERA) for many years and has served as Division V Program Chair and Local Arrangements Chair for recent SERA Annual Meetings in New Orleans. Sonya also served three terms as a Council Member-At-Large on the SERA Executive Board and received the SERA Extended Service Award in 2010. Sonya has over thirty years of experience as a university professor, Educational Diagnostician, and special education teacher. She retired as a Professor of Special Education in the Department of Teaching and Learning at Southeastern Louisiana University in 2010. At Southeastern, she held both the Pennington and the W. L. Billups Endowed Professorships in Special Education. Her work has been published in peer-reviewed journals including:



Sonya Carr
Local Arrangements
Chair SERA 2014

People to Know

Teaching Exceptional Children, Intervention in School and Clinic, Reading & Writing Quarterly, and Teacher Education and Special Education. She has delivered numerous presentations at regional, national, and international conferences and recently presented on the topic of differentiated instruction at the 19th International Conference on Learning in the UK.

Sonya would like to encourage everyone to begin planning for the **SERA 37th Annual Meeting to be held in New Orleans in 2014**. New Orleans was just named as one of the Top 10 Cities in the United States by *Conde Nast* and we promise a warm welcome for all SERA members. The 2014 Annual Meeting will be a wonderful opportunity to expand your professional knowledge and skills while also experiencing the delights of the most authentic and fun city in America!

SERA Board Members and Appointments

President/ Treasurer	Kim Nimon <i>University of North Texas</i>	Graduate Student Representative	Patricia Curry <i>Stephen F. Austin State University</i>
President-Elect/ Program Chair	Stacey Edmonson <i>Sam Houston State University</i>	Historian	John J. Hedl, Jr
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Executive Director	Bruce Thompson <i>Texas A&M University</i>	Members-at- Large: 2012-2015	Shirley Matteson, <i>Texas Tech University</i> Pauline Sampson, <i>Stephen F. Austin State University</i> Rebecca Frels, <i>Lamar State University</i>

Haines, J. & Heimgartner, N. (2012). *Sixty years of the Gesell Institute 1950-2010*. New Haven, CT: Gesell Institute of Child Development. xi-238.

Arnold Gesell, Ph.D. and M.D., was an educator, psychologist, and pediatrician who founded the internationally acclaimed Yale Clinic of Child Development at Yale University in 1911. There he used the then latest technology of cinematography to observe children as he conducted his research for over 40 years. He recognized the interplay of nature and nurture and became a pioneer in the field of child development as he studied the norms and schedules (or ages and stages) of human development for which he later became so widely renowned. After retiring from Yale in 1950, he became the Director of Research at the Gesell Institute of Child Development which was founded by his colleagues Drs. Frances Ilg and Louise Bates Ames.

With the approval of the Gesell Institute of Child Development, Jacqueline Haines, former Executive Director, and Norman Heimgartner, current National Lecture Staff member, have put together a first ever book that chronicles the Institute itself along with the journey of Arnold Gesell's life and research. With meticulous artistry, as can only be done by those who have been closely involved, the authors have created an amazingly detailed log of events and facts that would attract approval from even the most ardent researcher of the day.

If you are an educator or anyone researching or working with child development and milestones, this is a book that will draw your attention because it tells not only Gesell's life story but also about his colleagues and the Institute. Gesell was a respected researcher and prolific writer who changed the landscape of how we view the early years and importance of childhood. As current concern heightens regarding the rushing of children and the stresses being placed on them, history is repeating



Book Review

itself as experts and practitioners alike are returning to some of the foundational studies and findings. Gesell's work stands as the benchmark.

The Institute today is receiving global attention for its recent national study of over 1300 3-6 year old children where it collected baseline, exploratory, and normative data that supported the findings of Gesell and what children can and cannot do at various developmental stages.

The book is available from the Gesell Institute of Child Development located on the Yale campus.
www.gesellinstitute.org

Kathleen Fite
Professor of Education

Texas State University – San Marcos



If you have read a book that you would like to review for the SERA Membership, please send your review to be considered as a feature in the next newsletter.



Book Review

Brick, M. (2012). *Saving the school: The true story of a principal, a teacher, a coach, a bunch of kids, and a year in the crosshairs of education reform*. New York, NY: Penguin Press.

***Saving the School: The True Story of a Principal, a Teacher, a Coach, a Bunch of Kids, and a Year in the Crosshairs of Education Reform* (2012)**, by Michael Brick, tells the story of one Texas public high school as it faces closure due to the unacceptable academic performance of its students. Brick, a former journalist for the *New York Times*, spent one year embedded in the hallways of John H Reagan High School in Austin, Texas, documenting the actions and emotions of the school principal, teachers, students, and community members, during the course of the 2009-2010 school year. This book illustrates the importance of change leaders who are not only passionate about their cause, but who put into action the steps necessary to facilitate change, and who have the expertise to recognize what needs to be done.

Organization of Book

The book is told in chronological format. Brick begins by exploring the early years of Reagan High School. Opened in 1965, it was the only high school in Texas with air conditioning and a layout that included multiple buildings, as opposed to the box-like structure of most schools. Opening year enrollment stood at 1500 students, and teachers across the city and state applied for positions. As enrollment swelled to more than 2000 students, the school claimed two back to back state football championships in the years 1967 and 1968. In short, Reagan High School was considered an amazing success.

However, Brick explains, as time went by, Reagan suffered the fate of many public schools across the state and country. The East Austin neighborhood saw suburban flight with all of the troubles that often brings. Over the next several decades, a steady decline in the economic demographics of the area brought more and more non-English speaking students to the campus, parental involvement and support shrank, absenteeism and teen pregnancy rates soared, while at the same time, graduation rates declined to dismal levels. Nearly one in ten students dropped out, almost three times the state average. Of the 700 students enrolled in 2008, over 100 were known to be parents.

Whereby experienced teachers once clamored to teach at Reagan High School, the new truth was that young teachers now were the only ones applying to work here. For many, the primary goal was to “put in” five years to work off educational debt and then leave. In addition, as Brick writes, “some troubles defied statistical de-

scription: There were sex assaults on campus...A sophomore stabbed a girl to death in a stairwell, drawing national publicity...Pretty soon people thought of the school as the place where that girl got stabbed” (p. 26). Parents began to petition to send their children to other schools, and enrollment at Reagan High School continued to drop.

In 2008, only 38% of the student passed the mathematics portion of TAKS (the statewide assessment), 34% passed the reading portion, and 42% passed the science section. After 4 years of being rated “Academically Unacceptable” by the state, Reagan High School was given one year to bring up the test scores, or face closure. After painting this dismal landscape, Brick begins the story of the turnaround, introducing the readers to the educators and students who joined forces to attempt to save this storied school. The narrative is character driven, as the reader is introduced to Anabel Garza, the principal, Candice Kaiser, a science teacher, and Coach Davis, the school’s basketball coach. In addition, several students play a prominent role, as do some members of the community.

Brick skillfully writes about the tremendous effort (and creative strategies) of these individuals as they struggle to pull Reagan High School and its students from the abyss. In great detail he describes the obstacles facing school administrators as they attempt to solve enormous problems with extremely limited resources. Working together, and enlisting the aid of the community, these individuals put in place a “Turnaround Initiative” and are able to satisfy the demands of state officials, raising test scores to a level deemed “academically acceptable”.

Strength and Weaknesses of the Text

Brick engages the reader as he personalizes the debate over high stakes testing, accountability, and student performance. While the effect of the writing style is to create what feels like a novel, the events and personalities are real, and provides a compelling account of the battle many of America’s schools are waging. At the same time, the novel-like approach results in a product that may cause some to doubt its scholarly usefulness. In an attempt to keep the book at a reasonable length, Brick tends to gloss over some of the problems facing the school, while focusing on others. If anything, this reviewer found herself wanting to know more, rather than less.

Practical Applications of the Text

Brick provides an eye-witness account of how one school is able to overcome the odds when faced with the harsh realities of failing scores in a system that demands accountability. Other administrators in similar situations may be able to look to the specific examples of how the leaders at Reagan High School tackled some of the problems facing them. In addition, it may be that it might give pause to those at the state and federal level who have oversight authority, as they reflect on this empathetic and realistic portrayal of the obstacles faced by many of our administrators, teachers, and schools today.

Audrey L. “Laurie” Curtis

Stephen F. Austin State University

Book Review



Roberts, K. L., Womack, S. T., & Hanna, S. L. (2012). *The first-year experiences of successful superintendents*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Education.

Max De Pree stated, “The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality. The last is to say thank you” (De Pree, 2004, p. 11). The book, “The First-Year Experiences of Successful Superintendents”, identifies several of the topics that help the leader define the reality of their new position of superintendent. Additionally, the authors of the book give sage advice for when to move to a new position. This understanding of timing for the movement to a new position is important since the average tenure of a superintendent is 3.6 years (Pascopella, 2011). Further the authors present several examples of practical scenarios and advice for new superintendents as they define their beginning reality. The authors started with characteristics of people who become superintendents. Then the authors provided suggestions that allow a new superintendent to examine actions of successful educational leaders. The increased knowledge base for beginning superintendents is created on the following topics:

Board meetings;
The first meeting with the supervisory staff;
Encounters with angry patrons;

Proprietary roles with facilities;
School bond elections;
Legal challenges;
Evaluation of administrative staff;
Student academic achievement;
Knowing when it is time to leave the position.

The authors include checklists for each of the topics as well as reflective questions to individuals to examine the responses to the day-to-day aspects of the real case scenarios. Any one desiring to make fewer errors as a beginning superintendent and have success in the position would benefit from reading this book. From the understanding of the reality for a new superintendent to the end for transitioning to a new position, the authors provide suggestions for leaders to achieve success.

References

- De Pree, M. (2004). *Leadership is an art*. New York: Doubleday.
- Pascopella, A., (April, 2011). Superintendent staying power, *District Administration*. Retrieved from <http://www.districtadministration.com/article/superintendent-staying-power>.

Pauline M. Sampson
Associate Professor

Stephen F. Austin State University

Review Submission Criteria:

- Brief review of a recently (within 2 years) released book that would be of general interest to the SERA membership
- Review must not have been submitted or published elsewhere
- Submit your review to the newsletter editor Rebecca Frels in electronic format: **rebecca.frels@gmail.com**



Look Forward to the Fun



See You in San Antonio!