

**The Prez Says...****Inside this issue:**

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Thank you to everyone for making the 47th Annual SERA Conference in Arlington, Texas a huge success! We had over 65 sessions, including workshops, innovative sessions, and symposiums, presented by over 220 presenters. Sessions were well attended, and many praises were heard about the quality of the information presented. Our Wednesday training sessions provided participants with sought-after training on grant and sponsored research, nonparametric statistics, and thriving during the dissertation process. Thank you to our scholarly trainers, **Matthew Fuller, Grant Morgan and Hiroki Matsuo, and Emma Bullock!**

The SERA conference is organized solely through volunteers. None is paid for their service. Consequently, it is my privilege to recognize the exceptional service of so many dedicated volunteers, beginning with our past president, **Emma Bullock**, who provided excellent leadership, which enables SERA to continue to thrive as a supportive scholarly organization. Behind the scenes at each conference, providing leadership and organization, are **Linda Zientek**, SERA Executive Director, and **Bruce Thompson**, SERA Executive Director Emeritus, who each year ensure a supportive environment for scholars, including student scholars, to develop their research expertise. Bruce remains on the Board as Historian and provides insight, leadership, and guidance on SERA matters.



Shaun Hutchins (right) presents the president's gavel to **Emma Bullock** (left) in gratitude for her service as president.

The 12 Division Co-Chairs deserve special recognition for all their efforts, including managing division proposals, sending proposals out for review, writing acceptance letters, compiling and forwarding reviewer comments, and serving as primary points of contact on proposal submissions. Division Co-Chairs were **Audrey Meador, Ken Helvey, Laura Isbell, Sandra Nite, Tommy De Vaney, Lisa Dryden, Bob Elliot, Julie Yoo, Nara Martirosyan, Monica Wong-Ratcliff, Tony Edwards, and Karen McIntush**. The work of Division Chairs is facilitated when so many members agree to serve as proposal reviewers. I encourage you to continue to serve in this capacity. I would also like to thank the 20 discussants who shared their

The Prez Says... (continued from page 1)



Shaun Hutchins
Texas A&M University

research expertise with the Division VI work-in-progress presenters. Discussants included **Peter Boedeker, Emma Bullock, Jane McIntosh Cooper, Chrissy Cross, Mary Curtis, Ryan Glaman, Stephen Gruber, Shaun Hutchins, Bill Jasper, Tonya Jeffery, Andrew Kipp, Forrest Lane, Audrey Meador, Bethanie Pletcher, Amy Ray, Ronald Rhone, Celia Scott, Elizabeth Stewart, Katherine Vela, and Carol Waters.**

I want to extend a special thank you to **Forrest Lane** for serving as the local arrangements chair. **Chrissy Eubank**, Graduate Student Representative, ensured that the papers submitted for the Dean's Awards were reviewed in a timely manner and organized several graduate student activities. The audio-visual committee, headed by **Shirley Matteson**, with assistance from numerous volunteers, efficiently distributed and collected all the projectors before and after each session. Thank you to **Audrey Meador** and **Alonzo Flowers** for supervising the registration desk and to all those who

served at the registration desk. Members were greeted warmly as they picked up their registration materials and were cheerfully directed to the appropriate session rooms.

Thank you to **Ryan Glaman, Katherine Vela, Ronald Rhone, and Chrissy Eubank**, who ensured that photos were taken of presenters during the conference. Thank you to **Michelle Peters and Tonya Jeffery** for facilitating the mentorship initiative and **Shirley Matteson and Chrissy Cross** for their work with the early career grant initiatives. Thank you to **Forrest Lane** and Sam Houston State University for the printing of the large posters of the session times and locations. **Susan Troncoso Skidmore**, Director of Information Technology, deserves a huge thank you, as she was the individual that made sure our technology ran smoothly. Again, thank you to all of our volunteers. I hope all of you will continue to serve SERA and that new members will volunteer and become an active part of our organization.

The 48th annual conference will be held on February 19th-21st in San Antonio at the historic Menger Hotel. Planning is underway, and information on the conference and submitting proposals is provided later in this newsletter. I hope to see you all in San Antonio!

Shaun Hutchins

President
Texas A&M University



There were many **excellent** presentations by **students and faculty!**

News from Our Past President

The SERA 2024 conference was a great success! I hope you had a wonderful time connecting with fellow SERA members and trust that you benefitted from the sessions you attended. We appreciate everyone who presented their research and shared their expertise through workshops, paper presentations, symposiums, and innovative sessions. It is the contributions of our members that make this conference so wonderful, and without your time, effort, and scholarly contributions, none of this would be possible. I thank you all for the time, energy, and dedication you give to SERA each year.

I want to take a moment to thank a few of the many people who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make the conference run efficiently and smoothly. Thank you to the Program Chair, **Shaun Hutchins**, and to our local arrangements chair, **Forrest Lane** who was responsible for planning and organizing the schedule, rooms, and food. Very special thanks to **Shirley Matteson** who continues to serve as our amazing AV support. Thank you also to Executive Director **Linda Zientek** and Executive Director Emeritus and Historian **Bruce Thompson**, who maintain the focus and vision of SERA, to **Chrissy Eubank** for her leadership of graduate student awards and activities, and to **Forrest Lane**, our unofficial Poster Master.

I would also like to thank the anonymous reviewers who judged papers for the Linda Reichwein Zientek Outstanding Paper Award, which was awarded to **George Willey** from the



Emma Bullock
Sam Houston State University

University of Mary Hardin-Baylor and **Stephanie Bermudez** from Blue Ridge ISD and the Outstanding Graduate Student Award, which was given to **Elizabeth Goldberg** from Texas Tech University and **Taylor Darwin** from the University of Southern California. Please make plans to attend and present at SERA 2025 in San Antonio, Texas next year. Our new President, **Shaun Hutchins**, along with the SERA Board, are planning a great event at the Menger Hotel. We look forward to seeing you there!

Emma Bullock

Past President
Sam Houston State University



2024 SERA Linda Reichwein Zientek Outstanding Paper Award



Linda Zientek (left) presents the award to **Stephanie Bermudez** (center), *Blue Ridge ISD*, and **George Willey** (right), *University of Mary Hardin-Baylor*

Congratulations to **Stephanie Bermudez**, *Blue Ridge ISD*, and **George Willey**, *University of Mary Hardin-Baylor*, who were selected as our 2024 Linda Reichwein Zientek Outstanding Paper awardees for their paper entitled “Predicting Student At-Risk Status Through the MAP Growth Assessment System and the Local Assessment Model.” They will present this work at the 2024 AERA conference. This is quite a prestigious award for our conference. We applaud your exemplary efforts! The SERA Linda Reichwein Zientek Paper Award Committee is headed by the Executive Director serving ex officio as the non-voting Chair of the award committee.

Paper Summary: Ensuring that at-risk students who need additional intervention are accurately identified is an essential component of the school improvement process. This study examines if there is a statistically significant difference in

accurate at-risk classification between the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Growth assessment and the Local Assessment Model (LAM) in a selected school district. Quantitative research methods involving binary logistic regression procedures and chi-square tests of independence were used in the analysis. The implications of this research for school leaders includes determining the benefits of dedicating resources between the two systems.

2024 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award

Congratulations to **Elizabeth Goldberg** (Texas Tech University) & **Taylor Darwin** (University of Southern California) who were selected to receive the 2024 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award. Their paper is entitled “The Philosophical Bermuda Triangle: The Muddled State of Pre-Service Science Teacher Philosophical Stances and Practices.” Texas A&M’s *Educational Research Center* generously supported the award.

Paper Summary: This study examined how pre-service science teachers’ teaching philosophies (applied, theoretical, or liberal) aligned or misaligned with their classroom practices. The authors also explored the influence of the pre-service teachers’ pedagogical content knowledge and their mentor teacher’s philosophies on the pre-service teachers’ evolving philosophies and teaching. The results showed pre-service teachers had muddled science teaching philosophies that were often not reflected in their teaching practices.



In order from left to right, **Emma Bullock**, *Sam Houston State University*, **Taylor Darwin**, *University of Southern California*, **Elizabeth Goldberg**, *Texas Tech University*, and **Jacqueline Stillisano**, *Education Research Center, Texas A&M University*.

Reflections from the Executive Director

Thanks to everyone for helping to create a great conference! We had a wonderful meeting in Arlington. The SERA Board worked diligently to help make the conference run smoothly. The sessions were well attended and many research ideas were shared. This was SERA's 47th conference. SERA promotes research by providing faculty and students with opportunities to share research ideas.

SERA takes great pride in the supportive culture that exists for both graduate students and faculty members. The conference in Arlington had many interesting speakers and wonderful sessions. The Presidential Invited Speaker at the 47th SERA annual meeting was **Dr. Elizabeth G. Creamer**, professor emerita from the Educational Research and Evaluation Program in the School of Education at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. In her keynote address, Dr. Creamer's presentation focused on mixed methods and introduced ways to embed a commitment to engage difference in research procedures, including the construction of visual displays. Dr. Creamer then participated in a fireside chat with graduate students. During the conference, graduate students took advantage of the opportunities that were afforded to them,



Elizabeth Creamer shares her presentation virtually and holds a fireside chat with graduate students only.

which included sessions about building a research proposal, competing for tenure-track faculty positions, and additional presentations to help in the writing and analysis process. The membership was



Linda Reichwein Zientek
Sam Houston State University

offered three workshops that focused on grants, nonparametric statistics, and the dissertation process. Recent graduates and early career members had an opportunity to participate in the SERA Early Career Mentoring Initiative. Those sessions were just a few of the opportunities that were provided.

People with whom I spoke with were looking forward to the 2025 SERA Conference. The 2025 meeting will be held in San Antonio at the Menger Hotel. **Dr. Lloyd Potter** will honor us with a keynote address and will also host an informal "Fireside Chat" with only graduate students. This informal session provides an opportunity for graduate students to raise any questions that they might like to discuss with the invited speaker.

The SERA Board looks forward to seeing you and your colleagues in San Antonio and hopes that you enjoy the many opportunities to learn from and develop collaborations with colleagues at the SERA Conference.

Linda Reichwein Zientek

SERA Executive Director
Sam Houston State University

2024 Dean's Award Recipients

University of Houston – Clear Lake

My Teachers Don't Look Like Me: A Study of Same Race Teachers and Its Effect on African American Student Achievement
Shatterra Jackson

Computational Thinking in College Chemistry Classes
Festus Fajuyigbe

Texas Tech University

Leveraging Texas Startup Ecosystems for Financial Freedom of People with IDD: Grounded Theory
Amanda Gordon

Teacher Knowledge and Perceptions of Computational Thinking and Computational Thinking Skills in 5th-Grade Mathematics
Ellen James

Texas A&M – Texarkana

Impact of Desegregation on African Americans' Secondary Education Choices for the South Johnston High School Class of 1973
Michael Blalock

Examining the Unintended Consequences of America's Gun-Free School Zones
Dillon Roseberry



Congratulations to the Dean's Award recipients!

Texas A&M – Corpus Christi

The Influence of Secondary Teachers' Understanding about the Brain on Their Decisions: A Grounded Theory Study
Sameera Massey

Supporting Teacher Leaders as Grade-Level Chairs to Effectively Lead Grade-Level Teams: A Dissertation in Practice
Eunice Salazar-Banks

Texas A&M – College Station

How Effective Induction Can Address Challenges Faced By Early-Career LGBTQ+ Teachers
Shawn McElveen and Andrew Kipp

Retaining Black Female Teachers in Secondary STEM Classrooms
Lynette O'Neal

Tarleton State University

A Phenomenological Evaluation of the Transition Pathways of Black Women Veterans that Served in the Military in the Post-9/11 Era
Nicole Burkett

Program Evaluation of Project-Based Learning Using the CIPP Model in a STEM Middle School
Courtney McClendon

Sam Houston State University

Black Student Perceptions of Social Media Effectiveness on Raising Consciousness About Social Issues
Tiara Gatewood and Amber Clark

Differences in College, Career, and Military Readiness Indicators Among Texas Annual Graduates Before, During, and After COVID-19
Jessica Caso

The SERA Dean's Awards are presented to students from participating universities.

To view the scoring rubric for the Dean's Award papers, please visit:

<https://sera-edresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Deans-Award.pdf>

Congratulations to our 2024 Research Grant Winners!



Taylor Darwin
University of Southern California

Congratulations to Taylor Darwin, *University of Southern California*, the 2024 recipient of the SERA Doctoral Student Research Grant! Taylor presented her research titled, **Using Design-Based Research to Collaboratively implement 3-D pens in rural middle school mathematics.**

Paper Summary:

This proposal aims to explore the impact of 3-D pens in rural middle school mathematics classrooms through the lens of culturally responsive pedagogies. Funds from this award will provide access to rural students who have historically had less than adequate technologies in their learning. Using design-based research, the researcher will collaborate with rural middle school educators to design equity-centered assignments integrated with 3-D pen use. The proposed study will focus on incorporating student assess to technological resources and opportunities to bring identity into the mathematics classroom.

Congratulations to Frank Allaire, *University of Houston – Downtown*, the 2024 recipient of the SERA Early Career Research Grant! Frank presented his research titled, **Measuring and Comparing Fitness and Emotions Related to Science Teaching: Deployment of CP2R and Sci-TES with Elementary Teachers in Minot, ND and Houston, TX**

Paper Summary:

Scholarship suggests that emotions (Frenzel et al., 2021) and person-role fit (Anderson et al., 2020) have an impact on the quality of instruction, particularly at the elementary grade levels. This study deploys two survey instruments – the Science Teaching Emotions Scales (Sci-TES) and Capacity, Passion, Presence, and Relevance (CP2R) – to examine whether elementary teachers in Minot, ND, and Houston, TX feel they are fit to teach science and the emotions they experience in connection with planning and teaching science.



Frank Allaire
University of Houston - Downtown

Past Graduate Student Representative Report

Another great year of SERA has come and gone. The 2024 conference in Arlington, Texas, was a huge success. With honor and gratitude, I would like to thank the SERA Board, on behalf of all graduate students, for the immense amount of dedication, organization, and work they contributed to creating a supportive environment for graduate students to present their research in progress. We are thankful for the encouragement and feedback.

Congratulations to all of the Dean's Award recipients. A special thank you goes to the universities who show support to their students through participation in such awards. The following institutions graciously provided this year's funding: Texas Tech University, University of Houston-Clearlake, Sam Houston State University, Texas A&M University – College Station, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, and Texas A&M University – Texarkana. There were 43 papers submitted, and the authors of 14 papers from seven universities received awards.



Chrissy Eubank
Texas Tech University

The evaluation of such papers and organization of various duties throughout the conference were accomplished beautifully by the members of this year's Graduate Student Council, including **Sameera Massey** (A&M-Corpus Christi), **Erik Torres** (Sam Houston State University), **Aminah Crawford** (A&M-College Station), **Sheena Blain** (University of Houston-Clearlake), **Bethany Ivie** (A&M-Texarkana), and **Nicole Burkett** (Member at Large). This graduate council was a tremendous support throughout this year. They did an outstanding job of representing their university through communicating SERA news to others, requesting and confirming Dean's Award funding, encouraging conference participation, reviewing Dean's Award papers, taking photographs during the conference, and promoting graduate student events.

My final bit of thanks goes to our incredible Graduate Student Advisor **Ryan Glaman**, who served with outstanding support to the graduate council and to the graduate student representatives, in particular. I am extremely grateful for his timely guidance and encouragement throughout this year.

Congratulations to **Erik Torres**, from Sam Houston State University, who will serve as the Graduate Student Representative for 2024-2025. Erik has the skills and experience as a leader in the field of education to confidently guide the graduate students throughout the next year. Erik will lead the Graduate Student Council and will represent graduate student interests to the SERA board.

It has been a pleasure serving with SERA as the Graduate Student Representative and to be a part of an association that truly seeks to support graduate students in meaningful ways as they explore their interests in research. I hope to see you all next year with new and exciting research to share!

Thank you for letting me represent you this past year.

Sincerely,

Chrissy Eubank

Past Graduate Student Representative
Texas Tech University



Chrissy Eubank, *Texas Tech University*, presents the graduate student report during the SERA luncheon.

SERA Research Grants

Two research grants are available to SERA members.

The SERA Early Career Research Grant—Assistant Professor is available to those individuals who meet the following criteria:

- An assistant professor employed at a 4-year institution in a tenure-track position
- Attended and presented at SERA within the last three years
- Collaborate with a designated mentor. Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with a mentor through the SERA Mentoring Initiative.

The SERA Early Career Research Grant—Doctoral Candidate is available to those individuals who meet the following criteria:

- A doctoral candidate who has defended a dissertation proposal approved by the dissertation committee.
- Attended and presented at SERA within the last three years.



Chrissy Cross
Stephen F. Austin State University

Both SERA Research Grant awards provide up to \$1,000 for 1-year projects and may be awarded each year. Institutions may not charge indirect or overhead costs on these awards. Application requirements are listed on the SERA website.

Funding restrictions

Previous award winners cannot reapply for the same award in subsequent years. SERA Board Members (either elected or appointed) are not eligible.

Evaluation criteria

The evaluation criteria will include: Quality of literature review, relevance of the topic, relevance of research questions, the strength of the methodology section, and quality of writing. An additional criterion will be whether or not the analytic methods fit the research questions.

Reporting requirements

All Research Grantees will be required to submit a SERA proposal and send a copy of the proposal to the Executive Director. In order to receive the final grant funds (see funding disbursement), a manuscript, in article format with the quality for submission to a peer-reviewed journal, must be submitted by the first day of the February Annual Conference the following year. For example, an award made in 2023 would require grant recipients to submit their manuscript prior to the 2024 annual conference.



Shirley Matteson
Texas Tech University

Funding disbursement

Grantees will receive \$500.00 upon award selection and \$500.00 after presenting at the next February SERA Annual Conference (receipts must be submitted). Travel expenses to conferences may not exceed 30% of award total. The award amounts will not be channeled through institutions; thus, there are no overhead or indirect costs.

Application Deadlines

Applications for these Research Grants will be open once a year. Grant proposals must be submitted to the Grant Coordinator, Chrissy Cross at crossc1@sfasu.edu, and the SERA Executive Director, Linda Zientek at lrzientek@shsu.edu, by May 1 of each year and awardees will be selected by June 1.

Ask the SERA Historian...

SERA graduate student member Priscilla Farktoasthoustonhousen writes in to ask the SERA Historian:

"Dear Dr. SERA Historian: At the SERA annual luncheon, lottery drawings are held to award free room nights in the conference hotel to 15-20 students present at the annual SERA luncheon. I can sort of figure out why one requirement for free room night eligibility is presence at the luncheon when the lottery drawings are conducted. But why is there a second eligibility requirement that students be officially registered in the conference hotel (for example, as opposed to unofficially sleeping in a friend's hotel room closet or bathtub, or staying in another hotel)? Thank you in advance for your insightful explanation."

Dr. SERA Historian responds:

Well, Priscilla, there are two reasons:

1. When SERA contracts with the conference hotel for meeting room space and hotel room nights, SERA contracts that a certain number of hotel room nights will be booked by SERA members in exchange for free or reduced cost meeting room space. If the contracted number of room nights are not booked by SERA members, then SERA must

nevertheless itself pay for those unused room nights. This can easily cost many thousands of dollars. This has sadly happened in the past. So SERA tries to do everything it can to motivate people to stay in the conference hotel.

2. The mechanism by which SERA pays for the room nights is to pay the hotel to credit the bills of the room night winners directly, rather than issuing numerous checks to the winners. This insures that (a) room night winners indeed are registered in the hotel and (b) the SERA Treasurer doesn't have to write 15-20 additional checks beyond the dozens of checks she already has to write (e.g., to the hotel for food, to numerous Dean's award winners, outstanding paper winners, the invited speaker for travel expenses). Furthermore, tragically the SERA Treasurer has profound chronic carpal tunnel syndrome, and is already barely able to write the checks she already has to write.



Bruce Thompson
SERA Executive Director Emeritus
and Historian



Congratulations to the winners of a free room night at the conference hotel!

Bruce Thompson

SERA Historian and Executive Director Emeritus

Graduate Student News

Dear Graduate Student SERA Members,



Erik Torres
Sam Houston State University

Hola! Hello! Hi! My name is **Erik Torres**, Graduate Student from Sam Houston State University. I had the pleasure of serving as a Campus Representative from Sam Houston State University during the 2023 school year. Now, I am thrilled to serve as your Graduate Student Representative for the

Board in 2024. As the Graduate Student Representative to the Board and on behalf of the SERA Board of Directors, thank you for helping make the 47th Annual SERA Conference in Arlington a great experience. Each volunteer, attendee and presenter made an impact and created an environment of intellectual discourse.

I would like to thank the 2023-2024 SERA Graduate Student Representative to the Board, **Chrissy Eubank** from Texas Tech University, for her year of service to all SERA Graduate Students and to the SERA Board of Directors. Chrissy performed extraordinarily given that she took over the role in the middle of the year. Thank you, Chrissy, for keeping the SERA Graduate Student Representatives apprised of news and due dates throughout the year. I have big shoes to fill. Secondly, I would like to recognize the outgoing Campus Representatives: **Sameera Massey** (A&M Corpus Christi), **Erik Torres** (Sam Houston University), **Aminah Crawford** (A&M College Station), **Sheena Blain** (University of Houston-Clearlake), **Bethany Ivie** (A&M Texarkana), **Nicole Burkett** (Rep at Large). Thank you all for your service to not only your universities' educational work, but to the educational field. The work you do matters to the future of education locally and around the world.

As we look forward to the next SERA conference, we pass along the torch to new Graduate Student Representatives. I would like to recognize the following students as their universities' representatives: **Shelby Sharpe** (TAMUCC), **Festus Fajuyigbe** (UHCL), **Ericca Douglas** (SHSU), **Tina Lancaster** (TAMUC), **Carol Miller-Nix** (TAMU-Texarkana), **Elizabeth Dees** (Texas Tech). As a representative, your duties will include: (a) Contact and solicit money from your university to pay for the Dean's Awards, (b) Score Dean's Award papers prior to conference, and (c) Support during the 48th Annual SERA Conference.

The 48th Annual SERA Conference will be held Wednesday, Wed. Feb 19th through Friday Feb 21st, 2025, in San Antonio, TX. If you attended the 47th conference in Arlington, Texas, you were able to experience the close-knit community of graduate students from the universities represented at SERA. Through your contributions to presentations, workshops, and presence, we grow as a community of educators. Division VI provides the opportunity for graduate students to receive feedback on their work in progress. As a graduate student, you are eligible to submit your papers, or works in progress, for Dean's Awards and/or the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award. A call for proposals will be communicated at a later date with additional details.

Feel free to contact me, or your campus representatives, if you have any questions about SERA 2025. See you guys next year in San Antonio!

Erik Torres

SERA Graduate Student Representative to the Board
Sam Houston State University
Elt010@shsu.edu

"SERA is a tight-knit community offering a networking opportunity with other members from Texas and surrounding areas. Graduate students witness the work done across various interests that all lead back to improving education. Spread the word!"

SERA Annual Meeting: San Antonio, TX

The SERA Executive Board is pleased to announce that the 48th Annual SERA Conference will be held at the historic Menger Hotel in San Antonio from Wednesday, February 19, 2025, to Friday, February 21, 2025.

The SERA conference is a great outlet to exchange research ideas and network with other scholars in your field and across the region. We invite proposals on all topics related to education. Please review the attached 2025 Call for Proposals for more details, and submit your proposal on the SERA website by September 29, 2024.

The conference will feature various professional development opportunities for scholars of all levels, including workshops and other sessions.

We are excited to welcome **Lloyd Potter** as the 2025 Presidential Invited Speaker for the presidential address. Graduate students will also have the privilege of interacting directly with the Presidential Invited Speaker in a Fireside Chat immediately following the address.

Faculty are also encouraged to participate in the SERA Early Career Faculty Mentoring Initiative. The purposes of this initiative include: (a) furthering scholarly research, (b) supporting career advancement, and (c) enhancing leadership opportunities for junior

faculty. This initiative plays a vital role in expanding the SERA membership and providing future leaders, and we are grateful for **Michelle Peters** and **Tonya Jeffreys** for their leadership. If you seek a mentor or are interested in serving as a mentor, please complete the application found on the SERA Website by clicking on the link in the Early Career Faculty Mentoring Initiative section: <http://sera-edresearch.org/>.



Lesley Leach
Tarleton State University

We also encourage assistant professors within 4-year institutions and/or doctoral students to consider applying for the SERA Research Grants program by the May 1 deadline. Awardees are provided a \$1000 grant to fund their research and provided an opportunity present at the 2025 conference. Interested individuals are encouraged to view the grant proposal guidelines available on the SERA webpage: <http://sera-edresearch.org/>.

As you consider outlets for your scholarly works for 2025, we hope that you will consider joining us for the 2025 SERA annual conference in San Antonio. The setting, alongside the Riverwalk and adjacent to the Alamo, provides a festive backdrop for the SERA community to convene and learn from one another.

Lesley F. Leach

President-Elect and Program Chair
Tarleton State University



Photo courtesy of the San Antonio Visitor's Center

2025 Presidential Invited Address



Lloyd Potter, Ph.D.

University of Texas, San Antonio

Professor

College of Health, Community and Policy

Director, Institute for Demographic and Socioeconomic Research (IDSER)

Texas State Demographer

Dr. Potter's current work focuses upon understanding and communicating demographic processes in Texas, training doctoral level applied demographers in the areas of public policy and health, and conducting demographic research on public policy and health related topics. Over his career, Dr. Potter's work has focused on applying demographic methods and social and behavioral science in public health settings. Before joining the Institute, Dr. Potter was Director of the Center for Study and Prevention of Injury, Violence, and Suicide at the non-profit company Education Development Center. Earlier he managed the youth violence and suicide prevention program at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

SERA Board Members and Appointments

President	Shaun Hutchins <i>Texas A&M University</i>	Secretary: 2023 – 2025	Audrey Meador <i>West Texas A&M University</i>
President-Elect/ Program Chair	Lesley Leach <i>Tarleton State University</i>	Deputy Executive Director	Forrest Lane <i>Stephen F. Austin State University</i>
Past-President	Emma Bullock <i>Sam Houston State University</i>	Graduate Student Representative	Erik Torres <i>Sam Houston State University</i>
Treasurer	Grant Morgan <i>Baylor University</i>	Members-at-Large: 2022 – 2025	Ryan Glaman <i>Tarleton State University</i>
Executive Director	Linda Zientek <i>Sam Houston State University</i>		Ronald Rhone <i>Tarleton State University</i>
Director of Information Technology	Susan Troncoso Skidmore <i>Sam Houston State University</i>		Michelle Peters <i>University of Houston – Clear Lake</i>
Executive Director <i>Emeritus</i> , Historian	Bruce Thompson <i>Texas A&M University</i>	Members-at-Large: 2023 – 2026	Alonzo Flowers <i>University of Texas—San Antonio</i>
Deputy Historian	Victor Willson <i>Texas A&M University</i>		Bethanie Pletcher <i>Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi</i>
Deputy Treasurer	Kim Nimon <i>University of Texas – Tyler</i>		Carol Waters <i>University of Houston—Clear Lake</i>
Audio Visual	Shirley Matteson <i>Texas Tech University</i>	Members-at-Large: 2024 – 2027	Stephen Gruber <i>University of Houston – Clear Lake</i>
SERA Early Career Research Grant Initiative	Chrissy Cross <i>Stephen F. Austin State University</i>		Sara Lawrence <i>Texas A&M University – Texarkana</i>
	Shirley Matteson <i>Texas Tech University</i>		Amy Ray <i>Sam Houston State University</i>
SERA Early Career Faculty Mentoring Initiative	Michelle Peters <i>University of Houston – Clear Lake</i>	Newsletter Editor	Peter Boedeker <i>Baylor College of Medicine</i>
	Tonya Jeffery <i>University of Houston – Downtown</i>		

Interested in getting involved?

Individuals are nominated by the membership each fall to serve on the SERA board. All current members are eligible to vote and receive an electronic ballot. SERA elections use the Hare system and at-large member candidates serve a three-year term beginning at the end of each annual meeting.

Welcome to Our New Elected Board Members

Stephen Gruber is a Senior Lecturer of Biology at the University of Houston-Clear Lake and Co-Director of the *UHCLTeach* program. Dr. Gruber's teaching assignments include Pre-Health courses for the College of Science along with Research Methods and PBI for the *UHCLTeach* program. After receiving his master's degree in biology, he spent 12 years developing his skills and passion for teaching in 7-12 science classrooms in Texas. This led him to pursue his doctorate in education and uncover his research interests. These include PBI, Inquiry, and other student driven teaching practices in science. Dr. Gruber continues to work to promote hands on learning in his research, in the classroom and through his mentoring of pre-service teachers in the *UHCLTeach* program.



Sara Lawrence is an Associate Professor of Educational Psychology in the Education Leadership Scholars of Practice doctoral program at Texas A&M University - Texarkana. She is a graduate from the University of Virginia and started her career in special education with Charlottesville, Virginia public schools. As a leader in higher education, Sara has served as coordinator, chair, director, and associate dean for education programs. She has authored and led significant grants and projects benefiting student experiences and outcomes. As doctoral faculty, Sara works to develop scholars of practice with an inquiry mindset able to lead complex organizations. She supports students' philosophical and theoretical understanding to study leadership phenomena and praxis to better navigate ever changing environments. Her research interests include methodology, disrupting poverty, and experiential learning. Sara has served as the adviser for doctoral students presenting at SERA since 2019 and is committed to the mission to provide a student-friendly atmosphere supporting doctoral students' growth as scholars.

Amy Ray is an Assistant Professor of Mathematics Education in the Mathematics & Statistics Department at Sam Houston State University. Dr. Ray's previous roles informing her current work include classroom teacher, research assistant on the Connected Mathematics Project, and faculty member in the Department of Teaching and Learning at SHSU. Her research focuses on mathematics teaching and assessment developments aimed at broadening what it means to know and do mathematics as well as demonstrate mathematical thinking. More specifically, she explores the role of student work as a curricular component, the framing of teachers as curriculum and assessment writers as they engage with curriculum materials, and the intentional ways in which advancements in curriculum can be implemented in assessment practices.



2024 – 2025 Graduate Student Council



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Preview of 2025 Conference – San Antonio, TX!

Come join us in San Antonio at the Menger Hotel for our SERA 2025 annual conference from February 19-21, 2025! You can be assured of an academically stimulating conference and a good time for all.



Photo courtesy of the San Antonio Visitor's Center

San Antonio has always been a crossroads for travelers, explorers, and those on a quest for liberty. Its sights, sounds, tastes and past captivate people while the relaxing river and 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.

While in San Antonio for the conference, you will have many places to visit for shopping, dining, and entertainment. The Alamo, The Riverwalk, Tower of Americas, the Buckhorn Hall of Fame and several museums such as the Witte, McNay Art Museum, and San Antonio

Museum of Art are great places to site-see if this is your venue of choice. If you like to shop, make sure to take some time to stroll through La Villita for a very unique shopping experience. Or are you more into the fun “party crowd” localities? You will find options at places such as Dick’s Last Resort, Howl at the Moon, Swigs, Pat O’Brien’s, and Dirty Nellie’s.

The Menger also has a very extensive and interesting history. The hotel first opened its doors in 1859, making it the oldest continuously operating hotel west of the Mississippi River. The Roosevelt Bar within the hotel also has its own history. Teddy Roosevelt enlisted his Rough Riders there, and Carrie Nation chopped up the bar during prohibition.

Many famous people have stayed at the hotel such as Babe Ruth, Mae West, Roy Rogers and his wife, Dale Evans, General Sam Houston, as well as Presidents McKinley, Nixon, Reagan, Johnson, Clinton and Bush. It’s been said that the hotel has many ghosts and spirits, so don’t be too surprised to catch a glimpse of them roaming around the hotel.

Cheers and see you in San Antonio!



Photo courtesy of the San Antonio Visitor's Center

**Join us at the Menger Hotel
San Antonio, TX
February 19 – 21, 2025**

Important Dates	
2024	
Deadline for receipt of SERA Research Grant Proposals	May 1
SERA Research Grant Awardees are notified	June 1
SERA Proposal System Opens	Early August
SERA Proposals Due	September 29
Receipt of Conference Registration – by Check	October 12
Receipt of Conference Registration – by PayPal	October 19
SERA Elections Begin	Mid-October
SERA Elections Close	Early November
Proposal Decisions Emailed to First Author	Early November
Draft of Conference Program Posted	Early December
2025	
DEADLINE for receipt of SERA Linda Reichwein Zientek Outstanding Paper Award	January 3
DEADLINE for receipt by the SERA Graduate Student Representative of an electronic copy of submissions for the SERA Dean's Awards	January 8
DEADLINE for receipt by the SERA President of an electronic copy of submissions for the SERA Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award	January 8