

Fall 2027



SERA Newsletter

Southwest Educational Research Association



The Prez Says...

<u>Inside this issue:</u>	<u>Page</u>
The Prez Says	1-2
News from Our Program Chair	3
Pre-Conference Workshops	4
SERA Research Grants	5
Upcoming Workshops	6
Paper Awards Information	7
Graduate Student News	8
Presidential Invited Address	9
12 Reasons to Attend SERA in San Antonio	10
Meet the Board	11
Graduate Student Council	12
Election Ballot	13
Important Dates	14

The SERA Board of Directors and I can't wait to welcome you to **San Antonio** for our 50th Annual Meeting! The annual meeting is always a highlight of the year—a place to meet up with colleagues, develop new collaborations, and share the very best in educational research.

The **50th Annual Meeting of the Southwest Educational Research Association** will be held **February 17-19, 2027**, at the **Menger Hotel** in downtown San Antonio, just a few minutes' walk from the River Walk. Inside this newsletter you'll find everything you need to plan your trip: program highlights from our Program Chair, important links for registration, and details on the presidential invited address, training sessions, and awards.

One session we're especially excited about is this year's **presidential speaker**, Dr. Patricia Alexander. Dr. Alexander is a Distinguished University Professor at the University of Maryland, and Director of their Disciplined Reading & Learning Research Laboratory. Her areas of expertise include learning, expertise development, and relational reasoning. She has historic ties to SERA, having served as President (1988-89), and we are thrilled to have her speak at our 50th annual conference!

The **SERA repository** will once again be available so members can upload papers before the conference and download those of fellow presenters. First authors may upload and remove papers, but everyone can login with the email used for proposal submission and create a secure password. Watch for detailed instructions from the Executive Director as we get closer to February.



Ryan Glaman
Tarleton State University

Our **Early Career Faculty Mentoring Initiative**, organized by Michelle Peters and Tonya Jeffery, returns to support early-career scholars with mentoring opportunities. And the **Early Career Research Grants Program**, guided by Shirley Matteson and Karen Walker, will showcase this year's grant recipients and their exciting projects.

Membership remains strong, and we remain committed to keeping SERA affordable and student-friendly. If this will be your first SERA conference, don't miss the **Navigating SERA** session, and be sure to join a training workshop (or two!) to sharpen your research skills.

Between sessions, take time to enjoy the historical atmosphere of San Antonio. Share a meal with colleagues at one of the city's many delicious restaurants, wander down to the River Walk, and turn conference conversations into lasting collaborations. See y'all in San Antonio!

Ryan Glaman
SERA President
Tarleton State University



Fun times were had in New Orleans!

We are looking forward to seeing you in San Antonio!



SERA Repository

The SERA Paper Repository will open on January 15, 2027. The use of the Repository is optional, but we highly encourage you to upload a digital copy of your paper. This provides documentation of your effort and is a great way to access the papers presented by other members at this year's conference.

You can access the Repository by going directly to the SERA website or by clicking on the following link: [Repository Link](#)

Mark Your Calendar for Future Conference Dates and Locations

2028 Conference – Clear Lake, TX
February 9-11

2029 Conference – New Orleans, LA
February 14-16

News from Our Program Chair

Get ready for an incredible experience at the 2027 conference, which will begin on **Wednesday, February 17, 2027**, at the Menger Hotel in San Antonio, TX. We begin by offering two outstanding training opportunities for you to choose from:

- Learn about a practical framework for engaging with AI in ways that preserve cognitive sovereignty while leveraging its benefits to support efficient, rigorous, and meaningful scholarly work in Peter Boedeker and Grant Morgan's **Working with AI Without Outsourcing Your Thinking** training session.
- Apply practical strategies for navigating the academic publication process, including manuscript preparation, journal selection, peer review, revision, and sustained scholarly productivity in **The Road to Publication: Perspectives from Editors, Authors, and Research Leaders**, an interactive panel featuring SERA past presidents whose careers include extensive experience as researchers, authors, journal editors, and academic leaders.



Michelle Peters
*University of Houston – Clear
Lake*

We're also excited to announce our **Presidential Invited Speaker** – Dr. Patricia Alexander, named one of the five most influential educational psychologists over the past decade, is a Distinguished University Professor in the Department of Human Development and Quantitative Methodology at the University of Maryland. Dr. Alexander will share her expertise in the **Presidential Invited Address on Thursday, February 18**, directly after our annual SERA luncheon. And, graduate students, don't miss your chance for some one-on-one time with Dr. Alexander at the traditional Fireside Chat following the presidential invited address!

Our diverse program of research symposia, presentations, and innovative sessions is taking shape. Graduate students are once again invited to present their research in progress in **Division VI**, where they'll get invaluable feedback from seasoned researchers. For those presenting in this division, please remember to submit your papers to your discussant by **January 8**, so that discussants have plenty of time to review your paper prior to the conference.

We're reviewing proposals and will send emails with the review results later this fall. The draft program will be available by **early December**, so keep an eye on the SERA website to find your presentation slot and start making your travel plans.

A quick reminder for presenters: **projectors will be provided**, but be sure to bring your own laptop and presentation on a flash drive. You'll have 10-13 minutes to present, so we recommend keeping your presentation to around 10 slides. And don't forget to bring **10-15 copies** of your completed paper for distribution, or submit it to the SERA repository if you prefer. Visit our SERA website for all the latest updates. We're counting down the days until we see you in San Antonio for the **50th annual SERA conference!**

Michelle Peters
2027 Program Chair
SERA President-Elect
University of Houston-Clear Lake

Pre-Conference Workshops

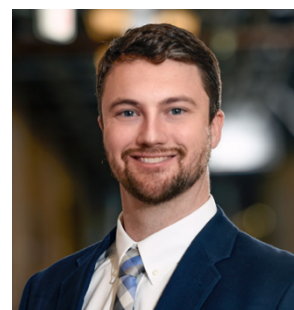
Working with AI Without Outsourcing Your Thinking

Presenters: Grant Morgan and Peter Boedeker



Grant Morgan
Baylor University

Large language model-based tools are increasingly being adopted to support academic research and scholarship. When used thoughtfully, these tools can reduce administrative burden, streamline routine tasks, and enhance research productivity. However, over-reliance on Artificial Intelligence (AI) may contribute to de-skilling among experienced scholars or never-skilling among trainees who are introduced to these tools before developing foundational research competencies. This workshop presents a practical framework for engaging with AI in ways that preserve cognitive sovereignty while leveraging its benefits to support efficient, rigorous, and meaningful scholarly work.



Peter Boedeker
Baylor College of Medicine

The Road to Publication: Perspectives from Editors, Authors, and Research Leaders

Presenters: SERA Past Presidents – Emma Bullock, Stacey Edmonson, and Wendi Zimmer

Publishing can be one of the most challenging aspects of an academic career. This interactive panel features SERA past presidents whose careers include extensive experience as researchers, authors, journal editors, and academic leaders. Panelists will demystify the publication process by discussing manuscript preparation, journal selection, peer review, revision strategies, and habits that support long-term scholarly productivity. Graduate students, early-career faculty, and seasoned researchers will gain practical guidance and actionable strategies for advancing their publication goals.



Emma Bullock
Sam Houston State University



Stacey Edmonson
Texas A&M University



Wendi Zimmer
Texas A&M University

SERA Research Grants

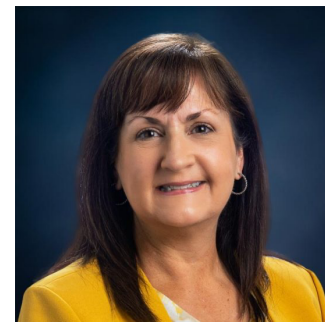
Two research grants are available to SERA members. Both SERA Research Grant awards provide up to \$1,000 for 1-year projects and may be awarded each year. Institutions may not charge indirect or overhead costs on these awards.

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

- Employed at a 4-year institution in a tenure-track position, and
- Attended and presented at SERA within the last three years

Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with a mentor through the SERA Mentoring Initiative.

Additional application requirements can be found at: https://sera-edresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/SERA_Assistant-Professor-Award.pdf



Karen Walker
East Texas A&M

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

- Defended a dissertation proposal approved by the dissertation committee, and
- Attended and presented at SERA within the last three years.

Additional application requirements can be found at: https://sera-edresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/SERA_Doctoral-Student-Award.pdf

Funding Restrictions

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



Shirley Matteson
Texas Tech University

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 through the Grants Coordinator, who will submit to SERA Program Chair for inclusion in a special session at the upcoming Annual Conference in February. In order to receive the final grant funds (see funding disbursement), an APA formatted manuscript must be submitted to the Grants Coordinator on or before the first day of the February Annual Conference for the subsequent year. See “Distributing Papers” in the SERA Call for Proposals.

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. ***It is expected that the award winners will be present at the SERA luncheon.***

Application Deadlines

Applications for these Research Grants will be open once a year. Proposals must be submitted to the SERA Research Grant Coordinators, Shirley Matteson at shirley.matteson@ttu.edu and Karen Walker at karen.walker@etamu.edu

Upcoming Workshops

Preparing to present your research at the SERA conference

What is it about? This workshop will focus on creating your presentation and research paper for the SERA conference
When is it? Saturday, December 5, 2026, 9:30-11:00 a.m. (CST)
Where is it? <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81830253137>
Who should I contact with questions? Michelle Peters (petersm@uhcl.edu) and Tonya Jeffery (jefferyt@uhd.edu)



Michelle Peters
University of Houston – Clear Lake



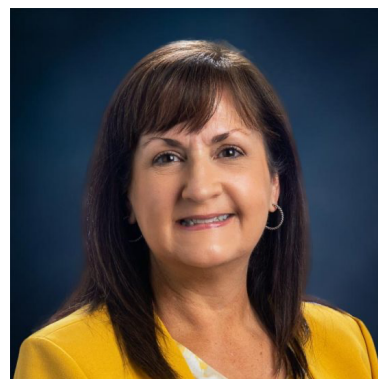
Tonya Jeffery
University of Houston – Downtown

Want to be a SERA paper award winner?

What is it about? Join us for an informative session to learn everything you need to know about the rules, eligibility, and submission process for SERA's prestigious awards.
When is it? Saturday, December 5, 2026, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (CST)
Where is it? <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81830253137>
Who should I contact with questions? Michelle Peters (petersm@uhcl.edu) and Tonya Jeffery (jefferyt@uhd.edu)

SERA Grant Proposal Workshop

What is it about? Learn how to craft a SERA grant proposal that could provide \$1,000 in funding.
When is it? April 3, 2027, 9:30-11:00 a.m. (CST)
Where is it? <https://etamu-edu.zoom.us/j/3046434632>
Who should I contact with questions? Karen Walker (karen.walker@etamu.edu), Michelle Peters (petersm@uhcl.edu), and Tonya Jeffery (jefferyt@uhd.edu)



Karen Walker
East Texas A&M University

Paper Awards Information

SERA Linda Reichwein Zientek Outstanding Paper Award

Authors are encouraged to email copies of the paper submitted for presentation at the annual meeting to the SERA Executive Director, Forrest Lane. An individual may submit only one paper on which he/she is author or coauthor. 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.

Award: \$1,000; present paper at AERA in 2028

Deadline: January 8, 2027 (12:00pm)

Submit Electronically

Forrest Lane

SERA Executive Director

forrest.lane@sfasu.edu

SERA Dean's Awards

Papers for consideration of the SERA Dean's Award 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 2027 SERA annual conference. More deans are expected to enroll soon. Students who are not enrolled in a university whose Dean of the College of Education supports this award are not eligible.

Awards: \$300 per university for two \$150 awards

Deadline: January 8, 2027 (5:00 pm)

Submit Electronically Only

Lynette O'Neal

SERA Graduate Student Representative

dynecce00@tamu.edu

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.

Award: \$750

Deadline: January 8, 2027 (by 5:00 pm)

Submit Electronically

Ryan Glaman

SERA President

glaman@tarleton.edu

SERA Outstanding Undergraduate Student Paper Award

The Outstanding Undergraduate Student Paper Award competition is for completed undergraduate student research (i.e., ONLY Division I through V papers), and may include capstone projects, collaborative work with a faculty member, or other undergraduate student research. The award will be given for the best paper presented by an undergraduate student member at the annual meeting. For a paper to be eligible, the work must be completed before the annual meeting and then presented in a paper or symposium session.

Awards: \$500

Deadline: January 8, 2027 (5:00 pm)

Submit Electronically Only

Ryan Glaman

SERA President

glaman@tarleton.edu

Graduate Student News

Greetings to all graduate student members of the Southeast Educational Research Association! As the current Graduate Student Representative and on behalf of the SERA Board, thank you for helping to make the 49th Annual SERA Conference a success. This conference's success is in large part due to you as the graduate student volunteers, presenters, and attendees. So, thank you for your continued support of SERA!

During the conference, the new SERA Graduate Student Council was elected, and the previous leadership stepped down. I would like to thank the 2025-2026 Graduate Student Representatives for their year of service to the SERA Board and the graduate student membership. Additionally, I would like to thank the SERA Campus Representatives for their efforts to recruit fellow students, review conference proposals, and actively participate in the organization.



Lynette O'Neal
Texas A&M University

The newly elected Graduate Student Council for the 2026-2027 year began their term of service and look forward to fostering opportunities for our graduate community. I am excited to welcome your council: Bridget Matamoros (TAMU), Corbin Owens (TAMUT), Sarah Castillo and Diveanne Martinez (SHSU), Masoud Askarnia (ITU), Mary Roach (At Large Member) and Lisa Hudson (UHCL). We also welcome Lisa Hudson (UHCL).

The 50th Annual SERA Conference will be held February 17-19, 2027, in San Antonio, TX, and it is never too early to start preparing for your upcoming proposal. SERA is an excellent opportunity for graduate students to network with other members from across the region, present their current scholarship in a supportive environment, and learn from other presenters and presentations. Division VI provides graduate students a venue for feedback on works-in-progress and celebrates phenomenal graduate student work through the Dean's Award and the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award. Additional details on award submissions will be included in the call for proposals. As we move closer to the deadline for submitting a proposal, I encourage all graduate student members to consider current projects and papers in development that might be appropriate for presentation(s) at SERA 2027. I hope to see all of you next year in San Antonio!

Lynette O'Neal
Graduate Student Representative
Texas A&M University

2027 Presidential Invited Address



Patricia Alexander, Ph.D.

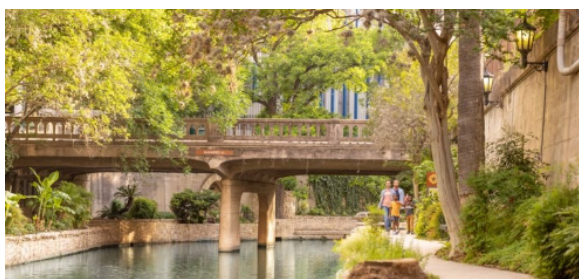
University of Maryland
Distinguished University Professor
Department of Human Development and Quantitative Methodology

Dr. Patricia Alexander is a Distinguished University Professor, the Jean Mullan Professor of Literacy, and a Distinguished Scholar-Teacher in the Department of Human Development and Quantitative Methodology at the University of Maryland, where she heads the Disciplined Reading and Learning Research Laboratory. She is a member of the National Academy of Education, and a Fellow of the American Psychological Association (APA), the American Educational Research Association (AERA), and the Society for Text and Discourse. Dr. Alexander's areas of expertise include learning, expertise development, relational reasoning, critical-analytic thinking, and medium and multimedia effects on learning. Named one of the five most influential educational psychologists over the past decade, Dr. Alexander's honors include the Oscar S. Causey Award for outstanding contributions to literacy research from the Literacy Research Association, the Career Achievement in Educational Psychology from APA Division 15, and the Sylvia Scribner Career Award from AERA Division C. She has published over 340 articles, books, chapters, and monographs in the area of learning and instruction and presented over 400 papers or invited addresses at national and international conferences. She serves on the editorial boards for 12 leading educational journals. Before becoming a college professor, she was a middle school teacher and reading specialist.

From Spring 2014...The Top 12 Reasons to Attend SERA in San Antonio!

Written by Linda Zientek and Bruce Thompson

1. You want to experience the seasonal weather in San Antonio given that the likelihood of a major ice storm in San Antonio is minimal—even though ice storms shut down the SERA annual meeting in San Antonio in 2011.
2. 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 river in San Antonio.
3. You want to meet one of the many reported ghosts at the Menger Hotel, such as the maid Sallie White who might bring you clean towels in the middle of the night!
4. 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.
5. You want 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. You like to ride the street car from the hotel to El Mercado, and eat Mexican food while you listen to mariachi bands.
7. You want to visit the Historic Menger Bar where Theodore Roosevelt recruited men for the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry.
8. You want to ride the boats on the Riverwalk at night. Be sure to watch for bats!
9. You want 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).
10. You like to visit La Villita to do some window shopping.
11. You like to visit the Alamo! Coonskin hats are available for purchase.
12. You want to attend SERA and visit with colleagues across the region and meet new friends!



SERA Board Members and Appointments

President	Ryan Glaman <i>Tarleton State University</i>	Executive Director	Forrest Lane <i>Stephen F. Austin State University</i>
President-Elect/ Program Chair	Michelle Peters <i>University of Houston – Clear Lake</i>	Secretary: 2023 – 2025	Audrey Meador <i>West Texas A&M University</i>
Past-President	Lesley Leach <i>Tarleton State University</i>	Graduate Student Representative	Lynette O’Neal <i>Texas A&M University</i>
Treasurer	Grant Morgan <i>Baylor University</i>	Members-at-Large: 2023 – 2026	Stephen Gruber <i>University of Houston – Clear Lake</i>
Director of Information Technology	Amy Ray <i>Sam Houston State University</i>		Sara Lawrence <i>Texas A&M University – Texarkana</i>
Executive Director <i>Emeritus</i> , Historian	Bruce Thompson <i>Texas A&M University</i>		Amy Ray <i>Sam Houston State University</i>
Executive Director <i>Emerita</i> , Deputy Historian	Linda Zientek <i>Sam Houston State University</i>	Members-at-Large: 2024 – 2027	Anthony Edwards <i>Tarleton State University</i>
Audio Visual	Shirley Matteson <i>Texas Tech University</i>		Shaun Hutchins <i>Texas A&M University</i>
SERA Early Career Research Grant Initiative	Karen Walker <i>East Texas A&M</i>	Members-at-Large: 2025 – 2028	Peter Boedeker <i>Baylor College of Medicine</i>
	Shirley Matteson <i>Texas Tech University</i>		Mary Curtis <i>University of Houston – Clear Lake</i>
SERA Early Career Faculty Mentoring Initiative	Michelle Peters <i>University of Houston – Clear Lake</i>	Newsletter Editor	Karen Graham <i>University of Houston</i>
	Tonya Jeffery <i>University of Houston – Downtown</i>		Karen Walker <i>East Texas A&M University</i>
			Peter Boedeker <i>Baylor College of Medicine</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.

2026 – 2027 Graduate Student Council

Corbin Owens

*Texas A&M University –
Texarkana*



Bridget Matamoros

Texas A&M University



Sarah Castillo

Sam Houston State University



Lisa Hudson

*University of Houston –
Clear Lake*



Mary Roach

University of Alabama



Diveanne Martinez

Sam Houston State University



Masoud Askarnia

Texas Tech University



2027 SERA Election Ballot

People who were members prior to August 2026 are eligible to vote in the SERA 2027 election and will receive an electronic ballot. If you experience any difficulty accessing your ballot or have any questions concerning the election, please contact Amy Ray at acr066@shsu.edu.

Please take the time to cast your vote. Each vote represents a valued choice and provides you an opportunity to have your voice heard. Polls will open on October 12 and close at 11:59 p.m., U.S. central daylight time on November 2.

Candidates Selected for the Ballot

Position	Name	Institution
Program Chair/Pres-Elect	Carol Waters	University of Houston – Clear Lake
Board Secretary	Elvira Sanatullova-Allison	Texas A&M University – Kingsville
At-Large Board Member	Maria Espino	Tarleton State University
At-Large Board Member	Andrea Foster	Sam Houston State University
At-Large Board Member	Clare Resilla	Sam Houston State University
At-Large Board Member	Crystal Rose	Tarleton State University
At Large Board Member	Shannon Solis	Prairie View A&M University
At-Large Board Member	Marsha Sowell	Texas A&M University – Kingsville
At-Large Board Member	Daniella Varela	Texas A&M University – Kingsville

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

**Join us at the Menger Hotel
San Antonio, Texas
February 17 – 19, 2027**

Important Dates	
2026	
Receipt of Conference Registration – by Check	October 11
Receipt of Conference Registration – by PayPal	October 18
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
2027	
DEADLINE for receipt of SERA Linda Reichwein Zientek Outstanding Paper Award	January 8
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

Policy on Conducting Research at SERA

No surveys, data collection, interviews, or any sort of human subjects research shall be conducted at the SERA annual meeting, or from the SERA membership, unless the research is first approved by the SERA board. SERA members in violation are subject to being removed from membership, and any SERA Board member in violation is subject to being removed from office for cause.