



# SERA Newsletter

Fall 2005

## Special Interest Articles:

- [Conference News](#)
- [Graduate Student News](#)
- [Sponsors](#)

## Individual Highlights:

- [The Pres Says...](#) 2
- [Exec. Director News](#) 3
- [Presidential Invited Speaker](#) 4
- [Candidates](#) 4
- [Conference Program](#) 5
- [Membership](#) 5
- [Workshops](#) 6
- [Austin Highlights](#) 7
- [Meet the Board](#) 8
- [Calendar](#)

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

## Annual Conference in Austin- February 8-11, 2006

The annual Southwest Educational Research Association conference is being held at the venerable Capitol Marriott. The proposal deadline was extended due to hurricanes Katrina, and Rita. You should be receiving decision letters by late October.

Preparation for the conference is well underway and this year's conference promises exceptional presentations and two training sessions presented by experts in the field. *Mixed Methods Data Analysis Strategies* is scheduled for Wednesday and being conducted by Drs. [Tony Onwuegbuzie](#) and John Slate. *Hierarchical Linear Modeling* is

By [Robert M. Capraro](#)

## Grad Student News

### Grad Student Section

First, if you'd like to check out our [Grad Student section](#) you'll find a series of tips that can help you make the most out of attending any research conference. You'll also find a FAQ page outlining some of the "posers" grad students ask the SERA Board. Make sure you take a look at these tips before coming to Austin in February!

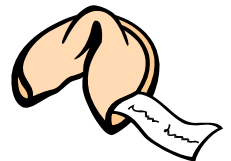
### Sharing What Works!

Also, I've just launched the *Sharing What Works* website ([insert link?](#)) for graduate students to offer suggestions for becoming exemplary educational researchers. You might offer a useful research tip learned from a faculty mentor? Perhaps you'd like to recall your biggest research mistake and what you learned from that experience? Commentary on resources (books, websites, tapes) that enhance your research skills is welcome. Dr. Victoria

By [Elizabeth Alexander](#)

scheduled for Friday and Saturday and is being conducted by Drs. [Tasha Beretvas](#) and [Kyle Roberts](#). Two special sessions are being planned for graduate students see the [Grad Student News](#) section of the newsletter.

Rooms will be gone fast so contact the [Capitol Marriott](#) at 512- 478-1111. It is located at 701 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Austin.



Rodriguez, Dean, UT Austin Graduate School, donated \$200 for prizes. Submit something to *Sharing What Works* before February 1<sup>st</sup> 2006, and register for the conference and up to four authors will win a \$50 gift certificate to either Amazon.com or Starbucks. Don't miss out -- email your submission today!

### Grad Student Symposium

Dr. Tommy Darwin, UT Austin Professional Dev. & Com. Engagement director will present "A Career by Design". Come and discover your ideal future. Learn how every academic activity contributes towards your goal. This will be a fun, interactive, and invaluable session.

### Give A-Ways

I have supplemented the usual supply of textbooks provided by sponsors so with any luck, we'll all walk away with at least one!

## The Pres Says ...

I hope the fall finds you refreshed and raring' to go about whatever duties lie in your future. Your Board members have been busy preparing for the 29th Annual Meeting at the Austin Capitol Marriott. Make sure you mark your calendars for Wednesday, February 8 through Saturday, February 11. Details about hotel reservations and meeting pre-registration are found elsewhere in this newsletter. I look forward to seeing every member at the annual meeting!

Special thanks to J. Kyle Roberts, President-Elect and Program Chair, for his hard work coordinating the efforts of the Divisional Program Chairs and dedicated proposal reviewers. Judging from record proposals submissions, we are expecting record-breaking attendance at the conference. Be sure to check the SERA website for the conference schedule as time draws near.

I am excited that Gerald Wheeler, Executive Director of the National Science Teachers Association, will be the President's Invited Speaker. His talk will immediately follow the luncheon.

*By Jan Scott*



*Lisa Towne,  
Presidential Address  
2005 with Kathy  
Mittag and Bruce  
Thompson*

*"To lead people, walk beside them ... As for the best leaders, the people do not notice their existence. The next best, the people honor and praise. The next, the people fear; and the next, the people hate ... When the best leader's work is done the people say, 'We did it ourselves!'"*

*Lao-Tsu*

Make plans to attend!!

Kelly Shapley, Local Arrangements Chair has worked closely with Marriott staff, planning a superb experience and a spectacular luncheon! Please note the deadlines in the newsletter for hotel reservations and meeting preregistration.

SERA strength comes from its membership so to keep the organization strong we need more people involved. Many have served as division chairs and reviewers for the proposals this year. During the conference, each session will have a session chair, the chair's duties include introducing the presenters and that of time-keeper. If time permits, the chair may also wish to facilitate discussion regarding the presentations. Let me encourage you to become involved.

Consider submitting your paper to the **Outstanding Paper Award**. Graduate students can submit their paper to the **Outstanding Graduate Paper Award**. Finally, encourage your colleagues and graduate students to join SERA and come to the conference.

See you in February!!

## News from SERA Executive Director

### Dining, Training & Winning at SERA '06

Here are a few notes on the upcoming SERA annual meeting to help whet your appetite for Austin.

#### Wining/Dining

Again this year there will be an evening reception during the annual meeting. This can be your launch point to later music, dancing, and celebrating on nearby 6th Street, or to dining. Here are a few of the many nearby dining choices.

*Manuel's. 310 Congress. 512-472-7555. This restaurant features fabulous interior Mexican food. Affordable.*

Moonshine Patio Bar and Grill.  
303 Red River. 512-236-9599.  
<http://www.moonshinegrill.com/>

Thai Passion. 620 Congress, Suite 105. 512-472-1244. Very affordable & very good, you guessed it, Thai food.  
<http://www.thaipassion.com/>

Carmelo's Ristorante Italiano. 504 E. 5th. 512-477-7497. Italian. More pricey. Very good desserts.  
<http://www.carmelosrestaurant.com/austin.htm>

#### Training

In 2005 we began new SERA training traditions: (a) an afternoon training session on the first afternoon of the conference, which starts again this year on Wednesday (not Thursday), and (b) a

full day training session on a second topic conducted Friday afternoon, and Saturday morning.

This year the half-day training session will be on "Mixed Methods", and will be conducted by Tony Onwuegbuzie, University of South Florida. The full-day session will be on "Hierarchical Linear Modeling," and will be conducted by Kyle Roberts, Baylor College of Medicine, and S. Natasha Beretvas, University of Texas at Austin.

## Winning

As usual, there are various SERA venues for winning. First, entries for the 2006 **Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award** must be received by Kyle Roberts before January 13, 2006. Entries are only accepted as e-mail attachments sent to: <mailto:jroberts@bcm.edu>. This competition is only for completed research, including dissertations, and only condensed versions of long reports (e.g., dissertations) may be submitted.

Second, entries for the 2006 **Outstanding Paper Award** must be received by the SERA Executive Director **before February 20, 2006**. The award-winning paper is also presented at AERA in the "State and Regional Outstanding Paper Sessions." Entries are only accepted as paper copies sent by postal mail or courier service to: Bruce Thompson, SERA Executive Director; TAMU Dept Educ Psyc; 704 Harrington; College Station, TX 77843-4225.

By Bruce Thompson

## Nominations and Elections News

Here is the slate of excellent potential officers. Ballots and candidate information will be mailed out by November 4, 2005 to all current members so keep an eye out and get your votes in early.

### President-Elect:

Gilbert Naizer: Texas A&M - Commerce

### Member-at-Large

Mary Frances Agnello  
Texas Tech University

Julia Ballenger

Stephen F. Austin State University

Mary Margaret Capraro  
Texas A&M University - College Station

Amy Dellinger  
University of New Orleans

Wendy Dickinson, Sarasota, FL  
Manatee County School District

Bill Jasper  
Sam Houston State University

Jason King  
Baylor College of Medicine – Houston

Jim Telese: University of Texas -  
Brownsville



*The gavel exchange symbolizing the transition from Kathy Mittag to Jan Scott's presidency.*

By Kathy Mittag

## Membership

You can also research articles or find "filler" articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can write about a variety of topics but try to keep your articles short.

Much of the content you put in your newsletter can also be used for your Web site. Microsoft offers a simple way to convert your newsletter to a Web

publication. So, when you're finished writing your newsletter, convert it to a Web site and post it.

The subject matter that appears in newsletters is virtually endless. You can include stories that focus on current technologies or innovations in your field.

By Vince Paredes

*"To lead people, walk beside them ... As for the best leaders, the people do not notice their existence. The next best, the people honor and praise. The next, the people fear; and the next, the people hate ... When the best leader's work is done the people say, 'We did it ourselves!'"*  
Lao-Tsu



J. Kyle Roberts,  
Baylor College of  
Medicine

*"The closer people are to 'getting it right,' the more significant become the ways in which they 'get it wrong.'"*  
William R. Robinson

## Nightlife – Austin's 6<sup>th</sup> Street

Likely Texas' best-known street, the seven block's of 6th Street between Congress and IH 35 are certainly Austin's entertainment center. With a little help from it's many like-minded sister streets, 6th Street is the heart of Austin's live entertainment scene and the capital of third coast music.

Sixth Street (formerly known as Pecan Street) is lined with many historical houses and commercial buildings dating from the late 1800's and early 1900's. The storied old buildings now house numerous bars, a host

of live entertainment venues, tattoo parlors, art galleries, casual cafes, upscale restaurants, and the elegant Driskill Hotel. Live music of every genre abounds. From jazz, blues, and country to rock, hip-hop, beat, progressive, metal, punk and derivations of these, there's something to whet everyone's musical palette. Great food is a staple on Sixth Street, featuring such regional staples as chili, ribs, and Tex-Mex plus steak, seafood, cajun-cooking, and deli. Dress code, yeah right. You'll see cowboys and punks, surfers and suits and only 5 blocks from the conference hotel.

## Program Chair

Next, establish how much time and money you can spend on your newsletter. These factors will help determine how frequently you publish your newsletter at least quarterly so that it's considered a consistent source of information. Your customers or employees will look forward to its arrival.

Your headline is an important part of the considered

By J. Kyle Roberts

carefully.

In a few words, it should accurately represent the contents of the story and draw readers into the story. Develop the headline before you write the story. This way, the headline will help you keep the story focused.

## Meet the Board –

[Mary Margaret Capraro](#), [Amy Dellinger](#), & [Kelly Shapley](#)

### Mary Margaret Capraro, Assistant Clinical Professor

Mary Margaret received her Ph.D from The University of Southern Mississippi in 2000. She joined the faculty of Texas A&M University in the Department of Teaching, Learning, and Culture as a Lecturer in 2000 and was promoted in 2001 to Assistant Clinical Professor. She teaches mathematics and science methods classes to preservice elementary and middle school teachers and works closely with the Bryan and College Station ISDs. Dr. Capraro is the project coordinator and a faculty researcher on the Middle School Mathematics project an IERI funded project. In addition, she teaches graduate mathematics education courses and is a full member of the graduate

faculty. She has published 14 articles and has made over 40 national, regional, and state presentations and served on the SERA board of directors for 3 years.



Mary Margaret Capraro,  
Texas A&M University

### Amy Dellinger, Ph.D. Assistant Professor

Amy serves as Member at Large (2003-2005) on the SERA Executive Board and hopes to be on the ballot again for 2006-2008 Member at Large position as her tenure ends at this year's annual conference. She also

# Southwest Educational Research Association

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[Robert M. Capraro](#)

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**SOUTHWEST EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION**



served as newsletter editor for the past 3 years and Division II Chair for the 2004 and 2005 annual conferences. Amy will serve as Division III Chair for the 2006 annual conference. Currently, Amy is on the faculty at the University of New Orleans teaching research methods and statistics in the Educational Leadership, Counseling, and Foundations Department.



*Amy Dellinger,  
University of New Orleans*

### **Kelly Shapley, Ph.D.**

[Director Texas Center for Ed. Research.](#)

Previously she worked with Southwest Educational Development Laboratory and Dallas ISD's department of research and evaluation. Kelly earned her master's degree from Texas Tech University and doctorate from University of North Texas. Recent credits include

directing state-level policy studies of charter schools, Special Education personnel needs, Texas' federal GEAR UP project, and

Texas programs for students at risk. Dr. Shapley is principal researcher on the federally funded Evaluation of Texas Technology Immersion Pilot, a study of one-to-one wireless computing on middle school students in 22 "immersed" and 22 comparison schools. An active SERA member since 1993, she has served as Member at Large, Secretary, and facilitated local arrangements for the "fabulous" 2002 annual conference in Austin and is heading arrangements for the 2006 conference. This conference promises to be one of the best ever!!



*Kelly Shapley,  
Texas Center for Educational Research*

## Presidential Invited Address

In a few words, it should accurately represent the contents of the story and draw readers into the story. Develop the headline before you write the story. This way, the headline will help you keep the story focused.

Examples of possible headlines include Product Wins Industry Award, New Product Can Save You Time, Membership Drive Exceeds Goals, and New Office Opens Near You.

One benefit of using your newsletter as a promotional tool is that you can reuse content from other marketing materials, such as press releases, market studies.

While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your readers.

## Calendar- Important Dates

### Some Key Dates

#### Conference

Hotel Reservations Deadline (for conference rate) **January 18**

Pre-Registration Deadline **January 31**

SERA 2006 Conference Dates in Austin **February 8-10**

### Trainings at the Conference

Mixed Methods Training

**February 8**

Hierarchical Linear Modeling Training

**February 10-11**

### Awards

Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award (received by) **January 13**

Outstanding Conference Paper Award (received by) **February 20**