

FERA Newsletter

President's Corner: Salih Binici

Greetings,

The 58th Annual FERA meeting held in November of 2013 was an exciting opportunity to share with colleagues, get updates from presenters from the Florida Department of Education on current initiatives, and see the exciting work in educational research and measurement that is occurring in our universities. Thank you to all who attended and contributed to the FERA 2013 annual meeting.

I am very appreciative of the board members who made the conference possible, including: Samuel Whitten, Past President, for his support and guidance; Ina Helmick, Secretary, for keeping our historical records and working diligently to assist all of us; Debbie Hahs-Vaughn, Treasurer, for managing our funds; and Directors, Betsy Becker, Albert D. Ritzhaupt and Paul Houchens, for their contributions to planning the program and recruiting engaging speakers. I would also like to thank the Committee Chairs for their contributions, including: Bonnie Swan, Membership, for managing our membership list; Donna Buckner, Paper Proposal Review, Publications, Newsletter, Sponsors and Vendors, for organizing the proposal review process, keeping us informed and coordinating with conference sponsors; Wendy Dickenson, Professional Development, for arranging an outstanding pre-conference presentation; Albert Ritzhaupt, Local Arrangements, for his tireless efforts in coordinating with the hotel and managing registration; Matthew R. Lavery and Sungur Gurel, Graduate Student Coordinators, for organizing graduate student activities; Ron Dailey, Awards and Recognition, for making sure that everyone was recognized for their hard work; Erhan Selcuk Haciomeroglu, Distinguished Paper Award, for coordinating the selection of the our Distinguished Paper recipient for 2013; Kathleen Dailey, Russell B. Kropp Award, for her efforts in remembering a major contributor to the field of educational research; Wendy Williams, Webmaster, for keeping our website (www.feraonline.org) current; and many others. Many individuals have served this organization for several years in various capacities, and many have volunteered their services for this year's conference.

I would like to recognize the sponsors who supported several of the functions at FERA 2013 including: Bruce Hall, **Past President of FERA**, for support of graduate student functions; Glenn E. Good, Dean, **College of Education, University of Florida**, for arranging the museum venue for the Thursday evening reception; Marcy P. Driscoll, Dean, **College of Education, Florida State University**, for sponsoring Meet and Greet Opening Luncheon; Roy Ellis, Andrew Messenger, and Michael Keeton, **Pearson**, for hosting the Thursday evening reception; Laura Bresko and Brenda Bartholomew, **Progress Testing**, and Jeff Skene, **Thinkgate**, for hosting the Wednesday evening reception; Phil-

FERA:
www.feraonline.org

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Florida Department of Education

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President's Corner: Salih Binici (con't)

Thank you Sponsors !

FERA Past President,
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lip Adam, Stephanie Seemann, **CTB**, for sponsoring Thursday early-morning coffee break; Tim Butterfield, Michael Adkins, **Scantron**, for hosting the Friday Luncheon; Sherry DeSimone, Andy Hegedus, **NWEA**, for sponsoring Wednesday afternoon coffee break; Matthew R. Lavery, **GSE Educational Services, LLC.**, for sponsoring Thursday afternoon coffee break; and Shari Holtmeir, **United Data Technologies**, for sponsoring Thursday morning coffee break.

The conference was well attended and feedback was very positive. Invited speakers included several individuals directly involved in research projects in Florida and throughout the nation and representatives from educational institutions involved in current policy decisions and implementation. Morgan C. Wang, Professor of Statistics and the Director of the Data Mining Program at the University of Central Florida, gave a pre-conference presentation focusing on the difference between traditional statistical inference and data mining. Several cases studies on college level educational data and the potential use of using data mining techniques to K-12 data were presented. The opening session for the conference began with Mark Reckase, Michigan State University, and Craig Wells, University of Massachusetts, highlighting current research trends on scaling, linking, and equating of large scale assessments and the challenges of scaling tests with various item types measuring complex constructs. An afternoon general session featured Vince Verges, FLDOE Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Division of Accountability, Research and Measurement, sharing information on the status of Common Core Summative Assessments in the state of Florida. Another afternoon general session features Mirka Koro-Ljungberg, University of Florida, and Jennifer R. Wolgemuth, University of South Florida, held an interactive workshop on methodology of qualitative research. The Thursday morning general session featured Kathy Hebda, FLDOE Chief of Staff, and Eric Larsen, AIR, talking about the history of the Value-Added Model in use in the state of Florida. The Thursday afternoon session features Todd Clark, FLDOE Director, updated audience on the progress of Race to the Top Assessments. Another Thursday afternoon general session was delivered by Michael Hynes, University of Central Florida, and Carrie Straub, University of Central Florida, introducing a simulated classroom, TeachLivE, and presenting about integrated video coding software that can be used for education research. For the Friday morning general session, Walter Leite, University of Florida, described methods to combine propensity score matching with multilevel modeling to reduce selection bias in estimates of the effects of non-randomly assigned treatments in longitudinal studies. Congratulations to our Distinguished Paper Award Winners, Anne Corinne Huggins and Randall D. Penfield for their award winning paper entitled *Relationship between DIF Location and Conditional Equating Dependence Issues*.

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New officers were elected for 2014. As President, I am delighted to work with President-Elect and Program Chair for the 2014 conference, Betsy Becker, FSU; Past President, Samuel Whitten, Hillsborough County Public Schools; Secretary, Ina Helmick, Hillsborough County Public Schools; Treasurer, Ted Dwyer, Hillsborough County Public Schools; and Directors, Kathleen Dailey, St. Lucie County Public Schools, Paul Houchens, Broward County Schools and Albert Ritzhaupt, UF.

Our outstanding committees make the conference successful. I encourage you to get involved and share your experience and expertise by contacting one of these committee chairs.

These are the 2014 FERA Committee Chairs:

Standing Committee Chairs include: Bonnie Swan, UCF, *Membership Chair*; Wendy Dickinson, Ringling College of Art + Design, *Professional Education and Training*; and Donna Buckner, Our Children's: Winter Haven and Rehab Clinic Network *Publications*.

Annual Committee Chairs include: John Ferron, USF and Robert Dedrick, USF, *Audit*; Soyeon Ahn, UM and Cengiz Zopluoglu, UM, *Distinguished Paper Award*; Anne Corinne Huggins, UF, *Educational Researcher of the Year Award*; Lee Baldwin, UCF, *Nominating*; Betsy Becker, FSU, *Program*; Kathleen Dailey, St. Lucie County Schools, *Russell Kropp Award*.

Ad Hoc Committee Chairs include: Ron Dailey, Hillsborough County Public Schools, *Awards and Recognition*; Eun Sook Kim, USF, and Insu Paek, FSU, *Evaluation*; Albert Ritzhaupt, UF, *Florida Journal of Educational Research Editor*; Donna Buckner Assistant Editor, Our Children's: Winter Haven and Rehab Clinic Network, Sungur Gurel, Ahmet Serhat Gozutok, FSU, *Graduate Student Coordinators*; Haiyan Bai, UCF, *Local Arrangements*; Donna Buckner, Our Children's: Winter Haven and Rehab Clinic Network, *Paper Proposals Review*; Samuel Whitten, Hillsborough County Public Schools, *Sponsors and Vendors*; and Donna Buckner, Our Children's: Winter Haven and Rehab Clinic Network and *Newsletter Editor*.

I would also like to acknowledge our longtime *Webmaster*, Wendy Williams, UCF.

We will be in the Cocoa Beach area for the 2014 conference. Please save the dates and join us for our 59th Annual Meeting on **November 19-21, 2014** in Cocoa Beach at the Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront Hotel.

"Our
outstanding
committees make the
conference
successful.
I encourage
you
to get involved
and
share your
experience and
expertise by
contacting one of
these
committee chairs."



President's Corner

William Shadish, Professor of School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts at the University of California, Merced. Dr. Shadish is a leader in the field of meta-analysis and will give a historical perspective on the field and accomplishments in evidence based thinking in social sciences. Other planned presentations include:

Lauren White, FLDOE Senior Postsecondary Assessment Coordinator, will present *“Developing the Florida Teacher Certification Examinations and Florida Educational Leadership Examination.”*

Allan S. Cohen, University of Georgia, and Claudia Flowers, University of North Carolina, Charlotte, will participate in a session on large-scale assessments.

We are also currently contacting couple other nationally known experts in the educational research area and expect to hear from them soon.

Upcoming conference information is already on the website, and registration is available. Proposals will be accepted through July 31. Please help us spread the word to your friends and colleagues.

I thank you for the support I enjoyed last year as President-Elect and Conference Chair, and I look forward to an exciting year and another wonderful opportunity in November 2014 to reconnect with you as we pause to do what we all love - review assessment data and talk about research. Ongoing conversations between those of us engaged in assessment, evaluation, measurement and research in the state will continue to keep Florida in the forefront.

See you in Cocoa Beach in November!

Salih Binici

FERA President

**Call for
Proposals**
Send to:
**fera.proposals
@gmail.com**
Contact:
Donna L Buckner
Our Children's:
Winter Haven
&
Rehab Clinic
Network
donna.buckner @
ourchildrens.org

FERA **Call for Proposals**

2014 Annual Meeting - Cocoa Beach, FL

November 19 - 21, 2014

Betsy Becker, Meeting Program Committee Chair

Donna L. Buckner, Paper Proposal Review Committee Chair

Deadline for Receipt: July 31, 2014

FERA Graduate Student News

Dear Graduate Student,

We would like to announce a call for graduate student posters for the upcoming **59th Annual Conference** of the **Florida Educational Research Association (FERA)** to be held in **Cocoa Beach** from **November 19-21, 2014**. This conference is a great opportunity for graduate students to present their research on topics and issues of interest to education professionals. Whether you are a first-time presenter, or have presented before, the friendly and supportive atmosphere of this conference provides an ideal setting to present your research.

As your graduate student representatives, we would like to invite you to submit a proposal for a poster presentation by **September 1st** to **fera.student.proposal@gmail.com**. The due date for posters is later than the deadline for papers and symposia in order to provide graduate students some extra time to prepare their submissions. **Graduate students are not limited to the poster session**, but the later date for posters has been specifically chosen to allow graduate students and faculty to circulate this call for posters to other graduate students at the beginning of the Fall Semester. Please forward this call to any graduate students that you know who may be interested in this opportunity to present at FERA.

The guidelines for your proposal are very flexible; we simply ask that you keep the proposal **under 5 pages, double spaced**, and that you be aware that we will be reviewing and judging the proposals and the final posters on the following six topics: **significance of research, theoretical framework, methods, analysis employed, interpretation of results, and quality of writing**. We also welcome in-progress research that you would like to share in order to get feedback at the conference. The authors of the top two posters will be recognized at the conference.

Remember that, if your poster proposal is accepted, you **must register for the conference** and pay for **membership in FERA**. Graduate students may pay **\$80 for conference registration and membership** in FERA at <http://www.feraonline.org/FERA%20Membership.htm>. There will be opportunities for graduate students to volunteer during the conference. Confirmed volunteers will receive complimentary conference registration, but *must still pay \$15* for graduate student membership (which may be paid at the same membership website).

If you have further questions about the poster proposal, or have other questions about graduate student opportunities in FERA, please do not hesitate to contact us via e-mail at s.gurel@ufl.edu or ag10ag@my.fsu.edu.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to meeting you in Gainesville.

Sungur Gurel and Ahmet Serhat Gozutok

FERA Graduate Student Representatives

Graduate
Students:
We need you!
Volunteers
Contact:
Dr. Haiyan Bai,
University of
Central Florida
Haiyan.bai@ucf.edu



FERA Conference

November 19 - 21, 2014

**Hilton's Cocoa Beach Oceanfront
1550 North Atlantic Avenue,
Cocoa Beach, Florida 32931-3268**

Tel: 1-321-799-0003

Fax: 1-321-799-0344

Professional Development Workshops

Wednesday, November 20th,

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

**1. Special Topics and Applications in
Mixed Methods**

**2. Qualitative and Quantitative
Research Overlaps: Commonalities
of Good**

Research/Mixed Methods

**3. Visual displays for mixed methods
applications**

Join us for Lunch!

Culminating Activity

Friday, November 21,

12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

**An Awards Ceremony and
Induction of New Officers**

Russell Kropp Award

Now Accepting Nominations

Please contact for details:

Kathleen Dailey,

St. Lucie County

Public Schools

[kathleen.dailey@](mailto:kathleen.dailey@stlucieschools.org)

stlucieschools.org

Educational

Researcher

of

the Year Award

Now Accepting Nominations

Please contact:

Anne Corinne Huggins,

University of Florida

ahuggins@coe.ufl.edu