



# FERA Newsletter

Volume 19, Number 2

September 2010

## Executive Committee

### **President**

**John Ferron**  
*University of South Florida*

### **President Elect**

**Frank Gilbert**  
*Orange County Schools*

### **Past President**

**Wendy Dickinson**  
*Ringling School of Art and Design*

### **Secretary**

**Kathy Dailey**  
*Polk County Public Schools*

### **Treasurer**

**Julie McLeod**  
*Hillsborough County Schools*

## Directors

**Salih Binici**  
*Florida Dept. of Education*

**Donna Buckner**  
*Polk County Public Schools*

**Abbas Tashakkori**  
*University of North Texas*

## Standing Committee Chairs

### **FJER**

**Jeff Kromrey**  
*University of South Florida*

### **Webmaster & Electronic Communications**

**Lisa Adkins**  
*University of South Florida*

### **Membership**

**Bonnie Swan**  
*University of Central Florida*

## **The President's Corner**

**John Ferron**

Greetings! We look forward to seeing you at the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Florida Educational Research Association. The registration desk will open at 10 a.m. and the conference opening session will start at 12 noon on Wednesday November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010. We are excited about the program which includes paper presentations by 49 research groups from around the state on a variety of educational issues, a graduate student poster session, and several invited sessions including a DOE symposium with members of the FCAT Technical Advisory Committee. We will also have presentations from:

Robert Meyer, Research Professor at the Wisconsin Center for Education Research (WCER). He is the Director of the Value-Added Research Center (VARC) and known for his research on value-added modeling and evaluation methods. Over the last decade and a half, Meyer has worked closely with districts and states to develop and apply innovative statistical methods.

Damian Betebenner, associate at The National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment in Dover, New Hampshire. His areas of specialization include applied statistics, particularly with regard to large scale data analysis. His current research interests center around longitudinal data analysis, specifically with regard to state and federal performance mandates.

There will be a social Wednesday evening, a social on Thursday evening, and a luncheon/business meeting to wrap up the conference on Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010. During the business meeting there will be a vote on changes to the by-laws that are being proposed by the executive committee of FERA. The changes include the addition of explicit reference to training to make the purpose more obviously consistent with the definition of educational organizations in the government document on tax exempt status and alterations that allow some of the organization business to be conducted electronically (as opposed to only by paper mail). Please see the FERA website to download a copy of the by-law with proposed changes.

We hope you all can attend Friday's luncheon and business meeting. Please RSVP at the Registration Desk (sign-up list available) if you plan to attend Friday's luncheon as we need to obtain an accurate count for the hotel. The lunch is provided by the organization to those who attend the conference, but if you are bringing a guest that has not registered for the conference, we are asking you to buy a lunch ticket for the guest, which can be done through the FERA website <http://feraonline.org>.

Room reservations at the reduced conference rate will be available until October 16<sup>th</sup> - please make your hotel reservations early! Note that the organization benefits from your stay at the conference hotel. The meeting rooms are provided under the restriction that the organization purchases food and beverages from the hotel (e.g., the socials and luncheon) and that our members fill a block of rooms. Consequently, it is important that they know you are part of FERA when you register. This can be accomplished easily by clicking on the picture of the hotel given on the FERA website (<http://feraonline.org>) to register. We look forward to seeing everyone in Orlando.

Best regards,  
John Ferron

## FERA Graduate Student News 2010

There are several new activities going on this year with FERA graduate students. First, we have started a LinkedIn social networking group and several discussions about educational research have taken place. We would like to extend an invitation to join the group to any interested Florida graduate students; simply log on to [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com) and request to join the "FERA Graduate Students" group. Aside from joining the discussions of other students, this is also an outlet for receiving information on FERA activities from your graduate student representatives. Second, we are changing the judging system for graduate student posters at the 2010 meeting. We are currently seeking graduate student volunteers who are *not* submitting a poster to volunteer as peer judges for your fellow graduate students. Please contact Kristina LaVenía ([kpineau@fsu.edu](mailto:kpineau@fsu.edu)) or Corinne Huggins ([corinnehuggins@gmail.com](mailto:corinnehuggins@gmail.com)) if you are interested in serving as a judge. You will be recognized at the meeting for your contribution as a judge. Finally, FERA is looking for graduate student volunteers to help at the meeting this year in a variety of ways. Each volunteer is asked to work for approximately 2-3 hours during the conference with activities such as running the registration booth or helping with technology in the classrooms. Volunteers will have their registration costs waived. More information will be available later in the year, but for now interested persons can contact Kristina LaVenía ([kpineau@fsu.edu](mailto:kpineau@fsu.edu)) or Corinne Huggins ([corinnehuggins@gmail.com](mailto:corinnehuggins@gmail.com)). On behalf of your graduate student representatives, we look forward to conversing with you on LinkedIn, receiving your graduate student poster and paper submissions, and of course seeing you at the conference!

### **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

*Names for consideration for the open FERA Board Positions (2009-2010) should be sent to Bruce Hall, Nominations Committee Chairperson.*

[bwhall@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:bwhall@tampabay.rr.com)

### **GRADUATE STUDENTS**

#### **Registration Desk Volunteer Shifts Still Available**

Contact Debbie Hahs-Vaughn  
[dhahs@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:dhahs@mail.ucf.edu)

*Graduate students who sign up for a shift at the registration desk will receive complimentary conference registration!*

### **Educational Researcher of the Year Award**

*Robert Dedrick, University of South Florida, is accepting nominations for the Educational Researcher of the Year Award. Please contact him for further details at:*

[dedrick@tempest.coedu.usf.edu](mailto:dedrick@tempest.coedu.usf.edu)

### **Russell Kropp Award**

*Donna Buckner, Polk County Public Schools, is accepting nominations for the Russell Kropp Award.*

*Please contact her for further details at:*

[donna.buckner@polk-fl.net](mailto:donna.buckner@polk-fl.net)

### **Don't Forget to Register Guests for Lunch**

Go to <http://feraonline.org> and click on Membership Dues to register for guests for Friday's luncheon at the 2010 Annual Meeting

## *Make your hotel reservations by October 16<sup>th</sup>*

The Rosen Centre Hotel has a reservation page set up just for FERA Members. Go to <http://feraonline.org> and click on the hotel picture. This will take you to a reservation page specifically designed to give you a reduced conference rate of \$105.00. A block of rooms has been reserved for November 16 - 18, 2010. The special room rate will be available until October 16<sup>th</sup> or until the group block is sold-out, whichever comes first.

***Don't delay – reserve today!***



### **Rosen Centre Hotel**

**9840 International  
Drive  
Orlando, FL 32819  
(407) 996-9840**



**Renew your FERA membership online with Paypal at <http://feraonline.org/>**

### *Thank you to our 2010 FERA Program Committee Chairpersons:*

<b>Program Chair, Annual Meeting</b>	<b>Frank Gilbert, Orange County Schools</b> <a href="mailto:frank.gilbert@ocps.net">frank.gilbert@ocps.net</a>
<b>Paper Proposal Review</b>	<b>Salih Binici, Florida Department of Education</b> <a href="mailto:salih.binici@fldoe.org">salih.binici@fldoe.org</a>
<b>Sponsors and Vendors</b>	<b>Donna Buckner, Polk County Schools</b> <a href="mailto:donna.buckner@polk-fl.net">donna.buckner@polk-fl.net</a>
<b>Awards and Recognition</b>	<b>Ron &amp; Kathy Dailey, Hillsborough and Polk County Schools</b> <a href="mailto:kathleen.dailey@polk-fl.net">kathleen.dailey@polk-fl.net</a>
<b>Local Arrangements</b>	<b>Debbie Hahs-Vaughn, University of Central Florida</b> <a href="mailto:dhahs@mail.ucf.edu">dhahs@mail.ucf.edu</a>
<b>Nominating Committee</b>	<b>Bruce W. Hall, Professor Emeritus</b> <a href="mailto:bwhall@tampabay.rr.com">bwhall@tampabay.rr.com</a>
<b>Russell Kropp Award</b>	<b>Donna Buckner, Polk County Schools</b> <a href="mailto:donna.buckner@polk-fl.net">donna.buckner@polk-fl.net</a>
<b>Educational Researcher of the Year</b>	<b>Robert Dedrick, University of South Florida</b> <a href="mailto:dedrick@tempest.coedu.usf.edu">dedrick@tempest.coedu.usf.edu</a>
<b>Audit Committee</b>	<b>Haiyan Bai, University of Central Florida</b> <a href="mailto:hbai@mail.ucf.edu">hbai@mail.ucf.edu</a>