



# FERA Newsletter

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*Sarasota County Public Schools*

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*Florida State University*

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<http://www.feraonline.org/>

## **The President's Corner**

***Natalie Roca***

Thank you, everyone, for the success of last year's 2006 FERA Annual Meeting, held in Jacksonville, Florida. The feedback we received was very favorable. Many FERA members worked hard to make the arrangements and bring you a great program. Thanks to Terry Darby and Terry Cavanaugh, the co-chairs of the Local Arrangements Committee; Dawn Botkin and Pat Carley, co-chairs of the Sponsors, Vendors, and Social Arrangements Committee; George Strange, Chair of the Awards and Recognitions Committee; Betty Hubschman, Chair of the Distinguished Paper Award Committee; John Hilderbrand, Chair of the Russell P. Kropp Award Committee; Christine Kerstyn, Chair of the Evaluation Committee, and Bruce Hall, Chair of the Educational Researcher of the Year Committee.

### ***The 2006 Winners Are.....***

The Researcher of the Year Award for 2006 was presented to John Ferron from the University of South Florida. The Distinguished Paper Award went to Jeanine Romano, University of Tampa, and Jeffrey Kromrey, University of South Florida.

**Congratulations to All!**

In addition, we acknowledge and applaud the generosity of Duval County Public Schools, Dr. Larry Daniels, and the University of North Florida for sending us volunteers to staff the registration table, set up equipment, and coordinate activities with the hotel staff. The media and computer equipment loaned to us by UNF was a great cost savings! Speaking of \$\$\$\$\$, Wendy Dickinson, our Treasurer, reports the Annual Meeting was a fiscal success. The program committee called upon the kindness of organizations to sponsor speakers and fellow colleagues to address our group.

A big applause for our sponsors for their generosity and the continued support they've shown our organization over the years. We would like to acknowledge our 2006 **Platinum Sponsors: Harcourt Assessment, Inc., The Princeton Review, Riverbend Software Solutions, and the Scientific Learning Corp/The Fast ForWord Company.** And many thanks to our **Gold Sponsors: ACT, CTB/McGraw-Hill, ETS, Evaluation Systems Design, Inc., The Grow Network/McGraw-Hill, and the Renaissance Learning, Inc.** We could not do it without your support!

The 2006 conference kicked-off with an informative and amusingly titled pre session ("The Agony and Ecstasy of Vertical Equating") presented by Laurie Weiss and Gene Hoffman. Special recognition goes to Cornelia Orr and Kris Ellington, from the Florida Department of Education, who convinced the FCAT Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members to extend their stay from their regularly scheduled meeting, and sponsored the FERA panel session on the behind-the-scenes psychometric aspects of the FCAT. Our gratitude is extended to the Scientific Learning Corporation for inviting Steven Miller to share his research work in neuroscience and learning; to ETS, for sponsoring Tim Davis, who addressed our group about practical considerations in computerized testing; to the Law School Admission Council, for sponsoring Peter Pashley's visit with the grad students; and to all the invited speakers, Connie Bergquist, Larry Daniel, Sandra Gupton, Christy Hovanetz Lassila, and Joseph Wise.

## **The President's Corner (continued from page 1)**

Again, credit is due to all our paper reviewers, session chairs, and all who helped make the conference a success.

During the Business Meeting held at the end of the 2006 Annual Meeting, new officers and directors were elected: **Akihito Kamata** from FSU was recognized as the new President-Elect; **David Miller** becomes our Past President; and **Jan Morphew** with the Florida Department of Education was chosen as the new Director and **Tony Onwuegbuzie** and **Frank Gilbert** will continue as Directors. **Wendy Dickinson** will continue as Treasurer and **Wilma Ferrer** as Secretary. Our heartfelt gratitude is extended to **Madeline Barbery**, who leaves the Board as Past President, and **Ron Daily**, who served us well during his term as Director. We are also happy to announce that the Graduate Student Representatives are **Sara Vigi**, University of Miami, and **Kuzey Bilir** from Florida State University (Go 'Noles).

### ***Congratulations to all of you!***

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The **2007 Annual FERA meeting will be held November 14 – 16, 2007, in Tampa, Florida, at the Embassy Suites Hotel /USF**. The hotel is actually located on the University of South Florida campus. The November FERA meeting in Tampa is the perfect place to catch up on all that is happening in the “world” of educational research, measurement, and evaluation. And, it's an ideal setting for bringing the family along and taking an excursion to the areas many attractions - Busch Gardens, Adventure Island, or Ybor City.



**Embassy Suites Hotel /USF**

Spring is in the air...time to start thinking about those paper proposals for November 2007. Last year's condensed time line for the paper proposal review process worked well. The additional time for review and program planning was helpful, so we will have a similar time line in 2007. Details for submission of papers appear in this issue of the Newsletter and may also be obtained online at the FERA website. Papers will only be reviewed if you are a member of (or join FERA) and register for the conference.

**On behalf of the 2007 FERA Board,  
we thank you for the opportunity to serve you and we look forward to working  
with all of you to put together an outstanding program this fall.  
(hint: looking for committee chairs and volunteers)**

## GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

### *KUZEY BILIR & SARA VAGI*

Dear Graduate Students,

As graduate student coordinators we would like to share our excitement with you: The FERA 2007 Conference is only eight months away!

We'll have a chance to meet again and share our professional work with our colleagues and friends. It is a great opportunity for us students to receive feedback on our work and to network with education specialists, and other graduate students from across the state of Florida.

For some of you it is the first year in your program and you need to know the current trends in your area; we recommend you not to miss this opportunity.

Friends, if you're planning to work at a university or a school district in Florida or at a private company from across the nation you might well benefit from the conference by meeting all those professionals waiting to meet you.

The FERA Conference provides a nice environment to achieve that goal.

Our goal is to have a significant increase in the attendance of graduate students from universities all over Florida to the FERA Conference.

You can help us achieve our goal by sharing your opinions and ideas. We're one click away from you!

Kuzey Bilir (850-566-7968)  
Florida State University  
[mkb04h@fsu.edu](mailto:mkb04h@fsu.edu)

Sara Vagi (305-284-1742)  
University of Miami  
[svagi@miami.edu](mailto:svagi@miami.edu)



#### **Good news!**

Participation at the 2006 FERA meeting was at an all time high! 128 members in attendance! Let's continue this effort to increase our membership base and conference participation.

*The goal in 2007 is 150!!!*

#### **New this year**

The registration fee for the 2007 annual meeting will increase by \$5.00 to \$40.00 for regular members but will remain at \$15.00 for graduate students. Pre-session and late registration fees will also increase by \$5.00. Despite this very modest increase, the registration fees for FERA are very reasonable and affordable, and well worth the membership benefits.

Another new initiative is to establish an online directory for FERA members. Lisa Adkins is creating a system that would enable interested members to be listed on the FERA membership directory. FERA members will log in and be able to access the directory, create/update their profile (address, e-mail, phone num, etc), and look up fellow members.

***Use our new Pay Pal Online option to join FERA – or to renew your membership!***

***Call for Proposals***  
**Florida Educational Research Association**  
**2007 Annual Meeting — Tampa, FL**  
**November 14, 15, and 16, 2007**  
**Akihito Kamata, Meeting Program Committee Chair**  
**Salih Binici, Paper Proposal Review Committee Chair**  
**Deadline for Receipt: June 15, 2007**

**General Information**

The fifty-second annual meeting of the Florida Educational Research Association will be held November 14 - 16, 2007, at the Embassy Suite Hotel & Conference Center, USF / Bush Gardens, Tampa, Florida. Following are guidelines for submitting paper and symposium proposals for the meeting. Please make copies of the forms to share with your colleagues and encourage them to participate.

Two new changes to the paper proposal review process became in effect last year: First, persons submitting a paper proposal for review must be current active members of FERA. Those who paid annual dues at the time of registration for the 2006 FERA Annual meeting are considered to have active membership. Non-members who wish to submit proposals will have an opportunity to join FERA at the time of proposal submission. Secondly, members whose papers are accepted will be asked to register in advance for the 2007 FERA Annual Meeting in order to ensure that the paper presentation is included in the program and appears in the program bulletin.

Paper and symposium proposals will be considered for inclusion in the program according to the guidelines. All proposals will be judged for significance of the research, theoretical framework, methods and analysis employed, interpretation of results, and quality of writing. Two or more reviewers will review each proposal.

Timely submission of proposals is essential for program preparation. **Deadline for receipt of all proposals is Friday, June 15, 2007.** In fairness to proposal reviewers, this is a firm deadline. **Forward proposals or questions about proposals to:**

**Salih Binici**  
**Florida Department of Education**  
**325 W. Gaines Street Suite 414**  
**Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400**  
**Email: [fera.proposal@gmail.com](mailto:fera.proposal@gmail.com)**

**All program proposals must be submitted electronically** via e-mail attachment to: [fera.proposal@gmail.com](mailto:fera.proposal@gmail.com). However, if a proposer does not have ready access to e-mail, he/she may submit the proposal via US mail on a 3.5" floppy

diskette and should include two stamped, self-addressed envelopes for notification.

The program will include papers, symposia, and roundtables on topics and issues of current interest to education professionals, especially those in Florida.

The program also will have invited speakers and papers or symposia presented by prominent educational research, measurement, and evaluation theorists and practitioners. The following are guidelines for submitting proposals.

**Paper Presentations**

Paper presentations should be prepared for an average 12-15 minute time span. If needed, please include a note in the Proposal Information to request a different allocation of time for the presentation. Individual papers will be grouped by topic into paper sessions. Each paper session will include an introduction by a session facilitator, presentation of the papers, and audience questions and reactions. All proposals for papers will be considered for the Distinguished Paper Award. Additional information on this award is included on the next page.

**Symposia**

A symposium is intended to provide an opportunity to examine specific problems, topics or projects from a variety of perspectives. Papers presented in a symposium should be on the same theme and should complement each other. A symposium should provide an opportunity for presentations as well as dialogue, critique and audience comments. Presentations should be organized within a 60-75 minute time period.

The organizer of a symposium is responsible for suggesting the topic, securing speakers, and arranging for a facilitator. If the symposium is accepted by the Program Committee, the organizer is responsible for assuring that everyone named as a participant (whether a presenter or facilitator) will be present at the meeting. If the organizer so desires, the Program Committee will secure a facilitator for the session. Should circumstances prevent a

participant from attending the meeting, it is the organizer's responsibility to secure a suitable replacement and notify the FERA Program Committee of the substitution as soon as possible. The organizer is responsible for notifying all other symposium participants. The Program Committee will notify only the organizer.

### **Roundtable Sessions**

An alternative paper presentation format is the round table discussion. Papers will be presented in a small group around a table which allows for more direct discussion between the researcher and interested participants.

### **Other Presentation Formats**

Alternative formats for presenting research will be considered. Indicate on the proposal cover sheet if you would prefer presenting in an alternative format and suggest the format you desire.

### **Graduate Student Sessions**

Graduate students may be authors, coauthors, etc., in the regular sessions. There will also be at least two separate roundtable and poster sessions for graduate students only.

1. By **June 15, 2007**, send the two electronic files to:

Salih Binici  
Florida Department of Education  
325 W. Gaines Street Suite 414  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400  
Email: [fera.proposal@gmail.com](mailto:fera.proposal@gmail.com)

5. For non-members: By June 15, 2007, go online to complete FERA membership form and pay membership dues (or print form and mail to address on form). Please note that papers will only be reviewed and considered for FERA members.
6. It is scheduled that you will be notified the status of your paper by July 31, 2007. If your paper is accepted for presentation, please:
  - a. Submit your registration form, membership renewal, and payment for the 2006 FERA Annual Meeting no later than August 31, 2007. Please note that papers will not be included in the

program if the author has not registered for the conference.

- b. Send a copy of your completed paper to the session facilitator no later than Wednesday, October 17, 2007 (four weeks before the conference).
- c. Attend the November 14 – 16, 2007 FERA Annual Meeting to present your paper.

### **Distinguished Paper Award**

All proposals for paper sessions will be considered for the Distinguished Paper Award. If a distinguished paper is selected, the paper is automatically accepted for presentation at the 2008 AERA Annual Meeting. The author(s) of the distinguished paper will be recognized at a general session of the 2007 FERA Annual Meeting and will receive an award and a \$300 honorarium toward AERA conference expenses. The person receiving the award must be present at both the general session of the 2007 FERA Annual Meeting at which the award is announced and the 2008 AERA Annual Meeting. In the event that no papers are judged to be of distinguished quality, the award will not be given. Although all proposals will be considered for the Distinguished Paper Award, final eligibility is limited to papers whose author(s):

1. Receive an invitation from the chairperson of the Distinguished Paper Award Committee to submit the full paper for consideration;
2. Submit the full paper by October 17, 2007, to the chairperson of the Distinguished Paper Award Committee;
3. Present the paper at the 2007 FERA Annual Meeting;
4. Attend the general session of 2007 FERA at which the award is announced; and
5. Agree to present the paper at the 2008 Annual Meeting of AERA.

***Please make copies of this  
Call for Proposals  
and share them with  
your colleagues.***

# *Florida Journal of Educational Research*

## **Update from the Editors:**

*Ann Barron, Jeff Kromrey, James White*

### ***2004 Volume available on line, 2005 Volume on its way***

Please visit the FJER website to view the 2004 volume of our journal. The editorial team is making the final edits to the manuscripts for the 2005 volume, which should be online by the end of the spring semester.

### ***Manuscript Reviewers Needed***

All manuscripts submitted to *FJER* receive blind peer review to be certain that we publish only top quality scholarship. We currently need reviewers with a variety of areas of expertise. This is a great way to sharpen your analytical skills, contribute to the field and improve the quality of your journal. If you are interested in reviewing papers for the journal please send me a note ([kromrey@tempest.coedu.usf.edu](mailto:kromrey@tempest.coedu.usf.edu)) and we'll get you on board right away. Graduate student members of FERA are especially encouraged to contribute to the manuscript review process.

### ***Call for Papers***

*FJER* announces a call for papers to be published in the 2006 issue (we still have room for three more papers) and future issues of the journal. *FJER* provides a forum for dissemination of scholarly work on topics of central concern to education in Florida. We are seeking manuscripts that report the highest quality of scholarship representing a variety of inquiry strategies from quantitative and qualitative orientations. Professional papers that report basic or applied research, reports of evaluation studies, syntheses or critiques of research, or theoretical or conceptual treatises are appropriate manuscripts for *FJER*. A special invitation and encouragement is extended to contributions of emerging scholars (including contributions of graduate students). If you presented a paper at the annual meeting last November, please consider submitting it to your journal!

Manuscript style and format should follow the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. Submit an electronic copy (MS Word preferred) of your manuscript to [kromrey@tempest.coedu.usf.edu](mailto:kromrey@tempest.coedu.usf.edu) and the editorial team will review it and send it out for external review if it is appropriate for the journal. If you have questions about the submission or review process, please send me a note.

## Many Thanks to Our 2006 Program Committee Members

Meeting Program Chair:	Natalie Roca, <i>Miami Dade County Public Schools</i>
Paper Proposal Review Chair:	Sally Shay, <i>Miami Dade County Public Schools</i>
Distinguished Paper Award Chair:	Betty Hubschman, <i>Barry University</i>
Educational Researcher of the Year Chair:	Bruce Hall, <i>University of South Florida</i>
Russell Kropp Award Chair:	John Hilderbrand, <i>Hillsborough County Public Schools</i>
Evaluation Committee Chair:	Christine Kerstyn, <i>Hillsborough County Public Schools</i>
Local Arrangement Chair:	Terry Darby, <i>Duval County Public Schools</i>
Sponsors, Vendors, and Social Arrangements Co-Chairs:	Terry Darby, <i>Duval County Public Schools</i> and Pat Carley, <i>Duval County Public Schools</i>