

## President's Corner: Samuel Whitten

Greetings,

The 57<sup>th</sup> Annual FERA meeting held in November of 2012 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 2012 annual meeting,

I am very appreciative of the board members who made the conference possible, including: Bonnie Swan, Past President, for her support and guidance; Walter Leite, Secretary, for keeping our historical record and completing the evaluation of the conference; Debbie Hahs-Vaughn, Treasurer, for managing our funds; and Directors, Salih Binici, Paul Houchens and Betsy Becker, for their contributions to planning the program and recruiting engaging speakers. I would also like to thank the Committee Chairs for their contributions, including: Donna Buckner, Publications, Newsletter and Sponsors and Vendors, for 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; Matt Lavery and Annabell Andon, Graduate Student Coordinators, for organizing graduate student activities -including seventeen poster presentations; Ron Dailey, Awards and Recognition, for making sure that everyone was recognized for their hard work; Erhan "Selcuk" Hacio-merglu, Distinguished Paper Award, for coordinating the selection of the our Distinguished Paper recipient for 2012; 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](http://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 2012 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; Stephanie Seemann, **CTB**, for providing a coffee break; Danielle Wolf, **GlobalScholar**, for sponsoring the Friday luncheon; Roy Ellis, Lisa Carter, Niquelle Cotton, Michael Keeton and Jacqueline Marshall,

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## President's Corner: Samuel Whitten (con't)

### Thank you Sponsors !

**FERA Past President,**  
Bruce Hall

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Jacqueline Marshall

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Michael Adkins

**Wireless Generation**  
Kim Whitten

**Pearson**, for hosting the Thursday evening reception; Laura Bresko and Brenda Bartholomew, **Progress Testing**, for hosting the Wednesday evening reception; Michael Adkins, **Scantron**, for hosting the Wednesday evening reception; and Kim Whitten, **Wireless Generation**, for providing a 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. Judith Lombana, Vice President of Grants and Research for the Museum of Science and Industry in Tampa, gave a pre-conference presentation highlighting research on the use of avatars for focusing on desired behaviors in the training of museum educators when interacting with museum visitors. Actual visitor interactions were coded and recreated in a virtual environment for the research and training project. The opening session for the conference began with Jeffrey Steedle, Center for Aid to Education, David Steele and Danni Resnick, Hillsborough County Public Schools, providing updates on several research projects in Florida and throughout the country currently being funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. An afternoon general session featured Juan Copa, FLDOE Deputy Commissioner, Division of Accountability, Research and Measurement, sharing information on Florida's Value Added Model used for measuring student learning growth. The Thursday morning general session featured Vince Verges, the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Implementation Director for Florida, talking about both national and state perspectives relative to PARCC. The Thursday afternoon general session was delivered by Valerie Shute, Florida State University, who was joined via an online interface by Jody Clarke-Midura, Harvard. Both presented approaches to imbedded assessment, or stealth assessments, within virtual environments. For the Friday morning general session, Salih Binici, Director of Psychometrics, FLDOE, and Serena Lin, Research Scientist with Pearson, described methods used for setting cut scores on state assessments. In addition, over 50 break-out sessions addressed areas of research currently being pursued by evaluators and researchers in the state. Congratulations to our Distinguished Paper Award Winners, Francisco Jimenez and Walter Leite for their award winning paper entitled *Estimating Program Effects with the Short Interrupted Time-Series Design and Multilevel Models: An Application to the Evaluation of a Job-Embedded Master's Degree Program for Teachers*.

## President's Corner: Samuel Whitten (con't)

“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.”

FERA provided registration for the primary author to present the paper at AERA in San Francisco.

**New officers were elected for 2013.** As President, I am delighted to work with President-Elect and Program Chair for the 2013 conference, Salih Binici, FLDOE; Past President, Bonnie Swan, UCF; Secretary, Ina Helmick, Hillsborough County Public Schools; Treasurer, Debbie Hahs-Vaughan, UCF; and Directors, Betsy Becker, FSU, 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 2013 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, Polk County Schools, *Publications*.

**Annual Committee Chairs** include: Ted Dwyer, Hillsborough County Public Schools, *Audit*; Erhan Selcuk Haciomeroglu, UCF, *Distinguished Paper Award*; Betsy Becker, FSU, *Educational Researcher of the Year Award*; Salih Binici, FLDOE, *Program*; Kathleen Dailey, St. Lucie County Schools, *Russell Kropp Award*; Ron Dailey, Hillsborough County Public Schools, *Awards and Recognition*; Albert Ritzhaupt, UF, *Local Arrangements*; and Donna Buckner, Polk County Schools, *Paper Proposals Review*.

**Ad Hoc Committee Chairs** include: Albert Ritzhaupt, UF, and Donna Buckner, Polk County Schools, *Newsetter editors*. (Albert is also editor of The Florida Journal of Educational Research and Donna is the Assistant Editor); Matthew R. Lavery, UCF and Sungur Gurel, UF, *Graduate Student Coordinators*; and Donna Buckner, Polk County Schools, *Sponsors and Vendors*.

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

We will be returning to the Gainesville area for the 2013 conference. Please save the dates and join us for our 58th Annual Meeting on **November 20-22, 2013** in Gainesville at the Hilton University of Florida Conference Center Hotel.

Two hours of professional development will be offered on Wednesday morning, prior to the noon opening of the conference on “Big Data and Data Mining”. Morgan C. Wang, UCF is the funding

## President's Corner

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Director of the Data Mining Program and Professor of Statistics at the University of Central Florida. Drawing upon his vast experience with large data sets and SAS, he will discuss educational data sets and research applications for data mining. Other planned presentations include:

Vince Verges, FLDOE, will provide an update on PARCC.

Mark Reckase, Al Cohen and Craig Wells will participate in a panel discussion related to PARCC and multi-dimensional scaling.

Updated information is being planned relative to Florida's Value-Added Model.

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 2013 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 Gainesville in November!**

Sam Whiten

FERA President



## FERA Call for Proposals

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**Donna L. Buckner**  
Polk County  
Schools  
Sr. Coordinator,  
Accountability  
Assessment,  
Accountability &  
Evaluation  
donnalee.buckner@  
gmail.com  
Cell or Text:  
813.362.9222  
(Please identify your-  
self when you text)

**FERA Call for Proposals**  
**2013 Annual Meeting - Gainesville, FL**  
**November 20 - 22, 2013**  
Salih Binici, Meeting Program Committee Chair  
Donna Buckner, Paper Proposal Review Committee Chair  
**Deadline for Receipt: July 31, 2013**

## FERA Graduate Student News

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Dear Graduate Student,

We would like to announce a call for graduate student posters for the upcoming **58th Annual Conference** of the **Florida Educational Research Association (FERA)** to be held in **Gainesville** from **November 20-22, 2013**. 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](mailto: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 [mattlavery@knights.ucf.edu](mailto:mattlavery@knights.ucf.edu) or [s.gurel@ufl.edu](mailto:s.gurel@ufl.edu).

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

Matthew R. Lavery and Sungur Gurel

FERA Graduate Student Representatives

Graduate  
Students

If you are  
interested in  
volunteering,  
please  
contact

Dr. Albert  
Ritzhaupt at  
[aritzhaupt@  
coe.ufl.edu](mailto:aritzhaupt@coe.ufl.edu).





## FERA Conference

**November 20 - 22, 2013**

**Hilton's University of Florida Hotel  
and Conference Center**

**1714 SW 34th Street,**

**Gainesville, Florida 32607**

**Tel: 1-352-371-3600**

**Fax: 1-352-371-0306**

### Professional Development Workshop

**"Big Data and Data Mining".**

**Morgan C. Wang, UCF**

**Wednesday, November 20th,**

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

### Join us for a Free Lunch!

**This year, our longstanding  
supporter, Lisa Carter, of Pearson  
will sponsor the lunch!**

**The Awards Ceremony and  
Induction of New Officers follows.**

**Friday, November 21,**

**12:30 - 2:00 p.m.**



### Russell Kropp Award

**Katheen Dailey, St. Lucie County  
Public Schools, is accepting  
nominations for the Russel  
Kropp Award.**

**Please contact her for further  
details at: kath-  
leen.dailey@stlucieschools.org**

### Educational Re- searcher of the Year Award

**Betsy Becker, Florida State Uni-  
versity, is accepting nomina-  
tions for the Educational Re-  
searcher of the Year Award.  
Please contact her for further  
details at: bbecker@fsu.edu**