

# FERA Newsletter

FALL 2019



## President's Corner: A. Corinne Huggins-Manley

Greetings,

The [64<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Florida Educational Research Association \(FERA\)](#) is almost here! The FERA Board has been working hard to ensure a successful meeting with many opportunities to share your research, learn about the research of your colleagues, network, socialize, and, of course, visit the beautiful St. Petersburg downtown area.

The program is in development and will be available soon. Similar to the 2018 Meeting, we have a packed program this year with a wide range of educational research topics that ensures all participants will have access to research that aligns with their interests. We have over 90 paper and symposium presentations, over 20 graduate student posters, over 15 teacher inquiry paper presentations, and a wide range of keynote speakers and sponsored presentations for you to enjoy! More details are provided from FERA President-Elect Peggy Jones in this newsletter.

Thanks to our Local Arrangements Chair, Maria Miguelez Valcarlos, and Local Arrangements Committee Member, Melanie Weitz, we have arranged a variety of ways for you to enjoy the local area. For example, we have left open time in the program on the evening of Thursday, November 14 for FERA participants to enjoy the [Dali Museum](#) while it is open for reduced admission. We are also putting together a list of local restaurants and more that are offering small discounts to FERA participants. Please be on the lookout for parking information as well. We know parking will be more challenging this year than in previous years, so the FERA Board will provide you with many detailed options for managing this at a very reasonable cost to conference attendees.

As always, the FERA meeting will be a time to catch up with colleagues from around the state, meet new colleagues, and learn about all the important research our FERA members have engaged in throughout the year.

I look forward to seeing all of you in November!

A. Corinne Huggins-Manley  
President of FERA

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## Message from the President - Elect:

**Peggy Jones**

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We have an exciting program in the works for November. You will not want to miss our pre-conference Professional Development session featuring PowerSchool's Dr. David Nelson. His session, *How Can Schools Use the Assessment Process to Inform Instruction?*, will allow participants to discuss the role of the elements of the assessment process – in addition to assessments themselves – as powerful tools to inform the instructional program in K-12 classrooms. Through the lens of teachers, school leadership, and district administrators, the use of best practice in focusing on salient standards, developing instructional rubrics, blueprinting assessment for validity, and creating quality items will be discussed. Importantly, the role of data protocols in guiding practitioners in making sound decisions will be highlighted. Our keynote will be Dr. Dylan Wiliam speaking on the formative assessment process.

We are thrilled to announce several general sessions including:

- State of the State (Vince Verges, Florida Department of Education),
- Measuring Student Performance through Learning Games and Online Instruction (Ken Taum, Curriculum Associates)
- Hispanic Serving Institutions (Invited Panel of Florida universities)
- Poverty and Student Growth (Andy, Hegedus, NWEA)
- Common Themes in International Assessment: The World is Flat and also Upside Down! (Jon Twing, Pearson)

Finally, we have several new research topics from the field as well as teacher inquiry and graduate student posters! We look forward to seeing you November 13-15 in St. Petersburg!

Peggy Jones, Ph.D.  
Director, Accountability, Research, and Measurement  
Pasco County Schools  
President –Elect of FERA



## 2019 FERA Leadership

### Board Members

Office	Member	Affiliation
President	A. Corine Huggins-Manley	University of Florida
President-Elect	Peggy Jones	Pasco County Public Schools
Past President	Ted Dwyer	Pittsburgh Public Schools
Treasurer	Jennifer Wolgemuth	University of South Florida
Secretary	Ron Daily	Polk County Schools
Director	Maria Vasquez	Florida Atlantic University
Director	Julie McLeod	Hillsborough County Public Schools
Director	Robert Dedrick	University of South Florida

### Meet the Board



**A. Corinne Huggins-Manley** is President of the FERA. She is an Associate Professor in Research and Evaluation Methodology at the University of Florida, where she conducts research and teaches courses related to educational measurement and quantitative methodology. She has been involved with FERA since her doctoral studies at the University of Miami, continuously providing service toward the mission of the organization. She can be reached at [amanley@coe.ufl.edu](mailto:amanley@coe.ufl.edu).



**Peggy Jones** serves at the President Elect for the FERA. She is the director of the Office for Accountability, Research, and Measurement with Pasco County Schools. She has experience teaching at the elementary and middle schools levels as well as graduate level. She has worked as both a school-based and district-based administrator in a school district of approximately 75, 000 students in central Florida. She enjoys helping others to see the potential and the strength in using data to answer questions and accomplish goals. In her free time, she enjoys traveling most recently to Iceland and France. She can be reached at [pejones@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:pejones@pasco.k12.fl.us).

## 2019 FERA Leadership (cont.)

### Meet the Board (cont.)



**Jennifer R. Wolgemuth** serves as Treasurer for the FERA. She is an Associate Professor in Research and Measurement at the University of South Florida, where she teaches and researches qualitative research, largely guided by social justice aims and critical theory perspectives. She has served as FERA Treasurer since 2016 and is the Executive Editor for the Florida Journal of Educational Research (FJER). Her leadership in the educational research community spans more than 15 years. Most recently she serves the American Educational Research Association (AERA) as Chair of the Division D Early Career Award Committee and Program Co-Chair for the Qualitative Research Special Interest Group. She can be reached at [jrwolgemuth@usf.edu](mailto:jrwolgemuth@usf.edu).



**Robert Dedrick** is a Board member for FERA and has been a member since 1990. He is Professor and Coordinator of the Measurement and Research Program at the University of South Florida, and teaches courses in measurement and research design. His two most recent research projects are examining interventions to improve math learning and assisting high school students in accelerated academic courses with stress. In his free time, he likes to walk and watch Gilmore Girls. He can be reached at [dedrick@usf.edu](mailto:dedrick@usf.edu)



**María D. Vásquez-Colina** is an associate professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Research Methodology at Florida Atlantic University. Her research focuses on assessment literacy, classroom assessment and the scholarship of teaching research methodology. She teaches courses on measurement, statistics and research methodology. She is the Associate Editor for the FJER. At the national level, she has served in various leadership roles in the Professors of Educational Research Special Interest Group at the AERA and she is currently a committee member at the Standards and Test Use Committee at the National Council on Measurement in Education. She is originally from Peru and speaks fluently English, Spanish and French. She can be reached at [mvasque3@fau.edu](mailto:mvasque3@fau.edu).

## 2019 FERA Leadership (cont.)

### Standing Committee Members

Professional Development	Wendy Dickinson Leia Cain	University of South Florida University of South Florida
Membership	Bonnie Swan	University of Central Florida
Publications/Newsletter	Andrea Lypka Novell Tani Amber MacDonald	University of South Florida Florida Agriculture and Mechanical Univ. University of South Florida
Nominating	Lee Baldwin	University of Central Florida
FERJ	Jennifer Wolgemuth Maria Vasquez	University of South Florida Florida Atlantic University
Russel P. Kropp Award	Dianne Wright Haiying Long Taal Badara	Florida Atlantic University Florida International University Florida Atlantic University
Awards/Recognition	Ron Daily	Polk County Schools
Sponsors/Vendors	Sam Whitten	Pinellas County Schools

### Annual Committee Members

Graduate Student Coordinators	Max Sommer Huan "Hailey" Kuang	University of Florida University of Florida
Local Arrangements Chair	Maria Migueliz Valcarlos	University of South Florida
Paper Proposal Review	Albert Ritzhaupt	University of Florida
Chair of Teacher Inquiry Strand	Alyson Adams	University of Florida
Audit	John Ferron Robert Dedrick	University of South Florida University of South Florida
Distinguished Paper Award	Yanyun Yang	Florida State University
Educational Researcher of the Year	Yanyun Yang	Florida State University
Program Evaluation	Eunsook Kim	University of South Florida
Webmaster	Albert Ritzhaupt	University of Florida

## Letter from the Local Chair

### Graduate students, Get involved!

The FERA conference is just around the corner, and we are now accepting applications for volunteers to assist in registration and logistical coordination associated with hosting our annual conference. Each year the superb help of volunteers proves to be an essential part of having a successful event. Volunteers help the FERA conference to run smoothly and efficiently, in addition to building community and fostering alliances across the educational stakeholders. Volunteering is open to all graduate students, regardless of whether they're presenting or not.

#### Benefits and Commitments

Confirmed volunteers will receive complimentary conference registration (\$85), but must still pay \$15 for the graduate student annual membership (which can be paid at the membership website). It goes without saying that the volunteers will also benefit from giving back to the community, building a network of friends and professionals, and developing different skill sets.

Students will need to work for a shift of five hours over the conference days (check the conference program to prevent schedule conflicts if presenting). Volunteers assist and support at the on-site registration and the concurrent sessions.

#### On-site Registration

Approximately 15 volunteers are needed to assist in this capacity.

Responsibilities include assisting attendees in registering and checking in for the conference.

#### Sessions

Approximately 15 volunteers are needed to assist in this capacity.

Responsibilities include assisting with setting up the technology (basic knowledge), keeping track of the presentation times, and oversee the session.

If you're interested in volunteering for the FERA conference, please, follow this link to apply for a **volunteer position**: <https://forms.gle/2VsLZvvKpfsX1AXW9>

We'll share the schedule for the time slots with all the applicants after the tentative program goes live.

If you have any questions about volunteering, contact María Migueliz Valcarlos at [mlm7@mail.usf.edu](mailto:mlm7@mail.usf.edu)





## Graduate Student Spotlight & Awards

### James A. Hernández

PhD Student Educational Psychology, Learning & Cognition  
Florida State University



James was born and raised in Florida. He completed his Bachelor's degree in Psychology with a minor in Business Administration at the University of Central Florida. James' deep passion for education is shown through his experiences as a 5th grade teacher, a college advisor, and now a graduate student researcher. As a result of his experiences as an educator, James' research is founded in supporting teachers. From classroom management to identifying innovative school models, James aims to support educators to equitably and dynamically empower their diverse students. After he earns his PhD, James' dream is to open Lifespan Development Centers dedicated to providing individualized, real-time, research-informed educational experiences for the community.

James is proud to be a member of FERA because it provides a unique opportunity to discuss research with other researchers, teachers, administrators and policy makers. James has attended FERA's last two annual conferences. At last year's FERA conference, James was one of two graduate students to earn the Best Overall Poster award for his presentation of *Culturally Responsive Classroom Management Strategies in CDF Freedom Schools*. This past April, James earned 2nd place in Florida State University's Graduate School's inaugural Master's-in-Four (MI4) Finalist Competition, where he presented Culturally Responsive Classroom Management Strategies Beliefs and Actions in under 4 minutes. James has also been honored with the Florida Education Fund's McKnight Doctoral Fellowship and recently earned the Dr. Linda J. Smith Endowed Scholarship for Lifelong Learning.



## Awards and Recognition

### 2018 Conference Winners

Ed Researcher of the year: Dr. Walter L. Leite at University of Florida

Distinguished Paper award: Li Cheng & Carole R. Beal, University of Florida. The title of the paper is: "The effects of student-generated drawing and imagination on learning a computer-based science text"

Russell P. Kropp award: Marcy Driscoll, Florida State University

## Graduate Student Corner

### Report from FERA Graduate Student Coordinators

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FERA is one of the oldest state-level educational research professional associations in the United States. It is a great time to join FERA and become a member in time for the November 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> meeting!

Registering to become a member of FERA is due by October 15<sup>th</sup>. Graduate students can get an annual membership and registration to the entire conference for \$80. It is \$65 for an annual student membership and registration for only one day of the conference. Membership also includes access to the Florida Journal of Education Research, FERA's journal. Graduate students also have the option to volunteer to assist at the conference, in which only the \$15 membership fee is required. Graduate students can become a member and register for the conference at <https://feraonline.org/conference/registration/>, and students can sign up to be a volunteer at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSciunYC14nKjb-GkleopCVOj10IEp-O8quxSUq30D2sVob7A/viewform>.

The 64th annual meeting of the FERA will be held at the Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront in St Petersburg, FL, on November 13-15th, 2019. The annual conference includes several presentation sessions on a wide variety of educational research topics, a professional development session, and graduate student poster sessions. It is a great opportunity for graduate students to present their research on relevant educational topics and issues among educational professionals.

Along with the Graduate Student Poster Session, there will also be a networking opportunity at the Graduate Student Luncheon at the FERA conference. Several guest speakers across Florida will discuss their district's IRB processes at the Graduate Student Luncheon, giving graduate students an inside look into conducting research in K-12 districts and schools. At this luncheon, graduate students also have the opportunity to connect with other graduate students around Florida.

Also, there is an opportunity to apply for a leadership position in FERA, as the new Graduate Student Coordinator is nominated and voted on at the Graduate Student Luncheon. This is a great opportunity for graduate students to get leadership experience, while also helping FERA's graduate student events become better than ever. FERA Graduate student Coordinators are responsible for the Graduate Student Poster Session, the Graduate Student Luncheon, and more. Now is a great time to become a member, register for the conference, and become an active part of the FERA community.

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 at [msommer15@ufl.edu](mailto:msommer15@ufl.edu) or [huan2015@ufl.edu](mailto:huan2015@ufl.edu). Thank you for your support and we look forward to meeting you in St. Petersburg!

Max Sommer, Huang Kuang  
FERA Graduate Student Coordinators





## FERA Conference 2019

### Social at FERA & Things to Do in St. Petersburg

#### Opening Welcome Reception

FERA is hosting a complimentary evening reception on Wednesday, November 13. All FERA attendees are welcome to take part in this evening reception. The reception will serve as the second annual *Collaborations* event, designed to facilitate your development of collaborative relationships between district, academic, and industry personnel with common educational research interests. Hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and a cash bar will be available, along with some designated areas to help you locate like-minded persons from other spaces of Florida educational research. Attendees are free to enjoy the reception in any way they like, including using this opportunity to speak with new people and form new research-based collaborations.

#### Dali Museum



#### Dalí Museum

Thursday, November 14, after 5pm The Dalí Museum offers a discounted admission of \$12. (The normal adult price is \$25, and the normal educator price is \$23.) Check for more details on current exhibitions at <https://thedali.org/>

#### St. Petersburg

If you're new to the area, check out the following website to find many ways to explore beautiful downtown St Petersburg: <http://discoverdowntown.com/>

Additionally, Melanie Weitz (FERA 2019 Local Arrangements Co-Chair) is working with nearby bars & restaurants to the conference venue to get special discounts for the presenters and attendees. More information at the conference!

Looking forward to seeing you all in St. Pete!

María Migueliz Valcarlos  
Local Arrangements Co-Chair of FERA 2019

## Meet the FERA Newsletter Editors



**Andrea Lypka** is Chair of the FERA Newsletter/Publications Committee. She coordinates and distributes Calls for Submissions/Invited Submissions; works with authors to refine articles/content; and produces newsletters. She is a PhD Candidate in the Second Language Acquisition and Instructional Technology program at the University of South Florida (USF) and teaches ESL. Her research interests include community-based research and visual methods, technology, Latinx indigenous language learners, discourse analysis, and identity. She can be reached at [alypka@mail.usf.edu](mailto:alypka@mail.usf.edu).



**Novell E. Tani** serves on the FERA Newsletter/Publications Committee. Dr. Tani is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Florida A&M University (FAMU). He is a first-generation college graduate and Ph.D. recipient within his family. After completing his undergraduate studies at the FAMU, Novell obtained his Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from Florida State University. Novell's research interests surround various factors that are conveyed across education, sociology, anthropology, and psychology. Research topics include teacher-student interactions, dialect, stereotype threat, self-efficacy, ethnic/racial identity, mentorship, and worldviews that may influence the cognitive development of minorities of various age groups. He can be reached at [novell.tani@famu.edu](mailto:novell.tani@famu.edu).



**Amber L. MacDonald** serves on the FERA Newsletter/Publications Committee. She is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Teaching and Learning at the USF. Amber has spent over a decade as a classroom teacher and is currently a University Supervisor for preservice teachers in the Elementary Cohort Program at USF. Her research interests include teacher education, teaching for social justice across the continuum of teacher education, supervision, teacher identity, and arts-based research methods. She can be reached at [almacdon@mail.usf.edu](mailto:almacdon@mail.usf.edu).

## We would love to hear from you!

Please follow the link to take a brief survey providing feedback and suggestions to the newsletter editors.

**[Feedback/Survey Link](#)**

# FERA Newsletter

## Call for Submissions



The FERA Newsletter Committee invites you to contribute to the Spring Newsletter. Submissions for this issue will be due on **January 13, 2020**.

Feel free to contribute and to reach out to friends and colleagues who might like to contribute.

We are looking for:

- Feature submissions (up to 1,750 words). Share your research projects, classroom practices, professional development, etc.
- Lessons - share a lesson or unit you have found to be effective.
- Anecdotes and stories (up to 1,000 words). Have you observed something interesting or unique? Do you want to share your thoughts and reflections on something that happened in your practice? There is space for that in our newsletter!
- Compilation and evaluation of useful resources (up to 700 words). Share a bibliography or a list of references that always comes in handy.
- Interviews- Interview professionals in the field, a member of the FERA community or beyond.
- Reports and reviews (up to 700 words). Write about a great book or an article that you read, or talk about a conference that you attended.

Conferences, webinars (upcoming webinars, are you a member who would like to share ideas in a webinar?)

The general submission guidelines are posted [here](#).

The newsletter is a great venue to showcase your work and share your ideas with our community. We look forward to seeing your submissions! Please send your articles to [feranewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:feranewsletter@gmail.com) with the Subject Line "FERA Newsletter Submission."



# FERA NEWSLETTER CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS



Please send your submissions-  
articles, letters, and community updates to [feranewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:feranewsletter@gmail.com)  
with the Subject Line  
**FERA Newsletter Submission.**