

FERA Newsletter

Spring 2021



President’s Corner: Jennifer Wolgemuth

Hello FERA Community,

We had a fabulous first ever Virtual Forum in November 2020, which showcased the FERA community’s commitments to addressing some of the most pressing issues in Florida and beyond. Keynote speaker Johnny Saldaña encouraged educators to write and K-12 teacher panelists shared their experiences teaching (online, face-to-face, hybrid) in the midst of a global pandemic. Keynote speaker Brenda Walker spoke to the impacts of ongoing racism in higher education and encouraged allyship and anti-racist activism. Panelists shared experiences doing anti-racist research in Florida and graduate students presented engaging and thoughtful papers.

All Virtual Forum sessions were recorded and are now available on the [FERA Website!](#)

The FERA Board is planning an onsite conference November 17-19 2021 at the Westshore Grand in Tampa, FL, fingers crossed! We will incorporate feedback from the technology and Virtual Forum surveys sent out in December.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Virtual Forum and those who stayed engaged in other ways, including wishing us well from afar! We look forward to seeing everyone in 2021!

Cheers,
Jennifer Wolgemuth, FERA President

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Florida Journal of Educational Research

Florida Journal of Educational Research Update

FJER is excited to announce a newly published special issue, [Education Research for Equity and Social Justice in Florida](#), Guest Edited by Dr. Cheron H. Davis, Dr. Alysia D. Roehrig, and Dr. Tamara Bertrand Jones. The special issue features thoughtful accounts and reflective findings from social justice research work accomplished in Florida. Thank you to the editors and authors for their time and hard work making this timely special issue a success!

Be on the lookout! FJER is moving to a new online platform and manuscript submission system. The system is being trialed this spring and will be live in summer 2021!

Sincerely,

FJER Editorial Team

Jennifer Wolgemuth, María Vasquez, and Alyson Adams

Graduate Student Award

Congratulations to Malissa Sanon, Ph.D for receiving the FERA Graduate Student Award! Malissa has completed her bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in sociology from Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU). Malissa is a product of TRIO programs, specifically Student Support Services (SSS). SSS is a program that assists low-income, first-generation college students, through financial assistance, mentoring, professional development, and college completion. Her passion for helping others, she went to study mental health. She received her master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from FGCU in 2015. After reflecting on her course studies and learning more about the field of student affairs, she became passionate about educating and empowering college students. Within two years of starting the Ph.D. program at Florida Atlantic University, Malissa received another master's degree in higher education in December of 2017. In November of 2020, she successfully defended her dissertation that seeks to better understand mental health issues within the Black community, particularly in Black college men. Malissa knew that by dedicating her research to mental health would help her community, as well as the students she interacts with in her various roles within student affairs.

Graduate Student Award cont.

Her dissertation “If You Can’t Make A Sound, Make A Peep: A Narrative Inquiry of the Lived Collegiate Experiences of Black Male Students Who Dealt With Suicide Ideation” focuses on Black men and their mental health, how they choose to get help, and what resources and support they deemed to be the most helpful.

Malissa was encouraged to submit her paper for the FERA Conference by the Florida Atlantic University’s department of Educational Leadership and Research Methodology and her dissertation committee.

“This was my first year attending the conference, so winning the award came very unexpectedly. Being awarded the FERA Graduate Student Award elevates the notion of how important, relative, and validates my research about mental health within Black college men students. This award amplifies the necessity of my research and fuels my passion to continue to expand my knowledge and help my community.”

In the future, Malissa would like to publish journal articles and books about mental health in the Black community.

“I would like to expand on my research of Black college men, to Black college women, and the impact of COVID 19 on the mental health within Black college students. I am also developing and creating a podcast so I can share practical tools on how to continue to create safe places for the Black college student population, as well as providing tangible information on how these individuals can continue to enhance their mental health.”

We wish Malissa Sanon, Ph.D continued success in her professional endeavors.



Dr. Malissa Sanon, Speaker and Author

FERA NEWSLETTER

Call for Submissions

DUE FRIDAY OCTOBER 1, 2021

*Share your research projects,
stories, lesson plans, or curriculum
ideas!*

Author Guidelines: <https://bit.ly/3b6tGal>

Email your Word doc to:

fera.newsletter@gmail.com

SUBJECT LINE: FERA Newsletter Submission



FLORIDA EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

65TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FLORIDA
EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION
(FERA)

SAVE THE DATE

17-19TH NOVEMBER 2021 AT THE WESTSHORE GRAND,
TAMPA, FLORIDA

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



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@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](#)