

FERA Newsletter

May 1, 2023 / Volume 29 Number 1



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President's Message

Dear FERA Community,

We would like to start saying thank you!

Thanks for your conference presentations, support and attendance. The 66th Annual Meeting of the Florida Educational Research Association (FERA) was a great success because of you!

Our growing number of presentations included paper presentations, poster presentations, round table presentations (for the first time!), teacher inquiry presentations and symposium presentations. Also, we had prominent invited speakers that addressed critical topics related to the current state of education in Florida. Our conversations about these topics shall continue as.

As we reflect on lessons learned from the conference and how we are moving forward as a community, we are grateful for everyone that participated and contributed to the conference. Likewise, we thank our sponsors, as without them we could not have held the meeting. We also thank the FERA Executive Board and 2022 Past President, Jennifer Wolgemuth for their continuous support and service.

This newsletter contains much interesting and pertinent information about FERA and the upcoming 2023 conference. The 67th Annual FERA conference will take place on November 15-17 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Hollywood Beach, FL. The hotel is located on the Intracoastal Waterway and surrounded by a wide range of activities that will make our location a great place to both join the meeting events and explore the area. Please consider submitting your research papers, posters, and symposia proposals!

Thank you for all you do for FERA, and we look forward to seeing you in November!

María D. Vásquez
FERA President

Anthony Raborn
FERA President-Elect

David Bustos
FERA Immediate Past President

Board Members



***María D. Vásquez-Colina, Florida Atlantic University
President***

María is an associate professor at Florida Atlantic University (FAU). Her research focuses on assessment literacy and fairness, and the scholarship of teaching research methodology. She also co-chairs the FAU Hispanic Serving Institutions Interest group and is the Florida Journal for Educational Research (FJER) Executive Editor. She is dedicated to serving students holistically through a relationship-focused approach in her teaching and research. This includes understanding the experience of historically marginalized communities to improve their educational experiences. She has served as a keynote speaker and invited professor at various universities. She enjoys nature hikes with her husband and her 13-year-old daughter. She speaks Spanish and French.



***Anthony William Raborn, National Association of Boards of Pharmacy
President-Elect***

Anthony is a psychometrician at the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy. He holds a Ph.D. in Research and Educational Methodology from the University of Florida, where his research focused on developing and validating short forms of scales and surveys. Outside of work, he enjoys running, reading, playing guitar, and playing video games. In his current role, he focuses on creating reports of our certification and licensure exams using R and LaTeX as well as helping with developing and maintaining the exams. He and his fiancée have two cats, Alex and Benji.



***David Bustos, Polk County Schools
Past President***

David Bustos is a Senior Coordinator of Student Learning Evaluation for Polk County Public Schools. In his role, he works with schools and district staff to maximize student growth through progress monitoring, accountability, evaluation, and research. Prior to serving at the district level, David was a K-12 teacher in South Korea and Florida. He also has been (and continues to be) an adjunct professor for higher education programs in Latin America. David is originally from Mexico City, where he acquired a love for history, art, philosophy, languages, food, and culture. When he is not at work, one can often find him traveling abroad.

***Scott Hebert, Citrus County Schools
Secretary***



Scott has been part of Citrus County Schools for the past 33 years as a teacher, guidance counselor, principal, district director and was recently named the Assistant Superintendent. He was the 1999 Florida Teacher of the Year and also received the Milken National Educator Award that same year and was inducted into the Florida Educators Hall of Fame in 1998. He believes that in every grade level and in every class the focus of the classroom should be on what needs to happen to make children successful. His greatest contribution to his community is his deep commitment to serve children and their families. He is a member of many local non-profit boards, including the Florida Organization for Instructional Leadership advisory board.

***Megan Atha, Florida Gulf Coast University
Treasurer***



Megan Atha is an assistant professor at Florida Gulf Coast University where she teaches courses in classroom assessment, data analysis, and learning theories. Megan earned her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology with a special focus on educational measurement from the University of South Florida in 2020. Her research examines three interrelated areas in creativity research: examining how developmental contexts and learning environments motivate or inhibit creativity, strengthening creativity assessment among practitioners working with children and youth, and evaluating out-of-school time programs that promote creative processes. Meg is an active member of the American Psychological Association (APA) Division 10 (Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts) as well as Division 15 (Educational Psychology).

***Cheron Hunter Davis, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
Director***



Cheron is an associate professor of reading education at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. Recently recognized as one of the top 25 leading women in higher education, she is a practitioner at heart and maintains healthy, robust relationships with classroom teachers. She was selected for the inaugural 2022 cohort of the FAMU Provost's Emerging Leaders Initiative and was awarded the 2022 American Educational Research Association Distinguished Paper Award and the Outstanding Author Contribution Literati Awards for her contribution to the volume *The Beauty and the Burden of Black Professorship*. She serves on the executive boards of the Florida Literacy Association, The Reading Paradigm, and the Florida Journal for Educational Research. She enjoys spending time with her husband, Terrance, and her two children, Ava (10) and TJ (7).

Victoria Giordano, Florida Southern University
Director



Victoria A. Giordano is an Associate Professor of Education and Dean of the School of Education at Florida Southern College. Dr. Giordano's research interests are in the areas of curriculum, instruction, and assessment with an emphasis on teacher education. Professional development strategies and models and curriculum design are the threads that permeate Dr. Giordano's research. She was awarded the *Lorraine R. Gay Award for Excellence in Research and Scholarship* for her own dissertation research, an honor which has inspired her to devote her career to mentoring doctoral candidates through their dissertation research to design and implement studies that will have a positive and consequential impact on society. She remains committed to guiding doctoral students in their pursuit of interesting,

meaningful, timely, and rigorous research whose purpose is to improve learning and learning opportunities for others and to addressing the educational needs and interests of all learners through empirical, practical, and action research.

Mijana Lockard, Polk County Public Schools
Director

Dr. Mijana Lockard is an Assistant Education Professor at Florida Southern College. Dr. Lockard has extensive experience in curriculum development and implementation, teaching, professional development design, grant writing and implementation, and innovative technology approaches. In her 30-year career, she has developed and implemented integrated STEM, STEAM, and International Baccalaureate units and curricula. Her curricular expertise includes technology integration, curriculum development, Fabrication lab curriculum, and support for teachers and resource teachers implementing programs. Dr. Lockard served as a member of the NSTA steering committee for the NSTA STEM K-12 Expo, was a chair position with NSTA's Technology Integration Committee, and was a part of the event committee for the Learning Forward. She has extensive experience setting up and conducting professional development and mentoring site-based resource personnel. She instructed teachers throughout the state for the Florida Center for Instructional Technology at the University of South Florida in its Master Digital Educator Program, nationwide as the Microsoft Innovative Teachers Trainer and Oracle Education Foundation's Project-Based Learning facilitator, and is an adjunct professor of education at the Florida Southern College. She has garnered national and state awards from Siemens' "We Can Change the World," Toshiba Exploravision, Disney Planet Challenge, Microsoft Innovative Teacher, Inspiration Software, Best Buy, and the Disney Teacheriffic Award.

Florida Journal of Educational Research Call for Submissions

The Florida Journal of Educational Research (FJER) is a peer-reviewed open-access academic journal published by the Florida Educational Research Association (FERA).

The purpose of FJER is to facilitate communication among educators, policymakers, and researchers in the state of Florida and beyond, and to disseminate and to advance knowledge through theoretical and empirical studies related to education.

Editorial Team:

Executive Editor María D. Vásquez, Ph.D., Florida Atlantic University

Associate Editor Alyson Adams, Ph.D., University of Florida

Associate Editor Corinne Huggins-Manley, PhD. University of Florida

Co-Managing Editors Lodi Lipien and Deborah Christie, University of South Florida

Article Submissions

We would like to encourage you to submit Your Work to FJER. FJER welcomes submissions from members and non-members!

Additionally, presenters at the Annual Meeting of the Florida Educational Research Association are specially invited to submit their work! Please indicate if your submission was an FERA presentation. To submit a manuscript, visit [https:// journals.flvc.org/fjer](https://journals.flvc.org/fjer)

To submit a manuscript for consideration, each author will need to register as an author (and reviewer if you choose) at <https://journals.flvc.org/fjer>

Interested in becoming a FJER Reviewer?

FJER is seeking new Editorial Board Members and reviewers! We are also seeking graduate students to serve on the graduate student review panel. To volunteer as a Board Member or reviewer, please contact María D. Vásquez at mvasque3@fau.edu

Call for Submissions

DUE

SUNDAY OCTOBER 1, 2023

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

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

Email your Word doc to:

alypka@mail.usf.edu

SUBJECT LINE: FERA Newsletter Submission

FERA Newsletter Call for Submissions

The FERA Newsletter Team invites you to contribute to the upcoming newsletter! Please contribute and reach out to colleagues who might like to contribute. The newsletter is distributed to FERA members and It is also posted on our website. Submissions for the November issue are due by **October 1, 2023**.

We are especially looking for:

- 1) Feature submissions (up to 2,000 words). Share your research projects, classroom practices, professional development, etc.
- 2) Lesson Plans. Share a lesson or unit you made.
- 3) Anecdotes and stories (up to 1,000 words). Have you observed something interesting or unique? Share your thoughts and reflections on something that happened in your practice.
- 4) Compilation and evaluation of useful resources (up to 700 words). Share a bibliography or a list of references that always comes in handy.
- 5) Interviews—Interview professionals in the field and/or a FERA member.
- 6) Reports and reviews (up to 750 words). Write about a book or article you read, a film or TV show you watched, or a webinar, conference, or protest you attended.
- 7) Member Profiles--If you do not have time to send a submission, we would still love to hear about you. You are welcome to send a 4-5 sentence bio (in third person) and a paragraph about environmental issues in your area -concerns and positive notes -we would love to include your story in the newsletter.
- 8) Announcements of Upcoming Events--conferences, webinars, contests, meetings and protest actions.
- 9) Poetry, Artwork, Photos.
- 10) Organization Profiles (up to 2,000 words).
- 11) Opinion Pieces (up to 2,000 words).
- 12) Recommended videos, music, articles, and apps.
- 13) Press releases.

GENERAL SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Submissions should:

- have the title in ALL CAPS
- list a byline: author's name (pronouns optional) with hyperlinked email, affiliation, city, country
- include an author photo (optional)
- include a 2-3 sentence (or less) teaser for the first page of the newsletter
- be no longer than 2,000 words (includes bylines, teasers, main text, tables, and author bios)
- contain no more than five citations
- 2-3-sentence author biography at the end of the article
- follow the style guidelines in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 7th Edition* (APA style) or Purdue OWL.
- be a shared Google Doc or be in .doc, .docx, .rtf, or .txt format. All figures, graphs, and other images should be sent in separate jpg files.
- co-authored pieces are welcome.

If the author includes a photo, it must be:

- a head and shoulder shot
- a jpg--width = 90px, height = 120px
- clear, clean, professional, appropriate to the article

We think the newsletter is a great venue to showcase your work, share your ideas, and build community. We look forward to seeing your submissions! Please send them to alypka@mail.usf.edu with the subject line "FERA Newsletter Submission." (We reserve the right to make minor editorial changes for clarity.)

Please contribute and reach out to colleagues who might like to contribute.

Publications/Newsletter Team

Chair	Andrea Lypka	alypka@mail.usf.edu
Newsletter Co-Editor	Katherine E. Coulson-Johnston	kcoulso1@my.fau.edu



Andrea Enikő Lypka
Publications/ Newsletter Chair

Andrea is an EAP/ESP adjunct instructor and a program manager. She has earned her Ph.D. in Second Language Acquisition and Instructional Technology from the University of South Florida. She is the President of Sunshine State TESOL (SSTESOL), co-chair for TESOL 2024, and Past-President of the Intercultural Interest Section TESOL. Her research interests include community-based research and visual methods, technology, Latinx indigenous English language learners, and identity.

How to Get Involved with FERA Newsletter

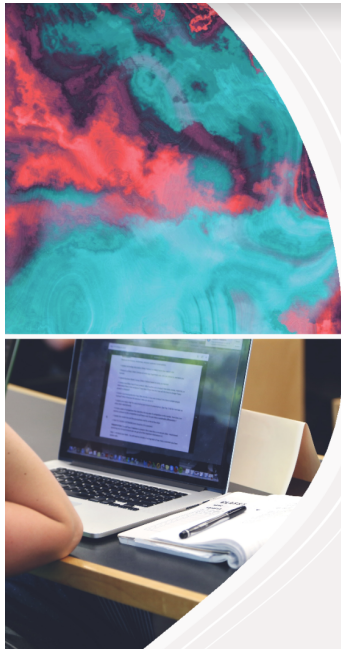
Ask us about:

- publishing in our newsletter
- accessing past years' materials
- collaborating with other educators/administrators
- joining the FERA Newsletter Leadership Team (we welcome new leadership team members!)

Tell us about:

- your ideas for a presentation proposal at the FERA Conference
- your suggestions for the annual networking session at the FERA Conference
- your education publications and presentations
- lesson plans you made
- suggested links and resources
- ideas you would like to share in a webinar
- how you'd like to volunteer and get involved with FERA

FERA Conference News



Conference News!

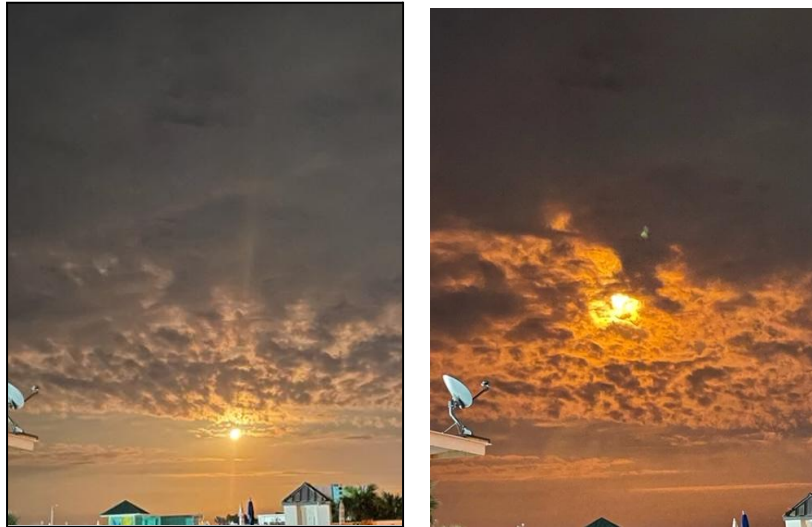
We are thrilled to announce that the 67th annual meeting of the Florida Educational Research Association (FERA) will be held at the Double Tree by Hilton in Hollywood Beach, FL in 2023.

NOVEMBER 15–17, 2023

Call for Proposals coming soon!

<https://feraonline.org/>

Photo Gallery & Reflections on the Conference



While Artemis 1 reached the heavens and traveled around the moon 25.5 days, as was seen by me from FERA's beachfront Daytona Beach Conference, "going where no one has gone before" at liftoff at 1:47 am, on its 40000 mile trek around the moon and back to our valuable but vulnerable planet, if you are truly a passionate education researcher, you really just missed an awesome conference to challenge you to take education where it has never gone before. This is the maxim by Greene (1978) to not consider the given-ness of what is around you or in front of you in education environments you may populate presently but what education can be for all (Greene, 1978). Mark FERA on your calendar for 2023.

I can't say enough for the past three FERA conferences that I have personally attended as a graduate student how valuable these interactions, conference experiences and the quality of the presentations have shaped me as an attendee, presenter and volunteer. I wish to say a sincere thank you to all FERA members. While wrapping up my own personal journey as a doctoral candidate, I encourage each of you to consider and attend just once and you will be hooked to launch!

George Matisz, Doctoral Candidate, Florida Southern College,
Lakeland, Florida

Graduate Student Corner

Greetings, fellow students! There are many ways for graduate students to get involved in FERA.

Poster Session. Each FERA conference includes a session for selected graduate students to share their research ideas, expand their professional network, and get feedback in a friendly atmosphere. Be on the lookout for details regarding the Call for Proposal Session Proposals this summer.

Volunteer Opportunities. Service to the research community is an important part of academic careers. Graduate students who volunteer at least one shift at the FERA conference will have their registration fee waived. (The annual membership fee is still required.) We will distribute this year's Call for Volunteers in the early fall.

Graduate Student Luncheon. At this culminating event, a keynote speaker will address a topic relevant to our student community. We will also hear from candidates for the next Graduate Student Coordinator position, and elect the next Coordinator at the Luncheon.

Are you interested in becoming the next **Graduate Student Coordinator**? You can nominate yourself before or during the luncheon and provide a short self-introduction at the luncheon. Responsibilities:

- Work closely with the FERA Board to facilitate the production of the annual FERA conference
- Lead and coordinate FERA's graduate student events
- Serve two-year term (you must be a graduate student for the next two years)

Meet the Graduate Student Coordinators

Ted Myers (GSC '22 – '23) is a fourth-year Ph.D. student in Research and Evaluation Methodology at the University of Florida College of Education. His experience is in both formal and informal education, including nonprofit leadership and program evaluation. His research interests are in computational psychometrics and applications of machine learning toward the evaluation of educational products and systems.

Daria (Dasha) Smirnova (GSC '23 – '24) is a third-year Ph.D. student in Social Science Education at the University of South Florida (USF). Her background is in Political Science and Educational Research, and her research interests are focused on civic education, teaching controversial historical events, and politics of memory. Daria is the President of the SOQM - Student Organization for Qualitative Methodologies and the International Student Liaison at the University of South Florida.

2022 Educational Researcher of the Year



Right to left: Russell Almond (Florida State University) 2022 Educational Researcher of the Year Awardee, Misty Penton (Wildwood Preservation Society) 2022 Keynote Speaker and David Bustos (Polk County Schools)