

The NERA  
Researcher is a  
quarterly  
newsletter for  
members of the  
Northeastern  
Educational  
Research  
Association

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# *The NERA Researcher*

Volume 49, Issue 3

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## The President's Message



**Thanos Patelis**

This is my last column as president of NERA. There are four things that I want to share with NERA members and friends. It's amazing how a year has passed as we're closing quickly to our annual meeting on October 19, 2011 at the Hartford Marriott Rocky Hill in CT.

1. The first thing that I want to do is thank many people for all their hard work and support during this past year. I want to thank each of the Board of Directors and committee chairs and members who have worked very hard to undertake all the initia-

tives that were approved for this year. I encourage all members to come to the Business Meeting during the conference to hear all the wonderful accomplishments. Of particular note, I want to thank the program co-chairs, Carol Barry, the College Board, and Abby Lau, Emmanuel College, for their hard work in not only putting together an exceptional program with amazing sessions, high-quality workshops and exciting events, but also for working tirelessly to build the infrastructure to move the conference proposal and review processes to an online system. Future program committees and our entire membership will benefit from Carol's and Abby's efforts – thank you!

I also want to thank our sponsors! Because of their belief in the goals of NERA and their support, we can continue to keep our costs down, offer an exceptional conference for all of our members and provide world-class workshops at no cost. The sponsors for 2011-2012 are as follows:

### **Platinum (\$1,000+):**

The College Board  
Educational Testing Service  
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Neag School of Education at the University of Connecticut  
Westfield State University

### **Gold (\$750):**

James Madison University

### **Silver (\$500):**

Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania  
Buros Center for Testing, University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Fordham University  
New York Institute of Technology

(Continued on page 3)

### Message from the Editors

Hello NERA Members! Although it is hard to believe the summer has already come to an end, we are excited about what the fall brings – the 42<sup>nd</sup> annual conference! Our conference co-chairs, Carol Barry and Abby Lau, have worked tirelessly to put together a wonderful program sure to appeal to all of our members. Check out the description of the preliminary program that is included in this issue. And if you haven't registered for the conference yet, don't forget to do so by October 1<sup>st</sup> to avoid the late registration fee. We look forward to seeing everyone once again at the Hartford Marriott, Rocky Hill!

In the next issue of the *NERA Researcher*, the chair of the Graduate Student Issues Committee, Katrina Crotts, will prepare a special article that highlights the summer internship experiences of graduate students. So, if you interned somewhere this past summer, let Katrina know by emailing her at [kcrotts@educ.umass.edu](mailto:kcrotts@educ.umass.edu). Be sure to tell her where you interned and a little bit about your responsibilities. As always, if you have suggestions for this newsletter or ideas for a special article, please let us know!

Maureen and Christine  
The Editors

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### NERA 2010 –2011 Board of Directors

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**The President's Message**  
(Continued from page 1)

**Silver (\$500):**

University of Massachusetts Amherst  
William Patterson University

2. The second thing I want to mention is that the theme for this year's conference is "Educational Research for the Good of Society." There are many things that are happening in education. Policy makers have always talked about education being an investment for the future of our society. Even though there is a lot that needs to happen in order for us to see the fruit of our labors as educators positively impact all students and our society, there are many efforts to realize this. We are fortunate to have two keynote speakers who can speak directly to what's happening in education now in order to improve our society. We are privileged to have Governor Roy Romer and Professor Diana Pullin, Boston College as keynote speakers. You will not be disappointed by their talks and we will all gain valuable insights from them.

Additionally, we have some outstanding workshops by world-renown experts. The workshop leaders are not only excellent presenters and trainers, but also have contributed to the scientific literature associated with the topics of their workshops. Please see the information provided in the newsletter and online. We are honored to have a late additional workshop on "The Concept of Validity and Some Novel Validation Methods" led by Dr. Bruno Zumbo from the University of British Columbia, Canada. Don't miss any of them!!

3. Next, as I and my colleagues at the College Board have been working with state education departments and policy makers across the country this summer, we continue to see the importance of educational researchers and measurement experts to work collaboratively and closely with them. Oftentimes educators and policy makers look for research using test scores to make decisions to continue, add or end educational initiatives. Because of the complexity of the tests and the rigor of research needed in informing these decisions, research and measurement experts should work very closely with educators and policy makers in the design, execution, and interpretation of these results. NERA offers this forum in its annual conference where educators, researchers and policy makers can meet to discuss these needs, results, and action steps.

4. Finally, as we have our 42<sup>nd</sup> conference, it is important to remember and learn from the history of our organization and of history more broadly. The topics and issues that were discussed, debated, and addressed in the past can help inform today's conversations and efforts to find solutions. In one approach to address this at this year's conference, an invited panel of past presidents will provide their wisdom and input.

In closing, I encourage all members to become involved in our organization; this is your organization and its growth is a direct representation of our membership's involvement. I look forward to seeing you all at our annual conference in Rocky Hill, CT. Please plan to attend the Business Meeting and, in particular, please look for announcements for the upcoming "NERA's Got Talent" event!

Respectfully and at your service,

Thanos

## Northeastern Educational Research Association 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, October 19-21, 2011

### Conference Theme: *Educational Research for the Good of Society*

Hello NERA members! We hope you had a nice summer and are now gearing up for fall. Along with the cooler temperatures, we are looking forward to another enriching NERA conference in October. This article will provide NERA members with additional information about the conference program which will be available on the [NERA website](#) later this month.

First, we want to thank NERA members for a strong response to both the call for proposals and the call for volunteers. NERA received close to 200 proposals across all five session formats: individual papers, individual posters, theme-based symposia, working group sessions, and the new paper discussion format. Each of these proposals was reviewed by several of the 81 volunteer reviewers. Every contributing NERA member's work added value to this year's NERA conference and with all of these efforts the 2011 meeting is sure to be a success.

Below you will find a listing of highlights planned for the 2011 conference. The conference will begin with pre-conference workshops on Wednesday at

10 AM with concurrent sessions starting at 1:30 PM that afternoon. We will enjoy receptions on both Wednesday and Thursday evenings, including the debut of "NERA's Got Talent" on Thursday night (See the Call for Acts flyer elsewhere in this issue of the *Researcher*). Graduate students and those involved in the mentoring sessions, keep an eye out for information from Katrina Crotts and Tom Levine about conference events that are tailored to interest you.

We urge all NERA members to visit the [NERA website](#) today to register for the conference and make your hotel reservation at the Hartford Marriott, Rocky Hill.

As always, we stand ready to answer any questions about the conference at [programchairs@nera-education.org](mailto:programchairs@nera-education.org).

See you in October!

Abby Lau (Emmanuel College) and Carol Barry (The College Board), NERA 2011 Conference Co-Chairs.

### Preliminary Program

*Please note that the following represents a **tentative** outline of some of the highlights of the 2011 program. The conference program, which will be available online, will have final dates and times.*

#### **Wednesday, October 19**

**10:00 AM – 12:45 PM:** Preconference Workshop A (J. Patrick Meyer, University of Virginia), *An Introduction to jMetrik: A Free and Open-source Software Program for Comprehensive Psychometric Analysis*

**10:00 AM – 12:45 PM:** Preconference Workshop B (Kelly Godfrey, The College Board), *Electronic Literature Reviews: Time Savers, Tree Savers, Life Savers*

**1:30 PM – 4:45 PM:** In-conference Workshop A (Sara Finney and Dena Pastor, James Madison University), *Longitudinal Modeling from Two Perspectives: SEM & HLM*

**1:30 PM – 4:45 PM:** In-conference Workshop B (TBD) *Best Practices for Survey Design*

**5:45 PM – 6:45 PM:** Keynote Address (Diana Pullin, Boston College), *Research and the Common Good: Big Business Consumerism and Law's Metrics for Educational Change*

**8:00 PM – 10:00 PM:** Welcome Reception

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### **Thursday, October 20**

**8:30 AM – 11:15 AM:** In-conference Workshop C (Robin Grenier, University of Connecticut), *Finding a Needle in the Haystack: Using Inductive Analysis in Qualitative Inquiry*

**8:30 AM – 11:15 AM:** In-conference Workshop D (Bruno D. Zumbo and Benjamin R. Shear, University of British Columbia), *The Concept of Validity and Some Novel Validation Methods*

**8:30 AM – 10:00 AM:** Invited Panel (Sharon Cramer, Buffalo State College; Robert Gable, Johnson & Wales University; Kurt Geisinger, Buros Center for Testing; David Moss, University of Connecticut), *President's Panel: Former NERA Presidents Discuss Educational Research*

**10:15 AM – 11:15 AM:** NERA Poster Session

**11:30 AM – 12:30 PM:** Keynote Address (Roy Romer), *The Impact of Standards-based Reform: Lasting or Fleeting*

**2:00 PM – 3:30 PM:** Invited Panel (Michael Finger, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants; Susan Loomis, National Assessment Governing Board; John Mattar, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants; John Mazzeo, Educational Testing Service; Lynda Reese, Law School Admissions Council; Rosemary Reshetar, The College Board), *Psychometric Panel: Issues in Large Scale Testing*

**2:00 PM – 3:30 PM:** Invited Panel (Susan Barnes, James Madison University; Melinda Burchard, Messiah College; Kristi Peery, Augusta County Public Schools Teacher-in-Residence, James Madison University; Amy Thelk, James Madison University), *Assessment Practices: From Teacher Education to the Classroom*

**3:45 PM – 5:15 PM:** Invited Panel (Barbara Beaudin, Connecticut State Department of Education; Nancy Doorey, Center for K-12 Assessment & Performance Management at Educational Testing Service; Kristen Huff, Regents Research Fund,

University of the State of New York; Danielle Luisier, The College Board), *The Common Core State Standards and Assessments*

**3:45 PM – 5:15 PM:** The 3 R's of YOGA: Reenergize, Refocus, Restore (Danette V. Day, University of Massachusetts, Amherst)

**5:30 PM – 6:30 PM:** GSIC-Sponsored Session (Tia Sukin, Measured Progress; Peter Swerdzewski, Regents Research Fund; Abigail Lau, Emmanuel College; Aryn Karpinski, Kent State University), *Early Careers in Educational Research*

**7:45 – 8:30:** President's Address

**8:30 PM – 10:30 PM:** President's Reception

### **Friday, October 21**

**8:00 AM – 9:00 AM:** NERA Business Meeting - **all members are encouraged to attend**

**9:00 AM – 10:30 AM:** Invited Panel (Keston Fulcher, James Madison University; Abigail Lau, Emmanuel College; B. J. Miller, Eastern Mennonite University; Deborah Moore, Christopher Newport University; Kara Siegert, Director, Salisbury University), *Assessment In Higher Education: For the Good of Society.*

**9:00 AM – 10:30 AM:** In-Conference Workshop (Lisa Sisco, Johnson and Wales University; and Richard Miscovich, Johnson and Wales University), *Creating Effective Powerpoints*

**10:45 AM – 12:15 PM:** Invited Panel (Thomas Levine, University of Connecticut; David M. Moss, University of Connecticut; Darlene Perner, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania; Craig Wells, University of Massachusetts at Amherst), *Making the Most out of Life in Academia: Insiders Share Their Secrets*



## Northeastern Educational Research Association 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, October 19-21, 2011

Conference Theme: *Educational Research for the Good of Society*

### Registering for the 2011 Conference

To pay your membership dues and register for the conference:

- Go to the NERA website, [www.nera-education.org](http://www.nera-education.org)
- Choose **Annual Conference**. You'll find one link that brings you directly to the membership and conference registration form (i.e., click on the "Conference Registration" link) and another that will bring you to information about hotel reservations at the Hartford Marriott, Rocky Hill (i.e., click on the "Hotel Information" link). Please go to the "Conference Registration" link to register!
- You may complete the online membership and conference registration form and submit payment using PayPal. If you prefer, you may download a registration and membership form, print it, complete it, and mail it along with a check to the address indicated. **To register for the conference, you must also become a member.**
- Please note that to receive the regular registration rate, **you must register for the conference by October 1<sup>st</sup>!** After this date, an additional \$25 late fee will be added to the regular rates.
- As a reminder, the following are the registration fees for this year:
  - Regular registration (on or before October 1<sup>st</sup>)
    - Professional members - \$75.00
    - Student members - \$30.00
    - Retired members - \$20.00
    - Special session (Friday morning) - \$25.00
  - Late registration (onsite or after October 1<sup>st</sup>)
    - Professional members - \$100.00
    - Student members - \$55.00
    - Retired members - \$45.00
    - Special session (Friday morning) - \$25.00

#### Reserving your room and meals at the Hartford Marriott, Rocky Hill

To receive these special conference rates, **reservations must be made by Friday, September 30, 2011** either through NERA's webpage or by calling 1-800-228-9290 and mentioning NERA.

A room reserved for Wednesday night includes Wednesday dinner and Thursday breakfast and lunch; a room reserved for Thursday night includes Thursday dinner and Friday breakfast and lunch.

**Please note that if you choose not to stay at the hotel, you may purchase meals at the hotel gift shop.**

## Northeastern Educational Research Association 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, October 19-21, 2011

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**Graduate Students:** NERA continues to be an affordable choice for students. The Hartford Marriott Rocky Hill is offering a special Graduate Student quad rate of \$535, which includes meals and accommodations for four students per night, and thus comes to about \$134 per student per night. This special rate is available for students ONLY. The graduate students are responsible for finding their roommates. One student will have to use a credit card to reserve the room for the quad. Each graduate student must also register for the conference individually. (Conference registration requires a separate online form available through the NERA website.)

**All other conference attendees:** Conference attendees may reserve a double or triple room and split the cost, or may reserve a single room. The Hartford Marriott, Rocky Hill is offering us single occupancy rooms at \$220.00 per night plus tax, double occupancy rooms at \$325.00 per night plus tax, and triple occupancy rooms at \$430.00 per night plus tax. A special rate of \$129.00 without meals is available for Tuesday evening for both single and double rooms. *Note: This does not include any meals, so the rate is the same for all occupancy levels.*

### ***NERA's Got Talent!***

We know that you're more than just researchers. That's why this year in conjunction with the Presidential Reception, we will be hosting NERA's Got Talent!!

#### **What is it?**

NERA's Got Talent is a talent show designed to showcase the many talents of NERA attendees. We promise friendly critiques by judges, audience participation, prizes, and fun for all!

#### **We are currently accepting acts for the show. Please read on for more information:**

- We're accepting acts for any kind of talent (e.g., musical, juggling, dance, hula-hoop, comic).
- Please limit acts to 5 minutes or less.
- Due to time constraints, we can only accept approximately 8-10 acts. These will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis so don't delay!!

**If you are interested in participating, please email the following information to [program-chairs@nera-education.org](mailto:program-chairs@nera-education.org):**

- Name and/or Type of Act
- Estimated length of act
- Special equipment you require (e.g., AV equipment, etc.)

**We look forward to hearing from you!**

*Abby Lau & Carol Barry, 2011 Program Co-Chairs*

## Member News

Congratulations to several students who completed their graduate studies:

- **Hanwook Yoo** received his doctorate from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in May and is now working at Educational Testing Service.
- **Leah Kaira** received her doctorate from the University of Massachusetts Amherst last August and is now working at Pearson Evaluation Systems.
- **Tia Sukin** finished her doctorate last August from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and is now working at Measured Progress.
- **Megan France** graduated with her doctorate in Assessment and Measurement from James Madison University this past May. After graduation, Megan packed up all her belongings and drove with her mom and dog over 3,000 miles from Philadelphia to the Bay Area, California. Megan is now the Director of Assessment for the School of Education and Counseling Psychology at Santa Clara University in California. She works with Education and Counseling Psychology program faculty to assist with their accreditation procedures and assessment endeavors. She will also be working with the school's Director of Student Services to assess various student support programs.
- **Javarro Russell** received his doctorate from James Madison University in the area of Assessment and Measurement in May 2011. Javarro accepted a position as a psychometrician for the Scoring Services Unit at the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) in Philadelphia. Javarro's duties at the NBME are mostly operational. These include ensuring the accuracy of test scores and consulting with clients who use NBME assessments.

**Lisa Keller** received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

**Jeff Hauger** is the new Director of Assessment for the State of New Jersey.

**Maureen Ewing** and husband Adam welcomed a future psychometrician into the world, Jason Scott, on June 4, 2011.

*Be sure to check out these publications and book reviews by NERA members:*

An, H., Wilder, H., & Lim, K. (2011). Preparing elementary preservice teachers from a non-traditional student population to teach with technology. *Computers in the Schools*, 28, 170-193.

An, H., & Shin, S. (2011). The impact of urban district field experiences on four elementary preservice teachers' learning regarding technology integration. *Journal of Technology Integration in the Classroom*, 2, 101-107.

Hartlep, N. D. (Forthcoming). [Review of the book *The dance of identities: Korean adoptees and their journey toward empowerment*, by John Palmer]. *Journal of Language Identity & Education*.

Hartlep, N. D. (Forthcoming). [Review of the book *Critical race theory matters: Education and ideology*, by Margaret Zamudio, Caskey Russell, Francisco Rios, & Jacquelyn Bridgeman]. *The International Journal of Educational Policies*.

Hartlep, N. D. (2011). [Review of the book *The myth of the model minority: Asian Americans facing racism*, by Rosalind Chou & Joe Feagin]. *Critical Questions in Education*, 2, 105-107.

Ellis, A. L., (Forthcoming). [Review of the book *Urban Science Education for the Hip-Hop Generation: Essential Tools for the Urban Science Educator and Researcher*, by Christopher Emdin]. *Education Review*.

Kobrin, J. L., Deng, H., & Shaw, E. J. (2011). The association between SAT prompt characteristics, response features, and essay scores. *Assessing Writing*, 16, 154-169.

Kobrin, J. L., Kim, Y. R., & Sackett, P. R. (in press). Modeling the predictive validity of SAT mathematics items using item characteristics. *Educational and Psychological Measurement*. Available online at <http://epm.sagepub.com/content/early/recent>



## 2011 Lorne H. Woollatt Distinguished Paper Competition

In 1990, NERA renamed its distinguished paper award to honor Lorne H. Woollatt, a distinguished New York State educator and an active member of NERA. The award, now known as the Lorne H. Woollatt Distinguished Paper Award, is presented annually to a NERA member whose paper is deemed exemplary by the Award Committee.

Any paper reviewed and accepted by the Program Committee and presented at the 2011 NERA Annual Conference may be submitted for competition. Only one paper can be selected, so the Committee is looking for an outstanding paper. We encourage submissions from those who received high marks or positive feedback from the Program Committee reviewers, your session's discussant, or others. The winning paper will automatically be accepted for the 2012 AERA Annual Meeting as part of a session sponsored by the AERA/SIG: Consortium of State and Regional Educational Research Associations (SRERA). The award also includes a monetary stipend to help defray the recipient's travel expenses to AERA.

If you wish to enter your paper into the competition, please email two copies of your paper to the 2011 Committee Chair, Rochelle Michel ([rmichel@ets.org](mailto:rmichel@ets.org)) no later than Monday, October 31, 2011. Please send one BLIND copy of your paper and one copy with your name and the following information: affiliation, address, email address and phone number.

Please note that the paper is to be based on your NERA presentation and should not include information that differs substantially from that which you actually presented at the NERA conference. Papers in the Research-in-Progress sessions are not appropriate for submission. In addition, papers should be limited to no more than a total of 20 double-spaced pages (not including Tables/Figures or References).

## *NERA Social Networking Raffle*

Join our social networking groups at:

**LinkedIn** <http://www.linkedin.com/groupRegistration?gid=881287>  
and

**facebook** <http://www.facebook.com/pages/NERA-Northeastern-Educational-Research-Association/173051016042611>

At the 2011 NERA Conference, we will be raffling off three \$50 VISA gift cards. Each will be randomly chosen from:

1. All members of the Facebook page
2. All members of the LinkedIn group
3. Members that have written a NERA or education-related post on either page

**GOOD LUCK!**

## Communications Committee Report

Steven Holtzman

The NERA Communications Committee has been busy working on various tasks to help improve communications for both the NERA community and NERA as an organization. This work includes:

- Designing vector images of two versions of the NERA logo as well as a version of the pillars to use on NERA advertising and communications.
- Editing and publishing a NERA Editorial Guide which provides the NERA community with writing standards to help with conference papers and proposals. This will be supplemented by a single page quick-reference version of the Editorial Guide.
- Creating a NERA Branding Guide which documents standards for NERA to use for advertising and communications.
- Encouraging communications between session chairs and presenters by creating a sample template for chairs to use when contacting presenters.
- Improving the NERA social networking pages and brainstorming new innovative methods of marketing them. We will be raffling off three gift cards at the 2011 NERA conference to members who join and post on the sites. See the raffle ad in this edition for more information. If you haven't done so yet, you can join our social networking pages at: <http://www.linkedin.com/groupRegistration?gid=881287> and <http://www.facebook.com/pages/NERA-Northeastern-Educational-Research-Association/173051016042611>.

The committee looks forward to seeing everyone next month at the 2011 NERA conference.



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Center for Testing



Not yet a member of NERA?

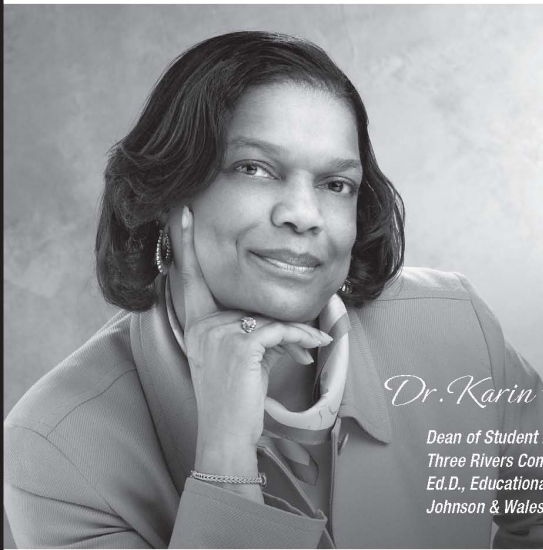
Go here today to register:

[http://www.nerea-education.org/  
membership.php](http://www.nerea-education.org/membership.php)

## 2011 NERA Elections Are Coming!!

Due to the success of electronic voting in previous years, we are continuing to use this process instead of paper ballots. All NERA members in good standing will receive an email in September with directions regarding the online election process. If you do not have a current email on file with NERA, please contact Helen Marx (NERA Treasurer) at [treasurer@nera-education.org](mailto:treasurer@nera-education.org). Since our primary aim is to increase participation in the election process, please vote!

Our election this year consists of President and two Directors on the Board. We have two candidates running for President and at least two candidates running for the Board of Directors. Please keep your eyes open for biographies of all candidates coming your way in early September before the election.



### Her Most Recent Degree Of Distinction Came From Us

Ed.D., Educational Leadership

*Dr. Karin Edwards*

*Dean of Student Development & Services,  
Three Rivers Community College, Norwich, CT  
Ed.D., Educational Leadership,  
Johnson & Wales University*


Karin Edwards is an outstanding graduate of our Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership.

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## The College Board

### Connecting Students to College Success

The College Board is a not-for-profit membership association whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the association is composed of more than 5,200 schools, colleges, universities, and other educational organizations. Each year, the College Board serves seven million students and their parents, 23,000 high schools, and 3,500 colleges through major programs and services in college admissions, guidance, assessment, financial aid, enrollment, and teaching and learning. Among its best-known programs are the SAT®, the PSAT/NMSQT®, and the Advanced Placement Program® (AP®). The College Board is committed to the principles of excellence and equity, and that commitment is embodied in all of its programs, services, activities, and concerns.

Explore information about our membership, history, governance, trustees, and the latest College Board news and reports at <http://www.collegeboard.com/about/index.html>.



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## The Graduate Lounge

Katrina Crotts, University of Massachusetts Amherst

The Graduate Student Issues Committee (GSIC) would like to encourage all graduate students to attend the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual NERA Conference in October. We have two great sessions planned for everyone!

### Session 1: *Early Careers in Educational Research*

This session is an interactive, panel-based format where recent graduates will describe their experiences as new educational researchers in a diversity of areas such as policy, industry, and academia. Topics covered will include finding a job in the current market, the transition from graduate school to employment, potential pitfalls, and general advice. Audience questions will be taken at the end of the session as well.

**Presenters:** Tia Sukin, Measured Progress  
Peter Swerdzewski, Regents Research Fund  
Abigail Lau, Emmanuel College  
Aryn Karpinski, Kent State University

### Session 2: *Promoting the Integration of Educational Research and Policy*

This session will feature an interactive discussion about the intersection of policy and research in education. A panel of researchers will describe their real-world experiences in communicating with policy makers and stakeholders about the relevance of research findings to important educational issues.

**Presenters:** Ellen Forte, EdCount, LCC  
Cathy Wendler, Educational Testing Service  
Luz Bay, Measured Progress

### *GSIC Call for New Members*

Serving on the GSIC is a great way to get involved with NERA and build relationships with other graduate students. Responsibilities include organizing the Best Paper Award and planning conference sessions and events.

For more information on how to apply and get involved, please contact [neragraduatestudents@gmail.com](mailto:neragraduatestudents@gmail.com) or look for the GSIC flyers at the conference!

### *Best Paper by a Graduate Student Award*

If you are the *first author* on a paper you present at NERA, please consider submitting your paper for the Best Paper Award. The recipient of the award will be given **\$250 for travel to NERA** the following year. If you want to be considered for the award, papers must be submitted by **Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup>**, so start preparing those papers now!

In addition to two great sessions, we will also be hosting the Graduate Student Social on Wednesday evening. All graduate students are encouraged to come to meet one another and enjoy complimentary appetizers. *See you all in October!*

## Get Mentoring at NERA

Christine Clayton, Pace University, Thomas Levine, University of Connecticut,  
and Brian Evans, Pace University

NERA gives educational researchers the chance to support one another and improve their work. As part of that mission, NERA started a more formal mentoring program that has matched seventeen graduate students with mentors at our last two conferences.

It's too late to apply for mentoring at our 2011 conference; we have already found mentors for the eight students who requested them. If you are a graduate student, however, please consider taking advantage of this program in 2012. We accept applications over the summer, and match as many students as we can. Graduate students have the chance to share up to 20 pages of work in progress with a NERA mentor, a more experienced scholar, at our annual conference. These scholars spend 30 minutes meeting one-on-one to foster students' growth. Graduate students already have advisors, classes, and many sources of support at their own university; however, NERA mentors can provide additional perspective on draft dissertation proposals, Masters thesis chapters, or any kind of work which would allow you to share your progress and current limits with a friendly, supportive scholar. This spring's *NERA Researcher* will include an announcement regarding how and when to request mentoring for the 2012 conference.

### ***Call for Papers: Modern Modeling Methods Conference 2012***

University of Connecticut  
May 22-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012

The Modern Modeling Methods (M<sup>3</sup>) conference is an interdisciplinary conference designed to showcase the latest modeling methods and to present research related to these methodologies. The second annual M<sup>3</sup> conference will be held May 22-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 (with a preconference on May 21<sup>st</sup> and a post conference on May 24<sup>th</sup>). Keynote speakers for the 2012 conference include Donald Rubin, Peter Bentler, and Jack McArdle.

We are currently soliciting both methodological research papers and papers that illustrate methodological techniques in the area of modeling, broadly defined. Papers related to multilevel modeling, structural equation modeling, mixture modeling, and longitudinal modeling are especially encouraged.

Conference proposals for the Modern Modeling Methods conference may fall into one (or more) of four categories: Methodological Innovation, Methodological Application, Methodological Illustration, or Methodological Evaluation. Methodological Innovation proposals introduce a new technique. Methodological Evaluation proposals present the results of empirical research evaluating a methodology. Most often, these will involve simulation studies. Methodological Application proposals present the methods and results of a real research study in which the technique was used. Methodological Illustration proposals provide a pedagogical illustration of when and how to use the technique; these papers are designed to help the audience be able to implement the technique themselves. Methodological research proposals should be no longer than 1000 words and should include purpose, background, methods, results, discussion, and significance. Methodological illustration papers should be no longer than 1000 words and should include a description of the methodology to be illustrated as well as an outline of the paper/talk. All proposals should be submitted electronically at <http://www.modeling.uconn.edu/proposals.cfm>

Proposals for the 2012 conference are due January 5, 2012. Notifications of presentation status will be emailed by February 6, 2012. For more information about the modern modeling conference, see our website, [www.modeling.uconn.edu](http://www.modeling.uconn.edu). If you have any questions about the conference, please email D. Betsy McCoach ([betsy.mccoach@uconn.edu](mailto:betsy.mccoach@uconn.edu)).

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