

Spring 2012

Enlightening Education Through Research

“I want to be like you—
well-informed and easy to understand,
thinking with your heart as well as your head,
gently nudging us to do our best,
with sensitivity and insight.
I want to be like you—
giving your time, energy and talent
to ensure the brightest possible future
for each of us” – Joanna Fuchs (2004)

Presidents Message

Andy Shim, President



This poem reflects my focus regarding the upcoming Eastern Educational Research Association's 35th Annual Conference to be held at Hilton Head, South Carolina in February, especially with

the honoring of Dr. Isadore Newman's accomplishments during Friday evening's reception. I feel very strongly about the concept of mentoring not just our graduate students but the new members who are arriving at our conference, not fully understanding the goals or true objectives of the organization. We are considered an umbrella organization under the American Educational Research Association, however, I consider our group to be a safe haven for researchers who need the 'mentoring' and sage advice of those who have 'been there, done that', which represents a good number of

our membership. It is people like Isadore whom I have personally sought out for advice years ago, to be truly representative of our current and future mission of EERA.

Last year's research poster session was purposely changed to precede the evening festivities in Sarasota, Florida and was a great success, based on the membership comments we received post-conference. This change was suggested to have a greater impact value by creating positive and constructive dialogue for the graduate students and faculty members who presented their current lines of research, as members strolled through the posters on their way to the reception. We will continue this practice at Hilton Head facilitated by Dr. Roger Briscoe who has graciously volunteered to oversee this important component of our annual meeting.

Lastly, I want to wish everyone a safe and healthy holiday period before returning back to our classrooms and individual institutions. I welcome your feedback towards creating a stronger, vibrant, yet inclusive organization for everyone to contribute towards our mission of providing "Education through Research".

Respectfully,
Andy Shim



Hilton Head.... Here We Come!

Jennifer L. Brown, Vice-President of Conference Planning

***EERA Annual Conference
February 15 – 18 , 2012
Westin Hilton Head Island
Hilton Head, SC***

As the 2012 Conference in Hilton Head is approaching quickly, remember that the deadline to reserve a room within the EERA Room Block is Sunday, January 22, 2012. The room rate at the Westin Resort and Spa is \$159 per night. The link for reservations is posted on the EERA website under Annual Conference - Accommodations.

<http://www.eeraonline.org/main/index.cfm>

The graduate student rate is \$99 per night. All graduate student reservations must be made through Michele Parker, Director of Student Services, to receive the special rate. Please contact her via email for more information at parkerma@uncw.edu.

Make sure you stop by the Hospitality Room at this year's conference. It will be opened during conference hours, and it will serve as a place to check your email, network with fellow colleagues, and relax. I look forward to seeing you in the Gazebo Room of the Westin.

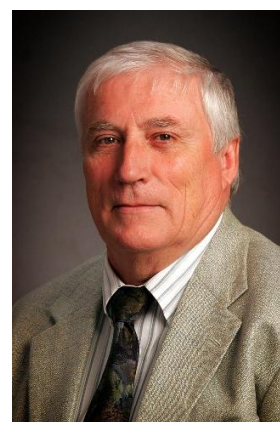
Directions to The Westin Hilton Head Island Resort and Spa from I-95

Take Exit 8 off I-95. Follow HWY 278 East to Hilton Head Island. After crossing the bridges to Hilton Head, the road splits. Stay to the right on HWY 278 Business. Proceed 3 ½ more miles to Port Royal Plantation. Turn left into Port Royal Plantation at the traffic light. Follow the signs to The Resort.

Finding the Perfect Keynote

Abbot L. Packard, Past President

As my title changed from president to past-president, my roles with EERA have also changed. Finding a keynote speaker is one of the tasks given to the past president and this year's keynote speaker, Dr Peter Hoff, will be addressing important issues for all who are working in this world of publish or perish. Regardless of your position, graduate student to veteran professor, publishing is part of life. Peter once gave me some advice about submissions to journals in a very few words, "Throw strikes, don't nibble". He will address publishing from the editor's perspective and throw a few tidbits about what it means from the perspective of an administrator. He has served as editor on several journals and held many administration positions throughout his academic life.



Keynote Speaker

While I am not an "educational researcher" in the sense most of you would use the term, I have written and published a great deal on the subject of education, especially higher education. In fact I have a book coming out soon on the subject of higher education pedagogy. As an academic leader, I have relied for decades on the fruits of educational research to help me make decisions and choose the right course in helping to shape the future of education. And as a member of an education journal's editorial board who regularly reads manuscripts and recommends whether or not

they should be published, I have seen a lot of examples—good and bad—of educational research.

Therefore my experiences as a reader—or consumer—of educational research should be in one way or another helpful to the audience for this talk. I have had many opportunities to learn what is useful and what is not. What is moving and what is not. What is important and what is not. What is worth doing and what is not. What is worth publishing and what is not. In this keynote address, I offer some of my findings, in the hope that my suggestions will help educational researchers make decisions of their own about what questions to pursue, how to frame those questions and how to seek answers, and how to present findings in ways that will engage readers, make them want to read, stimulate their minds, convince them of the validity and importance of the findings, and move them to take action. These sorts of responses help give educational research some traction in an environment that contains much competition and many distractions.

Education should move forward driven by good research. We should make pedagogical and policy decisions driven by true and valuable data, analysis, and knowledge. While it might seem tautological, it is not: our very future as a species depends on our ability to educate one another, and our ability to educate one another depends heavily upon our ability to determine—through research—how best to educate.

Biography

Peter S. Hoff is President Emeritus of the University of Maine. He holds degrees from the University of Wisconsin and Stanford University. He has served as professor and chief academic officer at universities and university systems in Wisconsin, Indiana, Georgia, and California. His publications address topics in literature and the humanities, as well as teaching excellence and strategic leadership in higher education. He serves on the Editorial Board of *Innovative Higher Education*. Most recently, he is the author of “Hutchins’s *University of Utopia*: Institutional Independence, Academic Freedom, and Radical Restructuring,” and a forthcoming book: *The Reluctant Revolution-- How American Higher Education is Slowly Constructing a New Pedagogical Architecture*.

Send pertinent materials to the Newsletter Editor/Web Site/ Communications Director:

Email: newsletter@eeraonline.org

Phone: 678-839-6161

Message from the Director of Student Services, Michele Parker:

Hello Everyone and Happy Holidays! I look forward to interacting with you at the 2012 annual conference in Hilton Head, South Carolina.

The Westin is offering a graduate student rate of \$99 + \$12 resort charge + 11% tax + \$1 tourism fee per night. If two students are in a room the rate will be about \$61 per night (plus tax). I am coordinating room reservations and pairing roommates for interested graduate students. We are seeking students who will help at the registration desk in exchange for having their conference registration fee waived.

Please complete this form if you want to stay at the Westin and/or help with registration and I will follow-up with you.

<http://appserv01.uncw.edu/SelectSurveyNET//TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=98035m33<http://appserv01.uncw.edu/SelectSurveyNET/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=98035m33>>

A Graduate Student Reception is planned for Thursday afternoon. Look for the details in the final conference program. You will meet the EERA Board of Directors and have engaging conversations. Bring ideas about what you want implemented during the year and at future conferences to support your endeavors. We will have door prizes!

Throughout the conference you can network with other graduate students and conference attendees in the Hospitality Room.

If you have questions I can be reached at parkerma@uncw.edu or (910) 962-2292.



Journal of Research in Education: On the Move

Michael Miller, JRE Editor

With the New Year comes more than just a few parties and resolutions; the New Year brings a new face to the editorship of

the Journal of Research in Education. After an extensive search, a familiar face, Dr. Abbot Packard, will assume a four-year term as editor of JRE, replacing Michael Miller as editor. Miller took over four years ago from Darla Twale, and she had taken over four years before that from Donald Biggs.

During the past four years the Journal has undergone some significant and exciting changes. First, the editorial review board was doubled in size, and to accompany that growth, the reviewers were put to work reviewing nearly twice as many manuscript submissions as in past years. Realizing such demand, the Journal was then moved to a twice-per-year publication schedule. With two issues per year, the Journal was put into a position to increase the scope of articles published (more variety of types of methodologies, etc.). Additionally, the Journal was moved to an online format to increase access to potential readers. The past four years of the Journal are now open to all readers and available through the EERA website.

A prominent goal of the Journal for the next four years is to add more past issues of the Journal in a searchable format to the EERA website, and to increase opportunities for EERA members to publish with the Journal - more conference papers, more graduate assistants, more invited editorials, etc.

This is an exciting time for all of academic publishing, and the JRE is on the cusp of many of these trends. Through the commitment of the membership, JRE will continue to be a leading journal that addresses all areas of educational research, and I encourage you to continue to give Dr. Packard as much support as you have given me.

Thank you for a wonderful four years!
Michael Miller

Continuing of the Journal's progress.

Abbot L Packard, JRE Editor in waiting

It is a challenging task to follow in Michael Miller's footsteps. As he has stated the changes, which have occurred under his leadership, have been instrumental in moving the journal forward. We, as an editorial board, have suggested some future changes which I hope to include in issues to come.

1. Many of us have started our professional journey by first presenting at an EERA conference and have received positive feedback from that experience. Because of that many of us return each year to help those who follow this path. It is with that in mind, I would like to see student papers be the focus of a journal each year, by selecting the best student papers at the annual conference.
2. Best papers from major topics presented at the conference by educational professionals is another area which I would like to explore. It is important to share these with the members who perhaps could not attend the individual sessions when they were presented
3. Re-establishing sections dealing with topics such a methodology, technology, special interests in each issue. This would help us as an organization to share techniques and new issues in our field.

Although most of the existing editors and reviewers are staying, it will be necessary to add reviewers in many topic areas. So I am inviting those who might wish to participate by sending me apackard@westga.edu a short vita and letter of request with any area of interest you might like to review. As editors of the journal move on and the need to replace them, the first choice will be drawn from the participating reviewers.

Abbot L. Packard

Request information regarding graduate students to the Director of Student Services:

Michele Parker
University of North Carolina Wilmington
601 S. College Road
Wilmington, North Carolina 28403
Email: parkerma@uncw.edu
Phone: 910-962-2292

The Eastern Educational Research Association is a regional organization for educational professionals interested in disseminating educational research for the overall purpose of improving education for all. EERA was created in 1977 and for 30 years has been one of this country's successful regional educational research organizations. EERA is affiliated with the American Educational Research Association as a member of the AERA Special Interest Group for regional research associations. EERA members meet at an annual conference in February or early March. Members' research is disseminated through 16 divisions and 21 Special Interest Groups (SIGs). The organization is administered through a Board of Directors elected by the membership. The organization awards an Outstanding Paper Award during the annual Conference along with \$500 travel support to present at the AERA Annual Meeting. EERA also sponsors the publication of the *Journal of Research in Education*. EERA has a web site. See below for the URL.

Eastern Researcher

The *Eastern Researcher* newsletter is published four times yearly with a spring, summer, fall, and winter issue

The newsletter announces the upcoming Conference, program highlights, deadlines, officer elections, and reports on the annual Conference meeting. Items appropriate for the newsletter include notices of professional development opportunities and columns relating to publications, awards, and graduate students. Please send all articles to:

communications@eraonline.org

Message from the Director of Communication,

Jessica Bucholz

I am excited to take over the role of Director of Communication for EERA. I realize as have been working to put together this newsletter that there is a lot I need to learn, starting with how to check the email for the newsletter. I love a good challenge and I look forward to learning and working with all of you. Hope to meet you all in person in February in Hilton Head!

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See you in Hilton Head, SC!!!!

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