

Also

Spring 2010

Vice President's Message For Your Information -- [Susan Twombly](#)



(photo: greg dubrow)

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Editor: [Greg Dubrow](#),
[UC, Berkeley](#)

Well, that's it for me as editor of The Pen. It's been fun, but it's time for a new look and new voice. Julia Colyar takes over as of the next issue.

From the VP's Desk (actually, kitchen table)

It's been a great ride..

This is my last column as VP of Division J. Although it has been a great ride, three years is a long time to maintain a high level of energy on behalf of the Division. So, it is with some sense of both relief and sadness that at the end of the 2010 Annual Meeting, I will pass the reins to Laura Perna. Laura has been shadowing me all year and is ready to hit the ground running. .



Budget and Finances

The Division goes into 2010 with a very solid budget. AERA allocates a fixed amount of money to divisions based on their size. Division J is a medium sized division and we received an allocation of \$15,000. Divisions receive an additional allocation of approximately \$6.00 per member. We had 1879 members on June 30, 2009, which translated into an additional \$12,401 allocation from AERA. In addition, we have carried some money forward from the previous two years of my term. There are three big expenditures: the program meeting in October during which the program committee meets to work on the division program, the Emerging Scholars Workshop, which takes place immediately before the Annual Meeting, and the Division Reception. To those "fixed" expenses we provide stipends to the two Division graduate student representatives, and we have added travel grants for graduate students to attend the Annual Meeting. We provided 6 travel grants last year and this year we are providing 11 awards of \$300 each.

As you can see, membership is very important in determining the Division's budget. As of a month ago, our membership was down significantly from the same time last year (as was the overall AERA membership). At some point in the near future, AERA will be doing a survey of lapsed members to learn why people do not renew. Please encourage your colleagues to join or renew their membership.

A bigger budget has allowed the Division 1) to raise the graduate student representative stipends and 2) to institute the student travel grant program.

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Vice President's Message – continued...

It has also made it possible for the division to provide a reception without having to raise funds. Look for a very nice reception in Denver, Saturday, 6-8 after the Michele Lamont session.

Accomplishments

During my term, the Division has done several things. 1) We regularized the graduate student representative appointment process. Graduate student representative serve a very important role in the AERA structure and having graduate students involved in soliciting nominations and in the selection process has been very gratifying. We have had excellent graduate student reps during my three years, and will continue to do so in the future. 2) We instituted the graduate student travel funds and, thanks to James Minor, Division J Council member, we have a process in place to solicit nominations and a basis for choosing them. In fact, several other divisions have borrowed our template. 3) We developed and you voted to accept Division bylaws. According to the bylaws, our divisional elections will now be handled by AERA. 4) We considered, but ultimately rejected, a proposal that the Division do a handbook on postsecondary education to be published by AERA. 5) We started a joint breakfast with Division F (history) during the Emerging Scholars Pre-conference Workshop. 6) Our Affirmative Action Report, under the leadership of Jerlando Jackson, has become one of the models for AERA.

None of this would have been possible without the help of literally dozens of Division J members who have served on committees, as chairs of committees, Pen editor and contributor, as members of the Division J Council, and as reviewers for conference proposals. If I start naming individuals, I will surely leave someone out. But there are several people I do need to single out: Christopher Morphew, Kris Renn and Mike Bastedo, Division J program chairs during my term. The Annual Meeting program is the biggest, most visible, Division activity. Chris, Kris and Mike each put his or her own stamp on the program committee and on the program, and we owe each a huge debt of gratitude for the enormous amount of work and time each has given to Division J. Mike has served on the program committee in some capacity for three years.

I would like to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve Division J as your VP. Division J will be in great hands with Laura Perna as VP. She has a great crew of committee chairs in place. Please join us at the Division J Business Meeting and Reception on Saturday, May 1, 6:15-8 in room 603 of the Colorado Convention Center. The Reception, with open bar, begins at 7 PM.

Program Committee Report Michael Bastedo, University of Michigan

The Annual Meeting in Denver is only weeks away, and Division J has been preparing for over a year to present an array of vibrant, interesting posters, roundtables, papers, and symposia. First, some facts and figures, then more details on the program:

Division J received 626 proposals in six sections. There were 573 individual papers, poster and roundtables, and 53 symposia and other sessions proposed. We received 1% more proposals in 2010 than we did in 2009.

AERA allocates session slots to divisions proportionally to submissions; we carried proportional assignment through to section level. Section chairs had authority to allocate individual paper sessions, posters, and symposia among their allotment.

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Roundtable slots were separate from these allocations – as they are at the association level – and were handled as a division. This year, fewer sessions were allocated to the divisions due to a new AERA policy.

We accepted 328 individual proposals and 20 symposia, for an overall acceptance rate of 53%. That is ten percentage points lower than last year's acceptance rate of 63%, which is the result of AERA's new policy regarding session allocation.

Division J Highlights

The program committee identified six highlighted sessions, carrying through the conference emphasis on complex ecologies in educational research and practice. The sessions are:

Book Discussion: How Professors Think: Inside the Curious World of Academic Judgment. Author: Michele Lamont, Harvard University. Panel: Anna Neumann, Columbia University; William Tierney, USC; Michael Bastedo, University of Michigan (Saturday, 4:05pm, Convention Room 603).

Contemplating the Future of Minority Serving Institutions: A Policy and Practice-Focused Discussion. Moderator: Marybeth Gasman, University of Pennsylvania. Panel: John S. Wilson, White House Initiative on HBCUs; Juan Sepulveda, White House Initiative for Excellence in Hispanic Education; Mildred Garcia, California State University, Dominguez Hills; Walter Kimbrough, Philander Smith College; Annemarie Nuñez, University of Texas, San Antonio; James Minor, Michigan State University (Monday, 4:05pm, Convention Room 603; reception to follow). Co-sponsored by the Lumina Foundation.

Public Higher Education and the Economic Downturn. Chair: Laura Perna, University of Pennsylvania. Panel: Patrick Callan, National Center for Higher Education and Public Policy; Jane Wellman, Delta Cost Project; Dennis Jones, NCHEMS; Charlie Lenth, SHEEO, Scott Jaschik, Inside Higher Ed (Sunday, 2:15pm; Convention Room 103).

Critical Theoretical Approaches to Research in Higher Education. Organizer: Estela Bensimon, USC. Presenters: Ana Martinez Aleman, Boston College; Brian Pusser, University of Virginia; Simon Marginson, University of Melbourne; Alicia Dowd, USC. Discussant: Greg Anderson, Ford Foundation (Sunday, 8:15am, Convention Room 107).

Venturing Toward Better Teaching: S.T.E.M. Professors' Efforts to Improve Their Introductory Undergraduate Pedagogy at Major Research Universities. Division J Dissertation of the Year Award. Julie Anne Schell, Columbia University. Dissertation Chair: Anna Neumann, Teachers College, Columbia University (Sunday, 12:25pm, Convention Room 702).

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Program Committee Report, continued...

Moving Beyond a Culture of Defense and Critique Toward More Theoretically Oriented, Policy-Relevant Research on Community Colleges. Division J Vice Presidential Address. Susan Twombly, University of Kansas. Discussants: Linda Serra Hagedorn, Iowa State University; Thomas Bailey, Columbia University (Monday, 10:35am, Convention Room 107).

The Division J Business Meeting and Reception – always a good place to find familiar faces and connect with fellow postsecondary researchers – is Saturday, 6:15pm, in Colorado Convention Room 603. We will conduct Division business, distribute this year's awards, and have a reception to follow. It also has the one thing all academics need for collegial conversation – an open bar.

The Division J Emerging Scholars Workshop will be co-chaired this year by Amy Wells, University of Mississippi, and Bridget Turner Kelly, Loyola University. The workshop will be held pre-conference on Thursday and Friday in Korbell Ballroom.

Our hardworking Graduate Council representatives Pelema Morrice and Bryan Gopaul have organized the Division J Graduate Student Session: A Conversation With Journal Editors: Unearthing Academic Publishing. This will feature many major journal editors, including American Educational Research Journal, Research in Higher Education, Journal of Higher Education, Review of Higher Education, Journal of College Student Development, and Harvard Educational Review (Saturday, 4:05pm, Convention Room 604).

Many Thanks To:

The program committee works hard, largely behind the scenes, to recruit reviewers, assign proposals, evaluate reviews, and make decisions. For the 2010 program, these hardworking colleagues are:

Section 1: College Student Learning and Development: Nicholas Bowman, Notre Dame; Kristen Renn, Michigan State University.

Section 2: College Student Access, Success, and Outcomes: Jane Pizzolato, UCLA; Victor Saenz, University of Texas at Austin.

Section 3: Organization, Management, and Leadership: Noah Drezner, University of Maryland; David Weerts, University of Minnesota.

Section 4: Faculty, Curriculum, and Teaching: Steve Porter, Iowa State University; Paul Umbach, North Carolina State University.

Section 5: Policy, Finance, and Economics: Luciana Dar, University of California Riverside; Tatiana Melguizo, USC.

Section 6: Society, Culture, and Change: Marybeth Gasman, University of Pennsylvania; Reitumetse Mabokela, Michigan State University.

Division J VP Susan Twombly has been enormously supportive to the Program Committee this year, as she finishes her term as vice president. We also thank the student representatives, Pelema Morrice and Bryan Gopaul, and Affirmative Action committee chair Jerlando Jackson. Next year's program will be chaired by Terrell Strayhorn at the University of Tennessee Knoxville. We wish smooth sailing to next year's committee!

Awards Committee Report **Lisa Wolf-Wendel, University of Kansas**

The Outstanding Publication Award goes to Bruce Kimball for his book, *The Inception of Modern Professional Education: C.C. Langdell, 1826-1906*. Published by the University of North Carolina Press. Bruce Kimball is a professor at The Ohio State University. The book is a historical biography of Christopher C. Langdell (1826-1906), dean of Harvard Law School from 1870 to 1895.

The Exemplary Research Award goes to Anna Neumann, professor of higher education at Teachers College, Columbia University. Anna has made exemplary contributions to the field of higher education through her scholarship and service to the field.

I would like to thank the members of the awards committee for their hard work and dedication to task. The members include: Beverly Bower, Jim Fairweather, Jim Hearn, Jerlando Jackson, Laura Perna, Vicki Rosser, Fran Stage, William Tierney, Vasti Torres.

Dissertation of the Year Committee Report **Benjamin Baez, Florida International University**

The 2009 AERA Division J Committee completed its review of the nominations for the 2009 Dissertation of the Year Award. The committee was impressed with the quality of 19 nominations we received, but four dissertations were selected as finalists. The winner of the award was Julie Ann Schell, Teachers College, Columbia University, for her dissertation titled, “Venturing Toward Better Teaching: S.T.E.M. Professors' Efforts To Improve Their Introductory Undergraduate Pedagogy at Major Research Universities.”

The committee also recognizes the other three finalists for the award: Brian Pyong An, University of Wisconsin-Madison, “The Impact Of Dual Enrollment On College Performance And Attainment;” James Patrick Barber, University of Michigan, “Integration Of Learning: Meaning Making For Undergraduates Through Connection, Application, And Synthesis;” and Ran Zhang, Indiana University, “Confrontation Or Cooperation: Spaces Of Action For Student Grievance In Chinese Universities.”

The members of the Dissertation Awards Committee were: Benjamin Baez, Florida International University (Chair); Amy Bergerson, University of Utah; Deborah Carter, University of Michigan; John Cheslock, Penn State University; Jay Dee, University of Massachusetts, Boston; Aaron Kuntz, University of Alabama; Valerie Lundy-Wagner, University of Pennsylvania; and Amy Wells, University of Mississippi.

Graduate Student Report

Pelema I. Morrice, Division, Division J, Graduate Student Co-Representative, University of Michigan

Bryan Gopaul, Division J, Graduate Student Co-Representative, University of Toronto

Lauren Schudde, Division J, (Incoming) Graduate Student Co-Representative, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Division J is proud to sponsor these events for graduate students during the 2010 AERA Annual Meeting!

The Day After You Defend: Career Paths in Higher Education:

Day/Time: Sunday, May 2 - 12:25pm - 1:55pm

Building/Room: Colorado Convention Center Room 105

The Fireside Chat will provide the opportunity for graduate students and doctoral graduates in higher education who occupy different types of employment to candidly discuss the variety of career options available to students after the completion of a doctoral degree in higher education.

A Conversation With Journal Editors: Unearthing Academic Publishing

Day/Time: Saturday, May 1 - 4:05pm - 5:35pm

Building/Room: Colorado Convention Center / Room 604

Several journal editors from top tier academic journals will share their insights about the journal submission and review process. The journal editor session will provide doctoral students in higher education with invaluable knowledge as they progress through their academic careers.

Announcements

The First Annual Barbara K. Townsend Dissertation Award, for research on transfer student issues, is going to Dr. Jennifer E. Jovel, Stanford University. Dr. Jovel's dissertation is entitled "Community College Transfer: The Role of Social Capital in the Transfer Process of Chicana/o Students." Her principal advisor was Dr. Anthony L. Antonio.

The Barbara K. Townsend Dissertation Award was established by the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students to honor the late scholar of transfer students, community colleges, and other topics. The award will be acknowledged formally during the 8th Annual Conference of the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students (NISTS), January 27-29, 2010 in Addison (Dallas), Texas. NISTS is based at the University of North Texas.

The NISTS conference will feature addresses by Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, President of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and a recently-named 10 Best College President by TIME Magazine; and Dr. Jill Biden (invited), wife of the U.S. Vice President, a community college educator, and the lead U.S. delegate to the 2nd UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education this past summer.

For more information about the 8th Annual NISTS Conference, visit <http://transferinstitute.unt.edu/>.

Emerging Scholars Workshop 2010, Amy E. Wells-Dolan, University of Mississippi

The 2010 Division J Emerging Scholars Workshop takes place Thursday, April 29 and Friday, April 30 in Denver, as part of the pre-conference for AERA and builds upon the theme “Understanding Academic Lives in a Changing World.” Workshop Co-Chair Bridget Turner Kelly of Loyola University Chicago, the Workshop Planning Committee, and Division J leadership has planned the various sessions with an emphasis on providing a relaxed setting whereby these twenty-nine early career scholars can speak with experienced scholars about strategies for early career and personal development.

The following sessions are included on workshop schedule:

- **Career Development** (Susan Twombly, University of Kansas; Karen Paulson, National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS); Frank Tuitt, University of Denver; Marietta Del Favero, University of New Orleans; Barbara Johnson, Northern Illinois University; Vince LeChuga, Texas A & M; Deborah Worley, University of North Dakota)
- **The Scholarship of Teaching** (Bridget Turner Kelly, Loyola University Chicago; Bryan Gopaul, University of Toronto)
- **Strategies for Early Career Writing** (Ryan Gildersleeve, Iowa State University; Heather Rowan-Kenyon, Boston College)
- **Dinner Keynote and Work/Life Balance** (Laura Perna, University of Pennsylvania)
- **Writing for Publication** (Susan Twombly, University of Kansas; Terrell Strayhorn, University of Tennessee)
- **Research Roundtables** (Ronald Hallett, University of Pacific ; Terrell Strayhorn, University of Tennessee; Jerlando F.L. Jackson, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Claire Major, University of Alabama; Pamela Eddy, William & Mary)

Our appreciation goes to the member of the planning committee for their support:

Audrey Jaeger, North Carolina State University
Frank Tuitt, University of Denver
Jessica Sugarman, Loyola University of Chicago
Ayana Johnson, University of Mississippi
Vicente Lechuga, Assistant Professor, Texas A&M
Pelema Morrice, University of Michigan
Bryan Gopaul, University of Toronto
Susan Twombly, University of Kansas/AERA Division J vice president
Amy Wells, University of Mississippi (Co-Chair)
Bridget Turner Kelly, Loyola University Chicago (Co-Chair)

Things to do in Denver When You're at AERA

Division J people who grew up in Denver share their tips for extra-curricular activities.

First up, from David C. Barnett, Ph.D. Associate Director, University Assessment & Student Learning Rush University in Chicago.

Black American West Museum and Heritage Center

3091 California St Denver, CO 80205 303-482-2242

<http://www.blackamericanwestmuseum.com/>

A museum that explores the history of black cowboys, wranglers and ranchers in the American West.

Colorado State Capitol Building



200 E Colfax Ave, Denver, CO 80203 303-866-2604

Designed to be similar to the nation's capital, highlights include a gold-plated dome rising 180 feet high and vibrant stained glass windows. Guided tours are available weekdays. Go to the west steps and you can stand precisely 5,280 feet above sea level (look for the marker on the steps)..

Denver Art Museum

100 W 14th Ave, Denver, CO 80204 720-865-5000

<http://www.denverartmuseum.org/home>

Make sure to check out their collection of Native American art, Pre-Columbian and Central American art and textiles. The architects also carefully designed the windows to showcase views of the city. The museum offers tours of the collection and an architecture tour of its facilities.

Denver Center for the Performing Arts

1101 13th Street at Speer & Arapahoe 303-893-4100; 800-641-1222

<http://www.denvercenter.org/>

This is the second-largest performing arts complex in the country, with nine theatres/performing spaces and 10,000+ seats. While AERA is in town, consider getting tickets for Othello, In the Heights (winner of the 2008 Tony Award for Best Musical), Mariela in the Desert (a dramatic play by Karen Zacarias), or Mama Hated Diesels (a musical portrait of America's long-distance truckers).



Denver Museum of Nature and Science

2001 Colorado Blvd, Denver, CO 80205 303-322-7009; 800-925-2250 <http://www.dmns.org/>

Extraordinarily beautiful and detailed dioramas of wildlife in many regions of the world help make this museum the largest draw of any cultural exhibit in the region. The planetarium and IMAX theater are also featured attractions.

Larimer Square

This trendy block of Victorian buildings was rescued from slums over forty years ago and is now the location of great shopping, art galleries, dance and comedy clubs, and many terrific restaurants and cafes.



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Things to do in Denver When You're at AERA - continued...

LoDo Historic District

This area, once filled with turn-of-the-century warehouses, now boasts dozens of brewpubs, sports bars, restaurants and cafes. If you want to see where snap-button Western shirts were first created, drop by Rockmount Ranchwear. Also, check out one of the best independent bookstores in the country, the Tattered Cover.

Molly Brown House Museum

1340 Pennsylvania St, Denver, CO 80203 303-832-4092

This was home to the "Unsinkable" Molly Brown (one of the most notable survivors of the sinking of the Titanic). The house is fully restored and furnished with period pieces. Guided tours are offered and give a fascinating glimpse into Denver's early history.

16th Street Pedestrian Mall

Two hundred trees line this mile-long (16 block) pedestrian promenade. It offers over two dozen restaurants and great people-watching. Hop on the mall bus – it's free and makes stops at every corner.

United States Mint

320 W Colfax Ave, Denver, CO 80204 303-405-4761 • 800-872-6468

If you ever wondered how our coins are produced, take a tour at the Mint. Warning: You may have to deal with throngs of school groups and scout troops and may wait longer than the tour itself will last! The Mint accepts same day walk-up tour reservations on a space-available basis. Free twenty-minute guided tours are offered every hour on the hour (there are no free samples).

And a tip: If you ask for directions in Denver, you will be told "that's west off," "south off," etc. Everything is Denver is relative to the mountains (which are to the west). Since people expect you to have noticed the mountains, all other directions are relative to that. The city is laid out on a grid – though downtown is a bit confusing as a chunk of block are rotated so that the streets there do not run east-west or north-south. People in Denver are generally very friendly and eager to help visitors enjoy their city so don't hesitate to ask for directions or recommendations.

And from Leasa Weimer, Assistant, Institute of Higher Education, University of Georgia and Research Fellow, University of Oslo, Norway

Impulse Theatre: Impulse Theater is a wildly funny mix of comedy, theater and audience interaction. Each performance features a quick-witted cast that will keep you laughing from start to finish with fully improvised comedy, based all on your suggestions! Located in Denver's famous Wynkoop Brewing Company, Downtown Denver, Impulse Theater has performed over 5,000 fully-improvised shows since 1987. Appropriate for all groups and ages, Impulse Theater performs Thursdays at 8:00 PM, and Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 PM and 9:45 PM. Tickets are \$18, and Group Discounts are available for groups of ten or more (except in December and early January). The theater is non-smoking, there is a one drink minimum, under 21 must be accompanied by their parent(s) - unless it's one of our All Ages Nights - and reservations are recommended. <https://www.impulsetheater.com/>

Colorado Rockies Homerun for the Homeless at Coors Field

8:15 A.M. START Sign-up for the competitive 5k Run (3.1 miles) that includes a scenic downtown course and a lap around the warning track of Coors Field! Get the players' field perspective as you run to a great post-race party and entertainment. This event is open to runners of all ages and abilities. All registrants will receive an official 2009 commemorative Colorado Rockies Home Run for the Homeless t-shirt and bib number with a voucher redeemable for TWO FREE TICKETS to a Monday through Thursday Colorado Rockies Value or Premium home game May 6 through August 13 (offer excludes all Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Classic games)