

Spring 2008

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



(photo: greg dubrow)

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Editor's Note: Sadly, I will
have to miss the conference
this year. Save your favorite
conference moments for the
Summer issue.

A searchable spreadsheet of
Div J sessions is available at
the [AERA web site](#)



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



As the AERA Annual Meeting draws near, I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to several Division J's special events and thank all of the individuals who have worked so hard to make the Annual Meeting possible.

Christopher Perry Loss, Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Higher Education, Vanderbilt University is the winner of the AERA Division J Outstanding Dissertation Award. He will be presenting his work "From Democracy to Diversity: The Politics of American Higher Education in the Twentieth Century" on Tuesday at 12:25 in the New York Marriott Marquis Times Square / Shubert Complex, Royale Room, 6th Floor. We will also recognize three runners up for the Outstanding Dissertation Award: Samuel Museum, Stella M. Flores, and T. Elon Dancy.

The Division's business meeting and reception will be held Thursday, March 27 - 6:15pm - 8:15pm in the Sheraton New York Hotel & Towers, Empire Ballroom, Empire East, 2nd Floor. We promise to keep the business short. At this time we will recognize winners of the Division's Exemplary Research Award and 2008 Outstanding Publication Award.

Christopher Morphew and his program committee have organized an excellent conference program, which, of course, would not be possible without submissions from the Division's membership. Jay Dee and Karri Holley have planned an outstanding Emerging Scholars Workshop. I'd like also to thank Katherine Chaddock and Lisa Wolf-Wendel for chairing the Outstanding Dissertation Committee and Scholarly Awards Committees respectively. Both committees received a large number of excellent nominations from which to choose.

I would encourage Division J members to attend the following Town Hall meeting. The Joint Committee is recommending some rather substantial changes to how conference proposals are reviewed, how symposia are submitted, the role of graduate students, and the composition of symposia. As Division VP, I will be called upon to vote on proposed changes at an

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AERA Council Meeting and I would appreciate having input from the membership:

AERA Joint Committee on Annual Meeting Policies and Procedures and Research
Advisory -- Town Hall Meeting **Time:** Tue, Mar 25 - 10:35am - 12:05pm
Place: Sheraton New York Hotel & Towers, Central Park West, 2nd Floor

And last, but certainly not least, I am pleased to announce that Jillian Kinzie, Indiana University, was elected to serve a three-year term as an At-Large Member on the Division J Council. Jillian replaces Deb Carter, who is completing her term in office. Pelema Morrice, University of Michigan, has been selected to serve as the Division's "junior" graduate student representative. Kristin Renn, Michigan State University, will serve as the 2009 Program Chair with the assistance of Michael Bastedo, University of Michigan. Mike will chair the 2010 program committee.

See you in NYC.

Emerging Scholars Workshop: Developing Your Career on the Academic Stage

AERA Division J Annual Meeting Pre-Conference

March 23 – 24, 2008 – New York, NY

[Jay R. Dee](#), University of Massachusetts Boston & [Karri Holley](#), University of Alabama

Developing an academic career – whether as a faculty member, policy analyst, or institutional leader – is a challenging process, but one that can be made more meaningful and gratifying through professional mentoring opportunities. The Division J pre-conference workshop for emerging scholars will provide interactive sessions that enable participants to learn more about:

- establishing a research line of inquiry
- developing a curriculum vitae
- balancing demands of a new job
- applying and interviewing for jobs
- networking in the academy
- finishing the dissertation and writing for publication

With New York City and the theaters of Broadway as our backdrop, we will examine what it means to take one's place on the academic stage. We will explore the job search process and discuss how to prepare for different employment opportunities. We will spend time discussing a variety of research approaches (quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods) and offer strategies for navigating the writing-for-publication process. The workshop will also offer space for less structured conversations about career issues and professional plans.

We want to thank the planning committee and Susan Twombly for their assistance in organizing this event. We hope that you will consider attending or recommending the workshop to your advanced graduate students or new faculty colleagues. Participants from previous years' workshops are welcome to attend again. Those who are about to embark on a job search and those who have recently entered a new academic position are especially encouraged to apply.

Applications are due no later than January 25, 2008. For application materials, please contact one of us at Jay.Dee@umb.edu or KHolley@bamaed.ua.edu.

Planning committee members: Julia Colyar, Brandon Daniels, Dannielle Joy Davis, Marybeth Gasman, Sharon Holmes, Lynette Land, Cassandra Lewis, Beverly Lindsay, Sharon McDade, Melissa McDaniels, Leticia Oseguera, and Robert Teranishi.

Graduate Student Report

Grad Representatives – Lisette Montoto, Univ. of Georgia and Cassandra Lewis, Univ. of Maryland

Division J Graduate Students in the Big Apple

The Annual Meeting of AERA can be a daunting experience for first-time graduate students. The conference typically spans four conference hotels at minimum, the conference program looks more like your telephone book, and the city in which you are located is parallel to the grandeur of the conference. The key to not feeling overwhelmed at the sea of conference session possibilities is finding the conference within the conference. Look for the sessions under the Division J section and you will soon see familiar names from graduate readings as conference presenters. Also, graduate students have the Graduate Student Resource Center, an oasis in the seemingly chaotic buzz of sessions. Here you can meet graduate students from every division, as well as your Division J representatives: outgoing senior graduate student representative Cassandra Lewis (University of Maryland), current junior representative Lisette Montoto (University of Georgia) and incoming junior representative Pelema Morrice (University of Michigan). The graduate student representatives represent the graduate student body at AERA meetings and help plan activities during the conference targeted at graduate students. AERA's 2008 Annual Meeting holds many opportunities for Division J graduate students, among them are a pre-conference seminar, a special session for graduate students, our annual fireside chat with senior scholars, and our graduate student social. See below for descriptions of these sessions and check the conference program for information on time and place.

- **AERA Division J Annual Meeting Pre-Conference**

Prior to the conference, graduate students who are nearing the end of their graduate student careers and are about to embark on a job search can participate in the *Emerging Scholars*

Workshop: Developing Your Career on the Academic Stage from March 23-24, 2008 coordinated by Jay R. Dee, Associate Professor, University of Massachusetts Boston, and Karri Holley, Assistant Professor, University of Alabama. The Pre-Conference plans to explore the job search process and discuss how to prepare for different employment opportunities. Time will be spent discussing a variety of research approaches and offer strategies for navigating the writing-for-publication process. The workshop will also offer space for less structured conversations about career issues and professional plans.

- **AERA Division J Annual Meeting, Special Session for Graduate Students**

For those graduate students that cannot participate in the pre-conference, Division J will be sponsoring a special session targeted at graduate students, *Transitioning to Early Career Experiences*.

While working hard to complete the degree or immediately following degree completion, graduate students and new Ph.D.'s may find themselves unsure of next steps in transitioning into early careers. Questions such as: how to begin the job search, how to prepare for job talks, which experiences are vital for a competitive CV and should one pursue a teaching, administrative or policy career may abound. In this session, recent graduates who have successfully navigated these waters will share suggestions, tips and helpful hints for surviving and thriving during this time of transition. Newly minted Ph.D.s and graduate students, at all stages, are welcomed and should come prepared to interact candidly with peers.

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- **AERA Division J Fireside Chat**

Division J's 2008 Fireside Chat will focus on, *Examining the Civic Responsibility of Higher Education-Multiple Methods and Shared Goals*. In the midst of graduate student life, seemingly filled with endless paper writing, job searches, and professional development; commitments to civic engagement or political activism often grow cold or remain untapped. This informative session promises to spark those latent inclinations with a panel of higher education scholars who, from multiple perspectives will share their view on the civic responsibility of higher education communities and institutions. Additionally, speakers will share practical tips on how graduate students can be civically engaged in their personal and professional lives. Session speakers include: Dr. Walter R. Allen, University of California, Los Angeles, Dr. Dwight E. Giles, Jr. University of Massachusetts Boston, and Dr. Glynda Hull, University of California, Berkeley.

- **AERA Division J Graduate Student Social**

Finally, it wouldn't be a conference without the opportunity to network and socialize with fellow peers at other institutions of higher education. Division J plans to host a social in the city where graduate students can grab a snack and relax with colleagues. The date, location, and time are to be announced. Check the Graduate Student Resource Center for specifics.

Opportunities to network with senior colleagues in the field are not to be over shadowed by the opportunity for graduate students to meet other students. Don't hesitate to walk up to senior scholars after reading their name tag and recalling their most recent article. Networking at conferences is almost as important as presenting. Don't be afraid to share your research interests, but be able to describe them succinctly. You never know whose research interests will jive with yours and how opportunities will present themselves. The same rule applies if you are presenting, keep your remarks succinct and focused. Audience members don't need to be bogged down with the details of your project and will appreciate time left for questions. Presenting at conferences as a graduate student not only prepares you for the academic track but provides an opportunity to receive feedback on your current research by scholars outside of your committee, take advantage! There are lots of activities going on at AERA's Annual Meeting but don't forget to make some time to enjoy the Big Apple as well as the "big" conference.

Program Committee Report

Program Chair, Christopher Morphew, University of Georgia



The program for Division J has been finalized. As usual, the proposal process was quite competitive. Because of the space constraints that accompany a New York City location for the annual meeting, Division J, like other sections, was given fewer spaces than in 2007. In all, we were allocated 69 substantive sessions for our 622 proposals, compared with 77 substantive sessions and 615 proposals in 2007.

The breakdown by section for the 622 proposals was as follows: students (255 or 41%), faculty, teaching and learning (138 or 22%), economics and finance (40 or 6%), organization and management (57 or 9%), and society, culture and change (132 or 21%). Sections were allocated sessions based on these percentages.

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The table below breaks out proposals by type and provides data on the acceptance rate for each proposal type.

| Proposal Type | Submissions | Accepted (Percentage) |
|--|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Research/scholarly papers | 451 | 232 (51%) |
| Symposia | 43 | 13 (30%) |
| Individual Papers (formerly roundtables) | 80 | 46 (58%) |
| Posters | 48 | 45 (94%) |
| Total | 622 | 336 (54%) |

As is always the case, the program could not have been constructed without the diligence of the program committee members. We all owe them a vote of thanks. They are:

Section 1: Students

Nathaniel Bray
University of Alabama

Crystal Muhammad
East Carolina State University

Section 2: Faculty, Teaching, and Learning

Lois Trautvetter
Northwestern University

Diane Dean
Illinois State University

Section 3: Economics and Finance

Marvin Titus
University of Maryland

Karri Holley
University of Alabama

Section 4: Organization and Management

Audrey Jaeger
North Carolina State University

Michael Bastedo
University of Michigan

Section 5: Society, Culture, and Change

Jenny Lee
University of Arizona

Kris Renn
Michigan State University

Thanks also should go to our graduate student representatives, Cassandra Lewis, University of Maryland, and Lisette Montoto, University of Georgia

The sessions below have been sponsored by Division J and represent our best attempts to bring particularly conference theme-relevant and timely topics to the attention of the Division J membership.

Division J Sessions

- Building a Culture of Evidence in Community Colleges: Lessons from Recent Research. *Chair: Thomas Bailey, Columbia University*
- Los Angeles Urban Youth: Voices of Change, Practices of Empowerment. *Chair: William Tierney, University of Southern California*
- The Media and Higher Education Researchers: Toward Better Communication. *Chair: Christopher Morphey, University of Georgia*
- Transitioning to Early Career Experiences. *Chairs: Cassandra Lewis, University of Maryland; Lisette Montoto, University of Georgia*

Dissertation of the Year Committee Report Katherine Chaddock, University of South Carolina

Dr. Christopher P. Loss, Assistant Professor at Vanderbilt University, has been named the winner of the Dissertation of 2007 Award by AERA-J for his dissertation, "From Democracy to Diversity: The Politics of American Higher Education in the Twentieth Century." Dr. Loss completed his Ph.D. in Higher Education and Ph.D. in History in 2007 at the University of Virginia.

The AERA-J dissertation award committee, chaired by Dr. Katherine Chaddock, University of South Carolina, received a 500 percent increase in nominations this year over last year. Each committee member read 37 dissertation abstracts and nomination letters, as well as four finalist dissertations. The three runners up and the institutions where they completed their Ph.D. work are: Dr. Stella Flores, Harvard University; Dr. Samuel Museus, Penn State University; and Dr. T. Elon Dancy, Louisiana State University.

Dr. Loss's work, a social history of U.S. higher education in the twentieth century, is an innovative approach that demonstrates the influence of higher education in shaping citizenship and democratic representations through intersections alternately with adjustment and diversity philosophies and with military and civilian life. Committee members were impressed with not only its meticulous research, but its sweeping scope.

Dr. Loss will present a session on his award winning dissertation at the AERA conference in NYC, Tuesday, March 25, 12:25 pm, at the Marriott Marquis Times Square, Shubert Complex, Royale Room, 6th Floor. An abstract of Dr. Loss's dissertation can be found [at the Division J website](#).

Conference Tips Linda Hagedorn, University of Florida

Tips for the meeting.

My number 1 tip is NOT to drive to the conference. I remember driving to San Diego (I lived in Los Angeles) thinking that it would be better than spending \$200 on airfare plus cabs to and from the airport. What I did not plan on was the exorbitant parking charges that the conference hotels charge! I believe it was something like \$25/day and I was at the conference for 6 days! Adding the price of gasoline and my time quickly indicated that driving was NOT a good idea.

Number 2 tip: Be prepared to walk! Sessions are across multiple hotels. Bring comfortable shoes, an umbrella, and gloves (New York weather can be a bit uncertain).

Number 3 tip: Collect the cell phone numbers of friends and colleagues prior to leaving for AERA. The conference is very large and you will NOT just see folks in the halls.

Number 4 tip: Go to different types of sessions, learn a great deal, and come home invigorated.

Announcements

- T. Elon Dancy (Ph.D., Louisiana State U.) has joined the U. of Arkansas-Little Rock Higher Education program as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Higher Education and Student Affairs, and can be reached at [<tedancy@ualr.edu>](mailto:tedancy@ualr.edu).

- Mark Fincher (Ph.D., U. of North Texas) has joined the U. of Arkansas-Little Rock Higher Education program as an Associate Professor to lead the MA program in Community College Teaching and the Ed.D. concentration in Two Year College Leadership. He can be reached at [<mefincher@ualr.edu>](mailto:mefincher@ualr.edu).

Patricia Marin & Catherine L. Horn, Editors, Forthcoming May 2008
Realizing Bakke's Legacy: Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity, and Access to Higher Education.
Published by Stylus Publishing.

Two messages re: the ASHE Higher Education Monograph Series edited by Kelly Ward (kaward@wsu.edu), Washington State University Lisa Wolf-Wendel (lwolf@ku.edu), University of Kansas

1. ASHE Monographs are great teaching materials, and informative research tools and valuable resources for practitioners and administrators to have available on their bookshelves. ASHE members are entitled to a 20% discount on subscriptions (Use code N5 ASHE) and a 15% discount on individual monographs (use code NDDBJ). To get the discount one needs to order the monographs by telephone at: **1-888-378-2537** (toll-free).

The ASHE Monograph Series proud to announce the release of FOUR NEW VOLUMES:

Evans, A., & Chun, E.B. (2007). *Are the walls really down? Behavioral and organizations barriers to faculty and staff diversity.*

**This monograph won the 2007 Kathryn G. Hanson Publication Award for the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources.

Ream, T.C., & Glanzer, P.L (2007). *Christian faith and scholarship: An exploration of contemporary developments.*

Walpole, M. (2007). *Economically and educationally challenged students in higher education: Access to outcomes.*

Hu, S., Scheuch, K., Schwartz, R., Gaston Gayles, J., & Li, S. (2008). *Reinventing undergraduate education: Engaging college students in research and creative activities.*

A fifth volume is currently in production and will be issued this spring:

Wartman, K.L., & Savage, M.B. (Forthcoming). *Parent involvement in higher education.*

Gallant, T.B. (Forthcoming). *Academic Integrity.*

For a complete list of currently available monographs, go to: <http://www.josseybass.com/go/aehe>

For information about titles in Volume 33, and for the most currently information about titles in production, go to the ASHE Higher Education Report website at: <http://www.ashe.ws/?page=176>

2. DISCUSSION PROPOSAL IDEAS: The ASHE monograph series invites proposal submission topics related to higher education. Monographs are designed to analyze and synthesize research and practice related to critical issues facing higher education. Proposal guidelines are available on the Jossey Bass website. Kelly Ward and Lisa Wolf-Wendel, co-editors of the monograph series, will be available during AERA in New York City to meet with prospective authors to discuss proposal ideas. Additional information about submitting a proposal can be found at: <http://www.josseybass.com/WileyCDA/Section/id-252137.html>

Membership Update

Virginia Stead, OISE/University of Toronto

Virginia reports that as of March 2008, Division J has 1,872 members in total.

Conference Announcement

The 4th International Conference on Research in Access and Developmental Education will be held from September 24-27, 2008 at the Condado Plaza Hotel in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The conference, held only once every five years, is sponsored by the National Center for Developmental Education. Expected attendance is 400. The Call for Proposals deadline has been extended to April 30, 2008. Details about the conference and online submission forms are accessible at www.ncde.appstate.edu.

2007-08 Division J Officers

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