



**the PEN**

***Postsecondary Education Network***

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*Christopher C. Morphew, University of Kansas, Editor*

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## **Vice President's Address**

Jan Lawrence, University of Michigan

Greetings!

The past year's activities of AERA can be characterized by a single word, change. The leadership within the central office is settling in, administrative procedures are being clarified and specified, and Association priorities are being established. You likely noted during the past year that AERA was proactive on several key educational issues, including the University of Michigan affirmative action case and the Department of Education's statements about research methodologies. AERA also initiated a publication series designed as "expert briefs" for Washington policy makers. Under Felice Levine's stewardship, I anticipate greater priority will be given to such initiatives.

Now the AERA central office staff members have experienced their inaugural Annual Meeting changes are being implemented, ranging from the technology used to support planning to the more rudimentary allocation of session slots. Thanks to our Division J Program Committee, co-chaired by Eric Dey and Jeff Milem, Division J moved smoothly through the transition year and the 2003 Annual Meeting provided a rich and diverse set of presentations. And, thanks to Lisa Wolf-Wendel, Barbara Townsend and Kelly Ward, our special Division sessions for graduate students and new faculty were very successful.

With the AERA Council clarifying governance procedures, including the division of labor between the central office and divisions, now is an opportune time to revisit our Divisional J Bylaws. As I noted at the Chicago Business Meeting, I will be working with the Division J Council to draft revisions and post them for member approval.

Thanks to everyone for your continued involvement in AERA and for your patience as we go through a "shake down cruise" with all our new policies and practices. I look forward to working with you in the coming months on issues related to the governance of Division J.

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## **Update on the Program**

Greetings from Athens, Georgia and the Institute of Higher Education at the University of Georgia.

On behalf of the Division J program committee for the 2004 AERA annual meeting in San Diego, I would like to formally thank all of those who sent in proposals and our colleagues who volunteered as reviewers, discussants, and chairs. The program committee will meet here in Athens on October 10-11-12 to finalize the program. The five section chairs will complete their work at the beginning of October, reviewing the reviews and crafting sessions for the program. Those of you who submitted proposals should hear from the committee by late November. We have never had more submissions or a better set of them -- and the committee is enjoying the task of shaping a relevant and engaging program.

The theme of the AERA 2004 meeting is *Enhancing the Visibility and Credibility of Educational Research*. Within the theme are three strands: (1) Brown v. Board of Education -- 50 Years Later; (2) Teacher Learning and Development; and (3) Justifying Evidence-Based Claims. Division J has arranged to co-sponsor an AERA-wide session on the roles of social science research and expert witnesses in desegregation cases. And the major lectures this year at AERA are by Jeannie Oakes (Presidential Professor and Director of the Institute for Democracy, Education, and Access at UCLA) and Gloria Ladson-Billings (Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison).

Within Division J, we can look forward to Jan Lawrence's vice presidential address and a special invited session within each of the five sections: students (Kelly Ward and Lisa Wolf-Wendel, chairs); faculty, curriculum, and research (Chris Golde, Alex McCormick, and Berta Vigil Laden, chairs); teaching, learning, assessment, and evaluation (Greg Dubrow and Kevin Kinser, chairs); governance, management, policy, and politics (Christopher Morphey and Scott Thomas, chairs); and society, culture, and change (Matt Hartley and Adrianna Kezar, chairs). In the next Pen, I will have more to say about each of these invited sessions and other highlights of the 2004 AERA program for Division J.

Finally, as program chair, I would like to recognize the exceptional effort of the section chairs on behalf of us all as an academic field. Thank you, one and all.

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## **News of Division J'ers Moving on and up**

Marvin Titus, from the University of Maryland, is now Assistant Professor of Higher Education at North Carolina State University.

Crystal Muhammad, from the University of Virginia, is now Assistant Professor of Higher Education at North Carolina State University.

John Levin, formerly the Dallas Herring Distinguished Professor at North Carolina State University, is now the Joseph Moore Distinguished Chair at North Carolina State University.

Darnell Cole, assistant professor at Marquette University, has been appointed associate professor at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Linda Johnsrud, professor at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, has been appointed interim Associate Vice President for Planning and Policy for the University of Hawaii system.

Jeni L. Hart is now an assistant professor of higher education at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Frank L. Christ, Visiting Scholar at the University of Arizona and Adjunct Professor of Educational Leadership at Grambling State University, has co-authored a new book, *100 Things Every Online Student Ought to Know* (Cambridge Stratford Press). Details of the book can be viewed at [http://www.cambridgestratford.com/online\\_learning/](http://www.cambridgestratford.com/online_learning/).

Pen readers may be interested in an interview that was published in the last issue of the Futures Research Quarterly where James Morrisson responded to questions about his speech at the 2002 World Future Society meeting titled, "The University is Dead! Long Live the University!" The article is available at <http://horizon.unc.edu/conferences/interview.asp>.

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If you have something you think would be appropriate for a future issue of *The Pen*, please email it to the editor at [morphew@ku.edu](mailto:morphew@ku.edu).