

Spring 2009

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



(photo: greg dubrow)

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

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

Thanks

As the Annual Meeting approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the AERA Division J members who devote substantial amounts of time to make the division work smoothly over the past year.



First and foremost, Kris Renn and her program committee have put together an excellent program. It seems like only a short time ago that the program committee came together in Kansas City to sort through the hundreds of submissions (See Kris's report.). Beautiful fall weather and hospitality provided by Juan Carlos González and the University of Missouri at Kansas City allowed us to get our work done and have a little fun too. It is easy to take for granted the work of the program committee (and hundreds of volunteer reviewers) in identifying and giving stage to the emerging scholarship and knowledge in our field. We owe them all a debt of gratitude for so freely giving of their time to take on this role.

Karri Holley and Amy Wells have put together yet another high quality Emerging Scholars Workshop. Karri and Amy will show up on Saturday before the Annual Meeting begins (in some cases on their own dime) to run this workshop for 30-50 advanced doctoral and beginning faculty members.

Our graduate student representatives, Lisette Montoto, University of Georgia, and Pelema Morrice (University of Michigan) have been great to work with. They do everything from plan Annual Meeting sessions for Division J graduate students to setting up meetings for the Division J Council. As the senior graduate student representative Lisette attended the AERA Coordinated Committee Meeting in DC in October to represent Division J on the AERA Graduate Student Council. Pelema attended the Division J program committee meeting in October and was put to work immediately. Finally, they conducted a search for a new graduate student representative to replace Lisette who is finishing her term. Among the excellent applications received, they recommended Bryan Gopaul, doctoral student at the Ontario

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Vice President's Message – continued...

Institute for Studies in Education. Bryan will be joining us in San Diego and is looking forward to contributing to Division J.

For the first time this year, Division J is providing graduate student travel grants to attend the Annual Meeting. James Minor (chair), Sharon Fries-Britt and Lisette Montoto established and ran the selection process and they deserve thanks for taking on this important function.

Ben Baez chaired the Outstanding Dissertation Award Committee and Lisa Wolf-Wendel chaired the Awards Committee. Recognizing excellent work is an important function of any scholarly association and Ben and Lisa, and their respective committees, do outstanding service for the Division.

Lots of other volunteers have provided valuable assistance during the year. Greg Dubrow puts together an excellent Pen. I am not sure anyone realizes how much work this is. Not only does Greg solicit contribution but he always formats those contributions in a very visually appealing way. MaryBeth Walpole, our out-going secretary, has taken on the role of web coordinator for the division. An election committee consisting of Jillian Kinzie, Mary Beth Walpole and Pelema Morrice ran our recent election for Division J Council Member-at-Large. Linda Hagedorn is always available to provide advice and ably lead the nominations committee. Bill Rickards led the division's Annual Meeting evaluation and will do so again this year. Jerlando Jackson, Affirmative Action Chair, represents us well on the larger AERA Affirmative Action Council and provides important leadership for the Division on diversity matters. By joining AERA you all make Terrell Strayhorn's job of membership chair easy our membership has been going up. Keep it up. MaryBeth Walpole led the arduous task of revising the Division J bylaws, which have been submitted to AERA for their review. This is time intensive and detailed work and I am ever grateful that MaryBeth likes to do this kind of work.

Bill Tierney has served as Member-at-Large to the AERA Council and has provided me with invaluable insights into the workings of AERA.

Finally, Anna Ortiz is completing her term as Member-at-Large. Anna has been a wise and willing contributor to all Division Council conversations and actions. James Minor and Jillian Kinzie continue as Members-at-Large.

The Division is thriving thanks to the good work of all of these folks. When you see them at the Annual Meeting, please take a moment to say thanks.

PLEASE NOTE: The Division J Business Meeting and Social is Tuesday evening at 6:15. We requested an earlier night so that Division members could meet each other earlier in the week. Please attend. Looking forward to next year....

- The 2010 Annual Meeting is in Denver. Michael Bastedo, University of Michigan, is program chair. He has assembled an excellent committee. You will hear more from him in the coming weeks and months.
- Big changes are in the works for the Annual Meeting. The proposal due date is being moved up to July 15. We will be moving to review panels (not that much of a change for Division J). The number of poster sessions and roundtable sessions will be increasing—attend the session on posters—and the number of paper/symposia sessions will be decreasing slightly.

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Vice President's Message – continued...

- Stay tuned for more details from Mike and me regarding the 2010 Annual Meeting. The divisional allotment of sessions is dependent on the number of submissions so keep submitting.
- Our budget is in very good shape thanks to increasing membership and a change in AERA's formula for funding divisions.
- Special initiative. We will be convening a panel of leading scholars in the field to plan an AERA handbook on postsecondary education. Felice Levine, AERA Executive Director, is supportive of us and will contribute to the meeting (financially as well as intellectually).

And finally, thanks to all Division J members for supporting the Division. See you in San Diego. If you can't make it this year, please stay in touch and plan to come to Denver in 2010.

Annual Meeting Program Committee Report Kristen Renn, Michigan State University, Division J 2009 Annual Meeting Program Chair

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

- 485 individual reviewers completed 1792 reviews for Division J. Of the 485 reviewers, 420 were from the US, 25 from other countries, and 40 did not indicate. Slightly over three-quarters of reviewers (374, or 77%) indicated having a doctoral degree, 104 indicated a degree before the doctorate (97 master's or other, 7 bachelors), and 7 did not indicate degree.
- Division J received 613 proposals in six sections. There were 440 individual papers, 62 posters, 46 symposia (session), and 65 paper discussions (roundtable) proposed.
- 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. Roundtable slots were separate from these allocations – as they are at the association level – and were handled as a division.
- We accepted 364 individual proposals and 20 symposia, for an overall acceptance rate of 63%. Final breakdown of accepted proposals: 230 individual papers, 134 posters, and 70 roundtables. Of the individual proposals accepted 68% were accepted in the submitters' first-choice format, others were accepted in another format deemed acceptable by the submitter (e.g., poster, roundtable) when he or she originally proposed the session.

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Program Committee Report, continued...

Division J Highlights

The program committee invited six sessions, carrying through the conference emphasis on interdisciplinary approaches to persistent issues in educational research and practice, highlighting the Division J Dissertation of the Year Award, and promoting discussion of ethics and the role of the poster as a means of scholarly discourse in education research. Sessions are:

1. (Un)Disciplined Inquiries Into the Role of Historically White Colleges and Universities (HWCUs) in Making Race and Nation (Tuesday, 10:35-12:05)
2. Affirmative Action, Democratic Deliberation, and Civil Rights: Understanding Ballot Initiatives and the Role of Researchers (Wednesday, 10:35-12:05)
3. "Here I Try to Be More Ethnic": Interdisciplinary Perspectives on College Students' Racial and Ethnic Identity (Tuesday, 8:15-10:15)
4. Division J Dissertation of the Year: Tami Lea Moore, "Placing Engagement: Critical Readings of Interaction Between Regional Communities and Comprehensive Universities" (Wed., 8:15-9:45)
5. New Considerations of Ethics and Misconduct in the Academy: Advancing Knowledge, Research, and Practice (Tuesday, 2:15-3:45)
6. Speed-Dating to Tenure: The Power of Posters in Educational Research (Thursday, 2:15-3:45)

Why an interactive session on posters? Because it's time to invigorate this means of scholarly discourse. Because we can do a lot better when it comes to communicating research in this format. And because future AERA annual meetings are likely to include fewer paper sessions and more poster sessions. Bill Tierney, Zoe Corwin, Kristan Venegas, and Ronald Edward Hallett have planned an interactive, innovative session designed to help us make better, more effective posters.

The Division J Business Meeting and Reception – always a good place to find familiar faces and connect with fellow postsecondary researchers – is Tuesday, 6:15-7:45.

Our hardworking Graduate Council representatives Pelema Morrice and Lisette Montoto have organized the Division J Graduate Student Fireside Chat: Inquiry in Higher Education: From the Discipline to the Field and Back Again, featuring Philip Bowman, Marybeth Gasman, and Bill Tierney (Thursday, 12:25-1:55)

Many Thanks To:

The program committee works hard, largely behind the scenes, to recruit reviewers, assign proposals, evaluate reviews, and make decisions. For the 2009 program, these hardworking colleagues are:

Section 1: College Student Learning and Development: Jane Pizzolato (UCLA) and Terrell Strayhorn (University of Tennessee)

Section 2: College Student Access, Success, and Outcomes: Juan Carlos Gonzalez (University of Missouri-Kansas City) and Shouping Hu (Florida State University)

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Program Committee Report, continued...

Section 3: Organization, Management, and Leadership: Michael Bastedo (University of Michigan)

Section 4: Faculty, Curriculum, and Teaching: Audrey Jaeger (North Carolina State University) and Pilar Mendoza (University of Florida)

Section 5: Policy, Finance, and Economics: Brad Curs (University of Missouri-Columbia) and Kimberly Rogers (Jobs for the Future)

Section 6: Society, Culture, and Change: Tara Parker (University of Massachusetts-Boston) and Patricia Marin (University of California-Santa Barbara)

Division J VP Susan Twombly was enormously supportive, Juan Carlos Gonzalez and his colleagues at UMKC hosted our program committee meeting, Grad Student representative Pelema Morrice went above and beyond the call of duty, and Affirmative Action committee chair Jerlando Jackson contributed to program decisions. I appreciate the good work of all of these colleagues, as well as the 485 reviewers, and proposal submitters.

Awards Committee Report

Lisa Wolf-Wendel, University of Kansas

It is with great pleasure that the AERA Awards Committee of Division J announce the winners of this year's awards. The exemplary research award goes to Barbara Townsend at the University of Missouri. The decision of the awards committee was unanimous.



AERA is pleased to make the award to Dr. Barbara K. Townsend. Barbara will be unable to attend the awards committee this year so we wish to recognize her via the PEN.

In making the selection, committee members said the following about Barbara Townsend:

"My vote is for Barbara Townsend because she has innovated new research foci in higher education, provided stellar service to her professional associations, served in prominent roles in the field (e.g., key journal editorships and presidencies), and have done all these activities well for 25 years. In my opinion, researchers do more than simply generate research, but rather they support it, nurture new researchers, and help to

facilitate the dissemination of it. It is the constellation of these activities that make Dr. Townsend my choice for the AERA Division J Exemplary Researcher Awardee."

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Awards Committee Report continued...

"My choice for the Exemplary Research Award is Barbara Townsend. I consider her work on community colleges and gender roles in higher education to be important, informative, exhaustive, and exemplary."

"Townsend's work has clearly had a profound impact on community college research."

"Barbara Townsend is the best choice for this award. She epitomizes what the award means and she has given so much to the field that it is time to recognize her."

"Her research on community colleges has set a standard in the profession that other scholars use as a benchmark of quality research. One can not investigate the topic of community college transfer or women's roles in community colleges without coming across the research she has done. Her work serves as a foundation upon which others have built and expanded research about community colleges. The high quality of her research and her attention to detail regarding theory, research design, and analysis all make her work exemplary."

The second award given by the AERA Division J Awards Committee will be given at the AERA Business Meeting. The Outstanding Publication Award is given to Saran Donohoo from Southern Illinois University for her publication titled, "Reflections on race: Affirmative action policies influencing higher education in France and the United States." The article was published in February 2008 in the Teachers College Record, volume 110, number 2.

The award ceremony will be held at AERA during the Division J Business Meeting (6:15 to 7:45) in San Diego at the Convention Center (Ballroom 6C) on Tuesday April 14th. We hope everyone will join us there.

I wish to thank the Awards Committee for their hard work and dedication to task. The committee members included: Fran Stage, Jim Hearn, Laura Perna, Jerlando Jackson, Deborah Worley, Vasti Torres, Vicki Rosser & Michael McLendon.

Division J Graduate Student Report

Lisette Montoto, University of Georgia, Pelema Morrice, University of Michigan

Division J Graduate Students in San Diego, America's Finest City

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.

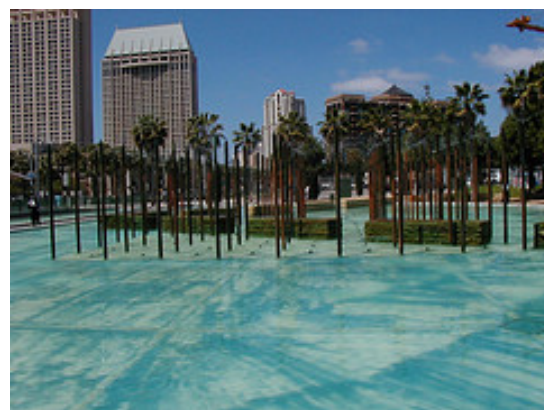


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Graduate Student Report continued...

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 Lisette Montoto (University of Georgia), current junior representative Pelema Morrice (University of Michigan) and incoming junior representative Bryan Gopaul (University of Toronto). 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 2009 Annual Meeting holds many opportunities for Division J graduate students, among them are a pre-conference seminar, a dissertation 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 *Disciplined Minds: Developing Academic Careers in the Circle of Knowledge* from April 12-13, 2009 coordinated by Karri Holley, Assistant Professor, University of Alabama and Amy Wells, Associate Professor, University of Mississippi. 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, Dissertation Session for Graduate Students**
Division J will be sponsoring a special session honoring the Division J dissertation of the year winner, and creating a forum to discuss how to write an award winning dissertation. Members of the selection committee will also share their perspectives on what makes an outstanding dissertation. Graduate students will be able to interact with Moore and receive advice for their own dissertation journey. Division J Dissertation of the Year Award, Wednesday April 15th, 8:15am-9:45am, San Diego Convention Center, Room 14B.
- **AERA Division J Fireside Chat**
Division J's 2009 Fireside Chat will focus on, *Inquiry in higher education: From the discipline to the field and back again*. This Fireside Chat will provide an opportunity for graduate students and higher education scholars to engage in a fruitful discussion about disciplined inquiry in the study of higher education. Many young scholars in higher education are often plagued with uncertainty regarding the role of disciplined inquiry in the study of higher education. The overarching question that many graduate students have is: How does disciplined inquiry influence my ability to forge a career as a future scholar? In addition, questions such as: How do I properly utilize disciplinary theory, what role will it play in my ability to conduct quality research, and how do I acquire sound professional training in disciplinary theory as a graduate student in higher education? These and other essential questions will be addressed in this forum that will help explicate the importance of disciplined inquiry in higher education. Please join our panel of select higher education scholars with both formal training in the disciplines and higher education, as they discuss the importance of building a sound foundation of disciplined inquiry during your graduate career. Session speakers include: Dr. Phillip J. Bowman, University of Michigan, Dr. Marybeth Gasman, University of Pennsylvania, and Dr. William G. Tierney, University of Southern California. Thursday, April 16th, 12:55-1:55pm, San Diego Convention Center, Room 8.

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Graduate Student Report continued...

- 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 where graduate students can grab a snack and relax with colleagues. The social will be on Wednesday, April 15th at 4:30pm, location TBA. 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 San Diego as well as the conference.

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

We are pleased to announce that the winner of the 2008 Outstanding Dissertation Award from AERA-Division J is Tami Lea Moore, "Placing Engagement: Critical Readings of Interaction Between Regional Communities and Comprehensive Universities," Washington State University. Tami's dissertation was directed by Kelly Ward and Dawn Shinew. The two other members of Tami's committee were Jose Alamillo and David Greenwood.

The committee received 32 nominations for the award this year. We were very impressed with the nominations, and in the initial stage of our review, we reviewed all the abstracts and letters of nominations. We narrowed our list to five finalists, who submitted their entire dissertations. We began our reviews in December and completed them in January. I wish to thank the committee for its hard and difficult work. The committee consisted of: Benjamin Baez, Florida International University (chair); James Antony, University of Washington; Amy Bergerson, University of Utah; Beverly Bower, University of North Texas; Katherine Chaddock, University of South Carolina; Mary Grimes, South Carolina State University; Philo Hutcheson, Georgia State University; Barbara Johnson, Northern Illinois University; Valerie Lundy-Wagner, University of Pennsylvania (student representative); Roland Mitchell, University of Alabama; and Scott Thomas, Claremont Graduate School.

In addition to Dr. Moore's dissertation, the committee selected four other finalists: Todd Andrew Berry, "The Role of Social Capital in Human Capital Investment: A Social Network Approach to College Success in the First Year," University of Wisconsin-Madison; Nathan J. Daun Barnett, "Preparation and Access: A Multi-level Analysis of State Policy Influences on the Academic Antecedents to College Enrollment," University of Michigan; Andrew Karl Koch, "Rage Against the Machine: The University-Military-Industrial Complex and Contemporary American Culture and Democracy," Purdue University; and Negar Farakish, "Educating the Academically Underprepared: Practices of Community College Instructors Credited with Success in Teaching Developmental Reading/Writing," Teachers College, Columbia University.

These were all excellent dissertations. The committee selected Dr. Moore's dissertation for the award because it most represented to it excellence in advancing the field, in making use of innovative methods, in integrating research and theory, and in offering particularly insightful implications for practice and research. We wish to congratulate Dr. Moore, the other finalists, and their committees, for making excellent contributions to the literature.

Emerging Scholar's Workshop, Karri Holley, University of Alabama

The 2009 Division J Emerging Scholars Workshop will be held Sunday, April 12 and Monday, April 13 in San Diego. Thanks to the support of the workshop planning committee as well as the Division J leadership, we're excited to provide this professional development opportunity for advanced doctoral students as well as new faculty and higher education professionals. In keeping with the theme of the conference, this year's workshop focuses on "Disciplined Minds: Developing an Academic Career in the Circle of Knowledge."

57% of the participants are advanced doctoral students, while 26% work in leadership, administrative, or policy positions. The remaining participants are early career faculty in higher education programs, or faculty whose research interests include higher education. The program was designed to recognize the range of careers in higher education, and to provide support for writing, grant activity, work/life balance, and professional networking.

We thank the members of the planning committee for their support of this year's event:

- Benita Barnes, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- Danielle Joy Davis, University of Texas, San Antonio
- Marietta del Favero, University of New Orleans
- Frank Harris, San Diego State University
- Matthew Hartley, University of Pennsylvania
- Karri Holley, University of Alabama, co-chair
- Sharon McDade, American Council on Education
- Lisette Montoto, University of Georgia, Graduate student representative
- Cecilia Rios-Aguilar, University of Arizona
- Susan Twombly, University of Kansas/Division J vice-president
- Amy Wells, University of Mississippi, co-chair

The following sessions are included on the workshop schedule:

1. Writing for publication (Frank Harris, San Diego State University; Karri Holley, University of Alabama; Susan Twombly, University of Kansas)
2. Career development (Amy Wells, University of Mississippi; Paz Oliverez, Futuros Educational Corporation/University of Southern California; Greg Dubrow, University of California, Berkeley; Marietta del Favero, University of New Orleans; Cecilia Rios-Aguilar, University of Arizona; Michael Harris, University of Alabama)
3. Grant writing and research funding (Susan Gardner, University of Maine; Linda Hagedorn, Iowa State University; Jennifer Lindholm, University of California, Los Angeles)
4. Work/life balance (Kate Quinn, University of Washington; Jaime Lester, George Mason University; Margaret Sallee, University of Tennessee)
5. Research roundtables (Jennifer Delaney, University of Wisconsin, Madison; Jerlando Jackson, University of Wisconsin, Madison; Jay Dee, University of Massachusetts, Boston; Terrell Strayhorn, University of Tennessee; Timothy Reese Cain, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)