

Fall 2007

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



(photo: greg dubrow)

In this Issue:

Vice-President's Message
(pg. 1)

Emerging Scholar's
Workshop Announcement
(pg 2)

Announcements (pg. 3)

Editor's Note:

Yes, it's a bit of an abridged Pen this time around. One of my goals for Louisville is to drum up more pieces for a December issue. So don't be surprised when you see me that I make a pitch. And if you have ideas, feel free to talk to me about them.



Editor: [Greg Dubrow](#),
[University of California](#),
[Berkeley](#)



Colleagues have asked what being Division-J VP is like. I usually answer the question by contrasting AERA-J with the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE), the other scholarly association with which I am affiliated and the main scholarly association for those who study higher education. One obvious difference between Division-J and ASHE is that our division is merely one of 12 divisions within a very large organization. In May of 2007, AERA had nearly 28,000 members, up from 22,194 in 2001. Of those, 1,781 were members of Division J. Our membership has increased

by 500 since 2001 making ours a medium sized division, comparable to Division A, Administration, Organization and Leadership and Division B, Curriculum Studies. Our division is considerably larger than several other divisions. AERA has a large staff and a very shiny new office building at 1430 K Street, NW in Washington, DC.

For me the biggest difference is that AERA division VP's play two roles: one internal to the division and an external role as a council member within the larger AERA structure. Although divisions, including Division J, have by-laws by which they operate, many policies, such as what kind of awards are given, are determined by the AERA Council. As such, division VP's not only manage the internal processes (appoint good committee chairs, program chairs, etc) and provide leadership of the division but also represent the division's interests on the Council.

It's this latter role that is most different and most challenging. One learns very quickly that AERA has its own very specific language, processes, procedures—and yes, politics. As a new VP, I feel as if I have landed in the middle of an ongoing conversation being conducted in an acronymic-based foreign language. I am lucky to have Bill Tierney serving on the AERA Council as a member at-large. He has been able to fill me in a bit. I am sure by year three, I too will be sitting smugly at the Council table having fully mastered the language. Actually, the division VP's are all very nice and helpful, as is the AERA staff; and since AERA seems to meet a lot in Washington, we will probably get to know each other quite well.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

The external role has another dimension as well. In a few weeks, I will be attending a Think Tank meeting put together by NCES and AERA to consider some important questions related to national datasets. A number of other higher ed faculty members and colleagues from the policy arena will also be attending. To prepare for this meeting, I solicited feedback from a dozen or so scholars who use various national datasets.

So, this is what the first six months as Division J VP have been like.

In specific Division J business, the division membership will be electing a secretary-elect. This election is run by AERA. Linda Hagedorn, chair of our nominating committee has compiled a slate of outstanding candidates who have agreed to run for the position. Stay tuned for ballot information in an upcoming Ed Researcher. Division J will also be electing a new member at-large. That election will take place early in the new year.

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.

ACPA Commission for Admissions, Orientation, and the First Year Experience Announces Research Grant Competition

The ACPA- College Student Educators International Commission for Admissions, Orientation and the First Year Experience (AOFYE) invites applicants for their 2008 Research Grant Competition. The Commission will award one grant in the amount of \$500 to promote original, descriptive or evaluative research; philosophical studies; or institutional assessment or evaluation on issues surrounding admissions, orientation, and/or the first year experience. All ACPA members are eligible and encouraged to apply for this research grant. Research at all stages will be considered, although priority will be given to projects that are further along in the research process (i.e., recently or soon to be completed).

Award recipient(s) will be notified on or about March 3, 2008 and will be invited to receive their award at the Commission Business Meeting held during the 2008 ACPA Convention in Atlanta, GA, March 29-April 2. The application deadline is February 3, 2008. Details about the grant, including application procedures, are available at <http://www.myacpa.org/comm/aofye/awardsgrants.htm>

Announcements

[Pilar Mendoza](#) has joined the faculty of the Department of Educational Administration & Policy at the University of Florida as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Mendoza holds a bachelor's degree in physics from the Universidad de los Andes and a master's in the discipline from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She taught undergraduate physics and math at both universities before seeking her Ed.D. in Education Policy and Leadership from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She comes to UF from Oklahoma State University, where she served as an assistant professor in the Department of Educational Leadership.

Dr. Mendoza's research agenda focuses on the impact of market forces on the academic profession, graduate education, and production and transfer of knowledge; 2) the under-representation of women and other minority groups in science and engineering; and 3) state and federal student financial aid policies. Dr. Mendoza taught in her previous institution Critical Issues in Higher Education, the Impact of College on Students, and Resources for the Study of Higher Education. This semester she is teaching Theory and Assessment of College Environments and will teach in the spring semester the courses Diversity and Critical Issues in Higher Education.

[John Murray](#) has joined the faculty of California State University, Long Beach as Professor, Educational Psychology, Administration, and Counseling.

Alex McCormick will be the Director of the National Survey of Student Engagement, starting in January 2008. Alex has been a Senior Scholar at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching since 1998, where many of us know him for his work in revising the widely used classification system for colleges and universities.

[Patricia Marin](#) has joined the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education at the University of California, Santa Barbara as a researcher and lecturer.

[Becky Ropers-Huilman](#) has moved north to join the faculty at the University of Minnesota as a Professor in the Department of Educational Policy & Administration.

2007-08 Division J Officers

Vice President (2007-2010)

Susan Twombly

University of Kansas

stwombly@ku.edu

2008 Program Chair
Christopher Morphew
University of Georgia
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Dissertation of the Year Committee Chair (2007-2008)

Katherine Chaddock
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Nominating Committee Chair and Immediate Past Vice President
Linda Serra Hagedorn
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Membership Chair (2007-2008)
Virginia Stead
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At-Large Division J Council Member 1 (2004-2008)
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Evaluation Committee Chair (2007-2009)
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At-Large Division J Council Member 2 (2006-2009)
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Pre-Conference Mentoring Workshop (2008)
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Graduate Student Representative 1 (2006-2008)
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Affirmative Action Chair (2007-2010)
Jerlando Jackson University of Wisconsin – Madison
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