

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
MID-SOUTH EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION**

**CONTAINING THE ABSTRACTS OF DISCUSSION SESSIONS,
DISPLAY SESSIONS, SYMPOSIA,
AND TRAINING SESSIONS**

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**NOVEMBER 17-19, 1999
POINT CLEAR, ALABAMA**

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1999

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MSERA SESSIONS ARE OPEN ONLY TO MSERA MEMBERS WHO ARE REGISTERED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING. BADGES SHOULD BE WORN TO ALL SESSIONS TO ENSURE ADMISSION.

MSERA

The Mid-South Educational Research Association was organized on March 20, 1972, on the campus of The University of Mississippi. It is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to encourage quality educational research in the mid-south and to promote in the schools the application of the results of quality educational research. Any person who supports the purpose of the Association is eligible to join the Association.

MSERA Archives

Papers presented at the Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Educational Research Association are filed in the MSERA Archives at the Mitchell Memorial Library at Mississippi State University. Copies of papers may be obtained subsequently for a nominal fee by calling the Special Collections Room at the library at (601) 325-7680.

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Over the past 25 years I have become increasingly aware of the special characteristics of our membership in MSERA. When I served as Program Chair during Glennelle's year as President, as I assisted Dot Reed as Secretary/Treasurer when she was President, and as I assisted John Enger when he was President and I was Vice President, this truism became even more obvious. New and old members alike continue to come forward to assume roles to take MSERA to higher levels.

Although all of our members on whom I have called for assistance have willingly and effectively served, there are a few who have made truly outstanding contributions to our success.

Cliff Hofwolt, our incoming President, has been Mr. MSERA over the past four or five years. In his different leadership positions his commitment to quality and to the support of his fellow MSERA members have enabled him to perform his assigned and unassigned tasks at the highest level, but equally important he has assisted his fellow MSERA colleagues to perform their assigned duties at the highest level. He has certainly enabled me to serve you more effectively over the past several years.

Barbara Lewis, our Local Arrangements Chair, has coordinated our involvement with the Grand Hotel. This responsibility was extremely time intensive. She performed it with effectiveness and class.

Our entire University of South Alabama College of Education membership played a significant role in our successful year in MSERA. Jean Newman, our Local Arrangements Co-Chair, and Gahan Bailey, one of our Board members, made a number of important things happen this year. They both actively and effectively recruited new members and gained support for MSERA, especially in the South Alabama area.

Jerry Mathews, Membership Committee Chair, made herculean efforts to recruit new members. Working with this relatively new colleague at Auburn University and in MSERA has been a highlight of my tenure in MSERA and at Auburn University.

Judy Boser's volunteering to serve as our Program Chair was an act that positively affected us all. The program for our annual meeting is the heart of our organization. Judy and the Program Committee are to be commended for the superb program they have planned for us.

Our Co-editors of *Research in the Schools*, Jim McLean and Alan Kaufman, are to be commended for their fine work they continue to do with our journal.

David Morse's work to establish and maintain our MSERA Web site, which includes editing, adapting, and posting many of our documents on the Web, is proving to be invaluable as we increase our use of technology.

Nola Christenberry and Lynn Howerton have continued to improve the quality of our *MSERA Researcher*, which is our primary means of communication within the organization.

And, of course, John Petry's continuing service as editor of the *Proceedings*, particularly as this document has become Web based, is appreciated.

Dean Richard Kunkel of Auburn University and Dean George Uhlig of the University of South Alabama have made commitments to those of us who are MSERA members at these two institutions, to MSERA, and to educational research in the mid-south region by their generous support of our two receptions. Their contributions are most impressive and appreciated.

The list could easily go on and on with the contributions that other committee and Board members have made. As Dot Reed wrote a couple of years ago, the continued dedication to this organization by its members will keep "the spirit of MSERA," as Judy Boser called it, alive and the organization healthy.

On behalf of the entire leadership group, we thank you the members for the opportunity to have served. Glennelle and I both certainly consider it a high honor to have served MSERA as President. We thank you for your support and friendship.

Gerald Halpin, Auburn University
MSERA President, 1999



TABLE OF CONTENTS

MSERA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS, 1999	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	v
ABSTRACTS OF DISCUSSION SESSIONS, DISPLAY SESSIONS, SYMPOSIA, AND TRAINING SESSIONS (BY DAY AND SESSIONS)	1
Wednesday, November 17, 1999	1
Thursday, November 18, 1999.....	60
Friday, November 19, 1999	122
PAST PRESIDENTS OF MSERA	147
RECIPIENTS OF MSERA AND MSER FOUNDATION AWARDS	149
SITES OF MSERA ANNUAL MEETINGS	151
INDEX OF PARTICIPANTS	155

**ABSTRACTS OF DISCUSSION SESSIONS, DISPLAY SESSIONS,
SYMPOSIA, AND TRAINING SESSIONS
(BY DAY AND SESSION)**