

The Mid-South Educational Vol. 33 • No. 3
Researcher
August 2005

Membership Directory '05



**Upcoming
Annual
Meeting**

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA



Member States:

**Alabama, Arkansas,
Kentucky, Louisiana,
Mississippi, Tennessee**

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MSERA-Continuing Learning and Collaboration



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2005 Publications Editors

<i>MSERA Proceedings</i>	John Petry University of Memphis
<i>Research in the Schools</i>	Larry Daniels University of North Florida Anthony Onwuegbuzie University of South Florida
<i>The Researcher</i>	Mary Jane Bradley Lynn Howerton Arkansas State University
<i>MSERA Web Page</i>	David Morse Mississippi State University

I travel a bit. Actually, a number of people would say that's an understatement. I have opportunities to meet and learn from personnel in many state departments of education and health, probably about 30 in the last three years, mostly from folks responsible for ensuring the provision of early intervention and special education services to children and youth with disabilities. I am the Data Director for the National Center for Special Education Accountability Monitoring.

You might wonder what my traveling and role have to do with MSERA. What made me think about it is the wide variability in the use of data for decision making. For the most part data have been collected to report as part of legislative or federal requirements, not to make decisions. There seems to be a need to learn how to apply rules for making decisions from the data. And isn't that a part of educational research? It seems to me that a valuable tool is being able to actually use the data gathered to inform, whether that gathering be from our research readings, our practical job related data gathering, or a combination. The result it seems should be to turn the data into useful information and subsequently knowledge.

MSERA has been a wonderful opportunity for me to meet and learn from a wide array of researchers, statisticians, evaluators, administrators, and classroom educators in a variety of fields. In my role, I work with state agencies to make sense of the reams of "stuff" that are collected. What questions do we want to answer? Do the data we have answer those questions? How can we display the data? What questions are these data intended to inform - should we be collecting these data at all?

Accountability has had an increasingly large role in the educational landscape during the past five years or so and does not seem to be decreasing in importance.



Jane Nell Luster

NCLB identified specific goals and targets, although states had some leeway in definition. The reauthorized Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004) has built on the accountability emphasis by requiring states to develop six year State Performance Plans with goals and targets in specific areas. States are to collect and report on the performance of local agencies annually.

These acts are but two examples of states' needs to collect, analyze, report, and display data for the public. It highlights an increasing need for understandability and utility in the numbers that are reported and probably the need to consider comparability. I see MSERA members playing a leading role in collaborating to increase our skill and knowledge of data usage and ultimately research across institutions of higher education, states, and local provider agencies.

As we prepare to attend this year's meeting of MSERA in Baton Rouge, I challenge each of us to think about how we are developing our own skills and those of others to use data effectively for decision making. Let us look at our research and that of our colleagues and identify how we can increase the use of data for decision making.

— MSERA President
Jane Nell Luster

"Caught in the Web"

- About MSERA
- Downloadable Files
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- Contact Information
- 2004 Proceedings
- Deadlines
- Links to related sites and organizations
- Officers & Board Contacts

MSERA Website
www.ms-era.org

**The Mid-South
Educational Researcher**
Co-Editors: Mary Jane Bradley
and Lynn Howerton

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Keynote Speaker Program for 2005 Annual Meeting

MSERA is pleased to announce this year's luncheon features a group presentation entitled: *Improbable Research with Impossible Replicability and Irreproducible Results by Irresponsible Researchers*. This is a group of slightly irreverent, highly skilled, and definitely humorous MSERA members who are credited with previously presenting *-Irresponsible Research; Irresponsible Research with Irreproducible Results; and Improbable Research with Irreproducible Results by Irresponsible Researchers*. The luncheon presentation is organized by Walter M. Mathews, Evaluation Associates of New York. To learn a bit more, read on – because their own Improbable words can't be Reproduced and to try to use my own words would be Irresponsible and definitely could result in difficulties of Replicability:

The MSERA Blues, Ronald D. Adams, Western Kentucky University

As always, we will open with The MSERA Blues, performed by its composer. The Blues usually means that your wife and girlfriend ran away together in your pickup truck with your huntin' dawg...but in this case, the MSERA Blues has to do with the academic life we all share.

On Target with Research, or, How to Shoot Bent Arrows, Robert L. Kennedy, University of Arkansas at Little Rock
Troubled by bad research? Boost your efforts with these handy tips! Put your results on the spin cycle and wash the blues away. Let these ideas make you the hottest consultant on the block (randomized complete, or balanced incomplete). Attend now and put yourself on the path to success!

Research is Like a Box of Chocolates, William L. Deaton, Wears Valley, TN

Everything I know about research I've learned since being a member of MSERA. A 30-year review of research, researchers, advances and retreats is summarized in this presentation. Notable examples of humor in research are presented and discussed.

Announcements of Amazing Research Tools, Harry L. Bowman, Council on Occupational Education

This paper presents announcements of several research tools developed by a graduate student at a prominent state university in the Mid-South. The techniques include measurement of attitude fluctuation, performance of data analysis, and improvement of other selected research tools.

Is it a Purse or a Male Ditty Bag? An Interesting Application of Multiple Regression Analysis and Nanotechnology.

Robert Rasmussen, Louisiana State University System

This is a highly empirical analysis of research done on the streets of Gatlinburg, Tennessee during the last MSERA meeting - results will amaze and amuse. Only true educational researchers should attend; audience participation required.

The Secret Life of a Former MSERA President Who Left Educational Research for Greener Pastures, George W. Gaines, Silas Griffin B&B, Danby, VT

MSERA's second president left a promising career in educational research in 1976 for the lure of the "private sector." He returns to reveal what the tabloids refused to print: secret stories from his life as a marketing research professional.

Validity in Measurement Down the Bayou, Jean Krieger, Woodlake Elementary School, Mandeville, LA

In Louisiana folks are very careful with their measurement methods. Traditional and not-so-traditional means of measurement will be presented.

2005 MSERA Annual Meeting

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Baton Rouge offers diversity of culture, history and entertainment. It is the hub of all things in Louisiana and it epitomizes the natural beauty and fun that makes the state so unique. From antebellum homes to Cajun music to high-tech star gazing, you will find this charming jewel on the Mississippi to be full of wonders for the eye, ear, mouth, and soul.



The city has a myriad of offerings for visitors and sites that you just do not want to miss. The Main Street Market is one site of interest for many. Available there is an assortment of Louisiana-made art, crafts, and gifts, plus many fresh baked goods, produce, and food. A site to behold is St. Joseph=s Cathedral, a 150-year old church with beautiful stained glass and towering steeple. While in Baton Rouge, you will want to visit the Louisiana State Capitol, Louisiana=s old State Capitol located on a bluff overlooking the river, the U.S.S. Kidd, a restored World War II destroyer on the Baton Rouge riverfront, the Louisiana Art and Science Museum, Beauregard Town, the Old Governor=s Mansion, and Louisiana State University.

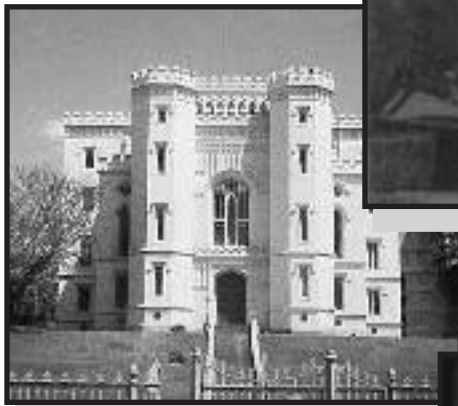


To view Louisiana=s wilderness visit Alligator Bayou for interactive entertainment designed to educate visitors about the environment, zoology and Cajun culture. Baton Rouge is also known for its unique cuisine. You may enjoy Cajun food, music, and dance at Boutin=s. If you do not want to miss any of the sites and activities available in Baton Rouge, you may customize a tour by using ATrip Planner@ at www.visitbatonrouge.com.



2005 MSERA Annual Meeting

Baton Rouge, Louisiana



Holiday Inn Select705

4728 Constitution Avenue

Baton Rouge, LA 70808

1-225-925-2244

www.hiselect.com/execenterbtr

Room rates:

Single/Double \$89;

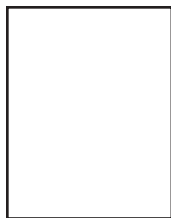
HOTEL RESERVATION DEADLINE

— **October 19** —

*Mention Midsouth
Educational for rate!*

For more information, visit the web at <http://visitbatonrouge.com/>

Keynote Speaker Program for 2005 Annual Meeting



William L. Sanders is manager of Value-Added Assessment and Research for SAS in School in Cary, North Carolina, and has a research affiliation with the University of North Carolina system. Previously director of the University of Tennessee Value-Added Research and Assessment Center, Dr. Sanders developed a research model which demonstrated that value-added educational outcome assessment can be measured fairly, objectively and without bias

from student achievement data by using statistical mixed-model techniques. Dr. Sanders also led the University of Tennessee's Statistical and Computing Services Unit and was the adjunct professor in the Department of Statistics within the College of Business Administration. Over the past 30 years, he has served as a statistical consultant and an advisor to the agricultural, manufacturing, engineering and development industries. Dr. Sanders received a doctorate in biostatistics and qualitative genetics from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

More information at <http://www.sas.com/govedu/education/evaas/bio.html>

Thank you for your support!

The Mid-South Educational Research (MSER) Foundation is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to support the functions and activities of the Mid-South Educational Research Association (MSERA), as well as to serve as a financial safety net for MSERA. MSER Foundation Plans for this year include contributing \$1000 to support graduate students and new member activities at the 2005 annual meeting, continuing to supplement the outstanding paper award by \$250, and continuing to support the costs of the MSERA web site, up to \$250, if requested by David Morse, webmaster. Thank you for the contributions that you have made in support of these activities!

If you would like to further support these activities, please consider making a donation when you renew or begin your membership, using the form provided in this issue of the Researcher. Donations to the MSER Foundation are fully tax deductible.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, feel free to contact Rob Kennedy (rlkennedy@uams.edu), John Petry (jpetry@memphis.edu), or any other Foundation Board member. Thank you for your support!

2004 Contributors to MSER Foundation

Charles M. (Chuck) Achilles
Ronald D. Adams
Scott C. Bauer
Dessa M. Beswick
Harold L. Bishop
Jack G. Blendinger
Harry L. Bowman
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John L. Burns
Nola J. Christenberry
Siham K. Elsegeiny
Renee C. Falconer
D. Lynn Howerton
W. C. Johnson
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Robert L. Kennedy
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Jane Nell Luster
Carl R. Martray
John R. Petry
Scott W. Snyder
William A. Spencer
Malenna A. Sumrall
Charlotte B. Tabereaux
Dana G. Thames
Johan W. van der Jagt

2004 MSERA Institutional Members

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Alcorn State University
Arkansas State University
Arkansas Tech University
Auburn University
Delta State University
East Tennessee State University
Eastern Kentucky University
Harding University
Henderson State University
Jacksonville State University
Louisiana State University
Mississippi State University
Murray State University
Northern Kentucky University
Our Lady of Holy Cross College
School Leadership Center of Greater New Orleans
Southern Adventist University
Tennessee State University
Trevecca Nazarene University
Western Kentucky University
Union University
University of Alabama
University of Alabama at Birmingham
University of Central Arkansas
University of Memphis
University of Mississippi
University of Montevallo
University of New Orleans
University of North Alabama
University of the Ozarks
University of South Alabama
University of Southern Mississippi

Graduate Student Corner

Hello Graduate Students!

We are looking forward to meeting with you in Gattlinburg. Be sure to get a copy of the Graduate Student Highlights Sheet at the registration table to make sure that you don't miss any of the special events that are planned for you.

We would like to reiterate our encouragement from the May issue of the Researcher and encourage you to get involved in the organization. You might want to begin by submitting for the special graduate student session for "Research in Progress." The purpose of this session is to provide the participants with feedback on research projects that are in various stages of planning and short of completion. The format of the session will follow that of a discussion session with additional time for feedback. If

you would like to present your research project in this session, do NOT use the MSERA submission website. Instead, please email an abstract (300 word max) of your research proposal to ghweems@ualr.edu. The deadline has been extended to July 14th and you will be notified in August as to the status of your submission.

We look forward to working with you this year and seeing you in Gattlinburg! Your Graduate Student Advisory Committee Co-Chairs,

Gail Weems (ghweems@ualr.edu),
 Pamela Broadston (pmbroadston@ualr.edu),
 and Sherry Shaw (slshaw@ualr.edu)

2005 MSERA Annual Meeting Registration

Baton Rouge, Louisiana • November 9-11, 2005 (Please print or type)

Name: _____

Institution: _____

Preferred Mailing Address: _____ Home _____ Work _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: _____

Work _____ Home _____

E-mail: _____

Directions: Circle one category below based on your membership status and time of remittance.

	Professional	Student
Pre-Registration for Meeting and Complimentary 2006 Membership:		
2005 Member Pre-registration (must remit by Oct. 1)	\$60	\$35
Non-Member Pre-registration (must remit by Oct. 1)	\$90	\$55
On- Site Registration for Meeting and Complimentary 2006 Membership		
2005 Member On-site Registration (after Oct. 1)	\$75	\$50
Non-Member On-site Registration (after Oct. 1)	\$110	\$75

Amount Enclosed: Registration \$ _____

MSER Foundation Contribution \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Your registration includes a luncheon and reception.

Do you plan to attend the Wednesday luncheon? _____ Yes _____ No

Do you plan to attend the Thursday reception? _____ Yes _____ No

New MSERA Member _____ Yes _____ No AERA member _____ Yes _____ No

Have you been a member of MSERA for at least 15 years? If so, please check here: _____

Make check payable to MSERA, and mail this form and check to:

MSERA Treasurer
Dennis Zuelke
P.O. Box 639
Jacksonville, AL 36265

Schedule of Events



2005 Annual Meeting
Holiday inn Select
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Mark Your Calendar!

2005 Deadlines:

- Sept. 14 Bowman Service Award Nominations
- Oct. 9 Pre-Registration due to MSERA Secretary/Treasurer
- Oct. 9 Hotel Reservations at \$89 rate

**2005 Annual Meeting
November 9-11
Holiday Inn Select
Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

**2006 Annual Meeting
November 7-9
Wynfrey Hotel Galleria
Birmingham, Alabama**

Gatlinburg Attractions



The Old Governor's Mansion



Main Street Market



Louisiana State University

THE RESEARCHER

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College of Education
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