

# History of the Mid-South Educational Research Association

*Historical snapshots of each year submitted by the outgoing presidents*

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## 1972: THE BEGINNING MISSISSIPPI TO MEMPHIS TO NEW ORLEANS, PRESIDENT WALT MATHEWS

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The Mid-South Educational Research Association was an idea conceived by Dr. Walter Mathews of the Department of Administration and Supervision of the University of Mississippi who asked the cooperation of Dr. Douglas McDonald, Director of Educational Research and Professor of education, at the same institution. Together, they called for a meeting at the University of Mississippi of personnel from institutions of higher learning, from state departments of education, and from larger school systems in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee. This meeting was made possible through a grant from the Graduate School of the University of Mississippi.

The first meeting was called to order in the Auditorium of the Education Building of the University of Mississippi on Monday, March 20, 1972 by Dr. Walter Mathews. There were 73 people representing institutions of higher learning, state departments of education, and elementary secondary schools, and 34 student members present from the five states. Dr. McDonald served as recorder for the first session. Dr. Ken Brunner from the Atlanta Regional Office of the United States Office of Education was present to give the keynote address at the luncheon meeting held in the Continuation Center at the University of Mississippi. The first group named temporary officers and committee chairmen to lay plans for the new organization as follows: Chairman Walter Mathews, University of Mississippi; Vice Chairman and Financial Officer Douglas McDonald, University of Mississippi; Executive Committee Alabama, Virginia Horns, University of Alabama in Birmingham; Arkansas Donald Wright, Arkansas State University; Louisiana Fred Smith, Louisiana State University; Mississippi Richard Kazelskis, University of Southern Mississippi; and Tennessee Thomas L. Reddick, Tennessee State University. After the selection of these officers, Chairman Mathews named the first program committee consisting of Charles Babb, Middle Tennessee State University; Fred Bellott, Memphis State University; and George Gaines, Louisiana State University at New Orleans. The first dues of the organization were set for \$2.00.

The purposes of the Association were outlined by members, using the interview technique of planning, as follows: "To provide an organization that will promote and encourage utilization of quality research in the region and its application in the schools." There were invitations from both Louisiana State University at New Orleans (now the University of New Orleans) and from Memphis State University to host the first program meeting set for November 9-11, 1972.

The first Planning Session following the initial meeting was called at Memphis State University on September 29, 1972. Fred Bellott called the meeting to order and presented Chairman Walter Mathews who presided over this first Planning Group with thirteen individuals present. Dr. Mathews discussed the proposed program for the conference which had been set for the Hotel Marriott in New Orleans for November 9-11, explaining that the Program Committee had moved ahead and solicited paper contributions with more than thirty papers accepted. Fred Bellott was appointed to be in charge of the evaluation of the first Conference, and he indicated that he would use the Krapp-Verner Scale and that

this evaluation would be done through the cooperation of the Bureau of Educational Research at Memphis State University. The first Constitution Committee was named to be headed by Douglas McDonald of the University of Mississippi.

In order to facilitate organization, the first Planning Committee proposed an organizational structure of a President, a Vice President, and a Secretary-Treasurer, with a Board of Directors to include one representative from each state included in the Mid-South Educational Research Association, and a representative from the elementary secondary schools and from the State Departments of education and four members-at-large. The Planning Committee declared itself to be the First Board of Directors. It also evolved itself into a nominating committee to submit a proposed slate of officers to the personnel of the first Conference, as follows: President Walter Mathews, University of Mississippi; Vice President George Gaines, Louisiana State University at New Orleans; Secretary-Treasurer Douglas McDonald, University of Mississippi; Directors: Alabama Virginia K. Horns, University of Alabama at Birmingham; Arkansas C. L. McLarty, Arkansas State University; Louisiana Eugene Johnsma, Louisiana State University at New Orleans; Mississippi Richard Kazelskis, University of Southern Mississippi; Tennessee Charles Babb, Middle Tennessee State University; Directors-At-Large Fred Bellott, Memphis State University; William Brooks, Jackson State University; Walter Cooper, University of Southern Mississippi; and Elementary/Secondary Schools Shirley M. Prather, Tupelo (Mississippi) Public Schools, and State Departments of Education Frank W. Canady, Arkansas State Department of Education. The secretary was given the responsibility of contacting the nominees and to conduct the election. Ms. Shirley Prather of the Tupelo (MS) Public Schools declined the nomination, and Elbert Brooks, Superintendent of the Nashville-Davidson County Public Schools of Nashville, Tennessee, accepted the nomination.

The secretary was named to look into the procedure for securing a charter for the organization. This approach was made to Dr. Robert Khayat, Professor of Law at the University of Mississippi, who drew up the first charter in November, 1972. This charter was accepted by the Secretary of State of the State of Mississippi on May 14, 1973.

At the first annual meeting held at the Marriott Hotel in New Orleans, there were a total of 55 people who attended the first Training Session conducted by George Gaines and Eugene Jongsma of Louisiana State University at New Orleans, including 30 college professors, 11 from elementary-secondary school systems, 5 from state departments of education, and 10 graduate students. This training session was held on Thursday, November 9, 1972. There was excellent participation with more than 60 papers presented at the first conference. Richard Dersheimer, Executive Secretary of the American Educational Research Association, gave the keynote address. A Constitution was proposed by the Secretary providing for an organizational plan of the organization as outlined by the Program Planning Committee held in March. Amendments were provided by recommendation of any member, provided "(1) he secures signatures of four other members to the proposed amendment, (2) submits this petition to the Board of Directors for action no less than six months prior to the Annual Meeting of the Association which must approve the Amendment by a two-thirds majority vote at a minimum of two meetings of the Board of Directors, and (3) submits the petition to the Association which must approve it by a two-thirds vote of the members attending and voting at the Annual Meeting of the Association."

A total of 230 people attended the first Annual Conference of the Mid-South Education Association. President Walter Mathews announced that a newsletter would be issued four times a year by the Secretary or Editor as the President may appoint.

In a letter dated December 21, 1972, sent to all officers and members of the Board of Directors by President Mathews, the statement was made "By all measures that in so far, we can say that the first annual meeting of MSERA was a success." He outlined the activities for each of the Directors and announced that the 1973 session was scheduled for the Albert Pick Motor Inn in Memphis on November 14-17, 1972. Fred Bellott of Memphis State University was named as Program Chairman for the 1973 Conference, assisted by Thomas L. Reddick of Tennessee Technological University.

## 1973: MEMPHIS, TN, PRESIDENT WALT MATHEWS

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The planning for the 1973 session took place at a Board Meeting held at the Marriott Motor Inn on Tuesday, February 27, 1973. President Walter Mathews discussed the direction of the organization, suggesting the possibility of having an area research project involving several institutions in the region, operation of tutorial training sessions, traveling to other institutions, publication of a journal, and conducting an area-wide assessment. A decision was made to discontinue a journal due to proliferation of journals in the area; the Board decided to continue the publication of a newsletter. Decision was made to alternate meetings between New Orleans on even-numbered years and other places on odd-numbered years. The membership by this meeting had reached a total of 485.

At the Board Meeting held on May 7, 1973 in the Dean's Office of Memphis State University, President Walter Mathews proposed a special interest group in the American Education Research Association in which the Mid-South Education Research Association would affiliate with regional and state organizations in educational research. Within the special interest group would be discussed problems such as naming a convention site, speakers' participation in program, and getting people to attend. President Mathews was serving as acting chairman of the group. The Mid-South Education Research Association Board voted to be the first to affiliate with the group.

At the second annual meeting held on November 14-17, 1973 at the Albert Pick Motor Inn in Memphis, Tennessee, exhibitors were invited on a limited basis. Membership in the organization increased to 547 members, although attendance at this meeting dropped to 200 with participation of more than 80 papers. The keynote speaker for this conference was Dr. Harry F. Silberman, Professor of Educational Psychology at UCLA and formerly associated with U.S. Office of Education. The report of the evaluation committee indicated a positive response for this conference although there was concern that it was down by 25 percent. Concern was expressed that a number of individuals presented papers without having registered at the conference. At the meeting Vice President George Gaines was elevated to the

Presidency and Fred Bellott of Memphis State University was named Vice President with Douglas McDonald continuing as Secretary-Treasurer. Named to the Board of Directors were Members-At-Large Michael Barry of University of West Florida, Dr. Elbert Brooks of Nashville-Davidson Metro Schools, Walter Mathews of the University of Mississippi, and Thomas L. Reddick of Tennessee Technological University; Board of Directors Elementary/Secondary Schools J. W. Stampley of Clarksdale Mississippi Public Schools; and State Department of Education Howell Todd, Tennessee State Department of education. Walter Mathews was outgoing President, and through an oversight of including the Immediate Past President as a member of the Board, he stood for election. At the February 16, 1974 Board Meeting held at the Universities Center in Jackson, Mississippi, the proposal was made to include the Immediate Past President on the Board of Directors, but this failed for approval. Michael Barry was the first person from outside the geographical area of the Mid-South Education Research Association to be elected to the Board.

## 1974: NEW ORLEANS, LA, PRESIDENT GEORGE GAINES

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At the Board meeting held in Jackson, decision was made to run the membership year from September 1 through August 31. Charles Babb was named as program chairman for the 1974 New Orleans conference scheduled for the Maison Dupuy located in the French Quarter of New Orleans. During the administration of George Gaines as President of the organization, great emphasis was placed on increasing membership in the organization from the elementary/secondary schools.

At the third annual meeting held at the Maison Dupuy in New Orleans on November 15-18, 1974, there were 274 people registered for the conference with four training sessions conducted along with presentations of more than 70 papers. Membership in the organization increased to 683 members. Officers named for 1974-75 included: President Fred Bellott, Memphis State University; Vice President Virginia K. Horns, University of Alabama at Birmingham; Secretary-Treasurer Ronald Partridge, University of Mississippi; Board of Directors Alabama Robert Bills, University of Alabama; Arkansas Jerry Robbins University of Arkansas at Little Rock; Louisiana John Newfield, University of New Orleans (note change in name from Louisiana State University at New Orleans); Mississippi Neil Amos, Mississippi State University; Tennessee Charles Babb, Middle Tennessee State University. President Bellott was concerned with the financial status of the organization. As dues were specified in the Constitution, proposal was to increase the registration fee from \$5.00 to \$15.00.

## 1975: JACKSON, MS, PRESIDENT FRED BELLOTT

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The 1975 annual meeting was held at the Holiday Inn Downtown in Jackson on November 9-11, 1975. President Fred Bellott began with a dinner meeting on Wednesday evening. There were 293 people

registered for the convention with four training sessions conducted, two symposia and a total of 79 papers. At the meeting, the following officers were named for 1976: President Virginia K. Horns, University of Alabama at Birmingham; Vice President Douglas McDonald, Delta State University; Secretary-Treasurer Ronald Partridge, University of Mississippi; Board of Directors-At-Large Jerry Ayers, Tennessee Technological University; George Gaines, University of New Orleans; Ove Jensen, Auburn University; and Walter Mathews, University of Mississippi; Board of Directors Elementary-Secondary Schools Curtis Summerlin, Jackson (Mississippi) Public Schools; State Departments of Education Jerry R. Hutchinson, Mississippi state Department of Education. An outstanding accomplishment of this conference was that the Association got on a sound financial basis as President Fred Bellott was able to get the Newsletter printed free of cost by his son and saw an increase in revenue. John Petry assumed the responsibility of publishing the Mid-South Educational Researcher.

## 1976: NEW ORLEANS, LA, PRESIDENT VIRGINIA HORNS

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During the 1976 administration of the first woman to assume the Presidency of MSERA, Virginia K. Horns of the University of Alabama at Birmingham held Board meetings in Birmingham. During the year a proposal was submitted to submit two names for every position except for the Presidency, which would automatically be filled by the Vice President elected the preceding year. This proposal received enthusiastic response from the Board of Directors and from the total membership. This was the first year that the American Educational Research Association Special Interest Group for Regional Organizations requested a representative from the Mid-South Educational Research Association to present a paper on the program. Robert Bradley of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock received the first recognition for his paper which was presented at the spring meeting of the AERA in 1977. This selection committee was headed by Vice President Douglas McDonald of Delta State University. Special recognition was given to Robert Bills of the University of Alabama.

At the conference of the Association held in the Hyatt Regency in New Orleans on November 21-23, 1976, President Horns initiated a wine tasting and cheese party which was to become an annual event of the conference. With five training sessions in operation, attendance was excellent. There were seven symposia, featured session (issues), one roundtable/rap session (conducted by Past President Fred Bellott), and 83 discussion/paper sessions. The keynote address for this conference was delivered by Stephen H. Ivens, Southern Regional Office, College Entrance Examinations Board, who discussed the topic "Grade Inflation and Score Decline or What Is the Temperature of the Water?" The evaluation of this conference was conducted by Robert Bills of the University of Alabama. John Petry of Memphis state University served as editor of the Mid-South Educational Researcher. Officers elected for 1977 included: President Douglas McDonald, Delta State University; Vice President Charles Babb, Middle Tennessee State University; Secretary-Treasurer Ronald Partridge, University of Mississippi; Board Members; Alabama James K. McLean, University of Alabama; Arkansas Jerry Robbins, University of

Arkansas at Little Rock; Louisiana John Newfield, University of New Orleans; Mississippi Neil Amos, Mississippi State University; Tennessee Harry Bowman, Memphis State University.

## 1977: BIRMINGHAM, AL, PRESIDENT DOUGLAS McDONALD

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Upon assuming the position of President of the Mid-South Educational Research Association, Douglas McDonald sought to revise the Constitution of which he was the original author. He appointed Harry Bowman of Memphis State University to provide revisions. Important in the revision was the decision to name the Immediate Past President as a member of the Board of Directors. This had been a previous practice not provided by the Constitution. In addition, discussion was given to removing connotation of gender from the Constitution, and Chairman Bowman was authorized to make changes as he saw fit. Provision was also made that since the Secretary is eligible for election, the President would announce the report of the nominating committee. There was a provision for an executive officer for the Association at such time as membership would indicate that such a person could be supported by the organization. Dewey English and Ove Jensen of Auburn University were named as editors of the Mid-South Educational Researcher. Robert Rasmussen of the LSU School of Dentistry in New Orleans was named as Program Chairman for the annual meeting. Vice President Charles Babb was named as Chairman of a committee to select Outstanding Paper. President McDonald prepared a brochure entitled "What is the MSERA?" which was adopted by the Board of Directors as the official publication in the recruitment of members. This brochure was sent to all members of the organization and to all colleges and universities in the area served by the Association. During the administrative year, the Louisiana Educational Research Association requested to become an independent affiliate of the Mid-South Educational Research Association. The request was submitted by the Executive Secretary of the Louisiana organization, and a member of the Mid-South Educational Research Association, Dr. C. Robert Blackmon of Louisiana State University. After a second consideration the proposal was accepted. Another unusual proposal came when a group from Kentucky under the leadership of J. Linward Doak of Eastern Kentucky University and Ronald Adams of Western Kentucky University requested inclusion of Kentucky in the MSERA region. The gentlemen who inquired for admission of Kentucky were given instructions as to proper procedure to follow requesting admission, which was filed by the time of the conference, but it had to be delayed in conformity with the Constitution. Of special concern under the McDonald administration was the receipt of a grant of \$93,325 from the Woman's Educational Equity Act for the purpose "to design, develop, and validate materials that will promote educational equity for women by providing inservice training for rural educators." Past MSERA President Walter Mathews administered the grant for the "Branch Out" program as the grant was termed.

The 1977 annual meeting was held at the Mountain Brook Sheraton Motor Inn in Birmingham on November 8-10, 1977 with more than 90 presentations, one featuring the "Branch Out" program under the direction of Walter Mathews. The president gave the first Presidential Address at any conference as he spoke on the topic "From the Past Into the Future in MSERA" which gave a brief history of the



organization and made recommendations for the future. Officers were elected in competition as two nominees were submitted to the Association for the first time. The competition for Vice President between Jerry Ayers of Tennessee Technological University and Robert Bills of the University of Alabama was extremely close, which indicated that there was more interest in the election. Officers named to serve from January 1 through December 31 as provided in the revised Constitution were: President Charles Babb, Middle Tennessee State University; Vice President Robert Bills, University of Alabama; Secretary Ronald Partridge, University of Mississippi; Directors-At-Large John Burns, Arkansas State University; Robert Rasmussen, LSU School of Dentistry, New Orleans; Ben Showalter, University of Alabama in Birmingham; Arlene Schrade, University of Mississippi; Director Elementary/secondary Schools Harriet Crump, Shelby County (Tennessee) Public Schools; Director State Department of Education William Tomlinson, Tennessee State Department of Education.

David Shoemaker of the U.S. Office of Education gave the keynote address, using the topic "Educational Applications of Matrix Sampling: Present and Future." The Outstanding Paper Award for 1977 was presented to Robert H. Bradley and Bettye M. Caldwell of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock using the topic "Home Environment, Learning Processes, and IQ." Jerry Ayers of Tennessee Technological University conducted the annual evaluation, with a statement in the evaluation report which had not appeared in previous evaluations as follows: "When respondents were asked to indicate their reason for attending the 1977 meeting, 75 percent indicated they attended the meeting for professional development or to show research and gain new ideas for research."

## 1978: NEW ORLEANS, LA, PRESIDENT CHARLES BABB

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Upon assuming the Presidency, Charles Babb appointed John Thornell and Douglas McDonald of Delta State University as co-editors of the Mid-South Educational Researcher. McDonald was also named Chairman of the committee to study the application of Kentucky into membership in the Mid-South Educational Research Association. There was considerable discussion regarding the matter as a thorough study was made. Some of the founders of the organization opposed the move and gave excellent reasons supporting their case. However, at the annual meeting held at the Maison Dupuy Hotel in New Orleans. on November 8-11, Chairman McDonald presented the case giving arguments pro and con regarding the move and then recommended the admission of Kentucky to the organization. The members of the Association gave unanimous endorsement of the move. At the 1978 session there were more than 100 presentations made at the conference. Officers elected at the conference included: President Robert E. Bills, University of Alabama; Vice President Harry L. Bowman, Memphis State University; Secretary-Treasurer Ronald Partridge, University of Mississippi; Board of Directors Alabama James E. McLean, University of Alabama; Arkansas Robert H. Bradley, University of Arkansas at Little Rock; Louisiana C. Robert Blackmon, Louisiana State University; Kentucky Ronald D. Adams, Western Kentucky University; Mississippi Herbert M. Handley, Mississippi State University; and Tennessee Charles M. Achilles, University of Tennessee.

## 1979: LITTLE ROCK, AR, PRESIDENT ROBERT BILLS

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During 1979, several committees appointed by President Robert Bills made noteworthy contributions to MSERA. The Constitutional Revision Committee under the leadership of Virginia Horns, University of Alabama at Birmingham, separated the Constitution and Bylaws to produce Bylaws setting forth the Association's operating procedures. A committee on Criteria for Presenters chaired by John Bums, Arkansas State University, proposed changes that were incorporated into the Call for Participation at the annual meeting, including publication of the criteria for evaluating proposals. The Long-Range Planning Committee was directed by James McLean, University of Alabama, to investigate concerns in the areas of the annual meeting, member services, organizational relationships, and publications. John Thornell, Delta State University, edited the Mid-South Educational Researcher while John Petry, Memphis State University, served as editor of the Proceedings.

The Hilton Inn in Little Rock, Arkansas, was the site of the 1979 annual meeting November 7-9. The program included approximately 250 participants and 140 presentations. The Outstanding Paper Award was presented to Charles E. Standifer, Monroe (LA) City Schools, and Embeds G. Maples, Northeast Louisiana University, for a paper on "Achievement and Attitude of Third-Grade Students Using Two Types of Calculators." Two nationally known speakers were on the program. Ralph Tyler from Science Research Associates delivered the keynote address on "Research in the Educational Arena." William Gephart, Director of the Center for Evaluation, Development, and Research, Phi Delta Kappa, conducted a featured session on "Practical Applications of Research." The officers elected for 1980 were the following: President Harry L. Bowman, Memphis State University; Vice President Neil Amos, Mississippi State University; Secretary-Treasurer Robert H. Rasmussen, LSU Medical center; Director, Elementary/Secondary Schools Harriet B. Crump, Shelby County (TN) Public Schools; Director, State Departments of Education Collin T. Ballance, Tennessee State Department of Education; Director-At-Large Frank B. Benson, Jr., Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University; Kenneth W. Brooks, University of Kentucky; Joan C. Carson, University of Mississippi; and Ronald Partridge, University of Mississippi.

## 1980: NEW ORLEANS, LA, PRESIDENT HARRY BOWMAN

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Under the leadership of Harry Bowman in 1980, the Association continued to explore ways to increase its service and impact the region. The Organizational Service Committee chaired by James McLean, University of Alabama, recommended and the Board approved the publication of a directory of members, possibly as part of the proceedings document for the annual meeting. After investigating the feasibility of an MSERA research journal, the Publications Committee headed by Robert Blackmon,

Louisiana State University, concluded that such an undertaking was not advisable at the present time. As a result of the work of the Archives Committee, chaired by Charles Achilles, University of Tennessee, the Board established repositories for the MSERA Archives at Mississippi State University and Louisiana State University. The state/Local Education Agency Committee under the leadership of Collin Ballance, Tennessee State Department of education, offered recommendations for increased involvement between the Association and public education agencies. Herb Handley, Mississippi State University, was named to complete the unexpired term of Neil Amos as MSERA Director, Mississippi. John Thornell, Delta State University, edited the Mid-South Educational Researcher and John Petry, Memphis State University, edited the Proceedings.

The 1980 annual meeting convened at the Maison Dupuy Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana, November 12-14. Approximately 215 presentations and 320 participants were on the program. The recipient of the Outstanding Paper Award was Ruth Bragman, Memphis State University, who authored a paper on "Deaf Children's Performance on Patter Recognition Tasks: Effects of Different Methods of Conveying Test Directions on Performance." The keynote address was delivered by Rear Admiral T. L. Malone, Jr., Chief of Naval Technical Training, Millington, Tennessee, on the subject, "Basic Skills Training in the Navy Environment." The 1981 officers who were elected at the meeting were the following: President Neil Amos, Mississippi State University; Vice President James McLean, University of Alabama; Secretary-Treasurer Robert H. Rasmussen, Louisiana State University Medical Center; Directors Alabama Gerald Halpin, Auburn University; Arkansas Robert H. Bradley, University of Arkansas at Little Rock; Kentucky Ronald Adams, Western Kentucky University; Louisiana Robert Blackmon, Louisiana State University; Mississippi Herb Handley, Mississippi State University; and Tennessee John Petry, Memphis state University.

## 1981: LEXINGTON, KY, PRESIDENT NEIL AMOS

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In 1981, President Neil Amos placed emphasis on expanding the membership of MSERA to include more personnel from the public education sector. A study of this concern by Harriet Crump, Shelby County (TN) Public Schools, and Collin Ballance, Tennessee State Department of Education, suggested that membership of public educators is constrained by factors beyond the control of MSERA but that steady growth may be possible through personal contacts with public educators by current MSERA members. James McLean, University of Alabama, was named to lead a membership recruitment drive that Amos initiated the previous year. These efforts increased the number of MSERA members appreciably. John Petry, Memphis State University, edited the Proceedings for the annual meeting. John Thornell, Delta State University, was appointed to serve as editor of the Mid-South Educational Researcher.

The annual meeting was held in 1981 at the Campbell House in Lexington, Kentucky, on November 11-13. The program contained about 190 presentations and 285 participants. The Outstanding Paper Award was given to Linda Newby, University of Alabama, for a paper titled "A Validation of Fear of Success

Story Cues in Five Contexts." Robert Soar presented the keynote address on "Research on Teaching Effectiveness." The officers who were elected to serve in 1982 were as follows: President James McLean, University of Alabama; Vice President Ronald Adams, Western Kentucky University; Secretary-Treasurer Robert Rasmussen, LSU Medical Center; Director Elementary/Secondary Schools Paula Fulton, Louisville (MS) City Schools; Director State Departments of Education Collin Ballance, Tennessee State Department of Education; Directors-at-Large Kenneth Brooks, University of Kentucky; Joan Carson, University of Mississippi; Carolyn Reeves, University of Southern Mississippi; and Carolyn Williams, Mississippi State University.

## 1982: NEW ORLEANS, LA, PRESIDENT JAMES MCLEAN

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James McLean as President was assisted by the following committee chairs and appointees: Nominations Committee Neil Amos; Program Committee Bill Deaton; Local Arrangements Robert Rasmussen; Outstanding Paper Selection Carl Martray; Annual Meeting Evaluation Marilyn Condon; 1983 Local Arrangements Collin Ballance; Future Site Evaluation Hughie Hughes; Mobile Membership Committee Beatrice Morse; Graduate Student Advisory Committee Todd Davis; MSERA Researcher John Thornell; Program and Proceedings John Petry; MSERA/SDE/LEA Relations Committee James Hefter.

During this year, a Constitution and Bylaws Committee was created with Harry Bowman as its chair. The office of vice president was changed to vice president/president-elect. The spring board meeting was at Memphis State University on April 2. The Policy Manual (now called the Operations Manual) was developed by Vice President Ron Adams.

The 11th Annual Meeting was Nov. 10-12 at the International Hotel in New Orleans. Registration fees were raised from \$15 to \$20. Ellis Page, Duke University, was the featured speaker. A record number of 318 registered for the meeting. The Outstanding Paper award went to Debra Joyce Steele of the University of Alabama for her paper, "Comparison of Ordinary Least Squares and Ridge Estimation for Predicting Student Performance from the Alabama Basic Competency Tests and the California Achievement Tests: A Validation Study." Officers elected: Vice President/President-Elect Bob Rasmussen; Secretary-Treasurer John Thornell. State representatives: Jane Furr, Alabama; Don Wright, Arkansas State; Marilyn Condon, Kentucky; Linda Tarver, Louisiana; Vernon Gifford, Mississippi; Donna Young, Tennessee.

## 1983: NASHVILLE, TN, PRESIDENT RON ADAMS

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President Ron Adams appointed the following committee chairs and editors: Constitution and Bylaws Chuck Achilles; Nominations Jim McLean; Program Committee William Dean; Outstanding Paper

Selection Carl Martray; Annual Meeting Evaluation Donna Young; Local Arrangements Collin Ballance; 1984 Local Arrangements Ken Brooks; 1985 Local Arrangements Evalyn Burkett; Future Site Recommendations George Uhlig; Mid-South Educational Researcher John Thornell; Proceedings John Petry; Publications/Communications Carolyn Reeves; Archives/Paper Repository Neil Amos. The paper dissemination committee, chaired by Carolyn Williams, investigated ERIC submissions of MSERA papers. Bob Rasmussen reported on the existing services provided to the membership by MSERA and presented a plan for improving services in 1984. Harry Bowman, reported on ways of publicizing MSERA both within member states and outside the region.

The 1983 Annual Meeting was November 16-18, at the Maxwell House in Nashville, TN. There was a microcomputer vendor exhibition. The keynote speaker was Robert Travers, Western Michigan University. Complimentary issue of the Researcher containing candidates and announcement about annual meeting was sent to LERA and AERA members, with an invitation to join MSERA. Membership was 503. The Researcher shifted from 6 issues to 5. Collecting papers at the Annual Meeting for bulk submission to ERIC began either this year or in 1984.

The registration fee was \$25. Registration was 275. Outstanding Paper Award: James M. Prater, Jr., University of Alabama. "An Analysis of Selected Statistical Techniques Utilized in Quasi-Experimental Designs." The president initiated including a Call for Participation (volunteering to serve on committees, etc.) in the December Researcher. A list of research publications in the member states was compiled and published in December issue of Researcher. Officers elected: Carolyn Reeves, Vice President/President-Elect; John Thornell, Secretary-Treasurer. Chuck Achilles, Evalyn Burkitt, Bill Deaton, Carl Martray, Howard McNeese, Carolyn Williams.

## 1984: NEW ORLEANS, LA, PRESIDENT BOB RASMUSSEN

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The following committee chairs and appointees served under President Bob Rasmussen: Nominations Committee Ron Adams; Constitution and Bylaws Carl Martray; Outstanding Paper Selection Mickey Lee; Annual Meeting Evaluation Vern Gifford; Local Arrangements for 1984 Susan Kappelman; Local Arrangements 1985 Evalyn Burkitt; Archives/Paper Repository Don Wright; Publications Carolyn Reeves; ERIC Liaison Carolyn Williams; Proposal for Executive Secretary Neil Amos; Program Committee Jane Furr.

The 1984 Annual Meeting was Nov. 16-18 at the New Orleans International Hotel. Leon Botstein, president of Bard College, who was to have been the featured speaker, did not appear. Carlton Bowyer of Memphis State, who was to have served as discussant, delivered the keynote address. Attendance was 248, and 175 papers were accepted for the program. The Outstanding Paper Award went to Jim Flaitz, University of Alabama, for his paper, "The Appropriateness of a Factor Analytic Solution When Using Ipsative Scale Measures." MSERA explored an agreement with LERA to jointly sponsor publication

of a journal. A new format for program proposals, (typed camera ready) was initiated in the Call for Papers, in the hope of reducing the cost of producing the Proceedings by scanning proposals. Officers elected: President-Elect John Thornell; Secretary-Treasurer John Petry. State representatives: Jane Furr, Alabama; Don Wright, Arkansas; Doris Redfield, Kentucky; Linda Tarver Wright, Louisiana; Richard Kazelskis, Mississippi; Todd Davis, Tennessee.

## 1985: BILOXI, MS, PRESIDENT CAROLYN REEVES

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President Carolyn Reeves appointed the following committee chairs and appointees: MSERA Researcher Judy Boser and Charles Faires; Constitution and Bylaws Carl Martray; Outstanding Paper Selection John Thornell; Publications/ Communications Harry Bowman; Nominations Bob Rasmussen; Annual Meeting Evaluation Carolyn Williams; Program Jane Furr; ERIC Liaison John Petry; Archives/Paper Repository Don Wright; 1985 Local Arrangements Richard Kazelskis; 1986 Local Arrangements Henry Zurhellen.

The efforts to cosponsor a research journal with LERA ended in defeat. The Board solicited proposals but later rejected the proposals from four universities to cosponsor with MSERA a research journal. The Board voted to expand the scope of the Researcher to include research articles as a test of the membership's response to the idea of publishing research. Guidelines for submissions were developed, and a review board for the referee process was established.

The position of Executive Secretary for MSERA was established, with the appointment to begin January 1, 1986. Two new standing committees were created: Future Site Selection Committee and Membership Committee. The Board decided to solicit bids for production of a MSERA sponsored research journal. Distinguished Thesis/Dissertation Award to be presented in addition to the Outstanding Paper Award.

The 1985 Annual Meeting Nov. 5-7 was at the Biloxi Hilton. Registration was \$25 for professionals, \$10 for students. There were 282 registered for the meeting, and 211 papers appeared in the Proceedings. A Presidential Address was scheduled prior to President's Reception (wine and cheese social). A President's Breakfast for the current MSERA President and President-Elect, and all past presidents was initiated at the Annual Meeting. Deans Robert Saunders of Memphis State and James Sandefur of Western Kentucky (AACTE and NCATE respectively) addressed the organization. The Outstanding Paper Award went to C. M. Achilles and N. L. Lintz, University of Tennessee for "Results of a Project to Improve Proficiency Scores in Selected Ninth Grades: 198485 School Year," and Anne Hess, University of Alabama received the first Distinguished Dissertation/Thesis Award for her paper, "The Relationship of a Basic Competency Education Program to Overall Student Achievement: A State Perspective." Harry Bowman was selected as Executive Secretary. Officers elected for the coming year included: Vice President/President-Elect Bill Deaton; Secretary-Treasurer Carolyn Williams; LEA Susan Kappelman; SEA Robert Lockwood; At Large Representatives Charles Achilles, Mickey Lee, Carl Martray, Anne Tishler.

## 1986: MEMPHIS, TN, PRESIDENT JOHN THORNELL

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Committee chairs serving under President John Thornell were as follows: Researcher Judy Boser and Charles Faires; Proceedings John Petry; Archives Vernon Gifford; Constitution and Bylaws Carl Martray; Evaluation John Enger; ERIC Liaison John Petry; Future Site Selection Don Wright; Local Arrangements 1986 Henry Zurhellen; Local Arrangements 1987 Anna Avant; Local Arrangements 1988 Mickey and Lynda Lee; Membership Doris Redfield; Nominations Carolyn Reeves-Kazelskis; Outstanding Paper Bill Deaton; Program Bruce Thompson; Publications Robert Lockwood.

At the Spring Board meeting at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis, the Board voted to retain a rotational system of meeting in the different member states during odd-numbered years and empower the Future Site Selection to recommend during alternate years. There was a proposal to allow absentee balloting and move to allow constituent states to elect their own state representatives. The first item was not supported, but the second was. Dues were \$10 and \$6.

The 1986 Annual Meeting was November 19-21 at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis. Registrants totaled 316, with 231 papers accepted. William Cooley, University of Pittsburgh and director of evaluation research at the Learning Research and Development Center, was the featured speaker. Outstanding Paper Award winners: Joan M. Butler and David DeRuzzo, Starkville MS public schools, John P. Wollenberg and Herbert M. Handley, Mississippi State University: "Differences in Achievement and TimeonTask with Homogeneous and Heterogeneous Ability Grouping of Second Graders." Esther M. Howard, Mississippi State, won the Dissertation award, "A Longitudinal Study of Achievement Associated with Participation in a Public School Kindergarten." Award winners received \$250. Gerald Halpin replaced Jane Furr Davis as AL state representative. Two activities were planned specifically for graduate students one was informal with refreshments, and the second a discussion with Dr. Cooley following his presentation. Future Sites selected: 1987 Mobile; 1988 Louisville; 1989 Little Rock. States: 1991 Kentucky; 1993 Louisiana; 1995 Mississippi; 1997 Tennessee.

Officers elected: Vice President/President-Elect Carolyn Williams; Secretary-Treasurer Gypsy Abbott Clayton; State Representatives to the Board: Brad Chissom, Alabama; Tom E.C. Smith, Arkansas; Lynda N. Lee, Kentucky; Jim R. Flaitz, Louisiana; Richard Kazelskis, Mississippi; John R. Petry, Tennessee

## 1987: MOBILE, AL, PRESIDENT BILL DEATON

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President Bill Deaton appointed the following committee chairs to assist him in carrying out the mission of MSERA in 1987: Evaluation Ann Hess; Constitution & Bylaws Harry Bowman; Local Arrangements 1987 Anna Avant; Nominations John Thornell; Outstanding Paper and Dissertation Carolyn Williams; Proceedings John Petry; Researcher Judith Boser and Charles Faires; Program Ann Tishler; Publications

and Communications Robert Lockwood; Archives/Paper Repository Vernon Gifford; ERIC Liaison John Petry; Future Site Selection Jerry Ayers; Graduate Student Advisory Kevin Hughes; Local Arrangements 1988 Lynda and Mickey Lee; Local Arrangements 1989 Don Wright; Membership Dot Reed.

The Call for Papers was sent to LERA members, AERA members in MSERA states, and deans of colleges of teacher education in the MSERA states (in addition to MSERA members).

The Annual Meeting in 1987 was at the Admiral Semmes Hotel in Mobile, Nov. 11-13. There was a Dutch treat dinner with members of Membership Committee on Tuesday evening for early arrivals. The keynote speaker was Diane Scott-Jones, University of Illinois. A graduate reception and two symposia (one in which four doctoral students discussed dissertation proposals and the other included information about possible job opportunities, job interviews and how to best prepare for them, qualifications and achievements that are of interest to prospective employers) were planned for graduate students. The Outstanding Paper Award for 1987 went to Larry Webber, LSU Medical Center with Bruce Thompson and Gerald S. Berenson for "Measuring children's beliefs about the origins of health." The Distinguished Dissertation/Thesis Award was won by M. Nan Lintz, University of Tennessee for her paper, "Do school-community relations practices and/or techniques influence confidence in the public schools?"

Officers elected for 1988 were: Vice President/President-Elect Carl Martray; Secretary-Treasurer Gypsy Abbott Clayton; LEA Joan Butler; SEA Ann Hess; At large representatives Judy Boser, John Enger, Glennelle Halpin, and Mickey Lee. A reception was sponsored by Mississippi State for President-Elect Carolyn Williams. Registration was 313. Of the 246 papers submitted, 230 were accepted. Membership prior to meeting was 671; after the meeting, 730.

## 1988: LOUISVILLE, KY, PRESIDENT CAROLYN WILLIAMS

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President Carolyn Williams. Committee chairs: Constitution and Bylaws Harry Bowman; Outstanding Paper and Dissertation/Thesis Carl Martray; Publications and Communications David Morse; Local Arrangements Mickey Lee; Nominations Bill Deaton; Evaluation Jim Flaitz; Program Lynda Lee; Special Committees Archives/Paper Repository Vernon Gifford; ERIC Liaison John Petry; Local Arrangements for 1990 Susan Kappelman; Local Arrangements 1989 Robert Kennedy; Membership Dot Reed; Graduate Student Advisory Committee Bruce Crow; Future Site Selection Joan Butler; Proceedings John Petry; Researcher Judy Boser and Charles Faires.

The first MSERA membership directory was published as part of the May issue of the Researcher.

Phillip Schlechty, Louisville, delivered the Keynote Address at the Annual Meeting at the Executive West Hotel, Louisville, KY Nov. 9-11. A reception for new members was held on Wednesday Morning. A



graduate student reception held following the MSERA President's reception. Attendance was 295. There were 242 papers on the program of the 259 that were submitted.

Officers elected were as follows: Vice president/President-Elect John Petry; Secretary-Treasurer Gypsy Abbott Clayton. State representatives were elected by members of their respective states for the first time: Anne Tishler, Alabama; Don Wright, Arkansas; Lynda Lee, Kentucky; Jim Flaitz, Louisiana; Joe Blackburn, Mississippi; and Tim Pettibone, Tennessee. Papers in the MSERA archives became available to members through the services of Mitchell Memorial Library at Mississippi State. The Outstanding Paper Award for 1988 went to James McLean and Alan S. Kaufman, U of Alabama, and Cecil R. Reynolds, Texas A & M ("What Role does Formal Education Play in the IQ Age Relationship Across the Adult LifeSpan?"). SooBack Moon, University of Alabama, won the dissertation award for his paper, "A Cross-Cultural Validity Study for the Kaufman Assessment Battery for Children with Korean Children."

## 1989: LITTLE ROCK, AR, PRESIDENT CARL MARTRAY

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The following were President Carl Martray's appointed committee chairs: Constitution and Bylaws Harry Bowman; Outstanding Paper and Dissertation/Thesis Awards John Petry; Publications and Communications Dan Fasko; Local Arrangements Rob Kennedy; Nominations Carolyn Williams; Evaluation Jim Flaitz; Program Diana Lancaster; Archives/Paper Repository Vernon Gifford; ERIC Liaison John Petry; Local Arrangements 1991 James Gaig, Local Arrangements 1990 Susan Kappelman, Membership Dot Reed; Graduate Student Advisory Committee Alys Hayden; Future Site Selection Joan Butler.

The Board decided to establish a separate publications editor for the Researcher. The publications editor was given the responsibility of soliciting, reviewing, and editing manuscripts for publication in the Researcher. Newton Suter, Arkansas, was selected as the first publications editor with his appointment effective as of January 1, 1990. The new member activity at the annual meeting was a bingo on Tuesday evening. Advance registration for the annual meeting was encouraged by attaching an additional \$5.00 to the registration fee for onsite registration.

The Annual Meeting was held in Little Rock on November 8-10. There was an organizational meeting for special interest groups. Approximately 315 registered, and there were over 200 advance registered. There were 264 papers submitted, of which 250 appeared on the program. The keynote address was by Dr. Paul Root. The winner of the outstanding paper award was Jeff Gorrell of Auburn, for his paper, "Effects of Cognitive Modeling and Implicit Rule Presentation on Problem Solving." The Dissertation Award went to Gloria A. Turner, University of Alabama, for "The Relationship Between Age of Norms and the Equipercentile Assumption." Officers elected included: Vice President/ President-Elect Gypsy Abbott Clayton; Secretary-Treasurer Jeff Gorrell; State department of education representative Tom

Saterfiel; LEA representative Joan Butler; Representatives at large, David Bell, Glennelle Halpin, Diana Lancaster, James Turner.

## 1990: NEW ORLEANS, LA, PRESIDENT JOHN PETRY

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President John Petry; Committee Chairs: Evaluation Jim Flaitz; Constitution and Bylaws Harry Bowman; Rob Kennedy Program; 1990 Local Arrangements Susan Kappelman; Nominations Carl Martray; Outstanding Paper and Distinguished Dissertation/Thesis Selection Gypsy Clayton; Publications/Communications Dan Fasko; Archives/Paper Repository Vernon Gifford; Future Site Selection Mickey Lee; Graduate Student Advisory Committee Judith Collier; Membership Joan Butler; 1991 Local Arrangements James Craig; 1992 Local Arrangements Judy Boser; Proceedings John Petry; Researcher Judy Boser.

At the spring board meeting it was decided to return the New Member Reception to a more formal format on Wednesday morning. The Annual Meeting registration fee was raised to incorporate the annual MSERA dues so that in effect anyone who registers for the Annual Meeting receives a year's complimentary membership in the organization. Dues only can still be paid by those not registering for the Annual Meeting at current rates of \$10 and \$6. A survey of new members was conducted. The Board decided to make the Researcher copyrighted. A list of finalists for the research awards is to be available at the registration desk. The Hyatt Regency was selected for the site of the 1992 Annual Meeting in Knoxville, TN

The Annual Meeting was held at the Monteleone Hotel, New Orleans, November 14-16. Louise McCants presented the Keynote address. For the first time a joint reception was sponsored by 10 institutions on Thursday evening instead of separate ones by individual institutions. Registration of 431 was a record, with 170 being new members. There was also a record number of submissions for the program (342) and acceptances (326). Reduced air fares were available to conference attendees. The outstanding paper award went to Marion Dana, Anthony Scheduler, Mark Richmond, and Sandra Smith, U of S Miss., and Howard Draper Alaska for "Writing to Read: Pen Palling for a Purpose." Kevin Hughes University of Alabama won the dissertation award for his paper titled "Academic Motivation Training with Adolescents." The following officers were elected: Vice President/President-Elect Judy Boser; Secretary-Treasurer Rob Kennedy. State representatives: Anne Tishler, Alabama; John Burns, Arkansas; Kenneth Clawson, Kentucky; Ava Pugh, Louisiana; David Morse, Mississippi; Tim Pettibone, Tennessee.

## 1991: LEXINGTON, KY, PRESIDENT GYPSY CLAYTON

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President Gypsy Abbott Clayton. Committee Chairs for 1991: Program Barbara Lewis, Evaluation Jim Flaitz, Constitution and Bylaws Harry Bowman; 1991 Local Arrangements, Jim Craig; Nominations John Petry; Outstanding Paper and Distinguished Dissertation/Thesis Selection Committee Judy Boser; Publications and Communications Jim McLean; Archives/Paper Repository, Vern Gifford; Future Site Selection (1994) Bill Embeds; Graduate Student Advisory Vicki Lepanto; Membership Jeff Gorrell; 1992 Local Arrangements Patricia Wiley; 1993 Local Arrangements Rita Zerr; Registration Rob Kennedy; Special Interest Groups Organization Dot Reed; Researcher Dwight Hare and Jann James.

In the hope of increasing submissions for the outstanding paper and dissertation awards, procedures were changed to allow submission of the abstract only by July 15, with the completed paper due September 1. The change did not result in increased participation, so the previous procedure of having the full paper submitted by July 15 was reinstated for 1992. At the spring Board meeting, it was decided to name the dissertation award in honor of Herbert Handley of Mississippi State University. The Board increased the registration fee by \$5.00 to allow the organization to continue to provide overhead projectors in each room at the Annual Meeting at no cost to individuals. Dues remain at \$10 professional and \$6 for students. Advance registration for the meeting was \$45 (including dues) for professionals and \$26 for students.

At the fall Board meeting, following a survey of members by the Publications Committee, the Board decided to proceed with establishment of a research journal. The Constitution and Bylaws were changed to increase the term of office for the Secretary-Treasurer from one year to two, consistent with the terms of other officers.

The 20th Annual Meeting was held at the Marriott Griffin Gate in Lexington, November 13-15. Registration totaled 326. Of the 292 papers submitted for the program, 278 were accepted. The keynote address was delivered by Roger Pankratz, chair of the Kentucky Council on School Performance Standards. The outstanding research paper award was won by Robert L. Kennedy, Jianliang Wang, and Gene Harryman of Western Kentucky for their paper titled "Direct vs. Indirect Instruction: A Review." The Herbert Handley Dissertation Award was won by Margaret L. Glowacki, of the University of Alabama, for her paper titled "An Analysis of Test Equating Models for the Alabama High School Graduation Examination." The New Members' Reception was moved to Thursday morning but was poorly attended.

The following officers were elected for 1992: Vice President/President-Elect Robert L. Kennedy; Secretary-Treasurer Diana Lancaster; AtLarge Representatives to the Board of Directors: Glennelle Halpin, E. Dean Butler, Dorothy Reed, and James Flaitz. LEA Representative Arlene Amos; State Dept. of Education Representative Bob Cheeseman.

## 1992: KNOXVILLE, TN, PRESIDENT JUDY BOSER

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President Judy Boser appointed the following committee chairs for 1992: Nominations Gypsy Abbott; Outstanding Paper Rob Kennedy; Local Arrangements for 1994 Ann Neely; Annual Meeting Evaluation James Flaitz and Kevin Hughes (co-chairs); Graduate Student Advisory Glennelle Halpin; Special Interest Group Liaison Dorothy Reed; Future Site Selection (1995) Robert Calvery; Membership Jeffrey Gorrell; Program Nan Lintz and David Bell (cochair); Publications/Communications James McLean; MSU Foundation Robert Rasmussen; Local Arrangements for 1992 Patricia Davis-Wiley; Local Arrangements for 1993 Rita Zerr; Archives Vernon Gifford; ERIC Liaison Walter Emanuel; Proceedings, John Petry; Researcher Dwight Hare; Policy/Procedures Review Ron Adams.

At the spring Board meeting (March 20, Maxwell House, Nashville, TN), the University of Alabama was chosen from among three proposals to publish and cosponsor the MSERA Journal. James McLean and Alan Kaufman will serve as editors. Alabama will share the cost during the first three years, after which the status of the journal will be evaluated. James McLean offered his resignation and was replaced as chair of the Publications/ Communications Committee by John Enger. The Maxwell House was selected as the site for the 1994 Annual Meeting, the Radisson for the 1993 Annual Meeting in New Orleans. The Board went on record in support of the MSER Foundation, whose charter and bylaws had been drafted. The MSERA President, Vice President, and Executive Secretary will serve as ex officio members of the Foundation Board. There was discussion regarding the number of individuals who were on the 1991 Annual Meeting program who did not register and/or hold MSERA membership. The Board voted to present a certificate to the advisor of the individual winning the dissertation award. The Board also voted to reduce graduate student dues from \$6 to \$5 for ease of management during registration.

Subsequent to the meeting, the following individuals were appointed as the first board of directors for the MSER Foundation: Diana Lancaster, Bob Rasmussen, Neil Amos, Carolyn Reeves-Kazelskis, Don Wright, John Burns, Carl Martray, Ron Adams, John Petry, Jerry Ayres, James McLean, and Bill Deaton (plus ex officio members Harry Bowman, Judy Boser, and Rob Kennedy).

At the fall Board meeting, Gloria Turner was elected to replace Robert Cheeseman as SDE representative after he took a post-secondary position. It was decided that in the future, the abstracts of the award-winning papers would appear in the Researcher and that the manuscripts would be given the opportunity for expedited review in the journal. The Board voted to require all authors of papers submitted for the annual meeting to be MSERA members. First authors had been notified in advance that they were required to pre-register or have their papers removed from the schedule of the 1992 meeting. Biloxi was selected as the site for the 1995 Annual Meeting. The MSER Foundation met Tuesday afternoon and elected Bob Rasmussen, president and James McLean vice president.

The Annual Meeting was held in Knoxville, November 11-13. The keynote address was delivered Wednesday at 5:30 by Sylvia Peters of the Edison Project. The new member reception was scheduled for

Wednesday morning at 8, a graduate student breakfast for Thursday morning from 7:30 8:45. The MSERA Board and the MSER Foundation Board had a joint breakfast Thursday morning, also from 7:30 8:45. Pre-registration for the Annual Meeting was 375, with total registration of 436. Of the 330 proposals submitted, there were 299 papers on the program.

At the Business Meeting, a plaque was presented to be given to Mitchell Memorial Library for their service over the years in housing the MSERA Archives. Individual certificates were prepared for the two individuals who are involved. Certificates were also presented to the institutions contributing to the Joint Universities Reception.

Harry Bowman was presented with the first Harry Bowman Service Award plaque, which the Board voted to establish at the spring board meeting to honor contributions to the organization. Michele Jarrell received the Handley Dissertation Award for her paper titled, "A Comparison of Two Procedures, the Mahalanobis Distance and the Andrews-Pregibon Statistic, for Identifying Multivariate Outliers," with a certificate being presented to her major professor, James McLean. The Outstanding Research Paper Award went to Barbara Nye, Jayne BoydZaharias, B. DeWayne Fulton, Mark P. Wallenhorst, and Charles M. Achilles for their paper titled, "Small is Far Better." The Constitution and Bylaws were changed to include the executive secretary as an ex officio member of the MSERA Executive Committee. Officers elected include Vice President/President-Elect Diana Lancaster; Secretary Treasurer Joan Butler. State Directors: Landa Trentham, Alabama; John Enger, Arkansas; Susan Kappelman, Louisiana; Bette Burruss, Kentucky; Vernon Gifford, Mississippi; Embeds Rakow, Tennessee.

## 1993: NEW ORLEANS, LA, PRESIDENT ROB KENNEDY

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President Rob Kennedy; Committee Chairs: Program David Bell; Nominations Judy Boser; Policy and Procedure Review Judy Boser; Constitution and Bylaws Harry Bowman; 1995 Local Arrangements Larry Daniel; Evaluation Robert Calvery; ERIC Liaison Walter Emanuel, Jr.; Publications/ Communications Dan Fasko; Membership Jeff Gorrell; Graduate Student Advisory Glennelle Halpin; Evaluation Kevin Hughes; Distinguished Awards Selection Diana Lancaster; Archives David Morse; 1994 Local Arrangements Ann Neely; Minority Recruitment William Person; Special Interest Groups Dot Reed; Future Site Selection Qaisar Sultana; 1993 Local Arrangements Rita Zerr. Editors: Diane Greene, MSERA Researcher: Dwight Hare, MSERA Researcher: Alan Kaufman, Research in the Schools: Jim McLean, Research in the Schools; John Petry, Proceedings.

At the Spring Board Meeting it was the unfortunate duty of the Board to enforce the MSERA Constitution and declare that Harry Bowman, Executive Secretary, be replaced in that role due to his moving to Atlanta, GA, a nonmember state. The decision came only after much deliberation and sadness because of the great respect and admiration Dr. Bowman had earned during his many years of service to MSERA. The Board also recommended that a Minority Recruitment Committee be established to

investigate ways to attract more minorities to the organization since efforts in previous years had not led to noticeable increases in minority membership or attendance at annual meetings.

At the Fall Board Meeting Judy Boser was selected to serve as the new Executive Secretary. The selection was unanimous, a reflection of universal confidence in her ability to provide guidance to the Board. The Minority Recruitment Committee was established with Bill Person as Chair, who noted in his report that the committee would initiate discussions immediately.

The 22nd Annual Meeting was held at the Radisson Hotel in New Orleans, LA, November 10-12. Registration as of November 11 totaled 461, a new record. Of 415 proposals submitted for consideration for the program, 363 (87%) were accepted. Of the 363 accepted, 306 were discussion papers; 27, display; 21, symposia; and 9, training sessions. The keynote address was presented by Dr. P. C. Wu, Professor of Educational Administration at the University of West Florida. His topic was "Celebrating Education" in which he encouraged the audience to focus on the good aspects of education and celebrate them. The 1993 Herbert Handley Dissertation Award was won by Colleen Johnson from Memphis State University for "The Effects of Violations of Data Set Assumptions When Using the One Way Fixed Effects Analysis of Variance and One Concomitant Analysis of Covariance". Her dissertation advisor, Ernie Rakow, was presented a framed certificate in recognition of his contribution to this effort. The Outstanding Research Paper Award was won by Alan S. Kaufman, Jane M. Ford-Richardson, and James E. McLean for "Black-White Differences on the Strong Interest Inventory General Occupational Themes and Basic Interest Scales at age 16 to 65." The Harry Bowman Distinguished Service Award for 1993 was presented to Judy Boser for her many years of dedicated service and devotion to MSERA.

The following officers were elected during the Business Meeting Vice President/President-Elect Glennelle Halpin; LEA Representative Arlene Amos; State Department Representative Bobby Franklin; and At-Large Representatives to the Board of Directors: David Bell, Barbara Lewis, Oneida Martin, and Qaisar Sultana. Judy Boser, Nominations Committee Chair, enhanced the quality of the ballots this year by scanning in photographs of the candidates to make them more easily recognizable to the voting members. Members were also surveyed for their interest in convention child care.

## 1994: NASHVILLE, TN, PRESIDENT DIANA LANCASTER

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President, Diana Lancaster was assisted by her appointed committee chairs: Archives David Morse; Constitution and Bylaws Harry Bowman; Distinguished Awards Selection Glennelle Halpin; ERIC Liaison Walter Emanuel, Jr.; Evaluation Robert Calvery and Jim Flaitz; Graduate Student Advisory Gerald Halpin; Membership Qaisar Sultana; Minority Recruitment William Person; Nominations Rob Kennedy; Program Bea Baldwin; Special Interest Groups Dot Reed; Local Arrangements 1994 Cliff Hofwolt; Local Arrangements 1995 Larry Daniel; Future Site Selection Ernie Rakow; Publications and Communications

Dan Fasko. Editors: Diane Greene and Dwight Hare, MSERA Researcher; Alan Kaufman and James McLean, Research in the Schools; and John Petry, Proceedings.

At the Spring Board Meeting held March 18 in Memphis, Tennessee, the Board approved a dues increase of \$5.00 for student and professional memberships. With the addition of the Journal as a benefit to members, the Board felt this increase was necessary. The Board also decided to try having abstracts submitted for the Proceedings on diskettes. Board members from several universities volunteered to participate by being responsible for submitting the abstracts from their respective schools. It was recommended that the process be evaluated for possible inclusion in the Call for Papers next year.

The Fall Board Meeting was held on Tuesday November 8, at the Maxwell House. It was decided to change the date for submitting abstracts to June 15 in order to allow more time for the program to be produced and sent out in the Researcher. In addition, there will be a request to submit the abstract on diskette. Bill Person presented the recommendations of the Minority Recruitment Committee for acceptance and action by the Board. Bob Rasmussen, MSER Foundation President, reported that the Foundation will be awarding a research grant to an MSERA member in August 1995. The recipient will be announced at the Business Meeting.

The 23rd Annual Meeting was held at the Regal Maxwell House Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee, November 9-11. Registration for the meeting was 432. Of the 342 proposals submitted for consideration for the program, 321 (93.8%) were accepted. A total of 120 sessions were scheduled, 83 discussion sessions, 17 symposia, 11 training sessions, 6 display sessions, and 3 round tables. The keynote address was presented by Dr. John Bransford, Centennial Professor of Cognitive Psychology at Vanderbilt University. His topic was "When Cognition Meets Technology" and involved a multimedia presentation illustrating some innovative applications of technology in education. The 1994 Herbert Handley Dissertation Award was won by Jayne Zaharias of Tennessee State University for "The Effect of Random Class Assignment on Elementary Students' Reading and Mathematics Achievement." The Outstanding Paper Award was won by Yi-Cheng Wu and James E. McLean of the University of Alabama for "A Priori Versus Post Hoc: Comparing Statistical Power Among ANOVA, Block Designs, and ANCOVA." The Harry Bowman Distinguished Service Award was presented to John Petry of the University of Memphis for his many years of service to the organization.

The following officers were elected during the Business Meeting: Vice President/President Elect David Morse; Secretary-Treasurer Dorothy Reed. State representatives: Anne Tishler, Alabama; Robert Calvery, Arkansas; Brenda Stallion, Kentucky; Sheila Chauvin, Louisiana, Jo Ann Belk, Mississippi; Pattie Davis-Wiley.

## 1995: BILOXI, MS, PRESIDENT GLENNELLE HALPIN

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President Glennelle Halpin; Vice President/President-Elect David Morse; Secretary-Treasurer Dot Reed. Committee Chairs: Archives David Morse; Constitution and Bylaws Harry Bowman; Distinguished Awards Selection David Morse; ERIC Liaison John Petry; Evaluation Jim Flaitz and Robert Calvery; Graduate Student Advisory Jimmy Harris; Membership Qaisar Sultana; Minority Recruitment Bill Person; Nominations Diana Lancaster Gardiner; Program Gerald Halpin and Dawn Ossont; Local Arrangements 1995 Larry Daniel; Local Arrangements 1996 Jim McLean; Local Arrangements 1997 Ernie Rakow; Future Site Selection Peggy Kirby; Publications and Communications Dan Fasko. Editors: Diane Greene, MSERA Researcher: James McLean and Alan Kaufman, Research in the Schools: and John Petry, Proceedings. LERA Representative Beatrice Baldwin. Mid-South Educational Research Foundation President Robert Rasmussen.

The spring board meeting was held Friday, March 31, at the Broadwater Towers in Biloxi, Mississippi. A proposed change in the constitution to allow at-large members of the Board to be from states outside the MSERA region was approved by the Board. The Board formalized the existing practice of having members complete evaluation forms during the business meeting at the annual meeting and having committee members collect the forms. The board also passed a motion that the call for papers require submitters to sign a form indicating they (1) will bring 25 copies of their paper to the session, (2) understand that first authors must register and all coauthors must be members, and (3) must provide a copy of their paper for the archives. Committees were appointed to study the continued publication of Research in the Schools and to review the budget with a view toward modifications needed in order to avoid a potential deficit in the future.

At the fall board meeting on November 7, the Board voted to accept the proposal of Jim McLean to continue publication of Research in the Schools for two more years. Soliciting underwriters for the journal was among cost-cutting measures reviewed. Continuation of the "job market" bulletin board and inclusion of candidate information in the program issue of the Researcher. New Orleans was selected as the site of the 1998 annual meeting.

The 24th Annual Meeting was held November 8-10 in Biloxi, Mississippi. A total of 423 people registered for the fall meeting, with 278 of them having preregistered. Of the 337 proposals submitted, 321 were accepted. The program consisted of 117 sessions: 75 discussion sessions, 18 symposia, 14 training sessions, and 10 display sessions.

The keynote address was presented by Ronald Berk of Johns Hopkins University. His topic was Performance Assessment. A proposal by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee to permit at-large representatives on the Board of Directors to be include individuals living outside the 6-state region of MSERA was presented but defeated by the membership in the annual business meeting. The 1995 outstanding paper award went to Christopher Skinner, Patricia Logan, Gregg Johns, and Sheri Robinson



of Mississippi State University for their paper, "Interspersing Efficient Tasks to Influence Students' Choice of Academic Behaviors: More is Less." The Herbert Handley Dissertation Award went to Malenna Sumrall, University of Alabama, for her dissertation, "Using Predictors Obtained by Classical Test Theory and by Item Response Theory: A comparison of Predicted Group Membership Accuracy Rates for Sex Offenders and Nonsex Offenders." The first MSER Foundation Award (\$1,000) for school-based research was given to Cindy Williams of Mississippi State University. The Harry Bowman Service Award was presented to Jim McLean.

Along with certificates to representatives from universities supporting the Joint Universities Reception, special recognition was given to the University of Southern Mississippi for sponsorship of the President's Reception. The State of Alabama was recognized for having the most (67) new members in 1995.

Officers elected for 1996 included the following: Vice president/President Elect Dot Reed; LEA Representative Joan Butler; State Department of Education Gloria Turner; At Large Representatives: Dan Fasko, Jeff Gorrell, Ava Pugh, and Qaisar Sultana.

## 1996: TUSCALOOSA, AL, PRESIDENT DAVID MORSE

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President, David Morse; immediate Past President, Glennelle Halpin; Vice President/President-Elect, Dorothy Reed; Secretary-Treasurer, John Enger; Executive Secretary, Judy Boser. Committee Chairs: David Morse, Archives; Harry Bowman, Constitution and Bylaws; Dorothy Reed, Distinguished Awards Selection; John Petry, ERIC Liaison; Jim Flaitz, Evaluation; Jimmy Harris, Graduate Student Advisory; Qaisar Sultana, Membership; William Person, Minority Recruitment; Glennelle Halpin, Nominations; Linda Morse and Linda Cornelious, Program; Jim McLean, Local Arrangements 1996; Ernie Rakow, Local Arrangements 1997; Peggy Kirby, Local Arrangements 1998; Cliff Hofwolt, Future Site Selection; Dan Fasko, Publications and Communications. Editors: Jim McLean and Alan Kaufman, Research in the Schools; Diane Greene, MSERA Researcher; and John Petry, Proceedings. LERA representative, Jim Flaitz; Mid-South Educational Research Foundation President, Jim McLean. LEA Representative, Joan Butler, State Department Representative, Gloria Turner. State Representatives: Anne Tishler, Alabama; Robert Calvery, Arkansas; Brenda Stallion, Kentucky; Sheila Chauvin, Louisiana; JoAnn Belk, Mississippi; and Patricia Davis-Wiley, Tennessee. At-large Representatives: Dan Fasko, Jeff Gorrell, Ava Pugh, and Qaisar Sultana.

At the Spring Board Meeting held March 29 in Memphis, Tennessee, the Board approved a joint MSERA-MSER Foundation fundraising drive for the MSER Foundation.

The Fall Board Meeting was held on Tuesday, November 5 at the Bryant Conference Center. John Petry of the University of Memphis was nominated and unanimously approved by the Board of Directors to take over the position of Executive Secretary of MSERA and Secretary-Treasurer of the MSER

Foundation. The Board approved an increase in annual dues, effective for 1998 memberships, of \$10 for professional members and \$5 for student members. A motion for a proposed change to the MSERA Constitution was presented, calling for 30-day advance notification to the membership, and that changes to the Constitution require a two-thirds vote of members present at the Annual Business Meeting or a majority of the entire membership. The motion passed unanimously and must be reconsidered by the Board a second time before voting by the membership of MSERA. The evaluation form used for the Annual Meeting was revamped by Jim Flaitz. Jim Harris reported on efforts to provide graduate students with job placement information and noted several sessions on the program targeted at helping graduate students prepare for seeking employment. Qaisar Sultana reported that 53 new members joined MSERA for 1996. Ernie Rakow verified the Adam's Mark Hotel in Memphis as the site for the 1997 meeting, to be held November 12-14, with the Board Meeting to be November 11. For 1998, the Annual Meeting will be at the Monteleone Hotel in New Orleans, November 4-6, with the Board Meeting to be November 3. It was noted that calls for the next two-year cycle of editing/publishing *Research in the Schools* should be put out early in 1997.

The 25th Annual Meeting was held at the Bryant Conference Center on the University of Alabama campus, Tuscaloosa, November 6-8. Registration for the meeting was just over 400. A special printing of the Proceedings was arranged by John Petry to denote the 25th anniversary of MSERA. The MSER Foundation furnished commemorative coffee mugs to all attending the conference. Of the 281 proposals submitted for consideration for the program, 265 (94.3%) were included in the program. A total of 106 sessions were scheduled, 66 discussion sections, 20 symposia, 14 training sessions, and 6 display sessions. The keynote address was presented by Dr. Gerald Bracey, well known writer on education and columnist for the *Phi Delta Kappan*. His topic was "The Greatly Exaggerated Decline of Education in the United States." The 1996 Herbert M. Handley Dissertation Award was won by Rebecca McMahon of the University of Southern Mississippi for the paper, "The Relationships between Kindergarten Teachers' Perceptions of Literacy Acquisition and the Quantity and Quality of Classroom Literacy Materials and Children's Involvement in Literacy Events." The Outstanding Paper Award was won by Pat Wachholz of Lane College and Carol Etheridge of the University of Memphis for the paper, "Speaking for Themselves: Writing Self-Efficacy Beliefs of High and Low-Anxious Writers." The winner of the second MSER Foundation research grant was Denise Johnson. A special recognition award was presented to Judy Boser in honor of her years of service to MSERA as Executive Secretary. Recognition was also given to Diane Greene for her years of service as Editor of the *MSERA Researcher*.

The following officers were elected during the Business Meeting: Vice President/President Elect, John Enger; Secretary-Treasurer, Gerald Halpin; Alabama Representative, Jack Barnette; Arkansas Representative, Jan Downing; Kentucky Representative, Ann Chapman; Louisiana Representative, Ira Bogotch, Mississippi Representative, Bill Person; Tennessee Representative, Dean Butler.

## 1997: MEMPHIS, TN, PRESIDENT DOT REED

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Dorothy (Dot) Durrett Reed served as President and was assisted by a host of capable committee chairs and representatives. John Enger served as Vice-President/ President-Elect and as Chair of the Distinguished Awards Selection Committee; Gerald Halpin, as Secretary/Treasurer; Cliff Hofwolt, as Program Committee Chair; Harry Bowman, as Constitution and Bylaws Chair; David Morse, as Nominations Committee Chair; Qaisar Sultana, as Evaluation Chair; Dan Fasco, as Publications and Communications Chair; Kathy Kramer-Franklin, as Graduate Student Advisory Committee Chair and Jan Downing, as Membership Chair.

Other committee chair assignments included: 1997 Local Arrangements, Ernie Rakow (Memphis); 1998 Local Arrangements, Peggy Kirby (New Orleans); 1999 Local Arrangements, Barbara Lewis (Alabama); Future Site Evaluation Membership Committee, Robert Calvery; and Archives/Paper Repository Committee, David Morse.

The ERIC Liaison was John Petry. Editors of MSERA Publications were: Marion Dana, *The Researcher*; Jim McLean, *Research in the Schools*; and John Petry, *the Proceedings*.

State representatives were Jack Barnette, Alabama; Jan Dowling, Arkansas; Ann Chapman, Kentucky; Ira Bogotch, Louisiana; Bill Person, Mississippi; and Dean Butler, Tennessee. Serving as At-large representatives were Dan Fasko, Jeff Gorrell, Ava Pugh, and Qaisar Sultana.

During the year, the President appointed a special Ad Hoc Budget Committee co-chaired by Glennell Halpin, Dan Fasko, and Jim Flaitz to study issues associated with the finances and budget of the organization. The report of this committee included suggestions for standardization in reporting financial data and the establishment of a standing committee to address matters of budget and finance for the MSERA Board.

The Spring Board Meeting was held at the Holiday Inn in Memphis on March 22, 1998. John Petry was introduced as the new Executive Secretary of MSERA. He reported a smooth transition between him and the former Executive Secretary, Judy Boser. As of March 1997, there were 440 active members of MSERA -- 304 professional and 136 students. The Board approved funds for registering a MSERA site on the World Wide Web. The desired URL is [www.msera.org](http://www.msera.org).

The Fall Board Meeting was held on 11 November and the Annual Meeting was November 12 -14 at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Memphis. The keynote speaker for the annual meeting, Gene V Glass, former President of AERA, from Arizona State University. He gave a riveting presentation entitled "The Telecommunications Revolution: How Will it Touch Educational Research." The Graduate Student Committee arranged a special session for graduate students to talk with the keynote speaker. At

meeting time there were 667 members (450 professionals and 217 students). Two hundred eighty papers were selected for presentation at the annual meeting.

Board elections for the coming year included: Gerald Halpin as 1998 Vice President/President-Elect; Cliff Hofwolt as Secretary-Treasurer; and Larry Daniel, Jan Dowling, Linda Morse, and Jimmy Harris as Directors at Large; Jane Nell Luster State as Department of Education Representative and Arlene Amos as Local Department of Education Representative.

For the first time since the 1992 inception of the Harry Bowman Service Award, two recipients were selected in one year. Gerald Halpin and Glennelle Halpin received the awards for their selfless service to the organization over many years. Each year they have shared their wide variety of research efforts done in conjunction with students, teachers, practitioners, and other researchers. They have each served at nearly every level and position of the organization including vice-president/president, secretary-treasurer, state representative, at-large representative, program committee chair, and the list goes on.... What a fortunate organization MSERA has been to have the service of such a dedicated couple. It was a distinct honor to be a part of the presentation of the Harry Bowman Service Award to this deserving couple.

## 1998: NEW ORLEANS, LA, PRESIDENT JOHN ENGER

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Nineteen ninety-eight was an exciting year for MSERA thanks to the leadership, active membership, publications, and very successful Annual Meeting. The organization was alive and in excellent hands with a nice blend of old and new leadership.

In leadership roles, the following folks contributed so much to MSERA during the year: Gerald Halpin as vice-president/president-elect and chair of the Awards Selection Committee, Dot Reed as past-president, advisor, and chair of the Nominations Committee, Cliff Hofwolt as secretary-treasurer, Jim Flaitz as Program Chair and Liaison with the Louisiana Educational Research Association, Barbara Lewis as Alabama Representative and Site-coordinator for 1999, Robert Calvery as Arkansas Representative and chair of the Future Site Selection Committee, Ann Chapman as Kentucky Representative, Ira Bogotch as Louisiana Representative and his contributions on site for the Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Bill Person as Mississippi Representative, Ernie Rakow as Tennessee Representative, Jane Nell Luster as State Department of Education Representative, Arlene Amos as Local Department of Education Representative, and At-large Representatives Larry Daniel, Jan Downing, Linda Morse and Jimmy Harris, who also contributed much to the Graduate Student Advisory committee, John Petry as executive-secretary and publisher of the Proceedings of the Annual Meeting, Jim McLean and Alan Kaufman, editors of MSERA's journal, Research in the Schools, Nola Christenberry and Lynn Howerton, editors of MSERA's Educational Researcher, David Morse, editor of MSERA's new web site and chair of the Archives Committee, Glennelle Halpin as chair of the Budget Advisory Committee, Harry Bowman as

chair of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, Qaisar Sultana as chair of the Evaluation Committee, Kathy Franklin as the exuberant chair of the Graduate Student Advisory Committee and procurer of the site for the Year 2001 Annual Meeting, Peggy Kersh as the remarkably competent chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for the 1998 Annual Meeting at the Hotel Monteleone in New Orleans, Ava Pugh as chair of the Membership Committee, Dan Fasko as chair of the Publications Committee, and yours truly, John Enger served as president.

Certainly one of the highlights of the year was the undertaking of the MSERA Educational Researcher by Nola Christenberry and Lynn Howerton. The four issues published (Call for Papers, Membership Directory, Upcoming Annual Meeting, and Annual Meeting Program) were all professionally done thanks to editors, Nola and Lynn, their graphic artist, Steve Reeves, and creative writer, Ron Looney.

An innovation for MSERA was the initiation of the Web Page by David Morse. This is an impressive service for the organization and the membership. It, too, was very, very well done.

The MSERA journal, *Research in the Schools*, continued to be a high quality national-refereed journal edited by Jim McLean and Alan Kaufman. The articles in their editions are timely and well done. As usual, John Petry produced the Proceedings of the Annual Meeting. It should be obvious--the organization can be very proud of all the publications.

Committees were active during the year. In particular, two sites were selected for Annual Meetings (Bowling Green, KY, in 2000 and Little Rock, AR, in 2001). The spring board meeting in Memphis and the fall board meeting in New Orleans were both well attended.

Of, course it was the Annual Meeting that brought the membership together. Held in the French Quarter in New Orleans, the Hotel Monteleone provided a wonderful setting for the meeting and for members to enjoy NOLA. Betty Kersh did an outstanding job in coordinating the local arrangements. Cliff Hofwolt had a very smooth operation for registration. Kathy Franklin and others provided excellent experiences for graduate students and new members.

One of the highlights of the Annual Meeting in New Orleans was the keynote address by Jim Popham, a past-president of AERA, director of the Instructional Objectives Exchange (IOX), and professor-emeritus at UCLA. Jim's humorous and enthusiastic presentation addressed short-comings of various wide-scale testing programs; it was titled "Measuring Mileage with a Tablespoon: The Misuse of Standardized Achievement Tests." He invited members of the audience to participate with him in an on-going research investigation on test items being used. It was a pleasure having Jim with us throughout the Annual Meeting, offering many of those attending the conference the opportunity to speak with him.

Prospects look good for 1999 with: (a) a diverse leadership core of old and newer members, (b) another grand site for the Annual Meeting, (c) a solid membership base, and (d) plans for another year of outstanding publications.

## 1999: POINT CLEAR, AL, PRESIDENT GERALD HALPIN

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1999 President, Gerald Halpin; Past President, John Enger; Vice President/President Elect, Clifford Hofwolt; Secretary/Treasurer, Robert Calvery; Executive Secretary, John Petry; Committee Chairs: David Morse, Archives; Harry Bowman, Constitution and Bylaws; Cliff Hofwolt, Distinguished Awards Selection; John Petry, ERIC Liaison; Qaiser Sultana, Evaluation; Scott Bauer, Graduate Student Advisory; John Enger, Nominations; Judy Boser, Program; Barbara Lewis and Jean Newman, Local Arrangements Alabama 1999; Tony Norman, Local Arrangements Kentucky 2000; Kathy Franklin, Local Arrangements Arkansas 2001; Bill Spencer, Future Site Selection; Dot Reed, Publications and Communications; Glennelle Halpin, Budget; Editors: Nola Christenberry and Lynn Howerton, MSERA Researcher; Alan Kaufman and James McLean, Research in the Schools; John Petry, MSERA Proceedings; David Morse, MSERA Website; Jim Flaitz, LERA; Ron Adams, MSER Foundation Representative; Arlene Amos, Local Education Agency Representative; Jane Nell Luster, State Department of Education Representative; State Representatives: Michele Jarrell, Alabama; Nola Christenberry, Arkansas; Deborah Grubb, Kentucky; Otis LoVette, Louisiana; Linda Cornelius, Mississippi; Ernie Rakow, Tennessee; At-Large Representatives: Gahan Bailey, Kathy Franklin, Linda Morse, and Jimmy Harris.

At the spring Board meeting held at the Comfort Inn in Memphis, Tennessee, the Board approved having the Proceedings distributed via the MSERA Website rather than as traditional paper copies. At the fall Board meeting, based upon Jim McLean's suggestion, the Board passed a motion that the members who desired to continue to receive Research in the Schools would be required to pay an additional \$10.00 if and only if the publication of RIS is taken over by Taylor/Francis.

The annual meeting was held at the Grand Hotel in Point Clear, Alabama, November 16-18, 1999. Robert Calvery, Secretary/Treasurer, reported over 500 registrations for the meeting. Judy Boser, 1999 Program Chair, reported that 289 proposals were accepted. These accepted proposals were broken down into 239 discussion papers, 27 displays, 13 symposia, and 7 training sessions. Additionally, Judy Boser and Malenna Sumrall, 2000 Program Chair, successfully field tested electronic submissions of presentation proposals. Proposal reviewers also had the option of submitting their reviews by e-mail.

William Mehrens, a nationally known teacher and scholar in educational measurement and evaluation from Michigan State University, made the keynote address with his theme being the effects of large scale testing programs on education. Dean George Uhlig of the University of South Alabama and Dean Richard Kunkel of Auburn University, along with their respective faculties, contributed greatly by sponsoring the two MSERA evening receptions and generally making extra efforts to make the annual meeting very special.

The following officers were elected during the Business Meeting: Vice President/President Elect, Jim Flaitz; Board Members At-Large: Gahan Bailey, Scott Bauer, Kathy Franklin, and Linda Morse; State Department of Education Representative, Bernadette Chapple (later replaced by Beverly Klecker); Local

Education Agency Representative, Arlene Amos. The Hebert Handley Dissertation Award was won by Susan D. Mason-Mason from the University of South Alabama for her dissertation, "Expert Systems as a Mindtool to Facilitate Mental Model Learning." The outstanding paper award was won by Kevin Kieffer and Bruce Thompson of Texas A&M University for their paper titled "Interpreting Statistical Significance Test Results." Neil Amos of Mississippi State University was awarded the Harry Bowman Outstanding Service Award.

## 2000: BOWLING GREEN, KY, PRESIDENT CLIFF HOFWOLT

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In leadership roles, the following folks contributed so much to MSERA during the year: Jim Flaitz as vice-president/president-elect and chair of the Awards Selection Committee, Gerald Halpin as past-president, advisor, and chair of the Nominations Committee, Robert Calvery as secretary-treasurer, Malenna Sumrall as Program Chair, Michele Jarrell as Alabama Representative, Nola Christenberry as Arkansas Representative, Deborah Abell as Kentucky Representative, Ottis LoVette as Louisiana Representative, Linda Cornelious as Mississippi Representative, Ernie Rakow as Tennessee Representative, Beverly Klecker as State Department of Education Representative, Arlene Amos as Local Department of Education Representative, and At-large Representatives Linda Morse, Kathy Franklin, Gahan Bailey, and Scott Bauer, John Petry as executive-secretary and publisher of the Proceedings of the Annual Meeting, Jim McLean and Alan Kaufman, editors of MSERA's journal, *Research in the Schools*, Nola Christenberry and Lynn Howerton, editors of MSERA's *Educational Researcher*, David Morse, editor of MSERA's web site and chair of the Archives Committee, Glennelle Halpin as chair of the Budget Advisory Committee, Harry Bowman as chair of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, Qaisar Sultana as chair of the Evaluation Committee, Carol Mullen as chair of the Graduate Student Advisory Committee, Tony Norman as the chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for the 2000 Annual Meeting in Bowling Green, Bill Spenser as chair of the Future Site Committee, Jerry Matthews as chair of the Membership Committee, Dot Reed as chair of the Publications Committee, and yours truly, Cliff Hofwolt served as president.

Under the guidance of Program Chair, Malenna Sumrall, MSERA went electronic with the submission, review and notification of proposals for the annual meeting. Malenna set a standard which will be copied in succeeding years.

The annual meeting was held at the University Plaza Hotel in Bowling Green, KY, November 15-17, 2000. The keynote speaker was Walter Mathews, founder of MSERA. Immediately after Walter's inspiring address, Walter was awarded the first Walter Mathews Historical Contributions Award. This award will be given annually to those individuals who have made historical and long term contributions to MSERA. The Joint Universities Reception was sponsored by the University of Western Kentucky.

The following officers were elected during the Business Meeting: Qaisar Sultana, Vice President/President Elect; Ernie Rakow, Secretary/Treasurer; Alabama Representative, Jean Newman Clark, Arkansas Representative, Nola Christenberry, Kentucky Representative, Tony Norman; Louisiana Representative, Jane Nell Luster; Mississippi Representative, Linda Cornelius; and Tennessee Representative; Cynthia Gettys. Ron Adams of Western Kentucky University was awarded the Harry Bowman Outstanding Service Award.

## 2001: LITTLE ROCK, AR, PRESIDENT JIM FLAITZ

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Not available.

## 2002: CHATTANOOGA, TN, PRESIDENT QAISAR SULTANA

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President, Qaisar Sultana; Vice President/President-Elect, Kathy Franklin; Secretary-Treasurer, Ernest Rakow; Executive Secretary, John Petry. Committee Chairs: Budget Planning, Managing, and Advisory, Cliff Hofwolt; Constitution and Bylaws, Harry Bowman; Development, Scott Bauer; Distinguished Awards Selection, Kathy Franklin; Evaluation, William Spencer; Future Site Selection, Antony Norman/William Spencer; Graduate Advising, Jean Clark; Local Arrangements (2002) Judy Boser, (2003) Nancy Masztal and Shirley Bowles, (2004) James McLean; Membership, Gahan Bailey and Linda Cornelious; Nominations, Jim Flaitz; Program, Jane Nell Luster; Publications and Communications, Larry Daniels; Archives and MSERA Website, David Morse; ERIC Liaison, John Petry. Editors: Nola Christenberry and Lynn Howerton: MSERA Researcher, James McLean and Alan Kaufman: Research in the Schools, and John Petry, Proceedings. State Representatives: Alabama, Jean Clark; Arkansas, Nola Christenberry; Kentucky, Antony Norman; Louisiana, Jane Nell Luster; Mississippi, Linda Cornelious; Tennessee, Cynthia Gettys. At-Large: Lynn Howerton, Gahan Bailey; William Person; Otis Lovett; Local Department of Education, Robert Calvery; Mid-South Educational Research Foundation President, Glennelle Halpin.

Spring Board meeting dates were identified prior to the Fall 2001 meeting by polling the Board members. The location was decided at the Fall Board meeting. Because of the serious illness of the Local Arrangement Committee Chair, Cynthia Gettys, Judy Boser was appointed to Chair the Local Arrangements Committee. A decision was made at the Fall 2001 Board meeting that the Spring Board meeting be held in Chattanooga, the site of the 2002 annual conference. Immediately following the 2001 annual conference all committee chairs and members were appointed. The committee chairs were sent charges of their individual committees. A new committee on Development was formed with Scott Bauer as its chair. For the past few years, MSERA had been running on a shoe-string budget and had become somewhat dependent on financial support from the Mid-South Educational Foundation



(MSERF). An aggressive development effort was therefore needed to become self-supporting while preserving the MSERA CD for emergencies.

The Spring Board held its meeting at the Chattanooga Choo Choo, March 15-16, 2002. A major agenda item was the policy concerning the membership status of those submitting proposals for the program. It has been a recurring issue for the past few years. After a long discussion, Cliff Hofwolt and Jim Flaitz were appointed to submit a proposal to solve this ongoing issue and present it at the Fall Board meeting. Another major topic was the registration fee for graduate students and/or others who may be interested in attending only one or two sessions at the conference. After a long discussion it was decided that all such attendees should be required to register for the full conference. Declining membership was a concern. An initiative, formation of a group consisting of MSERA members who had been members for 20 or more years, was therefore presented to the Board for its consideration. The major purpose of this proposed group was to focus on the new members to encourage their retention and long term participation in the organization. The proposed goals of the group were maintaining continued contact with the new members and graduate students, nurturing, and mentoring. The Board approved the initiative. Carolyn Reeves-Kazelskis was appointed as the Coordinator of the 20+ group. Scott Bauer, Chair of the Development Committee, proposed Institutional Memberships at \$250 and \$400 levels as a means of raising funds. The proposal was approved by the Board.

The Fall Board meeting was held at the Chattanooga Choo Choo on November 5. The long agenda was not completed and the meeting continued the next morning. The development effort, which was initiated after the Spring Board meeting, resulted in 20 institutions becoming institutional members, five at the \$400 level and the remaining at the \$250 level. This initiative resulted in \$5,750. The Program Chair reported that of the 268 proposals submitted, 234 had been accepted for presentation; 88% of the submitted proposals came from member states. One proposal was from out of the country and 13 proposals were from states outside the MSERA region; 87% of the proposals were submitted electronically. The Local Arrangements Committee Chair reported that The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga was going to finance the reception and that the conference was well under the proposed budget. The Coordinator of the 20+ group reported that 29 members met the criterion of 20 plus years continued membership. About the membership status, a proposal was presented by Jim and Cliff to allow non-members to submit proposals. They proposed a higher conference registration fee for non-members in each category.

The annual conference was held in Chattanooga from November 6-8, 2002. Total registration was about 100 more than last years meeting in Little Rock. Arthur E. Wise, President of NCATE, the key note speaker, gave a thought-provoking address on the topic of Teacher Quality: Standards, Research, and Politics. A special time slot was scheduled during the conference for the 20 + group to meet and decide on its name and role in the organization. Many names were suggested, and the group decided to let MSERA assign the responsibilities as needed in addition to the identified goals. A special symposium, Improbable Research and Irreproducible Results, organized by Walter Mathews, provided a lot of humor and was a big hit. From all accounts the conference was a big success.

During the year, the Board tackled recurring issues and implemented two new initiatives: Institutional Membership and MSERA Mentors. The Board functioned more effectively and maximized time by using technology. Electronic mailing of committee reports well in advance of the Board meetings helped facilitate the Board deliberations and actions. Continuous communication was maintained throughout the year via cyberspace. The future of MSERA is in good hands and the strength of the organization continues to be the spirit of cooperation and support and mutual respect among its members.

## 2003: BILOXI, MS, PRESIDENT KATHY FRANKLIN

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2003 was a busy, but productive, year for MSERA. During the year, the Publications and Communication Committee, co-chaired by Robert Kennedy and Jane Nell Luster, conducted an audit of all MSERA publications for performance effectiveness in communicating with MSERA members. The committee found that all current publications were highly effective in their current form and made only minimal recommendations for improvement. One such recommendation was to increase use of the MSERA web site for sharing information with members.

During 2003, Drs. James McLean and Allen Kaufman announced their retirement as editors for *Research in the Schools*. An announcement requesting applications for the position was distributed among all member states and higher education institutions at the beginning of the year. Applications were forwarded to the Publications and Communication Committee for review. The committee recommended to the Board, and the Board approved, Larry Daniel and Anthony Onwuegbuzie as the next co-editors of the journal.

Unfortunately, the year began with fiscal challenges. The incoming secretary/treasurer, Nola Christenberry, discovered that check payments to MSERA for membership dues and annual meeting registration were not deposited into the MSERA account for approximately two years. At the beginning of the year, MSERA held approximately \$1,000 in the treasury. MSERF graciously loaned MSERA operating funds until we had the opportunity to contact all members and request that they re-issue payment for membership and registration fees. Fortunately, the majority of members responded positively to our request. Through Nola Christenberry's efforts, the response of wonderful MSERA members, and a profitable annual meeting, by the end of the year MSERA had approximately \$30,000 in the treasury and had repaid the loan to MSERF.

One other committee that worked diligently on behalf of MSERA was the Development Committee co-chaired by Scott Bauer and Larry Daniel. Through the work of this committee, MSERA re-captured close to \$8,000 in institutional membership dues that were not deposited and solicited additional dues for the year.

The annual meeting was held in Biloxi, Mississippi at the Grand Hotel and Casino. Approximately 200 papers were presented to members during the meeting. The meeting was not only enjoyable and informative, but was also profitable with revenues from the meeting far exceeding expenses.

Finally, members of the MSERA Board graciously offered their time and expertise during the year to help resolve the fiscal challenges and to select the new editors for our journal. I wish to thank Qaisar Sultana, Past-President; Scott Bauer, President-Elect; Nola Christenberry, Secretary-Treasurer; and John Petry, Executive Secretary for their support and expert guidance during the year. I also wish to thank the State Representatives: Dennis Zuelke, Alabama; Mary Jane Bradley, Arkansas; Beverly Klecker, Kentucky; Jane Nell Luster, Louisiana; Dana Thames, Mississippi; and Russell West, Tennessee; and At-Large Representatives: Gahan Bailey, Lynn Howerton, Otis LoVette, and Bill Person for their support during 2003.

## 2004: GATLINBURG, TN, PRESIDENT SCOTT BAUER

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Not available.

## 2005: ALMOST, BUT NOT QUITE BATON ROUGE, LA, PRESIDENT JANE NELL LUSTER

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In preparing this report I looked for previous reports of presidents of MSERA. I reflected on the 2005 year. There are no other reports that help to talk about this year of excitement and sadness. The excitement and hard work of the MSERA Board and Committee members began immediately after the 2004 annual meeting and continued through the end of the year and to date despite the unimaginable destruction and tragedy of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The spirit of MSERA has surpassed this natural event.

I thought I could write this report as a cliché – “it was the best of times, it was the worst of times” but that doesn’t really capture this year. I could moan and mourn the fact that I am the first President in the history of MSERA to not have an annual meeting. I could use the power of understatement to say it was a difficult year. Or I could pretend that it was just an unusual year. Yet, it was none of these and it was more.

There is so much to celebrate this year. There is no way I can express the spirit of MSERA but I am going to try to share it through those who have lead your organization this year. I want to write in this President’s Report about our tremendous Board and Committee members and the accomplishments of

your organization this year despite it being “a very different year.” I want to acknowledge and share what an amazing group of people you have as your leaders and colleagues. I know that I will forget to record some accomplishments, but this is an historical report and maybe I can be forgiven and maybe others will edit and add. Regardless, it is only through the support and service of our MSERA members, especially those who serve on the Board and as Committee Chairs that we continue to be a strong and viable professional organization. Please forgive me if I sound proud; I am. Indulge me as I write about this different year.

For the 2005 Spring Board meeting we had a number of changes. Linda Kondrick and Dennis Zuelke took over the responsibilities of the Secretary and Treasurer, respectively, of MSERA, newly divided positions and responsibilities based on the vote of the membership in Gatlinburg to change the Constitution and ByLaws. Their flexibility, resilience, and perseverance truly speak to the character of your leaders. They have been responsive to the needs of the organization and to the President. I appreciate their service.

You were served ably this year by your State, State Department and Local Education Agency, and At-Large Representatives. Alabama – Rebecca Giles, Arkansas – Sherry Shaw, Kentucky – Mary O’Phelan, Louisiana – Randy Parker, Mississippi – Dana Thames, Tennessee – Patrick Kariuki, State Departments of Education – Shana Corvers, Local Education Agencies – Kathy Holland, At-Large Representatives – Lynn Howerton (AR), Jane McHaney (GA), Bill Spencer (AL), and Gail Weems (AR). My charge to these Board members was to “identify ways you can ‘stimulate interest in the membership of the Association’ ...both of current members and potential members.” They were asked at the Spring Board meeting to share ideas of three ways to stimulate interest and to report on their activities at the Fall meeting. These members are truly your Representatives; they connect us together.

Bill Spencer and Randy Parker started off this year as Co-chairs of the Evaluation Committee with energy and accomplishment. And from the work of this committee, especially Bill, we will be able to have both paper evaluations of the annual meeting and web based evaluations. What an accomplishment. It will move the process of gathering participant feedback greatly forward.

David Morse has served MSERA for many years in multiple capacities and roles. There are few words that I can use to adequately describe David’s dedication or express my appreciation. Of course this year his work was lessened just a bit as the Chair of the Archives committee without the sheaves of papers he usually carries back to Mississippi State after the annual meeting. David maintains the MSERA website (or is it sites because of our multiple addresses?) and is responsive to the many changes a President asks of him.

One of the most important people for me this year is Randy Parker. Randy is a long-time colleague from Louisiana Tech and Louisiana Education Research Association. And, as I, Randy has the dubious honor of being the Program Chair with no presented program. Yet, we can never let this overshadow Randy’s competent and diligent work in putting together a wonderful 2005 Program. You have only to look through the 2005 Program edition of the *Researcher* and to listen to his colleagues to know what a tremendous job he did.

Another committee that did not get to reap the rewards (and probably weariness too) of this year's annual meeting is Local Arrangements. Betty Porter and Kathy Campbell had worked with the Holiday Inn, Select, and the Baton Rouge Visitor and Convention Bureau to put on a wonderful and smooth conference. They had conferred with Randy to ensure the presentation room accommodations. Both Betty and Kathy were displaced from the New Orleans area when Hurricane Katrina arrived.

The Researcher was truly a life line this year. And the Co-editors Lynn Howerton and Mary Jane Bradley are professional (and very persistent) in the devotion to getting out a quality product. I cannot thank them enough for their work, even as I wished they would have let me write just a few more words in each President's column. For those of us who do not have the task of actually producing for publication, the task is time consuming, arduous, and sometimes I am sure tedious. Lynn and Mary Jane have the skill to make it look easy.

It is important for me to seemingly digress a moment to recognize Gypsy Abbott. Gypsy was instrumental in getting the University of Alabama, Birmingham to host a Blackboard site where we could have an Announcements and Discussion Board. It was most amazing to me in the days and weeks after the hurricanes how our communications' systems had failed and continued to be so greatly impaired. Gypsy's quick thinking and ingenuity were and are an invaluable contribution to MSERA.

Three important people who attended our Fall Board meeting to help us explore and think of ways of expanding and maintaining our connections in this year without the annual meeting must be recognized for their dedication to MSERA. Gypsy Abbott, Richard Littleton, and Jeffrey Anderson took considerable time to talk with us about the hosting of an online conference format. Their work to develop this idea and to present this to the Board is most appreciated.

The Development Committee chaired by Linda Kondrick and Scott Bauer continued to reach out and increase the institutional membership. As of the November 2005 Board meeting there were 35 institutional members.

Membership Committee Co-chairs Michael Ross and Jesus Tanguma deserve much thanks. This committee is among the most difficult. It is charged with maintaining and recruiting membership. Michael set about to develop a campaign to bring in new members from our member states' colleges and university that have not been active participants in the past. This committee will be calling on each of us this next year to ensure we renew our membership and bring others with us.

The Graduate Student Advisory Committee was led this year by Pamela Broadston and Sherry Shaw. Their leadership has developed a network among graduate students and the development of a graduate student strand at the annual conference. Many of us entered MSERA as graduate students and know how important the leadership of this committee is.

Publications and Communications Committee Co-chairs Rob Kennedy and Tom Lucey were given broad tasks this year. They were asked to really examine in conjunction with the Ad Hoc Committee on Technology the way our organization communicates and publishes information. They communicated with members of the committee throughout the year to carry out their charge and provide information and feedback to the President.

Qaisar Sultana and Nola Christenberry Co-chaired the Mentors' committee. This very important committee serves to maintain the continuity of the organization while encouraging and nurturing the new members. Our mentors are members with 15 years or more of continuous service and their ranks grow even as our membership grows.

Harry Bowman and Jim McLean served as Co-chairs of the Constitution and ByLaws Committee. They have been kept very busy this past year as we have grown, changed, and faced challenges. Their experience and knowledge guided your Board and, especially, your President.

Research in the Schools co-editors Larry Daniel and Tony Onwuegbuzie successfully brought to our audiences another year's worth of research publications. Their work is important in highlighting research and our organization.

Bill Person and Lesia Lennex served the organization on the Future Site Committee. Their task was a bit unusual this year because we actually have sites for the next several years. But that even more speaks to their character in that they explored various options for upcoming years and continued to think of venues for our annual meeting.

This year I asked members to serve on Ad Hoc Committees – Technology, Exhibits/Vendors, and Operations Manual. I'll begin with Operations, Gahan Bailey as President-Elect/Vice President has the role of maintaining and updating the Operations Manual. I asked Gahan this year to recruit two past presidents to help her really give a critical look to the manual and ensure it matches with the Constitution and ByLaws of the organization and includes the important operational information to maintain the continuity of the organization. Walt Mathews and Ron Adams were enlisted to assist in this task. This has been a lengthy and wearisome task. Yet the reward of having a coherent and useful manual cannot be overstated. Randy Parker and Julie Holmes served on the Exhibitors/Vendors Committee. For years I have heard discussion of whether this would be a way to fund some of our activities and expand the reach of MSERA. Randy and Julie developed a plan and explored it with several vendors who indeed expressed acute interest. It is possible this is an area to continue to explore in the future. Cliff Hofwolt and Billy Franklin agreed to work on the Technology Committee this year, especially examining how the organization can more effectively communicate throughout the year. It is ironic that one of the areas for development this year was to expand the listserv to enable rapid and connected communications.

Other accomplishments--the Mid-South Educational Research Foundation, through President Rob Kennedy, and MSERA entered into an agreement this year for funds management. This will allow the

MSERF to assist in ensuring the fiscal soundness of the organization even in times such as this year when there is no annual conference. The funds that MSERF manages remain solely those of MSERA. This year we used technology in new and varied ways. As stated earlier there is a Blackboard site. Mass emails were used to communicate with members. A proprietary listserv is being developed. Voting on changes to the Constitution and ByLaws and for officers was conducted online this year.

As I end this President's report I must recognize several individuals. Scott Bauer, immediate past President is one. Scott has been a mentor, a cajoler, a sounding board, and friend. My appreciation for his support, patience, and assistance this year cannot be expressed adequately; suffice it to say he has served the organization well. John Petry has also served the organization well. When John announced to me his intent to resign as Executive Secretary I was struck. I could not imagine not having John near me. John's wisdom, experience, and sense of humor have served not only him but been much sought by me this year. He will probably not own up to how often and how needy I was, but know that without his guidance I would not have seemed nearly so confident.

Well, it appears that I have written more than most past presidents. I don't suppose I should say that I think that is because we accomplished more, although of course I do, but because without an annual meeting on which to report I determinedly looked at those who have served you this year. My hope is that this report prompts some to serve who had not otherwise considered running for office or chairing a committee, or for others to continue their membership and attendance at the annual meeting, and for others to grow in the warmth of this wonderful organization. It has been an honor to serve as the President of MSERA this year. To have the dubious honor of being the only President in the history of MSERA to have to decide with the Board to cancel the annual meeting was not easy. But to have served with the Board members who reached out, who problem solved, who provided relief and support, there are few words to express my gratitude. Some have asked whether I missed having an annual meeting. I missed seeing all of my friends and colleagues, but I know that when we gather with Gahan in Birmingham in 2006 it will be all the more celebratory.

## 2006: BIRMINGHAM, AL, PRESIDENT GAHAN BAILEY

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President, Gahan Bailey; Vice President/President-Elect, William (Bill) Spencer; Secretary, Linda Kondrick; Executive Director, Cliff Hofwolt. State Representatives: Alabama, Rebecca Giles; Arkansas, Sherry Shaw; Kentucky, Mary O'Phelan; Louisiana, Randy Parker; Mississippi, Dana Thames; Tennessee, Patrick Kariuki. At-Large Representatives: Edward Shaw, Julie Holmes, Dianne Richardson, Jack Klotz. SDE/LEA Representative: Laura Boudreaux Pitre. LERA Liaison: Randy Parker. Graduate Student Representative: Katrina Roper. MSER Foundation: Robert (Rob) Kennedy. Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs: Archives, David Morse; Budget Advisory, Jane Nell Luster; Constitution & Bylaws, Harry Bowman; Development Committee, Lawrence (Laurie) Leonard; Evaluation Committee, Randy Parker and Edward Shaw; Local Arrangements 2007, Linda Kondrick; Graduate Students Advisory, Sherry Shaw & Pam

Broadston; Growth & Expansion, Larry Daniel; Local Arrangements 2006, Richard Littleton & Gypsy Abbot; Membership, Michael Ross; MSERA Mentors, Linda Morse; Nominations, Jane Nell Luster; Proceedings, John Petry; Publications & Communications, Rob Kennedy & Tom Lucey; Website, David Morse; Research in the Schools, Larry Daniel & Claribel Torres; Researcher, Lynn Howerton & Mary Jane Bradley; Ad-Hoc Committees: Exhibits/Vendors, Julie Holmes; Technology, Cliff Hofwolt.

The Spring 2006 Board Meeting (March 31 – April 1) was held at the Wynfrey Hotel Galleria in Birmingham, Alabama; the site of the Fall Annual Conference. A total of 22 Board Members and Committee Chairs were present. Changes to the Constitution and Bylaws that were approved by the Membership on February 26, 2006, included the creation of a new position, Executive Director, which combined the roles of Executive Secretary and Treasurer. Cliff Hofwolt was appointed the first MSERA Executive Director. Cliff also agreed to become the new Secretary/Treasurer for the MSER Foundation. There was considerable discussion of the “membership dilemma” resulting from the cancellation of the 2005 Annual Meeting. Since membership is usually paid with registration for the annual meeting, we have only approximately 200 members for 2006. Thus, we will send copies of the May issue of The Researcher to all current members, all former 2005 members, and all who were accepted to present at the 2005 Annual Meeting. Randy Parker and Eddie Shaw, Evaluation Committee, stated: “If the 2005 Fall Annual Meeting had convened, it would have been a tremendous success.” We all agreed! John Petry has been formatting and submitting the Proceeding to the MSERA Web Master, David Morse, for many years although it was not part of his duties as Executive Secretary. The Proceedings task was not transferred to the Executive Director, but John graciously volunteered to continue this duty. We are all very thankful. Larry Daniel introduced Claribel Torres as the new Editorial Assistant and Production Manager for Research in the Schools. A new award, The MSERA Research in the Schools Outstanding Reviewer Award was approved by the board. Larry Daniel agreed to Chair a new committee, Growth and Expansion to explore proposed additions to the MSERA member states. The Board approved travel expenses to assist Board Members and Committee Chairpersons with expenses incurred to attend Spring and Fall Board Meetings. The expenses will have to be applied for and certain conditions must be met; most Board Members stated they would not apply for expense assistance. A motion to grant a Lifetime MSERA Membership to John Petry in recognition of his distinguished service was enthusiastically passed.

The Fall 2006 Board Meeting was held November 7th at the Wynfrey Hotel Galleria in Birmingham, Alabama. A total of 26 Board Members and Committee Chairs were present. The Executive Director reported a healthy treasury balance and the MSER Foundation reported that a sub-committee is investigating investment opportunities for managing MSERA funds entrusted to MSERF. Laurie Leonard, Development Committee reported that we have 40 Institutional Members which has generated \$10,950.00 and another \$1300.00 in pledges. Larry Daniel, presented an analysis of three factors to be considered in the question regarding proposed additions to the MSERA member states. The committee will continue to study the question of growth and expansion and make recommendations at the Spring 2007 Board Meeting.



The 2006 Annual Meeting was held November 8 – 10 at the Wynfrey Hotel Galleria in Birmingham, Alabama. We had a total of 326 registrations. Since the 2005 Annual Meeting was cancelled due to Hurricane Katrina, the 2006 Meeting was somewhat of a two meetings in one. Jane Nell, 2005 MSERA President, shared in conducting the Wednesday Luncheon where the 2005 Leadership Team and Committee Chairs were recognized. Additionally, Rob Kennedy received the Harry L. Bowman Service Award; Paul B. Webb, the Herbert M. Handley Outstanding Dissertation Award; and Charles M. Achilles, the James E. McLean Distinguished Paper Award. Since we celebrated 2005 during the Wednesday luncheon, no guest speaker was invited. The 2006 Leadership Team and Committee Chairs were recognized at the Thursday Business Meeting. Award recipients were: John Petry, Lifetime MSERA Membership; Linda Morse, the Harry L. Bowman Service Award; George Gaines, the Walter M. Mathews Historical Contributions Award; Susan Seay, the Herbert M. Handley Outstanding Dissertation Award; and Gerald and Glennelle Halpin, the James E. McLean Distinguished Paper Award; Kevin Keiffer and Charles Achilles, The MSERA Research in the Schools Outstanding Reviewer Award. Special thanks and certificates were presented to Gypsy Abbot, Richard Littleton, and Jeff Anderson for the superb job they did as the Local Arrangements Committee. Donna Herring was an outstanding Program Chair. Additions to the program included Conference at a Glance Grids, Breakout Room Posters, and a Wireless Internet Café. William (Bill) Spencer was elected Vice-President/President-Elect. I thank everyone for their support during my year as President. The 2006 Annual Meeting was a great success and MSERA is going strong.

## 2007: HOT SPRINGS, AR, PRESIDENT WILLIAM SPENCER

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The MSERA leadership team for 2007 consisted of Cliff Hofwolt as Executive Director, Randy Parker as Vice President/President Elect and chair of the Distinguished Awards Selection Committee as well as LERA liaison, Donna Herring as Secretary, Gahan Bailey as Past President and chair of the Nominations Committee and the Budget Advisory Committee, Rebecca Giles as Alabama Director, Linda Kondrick as Arkansas Director, JoAnna Dickey as Kentucky Director, Betty Porter as Louisiana Director, Dana Thames as Mississippi Director, Patrick Kariuki as Tennessee Director, and Eddie Shaw, Julie Holmes, Diane Richardson, and Jack Klotz as at Large Directors. Laura Pitre was the Director representing the K-12 members and Kevin Walker was appointed in late 2007 to fill the term of the Graduate Student Director.

Other critically important contributors were Lynn Howerton and Mary Jane Bradley as editors of The Educational Researcher, Larry Daniel and Tony Onwuegbuzie as editors of Research in the Schools, David Morse as both archivist and master of the MSERA web site, Sherry Shaw and Michelle Georgette Haj-Broussard as co-chairs of the Graduate Student Advisory Committee, Laurie Leonard as chair of the Development Committee, Harry Bowman as chair of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, Rob Kennedy as chair of the Publications and Communications Committee as well as MSER Foundation Representative, and Paige Baggett and James Kirylo as cochairs of the Membership Committee. John Petry also continued his exemplary service as editor of the Proceedings which are available online. As

cochairs of the Future Site Selection Committee, Susan Santoli and Patrick Kariuki worked diligently and successfully to identify sites for the 2009 (Baton Rouge, LA) and 2010 (Mobile, AL) conferences, thus restoring the three year lead time we need to plan adequately for those events and to hold down costs.

The annual conference was held in Hot Springs, Arkansas, and although the number of attendees were somewhat less than usual, the quality of the conference was very good thanks to the magnificent efforts of Linda Kondrick and Julie Holmes as co-chairs for Local Arrangements and of Gail Hughes as chair of the Program Committee. The Board had earlier voted to develop its own software for proposal submission and the process took much longer than projected, placing Gail in a very difficult position. But she prevailed and the effort will bear fruit for the future as we should have a stable process from now on. We returned to the practice of having the keynote speaker at the Wednesday luncheon in order to maximize attendance. The speaker, Dr. Charity Smith, Assistant Commissioner for the Arkansas Department of Education, gave a splendid talk on dealing with at risk youth and drew an enthusiastic response from the audience. At the business meeting, Carolyn Reeves Kazelskis and Richard Kazelskis received the Harry Bowman Service Award and Jerry Robbins received the Walt Mathews Historical Contributions Award. Nancy Leach and Tony Onwuegbuzie received the James McLean Distinguished Paper Award and Lishu Yin received the Herbert Handley Outstanding Thesis/Dissertation Award.

An especially successful aspect of the conference was the emphasis on mentoring new members and graduate students. Sherry and Michelle, with help from the MSER Foundation, organized two Research in Progress sessions, awarding \$200 to each of the eight students selected to present their research and Linda Morse followed up with two MSERA Mentoring sessions where other graduate students could meet in less structured settings to receive guidance on developing their own research.

The future of MSERA is bright and the leadership is enthusiastic. The president thanks all those who worked so hard to sustain and improve our organization.

## 2008: KNOXVILLE, TN, PRESIDENT RANDY PARKER

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The Executive Committee of MSERA for 2008 consisted of: Randy Parker, President; Dana Thames, Vice President/President Elect; William (Bill) Spencer, Past President; Donna Herring, Secretary; and, Cliff Hofwolt, Executive Director. The Directors were: Alabama - Rebecca Giles; Arkansas - Linda Kondrick; Kentucky - JoAnna Dickey; Louisiana - Betty Porter; Mississippi - Dana Thames; Tennessee - Patrick Kariuki; SDE/LDE – Linda Boswell, At-Large – David Bell, Julie Holmes, Dianne Richardson Swain and Eddie Shaw. The Graduate Student Representative was Kevin Clark Walker of the University of Southern Mississippi.

Upon assuming the Presidency, Randy Parker appointed (or reappointed) the following Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs: Program – Linda Kondrick and Julie Holmes; Local Arrangements – Chris Skinner

and Gary Skolits (with solid support and encouragement from Judy Boser); Distinguished Awards - Dana Thames, Nominations and Budget Advisory – William (Bill) Spencer, Future Site – Patrick Kariuki and JoAnna Dickey, Archives – David Morse, Development – Charles Notar, Constitution and Bylaws – Harry Bowman, Membership – Paige Baggett and Rebecca Robichaux, MSERA Mentors – Linda Morse, Publications and Communications – Rob Kennedy, Evaluation – Eddie Shaw and Julie Holmes, Graduate Student Advisory – Michelle Haj-Broussard and Pam Broadston, and MSER Foundation Representative – Rob Kennedy.

Lynn Howerton and Mary Jane Bradley continued to excel as editors of *The Mid-South Educational Researcher*. John Petry also continued his exemplary service as editor of the *Proceedings*. After many years of meritorious service, Larry Daniels relinquished his position as co-editor of *Research in the Schools* due to the demands of his new position as Dean of the College of Education and Human Services at the University of North Florida. Tony Onwuegbuzie and Robert Slate of Sam Houston State University were selected by the Board to serve as editors for the remaining year of the existing five-year agreement.

The Spring Board Planning Meeting was held February 1-2, 2008 at the Crowne-Plaza in Knoxville – Site of the Fall 2008 Annual Meeting; Sixteen Directors and Committee Chairs were present; those unable to attend did submit committee and director reports. Among the planning meeting highlights were a demonstration of the emerging MSERA Online Proposal Submission System, a positive cash flow financial report, approval of contracts for the 2009 Meeting in Baton Rouge and the 2010 Meeting in Mobile, initial contact from Kentucky members to propose a 2011 Meeting in Kentucky, a Board directive for President Parker to work with the Publications committee to solicit proposals for the next five-year term as editors of *Research in the Schools*, and a tour of the meeting facilities of the Crowne-Plaza in anticipation of the November Annual Meeting.

The 38th Annual Meeting of MSERA was held November 5-7 at the Crowne-Plaza in Downtown Knoxville, Tennessee, preceded by the 2008 Fall MSERA Board Meeting on Tuesday – November 4 (which was also Election Day). President Parker, in true Louisiana political style, encouraged Board Members to vote early (and often?) before coming to Knoxville on Tuesday.

Twenty-seven Directors and Committee Chairs attended the Fall Board Meeting. President Parker commended the members of the Program Committee – Linda Kondrick and Julie Holmes, Co-Chairs; and the Local Arrangements Committee – Chris Skinner and Gary Skolits, co-chairs, for their tremendous work in planning and developing the 2008 Annual Meeting. Linda announced that the program consisted of 295 accepted proposals: 215 Discussion Papers, 50 Displays, 13 Symposia, 11 Training Sessions, and 6 Research-in-Progress (RIP) Papers. It was noted that there were 30 Institutional Members in 2008. Chris and Gary provided local arrangements and logistical information for the Annual Meeting to the members present. The board voted to accept the recommendation of the Publications and Communications Committee that Tony Onwuegbuzie and Robert Slate of Sam Houston State University continue to serve as co-editors of *Research in the Schools* for the next five year term, as well as approving a proposal from the Marriott Griffin Gate in Lexington, KY to host the 2011 Annual Meeting.

President Parker had reserved a suite on the top floor of the Crowne-Plaza, but upon arrival discovered that he, as well as other board members, had been displaced to lower floors because the Knox County Republican Party had been allowed to use of the entire top floor, as well as the downstairs ballrooms, for election night celebrations. He and others were relocated to a floor deemed by the Crowne-Plaza as the Quiet Zone – one in which the hotel made two promises to guests: (1) there would be no housekeeping and maintenance activities between 9:00 PM and 10:00 AM, and (2) No Children, Leisure Groups or Circus Animals would be assigned to the area. The origins and ramifications of this policy remain unclear. Ever pressing onward – many MSERA Board Members did gather with President Parker in the “Quiet Zone” to watch the historic 2008 election returns. In a retaliatory strike, Randy Parker, Linda Kondrick, Walt Mathews and Julie Holmes did manage to crash the Knox County Republican Party Reception in the hotel ballrooms later that evening. Linda even retrieved a large McCain/Palin sign which she may one day sell on ebay for a tidy sum.

The 2008 Annual Meeting was attended by 340 participants; the sessions were well attended and well received. The MSERA Keynote Address entitled “Yes – Research Can Drive Change” was delivered at the Wednesday Luncheon by Dr. Paula Short, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs for the Tennessee Board of Regents. During the Thursday Business Meeting, elections for State Directors, Secretary, and Vice President/President Elect were conducted. An unusual situation resulted in a tie vote for one of the state director positions and, after a second ballot, the results were: Vice President/President Elect - Linda Kondrick, Secretary – Donna Herring, Alabama Director – Nancy Fox, Arkansas Director – Pam Broadston, Kentucky Director – JoAnna Dickey, Louisiana Director – Betty Porter, Mississippi Director – Rose Jones, and Tennessee Director – Barbara Young. Linda Kondrick received the 2008 Program Chair Award. Other Awards were: The Harry L. Bowman Service Award – Arkansas State University (Nola Christenberry, Mary Jane Bradley, and Lynn Howerton) for 10 years of support for the Researcher; The Walter M. Mathews Historical Contributions Award – John Enger; The Herbert M. Handley Outstanding Dissertation Award – John F. Edwards (Doctoral Student) and David Morse (Professor). There was no James E. McLean Distinguished Paper Award recipient. After the Installation of new Officers and Directors, President Parker presented Incoming President Thames with the MSERA gavel. President Thames then adjourned the 2008 Annual Meeting and attendees left with the great anticipation of returning the MSERA Annual Meeting to Baton Rouge, Louisiana – (This Time For Real!) in 2009.

## 2009: BATON ROUGE (THIS TIME FOR REAL!), LA, PRESIDENT DANA THAMES

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President Dana Thames re-appointed and newly appointed the following committees; the elected officials are included as well: MSERA Researcher Lynn Howerton and Mary Jane Bradley; Constitution and Bylaws Harry Bowman; Publications and Communication Rob Kennedy; Publications (Research in the Schools) John Slate and Tony Onwuegbuzie; Publications (MSERA Researcher) Lynn Howerton and Mary Jane Bradley; Proceedings John Petry, Nominations Committee Randy Parker, Past-President;

Annual Meeting Evaluation Mary Nell McNeese and Julie Holmes; Program Eddie Shaw and Julie Holmes; ERIC Liaison John Petry; MSERA Mentors Linda Morse; Graduate Student Advisory Michelle Haj-Boussard and Pam Broadston; Archives/Paper Repository David Morse; MSERA web site David Morse; Local Arrangements Jane Nell Luster, Betty Porter, and Randy Parker; 2011 Local Arrangements Eddie Shaw and Gahan Bailey; Distinguished Thesis/Dissertation Award Linda Kondrick; Outstanding Paper Award Linda Kondrick; Future Site committee JoAnna Dickey and Patrick Kariucki; Harry Bowman Service Award Judy Boser; Walter Matthews Historical Contributions Award Richard Kazelskis; Alabama State Representative Nancy Fox; Kentucky State Representative JoAnna Dickey; Louisiana State Representative Betty Porter; Mississippi State Representative Rose Jones; Tennessee State Representative Barbara Young; At-Large Representatives Eddie Shaw, Julie Holmes, Gloria Diane Richardson, and David Bell; Graduate Student Representative Christopher Young; MSERF President Rob Kennedy; Development Charlie Notar; and Membership Paige Baggett and Rebecca Robichaux.

This year's Board voted to investigate the option of video conferencing as a means to off-set the financial situation that many participants are experiencing. In addition, the Board voted to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of MSERA in 2011 with Ole Miss hosting the conference and celebration. Due to this change in sites Kentucky agreed to move their hosting year to 2012. Walter Matthews, the Founding Father, will head the operations and arrangements for the celebration.

The 2009, 38th Annual Conference November 4-6 was at the Baton Rouge Hilton, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Registration was \$25 for professionals, \$15 for students. There were \_\_\_ registered for the meeting, and 298 papers appeared in The Proceedings. A Graduate Student Social was held on Wednesday Evening followed by a Graduate Student Breakfast the next morning. The MSERA Business Meeting took place on Thursday Evening prior to the President's Reception (wine and heavy hors-d'oeuvres social). A Past President's Breakfast for the current MSERA President, President-Elect, and all past presidents was held on Friday morning. Dr. Paul Vallas, Keynote Speaker, addressed the organization on Transformation of the Recovery School District; in New Orleans following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. The James McLean Outstanding Paper Award went to Larry Daniel, Lunetta Williams, and Katrina Hall. The Herbert Handley Dissertation Award went to Monica Wong-Ratcliff for The Effects of the Reading First Program on the Acquisition of Early Literacy Skills: A Comparative Study. Her dissertation chair was Dr. Sherlyn Powell of University of Louisiana at Monroe. The Walter Matthews Historical Contributions Award recipient was Ron Adams and the Harry L. Bowman Service Award recipient was Walter Matthews. Officers elected for the coming year included: Vice President-President Elect Lynda Kondrick; At Large Representatives David Bell, Kathleen Campbell, Charles Notar, and Rebecca Robichaux. Ava Pugh will serve as the MSER Foundation President for 2010.

## 2010: MOBILE, AL, PRESIDENT LINDA KONDRICK

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The 39th Annual Meeting of MSERA was held November 3-5, 2010 at the Renaissance Center in Mobile, Alabama. There were 267 members who registered for the meeting. Of these, 177 pre-registered and 90 registered on site. Gahan Bailey and Eddie Shaw, Local Arrangement Chairs, planned some great events for all who attended. One of the highlights was a fabulous luncheon with Winston Groom, historian and author of *Forrest Gump* as the keynote speaker.

Julie Holmes, served with distinction in preparing the program for the 39th Annual Meeting. Out of 200 submissions, there was selected for presentation: 147 papers; 19 displays; 3 symposia; and 7 training sessions. In addition, Linda Morse and the MSERA Mentors conducted two Mentor Sessions for the benefit of graduate students and junior faculty. Michele Haj-Broussard and Pamela Broadston, Graduate Student Advisory Committee Co-Chairs, hosted four Research in Progress sessions, including the first Research in Progress Display Session.

The 2010 MSERA Executive Committee consisted of Linda Kondrick, President; Eddie Shaw, Vice President; Donna Herring, Secretary; and Dana Thames, Immediate Past President. Cliff Hofwolt continued to serve as Executive Director. The State Directors were: Nancy Fox, Alabama; Pamela Broadston, Arkansas; Jo Anna Dickey, Kentucky; Betty Porter, Louisiana; Rose Jones, Mississippi; and Barbara Young, Tennessee. The four At-Large Directors were: David Bell, Kathleen Campbell, Charles Notar and Rebecca Robichaux. Paula Vanderford served as the SDE/LEA Representative. Eric Dickson of Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center served as the Graduate Student Representative.

The work of the 2010 board of directors required approximately twenty committees which operated throughout the year. Those committees and Chair persons as listed in the May 2010 issue of *The Researcher* were: Archives/Paper Repository: David Morse, Mississippi State University; Budget Advisory: Randy Parker, Louisiana Tech University; Constitution and ByLaws: Harry Bowman, Council on Occupational Studies and Jim McLean, University of Alabama; Development, Charles Notar, Jacksonville State University; Distinguished Awards Selection: Richard Kazelskis, University of Southern Mississippi and Judy Boser, University of Tennessee Knoxville; Distinguished Papers: Eddie Shaw, University of South Alabama; Evaluation: Rose Jones and Janet Boyce, University of Southern Mississippi; Future Site Selection: Jo Anna Dickey, Eastern Kentucky and Dianne Richardson, University of West Alabama; Graduate Student Advisory: Michelle Haj-Broussard, McNeese State University and Pam Broadston, Arkansas School for the Deaf; LERA Liaison: Randy Parker, Louisiana Tech University; Local Arrangements for 2011 (Oxford): Robert Fox and Sarah Blackwell, University of Mississippi; Membership: Paige Baggett, University of South Alabama and Rebecca Robichaux, Mississippi State University; MSER Foundation: Ava Pugh, University of Louisiana at Monroe; MSERA Mentors: Linda Morse, Mississippi State University; Nominations: Dana Thames, University of Southern Mississippi; Operations Evaluations: Jane Nell Luster, LSU-HS; Publications and Communications: Rob Kennedy, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Those who continued their distinguished service as editors of our outstanding MSERA publications were: Mary Jane Bradley and Lynn Howerton, editors of *The Researcher*; John Petry, editor of *The Proceedings*; Tony Onwuegbuzie and John Slate, editors of *Research in the Schools*; and David Morse, editor of the MSERA Web Site.

During Dr. Kondrick's tenure as the 2010 MSERA President there were two outstanding initiatives: Looking Back to 2005 and Looking Forward to 2011.

Looking Back to 2005. An Operations Review Committee was appointed to review initiatives that were set in motion during the 2005 Board of Directors meeting in Baton Rouge, LA. That was the year that the annual meeting was canceled on account of the aftermath of hurricane Katrina. Jane Nell Luster, 2005 MSERA President, chaired this committee. Her committee produced results that promised enduring effects on future operations. First, the duties of the Executive Director position, created in 2005, were reviewed and revised. Formal evaluation protocol for this position (originally called for in the creation of this role in 2005 but never formalized) were designed for implementation in 2011. Next, the committee began work to review all parts of the Constitution and Bylaws to ensure consistency from one part of the document to the other. And finally, to ensure greater continuity of operations in the future a new position was created. This new MSERA Historian was created to serve at the pleasure of the Board as does the Executive Director.

Looking forward to looking back in 2011. A 40th Anniversary Committee was appointed to plan for celebrations at the 2011 meeting in Oxford. Walter Mathews, first president of MSERA, served as a most enthusiastic committee chair. He worked energetically throughout the year on the immense task of planning for MSERA's return to the University of Mississippi at Oxford where the organization began. He was assisted by his Co-chairs, Harry Bowman and Bob Rasmussen, who have also served this organization for a number of years in a variety of roles.

According to subsequent evaluations, the 2010 Annual Meeting was a great success. The Board of Directors and committees did an outstanding job of executing the duties that make such a successful meeting possible. In addition, they developed initiatives that promise to guide MSERA into a future of productive and harmonious operations.

## 2011: OXFORD, MS, PRESIDENT EDDIE SHAW

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All professional organizations are facing challenges on many fronts: economic, attendance, technology, quality of presentations, and how the organization is valued by institutions. Mid-South Educational Research Association (MSERA) is experiencing all of the challenges. I was sworn in as President at the Mobile, AL 2010 conference. The first challenge I faced was how to successfully celebrate MSERA's 40th anniversary. Fortunately for me, Walter Mathews, the founding father of MSERA, had planned the 2011

conference for Oxford, MS, the birth place of MSERA. The challenge was the length and breadth of the conference in these difficult economic times. Should the conference be five days, four days, or the traditional MSERA format? With limited travel budgets, I decided that the 40th anniversary celebration would follow the traditional conference format. We are celebrated the 40th anniversary of MSERA in style at Oxford, MS.

We had a well-attended MSERA spring 2011 board meeting in Oxford, MS on the campus of The University of Mississippi. The facilities were wonderful and the local arrangement chair, Dr. Robert Fox, attended to all of our requests. At the spring board meeting I proposed that a technology committee be formed to investigate MSERA “going green” at the fall and spring board meetings and possibly converting the Researcher to an electronic format to reduce the cost of printing and postage. The 2011 fall board meeting was paperless using a wiki, developed by Joia Juzang, a graduate elementary education major at the University of South Alabama. This implementation went smoothly and the wiki worked perfectly.

Michelle Haj-Broussard developed an excellent 40th anniversary program. The program incorporated our traditional paper, display, symposium sessions, attention to our graduate students and their presentations, mentoring sessions, and socializing but also designated 40th anniversary sessions. This year we are having an additional reception instead of the luncheon and key note speaker. On Wednesday evening, Dean Rock of the College of Education at Ole Miss sponsored a MSERA 40th anniversary reception and following the annual business meeting on Thursday was the traditional reception followed by a fireside chat for graduate students. At noon on Wednesday we buried a MSERA time capsule along with additional photo displays and other celebratory sessions throughout the conference. Thanks again to Walter Mathew’s dedication, editorship, and hard work, MSERA distributed copies of the MSERA Heritage Volume to each registrant.

MSERA faces economic challenges on several fronts. The main concern is the cost of the conference to each participant and to the organization. Just how much should we spend on a conference is the guiding question. Food costs have soared in the past five years and we have had to adjust our offerings accordingly. What we have been able to do at past conferences cannot be duplicated in today’s economic times without raising registration costs or bankrupting the organization. We have strived to maintain a reasonable cost for registration and I feel we are still “the best deal in town.” Faculty members are faced with tight travel budgets or no funds available for lengthy conferences. Ultimately participants have to decide whether to use travel funds for a regional or national/international conference and ultimately which one will benefit them for evaluation purposes. The one good news is that Charlie Notar has increased the participation of institutions in the MSERA region, through his tireless and dedicated endeavors, to try and offset increased costs.

Technology is one of the biggest challenges or benefits for MSERA. Do we purchase laptop projectors or have universities bring ones or pay the hotel for use of them, where do we store these during the year, does each meeting room have internet access, and do we need a “program” to develop and construct our annual conference programs, are all questions facing Julie Holmes, the President elect of MSERA for



2012. How much can we go 'green' and still have a viable, real-time conference? Rising costs for publications and postage will force us to look at the possibility of converting some of our publications to e-publications.

There are many challenges facing MSERA in the 21st century but the one aspect of MSERA that has remained the same over the years is the quality of the programs, sessions, speakers, mentoring, and enduring friendships that develop. MSERA has been known for its mentoring of graduate students and young professors, willingness to become part of MSERA by serving as a Board member, committee chair or member, or even a presider of a session regardless of your academic rank. Any organization is what you make of it and MSERA is no different. We need intelligent, dedicated members to continue the long and productive legacy of MSERA.

## 2016: MOBILE, AL, PRESIDENT DUSTIN HEBERT

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*One might notice that this president's message is a bit more personal, a bit more autobiographical than those of my predecessors. This is intentional given what 2016 brought MSERA. I think you will realize why this approach was selected by this message's conclusion.*

MSERA's Annual Meeting in 2016 returned to the Renaissance property in downtown Mobile, AL. One can see from reading the presidents' reflections before mine that each year presented unique opportunities and challenges, unique memorable moments. When reflecting on 2016, the first moment that comes to mind is an afternoon in early July 2016.

The day had begun and dragged on like any other. Morning classes. E-mail responses. A meeting or two. Then came the telephone call from my good friend and president-elect, Franz Reneau.

His news was a shock. I listened, and I went quite. He asked if I was still on the call. Cliff Hofwolt had passed away unexpectedly, and he had just received word – by chance, I wish to add. A now friend of MSERA, Sandra Uti, from Cliff's department in Peabody College at Vanderbilt University happened to find Franz's contact information on a slip of paper Cliff left on his desk.

The evening prior, or perhaps two evenings prior, Cliff, we assumed, had a heart attack at his home, and this event took him from Mary, his children, his beloved grandchildren, his other loved ones, his Peabody family, his friends, and MSERA.

Days passed, and our team rallied. My fellow Executive Committee members—Franz Reneau, president-elect; Gail Hughes, past president; and Shannon Chiasson, secretary—offered their assistance to me to ensure that whatever needed to be done was done and that each of them were ready to help. For me,

one word comes to mind: Godsend. No other word I know portrays these three individuals—these three friends—more adequately.

Annual Meeting plans were well-underway. Registration had begun, and proposals were being submitted. The Executive Committee chose to assume Cliff's executive director duties through the Annual Meeting and have the Board of Directors determine how to proceed with finding Cliff's successor when it met in November. We did this, and we were successful.

We had an obligation to MSERA and to Cliff to carry on. Cliff devoted many years to MSERA as a member, officer, and executive director. He, I now know, handled so many nuance matters for the Annual Meeting that few people ever realized. For example, James McLean always registers as James McLean, but he is always known as Jim. Cliff knew this, and year after year, Cliff ensured that James's name badge read Jim. Attempting to fulfill Cliff's duties during the Annual Meeting provided me with a window on his perspective, and this anecdote about Jim was just one of many that reminded me of Cliff during those days and, honestly, made me chuckle.

The Board of Directors honored Cliff by naming him executive director emeritus, and he now holds a permanent affiliation with the association's leadership team. We gave tribute to him in the *Researcher*. I called for a moment of applause at the business meeting for Cliff. Why applause and not silence you might wonder? Well, silence just did not seem fitting for Cliff Hofwolt.

The new year of 2017 brings new members and new energy to MSERA. Our efforts to recruit new professional and graduate members are prospering, but there is still room to grow. This year, I am serving the association as interim executive director while President Reneau leads a search for the next executive director; to be entrusted with this role following Cliff is an honor.

My deepest gratitude is extended to all officers, committee chairpersons, and members who helped me direct our 2016 efforts through a challenging period.

Now, we move forward.

## MSERA PRESIDENTS

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1972 - Walt Mathews

1973 - Walt Mathews

1974 - George Gaines

1975 - Fred Bellott

1976 - Virginia Horns

1977 - Douglas McDonald

1978 - Charles Babb  
1979 - Robert Bills  
1980 - Harry Bowman  
1981 - Neil Amos  
1982 - James McLean  
1983 - Ron Adams  
1984 - Bob Rasmussen  
1985 - Carolyn Reeves  
1986 - John Thornell  
1987 - Bill Deaton  
1988 - Carolyn Williams  
1989 - Carl Martray  
1990 - John Petry  
1991 - Gypsy Clayton  
1992 - Judy Boser  
1993 - Rob Kennedy  
1994 - Diana Lancaster  
1995 - Glennelle Halpin  
1996 - David Morse  
1997 - Dot Reed  
1998 - John Enger  
1999 - Gerald Halpin  
2000 - Cliff Hofwolt  
2001 - Jim Flaitz  
2002 - Qaisar Sultana  
2003 - Kathy Franklin  
2004 - Scott Bauer  
2005 - Jane Nell Luster  
2006 - Gahan Bailey  
2007 - William Spencer  
2008 - Randy Parker  
2009 - Dana Thames  
2010 - Linda Kondrick  
2011 - Eddie Shaw  
2012 - Julie Holmes  
2013 - Michelle Haj-Broussard  
2014 - Kathy Campbell  
2015 - Gail Hughes  
2016 - Dustin Hebert  
2017 - Franz Reneau  
2018 - Rebecca Robichaux-Davis

\*This history (through 1995-96) was originally compiled by Judy Boser, former Executive Secretary. Thereafter, histories were compiled by Cliff Hofwolt, John Petry, David Morse and several of the respective presidents.