



NAGC Research and Evaluation Network

Spring 2009

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Research Gala: A Success!

The Third Annual Graduate Student Research Gala, sponsored by the Research and Evaluation Network took place on Friday October 31, 2008 at the Marriott in Tampa. The graduate student research gala provides graduate students with a forum for sharing their research, offers networking opportunities for graduate students and potential future employers and colleagues, and gives gifted educators an opportunity to interact with graduate student researchers.

The Co-chairs for the event were Patti Wood and Catherine Brighton. There were 20 graduate student participants representing 10 universities. We were fortunate to have an exceptional panel of 13 judges who reviewed and rated the student papers. The judges included Cheryl Adams, Carolyn Barber, Catherine Brighton, Marcia Gentry, Betsy McCoach, Dona

Matthews, Tonya Moon, Anne Rinn, Elizabeth Shaunessy, Rena Subotnik, Carol Tieso, Patti Wood, and Echo Wu. Papers were judged in the following four categories: a.) Completed, doctoral-level research, b.) Doctoral level work-in-progress, c.) Non-doctoral completed research, and d.) Non-doctoral work-in-progress. The Works-in-progress category included research proposals, literature reviews, conceptual-theoretical pieces, and research projects not yet completed.

This year's top winners included: Most Outstanding Paper/First Place Doctoral Research Project Completed: Hope Wilson, University of Connecticut; First Place Doctoral Research Project In-progress: Saiying Hu, Purdue University; First Place Non-doctoral Research Project

Completed: Kelly Kearney, University of Connecticut; First Place Non-doctoral Research Project In-progress: Lauren Gough, Samford University. Other winners included: Jill Adelson, Jane Jarvis, Barbara Hoggan, Beverly Trail, Maria Jackson, Jillian Gates, and Kristy Wagner.

The deadline for submitting a paper for the Fourth Annual Graduate Student Research Gala is June 1, 2009. The application and submission information will be available in this spring. Students interested in submitting a paper or anyone with questions regarding the Gala may contact Patti Wood at pfwood@samford.edu. One paper will be chosen as the overall "best in show." The winner of the most outstanding paper will receive complimentary registration for the 2010 Annual Conference.

Newsletter Naming Competition!

With the restructuring into networks, it makes sense to rename our newsletter. So we would like to see some of your creativity! Please put those proverbial thinking caps

on! The person who submits the winning newsletter title will receive the book *Critical Issues and Practices in Gifted Education* valued at \$119.

Please email your newsletter name ideas to karen.rambo@uconn.edu by April 30, 2009. We will announce the winner in the next newsletter.

Research and Evaluation Network Announcements

DATIC 2009: Data Analysis Training Institute of Connecticut

Hierarchical Linear Modeling Workshop
Session A: June 8-12, 2009
Session B: June 15-19, 2009
Instructors: D. Betsy McCoach & Ann A. O'Connell

Each workshop on Hierarchical Linear Models covers the basics and includes applications of multilevel modeling with extensions to more complex designs. Participants will learn how to analyze clustered data via a multilevel model and will be able to interpret the results from their analyses. We will be using HLMv6. Please visit our link for specific topic coverage.

<http://davidakenny.net/datic/datic.hlm.htm>

Research and Evaluation Dissertation Award

Starting this year, the Research and Evaluation Network will be offering an award for an outstanding dissertation in the area of gifted education. The winner of the award will receive a plaque and conference registration for NAGC 2010 (valued at over \$300). To be eligible for the dissertation award, the applicant must: 1) be a member of the Research and Evaluation Network of NAGC and 2) have defended his or her dissertation during the 2009 calendar year. Applicants should submit an article length manuscript (no longer than 25 pages) based on the dissertation. Any manuscripts longer than 25 pages, exclusive of tables, figures, and references, will be immediately disqualified. In addition, each applicant should submit a cover letter which includes his/her name, address, email address, phone number, current occupation and institution, and the date that he/she defended his/her dissertation. Application package must be received by January 4th, 2010. Please submit application packages to the address below.

D. Betsy McCoach, 14 Stafford Road, Mansfield Center, CT 06250

Dissertation Crackerbarrel– It's back!

By popular demand, the Dissertation Crackerbarrel is back and will follow the Research Gala. This popular event, last held in 2006, is an excellent opportunity for graduate students (and others interested in research) to meet and discuss various aspects of the research process with their fellow researchers and professors from the R & E Network. Roundtable discussions will be held on a variety of research-related issue, from choosing a topic to conducting research in the classroom to appropriate statistical analysis. Come and share your questions, joys, and concerns about research while socializing with your peers and enjoying the reception.

*The pupil who
is never
required to do
what he cannot
do, never does
what he can do.*

– John Stuart

Mill

Election results

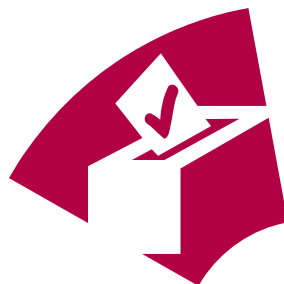
Thanks to all who cast votes in this past fall's election. Here are the results.

Terms from 9/08– 9/10:

- Chair: Cheryl Adams
- Chair-elect: Betsy McCoach

Terms from 10/08–10/10:

- Program Chair: Michael Matthews
- Assistant Program Chair: Carol Carman
- Secretary: Jill Adelson
- Newsletter Editor: Karen Rambo



Upcoming election

If you are interested in running for office, we are currently accepting nominations for the assistant program chair. This person will become the program chair during the second year of the term. Self-nominations are welcome. Watch for the election in the fall of 2009.

Minutes from the Business Meeting

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Reports

- Research Gala: 80 attendees, 20 papers, 12 expert reviewers
- Finance: about \$14,000 as of 9/1/08

Highlights of New Business

- Special sessions at NAGC
 - * We are interested in bringing in a speaker outside of gifted/talented (i.e., from St. Louis). The officers are soliciting ideas. *Please email Mike, Cheryl, or Betsy if you have ideas for an external speaker who would be of interest to NAGC/ R&E members.*
 - * We discussed the possibility of having a panel of journal editors given that this has been a popular session in the past but has been discontinued. We also discussed having a session on writing for publications in the g/t field.
 - * We plan to have a research and evaluation pre-session focused on program evaluation.
 - * We discussed having award winners present.
 - * In 2009, the plan is to have the Research Gala for 1 hour followed by the Dissertation Crackerbarrel on Friday night. We moved the timeline for gala submissions up to 6/1/09.
- NAGC proposals
 - * We receive fewer responses because of the longer submission. Therefore, we voted to limit the proposal to 750 words and will revise the criteria to reflect ½ the current number of characters.
 - * We also will revise the review criteria to reflect relevance to teaching practice and to emphasize R&E methods and implications
- We are working on an Operations Handbook and on updating the website.
- We will be submitting an article about R&E to every-other Networks newsletter.

- Publications
 - * We need to add links to the abstracts for the red book to the webpage and will be looking into where the funds from this have gone.
 - * We formed a committee of interest on a new book idea. Several members volunteered to serve as an idea-generating committee. We won't move forward until we have found out what happened with the last book.
- Membership recruitment/benefits
 - * Host an event to recruit teachers for research (teacher-researcher lunch)
 - * On the website advertise for research opportunities (connecting teachers/ classrooms and researchers)
 - * Decided to form a "research partnership committee." However, no one volunteered to serve on the committee.
- Awards
 - * Bring back the dissertation award – completed dissertation, 20-page article length. Must be an R&E member. Would receive free conference registration. (Question of how to separate this from Research Gala if students can submit their dissertation to that as well.) This merits some additional discussion.
 - * Possible Masters Award / Action Research Award. Vote on this was tabled until we work out more details on what exactly this award would look like.



*Great minds
have always
encountered
violent
opposition from
mediocre minds.
– Albert
Einstein*

Plans for 2009 NAGC Sessions Underway

The NAGC conference for 2009 will host some new and reinstated sessions. Of particular interest to those interested in publishing, a special session will be offered hosted by the editors of several gifted education journals.

Also, we plan to invite a guest speaker from the greater St. Louis area to share his/her expertise on gifted education. Finally, we plan to reinstitute the dissertation cracker barrel on Friday night following the Research Gala.

Letter from the President

Greetings!

I am honored to be the Chair of the Research and Evaluation network and hope to continue the excellent work carried out by all the previous chairs. Research and Evaluation was a strong Division, and its members have contributed greatly to push our field forward. Although our name has changed from "Division" to "Network", I believe we will continue that momentum via excellent sessions by our Network at NAGC from both experts and novices in the field, mentoring our graduate students through the Research Gala and the Dissertation Cracker Barrel, preconference sessions, and possibly another book.

First of all, I want to thank Tonya Moon who had the bulk of the work of the Division on her shoulders during the changeover from a Division to a Network. She kept everything running smoothly during this time, and I am personally grateful to all the guidance she provided to Betsy and me as we transitioned to our positions as Chair and Chair-Elect.

Thank you to all who assisted with the November 2008 conference. You all did a superb job preparing for the conference -- reading proposals, serving as discussants, and session chairs, planning Network events, attending sessions and the research gala, among other things. We had great attendance at the business meeting and I appreciated all the input you provided as we began to reform our tasks to the expectations for Networks. A very special thank you to everyone who volunteered to read proposals for 2009 as well as those who stepped up to serve on committees. If you have an interest in serving on a committee or volunteering with the Network in general, please let me or Betsy know.

Those of you who have been members of the former Research & Evaluation Division for a number of years will remember our newsletter, *Quest*. It was a wonderful publication and had many good articles pertaining to research and evaluation in our field. With the change to Networks comes a change in our newsletter. The new focus will be on news about the Network and of interest to Network members, rather than a focus on articles. In addition, our newsletter editor, Karen Rambo, will be providing an article about our Network to every other *Network Connections*, a briefing of NAGC headquarters. This briefing is available on the NAGC website.

I encourage you to read this inaugural issue of the newsletter. As this is our initial effort, Karen and I welcome your feedback.

I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you in November 2009, if not before.

Cheryll

New Feature: *Dear Leta,*

Do you have a question about a research methodology, data concern, or just need some good old-fashioned advice? We would like to offer you a forum to ask your questions anonymously and have them answered. No question is too simple and no problem too big for dear sweet Leta! In case you didn't pick up on it, this new col-

umn is named for the great gifted education researcher Leta Hollingworth. Please forward all questions to karen.rambo@uconn.edu and look for answers in the fall edition of the Research and Evaluation Newsletter!



R&E Membership Update

The new membership committee is excited about the year ahead. We hope you will help get the word out about the benefits of being a Research and Evaluation Network and invite your colleagues to join!

The 2008-2010 membership committee members are Jill Adelson (chair), Carolyn Barber, Scott Peters, Tamra Stambaugh, and Hope Wilson. As of December, the network's membership was 279 members. The committee will be sending emails to lapsed members, authors, universities and state organizations, and the AERA Research on Giftedness and Talent SIG members, inviting them to join the network. However, the best way to spread the word and increase our membership is for members to invite other members to join.

Please take a few minutes to forward this newsletter (or print it and pass it on) to your colleagues – faculty, grad students, teach-

ers, and other researchers – and tell them about the benefits of joining. If you or they need a membership application, please email Jill Adelson at jill.adelson@uconn.edu. The R&E Network membership committee also is looking into starting a Discussion Forum / listserv for its members. We are working with the NAGC national office to create this. More information will be coming once that is up and running!

