

# SIREN

## Significant Information for the Research and Evaluation Network

Spring 2010

### 2009 R&E Dissertation Award Winners!

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The Research and Evaluation network of NAGC is pleased to announce the winners of the first annual Dissertation Award, recognizing outstanding dissertation work in the area of gifted education.

This year's winner is Scott Peters (advisor-Marcia Gentry), and Scott will have the opportunity to present his research at a special session at NAGC in Atlanta in November, 2010. The title of Scott's dissertation was "Multi-Group Construct Validity

Evidence of the *HOPE Scale*: Instrumentation to Identify Low-Income Elementary Students for Gifted Programs." See page 6 for the abstract.

Bess Wilson (advisor- Del Siegle) placed second. Her paper was entitled "A Model of Academic Self-Concept: Perceived Difficulty and Social Comparison Among Academically Accelerated Secondary School Students."

Jill Adelson (advisors Betsy McCoach and Kathy

Gavin) placed third. The title of Jill's dissertation was "Examining the effects of gifted programming in mathematics and reading using the ECLS-K."

This year's awards committee was chaired by Alicia Cotabish. Other members of the awards committee included Michael Matthews, Marcia Gentry, Angela Housand, Tonya Moon, Matt Makel, Patti Wood, Catherine Brighton, and Cheryl Adams.

### 2009 Graduate Student Research Gala Winners!

The Fourth Annual Graduate Student Research Gala, sponsored by the Research and Evaluation Network, took place on Friday November 6, 2009 at the Renaissance Grand in St. Louis.

The chair for the event was Patti Wood. There were 24 graduate student participants. We were fortunate to have an exceptional panel of 17 judges: Cheryl Adams,

Carolyn Barber, Catherine Brighton, Courtney Crim, Nancy Hertzog, Marcia Gentry, Angela Housand, Matt Makel, Matt McBee, Betsy McCoach, Tonya Moon, Connie Phelps, Rena Subotnik, Carol Tieso, Beverly Trail, Bess Wilson and Patti Wood.

This year's top winners included: Most Outstanding Paper/First Place Doctoral Research Project Completed: Jill Adelson

(University of Connecticut), First Place Doctoral Research Project In-progress: Russell Warne (Texas A & M), First Place Non-doctoral Research Project Completed: Kquisha Dagenhart (UNC-Charlotte.)

Other winners included: Shelbi Cole, Maria Jackson Beard, Leanne McGrimmond, Nielsen Pereira Scott Peters, and Linnea Van Eman.

## Network Chair-Elect Nominations

We're looking for a few good leaders!

The Research and Evaluation Network is seeking nominations for the position of Chair -Elect. Nominations must be post-marked by Monday, April 12th, so if you are interested in running for this office, don't delay--- put in your materials today!

Below are the responsibilities and time commitment of the Chair-Elect. Please consider lending your expertise to the Research and Evaluation Network by completing the application at for this position.

An application can be obtained at <http://www.nagc.org/index.aspx?id=2506&terms=network+elections>

Responsibilities of Chair-Elect

- Elected every two years
- Serves for two years before becoming Chair
- Will serve as Chair for two years and then Past-Chair for two years- Six years total commitment

There are essentially three functions of the Chair-Elect:

- 1) To represent R&E at NAGC leadership functions
- 2) To work with the Chair on new initiatives

3) To do the Three-Year Evaluation

Note that after the Chair-Elect elections, R&E will conduct elections for Secretary (2-year term), Newsletter Editor (2-year term), and Assistant Program Chair (1-year term followed by 1-year term as Program Chair). We will also be voting about whether to create an additional officer position, that of Awards Chair. So, if you think that you'd like to assume a leadership role, but you don't want to run for Chair, there will be several other officer positions available.

## R&E Proposal Info: 2009 & 2010 Conference

For the 2009 conference, the R&E Network received 44 proposals, of which we were able to accept 23 paper sessions (for 16 time slots) and 10 poster sessions, a 75% acceptance rate.

We sponsored a Wednesday Academy session on Program Evaluation, and our evening activities (Research Gala/Research Crackerbarrel) were a success, with many attendees. Twenty four students submitted papers to participate in the 2009 Research Gala.

This year we received 48 proposals and were assigned 18 time slots. Twenty-four hard-working volun-

teers helped in reviewing and rating the proposals. Twenty-eight proposals were accepted as paper presentations, ten were accepted as poster sessions, five sessions were waitlisted, and five sessions were rejected, for an overall acceptance rate of 79%.

In addition to the wonderful paper and poster sessions, we will again be hosting the Research Gala and Research Crackerbarrel Friday evening from 7:15-9:15, and hope everyone comes out to support the graduate student researchers in our field. The winner of this year's Dissertation Award, Scott Peters, will be presenting his research at a

special session reserved for our award winner.

At the end of the conference will be an opportunity to participate in Super Sunday, a chance for each Network to showcase what's hot in their fields. Our network will be presenting a Research Retreat consisting of two panel sessions, "Unanswered Questions in Gifted Education: A Discussion with Senior Scholars", and "Setting a Research Agenda in Gifted Education for the Next Decade (and Beyond)" which both promise to educate and enlighten us on potential new areas of research to explore.

Greetings and Happy Spring!

It is hard to believe that we are already getting ready for NAGC in Atlanta! Your Network committees and chairs have been hard at work selecting proposals, arranging for network events, encouraging all of you to consider running for the open officer positions, and determining ways to better serve our members.

Betsy McCoach has provided a survey for your input about the Network; results will be used to guide decision-making to better serve our members. Carol Carman did a wonderful job with getting the proposals reviewed and selected. Thank you to all who helped review proposals; I think you will be pleased with the selection for the conference. Jill Adelson and her committee have been hard at work determining new benefits for our members, and Karen Rambo has updated the webpage. Hope Wilson and Patti Wood are heading the Research Gala and Crackerbarrel arrangements for Friday evening at NAGC.

Alicia Cotabish did an outstanding job as chair of our first dissertation award competition. Thanks to all who submitted entries and all who assisted with the review process. We received many excellent entries. Our winners were: first place, Scott Peters; second place, Hope Wilson; and third place, Jill Adelson. Congratulations!

NAGC will hold the elections for Chair-elect for R&E, so please be sure to submit your materials by Monday, April 12th. Once we know the results of that election, we will solicit nominations for other Network offices. If you are interested in getting more involved in the Network, consider running for an office.

NAGC is instituting "Super Sunday Sessions" for the Atlanta conference. Watch for information about R & E's Super Sunday sessions at NAGC and plan to attend! You will also hear more about the webinar that is being planned for and is free to R&E members.

It's not too early to start making your plans to attend NAGC in Atlanta November 11-14! We want to see all of you there!

*Cheryll*

# Graduate Student Corner

## 2010 Research Gala

The Fifth Annual Graduate Student **Research** Gala will be held at the 2010 NAGC Conference in Atlanta!

This event highlights the high caliber of research conducted by graduate students (of all levels) in the field of gifted education.

Categories include doctoral-level and non-doctoral level research.

Research may be complete or

incomplete.

A letter of intent should be submitted by **May 31, 2010**, for planning purposes. A paper is submitted by **July 1, 2010** to be judged by a panel of experts in gifted education research. The winners will be announced at the graduate student gala at the NAGC conference in Atlanta this November.

This is an excellent event to showcase your research projects. It also provides an opportunity for graduate students to network with gifted education researchers.

Please forward all questions to Dr. Hope Wilson

[wilsonhe2@sfasu.edu](mailto:wilsonhe2@sfasu.edu)

## 2010 Dissertation Award Information

We will be running the second annual Dissertation Award competition this year. The winner of the award will receive a plaque, a special session to present his or her research at NAGC '11, and conference registration for NAGC 2011 (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, 2)

have defended his or her dissertation during the 2010 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 packages must be received by January 7th, 2011. Please submit application packages electronically to:

D. Betsy McCoach,  
at [betsy.mccoach@uconn.edu](mailto:betsy.mccoach@uconn.edu).

Papers should be submitted as either pdf or word files.

## Membership Update

Membership numbers have been holding steady just under 250 members each month. Please forward this newsletter to your colleagues and invite them to join so we can cross that 250 member mark!

The Membership Committee – Jill Adelson (chair), Carolyn Barber, Megan Foley Nicpon, Connie Phelps, and Hope Wilson – would like to extend a welcome to our new members and thank everyone who has renewed.

The past few months have been a very active time for the Membership Committee. We polled the membership about topics for our first R&E Webinar and are in the process of securing a speaker. When that is in place, the Webinar will be offered as part of the WOW series and will be free to R&E members. We will keep you updated as that moves forward.

We also are excited to have begun an annual set of 1-page informa-

tion sheets titled, “Did You Know?” The committee pulled facts about giftedness and research methodology from the 2009 issues of *GCQ* as well as *AERA*, *APA*, and other journals to share with you, complete with APA references.

Be on the lookout for those in the very near future. The committee also has one other initiative that they have been pursuing...more information to come soon!

## Hierarchical Linear Modeling (HLM) Workshop

Session A: June 14-18, 2010

Session B: June 21-25, 2010

Instructors: D. Betsy McCoach & Ann A. O’Connell

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

Each HLM workshop covers basics and applications of multilevel modeling with extensions to more complex designs. Participants will learn how to analyze both

organizational and longitudinal (growth curve) data using multilevel modeling and to interpret the results from their analyses. Although the workshop does not require any prior knowledge or experience with multilevel modeling, participants are expected to have a working knowledge of multiple regression as well as SPSS (or SAS). Analyses will be demonstrated using the software

HLMv6. Instruction will consist of lectures, computer workshops, and individualized consultations. The workshop emphasizes practical applications and places minimal emphasis on statistical theory. Just a couple of spots are left in each of the workshops.

Email [daticworkshops@uconn.edu](mailto:daticworkshops@uconn.edu) to reserve your spot today!

## Research and Evaluation Committees

If you are interested in serving on a committee or have an idea you would like to share, here is a list of our R&E committees and current chair contact information.

### Awards Committee

Alicia Cotabish (chair) [axcotabish@ualr.edu](mailto:axcotabish@ualr.edu)  
Michael Matthews  
Marcia Gentry  
Tonya Moon  
Matt Makel  
Patti Wood  
Catherine Brighton  
Cheryll Adams  
Angela Housand

### Publications Committee

Catherine Little (co-chair) [catherine.little@uconn.edu](mailto:catherine.little@uconn.edu)  
Nancy Hertzog (co-chair) [nhertzog@uiuc.edu](mailto:nhertzog@uiuc.edu)

### Program Committee

Carol Carman (chair) [carman@uhcl.edu](mailto:carman@uhcl.edu)  
Kyung Hee Kim  
Bess Wilson  
Patti Wood

### Membership Committee

Jill Adelson (chair) [jill.adelson@louisville.edu](mailto:jill.adelson@louisville.edu)  
Bess Wilson  
Carolyn Barber  
Megan Foley Nicpon  
Connie Phelps

## 2009 Dissertation Award Winner– Abstract

### Multi-Group Construct Validity Evidence of the *HOPE Scale*: Instrumentation to Identify Low-Income Elementary Students for Gifted Programs

Scott Peters

University of Wisconsin- Whitewater

Students with exceptional academic potential who come from low-income families are frequently not identified for and consequently are underrepresented in gifted and talented programs. Because of this, new means of identifying such children must be developed. This paper presents the findings of exploratory and confirmatory factor analyses conducted on the *HOPE Scale*, a 13-

item teacher-rating instrument designed to identify academic and social components of giftedness in elementary-aged students. Participants included 349 teachers who completed *HOPE Scales* on 5995 ethnically and economically diverse students from three rural and two metropolitan school districts in the Midwest. MCFA was also used to evaluate measurement in-

variance between income groups. Findings suggest a two-factor model represents good fit for the data while remaining loyal to the latent constructs of academic and social giftedness. Although showing some legitimate mean differences, invariance test results suggested equivalence of model form, factor loading, and factor variances across income groups.