

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

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

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NOVEMBER 4-6, 1998

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

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1998

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

MSERA

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

MSERA Archives

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

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Once again **John Petry** has published the **Proceedings of the Annual Meeting** for MSERA. Many thanks to John and those folks who support him at The University of Memphis.

The impossible task of putting the whole program together was done by **Jim Flaitz** from the University of Southwestern Louisiana. And what a task that was! Jim was responsible for receiving all submissions for the annual meeting, sending these out to reviewers in a blind review process, analyzing their returns, getting subsequent reviews when needed, determining the various sessions needed for this Annual Meeting, assigning papers to the various sessions, making the room assignments, getting presiders for the sessions, and producing the program for the conference. On behalf of MSERA, thanks, Jim, for planning this year's Annual Meeting. This organization is really indebted to all those who have served as program chair, as Jim's work shows.

Our secretary-treasurer this year is **Cliff Hofwolt** from Vanderbilt University. Cliff was program chair last year and instituted various database procedures which were replicated by Jim Flaitz this year. As secretary-treasurer, Cliff has formalized the annual updating of the membership database. Many thanks to Cliff and the folks that support him at Peabody College at Vanderbilt University.

A feature of the Annual Meeting is the presentation of awards for the distinguished paper and outstanding dissertation. **Gerald Halpin** from Auburn University has chaired the awards committee and coordinated the reviewing of a number of outstanding submissions.

Betty Kersh of the University of Southern Mississippi has been the MSERA representative responsible for coordinating the arrangements for the Annual Meeting in New Orleans and at the Hotel Monteleone. Betty's insight and attention to detail have made this one well-planned conference.

Ira Bogotch and his colleagues at the University of New Orleans have also helped with local arrangements, particularly with information to guide us through New Orleans and helping to host the receptions.

The successful direction of MSERA will be determined in part by the future officers of the association. **Dot Reed** from Air University Headquarters chaired the Nomination Committee and has produced a slate of nominees we can be proud of.

Finally, a conference can only be successful if people attend and participate in the various activities. Thanks, so much, for each of you for your contribution to the 1998 Annual Meeting of MSERA.

John M. Enger, Arkansas State University
MSERA President, 1998

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