

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Captured on the pages of the 2003 MSERA *Proceedings* are the research experiences of close to 250 members. These parsimonious titles and abstracts give the summarized version of work accomplished and findings disseminated. Unfortunately, the parsimony betrays the story of hours spent in research implementation and reporting. These words are mere symbols of the curiosity that drives us to search, or construct, new knowledge; mere symbols of that moment of joy all researchers share when the findings of our toil are rich and meaningful, and ready to share with our peers.

Also captured in the *Proceedings* is the hard work of MSERA officers, State Representatives, and Committee Chairs in bringing to you an annual meeting that is both enjoyable and informative. These individuals graciously donate their time, energy, and expertise to MSERA not for glory or fame, but to achieve our mission of “promoting exemplary research in the mid-South.” I am grateful to all of these dedicated professionals for their commitment to excellence, their devotion to educational research, and, most importantly, their friendship. They have made my year as President a joy.

Scott Bauer, President-Elect, has worked diligently this year chairing the Distinguished Awards Committee and the Development Committee. He has also provided me with a generous amount of support and sage advice over the past year. I look forward to his leadership next year as the new MSERA President. Nola Christenberry, Secretary/Treasurer, has watched over our finances to ensure the continued fiscal health of MSERA. I owe her a debt of gratitude for her fiscal vigilance. Qaisar Sultana, Past-President, has performed the thankless task of preparing the slate of nominees for new officers. I admire her commitment to MSERA represented by her gracious service. She was a tough act to follow as President!

Additionally, my thanks must be extended to John Petry, Executive Secretary; Cliff Hoftwolt, Budget Planning, Managing, and Advisory Report, Harry Bowman, Constitution and Bylaws Committee; and David Morse, Web site and Archives/Paper Repository Committee for their on-going contribution to MSERA. I also wish to extend my gratitude to the State Representatives for their continued work on behalf of MSERA: Mary Jane Bradley, Beverly Klecker, Jane Nell Luster, Dana Thames, Russ West, and Dennis Zuelke. And, of course, many thanks to the At-Large Representatives who have aptly served MSERA for the past two years: Gahan Bailey, Lynn Howerton, Otis LoVette, and William Person. The Executive Board simply could not function without these individuals.

As you are already aware, the editorship for *Research in the Schools* changed hands this year. To the outgoing editors – Jim McLean and Alan Kaufman – I wish to extend a heartfelt “thank-you” from all members of MSERA for your leadership in providing MSERA with a reputable journal. To the new editors – Larry Daniel and Anthony Onwuegbuzie – I wish you the best of success and look forward to continued publishing quality.

I wish to thank everyone who willingly volunteered to co-chair a committee. Because of the dedication of this group of individuals, my job as President was much easier. Robert Kennedy and Jane Nell Luster, co-chairs of the Publications and Communications Committee, did an excellent job identifying our future *RIS* editors. Larry Daniel and Scott Bauer continued to solicit institutional memberships as co-chairs of the Development Committee. Due to their efforts, we now have close to 30 institutional members. Carolyn Reeves-Kazelskis was our liaison with the Mentors Group. This group of MSERA founders volunteered to work on special

mentoring projects as identified by the Executive Board. As always, Lynn Howerton and Mary Jane Bradley published a first-rate newsletter for our organization this past year.

Rebecca Giles and Linda Kondrick, Membership Committee, recruited new members to MSERA and prepared for the new member breakfast at our next annual meeting. Jean Clark and Gail Weems, Graduate Student Advisory Committee, generously donated their expertise to support our graduate student members. Last, but certainly not least, I wish to thank Bill Spencer and Russ West for their work in developing a quantitative and qualitative evaluation of our meeting in Biloxi. In addition to all of the co-chairs this year, I wish to thank all MSERA members who volunteered to serve on a committee. This association survives because of the work done by our committees. All of us owe these dedicated individuals a round of applause.

I wish to thank the MSER Foundation for their continued support of all MSERA activities. I encourage each of you to consider donating money this year to the foundation. Through your support the foundation can continue to operate on our behalf.

On behalf of all MSERA members, I wish to thank Gahan Bailey, 2003 program chair, and Nancy Masztel and Shirley Bowles, 2003 Site Coordinators, for their work on the 2003 annual meeting. Gahan spent untold hours pulling together an exemplary program. Nancy and Shirley donated their time and energy over the past three years working with the staff of the Grand Hotel in Biloxi to ensure a first-rate meeting experience for MSERA members. My gratitude to these three professionals is beyond expression.

My final “thank you” goes to all members of MSERA who return to our annual meeting year after year and share their productivity and friendship. I look forward to visiting with each of you in Biloxi.

Sincerely,

Kathy K. Franklin,
2003 MSERA President