

Special Interest Group

Early Education and Child Development

<http://www.aera-eecd-sig.org/>

**AERA 2016  
April 8 – April 12  
Washington, DC**

**Proposals due  
July 22**

Please submit proposals for the 2016 conference and urge colleagues to submit to the EECD SIG. The more proposals submitted to the SIG, the more conference slots we are allotted.

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**Message from the Chair**

**Christopher P. Brown, University of Texas-Austin**

Dear Members,

I hope that everyone is enjoying their summer. It’s hard to believe another academic year has ended and a new one will soon begin. It was terrific to see so many of you in Chicago, and as always, I left the conference feeling intellectually refreshed and humbled by the amazing work our members are doing for the field of early childhood education.

For those of you who were fortunate enough to make it to the business meeting, we had several interesting talks by our Dissertation Award winner, Dr. Erica Barnes, who is an Assistant Professor at the University at Albany, State University of New York, and our early career award winner, Dr. Anna H. Hall, an Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education at Clemson University. Furthermore, Dr. Christine Maxwell, the Director of Program Development at the Buffet Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska, Dr. Patsy Cooper, Associate Professor Queens College, CUNY; co-editor of *Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education*, and Dr. M. Elizabeth Graue, Sorenson Professor of Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Wisconsin-Madison so graciously led an invited session on the topic of Pre-K in practice. Their insight and commentary about Pre-K from a systems, teacher education, and practical conception of practice spurred many interesting comments and conversations during and after the session about the patch-work systems of public Pre-k that do and do not exist in the US as well as the varied types of programs implemented across the globe. I am sure this is a topic that will continue to receive much attention in future AERA sessions for ours and many other SIGs/Divisions.

Also, thank you again to the Early Math Collaborative at the Erikson Institute, the Early Childhood Education Program at Indiana University, the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the Early Childhood Education Program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for co-sponsoring our reception. They helped ensure we provide a nice array of refreshments to our members, and I hope these acts of co-sponsorship can continue with our future meetings.

*continued on page 2*

## Message from the Chair

*Continued from page 1*

Some other good news to come out of meeting was the decision by the Executive Board to petition AERA to allow us to add a Graduate Student Representative to the board who would serve one year term working with the Chair to facilitate SIG business and to add a Mid-Career Award for members who are 10 years post dissertation. The SIG also awarded its first Junior Faculty Research Enhancement Grant to Dr. Ersoy Erdemir from Boğaziçi University in Turkey, and his faculty mentor for the award is Dr. X. Christine Wang, an Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Unfortunately, not all the news that emerged out of our SIG Business meeting this year was good. Over the past few years, we have been running a deficit in our expenditures by using unused funds to cover our expenses (spending about \$3000 more this year than we took in). Doing so has eliminated our savings, and thus, the Executive Board decided to reduce our funding for our awards until we can build up our savings by running a surplus in our budget. To do this, we plan to reduce the stipends that accompany our awards next year by cutting them in half. The Early Career Award will now be \$250, the Dissertation Award \$250, and Student Travel Awards will be \$250. Additionally, we will suspend the Faculty Research Enhancement Grant until we have a budget surplus of \$5000, and then, the Executive Board will decide how to proceed.

I do want to take time to thank Dr. Martha Lash, an Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education at Kent State University (outgoing Senior Member-at-Large), Dr. Julia Atilas, an Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (outgoing SIG Program Co-Chair), and Dr. Amber Friesen, an Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Special Education at San Francisco State University (outgoing Junior Member-at-Large) for all the work they did for our SIG. Marty has overseen both the election of new members as well as our Early Career Award. Julia put together two programs for our SIG, and Amber has overseen both the Student Travel Grants and the Dissertation Award. Combined, each has done an excellent job of ensuring the business of our SIG is executed in a timely and professional fashion. Furthermore, I want to welcome our new elected Senior-Member at Large, Dr. Debra Ackerman, Early Childhood Researcher at the Early Childhood Research & Assessment Center for Educational Testing Service and our newly elected Junior Member-at-Large, Dr. Lucinda Heimer, an Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. Additionally, Dr. X. Christine Wang will help Dr. Abigail Jewkes with the 2016 program.

Again, our SIG membership is strong at 428 members, which continues to ensure we have multiple sessions to fill on the AERA program, so thank you for your continued support. Moreover, the work each of you is doing on behalf of those working in the fields of early education and child development and the children and families these programs serves is important. Hopefully, there will be continued progress in both fields so that one day access to high-quality services for all children is a given.

Thanks again, and I look forward to seeing all of you in Washington, DC for the AERA centennial.

-Chris



## 2015 BUSINESS MEETING Discussion & Reception

The highlight of the Business Meetings was a panel discussion about Prekindergarten Practices. The panel included Dr. Christine Maxwell, the Director of Program Development at the Buffet Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska, Dr. Patsy Cooper, Associate Professor Queens College, CUNY; co-editor of *Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education*, and Dr. M. Elizabeth Graue, Sorenson Professor of Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Their insight and commentary about Pre-K from a systems, teacher education, and practical conception of practice spurred many interesting comments and conversations during and after the session about the patch-work systems of public Pre-kindergarten services that do and do not exist in the US as well as the varied types of programs implemented across the globe.

As always the reception provided time for networking and comradery! We hope to see you at the 2016 Business Meeting and Reception.



Photo: Dr. Patsy Cooper, Dr. Christine Maxwell, Dr. Elizabeth Graue, and Dr. Christopher Brown



## AERA Annual Meeting April 2016

EECD SIG Program Co-Chairs

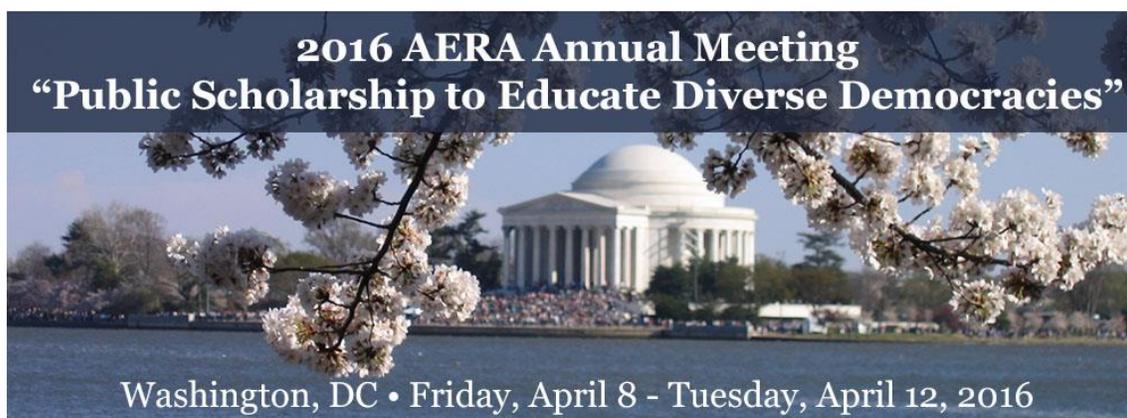
Abigail M. Jewkes and X. Christine Wang

### Proposals due July 22

Please submit proposals for the 2016 conference and urge colleagues to submit to the EECD SIG. The more proposals submitted to the SIG, the more conference slots we are allotted.

### AERA Annual Meeting Website

<http://www.aera.net/EventsMeetings/AnnualMeeting/tabid/10208/Default.aspx>



Please help us arrange co-sponsorship  
with your university for the  
**2016 Business Meeting and Reception!**

## 2015 Early Research Career Award

### Anna H. Hall

Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education, Clemson University

Dr. Anna Hall was chosen for the 2015 Early Education/Child Development (EE/CD) SIG Early Research Career Award to honor a scholar in his/her first five years of earning the doctorate. Dr. Hall has been an assistant professor in the Eugene T. Moore School of Education at the Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina since 2012. She received her Ph.D. in Early Childhood Education at the University of Kentucky. She is a former kindergarten and primary grade teacher.

Dr. Hall's research focuses on writing and young children. Her research examined the use of interactive writing as a tool for advancing what and how the young writers compose. Dr. Hall is a very productive scholar. She has published over 12 peer-reviewed articles in the journals such as *Young Children*, *The Reading Teacher*, *Journal of Research in Education*, *Journal of Early Childhood Research*. She is also serving as a co-editor of the Literacy Research Association yearbook.

Her recommenders describe her as one of the leading new scholars in the area of early childhood writing instruction. She is currently engaged in research funded by the Gates Foundation in which she is developing writing apps for young children. *Congratulations to Dr. Hall who truly deserve this award!*



Photo: Maye Hann & Anna H. Hall

## 2015 Outstanding Dissertation Award

### Erica Barnes

Assistant Professor, University at Albany, State University of New York

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Erica Barnes dissertation research was selected for the 2015 EE/CD SIG Dissertation Award. We had a strong and diverse set of submissions that reflected a commitment and passion to early education and child development. All submissions were reviewed by three independent reviewers. Submissions were scored in the following categories: significance of problem/topic; theoretical framework; method of inquiry/methodology; use of evidence and analysis; depth of analysis and organization of findings; and contribution of the topic to the field of Early Education and Child Development. Reviewers summed their scores, ranked nominees for the award, and then together we discussed the results and came to a consensus.

Dr. Barnes's dissertation is titled, "*Head Start Preschool Teachers' Commenting Practices During Shared Book Reading Sessions: Describing Learning Opportunities for Children with Varying Vocabulary Abilities.*" In this quantitative study, Dr. Barnes investigates the relations between teachers' use of comments during book reading sessions in preschool classrooms and the vocabulary growth of children with low and moderately-low language ability. The findings of her study reveal significant relationships for medium-level comments and children's receptive vocabulary growth and that consideration should be given to both the content and strategy used during instruction. *Congratulations again to Dr. Barnes for this outstanding work!*



Photo: Ashley Vaughns & Erica Barnes

## 2014 Junior Faculty Research Enhancement Grant

### Ersoy Erdemir

Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education  
Boğaziçi University, Turkey  
Faculty Mentor: X. Christine Wang, SUNY at Buffalo



Photo: Ersoy Erdemir

The Junior Faculty Research Enhancement grant was awarded for the first time in 2015. The intent of the award is to use SIG funds (when available) to facilitate research-related activities for faculty who are not yet tenured. We were pleased to have several applicants this year, all of whom are pursuing interesting research directions. The award was given to fund travel for Ersoy Erdemir for collaboration with colleagues. His purposes are described in his application as “working on my project entitled ‘Preschool Students’ Engagement with Multimodal Text in the First and Second Language’... Funded by *The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey*, this two-year project investigates the impacts of interactive digital storybook read alouds on 4-to-5-year-old emergent bilingual preschoolers’ comprehension skills in their native (Turkish) and second language (English). This is a collaborative and comparative project in that it is the Turkey extension of the project entitled ‘Exploring Young Children’s Engagement with Multimodal Text’, being conducted by Dr. X. Christine Wang and Dr. Tanya Christ in the U.S. Within a two-year time frame, data collected from Turkish and the U.S. sites will be analyzed comparatively in order to identify the multilingual/multicultural dynamics in how young children process digital storybooks presented in a variety of digital features.”

## 2015 Travel Award Winners

Congratulations to the recipients Robert Carr, doctoral student at UNC-Chapel Hill and Chis-hsuan (Christine) Meng, doctoral student at University of Wisconsin-Madison

Recognizing that the financial resources of the ECE/CD SIG belong to the members and that the future of our organization lies in the work of young scholars, the SIG administers a travel grant program for graduate student members. These travel grants are used to support attendance at the AERA conference and SIG Business Meeting. In selecting award recipients, priority is given to applicants who will be presenting at the conference and first-time attendees.



Photo: Robert Carr & Ashley Vaughns



Photo: Ashley Vaughns & Chis-hsuan Meng

## 2016 Outstanding Dissertation Award Seeking Applications

Annually, the EE/CD SIG awards the Outstanding Dissertation Award for a recent dissertation of exceptional merit. The recipient will receive a plaque from the SIG and a monetary gift at the EE/CD SIG Business meeting. The recipient also receives an automatic invitation to present the dissertation work as part of the EE/CD Business Meeting.

The criteria for this award are:

- 1) A completed and defended dissertation accepted by the Graduate School of the nominee's university within two years of the deadline for submission.
- 2) A study that investigates a topic related to the development of children between birth and age 8, including studies focused on families, teachers and others who care for and educate young children;
- 3) A nominating professor who is a current member of AERA.

### Procedures:

To be considered for the award, please submit the following items by e-mail:

- One letter of faculty endorsement from a member of the student's dissertation committee who is an AERA member, attesting that the dissertation was completed by the student during the time period specified and that the faculty member nominating or endorsing the nomination served on the dissertation committee. Please also include the oral defense date. This letter should include a brief clarification of the purposes, scope, and quality of the student's dissertation research, as well as an explanation of how the dissertation contributes to the field of early childhood, child development, or early education.
- Title page for the dissertation (including university/college, name of the professor chairing the dissertation committee and a complete list of committee members). In addition, please add to the title page complete contact information (postal and e-mail) of either the student or the nominator that can be used for all correspondence regarding the award.
- Table of Contents from the dissertation.
- Journal-length manuscript summarizing the study derived from the dissertation and written by the nominee. This manuscript should adhere to the APA manual's (5<sup>th</sup> ed.) guidelines for manuscript preparation, should be approximately 25-30 pages (double-spaced), and should be geared toward publication. The summary should include: objectives/purpose; perspectives/theoretical framework; methods/mode of inquiry; data sources and analyses; results/discussion; and conclusion and educational/scientific importance of study. The summary should advance the scholarly publication potential of the research and will be judged primarily by a panel of scholars in the field and former dissertation winners.
- 1-2 page summary (abstract) of the study to be published in the SIG newsletter should the award be given to the recipient.

Please send inquiries, nominations, and all required items by November 14, 2015  
via email to: Lucinda Heimer, [heimerl@uww.edu](mailto:heimerl@uww.edu)

## 2016 Early Research Career Award Seeking Applications



We are currently seeking applications for the EE/CD SIG Early Research Career Award. The Early Education/Child Development (EE/CD) SIG of the American Educational Research Association (AERA) annually presents the EE/CD SIG Early Research Career Award. This award is made to an individual with a promising record as a researcher and scholar in the early childhood field, as evidenced through an emerging record of a research agenda, publications, and other scholarly activity.

Candidates for the EE/CD Early Research Career Award are within the first five years of having received their doctoral degree. Recipients of this award receive a monetary award in the amount of \$500 and are invited to present a brief synopsis of their research at the SIG business meeting. Nominations for this award may come from members of the EE/CD SIG. Complete nominations will include the following in ELECTRONIC format (e.g., PDF files):

- 1) A letter from the nominator with specific information justifying the nomination, as well as the current employment status of the nominee;
- 2) A second letter of support for the nomination from anyone in the field of early childhood/child development who can speak to the merits and relevance of the nominee's scholarly activity;
- 3) Recent curriculum vitae with complete bibliographic information on the nominee; and
- 4) Copies of 2 publications representative of the nominee's scholarly contributions to the early childhood/child development field.

If the nominator was the dissertation chair or otherwise closely involved with the candidate's doctoral studies, the second letter of support should come from someone who was not involved in the nominee's doctoral degree program. The second letter does NOT have to come from a SIG member, but must be someone in the field of child development and early childhood education.

**All nominations should be sent by November 14, 2015 via email to:**  
Debra Ackerman, [dackerman@ets.org](mailto:dackerman@ets.org)

## 2016 Student Travel Awards Seeking Applications



Student Travel Awards will be available for graduate students for travel to the 2016 AERA conference. Applicants must be members of the EE/CD SIG and priority will be given to either first-time attendees or presenters. **The deadline is January 31, 2016.** Please watch the list serve for more information and reminders. Questions can be directed to Ashley Brailsford Vaughns, [vaughnsab@cofc.edu](mailto:vaughnsab@cofc.edu)



## Call for Nominations AERA EE/CD 2016-2017 Executive Board

The EE/CD SIG Executive Board will have four openings next spring: Chair-Elect, Senior-member at large, Junior Member-at large, Secretary/Treasurer, Chair Elect. Each position will be two year terms-- 2016-2018. Below is a brief description of role of each position.

- **Chair-Elect** is in charge of the Junior Faculty Enhancement Grant and ready to serve as a chair for the following 2 years and as a past chair for 2 years, total of 6 years.
- **Senior-member at large** is in charge of Early Research Career award, and Board nomination.
- **Junior-member at large** is in charge of dissertation award and student travel award.
- **Secretary/treasurer** will oversee budget and communicate with AERA.

Please contact Myae Han, [myaehan@udel.edu](mailto:myaehan@udel.edu) by **November 1, 2015** if you are interested in running for or would like to nominate someone to one of these positions.

## Treasurer's Report July 2015

### Membership

Current EE&CD SIG membership count is 428 (as of 4.17.15). The table below compares current membership figures with those reported in the last 3 years:

Membership Categories	April 2012 (Vancouver)	April 2013 (San Francisco)	July 2014 (Philadelphia)	April 2015 (Chicago)
Current	353	397	465	<b>428</b>
New	88	108	103	<b>94</b>
Lapsed	276	223	282	<b>334</b>

### Budget Summary from 2012 to 2014

EE&CD SIG's beginning balance over the past three years has decreased, reflecting its commitment in giving back to its members through more awards and grants. The SIG's income has remained around \$7,000, thanks to the new co-sponsorship income stream.

Category	Description/Explanation	2012	2013	2014
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>(January)</b>	<b>\$13,422.75</b>	<b>\$10,866.62</b>	<b>\$8,132.82</b>
<b>Income</b>				
	Membership Dues	\$6,780.00	\$7,320.00	\$6,975.00
	Joint AERA event	-	-	
	Co-sponsorship			\$500.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>\$6,780.00</b>	<b>\$7,320.00</b>	<b>\$7,475.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
	Conference Reception	(\$2,420.21)	(\$3,308.92)	(2,416.00)
	Awards 2012: 5 Student Travel, 1 Dissertation 2013: 5 Student, 1 Diss, 1 Early Career, 1 Distinguish Career 2014: 3 Student, 1 Diss, 1 Early Career, 1 Distinguished Career	(\$3,045.00)	(\$3,635.00)	(\$3,135.00)
	SIG Officer Travel	(\$2,800.00)	(\$1,800.00)	(\$2,800.00)
	Meeting Expenses	(\$770.92)	(\$1,009.88)	(\$585.55)
	AERA Management Fee (July)	(\$300.00)	(\$300.00)	(\$300.00)
	Web Hosting			(\$142.50)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>(\$9,336.13)</b>	<b>(\$10,053.80)</b>	<b>(\$9,105.77)</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>(December)</b>	<b>\$10,866.62</b>	<b>\$8,132.82</b>	<b>\$6,228.77</b>

## Treasurer's Report, continued July 2015

### Budget Summary for Current Year 2015

EE&CD SIG's annual expenses for Year 2015 will be around \$10,230, this is more than its total income of \$7,220. This means that there will be a much smaller beginning balance of around \$3,220 for Year 2016. The SIG has to either reduce its expenses or increase its total income for Year 2016 to remain in the black.

Budget Summary for Current Year 2015		
Month	Description	Amount
	<b>Beginning Balance (January 1, 2015)</b>	<b>\$6,228.77</b>
	<b>INCOME</b>	
	428 members @\$15 each (April 17, 2015)	\$6,420.00
	Co-sponsorship from Erikson Institute Early Math Collaborative	\$200.00
	Co-sponsorship from Indiana University's Early Childhood Education Program	\$200.00
	Co-sponsorship from U of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Curriculum & Instruction	\$200.00
	Co-sponsorship from U of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Early Childhood Program	\$200.00
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$7,220.00</b>
	<b>EXPENSES</b>	
	Conference Reception	-\$3,363.00
	Awards/Grants	
	2 Student Travel Grants @ \$500 each (\$1,000)	-\$1,000.00
	1 Junior Faculty Research Enhancement Grant for \$1,000	-\$1,000.00
	1 Dissertation Award @ \$545	-\$545.00
	1 Early Career Award @ \$545	-\$545.00
	SIG Officer Travel	Est. 12 @ \$200 each = \$2,400 -\$2,400.00
	Meeting Expenses	Est. Executive Board Meeting Expenses -\$600.00
	AERA Management Fee (July)	-\$300.00
	Website Hosting (5 years)	-\$74.95
	Update/Mgt of Webpage	-\$400.00
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>-\$10,227.95</b>
	<b>Remaining Balance</b>	<b>\$3,220.82</b>

EE/CD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND  
COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2015-2016  
Website <http://www.aera-eecd-sig.org/>

**ELECTED MEMBERS:**

**Christopher P. Brown, Chair  
(2014-2016)**

University of Texas, Austin  
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**Myae Han, Sr. Member-at-Large  
(2014 – 2016)**

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**Nancy File, Chair-Elect  
(2014-2016)**

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**Debra Ackerman, Sr Member-at-Large  
(2015-2017)**

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**Mary B. McMullen, Past Chair  
(2014-2016)**

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**Ashley Brailsford Vaughns, Jr. Member-at-  
Large (2014-16)**

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86 Wentworth St. Office 371  
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**Aubrey Wang, Secretary/Treasurer  
(2014-2016)**

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**Lucinda Heimer, Jr Member-at-Large  
(2015-2017).**

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**Peggy Apple, Newsletter  
(2014—2016)**

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**APPOINTED MEMBERS:**

**Abigail M. Jewkes, Program Co-Chair  
(2014-2016)**

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**Sara Michael Luna, Listserv**

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**X. Christine Wang, Program Co-Chair and  
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**2016 AERA Annual Meeting**  
**“Public Scholarship to Educate Diverse Democracies”**

Washington, DC • Friday, April 8 - Tuesday, April 12, 2016

The banner features a photograph of the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, DC, viewed from across the Tidal Basin. The memorial's white dome and columns are prominent against a clear blue sky. In the foreground, there are branches of cherry blossom trees in full bloom, with white and pink flowers. The water of the Tidal Basin is visible in the lower part of the image. The text is overlaid on a dark blue background at the top and bottom of the image.