

Volume 1, Number 2

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## **New Officers Charged with Expanding SIG Membership and Services**

Three new officers have pledged to work toward expanding the current membership of SIGRU and enhancing member services and resources. Dan Laitsch is the new SIG Chairperson, Keith Sturges the new Treasurer, and Jason Adsit is the new Program Chair. Expanded services include the launch of the SIG's first Web site, [www.sigru.org](http://www.sigru.org) (on-line now); adding a focus on critical issues in research; and exploring Web-based strategies to establish an online peer review forum for researchers interested in research use.

The SIGRU officers were also asked to explore the possibility of merging this SIG into a related SIG with stronger membership. While we will explore this possibility, the officers are strongly committed to reinvigorating SIGRU, and encourage you, the SIG members, to reach out to your colleagues and increase SIGRU membership, as well as encourage them submit research use proposals for next year's annual meeting.

Research use is receiving renewed attention with the Bush Administration's focus on "What Works." Now, more than ever, educators interested in taking research to practice need to speak out and advocate for good scholarship, and careful practice. As members of SIGRU, your leadership and expertise in this field is critical, and we urge you to stand up and participate.

## **Begin Planning for 2004**

Even as we close out the 2003 Annual Meeting, there are only two months until proposals for 2004 are due. This year, there were very few proposals under Research Use, and we encourage everyone to submit a proposal, register as a session reviewer, offer to chair SIGRU sessions, or act as a discussant. Details are available on the AERA Web Site at: [www.aera.net/meeting/](http://www.aera.net/meeting/). You can also look for details on the new [sigru.org](http://www.sigru.org) Web site. The meeting next year is in San Diego, April 12-16. Please post the attached flyer in your Departments, and distribute to your colleagues.

AERA will be using a new electronic system this year, All Academic Convention, which supports web-based proposal submission, peer review, proposal evaluation, session creation, scheduling, and program generation for the Annual Meeting. The Proposal Submission System will open on June 2, 2003. Annual Meeting themes include: enhancing the visibility and credibility of educational research; Brown vs. the Board of Education—50 years later; teacher learning and development; and justifying evidence-based claims.

## **SIG Sessions Play Well**

This year there were three SIG activities at Annual Meeting, including a successful pre-session on Research Use Today, the Business Meeting, and a session on Using Research in Educational Reform.

Panelists in the Special Pre-Session on Research Use Today considered how to adapt older conceptions of supporting research use to the current circumstances of "scientifically based research" within the No Child Left Behind legislation. Panelists included David P. Crandall, The NETWORK, Inc.; Gene E. Hall, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Paul Hood, WestEd; and representatives from the What Works Clearinghouse and the Institute for Education Sciences (formerly OERI), within the US Department of Education.

Chris Ferguson and D'Ette Cowan, of the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory presented their paper, Field Research in Low-Performing Schools: Contextual Issues in Maintaining Research Integrity, and Connie Smith of the Tennessee Department of Education joined Keith Sturges, Steven Moats, and James Craig of the AEL Regional Education Laboratory in presenting the paper Something worked; what was it?: Examining the role and impact of external change agents in enabling and promoting improvement in elementary schools. Steve Siera of Kent School District acted as discussant and Dan Laitsch, of ASCD was the session chair. Both papers should be available on the SIGRU web site shortly.

# *AERA 2004*

## *Enhancing the Visibility and Credibility of Educational Research*

*April 12 to 16, 2004  
San Diego, California*

*85th Annual Meeting of the  
American Educational Research Association*

Submit your Research Use proposals to the AERA Special Interest Group for Research Use (SIGRU).

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SIGRU: <http://www.sigru.org>  
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