

## UPDATE ON WERA

As you know, the **World Education Research Association (WERA)** came into being on April 18, 2009. National, regional, and international education research associations are affiliated to WERA. Its express aim is to further education research as a scientific and scholarly field. EASA is one of the founding members of WERA. This privileges EASA members who consequently have access to WERA's considerable networks and resources (see <http://www.weraonline.org/>).

WERA disseminates calls for scholarly EASA representation at conferences around the globe on a fairly regular basis. At the October EXCO meeting (kindly hosted by UP) a decision was taken to pass WERA's calls for conference participation on to all EASA members. We will do this by posting the calls onto the EASA website and by emailing the calls to all members. Members are requested to scrutinize the calls to ascertain whether the focus and rigor of their research is well enough aligned

with the call. If members wish to be nominated to represent EASA they must then please forward a relevant abstract and an updated CV to either Liesel Ebersöhn (Liesel.Ebersöhn@up.ac.za) or to Linda Theron (Linda.Theron@nwu.ac.za) to enable EXCO to make a final recommendation to WERA. Members must also please scrutinize the calls to determine how much financial support (if any) is included in the call.

Please see the EASA website for further opportunities of collaboration with scholars from developed and developing countries, all of whom are affiliated to WERA. Under the WERA link there is a PDF document entitled ***Call for WERA-IRN Proposals. International Research Networks for the World Education Research Association***

## EASA CONFERENCE 2011



Don't miss our annual EASA conference in luxurious Sun City with the theme. **"Beauty and the beast: towards turning the tide in**

education” (see the conference website [www.unisa.ac.za/easa2011](http://www.unisa.ac.za/easa2011)). Registration commences in the afternoon of 10 January and the conference starts on 11 January.

The keynote speakers include Mr. Keller, a well-known orator from Cape Town. He is the principal and CEO of the Sun Valley Group of Schools and is regarded as an expert in brain-based teaching and learning. He will draw on his vast experience as an educator and leader to challenge conference delegates.



**Mr. Gavin Keller**

An authoritative panel of Stellenbosch scholars (chaired by Prof Chris Reddy) will present a keynote panel - we anticipate a provocative contribution from them.



**Stellenbosch scholars**

Prof Dr Carol D Lee (School of Education and Social Policy, Northwestern University, Illinois), who is internationally known as scholar, intellectual leader, research visionary and academic manager, will be one of WERA’s panel of representatives who will present the third key-note address: “Turning the tide of education research with Indigenous knowledge”. Prof Lee’s stature as scholar is typified in her being President (2009-2010) of the American Educational Research Association, and being the Literacy Consultant to the Education Transition Team of the Administration of President Barack Obama.



**Prof Carol D Lee**

As is its tradition, EASA will honour members for their scholarly contributions to the field of education at the gala dinner on 12 January 2011. We encourage EASA members to start giving thought to whom they would like to nominate for the emerging researcher medal, research medal, and medal of honour, 2012. We remind members that the medal of honour recognizes scholars who have a sustained track record of making a difference to the theory and practice of education – this focus implies that this is not a competitive category where nominees compete against one another, but rather a category that celebrates significant contributions to education in South Africa.

We urge **interest groups** to give some thought to what they would like to focus their discussions on. It would be constructive for interest group members to communicate with one another prior to the conference in this regard.



## FEEDBACK ON SAERA DISCUSSIONS

In July 2010 representatives from a number of education associations in South Africa (AMESA, EASA, EMASA, Kenton, NADEOSA, SAARMSTE, SACHES) met in Stellenbosch to begin discussing the possibility of a national education research conference and a national education research association. The need for a national organization became apparent when EASA was involved in the founding of WERA: most founding associations were national ones. This rigorous debate was continued by representatives of the same education associations in October in Pretoria. The president of SASE joined the October deliberations, as did a representative from the Department of Basic Education (DBE) (the DBE is engaged in discussions with the NRF about establishing a research forum that could inform their research agenda for a given fiscal year). At this October meeting it was decided that the possibility of a national education research conference with a view to founding a national education research association at the conference would be communicated to various association members by their presidents. It was also decided that the feasibility of a national education research conference in November 2011 would be thoroughly investigated. The representatives present at the October meeting were committed to planning a conference that

would enable as full a spectrum of South African education researchers as possible to be present so that the inception of a South African Education Research Association (SAERA) would be meaningful and credible. This matter will be discussed in full at our **EASA AGM on 12 January 2011**. We encourage as many EASA members as possible to be present. We also want members to understand that at this stage it is envisaged that researchers and scholars would join SAERA as individuals: associations are not being merged to form SAERA.

### MEMBERSHIP FEES

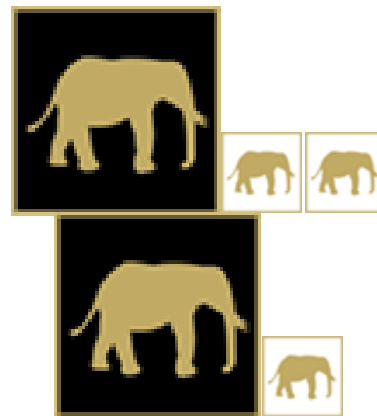
A reminder to all members who have not yet paid their 2010 membership fees: please do so by the end of November 2010. A number of members chose to pay their 2010 and 2011 fees in one payment – if more members would like to exercise this option, please advise our secretary, Esmarie Strydom ([Esmarie.Strydom@nwu.ac.za](mailto:Esmarie.Strydom@nwu.ac.za)). Members who need an invoice to authorize payment of membership fees through their institutions can also contact Esmarie in this regard. EASA banking details are: ABSA; Branch: 335 345.; Acc no: 010722047

Members are also welcome to pay their annual fees at the EASA conference in January 2011. Esmarie Strydom will be available at the registration desk in this regard.

### EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT 2010



EXCO members continue to represent EASA at WERA meetings. Liesel Ebersöhn and Chris Reddy attended the first 2010 meeting in Denver earlier in 2010. Chris Reddy will travel to Malaysia at the end of November to attend the second annual WERA meeting.



*LOOKING FORWARD TO  
SEEING YOU ALL AT SUN  
CITY IN JANUARY 2011!*