

What's Happening at SECA

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SECA 2012: Meet Our Speakers

We have a wonderful lineup of speakers for SECA 2012 and we wanted to share some preliminary information.

As we mentioned in our previous newsletter, we're going to provide a "focus" strand throughout the conference on infant/toddler care but we'll have much for those of you who work in pre-K classrooms as well.

On **Thursday**, we'll provide two very different opportunities for participants to find just the right "fit" for them.

Nature Explore will provide two 3-hour sessions (one in the morning and one in the afternoon) for classroom teachers to learn

about outdoor learning environments.

Debby Cryer of the Frank Porter Graham Center has agreed to provide a session on the research behind the Environmental Rating Scales and how to develop curriculum to meet the quality indicators in those scales. She'll do two three hour sessions as well.

On **Friday morning**, **Michael Levine**, Director of the Joan Ganz Cooney Center at Sesame Workshop will present some of the latest research on technology and young children. We're anticipating a new position statement from NAEYC on this issue in the next few months and how we use technology in the early childhood classroom is a major issue.

On **Friday afternoon**, we have a wonderful "treat" for you.

Greg Johnson of Chef and Father will be with us to share his secrets for teaching young children to love a variety of foods and cooking with them.. It's something new for us but something we know you'll enjoy.

On **Saturday**, we have two of our favorite speakers, **Sharon MacDonald** and **Dr. Pam Schiller**. They will both do presentations that focus on the development of young children and, if you've heard them before, you know you're in for a treat!

For more in-depth information about the speakers, go to http://www.southernearlychildhood.org/seca_conference.php

SECA 2011

Now available on the conference page of the SECA website.

The 2011 Leadership Institute with Kate Thegen

Extending the Medical Home to Assure Optimal Outcomes for Young Children
Dr. David Tayloe

The Whole Child: Thinking, Feeling & Moving
Rae Pica

A PDF of the 2011 Conference Program is also available.

2012 Call for Proposals: Deadline August 1, 2011

The Call for Proposals for SECA 2012 is now available on the SECA website on the "conference information" page.

We're taking a new approach this year and will ask you to provide more in-depth infor-

mation for our reviewers. Included in the Call for Proposals you will find:

- A list of areas for which we are soliciting proposals.
- An expanded list of requirements.

- A rubric that will be used to determine which proposals are scheduled.

We will utilize a group of professionals to review and score proposals, and we wanted you to have the review criteria to help you prepare your proposal. .

SECA Board to Meet in July

The SECA Board of Directors is scheduled to meet on July 15 & 16, 2011 in Little Rock for the regularly scheduled summer meeting.

During this meeting, the Board will be considering a second budget this year. Because SECA is moving to a new fiscal year (July 1-June 30th of each year), we will have a shortened year in 2011 (January 1-June 30, 2011) and will need to adopt a new budget for the 2011-2012 year. With the adoption of the 2011-2012 budget, the

Board will set program priorities for the next year.

The Board will also be finalizing planning for the 2012 conference in San Antonio as well as considering a proposal for the 2013 conference site. (The 2014 conference site has been selected and we will be in Williamsburg, Virginia that year.)

Additional items on the agenda include discussions about future SECA publishing efforts, some technology

proposals from the SECA staff and development of goals and objectives for the 2011-2012 year.

A copy of the tentative agenda is available on the Board Resources page of the SECA website. **If you have an agenda item that you would like to have considered, please send information to Dr. Janie Humphries, SECA President, at Humphries@latech.edu. Requests to consider agenda items must be received by June 15, 2011.**

SECA FOSSILS Directory Now Available

During the last year, we've worked to compile a directory of SECA FOSSILS (past representatives on the SECA Board of Directors) and we've made a good start! The group had asked us to provide a way to help them keep in touch.

If you'll go to [http://www.southernearlychildhood.org/upload/file/Leadership%20Page/Fossil%20Email%20Directory%20-%205-12-11\(2\).pdf](http://www.southernearlychildhood.org/upload/file/Leadership%20Page/Fossil%20Email%20Directory%20-%205-12-11(2).pdf), you'll find the

"public" version of the directory with photos, basic information and e-mail addresses. On the Board Resources section of the website, we have an expanded directory that includes a short bio and more comprehensive address information.

We also want to thank Dr. Margaret Puckett for sending us some of the original FOSSILS correspondence and documents that really bring the group to life. (*Apparently Margaret doesn't*

throw anything away!) If you want to enjoy what a special group it is, just read some of that early correspondence. It will give you a whole new perspective!

If you know anyone that should be included and you can give us information on them, including a photo, we'll be glad to add their information. Also, if you're a FOSSIL and we don't have your complete info in the directory, we'd love to hear from you.

Southern Issues. A New White Paper from SECA

Over the last couple of years, the SECA Board of Directors has debated what makes us "uniquely" Southern and what "Southern issues" differentiate us from the rest of the country.

SECA has now published a White Paper that provides a little insight into what makes us unique and how the

issues that we originally championed are still with us today.

As a "voice for Southern children" and an organization devoted to "Southern issues", it's important for us to define what makes us different and also the common bonds and issues that we share with the rest of the country.

You'll also find some "fun" quotes and articles about what makes Southerners "Southern". See if you agree with the quotes!

The White Paper will be posted on the Public Policy page of the SECA website by June 15, 2011. We hope you'll take some time to review it.

We Need Your Input! Surveys Coming Your Way

In order to better serve our members, we're going to be conducting some surveys and asking you to give us feedback. Our programs and initiatives are only effective if they are useful and valuable to SECA members.

Some surveys that you'll see coming your way over the next few months:

- **Director's Seminar** at conference: What can we do better? Is there a way to focus it more on specific issues? What can we improve? If you haven't participated but have ideas, just send us an e-mail at info@southernearlychildhood.org.
- **Monthly Member E-mails**: Is the format working? Do you like having the parent flyer and are you using it? Is there something else that we could be doing to make it more useful for you?
- **SECA Reporter**: Is the content what you expected? Are there other things that we should include?
- **E-Newsletters** (*Public Policy Notes, What's Happening at SECA, Leadership Letter*): Are there ones that you like and/or dislike? Is the content useful? Are there changes we could make to assist you in your job at the state level? Should we maintain all of them or is there one or more that could be dropped? If we drop it, what would replace it?
- **State/Local Affiliate Leadership**: What are the issues that are garnering most of your time at this point? What can we do at the SECA conference to provide you with useful networking opportunities? Are there other forums that you would like to see us create for networking?
- **Students**: We tried a Facebook project that has had limited success? Can you give us feedback on what might work better for you?
- **Dimensions Changes**: When we begin publishing some of the new material, we'll ask you to give us feedback on the materials and how they are being used. (See the March/April edition of *What's Happening* for an explanation of those changes.)

We promise not to inundate you with surveys and some of these will go to specific sub-groups of members. When a survey arrives, we hope you'll take the time to let us know your thoughts. We promise to make the surveys quick and simple.

SECA and AECA: A New Partnership

Beginning May 1, 2011, SECA and AECA have entered a partnership that will allow SECA to assist AECA with many of the management functions of the state association.

This discussion and partnership was brought about by the resignation of the state's business manager and AECA's desire to move forward quickly to maintain their business

functions. This agreement actually reinstates a long time relationship that lasted until the early 1990's when both AECA and SECA were managed by the same administrator, Jane Alexander, from the same office.

Maurena Farr, our new Administrative Assistant has been designated as the AECA staff in the SECA office and will be working about 15 hours per week

for them. Her additional hours in the office will be devoted to SECA. We're looking forward to working with and supporting our Arkansas affiliate.



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The Voice for Southern Children

We're on the web!

www.SouthernEarlyChildhood.org

Southern Early Childhood Association



2011 Executive Committee

Dr. Janie Humphries, President
Nancy Cheshire, President-Elect
Susan Carrigan, Vice-President
Dee Ard, Fiscal Officer
Sister Roberta Bailey, Secretary

2011 SECA Board of Directors

Dr. Janie Humphries (LA), President

Nancy Cheshire (WV), President-Elect

Dee Ard, AL State Representative

Dr. Joanna Grymes, AR State Representative

Sister Roberta Bailey, FL State Representative

Terrie Buckner, GA State Representative

Katie Shaughnessy-Williams, KY State Representative

Cindy Ramagos, LA State Representative

Beverly Peden, MS State Representative

Susan Carrigan, OK State Representative

Crystal Campbell, SC State Representative

Lisa Maddox-Vinson, TN State Representative

Mary Jamsek, TX State Representative

Joyce P. Jones, VA State Representative

Melanie Clark, WV State Representative

Carol Montealegre (FL), Member-at-Large

Dr. Floyd Creech (SC), Member-at-Large

WE NEED A NEW INFANT/TODDLER BOOKLET!

SECA's Editorial Committee is seeking a **short book with practical ideas for teachers of infants and toddlers**. The booklet is expected to contain captivating classroom stories and recommendations for best practices in working with children from birth to age 3. These topics are to be featured:

- **Physical Environment** (how to set up space, tips for selecting materials and furnishings)
- **Social-Emotional Environment** (examples of effective personal interactions, guidance and discipline strategies)
- **Cognitive Development** (engaging ideas to promote

children's early learning)

- **Working with Families** (building community, communication)

If you are interested in submitting a detailed outline for review, please access SECA's book author guidelines at www.southernearlychildhood.org.

Book proposals must be submitted **electronically** to editor@southernearlychildhood.org.

Crystal Campbell's grand-baby, Tirrell. Crystal is the South Carolina rep on the SECA Board.



Sean Patrick, son of Katie Williams, Kentucky rep on the SECA Board



Claire Sullins, new daughter of Megan and Peyton Sullins. Megan is on the SECA staff.