

## Welcome from the President

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Welcome to the 2016 SRA Biennial Meeting in Baltimore! We have an outstanding invited and submitted conference program thanks to the leadership of the Program Co-Chairs Noel Card (University of Connecticut) and Andrea Hussong (University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill). Thanks to Anne Perdue (SRA's Director of Meetings) and many others in the SRA business office, we have a well-organized and smooth running conference (and a better than ever mobile device app!). Thanks to the William T. Grant Foundation for their support of the Young Scholars Program that brings under-represented U.S. college students to SRA, and the Jacobs Foundation for their support of the International Young Scholars program that brings young scholars from around the world to SRA; thanks as well to the chairs and mentors that make these two programs work so well. I could go on for pages thanking all those who deserve thanks; SRA works well because so many of you contribute your time and great ideas. Thanks!

I have no doubt you will find many sessions to like on the program. Some common themes include diversity and interdisciplinary approaches. We have woven in intervention research, social policy, and leading edge methodology that can help us to better study development and to pinpoint mechanisms and consequences. Check out the Emerging Scholar events concerning publishing, grant getting, and job getting. Make sure you consider the pre- and post-conference sessions concerning, for example, Black Lives Matter and basic and advanced methodological approaches. And why not try something new? As reflected in the program, the study of adolescence is so broad and dynamic, and this is your chance to explore and step out of your typical areas of interest. And please visit the poster sessions (to learn and maybe win).

There are many reasons why we come to conferences – to learn, to talk about our research, to envision future research. We are also here to meet old friends and make new ones. Step out of your comfort zone and meet someone new. I am quite sure that if you reach out to someone new, they will reciprocate. In this way, we can help give SRA a small conference feel.

We anticipate that the SRA Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony (Thursday March 31, 5:30-6:30) will be packed – this session will be short on business and long on awards given that we have several new awards this year. Please join us as part of the SRA community to help honor our colleagues, students, and mentors who exemplify our high standards for excellence in research and service. Right after this session will be the Welcome Reception to see old and new friends, and to eat and drink (6:30-8). And please attend the Presidential Reception (Friday, April Fools' Day, 6:30-8) to continue seeing friends and eating and drinking. There are many other receptions, including the Adolescence in Diverse Contexts Poster Session Reception and Breakfast Hour (Thursday, March 31, 10:15-11:15). If you don't go home tired, full, and stimulated, you have not totally experienced SRA!

Finally, SRA needs you. If you see someone with an SRA water bottle, know that this was a token gift to them for participating in SRA service. Ask them how they are involved in SRA and how you can become involved. During and after the conference, there will be announcements about SRA service opportunities.

I hope you enjoy the conference. See you soon!



John Schulenberg  
SRA President