

# ORGANIZATIONAL SYSTEMS RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

ADVANCING RESEARCH IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES, LEARNING AND PERFORMANCE

## Newsletter

[www.osra.org](http://www.osra.org)

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### TORONTO REDUX

The vote is in and counted: *21st Century Workplaces: Visions to Vitality*--the 19th Annual OSRA Conference--was a success! Here are some post-conference comments:

*For those of you who had students in at the conference, give them my congratulations. They truly were professional in their demeanor, provided all of us an opportunity to learn, and made me proud to be affiliated with such great student groups. I do hope we can continue to keep them involved in our national conference.*

*I did, however, want to let you know that I really enjoyed the conference. I know a lot of work goes into doing a conference and just wanted to say "thank you" to you and those who helped you to get everything together, especially those from Morehead State University. See you all in 2001. **Candy Duncan Evans**, Associate Dean for Academic Services, College of Applied Science and Arts, Southern, Illinois University.*

*All of us from Central Michigan University agree--very good conference. **Susan Switzer***

*The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater echoes Candy's appreciation. Our students appreciated the opportunity to network with all of you. Thank you for "reaching out" to all of them. **Marcia James***

*And this comment from the conference chair: Whew! And thank you for your participation. See you in Cleveland in 2001 for our 20th Anniversary Conference! **Betty Regan**, Morehead State University.*



**Best Paper** at the Toronto Conference went to **Catherine Chen**, Ball State University; **Marilyn R. Chalupa**, Ball State University; and **Thomas Charles**, Ball State University. The title of the paper was *Gender Differences in Prior Curricula and Software Work Experience*. The purpose of the study was to investigate the nature of the students' prior software skills and the relationship between these skills and demographic information. In part, the findings revealed that prior software work experiences were different from the prior software courses taken. Gender continues to be a factor in acquiring software work experience even though males and females have had similar software learning. **Congratulations!**

# OSRA NEWSLETTER: President's Corner



BERYL McEWEN

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The end of a year or the end of a term is always a good time to pause and reflect. For OSRA, the 1999-2000 year was a rather dramatic one. Essentially, we undertook one major project--to change the organization's name. We accomplished that task! We are now the *Organizational Systems Research Association*. I hope you have all visited the Web site recently and have seen the new banner on our page. This name change will help us to better position ourselves in the IS field and expand the role that we can play in helping end-users better utilize technology to improve organizational effectiveness.

Our journal has also undergone a name change. It is now the *Information Technology, Learning and Performance Journal*, and is now available online at <http://www.osra.org>. As editor, Bridget O'Connor noted in the Fall 1999 issue, its focus is now to support IT practitioners and academics through strong research, education, and other professional development opportunities. Take a look at the journal. I think you will agree with me that it is an excellent publication.

During the 1999-00 year we also found a new Webmaster, Robert Brookshire of James Madison University. Working with the Editors of the Journal and the Newsletter (Bridget O'Connor and Donna Everett), we now have these two publications online. Our new Web site also provides links to job postings, and provides the opportunity for members to easily post job opening in their schools. The listserv continues to provide us with an excellent forum for discussing issues and for keeping everyone informed. Our millennium conference was a great success, with many excellent speakers and presenters. We were especially pleased to have many of our past presidents return for a Past Presidents' Panel.

Where do we go from here? We need to work very hard to grow our organization--get the word out about the Organizational Systems Research Association. Stay tuned for ways in which you might participate in efforts to build a strong, relevant organization. In the meantime, start planning to attend the 20th anniversary conference in Cleveland, February 22-24, 2001.

It has been a good year, and many people worked very hard to make it so. As I complete my year as President, there are many people to thank. First, the Board Members who have worked tremendously hard during the year to deliver a new and improved OSRA to the members at the 2000 conference. Special thanks to Heidi Perreault, Elizabeth Regan, Bridget O'Connor, and Steve Hunt who are leaving the Board this year after many years of excellent service. Bridget will continue to serve as Editor of the Journal; all, I am sure, will remain very active in OSRA. I congratulate the new Board members who have

been recently elected and appointed. You are joining an excellent team; just put your working boots on. There is still a great deal of work to be done. Special thanks also to Bob Brookshire who came on board as our new Webmaster last year and will continue to serve as the incoming VP of Publications.

Please continue to keep Sarah O'Donnell, Virginia Hemby, Janet Palmer, and Janice Kyle in your thoughts. They are all still coping with illnesses.

The 2001 Conference Team is already working hard to put together an excellent program for our 20th Anniversary Conference. Please note the Call for Papers deadline and get your papers in on time. It will take all of us to make the next year a successful one.

Beryl McEwen  
President

North Carolina A&T State University

## 1999-2000 OSRA Executive Board

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Linda Szul	Executive Vice President
Indiana University of PA - <a href="mailto:lfzul@grove.iup.edu">lfzul@grove.iup.edu</a>	
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Mary Valenti	Treasurer
Harford Community College - <a href="mailto:muvalenti@email.msn.com">muvalenti@email.msn.com</a>	
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Pace University - <a href="mailto:squill504@aol.com">squill504@aol.com</a>	
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Ray Terlaga	Business Consultant
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Donna McAlister-Kizzier	Executive Director
Morehead State University - <a href="mailto:d.kizzier@morehead-st.edu">d.kizzier@morehead-st.edu</a>	



**A word from the outgoing 1999-2000 OSRA Board: Thank you, Beryl, for your leadership, hard work, and willingness to go above and beyond! You are appreciated!**

# OSRA NEWSLETTER



## POSTCARDS FROM KENTUCKY

### NEW MILLENNIUM, NEW DIRECTION FOR OSRA

**DONNA L. McALISTER-KIZZIER**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

As OSRA concludes two decades of existence, it enters the new millennium with a spirit of renewal, growth and an exciting revitalized focus reflected in a new name, mission, journal, and support services.

OSRA is now the *Organizational Systems Research Association*, a name the board believes captures the breadth and depth of the unique niche our association represents in the information systems field. Our new mission is "To promote research, implementation, and application of information technologies to enhance individual, group, and organizational performance."

The journal, formerly called the *Office Systems Research Journal* (OSRJ), is now named the *Information Technology, Learning and Performance Journal* (ITL&PJ) to better reflect the new vision reflected in our mission. The by-line found under our organizational name on our promotional material now reads, "advancing research in information technologies, learning and performance"--a goal that is reflected in our new journal name. The journal is now available online at the updated OSRA website at <http://www.osra.org>.

The intent of these changes is not only to more accurately describe OSRA's unique niche in our dynamic field but also to position our organization to serve a broader cross-section of professionals in our discipline. As professionals in our field attend our conference, read our journal, adopt our curriculum, or use our other support services, we hear repeatedly that we are a "best-kept secret." Our new direction gives us an exciting opportunity to spread the word. Won't you help us by encouraging your colleagues to join the new OSRA in 2000?



### **ITL&PJ Review Board Nominations**

Consider nominating yourself (or someone else) to be a member of the *Information Technology, Learning, and Performance Journal* review board for 2000-2001.

In your nomination letter, please detail the research areas in which you have expertise and ways you might work to further the scope and visibility of our *Journal*. You might also volunteer to serve as Editor on a special issue dedicated to a particular topic, such as International Issues, Groupware, or Job (Re)Design.

Please feel free to share your ideas with our Editorial Staff and the current Review Board. We look forward to hearing from you.

*Bridget O'Connor*, Editor

# OSRA NEWSLETTER



**CONGRATULATIONS!** to the following OSRA members for their recent professional achievements:

**Bob Brookshire** has been promoted to Professor of Information Systems at James Madison University. **Judy Caouette** has been granted tenured and promotion to Associate Professor in the School of Computer Science and Information Systems at Pace University. **Steve Hunt** received tenure in the Department of Information Systems at Morehead State University. **Dennis LaBonty** has been promoted to Professor in the Business Information Systems and Education Department at Utah State University. **Bill McPherson** has been promoted to Professor at Indiana University of PA. **Mary Valenti** received tenure in the Applied Business Technology Department at Harford Community College.

## MUGS FOR SALE!!

Order your OSRA mug today with the new name and logo. Here's how:

Contact **Steve Hunt** at [s.hunt@morehead-st.edu](mailto:s.hunt@morehead-st.edu) or use the POTS at 606-783-2743.

The Louisville Stoneware Company has agreed to work with OSRA on screen printing for orders of 10 or more. Call or email Steve to get your name on the order list.

Be the first in your college to display the new OSRA logo.



# OSRA NEWSLETTER: CLEVELAND 2001

## OSRA 2001 February 22-24, 2001 Call for Papers

The OSRA Conference Committee invites research paper submissions for the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Research Conference.

### Suggested Topic Areas:

- √ Business Process Reengineering
- √ End-User Training
- √ Organizational and End-User Information Systems (OEIS) Implementation
- √ OEIS Technologies
- √ Human Factors
- √ End-User Collaboration
- √ The Internet and the World Wide Web
- √ Multimedia
- √ Collegiate Education
- √ Industry/Collegiate Partnerships
- √ Management Issues

### Process for Submission

Both refereed and non-refereed presentations are sought. Submissions should address topics relating to the application of information technologies to solve organizational problems and to support end users.

### Guidelines for Manuscripts

- √ 12 point font
- √ single-spaced paragraphs
- √ double-space between paragraphs
- √ names of all authors with email addresses
- √ submit electronically as an email attachment
- √ submit in hard copy if cannot submit electronically

Your proposal must be received by the Call for Papers Coordinator on or before **October 15, 2000**. No submissions received after that date will be considered for presentation.

### Refereed Track

The refereed track is limited to presentations that present **research findings**. Authors of manuscripts selected for the refereed track are expected to publish either an abstract or the complete manuscript in the *Conference Proceedings*. Manuscripts to appear in the proceedings should not have been previously published or be in review for a journal.

### Proposals for Refereed Track

You do not have to submit a complete manuscript for consideration. You may submit a proposal for a research project in which you are currently engaged.

Please include the following headings in your proposal:

- √ Introduction
- √ Purpose of Study
- √ Brief Review of Literature (1-3 paragraphs)
- √ Research Questions or Hypotheses
- √ Methodology

### Non-Refereed Track

The non-refereed track includes **panel discussions, curriculum materials, current issue discussions, and other sessions** of interest to practitioners and educators.

### Proposals for Non-Refereed Track

You may submit either a proposal or a complete manuscript. Proposals should include:

- √ Type of presentation (i.e., panel discussion, curriculum materials, current issues discussions, etc.)
- √ Topic for discussion
- √ Background for presentation

Non-refereed submissions are not eligible for "Best Paper" consideration.

### Call for Papers Coordinator

Dr. Dawn E. Woodland  
Department of Technology Support and Training  
Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
224 Eberly  
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Indiana, PA 15705-1087  
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Fax: 724/357-3013  
Email: [woodland@grove.iup.edu](mailto:woodland@grove.iup.edu)

**Note:** In an effort to have the submission procedure be more technologically oriented, OSRA is requesting that authors submit proposals **electronically** as email attachments. If email is not possible, hard copy may be used. However, **both** email and hardcopy are not necessary.

# CLEVELAND 2001: OSRA NEWSLETTER

**CLEVELAND: February 22-24, 2001**

**COOL TIMES - HOT CITY!**

***Moving into the New Millennium:***

***A conference for advanced research in information technology,  
learning, and performance***

**OSRA 2001 At a Glance:**

Official Accommodations:

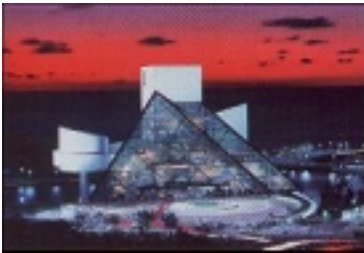
Embassy Suites Hotel 216-523-8000

Official Airlines:

Continental Airlines 800-468-7022

Southwest Airlines 800-433-5368

Dutch Treat Dinner: Hard Rock Cafe



**Rock and Roll  
Hall of Fame**

**Tours to:**

**Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum**

**Great Lakes Science & Technology Center**

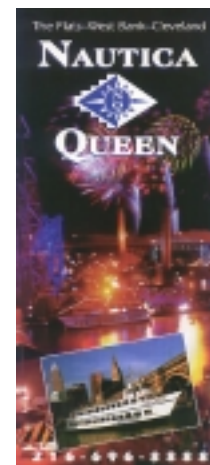


**Cleveland  
Museum of Art**

**Dynamic speakers and  
workshops!**



**Pro Football  
Hall of Fame**



**Nautica  
Queen**