



# From SACUS to SECA

**A History of the Southern Early  
Childhood Association from 1990-2010**



**SECA**

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*We asked Dr. Milly Cowles, Ph.D., a long-time member of the SECA Leadership, to compose this forward and give her perspective on*

*the ever-evolving issues facing early childhood, and how the Association, in collaboration with other early childhood advocates, has addressed those issues throughout its sixty-one years. Dr. Cowles, in addition to being a SECA Fossil, is a Distinguished Service Professor and Dean, Emerita, for the University of Alabama at Birmingham.*

The formative years of the Southern Early Childhood Association have been documented (1949-1989) and are available for reading, reviewing, and discussing the many important actions and events that were so significant for all of us in the South who were working in the early childhood field, as well as for parents, business leaders, and government officials. All individuals who care about the welfare of children share an obligation to become as knowledgeable as possible in regard to the important events of the past 60 years and, in this case, the many significant events fostered by SECA's work and its many competent and caring members. This brief summary will cover some events that were occurring in the broad society and, specifically, education from the fifties through 2010. Perhaps these musings will complement the first written history of the organization and this new 20 year addition just developed and available herewith.

From the very beginning of the

formal organization of SECA, until now, the Association's activities and the discipline area of early childhood education –childhood growth and development, views concerning children and families, patterns of schooling opportunities, and financial support– have been as fluid as a hard summer's rain or a long winter's snow. The one stable factor that has remained constant throughout the entire period (61 years) has been the many thoughtful, intelligent, conscientious, and supportive individuals who have gathered at least once each year to attend the annual SECA Conference to hear, discuss and take actions in regard to the latest trends, problems, and advances for young children and families. Also, much work is conducted throughout the year after the conference gathering. Equally important, and perhaps the most valuable of all, we are available and do support one another in the common mission to plan and work toward making the South an even better place to live and rear children. Positive actions can be achieved by improving living situations, boosting economic conditions, and promoting activities to build more fully functioning families. SECA always has been and remains a PEOPLE organization in which everyone counts irrespective of his or her job responsibility. SECA's journal, *Dimensions of Early Childhood*, provides a wealth of ideas and serves to unite the membership in common actions and goals. Also through the years, the State Affiliate groups have offered great strength through programs in each of the SECA states. Having an organization focused on real problems from a region with many needs, and having the opportunity to get to know the people throughout the various states

who dedicate themselves, often paying their own expenses to attend meetings, has been a more positive movement than has ever been fully celebrated or described. In recent years SECA has established a partnership with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), and that action has added another addition for SECA functions. The organization has been served ably, conscientiously, and wisely by permanent Directors Helen Harley, Jane Alexander, Cathy Grace, and Glenda Bean. They have carried forth the programs and supportive membership activities. Likewise, the Presidents, Board members, committee chairs, and members have carried the work forward (See the reports, timelines, and lists in the next sections).

From the beginning of kindergartens in the United States around the eighteen fifties, and continuing until the late nineteen sixties, almost 100 years later, kindergartens, where they existed, were not funded with public money and were not a part of the elementary schools in the South. During the same period, in the Middle Atlantic and New England states, kindergartens were a regular component of elementary schools in the 1900's. Patterns varied in the Mid-West and West; however, it seemed at the time that the South was the slowest of all regions in providing programs for five-year olds.

Nursery schools were begun in the mid-nineteen hundreds and were showcases when they were a part of university Home Economics departments and schools. Many churches and community groups also provided high quality programs for younger children.

They were funded by tuition and the institutions and private individuals who developed and ran them. The departments and schools of education that prepared teachers in the Southern states did not typically offer any preparation for educational personnel working below the first grade. Child development programs were excellent for nursery school and kindergarten teachers, but graduates were not certified to teach; therefore, when Virginia became the first Southern state to fund kindergartens in 1967, North Carolina and South Carolina followed suit in 1969, and other Southern states passed legislation through the 1970's, certification programs had to be developed and hundreds of individuals had to be prepared to staff the newly funded units.

Many events occurred in the 1960's that were national in scope but changed the entire education landscape in the South, where there was a great struggle to integrate educational institutions to meet the requirements of the historic 1954 mandate to provide equal opportunity for all children irrespective of race or creed. The Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESEA) was passed in 1964 and the Economic Education Opportunity Act in 1965. President Lyndon B. Johnson, a Texan, signed both bills into law and the results of implementing those acts required educators to not only develop new programs, but to also plan for new assessments of children's educational progress. That was the beginning of formal testing in elementary schools. While it is unknown even now, but interesting to speculate, the passage of the ESEA and EEOC acts were perhaps instrumental in pushing Southern states to begin supporting publicly funded kindergartens. The most important program for early childhood education to emerge

from any of the various plans from both Acts was the development of Head Start in every state. In 1966 I attended the first orientation, held in College Park Maryland, sponsored by the newly created Office designed to implement Head Start. The distinguished group that designed the program became the teachers for the professors who would then return to their universities and offer a full week of training for the teachers who would run the very first Head Start program. That first thrust was to provide the Head Start program for eight weeks in the summer of 1966. The universities chosen to offer the training for educators who would teach in the first summer session were selected on the basis of their having strong Extension Divisions and being active members of the National University Extension Association (NUEA). It was an exciting time, and the foundation for the next few years. After two years, raging discussions led the Office of Economic Opportunity to fund Follow Through Programs that were extensions of Head Start practices into the elementary school. Many different early childhood models were developed.

Dr. Bettye Caldwell developed the assessment instrument (Pre-School Inventory) to be used to provide an objective measure for assessment of children based on child development principles. Since that time, Head Start has shown immense success in working to provide a supportive, educative educational activity for parents and children that provided the opportunity for experiences that will go with them forever. In a report from the Society for Research in Child Development, children who attended Head Start showed that they made immediate gains in cognitive competence, school readiness, and

achievement.

Also, for the South, the Southern Education Foundation (SEF) in Atlanta funded programs in Alabama, Florida, North Carolina, Kentucky, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Tennessee to develop workshops for teachers and principals in Early Childhood Education. SEF also funded a regional conference in 1967 at the University of Georgia that included legislators, state department of education personnel, college professors, parents, teachers, principals, and others. We planned the Conference with Bank Street College of Education, a premier early childhood institution. Dr. Gordon Klopff, a major professor at Bank Street, two of us from the College of Education, and the Dean planned a South-wide Conference and invited all Associations to join in the effort. SECA was well represented. The group of people who attended became very active in getting programs started for children under six across the South, and the SEF continued support for a number of years. They also supported fellows who did internships in early childhood education. Ms. Barbara Ferguson Kamara was with us at the University of South Carolina and went on to become a distinguished ECE educator. SEF played a major role in the development of kindergartens and personnel to work in them throughout the South.

The seventies and eighties were about developing kindergarten programs universally with local, state, and federal funds. Also, programs in Pre-K sprouted up throughout the South with much discussion, argument, and disagreement as to where they should be administered. Ultimately consensus was reached to a degree. Many states developed programs such as First Start in North Carolina. Of all the research

data that were given to various SECA and national meetings, David Weikart's work in the Perry Pre-School Project is the most often quoted and the most enduring. Fortunately for the entire field of early childhood education, since Wickert's first publication in 1982, his initial work has shown that children not only have a great year of growth in all dimensions of development, which would be enough to justify going to school before age six, but that when compared to children who did not attend kindergarten, they have excelled through life. Fewer of the Perry project's graduates went to Special Education, had delinquency records, dropped out of school, or were unemployed, and they were more likely to go to a post-secondary school. The research has benefitted children beyond the South and United States. Without his data collected over almost 30 years comparing children who had the program and those who did not, it would have been much harder to have justification, as the evidence has been used over and over to support early childhood programs being funded, and use of that same data continues in 2010.

Since those days, now in the 2000's, the main issues have been refining philosophy and ideas, making sure that equity in all areas is practiced, and continuing to plead for more stable funding to take care of providing services for all children. The vagaries associated with funding from the federal and state coffers continue to plague program planners. Most of the states that have Pre-K programs have kept funding criteria on a partially sound basis and have made it possible for some qualified children's centers to receive funding. In that manner, people who have serviced children and families through the years in private and church set-

tings can get financial assistance and continue to make a contribution to the early childhood field and to the society; nevertheless, adequate funding is still a long way from reaching even modest goals.

There will probably always be the issue of funding, and workers in the field will have to continue to repeat over and over the value of early childhood education. The current thrust for developing "Standards" for all education programs and testing students to judge the worth of teachers, not just for ECE but for all teachers, has been established primarily by politicians, educators whose jobs are related to various sorts of public funding, textbook companies, and others who are not directly working with children in centers or schools. For example, state and local superintendents have been caught in the wave of a law passed by the U.S. Congress known as "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB) for 10 years. The ramifications of that legislation have been many, but perhaps the most talked about for early childhood education has been pushing the requirements for first grade downward into the kindergarten and Pre-K programs and turning early childhood curriculum into "Prep schools" for the next level, primarily first grade. Some states mandate assessments and "tests" that are not reliable and valid, and whose values are highly questionable to many professionals.

Kindergarten and nursery schools were never designed and have not normally operated to be "skill and drill" under the guise of preparing children for a mythical first grade level. There are individuals who are pushing rote memory work and treating children as if they have suddenly become eight years old rather than being four or five. Unfortunately and clearly

they have not studied the last 25 years of work in child psychology. The missing ingredient in the skill and drill group that is glaringly evident is that all the programs that were carefully designed and that have followed children for years were based on having a cognitive-developmental-transformational curriculum such as Dr. Wikert's that was discussed above. The individuals involved now in a stimulus-response "skill and drill", Bereiter-Englemann type programs have ignored early childhood education's dearest principles. I have not found anyone who has studied child growth and development that thinks kindergarten children need to sit still, be quiet and practice writing and adding and subtracting in a rote memory mode without rest, creative, and outdoor play periods. Some of the major proponents of teacher-directed reading and mathematics in kindergarten have written that the old early childhood education was based on the normative approach. They may be referring to Gesell's and associates' work, where they discussed what children do at various chronological ages. That work has been used for many purposes, but it really does not speak to the views and practices that are current now or even 40 years (or more) ago. For example, arranging learning environments in which children discover, create, and use language are the ways they learn, grow and develop. While many people are not poised to believe the following, it is true: In a program in which children were not given reading lessons until they were eight, many children taught themselves to read with comprehension and enthusiasm and engagement before they were eight through their own initiative. John Holt wrote a long time ago that motivation is the key to achievement. Programs for young children must be planned



on where each child is functioning. Mary may arrive never having had anyone read to her, Louise may never have even held, much less seen a book, and Carter may be reading books with fluency and ease. Should Carter have to sit through drills in order to follow the prescribed curriculum? Or Mary or Louise? Shortly before I began writing this, I saw all of the children in a kindergarten doing similar activities at the same time. Some of them could hardly hold a pencil and others were forming letters nicely. Yet, they all were required to be engaged in the same activity, which was obviously not where any one of the children was functioning. One wonders how long adults or teenagers would sit and not complain at such insensitive educational planning. The goal for every learner at any age ought to be "individualization." Many early childhood professionals have always placed the emphasis on the individual and many still do so, but the tide of opinion from many sources to push first and second grade work down to the youngest children in kindergarten and Pre-K is real. Delores Durkin found years ago in a study based on both the East and West coasts that children who read early do not read better or read more often than children who followed the pattern of being taught when judged ready by the teacher's standards. The reason that nursery schools and kindergartens were developed was to provide a group experience, for learners to work, get along with others, share, and adjust to being outside the home, and have materials and supplies, inside and outside, with which to interact that are found in few homes.

Actually, what has happened now in 2010 is easy to explain, hard to understand, and lacks a solution. For years, when elementary

teachers were asked what they did for a living, nine out of ten would reply, "I teach children." A high school teacher asked what he did for a living would normally reply, "I teach English." Before the NCLB movement, elementary teachers were prepared to think about the child first, assessing where the child was operating in every dimension, and then planning the instructional strategies at the level for each child. Most often the teacher had to individualize for each and every child. For when we assess adequately, it is found that no two learners are at the same place at the same time. There is a vast difference in viewing one's position as teaching children rather than teaching English. Surely then, the difference was that for elementary staff, when planning, the child came first and with high school, the subject taught was the important ingredient and was taught irrespective of the state of the individual who was to learn the English lesson. As an example, now teaching four and five year olds to write letters or numerals has become what the teacher does because he or she is required to have all children write them at the same time irrespective of activities that would promote their being able to learn the letters. There is a vast difference between deciding what someone should learn and barreling ahead to teach that "something," and paying attention to what the child needs to know and be able to do in order to succeed at that task. The primary reason that children should have an individualized curriculum is that they are not only learning letters, they are learning that they can perform or cannot perform tasks, and the attitudes they internalize will carry them through life. Children need to develop the view of themselves that they can do what is required in school. They need to feel successful, good about them-

selves, and important. To make the point, why is the dropout rate increasing or at best staying the same? Why are children falling far behind on the tests they take in 4<sup>th</sup> grade or 7<sup>th</sup> grade? If these new ideas of moving down the requirements from first grade to the kindergarten and pre-K had worked for the last 10 years, why do test scores drop and children become non-achievers?

The truth is that all of the planning in schools to have children perform with the "structure" of language such as phonics, letters, and print do not touch on the important fact that in order to read with meaning or comprehension, the individual must already know what the words mean before attempting to read. We analyzed all of the required reading series books for first, second, and third grade and found that inner-city children did not have the concept for 80 per cent of the words they would be expected to sound out (phonics), write, or read. Those children would need activities where they are talking, listening, playing with others, and developing concepts and the words that stand for the concepts. We know that language development must come before initial reading instruction. Yet, that knowledge is being ignored. Without conceptual development, people will not be able to read with meaning. Printed words have no meaning; they stand for a thought or concept and some words are just fillers or pointers such as "and" and "it."

The only early childhood programs shown to make big differences over time followed the cognitive-transactional view. We are not old-fashioned to insist that teachers of young children must understand human growth and development and that it is as important for a child to feel

successful as any feeling he or she will ever have. We will have accomplished very little to have practices in the future that do not consider the "whole" child. Some children read with meaning at four or five or six or seven or even eight. Chronological age is the worst predictor of readiness for any task. A lot of data have shown that the more the child really learns, the wider the difference between him and his classmates. Standardization negates the knowledge gleaned in the last 80 years.

Child development and teacher preparation programs for early childhood education have always taught learning theories, philosophy of education, and the content (discipline) one is hired to teach. The knowledge that children learn through play and that all learners act on what they construct or put together is an early childhood axiom. Consider that even at the highest sophisticated levels, the Physicist does experiments, so does the chemist, and the computer scientist. We never get too old to play, but it is only through their own actions on objects and ideas that children learn. They do not deserve to sit and listen all day to what adults have learned. They need an active environment in which they can develop their own brain, as that is the way Mother Nature made us. If we do not use and apply what we are learning, we forget it. Why anyone ever could think that little children need to sit and write letters and numerals and be put on a stop watch (DIEBELS) to be sure they are fast enough surely has either a sadistic streak or is abysmally ignorant of knowledge about human nature.

With the advent of so many gadgets available, the case for emotional and social development is even stronger than it has ever

been. We must return to the views of learning and development and use all of the data contained in them. There is a great need to learn more about human beings than ever in the history of children, or else we will be just like the foursome I saw at lunch today. Each one had a gadget and each one played with his gadget and there was no social interaction among the four for the entire luncheon period. Is that the wave of the future?

Do we want technology to replace human interactions? Will we do what a few people with influence decide and move back to practices of schooling that were used in the 1800's and early 1900's? Those practices were before nursery schools and kindergartens had any legs. Why don't the elected officials ask the people who teach? They don't tell medical doctors how to do brain surgery. Why are we different? Why does the New York Times Editorial Board write that Schools of Education are worthless? They are needed more now than ever before. Teachers also go to school and study to perform our tasks that are just as complex as any in the field of medicine. Promoting positive growth in a child's life may be even more crucial and important than any other aspect of life. We assist children in becoming lifelong learners and compassionate human beings because it is known that is exactly what must be done in order to have fully functioning, well-adjusted adults. Early childhood professionals are HEROES and vital to the society.

The future of the United States falls always on the children who grow up. Since the foundation for all of life is generally set in the first eight years of life, and that is within our domain, the real job ahead for us is to agree on issues like philosophy and goals, chil-

dren's basic needs, knowledge of how children learn, social and emotional development, curriculum and assessment, funding adequacy, and status building. Then we must set an agenda and begin a new era in which we refuse to accept mandates that are not based on sound theory and research. The same arguments existed when kindergartens were begun in Boston, schools became more progressive in the 1930's, the World War II nursery schools were established, Head Start began, the first grade reading studies in the '60's gave great data that were ignored, and the NCLB changed so many practices. SECA's challenge is to unite members to educate and promote what is known about how children learn and lobby for sound practices. We have the might and can muster the will.

### ***The Power of the Tea Party —And Other Lessons I Learned at SACUS***

by Cathy Grace, Ed.D, Executive Director 1990-1993



When I came to the Southern Association for Children under Six I had been involved with state level advocacy, state government, university teaching and teaching first grade children in the Delta regions of Arkansas and Mississippi. I was excited about this new possibility and eager to see how the South could make a statement about her children and families. I truly did not expect what the years would bring as we worked together to build a voice for many of the most disenfranchised and poorest children and families in the country. During my tenure the name changed to the Southern Early Childhood Association but the mission remained. I was fortunate enough to be involved as an observer of the compilation of the history of the organization and with Elizabeth Shores, who edited the manuscript, got to know Alma Mae Scarborough, Alma David and others who were so dedicated to its completion.

Many women and a few men had a vision in the early 1950's that a professional group could make a difference in the lives of all Southern children and acted upon that dream. Battling hotels in Nashville so the African-American attendees could eat in the restaurant when attending a SACUS conference and offering lodging at their homes to those who hotels would not accept due to their color was the way

these early leaders translated their advocacy for children into social action. Looking at early pictures of these ladies and men you would hardly expect to find social activists, but rather bridge players or tea party hostesses—that is the first lesson to be learned! SACUS/SECA members have accomplished more over a Coca-Cola or glass of iced tea than most corporate giants in this country. Many politicians have been blind-sided by a lemon square and glass of tea—many thousands of children helped in the same fashion.

Lace table cloths have always had a place in the SACUS/SECA world. I will carry to my grave the image of a SECA president at the request of a former SACUS president carrying petit fours and table cloths over one hundred miles for a reception to greet participants in our first public policy seminar. It was all about presentation and I do think we sometimes forget that how we present our message influences how it is received. We may talk with soft voices and drag out certain syllables, but we also carry big sticks and have not been afraid on occasion to use them when other more civil methods have not yielded the results we needed to help our children.

SACUS members from days gone by —like Eleanor Hogg who attended her last SACUS conference on a walker and in a wheel chair — remain in my mind as examples of women and men who were so much a part of the organization and the organization a part of them that you didn't know where one stopped and

the other began. Betty Pagan. JoAnn Nalley, Margaret Puckett, Rich Scofield were all a part of the team that helped me settle in to the job. The Arkansas ladies, JoAnn and Betty, really had double duty since they were local and did extra jobs to get us rolling. This was done out of love for the organization and for what it stands for and what it could become. So the lesson here for me was that SACUS/SECA was more than a membership card, more than a line on a vitae.

Wisdom from the wealth of experienced leaders in the field did not go unnoticed. I was thrilled to work with state and national leaders who were SACUS/SECA members and who taught me invaluable lessons. Milly Cowles, Margaret Puckett, Kevin Swick, Jean Shaw and others brought their research and leadership skills to me in ways that help me even today in seeking the truth and applying it for social and educational changes. The early position statement on multicultural education was one of the first to clarify the field's position on this most important issue. The lesson for us all here is that Southerners are often ahead of the game, but forget to tell folks!

My good fortune in having two dynamic presidents and boards to work with will always be one of the best career memories. Rhonda Corley and Ann Levy were alike in many ways —both very organized goal oriented and true believers in the influence SACUS/SECA could have in

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the lives of hundreds of thousands of children in the region. As a result of their leadership SECA became a national force in speaking for children. The SECA/ SACUS staff at the time I was Executive Director was one of the most dedicated hard working groups I have ever had the pleasure to work with in my career. Jane, Lora, Elizabeth and Nelle moved mountains without breaking a sweat. The volume of

work these ladies produced would challenge the productivity of any manufacturing plant in the country on a per person basis. They always carried SACUS/ SECA in their hearts and worked to do the Association proud. Lessons for me here are some of the most personal. Good people and good ideas can make for great things!

Looking back helps me clarify the most important lesson of all for me; the true power of the

organization is the bond between members through the local and state affiliates and the deep belief that Southern children and families have to be lifted up because of the dire circumstances many of them face. The lesson for me here is we must ensure the Association's mission is not lost or forgotten and that those who are still at its heart deliberately reach out and bring in new members who can learn from the past with an eye on the future.

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## From Glenda Bean, Executive Director 1998-Present



SECA has a long, proud history and it's been my privilege to work with many of the fine early childhood profession-

als who are members of the Association and those who represent our states on the SECA Board of Directors. My years with SECA have been filled with both opportunities and challenges and the leadership of the Association has always risen to meet those challenges.

I had a history with SECA long before I actually assumed the position of Executive Director. Prior to coming to SECA, I was Director of the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education for the state of Arkansas, and, in that position, I had the opportunity to interact and provide support to the organization as we worked to build an early childhood system in Arkansas.

As the administrator of the new Arkansas pre-K program, Arkan-

sas Better Chance, I was asked to manage a program with an appropriation that didn't allow for any type of monitoring or quality control. (Legislators wanted all the money to go into services to children.) Needless to say, as the only "state staff" of the program at that time, it just wasn't possible to ensure that the programs we were creating were the ones that we wanted to support. I turned to Dr. Cathy Grace, Executive Director of SECA, and asked for assistance in developing some type of monitoring system that would ensure at least a baseline of quality and give us some data to support technical assistance to programs. Dr. Grace suggested that we utilize a new monitoring instrument, the *Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale*, and Arkansas was the first state to utilize a tool in a statewide pre-K program that's now widely disseminated and utilized across the nation. SECA and Arkansas started the ball rolling on that one!

During my tenure at SECA:

- We've fought some battles

to figure out the organizational structure in relation to NAEYC and strengthen the legal and organizational structure of the Association and the state affiliates.

- We worked through how the membership intake system in those states that are affiliated with both SECA and NAEYC would work and we now have a functioning and streamlined system that provides as seamless a transition between the states, SECA and NAEYC as possible.
- We have begun to utilize technology to provide enhanced member benefits and our website is now a vehicle for supporting members and the Association.
- We have designed and developed an advocacy presence within our region and have found our "niche" in the field by providing resources and information to our states and advocates.

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- *Dimensions of Early Childhood* continues to be a nationally recognized early childhood journal and we are proud that it is heralded for its usefulness and practicality" in assisting professionals to understand the latest research and theory and how it translates to the classroom.
- The annual conference has continued to be a resource

and networking opportunity for early childhood professionals in our region. Even though it now competes with many other professional conferences, we continue to hear that our conference is one that professionals want to attend..... smaller is sometimes better.

There are still many exciting opportunities ahead of SECA and we're continuing to meet the needs of our members and the early childhood professionals of

the South. Our mission statement says it all.

***The Southern Early Childhood Association (SECA) is committed to improving the quality of care and education for young children and their families through advocacy and professional development.***



## From President Rhonda Corley...

It seems that my memory for details is not what it used to be (sound familiar) but my years of involvement with SCACUS (SCECA) and SACUS (now SECA) brings back lots of positive feelings and continues to provide me with rich

friendships. I was especially blessed to be President of SACUS when we had a strong Board who was willing to take risks and move forward. With the help of an outstanding Executive Director, Dr. Cathy Grace, we began a long range planning process that led to a number of changes – including the name change to SECA. I felt especially supported by Jo Ann Nalley (AR), Past President and Ann Levy (FL), President-Elect. Having these strong women as book-ends to my presidency helped me smoothly guide our organization into the 90's.

### BOARD ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Networking with related organizations who addressed children's issues in the South. We had our first gathering of related organizations at the conference in Atlanta in 1991.
- Offering a SECA update and networking session at the 1990 NAEYC conference in Washington.
- Addressing important issues such as prenatal cocaine exposure, child care training, and the needs of Mississippi Delta children.
- Supporting the Editorial Board's effort to get *Dimensions* abstracted in Education Index, etc.
- Collaborating with the Children's Defense Fund to make state and national legislators more aware of the plight of Southern children.

- Moving forward with a five year plan for the organization.

### FUN (and favorite memories)

- Lots of hard work – yes, it took a lot of time and many hours on Sunday afternoons on the phone with Cathy and Board members.
- Representing SECA at a gathering of representatives from national professional groups to offer input into NAEYC's first draft of guidelines for Developmentally Appropriate Practice.
- Long hours of important Board and Committee meetings and time afterward for laughter and relaxation.
- Attending the great SECA conferences and getting to know our keynote speakers as people who truly made a difference for children.
- Making friends for a lifetime!!

When I finally retired a few years ago it gave me time to go through some of those boxes of keepsakes, notes, and clippings that we often stash away. I can truly say that many are from long time SECA friends and activities. Additionally, a picture of my professional career evolves and shows how valuable my connection to a South Carolina organization like SCECA and a southern organization like SECA became to my becoming a successful professional in the field of early childhood.

**President**  
Rhonda Corley  
South Carolina

**Membership**  
'89-'90: 15,991  
'90-'91: 16,352

1989 — 1991

SACUS 1990

**Location**  
Dallas, TX  
Hyatt Regency

**Dates**  
March 29-April 1

**Attendance**  
2,677

**Registration**  
\$40

## The Many Faces of the Twenty-first Century

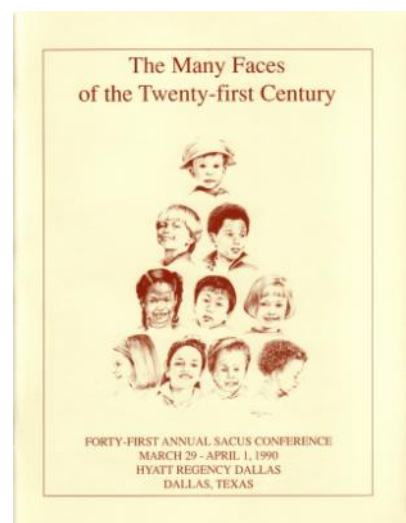
### Keynote Speakers

**Loretta Long, Sesame Street** - *Developing the Young Minds of Tomorrow: Making Learning Fun and Entertaining*

**Joe L. Frost** - *Early Childhood Education Trends: Theory and Implications for the 21st Century*

**Barbara Bowman, Erikson Institute** - *Positioning the Early Childhood Profession to Insure Quality Programs for Children*

**Joe Scruggs** - *Songs of Innocence*



**Location**  
Atlanta, GA  
Hyatt Regency

**Dates**  
March 11-16

**Attendance**  
2,000

**Registration**  
\$40

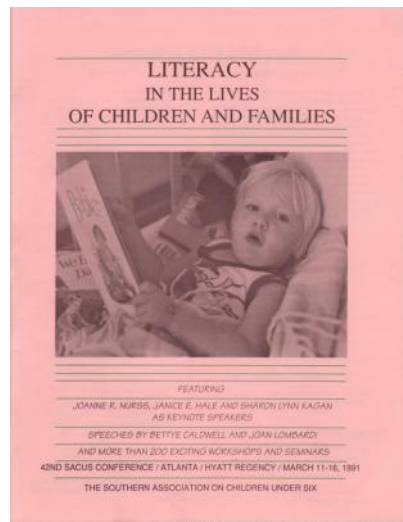
## *Literacy in the Lives of Children & Families*

### **Keynote Speakers**

**Dr. Joanne R. Nurss** - *Literacy in the Lives of Children and Families*

**Dr. Sharon Lynn Kagan** - *Policy Changes in the National Goals: Implications for Early Care and Education*

**Janice E. Hale** - *Educational Excellence for Children in Diverse Cultures*



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#### **Mississippi**

Dr. Jean Shaw

#### **Oklahoma**

Ruth Ann Ball

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Dr. Anne Hunt

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#### **Oklahoma**

Nancy von Bargen

#### **South Carolina**

Billie Phillips

#### **Tennessee**

Jackie Hill

#### **Texas**

Bobbie Henderson

#### **Virginia**

Johnnie Humphrey

#### **West Virginia**

Esther Wilmoth





## From President Ann Levy...

During my first week as a young beginning Kindergarten teacher, my boss came into my classroom, looked over her glasses, and giving me "that look," said, "Tomorrow is a meeting of the Leon County Association on Children Under Six. We

are ALL members." I went to the meeting reluctantly, but was surprised by the professionalism of the members and the excellence of the program. I looked forward to future meetings, and at the end of the year, I was asked to be Program Chairman for the organization. That was a little scary for me, but I was embarrassed to say "No." I was surprised to find that planning a program and calling people to speak was not hard at all and I actually was good at it. I did not realize at the time, but that was my first step in what would be a lifetime of commitment and service to young children. The experiences I have had along the way and the skills I developed through participation and mentoring have made my life incredibly rich and have led to amazing opportunities professionally and personally.

### BOARD ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SECA Boards have a rich history of accomplishment. The accomplishment I am personally most proud to have been a part of was the establishment of the Caucus on the Needs of the Youngest Americans and the development of the document: "Raising Responsible Americans," in January 1993 following the election of President Clinton. Representatives of 23 organizations devoted to the wellbeing of children and families met in Atlanta to develop the document. SECA provided the leadership along with Save the Children and the Southern Regional Education Board.

Included in the document of recommendations sent to the White House were "Ensure that all services for children and families are coordinated and comprehensive," and, "Ensure that every young child receives high quality care regardless of setting."

### CHALLENGES

Changing the organization name from Southern Association for Children Under Six to Southern Early Childhood Association. Members were divided and vocal about changing the name of the association. Those in favor of the name change wanted to be more inclusive and serve teachers who work with kindergarteners and other children older than six. Members reluctant to change had pride in the organization's past accomplishments and did not want to lose the history and name recognition. After much planning and discussion, members attending that year's conference voted the issue favorably and the name was changed to what we now proudly call our organization.

### FUN FACT

The local group that was most vocal and adamant about not changing the name was the first local group to change their name to Early Childhood Association.

### FAVORITE MEMORIES

- The Conference in Biloxi attended by Rosalynn Carter and Hap Palmer
- Working with the smartest and most efficient women I have ever known: the staff of Kathy Grace and Elizabeth Shores

### President

Dr. Ann Levy  
Florida

### Membership

'91-'92: 17,406

'92-'93: 18,874

1991-1993

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**Location**  
Tulsa, OK  
Tulsa  
Convention  
Center

**Dates**  
March 23-28

**Attendance**  
2,801

**Registration**  
\$50

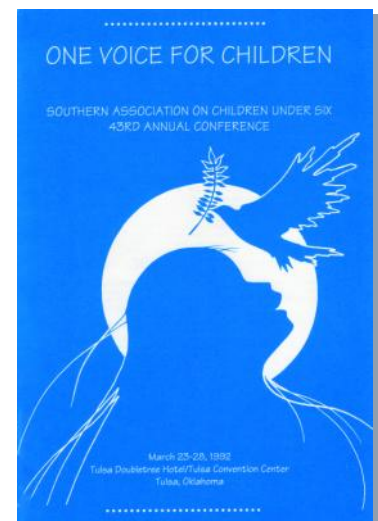
## One Voice for Children

### Keynote Speakers

**Dr. George Henderson** - *Cultural Diversity or Divisiveness Begins with Children*

**Dr. Lilian G. Katz** - *The Teacher's Role in Children's Social Development*

**Dr. Milly Cowles** - *Forming Partnerships for Children*





**Location**

Biloxi, MS  
Mississippi Coast  
Convention  
Center

**Dates**

March 23-27

**Attendance**

2,630

**Member Fee**

\$50

***Southern Priorities: Children, Family,  
Community***

**Keynote Speakers**

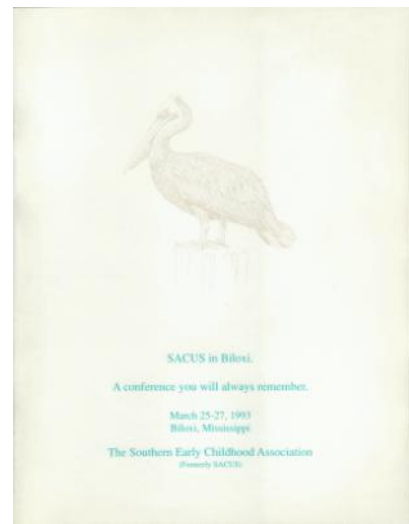
**Hap Palmer**

**Dr. Donald H. Graves** - *Let's Rethink Children's Entry  
Points into Literacy*

**Dr. Jim Trelease** - *Reading Aloud: Making Books  
Friends, Not Enemies*

**Wilmer S. Cody** - *Defining Readiness for Goal 1: Impli-  
cations for Policies, Programs and Assessment*

**Dr. Joycelyn Elders, M.D.** - *Adolescent Health Issues:  
Pay Now or Pay Later*



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**Louisiana**

Nancy Coghill

**Mississippi**

Amy Wright Baker

**North Carolina**

Debbie Smith

**Oklahoma**

Judy Doeblar

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Nancy von Bargaen

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Jackie Hill, Fiscal Officer

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Johnnie Humphrey, Vice President

**West Virginia**

Esther Wilmoth



## From President Marlene S. McCullough...

Life is a journey filled with many paths to be traveled. Choices in the paths to travel are impacted by those who surround us, our beliefs and our willingness to utilize and enhance our abilities. Many years

ago when my family and I moved to Virginia two very special people, Dr. Ann Marie Leonard and Mrs. Mildred Dickerson, guided me in becoming a member of SACUS (SECA). That turn in the road was an opportunity to extend and enhance my skills by meeting and participating with colleagues dedicated to serving children and their families. This choice led to serving in varied offices in the local and state level organization working in the educational field, writing, providing training, and influencing legislation. I soon learned that the time spent working in the organization's activities led to my professional life being enriched as I traveled through the state and met with other professionals.

Then Bob and I changed our path's direction by moving to Kentucky where I soon became a part of the Kentucky Association. As I continued through this professional journey I found myself serving on various committees, the association board and in many offices. Colleagues such as Ruth Ann Crum and Mary Lou Routt soon had me immersed in working in a variety of association positions. With each new opportunity to travel on this professional road I learned how much more I needed to know and ways this organization could affect children, their families, caregivers, educators, and legislators. Then I was offered the opportunity of serving on the SECA board and so my journey placed me on the highway of a broader service for children. Although my heart was overflowing with excitement at working with so many leaders in other states, it was racing with anxiety that I might not live up to the role of representing my state. My fears soon disappeared as I met my first roommate and forever friend Jannett Baggett from Alabama. Not only did we continue to be roommates in future years but developed a true friendship and support system. The states' representatives soon led me to know that there are no strangers in this organization. We can never forget Jane Alexander who kept SECA on the move. All staff were supportive, friendly and always

willing to go the extra mile to contribute to the success of the organization.

Serving on the Board made time fly by faster than one can imagine and I was suddenly provided with another turn in my journey by being chosen President-Elect. Before I knew it the time to serve as President of this special organization had come. Now it was my time to create an atmosphere in which the Board and staff could continue their unified efforts to enrich the lives of our children. Although I had carefully watched previous leaders assume their roles I soon realized that I could only achieve the goals of our group by utilizing my style of leadership. During my term many special highlights in the organization occurred but none can surpass the exhilarating discussions at the Board meetings, the awesome conferences, and the camaraderie of the staff and members that resulted in stronger memberships and leaders in the field. Who can forget the smile that Billie Phillips and Cindy Nail brought to the room, the calm leadership Esther Dyer displayed and the candid opinions of Milly Cowles?

As you look back on our publications, board meetings, conferences, special activities, and membership records I hope you will use this data as building blocks for the future of the organization.

During my term we sought leaders to serve as trainers, developed training programs, expanded membership bringing North Carolina into active membership, expanded the diversity and expertise of our Board, developed and promoted publications, continued to recognize others through scholarships and awards and collaborated with other organizations.

Through our combined leadership skills, integrity and belief in making this a better world for children, SECA has been a leader in educational movements and will continue to light the way for many journeys in people's lives. In the end know that you helped me support the organization's varied activities that influence the lives of thousands of children, their families, caregivers and educators. My deepest gratitude for the opportunity to serve as President of this organization.

**President**  
Marlene S.  
McCullough  
Kentucky

**Membership**  
'93-'94: 19,119  
'94-'95: 19,743

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**Location**  
New Orleans, LA  
Sheraton Hotel

**Dates**  
April 11-16

**Attendance**  
2,396

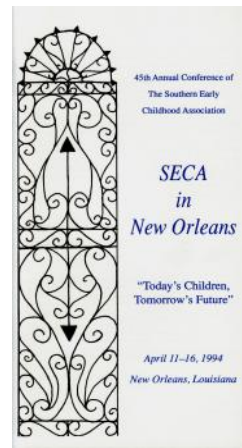
## Today's Children, Tomorrow's Future

### Keynote Speakers

**Jack Levine** - *Building Political Muscle for Young Children and Their Families*

**Thomas Schultz** - *Taking Stock and Moving On: Six Challenges for the Early Childhood Community*

**Bev Bos** - *Memories and Traditions*



**Location**

Orlando, FL  
Twin Towers  
Hotel

**Dates**

March 27-April 1

**Attendance**

1,713

**Member Fee**

\$60

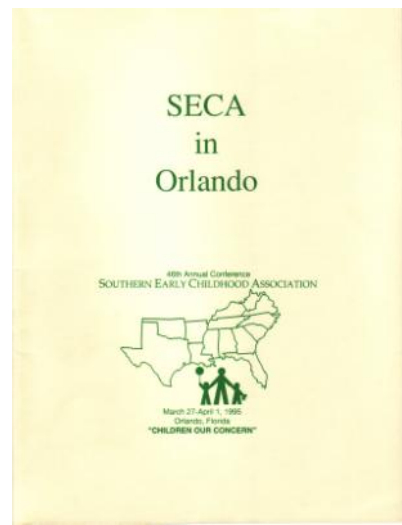
***Children: Our Concern***

**Keynote Speakers**

**Florida's Fabulous Four** - Jack Hartmann, Bill Janiak, Al Rasso, and The Learning Station: Don, Laurie, and Jan

**Dr. Howard Gardner** - Multiple Intelligences

**Ervin Duggan** - The Puzzle Place



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**Georgia**

Vicki Hunter

**Kentucky**

Jeanette Nunnelley

**Louisiana**

Nancy Coghill

**Mississippi**

Amy Wright Baker

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Opal Bostic

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**Virginia**

Helen Mitchell

**West Virginia**

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**Kentucky**

Jeanette Nunnelley

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**Oklahoma**

Judy Doeblar

**South Carolina**

Cindy Nail

**Tennessee**

Jan Darago

**Texas**

Mary Ann Waldon

**Virginia**

Ann Marie Leonard

**West Virginia**

Esther Dyer

**Member-at-Large**

Lowell Parker, KY



## From President Pam Schiller...

From my first encounter with SACUS (organization name prior to 1995) at a conference in 1972 I knew I wanted to be part of this organization. I watched Betty Young, SACUS president, speak eloquently on stage about the mission of the organization and it lit a

fire inside of me. When Betty introduced the keynote speakers, Constance Kamii and Siegfried Engelmann, I was in awe. After listening to the debate between Kamii and Engelmann (developmental maturation versus direct instruction) I was hooked for good.

I had entered that Hilton Hotel ballroom, a young woman unsure of what she would do with her life. I left committed to early childhood and determined to someday serve at the top of this organization. Years passed, children came into my life and moved on, my job changed and changed again but I never lost the fire ignited in me on that day in Houston. Twenty-five years later I was SECA President.

### BOARD ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Published articles and updates in *Dimensions*
- We published *Your Child's Brain Food for Thought*, Clarissa Leister, SECA Executive Director

### TREND

- Emerging Neurological Research

### ISSUES

- The question was raised about the need for SECA. Several members and NAEYC leadership believed that SECA services overlapped NAEYC services
- Researched and prepared a detailed report on the issues unique to Southern states (poverty,

race, beauty pageants, crimes against children).

- Published articles and numerous statements on negative impact of child beauty pageants.

**President**  
Pam Schiller  
Texas

**Membership**  
'95-'96: 20,635

1995 — 1997

### CHALLENGES

- NAEYC membership fee increase and annual renewals
- Researched the consequences of NAEYC changes on SECA
- Prepared a plan to offset the impact on SECA's fiscal year

### CHANGES

- Added at-large members to the board to increase board diversity
- Redesigned journal and renamed *Dimensions*
- Jazzed up conferences with stage decorations and door prize drawings.

### FUN (and my favorite memory)

One of our board meetings was held in Biloxi, MS right across the street from a boat casino. Most of the board members had never gambled. I took a group to the casino and taught them the ropes. For a long time I was accused of leading the board astray. (They loved every minute of it)

SECA — 1996

#### Location

Little Rock, AR  
State House  
Convention  
Center

#### Dates

March 11-16

#### Attendance

2,421

#### Member Fee

\$60

### Keynote Speakers

**Dr. Jim Kern**

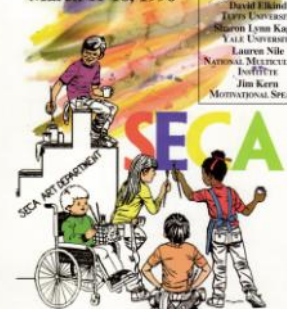
**David Elkind**, Tufts University

**Sharon Lynn Kagan**, Yale University

**Lauren Nile**, National Multicultural Institute

We Welcome You To The  
**Southern Early Childhood Association**  
**47th Annual Conference**  
in Little Rock, Arkansas  
March 11-16, 1996

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:**  
David Elkind  
Tufts University  
Sharon Lynn Kagan  
Yale University  
Lauren Nile  
National Multicultural  
Institute  
Jim Kern  
Motivational Speaker





**Location**

Myrtle Beach, SC  
Myrtle Beach  
Convention  
Center

**Dates**

March 4-8

**Member Fee**

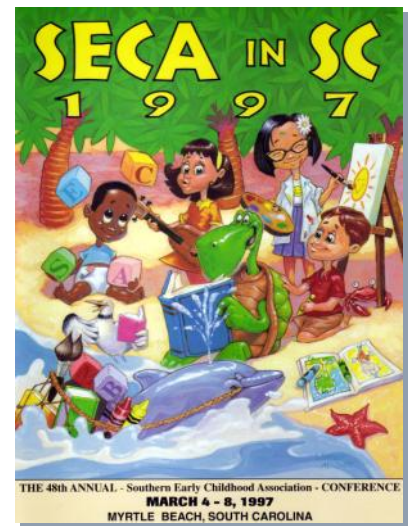
\$70

**Keynote Speakers**

**Dr. Becky Bailey** - *Building Relationships that Create Opportunities for Change*

**Connie Podesta** - *Life Would Be Easy if it Weren't for Other People*

**Dr. Thomas Moore** - *Knowledge Coupled with Respect for Children*



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Jeanette Nunnelley

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**Texas**

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**Virginia**

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**West Virginia**

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Pattie Howell, OK

**Member-at-Large**

Lowell Parker, KY

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**Louisiana**

Nancy Coghill

**Mississippi**

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**Oklahoma**

Mona Lane

**South Carolina**

Jeanne Greene

**Tennessee**

Jan Darago

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Karen Hughes

**Virginia**

Ann Marie Leonard

**West Virginia**

Donna Wood

**Member-at-Large**

Pattie Howell, VA

**Member-at-Large**

Lowell Parker, KY





## From President Suzanne Gellens...

I was the Chair of the SECA Multi-Cultural Committee from 1989-1991 after being a member of the committee for 2 years prior to being asked to be Chair. I was elected as the SECA Representative from Florida in 1991 and served for 4 years on the SECA Board of Directors. I was the SECA Conference

Chair in 1995 in Orlando, Florida. I was nominated for and elected to the position of President-Elect of SECA in 1996, served a 2 year term as President and a one year term as Past President.

My first experience was coming to the Board meeting in Little Rock as a Rep-elect and observing a very structured Board meeting where we could listen, but not speak. At that time Dr. Cathy Grace had resigned and a new Executive Director was being considered. I felt very intimidated, mostly because I was a Child Care Center Director and the Board members were all college instructors. During the 4 years I served on the Board, I came to love and respect every other member. They brought many talents and ideas to the Board and I learned so much at every meeting. At that time, we roomed two Board members at a time and we joked that we had slept with each Board member at least once!

Jane Alexander was the Executive Director and ran the conferences and the first Executive Director, under Ann Levy, left after a year. Chrissie Leister was hired. Past President Jo Ann Nalley and Board member Dr. Mildred Vance talked to me about running for President. I immediately said I was not qualified because I only had a Master's Degree. They convinced me that I could and should try to become president. I was elected in 1995 and took office of President-Elect in 1996. I was quite fortunate to have Dr. Pam Schiller as my mentor, preparing me for the presidency.

### CHALLENGES

The years of my presidency were difficult for SECA. During this time, Jane Alexander, an employee of 28 years, left, and I arranged with Board members' help a graceful retirement for Jane. During the next year, I flew several times to the Little Rock office to quiet down fires. When the Executive Director resigned, I stepped in to help run the office and the organization for a year from Florida and led the Board of Directors and staff through a difficult financial period. I continued to work and advise the office staff as a new Executive Director, Glenda Bean, stepped in, to make the proposed financial change work.

While President, I worked to solidify the Board, making the group more cohesive. I helped the Board reorganize so that the Commissions could work more effectively. I tried, unsuccessfully, to motivate the Committees to be more active. I initiated a dialogue with NAEYC and met with NAEYC leaders to establish collaboration. We worked together for 2 days and came to some agreements on supporting each other. An appointed group took

over once my Presidency ended and the effort is still in progress.

Now that I am a "Fossil", I have volunteered on several committees including Nominating Committee and the Division for Development. I was co-chair of the 2004 conference in Daytona Beach and have run the silent auction for many years

### INTERESTING MEMORIES

At the Board meetings, we had two women who were into the newest hair-dos and grooming tips. We often had demonstrations of hair styles, tried cosmetics, and had fun exchanging ideas. We all tried Cow Udder Crème and some of the women still swear by it today!

When I was a Board member, we were in Oklahoma and people on the Board were raving about a Native American Store about 10 blocks from the hotel. During a break, I ran down to the store and decided to get gifts for my staff. I bought hand beaded seed bead necklaces with a Native symbol. When I arrived home and unpacked the necklaces they all said, "made in China" on the back!

During a SECA Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas, my husband fell in the hotel bathroom and broke his hip. Because of his fragile medical condition, he chose to fly home to his own doctors. It was about 11:30 p.m. on a Saturday night when I called Delta and said I needed a plane to Atlanta and on to Sarasota tomorrow, meaning Sunday. I was not thinking clearly and although it was 11:30 p.m. in Arkansas, it was 12:30 a.m. at Delta headquarters in New York. So, I inadvertently made a reservation for Monday morning on the first flight out.

Sunday morning, we arrived at the airport and Delta had no record of the changed tickets and the plane was full. The agent told me we would have to wait until Monday, when we had tickets. I knew several conference attendees at the airport waiting at the gate. One by one, they went up to the airline agent and said, "I want to give my seat to Suzanne and Paul." After multiple people offered, the agent disappeared and soon came out with a supervisor. The supervisor came over to me and asked, "Who are YOU?" He was amazed at the generosity of the people offering to give up their seat on the plane for us.

Luckily, they suddenly found 2 seats in first class and everyone was able to fly to Atlanta and head for points South. Paul was carried onto the plane and as they began boarding, every one of those SECA members came over to wish us good luck. Once home, we were so grateful to the SECA members. We often talked of the incident and how unusually lucky we felt being members of SECA. SECA members are the best!

**President**  
Suzanne Gellens  
Florida

**Membership**  
'97-'98: 19,310  
1999: 18,817

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SECA  
—  
1998

**Location**  
Louisville, KY  
Galt House Hotel

**Dates**  
March 23-28

**Member Fee**  
\$70

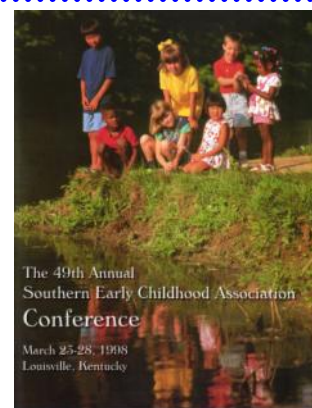
## Reflections

### Keynote Speakers

**Karen Miller** - *Childhood Stress- Your Role*

**Jerlean Daniel** - *Reflections: A Lifetime of Possibilities*

**Carl Hurley** - *The Comedy of Carl Hurley*



**Location**

Nashville, TN  
Renaissance  
Hotel & Conven-  
tion Center

**Dates**

March 25-27

**Member Fee**

\$75

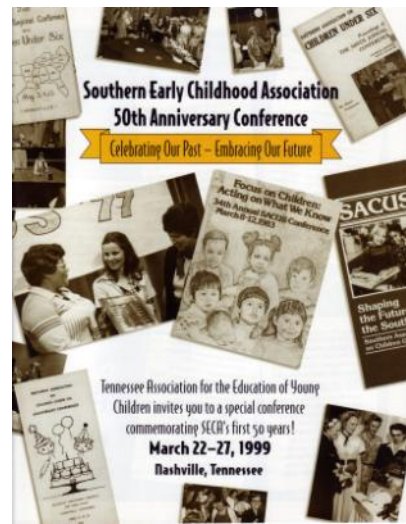
***Celebrating our Past—Embracing  
Our Future***

**Keynote Speakers**

**Dr. Milly Cowles** - *What is Good Education for Young  
Children?*

**Dr. Asa Hilliard** - *ALL Our Children: It Can Be Done*

**Jona Edelman** - *What Can We Do to Ensure a Quality  
Life for Young Children?*



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**Past President**

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Pam Laning

**Arkansas**

Kathy Stegall

**Florida**

Beverly Oglesby

**Georgia**

Debbie Wilkes

**Kentucky**

Donna Quick

**Louisiana**

Nancy Coghill

**Mississippi**

Louise Davis

**North Carolina**

Opal Bostic

**Oklahoma**

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Karen Hughes

**Virginia**

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**Member-at-Large**

Ollie Davis, TX

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Louise Davis

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**South Carolina**

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**Tennessee**

Kathy Ennis

**Texas**

Evelyn Moore

**Virginia**

Johnnie Humphrey

**West Virginia**

Nancy Cheshire

**Member-at-Large**

Jacqueline Dedman, AR

**Member-at-Large**

Ollie Davis, TX



## From President Dianne Lawler-Prince...

My journey with SECA began in 1978 when I served as a graduate assistant for Dr. Mildred Vance. She was my mentor, my professor, and my hero! She and Nancy Bacot helped me get involved in the Arkansas Association on Children Under Six

(former name for AECA). I was impressed by the camaraderie, the fun, and the reunion of professionals at the conference! My SECA involvement began at the local and state levels. AECA has a long history and dedication to "growing its leaders." I am grateful and proud of that commitment. Through various leadership roles in SECA, my professional relationships and friendships grew to include individuals from 13 different states! To date, I am the longest-running SECA President, the only one who suffered a broken foot (on the job!), and the only SECA President to develop, submit, and defend a portfolio for entry into the Fossils!

### TRENDS

Some trends that were key aspects of SECA's progress during 1999-2002 were emphasis on technology, quality child care assessment, and brain research. Mentoring was another hot topic. These trends were addressed through publications, forums, and position statements. Some significant publications included: Portfolio Assessment, Inclusion, and Behavior Guidance.

### CHALLENGES

NAEYC membership and its relationship with states that are dual affiliates of SECA and NAEYC. Negotiations occurred between the SECA and NAEYC Boards with Dr. Milly Cowles mediating. These were challenging times and ones that helped SECA grow in areas of membership perspectives and professional development opportunities.

### BOARD ACCOMPLISHMENTS

One major accomplishment of the SECA Board during this time period was hosting a Summit, 2000, "Raising Responsible Americans" which included participants from all 13 states, and was funded by the Center for Child Development and the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation. More than 100 participants came together to address critical issues related to pre-service education, quality child care, collaboration with business and industry, as well as policy and advocacy. In 2001, SECA served as the organizer for Two Public Policy Institutes, as a result of this Summit.

### FUN (and favorite memory)

The SECA Board during 1999-2002 had a great deal of fun and fellowship! We had the opportunity to enjoy several cultural events such as a visit to the Governor's mansion in Kentucky, a visit to a home listed on the Historical register in Birmingham, and the Children's Discovery Center in Little Rock.

### WHAT I LEARNED WHILE SERVING AS SECA PRESIDENT

- 1) In SECA, there is a common goal- working for the betterment of children and families of the southern region;
- 2) Diversity is important and valued by the organization;
- 3) History is a key component of SECA's rich past and bright future;
- 4) Fossils cannot be persuaded to formalize their meetings or their role in SECA- they are tired!; and
- 5) SECA's future is dependent upon its current leaders, leadership development, and its membership. I also learned that hard work can be great fun with the right people!

#### President

Dianne  
Lawler-Prince  
Arkansas

#### Membership

2000: 18,032  
2001: 16,907

2000-2001

SECA  
2000

#### Location

Birmingham, AL  
Birmingham  
Jefferson  
Convention Complex

#### Dates

April 6-8

#### Attendance

1,400

#### Member Fee

\$75

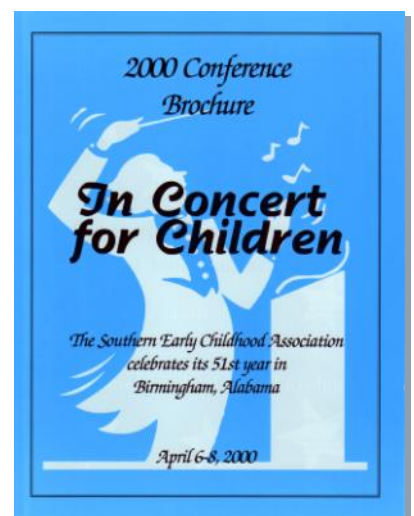
## In Concert for Children

### Keynote Speakers

**"Mr. Al" Rasso** - *In Concert for Children*

**Dr. Craig Ramey & Dr. Sharon Ramey** - *Early Childhood in the South: 1950-2000, and Beyond*

**Hedda Sharapan** - *Three Part Harmony: Children, Parents, and Staff*



**Location**  
Little Rock, AR  
State House  
Convention center

**Dates**  
March 28-31

**Attendance**  
1,474

**Member Fee**  
\$75

## Making Connections

### Keynote Speakers

**Valora Washington** - *Connecting to the Future*

**Dr. J. Ronald Lally** - *First Connections*

**Betty Bumpers** - *Advocating for a Better World for Children*



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS | 1999 - 2000

#### President

Dianne Lawler-Prince, AR

#### Past President

Suzanne Gellens, M.S., FL

#### Alabama

Pam Laning

#### Arkansas

Kathy Stegall

#### Florida

Beverly Oglesby

#### Georgia

Polly Adams

#### Kentucky

Donna Smith

#### Louisiana

Janie Humphries

#### Mississippi

Louise Davis

#### North Carolina

Opal Bostic

#### Oklahoma

Donna Castle Richardson

#### South Carolina

Cindy Galloway

#### Tennessee

Kathy Ennis

#### Texas

Evelyn Moore

#### Virginia

Johnnie Humphrey

#### West Virginia

Nancy Cheshire

#### Member-at-Large

Jacqueline Dedman, AR

#### Member-at-Large

Ollie Davis, TX

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS | 2000 - '01

#### President

Dianne Lawler-Prince, AR

#### President Elect

Phil Acord, TN

#### Alabama

Kathi Bush

#### Arkansas

Kathy Stegall

#### Florida

Beverly Oglesby

#### Georgia

Leila Mullis

#### Kentucky

Terry Green

#### Louisiana

Dr. Janie Humphries

#### Mississippi

Louise Davis

#### Oklahoma

Donna Castle Richardson

#### South Carolina

Cindy Galloway

#### Tennessee

Kathy Ennis

#### Texas

Evelyn Moore

#### Virginia

Carole Whitener

#### West Virginia

Nancy Cheshire

#### Member-at-Large

Ollie Davis, TX

#### Member-at-Large

Lourdes Milan, FL





## From President Phil Acord...

One could assume that the nominating committee decided that it was time for the "token" male to be President of SECA because they selected Paul Wirtz, from Kentucky, and me as the two candidates. I think I won by just a few

votes because when the election came up on the agenda, at my first board meeting, they asked me to leave the room. And I really was concerned about my "President-Elect" image when they suggested that Evelyn Moore, the Texas SECA Representative, and I not sit together because we were rowdy.

That first meeting was in Nashville, the weather was really bad and we barely had a quorum. There I was with SECA President; Dianne Lawler-Prince, Executive Director Glenda Bean and several ladies from various Southern States. When I became President and we had everyone present at a board meeting people would stare when we entered a restaurant and I would sit at one end of the table and this lovely, intelligent looking group of ladies would occupy the other 16 to 18 seats. I was always thankful when Glenda's husband Fred was able to join the group.

My term as President had just started when NAEYC changed the affiliate structure. This change caused a lot of concern on the part of the States that were dual membership states. I think my entire term as SECA President was consumed with conversation about the relationship between SECA and NAEYC as it related to both the dual membership States and the SECA only States. I sometimes thought the South was going to rise again and secede from the NAEYC union. We had some Southern States come to us and ask if they could become a SECA only state and some that asked if we would allow individual SECA memberships outside the Affiliate structure. But like good

Early Childhood Education Professionals we followed all those lessons we learned in preschool and worked through most of the issues. But the NAEYC decision to re-vamp their affiliate structure impacted many of our membership procedures and policies. Some of those adjustments even required us to make By Law changes. After some conversation we were invited to have a representative on the Affiliate Council and as SECA President I attended those first NAEYC Affiliate Council meetings.

Actually we did engage in other SECA business during my term. Because our membership was declining, we took some steps to reduce some of our operating cost. The office location was moved to a smaller less costly space. Staff responsibilities were shifted resulting in fewer staff working more efficiently. *Dimensions* publication was reduced from 4 times a year to 3 and the *SECA Reporter* was published 3 times a year. The board adopted an Investment Policy. The annual conference was "down sized" and some of the annual conference activities were outsourced. We reduced the length of the board meetings. And we increased our membership fee by five dollars!

The SECA Board also made some changes in the way we conducted our business during my term. We eliminated the Diversity Committee and made Diversity a responsibility of all the Committees. We changed the election of the President from a majority vote of the membership to an electoral system so candidates from small membership states would have an equal chance of being elected. And there were several other positive changes!

I really enjoyed being SECA President. I had a great Board of Directors and an outstanding Executive Director that provided excellent leadership.

**President**  
Phil Acord  
Tennessee

**Membership**  
2002: 15,838  
2003: 14,263

2002 | 2003

SECA  
2002

### Location

Oklahoma City, OK  
Myriad  
Convention Center

### Dates

March 21-23

### Attendance

1,400

### Member Fee

\$75

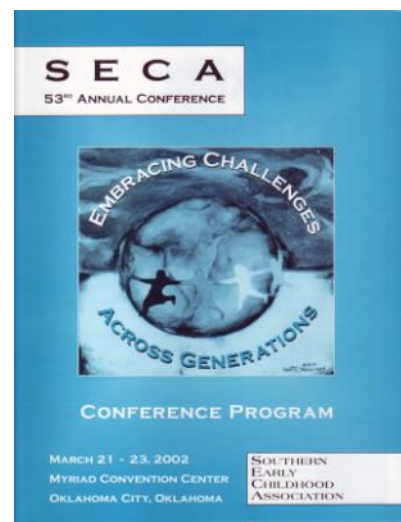
## Embracing Challenges Across Generations

### Keynote Speakers

**Stephen Fite** - *Havin' Fun & Feelin' Groovy*

**Donald Davis** - *Life Stories*

**Dr. Charles Figley** - *Helping Children and Families Through Trauma*





**Location**

Myrtle Beach, SC  
Myrtle Beach  
Convention  
Center & Kingston  
Plantation

**Dates**

March 13-15

**Attendance**

1,750

**Member Fee**

\$75

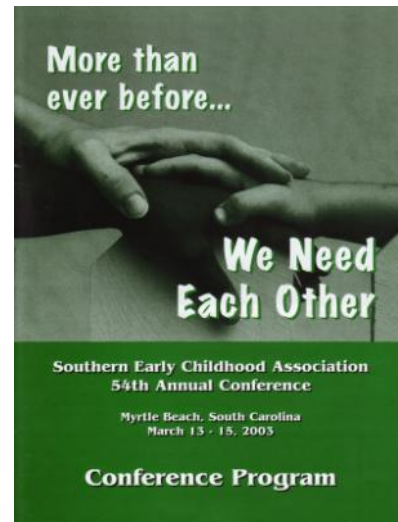
***More Than Ever Before...  
We Need Each Other***

**Keynote Speakers**

**Jo Ann Burroughs** - *Jonathan—Children Need Love, Too*

**Dr. Pam Schiller** - *Creating Readers*

**Larry Bell** - *Diversity Among Us*



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS | 2002**

**President**

Phil Acord, TN

**Past President**

Dianne Lawler-Prince

**Alabama**

Kathi Bush

**Arkansas**

Kathy Stegall

**Florida**

Beverly Oglesby

**Georgia**

Beth Parr

**Kentucky**

Terry Green

**Louisiana**

Mary Lou Maples

**Mississippi**

Melissa Lewis

**Oklahoma**

Donna Castle Richardson

**South Carolina**

Cindy Galloway

**Tennessee**

Kathy Ennis

**Texas**

Laverne Warner

**Virginia**

Carole Whitener

**West Virginia**

Nancy Cheshire

**Member-at-Large**

Sandra Hutson, LA

**Member-at-Large**

Lourdes Milan, FL

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS | 2003**

**President**

Phil Acord, TN

**President Elect**

Beverly Oglesby, FL

**Alabama**

Kathi Bush

**Arkansas**

Kathy Stegall

**Florida**

Beverly Oglesby

**Georgia**

Beth Parr

**Kentucky**

Terry Green

**Louisiana**

Mary Lou Maples

**Mississippi**

Melissa Lewis

**Oklahoma**

Donna Castle Richardson

**South Carolina**

Cindy Galloway

**Tennessee**

Kathy Ennis

**Texas**

Laverne Warner

**Virginia**

Carole Whitener

**West Virginia**

Nancy Cheshire

**Member-at-Large**

Sandra Hutson, LA

**Member-at-Large**

Lourdes Milan, FL



## From President Beverly Oglesby...

When I first became a part of my local early childhood association I was not sure whether I wanted to get involved at any higher level. However, as time passed by and I began to learn about the state association and the workings of it, I thought to myself "is there more to this" and as time passed on I realized that the state and

the regional associations were strongly connected. I was encouraged by friends to get involved with the association and my state, and during this time on the board I began to learn more about (SACUS). As President of the state we had to attend the SACUS conference. The conference that year was in Biloxi, Mississippi. I remember marching, carrying my state flag and getting to meet Mrs. Carter, President Jimmy Carter's wife. After just being at that conference and watching the reps from other states and the SACUS President, I decided that the next time that the SACUS Representative position became open for my state I would run. I ran and won the position and was in the position for six years. While on the board I observed the position of President and said to myself, "one day I will be in that position." On March 18, 2004, I became SECA President in Daytona Beach, Florida. As a Kindergarten teacher my students were very important to me, but the President of SECA was equally important. In this position I could open up a new world to my children with the knowledge that I would learn from the state affiliates.

### CHALLENGES

- How to get reps and state affiliates on the same page
- How was SECA going to be visible at each state conference?
- What would we do to increase the budget?
- What steps would we take to stabilize the office?
- How would we answer questions about SECA's role with state affiliates?
- How could we not repeat what NAEYC was doing for states?
- What current trends do we need to publish?

### CHANGES

- Dues were increased by five dollars; they had not been increased in years. There was a concern, because NAEYC had just increased their dues.
- Looked for a person to be in the office at all times.
- By-laws were changed to allow either the President-Elect or Immediate Past-President (both elected) to take on the duties of the President was unable to perform his/her duties. Previously, these duties were the responsibility of the Vice President (appointed).
- Redesign the Resources for Professional Brochure.

### BOARD ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Board held a Leadership Summit in Dallas so we could hear the state affiliates' concerns; the Board then used these issues to do some long range planning.
- Part of the new President's duties would be to make sure that SECA was visible at each state conference. A rotating schedule was made by the President for she/he and the Executive Director.
- Presentations were given at each state conference to answer any questions about SECA affiliation with the states.
- Researched issues that NAEYC had not covered.
- Released two new publications: *Can You Really Say No? Standards & Good Practice Can Work Together!* & *Mathematics for Young Children*, which is now featured in a Lakeshore Learning Materials math kit.
- *Dimensions* was placed on CD.
- Designed new SECA stationary with Board listed.
- SECA pin was designed.

### FAVORITE MEMORIES

- Visiting the state affiliates and seeing their uniqueness
- Being installed by three of SACUS (SECA) former Presidents from my state.
- Being caught in a storm in South Carolina.
- While at a conference in West Virginia, finding out that the airport closed at 5pm

**President**  
Beverly Oglesby  
Florida

**Membership**  
2004: 16,349  
2005: 16,032

2004 | 2005

SECA  
—  
2004

**Location**  
Daytona Beach, FL  
Ocean Center  
Convention Center

**Dates**  
March 18-20

**Attendance**  
600

**Member Fee**  
\$75

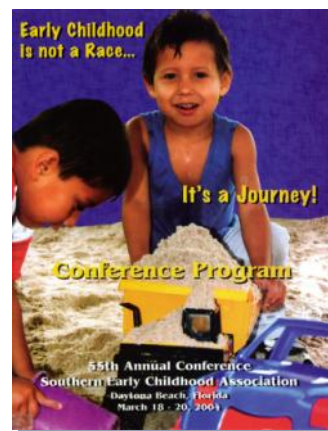
## *Early Childhood is Not a Race... It's a Journey!*

### Keynote Speakers

**Thomas Moore** - *Slowing Down to Play*

**Florida's Finest** - Mar. Harman, Anna Moo, and Gary Smith

**Maurice Sykes** - *The Early Childhood Journey: Lessons from the Sandbox*



**Location**  
Dallas, TX  
Hotel  
Intercontinental

**Dates**  
March 3-5

**Attendance**  
800

**Member Fee**  
\$75

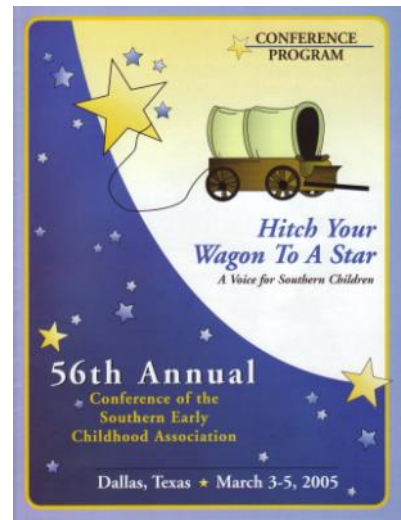
## *Hitch Your Wagon to a Star... A Voice for Southern Children*

### Keynote Speakers

**Al Stewart** - *Too Many Hats to Wear*

**Sharon MacDonald** - *Making the Hard Stuff Easy*

**Madelyn Swift** - *Changing Our World Through Integrity and Character*



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS | 2004

#### **President**

Beverly Oglesby, FL

#### **Past President**

Phil Acord, TN

#### **Alabama**

Kathi Bush

#### **Arkansas**

Kathy Stegall

#### **Florida**

Nancy Fraser Williams

#### **Georgia**

Beth Parr

#### **Kentucky**

Terry Green

#### **Louisiana**

Mary Lou Maples

#### **Mississippi**

Melissa Lewis

#### **Oklahoma**

Georgia Lamirand

#### **South Carolina**

Judy Whitesell

#### **Tennessee**

Monica Mowdy

#### **Texas**

Laverne Warner

#### **Virginia**

Steven Fairchild

#### **West Virginia**

Nancy Cheshire

#### **Member-at-Large**

Sandra Hutson, LA

#### **Member-at-Large**

Lourdes Milan, FL

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS | 2005

#### **President**

Beverly Oglesby, FL

#### **President Elect**

Terry Green, KY

#### **Alabama**

Kathi Bush

#### **Arkansas**

Diana Courson

#### **Florida**

Nancy Fraser Williams

#### **Georgia**

Beth Parr

#### **Kentucky**

Kathy Attaway

#### **Louisiana**

Susan Noel

#### **Mississippi**

Connie Clay

#### **Oklahoma**

Georgia Lamirand

#### **South Carolina**

Judy Whitesell

#### **Tennessee**

Debbie Ferguson

#### **Texas**

Judy Carnahan-Webb

#### **Virginia**

Steven Fairchild

#### **West Virginia**

Nancy Cheshire

#### **Member-at-Large**

Sandra Hutson, LA

#### **Member-at-Large**

Lourdes Milan, FL





## From President Terry Green...

It was such a privilege to have served as President of SECA. I learned so much in those two years and gained so many new friendships that I will treasure always. The Board members with whom I had the opportunity to work were committed and dedicated to the work of

SECA. Together, we set and accomplished some big goals. I was fortunate when I became President to have been on the Board for six years. This allowed for great continuity. I was fully aware of the issues and goals that the Board had identified SECA needed to be working on so we could continue with the work already being done. In addition I had two goals that I wanted to accomplish personally during my tenure. I wanted to represent SECA at every state conference and state Board meetings when possible. I also wanted to strengthen the relationship with NAEYC.

I contacted Anne Mitchell, NAEYC President, and she and I began to converse about our respective organizations. She attended her first SECA conference in Jacksonville and we presented her with a membership. Anne was an instant fit with SECA and returned to the conference the following year. It was very helpful to have her get to know SECA from such a personal perspective.

I had the full support of my employer and was able to travel as much as needed so I set out to visit as many states as possible each year. I had hoped that my visits would personalize SECA and offer some benefit to the states. What I found was that I was the one who benefitted. As I traveled around I gained so much insight into how each state group functions and all the wonderful things each state has to offer. I got to observe the dedication, passion and loyalty the Board members and volunteers have for the field of early childhood education in their state. I visited such wonderful places and discovered surprising things. Who would ever have thought that in the small city of Alexandria, Louisiana, I

would visit a breeding zoo for white tigers and get to play with two month old cubs?! Or who would expect that I would dance the night away with a CPR instructor in Memphis, Tennessee! In Texas I visited Galveston for the first time, before the hurricane. And what a GREAT time we had at Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville Café when I was in FL (I am a huge Parrot Head). I even sang Margaritaville with the Board members in South Carolina. I took in my first State Fair in Oklahoma. In West Virginia I flew out at the end of the conference in a snow storm (and the airport is on a Mountain!). Every where I went the SECA members from that state took the time to show off their wonderful state. And each one has so much to offer.

I had many jobs while visiting. I worked registration, stuffed participants' bags, helped with vendors, brought greetings from SECA, and conducted workshops. In Georgia I had the opportunity to hold focus groups and just have a conversation with conference participants. In Virginia I read stories to teachers in a story room. In Alabama I moved furniture. My job in Mississippi was very important...I was the Coffee getter for the volunteers! And in Arkansas I did an impromptu workshop when the presenter didn't show. And in my home state of Kentucky, I made my way back into the Board after a long absence. Some of the best times in each state were sitting with the volunteers and Board members at the end of the days and just sharing. So I did visit every SECA state and I have no idea if I accomplished my goal of making SECA more visible but I am much richer for each trip and I will cherish them all ways.

SECA is about so many things but first and foremost, it is about the people in each state who are working diligently, for free or little compensation, every day, to provide services for the early childhood community in their state. SECA's job is to make that easier for them by supporting their efforts with resources, and relationships. What an honor to have had the opportunity.

**President**  
Terry Green  
Kentucky

**Membership**  
2006: 19,310  
2007: 18,817

2006 — 2007

SECA  
—  
2006

**Location**  
Nashville, TN  
Gaylord  
Opryland Resort

**Dates**  
February 1-4

**Attendance**  
1,620

**Member Fee**  
\$75

## Working in Harmony

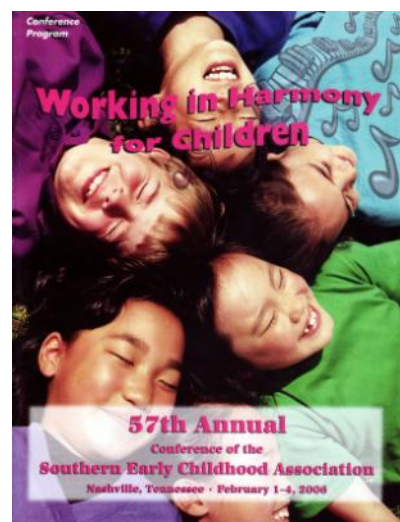
### Keynote Speakers

**Marlo Thomas**

**Dr. Pam Schiller** - *The Crucial Role of Social Emotional Development in School Readiness*

**Don Monopoli & The Learning Station** - *All Aboard for the South's Children*

**Mary Jo Huff** - *Early Literacy Begins with Rhythm, Rhyme, and Storytime*



**Location**

Jacksonville, FL  
Hyatt Regency  
Jacksonville  
Riverfront

**Dates**

March 29-31

**Attendance**

1,100

**Member Fee**

\$75

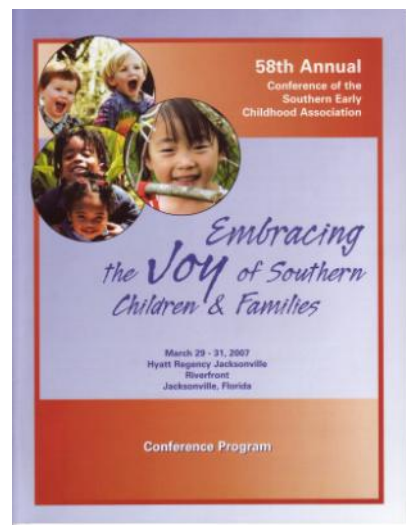
***Embracing the Joy of Southern  
Children & Families***

**Keynote Speakers**

**Dr. Sue Bredekamp** - *Effective Curriculum and Teaching Practices in Early Childhood Education*

**Dr. Thelma Harms** - *The What, Why, and How of Environmental Rating Scales: A Dialogue Presentation*

**José-Luis Orozco** - *Songs, Games, and Rhymes for the Multicultural Classroom*



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS | 2006**

**President**

Terry Green, KY

**Past President**

Beverly Oglesby, FL

**Alabama**

Kathi Bush

**Arkansas**

Diana Courson

**Florida**

Janice Sean

**Georgia**

Beth Parr

**Kentucky**

Kathy Attaway

**Louisiana**

Susan Noel

**Mississippi**

Beverly Peden

**Oklahoma**

Susan Carrigan

**South Carolina**

Judy Whitesell

**Tennessee**

Debbie Ferguson

**Texas**

Judy Carnahan-Webb

**Virginia**

Steven Fairchild

**West Virginia**

Melanie Clark

**Member-at-Large**

Sandra Hutson, LA

**Member-at-Large**

Lourdes Milan, FL

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS | 2007**

**President**

Terry Green, KY

**President Elect**

Georgia Lamirand, OK

**Alabama**

Dee Ard

**Arkansas**

Diana Courson

**Florida**

Janice Sean

**Georgia**

Beth Parr

**Kentucky**

Kathy Attaway

**Louisiana**

Susan Noel

**Mississippi**

Beverly Peden

**Oklahoma**

Susan Carrigan

**South Carolina**

Judy Whitesell

**Tennessee**

Debbie Ferguson

**Texas**

Judy Carnahan-Webb

**Virginia**

Toni Cacace-Beshears

**West Virginia**

Melanie Clark

**Member-at-Large**

Sandra Hutson, LA

**Member-at-Large**

Herman Knopf, SC





## From President Georgia Lamirand...

My first job in early childhood was as a three year old teacher-working in Shawnee, Oklahoma for Action, Inc. Head Start. I still remember when my coordinator, Mary Case, dropped by my classroom with a flyer to the state affiliate conference, OACUS-1978. She encouraged all of the staff to attend. I joined the association that year. Then three years later, in 1982, I attended my first SECA Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Ann O'Bar was President of SECA that year and she invited us to participate in everything we could. I was really enthusiastic and charged up after the conference was over. I remember meeting so many people from so many states and getting so many new ideas to pass on to the other teachers that I supervised. It was then that myself and three of my other co-workers decided we were going to attend the next year's conference in South Carolina, and everyone we could attend afterwards. We enjoyed the tours to child care facilities, and also to cultural sites at different cities. We even made a dulcimer at one conference. Everyone thought we were in a band when we traveled home.

I never dreamed that I would someday be President, but I really wanted to represent Oklahoma on the SECA Board. (I was always curious about what those Fossils did behind closed doors!!)

### BOARD ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Changed the SECA logo and voted to change the mission statement.
- The SECA BOARD held a strategic planning Board retreat in Little Rock (President).
- At all of the state conferences in 2008-2009, a survey was taken from a small group of attendees. This survey asked the attendees for some feedback concerning their benefits as a member.

### TRENDS

Literacy, Public School Pre-K, Childhood Obesity, and Full Day Kindergarten.

### PUBLISHED BOOKS

- *Preventing Childhood Obesity: Helping Pre-school Children Become Healthy and Fit*, Dianne Lawler-Prince and Jim Stillwell
- *Sharing Books Together: Promoting Emergent Literacy through Reading Aloud and Home-School Partnerships*, Kathleen A. Martin and Kay Emfinger
- Changed re-titled and re-published an older book- *Standards and Good Practice Can Work Together*, Michelle French
- *What's New in Children's Books?* 2007 and 2008

### CHALLENGES

Economy /Economic Stimulus Money, Declining memberships, Conference attendance declining.

### CHANGES

- We added a summer board retreat (the summer before the president elect takes office) to our scheduled meetings, and began doing conference calls for the fall board meeting.
- The SECA Conference dates were moved to January so that we are not competing with spring break for attendees.
- Newly designed Website and Facebook

### FUN

- During my presidency, the conferences were held in January at Covington, Kentucky, and Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.
- In Jacksonville, the entire board was invited to Beverly Oglesby's house for a cookout. It was so much fun. At that same conference, after the student pizza party, I went to see The Lion King with the student group from Louisiana Tech. It was performing at the auditorium next to our hotel.
- When Terry Green came to Oklahoma, I took her to the Oklahoma State Fair, and she had her first Indian Taco. I think that this was her first ever state fair to attend.

**President**  
Georgia Lamirand  
Oklahoma

**Membership**  
2008: 17,696  
2009: 15, 879

2008 | 2009

SECA | 2008

**Location**  
Covington, KY  
Northern KY  
Convention  
Center

**Dates**  
March 27-29

**Member Fee**  
\$75

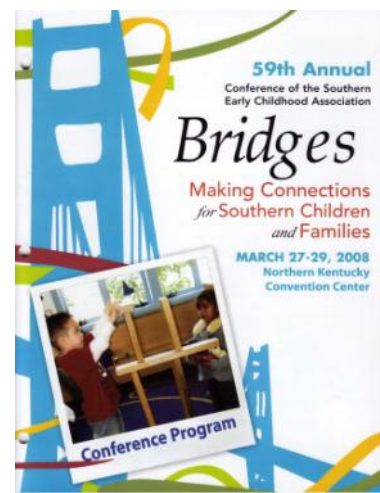
## Bridges: Making Connections for Southern Children & Families

### Keynote Speakers

**Dr. Becky Bailey** - *If I Could Only Find the Right Consequences: Secrets and Myths About Effective Consequences*

**Dr. Sue Bredekamp** - *Beyond Developmentally Appropriate Practice: New Perspectives on Best Practice in Early Childhood Education*

**Trout Fishing in America**



**Location**  
Myrtle Beach, SC  
Hilton Myrtle  
Beach

**Dates**  
March 27-29

**Attendance**  
1,431

**Member Fee**  
\$75

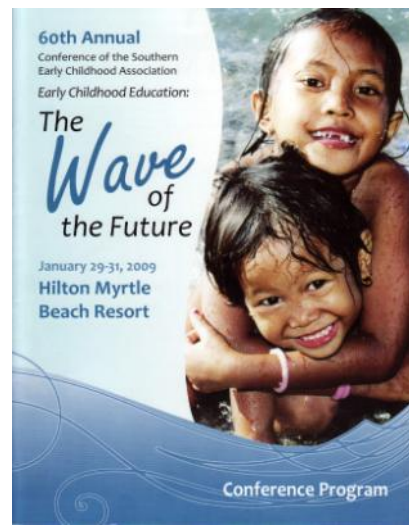
## Early Childhood Education: *The Wave of the Future*

### Keynote Speakers

**Dr. Sharon Lynn Kagan** - *Early Childhood Education in a Time of Change: Implications for Us!*

**Jack Hartmann** - *Let Music Make Learning Fun*

**Rob Cleveland** - *Folktales: Everything Old is New Again—Combining Traditional Stories with New World Technology*



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS | 2008

#### President

Georgia Lamirand, OK

#### Past President

Terry Green, KY

#### Alabama

Dee Ard

#### Arkansas

Joanna Grymes

#### Florida

Janice Sean

#### Georgia

Beth Parr

#### Kentucky

Kathy Attaway

#### Louisiana

Cindy Ramagos

#### Mississippi

Beverly Peden

#### Oklahoma

Susan Carrigan

#### South Carolina

Judy Whitesell

#### Tennessee

Debbie Ferguson

#### Texas

Judy Carnahan-Webb

#### Virginia

Toni Cacace-Beshears

#### West Virginia

Melanie Clark

#### Member-at-Large

Dr. Herman Knopf, SC

#### Member-at-Large

Carol Montealegre, FL

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS | 2009

#### President

Georgia Lamirand, OK

#### President Elect

Dr. Janie Humphries, LA

#### Alabama

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#### Arkansas

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#### Florida

Sister Roberta Bailey

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Kathy Attaway

#### Louisiana

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Judy Carnahan-Webb

#### Virginia

Toni Cacace-Beshears

#### West Virginia

Melanie Clark

#### Member-at-Large

Dr. Herman Knopf, SC

#### Member-at-Large

Carol Montealegre, FL

## Presidents of SACUS/SECA

### **1948-1952**

*Polly McVickar  
Tennessee*

### **1952-53**

*Gean Morgan  
Tennessee*

### **1953-54**

*Dr. Ralph Witherspoon  
South Carolina*

### **1954-1955**

*Susan Williams  
South Carolina*

### **1955-1957**

*Virginia Chance  
Kentucky*

### **1957-1958**

*Josephine Hoffer  
Oklahoma*

### **1958-1960**

*Opal Wolford  
Kentucky*

### **1960-1961**

*Barbara Finck  
Florida*

### **1961-1962**

*Dorothy Forsythe  
South Carolina*

### **1962-1963**

*Malcom Host  
Texas*

### **1963-1964**

*Dr. Jacqueline V. Davis  
Alabama*

### **1964-1965**

*Elinor T. Hogg  
Mississippi*

### **1965-1966**

*Sallie Beth Moore  
Texas*

### **1966-1967**

*Ruth Lambie  
North Carolina*

### **1967-1968**

*Dr. Ramona Emmons  
Oklahoma*

### **1968-1969**

*Dr. Fan Brooke  
Georgia*

### **1969-1970**

*Dr. Alma David  
Florida*

### **1970-1971**

*Dr. Margaret H. Cone  
Texas*

### **1971-1972**

*Dr. Mildred Souther  
Louisiana*

### **1972-1973**

*Betty Young  
Oklahoma*

### **1973-1974**

*Betty H. Pagan  
Arkansas*

### **1974-1975**

*Jeannette Watson  
Texas*

### **1975-1976**

*Ruth Jefferson  
Florida*

### **1976-1977**

*Dr. Peggy Emerson  
Mississippi*

### **1977-1978**

*Dr. Jeanne M. Gilley  
Louisiana*

### **1978-1979**

*Marian B. Hamilton  
Kentucky*

### **1979-1980**

*Dr. A. Eugene Howard  
Texas*

### **1980 - 1981**

*JoAnn Braddy Williams  
Arkansas*

### **1981-1982**

*Angelina Merenda O'Bar  
Oklahoma*

### **1982-1983**

*Dr. Tommie Hamner  
Alabama*

**1983-1984**

Patricia S. Smith  
Florida

**1984-1985**

Mildred Dickerson  
Virginia

**1985-1986**

Dr. Kevin J. Swick  
South Carolina

**1986-1987**

Dr. Margaret B. Puckett  
Texas

**1987-1989**

Jo Ann Nalley  
Arkansas

**1989-1991**

Rhonda Corley  
South Carolina

**1991-1993**

Dr. Ann Levy  
Florida

**1993-1995**

Dr. Marlene McCullough  
Kentucky

**1995-1997**

Dr. Pamela Schiller  
Ohio

**1997-1999**

Suzanne Gellens  
Florida

**2000-2001**

Dr. Dianne Lawler-Prince  
Arkansas

**2002-2003**

Philip A. Acord  
Tennessee

**2004-2005**

Beverly Oglesby  
Florida

**2006-2007**

Terry Green  
Kentucky

**2008-2009**

Georgia Lamirand  
Oklahoma

**2010-2011**

Dr. Janie Humphries  
Louisiana

## SACUS/SECA State Affiliate Presidents | 1990 - 2010

**1990**

Alabama - Anne Eddowes  
Arkansas - Carol Snelson  
Florida - Carolyn Van Buskirk  
Georgia - Verlene Lampley  
Kentucky - Mary Lou Routt  
Louisiana - Nancy Coghill  
Mississippi - Sandra Ford  
Oklahoma - Judy Franks-Doebler  
South Carolina - Margie Weber  
Tennessee - Gayle Greene  
Texas - Sue Gainer  
Virginia - Janet Sawyers  
West Virginia - Jane W. Kennedy

**1991**

Alabama - Sue Shirah  
Arkansas - Carolyn Bowers  
Florida - Mary (Sissy) Cook  
Georgia - Mick Coleman  
Kentucky - Kim Townley  
Louisiana - Janie Humphries  
Mississippi - Esther Howard  
Oklahoma - Donna Richardson  
South Carolina - Sally Herstine

Tennessee - Gayle Greene  
Texas - Mary Ann Waldon  
Virginia - Janet Sawyers  
West Virginia - Jane W. Kennedy

**1992**

Alabama - Carmen Hudson  
Arkansas - Sharen Crockett  
Florida - Jane McClelland  
Georgia - Mick Coleman  
Kentucky - Jeanette Nunnelley  
Louisiana - Janie Humphries  
Mississippi - Kayen Keeton  
North Carolina - Debbie Smith  
Oklahoma - Joyce Jech  
South Carolina - Jeanene Varner  
Tennessee - Anne Colley  
Texas - Jane Rowe  
Virginia - Victoria Fu  
West Virginia - Jane W. Kennedy

**1993**

Alabama - Stephen Graves  
Arkansas - Wanda Mullino



Florida - Beverly Oglesby  
Georgia - Martha Abbott-Shim  
Kentucky - Lisa Werner  
Louisiana - Mary Lou Maples  
Mississippi - Julia Bishop  
North Carolina - Debbie Smith  
Oklahoma - Marcia Gwinn  
South Carolina - Horace Wood  
Tennessee - Anne Colley  
Texas - Patricia Phipps  
Virginia - Victoria Fu  
West Virginia - Jane W. Kennedy

#### **1994**

Alabama - Jo Anna Middlebrooks  
Arkansas - Dianne Lawler-Prince  
Florida - Vicki Folds  
Georgia - Martha Abbott-Shim  
Kentucky - Sally Fager  
Louisiana - Mary Lou Maples  
Mississippi - Louise Davis  
North Carolina - Martha Harrelson  
Oklahoma - Arlene Fulton  
South Carolina - Billie Phillips  
Tennessee - Phil Acord  
Texas - Sue McCormick  
Virginia - Pearl Waxman  
West Virginia - Shelia Edwards

#### **1995**

Alabama - JoAnna Middlebrooks  
Arkansas - Diana Cunningham  
Florida - Gail Robertson  
Georgia - Pat Minish  
Kentucky - Paul Wirtz  
Louisiana - Joan Benedict  
Mississippi - Hannah Meadors  
North Carolina - Charles Lewis  
Oklahoma - Georgia Lamirand  
South Carolina - Cindy Galloway  
Tennessee - Phil Acord  
Texas - Sue McCormick  
Virginia - Pearl Waxman  
West Virginia - Shelia Edwards

#### **1996**

Alabama - Pam Laning  
Arkansas - Jacqueline Dedman  
Florida - Keith McIntyre  
Georgia - Pat Minish  
Kentucky - Paul Wirtz  
Louisiana - Joan Benedict  
Mississippi - Cathy Grace  
North Carolina - Charles Lewis  
Oklahoma - Judy Collins  
South Carolina - Phyllis Ford  
Tennessee - Jackie Hill  
Texas - Laverne Warner  
Virginia - Carole Whitener  
West Virginia - Bobbie Warash

#### **1997**

Alabama - Dee Morgan  
Arkansas - Joanna Grymes  
Florida - Janet Allyn  
Georgia - Jana Dresden  
Kentucky - Kim Townley  
Louisiana - Nita Denman  
Mississippi - Amy Baker  
North Carolina - Charles Lewis  
Oklahoma - Nancy vonBargen  
South Carolina - Alice Kirkland  
Tennessee - Jackie Hill  
Texas - Laverne Warner  
Virginia - Malcolm Cole  
West Virginia - Bobbie Warash

#### **1998**

Alabama - Pat Kuby  
Arkansas - Suanne Walker  
Florida - Nancy Fraser Williams  
Georgia - Jana Dresden  
Kentucky - Kim Townley  
Louisiana - Nita Denman  
Mississippi - Capucine Torrey-Robinson  
North Carolina - Laura Lougee  
Oklahoma - Susan Carrigan, Joyce Jech  
South Carolina - Dick Latham  
Tennessee - Janet Darago  
Texas - Chris Webber-Redi  
Virginia - Malcolm Cole  
West Virginia - Patricia Gruber

#### **1999**

Alabama - Kathi Bush  
Arkansas - Nonnie Vance  
Florida - Amy Cordray  
Georgia - Mary Anne Pace-Nichols  
Kentucky - Jeanette Nunnolley  
Louisiana - Cheryl McBride  
Mississippi - Nadine Coleman  
North Carolina - Laura Lougee  
Oklahoma - Faye Ann Presnal  
South Carolina - Chris Phillips  
Tennessee - Janet King  
Texas - Chris Webster-Reid  
Virginia - Ann Marie Leonard  
West Virginia - Patricia Gruber

#### **2000**

Alabama - Kathi Bush  
Arkansas - Clara Carroll  
Florida - Amy Cordray  
Georgia - Debbie Rector  
Kentucky - Jeannette Nunnolley  
Louisiana - Cheryl McBride  
Mississippi - Melissa Lewis  
Oklahoma - Sue McCauley  
South Carolina - Noelle Patrick  
Tennessee - Terry Hull

Texas - Karen Hughes  
Virginia - Ann Marie Leonard  
West Virginia - Kathy Butler

## **2001**

Alabama - Milly Cowles  
Arkansas - Vicki Shelby  
Florida - Janice Sean  
Georgia - Laura Fleming  
Kentucky - Donna Bell  
Louisiana - Susan Noel  
Mississippi - Beverly Peden  
Oklahoma - Lori Beasley  
South Carolina - Judy Whitesell  
Tennessee - Terry Hull  
Texas - Laura Conley  
Virginia - Ann Marie Leonard  
West Virginia - Kathy Butler

## **2002**

Alabama - Susan Culpepper  
Arkansas - Vicki Stearns  
Florida - Janice Sean  
Georgia - Laura Fleming  
Kentucky - Tabitha Daniel  
Louisiana - Susan Noel  
Mississippi - Penny Barr  
Oklahoma - Charlotte Wood-Wilson  
South Carolina - Cindy Galloway  
Tennessee - Linda Jarrett  
Texas - Evelyn Moore  
Virginia - Toni Cacace-Beshears  
West Virginia - Linda Novak

## **2003**

Alabama - Dawn Armstrong-Allen  
Arkansas - Diana Courson  
Florida - Blanche Turner  
Georgia - Laura Fleming  
Kentucky - Tabitha Daniels  
Louisiana - Nicole Bolen  
Mississippi - Kaye Sowell  
Oklahoma - LaDonna Atkins  
South Carolina - Becky Wardlaw  
Tennessee - Linda Jarrett  
Texas - Evelyn Moore  
Virginia - Toni Cacace-Beshears  
West Virginia - Connie Stout

## **2004**

Alabama - Jody Carnes  
Arkansas - Trude Puckett  
Florida - Blanche Turner  
Georgia - Kim Reignier  
Kentucky - Tabitha Daniels  
Louisiana - Nicole Bolen  
Mississippi - Kim Benton  
Oklahoma - Jill Soto  
South Carolina - Elaine Sanner  
Tennessee - John Garnett

Texas - Evelyn Moore  
Virginia - Mary Margaret Gardiner  
West Virginia - Connie Stout

## **2005**

Alabama - Jody Carnes  
Arkansas - Trude Puckett  
Florida - Suzi Jamrog  
Georgia - Kim Reignier  
Kentucky - Carole Holt  
Louisiana - Cindy Ramagos  
Mississippi - Tricia Cunetto  
Oklahoma - Kelly Ramsey  
South Carolina - Dan Wuori  
Tennessee - John Garnett  
Texas - Susan Hoff  
Virginia - Mary Margaret Gardiner  
West Virginia - Connie Stout

## **2006**

Alabama - Jody Carnes  
Arkansas - Janet Perkins  
Florida - Suzi Jamrog  
Georgia - Diane Bales  
Kentucky - Carole Holt  
Louisiana - Cindy Ramagos  
Mississippi - Connie Clay  
Oklahoma - Susan Tabor  
South Carolina - Anita McLeod  
Tennessee - Kathy Ennis  
Texas - Susan Hoff  
Virginia - Edyth Wheeler  
West Virginia - Helen Post-Brown

## **2007**

Alabama - Jennifer Carroll  
Arkansas - Vicki Shelby  
Florida - Amy Crease  
Georgia - Diane Bales  
Kentucky - Linda Bratton  
Louisiana - Cindy Rushing  
Mississippi - Diane Setzer  
Oklahoma - Paulette Schreck  
South Carolina - Crystal Campbell  
Tennessee - Kathy Ennis  
Texas - Maria Flores  
Virginia - Edyth Wheeler  
West Virginia---Helen Post Brown

## **2008**

Alabama - AAYC Affiliate Planning Council  
Arkansas - Traci Johnston  
Florida - Amy Crease  
Georgia - Hilda Tompkins  
Kentucky - Linda Bratton  
Louisiana - Cindy Rushing  
Mississippi - Ellen Goodman  
Oklahoma - Sally Nichols-Sharpe  
South Carolina - Deni Schofield  
Tennessee - Rose Carver  
Texas - Maria Flores

Virginia - Joyce Jones  
West Virginia - Helen Post Brown

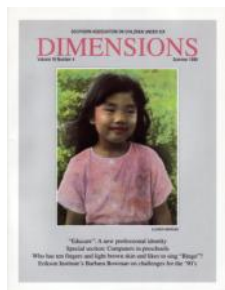
## 2009

Alabama - Richard Hardison  
Arkansas - Barbara Gilkey  
Florida - Gege Kreischer  
Georgia - Hilda R. Tompkins  
Kentucky - Terry Green  
Louisiana - Cindy Rushing  
Mississippi - Betsy Walsh  
Oklahoma - Linda Whaley  
South Carolina - Floyd Creech  
Tennessee - Rose Carver  
Texas - Kris Curtis  
Virginia - Joyce Jones  
West Virginia - Helen Post Brown

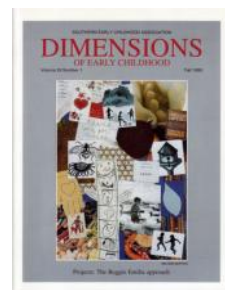
## 2010

Alabama - Richard Hardison  
Arkansas - Tina Ross  
Florida - Gege Kreischer  
Georgia - Stacey Neuharth-Pritchett  
Kentucky - Terry Green  
Louisiana - Cindy Rushing  
Mississippi - Kathy Young  
Oklahoma - Linda Whaley  
South Carolina - Christine Ferguson  
Tennessee - Debbie Ferguson  
Texas - Kris Curtis/Aaron Carrara  
Virginia - Mary Landis  
West Virginia - Linda Novak/Nancy Cheshire

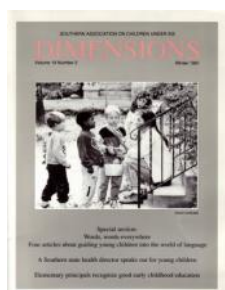
## *Dimensions of Early Childhood* | Special Issues



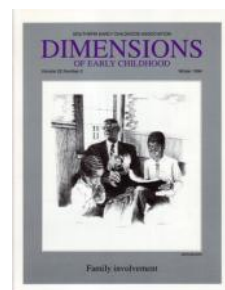
**Summer 1990**  
**Volume 18:4**  
*Computers in Preschools*



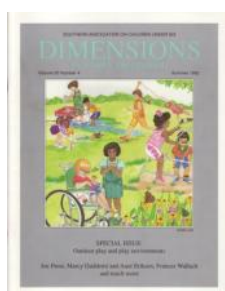
**Fall 1993**  
**Volume 22: 1**  
*Projects: The Reggio Emilia Approach*



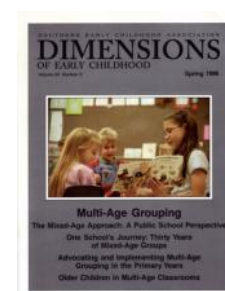
**Winter 1991**  
**Volume 19:2**  
*Words, Words, Everywhere: Guiding Young Children into the World of Language*



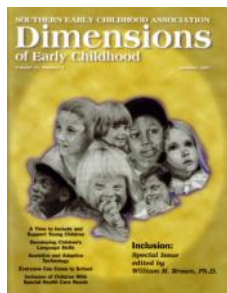
**Winter 1994**  
**Volume 23:2**  
*Family Involvement*



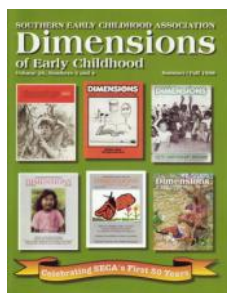
**Summer 1992**  
**Volume 20:4**  
*Outdoor Play and Play Environments*



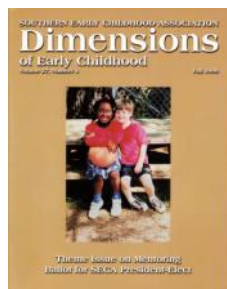
**Spring 1996**  
**Volume 24:2**  
*Multi-Age Grouping*  
(Guest Editor: Judy Sander)



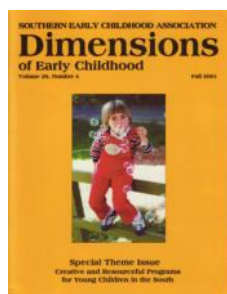
**Summer 1997**  
Volume 25:3  
*Inclusion*  
(Guest Editor: William H. Brown)



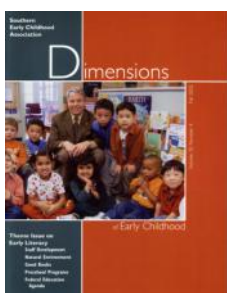
**Summer/Fall 1998**  
Volume 26: 3 & 4  
*Celebrating SECA's First 50 Years*



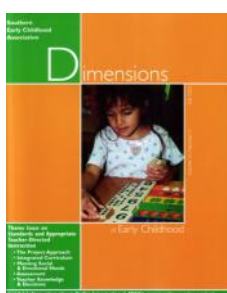
**Fall 1999**  
Volume 27: 4  
*Mentoring*  
(Guest Editors: Janet Foster and Jean M. Shaw)



**Fall 2001**  
Volume 29:4  
*Creative and Resourceful Programs for Young Children in the South*  
(Guest Editors: Nancy P. Alexander and Janie Humphries)



**Fall 2002**  
Volume 30:4  
*Early Literacy*  
(Guest Editors: George S. Morrison and Gloria Foreman McGee)



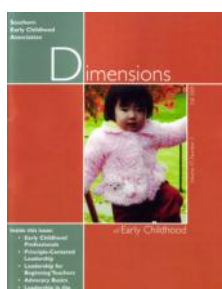
**Fall 2003**  
Volume 31:3  
*Standards and Appropriate Teacher-Directed Instruction*  
(Guest Editors: Loraine Dunn and Susan Kontos)



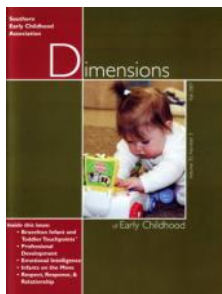
**Fall 2004**  
Volume 32:3  
*The Changing Role of the Early Childhood Practitioner*  
(Guest Editors: Laverne Warner and Sharon Lynch)



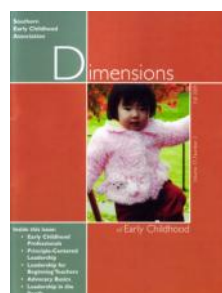
**Fall 2005**  
Volume 33:3  
*Inside Out, Outside In: Active Bodies and Active Minds*  
(Guest Editor: Nancy Mundorf)



**Fall 2006**  
Volume 34:3  
*From Bitters to Bullies to Bullets: Guiding Positive Prosocial Behavior*  
(Guest Editors: Nancy Mundorf and Stephen B. Graves)



**Fall 2007**  
Volume 35:3  
*Gateway to Lifelong Learning: Infants and Toddlers*  
(Guest Editors: Nancy Cheshire and Janie H. Humphries)



**Fall 2009**  
Volume 37:3  
*Leadership*  
(Guest Editor: Vicki Folds)



*The Friend of Children Award is presented annually to a children's advocate who has contributed significantly to the well-being of children across the U.S.*

**1990**

*The Honorable Mickey Leland*  
Anti-poverty Activist/Texas

**1991**

*Richard C. Owen*

**1992**

*First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton*  
Education Reform in Arkansas

**1993**

*First Lady Rosalynn Carter &  
Betty Bumpers*  
Early Childhood Immunization Campaign

**1994**

*Dr. Joan Lombardi (pictured below)*  
National Early Childhood Advocate



**1995**

*Jack Levine*  
Florida Advocate for Children

**1996**

*Dr. Sharon Lynn Kagan (pictured below)*  
National/international Early Childhood Expert



**1997**

*Helen Blank*  
Child Care Advocate at Children's Defense Fund

**1998**

*David Richart*  
Kentucky Youth Advocate

**1999**

*The Honorable William Purcell*  
Mayor of Nashville, Tennessee

**2000**

*Karen Hughes*

**2001**

*Rob Reiner*  
*The I Am Your Child Foundation*

**2002**

*First Lady Laura Bush*  
*Promotion of Early Literacy Efforts*

**2003**

*Dolly Parton*  
*The Imagination Station Foundation*

**2004**

*Fred Rogers*  
*Mr. Rogers*

**2005**

*T. Berry Brazelton, M.D. (pictured below)*  
*Brazelton Touchpoints*



**2006**

*Marlo Thomas*  
*St. Jude Children's Hospital*

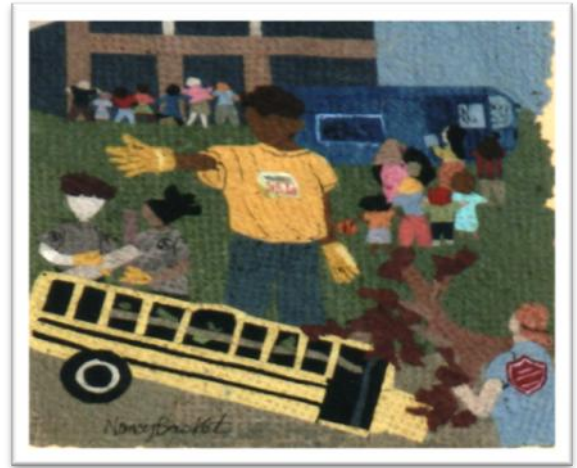
**2007**

Robin Roberts

Hurricane Katrina/the Mississippi Gulf Coast

**2008**

Dr. Sue Bredekamp (pictured below, left, with SECA Past President Georgia Lamirand of Oklahoma)  
Developmentally Appropriate Practice



**2009**

The Honorable Jim Hunt  
Smart Start North Carolina

The 2009 Friend of Children Award, awarded to the Honorable Jim Hunt and designed by artist Nancy Basket of South Carolina—It's art paper made of kudzu. Can't get more Southern!

**2010**

Steven Gross  
Project Joy

## President's Award | 1990 - 2010

*The President's award is presented by the SECA President to a state-level advocate. The award was established in 2001 and each SECA state has the opportunity to select the recipient upon their turn in the rotation.*

**2001 - Virginia**

Peg Spangenthal

**2002 - West Virginia**

Norma Gray

**2003 - Alabama**

Kathi Bush

**2004 - Arkansas**

JoAnn Nalley

**2005 - Florida**

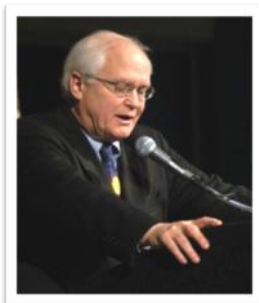
David Lawrence, Jr.

**2006 - Georgia**

Robert Lawrence

**2007 - Kentucky**

Nicki Patton Rowe



David Lawrence, Jr.

**2008 - Louisiana**

Dr. Cecil Picard  
(awarded posthumously)

**2009 - Mississippi**

Kaye Sowell

**2010 - Oklahoma**

The Honorable Dan Boren



Dr. Cecil Picard



Kaye Sowell

## SACUS/SECA Outstanding Member Award | 1990 - 2010

### 1990 - Georgia

D. Keith Osborn

### 1992 - Georgia

Milly Cowles

### 1993 - Louisiana

Nancy P. Alexander

### 1994 - South Carolina

Kevin J. Swick

### 1995 - South Carolina

Rhonda Corley

### 1996 - Arkansas

Mildred Vance

### 1997 - Oklahoma

Judy Franks Doebler

### 1998 - Texas

Pam Schiller

### 1999 - Florida

Ann Levy

### 2000 - Mississippi

Cathy Grace



*Phil Acord (2010) with his beloved mustang!*

### 2001 - Louisiana

Nancy Coghill

### 2002 - Oklahoma

Ruth Ann Ball

### 2003 - Louisiana

Janie Humphries

### 2004 - Arkansas

JoAnn Nalley

### 2005 - Texas

Margaret Puckett

### 2006 - Arkansas

Jane Alexander

### 2007 - South Carolina

Jeanne Greene

### 2008 - Florida

Beverly Oglesby

### 2009 - West Virginia

Nancy Cheshire

### 2010 - Tennessee

Phil Acord



*Jeanne Greene (2007, with Dr. Stephen Graves)*



*Beverly Oglesby (2008, left)*

## Marian B. Hamilton Memorial Award | 1990 - 2010

*Established in honor of Marian B. Hamilton, this award is designed to support leadership projects at the state or local level.*

### 1990

*Wheat Capital Association on Children Under Six/ Oklahoma*

### 1991

*South Carolina District #7*

### 1994

*New River Valley AEYC/Virginia*

### 1995

*West Virginia University Association of Young Children*

### 1997

*Northwest Arkansas Early Childhood Education*

### 1998

*Venice Association for Children Under Six/Florida*

### 1999

*Athens Area Association on Young Children/Georgia*

### 2000

*Audubon Association For Early Childhood Education/ Kentucky*

### 2001

*Louisiana Early Childhood Association/Second Step House*

### 2002

*W.I.S.S.H. Affiliate/Mississippi Early Childhood Association*

**2003**

Oklahoma City Chapter/Early Childhood Association of Oklahoma

**2005**

South Carolina District #7

**2006**

Rutherford Association for the Education of Young Children/Tennessee

**2007**

The Students of Coastal Bend College/Texas  
Ann Nutt Memorial Fund of WWAYC/West Virginia  
Northern Virginia AEYC

**2008**

Northwest Arkansas Early Childhood Association  
La Petite Academy/Florida  
Alabama Association for Young Children

**2009**

Georgia Association for Young Children  
Audubon Association for Early Childhood Education/  
Kentucky  
SLAECA/University of Louisiana at Ruston

**2010**

Early Childhood Association of Oklahoma  
Jackson Association on Children Under Six  
South Carolina Early Childhood Association

## Rich Scofield Memorial Award | 2006 - 2010

*Designed to recognize a school-age program professional, this award was first presented in 2006 in honor of Rich Scofield of Tennessee, a long time member and contributor to SECA.*

**2006 - Tennessee**

Sandy Governor

**2007 - Texas**

Samuel Smith

**2009 - West Virginia**

Amy Wagoner

**2010 - Alabama**

Allie Logan

## Helen Harley Memorial Scholarship | 1990 - 2010

*These scholarships assist emerging leaders from state affiliates to attend the SECA conference .*

**1990**

Linda B. Braun/South Carolina  
Ellen S. Carpenter/Tennessee

**1991**

Marie Orr/Virginia  
Jean I. Dordik/Texas

**1992**

Glenda Adams/Alabama  
Bobbie Warash/West Virginia

**1993**

Mary Jo Adams/Arkansas  
Donna Shreve/Florida

**1994**

Reatha Stevens/Georgia  
Lowell D. Parker/Kentucky

**1995**

Emily E. Williamson/Louisiana

**1996**

Charles L. Lewis/North Carolina  
Nancy Al. Kling/Oklahoma

**1997**

Tracy Holsenbach/South Carolina  
Kathy Ennis/Tennessee

**1998**

Veronica Rodriguez/Texas

**1999**

Carla J. Moore/West Virginia  
Sarah Savage/Alabama



**2000**

*Penny Hitt/Arkansas*  
*Janet A. Davies/Florida*

**2001**

*Amy L. Page/Georgia*  
*Judith E. Hart/Kentucky*

**2002**

*Cindy Casteel/Mississippi*  
*Martha Louise Heinle/Louisiana*

**2003**

*Kim Austin Thomason/Louisiana*

**2004**

*Nancy James/Tennessee*  
*Larue Bettis/South Carolina*

**2005**

*Joan S. Smith/Virginia*  
*Joe Black/Texas*

**2006**

*Chuck Loudin/West Virginia*  
*Ginny Tharp/Alabama*

**2007**

*Hilda Tompkins/Georgia*  
*Cathy Powers/Florida*  
*Johnnie Bridges/Arkansas*

**2008**

*Bob Wilcher/Kentucky*  
*Colleen Smith/Mississippi*  
*Chris LeJeune/Louisiana*

**2009**

*Stacey Watts/South Carolina*  
*Pamela Sharp/Tennessee*  
*Robin Bradshaw/Oklahoma*

**2010**

*Robert Beckham/Virginia*  
*Amy Wolfe/West Virginia*

## SECA Editorial Board/Publication Advisors/Editorial Committee

**1990 Editorial Board**

Milly Cowles (Chair), Alabama  
 Nancy Bacot, Arkansas  
 Karen Robertson, South Carolina  
 Joe Stevens, Georgia  
 John Johnston, Tennessee

**1991 Editorial Board**

Milly Cowles (Chair), Alabama  
 Nancy Bacot, Arkansas  
 Karen Robertson, South Carolina  
 Joe Stevens, Georgia  
 John Johnston, Tennessee

**1992 Editorial Board**

John Johnston (Chair), Memphis State University  
 Karen Robertson, University of South Carolina  
 Kim Townley, University of Kentucky  
 Donna Couchenour, Shippensburg University  
 E. Anne Eddowes, University of Alabama at Birmingham

**1993 Editorial Board**

John Johnston (Chair), Memphis State University  
 Kim Townley, University of Kentucky  
 Donna Couchenour, Shippensburg University  
 Anne Eddowes, University of Alabama at Birmingham  
 David L. Brown, East Texas State University

**1994 Editorial Advisors**

Kim Townley, University of Kentucky  
 Donna Couchenour, Shippensburg University  
 E. Anne Eddowes, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Joe L. Frost, East Texas State University  
 Diane M. Horm-Wingerd, University of Rhode Island  
 Carol Brunson Phillips, Council for Early Childhood  
 Professional Recognition  
 Jean M. Shaw, University of Mississippi

**1995 Editorial Advisors**

Donna Couchenour, Shippensburg University  
 Loraine Dunn, University of Oklahoma  
 E. Anne Eddowes, University of Alabama at Birmingham  
 Joe L. Frost, University of Texas  
 Diane M. Horm-Wingerd, University of Rhode Island  
 Carol Brunson Phillips, Council for Early Childhood  
 Professional Recognition  
 Jean M. Shaw, University of Mississippi

**1996 Editorial Advisors**

Donna Couchenour, Shippensburg University  
 Loraine Dunn, University of Oklahoma  
 E. Anne Eddowes, University of Alabama at Birmingham  
 Joe L. Frost, University of Texas  
 Diane M. Horm-Wingerd, University of Rhode Island  
 Carol Brunson Phillips, Council for Early Childhood  
 Professional Recognition  
 Jean M. Shaw, University of Mississippi

**1997 Editorial Advisors**

William H. Brown, University of South Carolina  
 Donna Couchenour, Shippensburg University  
 Loraine Dunn, University of Oklahoma  
 E. Anne Eddowes, University of Alabama at Birmingham  
 Joe L. Frost, University of Texas

Diane M. Horm-Wingerd, University of Rhode Island  
Carol Brunson Phillips, Council for Early Childhood  
Professional Recognition  
Jean M. Shaw, University of Mississippi

### **1998 Editorial Advisors**

William H. Brown, University of South Carolina  
Loraine Dunn, University of Oklahoma  
E. Anne Eddowes, University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Joe L. Frost, University of Texas  
Diane M. Horm-Wingerd, University of Rhode Island  
Carol Brunson Phillips, Council for Early Childhood  
Professional Recognition  
Jean M. Shaw, University of Mississippi

### **1999 Publication Advisors**

William H. Brown, University of South Carolina  
E. Anne Eddowes, University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Joe L. Frost, University of Texas  
Diane M. Horm-Wingerd, University of Rhode Island  
Jean M. Shaw, University of Mississippi  
Janet E. Foster, Valdosta State University  
Stephen B. Graves, University of South Florida  
Marcy Priess Guddemi, KinderCare, Inc.  
John Johnston, University of Memphis  
Mary Laggenbrunner, East Tennessee State University  
Gloria Foreman McGee, Tennessee Technological  
University  
Christine A. Readdick, Florida State University  
Laverne Warner, Sam Houston State University

### **2000 Publication Advisors**

Nancy Alexander, Northwestern State University  
Wesley Ball, Hope College  
Loraine Dunn, University of Oklahoma  
E. Anne Eddowes, Tucson, Arizona  
Janet E. Foster, Valdosta State University  
Stephen B. Graves, University of South Carolina  
Marcy Priess Guddemi, Portland, Oregon  
John Johnston, University of Memphis  
Mary Langenbrunner, East Tennessee State University  
Gloria Foreman McGee, Tennessee Technological  
University  
George S. Morrison, University of North Texas  
Jean Shaw, University of Mississippi  
Bobbie G. Warash, West Virginia University  
Laverne Warner, Sam Houston State University

### **2001 Publication Advisors**

Nancy Alexander, Northwestern State University  
Wesley Ball, Hope College  
Michael J. Bell, University of Houston Clear Lake  
Loraine Dunn, University of Oklahoma  
E. Anne Eddowes, Tucson, Arizona  
Janet E. Foster, Georgia Southwestern State University  
Stephen B. Graves, University of South Florida  
Marcy Priess Guddemi, Monterey, California  
Mary Langenbrunner, East Tennessee State University  
Gloria Foreman McGee, Tennessee Technological  
University  
George S. Morrison, University of North Texas

Beth Nason Quick, Tennessee State University  
Jean Shaw, University of Mississippi  
Bobbie G. Warash, West Virginia University  
Laverne Warner, Sam Houston State University

### **2002 Publication Advisors**

Nancy Alexander, Northwestern State University  
Wesley Ball, Hope College  
Michael J. Bell, University of Houston Clear Lake  
Loraine Dunn, University of Oklahoma  
E. Anne Eddowes, Tucson, Arizona  
Janet E. Foster, Georgia Southwestern State University  
Gloria Foreman McGee, Tennessee Technological  
University  
George S. Morrison, University of North Texas  
Beth Nason Quick, Tennessee State University  
Jean Shaw, University of Mississippi  
Bobbie G. Warash, West Virginia University

### **2003 Editorial Board**

Loraine Dunn, University of Oklahoma  
Gloria Foreman McGee, Tennessee Technological  
University  
George S. Morrison, University of North Texas

### **2004 Editorial Committee**

Janie Humphries, Louisiana Tech University  
Gloria Foreman McGee, Tennessee Technological  
University  
Diana Courson, Early Childhood Services/Arkansas State  
University  
Ollie Davis, Houston Independent School District  
Stephen Graves, University of South Florida  
Peggy Jessee, University of Alabama  
Nancy Mundorf, Florida

### **2005 Editorial Committee**

Janie Humphries, Louisiana Tech University  
Gloria Foreman McGee, Tennessee Technological  
University  
Ollie Davis, Houston Independent School District  
Stephen Graves, University of South Florida  
Peggy Jessee, University of Alabama  
Nancy Mundorf, Florida

### **2006 Editorial Committee**

Janie Humphries, Louisiana Tech University  
Gloria Foreman McGee, Tennessee Technological  
University  
Ollie Davis, Houston Independent School District  
Stephen Graves, University of South Florida  
Peggy Jessee, University of Alabama  
Nancy Mundorf, Florida  
Nancy Cheshire, Fairmont State University, WV

### **2007 Editorial Committee**

Janie Humphries, Louisiana Tech University  
Gloria Foreman McGee, Tennessee Technological  
University  
Stephen Graves, University of South Florida

Nancy Mundorf, Florida  
Nancy Cheshire, Fairmont State University/WV

**2008 Editorial Committee**

Janie Humphries, Louisiana  
Stephen Graves, Florida  
Vicki Folds, Florida  
Nancy Cheshire, West Virginia  
Jaesook Gilbert, Kentucky

**2009 Editorial Committee**

Vicki Folds, Florida  
Nancy Cheshire, West Virginia

Stephen Graves, Florida  
Jaesook Gilbert, Kentucky  
Connie Casha, Tennessee  
Anita McLeod, South Carolina  
Cynthia Simpson, Texas

**2010 Editorial Committee**

Nancy Cheshire, West Virginia  
Stephen Graves, Florida  
Jaesook Gilbert, Kentucky  
Connie Casha, Tennessee  
Anita McLeod, South Carolina  
Cynthia Simpson, Texas  
Wilma Robles-Melendez--Florida

Year	Major Events
1948	Nashville Council for the Education of Children Under Six was created with membership open to all persons of any race or ethnicity.
1950	The Nashville Council extended invitations to professionals from other Southern states and the first meeting of the regional group was held at West End Methodist Church in Nashville, TN. The first annual conference was held in Nashville, Tennessee. <i>Proceedings of the first conference was published and disseminated.</i>
1951	The new regional group instituted a policy to involve persons from each of the participating states in the business of the group. (West Virginia was not a participating state at this time.)
1952	The Southern Regional Association on Children Under Six was "officially" formed. Elected officials were President, Vice-President, Program Chairman and Secretary. Dues were \$1.00 per year.
1953	The word "regional" was dropped from the name of the group and it became simply the Southern Association on Children Under Six (SACUS).
1954	The Association's first constitution was adopted and a governing board created that included elected representatives from each participating state. It provided for the election of the President and Vice-President. The secretary and treasurer were to be elected every three years with staggered terms of office. The Executive Board was to consist of the officers, the conference committee chairman, the outgoing president and a representative from each of the 13 states. The state representatives were to be elected by members of the state group.
1955	The <i>SACUS Newsletter</i> was created and published three times per year.
1956	The constitution was amended to make the secretary and treasurer terms for 2 years.
1958	Three members-at-large were added to the Executive Board by amending the Association's constitution. An Advisory Committee was established that consisted of the Executive Board and a representative from each of the states in the Association.
1959	The position of President-Elect was added to the Board of Directors by amending the Association's constitution. The SACUS official logo was created. SACUS membership reached the 1000 mark. The Florida Association on Children Under Six, the Tennessee Association on Young Children and the South Carolina Association on Children Under Six became the first three "official" affiliates of SACUS.
1960	SACUS was invited to participate in the White House Conference on Children and Youth. The Oklahoma Association affiliated with SACUS. Dues were \$1.50 per year.
1961	The SACUS Outstanding Member Award was created. SACUS officially defined the word "affiliation" to mean that "all members of the state or local organization are members of SACUS and meet requirements established by the Executive Board." By the end of the decade, 12 states were affiliated with SACUS.
1962	The Alabama Association affiliated with SACUS.
1964	The Arkansas, Kentucky and Mississippi Associations affiliated with SACUS. Criteria for the SACUS Outstanding Member Award were adopted.
1965	The Texas Association affiliated with SACUS.
1966	The Georgia, Louisiana, and North Carolina Associations affiliated with SACUS. SACUS was incorporated as a non-profit organization in the state of Kentucky, with approval to do business in the state of Arkansas.
1968	The SACUS policy manual and conference guidelines were developed.



<b>Year</b>	<b>Major Events</b>
	SACUS welcomed its first black keynote speaker at the annual conference. Dr. Evangeline Ward was one of the founding members of the organization at the first meeting in Nashville.
<b>1969</b>	The first "post conference" Board meeting was held. SACUS membership had grown to over 5000 members. The first SACUS publication was printed and disseminated.
<b>1971</b>	SACUS headquarters were established at Orangeburg, South Carolina with Helen Harley as the first paid business manager. The first SACUS legislative committee was established to work toward professional certification and promote legislation.
<b>1972</b>	The Virginia Association affiliated with SACUS.
<b>1973</b>	The <i>Dimensions</i> journal was introduced with four issues annually, eliminating the SACUS Newsletter and the Proceedings from the annual conference. Joan First was the first editor for the journal. Dues were \$2.50 per year.
<b>1974</b>	The SACUS office was moved to Little Rock, Arkansas. An additional member-at-large was added to the Board of Directors.
<b>1975</b>	The West Virginia Association affiliated with SACUS. SACUS appointed its first full-time business manager, Jane Alexander. The SACUS legislative committee became the Public Policy Committee. A Commission on Finance was established. Dues were \$3.50 per year.
<b>1977</b>	SACUS established a Multicultural Task Force to continue its recognition and support on the needs of children from varying cultural backgrounds. The Helen Harley Memorial Award was established.
<b>1978</b>	SACUS hired its first Executive Director, Ann Sartin. Kay Powers assumed the position of editor for <i>Dimensions</i> .
<b>1980</b>	Dr. Ann Sartin Windle resigned as the SACUS Executive Director and Jane Alexander served as Interim Director.
<b>1981</b>	Jane Alexander was appointed Director of Administrative Services for SACUS. The SACUS Board of Directors was reorganized to include representatives from each affiliate state. The only officer to be elected by the full membership was President. The secretary and fiscal officer would be selected from within the Board of Directors. The North Carolina affiliate became inactive.
<b>1986</b>	The SACUS Division for Development evolved from the Grants and Foundation Committee. Its purpose was to finance new programs and outreach efforts without jeopardizing operating funds or increasing dues. The Publications Council was appointed.
<b>1987</b>	The SACUS Public Policy Council was created to coordinate the work of child advocacy, resolutions, the public policy institute, the legislative platform and position statements. A fund raising campaign for the Division for Development was launched. The SACUS logo was changed.
<b>1988</b>	SACUS dues were raised to \$10 per year to be effective in the 1989-1990 year. The office of President was changed to a two-year term. Presented the first SACUS Friend of Children Award.
<b>1989</b>	Dr. Cathy Grace assumed the position of SACUS Executive Director. A state affiliate president handbook was created. An editor was hired for the SACUS office.
<b>1990</b>	Dues were \$10.00 per year

Year	Major Events
1991	Division for Development grant proposals solicited.
	The affiliation request of the District of Columbia Association on Children Under Six was approved.
	A policy change concerning the Editorial Board was made. The Board adopted the policy that all members of the Board must be SACUS members for 3 years prior to their appointment and at least one member should be teaching or serving in an administrative capacity of a program for young children.
1992	The <i>Dimensions journal</i> was changed to <i>Dimensions of Early Childhood</i> .
	The Four Star Affiliate Recognition Plan was approved.
	The name change from SACUS to the Southern Early Childhood Association was approved.
	A summer SACUS Public Policy Institute was held in Jonesboro, Arkansas.
	The Platform for Children was adopted.
	SECA training institutes were developed.
1993	The Caucus on the Needs of the Youngest Americans was organized by SECA and produced a report, <i>Raising Responsible Americans: Three Challenges to the Nation</i> .
	A job description for Editorial Advisors (members of the Editorial Board) was adopted.
	SECA adopted complimentary presenter registration for conference presenters.
	Dr. Cathy Grace resigned as Executive Director.
1994	Rose Adams joins SECA as Executive Director.
	SECA endorses an affinity credit card program.
	Rose Adams resigns as Executive Director of SECA.
1995	SECA established a 1-800 phone line to the office to serve members.
1996	Dr. Clarissa Leister was hired as Executive Director.
1997	The NAEYC membership year is changed to a calendar year. No immediate effect is anticipated for SECA members.
	SECA Staff handbook developed.
	Jane Alexander resigns from SECA.
	Nelle Peck resigns as Director of Research and Professional Development at SECA.
	The SECA Board sets guidelines that the North Carolina affiliate must meet in order to remain a state affiliate of SECA.
1998	Dr. Clarissa Leister resigns as Executive Director
	Nelle Peck serves as Interim Executive Director; moves out of state in the fall of 1998.
	Glenda Bean is hired as Interim Executive Director.
1999	Dues were \$15.00 per year.
	Fiscal year changed to coincide with calendar year.
	Annual conference celebrates SACUS/SECA 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary.
	SECA and dual state affiliates (states affiliate with both SECA and NAEYC) grapple with the implications of the organizational restructuring of NAEYC and the changes that will be implemented in terms of member recruitment, retention and processing.
2000	The <i>SECA Reporter newsletter</i> debuts.
	The first Directors Seminar debuts at the annual conference.
	Glenda Bean hired as Executive Director.
	Campaign guidelines for candidates for President-Elect are adopted.
	Three new position statements on technology, quality child care and assessment are produced by SECA.
	An Ad-Hoc meeting of SECA and NAEYC representatives is convened in Little Rock to discuss the challenges and opportunities with the restructuring efforts of NAEYC. A collaboration agreement between the two organizations was signed, including the recognition that SECA is a regional rather than national organization. Milly Cowles facilitated the meeting.
	The SECA Board of Directors votes to eliminate the "individual membership" category and requires that all SECA members be a member of their state organizations. (The membership approves this change in 2001).

Year	Major Events
2000 (cont'd)	A policy change is implemented to change the terms of state representatives on the SECA Board of Directors so that 1/3 of the Board rotates off each year. A drawing was held among current state representatives to establish the rotational schedule.
	The SECA President's Award is established to recognize an outstanding state level advocate for children.
	SECA's Immediate Past President is required to produce a report about actions during his/her tenure and the implementation of those actions. This will be a continuing requirement.
	SECA receives a grant from the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation and the Foundation for Child Development to host a summit, <i>Raising Responsible Americans</i> , in Little Rock. 75 invited representatives from across the SECA states attend. A report is issued and disseminated throughout the states and region.
2001	NAEYC changes its membership year to a "rolling" membership year.
	SECA assumes an ex-officio position on the NAEYC Affiliate Advisory Panel.
	SECA establishes a system to ensure that the organization has representation by the President, President-Elect, Immediate Past President or Executive Director at the state affiliate conferences each year.
	SECA notifies North Carolina that it has not met affiliation criteria. All members in North Carolina will be considered non-affiliate members.
	SECA's website domain name is changed to <a href="http://www.SouthernEarlyChildhood.org">www.SouthernEarlyChildhood.org</a>
	New position statements on brain research, early literacy and accountability are published.
2002	SECA designs a system to become a "third party administrator" in regard to processing memberships from dual states. Oklahoma, West Virginia and Florida request to use this system.
	SECA and NAEYC sign a formal contract that outlines procedures for membership processing for the dual affiliate states.
	SECA adopts a "rolling" membership year to bring the SECA system into sync with the NAEYC system and to provide more equity in member benefits. All SECA states are directed to move their membership period to a date one year from application or renewal.
	SECA eliminates a stand-alone Diversity Committee and states its commitment to integrating diversity into all aspects of the SECA Board, staff, committees and commissions.
	SECA adopts a formal investment policy for all restricted and non-restricted investment assets.
	The role of the state affiliate in producing the annual SECA conference is modified. The system goes from the state affiliate implementing the conference to a more office driven model. State affiliate volunteers begin to serve in a "hospitality" capacity.
2003	The Publications Advisory Committee becomes the SECA Editorial Committee.
	The method of electing the SECA President-Elect is changed to reflect an electoral college approach. Members will vote in their states and the state representative will cast a vote for that state's selected candidate. This was adopted to ensure that candidates from smaller states had an equal opportunity for election.
2004	SECA adopts its first community service project, Heifer International.
	The <i>SECA Reporter</i> becomes an on-line only newsletter.
2005	The Rich Scofield Memorial Fund is established with proceeds from the Silent Auction at conference. The fund is dedicated to providing a scholarship to a school-age provider to attend the SECA conference.
	SECA sets a deadline of December 31, 2005 for affiliates to make adjustments to come into conformity with the definition of "subordinate organizations" as a 501-c3 or establish an independent 501-(c)(3) and remove themselves from SECA's group exemption.
	SECA establishes the affiliate payments to assist states in sending their leadership to the SECA conference. The maximum payment is set at \$1000.
	The <i>SECA Reporter</i> reverts to a print and mail newsletter.
	SECA establishes the "Hand to Hand, Heart to Heart" program to assist providers in the areas devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.
	Dues were \$20.00 per year.

Year	Major Events
2006	The standing committees of SECA are reduced to Nominating, Division for Development and Editorial.
	SECA establishes a "Children's Literature Review" program to involve members in reviewing new children's books.
	A scholarship/grant program is established to assist student groups to attend the SECA conference.
	<i>The Leadership Letter, an on-line newsletter debuts.</i>
2007	The SECA mission statement is revised to read: <i>The Southern Early Childhood Association is committed to improvement the quality of care and education for young children and their families through advocacy and professional development.</i>
	The "Practical Tips" pages appear following the articles in <i>Dimensions of Early Childhood</i> .
2008	SECA develops a promotional video with footage from the 2008 conference.
	SECA works with NAEYC to help the Alabama Association to re-establish the affiliate.
	Focus groups are conducted at state conferences to bring information back to SECA about "what members know about the organization and services they would like from us."
	SECA undertakes a major re-design of the website. Funds from the Division for Development are dedicated to this project. An on-line store for SECA publications and a "members-only" section are established.
	<i>The Public Policy Notes and What's Happening at SECA, our on-line newsletters, debut.</i>
2009	The SECA chart of accounts is modified to make it consistent with nationally accepted standards and to increase accountability for the Board in reviewing financial reports.
	The SECA President assumes the role of representative to the NAEYC Affiliate Council.
	SECA conference registration fees are increased. Incremental increases are adopted for the next 5 years. On-line registration capabilities are established.
	<i>The SECA Reporter goes back to an on-line newsletter in order to reduce budget outlays. The frequency of the newsletter goes from 2 to 4 issues per year.</i>
	SECA contracts with an e-mail service to access the capacity to do full member e-mail blasts.
	SECA establishes a monthly e-mail to members that is designed around "practical topics" such as sun safety in the summer months.
	SECA joins the BAM Radio Network to establish <i>SECA Radio</i> and posts the first interview on the SECA website.
2010	The SECA conference format is altered to address financial and programmatic needs. The format includes Thursday sessions provided by expert trainers sponsored by vendors and an incentive package is offered to selected vendors to solicit their participation in this effort.
	An update of the SECA history, <i>The Next 20 Years: From SACUS to SECA</i> , is completed and posted on the website with <i>The First 40 Years</i> . The history will be updated every two years.





Members of the SACUS Board of Directors during the 1949 Annual SACUS conference in Louisville, KY.



First Lady Hilary Rodham Clinton, our 1992 *Friend of Children*



Mary Lou Maples, Charleen Savoie, and Joan Benedict at the annual conference.



The 1990-1991 SACUS Board of Directors



Our annual conference has always been a great time for fellowship among Southern early childhood professionals.



Dr. Thomas Moore (right), keynote speaker at the 1997 and 2004 annual conferences.



Ellen Carpenter (right), recipient of the 1990 Helen Harley Memorial Scholarship.



Dr. Joycelyn Elders, M.D. former U.S. Surgeon General and keynote speaker at the '93 SACUS Conference



Past President Dianne Lawler-Prince, after breaking her foot at the 2001 SECA Conference in Little Rock, AR. What a trooper!



Dr. Sharon Lynn Kagan speaks at the annual conference.



SECA shows its appreciation to leaders in the early childhood field by recognizing them with various awards at the annual conference each year.





(from left) Beverly Oglesby, Dr. Pam Schiller, Ann Levy, Suzanne Gellens, Janet Allyn, and Nancy Fraser Williams at the 1997 annual conference.



Nelle Peck, former Director of Research and Professional Development, at SACUS '97 in Myrtle Beach, SC.



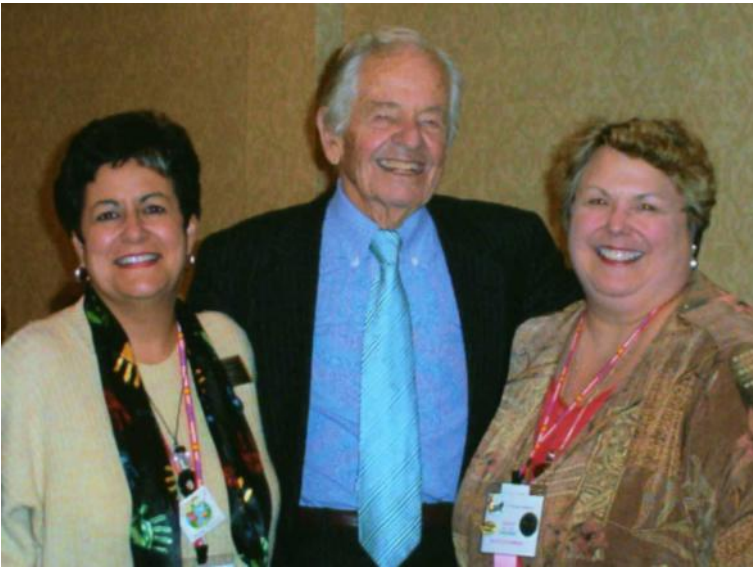
SECA Board Members Herman Knopf (SC), Dee Ard (GA), and Melanie Clark (WV) join conference participants in a fun movement exercise during the general session.



Beverly Oglesby (FL) and Don Monopoli of the Learning Station at the 2006 SECA Conference in Nashville, TN.







Lourdes Milan (FL, left) and Kathy Ennis (TN) with Dr. T. Berry Brazelton, SECA's 2005 Friend of Children.



You never know what's going to happen at a SECA general session!



Dr. Stephen B. Graves (FL) and Jose-Luis Orozco show us their best moves at the 2007 SECA Conference in Jacksonville, FL.



Attendees of the 1997 Annual Conference in Myrtle Beach, SC play a fun game for prizes.

Dr. Herman Knopf and Judy Carnahan-Webb of the SECA Board of Directors demonstrate the proper way to do an arm turn.







(from left) Judy Whitesell, Deni Schofield, Floyd Creech, Jeanne Greene, Becky Wardlaw, and Crystal Campbell, all of South Carolina.



(from left) Georgia Lamirand, OK, Margaret Puckett (TX), and Ruth Ann Ball (OK)



(from left) Beverly Oglesby, Janice Sean, and Lourdes Milan, all from Florida.



Floyd Creech (SC), Pat Minish (GA), and Diane Bales (GA) visit during SECA 2009 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.



Jose-Luis Orozco always knows how to get folks moving!



Judy Whitesell (SC) with Dr. Herman Knopf's beautiful baby girl Elise.