

HOUSING EDUCATION AND RESEARCH ASSOCIATION: OUR 40th ANNIVERSARY

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Abstract

This article outlined the creation and continuing development of the Housing Education and Research Association as the association celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2006. The legacy of the Housing Education and Research Association was highlighted by focusing on people, places, programs/issues/topics, and products. For the future, developing partnerships and being proactive were identified as crucial for the success of the Housing Education and Research Association.

Introduction

Although the Housing Education and Research Association (HERA) was formally organized in November, 1965, at the University of Missouri, the association actually traces its roots almost 20 years earlier. Housing Conferences for Home Economics Teachers and Administrators in the North Central States were held in 1946 at the University of Illinois and in 1948 at Purdue University.

In 1956, Dr. Doretta Hoffman, Dean of the College of Home Economics at Kansas State University, suggested that something should be done to strengthen the teaching of housing in home economics. Thus, a group first met under the auspices of the Home Economics Section of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities and called itself the Conference for the Improvement of Instruction in Housing in Home Economics in Land-Grant Colleges and Universities. The group met annually from 1957 to 1965 when it changed its name to the American Association of Housing Educators (AAHE). In 2002, the association changed its name again, to the Housing Education and Research Association to more clearly reflect its education (including outreach and extension) and research missions and to be more inclusive and welcoming to its international members.

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Rich Legacy

Looking back at HERA's rich legacy and heritage is a good introduction to looking to its future. People, places, programs/issues/topics, and products have been the focus of HERA for the past 40 years.

People

People are the vital ingredient in any association. HERA has been fortunate to have a strong and active membership base over the years. This includes executive directors, reviewers, conference coordinators, committee members, newsletter editors, paper and poster presenters, and article authors. HERA also has benefited from the direction and dedication of the 40 presidents who have provided leadership. Figure 1 displays a listing of these presidents.

Year	President
1965-1966	Tessi Agan
1966-1967	James Montgomery
1967-1968	Gertrude Esteros
1968-1969	Maie Nygren
1969-1970	Ruth Smith
1970-1971	Avis Woolrich
1971-1972	Robert Rice*
1972-1973	Christine Salmon
1973-1974	Glenda Pifer*
1974-1975	Walter Moran
1975-1976	James Crow
1976-1977	Roberta Null*
1977-1978	Vera Ellithorpe
1978-1979	Gertrude Nygren*
1979-1980	Kay Stewart*
1980-1981	Alice Stubbs
1981-1982	Betty Jo White*
1982-1983	Joseph Wysocki*
1983-1984	Carol Meeks
1984-1985	Sherman Hanna
1985-1986	Mary Yearns*
1986-1987	Glenda Herman
1987-1988	Robert Thee
1988-1989	Ann Coveney
1989-1990	Carolyn Turner*
1990-1991	Joye Dillman
1991-1992	Jacquelyn McCray
1992-1993	Kathleen Parrott*
1993-1994	Golden Jackson

1994-1995	Sandra Zaslow
1995-1996	Rosemary Goss*
1996-1997	John Merrill
1997-1998	Linda Redman
1998-1999	Dana Stewart
1999-2000	Karen Johnson
2000-2001	Joseph Ponessa*
2001-2002	Joseph Laquatra*
2002-2003	Marilyn Bode (First HERA President)
2003-2004	Shirley Neimeyer*
2004-2005	Sue Crull*
2005-2006	Julia Beamish*
2006-2007	Anne Sweaney*
2007-2008	Marilyn Bruin (President-elect)*

*Attended 40th Anniversary Meeting

Figure 1. AAHE/HERA Presidents

Of course, the first person who comes to mind when one thinks of people and leadership is Ms. Tessie Agan, AAHE's first President in 1965. Ms. Agan was the author of the landmark introductory textbook *The House* in 1939. This book was revised and reprinted in 1948, 1956, and 1965. In 1987, Ms. Agan, writing to Dr. Trudy Nygren (AAHE President in 1978) said that she was a passenger in Dr. Vera Ellithorpe's (AAHE President in 1977) car driving to Columbia, Missouri for the first formal HERA conference. Ms. Agan said she was "heckled all the way to the meeting to be the first President and so I was."

The editors of HERA's official journal have also played an important role in the development of the association. Thirty-three volumes of the journal have been published starting in 1974. The journal was titled *Housing Educators Journal* until 1978 when it was renamed *Housing and Society*. The journal was co-edited by Suzanne Lindamood and Sherman Hanna, Kansas State University, from 1974-1982. This was followed by Earl Morris, Iowa State University, 1983-1988; Marjorie Inman, Purdue and then East Carolina University, 1989-1994; Julia Beamish, Virginia Tech, 1995-2002; and Kenneth Tremblay, Jr., Colorado State University, 2003-present.

Places

Our annual meetings have been the professional highlights for many of us as we have had the opportunity to meet other housing professionals and share new ideas and resources. Over the past 40 years we have traveled to 29 states, Washington, DC twice, and to Korea and Canada. We have traversed North America from Boston to California and Winnipeg to Texas. Figure 2 shows the locations and dates of the annual meetings.

Year	Location	Date
1946	Urbana, IL	April 1-4, 1946
1948	West Lafayette, IN	October 17-19, 1948
1957	Urbana, IL	October 9-12, 1957
1958	Ames, IA	October 22-25, 1958
1959	Stillwater, OK	October 7-10, 1959
1960	Ithaca, NY	October 12-15, 1960
1961	Manhattan, KS	October 11-14, 1961
1962	Minneapolis, MN	October 18-20, 1962
1963	University Park, PA	October 30 - November 2, 1963
1964	East Lansing, MI	October 14-17, 1964
1965	Columbia, MO	November 3-6, 1965
1966	1st Annual AAHE Conference, Urbana, IL	October 26-29, 1966
1967	2nd Lafayette, IN	October 11-14, 1967
1968	3rd Athens, GA	October 27-29, 1968
1969	4th Davis, CA	October 15-17, 1969
1970	5th Lincoln, NE	October 14-16, 1970
1971	6th Blacksburg, VA	October 17-20, 1971
1972	7th Dallas, TX	October 10-13, 1972
1973	8th Madison, WI	October 10-13, 1973
1974	9th Boston, MA	October 29 - November 2, 1974
1975	10th Fort Collins, CO	October 7-11, 1975
1976	11th Columbus, OH	October 12-16, 1976
1977	12th Tucson, AZ	October 19-21, 1977
1978	13th Minneapolis, MN	October 11-14, 1978
1979	14th College Station, TX	October 16-19, 1979
1980	15th University Park, PA	October 6-8, 1980
1981	16th San Francisco, CA	October 6-10, 1981
1982	17th Knoxville, TN	August 10-12, 1982
1983	18th Lincoln, NE	October 4-7, 1983
1984	19th Washington, DC	August 8-10, 1984
1985	20th Ames, IA	October 15-18, 1985
1986	21st Santa Fe, NM	October 14-17, 1986
1987	22nd Newport, RI	November 2-7, 1987
1988	23rd Corvallis, OR	October 11-14, 1988
1989	24th Greensboro, NC	October 24-27, 1989
1990	25th Columbia, MO	October 16-19, 1990
1991	26th Durham, NH	October 15-18, 1991
1992	27th Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada	September 16-19, 1992
1993	28th Columbus, OH	October 6-9, 1993
1994	29th Atlanta, GA	October 18-21, 1994

1995	30th Salt Lake City, UT	October 11-14, 1995
1996	31st Manhattan, KS	October 16-19, 1996
1997	32nd New Orleans, LA	October 22-25, 1997
1998	33rd International Housing Conference, Seoul, South Korea	August 5-8, 1998
1999	34th Orlando, FL	October 18-23, 1999
2000	35th Stone Mountain, GA	November 15-18, 2000
2001	36th Big Sky, MT	July 22-25, 2001
2002	37th Minneapolis, MN	October 23-26, 2002
2003	1st HERA Conference (with AAFCS), Washington, DC	June 28-30, 2003
2004	2nd HERA Chicago, IL	October 20-23, 2004
2005	3rd HERA Denver, CO	October 5-8, 2005
2006	4th HERA Ithaca, NY	October 8-11, 2006

Figure 2. AAHE/HERA Conference Locations and Dates

Programs/Issues/Topics

The following is a brief snapshot, a trip down memory lane on the annual programs that form the history of HERA illustrating how HERA has progressed with housing issues that were current at that time. In the 1960s, the emphasis was on housing education and conference programs during the decade focused on housing alternatives and choices such as town homes, the impact of housing and environments on people, and the psychological and social meaning of home. Dr. Vera M. Ellithorpe, writing in 1981 about the history of the association, wrote:

As social, cultural, and economic conditions have changed and new fields of knowledge have developed, housing education has changed and expanded. In addition to continuing emphasis on housing of individuals and families, there is increased awareness of, and involvement with, housing on community, state, national and international levels.

The 1970s, while the emphasis on housing education continued, saw research gaining additional impetus—especially interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary research. Housing education and research topics during the 1970s were energy (including earth sheltered and solar), elderly housing and housing for special populations, housing affordability, mortgage alternatives, and the theory of family housing adjustment.

The 1980s witnessed the importance of regional research projects in the south, north central, and western states. Topics that surfaced during the annual meetings included public policy, housing norms and satisfaction, manufactured housing, home remodeling and maintenance, gentrification, female-headed housing, and housing for single-parent families.

The 1990s programs focused on the emergence of environmental issues such as air, land, and water and waste management, and their impact on housing. Other

topics during this decade were homelessness, communities and neighborhoods, role of nonprofits, and tenant and landlord education.

At the turn of the century, HERA annual meeting programs witnessed the growth of green and sustainable housing, and some other “new” housing topics such as disaster resistant housing, mold and moisture issues, Native American housing, and international housing.

Products

In addition to the annual conference and its proceedings, the newsletter *In House*, and the journal *Housing and Society*, HERA has produced course materials and slide sets, held workshops and seminars, and produced the textbook *Introduction to Housing*, published in 2006 by Prentice Hall and written by HERA members.

HERA has also supported the work of current and future members by awarding both scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students and awards for research papers, and to recognize the achievements of members. However, in addition to “tangible” products, HERA has helped foster a less tangible product in the form of professional partnerships and supportive contacts with HERA members.

The Future

Partnerships

Early on, HERA members realized that as a small group with limited resources it was necessary to partner with others who share our vision in order to solve housing problems. We cannot do it by ourselves. Some of the many partners HERA has worked with in its 40 year history include the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Home Builders Association, American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, Association of Home Equipment Educators, Manufactured Housing Institute, Association of Home Equipment Manufacturers, National Association of Real Estate Editors, National Apartment Association Education Institute, and National Kitchen and Bath Association. An emphasis on partnerships must continue to be a priority for HERA in the future.

Proactive

As HERA looks to the future to its 50th anniversary, it needs to be *proactive*, not reactive. The brain power for housing education and research exists within the membership of HERA. HERA members need to identify emerging issues and topics in housing research, education, and extension and develop national housing priorities for the next 10 years. Tessie Agan, over 20 years ago, said something that can be repeated today as we celebrate our 40th anniversary: “Let us congratulate ourselves and keep the good work going.”