

SMA 2018: A Successful Meeting in Kentucky's Bluegrass Region!

Nearly 550 registered attendees gathered at the Hilton Lexington Downtown in Lexington, KY November 6-10 for the Southern Management Association's annual meeting.

Presenters shared 187 accepted submissions, including papers, Professional Development Institute (PDI) sessions, and symposia, in nine different tracks. For the first time, the meeting was held in Lexington. Located in Kentucky's Bluegrass Region, the city proved to be a convenient and entertaining location for attendees.

"Lexington is such a welcoming city and so easy to navigate," explained SMA Vice President and 2018 Program Chair **Hettie Richardson**. "From top to bottom, the hotel staff bent over backward to make us happy. I am also pleased to report that they repeatedly expressed to me how much they enjoyed our members—and that they would love to have us back."

Richardson said she was very happy with how the conference went as well as this year's strong attendance.

"I don't know if this was because attendees were intrigued by or enthusiastic about the new location or not, but I prefer to interpret this strong attendance as an indication that our members enjoy our conference and get value from it—meaning that they will attend for the quality scholarly content, professional networking, and friendships."

Preconference events kicked off Tuesday with two doctoral consortia (chaired by **Laura Little** and **Matt Rutherford**) designated specifically for early stage and late stage doctoral students and a consortium (coordinated by **Kulraj Singh**) designed for students who have not yet begun their doctoral studies, in addition to two Professional Development Institute (PDI) sessions.

The conference officially began Wednesday at the "Triple Crown Hall" awards ceremony, which recognized this year's award recipients—from the best papers in each track to the best in the conference overall. Outgoing President **Kevin Lowe** presented multiple award winners with their plaques at this event. SMA's Welcome Reception immediately followed. **You can read about all of this year's award winners beginning on page 19 of the [conference program](#).**

At the SMA Business Meeting, held Thursday, President Lowe introduced several members who gave reports on various SMA initiatives and projects. Secretary **Rachel Frieder** gave a membership report. Next, President-Elect **Garry Adams** gave a Professional Development Institute update. Reports on the *Journal of Management* (JOM) were given by Editor **David Allen** and SAGE Senior Editor **Cynthia Nalevanko**. [Read a full article detailing their reports here.](#)

At this meeting, President Lowe also recognized two new members of the SMA team. The current conference coordinator, **Joy Karriker**, will be finishing her appointment following the 2019 conference and **Nancy McIntyre** will take over that position. McIntyre will shadow Karriker for the next year and then step into the role after the 2019 conference. Lowe also

announced the approval of a new PR Specialist position, which has been filled by Stephany Below, who began work for SMA November 12.

Also at the meeting, a financial report was presented by Interim Treasurer **Ericka Lawrence**. A special election was recently held, and the new treasurer is **Scott Geiger** of the University of South Florida. The SMA Endowment Fund now exceeds fully funded. Its purpose is to fund SMA spending priorities as determined by the board. This can be an important tool for improving programming and services for SMA members, Lowe explained.

President Lowe thanked all this year's attendees as well as those who worked diligently to organize and put on the conference. He also recognized the many members who have helped to spearhead multiple efforts now taking place within SMA, including SAGE Publishing, Sponsorship Chair **Bart Debicki** and his sponsorship committee members, **Julita Haber** and **Amy Henley**.

President Lowe acknowledge outgoing board members **James Vardaman**, **Patricia Lanier** and **Brian Connelly**, and welcomed three newly-elected members of the board, **Emilija Djurdjevic**, **Kincy Madison** and **Frankie Weinburg**. In addition, officer changes include Past President **Micki Kacmar** rolling off the board and program-chair elect **Lisa Lambert** joining the group. Treasurer **Scott Geiger** will also be joining the team to take the place of past treasurer **Claudia Cogliser**.

Two prestigious award winners were also recognized at the business meeting.

K. Michele (Micki) Kacmar Volunteer of the Year Award

“Without exemplary volunteers, SMA just couldn't function,” Lowe explained. Each year, SMA recognizes an individual who goes above and beyond in their service to the association. This year's award was particularly special because SMA's board of directors last month voted to rename it as the **K. Michele (Micki) Kacmar** Volunteer of the Year Award in honor of SMA's outstanding immediate past president. The 2018 winner of the Michele Kacmar Volunteer of the Year Award is **Ericka Lawrence**, of East Carolina University.

James G. Hunt SMA Sustained Outstanding Service Award

The most prestigious award presented by SMA is the [James G. Hunt SMA Sustained Outstanding Service Award](#). The Hunt Award recognizes individuals who have consistently helped SMA reach its goals and mission over a period of years. This honor is awarded based upon the magnitude and impact of the nominee's contributions to SMA, the variety of contributions, and the length of service to SMA. The Hunt Award was sponsored this year by the Rawls College of Business at Texas Tech University. The winner of the 2018 Hunt Award is **Terri A. Scandura**, of the University of Miami.

The business meeting concluded with outgoing President Lowe passing the reigns of leadership to incoming President Garry Adams.

“Garry, you have been honored by the membership and elected to this high office to marshal the talents and skills of the members to advance the goals and objectives of SMA,” Lowe said. “We all are confident you’ll do a great job. I now pass the gavel to you.”

President-Elect Adams thanked Lowe for the great work he has done during his year as president and presented him with a plaque of appreciation for his leadership. Afterward, attendees enjoyed a welcome reception where they could network and meet with old and new friends.

The rest of the annual meeting was brimming with intriguing sessions and speakers. SMA continued the tradition of methods-oriented sessions co-sponsored by the Consortium for the Advancement of Research Methods and Analysis (CARMA) and the Research Methods Division of the Academy of Management.

“Our methods-related paper sessions and PDIs are often our most popular sessions,” Richardson explained. “Based on attendance counts, this year’s three most popular sessions were: Research Methods Recommendation: Method Variance, Mturk, and Text Analysis; Multilevel Concepts and Principles; and Moderation, Mediation, and Moderated Mediation: Best Practices.”

In addition to the methods sessions, the PDI’s cover a range of topics and interests. New this year were a number of workshops offered by expert faculty from the University of Kentucky, including **Daniel Brass, Daniel Halgin, Joe Labianca, and Scott Soltis**.

“I am especially glad we were able to partner with faculty at the University of Kentucky to offer some PDI sessions on network analysis that we’ve never offered in the past,” Richardson said.

The meeting also included the second annual SMART (SMA Research & Teaching) Talks, featuring videoed conversations with SMA members who have a considerable presence and reputation in the Management field.

New Thoroughbred Workshops

Also notable were this year’s new Thoroughbred Workshops, sessions presented by individuals who are at the top of their fields. The workshops were the result of suggestions by member volunteers on the SMA Involvement Committees to bring professional speakers to the conference who could give members something they may not find anyplace else. Two pre-registered events were held.

“Design Thinking Demystified” took place Thursday morning and featured “thoroughbred” **Dick Buchanan**, Professor of Design & Innovation at the Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western Reserve University and author of *Discovering Design: Explorations in Design Studies*. “How to Have More Time for Research and Writing,” which took place Friday, was led by “thoroughbred” **Rena Seltzer**, academic career coach, President of Leader Academic, and author of *The Coach’s Guide for Women Professors*.

Richardson said the new Thoroughbred sessions were successful. “I think we want to try this idea again next year with a different set of presenters and topics,” she said.

Extra Conference Fun

For a little fun outside the conference room, SMA held its first golf event this year, organized by **Jon Carr** and **Russell Crook**. The “Southern Scramble” golf event, held Wednesday, was geared toward allowing members to play golf in a scramble format while providing them time to network with other SMA members. A “Late Night Trivia Challenge,” emceed by *Journal of Management* Editor **David Allen**, was also held on Thursday evening. To conclude the meeting, attendees also enjoyed the SMA Bash 2018 Friday with the theme of “Talk Derby to Me.” Attendees joined together for an evening of Kentucky-Derby themed food and entertainment. Included were a photo booth, bourbon tasting and a “Night at the Races” horse racing feature.

Saturday Off-Sites With SMA

In SMA tradition, meeting attendees had a chance to experience the meeting city by traveling to local venues of interest in the Lexington area. Attendees had a chance to experience a horse farm tour and auction or visit FoodChain, a Lexington aquaponics food manufacturer, distributor and educator, followed by a tour of Town Branch distillery and brewery.

Program Chair Richardson said she cannot offer enough thanks to the, many people in SMA and Lexington who helped bring this conference together.

“We’ve always prided ourselves on being a fun, friendly, and welcoming organization that also adds value to our members’ professional lives,” she said. “I’ve had many people tell me in person or via email that this was their first SMA conference, but they’ll definitely be back. When I hear things like this, I know we’re doing a good job of fulfilling our mission. Even so, we hope to do even better next year.”

Looking Forward to SMA 2019

It is not too early to begin planning for the 2019 Annual Meeting! Next year’s event will take place **October 8-12, 2019** at the Hilton Norfolk in Norfolk, Virginia.

Although the submission site is not yet open, it’s time to start thinking about submissions for the 2019 meeting. All submissions will be reviewed on the basis of potential theoretical, empirical, and/or methodological contribution, and submissions may take the form of papers, panel or presenter symposia, professional development sessions, or local engagement sessions. All accepted submissions will be presented at the meeting. More information can be found in the [2019 Call for Papers](#).

Main Submission Deadline: Monday April 5, 2019 at 11:59 pm EST

Questions can be directed to 2019 Program Chair **Janaki Gooty**, University of North Carolina Charlotte, at jgooty@uncc.edu.