

Hello, members of Creativity Network!

I hope to see many of you at the 58th Annual NAGC Convention in beautiful New Orleans, Louisiana November 3-6. The convention is at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, with Saturday evening events to take place at Mardi Gras World, where fabulous floats and other creations are made for the city's famous "Fat Tuesday" celebrations.

Wendy Leader, Creativity Network Chair

- It's not too late to register! Go to www.nagc.org for all the details.

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Creativity is a major focus of the convention this year. Here are some big events that will spotlight creative people and processes at this year's convention:

- ***Gifted Education Essentials***, a pre-conference event on Wednesday, November 2nd, will feature an afternoon breakout session co-sponsored by the Conceptual Foundations and Creativity Networks. The session, *Developing a Philosophy of Gifted Education for the 21st Century*, will be held from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. (Separate registration is required for pre-conference events.)
- The Opening General Session on Thursday, November 3rd at 2:30 p.m. will feature creative scientist-entertainer **Dr. Bill Nye**.
- Creativity Network offers **40 concurrent sessions** beginning on Friday, November 4th, in addition to Poster Sessions. Some sessions have been designated as **Putting It Into Practice** sessions – these are focused on teachers and others working in the field with students.
- New this year are **JAM Sessions**, informal morning get-togethers, where you can meet with other attendees to share ideas and discuss topics of interest. Several JAM Sessions will happen at the same time in an area called the Learning Quarter. Creativity Network is holding a JAM Session on Friday, November 3rd from 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. on the topic: **Everybody has a story to tell: Creative classroom techniques**. Be part of the JAM!
- Friday, November 4th at 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., don't miss the presentation of the **Torrance Legacy Awards**. Student authors and artists will be honored for their creative work, judged as outstanding by panels of experts.
- **Dr. Don Treffinger**, a legendary leader in creativity research and practice, will be speaking for the *Portraits in Gifted Education Legacy Series* taping on Friday, November 4th from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. in the Versailles Ballroom. Previous interviewees for the videotaped Legacy Series have included Annemarie Roeper, Joseph Renzulli, and Alexinia Baldwin. Don't miss this presentation and the reception afterwards!
- No NAGC convention would be complete without **Creativity Night!** Creativity Night Chair Gae Anderson-Miller has great plans for a fun and informative evening, Friday, November 4th, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in the Starboard and Port rooms at the Hilton. (If you'd like to join the fun, submit a last-minute proposal to present at Creativity Night by contacting Gae at ganderson@edinboro.edu.)

- Get involved in Network business at the **Creativity Network Business Meeting** on Saturday, November 5th from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. in the Durham room.
- Creativity again takes center stage on Saturday night, November 5th when NAGC hosts a **Crescent City Celebration** at Mardi Gras World. The celebration will feature local talent (all that jazz!) as well as two big events:
 - Presentation of the **E. Paul Torrance Award** to **Dr. Joan Franklin Smutny**
 - The **E. Paul Torrance Lecture**, featuring **Drs. Robert and Michele Root-Bernstein**
- We finish the convention with a bang! **Sunday Super Sessions** feature some of the best speakers from each Network at two times: 8:00 – 9:00 and 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. See below in this newsletter for more about our featured Sunday Super Session speakers: *Billie Woodel and Marcia Delcourt and Diane Heacox.*
- The Closing General Session on Sunday, November 6th features renowned artist **George Rodrigue**, who is sure to share some creative insights.

Be a face of Creativity:

On Friday and Saturday mornings, each Network will have a couple of representatives at tables outside that morning's Mini-Keynote addresses for 15 minutes before the Mini-Keynotes begin, to meet possible new Network members and hand out ribbons and information.

If you like meeting new people and want to share your enthusiasm for creativity, please volunteer for this 15-minute job by emailing:

Wendy Leader, Creativity Network Chair: wleader64@gmail.com or
Laurie Abeel, Creativity Network Vice-Chair: labeel@mwu.edu

If we haven't convinced you yet, read on ...

Creativity Network is offering **40 sessions** for you to attend at this year's convention. We chose the most innovative, exciting, engaging proposals to get your creative juices flowing. Come on down to New Orleans and ...

Laissez les bon temps rouler!

NAGC 58th Annual Convention
Creativity Strand
40 Sessions Offered by Creativity Network

Friday, November 4

7:30 AM to 8:30 AM

Alternative Pathways to Talent Development A collaborative study with an eminent singer/songwriter from the Philippines

PRESENTER:

Rhoda Myra Bacsal, Early Childhood and Special Needs Academic Group, National Institute of Education, Singapore

Wisdom and Creative Perception

PRESENTER:

James Reffel, Professor, Valdosta State University, GA

Future Problem Solving Programs and Creativity: An initial report of a longitudinal study

PRESENTERS:

John Kauffman, Vice President, Marketing, Scholastic Testing Services, Inc., Bensenville, IL
Marianne Solomon, Executive Director, Future Problem Solving Program International, Melbourne, FL

Creativity 21 and Beyond!

PRESENTERS:

Rick Shade, Jefferson County Schools, Golden, CO
Patti Shade, Teacher, Denver Public Schools, CO

Domain Specificity of Creativity: Dispositional and environmental differences among scientists, humanists, and artists

PRESENTER:

Dong Gun An, Doctoral Student, University of Georgia

FRIDAY, 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Creativity x 3

PRESENTER:

Carolyn Coil, Educational Consultant & Author, Pieces of Learning

Give 'em a Break: The role of recess in 21st Century classrooms

PRESENTERS:

Jo Dale, Gifted Specialist and AP Coordinator, Bessemer City Schools, AL
Remeka Little, Gifted Specialist, Bessemer City Schools, AL

Partners in Innovation: Creative and spatial abilities

PRESENTER:

Steve Coxon, Assistant Professor of Gifted Education, Maryville University, St. Louis, MO

Gifted Authors and Artists Come Alive: The 2011 Torrance Legacy Awards

PRESENTERS:

Joan Franklin Smutny, Director, The Center for Gifted, a Northern Illinois University Partner, Wilmette, IL
John Kauffman, Vice President, Marketing, Scholastic Testing Services, Inc., Bensenville, IL
Stephen Schroth, Assistant Professor of Educational Studies, Knox College, Galesburg, IL
Jason Helfer, Associate Professor of Educational Studies, Knox College, Galesburg, IL

FRIDAY, 12:45 PM to 1:30 PM

Teachers Jazz Up Creativity in Their Classrooms

PRESENTERS:

Wendy Leader, Coordinator, Gifted and Talented Programming, Mesa County Valley School District 51, Grand Junction, CO
Colleen Anthony, G/T Resource Teacher, Jefferson County Public Schools, Golden, CO

FRIDAY, 1:45 PM to 2:45 PM

Students Perception of Classroom Climate for Creativity and Self-Concept

PRESENTERS:

Denise Fleith, Professor, University of Brasilia, Brazil
Eunice Alencar, Professor Doctor, Catholic University of Brasilia, Brazil

Adaptation, Culture, and Creativity

PRESENTER:

LeoNora Cohen, Associate Professor, Oregon State University

Making Creative Assessment an Effective and Exciting Tool in the Middle School Classroom

PRESENTER:

Rebecca O'Brien, 6th Grade Gifted Science Teacher, Glasgow Middle School, Baton Rouge, LA

Impact of Creative Strategies on a Non-native Teacher's Identity Constructed by Interaction with Gifted Students

PRESENTERS:

Dong Gun An, Doctoral Student, University of Georgia
Seung-Yun Lee, Doctoral candidate, University of Georgia
Bonnie Cramond, Professor, University of Georgia

FRIDAY, 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Creativity for 21st Century Skills: How to embed creativity into the curriculum

PRESENTER:

Jane Piirto, Professor, Ashland University, Ashland, OH

Creativity through Technology in Language Arts Curriculum

PRESENTER:

Barry Janzen, Teacher, Mt. Douglas Secondary School, Victoria, BC

Nurturing Creativity in Young Children

PRESENTER:

Jean Chandler, Creativity and Leadership Trainer, Charleston, SC

Saturday, November 5

7:30 AM to 8:30 AM

Not the Same Old Project AGAIN ... Let's add a creative flair and design something new

PRESENTERS:

Heather Check, Cartwright School District, Phoenix, AZ

Melissa Stockton, Educational Consultant, Creative Flair Educational Consultants, LLC, Tolleson, AZ

What Neuroscience Says about the Creativity Process

PRESENTER:

Sureyya Yoruk, Master's Student, University of Georgia

Creativity and Focused Attention: The yin and yang of our cognitive functioning

PRESENTER:

Melinda Meszaros, Principal, Enginomix Consulting Inc., Vancouver, BC

SATURDAY, 10:30 AM to 11:30

A New Look at Divergent Thinking Test Scoring Techniques

PRESENTER:

Jonathan Plucker, Professor, Center for Evaluation & Education Policy, Bloomington, IN

Li'l Wayne, Postmodern Rapper: A study in creative development

PRESENTERS:

Jennifer Jolly, Assistant Professor, Louisiana State University

Daniel Winkler, Graduate Assistant, Louisiana State University

Innovatively Supporting Students with a "Fashionably Right" Mix: Teaching for creativity with a unique curriculum

PRESENTER:

Roxanne Spear, EDCI Instructor/Director of Summer Enrichment Programs, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

****Creativity Network Business Meeting****

ROOM: Durham

SATURDAY, 11:45 AM to 12:30 PM

Alive and Kickin': Engaging students through arts integration and problem solving

PRESENTERS:

Kathy Frazier, Gifted Education Specialist, Touching the Future through Creative Encounters. Kent, OH

Deborah Walker, Instructor, University of Akron, OH

Grandfather Tang – A side of tangrams

PRESENTERS:

Michelle Lewis, Chickamauga City Schools, GA

Will Campbell, Norfolk, VA Public Schools

Tinkering Child, Adult Scientist: Creativity and integrated art/science curricula

PRESENTER:

Rhoda Rosen, Associate Director, Center for Talent Development, Evanston, IL

The Business of Creativity: Y.E.S. for Arkansas

PRESENTER:

Faye Hanson, Gifted and Talented Specialist, Little Rock School District, AR

Creativity: It's not just for art class

PRESENTERS:

Kerry Young, Enrichment Coordinator/Teacher, Penfield Central Schools, Penfield, NY
Karen Graham and *Cynthia Salsedo*, Enrichment Teachers, Penfield Central Schools, Penfield, NY

Instructional Applications of Creative Problem Solving Style

PRESENTER:

Laurie Abeel, Associate Professor, University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, VA

SATURDAY, 12:45 PM to 1:30 PM

Dungeons and Dragons and Gifted Students: Sating Dabrowski's imaginal overexcitability through a cross-curricular approach

PRESENTER:

Gregory Harrison, Gifted Education Specialist, Mobile County Public School System, AL

SATURDAY, 1:45 PM to 2:45 PM

A Comprehensive Model for Evaluating Creative Problem Solving Programs

PRESENTERS:

Tracy Missett, Graduate Research Assistant, Curry School of Education, University of Virginia
Carolyn Callahan, Commonwealth Professor of Education, University of Virginia

Fostering Creativity through Technology: Critically and creatively thinking about collaborative communication

PRESENTERS:

Jaclyn Chancey, Research Assistant, Neag Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development, University of Connecticut
Melissa Mitchell, University of Connecticut

Meaningful Economics: A competition promoting individual and group creativity

PRESENTER:

Denise Hall, G/T Teacher, K - 5, William B. Keene Elementary School, Newark, DE

Take the "A" Train: Jazz improvisation as an intellectual construct and vehicle for creative development

PRESENTER:

Anthony Washington, Ph.D. Student, Education Policy, Planning & Leadership-Gifted Education Emphasis, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA

SATURDAY, 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Fabulous Failures! Welcoming the 4 Cs into the 21st Century classroom

PRESENTER:

Erika Crumley, Social Emotional Learning Facilitator, Anchorage School District, AK

Creative and Critical Thinking Skills – From our brains to yours!

PRESENTERS:

Caroline Winfield, G/T Specialist, Richardson Independent School District, TX
Pam Bayless, G/T Specialist, Richardson ISD, TX

Off the Charts Creativity for the Gifted

PRESENTER:

Howard Fuchs, Adjunct Professor, Hunter College, New York City, NY

Using the Creative Constructs of the TTCT to Stimulate Creativity in Core Content Lessons

PRESENTERS:

Gae Anderson-Miller, Professor, Edinboro University, Erie, PA

John Kauffman, Vice President, Marketing, Scholastic Testing Services, Inc., Bensenville, IL

Sunday, November 6

Sunday Super Sessions!

8:00 AM to 9:00 AM

Toward a Better Understanding of Creativity and Problem-Solving Styles of Talented Secondary School Students

ROOM: Jasperwood

PRESENTER: Billie Woodel, Ridgefield Public Schools, CT

CO-PRESENTER: *Marcia Delcourt*, Western Connecticut State University

What might be gleaned from relationships among creative-thinking abilities and problem-solving styles of talented students? Profiles of over 100 high school athletes, science students, and visual artists were examined. Results indicated significant relationships between the TTCT Verbal with the TTCT Figural. Little if any relationship was observed between creative thinking on either TTCT instrument and students problem-solving styles, as measured by VIEW. Some observed relationships differed by talent area. This session presents evidence for the psychometric qualities of these instruments across domains. It also highlights the value of individuality through the case studies of nine of these talented students.

SUNDAY, 9:15 AM to 10:15 AM

Adding Complexity and Depth to Teaching for Creativity

ROOM: Jasperwood

PRESENTER: *Diane Heacox*, Associate Professor, St. Catherine University, Edina, MN

Distinguished as one of the essential skills for the 21st century, educators of the gifted have long committed themselves to the skills of divergent thinking; however, it is time to go beyond skills and more into tactics that strengthen the core of creativity. This session focuses on pedagogy that encourages students to experiment, innovate, and explore new avenues. Such pedagogy takes students deeper into complex tasks that support rather than trivialize creativity. In addition, attention is given to the role of collaboration, diversity, idea exchange, and the ability to build on another's achievements in the creative process.

In School You Couldn't Make a Hovercraft: Letting Kids Decide

by Sharon Dole, Ph.D. & Lisa Bloom, Ph.D.

When asked how learning at Creativity Camp differed from learning at school, Dylan responded, "In school you couldn't make a hovercraft." Dylan's explanation says it all. During the one week of Creativity Camp, his group of inventors made a 4' x 4' hovercraft from materials like plywood and leaf blowers, among other things, that actually lifted 6 inches off the ground and moved around the room. No one was more amazed with their success than the team of young inventors.

The Cullowhee Creativity Camp (renamed Rocket to Creativity in 2011) is the field experience for teachers in the gifted licensure program at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina. During the six weeks that precede the camp, teachers in the program take an online class in which they learn about promoting creativity and designing problem-based and project-based units of instruction. The creativity camp serves children in grades 1-9 who work in groups of 4-5 in areas of their interest facilitated by a team of teachers. Interest groups have ranged from the We-Dig Archaeology Club to Clown around with Animation to Play with Palindromes. The children in each group brainstorm problems or projects, do research in the computer lab, consult experts, and use authentic tools of professionals.



In the school setting, teachers feel constrained with regard to the problems and projects their students can tackle. They often present the problems and projects to the children rather than letting the children decide in order to ensure that the work coincides with the state's standardized curriculum and assessments. During Rocket to Creativity, however, the teachers and students have no constraints. Students are grouped based on their interests derived from an interest inventory. Each group of students then identifies the problem or project it wants to tackle for the week, with the teacher acting as a guide or facilitator. In the 8 years of Rocket to Creativity, the student-designed problems and projects have been phenomenal. Getting to choose what problem to solve or what project to tackle has made a key difference in the enthusiasm, engagement, and motivation of the students as well as in the quality and quantity of work they produce.

Over the past eight years problems have included the following:

- Did dragons exist and, if not, why are dragons such a prevalent icon across cultures? The highlight of the week for the group researching dragons occurred when they had a conference call with a paleontologist who told them never to stop believing in dragons.
- How can hemlocks be saved from the woolly adelgid? The group studying woolly adelgid, a fungus that is slowly destroying the hemlocks in the mountains of western Carolina, impressed the groundskeepers at the university with their vast knowledge of the disease.

- How was Indiana Jones like a real archaeologist? Students in this group participated in an archaeological dig of a Native American settlement site that had been discovered on campus.

In addition to challenging and authentic problems, students have decided on some lofty projects such as the hovercraft. Additional projects have included a Red Bull sculpture made from recycled materials; a spy robot with a camera inside; a Viking reenactment in which the children wrote the script and designed and made the costumes and set; folk tales that the children wrote and animated; and futuristic fashions, one of which was a water dress. One participant who took part in the fashion group for several years decided that she wants to become a fashion designer because of her experience at Rocket to Creativity.



In interviews with the children on how learning at camp differs from learning at school, several themes emerged. First, learning is transformative versus mimetic. The following quotations support the theme of transformative learning:

“I wish we could learn more by doing instead of just sitting at a desk. More doing, more creativeness. In creativity camp we do not sit at a desk and we are not lectured.”

“At school there are some things that you can’t do, like if you want to act out what you are learning you have to do it at recess.”

“It [school] is like being locked up in a cage and studying numbers.”

The children also felt that they had control of their own learning. Statements such as the following supported the second theme of autonomy:

“At school you are under a whole lot of control.”

“It’s [Rocket to Creativity] more like you learn at your own pace and you get to pick what you want to learn. They don’t tell you what to learn.”

“In school we don’t get to make big projects and here we made a catapult.”

When asked what choices they had in school, one student responded, “...what we eat for lunch, about once a month you get to choose hot dogs or hamburgers. I don’t like either one of them.”

The children enjoyed learning in groups and building on the ideas of one another. The third theme of collaborative learning is supported by the following quotes from the children:

“You have to work together and combine your ideas. Making the group one [roller coaster] was a lot more fun. On your own you have to come up with your own ideas.”

“I learned that teamwork really helps.”

In the university setting the children can work as professionals because of the access to authentic tools and resources like the archaeology lab, the forensic anthropology lab, campus police, the fine arts museum, and the computer labs. The campus is built on an ancient Cherokee village and the archaeology groups have participated in digs that were occurring at the same time as Rocket to Creativity.



In addition, faculty and staff are pleased to share their expertise with the children. As one child remarked, “I learned that police officers aren’t always there just to tell you what they noticed about your driving.”

Drs. Sharon Dole and Lisa Bloom are co-directors of Rocket to Creativity. Sharon is a Professor of Special Education and the Gifted Education Program Coordinator, and Lisa is a Professor of Special Education and the Graduate Coordinator, both at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC. More photos and videos can be seen on the Rocket to Creativity Facebook page.

Creativity at Its Best!

by Melissa Stockton

You cannot use up creativity. The more you use the more you have. - Maya Angelou

What is creativity? Well, that is an age-old question in a classroom and in life. According to Wikipedia creativity is: *The use of the imagination or original ideas, especially in the production of an artistic work.* When a teacher tells a group of students to be creative with their projects, what is the teacher really looking for? For each person creativity has a different meaning.

When I reflect and think of creativity, the image that always comes to my mind is my grandfather Giles W. Bratton. He was a man of integrity, ingenuity, and creativity. He always had something new to show me, such as how he re-invented or modified something to fit his needs or mine. Shortly before he passed, he wanted to trim a large oak tree that was in the back yard but was unable to reach the tallest of branches by means of a ladder. He was not supposed to be doing any of this as his heart was failing. First and foremost, I told myself, don't tell him that, because if you do, that will just make him work harder and smarter to find a way. And so he did!

So there he sat staring at this tree and wondering what he was going to do because he would neither ask for help nor welcome it. Well, before the day was over he had trimmed the tree and had a local newspaper reporter at his house catching it all for the newspaper, thanks to his neighbor calling them and saying, "You gotta see this." Grandpa attached a chainsaw to a 10-foot ladder that he could move up and down in order to pull the handle on the chainsaw. Once he had used this to cut away a lot of branches, he moved his tractor into the yard. The tractor also had been re-engineered to replace the usual tractor seat with a chair from his luxury motor home. He had seen that, even with all of his ingenuity and creativity, he still couldn't reach the top of the tree, so he decided to stand inside the tractor's bucket in order to be hoisted up in the air to use his new, improved, very tall, handy-dandy chainsaw on the topmost branches.

Sure enough, it worked, as all my grandfather's creative ideas always did! Now, I don't know about you, but I call that creativity at its best!

So, when teachers instruct students to be creative, are they asking for another Giles W. Bratton, or are they asking for that extra effort, that extra pizzazz? Creativity is a wonderful thing to have for all people and all ages but for some people guidance is needed on how to use and apply their creativity. How is this accomplished without stifling one's own creative side?

After working in many gifted classrooms and with all kinds of gifted students, I feel that you need to talk with students to discover their creative side and to learn what they feel is meant by creativity. Find out what their interests are – their likes, needs, wants, and what they imagine or daydream most about – so that their interests and projects join together to support their innovations. Ask your students what they can do today to make a better tomorrow for

themselves. Then when the statement, “*be creative,*” is used, both the teacher and student have an understanding and respect for each other’s creative spark.

If I knew what my grandfather did back then and how to use the tools around me to be creative, to not hesitate when an idea comes to mind, I feel that I would have appreciated those words from my teacher, “*be creative,*” instead of fearing them! Talk to students, listen to them, and show your own creativity, and experiment together!

Melissa Stockton is the co -owner of Creative Flair Educational Consultants, LLC and the Gifted Education Specialist for Cartwright School District in Arizona. Melissa has fourteen years of experience working in the field of education as a classroom teacher, Math Coach, Curriculum Specialist, Language Acquisition Specialist, FOSS Science Consultant, and Gifted Educational Specialist. She received her first Master’s Degree in Education, in Bilingual and Multicultural Education from Northern Arizona University and is currently completing her second Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University. Melissa currently holds four teaching endorsements - in Gifted K-12, Reading Specialist K-12, English as a Second Language K-12, and Early Childhood. She is also an active member of NAGC, AAGT, NCTM, NSTA, and ASCD.