



Upcoming Events

Register for Free Webinar on the Creative Choice

[You can now register for our University of Connecticut's Renzulli Center for Creativity, Gifted Education, and Talent Development free webinars for fall 2025 on topics related to gifted education.](#)

September 20, 2025 (11 a.m. to 12 noon Eastern time)

The Creativity Choice: From Having Ideas to Making Them Happen
Zorana Ivcevic Pringle

The modern science of creativity was jumpstarted by the speech of J.P. Guilford who defined divergent thinking and discussed its relevance for creativity. Since, researchers have focused on divergent thinking and idea generation more than any other part of the creative process. In this talk, I will argue that we need to shift attention to the process of doing something with those ideas. I will address three groups of questions: (1) Why do people sometimes have ideas, but fail to act on them?; (2) What are the self-regulation processes that enable progress and persistence through the creative process?; and (3) What is the role of social processes in shaping creative performance and achievement? I will discuss the needs for future research and implications for educational practice.

For more information, contact: Del Siegle at del@uconn.edu



No Cost ID Workshops for AZ, CO, and TX Educators

Project EAGLE (Eliciting Advanced Gifted Learning Evidence) addresses the critical need for assessment systems that better identify missed talent. We tackle the issue of under identification, which leads to untapped talent, by implementing a dynamic approach to recognizing gifted behaviors. This approach empowers grade 3 through 5 teachers to use our *Points of Promise* observation checklist, designed to identify characteristics of mathematical potential and talent, as they observe and engage students in five problem-based math activities specifically crafted to elicit gifted behaviors.

[Find a Project EAGLE Trainer in Arizona, Colorado, or Texas!](#)



RENZULLI
CENTER
NEWS

August
2025



Confratute Announcements

Susannah's Confratute Book List

Literacy + Literature to Ignite, Delight and Cultivate Readers, Writers, and Thinkers

CONFRATUTE 2025

Susannah Richards

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The book is NOT a destination, it is a vehicle towards a destination unknown (and maybe unanticipated).

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I hope that you found ideas, perspectives, strategies, and approaches to meet the needs of highly able students at Confratute 2025. The following is a curated list of books (from strands, the keynote, and special topics I presented) for your radar. These include books that invite the reader to fall into story, learn information and skills, and set the stage for learning and thinking as a literate and thoughtful lifelong reader. Think of these as books to ignite, delight, and cultivate potential. For me books are one of the things that I look forward to much like many of the items in Sophie Blackall's beautiful book *Things to Look Forward To: 52 Large and Small Joys for Today and Everyday* (Chronicle, 2022).

- *Here is a Book* by Elisha Cooper
- *We Are Definitely Human* by X. Fang
- *All about U.S.* by Matt Lamothe
- *The Yellow Bus* by Loren Long
- *I Am Sorry You Got Mad* by Kyle Lukoff
- *All the Books* by Hayley and John Rocco
- *The Zebra's Great Escape* by Katherine Rundell
- *We Celebrate the Light* by Heidi E.Y. Stemple and Jane Yolen, illustrated by Jieting Chen
- *Crowning Glory: A Celebration of Black Hair* by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Ekua Holmes
- *Pinecone!* by Helen Yoon
- *Every Monday Mabel* by Jashar Awan
- *Fish Fry Friday* by Winsome Bingham, illustrated by C.G. Esperanza
- *Little Rebel* by Yuyi Morales
- *Some of Us* by Rajani LaRocca
- *Island Storm* by Brian Floca, illustrated by Sydney Smith
- *Where Are You Bronte?* by Tomie dePaola, illustrated by Barbara McClintock

Poetry

- *How to Write a Poem* by Kwame Alexander and Deanna Nikaido, illustrated by Melissa Sweet
- *Daniel Finds a Poem* by Micha Archer
- *Freedom Over Me: Eleven Slaves, Their Lives, and Dreams Bought to Life* by Ashley Bryan
- *Words with Wings and Magic Things* by Matthew Burgess, illustrated by Doug Salati
- *Seeing Into Tomorrow: Haiku* by Richard Wright, illustrated by Nina Crews

- *The Proper Way to Meet a Hedgehog and Other How-To Poems* by Paul B. Janeczko
- *Poems and Notes about Color* by Julie Paschkis
- *Mirror Mirror* by Marilyn Singer
- *Soccer Queens* by Charles Smith

Biographies

- *As Edward Imagined* by Matthew Burgess, illustrated by Mac Majewski
- *Motorcycle Queen: The Life of Bessie Springfield* by Janie Havemeyer & Jean Claverie
- *Go Tell It: How James Baldwin Became a Writer* by Quartez Harris, illustrated by Gordon C. James
- *Good Books for Bad Children* by Beth Kephart
- *She Sells Seashells: Mary Anning, An Unlikely Paleontologist* by Heidi E.Y. Stemple, illustrated by Emily Paik
- *Janie Writes a Play: Jane Yolen's First Great Story* by Heidi E.Y. Stemple, illustrated by Madelyn Goodnight
- *Thurgood* by Jonah Winter, illustrated by Bryan Collier

Informational Books

- MIT KIDS Press books in collaboration and published by Candlewick Press
- *Black Lives Minds of Science* by Tonya Bolden, illustrated by David Wi
- *Life After Whale: The Mazing Ecosystem of a Whale Fall* by Lynn Brunelle, illustrated by Jason Chin
- *Over and Under Wetlands* by Kate Messner, Illustrated by Christopher Silas Neal
- *Golden Gate, Building the Mighty Bridge* by Elizabeth Partridge
- *Meet the Wild Things* series by Hayley and John Rocco
- *Meet the Mini Mammals: A Night at the Natural History Museum* by Melissa Stewart, illustrated by Brian Lies
- *Bounce: A Scientific History of Rubber* by Sarah Albee
- *The History of We* by Nikkolas Smith
- *Hurricane* by Jason Chin

Anthologies

- *One the Block: Stories of Home* edited by Ellen Oh
- *Banned Together: Our Fight for Readers' Rights* by Ashley Hope Pérez

Chapter Books and Middle Grade Books

- *Beti and the Little Round House* by Atinuke
- *Scattergood* by H.M. Bouwman
- *The Night War* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
- *Carter Avery's Tricky Fourth-Grade Year* by Rob Bunyea
- *Ferris* by Kate DiCamillo
- *Max in the House of Spies* and *Max in the Land of Lies* by Adam Gidwitz
- *Lifeboat 12* and *Lifeboat 5* by Susan Hood
- *All the Best Dogs* by Emily Jenkins
- *Good Different* by Meg Eden Koyatt
- *The Gate, the Girl, and the Dragon* by Grace Lin
- *The Secret Library* by Kekla Magoon

- *Olivetti* by Allie Millington
- *Chronicles of a Lizard Nobody* by Patrick Ness, illustrated by Tim Miller
- *Grace Under the Waves* by Linda Sue Park
- *A Wolf Called Fire* by Rosanne Parry
- *One Big Open Sky* by Lesa Cline-Ransome
- *Impossible Creatures* by Katherine Rundell
- *Kareem Between* by Shifa Saltagi Safadi
- *Safe Harbor* by Padma Venkatraman
- *Remember Us* by Jacqueline Woodson
- *J Versus K* by Kwame Alexander and Jerry Craft
- *The First State of Being* by Erin Entrada Kelly
- *The Trouble with Heroes* by Kate Messner

Young Adult

- *Under the Same Stars* by Libba Bray
- *Twenty-Four Seconds from Now...* by Jason Reynolds
- *Everything We Never Had* by Randy Ribay
- *Run Away with Me* by Brian Selznick
- *The Poetry of Car Mechanics* by Heidi E.Y. Stemple
- *Whale Eyes* by James Robinson

Graphic Novels

- *Plain Jane and the Mermaid* by Vera Brosgol
- *Very Bad at Math* by Hope Larson
- *One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams Garcia and Sharee Miller
- *Hoops* by Matt Tavares
- *Katie the Catsitter* series by Colleen A.F. Venable
- *Ash's Cabin* by Jen Wang
- *The Cartoonist Club* by Raina Telgemeier and Scott McCloud
- *Outsider Kids* by Betty C. Tang
- *Mixed-Up* by Kami Garcia
- *Speechless* by Aron Nels Steinke
- *The Prohibition Era* (History Comics published by First Second)
- *Human Space Flight* (Science Comics published by First Second)
- *Born in the USA (World Citizen Comics)* by Lawrence Goldstone, with James Otis Smith

Word and Language Books

- *The Right Word* by Jen Bryant, illustrated by Melissa Sweet
- *The Fairy Tale Fan Club: Legendary Letters* Collected by C.C. Cecily
- *Absurd Words: A Kid's Fun and Hilarious Vocabulary Builder for Future Word Nerds* by Tara Lazar
- *Other-Wordly: Words Both Strange and Lovely from Around the World* by Yee-Lum Mak, illustrated by Kelsey Garrity-Riley
- *The Word Collector* by Peter H. Reynolds



Awards, Publications, and Presentations

Renzulli Receives Dr. Honoris Causa from Brazil

The University of Brasília recently awarded the title Doctor Honoris Causa to Professor Joseph Salvatore Renzulli. In making the award, the University of Brasília noted that Dr. Renzulli is one of the most influential educators in the world, who has transformed the field of gifted education by proposing the Three-Ring Conception of Giftedness and promoting an ethical, inclusive, and research-based approach to the identification and development of giftedness.

They noted that Dr. Renzulli has stood out for translating research into concrete guidelines for schools, challenging the notion that gifted students develop independently of context. His contributions have directly influenced public policies in several countries, including Brazil, and his academic generosity has made his materials and methodologies widely accessible.

His work continues to inspire teacher preparation, strengthen partnerships between universities and schools, and guide the efforts of school systems committed to an educational approach that recognizes, nurtures, and supports the development of all students—especially those with high abilities.

Dr. Renzulli was nominated for the award by Dr. Denise de Souza Fleith, a Professor and Senior Researcher at the University of Brasília, in Brazil.

For more information, contact: Del Siegle at del@uconn.edu



Center Faculty Present at World Conference

Catherine Little, D. Betsy McCoach, Clarisa Rodrigues, and Del Siegle presented the following research from the Renzulli Center at the 26th Biennial World Conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children, held in Braga, Portugal, from July 29 to August 2:

- *An Interconnected Advocacy Agenda to Engage New Partners: Equity, Early Childhood, and Educator Preparation* – Shelagh Gallagher, Catherine Little, and Nancy Hertzog
- *Teachers' Conceptualization of Productive Struggle* – Clarisa Rodrigues and Catherine Little
- *Worldwide Community Conversations on Early Childhood Gifted Education* – Nancy Hertzog and Catherine Little
- *The Development of the Teacher Discourse Self-Efficacy Scale* – Catherine Little and Clarisa Rodrigues
- *I Have a Good Question, So Now What?* – Tamra Stambaugh and Catherine Little

- *Using the Achievement Orientation Model to Understand and Address Underachievement* – Del Siegle and D. Betsy McCoach
- *Three Essential Lets of Service for Talent Development* – Del Siegle

Denise Fleith, who received her Ph.D. at UConn, completed her term as president of the World Council. She is succeeded by Anies al Hroub of the American University of Beirut, who spent his sabbatical year at the Renzulli Center.

For more information, contact: Del at del@uconn.edu



Joe's Corner

Excellent Article on Musically Gifted Children

From Performance to Personhood: Educating Musically Gifted Children Through Heart Strengths

Stephanie G. Robertson¹, Troy D. Robertson², Steven I. Pfeiffer³

¹Tarleton State University - Psychological Sciences ²Tarleton State University - Music

³Florida State University - Professor Emeritus

Abstract

Music education for highly gifted children often emphasizes technical skill, physical dexterity, and competition. While these elements are important, such a narrow focus may neglect broader aspects of child development, particularly those related to character, emotional wellbeing, and social connection. This chapter outlines an expanded framework for educating musically gifted learners through the concept of heart strengths, developed by Pfeiffer. Heart strengths encompass three broad super traits essential for optimal development: emotional intelligence, character strengths, and social skills. By intentionally integrating these traits into musical instruction and examining the systems that shape children's experiences, such as family, school, and mentorship, educators can promote a more balanced and sustainable approach to talent development. In this chapter, we provide theoretical foundations, illustrative examples, and practical strategies to support gifted children as whole persons, not solely as performers, by designing music education that prioritizes human development alongside artistic excellence.

Read the article from: <https://gifted.media.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/961/2025/07/Educating-Musically-Gifted-Kids.pdf>





An Interesting Old List from Joe

40 Old-Fashioned Skills That Kids Need to Know Today!

1. How to write a letter
2. How to make a phone call
3. How to take a message
4. How to get to know an older person
5. How to introduce yourself
6. How to take notice of needs around you
7. How to make scrambled eggs
8. How to budget
9. How to see a job through to completion
10. How to play with a baby
11. How to sew a button
12. How to make a genuine apology
13. How to read slowly
14. How to hammer a nail
15. How to shake hands
16. How to write a "Thank You" note
17. How to do laundry
18. How to take care of a garden
19. How to fix something instead of replace it
20. How to plan a healthy meal
21. How to hang a picture
22. How to wash dishes
23. How to fix a flat tire
24. How to check the tire pressure
25. How to ask questions to get to know someone better
26. How to find a book in the library
27. How to read a map
28. How to seek counsel from someone more experienced
29. How to take care of a pet
30. How to select a gift that the receiver appreciates
31. How to admit a mistake
32. How to set a table
33. How to iron or steam a shirt
34. How to give someone the benefit of the doubt
35. How to weigh out the pro's and con's
36. How to have good table manners
37. How to read a recipe
38. How to attend a concert or performance
39. How to take pride in a job even when no one is looking
40. How to be KIND



The Age of the Genius

Donald Trump, Elon Musk and the age of the genius
The perils of bowing to those anointed as special

The Economist
June 17, 2025

Books about geniuses tend to fall into predictable categories. There is hagiography, along the lines of "How Picasso revolutionised art". There are takedowns ("Picasso was a monster"). And there are how-to manuals ("How you can become the new Picasso"). "The Genius Myth" by Helen Lewis is more original and painfully timely. This is the high age of the genius, readers may conclude—but not in a good way.

Read the article from: <https://www.economist.com/culture/2025/06/17/donald-trump-elon-musk-and-the-age-of-the-genius>