

RENZULLI CENTER NEWS

September
2026



Upcoming Events

Webinar: Identifying and Nurturing Untapped Talent

Our 2026-2027 webinar series kicks off on September 26 with Dr. Michelle Frazier Trotman Scott from the University of West Georgia, presenting on “The Brilliance Within: Identifying and Nurturing Untapped Talent.” Join us for this FREE professional learning event at 11 am Eastern – visit <https://gifted.uconn.edu/events/#Webinar> to learn more and register!

For more information, contact: Catherine Little at catherine.little@uconn.edu

Taste of Confratute Registration is OPEN!

Join us for a Taste of Confratute! These virtual events provide interactive professional learning reflecting the flavors of Confratute. Our expert speakers address key questions and provide practical guidance for educators to support high-level learning in and out of classrooms. Each event begins with a keynote address and Q&A, followed by breakout sessions on the topics of the day.

October 28, 2026—Fueling Engagement: Practical SEM Strategies for All Learners

January 27, 2027—Questions and Considerations Around Identification

February 24, 2027—Literacy for Advanced Readers

March 24, 2027—STEM for High-Ability Learners

For more information visit <https://confratute.uconn.edu/taste-of-confratute/>

RENZULLI Enjoyment
Engagement
Enthusiasm
for Learning **center**

for

creativity, gifted education, and talent development



Awards, Publications, and Presentations

Recent PhD Grad Presents on Arts Alumni Project

Dr. Mei Zheng, who graduated this spring and now works as a postdoctoral scholar at the University of Iowa's Belin-Blank Center, will share her research from a fellowship with the Strategic National Arts Alumni Project (SNAAP) in a free online event on September 23 at noon Eastern time. Visit <https://snaaparts.org/findings/snaapchats> to learn more!

For more information, contact: Catherine Little at catherine.little@uconn.edu

Congrats to Celeste Sodergren, NAGC Early Leader!

Congratulations to our postdoctoral scholar Celeste Sodergren, who will be recognized with the NAGC Early Leader Award at the upcoming convention in Milwaukee! [Read more about the awards here](#) and follow our social media to learn more about our team's activities at the convention!

For more information, contact: Catherine Little at catherine.little@uconn.edu



Joe's Corner

10,000 Reads: The SEM Book

Joseph S. Renzulli
University of Connecticut

From *ResearchGate* Site
Your book reached 10,000 reads
Achieved on August 4, 2026

Book: [The Schoolwide Enrichment Model: A How-to Guide for Talent Development](#)

For more information, contact: Renzulli Center at renzullicenter@uconn.edu

Pubs, Instruments, Short Stuff, Videos

Please distribute to any and all potentially interested persons and organizations. No cost or permission required.

Publications by Dr. Joseph S. Renzulli & Dr. Sally M. Reis

https://gifted.uconn.edu/rezulli_all_publications/

Instruments by Dr. Joseph S. Renzulli and Colleagues

https://gifted.uconn.edu/rezulli_instruments/

Short Articles by Dr. Joseph S. Renzulli

https://gifted.uconn.edu/rezulli_short_articles/

Videos

https://gifted.uconn.edu/rezulli_videos/

SEM Movies

<https://gifted.uconn.edu/schoolwide-enrichment-model/semmovie/>

Information on a Free SEM Class

<https://gifted.education.uconn.edu/freesemclass/>

Most Frequently Cited Articles

https://gifted.uconn.edu/rezulli_most_frequently_cited/

Summarized Articles

https://gifted.uconn.edu/rezulli_summarized_articles/

For more information, contact: Renzulli Center at renzullicenter@uconn.edu

Guiding the Gifted in the Pursuit of Real Problems: The Transformed Role of the Teacher

Joseph S. Renzulli

In the Enrichment Triad Model (Renzulli, 1977), I defined Type III Enrichment as “individual and small group investigations of real problems.” A rationale was developed that attempted to support Type III as the highest level of experience that can be offered in special programs for the gifted. A subsequent article (Renzulli, 1982) further developed a “defense” for the great emphasis programs for the gifted should place on Type III Enrichment and the important role real problems play in creating vehicles for truly qualitative learning differences. Following a brief review of the characteristics of a real problem and a discussion of the differences between traditional and real problem learning situations, this article will attempt to describe the role teachers should play in guiding students in Type III Enrichment.

Read more at <https://gifted.media.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/961/2026/08/Guiding-the-Gifted-in-the-Pursuit-of-Real-Problem.pdf>



Job Opportunities

SEM Academy Seeks Head of School

Job Description

Located in the vibrant and diverse community of Norristown, Pennsylvania—just outside Philadelphia- Norristown Academy Charter School is a newly approved K–8 public charter school committed to educational excellence, innovation, and whole-child development. Grounded in the nationally recognized Schoolwide Enrichment Model (SEM) developed by Dr. Joseph Renzulli, the Norristown Academy Charter School educational philosophy focuses on talent development, differentiated instruction, and empowering every student to pursue their unique strengths and academic potential.

For more information visit <https://hyasearch.com/job/head-of-school-ceo-norristown-pa/>



Alumni News

Young Adult Book by Jeff Danielian

A note from Jeff Danielian, a Three Summers Graduate....

If you hadn't heard or seen, as I am unsure who of you are on my social media feeds, I finally finished a YA novel that was 20 years in the making. After 2 years of writing and rewriting, I spent another year trying to secure a publisher or agent but with little success. I had anticipated that, so I went with plan B, a Kickstarter. You can read all about the book, including access to the [first 5 chapters and audio versions](#), and access the [Kickstarter](#). The book was born out of an article I co-wrote with Tom Hébert and is really about three very different "gifted" boys who find friendship together. I managed to squeeze in so much that I am sure you would recognize.

My school was great at promoting it and with the support of my colleagues, former students, parents, UCONN folks, and social circles, I've been able to secure 95% of my goal already, with upwards of 300 copies being sold and there are still 17 days to go. I'm not one for shamelessly self-promoting, but I figured why the heck not and send my friends in the gifted world a link, especially now that my Kickstarter will be funded and I have decided not to release the book any other way. The copies that will be sent to backers will be the only ones for a while.

I read a lot, and I mean a lot, of YA books when I taught 16 years in middle school, and unlike the majority of those, this story doesn't have a fantasy or sports theme. No spies or wizards. There is no mystery to solve, or ancient historical fiction to navigate. This is a story about boyhood, and one of adventure, where the running theme is that no one should have to go it alone. It's a story of friendship. It's a story of and for boys, and with the setting in the late 80s, anything and everything is possible.

Well, that's all. Even if you choose not to grab a copy for yourself, sharing and/or posting the info with other interested folks would be great. I'd love to hit the 4 or 500 mark!