

CONFRAN TES

Welcome to the 39th Confratute!

Welcome to our Confratute! Each year when we see the diverse, committed group of educators who spend a week learning about enrichment and creativity, we feel honored to host this wonderful event. And what an event it is! We welcome our participants from all over the country and the world. You are principals, teachers, curriculum specialists, gifted education coordinators, enrichment specialists, and parents. With so much talent and diversity, we know that multiple points of view will be presented and respected.



What is Confratute? It is a place where energy is restored and creative teaching is valued. It is a place where we try to combine the best of both a conference and an institute to engage teachers in the best available professional development in our field. At Confratute, you will find strands that will tickle your fancy, put advanced content in the forefront, and capture your imagination. Take a moment while you are here to try something you have never experienced before. Try a strand on creativity or the arts. Learn from some of the nation's best known researchers in gifted education while simultaneously taking strands from some of the most experienced teachers in the country. This has been a banner year at UConn, where we celebrated both the men and the women's basketball championships—you may want to stop in and see Gampel, home of those outstanding Huskies! You might also want to take in our beautiful campus, with all of the new landscaping that has happened over the last few years.

We pride ourselves on our core beliefs at Confratute! First, we believe we have the best faculty of any educational conference in the United States. Second, we believe in extending some forms high-end pedagogy to all students. That is, while we believe in the education of talented children, we also believe that we can develop gifts and talents in many more students than are identified in schools today. We also believe that every school in America should have the services of an enrichment specialist who can escalate curriculum, provide high-end learning, coach teachers in compacting and differentiation, and most importantly, provide joyful, interesting learning experiences. We believe in creativity and the joy of learning something that you want to know.

We wish each of you a week to restore your commitment to teaching and to renew your ideals and your creativity! To provide enriching, differentiated learning experiences to all students is a goal of most teachers, and at Confratute, it is our trademark. Welcome to Confratute, hosted by the Neag Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development at the University of Connecticut's Neag School of Education. We hope your week here is especially memorable and joyful and hope to meet each of you while you are here. Let us know if we can do anything to make your stay with us more memorable. And again, welcome! ~Joe and Sally



Sunday's Keynote: I Won't Mess with Your Comma If You

Don't Mess with My Decimal Point — Dr. Rachel McAnallen

Rachel McAnallen's passion for math has been a lifelong endeavor. Rachel works with students and teachers all over the world, seeking to improve mathematical understanding and teaching practices.

Rachel's goal tonight was to help us understand how instructional practices have caused today's math confusion. Much of it is tied into the fact that we don't respect place value. Understanding and teaching how place value impacts every aspect of math is key to creating effective instructional strategies.

One key thing we do incorrectly is move the decimal point. Rachel demonstrated this problem using the division problem 148 divided by 4. We learned to start with "four doesn't go into one". That's not one - it's one hundred! We moved the decimal point and disrespected place value. Then we say "How many times does four go into fourteen?" We moved the decimal again! It's no wonder that kids are perplexed by those inconsistencies.

We confuse children even more when we say things like "you can't divide one by four" and "you can't subtract a big number from a small one" and then a year or two later wonder why they scratch their heads over fractions and negative numbers.

Rachel suggested several changes that will help students gain deeper understanding of place value and mathematical processes. We need to show kids how to re-name so they respect the decimal. We can model renaming those numbers in different ways. Challenge students to find their own ways to show a problem. You'll be amazed at what they discover.

We also need to always provide context for our numbers. Numbers are adjectives and should always be connected nouns. Don't give kids naked worksheets; always build the context. Teaching that we can add cows plus cows, but not cows plus houses will help them later in algebra.

Rachel asked us to commit to several key changes tonight. Let's stop giving naked worksheets. Let's be sure our number lines in every classroom include negative numbers. Let's keep asking "did anyone do it a different way?". After all, "arithmetic is answering the question - mathematics is questioning the answer." Most importantly, let's promise to call numbers by their correct place value names. Taking what we've learned back to our students will let us create a generation of mathematicians, not calculators.

Patio Party 8:30–10:00 p.m.

Neon Night

Bring your glow to the party! Any glow bracelets, neon colors (80s-themed clothes, too) would be great for our "neon night" tonight at the patio party. Come ready to have fun! Be sure to bring your name badge!

Featured

Speaker:

**Dr. Rachel
McAnallen
(Ms. Math)**

Weather

Forecast



Today: High 76

Cloudy

Tuesday: High 81

Partly cloudy

Wed: High 86

Mostly sunny

The Co-op sells umbrellas.



Web: www.gifted.uconn.edu/confratute

Facebook: Search "Confratute"

Twitter: @Confratute

Instagram: Confratute

Don't be shy - join us this week on social media! Follow Confratute on Facebook and Twitter. We'll be sharing information, live tweeting from the keynotes, and keeping you up to date with important announcements.

If you tweet or use Instagram, be sure to use the tag #Confratute2016. Once you've added that tag to your own posts, take a moment to search it and find other educators who are also here and posting. The connections you make here can help you all year long!

See page 52 in your Schedule of Events book to learn how to access wireless Internet during your time

Looking forward to a great week at #Confratute2015 #ConfraSelfie



Strike a Pose!

Looking to have a little fun on social media? How about taking a #ConfraSelfie? Join us for the #ConfraSelfie scavenger hunt. We'll share a few scavenger goals each day. Tweet us @Confratute with your ideas for goals, and they may get added to the list!

Today, take a #ConfraSelfie with...

#ANewFriend
#StrandCoord

TODAY'S EVENTS:

Strand B
1:30-3:00 p.m.

Strand C & Special Topic Sessions
3:30-5:00 p.m.

Dinner
4:15-7:15 p.m.

Evening Forums
7:30-8:30 p.m.

ConfraChorus Rehearsal
7:00-8:30 p.m.

Rome Social Event-8:30 p.m.

Reflections and Introduction to SEM and the Confratute Experience

Joe Renzulli and Sally Reis



Joe started Monday's keynote by sharing some of the major challenges we face in education. Standardization is one obstacle to engaged and enthusiastic learning. Another challenge is information overload for both educators and students. Too many decisions in education are being made by those far away from the field. Decisions need to return to the hands of teachers.

Next, he shared several sources of his lifelong dedication to enrichment learning. His middle school English teacher, Elise Kent, challenged him to start a school newspaper. His social studies teacher, Mrs. Roberta Manula, encouraged him to set himself onto a college-bound course. They saw his strengths and encouraged him to create and set high goals for himself. Their example inspired Joe to have his own students work on authentic, engaging, real world projects, which was the basis of his idea for Type III learning.

Another major influence was reading a manuscript for a book published in 1962 called Creativity and Intelligence - explorations with gifted children by Getzels and Jackson. The material from this book inspired his emphasis on creativity in the three-ring model. Quotes from some of his favorite thinkers that focused on task commitment sparked the third piece of his model.

Joe then described how many of the pieces of his current thinking have been dots that get connected to continually make a more complete model. It began with three-ring and triad, but every year he and his colleagues add more ideas, such as compacting, enrichment clusters, and assessment tools to broaden our understanding of what students need and how we can best meet those needs. Research shows that a focus on enrichment teaching is effective, increases scores, and builds economic value in our society by investing in the human capital of the future.

Sally wrapped up our morning with a discussion of branding. Think about why you are here. Is it to help your students get more engaged in learning? If we focus on strengths instead of deficits, we will increase the positive outcomes for all of our learners. Differentiated enrichment learning helps all students make continual process. Creative pedagogy results in increased achievement for all. Our education brand helps us focus on what defines us as educators. Confratute's focus is on bringing back engagement and enthusiasm in learning and encouraging creativity. Joyful, strength-based learning is a rising tide that will raise all ships.

This week we need to interact, create, and enjoy our learning. Pick something this week that you can take back and use this year. Go home refreshed and ready to make changes in education that will make it fun.

Teacher Pay Teacher Users?

Intellectual Property - Are your lesson plans yours? Three Summers Graduate seeking information regarding existing policies or agreements teachers may have with districts regarding the sale or ownership of lesson plans taught in your classroom.

TeacherPayTeacher user? Does your district know or care? Please send replies to Susan.Amy.Heydt@Drexel.edu. I will share what I find out with anyone interested.

Susan.Amy.Heydt@Drexel.edu



Who's
On
Deck?

**Lunchtime Roundtable Discussion: Join Wayne Trem-
bly to chat about:** Flexible Middle School Type III Projects
12:15 PM - 1:00 PMRome Dining Hall

Join *him again tomorrow to discuss:* Fitting outcasts into
groups for small group projects at the middle school level
12:15 PM - 1:00 PM Rome Dining Hall



Tonight's Mini-Keynote: Sandra Kaplan

“Redefining the Meaning of a Challenge”

7:30 p.m. WSRH 113



Tuesday's AM Keynote: Aaron Becker storybreathing.com

**“The Art of Storybreathing: Creativity, Imagination,
and Story”**

8:30 a.m. VDM

Dining Hours

Breakfast	7:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Lunch	11:30 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.
Dinner	4:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.



Command Central

Hours of Operation

Rome Commons (Ground Floor)

Mon.-Wed., July 11-13 7:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 14 7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Confratute Contributions

Do you have an announcement, awe-inspiring quote, or special thank you that you would like to see in the next issue of the ConfraNotes? Please send submissions to Anne Roberts at: anne.roberts@uconn.edu.



Did you enjoy the cookies at registration? Did you know you can order them to be delivered to your room until 3 AM daily? You can order online at www.insomniacookies.com, call 877.63.COOKIE, or visit their location at 1 Dog Lane #107, Storrs, CT 06269.

THE VARIETY SHOW!

Calling all performers of all levels! Sign up to perform a 2-5 minute skit, dance, and more for the Variety Show on Thursday, July 14th, at 8:30 p.m. in VDM. Sign up by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday. You must attend one rehearsal on either Mon. at 3:45-5:00 p.m. , Tues. or Wed. at 3:45-6:00 p.m. in VDM.

CONFRACHORUS!

If you love to take risks, sing out loud, and be merry, then ConfraChorus is the group for you! Join today! Rehearsals are Monday through Wednesday from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in MUSB 102. Dress rehearsal will be on Thursday, July 14th from 12:15-1:00 p.m.

ConfraChorus debuts at the Variety Show!

The chorus is also looking for a talented piano accompanist and bass player. Play the violin and/or cello? Inquire within!



The Sage School, www.sageschool.org, in Foxboro, MA is an independent day school serving more than 165 students in grades Prekindergarten through Eight. Sage is a strong school community whose focus has remained on allowing gifted children to realize their full potential, being kind, compassionate, and using their talents for good in the world. Sage seeks a new Head of School for July 2017. This is a great opportunity to join a committed school community with a clear focus. The ideal candidate will be a warm, kind, intelligent school leader who will enthusiastically embrace the school's mission; model its core values of excellence, collaboration, passion, and respect; and revel in the opportunities enabled by leading a small school—knowing each student, family, and faculty member and well-balancing the internal and external demands of school leadership.

Please go to: www.independent-thinking.com for the complete position description.

Be fit—Have fun!

Line Dancing!!

With Barbara Forshag

Monday and Tuesday

5:30-6:15 p.m.



Join the ConfraWalk!

Greet the day and enjoy the beautiful Connecticut scenery with a guide who will lead you on an invigorating walk around the rolling hills of Storrs. See the happy cows, sheep, and horses of the agricultural school on our 3-mile tour (about 45 minutes). Meet Sarah at 6:30 a.m. on the South Campus Patio.

As we have a chance of rain, you may want to bring an umbrella. We will walk, rain or shine!

Announcements and Reminders

- Write your name big and bold on your badge so we can get to know each other!
- Wear your badge at all times.
- Don't lose your meal cards or keys. Zip them up.
- Write an emergency contact number on the back of your name tag.

- Be cautious with the construction
- Visit Command Central for any of your needs
- Housing desk will exchange your towels
- Drive carefully—stay under the speed limit and wear your seat belt.
- Keep your room locked. Carry your key card.

- Stick with your Stand—don't strand hop.
- No hand outs will be provided during the sessions, but there will be access online
- Confratute for credit—major in a strand and complete a project determined in conjunction with your coordinator (page)

ROOM CHANGE:

- Strand C: #40 Budding Professionals *Firmender* moved to GENT 201.
- #46 iPads Intuitive Technology *Siegle & Amspaugh* moved to GENT144.

CANCELLED :

- Evening Forum: Dance Like a Physicist *Luria*