

CONFRAFRAN TES

Thursday's Opening Keynote: Fighting Fake News! Tools and Tactics for Becoming a SUPER Critical Thinker in a Digital Age- Brian Housand



TODAY'S EVENTS:

ConfraChorus Dress
Rehearsal
12:00-1:00 P.M.

Roundtable
Discussion
12:15-1:00 P.M.

Strand B
1:30-3:00 P.M.

Strand C & Special
Topic Sessions
3:30-5:00 P.M.

Variety Show
Rehearsal
3:45-5:00 P.M.

Banquet
6:00-8:00 P.M.

Variety Show
8:30 P.M.

Brian Housand began his keynote with the quote, “may you live in interesting times....” Each day we see news that is surprising, shocking, or amazing. We have become increasingly aware of the need to equip our students with tools to critically evaluate the daily deluge of information.

Is the idea of “fake news” really new? Brian took us through a brief history of humanity’s obsession with deception. Each technological advancement, from the printing press to the internet, has given us better tools to spread it to wider audiences. Today, many teens and tweens think they can distinguish fake news from the truth, but still admit that they have shared stories that later proved to be incorrect.

Our mission to teach and encourage critical thinking and media literacy is vital. Brian shared four challenges, and gave us some strategies to battle each one. The first is the conflict of speed vs. accuracy. In our fast paced world, we must ensure students know the dangers of moving too quickly as they consume information. We played a quick round on the “Fake News” app to sharpen our senses as we detected likely falsehoods or accepted unlikely truths.

The idea of “spidey senses” led into the second challenge; information overload. Brian shared the C.R.A.A.P test to highlight ways to enhance our analysis. Is the information **C**urrent and **R**elevant? Does it come from a recognized **A**uthority? Can we confirm the **A**ccuracy? Finally, we must be aware of the **P**urpose of the information.

We have always had a crisis of authority. Our world is filled with people who want to trick us into believing their misinformation. Today, anyone can publish their words to the internet with a click of a button. Send students to the web to purposefully find misinformation and unlikely truths. They can share their discoveries with the class; along with the methods they used to prove or disprove the stories.

The final challenge is in overcoming our bias. We must teach students to cast a wide net, refuse to stay locked into their bubble, and then evaluate those sources from all angles. They must learn to be skeptical but not fanatical as they analyze evidence.

We are indeed living in interesting times. Maybe 2017 is the year we wake up, rise up, and stand up for what we believe is true, right, and good. “If the next trend could be thinking, that would be great.” It’s up to us to make that happen for ourselves and our students.

Be sure to visit Brian’s website for the slideshow and to learn more about his upcoming book, *Fighting Fake News! Teaching Critical Thinking and Media Literacy in a Digital Age*, which will be published by Prufrock Press in the fall.

Who's on Deck?

Lunchtime Roundtable Discussions

12:15-1:00 P.M. in the Rome Commons Dining Hall

Join us today for our last learning lunch. Wayne Trembley will be discussing how to increase motivation for the underachieving student. We hope to see you then!

Friday Morning: Ask the Experts!

Rome Hall Cafeteria (ROME)

8:30-9:30 A.M.



Join keynote speakers and strand coordinators for a lively discussion on a question you have over breakfast.

Commuters with lunch only options: Meet Sally or Laurel at the Cafeteria Door at 8:30 A.M. to be let in for this event.

CONFROTUTE BANQUET

Thursday at 6:00 P.M. in Rome Commons Ballroom

Dinner will be served at stations. Enjoy a meal while you mingle!

IN 1978.....

The largest squid ever caught was taken in Thimble Tickle Bay, Newfoundland. It was 55 feet long and weighed two tons.

THE END IS NEAR...

Confratute ends at noon on Friday. Lunch will be served on Friday from 11:30 A.M.-2:15 P.M.
Check out between 7:30 A.M. and 12:00 Noon.



THINGS TO DO BEFORE LEAVING

CONFRATUTE:

- Return keys to the Conference Housing Desk (or pay \$100 per lost key charge)
- Apply and pay for graduate credit
- Pay Airport Shuttle fees
- Drop off forms or surveys
- Drop off Planning & Documentation Guide for Contact Hours
- Airport Shuttle Information (page 23)

WHAT DO I DO WITH MY LUGGAGE FRIDAY MORNING IF I'M ON THE SHUTTLE?

You have the option of leaving your luggage in your room until you check out (by 12 noon) or storing your luggage. If it is raining and if you want to store your luggage, you may store it in the Rome Game Room which will be monitored by staff.

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF THE GIFTED

Continue your creative learning at the next CAG CreativityCon!

Connecticut Association for the Gifted (CAG) is hosting their popular CreativityCon Friday, October 20, 2017 at Housatonic Community College in Bridgeport. Join Keynote Speaker Scott Barry Kaufman and many of your UCONN colleagues for a stimulating day of learning and connecting! For details, please visit www.ctgifted.org.

Connecticut Association for the Gifted (CAG) presents Minds in Motion™

Sat. enrichment events for K-8 students, their parents and teachers. Minds in Motion™ offers fun, fast-paced, interactive workshops for every student with every interest. Adults attend MiM™ free of charge. Our 2017-18 lineup includes events all over the state. Visit www.ctgifted.org for locations and more details.

For more information about CAG CreativityCon or Minds in Motion™, please email programcoordinator@ctgifted.org or call 203-747-4989.



WANTED

Many people are looking for rides. Check the messages board near Command Central!

JOB OPENINGS

Talcott Mountain Academy-Avon, CT

Kindergarten/ First Grade Teacher of the gifted wanted for small, private school in central CT. Enthusiasm a must, coursework or experience with gifted, young children preferred. Ability to differentiate for multiple levels across disciplines required. Class size is under ten students. Certification not required. Please send cover letter and resume to Lydia Gibb, Academy Dean, Talcott Mountain Academy, 324 Montevideo Road, Avon, CT 06001 or lgibb@tmsc.org.

Support services specialist needed for twice-exceptional students in grades K -8. Must have experience working with gifted students who have learning disabilities. Would involve after school hours as well as during school times, in a small, private school environment. Please send cover letter and resume to Lydia Gibb, Academy Dean, Talcott Mountain Academy, 324 Montevideo Road, Avon, CT 06001 or lgibb@tmsc.org.

Ascent Academies of Utah

Ascent Academies of Utah, a network of three SEM charter schools, are looking to fill the following positions:

- Junior High Math Teacher- West Jordan, UT
- Part-Time Spanish Teacher- West Jordan, UT
- Title One Reading Interventionist- Lehi, UT & West Jordan, UT
- Fifth Grade Teacher- Lehi, UT
- Counselor- Farmington, UT

Contact stucker@ascentutah.org for more information or to submit your resume.



Attention Performers!

- Program order will be printed in the early afternoon.
- All performers may sit in the audience until 2 acts prior to your act. Then they may go backstage through either door on the side of the stage.
- Backstage has a green room and bathroom available.