Friday’s Ask the Experts!

On our final morning of Confratute, participants had the opportunity to chat with strand coordinators about a variety of topics over breakfast. With such a wide range of expertise, the conversation was rich and personalized. Some participants were seeking more information specifically about the strands they took this week. Others focused on chatting with coordinators of strands they hadn’t been able to fit into their schedules, to help round out their week of learning.

Several tables focused on the social and emotional aspects of giftedness. One group discussed the tension teachers and parents of gifted students feel as they reflect back on the successes and failures they have had. They talked about how to support those adults and help them let go of past mistakes and focus on how they can continuously improve their practice.

Our students have talents in many areas, including the arts. Participants had lively discussions about increasing opportunities for all children to experience art, music, and storytelling in their school day. Coordinators shared ideas, including setting up art galleries in your buildings created by faculty as well as students.

There was also plenty of camaraderie and networking. Some coordinators seized the chance to learn a little bit more about each other’s speciality areas. Participants and experts discussed the challenges of scheduling around new mandates and changing resources, healthy living, their reading lives, and shared contact information for future follow up.

Wherever life and your career takes you, always remember that you are now a part of the Confratute family. Whether this was your 41st or your first time joining us, we hope you found something new you will implement this year. Be a beautiful risk taker and a positive malcontent. Find your passion. Go back determined to bring enjoyment, engagement, and enthusiasm for learning to your community. We hope to see you next year!
THE END IS HERE...

Confratute ends at noon today. Lunch will be served today 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)

Thank You!

As always, we were blown away by the assortment of acts at the Confratute Variety Show. Confratute gives a huge thank you to those who shared their talents and to Ben Lacina and Gail Herman for their work in organizing our evening.

Don't forget to stop by the UConn bookstore before leaving today!

Stock up on summer reading, and be sure to check out the "Susannah's Picks" table for great recommendations in a variety of levels, genres, and formats. She particularly wants you to take a look at Funny Girl by Nick Hornby

Confratute participants get 20% off.

Our 42nd year of Confratute will be held July 7th - 12th

We hope to see you then!
The Magic Bank Account

Imagine that you had won the following *PRIZE* in a contest: Each morning your bank would deposit $86,400 in your private account for your use. However, this prize has rules:

The set of Rules:
1. Everything that you didn't spend during each day would be taken away from you.
2. You may not simply transfer money into some other account.
3. You may only spend it.
4. Each morning upon awakening, the bank opens your account with another $86,400 for that day.
5. The bank can end the game without warning; at any time, it can say, "Game Over!" It can close the account and you will not receive a new one.

What would you personally do? You would buy anything and everything you wanted right? Not only for yourself, but for all the people you love and care for. Even for people you don't know, because you couldn't possibly spend it all on yourself, right? You would try to spend every penny, and use it all, because you knew it would be replenished in the morning, right?

ACTUALLY, This GAME is REAL... Shocked ??? YES! Each of us is already a winner Of this *PRIZE*. We just can't seem to see it. The PRIZE is *TIME*

1. Each morning we awaken to Receive 86,400 seconds As a gift of Life.
2. And when we go to sleep at night, any remaining time is not credited to us
3. What we haven't used up that day is forever lost.
4. Yesterday is forever gone.
5. Each morning the account is refilled, but the bank can dissolve your account at any time WITHOUT WARNING... SO, what will YOU do with your 86,400 seconds?

Those seconds are worth so much More than the same amount in dollars. Think about it and remember to enjoy every second of your life, because time races by so much quicker than you think. So take care of yourself, be happy, love deeply and enjoy life! Here's wishing you a wonderful and beautiful day. Start spending....

**CONFRATUTE REFLECTIONS**

What will follow you home at the end of this intense week of learning?

What kinds of beautiful risks will you take? How will you strive to recruit and retain students from diverse backgrounds?

Will you share your learning with one—or two—colleagues in your community?

How will you strive to make a difference for the students you work with?

Take some time over the next few weeks to reflect so you can let what you learned at Confratute fuel your flames over the coming year. Reach out to someone you met here for help and encouragement. YOU are now part of the family.
Leon Lederman, the Nobel Prize winning physicist, said, “Once upon a time, America sheltered an Einstein, went to the Moon, and gave the world the laser, electronic computer, nylon stockings, television, and the cure for polio. Today, we are in the process, albeit unwittingly, of abandoning this leadership role” (Berger, 1994). Every school and classroom in this country and other countries around the world has in it young people who are capable of continuing this remarkable tradition of discovery and innovation. The tradition, however, will not survive without a national resolve and bold action on the parts of policymakers at all levels to change the pedagogy that drives instruction in classrooms that serve all of our young people. You don’t produce future scientists and inventors, such as Jonas Salk, George Washington Carver, Thomas Edison, Sally Ride, or Marie Curie, by forcing them to learn in a one-size-fits-all, drill-and-practice curriculum or by spending hundreds of hours preparing for state achievement tests. You don’t develop the potential of thousands of Leonard Bernsteins, Aretha Franklins, or Miles Davises without providing them with highly engaging opportunities in music that typically are only available in out-of-school opportunities and mainly to the children of the well-to-do. You don’t develop world leaders, such as Martin Luther King, Golda Meir, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Mahatma Gandhi by having them memorize endless lists of facts that today’s technology-savvy kids can find when they need them with a few clicks of their computer keyboard or iPhone. You also don’t produce the next generation of talented writers, such as Rachel Carson, Langston Hughes, and Tennessee Williams, by having them spend endless hours completing mindless worksheets in preparation for the next round of state mastery tests. It is only through expanding our pedagogy, engaging all students, and making imaginative uses of technology that schools around the world will be able truly to engage our children and develop their creative potential, as well as their love of learning. And remember out main theme: It is what you do back home and what you share with your colleagues that will increase the reservoir of creative young people that will help to make the world a better place.

Best wishes for a safe trip home and joyous year of helping to change the world.
Joe and Sally