



March 2022

RENZULLI CENTER NEWS

Special Category

The Best Thing We Can Teach— Never Say “Can’t”

Even though Jennifer had unique challenges growing up, her parents wouldn’t allow the word “can’t” to enter her vocabulary.

Watch Jennifer Bricker’s story on YouTube by Hoof Marketing:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QXCn4lOyFK4>

Opportunity for Mathematically Talented High School Students

The World Science Scholars (WSS) is a highly selective program for national and international high school students who have exceptional skills in mathematics. Scholars are guided by world-renowned experts as they expand their knowledge to help solve complex challenges in multidisciplinary fields. This unparalleled opportunity allows students to explore and apply their talents to new scientific disciplines. WSS, offered at no cost to accepted Scholars, is a program of the World Science Festival. To nominate a student, to apply, or to learn more, visit <https://bit.ly/WorldSciScholar2022> or download the overview: <https://bit.ly/WSSOverview2022>.

Applications are due by April 30, 2022.

Coding Camp: Around the World!

Coding is something students absolutely love to do. Given the opportunity to use their newly acquired skills, they can create their own programs and games, build their skills for potential job opportunities, and even create their own businesses in the future. At the Renzulli Center for Creativity, Gifted Education, and Talent Development, Dr. Joseph Renzulli, Dr. Sally Reis, and SEM Outreach Coordinator Nicole Waicunas hosted Dr. Shin Kang, who is the Principal Investigator of a study at Kongju National University in Korea. He was awarded a grant by the Korea Foundation for the Advancement of Science and Creativity. During his visit at the Center, we visited some classrooms virtually. Meeting with students in SEM teacher Jen Mendez's class in Norwalk, CT, allowed our guests to see the power and excitement of a Type III in process and also provided one-on-one time with Jen and Norwalk's Coordinator of the Gifted and Talented, Lori Leibowitz. Discussion among these educators centered on the coding program that Dr. Kang has created and how he is hoping to share it, exploring how best to (a) make it enjoyable, and (b) discover what kind of wonderful conceptions students can create and share with one another through this enrichment triad experience. After this conversation, and with further discussions with this participating Norwalk School, the excitement has launched into the opportunity for students to work, internationally, on creating their own games. They share with each other from inception to creation and then actually play them! From Type I engagement, to Type II methodology, to Type III construction of their game, the students are in charge, and are ready to see what they can learn, discover, and facilitate through their own ideas.

For more information, contact: Nicole Waicunas at nicole.waicunas@uconn.edu



Words on Wings

Schoolwide Enrichment Model Outreach Coordinator Nicole Waicunas joined SEM teachers Sarah Cheney from The Renzulli Hartford Academy and Nancy Musgrave from Dennis Chavez Elementary School in Albuquerque, New Mexico, for the International Words on Wings Literary Fest. This festival included six participating schools across the world, and the students of Dennis Chavez Elementary represented the United States. Both Nicole and Sarah served as judges in the "Passionate Pens" portion of the program, while Nancy's students submitted their work on the topic, "What the Pandemic Has Taught Me." This international event is a culmination of ongoing pen-pal correspondence facilitated by Nicole Waicunas and Shri Shikshayatan School's Outreach Coordinator Shri Shikshayatan, as well as the School's Headmistress, Poushali Mukherjee, in Kolkata, India. Through this correspondence, Sarah Cheney's 6th grade students and Nancy Musgrave's students participated in the grades' 3–5 portion of the program. Moving forward, Nicole, Poushali, Sarah, and Nancy, as well as all of the students, look forward to this continued correspondence, and Nicole looks forward to building bridges for more teachers to create opportunities for children to find friends with similar interests, gifts, and talents, not only here in America, but across the world!

For more information, contact: Nicole Waicunas at nicole.waicunas@uconn.edu

Job Opportunities

Gifted Ed. Job Opening at NYSAIS Schools

The Speyer Legacy School seeks a Head of Middle School to manage Grades Five through Eight. Collaborating with faculty, staff, and administration in support of the school's mission of serving children who are gifted is paramount. Read more from school's Job Openings website: <https://www.nysais.org/page.cfm?p=2901&jid=16600>

Applications are accepted until March 4, 2022.

Upcoming Events

Spring Webinar Series

Don't miss our spring webinar series from the Renzulli Center! In March, we are excited to hear from Dr. Sally Reis, who will speak on ***Talent Denied and Talent Lost: Challenges and Compromises of Gifted Girls and Women*** on March 10, and from Dr. Brian Housand, who will share ***Designing Type I Learning Experiences*** on March 12.

Visit <https://gifted.uconn.edu/events/> to register!

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

Awards, Publications, and Presentations

Alumni Awards Celebration

The Neag School of Education at UConn will hold its 24th annual Alumni Awards Celebration virtually on Saturday, March 12, 2022: <https://education.uconn.edu/2022/01/21/announcing-the-2022-neag-school-alumni-awards-honorees/>. We are so pleased that our program alumnus, Jeff Danielian, will be recognized at this year's event! Read more about Jeff below.

Jeffrey S. Danielian '06 MA is the Neag School's 2022 Outstanding School Educator. As a graduate of our Three Summers Program, Jeff continues to contribute to meeting the academic, social, and emotional needs of students with gifts and talents. Currently, he directs the LaSalle Scholars Program (<https://www.lasalle-academy.org/academics/la-salle-scholars>) and teaches biology at LaSalle Academy in Providence, RI.

For those of you who know Jeff, you would recognize his active involvement in multiple educational opportunities. He serves as the editor-in-chief for the National Association for Gifted Children's publication known as *Teaching for High Potential*, coordinates the Javits-Frasier Scholarship Program, and monitors the submission and review process for the association's annual conference. Of course, for Jeff, involvement in one conference is just

a beginning. He serves as the co-director for Edufest, which is a conference for people interested in providing high quality educational opportunities for students with gifts and talents. He also shares his expertise in gifted education and talent development with educators and parents through consultations and presentations.

Writing is a passion for Jeff. He has authored volumes of poetry and non-fiction books. The 2022 Neag School of Education Award in the category of Outstanding School Educator is a wonderful testament to all Jeffrey S. Danielian's professional accomplishments. Congratulations!

For more information, contact: E. Jean Gubbins at ejean.gubbins@uconn.edu



Del Siegle at NAGC Leadership and Advocacy Event

Del Siegle, Director of the Renzulli Center for Creativity, Gifted Education, and Talent Development and Director of the National Center for Research on Gifted Education, will present on current issues and directions forward for the field at the NAGC Leadership and Advocacy Conference on March 13. The event invites leaders and advocates from around the country to come together to discuss issues and build policy and advocacy skills. More event information here: <https://www.eventscribe.net/2022/LAC/>

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

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