

Virginia Association
for the Gifted

Newsletter

Spring 2012

Virginia Association for the Gifted

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Serving
The

MANY FACES of GIFTEDNESS

through Collaboration and Communication

October 21-22, 2012

Wyndham Virginia Crossings Hotel and Conference Center
1000 Virginia Center Parkway • Glen Allen, VA 23059

Virginia Association for the Gifted 2012 Seminar Issue
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Virginia Association for Gifted 2012 Seminar

October 21-22, 2012

Wyndham Virginia Crossings Hotel and Conference Center

1000 Virginia Center Parkway, Glen Allen, VA 23059

General Session

Sunday, October 21, 2012, 4:00–6:00 p.m.

F. Richard Olenchak, Ph.D., P.C.

Chair – Department of Educational Psychology

Professor, Psychologist, and Director – Urban Talent Research Institute

College of Education, University of Houston, Houston, Texas



Thinking and Feeling: Separate but Unequal

Why is it that school curricula and instruction so often seem pendulum-like? They swing from one extreme to the other, and balance in the middle seems elusive. Such is the case with attention to cognitive versus affective development of students. Despite the fact that numerous empirical studies corroborate the need for balanced, equivalent educational attention to both thinking and feeling, few schools address students' development holistically. When it comes to giftedness and talent development, the risk for pervasive underachievement escalates, and when the diversity of today's classrooms is added into the equation, the potential for serious under-development of high-ability learners intensifies even further. This keynote explores the problem of one-sided education – either too much cognitive/too little affective or vice-versa, its impact on giftedness and talent development, and proposes some avenues for gaining balance so that the abilities of students are maximized in schools. In addition, using recent as well as ongoing studies from the University of Houston's Urban Talent Research Institute for further examination of the dilemma of psychosocial development among gifted and talented youth, participants will learn about field-tested strategies that schools and homes can employ to keep both sides of education – cognitive and affective – rewardingly together.



Dr. Rick Olenchak

Dr. Rick Olenchak currently serves as Chair of the Department of Educational Psychology, as well as Professor, Psychologist, and Director of the Urban Talent Research Institute in the College of Education at the University of Houston. Having completed his Ph.D. in Educational Psychology, emphasizing Special Education, Curriculum Differentiation, and Giftedness and Talent Development, at the University of Connecticut, he later completed a post-doctoral internship at a secure medical facility for adolescents. There he designed curricular and instructional interventions that promoted optimal talent development among teenagers who were predisposed to crime.

Having taught grades 2 through 11, including teaching at a specialized school for gifted students, Dr. Olenchak has served as a PK-12 Director of Gifted Education in two school districts and director of six school-based grants. In addition, he has been principal at both elementary and middle school levels, a training specialist for a corporation interested in developing executive talent, a research associate at a state department of education, and has operated a private psychological consulting practice focusing on developmental curricular and climatic interventions for middle- and high-school students.

A recent Past-President of the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC), Rick has also served as NAGC Research Editor, in various leadership roles in NAGC Divisions, as President of the International Future Problem Solving Program (FPSP), as President for the Association for the Education of Gifted Underachieving Students (AEGUS), and as Chair of the Research and Development Division of the Texas Association for Gifted and Talented (TAGT). Rick also is a member emeritus of the Board of Directors of SENG (Supporting the Emotional Needs of the Gifted), a foundation that stimulates research and services likely to improve psychosocial development among students who have high potential in one or more cognitive domains. He also has served as a member of the Executive Board of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

Full-day Sessions – Monday, October 22, 2012, 8:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Choose one of the four sessions.

Shelagh Gallagher, Ph.D. **Independent Consultant**

Engaged, Educated Students through Problem-Based Learning

Mark Twain once said, “A man who carries a cat by the tail learns something he can learn in no other way.” This is the philosophy behind Problem-Based Learning (PBL): immerse students in real world problems in order to learn the core curriculum. While searching for a solution students simultaneously learn content and improve their skills in research, higher order thinking, decision making, collaboration and more. Students leave the experience more motivated and better educated.

Workshop participants will be introduced to PBL through a brief simulation of the first stage of a PBL unit. Having experienced PBL from the students’ point of view, participants will be ready to learn how to put PBL into practice. During the course of the day participants will learn: 1) the three fundamentals of PBL, 2) the flow of a PBL problem, 3) how and when to embed instruction; 4) assessment opportunities, and 5) the basics of creating a PBL unit. Examples of already existing tested and aligned PBL units will be presented along with tips for best implementation. Research on the effectiveness will be integrated throughout the presentation, and ample opportunity for question and answer will be incorporated in this highly interactive day!



Dr. Shelagh Gallagher

Dr. Shelagh Gallagher received her Ph.D. in Special Education, with an emphasis in gifted education at the University of North Carolina. Prior to her current job working as an independent consultant in gifted education, she served for 10 years as Associate Professor in UNC Charlotte’s Department of Special Education and Child Development. She has served two terms on the NAGC Board of Directors. She and her father co-authored *Teaching the Gifted Child*. Shelagh serves on the staff at Yunasa.

Brian C. Housand, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, East Carolina University

Plugging Into Creative Outlets

Today’s gifted students have unprecedented access to powerful tools designed for creative production. However, many schools are asking our digital natives to unplug when they enter the classroom. While the focus of the education system has switched to remediation, teaching creativity in the 21st century has become as important as teaching literacy. This session will present a variety of digital products and specific strategies for integrating Common Core Standards and ISTE’s Educational Technology Standards for Students and Teachers into a gifted curriculum. Come explore a virtual playground designed to get teachers plugged into new outlets for promoting creative productive giftedness.



Dr. Brian Housand

Dr. Brian Housand is an assistant professor in the department of Curriculum and Instruction and co-coordinator of the Academically and Intellectually Gifted Program at East Carolina University. Dr. Housand earned a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology at the University of Connecticut’s National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented with an emphasis in both gifted education and instructional technology. His column, *Technology Untangled*, appears in the NAGC publication *Teaching for High Potential*. Brian frequently presents and works as an educational consultant on the integration of technology and enrichment into the curriculum. He is currently researching ways in which technology can enhance the learning environment and is striving to define creative-productive giftedness in a digital age. His website is: <http://brianhousand.com>.

Full-day Sessions – Monday, October 22, 2012, 8:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Descriptions continued from previous page. Choose one of the four sessions.

Tonya R. Moon, Ph.D.

Professor, Curry School of Education, University of Virginia and a Principal Investigator for the National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented

3 From Pre-assessment through Grading: Making Informed Instructional Decisions

Classroom assessment is the process of gathering data to make informative instructional decisions. Before one engages in the process of assessment, s/he must know why the assessment is being made (the purpose), what information is needed to make the decision (the basis), when the information is needed (the timing), and how the information is best collected (the method). The purpose of this session is to help practicing teachers gather better data to make better decisions. The session will cover the range of assessments, from pre-assessment through the process of grading, and will also focus on interpreting data to make informed decisions.



Dr. Tonya Moon

Dr. Tonya Moon is a Professor in the Curry School of Education at the University of Virginia and a Principal Investigator for the National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented. Her specializations are in the areas of educational measurement, classroom assessment, research, and evaluation and she works with educational agencies and school districts nationally and internationally on issues associated with educational assessments. In addition to her research and teaching responsibilities at the University, she is also Chair of the University's Institutional Review Board for the Social and Behavioral Sciences. She is Past President of the Virginia Educational Research Association and is on the Board of Directors of the Virginia Association for Gifted.

F. Richard Olenchak, Ph.D., P.C.

Chair – Department of Educational Psychology

**Professor, Psychologist, and Director – Urban Talent Research Institute
College of Education, University of Houston, Houston, Texas**

4 Precious Puzzles: Achieving Educational Equity and Excellence

It is imperative in a diverse society to recognize and nurture the strengths and talents among all students, recognizing of course, that the array of possible talents in any group of students is indeed as diverse as the students themselves. In this day-long interactive session, participants will learn about the impediments that often prevent identification and development of students' strengths and talents, actively engage in a variety of strategies to address these challenges, and ultimately focus on how – amidst a standards-driven schoolhouse -- teachers still can manage to help young people find their niche for happiness and achievement in life.



Dr. Rick Olenchak

Dr. Rick Olenchak currently serves as Chair of the Department of Educational Psychology, as well as Professor, Psychologist, and Director of the Urban Talent Research Institute in the College of Education at the University of Houston. Having completed his Ph.D. in Educational Psychology, emphasizing Special Education, Curriculum Differentiation, and Giftedness and Talent Development, at the University of Connecticut, he later completed a post-doctoral internship at a secure medical facility for adolescents. There he designed curricular and instructional interventions that promoted optimal talent development among teenagers who were predisposed to crime.

Seminar Registration Form

Name _____ Membership# _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____ E-mail _____
Attending seminar primarily as: Teacher ___ Student ___ Parent ___ Administrator ___
Name of School Division _____ Grade _____

Seminar Fees

Regular registration must be postmarked by October 5, 2012. (Includes Sunday Keynote Session, Monday Session, Continental Breakfast and Lunch on Monday, October 22, 2012.) Confirmation of registration will be made only to e-mail addresses. To receive a refund, cancellations must be in writing to the VAG office no later than October 8, 2012. All refunds are subject to a \$25 processing fee and will be issued after January 1, 2013.

Check one:

_____ \$175.00 (VAG active member) Must include membership # for member rate – _____ will be verified.

Membership # _____

_____ \$205.00 (non-member)

_____ \$225.00 After October 5, 2012 or on-location

VAG Dues: ___1 year/\$20 ___2 years/\$35 ___ Member Renewal ___ New Member

(Please mail your membership application _____ (on the next page) with your conference payment and conference registration form.)

_____ Total Payment Due – Credit Cards Accepted On-line Only

Method of Payment:

_____ Personal Check # _____

_____ School District Check # _____

_____ School District Purchase Order # _____ (Include a copy of PO)

Please make checks payable to: VAG

Send registration and payment to:

VAG Seminar Registration

PO Box 10142

McLean, VA 22102

Full-Day Sessions on Monday, October 22, 8:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m. You may attend one session.

Mark your top 2 choices (1 = top choice, 2 = next choice). Session size is limited and sessions will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

_____ Dr. Rick Olenchak – Precious Puzzles: Achieving Educational Equity and Excellence – K-12

_____ Dr. Shelagh Gallagher – Engaged, Educated Students through Problem-Based Learning – K-12

_____ Dr. Tonya Moon – From Pre-assessment through Grading: Making Informed Instructional Decisions – K-12

_____ Dr. Brian Housand – Plugging Into Creative Outlets – K-12

There will be a general session on Sunday from 4:00-6:00 p.m. featuring Dr. Rick Olenchak on the topic: Thinking and Feeling:
Separate but Unequal

Please note: (1) Purchase orders are accepted in good faith that a check for full payment will be received within 30 days.

(2) Mail-in registrations will not be accepted after October 12, 2012.

(3) Hotel reservations must be made directly with the Wyndham Center Crossings.

If you wish to join VAG and receive the member discount, please send your payment and membership application with your seminar registration.

VAG Membership Application

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Fax No. _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ E-mail _____

Check as appropriate:

_____ Parent _____ (Name of school division your child/children attend)

_____ Professional _____ (Name of school division where you are employed)

_____ 1 Year \$20.00 _____ 2 Years \$35.00 _____ *New Member* _____ *Renewal – Membership No.* _____

Hotel Reservations

Please note: Check-in for the hotel will begin after 4:00 p.m. You may not be able to check-in prior to the 4:00 p.m. Seminar Session

For hotel reservations at the Wyndham Virginia Center Crossings, call **888-444-6553** and ask for the **Virginia Association for the Gifted group block**. Single rooms and double rooms are \$109.00 plus applicable taxes. The cut-off date for a hotel reservation is **Sunday, October 7, 2012**.

Wyndham Virginia Crossings Hotel and Conference Center is 12 miles north of Richmond. For directions go to <http://www.wyndhamvirginiacrossings.com/>. Free parking is available at the hotel and conference center.



Virginia Association for the Gifted

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