

THE NYC GIFTED & TALENTED SYMPOSIUM, 2013

PROGRAM SPEAKERS & SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

October 26, 2013 - NYU Kimmel Center, New York City

WELCOME & KEYNOTE :

8:45 AM - 9:50 AM



Carol S. Dweck, PhD, Lewis and Virginia Eaton Professor of Psychology, Stanford University

Carol S. Dweck, PhD, is one of the world's leading researchers in the field of motivation and is the [Lewis and Virginia Eaton Professor of Psychology at Stanford](#). Her research focuses on why people succeed and how to foster their success. More specifically, her work has highlighted the critical role of mindsets in business, sports, and education, and for self-regulation and persistence on difficult tasks in general. In addition, she has shown how praise for ability or talent can undermine motivation and learning. She has also held professorships at Columbia and Harvard Universities, has lectured to business, sports, and education groups all over the world, has won numerous awards, and has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Her work has been prominently featured in such publications as *The New Yorker*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post* and she has appeared on *Today*, *Good Morning America*, *20/20*, and *NPR's Morning Edition*. Her book *Mindset* has been widely acclaimed and is being translated into 17 languages.

NYC G&T Symposium Co-Conveners



Angelique LeDoux, MA, PALNYC Founder & Executive Director

Angelique LeDoux is a writer and picture editor turned education advocate based in New York City, and the founding partner and executive director of Parents of Accelerated Learners, NYC (PALNYC). PALNYC & The P.A.L. Workshops help parents of high potential youth understand the academic, social and emotional development of their child and navigate quality programs, mentoring opportunities, education technologies and other resources for their children in New York City and beyond. She is also the founder of Jade's ToyBox, an educational and eco-friendly children's toy company, named to Dr. Toy's 100 Best Children's Products of 2010 and listed on Dr. Toy's Socially Responsible Products for 2010. Prior to that, LeDoux was an editor at *TIME for Kids Magazine*, the Associated Press and writer and photographer at numerous publications. She taught one of the country's first university courses on digital photography at Southern Methodist University in the early 1990s and remains a supporter of technology and innovation in education. LeDoux received an MA in both Journalism and Fine Art Photography from New York University; and went on to pursue a Graduate Certificate in Gifted Education from Rutgers University to better support her own advanced learner.



Shamir Khan, PhD, PALNYC Co-Founder

Shamir A. Khan, PhD, a clinical psychologist, is a Co-Founder of Parents of Accelerated Learners, NYC (PALNYC). In Dr. Khan's clinical practice, he primarily works with underrepresented and diverse adolescents, adults, couples, and families. He has served on the adjunct doctoral teaching faculty at Teachers College, Columbia University (5 years), and Coler-Goldwater Specialty Hospital & Nursing Facility (2 years). In 2008, Dr. Khan founded the NYC Private Schools Blog, which covers over 800 NYC pre-K-12 private schools. HighBeam Research named the blog a Top 10 Education Research Blog in the U.S. in 2011. Currently, Dr. Khan serves on the Board of the South Asian Council for Social Services (SACSS), and is an advisor to Manhattan Media's Blackboard Awards and the James Jay Dudley Luce Foundation. In 2010, he was one of the recipients of the Global Citizens Award from Orphans International Worldwide, which honors individuals who personify global citizenship in their leadership in helping humanity. Dr. Khan earned his BA from Haverford College, MS from Teachers College, PhD from Columbia University, and is a former Raoul Wallenberg Scholar at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem ('96-'97).

MORNING SESSIONS 1:

10:30 AM - 11:20 AM

TALENT DEVELOPMENT: Intro to Differentiating: Understanding Learning Styles [Rm 905/907]

Matthew Cruger of the Child Mind Institute and Liz Albert of the Center for Talented Youth at Johns Hopkins University bring their expertise to this informative 2-person panel to help parents and educators develop a framework and vocabulary for understanding gifted and talented learning styles.



Matthew M. Cruger, PhD, Child Mind Institute

Matthew M. Cruger, PhD, is a leading clinical psychologist, with the [Child Mind Institute](#) and has extensive experience conducting neuropsychological testing, cognitive assessments, and other evaluations for gifted children as well as those with learning difficulties, autistic disorders, and ADHD. A strong advocate for children and teens with special education needs, Dr. Cruger provides empirically supported treatments that improve emotional functioning and bolster academic achievement.

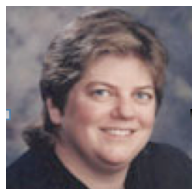


Liz Albert, MA, Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth

Liz Albert, Senior Director, Academic Programs and Services, joined the full time staff of CTY in 1989, after five summers with the program as a teacher and Academic Dean. She leads the Center's Academic Services (including Talent Search), Summer Programs, Family Academic Programs and CTY International, which provides training and consulting to educators internationally. She has served as chair of the Special Schools and Programs Division of the National Association for Gifted Children, and serves on the boards of CTY Ireland and CTY Bermuda. Liz and the summer programs department of CTY received the Johns Hopkins Institutions Diversity Leadership Council's Diversity Recognition Award for their work with CTY students with disabilities.

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL: Intro to Social & Emotional Needs [Rm 914]

Is the gifted child different from other children? Yes! Social development, emotional maturity, friends, peers, introvert / extrovert, and more. The gifted child's asynchronous development is not just academic. But their needs are not so different: they need to be accepted for who and what they are. How can we accomplish this, both at home and in school?



Carolyn Kottmeyer, Hoagies' Gifted Education Page

Carolyn Kottmeyer, a software engineer by trade, is the founder and director of [Hoagies' Gifted Education Page](#) and Hoagies' Kids and Teens Page. She developed an interest in gifted education a few years after the birth of her first child, when she noticed how different her daughter was and how the "normal" path through education didn't seem to work for her. Carolyn frequently speaks at conferences including World Gifted Council, National Association of Gifted Children, Pennsylvania Association for Gifted Education, New Jersey Association of Gifted Children and many other state and local gifted associations, National Association of Gifted Children in Malaysia, and others. See more at: [SENGGIFTED](#)

NEGOTIATING THE PRACTICAL: What is Gifted? Understanding Identification [Rosenthal]

What is gifted? Dr. Janet Jackson will address the question of how, as a parent or educator, we can understand and identify high potential youth.



Janet Jackson, PhD, Private Practice

Janet Jackson, PhD, is a clinical psychologist who has been in private practice in New York City since 1986. She has worked with children and families providing neuropsychological testing, consultation and therapy. After twenty years evaluating children for admissions to [Hunter College Campus Elementary School](#) and sixteen years working with the [Hollingworth Preschool](#) (at Teachers College Hollingworth Center), she has gained insights into a range of remarkable children and had the privilege of watching their lives unfold across the school years. Dr. Jackson is a graduate of Columbia University's Teachers College.

SPECIAL POPULATIONS: Is My Child 2E? And What Does That Mean? [Rm 909]

Parents of 2E children are often initially aware of their son or daughter's unusual abilities. However, when preschool or school begins, parents unexpectedly hear from educators about learning or behavioral concerns. Successfully meeting the challenges of understanding and supporting a 2E child can be complex and time consuming. This presentation will offer parents basic information as well as provide an opportunity to ask questions



Julia Osborn, PhD, Private Practice

Julia Osborn, PhD, is a psychologist specializing in the education of children and adolescents. She has expertise in the assessment and education of gifted, learning disabled, and twice exceptional students. She worked at Schneider Children's Hospital as a staff psychologist, served for 15 years as a consultant to the admissions office of Hunter Elementary School, and directed admissions to Speyer School for two years. She is a consultant to the Davidson Institute for Talent Development and her published articles are maintained on their website.

Let's Talk... Math [Grand Hall/Exhibit Stage]

Stern's NYC-G&T Meet-Up is aimed at parents, teachers and care-givers of children in grades K-2. She welcomes those whose children demonstrate special interest and ability in math and those whose children have not yet done so. While you participate in activities, she will share tips to help children remain or become comfortable with math while increasing their knowledge of it.



Frances Stern, MA, Author

Frances Stern, the author of "Adding Math, Subtracting Tension: A Guide to Raising Children Who Can Do Math," holds a master's degree in mathematics and has been teaching math and math pedagogy to teachers of pre-kindergarten through grade eight for more than twenty years, working in both public and private schools and at NYU. During a career as a systems analyst, she was inspired to change fields after advising teachers at her children's school and being recruited by parents to teach them math and to write a monthly newsletter item about how to include math activities at home.

MORNING SESSIONS 2:

11:30 AM - 12:20 AM

TALENT DEVELOPMENT: Literacy & Critical Thinking [Rm 905/907]

This workshop will help teachers and parents assist their children in developing fluency of writing and thinking. They will develop options for problem-solving and critical thinking. Participants will gain time-saving strategies and creative ideas. A variety of writing and critical thinking activities that have been used successfully with gifted children will be shared in this engaging, interactive presentation.



Nathan Levy, New Jersey Association of Gifted Children (NJAGC)

Nathan Levy (the author of *Stories with Holes*, *Whose Clues?*, and *Nathan Levy's 100 Intriguing Questions*) is a gifted educator and president of the [New Jersey Association of Gifted Children](#) (NJAGC). In his thirty five years as a teacher and principal, Nathan has worked directly with children, teachers and parents. He has developed unique teaching strategies that encouraged the love of learning. Nathan's informative and thought provoking workshops span the areas of Reading, Language Arts, Social Studies, Math, Critical Thinking, Gifted, Special Education and Classroom Management.

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL: Character Development, Peer Relationships and Bullying [Rm 914]

What can we do to help our children succeed in school and in life? Join this thought-provoking panel as they tackle the critical issues- character education, peer relationships bullying and more. Parents, teachers and specialists will gain a better sense of the issues and leave with an actionable list to better support our children.



Israel C. (Izzy) Kalman, MS, Bullies2Buddies

Izzy Kalman is a Nationally Certified School Psychologist who has been working in schools and private practice since 1978. He has developed fun and effective methods that use role playing to teach basic psychological principles for solving bullying, aggression and relationship problems. When the Columbine massacre of 1999 ignited a worldwide crusade to get rid of bullying by treating it like a crime that will not be tolerated, Kalman recognized that the approach could not work. He created a website, www.Bullies2Buddies.com, to teach people how to handle bullying on their own, based on time-honored psychological principles. He has written extensively on the problems with the law-enforcement approach to bullying.



Connie Coulianos, MA, Speyer Legacy School

Connie Coulianos, MA, Dean of Academic Affairs at the [Speyer Legacy School](http://www.speyer.org) for gifted children in Manhattan, has devoted the past two decades to the education of precocious preschool children, their teachers and parents. Through her work with this population at the Hollingworth Preschool, Teachers College Columbia University, she developed the child-responsive curriculum that serves as the core for Speyer Legacy School. She has presented various aspects of her work locally, nationally and internationally.



Lori Evans, PhD, NYU Child Study Center

Lori Evans, PhD, is a clinical assistant professor of child and adolescent psychiatry at the NYU School of Medicine, director of our Psychology Training program and deputy director of the [Child Study Center](http://www.childstudycenter.org) clinical practice. She provides clinical services to children and families and provides consultation services to many of the top schools and professionals in the New York metropolitan area. Dr. Evans has been published in *Infant Behavior and Development* and *Child Development*. She is a member of the American Psychological Association, the Eastern Psychological Association, and the New York State Psychological Association.

NEGOTIATING THE PRACTICAL: The G&T Process, Testing & Admissions [Rosenthal]

Ying Lu and Sharon Weinberg from NYU's Steinhardt Applied Statistics Program will dissect the NYC DOE G&T data and provide a backdrop for understanding the NYC Citywide and District Programs, as well as a glimpse into their research project to evaluate the impact of the G&T program on students' standardized test score achievement. Educational consultant Robin Aronow will provide an overview of the G&T process, testing criteria and admissions to the most sought after schools.



Robin Aronow, PhD, School Search NYC

Robin Aronow, PhD, is an educational consultant and Founder of [School Search NYC](http://www.schoolsearchnyc.org). Dr. Aronow worked for 20 years as a private clinician and school social worker before transitioning into educational consulting in 1998. Through her work, Dr. Aronow has developed positive working relationships with private school admissions directors and administrators at Hunter College Campus Schools, the Anderson Program, and administrators in the Department of Education. Dr. Aronow consults with numerous private nursery and elementary schools, and individual families looking for ongoing schools pre-K through high school. She has written several articles about the process of applying to schools and conducts workshops entitled "Life After Nursery School" including workshops on applying to private and public schools.



Ying Lu, PhD, NYU Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development

Before joining [NYU Steinhardt](#), Ying Lu was an assistant professor at the Departments of Sociology, and Political Science at University of Colorado at Boulder. She was also a faculty affiliate at the Institute of Behavioral Science at UCB. Her primary research interest is quantitative methodology in social and behavioral sciences, with applications in demography, health and political behavior. Her current research also includes general statistical methodology such as model selection and hypothesis testing for high dimensional data.



Sharon Weinberg, PhD, NYU Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development

Sharon L. Weinberg is [Professor of Applied Statistics and Psychology](#) and former Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs at New York University. She is the recipient of several major grants from Federal agencies, including the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Drug Abuse, and the Office of Educational Research and Improvement. She is also the recipient of Steinhardt's Great Teachers Award and has twice received Steinhardt's Daniel Griffith's Award for Research. Her current textbook, *Statistics Using SPSS: An Integrative Approach*, co-authored with former graduate student Sarah Knapp Abramowitz, is in its second edition.

SPECIAL POPULATIONS: Education Options & Advocacy for Twice-Exceptional Learners, panel [Rm 909]

Moderated by Carolyn Kottmeyer

Whether you're in the midst of determining your child's distinct learning needs, exploring educational options that support learning differences for the academically gifted or looking for advocacy and support for your child, this panel will leave you better informed and knowledgeable of where to go next.



Carolyn Kottmeyer, Hoagies' Gifted Education Page Carolyn Kottmeyer, a software engineer by trade, is the founder and director of [Hoagies' Gifted Education Page](#) and Hoagies' Kids and Teens Page. She developed an interest in gifted education a few years after the birth of her first child, when she noticed how different her daughter was and how the "normal" path through education didn't seem to work for her. Carolyn frequently speaks at conferences including World Gifted Council, National Association of Gifted Children, Pennsylvania Association for Gifted Education, New Jersey Association of Gifted Children and many other state and local gifted associations, National Association of Gifted Children in Malaysia, and others. See more at: [SENGGIFTED](#)



Micaela Bracamonte, The Lang School

Micaela was a 2e kid from the get go, skipping preschool because she learned to read at three, then failing kindergarten because she couldn't memorize the alphabet. Little wonder, then, that she has two twice-exceptional sons, neither of whom thrived in any mainstream private or public schools, including an NYC citywide gifted program. So she created a school for academically gifted students who also have learning challenges: [The Lang School](#).



Susan J. Schwartz, MAEd, Child Mind Institute

Susan J. Schwartz, MAEd, of the [Child Mind Institute](#), is a national expert in child development, reading and literacy, learning disorders, and the development of language skills and higher-level reasoning skills in children and adolescents. A dedicated advocate for children with special needs, she has been on the forefront of interdisciplinary approaches to evaluating and treating those with reading, writing, math, and organizational difficulties, as well as nonverbal learning disorders. A seasoned lecturer, Ms. Schwartz has been a speaker at conferences nationwide. She has addressed a wide range of topics, including attention-deficit disorder (ADD), learning differences versus learning disorders, and the myths and realities of standardized tests.

**Pooja Vekaria, PhD, NYU Child Study Center**

Dr. Vekaria is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and a Clinical Neuropsychologist at the Child Study Center at NYU Langone Medical Center. She earned her doctorate degree in school psychology from Columbia University, and she completed her post-doctoral training in pediatric neuropsychology at the Child Study Center. Dr. Vekaria conducts neuropsychological evaluations for children, adolescents, and young adults with a variety of developmental, neurological, and psychiatric disorders that affect cognition and daily functioning. Dr. Vekaria's clinical interests include: assessment of children and adolescents with developmental delays and complex psychosocial presentations, assessment of individuals with medically complex histories, and assessment of adolescents and young adults with ADHD. In this work, Dr. Vekaria has encountered many children and adolescents who experience difficulties with learning despite exceptional intellectual abilities. Neuropsychological assessment may be helpful in characterizing these discrepancies and providing recommendations for educational and treatment planning.

**Susan Luger, Susan Luger Associates**

Susan Luger holds degrees in education and social work. Susan Luger Associates (SLA) is her creation, combining her educational concepts (originally a Kindergarten teacher, later a reading specialist and a licensed supervisor) with social work expertise (MSW, LCSW) plus a strong sense of righteousness and fairplay. Susan developed her unique strategy starting in 1984. Then she was a solo practitioner and one of the first Educational Advocates in New York City. Susan has now teamed with special education advocates, parent representatives and attorneys. In 2007, she formed SLA, the embodiment of her unique special education strategy. Susan has imbued the organization with 'heart', with cooperative team spirit, and congeniality. Susan holds the distinction of being one of the few non-attorneys whose communications have been quoted in federal cases. She is known to the NYS Education Department as a tireless activist for the rights of special needs children. In Susan's strategy, all parties – parents, experts, our advocates, our affiliated attorneys, the school, teachers – are on the team.

**Irina Roller, Attorney**

Irina Roller is a 1999 graduate of New York Law School. After working for premier plaintiff and defense litigation firms as a trial attorney in NYC she started her own law firm in 2004. Irina's firm is dedicated to representing families with special needs children, helping Parents obtain or fund appropriate educational placements and services for their children. Irina has successfully litigated against the Department of Education, gaining a reputation of being no nonsense in every aspect.

Let's Talk... Ed Tech - 30 Apps in 30 Minutes [Grand Hall/Exhibit Stage]

Rhys Daunic joins the NYC G&T Symposium for this Meet-Up aimed at making app-based learning accessible to parents and educators as a practical tool for learning.

**Rhys Daunic, MA, The Media Spot**

Rhys has facilitated student media productions, and developed media literacy curricula with educators throughout the country and abroad, primarily within New York City public schools. Throughout his career, Rhys has produced process-focused behind-the-scenes films and other open resources for the field of K-12 media literacy on themediaspot.org, and has been published in the [*Journal of Media Literacy Education*](#), and in the book, [*Media Literacy Education in Action: Theoretical and Pedagogical Perspectives*](#) (Summer 2013). In 2012, he began teaching a graduate level course on [*K12 Media Literacy at Columbia University Teachers College*](#).

LUNCHEON:

12:30PM - 1:20 PM

THOUGHT LEADERS ROUNDTABLE

1:30PM - 2:20PM

THOUGHT LEADERS ROUNDTABLE [Rosenthal Pavillion]

Moderated by Sophia Hollander

Supporting NYC's high potential youth cannot be done in isolation by the DOE, nor the school, nor a parent alone--it is a collaborative endeavor that benefits from shared best practices and a village approach among its stakeholders- educational leadership, school administration and engaging educators, specialists, mental health professionals, motivated students and parents who are invited to be part of a transparent process. We've brought together a microcosm of NYC's diverse village and invite you to join the conversation.

Sophia Hollander, Wall Street Journal

Sophia Hollander is a reporter for the Wall Street Journal who writes frequently about gifted education and private schools. Her work has also appeared in the New York Times on topics including sports, culture, education, health, religion and urban planning. Ms. Hollander was previously a policy analyst and speechwriter at City Hall, where she wrote and edited PLANYC, New York's acclaimed plan to become a sustainable city by 2030. She also served as the senior writer for NYC2012, the city's Olympic bid, where she wrote speeches for then-President George W. Bush and then-Senator Hillary Clinton.



Elissa Brown, PhD, Hunter College Center for Gifted Education

Elissa Brown, PhD, is a Distinguished Lecturer and Director, of the Hunter College Center for Gifted Studies and Education at Hunter College. Previously, she was the Director of Teacher & Leader Education Programs and Gifted Education at the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. From 2002-2007, she was the Director of the Center for Gifted Education at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA. She has served as a state director of gifted education, a grant manager, a district program coordinator, principal of a specialized high school and a teacher of gifted students. As a professor, Elissa coordinates and teaches the Advanced Certificate program in Gifted & Talented and has served as an adjunct professor at several universities, including Rutgers and Duke University. She is a published author in the field of gifted education and presents widely. She was the recipient of the 2012 Distinguished Service Award from the N.C. Association for Gifted & Talented, the 2007 Dean's award at the College of William & Mary, and the 2004 Early Leader award from the National Association for Gifted Children. She has 3 grown children and lives in East Harlem.



Randall Collins, MA, Speyer Legacy School & Speyer Institute

Mr. Randy Collins began his career as an elementary school teacher and high school football and track coach. During his first year as a teacher, he started work in the field of gifted education, and he has been an advocate for the education of gifted children ever since. Mr. Collins is the recipient of many awards including the Blue Ribbon Award, National Safe and Drug Free Model School Award and the Excellence in Education Award given by Exceptional Parent Magazine. For many years, he was a Board member of the gifted and talented association for New York State, two of which he served as President. Before coming to Speyer, Mr. Collins was the Director of Hunter College Campus Schools in New York City; he held that position for the last seven years. Prior to that, he was the Headmaster of an independent school in Davidson, North Carolina. In 1998, Mr. Collins was awarded Humanitarian of the Year in Ulster County, New York, which clearly defines his approach to working with children. Randy has witnessed The Speyer Legacy School grow and quickly distinguish itself as a leading force in New York City in gifted education. He takes on his position as Head of School and Institute inspired and with dedication to its mission.



Bridget Johnson, Prep for Prep

Bridget Johnson joined Prep for Prep in 2012 as the Associate Executive Director. Prior to that, Bridget served for five years as the Dean of Students at Milton Academy, which has been a member of the PREP 9 Consortium for more than twenty years. She previously worked as the Associate Director of Admissions at Episcopal High School in Northern Virginia. A native of Greensboro, North Carolina, Bridget earned her undergraduate degree from Georgetown University.

**Donna Taylor, MS, Brooklyn School of Inquiry**

Donna Taylor is the founding leader of Brooklyn School of Inquiry, a NYCDOE Citywide Gifted and Talented school in Brooklyn. A former publishing executive, Donna began teaching in 2002 and was honored by The History Channel in 2006 as one of the top 25 Teachers of History in the USA.

**Jacqueline Haberfeld, Parent, Hunter College Campus Schools****EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY:**

1:30PM - 2:20PM

EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY PANEL

Moderated by Preeti Birla, Innovate NYC

With the Education Technology Platform, parents and educators have the chance to explore web- and app-based learning tools for young learners in the rapidly changing landscape of educational tools. In an effort to help the community know what the trends are, this platform offers a face-to-face meet up with prominent developers while showcasing the bigger picture of what education technology is.

**Preeti Birla, Innovate NYC**

Preeti Birla has focused her career on launching and contributing to projects that increase access to education through technology. She began her career at Sesame Street where she launched Sesame Street India and worked on other international and domestic ventures to increase Sesame Street's reach. Currently, Ms. Birla is working with the Office of Innovation at the NYC Department of Education where she's been helping startups build bridges with educators at NYC schools.

**Matt Gross, Newsela**

Matt Gross has a nineteen-year career in the education sector, for-profit and nonprofit entrepreneurship, and product development and distribution. Matthew was Executive Director of the Regents Research Fund, a privately funded affiliate of the New York State Board of Regents and Education Department that helped lead the implementation of Race to the Top-driven education reforms. Reporting to Education Commissioner John King, Jr, Matthew oversaw the organization's growth strategy, public-private partnerships, talent acquisition, and day-to-day operations. While at the Fund, Matthew led the development of EngageNY.org, a web application providing teachers and administrators with resources for implementation of Common Core state standards and teacher and principal evaluations. Since its August 2011 launch, the site has been viewed over fourteen million times by educators in all fifty states.

**Hui Soo Chae, MAT, EdLab**

Hui Soo Chae is Director of Development & Research at the Edlab at Teachers College, Columbia University and Associate Director of the Gottesman Libraries. In that role, he manages external partnerships and outreach activities, and supervises the units responsible for software development, product innovation, consulting, research, and innovative approaches to learning. Most recently, he coordinated the development of online resources for the Understanding Fiscal Responsibility Project. A former social studies teacher, he holds an A.B. degree in Public Policy and an M.A.T. from Brown University. As a Spencer Fellow and John Dewey Scholar he has worked extensively with youth of color in and out of school settings.

**Jason Singer, MA, Gobstopper**

Co-Founder & CEO. Jason is no stranger to the intersection between education, technology, and entrepreneurship. Singer is the founder of both KIPP Summit Academy and KIPP King Collegiate High School, two extraordinarily high performing college preparatory charter schools within the KIPP Network. KIPP King Collegiate High School is considered a national model for developing critical thinking skills among students. Notably, Jason is also a former English teacher, district-wide Teacher of the Year, and Fulbright Scholar. In 2009, Jason received a Jefferson Award for Public Service for his work serving students and their families while leading KIPP Summit Academy and KIPP King Collegiate High School. Prior to his decade with KIPP, Singer co-founded FairAir, a market exchange for airline tickets, where he served as Vice President of Business Development, and CHALK, a nationally recognized youth employment and development nonprofit, where he served as the organization's Executive Director. CHALK's Virtual Visitors program, a Microsoft Connected Learning Community Award recipient, was an early pioneer in the online education technology space.

**Kevin Elgan, Tynker**

Kevin Elgan is the Director of School Programs at Tynker, a new computing platform designed by Silicon Valley technologists specifically to teach children computational learning and programming skills in a fun and imaginative way.

AFTERNOON SESSIONS 1:

2:30 PM - 3:20 PM

TALENT DEVELOPMENT: Supporting Strengths in the Arts, Music & 21st Century Skills

[Rm 905/907]

Moderated by TBD

**Sandra Noreen, Kaufman Music Center, Special Music School**

Pianist Sandra Noreen debuted with orchestra at age 14. Studies at the University of British Columbia, Yale University and the California Institute of the Arts. While completing her PhD at the University of California, San Diego, she performed with SONOR and Sirius ensembles. Premiers of over 200 new works, many of them written for her. Coaches include Harvey Sollberger, Gilbert Kalish, Gyorgy Sebok, Pierre Boulez, Vinko Globokar, and The Arditti Quartet. Performing highlights include performances with the Ensemble Sospeso, the Da Capo Chamber Players, and series performances of the complete Beethoven Violin Sonatas with New Zealand violinist, Mark Menzies. Faculty at Diller-Quaile for 8 years, teaching piano and theory, as well as leading adult chamber music courses, faculty concerts, and "Explorations" concerts, an interactive series which explored connections between music, art, architecture and culture. Currently Dean of Music for Kaufman Music Center's Special Music School, New York's only K – 12 public school that teaches Classical music as part of the academic school day.

**Tony Waag, American Tap Dance Foundation**

Tony Waag founded the American Tap Dance Foundation (formerly known as the American Tap Dance Orchestra) with Brenda Bufalino and the late Charles "Honi" Coles in 1986. As the executive/artistic director for the ATDF, he has managed the company for 20 years, in charge of administration, booking, promotion, marketing and fundraising. As a featured artist with the company, he also performed in hundreds of ATDO concert productions including premiere performances at the Apollo Theater, the Joyce Theater, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Dance Theater Workshop, the legendary Cotton Club, Avery Fisher Hall, the Walter Reade Theater, LaMama E.T.C., Town Hall, the Sylvia and Danny Kaye Theater, Symphony Space, the United Nations, the Atlanta Arts Festival, the Utah Arts Festival, the Colorado Dance Festival the Lincoln Center "Out-of-Doors" Festival, and in various national film and television specials. Mr. Waag has received numerous grants towards the presentation and preservation of tap dance as a unique American art form, and in 2002, he created the first International Tap Dance Hall of Fame honoring the contributions of legendary tap dancers by preserving their legacies for future generations to enjoy.

**Mike Fischthal, Pixel Academy**

Mike Fischthal is the CEO and Founder of Pixel Academy, an online platform that provides music, film and interactive workshops for youth. Prior to Pixel Academy, Fischthal created games at Nickelodeon. Through Pixel Academy, Fischthal teaches 21st century skills that traditional schools lack — skills that are important for getting into college and finding a job.

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL: An Exploration of the Social & Emotional Issues of Gifted Learners [Rm 914] This panel explores the myths about emotional adjustment, motivation issues, attention issues and learning problems.

**Richard Gallagher, PhD, NYU Child Study Center**

Richard Gallagher, PhD, is an associate professor of child and adolescent psychiatry at the NYU School of Medicine and the director of special projects for the [Institute for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity and Behavior Disorders](#) as well as coordinator of the Selective Mutism Program at the Child Study Center. Dr. Gallagher's interests include the treatment of children with Selective Mutism and organizational skills training. He has designed and evaluated several parent education programs including Thriving Teens - a program to help prevent smoking and substance abuse in young teens. Dr. Gallagher has been with the Child Study Center for over 15 years. He has served as clinical director of mental health services for the Port Washington School District Alternative High School, co-led and founded the specialty internship track in child and adolescent psychology in the Bellevue Hospital/NYU Psychology Training Program, was the initial director of the clinical postdoctoral program at the Child Study Center and served as director of the Parenting Institute. Dr. Gallagher has been interviewed for numerous media outlets including New York Times, Parents Magazine, the Today Show, CBS Evening News with Katie Couric, and Good Morning America.

NEGOTIATING THE PRACTICAL: Finding The Right Fit for Your Child: School Models, a panel discussion [Rosenthal]

Moderated by Elizabeth Perelstein

With all the school models available, Citywide & District G&T, Self-Contained G&T, Single Sex, Co-Ed, General Ed & Homeschool Options, how do you decide which choice is right for your child? School Search Solutions chair, Elizabeth Perelstein moderates a panel discussion with school leadership on perspectives and curricular examples of what makes their school unique for supporting high potential youth.

**Elizabeth Perelstein MA, School Search Solutions & School Choice International**

Elizabeth Perelstein, Chair of School Search Solutions and School Choice International, is a seasoned educator who founded the educational consultancy as an expatriate in London 15 years ago. School Search Solutions now has 15 years of successful school placement experience in New York City and School Choice International is the leading global educational consulting firm, with 120 consultants in 50 locations worldwide. In 2006, Liz co-founded the British International School of New York, the first British curriculum school in the New York metropolitan area.

**Esther Kogan, EdD, The Speyer Legacy School**

Esther Kogan, EdD, is one of the pedagogical co-founders, and currently Executive Dean of Faculty and Students, of The Speyer Legacy School, a new independent, co-educational K-8 school in New York City, established to meet the needs of advanced learners. She also teaches at Adelphi University, in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. Previously, she served as an Associate Professor of Education and Director of the Early Childhood Graduate Program at Adelphi University for 11 years. She has been an advocate for children, teachers and parents for the past 20 years with a focus on early childhood, gifted education and bilingual education. She has worked as a teacher trainer, program developer, and educational consultant both in the U.S. and abroad. Dr. Kogan has presented her research at National and International conferences. She is the author of several papers and books.



Janette Cesar, TAG School for Young Scholars

Janette Cesar is the principal of TAG - Talented & Gifted School for Young Scholars.

SPECIAL POPULATIONS: Nurturing & Advocating for Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Gifted Learners [Rm 909]

This session will review research and theory related to the critical nature of family engagement in the lives of high ability/gifted learners and their role as co-partners with educators.

Participants will hear specific strategies that parents and family members may employ at home that will help them nurture and improve their skills as talent developers. The unique internal and external challenges faced by gifted learners from diverse populations will be shared with direct attention to how families can co-partner with educational professionals to ensure that their students' academic, intellectual, and psycho-social needs are understood and addressed by all partners in the educational community. Among the subtopics discussed will be *'becoming your child's best advocate'*; *'helping your child navigate dual cultural worlds'*; and *'identifying barriers and facilitators to long term school success'*.



Joy Lawson Davis, EdD, University of Louisiana Lafayette

For over three decades in the field of gifted education, Joy Lawson Davis, EdD, has focused her scholarly, consultant, and advocacy work on increasing attention to the needs of culturally & linguistically diverse gifted students and their families across the United States, the Caribbean and South Africa. As a practitioner and researcher, Dr. Davis worked as local district gifted education coordinator, served for five years as the State Director of Gifted Services in Virginia, and as the founding executive director/principal of a regional high school for gifted students. Her award-winning book: *Bright, Talented & Black: A guide for families of African American Gifted Learners* has been well received nationwide.



Let's Talk... 2E [Grand Hall/Exhibit Stage]

Julia Osborn, PhD, Private Practice

Dr. Osborn's NYC G&T Meet-Up is aimed at parents, teachers and care-givers of 2E children.

This venue provides a more intimate setting to discuss issues of learning or behavioral concerns in 2E children with an expert in the assessment and education of gifted, learning disabled, and twice exceptional students.

AFTERNOON SESSIONS 2:

3:30 PM - 4:20 PM

TALENT DEVELOPMENT: S.T.E.M. Topics- Supporting Mathematical Development **[Rm 905/907]**

It is easy to think that nurturing young mathematicians is simply a matter of practicing arithmetic skills. But what is the goal of learning mathematics? When it comes to building literacy, the goal is clear: we want our kids to be passionate readers who ask good questions, think deeply, and make connections to their own lives and the world around them. Mathematics furnishes tools towards the very same goals. It is not just computation. Nor are those goals achieved merely through the act of computation. What deeper and broader mathematical activities will help support our children's development? In this talk, we will discuss specific ways that parents can support the development of their children's mathematical talent and confidence. We will paint a portrait of the mathematically confident adult that every child can become.



Mark Saul, PhD, NYU Center for Mathematical Talent at the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences

Mark Saul directs the Center for Mathematical Talent at the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, New York University. He grew up in the Bronx, got his BA from Columbia University and Ph.D. from New York University. He then spent 35 years in and around New York, teaching mathematics in classrooms from grades 3 through 12. For 12 years, he directed the prestigious Research Science Institute, an internship program for high-ability high school students at MIT. He has also served as Senior Scholar for the John Templeton Foundation, guiding their portfolio in gifted education. Prior to that he was a program director for the National Science Foundation, where his portfolio included programs in mathematics curriculum, in teacher professional development, and the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. He is a 1984 recipient of that award, the nation's highest honor for work in the classroom. Internationally, he initiated a student exchange program between Russian and American students, as well as an "Intel/Westinghouse" style competition for students of mathematics in China. He served as President of the American Regions Mathematics League, mathematics field editor of Quantum (the English-language version of the Russian journal Kvant), a board member of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and a member of the Mathematical Sciences Education Board for the National Research Council. He has done curriculum development with the Educational Development Center and developed an internship program for high-ability students in Shanghai. His publications include numerous articles and books, including an elementary text on trigonometry, co-authored with I.M. Gelfand, a translation and 'reader's companion' for Jacques Hadamard's Elementary Geometry, and "The Peak in the Middle", a guide for work with mathematically gifted middle school students, published by NCTM.



Sian Zelbo, JD, MA, NYU Center for Mathematical Talent at the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences

Sian Zelbo is the Associate Director for the Center for Mathematical Talent and also the Math Specialist at the Speyer Legacy School, an independent school for advanced learners in Manhattan. Ms. Zelbo holds a J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law and an M.A. in Secondary Mathematics Education from Columbia Teachers College. Ms. Zelbo has a range of experiences in the field of math education, particularly working with advanced learners. These experiences include working as a classroom teacher, running afterschool math circles, coaching middle school and high school math teams, organizing and running math competitions, training teachers, and writing problem-solving curricula that are used all over the city.

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL: Self-Regulation Anxiety [Rm 914]

This session, presented by Dr. Aleta Angelosante of the Anita Saltz Institute for Anxiety and Mood Disorders at the Child Study Center, will focus on anxiety in gifted and talented learners. Parents and educators will get the chance to learn best practices for helping their children and students acquire the tools they need to manage anxiety and performance fears.



Aleta Angelosante, PhD, NYU Child Study Center

Aleta Angelosante, PhD, is a clinical assistant professor of child and adolescent psychiatry at the NYU School of Medicine and the clinical director of the Anita Saltz Institute for Anxiety and Mood Disorders at the Child Study Center. She has expertise in the evaluation and treatment of anxiety and mood disorders in children, adolescents, and young adults. Dr. Angelosante has intensive training in Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) and is a member of the Child Study Center DBT program. Dr. Angelosante is currently a co-investigator on Dr. Amy Roy's study of young children who display severe temper outbursts.

NEGOTIATING THE PRACTICAL: The Right Fit: Parent Perspectives & Advocacy [Rosenthal]

Moderated by Elissa Brown

Some states have Advanced Learning Plans for talented youth, not just an IEP for special needs, but in NY, how do you navigate the NYC G&T options and best advocate for your child's needs? Parents who have been there will lend their expertise and lessons learned for those looking to find the right learning environment and supplementary options to best accommodate their high potential youth.



Elissa Brown, PhD, Hunter College Center for Gifted Education

Elissa Brown, PhD, is a Distinguished Lecturer and Director, of the Hunter College Center for Gifted Studies and Education at Hunter College. Previously, she was the Director of Teacher & Leader Education Programs and Gifted Education at the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. From 2002-2007, she was the Director of the Center for Gifted Education at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA. She has served as a state director of gifted education, a grant manager, a district program coordinator, principal of a specialized high school and a teacher of gifted students. As a professor, Elissa coordinates and teaches the Advanced Certificate program in Gifted & Talented and has served as an adjunct professor at several universities, including Rutgers and Duke University. She is a published author in the field of gifted education and presents widely. She was the recipient of the 2012 Distinguished Service Award from the N.C. Association for Gifted & Talented, the 2007 Dean's award at the College of William & Mary, and the 2004 Early Leader award from the National Association for Gifted Children. She has 3 grown children and lives in East Harlem.



Maverick Scott, Parent, NYC G&T District Program

Maverick Scott, an independent financial advisor who specializes in advising high-net worth individuals in wealth management and estate planning matters. He joins the Symposium to share lessons learned from his incredible journey navigating the DOE for his 7-year old son who is currently in a Gifted & Talented program. His son is also in the Davidson Young Scholars Program at The Davidson Institute for Talent Development. Through his efforts to find top-notch educational programs that will challenge his accelerated learner. Mr. Scott has become an expert in supplementary education. His son is currently enrolled in distance-learning programs at Stanford University Education Program for Gifted Youth and John Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth where he is taking accelerated courses that are typically not taught in his current grade level. These are some of the programs that Mr. Scott's son is participating in to support his educational needs and academic growth.



Stephanie Thacker, Parent, Former TAG., Current NEST+M

Stephanie Thacker, is a Senior Analyst in the Finance department of the Hospital for Special Surgery and parent to a 15-year-old accelerated learner. In addition to her work in finance, Ms. Thacker has a background in Voice & Music Theory. During her son's attendance at Talented & Gifted for Young Scholars (T.A.G.) Ms. Thacker was very involved as PTA President, in 2007 and 2010-2012. She was also member of their School Leadership. Ms. Thacker's son, Elijah is now a sophomore at NEST+M, New Explorations in Science, Technology & Math

**Jen Seron, homeschooler and AGATE state-level advocate for Gifted Education**

Jen Seron is a homeschooling mom who lives in NYC. For the last eight years, in addition to homeschooling, she has been volunteering, teaching preK through undergraduate-level science, and developing the Full Circle Science curriculum. For the last two years she has also been involved in educational advocacy at the NY State level as the Legislative Co-Chair of AGATE (Advocacy for Gifted and Talented Education), because she believes that everyone in NY State deserves to optimize their potential via personally relevant education, mentoring, and meaningful work.

**Mahalia Watson, Parent, Hunter College Elementary School**

Mahalia Watson is the Co-Founder of Let's Talk Schools.

SPECIAL POPULATIONS: Perspectives on Supporting High Potential, Culturally Diverse Youth in NYC, a panel discussion

Moderated by Joy Lawson Davis

Economically disadvantaged youth are underrepresented in G&T programs in NYC, yet numerous organizations are on a mission to change that. Kim Maglieri with SciTech Kids spoke at SXSW Edu this Spring and said words that resonated, 'It's not an achievement gap, but an exposure gap'. So how can outreach organizations better connect the highest potential kids to the programs that may best support them? And how do schools and programs who aim to foster that support, connect with the very kids who need it most? Join us to discover the opportunities and programs that exist to support NYC families in need.

**Joy Lawson Davis, EdD, University of Louisiana Lafayette**

For over three decades in the field of gifted education, Joy Lawson Davis, EdD, has focused her scholarly, consultant, and advocacy work on increasing attention to the needs of culturally & linguistically diverse gifted students and their families across the United States, the Caribbean and South Africa. As a practitioner and researcher, Dr. Davis worked as local district gifted education coordinator, served for five years as the State Director of Gifted Services in Virginia, and as the founding executive director/principal of a regional high school for gifted students. Her award-winning book: *Bright, Talented & Black: A guide for families of African American Gifted Learners* has been well received nationwide.

**Kim Magloire, SciTech Kids**

Kim Magloire has a passion and talent for nurturing young minds. A test prep guru, Magloire first made her mark as the founder of SciTech Educational Solutions, a leading educational company that develops award-winning programs to help students achieve academic excellence, college readiness, and excel on standardized tests. She later established SciTech Kids, a company which brings science to life for children ages 3 to 15 through the power of inquiry and discovery. SciTech Kids creates rich, captivating, hands-on experiences that transform children into budding scientists. Her most recent addition to the program is integrating art into the STEM curriculum—STEAM—to teach students, in particular girls, electronics and engineering. Through her programs, professional development services, and speaking engagements, Magloire spreads her philosophy that science is fun, engaging, and accessible to all.

**Fred McIntosh, Prep for Prep**

Fred McIntosh joined Prep in July 2010. As Prep's Director of Admissions, Fred oversees the Talent Searches for Prep for Prep and PREP 9. Before coming to Prep, Fred served as the Director of Recruitment and Professional Development Support at NYC Outward Bound, recruiting principals for new schools as well as teachers. Prior to that, he spent six years at The After School Corporation, and two years in executive recruiting at Heidrick & Struggles for clients in the nonprofit arena. Fred holds a JD from New York University School of Law, and he practiced for several years at Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP. A New York City native from East Flatbush, Fred attended Hunter College High School and went on to earn his Bachelors at Tulane University.

Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Childrens' Aid Society

**Chantal Stevens, MS, A Better Chance**

Chantal N. Stevens joined A Better Chance as the National Director of the College Preparatory Schools Program in 2006. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and a Masters of Science in Higher Education Administration from Bernard M. Baruch College. Prior to joining A Better Chance, she held several positions in the City University of New York system. At A Better Chance, Chantal is responsible for the management and growth of the signature admissions and placement program nationally. Chantal has a strong commitment to educational access and equity and continues this commitment by helping young people realize their full potential through education.

**Lorenley Báez, MPA, Olivers Scholars**

Lorenley Báez joined the Oliver Scholars Program in September 2010. Ms. Báez's proud history with Oliver began when she was nominated to become a Scholar while attending Mott Hall School in Harlem. Ms. Báez holds a Master in Public Administration and a Master in Organization Development from American University. While earning her two Master degrees, Ms. Báez worked as Assistant Director of Multicultural Affairs at AU, where she was dedicated to advocating for college students of color. It was at this time that she founded her consulting company, with the goal of providing support in the areas of intercultural and cross-cultural dynamics, diversity awareness, and identity development to organizations, both domestic and international.

Let's Talk... Admissions [Grand Hall/Exhibit Stage]

Join this NYC G&T Meet-Up aimed at parents, teachers and care-givers of children going through the admissions process. This venue provides a more intimate setting to discuss negotiating the practical aspects of navigating the NYC school system.
