



# *Association for Constructivist Teaching 2008 Annual Conference*

The Millennium Centre, Johnson City, TN

October 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>

*Pre-Conference Early Childhood Constructivist School Tours on October 23rd*

Constructivist teaching provides a rich, problem-solving arena that encourages the learner's investigation, invention and inference. The constructivist teacher values learner reflection, cognitive conflict and peer interaction. The Association for Constructivist Teaching is a professional educational organization dedicated to fostering teacher development based on these same principles.

**Our Mission** Is to enhance the growth of all educators and students through identification and dissemination of effective constructivist practices in both the professional cultures of teachers and the learning environments of children. It is also to advance educators' understanding of Piaget's constructivism as a scientific theory that explains how human beings construct knowledge and moral values.

**Membership** Is open to anyone who is interested in the field of education. ACT Members are classroom teachers, administrators, supervisors, consultants, college and university personnel, students, parents and retired educators. They live all over the USA and in Mexico, Japan, Australia, Canada, Brazil, and China.

**Benefits of Membership** THE CONSTRUCTIVIST... An educational e-journal and journal archive. ANNUAL CONFERENCE... discounted registration fee and early notice of call for presenters... AFFILIATION... with an association committed to supporting you.

## KEYNOTES

Friday October 24th: **Christine Chaille**

*Constructivism in an Age of Constraint: Possibilities and Visions of Utopia*



Christine Chaille is Professor and Chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at Portland State University, focusing on early childhood education, where she has taught since 1991. Her doctorate is from U.C.L.A., and she also studied with Jean Piaget at the University of Geneva. She is the author of *Constructivism Across the Early Childhood Curriculum: Big Ideas as Inspiration*, and co-author of *The Young Child as Scientist: A Constructivist Approach to Early Childhood Science Education* and has written many publications primarily on the importance of children's play. She has been studying the role universities can play in inspiring innovative practice, particularly by the study of the schools of Reggio Emilia. She has also developed a child development curriculum for Hands to Hearts International to be used with caregivers in orphanages in Southern India, and soon in other countries and with other vulnerable populations. She is past President (twice!) of the Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children, past President of the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators and Chair of the Early Education/Child Development Special Interest Group of the American Educational Research Association.

Saturday October 25th: **George Forman**

*Putting "Construct" back into "Constructivism"*



George Forman is the Chief Executive Officer of Videatives, Inc. and Professor Emeritus at the University of Massachusetts. George has over 33 years of experience in university teaching, cognitive research, multimedia design, and educational consulting in the area of early childhood learning and development. George is responsible for Videatives product design and content development. He has authored over 7 books, 3 videotapes and many research articles on how children think and how teachers can help children reflect on their work through drawing, video feedback, and play with objects. In the 1970's he founded The School for Constructive Play, an experimental program for young children based on the learning theory of Jean Piaget. He has designed museum participatory exhibits, educational puzzles, and instructional games. He is past president of the Jean Piaget Society, serves on numerous editorial boards, and was recently advisory faculty in residence at the Hong Kong Institute of Education. His speaking engagements have taken him all over the world including Asia, Australia, Europe, and Scandinavia speaking mainly about constructivist education, particularly as inspired by the preprimary schools in Reggio Emilia, Italy. George holds a Ph.D. in developmental psychology from the University of Alabama.

## NEW CONFERENCE EVENT

### DOCUMENTATION EXHIBITION ROOM

This year we debut an exciting advocacy presentation. Documentation of "quality" Constructivist Teaching and Learning practices will be on display throughout the conference weekend to all conference attendees. We are inviting local educators, politicians, administrators, and others concerned about the state of education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, creating an opportunity for us to express our voices about the importance of constructivist practice and infusion into the public arena.

In a panel discussion with policy makers, principals, and educators we will discuss the ideas presented in this documentation gallery during one of our conference sessions.

# ACT 2008 Conference Schedule

**Join us for Pre Conference School Tours: Thursday, October 23rd, 8:30 - 4:30**

**8:30 - 11:30 ETSU Child Study Center** - A Reggio Inspired Preschool - Infants to Pre-K

**Little Bucs** - A Reggio inspired Preschool for University Student's Children - Infants to Pre-K

**11:30 - 12:15 Lunch**

**12:30 – 3:30 Washington Elementary** A multiage elementary school with an early learning program / and school-age childcare.

**The following will be a tour incorporated as a session during the conference:**

**ETSU University School** - K to 4 classrooms

<b>Friday October 24th</b>	<b>Saturday October 25th</b>
7:30 – 8:30 Registration & Breakfast	7:30 – 8:30 Breakfast
8:30 – 9:45 Keynote: Christine Chaille <i>Constructivism in an Age of Constraint: Possibilities and Visions of Utopia</i>	8:30 – 9:45 Keynote : George Forman <i>Putting “Construct” back into “Constructivism</i>
10:00 – 11:15 Session 1	10:00 – 11:15 Session 1
11:15 – 12:45 Lunch	11:15 – 12:45 Lunch
12:45 – 2:00 Session 2	12:45 – 1:00 Session 2
2:15 – 3:30 Session 3	2:15 – 3:30 Research Roundtable
6:00 – 7:00 Reception with Wine and Heavy hor d’oeuvres	4:30 ** Bus to Ashville ** Buses to other events: Carter Family Fold; Down Home, etc.

\*\* Buses are available only with sufficient reservations.

+ A Panel Discussion of the Documentation in our Exhibition Room will take place in a session on one of our conference days; TBA based on availability of policy makers and administrators we invite.

**Questions? Contact:**

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