

## **GaTA 2018 Presentation Descriptions**

### **The Big Bang Theory of Math Tutoring**

**Alan Craig, Georgia State University**

*For Supervisors and Tutors*

YouTube videos from *The Big Bang Theory* and other sources are used to motivate discussion of issues and approaches to tutoring mathematics. Included in the discussion are applications of cognitive science such as Retrieval Practice, Spaced Practice, Interleaved Study, Elaboration, Generation, Reflection, and Calibration.

### **Sorting You: Hogwarts School of Tutoring Personality Types**

**Rebecca Cofer and Co-presenters Ben Brock, Noelle Konich, Katie Arnold, ABAC**

*For Supervisors and Tutors*

Come get sorted in to your Hogwarts house and learn how to best work with different personality types as a tutor, administrator or faculty member. Using a well-known personality assessment tool, this session applies tutoring to the world of Harry Potter. Are you a Gryffindor, a Ravenclaw, a Slytherin or a Hufflepuff? Not only will we learn about our own personality types, but we will also provide real-life types for all tutoring staff. Attendees will leave with an understanding of personalities and how to make them work for you in tutoring.

### **The Tutor Training Wheel**

**Ira Johnson, Georgia State University**

*For Supervisors and Administrators*

Learning and tutoring centers work diligently to provide the highest quality of learning assistance possible to all students. As a result, most learning assistance programs add great value to the university's efforts to increase performance, progression, and retention of students. However, to ensure that the high quality work continues to make strong academic impact on both students and our programs, preparation/training must be readily available to students, tutors, and tutor program administrators. This session will provide you with systematic directions and resource examples needed to increase overall effectiveness for students and stakeholders!

### **Why Gen-Zen College Students Should Make the Tutoring Centers Part of Their Weekly Routine**

**Braven Lyall & Abril Cisneros, Georgia State University**

*For Supervisors and Tutors*

This presentation will focus on the importance of making the tutoring center a part of a student's weekly routine. Additionally, the results from a study done by Georgia State University's Perimeter College on the correlation between frequent visits to the tutoring center and students' academic performance will be discussed.

### **Ethics, Diversity, and Personal Interaction within a Functionalist System**

**Greg Kelley, Georgia State University**

*For Supervisors and Tutors*

Among the problems facing higher education are the plurality of cultural norms and the place of individual differences within a goal-oriented system. These problems are particularly evident in tutor-student interactions. Higher education is conducted as an abstract, impersonal system, but the action of learning and its facilitation are carried out by persons. Accordingly, the ethical dimension is paramount. However, the problem of plurality

will remain unresolved as long as ethical norms are regarded as invariably culturally contingent. Similarly, as long as education is regarded only as the achievement of determinate goals, individual differences will remain irrelevant, or worse, detrimental.

From the work of Derek Parfit, the concept of “good in the reason-giving sense” offers a pathway for transcending cultural contingency. From the work of Jürgen Habermas, the concept of “communicative reason” offers a pathway for overcoming the conflict of “system and lifeworld.”

### **Beyond Expectations: How Smarthinking Supports Students with New Features**

**Jenifer Luton, Smarthinking**

*For Supervisors and Tutors*

As a leader in the online tutoring world since 1999, Smarthinking stays on the cutting edge of student support and allows you to supplement your student services with the quality of help your students deserve and expect. If you haven't seen Smarthinking lately, you haven't seen Smarthinking. The last few years have brought numerous enhancements and added features including career support, alerts, and easy referrals. Join the session to learn more about the service, and discover why Georgia institutions choose Smarthinking.

### **Challenge Accepted: Working with Today's Challenging Students**

**Nicholas Urquhart, Lizzie Buttram, Hannah Wilkins and David Hall, ABAC**

*For Supervisors and Tutors*

Today's college students are anything but standard; there is no one type of student using a tutoring center. This session will tackle the common issue of working with challenging tutees. Whether it's the extra needy student, the unprepared student or the upset student, the presenters will offer real-life advice and tips for working with all types of challenges as a tutor. This session will give attendees the true story from current peer tutors who work with these challenging students every day. Let's embrace today's students and learn to help them best as a tutor!

### **The Tri-Principle Method**

**Njeri Pringle & Dillon Bell, Valdosta State University**

*For Supervisors and Tutors*

In this presentation we examine three common issues within a Supplemental Instruction Program: miscommunication, demotivation, and poor application. Next, we offer some solutions by way of streamlining processes and administration, offering intentional collaborative opportunities, valuing connectedness, designing mentorship, and clarifying and developing expectations. Join us as we reflect on our evolution.

### **STEM the Tide: Retention under the Microscope**

**Joshua Clements, Miranda Somers, Megan Shannon, Trey Doss, ABAC**

*For Supervisors and Tutors*

With retention rates for STEM students declining, how can tutors help “stem” the tide of exiting students? Research shows that peer tutoring can reduce the loss of students when they are in the critical stages of STEM course material. This session will provide tutors and professionals with successful tactics for helping more students retain information and remain in STEM programs.

## **It's in the Details: Not All Online Tutoring Is the Same**

**Cindy Hewitt, Tutor.com**

*For Supervisors and Tutors*

What makes for a successful online tutoring operation leading to high student satisfaction? Perhaps more than you know. How do you guarantee tutors are qualified to assist your students? How do you know if your students will be helped in a timely manner? How do you know if you'll get timely reporting? How will you know about what actually happens in the tutoring session? How can faculty connect to tutoring activity? How do your centers become more strategic in providing holistic student support? Attendees will learn more about the basics of running an impactful online tutoring operation.

## **New Research into Dyslexia: For Tutors in All Disciplines**

**Maria Batty, Georgia State University**

*For Supervisors and Tutors*

Dyslexia affects up to 20% of the population, yet its causes and effects are widely misunderstood. It affects a student's performance in all subjects—not only literature and composition, but mathematics and the sciences as well, because they all depend on fast, accurate reading! This presentation attempts to demystify dyslexia for tutors in all disciplines. It explores research into the causes of dyslexia and offers techniques that dyslexics (and tutors!) can use to overcome the obstacles and to maximize the gifts that dyslexia presents.

## **Unleash the Power of an Advisory Board for Your Learning and Tutoring Center!**

**Alan Craig, Georgia State University**

*For Supervisors and Tutors*

The use of advisory boards for learning and tutoring centers is considered a best practice and a criterion for NCLCA's Learning Centers of Excellence certification. The session will include results of an online survey (n = 230, administered in 2017) on use of advisory boards for learning and tutoring centers. 27 centers (11.7%) had active advisory boards. Survey results on current status, mission, staffing, and operation of advisory boards in learning centers will be presented. Session participants will take away practical information on starting and operating an advisory board.

## **Revamping and Reconsidering How to Market Tutoring Centers**

**Duane Theobald, University of West Georgia**

*For Supervisors and Tutors*

Perhaps one of the more difficult aspects of running any tutoring center is how to best market services to faculty, staff, and students at your institution. This session will focus on how you can best serve your campus community and meet needs therein through targeted outreach (specifically classroom workshop opportunities & crafting weekly workshop series).

## **Tutoring Today's Students from the Perspective of International Tutors**

**Wendy Wang & Lily Li, Georgia State University**

*For Supervisors and Tutors*

The two speakers are tutors and graduate students with international backgrounds. In a discussion-style format, they will share their unique tutoring experiences including how to tutor effectively, what harmonious tutor-student relationships look like, and what tutors in any discipline need to know. Real-life scenarios will be examined, and all are welcome to share their experiences!