
A NAMTA Conference
March 31-April 3, 2016
Portland, OR
Crowne Plaza Portland Downtown
Exploring the foundations and development of creativity and scientific innovation, this conference takes a fresh look at the integrated developmental approach that is Montessori education. Quoting professor Raniero Regni, “To go beyond Montessori is to rediscover Montessori. Montessori is waiting for us in the future.” From adolescence to the roots of childhood, we will explore the luring demands of technology and its role in creativity, invention, and as a reorientation to the web of life in the context of the man-made world.

Featuring Baiba Krumins Grazzini, Ginni Sackett, and John McNamara, this conference will discuss and explore the authentic inquiry, practical skills, and the work of the hand that is characteristic of Montessori and the ideas behind the contemporary Maker Movement. Participants will enjoy a fresh look into science and technology through a view that is grounded in Montessori principles and practice.

Thursday, March 31, 2016
7:00–8:00 p.m.
Registration

Friday, April 1, 2016

8:00–9:00 a.m. • Registration

9:00–10:15 a.m.
The Scientist in the Classroom: The Montessori Teacher as Scientist
Ginni Sackett
The Montessori adult supports the development of creativity and scientific innovation in children through the integrated approach known as Montessori education. In order to implement this integrated approach, Montessori practitioners must be first and foremost scientific practitioners by implementing a method that Montessori described as characterized by “experiment, observation, evidence, recognition of new phenomena, and reproduction and utilization of the new phenomena.” Together we can explore our work as scientists who use creativity and practical skills to generate knowledge and discover the truth about the children in our care.

10:15–10:45 a.m.
Break

10:45 a.m.–Noon
Cosmic Education and Integrated Science
Baiba Krumins Grazzini
The future of civilization and the ecological functioning of the Earth as a whole ultimately depend on our understanding of the sciences as an integrated whole. Cosmic Education helps us to reach a scientific understanding of the living dynamics of our planet so that humanity can function as a positive agent of change rather than as a force for destruction.

Noon–1:30 p.m.
Lunch
A NAMTA Conference in Portland, Oregon

Friday, April 1, 2016, continued

1:30–4:30 p.m. (Break 2:45 – 3:15 p.m.)
Workshops (Choose one)

A. The Scientist in the Casa: The Child as Scientist in the Making  
   Ginni Sackett

   Renowned biologist and naturalist E. O. Wilson has written that “Science builds and tests competitive hypotheses from partial evidence and imagination in order to generate knowledge about the real world.” This session will explore how we help children create the foundations for true scientific understanding by incorporating the hand, the senses, and the mind. This combination of concrete experience, imagination, and clear judgment prepares children to fully engage with the technology of their future.

B. Interdependencies  
   Baiba Krumins Grazzini

   A key chart for the Montessori approach in elementary illustrates the functioning of the natural and the human world through the “cosmic agents” who are continually at work in what Mario Montessori calls, “an unconscious exchange of service.” Exploring the “web of existence” evokes a deep consideration of the human role within the unity of all existence, an awareness of the interconnected generosity of all life on Earth, and the critical importance of establishing a harmonious balance between the two worlds of nature and supernature.

C. Technology in the Prepared Environment for the Third-Plane Child  
   Cynthia Castiglione

   Our upper elementary and third-plane students have grown up with technology, and an orientation to that world is necessary in order to prepare for life in an increasingly computer-driven world. The adolescent classroom then must have technology as part of the prepared environment for the adolescent with the same kind of thought and considerations that go into the rest of the classroom. This session will focus on the tools that teachers can use to create a safe and productive space for their students to work in a technology-savvy world.

Saturday, April 2, 2016

9:00–10:15 a.m.
Mapping My World
Charlie Fitzpatrick

Maps are powerful tools; they illustrate, model, and influence. GIS software (geographic information systems) lets users explore with the world, generate and analyze data, and communicate with the immense power of today’s computers and smartphones.

10:15–10:45 a.m.
Break

10:45 a.m.–Noon
John McNamara

Maria Montessori states that with regard to the study of human progress and the building up of civilization, the instruction given must be scientifically correct and must be relevant to simple everyday facts so that it can always be tested and confirmed by observation and experiment. From this basis, it will become possible to understand more complicated matters that cannot be demonstrated in school. In a Montessori environment, students see mathematics, science, and technology as relevant and meaningful components of their world (not just disciplines). The Montessori environment provides opportunities for the students to apply academic disciplines to real situations that are relevant to their world and that are presented from their own perspective to help them make sense of their world.

Noon–1:30 p.m.
Lunch

continued on the following page
Saturday, April 2, 2016, continued

1:30–4:30 p.m. (Break 2:45 – 3:15 p.m.)
Workshops (Choose one)

D. Navigating the World of Tech and Talking to Parents about Technology
  John McNamara and Bill Rupp
John McNamara (a Montessori director) and Bill Rupp (a Montessori parent and technology expert) will lead an interactive discussion on the developmental perils and possibilities of technology in the context of Montessori education.

E. Mapping My World
  Charlie Fitzpatrick with an introduction by Ben Moudry
Dive deeper into GIS by exploring a range of content areas, technology, and potential learning strategies. Explore how to help students use maps, access data, build knowledge, and communicate understanding. See an example of a custom app and build your own personal version of a “swipe-map” that will be centered on your school and will be usable on any device that is connected to the Internet. Set up accounts to create and share information and let students create and share projects and ideas.

F. Documenting the Costa Rica Rainforest Biodiversity Using Technology
  Jeff Norris
Jeff Norris has established success in doing rainforest inventory using the Montessori three-period inquiry approach. New points of interest will show the sophisticated understanding that technology can bring to the mysteries of the newly explored relationships in the pristine Children’s Eternal Rainforest in the Monteverde regions of Costa Rica.

Sunday, April 3, 2016

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
Coffee

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
Conference Summary
Discussion with conference speakers
Speakers

**Cynthia Castiglione** is a head teacher in the 12-14 junior high level at Near North Montessori in Chicago, where she has taught since 2008 and is also one of the organizers for the Montessori and City Adolescent Conference. She holds a BA in theater studies from DePaul University and has acted in numerous stage productions. Cynthia has also completed the AMI Montessori Orientation to Adolescent Studies. Previously, Cynthia taught literature, theater, and fine arts in the Chicago Public Schools for grades 5-12. She also collaborated with other educators through Northeastern University to help coauthor a comprehensive arts curriculum, published in 2010, for kindergarten through eighth grade.

**Charlie Fitzpatrick** has been the K-12 education program manager for ESRI, the world’s largest company focusing on GIS (geographic information systems), since 1992. He received his MA in geography from the University of Minnesota. He has taught social studies to grades 7 through 12 and was given the Distinguished Teaching Award in 1991 by the National Council for Geographic Education.

**Baiba Krumins Grazzini** is the director of training at the International Centre for Montessori Studies Foundation in Bergamo, Italy. She has been involved with Bergamo’s AMI elementary training course since 1975, became an AMI elementary trainer in 1986, and joined Camillo Grazzini as codirector in 1992. Baiba Krumins Grazzini holds both a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in economics from the University of London (London School of Economics and Political Science) as well as the AMI 3-6 Diploma (London) and the AMI 6-12 Diploma (Bergamo). As the late Camillo Grazzini’s closest collaborator, Baiba Krumins Grazzini coresearched, and sometimes coauthored, papers and projects with respect to many aspects of Montessori elementary work; she has continued to publish in her own name. She became a member of the AMI Pedagogical Committee in 2004 and served until 2013 by which time it was the AMI Scientific Pedagogy Group. Today she is a leading Montessori expert on Montessori elementary education in the world as she continues the Bergamo research and elementary courses of study and implementation.

**John McNamara** is a teaching principal at Ruffing Montessori School West (Rocky River, OH). He holds the AMI Elementary Diploma from Bergamo, Italy, has a BA from the University of Windsor, Ontario, and an MA in educational administration from the University of Toronto, Ontario. John has taught for over forty years.
Speakers, continued

**Ben Moudry** is the head of school at The Grove School in Redlands, CA. He holds an AMI Primary Diploma, the certificate from the AMI Montessori Orientation to Adolescent Studies, a BA in sociology, and an M.Ed. He was the start-up project manager then founding head teacher and Montessori director of Great River School, St. Paul, MN. He is an educational consultant for Montessori schools (district, charter, private) in teacher professional development, parent education, strategic planning, board retreats, development of environments, and guiding schools in start-up.

**Dr. Jeff Norris** is the IB Biology Teacher and Sustainability Coordinator at United World College Costa Rica. He is also the owner/operator of Natural Solutions–Costa Rica, an environmental education and ecotourism company. Fluent in Spanish, he holds an M.Ed. in international education through Framingham State University and a Ph.D. in ecology from the University of Missouri at St. Louis. Most of his professional life has been dedicated to classroom education in both US and Costa Rican schools, and he has taught science, biology, and ecology courses from kindergarten through college. During his breaks from the classroom Jeff continues conducting research on birds and urban ecology and leads natural history courses throughout Costa Rica. In a world that is more and more urban with each passing generation, Jeff’s passion is to “Reconnect people with nature.”

**Bill Rupp** is a senior technology manager for Vulcan Inc., where he has built the server infrastructure for start-ups such as Experience Music Project, Allen Institute for Brain Science, and Century Link Field. He has worked in the technology industry for over 20 years. Bill built Paul Allen’s Living Computer Museum, where he has worked with middle school to college-aged students.

**Ginni Sackett** is a trainer, lecturer, consultant, and examiner of the Association Montessori Internationale. She is passionate about advancing the international Montessori movement and bringing the benefits of Montessori education to children worldwide. She holds a BA in history from Seton Hill University, an MA in Asian studies from the University of Hawaii, and the AMI Primary Diploma through the Montessori Education Center, Oregon. After twelve years as a classroom teacher, Ginni joined the staff of Montessori Northwest as a course assistant in 1994. She achieved the status of AMI Director of Training in 2002. Ginni has presented at regional, national, and international workshops and conferences and has had articles published in AMI Communications, The NAMTA Journal, and Forza Vitale.

March 31–April 3, 2016 • Register before March 17, 2016

Hotel and Transportation Information

Crowne Plaza Portland Downtown
1441 NE 2nd Avenue
Portland, OR  97232

Reservations: 1-888-233-9527 or 503-233-2401

Register by March 3, 2016 to receive the conference room rate of $134. Mention NAMTA to receive the discounted rate.

Airport shuttle provided: Call hotel (503-233-2401) to schedule transportation.

Parking: On-premise self-parking is available for $19 per night; valet parking is available for $21 per night. Event parking is $7 per day.

Driving directions from the airport: Follow City Center signs to I-205 South to I-84 West to I-5 North. Take exit 302A, hotel is immediately on your right.

Travel from the Airport by MAX Light Rail: Board MAX Red line to City Center and Beaverton TC. Get off at Convention Center MAX station. Walk 0.3 miles North to 1441 NE 2nd Ave. 38 minutes includes 10 minute walk.


Driving from the West (Beaverton): Follow 26 East. Merge onto 405 South. Merge onto I-5 North. Take Exit 302A, Rose Quarter. Turn right onto Weidler St. Turn right onto NE 2nd Ave.

From I-5 North (Seattle): Take Exit 302A, Rose Quarter. Take Ramp toward Rose QTR. Slight right onto N Vancouver Ave. Left onto Weidler St. Right onto NE 2nd Ave.

From I-5 South (Salem): Take Exit 302A, Rose Quarter. Turn right onto Weidler St. Turn right onto NE 2nd Ave.

Learn more at http://www.cppportland.com/
A NAMTA Conference in Portland, Oregon

Register by March 17 for early registration rates!

NAMTA member tuition fee:   ☑ $300 (☑ $315 after March 17)
Non-member tuition fee:      ☑ $360 (☑ $375 after March 17)

Tuition fees include Friday and Saturday luncheons.
Dietary Requirements: □ None □ Vegetarian □ Vegan □ Gluten Free □ Dairy Free

Friday workshops (Choose one):
- ☑ A. Scientist in the Casa
- ☑ B. Interdependencies
- ☑ C. Technology and Third-Plane Child

Saturday workshops (Choose one):
- □ D. Talking to Parents
- □ E. Mapping My World
- □ F. Documenting Biodiversity

Name: _________________________________________________________
Phone: _________________________ Email: __________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________
City: __________________________ State/Province: _______ Postal Code: _______
Country: __________ Name of Your School: __________________________________

Payment options:
- □ Check or money order enclosed
  Must be payable in U.S. currency and drawn on a U.S. bank.
- □ Visa; □ MasterCard; □ Am Ex; □ Discover
  Please indicate credit card type and fill out the information below.

Card Number: ___________________________________________________
Name on Card: ___________________________________________________
Expiration Date: ___________________________ 3- or 4-digit Authorization Code: _______
(month/year) (found on front of AmEx, back of other cards)
Address: _______________________________________________________
  Street Address where credit card bills are sent.
City: __________________________ State/Province: _______
Postal Code: __________________________ Country: __________

Not a NAMTA member? It’s more economical to purchase a registration and a membership than it is to pay the non-member rate. Become a NAMTA member today by sending in the membership form along with your registration and enjoy all the benefits of NAMTA membership!

Join NAMTA and register for the conference online at www.montessori-namta.org!
2015-2016 NAMTA Membership Form:
Join or Renew Your Individual Membership

Membership is for individuals only. No schools, please. Please furnish your home mailing address. You must provide an e-mail address to receive The NAMTA Bulletin and member mailings.

- U.S. Resident .......................................................... ☐ $50
- Outside U.S. ............................................................ ☐ $60
- Lifetime ...................................................................... ☐ $600
- The NAMTA Directory (not included with membership)......... ☐ $18
- NAMTA’s Online Bibliography (see description below) .......... ☐ $10
- Total Enclosed .................................................................. $_____

- Return by February 15, 2016, to have your name listed in The NAMTA Directory.
  ☐ Check here if you do not want your name listed.
- The NAMTA Online Montessori Bibliography is a searchable database of Montessori articles. Copies of articles are available for a fee.

Last Name: _________________________ First Name:_______________________
Address:  _______________________________________________________________________
City: ___________________________________________________________________________
State/Province: __________ Postal Code: _________ Country: __________
Name of Your School: ___________________________________________________________
Phone : _________________________ Email: ________________________________

If you are a new member, please list your Montessori training information:
Location: _____________________________________________ Affiliation: _______
Date of Diploma: _____________________________ Level of Course: _______
Current Montessori Status:   ☐ Administrator ☐ Guide (Teacher) ☐ Trainee
☐ Assistant ☐ Parent ☐ Program Coordinator

Payment Options
☐ Check or money order: payable in U.S. currency and drawn on a U.S. bank.
☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ AmEx ☐ Discover (complete the information below)
Card Number: ________________________________________________________________
Name on Card:  _________________________________________________________________
Expiration Date: ___________ 3- or 4-digit Authorization Code: ___________
(month/year) (found on front of AmEx, back of other cards)
Address:  _____________________________________________________________
Street Address where credit card bills are sent.
City: _________________________________________ State/Province: _________
Postal Code: ________________________________ Country: __________________

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Street Address where credit card bills are sent.
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Make your hotel reservations by March 3 to receive the NAMTA conference rate!