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E. Paul Torrance Collection

Georgia College and State University

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Georgia College Special Collections
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Georgia College
Milledgeville
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scinfo@gcsu.edu
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# Summary Information

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**Preferred Citation note**

E. Paul Torrance, Special Collections, Ina Dillard Russell Library, Georgia College, Milledgeville, GA.
Biographical/Historical note

E. Paul Torrance, born on a farm in Milledgeville, Georgia in 1915, received his undergraduate degree from Mercer University. He went on to receive his master's degree from the University of Minnesota and his doctorate from the University of Michigan. He began his professional career as a high school and junior college teacher, counselor and administrator, developing his first creativity test at Georgia Military College. In 1945, he became a counselor of disabled veterans at the University of Minnesota Counseling Bureau. He was inducted in the U.S. Army and served as a psychiatric social worker and psychologist where he interviewed, tested and counseled men who had been court marshaled. Upon his discharge, Torrance joined the counseling bureau at Kansas State University and later became dean of men, counseling bureau director and professor of psychology. In 1951, he became director of the Survival Research Field Unit of the U.S. Air Force Advanced Survival School. In 1958, he returned to the University of Minnesota and served as director of the Bureau of Educational Research until 1966.

Torrance also spent time in the world of academia, serving in the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Minnesota and the University of Georgia, the latter of which he chaired. As UGA professor of educational psychology, he invented the benchmark method for quantifying creativity and arguably created the platform for all research on the subject since. The "Torrance Tests of Creative Thinking" helped shatter the theory that IQ tests alone were sufficient to gauge real intelligence. The tests solidified what heretofore was only conceptual – namely that creative levels can be scaled and then increased through practice.

In addition to developing the most widely used tests of creativity, Torrance also created the Future Problem Solving Program, and developed the Incubation Model of Teaching. He authored dozens of books and more than 2,000 published articles on creativity during the course of his career, making him one of the most published faculty members in UGA's history.

He remained prolific after his retirement, writing several new books on creativity. Some of his best-known books are Guiding Creative Talent, Rewarding Creative Behavior, The Search for Satori and Creativity, The Incubation Model of Teaching, and Mentor Relationships and Why Fly? His most recent books are such co-authored works as Gifted and Talented Children in the Regular Classroom, Multicultural Mentoring of the Gifted and Talented, Making the Creative Leap Beyond, and Spiritual Intelligence: Developing Higher Consciousness. Torrance's 2001 book, Manifesto: A Guide to Developing a Creative Career, includes the results of his 40-year longitudinal study of creativity – the only one of its kind. A film, Manifesto for Children, documenting Torrance's life and work was broadcast on Georgia Public TV in the fall of 2000. The documentary focused on the longitudinal study that followed 215 young adults who attended two elementary schools in Minnesota from 1958 to 1964.
Torrance served as chair of the department of educational psychology at UGA from 1966-78. He developed the Future Problem Solving program in 1974 as an academic activity for gifted students at Clarke Central High School in Athens, GA. By 1977, the activities had grown into a yearlong program with interscholastic competitions and became international in scope. Today, an estimated 300,000 students in grades K-12 in 41 states and several foreign countries are involved in the futures studies and creative problem-solving activities comprising the FPSP.

The Torrance Center for Creative Studies, based in the College of Education's department of educational psychology, was established after Torrance's retirement in 1984 to continue his scholarly inquiry into the study, development and evaluation of gifted and creative abilities in individual from diverse age groups, cultures, and economic backgrounds.

Torrance died on July 12, 2003.

Scope and Contents note

Scope and Content

The collection contains several of the books written by Torrance on creativity and gifted children. These materials are from the 1960s and 1970s. There are a number of scholarly articles written and published by Torrance, as well as copies of digests, journals, and books series where Torrance's articles and works have appeared. The collection's strength is mainly in the area of Torrance's work in the field of education. There are no personal letters, memoirs, scrapbooks of photos, or personal journals. There is one folder of personal photographs. There is no personal correspondence to or from Torrance and the collection does not draw together his life, but rather is a reflection on his professional research and findings.

Arrangement note

Arrangement

These papers consist mainly of materials produced by E. Paul Torrance. The collection is mainly scholarly articles, speeches, books, pamphlets, tests, scoring manuals, guides, and research written and conducted by Torrance during his scholastic career in the field
of educational psychology. The collection is divided by physical content, i.e., books, journals, pamphlets, booklets, speeches, articles, newspaper clippings and photographs.

With 1 series, which include 9 boxes, they are broken down by:

Box 1: articles, biographies, repinted materials, speeches
Box 2: Articles from '68-70's reprinted articles, surveys, pamphlets
Box 3: Articles by Torrance 60's-70's
Box 4: Articles by Torrance-60's and 70's
Box 5: Articles from the 70's
Box 6: Articles from 60's
Box 7: Torrance collaboration articles from 60's-70's
Box 8: Torrance articles- 60's-70's
Box 9: More Torrance articles-70's plus medals and journals

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Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access note

No restrictions. Open to all qualified researchers.

Conditions Governing Use note

Copyright status for materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials is protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Custodial History note

These papers consist mainly of materials produced by E. Paul Torrance.

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Indexing Terms
Subjects - Corporate Bodies

- Mercer University.
- University of Georgia.
- University of Minnesota Dept. of Psychology.

Subjects - Places

- Athens, Georgia
- Baldwin County (Ga.)

Subjects - People

- Torrance, E. Paul, Dr., 1915-2003

Subjects - Topics

- Education
- Gifted persons
- Psychology
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## Collection Inventory

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2 Reprint: Divergent Thinking, Remote Associations, and Concept Attainment Strategies
2 Reprint: A Longitudinal Examination of the Fourth Grade Slump in Creativity. Winter, 1968
2 Reprint: Academic Achievement as a Factor in Emotional Adjustment in the Secondary School. 51, (April, 1968)
2 Article: Creative Thinking Abilities, School Readiness, and Mental Maturity in First Grade Evaluation of the University of Georgia 1968-69 Experienced Teacher Fellowship Program in School Psychology
2 Continuing Intellectual Development After High School Speech
2 Creative Development in a Segregated Negro School in the South. University of Georgia 12/67
2 Creative Functioning of Monolingual and Bilingual Children in Singapore
2 Article: Freedom to Manipulate Objects and Question Asking Performance of the Six Year Old.
2 Reprint: Creative Reading and the Questioning Abilities of Young Children
2 Reprint: Educational Psychology: The Crux of an Interdisciplinary Field Based Approach to Teacher Education
2 Offprint: Creativity and Mental Health
2 Reprint: Teacher Education for Career Education of the Gifted and Talented
2 Your Style of Thinking and Learning: Form B
2 Creativity in the Classroom
2 Newspaper Articles
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2 Reprint: The Development of Causal Thinking of Children in Mexico and the United States Predictive Validity of " Bonus Scoring for Combinations on Repeated Figures Tests of Creative Thinking
2 Tendency to Produce Unusual Visual Perspectives as a Prediction of Creative Achievement
2 Article: An Alternative to Compensatory Education
2 Pamphlet: Is Creativity Teachable?
2 Reprint: Effects of Triadic Interaction on Performance of Five-Year-Old Disadvantaged Children
2 Article: Improving Predictions of the Adult Creative Achievement of Gifted Girls by Autobiographical Information.
2 Article: Emergence of Identity Through Expressive Activities
2 Reprint: A Cross-Cultural Study of Children's Conceptions of Situational Causality in India, Western Samoa, Mexico and The United States
2 Article: What Gifted Disadvantaged Children Can Teach Their Children
Reprint: Cross-Cultural Studies of Creative Development in Seven Selected Societies

Article: Relationships Between Creative Thinking Abilities and A Measure of the Creative Personality

Readiness of Teachers of Gifted Children to Learn from Culturally Different Gifted Children

Some Guiding Principles in Evaluating Excellence

Article: Interscorer Reliability of the Torrance Tests of Creative Thinking

Readiness of Teachers of Gifted Children to Learn from Culturally Different Gifted Children


Torrance, E. Paul. Preliminary Manual for Opinion Questionnaire: Culturally and Economically Disadvantaged Children and Youth (Form s-1). UGA Department of Educational Psychology, April 1971.


E. Paul Torrance Collection

Series 1 E. Paul Torrance Works


4 Character Potential: A Record of Research. Vol. 7 No. 3. August 1975.


4 Exploratory Studies in Creative Thinking: Class in EPY 822. UGA Department of Educational Psychology, December 1974.


5 Torrance, E. Paul and Orlow Ball. A Workbook for Streamlined Scoring of Figural Form A of the TCTT. December 1977.


The Education Digest. Vol.33. No. 4 December 1967.


9 Medal from Hiroshima University

9 Medal and Case from National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

9 Manifesto for Children Scroll