

Bridges Community,

The Bridges Education Group has a million irons in the fire. Seattle is looking for a Director and will soon open up the search for teachers, 2e Media is soliciting articles from 2e students, and the Graduate school is receiving more and more inquiries each day.

The most important thing, of course, is that graduation regalia is being designed and will be shown soon! The master's and doctoral regalia will be designed to honor the extraordinary work you are doing that integrate so many intellectual disciplines and to project the extraordinary work you all will do in the future.

We look forward to the unveiling!

Best,

Carl Sabatino  
CEO, Bridges Graduate School

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## **Faculty Profile: Susan Baum, Ph.D.**

*Susan Baum, Ph. D. is the director of the 2e Center for Research and Professional Development at Bridges Academy, a school for twice-exceptional students, and provost of the Bridges Graduate School of Cognitive Diversity in Education.*

Dr. Susan Baum's first teaching experience from 1964-1966 was with a group of students who today would be considered 2e. These students, ages seven and eight, had IQs that ranged from 115-155. Some of these students had been put on home instruction because they were hyperactive, easily distracted, and not learning. Dr. Baum was asked to start a class for these perceptually impaired students.



After receiving her master's degree, she became a learning disability teacher consultant and was also in charge of developing programs for gifted students. This is where she realized that so many students who were receiving

remediation were also very bright, and she wondered what would happen if they could also be served in a gifted program. To learn more about gifted students, Dr. Baum became a teacher of the gifted and was even more convinced that there was a special population of students (gifted L.D.) who were not being identified. She decided to get her Ph.D. in gifted and talented education and conducted one of the first studies identifying the characteristics of these kids and how they responded to enrichment.

At the center of Dr. Baum's work is the idea that talent development and being positive about students has the best potential to support growth across domains.

Dr. Baum has an undergraduate degree from Syracuse University with a double major in elementary education and special education; a master of science degree in students with learning disabilities from Montclair State University; and a Ph.D. in educational psychology with a specialty in gifted and talented education from the University of Connecticut.

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## Coming Up: October and November Open Houses

We will be conducting virtual open houses on Wednesday, October 27, and Wednesday, December 1, at 5 p.m. PT, for anyone interested in learning more about the programs at Bridges Graduate School of Cognitive Diversity in Education.

Whether you are considering a certificate in 2e, a master's in education, or a doctorate in education, an open house is a great way to meet our faculty, learn about our programs, and ask questions.

Make sure to spread the news — [and the link](#) — about our upcoming open houses!

[Click here for Registration Link](#)

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## Doctoral Discussion: One on One with Kelley Monterusso

*Kelley Monterusso is a doctoral student at Bridges Graduate School of Cognitive Diversity in Education.*

Kelley Monterusso has a master of science degree in communications and currently serves as the director of communications in the College of Engineering at Michigan State University. Her areas of interest include educational trauma and

the social-emotional health of creatively gifted twice-exceptional students.

Kelley lives with her husband and two teenage children in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

### **Where is your internship and what are you working on?**

My internship is with Dr. Susan Daniels and the Summit Center. It focuses on developing communication tools to help parents, educators, and counselors build and share the understanding necessary to advocate for and serve twice-exceptional youth.



Dr. Daniels and I are co-developing these pieces, which cover the forms of giftedness, social-emotional issues, learning differences and disabilities, and success in schools. I am especially interested in improving the school experience for twice-exceptional students and see this as an incredible opportunity to contribute useful and meaningful resources while helping the Summit Center develop materials.

### **What types of questions are you asking?**

I am asking questions about what parents, educators, and counselors need in order to find common ground and understanding, and how different perspectives can work together to serve the student.

### **How does your question shape your doctoral problem of practice or applied dissertation?**

Learning from and working alongside Dr. Daniels has given me the chance to explore and blend a number of ideas into a focus on the lived experiences of 2e students and their parents, teachers, counselors, and advocates. I hope to complete a qualitative/mixed methods dissertation and expand it into a book that helps to bridge the gaps in understanding.

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## **Spread the Word! We Need 2e Writers & Artists**

If you know a 2e student, *Variations*<sup>2e</sup> Magazine wants to hear their story! We provide a platform for neurodiverse people to share experiences, challenges, victories, perspectives, opinions, and passions. This next issue of our magazine is all about 2e students, by 2e students, and for 2e students!



The issue will feature stories from young 2e people and their unique experiences and perspectives of the world,

exploring advantages and challenges in the academic world, family life, socialization, gender identity, and career.

We're looking for:

- **Personal Narratives/Perspectives** — Share your experience being 2e.
- **Journalism** — Explore and report on topics related to twice-exceptionality.
- **Essays** — Declare your passions about the 2e world.
- **Visual media** — Share photos, paintings, or multimedia that capture your experience.
- **Lists/Memes** — Have fun with new media.
- **Futurism** — Brainstorm ideas to better accommodate the 2e population.
- **Creative writing** — Submit prose, poetry, or something in between.

Accepted submissions may be used wholly or in part.

So spread the news! If you know a 2e student, or a parent whose 2e child might be interested and enjoys creating original content [click here and send them this link!](#)

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## Connect and Friend Us on Social Media!

Make sure to follow Bridges Graduate School on [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#).

A lot of exciting work is taking place every day. Make sure to follow us on social media so you can stay up to date and connect with some of the most innovative and dedicated students and professionals in the world!

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## Mission (Im)Possible

Last month, graduate school Associate Dean Dr. Lin Lim presented a virtual session at the 2021 World Council for Gifted and Talented Children (WCGTC) Biennial World Conference on holistic parenting of twice-exceptional children through an ecological framework. Below is a brief summary of Dr. Lin Lim's presentation.



Although research and interests in twice-exceptionality have been increasing in the last few decades, most studies have focused on the definition, identification, and academic achievement in twice-exceptional students. There is considerably less research focused on cognitive characteristics and the least amount focused on investigating non-cognitive factors influencing twice-exceptional performance and development. Dr. Lin Lim's presentation explained who 2e children are and summarized factors that have been found to

impact the twice-exceptional, organized through an ecological framework. An ecological framework considers relationship between interpersonal, intrapersonal, contextual/situational, sociocultural, and socio-economical systems as important to parenting 2e children.

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## Unique Career Opportunities

The Bridges Education Group (BEEdG), comprised of Bridges Academy Los Angeles, The Graduate School of Cognitive Diversity in Education, Bridges 2e Media (2enews.com), and the 2e Center for Research and Professional Development, is in the stages of opening a new school in Seattle, Washington. By design, Bridges Seattle will be a small, independent school specializing in twice-exceptional students in Grades 4-12. Current plans call for opening in September 2022. We invite to you to consider Bridges Academy Seattle in your career plans.

### Position: Founding Director

The director is charged with carrying out the school's stated mission and functions as both the **administrative and educational** leader of the school. The director is responsible for all aspects of its day-to-day programs and operations and serves as chair of the parent advisory committee.

Send cover letter, philosophy of education, resume, and references to Carl Sabatino at [carl.sabatino@bridges.edu](mailto:carl.sabatino@bridges.edu).

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### Positions: Teachers and Counselors

Bridges Seattle will begin filling teaching positions for all disciplines including counseling in December. Teaching and counseling positions will be for Grades 4-12. If you or someone you know might be interested in applying, watch this space for more information in the next newsletter.

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## Directory

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