



The annual Barbara Biber lecture, given under the auspices of the Graduate School of Education at Bank Street, honors the contributions of Barbara Biber (1903-1993) to both Bank Street and the wider educational community. Dr. Biber was a central figure shaping the institution that evolved from the Bureau of Educational Experiments to become Bank Street College. A keen observer of children and classrooms who immersed herself in the phenomena of children's and teachers' lives, her writings achieved a depth of insight and conceptual elegance. As a researcher and scholar, she continuously reexamined and refined her thinking. This lecture memorializes her progressive legacy.

## Fourteenth Annual Barbara Biber Lecture at Bank Street College of Education

### Assessing Academic Aptitude in the New Millennium

Our assessments of academic aptitude—IQ tests, SAT, ACT, GRE, etc.—represent an early-twentieth century view of aptitudes and a technology to match. Whereas other technologies—telecommunications, computers, motor vehicles, aviation—have advanced far beyond those of the early 1900s, tests today look much the way they did a century ago. In this talk, I will describe a theory and set of assessments that more reflect the demands of the new millennium. In particular, our assessments are designed to measure (a) the creativity one needs to formulate novel ideas and to cope with changes in the environment, (b) the analytical intelligence one needs to ascertain whether one's ideas are good ones, (c) the practical intelligence one needs to implement one's ideas and persuade others of their value, (d) and the wisdom one needs to ensure that one's ideas help promote a common good. I will describe three projects—Aurora, for upper elementary school students; and Rainbow and Kaleidoscope, for high school students—as well as data from tests on thousands of participants. The assessments have shown excellent construct validity and reliability, as well as reductions in ethnic group differences compared with traditional tests.

Guest Speaker

**Robert J. Sternberg**

Wednesday, September 3, 2008

5:00 PM, Tabas Auditorium

610 West 112th Street, NYC

Reception to follow in the lobby