The LEAD Graduate School & Research Network at the University of Tübingen invites you to attend the lecture by

Prof. Camilla Benbow & Prof. David Lubinski
Vanderbilt University

Finding and Nurturing Exceptional Intellectual Talent: Its Long-Term Impact Over 45 Years
Monday, December 11th, 2017, 16.15–17.45 hrs
IWM, Schleichstr. 6, Room 6.334

Abstract: Who among intellectually talented young adolescents become eminent and creative adults? Do educational interventions experienced in adolescence boost adult creativity and professional accomplishment? Can we enhance the likelihood of true excellence emerging? What happens to the mathematically talented women? How do they structure their lifestyles? Do we systematically miss certain groups of individuals with current talent search procedures? Is there a threshold effect of ability on achievement, or do individual differences within the top 1% of ability matter in life? What, after all, has SMPY learned in its first 45 years? These and other compelling questions on talent development will be addressed using longitudinal data collected over four decades on 5,000 participants within the top 1% in ability. Findings reveal that multiple dimensions of cognitive abilities are needed to understand the development of exceptional human capital in educational and occupational settings. This idea will be validated against real-world criteria: securing advanced educational degrees, occupations of responsibility, and creative accomplishments (viz., refereed publications, patents, & prestigious awards). When the educational curriculum is tailored to the intellectual development of students, the likelihood of exceptional accomplishments is enhanced, and when the motivational proclivities of each student are also taken into account more refined predictions about differential development become possible. Affording intellectually talented youth opportunities to develop their full potential is more critical than ever as modern societies compete in global economies.

Biography: Camilla Persson Benbow is Patricia and Rodes Hart Dean of Education and Human Development at Vanderbilt University's Peabody College. She has led Peabody, one of the nation's leading colleges of education and human development, since 1998. A prominent scholar of talent identification and talent development, Dean Benbow also co-directs the Study of Mathematically Precocious Youth, a longitudinal study examining the developmental trajectories of more than 5,000 individuals now in its 45th year. She is particularly interested in developing intellectual talent and excellence in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Dean Benbow began her academic career at Johns Hopkins University following completion of her doctorate in education in 1981 before moving to Iowa State University and later Vanderbilt. She has served on the National Science Board, as vice-chair of the National Mathematics Advisory Panel, and on the board of the American Psychological Foundation. She is a past trustee of Fisk University. A fellow of the American Psychological Association and the American Educational Research Association, she has received the David Imig Award from the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (2010), the President's Award from the National Association for Gifted Children (2009), and the Distinguished Alumna Award from Johns Hopkins University (2008). In 2004, she received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the MENSA Education and Research Foundation.

David Lubinski received both his B.A. (1981) and Ph.D. (1987) in psychology from the University of Minnesota. From 1987-1990, he was a Postdoctoral Fellow, Quantitative Methods Training Program,
Department of Psychology, University of Illinois (Champaign). He is currently Professor of Psychology at Vanderbilt University, where he co-directs the Study of Mathematically Precocious Youth (SMPY), a planned 50-year longitudinal study of over 5,000 intellectually talented participants, begun in 1971. His research interests are in modeling the development of exceptional intellectual talent over the lifespan (with cognitive, affective, and conative assessments), and uncovering factors that enhance and attenuate for this population learning and work accomplishments as well as creativity. He has served as President for the International Society for Intelligence Research, a trustee for the Society for Multivariate Experimental Psychology, and Associate Editor for the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology. In 1996, he received APA’s Early Career Award (psychometrics/applied individual differences); and he has received APA’s George A. Miller Outstanding Article in General Psychology Award twice: 1996 and 2016. In 2006, he received the Distinguished Scholar Award from the National Association for Gifted Children; and in 2015, the MENSA Research Foundation’s Lifetime Achievement Award.

Contact: Sophie Freitag, LEAD Graduate School & Research Network, sophie.freitag@uni-tuebingen.de