**Side Note to Vincent – My stand is Constructivist, my theorist of interest and focus is Howard Gardner**

100 YEARS OF LEARNING THEORY

From the early days of behaviorist research to the recent developments in constructivism and cognitivism, the last century is rich in the evolution of educational theory.

**Behaviorism (1913)**

**1913** Edward Lee Thorndike published *Educational Psychology: The Psychology of Learning*.

**1916** John Dewey published *Democracy and Education. An Introduction to the Philosophy of Education*.

**1926** The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) is introduced.

**1929** Jean Piaget's *The Child's Conception of the World* is published.

**1944** The G.I. Bill is signed by FDR on June 22. More than two-million attend colleges or universities on the GI Bill. About 238,000 become teachers.

**1946** Begin of Baby Boomer generation that results in unprecedented school population growth and massive social change.

**1953** B.F. Skinner's *Science and Human Behavior* is published. His views had influence in many aspects of American education.

**1954** Brown v. Board of Education: This landmark Supreme Court decision was a historic first step on the road toward educational equality.

**1957** The Soviet Union launched Sputnik. This first satellite to orbit the Earth was seen as threat in the US, and also affected national pride. Science education became important, and in 1958 the National Defense Education Act (NDEA) was passed.

**Humanist (1961)**

**1960** African American student Ruby Bridges enrolls in William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans. All white students were removed from the school by their parents.

**1963** The term "learning disability" is coined by Samuel A. Kirk.

**1965** The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) was passed on April 9. It included federal funds to help low-income students, and had provisions for Title I and bilingual education.

**1966** Jerome Bruner's *Toward a Theory of Instruction* is published. His views regarding learning help to popularize the cognitive learning theory as an alternative to behaviorism.

**Cognitivist (1967)**

**1970** Jean Piaget's book, *The Science of Education*, is published. His Learning Cycle model helps to popularize discovery-based teaching approaches, particularly in the sciences.

**Social Learning (1977)**

**1977** Albert Bandura's *Social Learning Theory* is published.

**1982** Madeline C. Hunter's direct instruction teaching model becomes widely used.

**1983** Publication of *A Nation at Risk: The Imperative For Educational Reform*, by Reagan's National Commission on Excellence in Education. This report pointed to failing educational systems in the U.S., and is regarded as some as the start of the current focus on educational standards and testing in educational reform.

**Early 1990s** Internet brings in a new era of using technology for learning: online education.

**1990s** Constructivist education becomes popular: with roots in the work of Dewey, Bruner, Piaget, and Vygotsky.

**Constructivist (1994)**

**1996** James Banks' book, *Multicultural Education: Transformative Knowledge and Action*, becomes key in understanding of multiculturalism in education.

**2001** 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center.

**2001** The controversial No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) is signed into law.

**2005** Commission on the Future of Higher Education (known as the Spellings Commission), outlines a strategy for reforming higher education in the U.S. The commission focuses on: access, affordability, quality of instruction, and accountability.

**2005+** Collaboration tools, multimedia, interactive capabilities all begin to contribute to new learning experiences for students. By 2007, it is estimated that at least 10% of college students are likely taking one or more courses online.

**2008** How will technololgy will impact learners in the future? Consider: global electronic libraries, virtual reality classrooms and games, "augmented" reality learning situations, interactive multimedia and collaboration, personal internet and computer interfaces, etc.

THEORISTS

**Lev Vygotsky** (1896–1934) Constructivist and Cognitivist.

**Jean Piaget** (1896–1980) Constructivist and Cognitivist.

**Carl Rogers** (1902–1987) Humanist.

**Paulo Freire** (1921–1997) Humanist.

**Abraham Maslow** (1908–1970) Humanist.

**Burrhus Skinner** (1904–1990) Behaviorist.

**Ivan Pavlov** (1849–1936) Behaviorist.

**Kurt Koffka** (1886–1941) Cognitivist.

**Edward Thorndike** (1874–1949) Behaviorist.

**John Watson** (1878–1958) Behaviorist.

**Jerome Bruner** (1915– ) Cognitivist.

**Albert Bandura** (1925– ) Constructivist and Cognitivist.

**John Dewey** (1859–1952) Constructivist.

**David Kolb** (1939– ) Constructivist.

**Malcolm Knowles** (1913–1997) Constructivist and Humanist.

**Edward de Bono** (1933– ) Constructivist.

**Howard Gardner (1943– ) Constructivist.**

**Sigmund Freud** (1856–1939) Humanist

REFERENCES

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