GRAVITAS

A GLOBAL EXTENSION OF
THE STONY BROOK SCHOOL

THE STONY BROOK SCHOOL
CHARACTER BEFORE CAREER
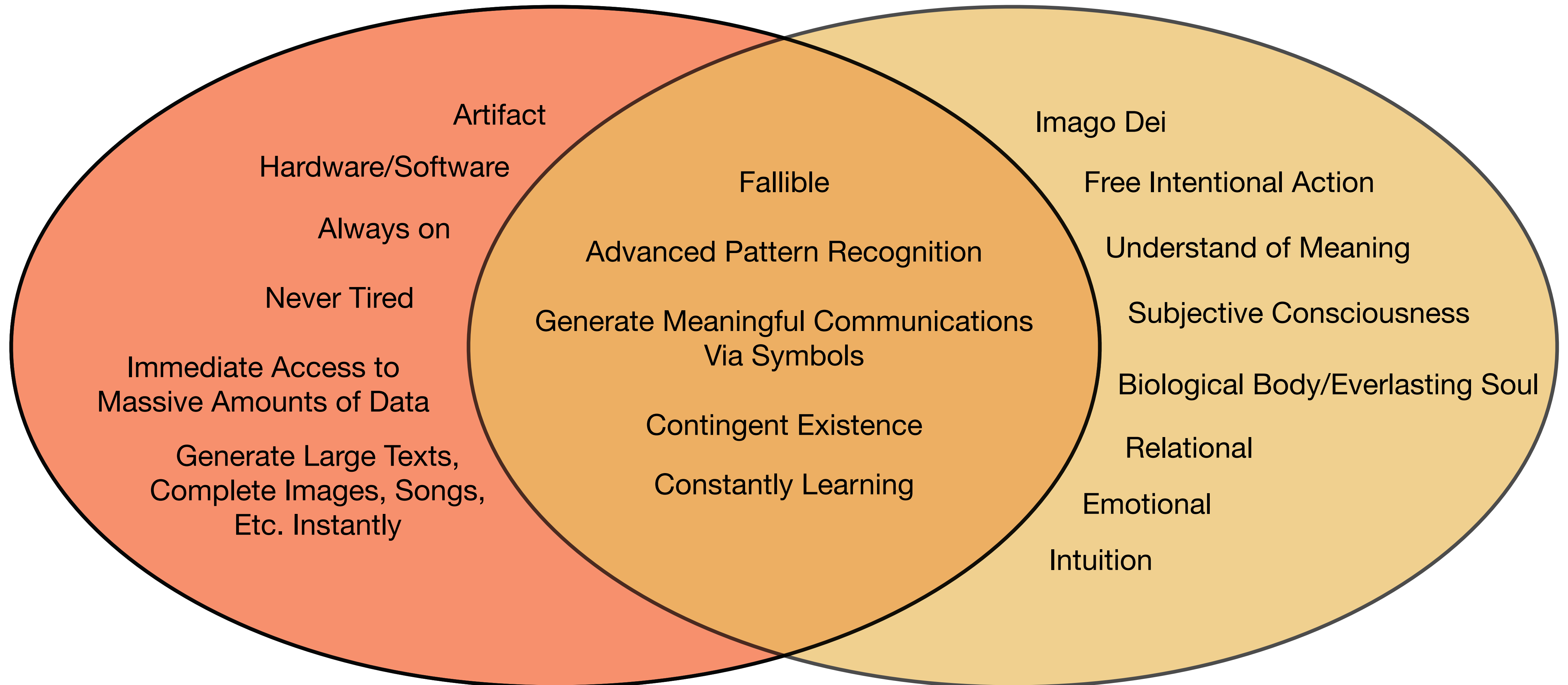LONG ISLAND

Online Education

In the Age of A.I.

Sean Riley, Ph.D

The future of work is well-formed humans collaborating with well-designed artificially intelligent machines.

AI vs. Humans

AI
- Artifact
- Hardware/Software
- Always on
- Never Tired
- Immediate Access to Massive Amounts of Data
- Generate Large Texts, Complete Images, Songs, Etc. Instantly

Both (Overlap)
- Fallible
- Advanced Pattern Recognition
- Generate Meaningful Communications Via Symbols
- Contingent Existence
- Constantly Learning

Humans
- Imago Dei
- Free Intentional Action
- Understand of Meaning
- Subjective Consciousness
- Biological Body/Everlasting Soul
- Relational
- Emotional
- Intuition

Discussion Question

Think-Pair-Share

Is the advent of AI on the whole a positive or negative development for Christian schooling?
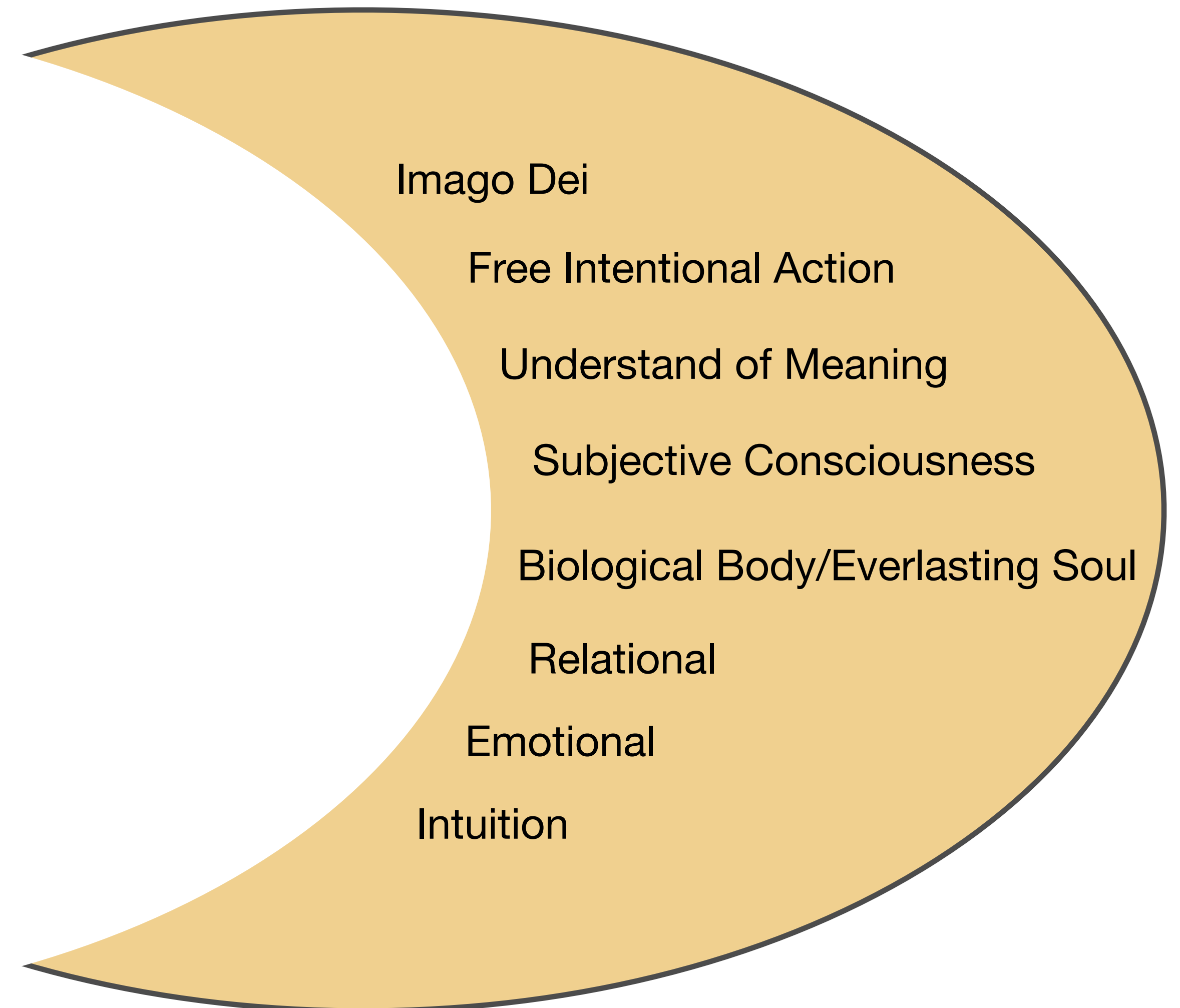

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Dangers for Christian Education

- Cheating and short-circuiting moral, intellectual, and aesthetic growth

- Erosion of truth - deception, deep fakes. propaganda, polarization, disinformation, slander, etc.

- Disembodiment

- Social detachment - AI replaces discipleship

- Fear of being replaceable by machines - increasing anxiety, depression, hopelessness, aimlessness

- Shifting role and status of the teacher

What opportunities does AI present for Christian education?

Opportunities for Christian Education

- Focus on cultivating distinctively human qualities and abilities

- Leverage AI to extend reach and deepen impact

- Free up teacher and administrator time to focus on student and teacher flourishing

- Equip graduates for the new AI-infused economy

Imago Dei

Free Intentional Action

Understand of Meaning

Subjective Consciousness

Biological Body/Everlasting Soul

Relational

Emotional

Intuition

Cultivating Well-formed Humans

- Love of God and neighbor - Christian character

- Discern wisdom and set goals - What ends should we pursue? What values and principles should govern our goal-setting?

- Create personally and communally meaningful art and communication

- Design creative solutions to complex human problems

- Pursue embodied excellence - craft, sport, visual and performing art

- Relational, emotional, mental health

Collaborating with Good AI

- General knowledge base

- Data analysis and synthesis

- Basic language, image, music, video generation

- Assistance with creative projects

- Curriculum content generation

- Knowledge/skill tutoring

- Personalized knowledge and skill assessment

Image created by DALL-E

Impact on Online Education

- Asynchronous online education, insofar as it transmits knowledge, constructs curriculum, and assesses knowledge and skill will be largely replaced by AI.

- Christian/Biblical worldview with well-designed AI's and minimal human input will be possible.

- Exclusively asynchronous online education is not well-suited to achieve the higher goals that will equip students for the future of work and prevent them from becoming replaceable by machines.

Assessment Must Change

- What we assess - knowledge and skill still important,, but the ultimate goal is to assess students on their demonstration of distinctively human qualities and abilities

- How we assess - the legitimacy of graded homework and completely asynchronous online education will diminish rapidly due to ease of uncatchable cheating

- Shift to oral assessment, live competitions/debates/demos when we want to be sure the student has achieved enduring understanding

- Create assessments that require students to collaborate with AI to achieve outcomes that are only possible if they make distinctively human contributions

What We're Doing at Gravitas

- Live online education - discussion-focused, highly relational

- Oral assessment

- Human/AI-Collaborative student projects

- AI-assisted curriculum development, tutoring, and assessment

- Highly intentional and personal character/spiritual formation program

Example Custom GPT