

**A Publication of the Mississippi Association for Gifted Children**

# CONCEPTS

**Volume XIV, Number 4**

**Winter 2003**

## **Giving Gifted Children the Keys to Success**



### **Highlights from the Mississippi Association for Gifted Children's 2003 Annual Conference**

This year's annual MAGC conference, held Oct. 9 and 10 in Biloxi, MS was a resounding success. Attendance this year was high and the feedback received was positive. MAGC would like to express its thanks to all the people who worked together to make this year's conference a success.

The conference opened Thursday morning with a welcome from Dr. Henry Johnson from the MS Department of Education. Dr. Johnson spoke positively on our state's progress in gifted education and encouraged more collaboration between gifted and regular education to best benefit the children of Mississippi.

Following Dr. Johnson's remarks this year's keynote speaker, Dr. Sylvia Rimm, addressed the audience. Dr. Rimm, the author of *See Jane Win* and *See Jane Win for Girls* spoke on the importance of helping gifted girls reach their potential. Later in the day Dr. Rimm presented a breakout session on preventing and reversing student underachievement.

Later Thursday afternoon Dr. Frances Karnes, founder of MAGC, and the director of the Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies at the Univ. of Southern MS, was honored with a reception. Dr. Karnes was

when she was awarded the Excellence in Education Award and that award was named in honor of her. Congratulations to Dr. Karnes.

Other highlights from the conference are too numerous to mention in detail. They include the Past Presidents Coffee, recognition of student award winners Holly Cunningham, winner of the Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award, and Christopher Hare, winner of the MAGC Summer Gifted Program Scholarship, Creativity Night, Family Night, vendor tables and displays.

MAGC would like to thank all of our special guests and all who attended and made this conference successful.

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# PRESIDENT'S Corner



Dear Friends,

Thank you for allowing me to serve as president of the Mississippi Association for Gifted Children. I am truly honored to have been chosen for this office. My thoughts return to a message that I received from Gail Hammond after I became MAGC president-elect. She said, "Our goal is noble, and our task is great." How true! After all, MAGC is the only state level organization that serves as an advocate for gifted children and youth in Mississippi.

Webster defines *advocate* as 1: one that pleads the cause of another or 2: one that defends or maintains a cause. What will it take for MAGC to remain an effective advocate for the gifted population? Three things come to mind: membership, funding, and participation.

MAGC currently has 725 members, the majority of whom are teachers of the gifted. While this is a large number, we can do better. The state of Mississippi currently funds 729 positions for gifted education. However, as a part of the legislative budget, MDE is requesting that 825 teacher units be funded for the 2004-2005 school year. In order to be a more effective advocate for gifted children, we need to recruit not only those teachers of the gifted who have not joined MAGC, but also all persons who care about gifted children. Please share membership information with at least one other teacher and one parent in your area. MAGC membership is a bargain at only \$25.00 annually. Members receive all four issues of *Concepts* and a discounted registration at our annual conference. More importantly, MAGC is the only professional organization specifically for teachers of the gifted in Mississippi providing a wonderful network of colleagues who are ready to encourage and assist one another.

Most of our remaining members are parents who belong to one of eleven affiliate groups throughout the state. If there is not a parent affiliate group in your area, please consider organizing one. If your local advocacy

group has not yet aligned with MAGC, please encourage them to do so. Our local group, Tupelo Advocates for Gifted Education is a wonderful recourse for teachers. They help with our annual Students Helping Others Planet-wide event, provide scholarships for field trips, and host an educational night for parents of gifted children each spring. Contact Jean Prather, MAGC Executive Director, at [jpather@jam.rr.com](mailto:jpather@jam.rr.com) for information about how to organize an affiliate group in your area.

Funding is the second component of a strong advocate group. Presently MAGC operates on revenue from its annual conference and from membership dues. A supportive funding team, led by Wendy Hunt, is working to secure other sources of revenue that will ensure MAGC's financial stability. Please consider volunteering for training and service on the supportive funding committee. Wendy can be contacted at [WendyofOz@aol.com](mailto:WendyofOz@aol.com)

Participation is the third requirement for a strong advocacy group. Over 500 people were in attendance our recent conference in Biloxi. People from all over the state worked together to make the meeting successful. Participants included not only teachers, but also administrators, parents, representatives from the Mississippi State Department of Education, and a variety of vendors and presenters. Teachers attending the conference were from all over Mississippi as well as from Alabama and Louisiana. Kate Brown has already begun planning for next year's conference. If you would like to help with this, Kate can be reached at [kbrown@msms.k12.ms.us](mailto:kbrown@msms.k12.ms.us)

As Gail said, "Our goal is noble and our task is great." It is only by working together that we can achieve the membership, funding, and participation necessary to ensure that MAGC remains a strong organization that will be an effective advocate for Mississippi's gifted population.

Mary Webb  
President, MAGC

# From our Executive Director

November, 2003

How wonderful it was to see so many of you at the MAGC Conference. The comments relative to our facility for sessions were very complimentary. This conference was unusual for me because I was actually privileged to attend several sessions with our new friend Trecina Green, who is Division Director of Curriculum at MDE. I was very pleased with the quality of the sessions we attended and felt that the information given was very helpful for gifted educators. Creativity night was challenging and fun. The parent conference was well attended and there was much discussion over parent concerns relative to the funding issue and the impact on services to gifted. Thanks to Dr. Barbara Hunt, Wendy Hunt and Kay Collins who assisted with this session. Having Judy Couey, Bureau Director of Curriculum at MDE as a new member of our advisory board is going to be very helpful. She brings a perspective that gives us insight as we plan for the future. I am so appreciative to Dr. Johnson, State Superintendent, for his willingness to share with us during the conference. He has vast knowledge of the field of gifted education. As was stated in his address, he believes we must raise the level of learning for gifted students in all of their academic areas. We must "bridge the gap" between potential and performance. In order to do this we have to partner with other educators for strategic planning to meet the needs of our students. What a challenge but what a difference we can make!

Thanks to Sylvia Rimm for her fabulous presentation! Her knowledge and understanding of gifted children continues to astound me. Because she and Dr. Frances Karnes are long time friends, it was especially appropriate having her at the conference to participate in the reception for Dr. Karnes. It was a special privilege having family and friends of Dr. Karnes present at both the reception and the luncheon where Dr. Karnes was honored with the **Excellence in**

**Education Award.** Seeing the expressions on the faces of husband Ray, son John and Frances herself when it was announced that the award would be named in honor of her, was worth the trip to Biloxi! What a thrill to recognize and honor Dr. Karnes in this way.

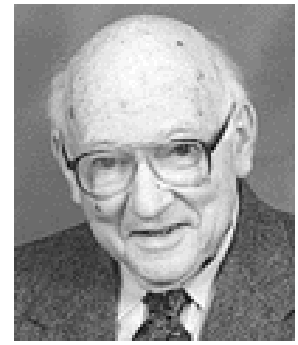
In the last Concepts I bragged on our congressional delegation for their 100% sponsorship of S. 501 and H.R. 1191, which provides formula grants to every state. The allocation for Mississippi would be approximately \$516,000. I can now brag a little more. S.1638 has recently been introduced in the U.S. Senate. It is legislation to strengthen teacher training on needs of gifted students. It will be incorporated into the Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA) and is scheduled for consideration in early 2004. Senator Cochran is an original cosponsor of the bill and Senator Lott is also a co-sponsor. How fortunate we are to have this type of continued support from our Mississippi delegation. Check [www.nagc.org](http://www.nagc.org) to keep updated on our national issues.

Be aware that MAGC continues to work diligently with personnel at MDE on issues related to gifted education. As a result of our collaboration, they have included in their legislative budget 825 gifted teacher units for 2004-05. This is 96 more than we had in 2003-04. There is still much to be done as we work with legislators to get the budget funded. We also recognize that this does not take care of all the needs related to teacher units but will continue to work together for appropriate funding so that all identified students can be served in a quality program. Thank you for all you do. MAGC needs you and I truly believe that you need us.

Jean Prather  
MAGC Executive Director

# Dr. E. Paul Torrance

## Father of Creativity



E. Paul Torrance . . . creativity . . . the words just seem to go together naturally! And well they should, for Dr. Torrance, often referred to as the Father of Creativity, spent most of his life working with creativity. The results of his efforts have touched the lives of children and adults throughout the world. Dr. Torrance died July 12, 2003, at the age of 87.

Born in Georgia in 1915, Dr. Torrance was educated at Mercer University, the University of Minnesota, and the University of Michigan. He began his professional career as a high school and college teacher, counselor, and administrator. It was during these early years that Dr. Torrance's interest in creativity began; in fact, it was during this time that he developed his first test of creativity. After a stint in the army he became Counseling Bureau Director and professor of psychology at Kansas State University, then became a research psychologist in the Air Force Survival Training Program. His interest in creativity continued to grow, and, in order to pursue his research in creativity, he accepted a professorship at the University of Minnesota. While at Minnesota Dr. Torrance developed *The Torrance Tests of Creative Thinking* and began his longitudinal study of highly creative elementary students. He later returned to Georgia, serving as chair of the department of educational psychology at the University of Georgia from 1966-1978. In 1974 Dr. Torrance developed the Future Problem Solving Program, a creative problem solving program for students in which over 300,000 students worldwide currently participate. He was a frequent presenter at various conferences, and authored more than one thousand publications. One of Dr. Torrance's most recent books, published in 2001, was *Manifesto: A Guide to Developing a Creative Career*. It included the results of his 40-year longitudinal study, the only one of its kind.

Dr. Torrance had a special connection to Mississippi; his sister, Helen, had a step-son who lived in Fulton. San McLeod, now retired from teaching gifted students at Itawamba Agricultural High School, tells this story about Dr. Torrance:

"I met Dr. Torrance for the first time at the International Future Problem Solving Bowl in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in the late 70's. He and Mrs. Pansy [Dr. Torrance's wife and co-worker] both were at the conference, and I was just wild that he was even there. He spoke the first night of the conference. The second night that we were

there, we went to a coach's reception and the banquet that followed. Linda Wiygul, who was a colleague of mine, had gone with me to the conference to help chaperone the trip and help drive. We had just gotten our plate and sat down when Mrs. Pansy came to our table and asked, 'May we sit with you?' I was so excited that I just about fell out of my chair! Then Dr. Torrance came and sat down. As he was seating himself, he smiled and said, 'We can say "Itawamba", but tell me what a "Redlands Festival" is.' Linda had a bite of food halfway to her mouth; at that point, she just stopped her fork in midair and we both sat there, stunned.

"I said, 'Wait a minute. How do you know who we are?'"

"Dr. Torrance explained the relationship between him and Helen, and her connection to Fulton. She had been sending him newspaper clippings of my program. He said, 'I have watched your program grow since it began, all the way up to your kids' painting faces and having a raffle at the Redlands Festival to raise the money to come up here. You are in my scrapbook.'

"Needless to say, we felt like we had been honored by celebrities!"

We have all been honored to be the beneficiaries of Dr. Torrance's special interest in creativity. He will continue to influence many through the body of his work. As Joan Franklin-Smutney, Dr. Torrance's editor, said in an interview for *Georgia Magazine*, "He continually proves himself a genius – not just in theory but in application. His work will not perish because he genuinely wants to see humankind progress."

**Manifesto for Children**  
**By E. Paul Torrance**

- Do what you love and can do well.
- Learn the skills of interdependence and gladly share your infinite creativity.
- Don't be afraid to fall in love with something and pursue it with intensity.
- Learn to free yourself from the expectations of others and to walk away from the games they impose on you. Free yourself to play your own game.
- Find a great teacher or mentor who will help you.
- Know. Understand. Take pride in. Practice. Practice. Practice. Develop. Exploit. Enjoy your greatest

**Manifesto for Adults**

**By E. Paul Torrance & Garnet Millar**

Be ready to make the *creative leap beyond* on the way to becoming a *Beyonder*. Being a Beyonder means doing your very best, going beyond where you have been before and going beyond where others have gone.

The Beyonders ...

- Take delight in deep thinking
- Are tolerant of mistakes by themselves and others
- Love the work that they do and do it well
- Are able to feel comfortable as a minority of one
- Have a sense of wisdom and have the courage to be creative
- Do not waste needless energy trying to be well rounded

*Creative Leap Beyond!!*

## Brandon Teacher Receives Scholarship



The National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) annually awards the A. Harry Passow Teacher Scholarship to a teacher of grades K-12 who has shown excellence in teaching gifted students, the ability to meet the varied needs of gifted students, and commitment to furthering the development of teaching skills.

Dr. A. Harry Passow was a visionary leader in the field of gifted and talented education. His professional legacy is emulated worldwide as the best of educational research and practice. Dr. Passow approached critical education issues with the sense of an historian, the intellect of a philosopher, and the analytical skills of a researcher. This award is given to a teacher who strives to exemplify those same qualities.

Gail P. Hammond of Brandon has been selected as this year's recipient. She is a fifth-grade gifted education teacher at Northwest Rankin Middle School. This \$2,000 scholarship will be used to further her doctoral studies. The award was presented November 13 at the NAGC 50<sup>th</sup> annual convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Gail is a National Board certified teacher. Last school year she was Jackson Metro Outstanding Educator, Northwest Rankin Middle School Teacher of the Year, a top-three finalist for Rankin County School District Teacher of the Year, and included in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*. She is also past president of Mississippi Association for Gifted Children. She is currently a finalist for inclusion in Mississippi Hall of Master Teachers.

For more information on the Harry Passow Teacher Scholarship Program visit the NAGC website at [www.nagc.org/Awards/passowaward.htm](http://www.nagc.org/Awards/passowaward.htm)

## National Association for Gifted Children Conference

It is always an adventure to attend the NAGC conference, and this year's fiftieth annual convention was certainly no exception. I arrived in town just in time to attend the awards presentation on Thursday evening. Richard Olenchak and Carol Ann Tomlinson did a wonderful job sharing the accomplishments of NAGC over the past fifty years.

Most of the members of the Mississippi delegation were in attendance at the Marriott Downtown to see our own Gail Hammond receive the Harry Pascow Classroom Teacher Scholarship. Gail has worked hard on behalf of MAGC and NAGC for many years and is most deserving of this scholarship, which she will use to complete her doctoral studies at Mississippi State University.

On Friday I attended several different breakout sessions. With so many choices, deciding which sessions to attend is always difficult. That afternoon I was privileged to represent Mississippi at a meeting of state organization representatives. We shared the accomplishments and concerns of our respective organizations. As always, I was proud to speak on behalf of MAGC. It was good to have an opportunity to learn first hand what is taking place in other states regarding gifted education. Several of the divisions held sessions Friday night. As usual, I chose to attend Creativity Night.

Saturday morning Kate Brown, MAGC president-elect, and I attended the Affiliate Breakfast where we learned more about what is taking place in gifted education around the nation. I spent the rest of the day attending a variety of sessions on topics that I thought would be of benefit to both MAGC and my school district. I had a very informative visit with members of the Indiana Association for the Gifted who were hosting Parent Day at the conference. I hope that we will be able to implement some of their strategies to gain parent members right here in Mississippi.

All too soon, it was time to catch my flight back to Tupelo. Next year's NAGC conference will be November 3-7 in Salt Lake City. I hope to see you there!

Mary Webb  
MAGC President



# Congratulations!



## Excellent Finish at Global Competition – d2k.3!

- A. 1<sup>st</sup> place – **University, Mississippi** – *A Change in Direction* – Univ Level
- B. 5<sup>th</sup> place – **New Hope Christian Sch.**, Jackson – *Once Improv a Time* – Elem
- C. Plus a TEAM DaVinci Award for Outstanding Creativity
- D. 7<sup>th</sup> place – **Philadelphia Elem.** – *THEATER smARTS* – Elem Level
- E. 16<sup>th</sup> place – **Lee Middle**, Columbus – *A Change in Direction* – Middle Level
- F. 18<sup>th</sup> place – **New Hope Christian Sch.**, Jackson - *THEATER smARTS* – Elem
- G. 18<sup>th</sup> place – **Denman JHS TM F**, McComb – *ConnecDid!* – Middle Level
- H. 24<sup>th</sup> place - **Higgins Middle School Tm A**, McComb – *ConnecDid!* – Elem
- I. 25 place - **Madison Station Elem** – *A Change in Direction* – Elem Level

Great Job!

Teachers...

**Regina Thornton, Wendy Hunt, Liz Koehler, Beverly Carr,  
Elise Parker, Cathy Lutz, and Charise Robertson**

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There is still time to  
sign up for 2004  
competitions.

Call now!!!



By: Dr. Tony Phillips

On a gray breezy day last month thousands of people got in their cars and reluctantly left home. U.S. east coast highways were thick with traffic. Schools were closed. Businesses shut down.

Perfect!

When powerful Hurricane Isabel arrived some 38 hours later nearly everyone in the storm's path had fled to safety.

Days later Vice Admiral Lautenbacher, in a briefing to President Bush, praised the National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration (NOAA): "Without NOAA's excellent track forecasts, hurricane Isabel's toll on lives and property would have been even more devastating. This is NOAA's first year of providing 5-day forecasts-and the 5-day forecast for Isabel was as good as our 2-day forecasts have been over the last decade."

Many people in NOAA played a role. A team of pilots, for instance, flew Gulfstream-IV High Altitude Surveillance jets right up to the approaching hurricane, logging 25,000 miles in the days before landfall. Their jets deployed devices called dropsondes-little weather stations that fall toward the sea, measuring pressure, humidity, temperature and wind velocity as they plummet. The data were radioed back to the aircraft and transmitted to forecasters on shore.

While two Gulfstream-IV crews flew night and day around the storm, a NOAA satellite named GOES-EAST monitored Isabel from above. (GOES is short for Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite.)

From an orbit 22,300 miles above the Atlantic Ocean, GOES-EAST had a unique view. "It could see the entire hurricane at once," says Ron Gird of NOAA. "Scientists used infrared spectrometers onboard the satellite to estimate the height of the storm clouds, their temperature and water content. GOES can also measure the

temperature of the ocean surface-the source of power for hurricanes."

Constant streams of data from GOES and the Gulfstream aircraft were fed to supercomputers at NOAA's Environmental Modeling Center in Maryland where sophisticated programs, developed over the years by meteorologists and programmers, calculated the storm's most likely path.

Supercomputers. Satellites. Jet airplanes. Scientists. Programmers. Pilots. It took a big team using a lot of tools to predict where Isabel would go-accurately and with time to spare.

Says Vice Admiral Lautenbacher: "I hope everyone at NOAA shares the pride of being part of a team effort that so effectively warned the public of impending danger and enabled citizens to take action to protect themselves and their loved ones."

Well done, indeed.

To learn more about the GOES, see [www.oso.noaa.gov/goes/](http://www.oso.noaa.gov/goes/). For kids, the SciJinks Weather Laboratory at [scijinks.nasa.gov](http://scijinks.nasa.gov) has lots of fun activities and fascinating facts about the wild world of weather.

*This article was provided by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, under a contract with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.*

*An image to accompany this article may be found at [http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/astro\\_clubs/GOES\\_Isabel\\_landfall.jpg](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/astro_clubs/GOES_Isabel_landfall.jpg)..*

MAGC is a group of educators and parents dedicated to supporting and improving the education of gifted and talented children.

We need your support. To join see the application found in this issue of Concepts.



## Gifted Children Need the Arts

Does your child need a new and challenging activity? If he or she is bored or actually languishing, consider the benefits of a creative discipline such as music, writing, drama, or visual art.

Gifted children and the arts are a perfect fit. Like the children themselves, creative activities are complex, demanding, and mysterious. They require a lifetime of involvement; yet, it's never too late to begin. I can still remember my first day of orchestra in third grade. I was the only cellist in a sea of violinists. I was lost until Miss Becker, our teacher, began placing my fingers and moving my bow arm. Even in those chaotic beginnings I could sense the loveliness and infinite promise of those pieces of wood I held in my hands. The cello has fulfilled that promise by giving me 40 years of sanity.

I was oblivious to my giftedness but all too aware of my weirdness as I struggled through school and on into adult life. Practicing the cello became my refuge and my outlet, as I watched my most annoying personality traits transform themselves into assets.

If your child is willful and independent, a paintbrush or violin could pull him into a lifetime of self-directed work. If stubborn, she will probably persevere through the enormous frustration inherent in the creative process. Emotional intensity, too often a source of stigma, can metamorphose into a deep inward journey that produces amazing artistic results.

Creativity is the realm of daydreams. The child with the wandering mind, often the despair of his parents and teachers can become a high achiever simply by matching his habit of idle speculation with any art form. Every daydream, every loose and shapeless thought can find a channel for productive expression. Anyone who craves beauty should consider the centuries of masterworks that harmonize our souls and inspire us to discover our own artistic genius. We owe it to ourselves and our children to explore these possibilities.

Rebecca Lange Hein  
Master's Degree in Cello Performance,  
Northwestern University  
Author of *A Case of Brilliance*  
[www.rebeccahein.com](http://www.rebeccahein.com)

### **KidSource OnLine** [www.kidsource.com](http://www.kidsource.com)

When a child is gifted and talented, the parents and educators are faced with many issues and challenges. Articles and digests at this site provide ideas, guidance, and activities for both parents and educators.

The site rates articles and provides a vast array of valuable help for all who work with the gifted and talented.

Go to: Education Articles

- [Gifted and Talented Students](#)

# NAGC 2003 Holiday Toy List

The National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) has recommended 31 toys and games for this year's Holiday Toy List. The editors of Parenting for High Potential magazine have evaluated all toys on the list. The following is a sampling of the games and toys recommended. For a complete listing or for more information visit the NAGC web site at [www.nagc.org](http://www.nagc.org) or write to...

Mr. Grover Young, PHP Magazine  
P.O. Box 14100 NE Plaza  
Sarasota, FL 34278-4100

## **Wheedle**

*by Out of the Box Publishing, Inc. (800-540-2304; [www.otb-games.com](http://www.otb-games.com)). \$9.99. Ages 9+ for 4-6 players.*

The creators of this game refer to it as "The Stock Taking-Deal Making Game" because players must Wheedle or persuade each other to trade cards. The 61 Stock Cards are divided into nine different companies. Each company has a humorous name and interesting slogan such as, "Big Brother Broadcasting – Watch Us Watch You." The object is to acquire at least a majority interest for all of the Stock Cards in one's hand. Players simultaneously and quickly trade cards to reach their goal. A typical game lasts 20-30 minutes. Our testers enjoyed pretending they were "day traders" and trying to gain corporate control through wheeling and dealing. The game works well in mixed age groups and family settings.

## **SWAP**

*by Patch Products Inc. (800-524-4263; [www.patchproducts.com](http://www.patchproducts.com)). \$7.00. Ages 7+ for 2-10 players.*

SWAP is a very fast moving card game with many unexpected twists, turns, and ever-changing circumstances. The most unusual situation is when everyone swaps hands. It worked well in mixed age and family settings. Testers had to be constantly on their toes as the cards changed directions, shape, or color. Flexibility was required because they had to continually adjust their strategy as the unexpected happened. They had to practice forward thinking ("if this, then what?") when thinking about other players' hands and their strategy. The game was a bit complicated and too fast for our 5-7 year old testers.

## **Blink**

*by Out of the Box Publishing, Inc. (800-540-2304; [www.otb-games.com](http://www.otb-games.com)). \$9.99. Ages 7+ for 2 players.*

At two minutes per round, the makers of *Blink* claim that it is "The World's Fastest Game." Two players race to be the first to play all thirty of their cards. They must match cards by the shape, color, or count on the cards. Our 7-10 year old testers enjoyed playing this game together more than our older testers. It was also enjoyable when played between a child and an adult or between an older and younger child.

## **Team Chess**

*by Perry Brothers (877-880-2220) \$23.95 . Ages 10+ for 2-4 players.*

This is a clever twist on a familiar and popular game with gifted children. It has four colors of chessman instead of the traditional two colors. Players team up and play the game from all four directions of the board at the same time. It moves faster than regular chess and requires developing a team strategy rather than an individual strategy. One of our testers, an avid chess player, did not like depending on a teammate for success. He said he would rather play regular chess. Other testers thought it was a fun variation and that it helped them to improve their playing ability. Players seemed more talkative and animated playing Team Chess than regular chess.

## **Catch Mag**

*by Plast Wood Corp. (540-577-7805; [www.plastwood.com](http://www.plastwood.com)).*

*\$32.00. Ages 6+ for 2-4 players.*

Somehow our testers were magnetically drawn to this game with its unique space theme. The magnets that are used to capture the energy bars and bonus spheres awed them. The game combines strategy and chance. The first player to collect five energy bars of the same color is the winner of this face-paced game.

## **Zome System Pioneer Kit**

*by Zometool, Inc. (888-966-3386; [www.zomesystem.com](http://www.zomesystem.com)). \$19.95. Ages 6+ for 1-2 players.*

*Zome System* allows you to build three-dimensional structures with balls and struts. The Pioneer Kit contains 121 pieces (25 balls and 96 struts). It can be expanded or larger kits are available. Scientists, mathematicians, artists, architects, and engineers use the system in their work to make models. Our testers liked the bubble-making activity using the recipe provided to make their own home-made solution. There is a good bibliography for beginners and advanced readers. One's educational level will determine how much background, guidance, or resources are required for using the *Zome System*. Our testers over 10 years of age wanted a bigger set.

## Blokus

by Educational Insights (800-995-4436; [www.educationalinsights.com](http://www.educationalinsights.com)). \$29.95. Ages 5+ for 2-4 players. This game involves blocking your opponent's path while trying to place all of your colored pieces onto the game board. It involves developing a strategy for playing the different sized pieces. It can be played in a mixed age or family setting. Each round takes 20-30 minutes to compete. You can even play against the computer at [www.blokus.com](http://www.blokus.com). One concern expressed by our toy testers was that it was difficult to keep the pieces in place on the board.

## Muggins/Opps

by Old Fashioned Products Inc. (800-962-8849; [www.mugginsmath.com](http://www.mugginsmath.com)). \$39.95. Ages 10+ for 1-4 players. This wooden game board comes in a reversible format with *Muggins* on one side and *Opps* on the other. Both games involve mathematical problem solving and critical-thinking skills. In *Muggins*, players must decide whether to add, subtract, multiply, or divide the numbers on the dice to create a run for themselves or to block their opponent's run. *Opps* is "A Pre-Algebra Game of Opposites." Players still must decide whether to add, subtract, multiply, or divide but they

now use negative and positive numbers. Each game offers variations and levels of complexity to make it easier for younger players or to increase the challenge for older or more experienced players. Some of our testers who were already familiar with this game said it was one of their favorites and that they never get tired of playing it. It held strong appeal for all of those who enjoy mathematics.

## River Crossing

by Binary Arts Corp. (703-549-4999; [www.puzzles.com](http://www.puzzles.com)). \$14.99. Ages 8+ for 1 player.

The object of this game is to help the hiker cross the river without getting his or her feet wet. There are 40 different puzzles ranging from beginner to expert challenge cards that create a maze course for the player to help the hiker get from one end to the other by figuring out where to place the magnetic logs. It is changeable to keep it interesting, and it encourages children to think ahead and develop a strategy. It comes with a travel bag and has magnetic pieces so it can be used in an automobile. Our 8-10 year old testers enjoyed it most. For those who just can't get enough of mazes, check out [www.clickmazes.com](http://www.clickmazes.com).

### Interested in a Scrabble Club?

Scrabble is more than just a game kids play! It is a program that excites kids about words and helps them build vocabulary as they learn new words. It provides an opportunity to practice spelling, math, and language skills, as well as build cooperative learning skills. It builds confidence and teaches children about winning and losing. All of this in one game? Wow! What an exciting teaching tool! Researchers and educators agree: The Scrabble game enhances learning. Interested? Please complete this questionnaire and return it by **December 31** to:

**Danny Gatlin**

**4745 Brookwood Place**

**Byram, MS 39272**

[gscrabbleboy@aol.com](mailto:gscrabbleboy@aol.com)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have Scrabble in my classroom. (How long? _____)           | <input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in starting Scrabble in my classroom.     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I need more information about how to get started.            | <input type="checkbox"/> I have ordered the School Scrabble Starter Kit.           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I would be interested in challenging other schools.          | <input type="checkbox"/> I might be ready for tournament by Fall 2004.             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I might be ready for a low-key tournament by Spring 2004.    | <input type="checkbox"/> I could compete in the <i>central</i> part of the state.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I could compete in the <i>northern</i> part of the state.    | <input type="checkbox"/> I could compete in the <i>southern</i> part of the state. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>I would be willing to host a tournament at my school.</b> |  |

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_  
School \_\_\_\_\_ Region of State \_\_\_\_\_  
Grades and Number of Students playing Scrabble \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

# Mississippi Association for Gifted Children

## Teacher Grant Application - Deadline: March 15, 2004

The MAGC Executive Board will award two grants this year of up to \$300 for course study. One grant will be presented to an experienced teacher or administrator with gifted certification to pursue additional training in gifted education. The other will be awarded to an experienced regular classroom teacher to pursue gifted certification. The grants will be forwarded to the recipient upon verification of course completion and are limited to actual cost of the course, up to \$300. Previous grant recipients are not eligible for this award.

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS: (Please check the grant for which you are applying.)

- ☐ **GRANT FOR TEACHER/ADMINISTRATOR WITH GIFTED CERTIFICATION**
  1. **MAGC Member,**
  2. **At least two years of teaching experience in the area of gifted education,**
  3. **Be currently enrolled or planning to enroll in a course/workshop for advanced study of gifted education, &**
  4. **Have a history of attendance at conferences and/or workshops that pertain to gifted education.**
- ☐ **GRANT FOR TEACHER TO PURSUE GIFTED CERTIFICATION**
  1. **At least two years of teaching experience in the regular classroom, and**
  2. **Be currently enrolled or planning to enroll in a course of study for certification in gifted education.**

**Teacher's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of School/Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Work Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Please Attach the Following:

1. Letter(s) of recommendation/support from a superintendent, principal, program coordinator, and/or other supervisory personnel,
2. Autobiographical statement (200 words or less) describing areas of interest, honors, achievement, and past experiences of workshop and conference attendance, and
3. Brief description of the course/workshop for which the grant would be used.

Please mail completed application form and other required attachments to:

Margaret Snider  
330 Judy Street  
Jackson, MS 39212

**Mississippi Association for Gifted Children**  
**Summer Gifted Program Scholarship Nomination Form**  
**(Deadline: March 15, 2004)**

Nominee's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Prior MAGC scholarship recipients are not eligible to receive this award.)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominating Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Program Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

(Must be a Mississippi program / camp)

Signature of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

**To the Nominating Teacher:**

**Please include the following information with this nomination form:**

1. A narrative describing student's special interests, school and community involvement, honors, and your reasons for nominating this student;
2. A copy of the student's G.P.P.D.S. verifying eligibility; and
3. A narrative from the student stating his/her areas of interest and choice of program if awarded the scholarship.
4. Additional letters of support may be included.

**Please mail completed nomination form and other required attachments to:**

**Margaret Snider**  
**330 Judy Street**  
**Jackson, MS 39212**

**Thank you for taking advantage of this opportunity for your student.**

## Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award 2003-2004 School Year

(Application Packets must be postmarked by April 15, 2004)

MAGC is pleased to announce the continuance of the NAGC-Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Awards for the 2003-2004 school year. The awards are designed to recognize excellence in young children. The awards, which include a \$500 U.S. Savings Bond, may be made to students in grades 3-6 who have distinguished themselves in academics, leadership, or the arts. Nominations will be accepted from the students themselves, parents, teachers, peers, and community and civic groups.

### Selection Criteria:

- Students must be in grades 3 through 6 at the time of the nomination.
- Outstanding student accomplishment may be in the areas of academics, the arts, or leadership.
  - Student applicants must submit a written composition about why they feel their effort is important and how they got interested in the area for which they are being recognized. Compositions should describe (1) the activity or interest area for which the student is being nominated; (2) how the student got interested/involved in the activity; (3) what impact the activity has had on the student and on others; and (4) how the student's future plans and goals have been affected by this activity or interest area.
- At least one letter of recommendation, from someone other than a nominee's family member, explaining why the student nominee is deserving of the award, what sets him/her apart from other students, and how the student is impacting others.

### Submission to MAGC:

- Completed Student Nomination Form including the signed publicity release form.
- Copy of the student's composition.
- Letter(s) of recommendation.
- Self-addressed, stamped postcard, which will be used to acknowledge receipt of the application packet.

**Mail completed packets to: Margaret Snider, Lee Elementary School, 330 Judy Street, Jackson, MS 39212**  
**Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award Application Form 2003-2004**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Age \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Grade at Time of Application \_\_\_\_\_  
School Name and Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Person Nominating Student \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to Nominee \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Release Form:** I hereby give the National Association for Gifted Children permission to use my child's photo\* and composition, submitted in connection with the NAGC Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award, in any publicity or announcements NAGC may make about the award or the award winners, should my child be selected for the award. I further grant permission to NAGC to use my child's name, school name, and city/state in any publicity or announcements that uses his/her photo or composition, and to make edits to the length of the composition as may be necessary. I understand that neither my child nor I will receive any remuneration in connection with this permission and understand that the photo and the composition will not be returned to me.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

\*NAGC will request a photo of the award winners for use in award publicity and announcements. Do not send a photo with the application packet.



## Supportive Funding Donations

MAGC would like to acknowledge and to offer gratitude to the following people for their generous contributions to MAGC Supportive Funding.

- ❖ *Mississippi Advanced Problem Solvers and Stephen McMullan* ~ in honor of Mississippi's Destination Imagination teachers
- ❖ *Mary Webb* ~ in memory of Ben Meriweather
- ❖ *Jean Prather* ~ in memory of Ben Meriweather
- ❖ *Kate Brown* ~ in memory of Ben Weather

*Because MAGC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, your gift is tax deductible.*

### Yes! I will support our gifted children!

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500

#### This gift is given by:

☐ Individual ☐ Business ☐ Organization

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

FAX \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

#### This gift is given:

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Please include address of honoree in order for MAGC to send an acknowledgement card.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check here if gift is anonymous.

#### This gift is designated for:

- ☐ Student/teacher scholarships
- ☐ Advocacy efforts for gifted children
- ☐ Parent training
- ☐ Publications
- ☐ Training for school personnel
- ☐ Use this gift where most needed.

## Dr. Frances Karnes Honored

Dr. Frances A. Karnes was recently honored as MAGC's Award of Excellence recipient

Having served gifted education for more than three decades, Dr. Karnes fostered MAGC's growth. She has the distinction of being the only two term President of our organization. Due to her dedication and leadership to gifted education, the award will now be designated as the Frances A. Karnes Award of Excellence. We are very proud and blessed to have Dr. Karnes represent our organization.

### Put Your Students in the Lime Light!

Do you have interesting things going on in your gifted classrooms? If so, we want to help you, your students, and gifted programs in general get some much deserved recognition. Contact our Public Relations department at the e-mail below to submit happenings that you would like publicized.

Laura Leslie [leslm@tupelo.k12.ms.us](mailto:leslm@tupelo.k12.ms.us)

### Give us the scoop!

*It is your newsletter!*

Articles, lesson plans,  
items of interest to  
supporters of gifted  
education are welcome!

Submit to the *Concepts* editor:

Lisa D. Saucier  
1120 Riverside Drive

# Mississippi Association for Gifted Children Executive Board 2003-2004

**Executive Director:** Jean Prather  
900 Live Oak Dr, Clinton, MS 39056  
601-924-0068 601-624-4652  
jprather@jam.rr.com

## ELECTED OFFICERS:

**President:** Mary Webb  
3218 North Hills Dr., Tupelo, MS 38804  
662-840-4296 FAX 662-841-8969  
WebbMW@tupelo.k12.ms.us

**President-Elect:** Kate Brown  
Box W-1627 Columbus, MS 39701  
662-329-7676 FAX 662-329-7242  
Kbrown@msms.k12.ms.us

**Vice President:** Margaret Snider  
1007 Camdenmill Dr. Ridgeland, MS 39157  
601-856-4655  
msnider@jackson.k12.ms.us

**Secretary:** Kim Davis  
P.O. Box 462 Lucedale, MS 39452  
601-766-9671  
gcspirit@hotmail.com

**Treasurer:** Pamela Pape  
143 Skyline Drive, Clinton, MS 39056  
601-925-4580  
ppape@jackson.k12.ms.us

**Past President:** Lia Landrum  
57 Hoskins Creek Rd. Ellisville, MS 39437  
601-752-6961 FAX 601-477-3505  
lialandrum@hotmail.com

## STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

**Membership:** Carol Paola  
1513 Westward Dr., Gulfport, MS 39501  
228-864-8520 FAX 228-868-6448  
cwp1gab@aol.com

**Newsletter:** Lisa D. Saucier  
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lsaucier@jackson.k12.ms.us

**Advisory Board:** Suzanne Bean  
86 Big Tom Road Columbus, MS 39705  
662-327-6905 FAX 662-329-8515  
sbean@muw.edu

**Public Relations:** Laura Leslie  
1303 Maxwell Tupelo, MS 38804  
662-844-8576  
leslm@tupelo.k12.ms.us

**Legislative:** Kay Collins  
430 N. Church St. Tupelo, MS 38804  
662-844-4549 662-401-5396  
collkg@tupelo.k12.ms.us

**Staff Development:** Melissa Grantham  
69 Redbud Lane Madison, MS 39110  
601-853-2764 601-879-3069  
mpgmsfpp@juno.com  
mgrantham@madison.k12.ms.us

**Supportive Funding:** Wendy Hunt  
P.O. Box 488 Columbus, MS 39703  
662-241-7300  
wendyfoz@aol.com

**Affiliates:** Teresa Mosley  
317 Concord Dr., Clinton, MS 39056  
601-924-4476 FAX 601-973-8682  
zackdog@bellsouth.net  
tmosely@jackson.k12.ms.us

## AD HOC and EX OFFICIO:

**Website:** Jane Everly  
630 South State St., Jackson, MS 39201  
601-960-8344 FAX 601-973-8682  
jevery@jackson.k12.ms.us

**Diverse Populations Identification:**  
Leigh Adkins Todd  
Rt. 1, Box 359, West Point, MS 39773  
662-494-7149  
leightodd@hotmail.com

**NAGC Teacher Liaison:** Gail Hammond  
103 Twin Oaks Drive Brandon, MS 39047  
601-992-2841  
ghammond@rcsd.k12.ms.us

**NAGC At Large Liaison:**  
Dr. Frances Karnes  
909 South 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue Hattiesburg, MS 39401  
601-268-6922 FAX 601-266-4978  
gifted.studies

**Ex Officio:** Dr. Conrad Castle  
MS Department of Education  
P.O. Box 771, Suite 306 Jackson, MS 39205  
601-359-2588  
ccastle@mde.k12.ms.us

**MAGC**  
**P.O. Box 3545**  
**Jackson, MS**  
**39207**

www.msms.k12.ms.us/MAGC



## Appreciation Day MS State Legislature - Feb. 12, 2004

“Gifted Education & Legislators Working Together for the future of Mississippi”

On February 12, 2004, groups of gifted students from the Jackson metro area met at the State Capital Building to show their appreciation to our state representatives. What an exciting day! Gift bags were delivered to each member of the legislature in appreciation for their support of gifted education. Students, parents, grandparents and teachers from the Metro area spent the day speaking with representatives and senators about the importance of gifted programs and their impact on Mississippi's students and citizens.

The groups were recognized by the Senate and House of Representatives and had the rare opportunity to be photographed with William J. McCoy, the Speaker of the House. The special surprise for the afternoon group was when the governor returned to Jackson in time to come by to greet the students and sign autographs. Thanks to everyone involved for making our special day a resounding success!

As a special service to our parents and supporters who are concerned about legislative issues in gifted education there is an insert included with this issue of Concepts. On it you will find contact information for members of both the House and Senate. Please keep this handy so you can voice your opinions with our state representatives. This information can also be found online on the MS Legislature's web-site at [www.ls.state.ms.us](http://www.ls.state.ms.us). As always, thanks for your support.



Representatives from Power  
APAC Elementary in Jackson



Representatives from North-  
west Rankin



Representatives from Davis  
Elementary in Jackson



Representatives from Clinton schools

For more pictures please see page 3

## From the Executive Director

In this issue I would like to concentrate on funding for gifted at the national and state level. You will recall that in the November Concepts I gave you information regarding national funding and the support we receive from our U.S. Congressmen. We would like for you to send **letters** or **emails** to our senators and representatives thanking them for their support of the Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act and other federal legislation which benefits gifted children. The Mississippi School for Math and Science (MSMS) received a 3 year Javits grant last year. Many school districts in our state are benefiting from that grant. Contact information is included on the enclosed insert. Please take time to express your appreciation .

We have been very fortunate to have a funding mechanism in Mississippi that allocates teacher units based on the number of identified students. However, in the past couple of years we have had a shortage of teachers due to the lack of funding at the state level. This in turn has affected services to gifted students in some districts. Currently the MS Department of Education is looking at **alternative funding possibilities**. There is **discussion** to fund gifted as a part of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program (MAEP). The purpose is to try to secure a funding system that will provide funds for maximum teacher units. The issue-- is this a better system than the one we have?? The current teachers units allocated for 2003-04 were **729**. The number of teacher units requested for 2004-05 is **825** which is **100 short** of actual needs based on the growth

of the program. **MAGC** will continue to work with **MDE** and our **legislators** as we try to find the best solution to the funding issue. **MAGC's** goal is for all identified gifted students to be served in a setting that is educationally appropriate to meet their needs. We need each of **you** and the **parents** of your gifted students to **be involved** in securing the future of gifted education in our state. It will take **all** of us to make sure this happens. The first thing **gifted teachers, parents** and **others** who are concerned about gifted education **must do** is to make **contact** with your **state senator** and **representative** and encourage them to support **early** and **full funding** of education as proposed by the department of education. I can not overemphasize the importance of this personal contact. Please check the enclosed **Mississippi legislative insert** for a comprehensive list of our legislators and key committee members. Contact those that you know personally and encourage them to support our education package. Be sure to thank them for their support and call attention to the fact that Mississippi's student performance is increasing at a rate never before experienced. We need to keep that momentum going. Again, the **personal contact** from constituents does make a difference! Your role is critical!! **Please check [www.msms.k12.ms.us/MAGC](http://www.msms.k12.ms.us/MAGC)** often to keep updated on funding and legislative matters. If you have questions, please contact me or Kay Collins. Thank you for the contribution you make on a daily basis to gifted children.



Jean Prather, Executive Director

## From the MAGC President

### Legislative Luncheon Report

As a part of its commitment to advocacy for gifted children, MAGC hosts a luncheon in Jackson each January. This gathering has come to be called our Legislative Luncheon because it is held at the time that the state legislature begins its session. The purpose of this luncheon is to bring together a diverse group of individuals and share with them not only what MAGC has done to ensure that the unique needs of gifted children are met, but also to challenge those who attend the luncheon to support our future advocacy efforts.

Invited to join the MAGC Executive Board for lunch were members of the Mississippi Board of Education, Department of Education staff members including Dr. Henry Johnson, state and national legislators, and members of the MAGC Advisory Board. It was my honor, as MAGC president, to present Dr. Johnson, Mississippi Superintendent of Education, with a donation from MAGC for the Bridging the Gap fund. Kate Brown, MAGC President-Elect

gave a report on the Javits Grant she directs at the Mississippi School for Math and Science. Jean Prather, MAGC Executive Director, introduced those who were attending the luncheon for the first time and gave a brief summary MAGC's work and accomplishments.

Following the luncheon, the MAGC Advisory Board met for a time of exchanging information. Dr. Suzanne Bean, Advisory Board Chair, led this session. MAGC is fortunate to have the support of the distinguished individuals who make up this board. (See page 15 for a list of Advisory Board Members.) New to the Advisory Board this year are Brian Aldridge, state representative from Tupelo; Phil Bryant, State Auditor; David Meadows, Deputy Superintendent of Tupelo Public Schools, and Dr. Michael Vinson, Executive Director of the Mississippi Association for School Administrators.

It is important that those of use who share a common interest in Mississippi's gifted children have a chance to come together and discuss our mutual concerns, whether it be at the fall conference or at a luncheon such at the one in

January. It is indeed a privilege to be a part of an organization that is dedicated to a cause so noble as ours. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity.

Mary Webb, MAGC President

*Mary Webb*





# Day of Appreciation

## Mississippi Legislature – February 12, 2004



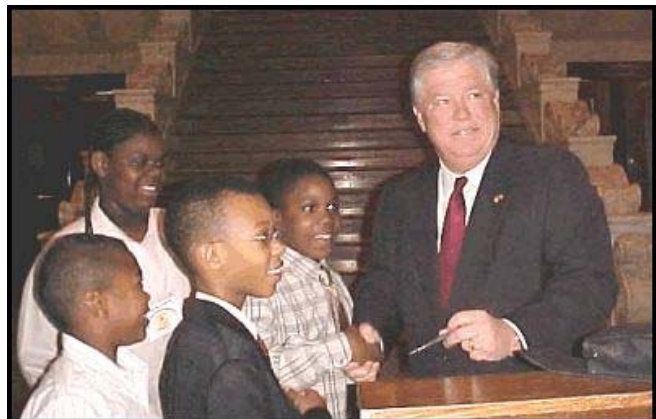
Students and parents from the Jackson metro area prepare to talk with our state representatives.



Students from Davis Elementary School stress the importance of gifted programs with Senator Ezell Lee and thank him for his support.



Representative Mary Coleman takes time from her busy day to talk with a gifted student and her parent.



Governor Haley Barbour arrived in the afternoon and took time to speak with students about gifted education and sign autographs.



Jean Prather, MAGC Executive Director discusses funding issues with Representative Brian Aldridge.



Students take time out to thank Senator Stacey Pickering for the legislature's support of gifted education.



## So Little Time, So Many Galaxies

By Dr. Tony Phillips

Fourteen billion years ago, just after the Big Bang, the universe was an expanding fireball, white hot and nearly uniform. All of space was filled with elementary particles and radiation. "Soupy" is how some cosmologists describe it.

Today the universe is completely different. It's still expanding-even accelerating-but there the resemblance ends. The universe we live in now is "lumpy." Great cold voids are sprinkled with glowing galaxies. In galaxies, there are stars. Around stars, there are planets. On one planet, at least, there is life.

How we got from there to here is a mystery.

Finding out is the goal the Galaxy Evolution Explorer, "GALEX" for short, a small NASA spacecraft launched into Earth orbit April 28, 2003. GALEX carries an ultraviolet (UV) telescope for studying galaxies as far away as 10 billion light-years.

"GALEX is a time machine," says astronomer Peter Friedman of Caltech. Because light takes time to travel from place to place, pictures of distant galaxies reveal them as they were in the past. "GALEX is investigating the evolution of galaxies over 80% of the history of our universe."

The Hubble Space Telescope can see faraway galaxies, too, but GALEX has an advantage: While Hubble looks in great detail at very small regions of the sky, GALEX is surveying the entire sky, cataloging millions of galaxies during its 2-year mission.

GALEX is a UV mission for a reason.

Friedman explains: "UV radiation is a telltale sign of star birth." Stars are born when knots of gas condense in interstellar clouds. The ones we see best are the big ones-massive stars that burn hot and emit lots of UV radiation. "These stars are short-lived, so they trace recent star formation."

Understanding star formation is crucial to studies of galaxy evolution. When galaxies collide, star formation surges. When galaxies run out of interstellar gas, star formation wanes. In galaxies like the Milky Way, spiral arms are outlined by star-forming clouds. The shapes of galaxies, their history and fate — they're all connected by star formation.

Even life hinges on star formation, because stars make heavy elements for planets and organic molecules.

"Our measurements of UV radiation will tell us both the rate at which stars are forming in galaxies and the distances of the galaxies," says Friedman.

How did we get here? GALEX will show the way.

Find out more about GALEX at [www.galex.caltech.edu](http://www.galex.caltech.edu). For children, visit The Space Place at [spaceplace.nasa.gov/galex\\_make1.htm](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/galex_make1.htm) and make a beautiful galactic mobile while learning about some of the different shapes galaxies can take.

*This article was provided by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, under a contract with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.*

### **Caption:**

*This image of Messier 101 (M101), aka the "Pinwheel Galaxy," was taken in two orbits of GALEX on June 20, 2003. M101 is 20 million light years away.*

### **Note to Editor:**

The image file can be found at [http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/astro\\_clubs/M101\\_pinwheel\\_galaxy.jpg](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/astro_clubs/M101_pinwheel_galaxy.jpg)





## The BookShelf

Bob Seney

Here in the *BookShelf*, I usually try to help you keep up with all the Newbery Award and Honor Books. In the past few years, I think that the selections for the awards have been especially appropriate for gifted readers (Remember Judith Halsted's characteristics of books for gifted readers?) In this issue, I am going to stick my neck out and make a prediction for the 2004 Newbery Award. This is especially tricky since for the past couple of years my nominees have not been showing up on the list! But this year I think that I have selected a winner, at the very least a Newbery Honor Book.

It's not too surprising to find that it is by Gary Paulsen, one of our very favorite authors. The book is *The Glass Café* (2003, Wendy Lamb Books) and it is an absolute delight. Its subtitle, alone, gives you an indication that you are in for a fun reading treat. The subtitle is *OR, The STRIPPER and the STATE: How My Mother Started a War With the System That Made Us Kind of RICH and a Little Bit FAMOUS*. With a subtitle like that you know that, you just can't go wrong. The story is told in first person by Tony, a twelve year old gifted emerging artist and as he says "The story is all true and it happened to me and is mine!" (Foreword)

Tony tells his story in a humorous stream-of-consciousness style of writing. The sentences go on and on and he uses very little punctuation. Then he occasionally intersperses notes about story writing that Ms. Providege, his English teacher, has taught him. "The thing is right about here if we followed Ms. Providege's rules for English we would probably move on to the plot, where the characters have what she calls "conflict," and we would work through the "conflict" to some "form of resolution." He continues, "And I would like to do that, I really would except that I think it would leave out the most important thing...you would miss most of my life... because that's the part the state just couldn't understand." (Page 15-16)

What the state just couldn't understand is that Al, short for Alice, Tony's mom, is a stripper, excuse me, an "exotic dancer" at the Kit Kat Club. Actually, she is a drop out

from a doctoral program in English literature, in which she was doing a dissertation on Charles Dickens, but she had to find a way to pay the bills after Tony's dad dropped out of the picture. The "plot thickens" when Tony (and his art teacher, Ms. Klein) finds that he is truly a remarkable artist and that he is especially good with human figures. Noting that all the great artists preferred the female figure, he asks his mom if he might draw the "girls" down at the Kit Kat Club. They all knew Tony and he had often visited their dressing room. So after their okay, he sits quietly in the corner and with amazing skill captures not only the

lines of the human body but the life stories of each individual "model" in his drawings. His mother is impressed and so is Ms. Klein. She asks permission to enter them in a competition. Tony wins and his pictures are hung in the city museum.

Now the plot gets even thicker. Somebody takes offense at the pictures of semi-nude women drawn by a twelve year old and files a complaint with the juvenile welfare department. Then things get off on a rollicky and really funny chain-of-events after Mrs. Pearson, a social worker shows up on the scene. Things become complicated, confusing, and uproariously funny as Al and Tony end up in court and win their case! This book is absolutely delightful – and it is in good taste by the way. I didn't chuckle through this one – I downright laughed my way right to the very end. Paulsen has again shown his mastery in story telling and his great skill in highly effective writing. You really, really don't want to miss this one. In the next *BookShelf*, I will remind you of my prediction after the Newbery awards are announced in January.

Gary Paulsen is perhaps one of the most well known writers in young adult literature. Three of his books have won Newbery Honors, *Dogsong* (1985, Bradbury Press), which happens to be on my top ten list of all time favorites, *Hatchet* (1987, Viking Penguin Books) and *The Winter Room* (1989, Orchard Books). All of which I highly recommend. *Hatchet* began a series of highly popular "Brian" books and the announcement has just been made that the fifth one, *Brian's Hunt*, will be released in 2004. If you use any of the "Brian" books in class then you must get *Guts: The True Stories Behind Hatchet and the Brian Books* (2001, Delacourt). This one seems to have gotten by a lot of folks.

I think that we should also mention that in addition to other various prizes, Paulsen has also won the prestigious Margaret A. Edwards Award for life time achievement in young adult literature. This award is given by the Young Adult Library Services Association and is co-sponsored by the *School Library Journal*. You just can't go wrong with any Paulsen book. He writes primarily for middle school students but gifted fourth and fifth graders won't have any trouble reading any of his books. I am sure that *The Glass Café* will be quickly picked up by Paulsen fans even the ones in high school (and adults!!) for a great read.

I was sorry that the National Conference for Governor's School's dates coincided with MAGC Conference dates this year. This was the first time that I missed MAGC since my arrival in Mississippi in 1993. I missed y'all. If anyone wants my 2003 Edition list of books from my "What's New in YA Lit" presentation. Just give me an email and I will be happy to send it to you. By the way, for your information: I keep adding to the list until the first of December. So you might want to wait until then to request the list. Happy Reading!

Bob Seney  
bseney@muw.edu

# Summer Program Offerings

## The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies

### The Leadership Studies Program

June 20–25, 2004. This is a residential program designed for students in grades 6–11, who are recommended by school officials and who have a desire to develop and enhance their leadership abilities. Students will be housed in dormitories on the campus of USM in Hattiesburg, MS. Tuition includes room, board, recreational activities, and limited accident insurance. Financial aid is available based on need on a limited basis. Students may enroll in one of the following:

**Leadership I**, a program which emphasizes fundamental leadership skills

**Leadership II**, an intense study to further develop leadership concepts and qualities with Leadership I as a prerequisite for entry

**Leadership III**, which focuses on legal aspects of leadership, responsibilities of various leadership positions, developing personal power, and leadership for the future. Leadership II is a prerequisite for entry.

### The Summer Gifted Studies Program

June 27–July 2, 2004. This residential program is designed for students in grades 4–8 with an IQ of 120 or above on an individually administered test or the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile or above at the national level on an achievement test. The program provides planned enrichment/acceleration activities. Content areas are combined with processing skills to enable students to explore a wide variety of topics. Students will be housed in dormitories on the campus of USM in Hattiesburg. Recreational activities and cultural events will be included, based upon availability. Tuition includes room, board, recreational and cultural activities, and limited accident insurance. Financial aid is available based on need on a limited basis.

### The Summer Program for Academically Talented Youth

July 11 – 30, 2004. This residential program is designed for students in grades 7 – 10 who qualify based on SAT or ACT results. Courses offered include pre-calculus mathematics, including Algebra I and II, geometry, trigonometry, and modern analysis; physics; anatomy/physiology; marine biology; forensic science; polymer science; psychology; creative writing; southern writers and literature; debate; public speaking; mythology; journalism; genetics; human geography; and foreign languages. The University of Southern Mississippi offers the program through co-

operative efforts with the Duke University Talent Identification Program. Tuition includes the instructional program, books, room and board, recreational activities, and limited accident insurance. Financial aid is available based on need on a limited basis.

For more information, contact The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies, The University of Southern Mississippi, Box 8207, Hattiesburg, MS 39406. Phone: (601) 266-5236; Fax: (601) 266-4978; E-mail: [gifted.studies@usm.edu](mailto:gifted.studies@usm.edu); Web-site: <http://www.usm.edu/gifted>.

## Summer Institute for the Gifted (SIG)

SIG's residential summer camps are available to students in grades 4 - 11 and will be offered this summer at 6 college campuses: Amherst College, Bryn Mawr College, Caldwell University, Oberlin College, UCLA and Vassar College. Their approach to gifted education focuses upon the intellectual, social and emotional needs of each student. They offer more than 80 academic courses. The cost for the residential program is \$3,350 for a three-week summer camp experience. SIG also offers day programs at Moorestown Friends School, Tower Hill, Purchase College and Fairfield University, also for a three-week period. These non-residential programs are designed for students in grades 1 - 6 and combine a structured academic schedule with daily recreational activities. The cost for the day program is \$1,550. In addition to academics, both residential and day participants engage in cultural, recreational, creative exercises, entertainment, trips and a host of other activities to foster well-rounded development.

Students can qualify for SIG if they have scored in the 95th percentile or above in at least one of the major content areas of a national standardized test. Students who have been identified as gifted or who have participated in their school's gifted program can also qualify for participation. Letters of recommendation from a teacher or school administrator will also be considered. For additional information on SIG programs or to speak with our professional staff, contact Amanda Ritz toll-free at (866) 303-4744, [aritz@aifs.com](mailto:aritz@aifs.com) or visit [www.giftedstudy.com](http://www.giftedstudy.com).

## Summer Challenge

Summer Challenge will be held at Hinds Community College June 7 - 18, 2004. This year's theme is Mission to Mars. Cost will be \$325 per student. It is open to students who will enter Grades 3 - 7 in Fall 2004. The hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. M-F for two weeks. For more information, interested parents may call 601-924-3859 or send emails to [summerchallenge@jam.rr.com](mailto:summerchallenge@jam.rr.com).

Mississippi Destination ImagiNation®

Invites you to be our **VIP** at one of two Creative Competitions.

You will experience first-hand the Roadmap to the  
Future for Mississippi's Educational Excellence.

Come see over 500 Mississippi students solving complex challenges in a diverse team-based Creative Problem Solving competition where they will have limited time, money, and material to present their team-generated solutions. Come see the excitement, enthusiasm, and education that is taking place with tons of FUN!

**MS DI will provide lunch & your personal gas for you to be our VIP.**

March 6, 2004      Denman JHS, McComb      Preliminary Tournament

March 27, 2004      Columbus HS, Columbus      State Finals

RSVP by March 1, 2004.



RSVP to --  
Stephen McMullan  
MS State DI Director  
601-469-4590  
smcmullan@localink4.com  
www.mapsdi.org



## *Spring Day of Sharing*

The Day of Sharing for Teachers of the Gifted will be held on March 5, 2004 at the Center for Healthy Living located at the Hattiesburg Family Y from 8:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. This conference, sponsored by the Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies, is designed to educate teachers on current curriculum and instructional approaches in gifted education. Teachers of the gifted, regular education teachers, and administrators are encouraged to attend. There is no cost for attendance.

The theme for the Day of Sharing is "Practical Ideas for Teachers: Teaching, Reaching, and Understanding. Speakers include Lia Landrum, immediate past president of the Mississippi Association for Gifted Children. She will present student-centered ideas on raising money for gifted education programs. Kevin Besnoy, doctoral student in Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education with an emphasis in gifted education at The University of Southern Mississippi, will present "Twice-Exceptional Students: Identifying and Serving the Gifted/Disabled." Sandee Manning and Christa Martin, graduate research assistants at the Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies will assist in this presentation. Lee Walker, co-founder of the Interaction Factory, will present "Using Simulations to Teach Gifted Students." Jean Prather, Executive Director of the Mississippi Association for Gifted Children will speak on involving parents in gifted education. Dr. Conrad Castle, State Consultant for Gifted Education, will also be present to give an update on gifted education in Mississippi. Teachers will be given time to share activities and ideas. Deadline for registration is February 15, 2004. For more information, contact the Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies at (601) 266-5236 or [gifted.studies@usm.edu](mailto:gifted.studies@usm.edu)

# MAGC Supportive Funding

Mississippi Association for Gifted Children encourages you to honor a gifted program teacher, a gifted child, or someone special in our field. This is a wonderful way to pay tribute to someone, while at the same time supporting gifted education in Mississippi. Because MAGC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, your gift is tax deductible.

## In Memory of / In Honor of Tribute Form

I am enclosing a special gift in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

To celebrate his/her/their \_\_\_\_\_

Send acknowledgment of gift to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate on acknowledgment that the gift is being made by:

Your Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form with your gift to:

MAGC Supportive Funding

P.O. Box 3545

Jackson, MS 39207

## Correction

In the winter issue of Concepts an article ran titled *Interested in a Scrabble Club*. In this article the contact address was incorrect. If you are interested in starting a Scrabble Club in your classroom please contact Danny Gatlin at the corrected address given below.

Danny Gatlin, 4742 Brookwood Place,  
Byram, MS 39272  
gscrabbleboy@aol.com

## Student Scholarship Offering

MAGC is offering scholarship money for students interested in attending summer programs for the gifted. The deadline for application is March 15, 2004. For more information and an application please contact Margaret Snider @ 330 Judy St., Jackson, MS 39212 or visit the MAGC web site at <http://www.msms.k12.ms.us/MAGC/index.htm>



## Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award 2003-2004 School Year

(Application Packets must be postmarked by April 15, 2004)

MAGC is pleased to announce the continuance of the NAGC-Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Awards for the 2003-2004 school year. The awards are designed to recognize excellence in young children. The awards, which include a \$500 U.S. Savings Bond, may be made to students in grades 3-6 who have distinguished themselves in academics, leadership, or the arts. Nominations will be accepted from the students themselves, parents, teachers, peers, and community and civic groups.

### Selection Criteria:

- Students must be in grades 3 through 6 at the time of the nomination.
- Outstanding student accomplishment may be in the areas of academics, the arts, or leadership.
- Student applicants must submit a written composition about why they feel their effort is important and how they got interested in the area for which they are being recognized. Compositions should describe (1) the activity or interest area for which the student is being nominated; (2) how the student got interested/involved in the activity; (3) what impact the activity has had on the student and on others; and (4) how the student's future plans and goals have been affected by this activity or interest area.
- At least one letter of recommendation, from someone other than a nominee's family member, explaining why the student nominee is deserving of the award, what sets him/her apart from other students, and how the student is impacting others.

### Submission to MAGC:

- Completed Student Nomination Form including the signed publicity release form.
- Copy of the student's composition.
- Letter(s) of recommendation.
- Self-addressed, stamped postcard, which will be used to acknowledge receipt of the application packet.

Mail completed packets to: Margaret Snider, Lee Elementary School, 330 Judy Street, Jackson, MS 39212  
Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award Application Form 2003-2004

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Age \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Grade at Time of Application \_\_\_\_\_  
School Name and Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Person Nominating Student \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to Nominee \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Release Form: I hereby give the National Association for Gifted Children permission to use my child's photo\* and composition, submitted in connection with the NAGC Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award, in any publicity or announcements NAGC may make about the award or the award winners, should my child be selected for the award. I further grant permission to NAGC to use my child's name, school name, and city/state in any publicity or announcements that uses his/her photo or composition, and to make edits to the length of the composition as may be necessary. I understand that neither my child nor I will receive any remuneration in connection with this permission and understand that the photo and the composition will not be returned to me.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

\*NAGC will request a photo of the award winners for use in award publicity and announcements. Do not send a photo with the application packet.

# MAGC Conference Registration Form

**October 7-8, 2004, The Crowne Plaza Hotel, Jackson, Mississippi**

**Registration Information:** Complete and return this form with your check or purchase order. Make checks payable to MAGC. Purchase order number alone is not a valid payment. You must include the actual purchase order.

**Cancellation Policy:** Cancellations must be received in writing by September 19, 2004, and are subject to a \$15.00 processing fee. Refunds will not be issued until November 15, 2004.

**Parking:** Overnight hotel guests park free. The regular parking rate for the hotel's garage is \$12 per day for non-overnight hotel guests. The special conference rate for non-overnight hotel guests is \$3 per day.

**Lodging:** Complete separate lodging reservation form and send it directly to the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

School District/ Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Gifted Education \_\_\_\_\_

Conference Registration and/or Membership Fees		Amount
	Membership Fee (Join now and receive member discounts!) ..... <b>\$25.00</b>	
<b>SELECT ONE ONLY</b>	<b>Early Registration Fee (must be postmarked by September 1, 2004)</b> Non-Members...\$95.00 Members.....\$80.00    Must include membership card # _____ expiration date _____	\$
	<b>Regular Registration Fee (must be postmarked by September 15, 2004)</b> Non-Members ...\$105.00 Members .....\$90.00    Must include membership card # _____ expiration date _____	\$
	<b>On-Site Registration Fee (after September 15, 2004)</b> Non-Members ...\$110.00 Members .....\$95.00    Must include membership card # _____ expiration date _____	\$
	<b>Undergraduate Student Registration Fee</b> (must show student ID at registration) .....\$30.00	\$
	<b>Family Night ONLY</b> .....\$3.00 per person or \$5.00 per family	\$
<b>Parking Fee</b> for cars of conference participants who are not overnight guests at the hotel...\$6.00 This excludes "symposium only" and "family night only" guests who may park free		\$
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT DUE</b>		\$

**AFTER SEPTEMBER 15, 2004, BRING THIS FORM WITH YOU FOR ON-SITE REGISTRATION. FORMS POSTMARKED AFTER SEPTEMBER 15 WILL BE ASSESSED A \$5.00 ON-SITE SURCHARGE.**

REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD FOR DISCOUNTS ON MAGC MERCHANDISE!

Mail completed registration form and payment to: Carol Paola, 1513 Westward Dr., Gulfport, MS 39501

# Conference Lodging Reservation form

**Mississippi Association for Gifted Children**

**October 7-8, 2004**

TO RECEIVE THE SPECIAL CONFERENCE RATE, THIS FORM MUST BE RECEIVED BY 09-15-04.  
Any housing request received after this date will be accepted at the regular rate, based on availability.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Group \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

MAGC GROUP RATE: \$79 per room per night – single occupancy  
\$79 per room per night – double occupancy  
(All rates subject to 8% state sales tax and \$0.75 occupancy tax - per room per night.)

Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Arrival Time \_\_\_\_\_ Arriving via: \_\_\_car \_\_\_van \_\_\_air

Check in as early as 3:00 PM. Check out by 11:00 AM.

Number and Type Rooms Requested: \_\_\_ Smoking \_\_\_ Non-smoking \_\_\_ No preference  
\_\_\_ Single King  
\_\_\_ Two Doubles  
\_\_\_ Rollaway bed(s) @ \$10 per night (Based on availability)

Reservation Guaranteed by: \_\_\_ Check  
\_\_\_ Money Order  
\_\_\_ Credit Card (complete info below)  
Type \_\_\_\_\_ Acct # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_\_

Please Provide the name(s) of person(s) who will be occupying or sharing room(s):

Room One	Room Two	Room Three	Room Four
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

**Return this form to: Crowne Plaza Hotel, 200 East Amite, Jackson, MS 39201**  
**Telephone (601) 969-5100 Fax (601) 353-4333**

# CALL FOR PROPOSALS - 2004 MAGC CONFERENCE

The conference will be held **October 7-8, 2004** at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Downtown Jackson. Completed proposals must be postmarked by **March 12, 2004**. Note that the conference registration fee will be waived for only **one** presenter per session.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Institutional Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_ Position/Job Title \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(street) (city/state) (zip code)

The Title of my proposed presentation is: \_\_\_\_\_

Below is a typed abstract (75 words or less) of the concurrent session I wish to present.

Co-Presenter \_\_\_\_\_ Registration fee **will not** be waived.

## Category of Presentation:

- ☐ Social/Emotional Needs of Gifted Children
- ☐ Differentiating Curriculum and Instruction
- ☐ Creativity and/or the Arts
- ☐ Evaluating Student Progress
- ☐ Special Populations
- ☐ Developing Leadership
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Intended Audience for Presentation:

- ☐ Elementary Teachers
- ☐ Secondary Teachers
- ☐ Parents of Gifted Children
- ☐ Administrators and/or Counselors
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail form to:** Kate Brown, Box W-1627, Columbus, MS 39701 (662) 329-7676

**PHOTOCOPY AND DISTRIBUTE THIS FORM AS NEEDED**

# Mississippi Association for Gifted Children

## Teacher Grant Application—Deadline: March 15, 2004

The MAGC Executive Board will award two grants this year of up to \$300 for course study. One grant will be presented to an experienced teacher or administrator with gifted certification to pursue additional training in gifted education. The other will be awarded to an experienced regular classroom teacher to pursue gifted certification. The grants will be forwarded to the recipient upon verification of course completion and are limited to actual cost of the course, up to \$300. Previous grant recipients are not eligible for this award.

### **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:** (Please check the grant for which you are applying.)

☐ **GRANT FOR TEACHER/ADMINISTRATOR WITH GIFTED CERTIFICATION**

1. MAGC Member,
2. At least two years of teaching experience in the area of gifted education,
3. Be currently enrolled or planning to enroll in a course/workshop for advanced study of gifted education, &
4. Have a history of attendance at conferences and/or workshops that pertain to gifted education.

☐ **GRANT FOR TEACHER TO PURSUE GIFTED CERTIFICATION**

1. At least two years of teaching experience in the regular classroom, and
2. Be currently enrolled or planning to enroll in a course of study for certification in gifted education.

**Teacher's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of School/Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Work Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please Attach the Following:

1. Letter(s) of recommendation/support from a superintendent, principal, program coordinator, and/or other supervisory personnel,
2. Autobiographical statement (200 words or less) describing areas of interest, honors, achievement, and past experiences of workshop and conference attendance, and
3. Brief description of the course/workshop for which the grant would be used.

Please mail completed application form and other required attachments to:

Margaret Snider  
330 Judy Street  
Jackson, MS 39212

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# MAGC Membership Application

**Current members! Take a moment to look at the mailing label on this issue of Concepts! If there is an 03 in front of your membership number, your membership has expired. Unless you renew, this will be your last issue of Concepts! To keep your membership current, just send in the form below with your membership fee of \$25. Thanks for your support.**

Check One:        New Member        Membership Renewal

Name	School District
------	-----------------

Home Phone	Work Phone
------------	------------

Preferred Address:

(street)

(city)

(state)

(ZIP)

E-mail Address	County

Enclose Membership Fee of \$25.00. Checks should be made payable to MAGC.

Mail membership form and membership fee to: Carol Paola, Membership Chairperson  
1513 Westward Drive  
Gulfport, MS 39501



**Executive Director:** Jean Prather  
900 Live Oak Dr., Clinton, MS 39056  
601-924-0068 601-624-4652  
Jprather@jam.rr.com

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gcsprir@hotmai.com

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jeverly@jackson.k12.ms.us

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sbean@muw.edu

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**NAGC Teacher Liaison:** Gail Hammond  
103 Twin Oaks Drive Brandon, MS 39047  
601-992-2841  
ghammond@rcsd.k12.ms.us

# MAGC

P.O. Box 3545  
Jackson, MS 39207  
www.msms.k12.ms.us/MAGC

**Is your membership expiring?**

**If you see an 03 along with your membership number on this mailing label it is! See page 15 for renewal information!**

## Mississippi's Gifted Problem Solvers Take on the Future

Approximately 250 expert problem solvers and short story writers participated in the annual Mississippi Future Problem Solving Program (FPSP) Affiliate Bowl, held this year on April 19-20 at the University of Mississippi. Students from across the state participated in one or more of the various components of the Bowl - booklet competition, community problem solving, and scenario writing.

The Affiliate Bowl is the culmination of a year-long program where students are taught to creatively seek, attack, and solve problems or challenges. In the booklet competition component of the program, students worked on three futuristic problems during the 2003-2004 school year ("Smart Clothes", "Rage/Bullying", and "Artificial Intelligence"), which were critiqued by trained evaluators. Based on the third problem, the top ten teams from each of the three grade divisions (4-6, 7-9, 10-12) were invited to participate in the Affiliate Bowl. While teams knew the general topic of this year's Bowl - "Media Impact" - they did not know the specific nature of the problem they were to solve until the Bowl began.

The Scenario Writing component gives students a chance to write a short story based on one of the topics that the booklet teams have worked on during the school year. Winning scenario writers were honored at the annual Affiliate Bowl Scenario Luncheon, at which the first place winners in each age division presented their scenarios.

In Community Problem Solving, or CmPS, students also work in teams, this time

using their problem-solving skills to creatively attack a problem or challenge which they have identified within their school or community.

In each component the students' work is evaluated according to established criteria, and trophies, plaques, medallions, and ribbons are awarded.

State champions in each division of each component will represent Mississippi at the 2004 Future Problem Solving International Conference. This year's Conference will be held at the University of Kentucky on June 3-6.

Founded in 1974 by Dr. E. Paul Torrance, FPSP stimulates critical and creative thinking skills and encourages students to develop a vision for the future. The Program currently charters forty-three affiliate programs throughout the United States, Australia, New Zealand, and Korea, involving more than 250,000 students annually.

For more information about Future Problem Solving, contact Mississippi's Affiliate Director, Melissa Grantham, at 601-853-2764 or [mpgmsfpasp@juno.com](mailto:mpgmsfpasp@juno.com).

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## **From the Executive Director**

I would like to thank Kate Brown for being our representative at the affiliate meeting in Washington, DC in March. After her visits to the Capitol, all our U.S. Congressmen agreed to again support the Javits funding for gifted by signing on as sponsors and/or cosponsors of the bill. I trust you will express your appreciation to your senator and representative for their support at the federal level. We are so fortunate that we have this type of relationship with them. Check the NAGC website to keep updated on what is going on at the national level.

All states are in a dilemma with funding for gifted and concerns regarding the effects of No Child Left Behind on our gifted and more able learners. We will continue to work with the Department of Education regarding our concerns and try to develop a plan to address the gaps for our population of students.

As you know, MAGC launched an intensive legislative agenda this year. In addition to the activities that were reported in the last issue of Concepts, we sent letters to all the affiliate groups, teachers of gifted and advisory board members requesting their assistance with our legislative agenda. I have spoken to many groups around the state encouraging parents to get involved in our efforts and ultimately form a local affiliate group. I would like to personally thank each of you who responded to our call for help relative to gifted funding for 2005. This has been a most unusual session with lots of frustrations for everyone involved. After a long struggle the house and senate were unable to compromise on the education

bill so it was necessary for the bill to go to conference. Three members from each chamber served on the conference committee. Sunday Evening May 9 at midnight, bill 1696 was finalized. This bill for 2005 was \$44 million short of 2004 funding. This shortage of funds impacts all programs including gifted. As I write this article, MDE has not finalized budget allocations and could not give me specifics as to the amount that gifted will be funded but did say it will be less than we currently have in 2004. Gifted funding is not a part of the lump sum allocated to districts through MAEP, thus the amount of money allocated to districts for gifted will have to be used for gifted programs. So we anxiously await the final budget report from MDE. We are aware that adjustments will have to be made relative to gifted teacher units. In some situations districts will be able to make up the difference in funding to keep all their gifted teachers, in other situations they may not have the funds available to do that. Let me assure you that MAGC's goal is for full funding so that all our identified gifted children can be served. With your help, we will continue to work toward that end.

Let me encourage every teacher of the gifted and every parent of a gifted child or youth to join with us so together we can continue to fight for the rights of this population.

It is my privilege to work with the MAGC Board, the Advisory Board and to serve as a friend to and spokesperson for the 33,000 plus gifted students in our state. We are indeed looking for a brighter day for all areas of education!

*Jean C. Prather*

## From the MAGC President

### MAGC Membership a Must

Having endured this season of uncertainty, I am more convinced than ever that a large membership is vital to MAGC's success in ensuring that Mississippi's gifted children have appropriate educational services. In addition, a significant increase in membership would make me feel that I had served you well as MAGC President. We all know of principals who have promised to kiss a pig or shave their heads if their students read a certain number of books. I recently read an article about a minister who preached from the roof of his church because his congregation met an attendance goal. This made me think that perhaps I might promise to sing at the fall conference if our membership included 90% of the teachers of the gifted in the state. However I quickly realized that the prospect of my singing would undoubtedly have a negative effect on both the conference and our membership. Instead, let me try to promote MAGC membership by sharing with you some of the work that our organization has done on behalf of gifted children this year.

Our members have worked tirelessly to promote funding for gifted education for the upcoming school year. As the legislature wrestled with education funding, MAGC continually worked to remind our representatives that gifted classes are essential to appropriately educate our state's brightest children. We began by bringing gifted education to the legislators' attention. Early in the legislative session, a committee chaired by Jane Everly put together gift bags for the legislators. Attached to these bags was a tag with the message, "Gifted Education and Legislators working together for the future of Mississippi." MAGC Executive Director, Jean Prather, led a delegation of parents and gifted children who delivered the gift bags and made personal contact with legislators. (See the last issue of *Concepts* for pictures.) MAGC

Legislative Chairman, Kay Collins has endeavored to keep the membership up to date on legislative developments via email. Gifted advocacy groups throughout the state were also called into action. Many of those parents made telephone calls, wrote letters, and send emails in support of gifted education. Jean Prather made regular visits to the capitol and contacted legislators, SDE staff, and lobbyists almost daily. At Teachers of the Gifted Instructional Forum at MUW Jean challenged the assembly to contact legislators and ask for full funding of gifted education. We also collected signatures that day. These were attached to a letter asking for full funding for gifted education that was sent to the legislature. Two mass mailings were done, one to our membership and one to teachers of the gifted who do not belong to MAGC. These mailings informed the recipients of the legislative situation and included MAGC membership information.

Because of their passion for gifted education, MAGC members have done an amazing job of lobbying for gifted education funding. Our weakness, however, is still in our numbers. As long as there are teachers of the gifted and parents of gifted children who do not belong to this organization we will never have the clout we need. Please do your part to ensure that Mississippi continues to meet the needs of its gifted children. Share this issue of *Concepts* with the parents of your students and with other teachers. Give them a copy of the membership form. Start a gifted advocacy group in your area. (Contact Jean Prather for information on how to do this.)

The events of this spring should dispel any doubts that membership in MAGC is important. In fact MAGC membership is vital important. If our membership increases significantly between now and our fall conference, I promise that I will not sing, but I will be wearing this biggest smile you ever saw!

*Mary Webb*



## The Bookshelf By Dr. Bob Seney

Let me begin by quoting myself from the Winter 2003-4 "BookShelf."

"Here in the *BookShelf*, I usually try to help you keep up with all the Newbery Award and Honor Books. In the past few years, I think that the selections for the awards have been especially appropriate for gifted readers (Remember Judith Halsted's characteristics of books for gifted readers?) In this issue, I am going to stick my neck out and make a prediction for the 2004 Newbery Award. This is especially tricky since for the past couple of years my nominees have not been showing up on the list! But this year I think that I have selected a winner, at the very least a Newbery Honor Book."

Well, do I have egg on my face? My nomination, which you might remember was Gary Paulsen's *The Glass Café* (2003, Wendy Lamb Books) with the wonderful subtitle: *OR, The STRIPPER and the STATE: How My Mother Started a War With the System That Made Us Kind of RICH and a Little Bit FAMOUS*, didn't even make the Honor Book List! I just don't know. I guess I will just have to stop trying to second guess the Newbery Committee. This doesn't mean that I am happy that Paulsen was overlooked once more, I'm not, but I will accept the "judges" pronouncement and just grumble a little. Actually, accepting this year's Newbery list is not so hard at all!

With my grudge, I was all set to NOT enjoy this year's Newbery Award Book, *The Tale of Despereaux: Being the story of a mouse, a princess, some soup, and a spool of thread* (2003, Candlewick Press) by Kate DiCamillo, but I readily admit I was quickly hooked by this delightful book.

"The world is dark, and light is precious. Come closer, dear reader. You must trust me. I am telling you a story." (Preface) So begins the tale of Despereaux --

a very unlikely hero, but that is the bases of his creation. The son of one of DiCamillo's (remember, "Because of Winn-Dixie" (2000, Candlewick Press) DiCamillo's first novel and a 2001 Newbery Honor Book?) best friends asked her to write a story for him. "It's about an unlikely hero," he said, 'one with exceptionally large ears.' 'What happens to him?' I asked. "I don't know," he said. "That why I want you to write the story, so we can find out." (Book jacket) Readers, I promise you that you will keep reading until you find out as well.

Despereaux Tilling is different from birth. He was the only mouse in his litter that was born alive. He was very small; he had very large ears; and he was born with his eyes open, unheard of! As you might expect, he acted differently from the other mice. His older brother, Furlough, tried to teach him mouse ways but to no avail. Despereaux was not interested in "scrabbling" across the floor. He wanted to take it easy and see what was around him and he was especially caught up by the light shining through the stained glass windows. Light turns out to be a very important element in this story. Through several adventures, Despereaux finally meets the Princess Pea.

In his wonderings about the castle, one day he heard a honey-sweet sound, which eventually, he finds out is music. The King was playing his guitar for the Princess. Despereaux was enamored both by the music and the beautiful Princess. He did the unthinkable in the mouse world. He actually talked to the Princess and allowed her to pet him. This was too much for the Mouse Clan and he was called before the High Council who sentenced him to the dungeon to be eaten by the rats. "Reader, you must know that an interesting fate (sometimes involving rats, sometimes not) awaits almost everyone, mouse or man, who does not conform." (Page 25)

So begins the adventure, an adventure that involves four very different characters, Despereaux, the Princess Pea, Chiaroscuro,

the rat villain, and the simple minded maid, Miggery Sow. It is up to our hero to save the Princess from the clutches of Roscuro who has misled Miggery. With many a twist-and-a-turn, the tale spins itself out and the reader is carried along almost breathlessly. This book is a delight! I actually don't resent that it replaced my favorite.

Stylistically, there are several really clever techniques. One of them is suggested above. At the end of nearly every chapter, DiCamillo reminds us of her role as story teller and speaks directly to us. At one point, she declares "Reader, it is your duty." (Page 127) and continues with our instructions. DiCamillo certainly keeps us in the story. This technique is very similar to what we find in the delightful Lemony Snickett books. In fact, I was often reminded of that series and of Avi's Poppy series, which is another of my great favorites. At any rate, the Newbery Medal is well earned. I am not sure when I have enjoyed a Medal book so much. You certainly are in for a really fun reading experience. By the way this book would make a perfect read aloud book for any age group.

Well, after carrying on about this delightful book, I find that I have used up my

space (again!) and we still haven't talked about the Honor Books. I promise a review of the Honor Books in the next "BookShelf," but at least I can list them for you and encourage you to purchase them. This year only two Newbery Honor Books were named. This certainly shouldn't suggest that there weren't that many good books out there. In fact, it probably means that there were so many good books nominated that the committee just couldn't agree. This has been the case in the past. The two Honor Books named were Kevin Henkes' *Olive's Ocean* (2003, Greenwillow Books) and a non-fiction book, *An American Plague: the True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1792* by Jim Murphy (2003, Clarion Books). I was very pleased with both of them. In fact "Plague" really caught my attention and I actually put off reading it! Well, if you haven't read them, then I have helped you start your summer reading list and, of course, if you are looking for books for our younger students be sure and check out the Caldecott Books. Until next time, Happy Reading!

Bob Seney  
bseney@muw.edu



(601) 266-5236 or  
(601) 266-5246

## Day of Sharing for Teacher's of the Gifted

November 12, 2004 Hattiesburg Family Y, Hattiesburg, MS  
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Julia Roberts,  
Director, Center for Gifted Studies, Western Kentucky University

## Parenting Gifted Children Conference

November 13, 2004 USM – Joseph Greene Hall, Hattiesburg, MS  
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Julia Roberts  
Director, Center for Gifted Studies, Western Kentucky University  
Topic: Advocating to Help Your Gifted Child Thrive

## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Celebration of the Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies

December 2, 2004 Lake Terrace Convention Center, Hattiesburg, MS  
Keynote Speaker: Mr. Jason Dorsey Topic: How Gifted Education Changed My Life





## Voyage to a Double Planet

By Patrick L. Barry and Dr. Tony Phillips

Download a "nine planets" screensaver for your computer with spectacular photos of our solar system, and you'll notice that one planet is conspicuously missing: Pluto. Icy and mysterious, Pluto is the only planet never visited and photographed by NASA space probes.

In fact, the clearest image we have of Pluto is a tiny, pixelated blob of light and dark patches taken by the Hubble Space Telescope in 1994. It's tantalizing but not much more. Earth-based telescopes have succeeded, however, in discovering one amazing fact: Pluto is not a lone world, but a double-planet system. Its companion, measuring about half the size of Pluto itself, is named Charon.

Work is underway to launch a robotic probe to visit and photograph Pluto and Charon. The project, called New Horizons, will map both worlds. Sensors will chart surface minerals and ices, and catalog the gases that make up Pluto's wispy atmosphere.

"It's the second epoch in the exploration of the planets," says Alan Stern, the principal investigator for New Horizons at the Southwest Research Institute in Colorado. "We're going to the very edge of the solar system."

The probe is scheduled to launch in January 2006. Its journey will be a long one. Pluto is more than 30 times further away from the Sun than Earth is! Even with a speed boost from a flyby of Jupiter, the probe won't arrive at Pluto until July 2015. Afterward, the

probe will venture on to explore the Kuiper Belt, a distant "halo" of small, frozen objects surrounding the solar system, from which comets originate.

Aside from sheer curiosity about these distant worlds, scientists are motivated by questions about the formation of the solar system. Orbiting in the deep freeze far from the sun, Pluto and Charon have undergone less change than the inner planets during the solar system's 4.5 billion year history. These two worlds will provide a glimpse into the past.

Pluto could also shed light on the origin of our own Moon. Earth, with its single, large moon, is unusual. The Pluto-Charon system is the only other pair like it in the solar system. In fact, some astronomers consider Earth and the Moon to be a double planet, too. So knowing more about Pluto and Charon could give clues about how the Earth-Moon system formed.

And, of course, the spectacular, up-close photos of Pluto and Charon are going to look great as a screensaver!

*This article was provided by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, under a contract with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.*

An image to accompany this article can be found on the internet at [http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/news\\_images/NewHorizons.jpg](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/news_images/NewHorizons.jpg)

Caption:

Artist's idea of the New Horizons spacecraft flying by Pluto and its moon, Charon.

(Credit: Dan Durda)



## Tupelo Students Host Leadership Conference

Sometimes transitioning from an elementary to middle school or junior high setting can be tough on students. Tupelo Middle School gifted students in Jean Harden, Diane Rogers, and Ann Lanphere's classes have found a solution to make the transition easier. On March 31st these gifted seventh graders held The Leadership and More in 2004 conference welcoming the upcoming sixth graders to the Middle School. The conference was student designed and student led. It began with a group assembly during which the keynote speaker explained the importance of students displaying leadership characteristics in

their personal lives as examples for other students. Then the seventh graders presented multimedia presentations on the gifted curriculum the upcoming sixth graders would study in seventh grade. To conclude, the seventh graders divided the sixth graders into small groups to answer any of their questions about the Middle School and to lead them in a few fun activities. This was the second year that the seventh graders held a leadership conference. After last year's conference we saw an increase in the number of students who remained in the program after grade six.

### ***Congratulations to our MAGC Scholarship Winners!***

**Teacher Grant Winner**

**Ginger Langford, Brandon, MS**

***Summer Gifted Program Winners***

**Trequan Tate, Starkville, MS – Summer Scholars On-Stage**

***Porsha Jefferson, Jackson, MS – Summer Discovery***

### **MAGC Officer Nominations**

You are encouraged to nominate candidates for the positions of MAGC secretary, vice president, and president elect. Please send your letter of recommendation to the Nominations Committee Chair by September 3, 2004.

**Melissa Grantham,  
Nominations Committee Chair**

69 Redbud Lane  
Madison, MS 39110  
Home (601) 853-2764  
Work (601) 879-3069

**Committee Members**

Kate Brown  
Barbara Hunt  
Tommye Henderson  
Linda Mucha

### **2004 MAGC Membership Application**

Become a member of MAGC today! Your membership will be effective immediately and won't expire until 12/31/04. Fill out the form below and mail it along with your membership fee to: Carol Paola, Membership Chairperson  
1513 Westward Drive Gulfport, MS 39501

Check one:    ☐ New Member                      ☐ Renewal  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School District: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone #: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Preferred address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose your membership fee of \$25.00 with your application.

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# MAGC

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## Judy Galbraith to give Keynote Address at 2004 MAGC Conference

This year's MAGC conference will be held October 7-8 at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Jackson, MS. We are proud to feature as our keynote speaker, renowned author Judy Galbraith, M.A. Ms. Galbraith will deliver the keynote address Thursday morning and the topic will be, "When Gifted Kids Don't Have All the Answers: How to Meet Their Social and Emotional Needs".

Ms Galbraith has a master's degree in guidance and counseling of the gifted. She has worked with and taught gifted children and teens, their parents, and their teachers for over 20 years. In 1983, she started Free Spirit Publishing, which specializes in SELF-HELP FOR KIDS® and SELF-HELP FOR TEENS® books and other learning materials.

Ms. Galbraith is the author of THE GIFTED KIDS' SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR AGES 10 & UNDER and YOU KNOW YOUR CHILD IS GIFTED WHEN . . . A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO LIFE ON THE BRIGHT SIDE. She is the coauthor of THE GIFTED KIDS' SURVIVAL GUIDE: A TEEN HANDBOOK (with Jim Delisle, Ph.D.), WHAT KIDS NEED TO SUCCEED: PROVEN, PRACTICAL WAYS TO RAISE GOOD KIDS (with Peter L. Benson, Ph.D., and Pamela Espeland), and WHAT TEENS NEED TO SUCCEED: PROVEN, PRACTICAL WAYS TO SHAPE YOUR OWN FUTURE (with Peter and Pamela).

Other plans for this year's conference include a variety of breakout sessions on topics like, teaching the learning disabled gifted child, using technology in the gifted classroom, identification of the gifted, and countless other tips and ideas for the gifted classroom. Creativity night will also be offered, and vendors offering products related to parenting and teaching gifted children will be on hand throughout the conference. Please make plans to attend. Registration materials can be found later in this issue of Concepts.

**For more information about  
MAGC,  
Visit our website:  
[www.msms.k12.ms.us/  
MAGC/index.htm](http://www.msms.k12.ms.us/MAGC/index.htm)**

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## From the Executive Director

As you read this article, I am serving as a sports chaplain at the Summer Olympics and Paralympics in Athens, Greece. I am privileged to be a part of a mission team from Action Ministries International that goes to the Olympics every two years. I will return just in time for the MAGC Conference and anticipate seeing all of you there.

To say the least 2003-04 has been a great challenge for all of us. We have lots of work ahead of us in order to restore services for all our identified gifted students.

I was in a recent meeting with our state superintendent, Dr. Henry Johnson and other MDE personnel. The MAGC Board had prepared some questions and issues to be clarified relative to gifted education. I would like to share the questions and responses and at the same time assure you that there will be continued collaboration between MAGC and MDE as we work on the various issues that impact the integrity of identification of and programming for our gifted students.

- How many students will each teacher of the gifted be allowed to serve in 2004-05? As teacher units were not allocated this year, school districts will have the flexibility to increase the number of gifted students that each teacher can serve WHILE MAINTAINING PROGRAM INTEGRITY. It is our intention to collaborate with all interested parties and reach a mutually agreed upon cap on the number of children that can be served.
- Will teachers' salaries be pro-rated if the number of students is exceeded? NO. As no teacher units were allocated this portion of the regulations is not applicable.
- Once teacher numbers are at maximum, does the district stop screening and/or referring? NO. This practice is prohibited by state law for the Intellectually Gifted in grades 2-6.

- Since we are now a part of **MAEP**, what is going to be the process for allocation of the gifted program and what will it be based on? For 2006, MDE will request that the gifted program be allocated as it has in the past. Specifically, MDE has made the request for 880 teacher units for the gifted education program.
- Will we be under the same type of monitoring system through **MSIS**? YES
- On **MSIS**, will the student count be done in house in respective districts to determine number of teachers needed to teach gifted? YES
- As a part of **MAEP**, what information will be disseminated to districts to make them aware of the amount needed for gifted education in their respective district? Due to the budget situation, there will not be any allocations presented this year.
- How will **MDE monitor the use of funds** to ensure that districts are using gifted funds appropriately? We will continue to monitor the gifted program effectiveness. In addition, we do plan to make minor changes in the gifted education-monitoring instrument and this document will be sent to all interested parties through APA process for comments and suggestions for improvement.

Note the importance of the **MSIS count** being **accurate**. The above stated issues will be addressed at the conference. Please encourage your parents to participate. Teresa Mosley and I will be presenting a session for parents and we ask that you encourage your affiliate group to send a parent representative to the conference. I trust that you begin your new school year with renewed enthusiasm, vigor and a determination to partner with us as we "keep up the fight" for our most able learners.



## From the MAGC President

Dear Friends,

I hope that your return to school has been pleasant. Personally, the new school year is always a time for me to set new goals and make resolutions. Getting organized is always somewhere near the top of my list.

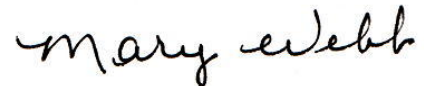
If you are like me and find yourself making plans for the new school year, I urge you to make attendance at the MAGC annual conference a part of your plan. This gathering of educators is the best place I know to meet other educators who share a common interest in gifted children, to pick up great teaching

tips, and to find out what is new in the field.

This year we are privileged to have Judy Galbraith as our keynote speaker. Judy will be discussing her latest book, *When Gifted Kids Don't Have All the Answers*. Since this year's conference will focus on the social/emotional needs of gifted children, why not invite a counselor from your school to attend the conference with you?

Best wishes for a great school year. I look forward to seeing you at the conference.

Sincerely,



## MAGC's 2004 Winner of the Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award

### Primrose Mangilog

9 year-old daughter of Maribel and Percival Mangilog of Jackson

- Shows spirit of generosity and compassion by collecting \$345.00 for her 9<sup>th</sup> birthday to send to Filipino children of Bantay Bata, Philippines
- Helps serve food, read books and entertain with cello and singing the elderly at Manhattan Health Center
- Extremely gifted musically says Mrs. Nancy Bateman, cello instructor
- Often helps out at the Stewpot and provides items for the Shelter for Battered Women and the children at Blair Batson Children's Hospital
- Member for 2 years of MS Girlchoir – began as the youngest child ever – “a model chorister and an inspiration to those around her” says Lillian Lee, director MS Girlchoir
- Member of MS Youth Symphony “exceptionally focused, disciplined and dedicated” says Luidmila B. Duston, conductor MS Youth Symphony
- In her composition, Primrose says, “I want to be a teacher so I can help my students build a bright future. I will encourage them to aim high and to never give up on their dreams.”
- Described by other support letters as a leader, bright, eager to learn, joyful, enthusiastic, at ease in conversation with people of all ages and a voracious reader



# The Bookshelf

By Dr. Bob Seney

In the last *BookShelf*, we looked at this year's Newbery Award winner (*The Tale of Despereaux: Being the story of a mouse, a princess, some soup, and a spool of thread* by Kate DiCamillo, 2003, Candlewick Press). After my admittedly enthusiastic review, I had no space left to address the 2003 Newbery Honor Books and we certainly can't overlook those books, which number only two this year. The Newbery Committee may name up to four books, but when the list is short, it doesn't mean that there weren't that many good books out there. In fact, it probably means just the opposite. There were so many good books nominated that the committee couldn't agree. The two Honor Books were Kevin Henkes' *Olive's Ocean* (2003, Greenwillow Books) and a non-fiction book, *An American Plague: the True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1792* by Jim Murphy (2003, Clarion Books).

*Olive's Ocean* is classic Newbery, extremely well written with a complex plot and complex characters. It is a coming of age novel but with a real twist. One of the main characters, Olive, is not present. Just after school was let out for the summer, she had been killed while riding her bicycle. Olive's mother appears at Martha's home and gives her Olive's last entry in her journal. This is really Martha's story but the impact of Olive's journal entry becomes a major factor as Martha faces a summer of growing up, which includes her first love. Martha is twelve years old and she has decided that she wants to be a writer, but there are some obstacles to overcome. Olive's legacy proves to be both helpful and meaningful.

Olive, who was very shy and quiet, was new to Martha's school. She was not mistreated by her classmates nor was she entirely ignored. She just had not been included. When Martha reads the journal entry, entitled "My Hopes," she discovers three things about Olive: that she too wanted to be a writer; that she wanted to see a real ocean; and that she wanted to get to know Martha better – her biggest hope.

Martha's and Olive's story is a beautiful, tender, and thoughtful story. The novel reads well and quickly, holding the reader in a warm and

friendly grasp. It was difficult to put it down. This novel will probably be enjoyed most by older elementary and younger middle school girls, in part, because it may be their story as well. *Olive's Ocean* is certainly well worth reading and not just because it has been named a Newbery Honor Book. This one gets another very high recommendation.

The second honor book is non-fiction. While it is not unknown to name non-fiction to the Newbery award list, it is relatively rare. The emphasis seems to be on fiction, but every once in awhile, a non-fiction comes along that demands recognition. Jim Murphy's *An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793* (2003, Clarion Books) is certainly one of these. This is Murphy's second Newbery Honor, so we shouldn't be too surprised to see him honored again. He received his first Honor in 1996 for *The Great Fire* (1995, Scholastic), the story of the Chicago fire of 1871.

Murphy is probably the most well known historian writing for young readers today. He has written over 25 books for young readers and many of these books have received numerous awards. His *The Boys' War: Confederate and Union Soldiers Talk About the Civil War* (Reissue 1993, Clarion Books) is especially well known and respected for its historical accuracy and perspective. A particular favorite of mine is his *The Journal of James Edmond Pease: A Civil War Union Soldier, Virginia, 1863* (1998, Scholastic Books), one of the "My Name is America" series. By the way, I heartily recommend this series for any young reader who is interested in any aspect or period of history.

In *American Plague* Murphy tells us the story of the yellow fever epidemic that hit Philadelphia in 1793. With his usual engrossing and powerful prose, Murphy brings the time and the situation alive for us. He intersperses historical documents, journal and diary entries, period drawings and engravings, and newspaper articles through out the book, providing us with copies of the primary resources that he used in his own research in preparing for this book.

I was amazed to find out just how much I did not know about this tragic event in the early history of our country. Indeed, the epidemic both saved and almost scuttled our young nation. At this period, Philadelphia was our nation's capital. President Washington, while moving Martha and his household back to Mount Vernon, did not want to



leave the city, but his Cabinet persuaded him to leave. This probably saved his life, but it became a source of very real irritation to him, since he could not get accurate reports from Philadelphia. The actions of the young government came to a standstill. This event also caused what might be the first Constitutional crisis. There was major disagreement on whether the President could legally call the Congress to order in any place other than the capital city. I found the arguments surrounding this issue especially interesting. After the epidemic was over, the Congress passed a law that enabled the President to call the Congress to order at any location in case of national emergency.

Murphy also tells the human stories of this tragic event. There are stories of both heroism and cowardice. For example, there were the ill that were abandoned by their own families, but there were also the stories of those heroes who remained in Philadelphia to help the suffering from all walks of life. One group in particular among the heroes was the free black population of Philadelphia. They used their organization, the Free African Society, to provide nursing care for many individuals. This group was indeed the true heroes of the epidemic.

This is only one example of the historical “fallouts” created by the epidemic. This book is an absolute treasure trove of both significant details and historical trivia. For example, Washington established the first “summer white house” just outside Philadelphia in the following summers when the yellow fever returned.

History buffs of all ages will find *American Plague* engrossing and interesting. Others shouldn't be scared off because Murphy's prose and style will keep any reader involved in this exciting and tragic event in the history of our nation. I am a bit put out with my history teachers and professors who did not fully instruct the significance of this “American Plague” and I can only applaud Jim Murphy for “putting the record straight.”

A good companion fiction piece is the equally well researched *Fever, 1793* by Laurie Anderson (2000, Simon & Schuster). Both of these are very highly recommended and it may very well be that *American Plague* is a must read.

Until next time, Happy Reading!



## Legacy Book Awards

TAGT is currently seeking nationwide book nominations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Legacy Book™ Awards. These awards honor outstanding literature that has long-term potential for positively influencing the lives of gifted children and that contributes to the understanding, well being, education, and success of students with gifts and talents. Awards, based on target audiences, will be presented in the following five categories: Children, Youth, Parents/Families, Educators, and Scholars.

If you are interested in nominating a book, or for more information, contact Traci M. Guidry at the address given below. If you would be interested in reviewing some of these nominations over April, May, and June 2005, we would love to have your expertise, as well! Benefits include FREE books if evaluations are returned on time

***Traci M. Guidry***

Director, Public Affairs  
Texas Association for the  
Gifted and Talented  
(512) 499-8248 x201  
[www.txgifted.org](http://www.txgifted.org)

# Mississippi Association for Gifted Children

## Gail P. Hammond Teacher Scholarship



The Mississippi Association for Gifted Children is pleased to announce the establishment of the Gail P. Hammond Teacher Scholarship. Gail P. Hammond and her family have instituted this annual scholarship to provide assistance for teachers pursuing certification or a graduate degree in gifted education.

Gail P. Hammond has devoted thirty years of her life to teaching, sixteen of which have been in gifted education. She is a Past President of Mississippi Association for Gifted Children and the first Teacher Member to be elected, then re-elected to the National Association for Gifted Children Board of Directors, based in Washington D.C. Gail is a graduate of Mississippi State University with an Educational Specialist Degree, and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy Degree.

"I knew at a young age that I wanted to be a teacher and worked rapidly toward that goal," says Gail. "Two and a half years after graduating from high school, I looked around my classroom at thirty-six eager third graders and knew that my dream had come true. After thirty years of teaching, I still enjoy Monday mornings with the joy of anticipation, like a clean dry-erase board waiting to be written upon."

Gail has been a true advocate for gifted children in Mississippi throughout her professional career. "Gifted education is my professional heart. Working with these students provides both challenges and joy. We gifted education teachers have a unique opportunity to meet the educational and emotional needs of our able learners. All teachers would benefit from learning to recognize the gifts and potential in these special children."

Gail's recent honors include: National Board Certified Teacher, Jackson Metro Outstanding Educator, Mississippi Hall of Master Teachers Inductee, National Association for Gifted Children A. Harry Passow Teacher Scholarship Recipient, Who's Who Among America's Teachers, Northwest Rankin Middle School Teacher of the Year, and Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Scholarship Recipient.

The Gail P. Hammond Teacher Scholarship will be awarded annually and is available to any teacher wishing to pursue endorsement in gifted education. Any teacher interested in applying for this scholarship, please contact Wendy H. Hunt, MAGC Supportive Funding Chairperson, at: [Wendyfofz@netscape.com](mailto:Wendyfofz@netscape.com).

MAGC would like to acknowledge and to offer  
gratitude to the following people for their  
generous contributions to MAGC Supportive  
Funding.

Kate Brown, in memory of Horace Humble

Gail Hammond, in honor of the Gail P. Hammond Teacher  
Scholarship

Jean Prather, in memory of Horace Humble

Mary Webb, in memory of Horace Humble



(601) 266-5236  
gifted.studies@usm.edu

# Happenings at the Karnes Center

## INNOVATION AWARD

Dr. Frances A. Karnes, professor of Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education and director of the Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies was presented The University of Southern Mississippi Innovation Award on April 8, 2004, at a dinner at the Hattiesburg Country Club. Dr. Karnes received the Partnership Research award. Dr. Karnes is author or co-author of over 200 articles and co-author of 21 books on gifted education and related areas. She is the former president of the Association for the Gifted and is the founder and first president of the MAGC. Dr. Karnes currently serves on the board of the NAGC. Among her many honors are the Power of One Award bestowed by the Governor of Mississippi and in 2003 she was named one of the fifty female business leaders by the Mississippi Business Journal.

## **Fall Day of Sharing – 11/12/04**

This year's Day of Sharing will be held at the Center for Healthy Living located at the Hattiesburg Family Y from 8:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. This conference is designed to educate teachers on current curriculum and instructional approaches in gifted education. Teachers of the gifted, regular education teachers, and administrators are encouraged to attend. There is no cost for attendance.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Julia Link Roberts who is the Director for The Center for Gifted Studies at Western Kentucky University. Her topic will be "New Approaches to Developing Theme-Based Units: Advanced Content, Process, and Product. Other speakers will include Lia Landrum, past president MAGC, Kevin Besnoy and Sandee Manning, doctoral students in Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education with an emphasis in gifted education at USM, Jean Prather, Executive Director of MAGC, and Dr. Conrad Castle, State Consultant for Gifted Education. Teachers should bring activities and ideas to share. Deadline for registration is October 20, 2004.

## **Parenting Gifted Children Conference – 11/12/04**

The Karnes Center will hold its 21<sup>st</sup> annual Parenting Gifted Children Conference on November 12, 2004. The conference is offered to assist parents and other concerned adults to better understand the unique intellectual, academic, and social-emotional needs of the gifted and talented. It will be held on the campus of USM in Joseph Greene Hall and the cost of attendance is \$15.

Dr. Julia Link Roberts, Director of The Center for Gifted Studies at Western Kentucky University will be the keynote speaker. She will present "Advocating to Help Your Gifted Child Thrive Academically and Emotionally."

Sessions will also be held on creative writing strategies, multiple intelligences, science activities, perfectionism, young gifted children, leadership, technology, and raising money for the gifted classroom. Deadline for registration is October 31, 2004.

## **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Gala – 12/2/04**

The Karnes Center will host a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner celebration at the Hattiesburg Lake Terrace Convention Center at 6:00 p.m. All Center students (past and present), parents, family members, teachers, administrators, psychologists, counselors and other persons interested in the programs or activities at the Center are invited to attend this family event. Jason Dorsey, a nationally recognized motivational speaker, will appear to share his inspirational story, *How Gifted Education Changed My Life*. Tickets are only \$9 per person, which includes admission and dinner.

## **What Gifted Education Means to Me Writing Contest**

This contest is open to students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade who have been identified as gifted. Students should write a personal narrative essay of 200 words or less entitled *What Gifted Education Means to Me*. The essay should be typed double spaced in 12-point font and submitted on or before November 1, 2004. Essays should include a cover letter with the name, address, age, grade, school, and telephone number of the writer. Identifying information should **not** appear elsewhere on the essay. Winning essays will be judged from the following grade level categories: Kindergarten; 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade; 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> grade; 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade; 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade; 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> grade; and 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Essays will be judged according to their exploration of the topic, sincerity of thought, usage and mechanics, and writing style. Honors will be as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> place - \$50; 2<sup>nd</sup> place - \$30; 3<sup>rd</sup> place - \$20. Winners will be announced at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner. Entries should only be submitted by U.S. mail or hand delivered to:

The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies  
The University of Southern Mississippi  
118 College Drive #8207  
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001

# New Publications in Gifted Education

Dr. Frances A. Karnes, professor of Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education and director of The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies and Dr. Kristen R. Stephens, coordinator of Education Outreach, Editor in Chief of the Duke Gifted Letter, Duke University Talent Identification Program and adjunct assistant professor in Education, co-authored another book on girls. Prufrock Press is the publisher.

Empowered Girls: A Girl's Guide to Positive Activism, Volunteering, and Philanthropy offers a hands-on guide for girls wanting to take an active role in their school and community. The authors offer solid reasons for active involvement plus strategies and methods for getting involved. It's all here: sage advice to girls seeking to become positive activists, profiles of girls who are involved in leading their communities, and resources that range from funding sources, to organizations that are seeking volunteers. The book is filled with useful advice, up-to-date resources, Web sites, and more. One of the book's more important sections highlights the accomplishments of girls who have successfully made positive changes in their communities. This book is both a handbook for involvement and empowerment and an

inspirational guide for young women wanting to make a difference.

Dr. Frances A. Karnes, and Dr. Suzanne M. Bean, professor of Education at the Mississippi University for Women, have co-authored the Process Skills Rating Scales – Revised. The original scales were published in 1990. The revision is published by Prufrock Press and offers a systematic method for measuring a student's current skill level and future growth in many skill areas. The scales provide the students in grades kindergarten through twelve, teachers, and parents the skill levels in the following areas: verbal communication, scientific research skills, independent study, written communication, nonverbal communication, critical thinking, creative thinking, library research, and technology. The scales are designed to be used as an information-gathering tool for monitoring student progress in relation to process skills. Content validity was determined by educators in seven states and British Columbia.

Drs. Karnes and Bean have co-authored seven books and many professional journal articles. They are currently revising the textbook, *Methods and Materials for Teaching the Gifted*.

---

## Does your curriculum lack excitement and FUN?

How can you capture your kids' imagination and educate to today's content standard ...

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**Instant Challenges** –Teams must spontaneously develop solutions to complex problems. Thinking on their feet, becoming comfortable with quick decision-making, and further developing teamwork are among the skills that Instant Challenges promote.

**Team Challenges** - Each year five challenge sets are released consisting of technical, artistic, improvisation, cultural, and structural design problem statements. The teams **design, develop, test, present, and modify** their solution to specific problem statements over several weeks or months while preparing for competition.

### Who can be Team Managers?

Teachers and parents may serve as Team Managers. The primary role of the Team Manager is to facilitate the creative problem solving process. Team Managers are responsible for registering the teams through national and state memberships, securing funds, scheduling practices, providing expert skill training, and arranging transportation to tournaments. Workshops are available for new team managers. These workshops include lunch and CEUs more available. To sign up for a workshop e-mail Stephen McMullan at [smcmullan@localink4.com](mailto:smcmullan@localink4.com) by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

November 5, 2004      Madison Station Elem., Madison 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.      \$20.00

November 13, 2004      Hawkins Middle School, Forest 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.      \$20.00

### Where do I sign up and start in the MOST FUN in Education?

Go to Mississippi's website [www.mapsdi.org](http://www.mapsdi.org) to learn how to begin. As a teacher or parent, you can make a HUGE impact on your kid's life with Destination ImagiNation®.

Mississippi Association for Gifted Children  
Special Mini-Conference

# Family Night

An Evening of Fun and Learning for Parents and Children  
Thursday, October 7, 2004 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

The Crowne Plaza Hotel 200 East Amite Street Jackson, MS 39201

**Parent Facilitator: Judy Galbraith**

*“What Kids Need to Succeed: Proven, Practical Ways to Raise Good Kids”*

**Student Facilitator: MS School for Math & Science**

*“Science Carnival: Hands on Science Excitement”*

Registration at the door is \$3.00 per person or \$5.00 per family.

You can also pre-register by completing the form below.

Family Member(s) Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Paid: ☐ Individual (\$3.00) ☐ Family (\$5.00)

Mail check (made out to MAGC) and pre-registration form on or before September 15, 2004 to:  
Kate Brown, Center for Creative Learning, 1100 College St. MUW 1635, Columbus, MS 39701

Register at the door after September 15, 2004.

## Award Winners

### Future Problem Solving

Elizabeth Bailey of West Point High School has won the John Daugherty Award, one of three adult awards given by the Future Problem Solving International Conference. This award was presented to Ms. Bailey at the 2004 Future Problem Solving International Conference at the University of Kentucky this June.

For more information on Future Problem Solving programs and tournaments please visit the FPS International web site at [www.fpsp.org](http://www.fpsp.org) or

contact Mississippi's Affiliate Director, Melissa Grantham, at 601-853-2764 or [mpgmsfpsp@juno.com](mailto:mpgmsfpsp@juno.com).

### Outstanding Educator Awards

The Jackson, MS chapter of Parents for Public Schools and The Community Foundation of Greater Jackson announced their 2004 Outstanding Educator Awards this August. Lisa Saucier, a gifted teacher with Jackson Public Schools was on of their recipients. Each year five teachers are recognized as outstanding educators and are given a cash award. Congratulations to Mrs. Saucier

## Join Mississippi Association for Gifted Children Today!

MAGC is an organization that works tirelessly to ensure that Mississippi's gifted students get the education that they deserve and is their right. There is power in numbers. By joining MAGC you help in the fight to make sure that our most able learners receive a quality education that is appropriate to their needs and talents.

If you are a teacher or parent of a gifted child, please join with us so together we can continue to fight for the rights of this population.

Yes, I want to become a member of MAGC, with a membership that is effective immediately and expires on December 31, 2004.

Check One:           New Member             Membership Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_ School District \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(street)

(city) (state) (ZIP)

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose Membership Fee of \$25.00. Checks should be made payable to MAGC.

Mail membership form and membership fee to: Carol Paola, Membership Chairperson  
1513 Westward Drive  
Gulfport, MS 39501

# Scholarships in Gifted Education

The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies at The University of Southern Mississippi has \$500.00 scholarships available for persons enrolled in graduate degree programs in gifted education for the summer of 2005. To qualify, the student must meet the admission requirements of the University for the master's, specialist's or doctoral programs with an emphasis in gifted education. Consideration will be given to graduate

students in specialized programs in elementary and secondary schools or for college and university positions in the field of gifted education. For more information contact The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies at The University of Southern Mississippi, 118 College Drive #8207, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001 or (601) 266-5236, [gifted.studies@usm.edu](mailto:gifted.studies@usm.edu)



# MAGC CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

October 7-8, 2004, The Crowne Plaza Hotel, Jackson, Mississippi

**Registration Information:** Complete and return this form with your check or purchase order. Make checks payable to MAGC. Purchase order number alone is not a valid payment. You must include the actual purchase order.

**Cancellation Policy:** Cancellations must be received in writing by September 19, 2004, and are subject to a \$15.00 processing fee. Refunds will not be issued until November 15, 2004.

**Parking:** Overnight hotel guests park free. The regular parking rate for the hotel's garage is \$12 per day for non-overnight hotel guests. The special conference rate for non-overnight hotel guests is \$3 per day.

**Lodging:** Complete separate lodging reservation form and send it directly to the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Preferred Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 School District/ Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
 Relationship to Gifted Education \_\_\_\_\_

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND/OR MEMBERSHIP FEES		AMOUNT
	<b>Membership Fee (Join now and receive member discounts!) .....</b> \$25.00	
<b>SELECT ONE ONLY</b>	<b>Early Registration Fee (must be postmarked by September 1, 2004)</b> Non-members...\$95.00 Members.....\$80.00    Must include membership card # _____ expiration date _____	\$
	<b>Regular Registration Fee (must be postmarked by September 15, 2004)</b> Non-members...\$105.00 Members.....\$90.00    Must include membership card # _____ expiration date _____	\$
	<b>On-Site Registration Fee (after September 15, 2004)</b> Non-members...\$110.00 Members.....\$95.00    Must include membership card # _____ expiration date _____	\$
	<b>Undergraduate Student Registration Fee</b> (must show student ID at registration) .....\$30.00	\$
	<b>Family Night ONLY</b> .....\$3.00 per person or \$5.00 per family	\$
<b>Parking Fee</b> for cars of conference participants who are not overnight guests at the hotel...\$6.00 This excludes "symposium only" and "family night only" participants who may park free.		\$
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT DUE</b>		\$

AFTER SEPTEMBER 15, 2004, BRING THIS FORM WITH YOU FOR ON-SITE REGISTRATION.  
 FORMS POSTMARKED AFTER SEPTEMBER 15 WILL BE ASSESSED A \$5.00 ON-SITE SURCHARGE.

**REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD FOR DISCOUNTS ON MAGC MERCHANDISE!**

Mail completed form and payment to: Carol Paola, 1513 Westward Dr., Gulfport, MS 39501

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# MAGC

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[www.msms.k12.ms.us/MAGC](http://www.msms.k12.ms.us/MAGC)

## MAGC Celebrates its Thirtieth Birthday!



State representative, Bryan Aldridge, joins MAGC in celebrating 30 years.

This year the Mississippi Association for Gifted Children was proud to celebrate its thirtieth birthday at the luncheon for its 2004 conference. The conference, held in October in Jackson, was a large success a wide range of sessions and activities covering the many aspects of gifted education. Among the highlights of the conference were the keynote address, given by Judy Galbraith, M. A., president and founder of Free Spirit Publishing and author of several books on the social and emotional needs of the gifted learner, break out sessions for gifted educators and professionals, Creativity Night for gifted educators featuring units designed for gifted learners by McGee-Keiser, and Family Night with sessions for parents, facilitated by Judy Galbraith, and sessions for kids facilitated by students from the MS School for Math & Science. The culmination luncheon was a celebration of MAGC's 30 years of service. Several students and adults were honored, including Primrose Mangilog, the winner of the 2004 Nicholas Green Award, Connie Walker, the winner of the 2004 MAGC Advanced Degree in Gifted Education Grant Winner, Trequon Tate, Jessica Mitchell, and Porsha Jefferson, winners of 2004 MAGC

Summer Program Scholarships, and Gail Hammond, winner of the 2004 Frances A. Karnes Award for Excellence in Gifted Education. Congratulations once again to all of these honorees.

Preparations are underway for next year's MAGC Conference. The conference will be held in Olive Branch, Mississippi and will feature Dr. George Betts. Dr. Betts is a Professor of Special Education in the area of gifted and talented education at the Univ. of Northern Colorado. He has been a professor and director of the Center for the Education and Study of the Gifted, Talented, and Creative, as well as the director of the Summer Enrichment Program since 1978. Please make plans to attend to hear and learn from this outstanding contributor to the field of gifted education. You will also be able to participate in the many sessions, vendors, and activities that are a part of each of our annual conferences. Applications for conference lodging and a call for proposals are found later in this issue of Concepts.

For more information about  
MAGC,  
Visit our website:  
[www.msms.k12.ms.us/  
MAGC/index.htm](http://www.msms.k12.ms.us/MAGC/index.htm)

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## From the Executive Director

Reflection is a wonderful thing. This is a strategy that you use with your students and we use in our daily lives. Since our annual conference in October, I have been reflecting on some of the highlights that had special meaning. First, it was great to see and speak to so many of you who have been involved in gifted education for a long time BUT it was also exciting to meet those of you who are new to the field. I trust you gleaned things from the different sessions that will be beneficial as you make plans for your students. I know I learned strategies from Judy Galbraith that will help me be a better "Nanny" to my six grandchildren.

Secondly, I was so pleased with the attendance at our session for parents and their interest in learning more about "parenting" but also their interest in being involved in MAGC. And from the sounds I heard from the activities for our gifted kids, I think the students from the Mississippi School for Math & Science certainly accomplished having them engaged and excited.

Thirdly, the awards ceremony on Friday was exceptionally meaningful. Having Dr. Karnes to help us celebrate 30 years for MAGC and 25 years for the Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies reminded us of the struggles we have been through to provide services and special programs for gifted children and youth and how important it is that we continue the fight for appropriate programs for them. Having Dr. Karnes present the first official Frances A. Karnes Award of Excellence to Gail Hammond was also heart warming since they have worked together in the field of gifted at both the state and national level. Congratulations Gail! Recognition of all the scholarship recipients and the

benefits these scholarships provide for students and teachers challenges us to raise more money for additional scholarships. Congratulations to Primrose Orante Mangilog, our 2004 Nicholas Green Award winner. It was very obvious from her application and speech she does indeed "make a difference in this world" with all the projects and activities she is involved in. And to you Primrose, we wish you the best with your dream to start a foundation to help children have a better life through education. You are a good role model for all of us.

In the days ahead the MAGC Board will be formulating plans for our legislative agenda for 2004-2005. As always, we will be working with the MS Department of Education appealing for full funding for all programs. It is going to be a long and hard battle to maintain, regroup and regain the level of funding needed to serve our gifted population. We can **not** do this alone! It is very important to get your parent groups formed and involved in this process. If you need information regarding forming an affiliate group, contact **Teresa Mosley** at [tmosely@jackson.k12.ms.us](mailto:tmosely@jackson.k12.ms.us). If you are interested in having someone speak to your group, please contact me.

Thank you for seeing the importance of being a part of MAGC. Please encourage your peers, parents, grandparents and friends to join with us as we all strive to provide an education that is truly appropriate for gifted and talented children and youth.

*Jean C. Prather*

## MS Teachers of the Gifted Recognized Statewide and Nationally

Congratulations to Mandy Goldman of Lauderdale County and Amy Rogers of Purvis! These Mississippi teachers of the gifted were awarded the Miliken Family Foundation National Educator Awards. This award seeks to give outstanding educators both public and financial recognition in an effort to award their excellence and help to retain talented people to the challenge and adventure of teaching. Goldman and Rogers will both be awarded \$25,000 for this honor. For more information on the Miliken Family Foundation National Educator Awards, please visit their web site at <http://www.mff.org/mea/mea.taf>.

We would also like to congratulate Mss. Gail Hammond, a teacher of the gifted in Rankin County, for winning the 2004 Frances A. Karnes Award for Excellence in Gifted Education. This award is presented annually to an individual or group to recognize outstanding, creative contributions toward the advancement of gifted education. Congratulations to all of our winners.

## From the MAGC President

On behalf of MAGC, I'd like to extend a personal invitation for you to share the exciting things happening in your classroom with other teachers and parents of gifted learners. Without a doubt, the most resounding comment on this year's conference evaluations was a call for more presentations by classroom teachers. The only way we can meet this need is if teachers, like you, submit conference presentation proposals. Like any practicing professional, teachers want to know what works for their colleagues and how they can adapt the ideas of others for success in their own classrooms. Please consider sharing your experience, creativity, and expertise with other teachers of the gifted in Olive Branch next year.

My goals as MAGC President this year are very simple: to increase teacher involvement in MAGC, to increase the number of parent affiliate groups, and to advocate for full funding for gifted programs. I don't know how many of you realize

the battle that Jean Prather and other MAGC members fought this year to ensure continued funding for gifted learners in Mississippi. We are very fortunate to have someone like Jean leading us in advocacy efforts to protect gifted education services. Please help MAGC recruit new teacher members and parent affiliate groups. Nothing is more powerful to the legislature than parents who are willing to stand up and demand an appropriate education for their children. We need to continue proactively seeking full funding for gifted education and that requires a strong, diverse, and active membership. There is a wealth of information available on the MAGC website: [www.msms.k12.ms.us/MAGC](http://www.msms.k12.ms.us/MAGC).

We value your ideas, suggestions, and feedback. Please do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail with your questions, concerns, and comments at [kateb@muw.edu](mailto:kateb@muw.edu).

*Kate M. Brown*

## New Publications in Gifted Education

### ***THE PRACTICAL STRATEGIES SERIES IN GIFTED EDUCATION***

The academic and social emotional needs of gifted children and youth are the focus of a new series of books. The Practical Strategies Series in Gifted Education has been designed and edited by Dr. Frances A. Karnes and Dr. Kristen Stephens. Dr. Karnes is the director of the Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies at The University of Southern Mississippi. Dr. Stephens is the Coordinator of Education Outreach and Editor-in-Chief of the Duke Gifted Letter at Duke University. There are eight books in the mini-series written for teachers in regular classrooms and specialized programs for the gifted, pre-service teachers, and graduate students. The authors have focused on the busy classroom teachers and have produced timesaving introductions to the most important issues in gifted education. The series is published by Prufrock Press.

The topics in the mini-series are "Acceleration Strategies for Teaching Gifted Learners", "Curriculum Compacting", "Enrichment

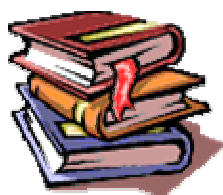
Opportunities for Gifted Learners", "Independent Study", "Mentoring Gifted Students", "Questioning Strategies", "Social and Emotional Teaching Strategies", and "Using Media and Technology with Gifted Learners."

### ***GRANDPARENTS GUIDE TO GIFTED CHILDREN***

The first book published on grandparents and their gifted children has been co-authored by Dr. Frances A. Karnes, Dr. Jim Webb, Janet Grove, and A Stephen McDonald, president of the National Association of Estate Planners and Councils. The book entitled, Grandparents Guide to Gifted Children, includes information on the early signs of giftedness, special needs, and areas of concern pertaining to gifted children, and the unique roles of grandparents of these children.

Hugh Downs, the former 20/20 anchor and author of the book, Letter to a Grandson, endorsed the book with a statement, "This very useful guide shows that grandparents are often in a better position to recognize and nurture talent and precocity than parents. A valuable book."





# The Bookshelf

By Dr. Bob Seney

I have long delighted in “You Can’t Take a Balloon Into the Metropolitan Museum” (1998, Dial Books) by the sister team of Jacqueline Preiss Weitzman and Robin Press Glasser. I have used and touted this book in several of my classes as an excellent and very creative example of a textless book AND as a great way to integrate art, art history, and art appreciation into the classroom. So you can imagine how pleased I was when our colleague Dr. Barbara Hunt showed me her copy of “You Can’t Take a Balloon Into the National Gallery” (2000, Dial Books). I, of course, had to order my own copy. Then my delight was tripled when I discovered that there was a third book “You Can’t Take a Balloon Into the Museum of Fine Arts” (2002, Dial Books).

The scenarios of these three books are the same. They are visual tales of a young girl who visits the museums. As the titles suggest they visit the Metropolitan Museum in New York City, the National Gallery in Washington D.C. and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. In each book the little girl has a balloon. At the Metropolitan she finds that she cannot take her balloon into the museum, but the museum guard promises to take care of it. He ties it to the hand railing. It escapes and he runs after it. As it flies through the city, the city scenes are mirrored in the major art works that are being viewed in the museum.

In the second book, “You Can’t Take a Balloon Into the National Gallery,” our young heroine knows from her New York trip that she can’t take her balloon into the museum. But no problem, there is a young lady photographer at the entrance and she promises to take care of the balloon. Then through a quick sequence of events, a “gimmick” which becomes a special feature of this book, the balloon gets away and it, too, is off for a great adventure through the Washington D.C. Mall. Our photographer, of course, is in hot pursuit. As she runs after the balloon, she passes by many of the great monuments and buildings of the Mall. Inside the National Gallery, the girl, her brother, and their grandmother view great works of art that

are paralleled in the chase outside just like in the first book.

The sights of the National Mall are wonderfully presented and in some cases visited. For example, we follow the balloon up the 898 stairs of the Washington Monument only to see it fly off to join some great kites being flown on the Mall. The sisters have added sketches and drawings of thirty-two famous American heroes and historical characters through out the book. So part of the fun of this book, is to find and identify these individuals. The sisters have an identification list on the back end-pages, but with the titillating note that their list is not meant to be comprehensive. So there may be more characters to search for through out the book. Speaking of end-pages, on the front end-pages is a wonderful “map” of the Mall identifying all the buildings from the Capitol Building to the Lincoln Memorial. This in itself is worth taking on your next trip to Washington D.C.

I am not sure just how long I sat and looked and re-looked at this delightful book. Each time, I find something that I had missed before and I have slowly located almost all of the 32 characters. The sisters have really extended and expanded the concept which they introduced in their first book. I am sure that you will be pleased and tickled with Weitzman and Glasser’s wonderful sense of humor.

In the third book, “You Can’t Take a Balloon Into the Museum of Fine Arts,” we visit Boston’s prestigious Museum of Fine Arts and get a tour of historical Boston. This creative team of sisters has expanded on their theme. The scenario is much the same but there are some new additions and embellishments. On this trip, the little girl is with her little brother and *both* of her grandparents. Again, from experience, she knows that she cannot take her balloon into the museum but her little brother’s stuffed duck presents no problem. The solution is offered by the grandmother, who volunteers to stay outside with the balloon while the three tour the museum. While she is attempting to fold her map, you guessed it, the balloon gets free and off it goes on its own adventure through Boston. Grandmother, of course, takes off after the balloon. Following the formula of the other books, we find that her adventures and chase are paralleled by the art work that the other three are viewing in the museum.

In this book, the chase takes the more prominent position. Certainly, the art works are a major feature and they are listed at the back of the



book with appropriate notes, but the grandmother's adventures take center stage.

The balloon makes a quick trip through Fenway Park and we see the Boston Red Sox playing the New York Yankees. You sports fans know the significance of that with this year's playoff game for the American League Pennant. You see literature does mirror real life!

These amazing sisters have given us another wonderful book that can be enjoyed on so many levels. The details of the story, the details in the illustrations, the tour through both historical Boston and the Museum, finding 33 famous historical Bostonians throughout the book, and finally what happens to the balloon make for a fun visual reading

adventure. In the next to the last illustration, the puzzled expression of the grandfather as he looks at his wife and her celebrating crowd absolutely tops off this adventure.

Visually presented humor is one of the special marks of these books with their many details and twists. I think all three of these books are a must for the gifted classroom. Not only will your students find them fun, but they can be used to introduce great art, provide opportunities for creating wonderful narratives, and can be a spring board for research. These three books need a place in your classroom. I can almost guarantee happy learning consequences as they enjoy the "You Can't Take a Balloon" books. Happy Reading!

## **MAGC & MSMS: Working Together for Gifted Students**

MAGC and MSMS, a couple of initials working extremely well together, spell success for certain academically able high school sophomores who live in Mississippi's 82 counties.

The Mississippi Association for Gifted Children (MAGC) members will serve on three committees involved in the selection of the fall, 2005, junior class at the Mississippi School of Mathematics and Science (MSMS) in Columbus.

"MSMS is very fortunate to have this partnership with MAGC," said Teresa Gammill, director for school advancement at MSMS. "Who better than its members to help us select the best and brightest in Mississippi to attend this one-of-a-kind school in our state?"

Prospective student essays and projects must be received by Friday, Feb. 18, and they will be

reviewed by the Application Committee on Saturday, Feb. 26, Gammill said.

The application teams include one MAGC member, one MSMS faculty member and one from PLUS (Parents Lending United Support).

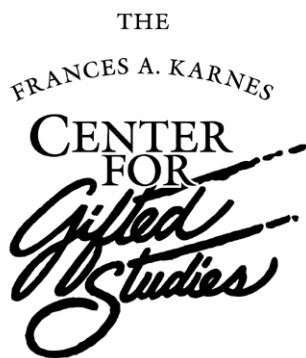
On Saturday, March 12, the Interview Committee teams, made up of MAGC and PLUS members, meets students on campus.

The Final Review Committee gathers Friday, April 1, on campus. It has five members: One each from MAGC, the MSMS faculty, PLUS, the MSMS counselors and MSMS alumni.

Created by the Mississippi Legislature in 1987, the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science, started classwork in 1988 as a free, public residential school for gifted students on the campus of Mississippi University for Women in Columbus.

## **Thank you for supporting gifted children!**

**During the MAGC Conference in Jackson, MS, the Supportive Funding Committee raised over \$500 for student scholarships. Thank you for your generous donations and for your wonderful support. You made a difference!**



# Happenings at the Karnes Center

## Leadership Studies Program – June 19-24, 2005

This one-week residential program, is designed for students in grades 6-11, who are recommended by school officials and who have a desire to develop and enhance their leadership abilities. Students will be housed in dormitories on the campus of The Univ. of Southern MS in Hattiesburg, MS. Tuition includes room, board, activities, and limited accident insurance. **Leadership I** is a program with specific emphasis on leadership skills. Training will include: fundamentals of leadership, written and oral communication, group dynamics, problem solving, planning, personal skills, and decision making. Avenues for becoming leaders in the school, community, and religious affiliation will be utilized to heighten the awareness and development of leadership potential. **Leadership II** is a continuation of the program, with Leadership I as a prerequisite for entry. It is an intense study to further develop leadership concepts and qualities. Emphasis is placed on the psychology of leadership, assertiveness training, and situational leadership. **Leadership III** is an extension of the program, with Leadership II as a prerequisite for entry. Training will focus on the legal aspects of leadership, responsibilities of various positions of leadership, developing personal power, and leadership for the future. The students also have the opportunity for informal interaction with adult leaders. Financial aid is available based on need on a limited basis.

## Summer Gifted Studies Program – June 26 – July 1, 2005

This one-week residential program, is designed for intellectually gifted students in grades 4 through 8 with intelligence quotients of 120 or above on an individually administered test or the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile or above at the national level on an achievement test. The program enhances the cognitive abilities of gifted students through planned enrichment/acceleration activities. Content areas are combined with processing skills to enable students to explore a wide variety of topics. Students will be housed in dormitories on the campus of The Univ. of Southern MS in Hattiesburg. Instructional activities will be conducted in classrooms and laboratories on the campus. Recreational activities and cultural events will be included, based upon availability. Tuition includes room, board, recreational and cultural activities, and limited accident insurance. Financial aid is available based on need on a limited basis.

## Summer Program for Academically Talented Youth – July 10-29, 2005

This three-week residential program is designed for students in grades 7 through 10 who qualify based on SAT or ACT results. A variety of intensive, fast-paced courses will be offered, such as pre-calculus mathematics; physics; anatomy/physiology; marine biology; forensic science; polymer science; psychology; creative writing; Southern writers and literature; debate; public speaking; mythology; journalism; genetics; human geography; and foreign languages. The program is designed to include appropriate academic, cultural, and recreational experiences. The Univ. of Southern MS offers the program through cooperative efforts with the Duke University Talent Identification Program. Tuition includes the instructional program, books, room and board, recreational activities, and limited accident insurance. Financial aid is available based on need on a limited basis.

## Teacher Education Programs

Specific training for teachers is offered to those needing certification in the area of gifted education. Advanced degree programs with an emphasis in gifted education are provided at the master's, specialist's, and doctoral levels.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT**

Dr. Frances A. Karnes

The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies ♦ The University of Southern Mississippi  
118 College Drive #8207 ♦ Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001 ♦ Phone (601) 266-5236 ♦ Fax (601) 266-4978

E-mail: [gifted.studies@usm.edu](mailto:gifted.studies@usm.edu)

<http://www.usm.edu/gifted>

## MSMS SEAL Club Cleans up Tennessee-Tombigbee River

By: Elizabeth Wayne

The Tennessee- Tombigbee waterway is a diverse ecosystem, housing a community of plants, birds, and small animals along its sinewy path. Unfortunately, it also houses lots of trash.

On September 11, the MSMS SEAL (Student Environmental Awareness League) Club takes a day out to pick up trash on the river in efforts that they hope will lead to a cleaner, healthier Tombigbee.

The students began early Saturday morning at 8:15 a.m. After receiving a lesson on water safety from a park ranger, the twenty-four students along with SEAL sponsor Dr. Odom and Mr. Bill Winters, separated into teams and went to work.

In the five-mile radius the students covered, they picked sixteen thirty-gallon bags of trash. They found an assortment of things from Styrofoam cups, to scraps of metal, tons of beer bottles and interestingly enough, a bottle filled with tobacco spit. Most of the trash the students found, however, was recyclable.

As a bonus, Dr. Odom, also a biology teacher at MSMS gave lessons about specific species of plants and animals as they walked along the river, teaching students first-hand, the importance of protecting the environment.

The idea for the river clean-up came from Mr. Bill Winters, the Coordinator for School Support at MSMS. Support also came from Randy Comer at the US Army Corps of Engineers and from Joe Candelaria from CAB MWR.

This year, the MSMS SEAL Club plans to spread their message of environmental awareness to the community. "We hope to collaborate with local schools and especially elementary children because they hold the fate of the world. Environmental concern shouldn't end with us," Willow Nero, president of the MSMS SEAL Club, says. Eventually, the SEAL Club plans to place paper and can recycling bins in city buildings as they already have in MSMS and some MUW facilities.

## Join Mississippi Association for Gifted Children Today!

MAGC is an organization that works tirelessly to ensure that Mississippi's gifted students get the education that they deserve and is their right. There is power in numbers. By joining MAGC you help in the fight to make sure that our most able learners receive a quality education that is appropriate to their needs and talents. Please join with us so together we can continue to fight for the rights of this population.

Yes, I want to become a member of MAGC, with a membership that is effective immediately and expires on December 31, 2005.

Check One:    ☐ New Member        ☐ Membership Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_ School District \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(street)

(city)

(state)

(ZIP)

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose Membership Fee of \$25.00. Checks should be made payable to MAGC.

Mail membership form and membership fee to:

Carol Paola, Membership Chairperson  
1513 Westward Drive Gulfport, MS 39501

# Acceleration in Schools: A Call to Action

## Study firmly debunks the “one size fits all” practice in K-12

September 20, 2004: Washington, D.C.

Student readiness to learn is a better barometer than age when determining how quickly students should move through their studies. Released today, “***A Nation Deceived***,” funded by the Templeton Foundation of Radnor, Pennsylvania, confirms that in order to meet the needs of advanced learners, educators must abandon the notion that a student’s grade and curricula be based solely on chronological age instead of readiness.

Fifty years of longitudinal data suggests that acceleration is one of the most effective curriculum interventions for many high-ability learners. The report, endorsed by the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC), was compiled and analyzed by three veteran researchers at the Belin-Blank International Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development at the University of Iowa. It presents irrefutable evidence that acceleration has a positive impact on many high-ability students both socially and academically. Past assumptions by school administrators, principals, and policy makers about the perceived negative affects of acceleration are handily struck down in this study.

“This report confirms that acceleration strategies are appropriate for advanced students in virtually every learning setting. Concerns about an accelerated student’s social or emotional well being are unfounded. The time has come to release the bonds that hold gifted learners back.” Said NAGC’s President, F. Richard Olenchak, Ph.D., PC.

Indeed, the research shows that when gifted and talented students remain in lock step with their age peers rather than moving ahead at an appropriate pace, the results are: boredom, poor study habits, underachievement, and behavior problems.

To avoid these pitfalls, NAGC urges every school district and every state to adopt a comprehensive acceleration policy --- one that matches appropriate learning opportunities to student readiness at each stage of the student’s development. These strategies would include multiple curricular options such as: grade-skipping -- the most well-known acceleration strategy ; early entrance to kindergarten; early exit from school based on proficiency; acceleration of a specific subject (e.g.; 5<sup>th</sup> grader taking algebra); dual enrollment in high school and college; and curriculum “compacting” (compressing the curriculum to eliminate the repetition of work that has already been mastered)

“We face administrative and policy obstacles in many states and districts that impede implementation of acceleration strategies. The price we are paying is a slow, but steady, erosion of American excellence,” added Dr. Olenchak.

**The full report** can be obtained at <http://NationDeceived.org>.

**The National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC)** is the largest national organization dedicated to meeting the needs of the more than three million gifted and talented students in the U.S. [www.nagc.org](http://www.nagc.org)

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**About the Belin-Blank Center:** The Connie Belin & Jacqueline N. Blank International Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development was established at The University of Iowa by the State of Iowa Board of Regents in June 1988. The Belin Center is one of the few centers that has an endowed chair in gifted education. In its brief history, the Belin-Blank Center has demonstrated remarkable growth and has established a national reputation for its research, training, and service. [www.uiowa.edu/~belinctr/](http://www.uiowa.edu/~belinctr/)

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**About the John Templeton Foundation:** The mission of the John Templeton Foundation is to pursue new insights at the boundary between theology and science through a rigorous, open-minded and empirically focused methodology, drawing together talented representatives from a wide spectrum of fields of expertise. [www.templeton.org](http://www.templeton.org)

# CALL FOR PROPOSALS: 2005 MAGC CONFERENCE

The conference will be held **September 29-30** at *Whispering Woods Conference Center, Olive Branch* (north Mississippi). Completed proposals must be post marked no later than **April 30, 2005**. Note that the conference registration fee will be waived for only **one** presenter per session.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Institution Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_ Position/Job Title \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(street) (city/state) (zip code)

The title of my proposed presentation is: \_\_\_\_\_

Below is a typed abstract (75 words or less) of the concurrent session I wish to present.

Co-presenter: \_\_\_\_\_ (Registration fee will **not** be waived.)

## CATEGORY for PRESENTATION

- \_\_\_ Social/emotional needs of gifted students
- \_\_\_ Differentiating curriculum and instruction
- \_\_\_ Creativity and/or the arts
- \_\_\_ Evaluating student progress
- \_\_\_ Special populations
- \_\_\_ Developing leadership
- \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Intended AUDIENCE for PRESENTATION

- \_\_\_ Elementary Teachers
- \_\_\_ Secondary Teachers
- \_\_\_ Parents of Gifted Children
- \_\_\_ Administrators and/or counselors
- \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail form to:** *Margaret Snider, 1007 Camdenmill, Ridgeland, MS 39157 (601) 856-4655*

**Photocopy and distribute this form as needed.**

**Mississippi Association for Gifted Children**  
**Summer Gifted Studies Program Scholarship Nomination Form**  
**(Deadline: March 15, 2005)**

Nominee's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Prior MAGC scholarship recipients are not eligible to receive this award)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Nominating Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Program Choice: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Must be a Mississippi program)

Signature of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

**To the Nominating Teacher:**

**Please include the following information with this nomination form:**

1. A narrative describing student's special interests, school and community involvement, honors, and your reasons for nominating this student;
2. A copy of the student's G.P.P.D.S. verifying eligibility; and
3. A narrative from the student stating his/her areas of interest and choice of program if awarded the scholarship.
4. Additional letters of support may be included.

**Please mail completed nomination form and other required attachments to:**

**Ann Caldwell**  
**1100 College Street MUW-540**  
**Columbus, MS 39701**

**Thank you for taking advantage of this opportunity for your student.**



# 2005 Conference Lodging Reservation Form

## Whispering Woods Hotel and Conference Center

**Mississippi Association for Gifted Children**

**September 28-30, 2005**

To receive the special conference rate, this form must be received by September 7, 2005.

Any housing request received after this date will be accepted at the regular rate, based on availability.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Group \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

**MAGC Group Rate: \$89.00** per room per night – single /double occupancy

(All rates subject to 9% tax – per room per night.)

Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_

Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Arrival Time \_\_\_\_\_

Arriving via: \_\_\_car \_\_\_van \_\_\_air

Check in as early as 3:00 p.m. Check out by 12:00 noon.

Number and Type Rooms Requested: \_\_\_ Non-smoking \_\_\_ Smoking

\_\_\_ 1 person: 1 bed

\_\_\_ 2 persons: \_\_\_1 bed 2 beds

\_\_\_ 3 persons: 2 beds

\_\_\_ 4 persons: 2 beds

Reservation Guaranteed by:

\_\_\_ Check

\_\_\_ Money Order

\_\_\_ Assured by Credit Card (Complete info below.)

*American Express, Visa, MasterCard, Discover*

Type \_\_\_\_\_ Acct# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that I am responsible for payment of guaranteed reservations.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

- Deposit is refundable if reservation is cancelled 72 hours prior to arrival. Failure to cancel reservation will result in one night's penalty charge.

**Return this form to: Whispering Woods Hotel and Conference Center,**

**Attn: Audrey Higgins, 11200 E. Goodman Road, Olive Branch, MS, 38654**

**662-895-2941 ext.177 or 358 FAX 662-895-1590 E-MAIL: [audrey.higgins@ichotelsgroup.com](mailto:audrey.higgins@ichotelsgroup.com)**

**Executive Director:** Jean Prather  
900 Live Oak Dr., Clinton, MS 39056  
601-924-0068 601-624-4652  
Jprather@jam.rr.com

## ELECTED OFFICERS:

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Kbrown@muw.edu

**Secretary:** Shirley Hardman  
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abc@msms.k12.ms.us

**Past President:** Mary Webb  
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