

MAGC Hosts Legislative Luncheon to Advocate for Gifted Education at the Capitol



Senator Mike Chaney, Vicksburg, Chair of the Senate Education Committee

Mississippi Association for Gifted Children recently hosted a luncheon for members of the state legislature and the Mississippi State Department of Education. At the luncheon, MAGC president Margaret Snider and other executive board officers discussed the history and importance of education for gifted children in Mississippi and expressed support for full funding of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program (MAEP) and full support for programs for gifted children in Mississippi schools. Mississippi is recognized nationally as a leader in the field of education for the gifted. Founded by parents and teachers in 1974, **Mississippi Association for Gifted Children** is a non-profit organization that serves as a public advocate for gifted children and youth in the state of Mississippi. For more information on the luncheon, see the letter from our president on page 2 of Concepts.

If you are interested in advocating for gifted education, or simply want to contact your local and state representatives, their names and contact information are available on the Mississippi Legislature's web-site. The web address is www,ls.state.ms.us. Members of the House and Senate education committees are listed below.

House Education Committee

Cecil Brown—Chairman Wanda Jennings—Vice-Chairman

Noal Akins	Brian Aldridge	Billy Broomfield
Kelvin Buck	Clara Burnett	Credell Calhoun
Virginia Carter Carlton	Bryant W. Clark	Alyce G. Clarke
Reecy L. Dickson	Joey Fillingane	Herb Frierson
Esther Harrison	Gregory Holloway	Mike Lott
J.B. Markham	Rita Martinson	John Mayo
Pat Montgomery	Leonard Morris	David W. Myers
Deryk R. Parker	John R. Reeves	Ray Rogers
Sara R. Thomas	Greg Ward	Joseph L. Warren
Tom Weathersby	May Whittington	

Senate Education Committee

Mike Chaney, Chairman

J.P. Wilemon, Jr., Vice-Chairman

Hob Bryan	Terry C. Burton
Videt Carmichael	Eugene S. Clarke
Alice Harden	Gary Jackson
David Jordan	Tom King
Dean Kirby	Alan Nunnelee
Joseph C. Thomas	Gray Tollison
Bennie L. Turner	

Day at the Capitol

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Come to the State Capitol to show your support for gifted education in Mississippi!

Families are invited to visit the capitol and tell their legislators how important gifted education has been to their lives, and thank them for supporting and funding gifted education in our state. If you are interested in participating in this program, contact Kathy Henry at kathy.henry@rcsd.ms or 601-992-4987.



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From the MAGC President

Have you wondered “Where is MAGC today?” or “How is MAGC working for the future of gifted students?”

Rest assured that the work and commitment of the MAGC Executive Board members, our Advisory Board, and the local affiliate groups is grounded for future success in advocacy efforts for the gifted children of this state. MAGC is keeping abreast of political and legislative issues and building rapport between our organization and those who have influence on the education of gifted children.

On January 18, 2007, an Annual Advocacy Luncheon was held at The University Club in Jackson. Joining MAGC’s Executive and Advisory Boards were members of the State Department of Education and its State Board, representatives from the Office of the State Auditor and the Secretary of State, Senator Mike Chaney from Vicksburg, Senator Tom King from Petal, Senator Richard White from Terry, Senator J. P. Wilemon from Belmont, Representative Wanda Jennings from Southaven, and Representative Brian Aldridge from Tupelo. Gratitude should continue to be conveyed to these people for their interest in and work for gifted children. At this luncheon, many shared stories of how our programs have affected the lives of gifted students. On our Executive Board we have a teacher *and* one of her former

students who is now a teacher of the gifted! What great commitment this shows!

On Thursday, March 1, 2007, gifted students and parents will participate in our Day at the Capitol. Student work will be displayed in the rotunda of the Mississippi Capitol Building in Jackson and families will contact their legislators to express appreciation for their state’s funding for gifted education. Legislators want to hear personal stories about the positive impact the gifted funding is having for our students. MAGC will serve coffee and muffins to the legislators from 7:30 until 10:30 on the first floor of the Capitol and participants will visit the galleries from 10:30 until 11:30. If you are interested in participating in this event, contact Kathy Henry at kathy.henry@rcsd.ms or 601-992-4987.

Rest assured that your MAGC board members are dedicated to education and believe in the future of a Mississippi led by our gifted students. Won’t you give your time and resources to present at the MAGC Conference in October? Now is the time to begin thinking of ways your expertise can be shared with your colleagues. Won’t you agree to serve this organization in a leadership role? Now is the time to let someone know of your willingness. Your ideas, suggestions, and feedback are valued. Please do not hesitate to contact me by email with your questions, concerns, and comments.

Margaret Snider

IT’S TIME!

MAGC members.....IT’S TIME!

It’s time to send in your proposal for presentation at the 2007 MAGC conference. I know many of you have the proposal typed up and just haven’t put it in the mail. Don’t keep me in suspense any longer!

The state of Mississippi is blessed with so many creative, enthusiastic, dedicated, and GIFTED teachers of the gifted. How about sharing some of that creativity, enthusiasm, dedication, and giftedness with your colleagues? Some categories of presentation are listed below. I look forward to hearing from many of you very soon. See you in September!

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



Teresa Mosley
MAGC President-Elect

Jake Haley receives Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award

On Friday September 29th at the annual conference of the MAGC, Jake Haley, a 7th grader at Kossuth Middle School in Alcorn County, was awarded the 2006 Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award. These awards are presented by the National Association for Gifted Children and 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.

Jake Haley is the son of Jeff and Jan Haley of Kossuth, MS. His award is given for excellence in the arts. Jake’s artwork has been featured at the annual conference for the MS Reading Association, where he dedicated his drawing of the Biloxi lighthouse to the gulf coast region devastated by hurricane Katrina calling it a “beacon of hope.”

The Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award program was established through funds provided by Maggie and Reg Green of Bodega Bay, CA to honor the memory of their seven-year-old son, Nicholas who was killed in a drive-by shooting while vacationing in Italy in 1994. The Nicholas Green Scholarship Foundation has already awarded scholarships to high-ability high school and college students to enable them to advance their education. The Greens started the Distinguished Student Awards because they felt it was important to recognize the gifts and talents in children who are now at the age that Nicholas was when he died.

Study Targets Relationships between Parents and Gifted Youth

Parents and their gifted children are being invited to participate in a research project that seeks to better understand the relationships between parents and gifted youth. The study is being conducted by Lisa White, a doctoral candidate at the California School of Professional Psychology as part of her degree requirements.

In order to participate in this study, students must be in grades 7, 8, 9, or 10. They must also have been identified as qualifying for a gifted and talented program either in a school or as part of a class, summer course, etc. Participation in this study will take approximately 1—1 1/2 hours. The parent and student will be asked to fill out questionnaires

that ask questions about family interactions. These questionnaires are available on-line or a pencil-paper measures. All information given is strictly confidential and will only be seen by Ms. White and her dissertation supervisors. A summary of the general results of the study will be available to you after the research is finished, upon your request. However, no information will be given about any individual child, parent, or family's results.

If you wish your family to take part in this study, please go to www.giftedfamilies.com. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Lisa White at lisa@giftedfamilies.com.

Summer Program at Alabama School for Fine Arts

The Alabama School for Fine Arts has received grant funding to host a residential summer program for under-represented gifted students from a tri-state area. Students who are currently in grades 6-8 from Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana are encouraged to apply. The program will be

held June 3-6 in Birmingham, AL and will focus on mathematics, science, and technology. There is no cost to attend. For more information, please contact Hungsin Chin by phone at 205-252-9241 or by e-mail at hchin@asfa.k12.al.us.

Summer Opportunities Available at St. Andrew's

Saint Andrew's Episcopal School in Jackson is hosting a number of summer enrichment programs. Some of them are listed below. If you are interested in participating in or would like information about any of these programs, contact the school at (601)853-6000 or visit their web-site at <http://gosaints.org>. Scholarships for this and other summer programs offered in Mississippi are available through MAGC. See page 11 of this issue of Concepts for an application form.

Gifted Exploration, June 18-22

This class for rising 2nd—5th graders will guide gifted students in the exploration of robotics, visual arts, mathematics and science. Students must meet one of the following criteria to be accepted into the program: IQ of 120 or above; 90% or higher (national norms) on a standardized test; or teacher

recommendation of academic ability if testing is not available. Students must bring their own lunch daily. A snack will be provided. The cost is \$225. Contact murrayb@gosaints.org for more information.

USA Chess, June 4-8

USA Chess is a national chess camp organizer. Students in grades K-12 are accepted on all chess ability levels from beginning to advanced. Students may attend full or half day sessions. Campers will receive a t-shirt, chess board and pieces, trophy, certificate of achievement with a camp photo, chess notation book, and a work folder. The cost is \$234 for half days and \$374 for full days. For more information or to register for this camp visit www.chesscamp.com or call 888-65CHESS.

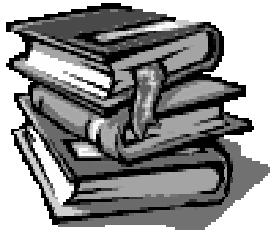
Creative Kids Magazine Publishing Student Work

Creative Kids, a national magazine by and for kids is currently seeking student work for publication. *Creative Kids* is published by Prufrock Press and is looking for submissions from students between the ages of 8 and 16.

Students can submit their work in the following categories: prose, poetry, essays, games, and artwork. The magazine is especially interested in seeing students write about their classmates who have made a difference in their community. Student work is also featured in the "Write On" section, where students write opinion essays on the topics that matter most to them.

Students whose work is accepted for publication receive a complimentary copy of the magazine in which their work appears.

All submissions must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope and a cover letter with the student's name, mailing address, school, grade, and date of birth. For more information about submission guidelines, please visit the Prufrock Press web site at http://www.prufrock.com/client/client_pages/prufrock_jm_ck_wg.cfm or contact the *Creative Kids* editor, Lacy Elwood, at lelwood@prufrock.com.



The Bookshelf

By: Harriet Whitehouse

THE MIRACULOUS JOURNEY OF EDWARD TULANE

by Kate DiCamillo

Once upon a time there was a china rabbit whose name was Edward Tulane. He was a large china rabbit, with a china head, torso, arms, and legs, jointed and bendable. Edward belonged to a young girl named Abilene, and thus the story begins.....

Edward thinks most highly of himself, taking for granted the love showered upon him by Abilene. Only Abilene's grandmother sees clearly, deep into the almost non-existent heart of Edward. Abilene herself sees only the beauty of Edward, unaware that he is an incredibly selfish rabbit at heart. In a masterful interplay of realism and fantasy, Edward is both a toy and a sentient being, counting on the presence of Abilene for his happiness. Abilene promises him in their typical routine that she will always return for him, no matter where she is, and thus leaves for school daily, never dreaming that her promise may become almost impossible to fulfill.

On one fateful day, when Abilene and her family are aboard an ocean liner on the way to Europe for several months, Edward, through the cruel actions of others, falls overboard and appears lost forever. Thus begins an account of Edward's journey, strange and convoluted. After lying silt-covered on the ocean bottom for countless days, he is caught in an elderly fisherman's net. The fisherman and his wife

rescue Edward, and he becomes their darling until their callous daughter casts him into the city dump. That erstwhile self-congratulatory rabbit now, in his shabbiness, feels the first tendrils of love uncurling from his heart for the elderly couple who loved him. From the dump, Edward becomes, in turn, a scarecrow-rabbit, a hobo's companion, the companion of a small girl who dies holding him, and a street musician's puppet. He grows shabbier, more abused, more lost, and yet his spirit becomes miraculously deeper, involved, in love with living, more considerate, kinder, and, ultimately, selfless. In tones which reminds one of Dickensian themes, Edward's life spirals to the very bottom of the pit of perdition when, in an act of cruelty, his china head is smashed, and Edward's world goes black.

Edward is repaired and restored by a doll conservationist and placed for sale in his shop.Here the tale turns full-circle, as into the shop comes Abilene, now an adult with a little girl of her own. Now, Abilene can keep her promise: "I will come back for you."

From a simple story of a lost-and-found rabbit, Kate DiCamillo has woven a tale of enormous dimensions that proclaim the power of love, of promises kept, and of redemption. One can read this story on many levels: an adventure story, a story of hardship and return, or a tale of the redeeming power of love. I think that a child who is not yet ready to see past the adventure story will, without realizing, absorb the deep message of *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, and older children and adults will find their lives enriched and embroidered with incredible beauty in reading the novel. Love is the ultimate message. To quote the Beatles, *Love is all you need!*

Stand Up for Mississippi's Brightest Join MAGC Today!

MAGC provides...

- An annual conference for teachers and families of gifted children
- Student scholarships and teacher grants
- Workshops and special training sessions for parents and teachers
- Opportunities for teachers and parents to network and form support groups
- Assistance to local parent affiliate groups who support gifted education in their communities
- Publications and information for teachers and families of gifted children

\$25 pays for membership
from Jan. 1—Dec. 31

Visit the MAGC web-site to
download an application!
<http://www.muw.edu/magc/membership.htm>



Outdoor Learning Lab Workshops

One day workshops are available to teachers who want to be certified facilitators of Outdoor Math Labs, Environmental Discovery Labs, and a Low Ropes Challenge Course.

For FREE registration: call 662-241-6101

Curriculum guides available for purchase

.5 CEUs available—lunch provided

Dates: March 9 & April 13 (choose one)

Time: 8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Place: Plymouth Bluff Environmental Learning Center

Hosted by the Roger F. Wicker Center for Creative Learning at MUW

Funded by a Congressionally-directed grant through the U.S. Department of Education.





Camp Invention Comes to Mississippi

Camp Invention, a nationally acclaimed, week-long summer enrichment program, will be available at various sites in Mississippi this summer. Camp Invention is a day camp that is available to students entering grades 1-6. It strives to provide quality enrichment experiences in the fields of science, mathematics, history, and the arts. Local schools host the program and the week's hands on activities are led by local teachers. The staff to child ratio is 1:8. Dates and locations in Mississippi this summer are listed below. To learn more about Camp Invention, or to register, visit their web site at <http://www.invent.org/campinvention/>

School	City	Dates	School	City	Dates
Ackerman Elementary	Ackerman	6/4/07—6/8/07	Louisville Elementary	Louisville	6/4/07—6/8/07
Oakdale Elementary	Brandon	6/4/07—6/8/07	Madison Ridge-land Academy	Madison	7/9/07—7/13/07
Washington School	Greenville	6/11/07—6/15/07	Neshoba Central Middle School	Philadelphia	6/4/07—6/8/07
Westminster Academy	Gulfport	6/25/07—6/29/07	Starkville Academy	Starkville	6/11/07—6/15/07
Oak Grove Upper Elementary	Hattiesburg	6/25/07—6/29/07	Ward-Stewart Elementary	Starkville	6/18/07—6/22/07
USM	Hattiesburg	6/4/07—6/8/07	Bowmar Elementary	Vicksburg	6/4/07—6/8/07
McWillie Elementary	Jackson	6/11/07—6/15/07 6/25/07—6/29/07	Wesson Attendance Center	Wesson	7/9/07—7/13/07

FREE Online Newsletter for Parents of Gifted Youth

Duke University's Talent Identification Program (Duke TIP), is now offering the *Duke Gifted Letter* online and without charge. This publication provides information for parents of academically gifted children. Duke TIP wants to make the newsletter's material more widely available by publishing the newsletter without a subscription and by including archives of all back-issues on its Web site.

The premiere online issue contains topics such as: developing personal talent, the effect of state-level assessments on gifted students, advocating for a customized gifted education program for your child, motivating boys to succeed, and questions the parents of young gifted children

ask the most, among others.

The *Duke Gifted Letter* online has a searchable database that allows readers to gain quick access to topical information or key questions on the gifted. The blogging element on the web site allows users to comment on articles and engage in dialogue with other readers and the editors.

For more information about Duke TIP visit www.tip.duke.edu. The *Duke Gifted Letter* is published by Duke TIP and can be discovered online at www.dukegiftedletter.com. Contact Bobbie Collins-Perry at (919) 668-9127 or bcollins-perry@tip.duke.edu for more information.

Davidson Institute Offers Scholarships

The Davidson Institute for Talent Development is offering high achieving young people across the country the opportunity to be named as 2007 Davidson Fellows, an honor accompanied by a \$50,000, \$25,000 or \$10,000 scholarship in recognition of a significant piece of work in Science, Technology, Mathematics, Music, Literature, Philosophy or Outside the Box.

To be eligible, applicants must be under the age of 18 as of Oct. 1, 2007, and a U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident residing in the United States. There is no minimum

age for eligibility.

The deadline to apply is March 30, 2007. Applicants must submit an original piece of work recognized by experts in the field as significant and it must have the potential to make a positive contribution to society.

The scholarship must be used at an accredited institute of learning. For more information on the Davidson Fellows, or to download an application, please visit www.DavidsonFellows.org.

Great Web Resources for Gifted Learners, Parents and Teachers

The Web resources below originally appeared in the Fall 2006 and Winter 2007 issues of *Gifted Child Today*. For more information on this periodical visit their homepage on the Prufrock Press web-site at www.prufrock.com.

Sudoku <http://www.websudoku.com>

Sudoku is a puzzle that is solved by logic. Players enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces so that every row, column, and 3 x 3 square of the puzzle contains one of each digit. This fun site offers Sudoku puzzles with four levels of difficulty. A JigSawDoku link takes the visitor to an interactive game that is timed and offers hint and help features. Visitors can play as much Sudoku as they want on this Web site.



Music to My Ears <http://www.classicsforkids.com>

This is a wonderful interactive resource for kids where they can learn about music's great composers and even compose their own music. There is a musical dictionary that offers pictures, audible descriptions, and sounds of the different instruments. The Composer Time Machine, Rockin' Rhythm Master, and Note Name games teach youngsters about music in a fun way they will love. Also, the site offers teaching resources based on National Standards for the Arts and state Academic Content Standards for Music. This is a great way for the young Mozart to be immersed in classical music!

The Stock Market <http://library.thinkquest.org/3088>

It's never too early to learn about disciplined investing. Edustock has tutorials on how the stock market works, what a stock is, and how to manage a portfolio. There are also profiles on select companies to help visitors get started in making wise investing choices. The Web site even features a free real-time stock simulation.

The Big Mac Index <http://www.economist.com/markets/Bigmac>

Ever wonder why certain items are more or less expensive depending which country you are in? How about the Big Mac? McDonalds has restaurants all over the globe and uses the same ingredients in all countries, so the signature Big Mac sandwich should cost roughly the same price anywhere you go, right? Take a look at the Big Mac Index to find out. This Web site offers an explanation of exchange rate theory via a short video. The site includes some indexes of hamburger and Starbucks coffee prices around the world. For access to the full index, you must subscribe to the *Economist* magazine, but the free introductory materials offer much ... um ... food for thought.

Snow Crystals <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~atomic/snowcrystals>

Have you ever made a snowman or wondered where snow comes from? Caltech's physics lab offers information on how snow crystals form and why they take different shapes. The Guide to Snowflakes gives details on the different types of snow flakes. This fascinating Web site also offers movies of snow crystals forming!

Women's Adventures in Science <http://www.iwaswondering.org>

This Web site, a project of the National Academy of Sciences, is intended to showcase contemporary women in science. In addition to answering interesting science questions, the Web site features women who work in different fields of science and provides scrapbooks, videos, science labs, books, and interactive cartoons to help viewers learn even more about the women's adventures in science.

How Stuff Works <http://www.howstuffworks.com>

Want to know how many calories you burn while drinking a glass of ice water? Ever wonder how a laptop works? Do you know how to get rid of a black eye? This Web site has answers to these questions and many more, providing useful information for both children and adults. Although visitors can search for information on specific topics, there are links to general areas of interest, including automobiles, science, health, entertainment, travel, electronics, and people. The home page also includes purchasing information and helpful how-to guides. In addition, visitors can shop for Consumer Guide Products with the help of expert reviews, information, and comparative prices.

Paper Airplanes <http://www.funpaperairplanes.com>

This Web site has free downloadable paper airplanes grouped by skill level, with templates ranging from beginner to expert. Airplane designs come with directions and flying tips. This Web site also discusses the mechanics and physics of flying and provides additional educational links for parents and teachers.



A Great Big Wreck

by Dr. Tony Phillips

People worry about asteroids. Being hit by a space rock can really ruin your day. But that's nothing. How would you like to be hit by a whole galaxy?

It could happen. Astronomers have long known that the Andromeda Galaxy is on a collision course with the Milky Way. In about 3 billion years, the two great star systems will crash together. Earth will be in the middle of the biggest wreck in our part of the Universe.

Astronomer John Hibbard isn't worried. "Galaxy collisions aren't so bad," he says. A typical spiral galaxy contains a hundred billion stars, yet when two such behemoths run into each other "very few stars collide. The stars are like pinpricks with lots of space between them. The chance of a direct hit, star vs. star, is very low."

Hibbard knows because he studies colliding galaxies, particularly a nearby pair called the Antennae. "The two galaxies of the Antennae system are about the same size and type as Andromeda and the Milky Way." He believes that the Antennae are giving us a preview of what's going to happen to our own galaxy.

The Antennae get their name from two vast streamers of stars that resemble the feelers on top of an insect's head. These streamers, called "tidal tails," are created by gravitational forces—one galaxy pulling stars from the other. The tails appear to be scenes of incredible violence.

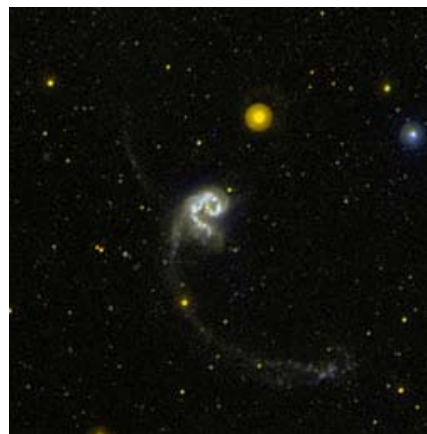
But looks can be deceiving: "Actually, the tails are quiet places," says Hibbard. "They're the peaceful suburbs of the Antennae." He came to this conclusion using data from GALEX, an ultraviolet space telescope

launched by NASA in 2003.

The true violence of colliding galaxies is star formation. While individual stars rarely collide, vast interstellar clouds of gas *do* smash together. These clouds collapse. Gravity pulls the in falling gas into denser knots until, finally, new stars are born. Young stars are difficult to be around. They emit intensely unpleasant radiation and tend to "go supernova."

GALEX can pinpoint hot young stars by the UV radiation they emit and, in combination with other data, measure the rate of star birth. "Surprisingly," Hibbard says, "star formation rates are low in the tidal tails, several times lower than what we experience here in the Milky Way." The merging cores of the Antennae, on the other hand, are sizzling with new stars, ready to explode.

So what should you do when *your* galaxy collides? A tip from GALEX: head for the tails.



This GALEX UV image of the colliding Antennae Galaxies shows areas of active star formation, which is not in the tidal tails as one might expect.

To see more GALEX images, visit <http://www.galex.caltech.edu>. Kids can read about galaxies and how a telescope can be a time machine at http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/educators/galex_puzzles.pdf.

New on the Space Place Web Site....

"Dark, scary, and very, very hungry" is the picture most people imagine when they think of a black hole. "Black hole" and "sucked into" seem always to belong in the same sentence. But the latest Space Place Podcast interview with a NASA astrophysicist lays most of these fears to rest. Answering the question "If the Sun were a black hole, would Earth get pulled inside?" Dr. Marc Rayman explains what black holes are, how they form, how common they are, and how we can learn more about them. Go to <http://spaceplace.jpl.nasa.gov/en/educators/podcast/> to subscribe to these Podcasts. Or listen now to this and the previous Podcasts on your computer or read the transcripts.



National Aeronautics
and Space Administration



Happenings at the Karnes Center

Summer Gifted Studies Program, June 24-29, 2007—The Karnes Center is accepting applications for the Summer Gifted Studies Program until 3/31/07. This residential program is open to 4th-8th grade students who have scored 120 or above on an individually administered intelligence test or who have scored at or above the 90th percentile on an achievement test. Students will be housed in USM dormitories in Hattiesburg, MS. Tuition includes room, board, activities, and limited accident insurance.

This program is designed to enhance cognitive, affective, and psychomotor abilities of gifted students through enrichment and acceleration activities. Emphasis is placed on individual participation in areas that provide in-depth analysis of specific topics of interest. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in leisure and cultural activities with other gifted youth. Course offerings include Mindpower, Business Leaders: Today and Tomorrow, Inventions, Money! Money! Money!, World Cultural Connections, Design Studio, and Write On! For applications or additional information on the Summer Gifted Studies Program, please visit our website.

Summer Program for Academically Talented Youth, July 8-27, 2007—This three-week residential program serves eligible 7th—10th grade students. The program, a cooperative effort with the Duke University TIP Program, provides a balance of educational, cultural, and recreational experiences on the campus of USM. Students participate in quality learning experiences that allow them to progress at a rate and a level appropriate for high-ability students. Course selections include: Precalculus Mathematics, Human Anatomy and Physiology, Forensic Science, Polymer Science, Political Science, Psychology, Criminal Justice, Creative Writing, and Debate. To be eligible, applicants must have earned qualifying SAT or ACT scores as a 7th grader. Required qualifying SAT and ACT scores differ depending on the academic course chosen. The cost of this program is \$1,330. Limited scholarships are available based on financial need. The deadline for application is April 30, 2007. For additional information contact The Karnes Center at the numbers given below.

Leadership Studies Program, June 17-22, 2007—Applications are being accepted for the Leadership Studies Program until 3/31/07. This is a residential program designed for 6th—11th grade students who have a desire to develop and enhance their leadership skills and abilities. Avenues for becoming leaders in various settings will be discussed. Students will be housed in USM dormitories 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 those areas necessary for leadership development: 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 affiliations 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 will be 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 will also have the opportunity for informal interaction with adult leaders.

Scholarships in Gifted Education—The Karnes Center has \$500.00 scholarships available for persons enrolled in graduate degree programs in gifted education for the summer of 2007. To qualify, the student must meet the admission requirements of the university for 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 for the college and university positions in the field of gifted education. For more information contact the Karnes at the numbers given below.

Advanced Degrees in Gifted Education—USM and the Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education, offer a Master's Degree, Specialist's Degree, and a Ph.D. in curriculum, instruction, and special education with an emphasis in gifted education. Five courses are offered for anyone beginning an advanced degree program or in getting certified to teach the gifted.

SPE 560 Characteristics of the Gifted

SPE 661 Methods and Materials for Teaching Gifted Students

SPE 663 Atypical Gifted Students

SPE 664 Practicum with Gifted Students

SPE 662 Curriculum Development in Gifted Education

The Karnes Center has \$500.00 scholarships available for persons enrolled in graduate degree programs in gifted education for the summer of 2006. To qualify, the student must meet the admission requirements of the university for 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 for the college and university positions in the field of gifted education. For more information contact The Karnes Center at the numbers given below.

For More Information Contact

The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies ■ The University of Southern Mississippi
118 College Drive #8207 ■ Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001 ■ (601)266-5236 ■ fax (601)266-4978
E-mail: gifted_studies@usm.edu ■ <http://www.usm.edu/gifted>

Hall of Honors

North Gulfport Students Excel in ACE and Roboknights

Two North Gulfport Gifted students placed in the Academic Competition for Excellence (ACE) at St. Stanislaus on December 2nd, 2006. Kendra E. won first place in the 7th grade science category. Kyle S. won second place in the 7th grade social studies category. Ms. Holley and Mrs. Young are the student's gifted teachers.

The North Gulfport Gifted Robotics Roboknight Team competed against twenty coast school teams at Gulfport High School on December 2nd, 2006. North Gulfport won first place. The North Gulfport Team was led by its driver, Joseph E.. The following were the team's members: Brenden P., Dakota S., Ezra T., and Christian K.. Ms. Holley and Mrs. Young were the team's gifted teachers. Steve Phillips, from Dupont, coached the team to victory.

Biloxi Students Celebrate Becoming Published Authors

Shirley Hardman's gifted classes in Biloxi recently published hardcover books and had an author's tea party to celebrate their achievement. Each student wrote and illustrated a book of poems. These were published through Nationwide Publishing. The students also designed their book covers and title pages.

Following the publication, the class had an author's tea party. The students dressed up and had tea and sandwiches. As part of the tea party, the students read selections from their books. Parents were invited to the party and some brought books for the author's to sign. The students pictured are Angel, Brooke, Kala, Michael, Chase, Zivi, Connor, Brenden and Jesse.



Do you know Mississippi gifted students and teachers that have won honors? We'd like to recognize them in *Concepts!* Just send info and pictures to Lisa Saucier at lsaucier@jackson.k12.ms.us or 1120 Riverside Dr., Jackson, MS 39202.

Wanted AND Needed:

- MAGC wants AND needs more involvement from parents of gifted children. Want to become involved? Start a local parent affiliate group in your school district. All it takes is a dedicated parent who is willing to "get the ball rolling"! Affiliate groups have a BIG impact on the education of gifted children in our state. If you're interested in starting an affiliate group in your community, contact Debbie Holt for additional information.
- If you already have an affiliate group in your local district, please make sure that your membership dues and membership list have been forwarded to Debbie Holt. We need AND want the name and address of each member of your affiliate group in order to maintain a current mailing list.
- If you're organized, creative, enthusiastic or if you just enjoy working with other gifted educators around the state, you're invited to become a part of the planning committee for the annual MAGC conference. Just email Teresa Mosley at tmosely@jackson.k12.ms.us and let her know you're interested! You're wanted AND needed!



SENG

Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted

Interested in learning about the emotional needs of the gifted? A great resource is SENG. SENG is "dedicated to fostering environments in which gifted adults and children, in all their diversity, understand and accept themselves and are understood, valued, nurtured and supported by their families, schools, workplaces, and communities." The SENG conference will be held July 13-17 in Kansas City. To get more information about this organization and to sign up for a free email newsletter, visit www.sengifted.org.



Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award 2006-2007 School Year

(Application Packets must be postmarked by May 15, 2007)

MAGC is pleased to announce the continuance of the NAGC-Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Awards for the 2006-2007 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: Joyce Youngblood 60 53rd Street, Gulfport, MS 39507

Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award Application Form 2006-2007

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.

Mississippi Association for Gifted Children

Summer Gifted Studies Program Scholarship Nomination Form

(Deadline: March 15, 2007)

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; indicate a financial need
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:

Joyce Youngblood
60 53rd Street
Gulfport, MS 39507

Thank you for taking advantage of this opportunity for your students.

Mississippi Association for Gifted Children

Teacher Grant Application - Deadline: April 15, 2007

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. Additionally, the Gail P. Hammond Teacher Scholarship, carrying an award of \$500, will be awarded to an exceptional regular classroom teacher currently enrolled or planning to enroll in a course of study leading to certification in gifted education. Previous grant/scholarship recipients are not eligible for these awards, and recipients may receive only one scholarship/grant from MAGC. Recipients are expected to attend the annual state conference in the fall of the year in which the grants/scholarships are awarded.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS: (Please check all grants/scholarships for which you are eligible)

GRANT FOR TEACHER/ADMINISTRATOR WITH GIFTED CERTIFICATION

Applicants must:

1. Be an active MAGC Member or submit \$25 membership fee upon application.
2. Have 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

Applicants must:

1. Be an active MAGC Member or submit \$25 membership fee upon application.
2. Have at least two years of teaching experience in the regular classroom, and
3. Be currently enrolled or planning to enroll in a course of study for certification in gifted education.

GAIL P. HAMMOND TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP

Applicants must:

1. Be an active MAGC Member or submit \$25 membership fee upon application.
2. Have at least two years of teaching experience in the regular classroom, and
3. 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. At least two letters 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 nomination form and other required attachments to:

Joyce Youngblood
60 53rd Street
Gulfport, MS 39507

Call for Proposals: 2007 MAGC Conference

The conference will be held **September 27-28, 2007** at *The Regency Hotel and Conference Center, Jackson, Mississippi*. Completed proposals must be post marked no later than **June 30, 2007**. *You must be a member of MAGC to present.* Please update your membership before submitting. Note that the conference registration fee will be waived for only **the main** presenter per session.

Name _____

Institution Affiliation _____ Position/Job Title _____

Home Address _____
(street) (city/state) (zip code)

Email _____ Telephone _____

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 _____

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Carolyn Coil to Keynote 2007 MAGC Conference

This year's annual MAGC conference will be held September 27 and 28, 2007 at the Regency Hotel and Conference Center in Jackson. The keynote speaker for the conference will be Carolyn Coil, Ed.D. Her keynote address will be entitled, "Encouraging Achievement". She will then do a break-out session on "Motivating Gifted Underachievers". Another session, "Differentiating Curriculum", will have a special emphasis on differentiating for gifted students in the regular classroom and she will talk about specific strategies to share with regular ed teachers.

Dr. Coil is an internationally known speaker, author, trainer, consultant and educator. An enthusiastic and energetic presenter, she works with teachers, parents and students, offering practical strategies for enhancing student achievement, implementing creative teaching, and dealing with the problems and challenges associated with preparing our children and ourselves for the future.

Carolyn has worked in the field of education and training for over 20 years as a teacher, training coordinator, project director, learning resources specialist, and consultant. She received her B.A. in Secondary Education and International Studies from the University of Maryland, her M.A. in Gifted Education and her M.Ed. in Educational Leadership and Training from the University of South Florida. She has been an Adjunct Professor of Education at Mercer and Oglethorpe Universities in Atlanta and at the University of South Florida in Tampa and currently teaches graduate level endorsement courses through the State of Georgia.

Carolyn was chosen as a Fellow for the 1990 Japan Foundation Study Tour Program, sponsored by the Japan Foundation and the National Council for the Social Studies, and traveled and studied in Japan with this program. She has been a presenter and keynoter for schools, school districts and educational service centers throughout the United States, Australia and New Zealand and in Bermuda and Spain. She has been a featured speaker at numerous state, national and international conferences.

Carolyn is the author of many journal articles, books and other educational resources. Available from *Pieces of Learning* are: Standards-Based Activities and Assessments, Solving the Assessment Puzzle Piece by Piece, Motivating Underachievers, Becoming an Achiever: A Student Guide, Teaching Tools for the 21st Century, Encouraging Achievement, and Practical Tips for Parents (in Spanish and English).

An article by Dr. Coil appears in this issue of Concepts! See page 2 for *Underachievement: What is it? What Causes it?* A follow up to this article will appear in the Fall issue of Concepts! It is titled, *What Can Teachers and Parents Do to Help Underachievers*. For more information about Carolyn Coil, or to read more of her articles, visit her web-site at www.carolyncoil.com.



IT'S TIME!

It's time to send in your proposal for presentation at the 2007 MAGC conference!

Mississippi is blessed with so many creative, enthusiastic, dedicated, and GIFTED teachers of the gifted. How about sharing some of your talents with your colleagues? Some categories of presentation are listed below. I look forward to hearing from you. See you in September!

- *Social/emotional needs of gifted students*
- *Creativity and/or the arts*
- *Evaluating student progress*
- *Developing leadership*



Teresa Mosley, MAGC President-Elect

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Underachievement: What Is It? What Causes It?

By Carolyn Coil, Ed.D.

What is underachievement?

Underachievement is one of those popular "catch-all" terms that means something different to nearly everyone who hears it. In one sense, we are all underachievers. Studies have been done which show that all humans use only a small percentage of their total brain capacity. Additionally, most of us could pinpoint projects or activities, tests or papers where we could have put forth more effort than we actually did. Almost everyone can recall something in which they could have done a better job.

However, the underachieving students we are considering in this e-zine article are more than this. These students have a significant gap between their ability and what they actually produce and achieve in school. This type of underachievement is usually degenerative. Signs begin in the early grades and the effects are cumulative as the child grows older. While the signs of underachievement may begin in the early years, middle school, intermediate school or junior high usually marks the highest point of consistent underachievement.

Underachievers are students who, in a significant way, are not working up to their potential. These students often see "YOU CAN DO BETTER" written boldly in red on homework, class work and test papers, and receive this message in many other ways, both verbally and non-verbally. However, for a variety of reasons they continue to do much less than they are capable of doing.

Underachievement can be considered an "umbrella" term. I am often asked about the relationship between underachievement and various learning difficulties such as learning disabilities, behavioral disorders, ADD and ADHD. These are types of underachievement. However, underachievement does not only indicate specific disorders. Instead, it is a generic term and encompasses much more than that.

What types of kids are underachievers? How do they differ from achieving students both in and out of school?

The vast majority of underachieving elementary or primary school students are boys. This is due, in part, to the traditional structure of the school itself with its emphasis on straight rows of desks, quiet learning, and compliant behavior. Such a school setting is usually more suitable for girls than boys.

Less noticed, perhaps, are the underachieving girls of intermediate, middle and high school age. When adolescence comes, some girls who have done well in elementary school suddenly develop an interest in boys and decide it isn't "cool" to be so smart. Many prefer not to demonstrate their intelligence, feeling that if they do, the boys will not like them as much.

In studies comparing underachievers and high achievers, a significant difference in self-concept, school attitudes, and out-of-school pursuits is shown between the two

groups. Underachievers usually have low self-esteem and a fear of failure. Behaviorally, they are often described as "immature" or "behavior problems". Most lack motivation for schoolwork and say that they are bored with school.

Ironically, many underachieving students do not need to study in the primary grades and as a result they may lack basic study, time management and organizational skills by the time they reach the middle or intermediate level. Gifted and talented students may become underachievers if they have not been challenged in school and therefore have never discovered how to learn something that is difficult.

How do schools contribute to underachievement?

Reasons for underachievement may come from the school. Some teachers have impossible standards while others may have low expectations of their students. Either way, underachievement can result. Other teachers are too strict or repressive and lack patience with students who ask difficult questions, do not conform, are divergent rather than convergent thinkers, etc. This type of classroom climate eventually turns students off to school. Many times, the make-up of the school system itself contributes to underachievement. The conforming nature of the school setting, inappropriate or dull curricula, days and weeks spent on drill and practice activities for standardized tests, and inflexibility in scheduling, types of activities, or curricular content can lead to underachievement in many students.

Gifted students may become underachievers when the grade level curriculum does not challenge them and meet their needs. If a gifted student is only presented with work and concepts he already knows and there is no attempt to differentiate the curriculum, he or she will soon decide school is "boring" and really is not the place to learn anything new. This attitude often leads to underachievement.

Do parents and the child's home life affect underachievement?

Underachievers often come from homes where there is considerable instability within the family unit. Since many families are in turmoil, under stress or over committed, it is easy to see why underachievement is on the rise. When families have other worries to deal with, such as marital discord, job pressures, financial concerns, a lack of emotional support, no leisure or family time, and isolation from extended family, supporting day-to-day educational tasks becomes less of a priority. Often, what is happening at school just gets lost in the shuffle.

In some families, just surviving from day to day is the focus of life. In others, the complexity of modern life with all its busyness has taken its toll. In both situations, a child's achievement in school does not really seem important. Still other parents demand high grades for their children without any concern as to whether they are actually learning anything. To these parents, the report card is the important concern, instead of the learning that has or has not taken place!

Well meaning parents who place a high priority on educational achievement sometimes put too much pressure on their children to achieve in school. "Counter-identification" may result, where a parent overly identifies with the successes and failures of a child. In this situation, the parent may almost be living his or her life through the child, and the child may feel he or she could never live up to parental expectations. Many times, one child in such a family will become a high achiever while the other will rebel against the pressure to succeed and will be an underachiever.

Many children, especially children who have demonstrated a high potential for learning, are involved in too many extra-curricular activities. There are some children who

spend every afternoon and evening in one activity or another and then attempt to do their homework late at night. Not only are such children stressed out by having too much of a good thing, many also become underachievers because they cannot keep up such a frantic pace.

For parents, being an encourager of educational achievement without exerting undue pressure requires striking a delicate balance. There is no magic "balancing formula", thus each parent has to decide where that point of balance needs to be with each child.

Taken with permission from Vol. 1, No. 3 of Carolyn Coil's E-zine at www.carolyncoil.com/ezine.htm

From the MAGC President

Dear MAGC Membership,

As I write this Mississippi school personnel are preparing for summer. This means that teachers are not only on "vacation", but spending their time out of the classroom taking college courses, institutes and workshops in order to grow professionally. Schools are using these brief weeks for moving, remodeling, and clean up so that learning environments will be even more enhanced for students in the 2007-2008 school year.

Your MAGC Executive Board will spend some summer weeks planning the September conference. I encourage you to submit a proposal for this conference. Share your ideas; you do have much to offer your colleagues! We look forward to new presenters so that a wide variety of breakout sessions will be offered. We are excited about seeing you in the fall!

Once again our conference will be at The Regency Hotel in Jackson. Teresa Mosley and I have met with the sales

manager, looked at the renovation in progress, and find it to be much more acceptable. We will make every effort to stay informed about the registration for lodging and will try our best to contact you should your paperwork not arrive in a timely manner so that you can be assured of a room in the newly renovated hotel. You will not be moved to another hotel without your approval.

Many thanks again to Kathy Henry and the Madison County parent affiliate organization for representing us well at MAGC's Day at the Capitol in March. Student work was displayed in the rotunda and refreshments were served to the legislators. Most importantly, our members had the opportunity to talk with the legislators about the positive impact that Gifted Education has on our children and on the future of Mississippi. The day was a success and we plan to repeat the event during the 2008 Legislative Session. A date will be announced later.

Margaret Snider
Msnider@jackson.k12.ms.us

MAGC sends condolences to Natchez-Adams School District in the loss of a devoted friend and colleague in the passing of Carolyn West. Carolyn was an elementary school teacher for more than 34 years, the last five years she was employed as a gifted teacher at McLaurin and Morgantown Elementary schools.

Stand Up for Our Brightest Join MAGC!



MAGC provides...

- An annual conference for teachers and families of gifted children
- Student scholarships and teacher grants
- Workshops and training for parents and teachers
- Opportunities for teachers and parents to network and form support groups
- Assistance to local parent affiliate groups
- Publications for teachers and families of gifted children

\$25 pays for membership from Jan. 1—Dec. 31
Visit the MAGC web-site to download an application!
<http://www.muw.edu/magc/membership.htm>



July 13-15, 2007
Kansas City
Overland Park, Kansas

Keynote speakers will be...

- Barbara Kerr, Ph.D.
- Barbara Clark, Ed.D.
- Del Siegle, Ph.D.
- M. Elizabeth Neilson, Ph.D.
- I. Dennis Higgins, Ed.D.

Over 40 sessions will be offered covering 5 different themes dealing with the mental health of the gifted. For more

info visit the SENG web-site at www.sengifted.org



The Bookshelf

By: Harriet Whitehouse
The De Granville Trilogy
by K.M. Grant
Blood Red Horse
Green Jasper
Blaze of Silver

There was a time during my children's school years when they became totally enthralled with castles, knights, tournaments, armor..... They could tell me the names of every structural part of castles, the terms used to denote sections of medieval armor, the dates and reasons for famous battles, and which king reigned in which century. My children were certainly not alone in their "castle obsession," as we dubbed it. I have taught students over the years who have been equally captured in fascination with the Middle Ages. To satisfy the hearts of these young people, a marvelous trilogy in the genre of the historical novel has emerged in the past eighteen months, K.M. Grant's ***The De Granville Trilogy***, which chronicles the adventures of three young people and their beloved horse during the twelfth century in medieval Europe.

Blood Red Horse introduces thirteen-year-old William De Granville just as he is setting forth from the family estate and castle to select his first warhorse. Instead of a mighty and powerful steed, William falls in love with a small, fiery, charismatic roan red horse with whom he feels an instant communion of spirit and whom he names Hosanna. When William brings Hosanna home, he is subjected to his older brother Gavin's unmerciful scoffing, while balm to his soul is the understanding he finds from his family's ward, Miss Eleanor Theodora de Barre, also called Ellie. Thus, the dynamics of this family are established, and the plot develops around Will, Gavin, and Ellie, as they grow, compete with each other, love one another, and learn trust, bound by their mutual devotion to the roan red horse, Hosanna.

Life in medieval England is also detailed with much realism and superb research, providing the reader with an authentic window into the past. One learns of the training required for a knight, how horses are trained, how a manor is operated, medieval agricultural practices, and the role of women in medieval society. A healthy dose of European history is also included; young people will learn much about the Crusades, gaining thereby a window of understanding of current events dealing with the Middle East.

The story diverges as Will, Gavin, and Ellie mature. Will and Gavin join the army of King Richard the Lion-Hearted in his crusade to the Holy Land to restore the city of Jerusalem to the Christians. Meanwhile, at home, Ellie en-

counters her own array of adventures in the midst of the political conniving of Prince John, Richard's younger brother. Hosanna plays a central role in Will's and Gavin's adventures when a new character, Kamil, the adopted son of Saladin, the Muslim ruler of the Holy Land, encounters him. Through Hosanna, Christian knights Will and Gavin and Muslim nobleman Kamil are united in a common love for the horse. In this relationship, the author appears to have a message to young readers—a message which I truly believe is necessary for world peace—that nobility of character exists across religious differences, and that there are more similarities than differences between people of Christian faith and those of Muslim faith.

The Crusades are depicted with realistic detail, in all their glory and their horror. Finally, wounded and exhausted, Will and Gavin return home to a hotbed of political strife as the political machinations of Richard the Lion-Hearted and his brother John unfold. ***Blood Red Horse*** ends with the fury of this conflict on the edge of eruption, setting the stage for ***Green Jasper***.

Green Jasper traces a convoluted path in England, where Will, Gavin, and Ellie's lives are at the mercy of the plots and counterplots of the two royals, Richard and John. Kamil re-enters their lives in the role of spy and messenger for King Richard, Ellie is abducted by one of Prince John's henchmen, Will is imprisoned, and Gavin's fate will remain unmentioned. Hosanna continues to be the unifying strength for Will, Ellie, Gavin, and Kamil. The author's greatest strength in ***Green Jasper*** is her creation of wonderfully alive, vivid, contemporary, believable characters. They become the reader's friends; they walk from the pages of the book to bring their world to us as time-travelers might. At the conclusion, the reader feels a familiarity with sieges, old crumbling castles, the lives of medieval serfs, and all the corrupt politics of the times. Girls with feminist leanings will cheer when Ellie, so much a pawn in these politics, is finally given her freedom of choice in whom she marries and bestows her property rights.

Blaze of Silver continues the saga by presenting Will with much of the burden of raising the ransom money for the release of King Richard from prison in Germany. Will returns to the Holy Land with Kamil as well as Ellie in her new-found freedom of choice and direction. Again, plots and counterplots surface, and the story is replete with assassins, thieves, the sinister Old Man of the Mountains, and painful betrayals. Good ultimately prevails, and peace does reign at the conclusion of the trilogy. The reader of ***The De Granville Trilogy*** should expect to be exhausted, fearful, grieving, rejoicing, fascinated, educated, and in love with a certain blood red horse in this epic journey across England, Europe, and the Middle East.

Student Writers Wanted!



Concepts! is looking for gifted students in Mississippi who are interested in writing book reviews to accompany our regular *Bookshelf* article. If you know a student who is an avid reader and an aspiring writer, contact Lisa Saucier, Concepts! editor at lsaucier@jackson.k12.ms.us for more information.



Even Solar Sails Need a Mast

by Patrick L. Barry

Like the explorers of centuries past who set sail for new lands, humans may someday sail across deep space to visit other stars. Only it won't be wind pushing their sails, but the slight pressure of sunlight.

Solar sails, as they're called, hold great promise for providing propulsion in space without the need for heavy propellant. But building a solar sail will be hard; to make the most of sunlight's tiny push, the sail must be as large as several football fields, yet weigh next to nothing. Creating a super-lightweight material for the sail itself is tricky enough, but how do you build a "mast" for that sail that's equally light and strong?

Enter SAILMAST, a program to build and test-fly a mast light enough for future solar sails. With support from NASA's In-Space Propulsion Program to mature the technology and perform ground demonstrator tests, SAILMAST's engineers were ready to produce a truss suitable for validation in space that's 40 meters (about 130 feet) long, yet weighs only 1.4 kilograms (about 3 pounds)!

In spite of its light weight, this truss is surprisingly rigid. "It's a revelation when people come in and actually play with one of the demo versions—it's like, whoa, this is really strong!" says Michael McEachen, principal investigator for SAILMAST at ATK Space Systems in Goleta, California.

SAILMAST will fly aboard NASA's Space Technology 8 (ST8) mission, scheduled to launch in February 2009. The mission is part of NASA's New Millennium Program, which flight tests cutting-edge technologies so that they can be used reliably for future space exploration. While actually flying to nearby stars is probably decades away, solar sails may come in handy close to home. Engineers are eyeing this

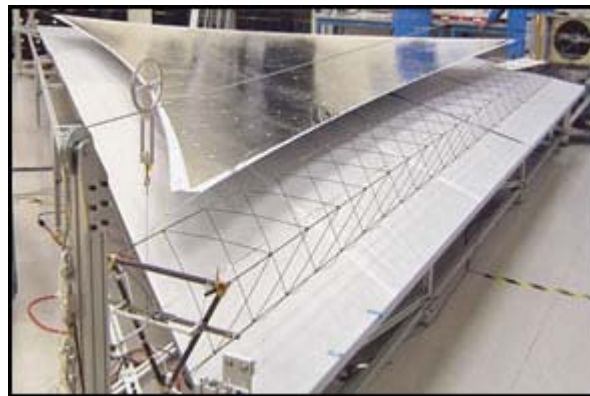
technology for "solar sentinels," spacecraft that orbit the Sun to provide early warning of solar flares.

Once in space, ST8 will slowly deploy SAILMAST by uncoiling it. The truss consists of three very thin, 40-meter-long rods connected by short cross-members. The engineers used high-strength graphite for these structural members so that they could make them very thin and light.

The key question is how straight SAILMAST will be after it deploys in space. The smaller the curve of the mast the more load it can support. "That's really why we need to fly it in space, to see how straight it is when it's floating weightlessly," McEachen says.

It's an important step toward building a sail for the space-mariners of the future.

Find out more about SAILMAST at nmp.nasa.gov/st8. Kids can visit spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/st8/sailmast to see how SAILMAST is like a Slinky® toy in space.



SAILMAST is the thin triangular truss in front of the picture. It is attached to a section of a silver foil solar sail section shown here in a laboratory test. The mast in the picture is 2m (6 ft) long. The Space Technology 8 mission will test the SAILMAST, which is 20 times longer.

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

New on the Space Place Web Site....

Professor Starr's Dream Trip: Or, how a little technology goes a long way

Professor Starr is an astronomer who has always been most curious about the asteroids. But he has no idea how to design a spacecraft and a mission that would let him explore them. Find out how the good professor finally gets his dream mission. Go to The Space Place web site at <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/nmp/starr>, and read the whimsical, rhyming story of "Professor Starr's Dream Trip: Or, how a little technology goes a long way." You'll be able to page through the storybook just as if it were made of real paper! (Or you can use the standard pdf version to print it out.)



National Aeronautics
and Space Administration

Hall of Honors

Harrison County Gifted Students Offer a Tour of Egypt

Ms. Mary Edelen's 4th, 5th, and 6th grade gifted classes at Three Rivers Elementary in Gulfport found mystery and discovery as they explored the ancient civilization of Egypt. On April 18, the students opened their English/Social Studies project to other students at their school. The students were dressed as various Egyptian people from King Tut to Queen Cleopatra. Classes were invited to walk through a time machine to arrive in an ancient Egyptian Market. Visitors could explore the Cairo Museum, visit the sphinx, and stroll by the Nile River. Egyptian food was also available. This project helped to expand the students' audience so that their writings became relevant outside the classroom. Steven S., one of the students wrote, "Working hard and coming prepared are great ways to not only finish projects but to make lifelong friends."



Brookhaven Students Excel in Future Problem Solving

Congratulations go out to Robin Furr's gifted students at Alexander Junior High School in Brookhaven, MS. These students won the top three places in the Future Problem Solving Scenario Writing Competition in the junior high age bracket. The winners are Theavis C., who won first place with The Final Race, Sophie H., who won second place with The Candle, and Tyler B., who won third place with Dreams of Treasures.

Frances Karnes Made Lifetime Member of NCGT

Dr. Frances A. Karnes, professor in the Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education Department and director of The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies at The University of Southern Mississippi, has been awarded a lifetime membership in the North Carolina Association for the Gifted and Talented. She is also a lifetime member of the Mississippi Association for the Gifted, which she started and was first president of in 1974.



McComb Teacher to Study in Japan

Gail Spinnato, who teaches gifted studies at Otken Elementary and Denman Junior High will be traveling to Japan this summer to participate in the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program (JFMFT). This program provides teachers and administrators with fully funded study tours of Japan, in order to increase understanding between the two cultures. Participants are asked to share their experience and knowledge with students and colleagues upon their return. Ms. Spinnato was also honored earlier this year as the McComb School District Teacher of the Year. Congratulations to Ms. Spinnato for her accomplishments.

New Book on Gifted Education

Dr. Frances A. Karnes, professor of Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education and director of The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies at The University of Southern Mississippi, and Dr. Kristen R. Stephens, gifted education research specialist at the Duke University Talent Identification Program and adjunct assistant professor of Program in Education and Department of Psychology, have co-edited a new book, *Achieving Excellence: Educating the Gifted and Talented*. The book will be available fall 2007.

Do you know Mississippi gifted students and teachers that have won honors? We'd like to recognize them in *Concepts!* Just send info and pictures to Lisa Saucier at lsaucier@jackson.k12.ms.us or 1120 Riverside Dr., Jackson, MS 39202.

Creativity Exploration at William Carey College

William Carey's annual Creativity Exploration for students in second through twelfth grade is scheduled for July 16-18, 2007. The cost is \$60 for the three day session. Partial scholarships are available to insure broad participation. Arrangements for older participants traveling some dis-

tance from home can be arranged as guests of Carey colleagues. For directions to our Exploration website and downloadable applications, please contact Dr. Read Diket, Center for Creative Scholars Director, at diketwcc@netdoor.com or rdiket@wmcarey.edu.

Magazine Seeks Students for Submissions and Advisory Board

The editors of *Creative Kids* magazine are looking for students, ages 8-14, to serve as members of their next advisory board. They are seeking input from kids on new features and changes to the magazine. The ideal advisory board members would be creative, proactive, and outgoing. Students will serve on the board for 2 years and will be required to submit at least two pieces of work for publication in the magazine. If you are interested in nominating a student, please visit the application guideline page at the web address given below.

http://www.prufrock.com/client/client_pages/CK/Advisory_Board.pdf11

Creative Kids is also in need of submissions from art students, ages 8-16. They are now accepting vertical color artwork for future covers, color or black and white photographs, and vertical or horizontal color or black and white artwork for the inside pages and inside covers. Artwork should be clear, color or black and white copies; please do not send originals. Photographs should be no larger than 8 1/2" x 11" and should be printed on glossy paper. To submit students' artwork, please follow the submission guidelines by visiting the following web site.

http://www.prufrock.com/client/client_pages/prufrock_jm_ck_wg.cfm

Teacher-Authors Sought for Shakespeare Guides

Prufrock Press is currently interested in developing an innovative line of teaching resources for Advanced Placement teachers using Shakespeare in their classrooms. Specifically, they are seeking teacher-authors who could write exciting, innovative guides to teaching the following plays:

- * Macbeth,
- * Romeo and Juliet,
- * Hamlet, and
- * A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Each play's individual guide would include debates, role-play activities, engaging discussions, critical and creative writing activities, and creative projects within the context of a rigorous academic study of Shakespearian works. Authors must be able to offer teachers practical, field-tested ways to

make the study of Shakespeare meaningful, creative, and substantive. Additionally, each guide would be aligned with Advanced Placement guidelines and standards.

Teacher-authors would need to be able to work collaboratively with Prufrock Press to develop one or more of these guides over the next 6-12 months.

If you or a teacher you know has a special talent for effectively teaching Shakespeare to teenagers, send your name, current position, and summer mailing and e-mail address to ap_shakespeare@prufrock.com. Doing so will ensure you receive an information packet in approximately 4 weeks.

Please respond before May 25, 2007, if you would like to receive an author information packet for the four AP Shakespeare projects listed above.

Wanted AND Needed –Involved Parents

- MAGC wants AND needs more involvement from parents of gifted children. Want to become involved? Start a local parent affiliate group in your school district. All it takes is a dedicated parent who is willing to “get the ball rolling”! Affiliate groups have a BIG impact on the education of gifted children in our state. If you’re interested in starting an affiliate group in your community, contact Debbie Holt for additional information.
- If you already have an affiliate group in your local district, please make sure that your membership dues and membership list have been forwarded to Debbie Holt. We need AND want the name and address of each member of your affiliate group in order to maintain a current mailing list.
- If you’re organized, creative, enthusiastic or if you just enjoy working with other gifted educators around the state, you’re invited to become a part of the planning committee for the annual MAGC conference. Just email Teresa Mosley at tmosely@jackson.k12.ms.us and let her know you’re interested! You’re wanted AND needed!



Happenings at the Karnes Center

Day of Sharing for Teachers of the Gifted, Oct. 5, 2007—The Day of Sharing will be held at the Center for Healthy Living located at the Hattiesburg Family Y. This conference, sponsored by The Karnes Center, is designed to educate teachers on current curriculum and instructional issues in gifted education. Teachers of the gifted, regular education teachers, psychologists, and administrators are encouraged to attend. There is no cost for the conference. The deadline for registration is September 15, 2007.

Brent Mundt, deputy executive director of NAGC, will be the keynote speaker. He will present *What's Happening Nationally in Gifted Education & How to Be an Advocate*. Dr. Suzanne Bean and Kate Brown, from The Mississippi University for Women, will speak on public relations strategies for advocacy and emotional intelligence. Other sessions will be lead by, among others, Dr. Conrad Castle, state consultant for Gifted Education, who will present *Gifted Education in Mississippi: The Instructional Management Plan*.

Immediately following lunch, teachers will be given time to share activities and ideas. Teachers should indicate their intent to share materials on their registration form.

Parenting Gifted Conference XXII-XXIII, October 6, 2007—This 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 in College Hall on the Hattiesburg campus of USM. The cost of attendance is \$30.

Brent Mundt, deputy executive director of NAGC, will be the keynote speaker. He will present *What's Happening Nationally in Gifted Education & How to Be an Advocate*. Dr. Conrad Castle, state consultant for Gifted Education at the Mississippi State Department of Education, will be presenting *What Parents Should Know about Gifted Education in Mississippi*. Other sessions to be held during the conference include *Leading Parent Advocacy in Your Community*, *Emotional Intelligence*, and *Continuous Progress Curriculum in the Elementary School*. The deadline for registration is September 15, 2007.

Career Explorations for Girls Conference, October 20, 2007—This conference will be conducted on the Hattiesburg campus of USM from 8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. The conference is open to all girls in grades 7-12 and each girl must be accompanied by her mother or another adult female. Girls do **not** need to be enrolled in gifted education to attend. Dr. Annie Wim-bish, superintendent of the Hattiesburg Public Schools, will speak on the topic, *Girls + Goals = Success*. Several distinguished presenters will offer practical information to help girls plan for their education and entry into prospective careers. Careers to be discussed include business development, science and technology, health care, journalism, education, business, military service, art, psychology, law, music, and sports.

The registration deadline is October 1, 2007. On the day of the conference registrants should sign in from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. in Joseph A. Greene Hall. There is no charge for the conference and lunch is included. The conference is co-hosted by The Karnes Center and the Spirit of Women at Forrest General Hospital.

Saturday Gifted Studies Program—The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies will be hosting the Saturday Gifted Studies Program beginning on January 19, 2007 concluding on March 1, 2007. The program is designed to provide appropriate enrichment and accelerated content for gifted learners ages four and five through grade 12. Watch for more information concerning courses and registration deadlines at www.gifted.studies@usm.edu.

Advanced Degrees in Gifted Education—USM and the Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education, offer a Master's Degree, Specialist's Degree, and a Ph.D. in curriculum, instruction, and special education with an emphasis in gifted education. Five courses are offered for anyone beginning an advanced degree program or in getting certified to teach the gifted.

SPE 560 Characteristics of the Gifted

SPE 661 Methods and Materials for Teaching Gifted Students

SPE 663 Atypical Gifted Students

SPE 664 Practicum with Gifted Students

SPE 662 Curriculum Development in Gifted Education

The Karnes Center has \$500.00 scholarships available for persons enrolled in graduate degree programs in gifted education for the summer of 2007. To qualify, the student must meet the admission requirements of the university for 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 for the college and university positions in the field of gifted education. For more information contact The Karnes Center at the numbers given below.

For More Information Contact

The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies ■ The University of Southern Mississippi
118 College Drive #8207 ■ Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001 ■ (601)266-5236 ■ fax (601)266-4978
E-mail: gifted.studies@usm.edu ■ <http://www.usm.edu/gifted>

2007 Conference Lodging Reservation Form Regency Hotel and Conference Center

Mississippi Association for Gifted Children

September 27-28, 2007

To receive the special conference rate, this form must be received by August 27, 2007*.

*Any housing request received after this date will be accepted at the rate of \$99.00, based on availability.

Name _____

Group _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Telephone _____ email _____

MAGC Group Rate: \$82.00 per room per night – single /double occupancy

(All rates subject to 11% tax plus \$.75 occupancy city 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 11:00 a.m.

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 Card

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. It is suggested that you call the hotel after reservations have been made in order to obtain a confirmation number.

Return this form to: Regency Hotel and Conference Center

Attn: Robert Dumas, 400 Greymont Avenue, Jackson, MS 39202

Telephone# 601.969.2141

FAX# 601.714.5701

MAGC Conference Registration Form

September 27-28, 2007

Regency Hotel and Conference Center, Jackson, Mississippi

Registration Information: *Registration includes MAGC membership for one year.* 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 20, 2007, and are subject to a \$15.00 processing fee. Refunds will not be issued before November 15, 2007.

Transportation and Parking: Shuttle transportation to and from the Jackson airport is complimentary. Ample parking surrounds the hotel. There is no fee for parking.

Lodging: Complete separate lodging reservation form and send it directly to The Regency.

MAGC Membership card # _____ expiration date _____

Name _____

Home Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ E-Mail _____

School District/ Organization _____

Relationship to Gifted Education _____

Conference Registration and/or Membership Fees		Amount
SELECT ONE ONLY	Early Registration Fee..... \$90.00 (must be postmarked by September 1, 2007)	\$
	Regular Registration Fee \$95.00 (must be postmarked by September 15, 2007)	\$
	On-Site Registration Fee (after September 15, 2007) \$100.00	\$
	Undergraduate Student Registration Fee \$30.00 (must show student ID at registration)	\$
	Main Presenter Membership Fee \$25.00	\$
	Family Night ONLY \$3.00 per person or \$5.00 per family	\$
Total Amount Due		\$

AFTER SEPTEMBER 15, 2007, BRING THIS FORM WITH YOU FOR ON-SITE REGISTRATION.

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

Call for Proposals: 2007 MAGC Conference

The conference will be held **September 27-28, 2007** at *The Regency Hotel and Conference Center, Jackson, Mississippi*. Completed proposals must be post marked no later than **June 30, 2007**. *You must be a member of MAGC to present.* Please update your membership before submitting. 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)

Email _____ Telephone _____

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: Teresa Mosley, 317 Concord Dr. Clinton, MS 39056 601-924-4476
tmoseley@jackson.k12.ms.us

Photocopy and distribute this form as needed.

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2007 MAGC Annual Conference Preview

The 2007 MAGC Conference is coming up September 27-28, 2007 at the Regency Hotel and Conference Center in Jackson. We are looking forward to hearing Dr. Carolyn Coil speak about Encouraging Achievement: Challenge, Responsibility, and Persistence. In addition to Dr. Coil, we will be provided with excellent presentations by such outstanding gifted personalities as Nathan Levy, Christina Sparks, Dr. Frances Karnes, Dr. Sandra Manning, Carol Paola, Deborah Holt, Dr. Suzanne Bean, Dixie Martin, Sherry Willis, and Kate Brown.

A new feature for this year's conference is a pre-conference assessment institute designed to meet the needs of psychometrists involved in the assessment of children for gifted eligibility. We will also offer a mini-session for parents on Thursday. During this session, we hope to provide parents with needed information that will allow them to support gifted learners. The parenting mini-session is free to parents of gifted children.

Are you concerned about a way to engage your gifted learners in meaningful service projects to raise global awareness? Then you'll be interested in spending a late hour of the day with Kate Brown of MUW, a Mississippi advocate for these children. Mrs. Brown has agreed to present a single slate session on Thursday September 27 entitled, "Global Connections". This session is scheduled for Thursday Sept. 27 at 4:30. At this time, Kate will be sharing stories of several small charities in Kenya, East Africa which are dedicated to serving children and the elderly with AIDS, as well as the environment. Ideas for designing and implementing a service learning unit for gifted learning will be presented. Participants will receive a CD of photographs from Kate's personal experience. This is a session you won't want to miss!

Do you realize how suicide has affected the state of Mississippi over the past year? Statistics show that gifted children are at as much risk, if not more, for suicide. That's why the new MAGC year will have a focus on suicide prevention. We are planning fund-raising projects for the conference which will be designated to help provide assistance to purchase suicide prevention programs to be implemented STATE-WIDE! One of these fund-raising projects is a silent auction. Nathan Levy has agreed to donate one of his workshops to be placed on the "silent auction block". He has donated his services to be bid on (at the value of approximately \$4000) in order to provide services for some lucky district. The value spent on purchasing this service will go directly to purchasing suicide prevention kits. Kudos to you Nathan!

The conference will culminate in a luncheon Friday. Part of the plans for the luncheon are to welcome MAGC's new president for 2008, Teresa Mosley. We will also honor this year's winners of student summer scholarships and teacher grants. Please plan to join us for this informative and entertaining conference.

Special Conference Session for School Counselors

The new MDE Gifted Education Program Standards contain a programming criterion which states, "*Gifted education programming must establish a plan to recognize and nurture the unique socio-emotional development of gifted learners.*". The standards go on to suggest that school counselors receive specific training on providing appropriate counseling services for gifted at-risk students. MAGC is responding to this standard by providing a special session for school counselors at this year's annual MAGC conference. The session is slated for Friday, 9/28/07 from 9:00-12:00 in the Regency Room of the Regency Hotel and Conference Center in Jackson. On the agenda for this session are Kate Brown, Associate Director for the Roger F. Wicker Center for Creative Learning, and Shea Hutchins, LCSW, Director of Clinical Services, The CARES Center, Inc., Jackson.

School counselors play a vital role in the success of all children in our schools. As educators in the field of gifted, we want to provide you with information you can use in your role as a counselor for children, as well as a resource for teachers and parents. Please join us!



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What Can Teachers and Parents Do to Help Underachievers?

By Carolyn Coil, Ed.D.

In my last E-zine article (Vol. 1, No. 3) I discussed the causes of underachievement and various characteristics of underachieving children. In this article I would like to offer some practical strategies to use in working with underachievers. Because the causes of underachievement are so varied, so are the strategies that can be used by teachers and parents to deal with this problem. I've listed some of my favorite strategies below. If you have a favorite strategy, please email it to me and we will include it in the "Successes and Sharing" section of the E-zine. www.carolyncoil.com/ezine.htm

Motivating Underachievers: 20 Strategies for Teachers

1. Maintain contact between home and school. Communicate in numerous ways: parent conferences, home visits, voice mail, cell phones, fax, e-mail, notes, video conferences and phone calls. We are in the Information Age — take advantage of new technologies as you communicate with parents!
2. Discourage the "Parent to the Rescue" syndrome. Work with parents so that they won't constantly rescue their child when he or she forgets homework or another needed item. Work with parents so that they can develop realistic, enforceable consequences when their child does not exhibit responsible behavior.
3. Emphasize goal setting, showing students how life success is linked to school performance. Have former students come and talk to your class about the value of school in terms of success outside of school. E-mail interviews are also a good way to link students to the outside world.
4. Encourage more reading and less TV, videos, computer games and surfing the Internet at home. Reading anything, regardless of what it is, will generally increase achievement.
5. Use concepts from the world of sports as analogies for goal setting in life. Success in most sports involves working toward a goal. Use words such as goalie, goal post, personal best, game plan, etc. to show the conceptual links between the world of sports and the world of school.
6. Hold students accountable for actions, behavior, materials and work. Don't use threats you can't carry out. Instead, say what you mean and follow through on it.
7. Help underachievers identify their areas of strength. Most underachievers are painfully aware of their weaknesses, but every underachiever has many strengths as well. Notice these strengths and work to enhance them!
8. Use whole group instruction, individualized study, heterogeneous grouping and cluster or ability grouping, each as they are appropriate for the teaching and learning goals and outcomes.
9. Use various forms of assessment. Schools should not be solely "test prep" institutions. Assessing learning can be done in many ways. Underachievers are often not good test takers. Try performance assessments, rubrics, checklists and portfolios to document learning success.

10. Use the expertise and experience of other teachers in deciding on strategies to use with your underachievers. Collaborate by sharing strategies you know work with underachieving students. Plan strategies jointly for dealing with your underachievers.

11. Plan lessons that involve all of Gardner's Multiple Intelligences, a variety of learning styles and modalities, and/or all levels of Bloom's Taxonomy.

12. Make sure your lessons give the opportunity for students to use higher level thinking skills. Underachievers are often bored with low level thinking yet may be great problem solvers when given more complex and challenging problems.

13. Use brain-based learning theories to develop interdisciplinary, integrated teaching units.

14. Provide hands-on learning experiences. This is particularly important for kinesthetic, concrete random learners, a description that fits many underachievers.

15. Use outside resources and school staff to offer specialized courses based on student interests. Sometimes an interesting mini-course will be just the thing to give an underachiever a successful school experience and motivation to do more.

16. Identify specific organizational skills your underachievers need to learn. Work on these skills one at a time. Show your underachievers practical ways to become more organized.

17. Include classroom activities that increase skill in memorization. Memorizing successfully increases self-confidence and builds the base for other types of school success.

18. Team each underachieving student with an achieving partner of equal ability. This works well because the achieving partner will usually encourage the underachiever. Don't pair achievers and underachievers of unequal ability.

19. Be intentional about teaching study skills. These are not automatic for most students, and tend to be particularly difficult for underachievers. Telling an underachiever to study without showing him what that means and how to do it is a waste of time!

20. Have students discuss and think about success and failure. Talk about the fear of failure but also the fear of success. Address issues such as test anxiety and perfectionism. Dealing with these issues in a positive, proactive and helpful manner is one way to boost achievement.

Motivating Underachievers: 10 Strategies for Parents

1. Don't use "put-downs" and sarcasm in dealing with your child. Even if he is driving you crazy and a sarcastic remark would make you feel better, there is no long-term beneficial result from doing this.

2. Emphasize what your child has learned from an assignment or activity, even if mistakes were made. All of us learn a great deal from our failures and mistakes. Help your child understand this and that all of us make mistakes from time to time.

3. Be aware of times your underachiever is trying to manipulate you. Underachievers are particularly adept at manipulating adults, and experiencing success in this behavior only

makes underachievement worse. Don't use threats you can't carry out! This is always an opportunity for your child to manipulate you.

4. Be aware of your child's areas of intense interest and build on these. Use success in an interest outside of school as an encouragement for success in school. Share your child's special interests with the teacher. He or she may be able to use these to motivate your child.

5. Don't overload your child with activities! Some students are underachievers simply because they have too much to do and too many demands on their time. One or two extra-curricular activities a week are enough for most children.

6. Promote a love of reading in your home. Designate one night a week as "No TV night" and have a reading night instead. Make the most inviting place in your home a "Reading Area" where the only thing that can be done there is reading.

7. Discover your child's academic weakness. Brainstorm ways to make learning fun in this area. Create a game or song

that makes learning easier.

8. Encourage your child to teach things he or she knows to someone younger. Find an older child or mentor to work with your child in an area of interest or in a difficult subject.

9. Set aside a "Study Time" in your home every night. No activities other than studying are allowed during study time. Be a lifelong learner yourself and model good studying behavior during Study Time.

10. With the classroom teacher, devise a system of parent-teacher communication. Take advantage of new technologies. Use e-mail, school or teacher websites, homework hotlines and other forms of communication when available. Don't be afraid to contact the teacher. It is much better to work on a problem together than for each of you to struggle with it on your own!

Taken with permission from Vol. 1, No. 4 of Carolyn Coil's E-zine at www.carolyncoil.com/ezine.htm

From the MAGC President

Dear Friends,

I hope that your 2007-2008 year has had a great beginning! Personally, the new school year is always a time for me to set new goals and make resolutions. Getting organized is always 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 attending 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 great teaching tips, and to find out what is new in the field of gifted educa-

tion.

This year we are privileged to have Carolyn Coil as our keynote speaker. Carolyn offers enthusiasm, as well as many years of experience and expertise. I think that you will find her refreshing! She will present two sessions for parents. A new aspect this year will be a seminar for counselors on Friday from 9:00-12:00. Why not invite your school counselor to attend the conference with you?

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

Sincerely,

Margaret Snider

Msnider@jackson.k12.ms.us



**Be an advocate for
gifted education!**

Contact your representatives!



**For MS legislature contact information visit their web site at
www.ls.state.ms.us**

Stand Up for Our Brightest Join MAGC!

MAGC provides...

- An annual conference for teachers and families of gifted children
- Student scholarships and teacher grants
- Workshops and training for parents and teachers
- Opportunities for teachers and parents to network and form support groups
- Assistance to local parent affiliate groups
- Publications for teachers and families of gifted children



\$25 pays for membership from Jan. 1—Dec. 31
Visit the MAGC web-site to download an application!
<http://www.muw.edu/magc/membership.htm>



The Bookshelf

By: Harriet Whitehouse

Gifts by Ursula Le Guin

Ursula Le Guin, the creator of the beloved fantasy series, the EarthSea chronicles, has returned to the forefront of fantasy writing for teenagers and young adults with a new story to enthrall us. *Gifts* is a tale of the Uplands, an area reminiscent of the border country of medieval Scotland, where families are divided, and warring clans abound. The Uplanders are an impoverished lot, mistrusted by the Lowlanders, scraping their existence from the land. Each clan possesses an ancient, mystical, supernatural Gift, which they use not to improve their livelihood, but to defend their territory and act as aggressors against each other. Passed from father to son and mother to daughter, the Gifts are varied. The Gift of the Barre clan is the Calling of animals as game for the hunt while the Gift of the Caspro clan is Unmaking, a Gift of destruction of living beings with only a glance and a whispered word.

Enter two young people, Orrec Caspro and Gry Barre, who watch their elders manipulate their Gifts and are horrified by their destructive nature. Orrec finds that he cannot control his Gift of destruction and sentences himself to living with permanent blindfold so that he will not mistakenly vaporize those whom he loves. Gry refuses to use her Gift to call animals to be killed in the hunt.

Orrec and Gry delve into the history of their super-

natural gifts, theorizing that their gifts had origins in wonder and great creativity but have been subverted over the years by the tension and fear amid the clans. Orrec casts aside his blindfold, determined to banish fear and find ways to turn his Gift to creation rather than unmaking. Poetry and music are his great love, and he dedicates his life to the union of his Gift with his muse. Gry calls beloved animals to her as her companions.

Gry and Orrec find that their conscious choice to cast aside the subverted nature of their Gifts and turn them to beauty causes them to be no longer comfortable in the Uplands, strangers in their own homes. Although loved, they have ceased to be understood by their families. Together, with the support of their families, however dysfunctional, Gry and Orrec leave the Uplands for a life of wandering in the Lowlands, where Orrec will seek to become a wandering troubadour and Gry will offer her services as a healer of animals on the Lowlanders' farms.

Gifts is truly a meditation on the nature of gifts and the power of human beings to make conscious choices to change their lives. The book poses as many questions as it provides possibilities. How do we use our Gifts? Do we allow them to be subverted, destroyed, deemed unacceptable, or ignored? Or, do we embrace them, understand them, celebrate them, and, ultimately, use them unselfishly and wisely for the good of humanity and the world? Certainly, these are questions that our own gifted children need to ask, and our obligation as parents and teachers is to guide our children as they ponder their own paths and explore their choices.

Future Problem Solving Program International

The Future Problem Solving Program International (FPSP) is open to any student in grades 4-12. Participants must be sponsored by an adult (coach). Coaches need not be teachers, and teams may include students from a variety of settings.

This year FPSP is again offering a mentoring program for new coaches. New coaches will be paired with experienced coaches in order to facilitate communication between the two.

All team booklet coaches (except new coaches) will also be evaluators. Mississippi FPSP will be hosting two training workshops in September. There is no fee for registrations received prior to the workshop. The fee for on-site registrations is \$25.00. One workshop will be held on 9/7/07, at Phi Theta Kappa headquarters in Jackson, Mississippi, from 9:00-2:00. Lunch will be provided. The second workshop will be held on 9/14/07, at the Center for Creative Learning on the campus of Mississippi University for Women from 9:00-2:00. Lunch will be provided. CEUs will be available.

If you have any questions about FPSP, please feel free to contact Melissa Gratham, Mississippi Affiliate Director, 601.853.2764, mpgmsfsp@juno.com. You can also visit the FPSP web site at www.fpsp.org.

2006-2007 FPSP CALENDAR

Team Booklet:

Practice Problem #1-Body Enhancement
Practice Problem #2-Simulation Technology
Qualifying Problem-Neurotechnology

Must be **received** by 10/10/07
Must be **received** by 12/5/07
Must be **received** by 2/10/08

Scenario Writing Contest

Must be **received** by 1/17/08

Community Problem Solving (CmPS)

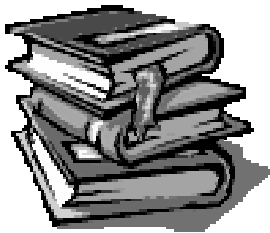
Reports must be **received** by 11/30/07, and 2/15/08

Mississippi FPSP Affiliate Bowl

TBA Topic: Caring for our Elders
Mississippi University for Women

FPSP International Conference

5/29-6/1/08 Topic: Privacy
Michigan State University, Lansing, MI



Student Bookshelf

By: Jordan Nettles

Peter and the Starcatchers
by Ridley Pearson & Greg Call

Peter and the Shadow Thieves by Dave Barry, Ridley Pearson & Greg Call

Peter Pan. Everyone knows the story. A boy who will stay young forever lives in Neverland with Tinker Bell and the Lost Boys. But why does Peter Pan stay a boy forever? How does Tinker Bell come into being? These questions and more are answered in the prequel to the well known *Peter Pan* story.

Peter and the Starcatchers is about an orphan who boards a ship to Rundoon with four other boys. On it he meets the cruel Slank and a mysterious girl named Molly Aster. Soon Peter finds out there is more to Molly than he expected. When Molly needs help she turns to Peter and tells him of a secret group, called the Starcatchers that collects starstuff, a powerful substance that falls from the sky. Meanwhile a pirate called Black Stache and his first mate Smee are preparing to attack the ship that Peter is on, for the amazing treasure that is said to be carried on it. Peter and Molly soon find themselves on Mollusk Island where they meet the native Mollusk tribe. Slank and Black Stache also arrive on Mollusk Island where they each begin their search for the starstuff. But Molly and Peter know they must keep the starstuff away from these men and the evil group called the Others. The fate of the world depends on it.

Peter and the Shadow Thieves is the sequel to *Peter and the Starcatchers*. This book picks up after the first book. Peter finds himself enjoying life on Mollusk Island. But when a ship comes to the island carrying Slank, cruel Captain Nezzera, and the menacing Lord Ombra, Peter's life filled

with fun adventures is turned around. He finds out Molly's father has gone on a mission for the Starcatchers. These men plan to use Molly in order to get the starstuff from her father. Peter stows away on Captain Nerezza's ship to warn Molly of this evil crew trying to steal the starstuff. When Peter finds himself in England he sets off immediately in search of Molly. After being kidnapped and arrested Peter finally finds a friend of the Aster family who gives him directions to their home.

Meanwhile there is a betrayal in the Aster household. Somehow Lord Ombra has found a way past the guards surrounding Molly's house and has captured Molly's mother. As Lord Ombra enters Molly's room and attempts to kidnap her, Peter arrives and flies Molly out the window to safety. But the pair knows they must find Molly's father before Lord Ombra does. Molly and Peter go to George Darling's, a friend of Molly's, house. After resting at George's house for a little while Peter and Molly go somewhere Molly's father used to take her when she was young, in hopes of finding someone who may know where her father is. But after another close encounter with Lord Ombra, they find only one confusing clue. Peter and Molly return to George's house and he helps them decipher the clue. Peter and Molly, now accompanied by George, travel to the town where they believe her father is. But they know they must hurry to save her mother, father, and the world.

Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson worked together on these two amazing books. They did a great job with describing the characters and places so that I felt like I was actually there. They did an especially good job with Lord Ombra who gave me chill bumps when I read about him. Both books were filled with adventure, suspense, and humor. An example of this humor was one of the funniest characters, Smee, Black Stache's clueless first mate. I really enjoyed *Peter and the Starcatchers* and *Peter and the Shadow Thieves*. I'm looking forward to the upcoming third book in the trilogy.

Jordan Nettles, Age 13

8th grade, Wesson Attendance Center

Student Writers Wanted!



Concepts! is looking for gifted students in Mississippi who are interested in writing book reviews to accompany our regular *Bookshelf* article. If you know a student who is an avid reader and an aspiring writer, contact Lisa Saucier, Concepts! editor at lsaucier@jackson.k12.ms.us for more information.

New on the Space Place Web Site....

"Planet X-treme Weather"

Few places on Earth have perfect weather. We complain about the heat, the cold, the hurricanes and tornadoes, the rain and snow, or the drought. But compared to other places in our solar system, even Earth's worst weather is wimpy! Visit the Space Place at <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov> for a whirlwind tour of weather throughout the solar system. Find out about the hottest, coldest, windiest, and just plain weirdest planets and moons in our neighborhood. Click on "Amazing Facts" and "Planet X-treme Weather" to begin your tour.



National Aeronautics
and Space Administration



Chomping Rocks on Mars

Someday astronauts may go to Mars. One of their science chores may be to continue the work being done now by rover robots studying Mars rocks. Scientists want to know what is in those rocks. They hold clues to the planet's mysterious past. To learn about the rocks, Mars astronauts will have to smash them and put the rock powder into an analyzer. The analyzer will detect what minerals are present.

But chopping those rocks into powder first will be a tough job. Whew!

But first, though, NASA is planning to send more robotic explorers to Mars. But how can robotic Mars landers or rovers break up rocks for an analyzer?

This is where NASA's special Planetary Instrument Definition and Development Program comes in. This program helped some NASA engineers to invent the needed Mars Rock Crusher. Only six inches tall, it can chew the hardest rocks into a powder.

The Mars Rock Crusher has two metal plates that work sort of like our jaws. One plate stays still, while the other plate moves. Rocks are dropped into the jaw between the two plates. As the movable plate moves in and out, rocks are crushed between the plates. The jaw opening is larger toward the top and smaller towards the bottom. So when larger rocks are crushed near the top, the pieces fall down into the narrower part of the jaw, where they are crushed again. This process repeats until the rock particles are small enough to fall through a slit where the two plates are closest.

Engineers have tested the Mars Rock Crusher with

Earth rocks similar to those expected to be found on Mars. One kind of rock is hematite. The rusted iron in hematite and other rocks help give Mars its nickname "The Red Planet". Another kind of rock is magnetite, so-called because it is magnetic! Rocks made by volcanoes are called basalts. Some of the volcanoes on Mars may have produced basalts with a lot of a mineral called olivine. We call those olivine basalts, and the Rock Crusher chews them up nicely too.

For a fun and interesting classroom activity and more about technologies to investigate other planets, visit The Space Place web site at http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/educators/QC_laser_spectrometer.pdf.



Looking down on the jaws of the Mars Rock Crusher, we see a magnetite rock get crushed into smaller and smaller particles.

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

NAGC Searching for "Passionate Sound Bites"

Be your own best spokesperson

How does your gifted child or student experience the classroom? NAGC is looking for cartoons, verse, or short poems (50 words or less) that shed light on a gifted child's experience. The submissions may come from you or directly from the child - there's no age limit -- everyone can participate. NAGC will include cartoons and poetry in their advocacy and membership materials, and share them with those with limited gifted education experience.

- Your Job: Distill your experience into a "passionate sound bite."
- Our Job: Effectively use the sound bites to affect positive change.

NAGC will be using submissions on their website, so the cartoon must be produced as or be converted to a gif or jpeg file. Poems and verse must be short such as a Haiku,

Limerick, Acrostic or Diamante.

Please follow the procedures below to submit a cartoon or short verse to NAGC:

- 1) download and complete the release form
- 2) submit the release form with your submission via fax or U.S. mail

NAGC

Attn: Carolyn Kaye

1707 L Street, NW, Suite 550

Washington, DC 20036

Fax: 202-785-4248

Email for questions: ckaye@nagc.org

NAGC will contact you about how your submission will be used. We will also request at that time that your submission be sent to us electronically. Poems and cartoons can not be accepted without a release form.

Hall of Honors

MAGC Teacher Grants Awarded

MAGC Teacher Grant for 2007 have been awarded. Allison Rhodes, a teacher at Quarles Elementary in Long Beach, received the Gail P. Hammond Teacher Scholarship. She is completing her certification in gifted education. Vicki Latham, a teacher at Spann Elementary in Jackson, received a grant to pursue her advanced education in a gifted related class. Betty Jo Mahaffey, a teacher at Madison Station Elementary in Madison, received a grant to pursue gifted certification. Congratulations to these outstanding educators.

Elisabeth Mosley Memorial Student Scholarships

The MAGC Elisabeth Mosley Memorial Student Summer Scholarships for 2007 were awarded late in the spring. This scholarship is designated to help gifted students attend summer camps throughout the state. If you are interested in applying for a scholarship, look for the application in future issues of *Concepts*!

Phillip Jordan Love, a fifth grade student at Power APAC in Jackson, was awarded a scholarship to attend USM's Summer Gifted Studies Leadership Program. He is the son of Jeffrey and Monica Love.

Kamila M. Woods, a fifth grade student at Power APAC in Jackson, was awarded a scholarship to attend Camp Invention. She is the daughter of Melissa Woods.

Tanisha Winder, a sixth grade student at Peeples Middle School in Jackson, was awarded a scholarship to USA Chess Camp. She is the daughter of Alisha Winder. Congratulations to our MAGC scholarship winners!

USM Faculty and Grads Published in Roeper Review

Dr. Frances A. Karnes and The University of Southern Mississippi graduates Dr. Kevin Besnoy, Dr. Jesse R. Cukierkorn, Dr. Sandra J. Manning, and doctoral student Heather Houston have co-authored an article, *Serving the Preschool Gifted Child: Programming and Resources*, currently appearing in the Summer, 2007, issue of the Roeper Review, Volume 29, No. 4. The article's focus is on the unique educational needs of gifted and high ability preschoolers, and emphasizes an integrated curriculum, continuing evaluation, and parental involvement. Descriptions of specific strategies such as internet resources are included.

Do you know Mississippi gifted students and teachers that have won honors? We'd like to recognize them in *Concepts*! Just send info and pictures to Lisa Saucier at lsaucier@jackson.k12.ms.us or 1120 Riverside Dr., Jackson, MS 39202.

MAGC Silent Auction

Friday, 9/28/07

MAGC Conference

Proceeds will help purchase suicide prevention kits for MS schools!

Come help MAGC support suicide prevention in Mississippi! Items will be available for bids at our annual conference. Among items on the auction block is a district level workshop featuring Nathan Levy, author of *Stories With Holes*! Make plans to join in the fun and help raise money for this worthy cause.



Free Parenting Sessions

Thursday, 9/27/07

2:30-4:30

MAGC Conference

Parents of gifted children are invited to attend special parenting sessions that will be offered during MAGC's annual conference. Parents will be offered ideas and information that will help them to support their gifted learners. The session is free to parents of the gifted.



Davidson Fellow Scholarships Available

The Davidson Institute for Talent Development is offering high achieving young people across the country the opportunity to be named as 2008 Davidson Fellows, an honor accompanied by a \$50,000, \$25,000 or \$10,000 scholarship in recognition of a significant piece of work in Science, Technology, Mathematics, Music, Literature, Philosophy or Outside the Box.

To be eligible, applicants must be under the age of 18 as of Oct. 1, 2008, and a U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident residing in the United States. There is no minimum

age for eligibility.

The deadline to apply is March 26, 2008. Applicants must submit an original piece of work recognized by experts in the field as significant and it must have the potential to make a positive contribution to society.

The scholarship must be used at an accredited institute of learning. For more information on the Davidson Fellows scholarship, or to download an application, please visit www.DavidsonFellows.org.

Stock Market Game : Essential in Achieving Financial Literacy!

Mississippi teachers continue to go the extra mile by introducing students to interactive learning about the business world through the Stock Market Game.

An on-line classroom program, the Mississippi Stock Market Game (SMG) is available to teachers with day-long training on the program and is open to students in grades 4-12. It has been proven to help students achieve higher scores on tests of financial literacy. The program enables teams of students to invest a hypothetical \$100,000 in the stock market over a 10-week period. The SMG is the only stock market simulation supported by the New York Stock Exchange and the Nasdaq Stock Market. It is also the only market simulation that is endorsed by the National Council on Economic Education and is correlated to voluntary national standards in math, economics, and business education, as well as the Mississippi standards.

In 2006-2007 the SMG replaced the Mississippi Stock Market Simulation. SMG supplies teachers and classrooms with grade and subject-specific curriculum guides, lesson plans and newsletters for classroom instruction. The SMG had its most successful year with 56% growth in Mississippi. To date, over 18,666 students in 3,743 teams have participated in this state-wide competition. Gifted teachers represent the largest portion of teachers using the SMG in their classroom.

By participating in the SMG, students are eligible to

compete in the nationwide essay competition, InvestWrite. This essay competition takes the concepts and skills students have learned throughout the simulation and applies to them to a real-life situation. Mississippi was named in the top ten in the nation for InvestWrite entries and had two national winners in 2006-2007!

Workshops are underway to train teachers for the 2007-2008 school year. Training programs are held in Jackson, Gulfport, Starkville and Cleveland throughout August and September.

A new program, The Teacher Ambassadors, has been created to help teachers new to the SMG with classroom implementation. New SMG teachers, or experienced SMG teachers that just want a different perspective, are provided contact information for veteran SMG teachers to ask questions and use as a general resource as they implement the program for the first time.

The SMG is brought to Mississippi by the Mississippi Council on Economic Education (MCEE), the state's only professional development organization for teachers in economic and financial education.

Teachers may register for the Stock Market Game at www.stockmarketgame.org or register for workshops at www.mscee.org. For more information contact Pamela P. Smith, Ph.D., at 601-974-1325 or email at mscee@millsaps.edu.

Wanted AND Needed –Involved Parents

- MAGC wants AND needs more involvement from parents of gifted children. Want to become involved? Start a local parent affiliate group in your school district. All it takes is a dedicated parent who is willing to “get the ball rolling”! Affiliate groups have a BIG impact on the education of gifted children in our state. If you’re interested in starting an affiliate group in your community, contact Debbie Holt for additional information.
- If you already have an affiliate group in your local district, please make sure that your membership dues and membership list have been forwarded to Debbie Holt. We need AND want the name and address of each member of your affiliate group in order to maintain a current mailing list.
- If you’re organized, creative, enthusiastic or if you just enjoy working with other gifted educators around the state, you’re invited to become a part of the planning committee for the annual MAGC conference. Just email Teresa Mosley at tmosely@jackson.k12.ms.us and let her know you’re interested! You’re wanted AND needed!



Happenings at the Karnes Center

New Associate Director—As of August, 2007, The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies has a new Associate Director, Janet L. Wade. Ms. Wade has been a gifted education teacher in the southern Mississippi public school system for over fifteen years, teaching a range of grades from second through twelfth. She has degrees in English and music from The University of Southern Mississippi along with a certification in gifted education, and also has a strong background in business and human resources.

Over the past several years, Ms. Wade has been involved in the student programs sponsored by The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies both as a teacher and a program supervisor.

Career Explorations for Girls Conference, October 20, 2007—This conference will be conducted on the Hattiesburg campus of USM from 8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. The conference is open to all girls in grades 7-12 and each girl must be accompanied by her mother or another adult female. Girls do **not** need to be enrolled in gifted education to attend. Dr. Annie Wim-bish, superintendent of the Hattiesburg Public Schools, will speak on the topic, *Girls + Goals = Success*. Several distinguished presenters will offer practical information to help girls plan for their education and entry into prospective careers. Careers to be discussed include business development, science and technology, health care, journalism, education, business, military service, art, psychology, law, music, and sports.

The registration deadline is October 1, 2007. On the day of the conference registrants should sign in from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. in Joseph A. Greene Hall. There is no charge for the conference and lunch is included. The conference is co-hosted by The Karnes Center and the Spirit of Women at Forrest General Hospital.

Saturday Gifted Studies Program—The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies will be hosting the Saturday Gifted Studies Program from January 19 through March 1, 2008. The program is designed to enhance cognitive and affective abilities of gifted students through planned enrichment/acceleration programming. The courses are scheduled for 9 a.m.-noon on each of the seven consecutive Saturdays. The application deadline is November 15, 2007. The following courses will be offered:

- **Pre-K 4- and 5- year olds:** *Under the Sea* and *Great Leaders*
- **Kindergarten and first grade:** *Journey into Space* and *Animals! Animals! Animals!*
- **Second and third grades:** *Dollars and Sense* and *Fun Seeker's Science* or *Spanish*
- **Fourth, fifth, and sixth grades:** *Law Connections* and *Environmental Solutions*
or *Author! Author! An Introduction to Creative Writing*
- **Seventh through twelfth grades:** Choose **one** of the following three options:
Debate, Psychology: Discovering Yourself, or Forensic Science

Leadership Studies Program, June 15-20, 2008—This is a one-week residential program designed for students currently enrolled in grades 6—11 who have a desire to develop and enhance their leadership skills and abilities. Students will be housed in dormitories on the campus of USM in Hattiesburg. Tuition includes room, board, recreational activities, and limited accident insurance.

Leadership I is a program with specific emphasis on leadership skills. Training will include those areas necessary for leadership development: 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 affiliations 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 will be 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 will also have the opportunity for informal interaction with adult leaders.

Summer Gifted Studies Program, June 22—27, 2008—This is a one-week residential program designed for intellectually gifted students in grades 4—8 with intelligence quotients of 120 or above on an individually administered test or the 90th percentile or above at the national level on an achievement test. The program enhances the cognitive abilities of gifted students through planned enrichment and 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. 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.

For More Information Contact

The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies ■ The University of Southern Mississippi
118 College Drive #8207 ■ Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001 ■ (601)266-5236 ■ fax (601)266-4978
E-mail: gifted_studies@usm.edu ■ <http://www.usm.edu/gifted>

2007 Conference Lodging Reservation Form Regency Hotel and Conference Center

Mississippi Association for Gifted Children

September 27-28, 2007

To receive the special conference rate, this form must be received by August 27, 2007*.

*Any housing request received after this date will be accepted at the rate of \$99.00, based on availability.

Name _____

Group _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Telephone _____ email _____

MAGC Group Rate: \$82.00 per room per night – single /double occupancy

(All rates subject to 11% tax plus \$.75 occupancy city 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 11:00 a.m.

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 Card

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. It is suggested that you call the hotel after reservations have been made in order to obtain a confirmation number.

Return this form to: Regency Hotel and Conference Center

Attn: Robert Dumas, 400 Greymont Avenue, Jackson, MS 39202

Telephone# 601.969.2141

FAX# 601.714.5701

MAGC Conference Registration Form

September 27-28, 2007

Regency Hotel and Conference Center, Jackson, Mississippi

Registration Information: *Registration includes MAGC membership for one year.* 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 20, 2007, and are subject to a \$15.00 processing fee. Refunds will not be issued before November 15, 2007.

Transportation and Parking: Shuttle transportation to and from the Jackson airport is complimentary. Ample parking surrounds the hotel. There is no fee for parking.

Lodging: Complete separate lodging reservation form and send it directly to The Regency.

MAGC Membership card # _____ expiration date _____

Name _____

Home Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ E-Mail _____

School District/ Organization _____

Relationship to Gifted Education _____

Conference Registration and/or Membership Fees		Amount
SELECT ONE ONLY	Early Registration Fee..... \$90.00 (must be postmarked by September 1, 2007)	\$
	Regular Registration Fee \$95.00 (must be postmarked by September 15, 2007)	\$
	On-Site Registration Fee (after September 15, 2007) \$100.00	\$
	Undergraduate Student Registration Fee \$30.00 (must show student ID at registration)	\$
	Main Presenter Membership Fee \$25.00	\$
	Family Night ONLY \$3.00 per person or \$5.00 per family	\$
Total Amount Due		\$

AFTER SEPTEMBER 15, 2007, BRING THIS FORM WITH YOU FOR ON-SITE REGISTRATION.

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

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MAGC

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The MAGiC of MAGC

MAGC is celebrating another successful conference! The 2007 conference, held in September in Jackson was a success and we are already planning for next year. Mark your calendars now for September 17, 18, 19, 2008. We are excited about our new location at Pearl River Resorts in Choctaw, MS where we'll have plenty of room for our expanding breakout sessions. The price of the rooms is very reasonable, and there are twelve restaurants to choose from without getting in your car!

We're planning some new events too! On Thursday evening everyone is invited to the Beach Club House to enjoy an evening of casual relaxation. Instead of our usual

luncheon on Friday, our last event will be Creativity Lagniappe!

This past year our meetings for counselors and psychometrists were so popular that we are expanding our conference to include sessions for both groups all day on Wednesday. Start talking to the people in your district now so they can plan to attend.

We want to hear your ideas, too! This is your conference! If you have some new suggestions, we want to hear them! We'll have plenty of space for presenters. If you've been considering presenting at MAGC, this is the year!

Joyce Youngblood, Conference Chair
jly1272@aol.com



MS teachers were cooking up bright ideas at *Creativity Night!*



A Clinton student displays a mask made in gifted classes. Many students presented their masks at the conference luncheon.

Concepts! Is Going Digital

Concepts! is changing format. Plans are in the works to switch from a traditional print format, to a digital format. That means that, starting with the summer, 2008 issue, Concepts! will be delivered to MAGC members via e-mail. It will also continue to be available on the MAGC web site at <http://www.muw.edu/magc/index.htm>. These changes will help in getting issues out more promptly. It will also lessen the environmental impact of printing a paper newsletter and cut back on printing expenses.

To make this plan work, we need to hear from our membership. Please contact Lisa Saucier, Concepts! Editor and give your preferred e-mail address. Members may have copies delivered to multiple e-mail addresses if they wish. You can reach Lisa Saucier at lsaucier@jackson.k12.ms.us. Title your message "E-mail for Concepts". Please send in e-mail addresses by May 30, 2008.

Paper copies of Concepts! will still be available for MAGC members who do not have e-mail access. If you need this service, please contact us no later than May 30, 2008. You can mail your request to Lisa Saucier, Concepts! 144 W. Main Street, Florence, MS 39073. You may also call (601)891-8054.

We welcome your feedback. If you have questions, comments or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us. Contact information for all board members can be found on the back of this issue.

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From the MAGC President

Here we are.....almost finished with first semester! Time goes by so fast. My mind is still reeling from the knowledge I gained and new friendships I established I established at our September conference. Thanks to all of our MAGC membership for the role you played in making our 2007 conference a success. Where you were a presenter, vendor, or attendee, your participation was valued and appreciated! We need to be proud of our state organization because we are truly well-respected nationally. Encourage your colleagues to become a part of MAGC. We value and solicit the input and participation of ALL educators, counselors, psychometrists, and parents. The more we number, the mightier our voice! I encourage all of you to take time to consider making a presentation at our 2008 conference that will be held at Pearl River Resort in Choctaw, Mississippi. Joyce Youngblood, President-Elect/Conference Chairman and Sherry Willis, Vice-President are already hard at work to plan an innovative, invigorating, imaginative, and MAGiCal conference. It is sure to be a conference you are not soon to forget. Make plans, now, to attend the conference September 18-19, 2008. This year we will sponsor a pre-conference institute for psychometrists, as well as an additional institute for our counselors on Wednesday Sept. 17. If you are a psychometrist or counselor and would like to make a presentation at the institute, please email me at trmosley1@yahoo.com with your proposal or ideas. MAGC would also like to

invite regular education teachers to attend the conference, thereby recruiting advocates for gifted children in the regular classroom. Finally, thank you for your support in addressing the social-emotional needs of gifted children. I have overwhelmed in the outpouring of support and prayers offered by MAGC members that I have never met before. Throughout this tragedy of Elisabeth's death, God has blessed me with renewal of old relationships and the development of new relationships. I am thankful that God has opened my eyes to an understanding of the social-emotional needs of the children I test each day. Please continue to keep the issue of social-emotional issues on the forefront as you make plans to provide the most appropriate services to our gifted students. I am very thankful for the leadership of Dr. Frances Karnes in the founding of MAGC and her continued efforts to promote gifted education in the state of Mississippi. If you do not know her, you have missed a blessing. I am also thankful for Jean Prather, to whom Dr. Karnes passed the torch many years ago. These two women are truly leaders in the field of gifted education. As we represent a diverse state, remember this, "Outstanding intelligence is present in children and youth from all cultural groups and all economic strata."~~~~National Excellence: A Case for Developing America's Talent (1993). See you in Choctaw in September!

Blessings,
Teresa Mosley
2007-2008 President

Web Resources for Gifted Kids

History of Money <http://www.ex.ac.uk/~RDavies/arian/llyfr.html>

Have you ever wondered why we use money instead of bartering goods with each other? Does money include only bills and coins? Why does the central bank regulate how much money is in the money supply? Check out this Web site for topics on money such as a comparative chronology of money, the origins of money and banking, the origins of the term *dollar*, and more!

Online Graphing Calculator <http://www.coolmath.com/graphit>

If your students forget to bring their graphing calculators home to complete their math homework, there's no need for them to panic! Students can access this Web site and click on the virtual calculator buttons to enter the equation that needs to be graphed. The interactive site allows users to scroll over the graph to find the x- and y-intercepts. What a lifesaver!

Virtual Interactive White Board <http://www.imaginationcubed.com/LaunchPage>

Do you or someone you know use an interactive white board in the classroom? Now you can use a virtual one at home. You can easily change the background of your virtual white board, create stamps, type text, draw, or even insert auto shapes. This can be used for brainstorming with a group or just being creative and making a drawing for fun.

Learn Spanish http://www.spanishprograms.com/learn_spanish.htm

Know a student who needs help in his or her first Spanish class? Or, are you or someone you know thinking of taking a trip abroad? Either way, this is a useful Web site to freshen up on beginner's Spanish. With pictures, text, and audio, this free online tutorial goes over the basic needs section of a larger software package that you can choose to purchase.

Boogle.com <http://www.boogle.com>

Surely you've used the search engine Google to look up research topics. Now you can try Boogle.com to do the same thing, but with inspiration! As you type in the words or phrase you want to search for, the Boogle.com Web page features a quote from people such as Mark Twain and Abraham Maslow beneath the Google search bar. The quote changes every time you visit the site. A fun and inspiring twist for those who love quotes!

Vocab Minute <http://www.princetonreview.com/vocabminute>

Are your students studying for the ACT or SAT? Are vocabulary flashcards bogging them down? Just take one minute to listen to or download these quick, catchy tunes that will help students spell and learn challenging vocabulary. What a fun way to study vocabulary words!

These web resources originally appeared in the Fall 2007 issue of *Gifted Child Today*.

USM Professor Publishes 39th Book

Dr. Frances Karnes of the Karnes Center for Gifted Studies at USM, along with Dr. Kristen Stephens of Duke University have co-edited "Academic Excellence: Educating the Gifted and Talented," published by Merrill Prentice-Hall.

According to Karnes and Stephens, the text provides foundational information about the field of gifted education. It details characteristics of gifted students from various populations, describes how such students are identified and assessed, and presents up-to-date research pedagogy relating to curriculum design and instruction. Selected authors also weigh in on varying topics throughout the book, including on parenting gifted children.

Karnes said she and Stephens were inspired to produce the book because of what they believe is a lack of revised texts available on gifted education. "There are books out there on this subject, but very few authors are revising them, so we wanted to make a contribution to the field by producing an introductory text," Karnes said.



Dr. David Daves, chair of the USM Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education, said Karnes' latest book "adds to her credibility as a world-renowned expert on gifted education." He also praised her for the quality and quantity of literature that she has contributed to her field.

Stephens, who obtained her doctorate from Southern Miss in gifted education in 1999, has collaborated with Karnes on other books and on journal articles. Pictured are Daves and Karnes with a copy of the new book. (Southern Miss Public Relations photo by David Tisdale)

Possible Problems That May Be Associated with Characteristic Strengths of Gifted Children*

<i>Characteristic Strengths</i>	<i>Possible Problem Behaviors</i>
Acquires and retains information quickly	Impatient with others; dislikes basic routine
Inquisitive; searches for significance	Asks embarrassing questions; excessive in interests
Intrinsic motivation	Strong willed; resists direction
Enjoys abstractions and problem solving; able to	Resists routine practice; questions teaching procedures
Emphasizes truth, equity, and fair play	Worries about humanitarian concerns
Seeks to organize people and things	Constructs complicated rules; often seen as bossy
Large vocabulary; advanced, broad information	May use words to manipulate; bored with school and
High expectations of self and others	Intolerant, perfectionistic; may become depressed
Creative / inventive; likes new ways of doing	May be seen as disruptive and out of step
Intense concentration; long attention span and	Neglects duties or people during periods of focus; re-
Sensitivity, empathy; desire to be accepted by	Sensitivity to criticism or peer rejection
High energy and alertness; eagerness	Frustration with inactivity; may be seen as overactive
Independent; prefers individualized work; reliant	May be a non-conformist; may reject parent or peer in-
Diverse interests and abilities; versatility	May appear disorganized or scattered; frustrated over
Strong sense of humor	Peers may misunderstand humor; may become "class

*Adapted from Clark (1992) and Seagoe (1974). Source: ERIC Digest #E527
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NAGC Annual Holiday Toy List 2007

Taken from Parenting for High Potential, September, 2007
For the complete article, go on-line to
<http://www.nagc.org/uploadedFiles/PHP/Toylist%202007.pdf>

It's that time of year again – the time of year when we discover the newest, hottest, freshest, and most creative toys and games on the market. The products chosen for the 2007 Annual Holiday Toy List had that “WOW” factor for our testers. In fact, to sum up the findings, these are the games our testers didn't want to put down. We have grouped the toys and games into four categories: Interactive Games, Board Games, Hands-On Games, and Miscellaneous Games.

Keep in mind that the ages listed in the reviews below are those suggested by the manufacturer; however, younger (even preschool) gifted children have found great pleasure and satisfaction in playing several of the games designed for much older children when adults helped them figure out the rules. We encourage you to investigate the products to see if they might be just the ticket to stimulate learning and skill building for your child, regardless of age.

Information about many of the toys from the list, including direct links to the manufacturers' websites, can be found in our online Resource Directory at: <http://www.nagc.org/resourcedirectory.aspx>.

Interactive Games

AlphaBall Ages 6 and Up \$36.95.

by Learning Resources (www.LearningResources.com)

This electronic toy offers a choice of six scramble games (word mix, word scramble, and wonder words, each in English and Spanish). Some of the games are timed.

For example, in “word mix,” players have only two minutes to spell as many words as possible from the scrambled word on the display. “Wonder word” is similar to Hangman, with players trying to solve word puzzles. This game has music, sounds, and lights to encourage the building of spelling and language arts skills in both English and Spanish.

Contrario Ages 13 to Adult \$14.99

by FoxMind (www.FoxMind.com).

A “Contrario” is a created expression drawn from different categories. Players are challenged to solve each “Contrario” through clues drawn from synonyms, antonyms, idioms, and other word plays. There are two clues for each “Contrario.” The 165 doublesided cards each have eight “Contrarios” to solve, which means there are many opportunities to stretch lateral thinking skills and logic to solve each mystery. This game could be played with points for a winner or could be used as a conversation game casually without keeping score. Either way it's a lot of fun.

Pretend & Play: World Traveler Ages 3 and Up \$32.95

by Learning Resources (www.LearningResources.com)

With the *Pretend & Play World Traveler* kit players will be on their way to lots of unique destinations. Pretend that you're in another country or another city. Use airplane tickets to

board the plane, then use train and bus tickets to sightsee. The products in this kit give imaginative play life-like objects to make the play all that more real. All that's needed is imagination for this traveling kit to inspire endless journeys.

Questionary Ages 11 to Adult \$19.99

by Spark Games LLC (www.sparkgamesllc.com)

The object of this game is to guess the word on the other team's card. The catch is that players can only ask yes or no questions that pertain to their word or phrase. Our toy testers said that this game was “brain teasing” and “hilarious”. This game is a great interactive group activity because players jump right into shouting out questions to try to quickly determine the solution.

Toss Your Cookies Ages 8 to Adult \$11.99

by Gamewright (www.gamewright.com)

The object of the game is to be the first player to collect five of a type of cookie, plus the milk card, by passing, swapping and tossing cookie cards according to instructions on the dice. Players must watch out for the half-eaten cookie; it will spoil the set.

Zing! All Ages \$24.95.

by TLI Games (www.tligames.com)

Zing! is a sentence building, open-ended word game for 2 to 4 players. Stories are created when individual word tiles are played on a gridded game board. For example, a player could create a sentence like this – “A” “juicy” “farm” “cake” “splattered” “all” “over” “them”. The game includes over 450 elementary, edgy, or esoteric word tiles along with 100 blank “wash off” word tiles, a dry erase marker and score cards.

Board Games

Code Breaker Ages 7 to Adult \$19.95

by Cogno (www.cogno.com)

Code Breaker is a combination of *Pictionary* and memory games. This game starts as a simple matching game but adds a really fun twist. Each card has an image on one side and a plain, white surface on the other. Players randomly place all cards image side down in the playing area. Players flip the cards to try to make a match, but if it isn't a match, they can then write down a “code” on the top of the card as a memory jogger for the next turn. A winner of seven national awards, this twist on an old classic delivers a lot of creative coding, drawing, memory, and skill.

Mix Up Ages 8 to Adult \$19.99

by Out of the Box: (www.otb-games.com)

Using a combination of three different colors and three different shapes there are many more ways to achieve a “four in a row” win than ever before. One player wants to win a four in a row with colors while the other player wants to win a four in a row with shapes. Figuring out where to slide their game piece became a fun and challenging play. Sometimes the tile they played inadvertently helped their opponent.



Newton's Apples Ages 7 and Up \$24.99

by BriarPatch (www.BriarPatch.com)

Players begin with all the green or red apples at the top of a slanted playing board. By using crates in the eight different rows the goal is to block the opponent's apples from falling to the bottom row. Crates can be lined up, used to build bridges over rows, or combined to build elaborate apple blocks. Our testers thought this would be an easy game but reported that they really had to think hard and smart about where to position their crates to use gravity in their favor.

Spill Your Guts Ages 7 and Up \$26.95.

by Learning Resources (www.LearningResources.com).

Here is a game that asks questions about the human body and its organ systems. When you answer correctly, you earn an organ to place in the body tray. But...when you answer incorrectly, you end up spilling the guts. Time to start over. Collect the most correctly answered question cards to win. The testers who went to this game again and again said that they had an interest in becoming a doctor as a possible career and enjoyed learning more about the human body in a game format.

Trhyme Ages 12 and Up \$29.99

by L.M. Rdeux Innovations, Inc. (www.trhyme.com)

Trhyme is the name and rhyming is the game. The challenge is to figure out the answer using the three clues. Sound easy? Here's the challenge – *Trhyme* (pronounced trime) uses rhyming as its base in all its answers. If the clues are “insane, unmotivated, and unclear,” can you figure out the rhyming answer? If you guess “crazy, lazy, and hazy,” you have the *trhyming* spirit. Not only does this challenge your vocabulary, it also strengthens your critical thinking. The first player to reach the center of the game board wins.

Hands-On Games

Architecto Ages 7 and Up \$34.99

by FoxMind (www.FoxMind.com)

Reminiscent of Tangrams, but using 18 precision-cut geo blocks, players recreate the 2-D Architecto images into 3-D forms. Architecto's clear illustrations are leveled according to ability, starting with basic and ending with advanced. Additionally, each illustration gives clues about how many of each block to use to build the image. This set is a good workout for geometry, spatial vision skills, and problem solving, along with a healthy dose of perseverance.

A World of LEGO Mosaics Ages 4 and Up \$19.99

by LEGO (www.LEGO.com)

Picture this – drawing with LEGO's. That's basically what you'll be doing when you use the LEGO Mosaics. With the array of shades of colors and transparent plates, children can create a drawing in 3-D. The square, clear base plates, along with the variety of colored bricks, offer the illusion of a picture drawing or paint by numbers type of image once finished. Children can use the step-by-step building instructions to create their LEGO image or they can create their own image as well. Either way creations will be unique.



Bendomino: Dominoes with a Twist

Ages 5 to Adult \$15.95

by Blue Orange (www.blueorangegames.com)

Another new “twist” on an old classic game, *Bendominos* offer players a new challenge to the game of dominoes. Each domino has a unique twisted, bended shape with different colored dots. Just like regular dominoes, *Bendominos* require that the pieces fit together. Each time a bendomino is played, the chain continues to twist and turn around the playing surface making this game full of thinkahead strategy.



Ringgz Ages 8 and Up \$29.95

by Blue Orange (www.blueorangegames.com)

This game was so popular with our toy testers that they actually grabbed it to play when there was free time between sessions. Why did they love it so much? It's a strategy game that involves players really observing and analyzing the other players and their moves on the *Ringgz* board. The object of *Ringgz* is to conquer territories while preventing acquisitions by opponents. The game involves the use of colored rings. Each ring has a different diameter that allows players to stack them within each other as territories are marked. The tension between common sense and risk-taking strategy is what keeps this game active, exciting, and captivating.

ShakeDown Ages 7 to Adult \$25.00

by Patch Products (www.PatchProducts.com)

ShakeDown is a stack 'em game that requires great amounts of balance, concentration, and problem solving. On your turn, carefully lift up the *ShakeDown* tower and draw a card from the bottom of the base. If the card has a task to complete (such as spinning the tower or placing it on the ground), that is done first. Otherwise you continue to place the card on the spreading stack of cards on the top of the tower. Each card needs to have at least one corner sticking off of the edge of the top stack to count. But be careful, because with each card that is added to the growing stack, it gets more and more shaky which could cause the cards to come “shaking down.” Don't let that happen. Children need to think critically for the card placement and they need to think logically as they draw cards from the building stack. Think you can stack the cards wide? Or will you make 'em slide?

Miscellaneous Games

Aerobloks Ages 5 to Adult \$99.99

by Tinker Minds Inc. (www.aerobloks.com)

Aerobloks are lightweight, see-through, durable, inflatable blocks that connect to each other to form any creation you want. Each block is safe, durable, easy to use, and attractive. The blocks can be quickly inflated with their special pump and, when not in use, the blocks fit compactly away. The booklet illustrates how to build 20 different play structures with clear color illustrations and friendly text. Additionally, it shows which structures are easier and more difficult to put together. Of course, building won't stop with these directions – let your child's creativity take over.



The Bookshelf

By: Harriet Whitehouse

A Swiftly Tilting Planet

by Madeleine L'Engle

*In this fateful hour
I place all Heaven with its Power,
And the sun with its brightness,
And the snow with its whiteness,
And the fire with all the strength it hath,
And the lightning with its rapid wrath,
And the winds with their swiftness along their path,
And the sea with its deepness,
And the rocks with their steepness,
And the earth with its starkness,
All these I place
By God's almighty help and grace
Between myself and the powers of darkness.*
--St. Patrick's Lorica (Breastplate)

.....And thus are we plunged into Madeleine L'Engle's novel, *A Swiftly Tilting Planet*, companion to *A Wrinkle in Time* in the author's much beloved time quartet. It seems only fitting to commemorate the passing of Madeleine L'Engle earlier this fall by reviewing a novel which resonated at its first publication in 1978 and still reverberates today. Our children are growing up in an era of war and rumors of war, of the implications of climate change, and great apprehensions of the future. *A Swiftly Tilting Planet* opens with great fear and enormous relevance to the world today as the novel unfolds the tale of a madman who is set to destroy the world in a nuclear holocaust. The powers of darkness, the *Echthroi*, whose name is derived from the Greek word for annihilation, run rampant over planet Earth, and saving Planet Earth lands squarely in the lap of Charles Wallace, the youngest son in the Murry family.

The Murry family is gathered for Thanksgiving, when the news arrives of a South American dictator who is threatening the world with nuclear destruction. Mr. Murry is an advisor to the government, and he initiates the efforts of all human resources to halt the madness of the dictator. However, the danger is past all human help, and the power of the rune quoted above comes into play. *In this fateful hour.....* is the ancient runic hymn of St. Patrick, containing all the power of the elements of God's creation, and,

throughout the novel, each element arises with God's power to change the course of history.

The human agent of the change of history's course is Charles Wallace. Enter Gaudior the unicorn, whose name means *More Joyful*, sent by Heaven to aid Charles Wallace. Riding Gaudior, Charles Wallace time-travels to events and times in history when choices were made for good or for evil. Charles Wallace *goes within* a sequence of characters, becoming a part of their souls, changing their thoughts, motivations, and choices. Each character holds part of the genealogical heritage of the insane South American dictator. With the help of Gaudior, Charles Wallace is able to redefine each character and turn events to the power of good. The elements of the Earth rise up in their strength to cement the good to endure to subsequent generations. Charles Wallace visits the People of the Wind in prehistoric America and wards off war between Native American tribes, changes the course of witch trials in Puritan New England, and guides two brothers during the American Civil War. Throughout their time travels, he and Gaudior are constantly tempted and attacked by the Echthroi, who attempt to thwart their efforts.

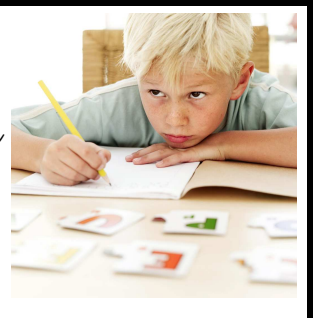
The subtle changes in character through the generations come to fruition in the final pages of *A Swiftly Tilting Planet*, when we realize that history itself has been changed. The path of evil choices resulting in the emergence of the insane dictator has been erased, and the path of truth-based choices has arisen in its place. The ruler in South America reaches hands of unity to the peoples of the earth, and world annihilation is no more.

As well as a story of the perennial struggle of good versus evil, and choices for good versus choices for destruction, *A Swiftly Tilting Planet* treats readers to some marvelous American history. Pre-Columbian, colonial, and nineteenth century America are depicted in vivid and well-researched detail. Also addressed in the novel are the power and beauty of poetry as exemplified in the runic hymn, St. Patrick's Lorica, whose words connect all sequences of the novel. Furthermore, *A Swiftly Tilting Planet* inspires young readers to global thought, challenging them to perceive the interconnectedness of all people and the implications of history in their lives. Madeleine L'Engle has given us a rare gift with *A Swiftly Tilting Planet*, the gift of perceiving ourselves as integral parts of the fabric of our planet, with our choices able to make a difference globally.

Harriet Whitehouse

Calling All Student Writers!

Concepts! is looking for gifted students in Mississippi who are interested in writing book reviews to accompany our regular *Bookshelf* article. If you know a student who is an avid reader and an aspiring writer, contact Lisa Saucier, *Concepts!* editor at lsaucier@jackson.k12.ms.us for more information.



Student Starts Support Group for Gifted Students

Long Beach Middle School gifted student, Sinclair R. was upset two years ago about the ending of her gifted education after grade six. She approached her teacher of the gifted, Mrs. Deborah Holt, about starting an after-school club in which gifted students could participate.

Excel Veterans, the name of the group, started meeting this past August. Excel Veterans is an after-school program for 7th and 8th grade gifted students. Throughout the course of this year, they will:

- *Visit USM and the Gulf Coast to be paired with mentors for a possible future career choices

- *Socialize with other gifted students

- *Have guest speakers on various topics of interest to Excel Veterans

- *Experience leadership opportunities

Pictured at right are Sinclair R. (president), Elizabeth V. (vice president), Maggie C. (historian), and Savannah S. (secretary).



Dr. Hank Bounds Receives NAGC Award

Dr. Hank Bounds, MS Superintendent of Education, was honored this November at the NAGC annual conference. Dr. Bounds received the David W. Belin Advocacy Award. This award honors an individual who has successfully advocated at the state or federal level to incorporate gifted education, in a significant way, into state or federal policy. Dr. Bounds was nominated by Dr. Frances Karnes for the award, and the NAGC Awards Committee selected him based on his vocal support of gifted education and his continued quest for high quality instruction for the gifted.

Hank Bounds has been serving as Mississippi's superintendent of education since August 2005. In this role, he serves as the chief executive officer of the Mississippi Department of Education and provides leadership for school districts across the state. He keeps gifted education services at the forefront of both the departmental and education budgets for the state.

Creativity Write-Down at William Carey University

The Creativity Write-Down will be held on Saturday, January 26, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. on the Hattiesburg campus of William Carey University. Students in grades two through twelve are invited to spend the day demonstrating their creative talents through poetry, creative writing, art, and photography. The day's activities will be compiled in a portfolio and mini-publication the students will share with their parents. Other creative works will be submitted for publication in a newspaper reviewed and edited by teen participants and distributed to teachers, administrators, and legislators of Mississippi.

Students are eligible for nomination to the program by parents, teachers, peers, or self when displaying strong characteristics of creative, academic, intellectual, artistic or leadership giftedness. Participation is limited to provide small group interaction and individualized instruction. Enrollment is based on a first-come first-served basis. Our programs are enhanced by diversity in our students as to talent, ethnicity, and economic environment. The nomination deadline is Jan. 7, 2008. Forms can be found at <http://www.wmcarey.edu/academics/education/diket1.shtml>. The cost of this program is \$30. This includes tuition, lunch, and materials. Payment is due by Jan. 14, 2008. For more information contact Dr. Read Diket at (601) 318 – 6205 rdiket@wmcarey.edu.

New on the Space Place Web Site....

Play "New and Improved" Space Place Trivia!

Covering everything from *asteroids* to *zodiac*, the Space Place Trivia game tests your acquaintance with just about every part of the extensive NASA kids website, The Space Place. Read the term in big red letters (with pronunciation guide), then pick the one sentence out of three in which the word makes sense (instead of nonsense). Recently updated to include newly added topics and activities on the site, the game links each term to the page or activity that explains or demonstrates it. So those "Oop-sies" can quickly be converted to "Right-o's!" Go to <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov> and click on "Games."



National Aeronautics
and Space Administration

Teachers of the Gifted Instructional Forum

"The Social and Emotional Lives of Gifted Children, Youth, and Adults"

February 8, 2008, 8:30 am – 3:00 pm

FEATURING:

"Developing Emotional Intelligence in Gifted Children and Youth"

- Kate Brown (MAGC past president)

"Elizabeth's Story: Understanding the Vulnerabilities in Gifted Children and Youth"

- Teresa Mosely (MAGC current president)

"Habits of Success: Developing Your Own Personal and Professional Lives"

- Suzanne Bean (MAGC past president)

Pre-Registration Fee: \$25.00 (includes lunch) payable by 1/18/08 On-Site Registration Fee: \$30.00

Registration forms available at: www.muw.edu/tgif

(Limited number of lunches available for on-site registrants)

CEU credit (.5) requires full attendance, including lunch.

CEU credit is \$20.00 (in addition to registration fee and payable on the day of conference)

For further information contact: Christina Freyder at 662.329.6772 or email at cmf3@muw.edu



MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY
FOR WOMEN

A Tradition of Excellence for Women and Men

In Our Own Words: The Many Voices of Giftedness

What does the classroom look like through the eyes of a gifted child? The phrase "gifted children will take care of themselves" is still too often heard as a reason for failure to provide appropriate gifted education services. NAGC believes that the best way to convey what it means to be gifted in the classroom is through the eyes of gifted children and their parents and teachers. And the most efficient and moving ways to communicate this experience is in a cartoon or short poem.

NAGC needs your help. *Your job* is to distill the issue into a passionate sound bite. *NAGC's job* is to effectively use the sound bites to affect positive change.

To that end, will you please send NAGC a cartoon or short verse (50 words or less) on the gifted child's classroom experience? These personal glimpses will express the impact of quality gifted education services, or the consequences of the failure to provide services, with educators and policy makers at our convention, via our newsletters, and in correspondence and meetings with Members of Congress.

Submissions are welcome from both children and adults. Go to the NAGC website <http://www.nagc.org/index.aspx?id=2078> for further details. Please send your work to the address below or email it to ckaye@nagc.org.

Seeking Students With Creative Classroom Projects and Products

Frances Karnes, Ph.D., and Kristen Stephens, Ph.D. are currently working on the revision of their best-selling book, *The Ultimate Guide for Student Product Development & Evaluation*, and they are requesting your students' participation.

This book, released more than 7 years ago, offers a step-by-step introduction to confidently using creative projects in your classroom. The authors give ideas for integrating projects into your existing curriculum, ways to help students plan and create their projects, and easy, effective evaluation strategies. The book also provides strategies for making sure that your students' hard work is noticed by other students, parents, and community members. As an additional part of this book, the authors feature several students and the exciting products they've created.

Now, it's time to revise this best-selling book with new products and expanded evaluation rubrics. The new edition will also feature several new students and the creative projects they have completed.

If you know a student who would like to be featured in this book, or if you would like more information, please contact Frances Karnes, Ph.D. at gifted.studies@usm.edu or Kristen Stephens, Ph.D. at kstephen@duke.edu. The submission deadline for this project is February 1, 2008.

Hall of Honors

Jackson Teacher Given National Honors

After being named a local Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year in May 2007 and Mississippi Teacher of the Year only a month ago, Peggy Carlisle has been named the Wal-Mart and Sam's Club 2007 National Teacher of the Year. The award was presented November 8 in a surprise ceremony.

The Wal-Mart Foundation awarded Pecan Park \$25,000 in honor of Carlisle's recognition, bringing the foundation's total contribution to the school to \$36,000 since the beginning of 2007. Carlisle received a trophy and other awards to complement those received at the local and state levels of the competition. The 27-year teaching veteran is currently a teacher for the gifted at Pecan Park Elementary in Jackson. Students signed a 2007 National Teacher of the Year banner which will remain on display at the school.

Speakers and special guests included representatives from Wal-Mart and the Teacher of the Year program and their education partners Phi Delta Kappa, State Superintendent Dr. Hank Bounds, JPS Board Member Dr. Ivory Phillips, Jackson Mayor Frank Melton and others.



Long Beach Students Honored by Mississippi Heritage Trust



Former Discovery students from Long Beach Middle School in Long Beach were recently honored at the luncheon of the Mississippi Historic Preservation Conference in Jackson, for their two years of efforts to save Greenvale, the historic home of W.J. Quarles. Under the direction of Mrs. Carol Paola, the students participated in Project Citizen, a program of the Center for Civic Education, for which they researched community opinion and resources to preserve Mr. Quarles's home. Through the Pilot Stabilization Project sponsored by the National and Mississippi Heritage Trust, the students arranged for a new roof for the house. Additional efforts to preserve the home include boards which are currently being painted to cover the windows and landscaping by a student council volunteer group from South Lafourche High School in Louisiana.

Pictured are Hannah H., Ashley N., Lauren K., and Lakelyn T., Simeon M., Chad C., Hunter C., Emily G., Rachel G., Jordan B., Hannah M., and Mrs. Paola.

JPS Students Make a Difference With S.H.O.P.

S.H.O.P. stands for Students Helping Others Planet-wide. Every year students in the Jackson Public Schools Open Doors program host an alternative gift market to benefit their adopted causes. Visited by parents, students, teachers, and other supporters of Jackson Public Schools, this year's marketplace was set up at the Jackson Medical Mall. More than 40 booths lined the central corridor as students sold their wares and the value of their causes. By selling products - many times created by their own hands - or simply asking for donations, students hope to build support and/or raise funds to benefit their charity or service organization.

Gulfport Teacher Experiences Zero Gravity

Mrs. Helen Donohoe, teacher of the gifted at Three Rivers Elementary in Gulfport recently got to fly aboard Zero-G's Boeing 727 aircraft named G-FORCE ONE and experience zero gravity just like a real astronaut. Weightlessness was achieved by specially trained pilots flying G-FORCE ONE approximately 31, 500 feet altitude out over the Gulf of Mexico. While experiencing weightlessness, the teachers on board did math, science and technology experiments.



Do you know Mississippi gifted students and teachers that have won honors? We'd like to recognize them in *Concepts!* Just send info and pictures to Lisa Saucier at lsaucier@jackson.k12.ms.us or 1120 Riverside Dr., Jackson, MS 39202.

Davidson Fellow Scholarships Available

The Davidson Institute for Talent Development is offering high achieving young people across the country the opportunity to be named as 2008 Davidson Fellows, an honor accompanied by a \$50,000, \$25,000 or \$10,000 scholarship in recognition of a significant piece of work in Science, Technology, Mathematics, Music, Literature, Philosophy or Outside the Box.

To be eligible, applicants must be under the age of 18 as of Oct. 1, 2008, and a U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident residing in the United States. There is no minimum

age for eligibility.

The deadline to apply is March 26, 2008. Applicants must submit an original piece of work recognized by experts in the field as significant and it must have the potential to make a positive contribution to society.

The scholarship must be used at an accredited institute of learning. For more information on the Davidson Fellows scholarship, or to download an application, please visit www.DavidsonFellows.org.

Don't Miss Out!

Concepts! Will be delivered via e-mail starting with the Summer, 2008 issue.

Contact us now and give us your preferred e-mail address!



**Send information to
Isaucier@jackson.k12.ms.us or call at (601)891-8054.**

Stand Up for Our Brightest Join MAGC!



MAGC provides...

- An annual conference for teachers and families of gifted children
- Student scholarships and teacher grants
- Workshops and training for parents and teachers
- Opportunities for teachers and parents to network and form support groups
- Assistance to local parent affiliate groups
- Publications for teachers and families of gifted children

\$25 pays for membership from Jan. 1—Dec. 31

Visit the MAGC web-site to download an application!

<http://www.muw.edu/magc/membership.htm>

Be an advocate for gifted education!

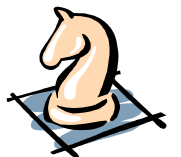
Contact your representatives!



For MS legislature contact information visit their web site at www.ls.state.ms.us

MS Scholastic Chess Association

The Mississippi Scholastic Chess Association invites you to check out our website at www.mcachess.org. We will have our largest event that you won't want to miss in February 2008, the Mississippi Team and Individual Scholastic Championship. We host several events that are great warm-ups to and after this event. If you would like to be on our e-mail list send your information to AHinson309@aol.com.



Wanted AND Needed –Involved Parents

- MAGC wants AND needs more involvement from parents of gifted children. Want to become involved? Start a local parent affiliate group in your school district. All it takes is a dedicated parent who is willing to “get the ball rolling”! Affiliate groups have a BIG impact on the education of gifted children in our state. If you’re interested in starting an affiliate group in your community, contact Debbie Holt for additional information.
- If you already have an affiliate group in your local district, please make sure that your membership dues and membership list have been forwarded to Debbie Holt. We need AND want the name and address of each member of your affiliate group in order to maintain a current mailing list.
- If you’re organized, creative, enthusiastic or if you just enjoy working with other gifted educators around the state, you’re invited to become a part of the planning committee for the annual MAGC conference. Just email Teresa Mosley at tmosely@jackson.k12.ms.us and let her know you’re interested! You’re wanted AND needed!

Happenings at the Karnes Center

Spring Day of Sharing, Feb. 29, 2008—The Spring Day of Sharing for Teachers of the Gifted will be held on Friday, February 29, 2008 at the R.C. Cook Union located on the campus of The University of Southern Mississippi. This conference, sponsored by the Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies, is designed to educate teachers on current curriculum and instructional issues in gifted education. Teachers of the gifted, regular education teachers, psychologists, and administrators are encouraged to attend. There is no cost for the conference. The deadline for registration is February 15, 2008.

The focus will be *Everything You Should Know about Technology and Gifted Youth*. Dr. Kevin Besnoy, Assistant Professor of Teacher Education and School Leadership at Northern Kentucky University, will present.

Immediately following lunch, teachers will be given time to share activities and ideas. Teachers should indicate their intent to share materials on their registration form.

Leadership Studies Program, June 15-20, 2008—This is a one-week residential program designed for students currently enrolled in grades 6—11 who have a desire to develop and enhance their leadership skills and abilities. Students will be housed in dormitories on the campus of USM in Hattiesburg. Tuition includes room, board, recreational activities, and limited accident insurance.

Leadership I is a program with specific emphasis on leadership skills. Training will include those areas necessary for leadership development: 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 affiliations 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 will be 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 will also have the opportunity for informal interaction with adult leaders.

Summer Gifted Studies Program, June 22—27, 2008—This is a one-week residential program designed for intellectually gifted students in grades 4—8 with intelligence quotients of 120 or above on an individually administered test or the 90th percentile or above at the national level on an achievement test. The program enhances the cognitive abilities of gifted students through planned enrichment and 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. 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 6-25, 2008—This is a three-week residential program designed for students in grades 7-10 who qualify based on SAT or ACT results. A variety of intensive, fast-paced courses will be offered, such as Algebra I and II, geometry, trigonometry, precalculus, calculus and modern analysis, physics, human anatomy/physiology, marine biology, forensic science, polymer science, psychology, creative writing, southern writers and literature, debate, public speaking, mythology, journalism, genetics, criminal justice, and foreign languages. The program is designed to include appropriate academic, cultural, and recreational experiences. USM 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.

Graduate Degrees—USM and the Dept. of Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education, offers master's, specialist's, and doctoral degrees with an emphasis in gifted education. Five courses are offered for anyone interested in beginning an advanced degree program or in earning certification to teach the gifted.

SPE 560 Characteristics of the Gifted	SPE 661 Methods and Materials for Teaching Gifted Students
SPE 662 Curriculum Development in Gifted Education	SPE 663 Atypical Gifted Students
SPE 664 Practicum with Gifted Students	

The Karnes Center has \$500.00 scholarships available for persons enrolled in graduate degree programs in gifted education for the summer of 2008. To qualify, the student must meet the admission requirements of the university for 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 and for the college and university positions in the field of gifted education.

For More Information Contact

The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies ▪ The University of Southern Mississippi
118 College Drive #8207 ▪ Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001 ▪ (601)266-5236 ▪ fax (601)266-4978
E-mail: gifted_studies@usm.edu ▪ <http://www.usm.edu/gifted>

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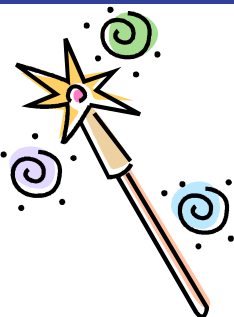
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MAGC

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

The MAGiC of Motivation!



We are pleased to announce our keynote speaker for the 2008 MAGC conference. Dr. Carol Strip Whitney is the author of Helping Gifted Children Soar and A Love for Learning: Motivation and the Gifted Child. She is excited about visiting Mississippi and is looking forward to learning about gifted education in our state, as well as, sharing her expertise from her many years of experience.

"The MAGiC of Motivation" is our theme for 2008. Your board is motivated to make this conference better than ever. We've planned some changes we think you'll enjoy, and we encourage you to volunteer in some capacity to make the conference more meaningful for all. Mark your calendars for Sept. 18 and 19 since our conference is a week earlier than usual. You'll need to start your registration process early.

Our Pre-Conference Institute is Wed., Sept. 17 from 9:00-4:00. There will be 2 sessions, one for counselors and one for psychometrists. Teresa Mosley is chairman for the Institute. Please encourage the professionals in your district to attend.

Since many of you arrive Wednesday evening, we are hosting a reception on Wed., Sept. 17 from 5:00-6:00 for our Pre-Conference Institute guests and MAGC members and parents. A special invitation is extended to new members of MAGC. We want to meet you! On Thursday evening we will host our Beach House Reception. It will be a fun time to catch up with MAGC friends and meet new ones. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served, and we'll have entertainment provided by MAGC members. Plan to come to our Beach House Party!

Because of our spacious accommodations at Pearl River Resort, we can offer ten concurrent sessions each time slot, so there will be plenty of opportunities to hear your favorite speakers in comfortable surroundings. If you have been waiting to present, this is the year to fill out the "Conference Proposal" form found on page ten of this issue of Concepts. Main presenters receive free conference registration. Also, instead of collecting piles of handouts, we plan to make a conference CD of all handouts for each attendee.

On Friday morning Pearl River Resort is treating us to a continental breakfast during our Business Meeting, and like last year we'll have drawings for door prizes. Finally, our last event on Friday will be "Imagination Stations." The format will be different from our usual Creativity Night. "Imagination Stations" will be an opportunity for teachers to share ideas in mini-sessions. We are looking for 12-15 presenters to showcase their students' projects and ideas. Everyone can move at their own pace, and presenters can interact with their participants.

Plan now to join us for the 2008 Conference at Pearl River Resort in Choctaw. We promise it will be exciting and informative!

About Dr. Carol Strip Whitney

Carol Strip Whitney, PhD is a gifted education specialist for the Olentangy Schools in Lewis Center, Ohio and adjunct professor at Ohio State University. She has written two award-winning books entitled Helping Gifted Children Soar and A Love for Learning: Motivation and the Gifted Child. Carol has initiated gifted programs in two districts in Ohio and established the first highly gifted Magnet Program in the state. She completed her PhD at the Ohio State in the area of curriculum for highly gifted adolescents and has taught gifted children for over 25 years.

Carol has been published in *Roeper Review*, *Instructor Magazine*, *Gifted Child Today* and was highlighted in a parent article in *Better Homes and Gardens*. She made an educational film with a pediatrician as they taught a group of children together and she was the lead teacher in the first film ever made in gifted education for the state of Ohio entitled *The Gift*. Carol received the Ashland Achievement Award and OAGC named her 'Educator of the Year' in 1994.

In 2007, Carol was given five outstanding awards as a summation of her accomplishments. She was named 'Best Teacher of Mathematics' by the Council for Mathematics in Ohio. She was given the first Personal Finance Literacy Award for Ohio by the Ohio state treasurer, Richard Cordray. Dr. Whitney was selected Teacher of the Year by her peers for her local school district, at the same time that her second book was awarded the Media Award for Arizona. Finally, she was named 'Teacher of the Year' by the Ohio Association for Gifted Children at their 2007 fall state conference.



From the MAGC President

Greetings!

I hope all of you have had a successful school year, thus far. In this area of the state, we only have about 12 weeks of school remaining. The year has flown by!

It is the time of the year that we start thinking about the MAGC conference to be held in September at the Pearl River Resort in Choctaw, MS. Joyce Youngblood, Vice-President/Conference Chairman, has done a FABULOUS job of planning a conference that will have a new format with exciting, informative sessions.

I'm excited to announce the 2nd Annual MAGC Counselor/Psychometrist Pre-Conference Assessment Institute. The Institute will be held on Wednesday Sept. 17 from 8:30 – 4:00 at the Pearl River Resort. Dr. Cecil Reynolds (author of the Reynolds Intellectual Assessment Scales) will speak to the psychometrists and counselors. I will be sending out a flyer to every school district advertising the institute. Remember that the Gifted Education Programming Standards require that counselors and psychometrists receive training in gifted education. This is a good way to receive training that you can document for consideration when your district is monitored by MDE.

Sherry Willis, our 2009 Conference Chairman, is already working on the 2009 conference. I would like for each of you to know that when you attend the MAGC conference, you are receiving premium information at a bargain price! I am presenting a session at the Georgia Association

for Gifted Children conference in Atlanta in March. I had to join the association and then pay \$200 as a presenter!

Our organization will be represented at the Mississippi Professional Educators conference in April per invitation by that organization. We are grateful for this opportunity to “showcase” our organization and the services we provide to teachers, parents, and students in the state of Mississippi.

As each of you encourage parents to form affiliate groups, please know that MAGC board members are prepared to coordinate training in areas of identified need and/or interest. Please feel free to contact Deborah Holt, Affiliate Chairperson, or myself to schedule a speaker for your parent/teacher meeting. Utilize the available services that can be accommodated through the MAGC board.

I am very excited to have made contact with several parents that are interested in serving in leadership positions in MAGC. If you know parents in your area that would be interested in serving in MAGC, please let me know. This year I have been provided with opportunities to provide training for counselors and psychometrists in the area of characteristics of gifted children and social-emotional issues of gifted children. If your district needs training in these areas, please feel free to contact me to schedule training.

Thank you for all you do for the gifted children in Mississippi. You are appreciated more than you know!

Blessings,

Teresa Mosley, M.Ed.
Trmosley1@yahoo.com

Ways You Can Volunteer to Help With the 2008 Conference!

- a. Work at Registration
- b. Bring student work displays
- c. Help plan Family Night
- d. Provide decorations for the Beach House Reception and the Opening Reception
- e. Share your musical talent at the Beach House Reception
- f. Plan a mini-session for the “Imagination Station”
- g. Donate door prizes

Contact: Joyce Youngblood, Conference Chair to volunteer
Jly1272@aol.com or 228-860-8061



The Institute for Educational Advancement (IEA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting our nation's most talented young people to identify and develop their fullest potential. **IEA** focuses its attention on creating and supporting educational practices and policies that are student-centered and that promote academic rigor, high standards, excellence in the arts and educational innovation. Feature programs presented by **IEA** include the Caroline D. Bradley Scholarship, the Yunasa Summer Camp for the Gifted, and the Apprenticeship program. We also offer a FREE gifted resource center (GRC), located on our website. For more information on any of these programs, or to access the GRC, visit the **IEA** web site at www.educationaladvancement.org.



No Mars Rock Unturned

by Patrick L. Barry

Imagine someday taking a driving tour of the surface of Mars. You trail-blaze across a dusty valley floor, looking in amazement at the rocky, orange-brown hillsides and mountains all around. With each passing meter, you spy bizarre-looking rocks that no human has ever seen, and may never see again. Are they meteorites or bits of Martian crust? They beg to be photographed.

But on this tour, you can't whip out your camera and take on-the-spot close-ups of an especially interesting-looking rock. You have to wait for orders from headquarters back on Earth, and those orders won't arrive until tomorrow. By then, you probably will have passed the rock by. How frustrating!

That's essentially the predicament of the Spirit and Opportunity rovers, which are currently in their fourth year of exploring Mars. Mission scientists must wait overnight for the day's data to download from the rovers, and the rovers can't take high-res pictures of interesting rocks without explicit instructions to do so.

However, artificial intelligence software developed at JPL could soon turn the rovers into more-autonomous shuttbugs.

This software, called Autonomous Exploration for Gathering Increased Science (AEGIS), would search for interesting or unusual rocks using the rovers' low-resolution, black-and-white navigational cameras. Then, without waiting for instructions from Earth, AEGIS could direct the rovers' high-resolution cameras, spectrometers, and thermal imagers to gather data about the rocks of interest.

"Using AEGIS, the rovers could get science data that they would otherwise miss," says Rebecca Castaño, leader of the AEGIS project at JPL. The software builds on artificial intelligence technologies pioneered by NASA's Earth Observ-

ing-1 satellite (EO-1), one of a series of technology-tested satellites developed by NASA's New Millennium Program.

AEGIS identifies a rock as being interesting in one of two ways. Mission scientists can program AEGIS to look for rocks with certain traits, such as smoothness or roughness, bright or dark surfaces, or shapes that are rounded or flat.

In addition, AEGIS can single out rocks simply because they look unusual, which often means the rocks could tell scientists something new about Mars's present and past.

The software has been thoroughly tested, Castaño says, and now it must be integrated and tested with other flight software, then uploaded to the rovers on Mars. Once installed, she hopes, Spirit and Opportunity will leave no good Mars rock unturned.

Check out other ways that the Mars Rovers have been upgraded with artificial intelligence software at nmp/TECHNOLOGY/infusion.html#sciencecraft.



Are these rocks of any scientific interest? With the new AEGIS software, the Mars Rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, will be able to judge for themselves whether a scene is worth a high-resolution image. (Artist's rendering.)

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

New on the Space Place Web Site....

Challenge Yourself with Weather Slanders

The Dust Bowl. Hot, loopy solar gases. Killer Katrina. Combining dramatic images of Earth and space weather with the challenge of an old-fashioned slider puzzle, the new "Slider" game on the SciJinks Weather Laboratory website will capture the attention of any middle-schooler--and maybe even their parents and teachers. Players pick from a rich variety of captioned images, including photos from the ground, photos from space, and artist's renderings. After picking a difficulty level (3x3, 4x4, 5x5 grids), the player slides the scrambled tiles around to make a whole picture again. Go to <http://scijinks.gov/weather/fun/slider> to become the newest Slider buff!

Is Time Travel Possible?

Every science fiction fan has pondered the weird implications of time travel. Can you travel into the future and find out the winning Super Lotto number--then come back and buy a ticket? Would doing so be cheating the laws of physics (to say nothing of ethics)? Astrophysicist Marc Rayman toys with such ideas in this Space Place Musings Pod cast. Go to <http://spaceplace.jpl.nasa.gov/en/educators/podcast/> to subscribe to these Pod casts. Or listen now to this and the previous Pod casts on your computer or read the transcripts.



National Aeronautics
and Space Administration



The Bookshelf

By: Harriet Whitehouse

First Light by Rebecca Stead

Among new and noteworthy books, **First Light** stands out as a novel for young people that is incredibly relevant to the world in which they are growing up. Issues of personal identity, leadership, family relations, and undaunted courage hit close to home, while, within a much vaster arena, global warming, stewardship of our planet, prejudice, and tolerance are also addressed.

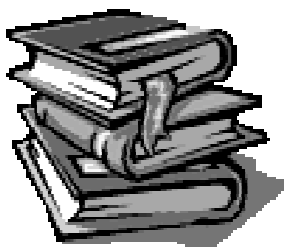
Two young people in two dramatically different cultures find their lives unexpectedly interwoven. Peter, the son of two scientists living in New York City, joins his parents on a trip to the ice sheets of Greenland to study the effects of global warming. Thea lives **under** the ice sheets in Greenland in Gracehope, a culture developed over several centuries. Her people, possessed of paranormal abilities, were refugees from England possibly four hundred years earlier, escaping persecution for what seemed witchcraft by establishing a civilization deep under the ice. Thea has never seen the sun, believing that there is no way to attain the surface. The novel alternates between Thea's story and Peter's story until they meet. We find Thea on the cusp of young womanhood, challenging the Establishment of her culture by drawing attention to its overcrowded, crumbling infrastructure. She is determined to find a way to the surface and succeeds in so doing through a series of mysterious hints and maps and subtle help from those elders in her culture who support her challenge to the Establishment.

Meanwhile, Peter is discovering some anomalies about himself. He begins to have terrible headaches which seem to accompany visions, or possibly a clarity of vision, that he cannot explain. Shortly after his arrival in Greenland, Peter surfaces from one of his headaches and visionary experiences with a compulsion to venture away from the Greenland base camp into the howling white wilderness of the ice fields. During his expedition, he finds inexplicably

imbedded in the ice of a glacier a red jeweled ring. Following this discovery, he encounters a young girl clothed in furs and garments from another age of history. He has met Thea just as she has emerged from her civilization's secret passage to the surface, whose portal Peter has discovered, marked by the red gem. To reveal more about their encounter would be to violate the mysteries of **First Light** for the reader. The book is indeed a mystery story, with many threads coiling around each other. The red gem, Peter's headaches and visions, Thea's challenge to the Establishment, Peter's father's research, Peter's mother's role, are all interwoven. The layers unfold as one reads this remarkable, rapid-action tale. The reader quickly realizes that Thea's civilization is in danger of destruction because of global warming as her people's ice city is sliding into the Arctic Ocean. One also realizes that Peter's and Thea's lives were already linked before they ever met.

There are additional joys in **First Light**. The author treats us to absolutely lyrically beautiful descriptions of the light and purity of the ice sheets and glaciers. Further, dogs are critical to Thea's world. Every person has his or her especially selected canine companion with whom they bond for life. The book contains several lovely segments about dog-rearing and care which dog lovers will consume joyfully.

First Light is a thoroughly satisfying, thought-provoking novel. Young people are required to think of the consequences of global warming. Further, the wonder of living beneath the ice in a secret city allows for the imagination to run rampantly and joyfully. The title itself, **First Light**, is literally awash in multiple meanings for the discerning reader: The *first light* of dawn, the *first light* of a hitherto unseen sun, the *first light* of reconciliation between cultures, the *first light* of young adulthood. I would select this book for the young person in the middle school years who has a concern about our planet's health and a well-developed social consciousness about the plight of marginalized human beings. **First Light** is a grand, robust, sensitive, and scientifically fascinating book, a wonderful new addition to the array of books for youth.



Student Bookshelf

By: Courtney H.

Emako Blue by Brenda Woods

Emako Blue is an excellent book. I've read a lot of good books but I have never read anything like this book before. **Emako Blue** is so realistic because it talks about a lot of the stuff that's happening today and the conditions that a lot of people are in. The setting of **Emako Blue** is in the city around this current time. Emako Blue is an African-American girl that is an only child and lives with her mom. Emako

is a smart girl and she can sing really well.

I don't have a specific favorite part of the book because the whole book is great. If I just have to pick one, it would be the part when Emako got shot. The author actually makes you feel how the characters feel. If they feel sad, you feel sad. If they hate somebody, you hate them too. It is like when someone shouts at the screen in the movie theater. Every now and then you will probably yell at the book saying, "That's right girl!" or "Oh my goodness!" or "Oh no! He didn't!" Trust me, if you want a book that you can read from cover to cover because it's that good. **Emako Blue** is the perfect book.

Courtney H. is a 7th grader in the Venture gifted program at Brandon Middle School

Concepts! Is Going Digital

Concepts! is changing format. Beginning with our next issue we will switch from a traditional print format, to a digital format. That means that, starting with the summer, 2008 issue, Concepts! will be delivered to MAGC members via e-mail. It will also continue to be available on the MAGC web site at <http://www.muw.edu/magc/index.htm>. These changes will help in getting issues out more promptly. It will also lessen the environmental impact of printing a paper newsletter and cut back on printing expenses.

To make this plan work, we need to hear from our membership. Please contact Lisa Saucier, Concepts! Editor at lsaucier@jackson.k12.ms.us and give your preferred e-mail address. Members may have copies delivered to multiple e-mail addresses if they wish. Title your message "E-mail for Concepts!". Please send in e-mail addresses by May 30, 2008.

Paper copies of Concepts! will still be available for MAGC members who do not have e-mail access. If you need this service, please contact us no later than May 30, 2008. You can mail your request to Lisa Saucier, Concepts! 144 W. Main Street, Florence, MS 39073. You may also call (601)891-8054.

We welcome your feedback. If you have questions, comments or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us. Contact information for all board members can be found on the back of this issue.

Jackson Students Host Guest from Nicaragua

On January 30, 2008 Open Doors gifted classes from Jackson's Isable Elementary led their school in hosting a group of youth from Nicaragua. The "Links Chapter", a sponsor of the school, arranged the visit. The group from Nicaragua was touring the United States from January 19, 2008-February 14, 2008 starting with a stay in Washington DC.

The students at Isable made the youth feel at home by greeting them in their native language, and decorating the hallways with American board games, sports, and curriculum objectives. The Isable Inspirational Cubbettes danced for the guests, the 3rd grade class performed a "Step Show", the 1st grade class sang their ABC's in Spanish, while the music class sang a Spanish version of "Are you Sleeping". Students from Jim Hill High School in Jackson served as escorts. Lunch was served giving them a taste of down home southern style catfish, macaroni and cheese, peach cobbler, and collard greens.

The Open Doors students shared memories by creating a paper quilt for the group to take home to Nicaragua. In creating the quilt everyone artistically expressed their heritage. "It was a fun day, I learned how to say a lot of Spanish words", said Tavarrius K. a 4th grader, as he handed a *Thank You* card to the group. The visitors shared the rest of the day with Jim Hill High School Spanish students.

Dr. Read Diket Selected as NAGC Reviewer

NAGC aligned its aims and philosophies with those of the Council for Exceptional Children and the NCATE accreditation process for initial competencies in gifted education during a three year incentive, culminating in spring and fall of 2007. A small group of the association board officers were prepared as team leaders earlier in 2007, and an additional group of professors were selected as review members in October. University programs leading to initial certification in gifted education can now select either CEC/TAG or NAGC reviewers to implement their SPA review. The organizations crafted the program standards together and their boards ratified the joint articulation.

Dr. Read M. Diket of William Carey University in Mississippi was among those selected as an NAGC program reviewer. She joined professors selected from around the country in this historic move to reach consensus on the larger aims of the field. NAGC expects to examine a number of higher education programs during the coming year.

Calling All Student Writers!

Concepts! is looking for gifted students in Mississippi who are interested in writing book reviews to accompany our regular Bookshelf article. If you know a student who is an avid reader and an aspiring writer, contact Lisa Saucier, Concepts! editor at lsaucier@jackson.k12.ms.us for more information.



Hall of Honors



Harrison County Students Honor Soldiers

The students in Ms. Triggs' Journey classes at West Wortham Elementary completed a community service project centered on our troops who were overseas for the holidays. With the help of parents, the students collected a variety of things like card games, books, DVDs, etc. The students also created Christmas cards to be distributed among the troops. The boxes were shipped in early December. A bulletin board in the classroom displays letters of appreciation and newspaper articles that have been mailed to the students. Thanks to everyone who participated to make the project successful and give special thanks to the West Wortham PTA for their support and assistance.

Wendy Hunt Named Desoto County Teacher of the Year

Wendy Hunt, who teaches in the Spotlight program at Horn Lake Intermediate School and serves as a MAGC board member, was recently named the Teacher of the Year for DeSoto County. Hunt has been teaching for ten years. She is a National Board Certified teacher and received her bachelor's degree cum laude from MUW in 1997. She received her master's degree in gifted studies from the MUW in 2000.

Hunt was selected by fellow teachers as the Teacher of the year for her school and then went on to win in her district. DeSoto County Schools has more than 1,900 licensed staff and 34 schools. Her application will now go on to the state level of competition.

North Jackson Students Make Wishes Come True

Gifted students at North Jackson Elementary in Jackson recently held a *Kids for Wish Kids*® fundraiser where \$800 was raised by the students for the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Mississippi. The money raised by these students, along with schools throughout the state, will help to grant the wishes of Mississippi children with life threatening medical conditions.

Last year the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Mississippi made wishes come true for 76 children in our state. Since the Mississippi chapter began in 1984, the local chapter had granted over a thousand wishes for children with life-threatening medical conditions in Mississippi.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Make-A-Wish Foundation or becoming involved as a volunteer should contact the Make-A-Wish Foundation office at (601) 366-9474/ (800) 819-4072 or info@ms.wish.org.



Tupelo Teacher Honored as Teacher of Distinction

Kenneth Griswold was one of thirteen Tupelo educators honored as Teachers of Distinction in September by the CREATE Foundation. Funded by a variety of endowments, CREATE gives the awards annually to recognize, reward and support exceptional teachers and assistant teachers in the Tupelo Public School District. A teacher at Lawndale Elementary, Kenneth received a check for \$1,000.

Reprinted from MPE Journal, Fall/Winter, 2007

Harrison Central Student Awarded Scholarship

Zachary James K., a senior at Harrison Central High School in Gulfport, has recently been awarded the Presidential Scholarship worth \$96,000 from University of Tulane in New Orleans, Louisiana. Zachary is a seven-year veteran of Harrison County School District's gifted program and has just completed his final gifted course, AP/Gifted English IV. He will graduate with honors in May, after which he plans to major in marketing/human resource management/advertising at one of several universities he is considering attending.

Do you know Mississippi gifted students and teachers that have won honors? We'd like to recognize them in *Concepts!* Just send info and pictures to Lisa Saucier at lsaucier@jackson.k12.ms.us or 1120 Riverside Dr., Jackson, MS 39202.

Mississippi Association for Gifted Children

Summer Gifted Studies Program Scholarship Nomination Form

(Deadline: April 15, 2008)

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; indicate a financial need
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:

Sherry Willis
1013 John Allen Drive
Baldwyn, MS 38824

Thank you for taking advantage of this opportunity for your students.

Mississippi Association for Gifted Children

Teacher Grant Application - Deadline: April 15, 2008

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. Additionally, the Gail P. Hammond Teacher Scholarship, carrying an award of \$500, will be awarded to an exceptional regular classroom teacher currently enrolled or planning to enroll in a course of study leading to certification in gifted education. Previous grant/scholarship recipients are not eligible for these awards, and recipients may receive only one scholarship/grant from MAGC. Recipients are expected to attend the annual state conference in the fall of the year in which the grants/scholarships are awarded.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS: (Please check all grants/scholarships for which you are eligible)

GRANT FOR TEACHER/ADMINISTRATOR WITH GIFTED CERTIFICATION

Applicants must:

1. Be an active MAGC Member or submit \$25 membership fee upon application.
2. Have 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

Applicants must:

1. Be an active MAGC Member or submit \$25 membership fee upon application.
2. Have at least two years of teaching experience in the regular classroom, and
3. Be currently enrolled or planning to enroll in a course of study for certification in gifted education.

GAIL P. HAMMOND TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP

Applicants must:

1. Be an active MAGC Member or submit \$25 membership fee upon application.
2. Have at least two years of teaching experience in the regular classroom, and
3. 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. At least two letters 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 nomination form and other required attachments to:

Sherry Willis
1013 John Allen Drive
Baldwyn, MS 38824

Happenings at the Karnes Center

Leadership Studies Program, June 15-20, 2008—This is a one-week residential program designed for students currently enrolled in grades 6—11 who have a desire to develop and enhance their leadership skills and abilities. Students will be housed in dormitories on the campus of USM in Hattiesburg. Tuition includes room, board, recreational activities, and limited accident insurance.

Leadership I is a program with specific emphasis on leadership skills. Training will include those areas necessary for leadership development: 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 affiliations 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 will be 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 will also have the opportunity for informal interaction with adult leaders.

Summer Gifted Studies Program, June 22—27, 2008—This is a one-week residential program designed for intellectually gifted students in grades 4—8 with intelligence quotients of 120 or above on an individually administered test or the 90th percentile or above at the national level on an achievement test. The program enhances the cognitive abilities of gifted students through planned enrichment and 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. 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 6-25, 2008—This is a three-week residential program designed for students in grades 7-10 who qualify based on SAT or ACT results. A variety of intensive, fast-paced courses will be offered, such as Algebra I and II, geometry, trigonometry, precalculus, calculus and modern analysis, physics, human anatomy/physiology, marine biology, forensic science, polymer science, psychology, creative writing, southern writers and literature, debate, public speaking, mythology, journalism, genetics, criminal justice, and foreign languages. The program is designed to include appropriate academic, cultural, and recreational experiences. USM 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.

Graduate Degrees—USM and the Dept. of Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education, offers master's, specialist's, and doctoral degrees with an emphasis in gifted education. Five courses are offered for anyone interested in beginning an advanced degree program or in earning certification to teach the gifted.

SPE 560 Characteristics of the Gifted

SPE 661 Methods and Materials for Teaching Gifted Students

SPE 662 Curriculum Development in Gifted Education

SPE 663 Atypical Gifted Students

SPE 664 Practicum with Gifted Students

The Karnes Center has \$500.00 scholarships available for persons enrolled in graduate degree programs in gifted education for the summer of 2008. To qualify, the student must meet the admission requirements of the university for 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 and for the college and university positions in the field of gifted education.

For More Information Contact

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



*MAGC would like to offer condolences to Dr. Frances Karnes and her family
as they mourn the loss of her husband Dr. Ray Karnes.
Please accept our deepest sympathy.*

2008 Conference Lodging Reservations Pearl River Resort, Choctaw, MS

Mississippi Association for Gifted Children September 18-19, 2008

To receive the special conference rate, Pearl River Resort must receive your registration by Tuesday, August 26, 2008*.

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

MAGC Group Rate: \$65.00 per room per night – single /double occupancy
(All rates subject to 7% Sales tax – per room per night.)

Individuals make their own reservations by calling the Pearl River Resort Reservations Department at **1-866-44-PEARL**. Conference attendees must use the MAGC Group Code: **MISJ08B** in order to receive the special room rate. Cashier check, valid credit cards, or money orders are acceptable.

******No cancellations or name changes will be accepted less than 24 hours prior to arrival. Any cancellation received less than 24 hours prior to arrival or no-shows will be charged one night room charge including tax.***

Davidson Fellow Scholarships Available

The Davidson Institute for Talent Development is offering high achieving young people across the country the opportunity to be named as 2008 Davidson Fellows, an honor accompanied by a \$50,000, \$25,000 or \$10,000 scholarship in recognition of a significant piece of work in Science, Technology, Mathematics, Music, Literature, Philosophy or Outside the Box.

To be eligible, applicants must be under the age of 18 as of Oct. 1, 2008, and a U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident residing in the United States. There is no minimum

age for eligibility.

The deadline to apply is March 26, 2008. Applicants must submit an original piece of work recognized by experts in the field as significant and it must have the potential to make a positive contribution to society.

The scholarship must be used at an accredited institute of learning. For more information on the Davidson Fellows scholarship, or to download an application, please visit www.DavidsonFellows.org.

Don't Miss Out!

Concepts! Will be delivered via e-mail starting with the Summer, 2008 issue.

Contact us now and give us your preferred e-mail address!



**Send information to
Isaucier@
jackson.k12.ms.us
or call at (601)891-
8054.**

**Stand Up for
Our
Brightest
Join MAGC!**



MAGC provides...

- An annual conference for teachers and families of gifted children
- Student scholarships and teacher grants
- Workshops and training for parents and teachers
- Opportunities for teachers and parents to network and form support groups
- Assistance to local parent affiliate groups
- Publications for teachers and families of gifted children

\$25 pays for membership from Jan. 1—Dec. 31

Visit the MAGC web-site to download an application!

<http://www.muw.edu/magc/membership.htm>

2008 MAGC CONFERENCE PROPOSAL

*MAGC's Annual Conference will be held **September 18-19**,
at the Pearl River Resort, Choctaw, Mississippi.*

This is the year to share your creative ideas with teachers from across our state! Send in your session proposals on topics ranging from curriculum to parent support. We especially want to encourage sessions on social/emotional issues, as well as, ideas for middle and high school gifted. *Proposals are also being accepted for the Pre-Conference Workshops on Wednesday, September 17 for counselors and psychometrists.* Completed proposals must be post marked no later than **May 30, 2008**. Note that the conference registration fee will be waived for only **the main** presenter of the session. Please print or type.

Name:

Institution /Affiliation:

Position/Job Title:

Home Address:

Email:

Telephone:

Title of proposed presentation is:

Below is a typed abstract (75 words or less) of the 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
- ☐ Gifted Eligibility Process

Intended AUDIENCE for PRESENTATION

- ☐ Elementary Teachers
- ☐ Middle School Teachers
- ☐ Secondary Teachers
- ☐ Parents of Gifted Children
- ☐ Administrators and/or counselors
- ☐ Psychometrists/Examiners

Mail form to: Joyce Youngblood, 60 53rd St., Gulfport, MS 39507 or email to JLY1272@aol.com

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

MAGC CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

September 18-19, 2008
Pearl River Resort, Choctaw, Mississippi

Registration Information: Registration includes MAGC membership for one year. 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 11, 2008, and are subject to a \$15.00 processing fee. Refunds will not be issued before November 15, 2008.

Transportation and Parking: Ample parking is available at Pearl River Resort. There is no fee for parking.

Lodging: Contact Pearl River Resort directly. (See Conference Lodging Information)

MAGC Membership card # _____ expiration date _____

Name _____

Preferred Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

School District/ Organization _____

Relationship to Gifted Education _____

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND/OR MEMBERSHIP FEES		AMOUNT
Select Only One	Early Registration Fee\$95.00 (must be postmarked by August 15, 2008)	\$
	Regular Registration Fee\$100.00 (must be postmarked by September 5, 2008)	\$
	On-Site Registration Fee (after September 5, 2008)\$110.00	\$
	Undergraduate Student Registration Fee (must show student ID at registration)\$30.00	\$
	Main Presenter Membership Fee \$25.00	\$
	Family Night ONLY\$3.00 per person or \$5.00 per family	\$
	<i>Pre-Conference Institutes for Counselors and Psychometrists*</i> <i>Wednesday, September 17 8:30-4:00</i> **Pre-Conference Institutes are not included in regular conference registration fee.	
a.	Counselors Pre-Conference Institute\$40.00	\$
b.	Psychometrists Pre-Conference Institute\$40.00	\$
c.	Combination Registration for a Pre-Conference Institute and Conference.....\$120.00	\$
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE		

Method of Payment:

Personal Check# _____ School District Check # _____ Purchase Order # _____ (P.O. attached) Other _____

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

Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award 2007-2008 School Year

(Application Packets must be postmarked by April 15, 2008)

MAGC is pleased to announce the continuance of the NAGC-Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Awards for the 2007-2008 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: Sherry Willis, 1013 John Allen Drive Baldwin, MS 38824

Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award Application Form 2007-2008

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.

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Permanent and Founding Member: Dr. Frances Karnes, Hattiesburg

MAGC

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

MAGC Conference – The MAGiC of Motivation It's Heating Up!

As we wrap up this school year, reflect on all the creative projects and activities you developed for your students. Take a minute to collect some student samples to share or write up a proposal for that presentation you've always thought about. Now is the time to plan to be involved with your MAGC September Conference.

Conference Highlights:

Wednesday, Sept. 17

- Pre-Conference Institute for Counselors and Psychometrists
- 5:00 – 6:00 Welcome Reception

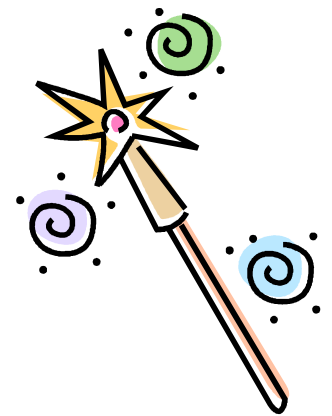
Thursday, September 18

- 7:00 – 9:00 Bayou Beach Party at the Pearl River Beach House
Casual fun, dinner, and music
- 5:30 – 6:30 Family Night Hosted by Neshoba County Schools
Gloria Seward has volunteered to organize this event.
Dr. Carol Strip Whitney will speak to parents.
Children's Activities will be led by Gloria and her colleagues.

Friday, September 19

- Morning Business Meeting with Door Prizes and Continental Breakfast
- 11:00 – 12:00 "Imagination Stations"
Rhonda Deaton and her colleagues from Meridian Public Schools have volunteered to coordinate this final event of mini-sessions.

Enjoy your summer, and we look forward to seeing you at Pearl River Resort!



MAGC Has a New Executive Director!

MAGC would like to welcome Mrs. Carol Paola to her new role with MAGC as its Executive Director. We are very excited to have her in this position!



In This Issue...

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When Motivation Becomes an Issue : Jumpstarting a Gifted Child's Desire to Learn in School

Carol Strip Whitney, PhD
With Gretchen Hirsch

Children generally come to school with great enthusiasm. In fact, many gifted children beg to be allowed to begin "real school." Unfortunately, though, there are too many children who lose that enthusiasm somewhere along the way. What changes an eager gifted student into a bored chair-filler?

The reasons are varied. A gifted student may have a physical problem, such as an unsuspected hearing loss, that makes learning in school difficult and frustrating. A child may be reacting to stress or perfectionism. Another may have trouble relating to children her own age and resent being cooped up all day with those who don't understand her.

A child may turn off because the curriculum is so rigid he isn't allowed to study the things that fascinate him and feed his passion for learning. Sometimes school work has always been so easy that the child has not developed the skills necessary to master more challenging work.

If these situations are not dealt with, gifted children can lose their zest for learning—at least in school. They may stop trying, either turning inward and submerging or acting out in anger or exasperation.

Gifted children often can regain their motivation if parents and teachers provide them with consistent support and an environment that offers sufficient *challenge, commitment, control* (which of course implies *choice*), and *compassion*.

The right mixture of these elements in a class that offers as much differentiated learning as possible allows students to achieve a sense of flow—that state of awareness in which they learn efficiently, effectively, and with excitement and joy.

Creating such a classroom in an era of testing, standards, adequate yearly progress, and other measures of success that may not meet a gifted child's needs for greater breadth and depth of experience can be challenging, but once every student is provided with equitable learning options, the classroom atmosphere improves and all children, from the most gifted to those who are struggling, learn better.

For a fuller explanation of the most effective ways to motivate gifted students who may have become less interested in learning in school, see A Love for Learning: Motivation and the Gifted Child (Great Potential Press). It provides a balance of theory and practice that makes the world of gifted children far easier to navigate.

Dawkins Named Teacher of the Year

Mrs. Dawn Dawkins was recently named Columbus School District's Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Dawkins teaches gifted students in the SPIRIT program at Cook Elementary School. Ms. Dawkins holds a Masters degree in gifted education from the MS University for Women. She was presented with this honor by Dr. Del Phillips and the Board of Trustees at their March board meeting.



Quitman Students Honored for Correspondence with Soldier

Beginning in September of 2006, Mrs. Chrissy Kelly's third and fourth grade gifted students from Quitman Upper Elementary wrote to Corporal Ryan Jackson, a Marine stationed in Iraq. They wrote throughout the 2006-2007 school year. At the end of the school year, the students wrote a book that was published entitled "Mail to Our Hero". The book included stories from each student about why it was important to write to Corporal Ryan. It also included student illustrations and photographs from Iraq.

Mrs. Kelly's class was invited by Senator Videt Carmichael to come to the Capitol in Jackson to be honored. The class was recognized on both the Senate and House Floors. Secretary of the State Delbert Hosemann presented Mrs. Kelly with a state flag that was flown over the Capitol on March 17, 2008 and a state flag for Corporal Ryan in his honor. Each child that contributed in the book received a certificate from Secretary Hosemann. Mrs. Kelly presented Secretary Hosemann and Senator Carmichael with copies of "Mail to Our Hero."

Want to Help with our Conference? Here's How!

Send in a Proposal

Decorations for the Bayou Beach Party

Mini-Session for "Imagination Stations"

Student Work Displays

Door Prizes

Contact: Joyce Youngblood

Jly1272@aol.com or 228-860-8061



The NAGC 55th Annual Convention & Exhibition is the event for gifted education to learn new strategies, discover innovative solutions, and share best practices.

- Learn alongside colleagues dedicated to advancing the field.
- Choose from more than 260 cutting-edge sessions to help you gain the most knowledge: panels, keynotes, lectures, and group discussions.
- Network with your colleagues - take advantage of an opportunity to really get to know others in the industry and advance your career.

For more information visit the NAGC Web site at www.NAGC.org

Creative Learning Today



Creative Learning Today is a free quarterly newsletter on creativity, Creative Problem Solving, talent development, and problem solving style. If you are interested in being placed on our mailing list to receive future issues, contact the editor, Don Treffinger at ideadoc@verizon.net with the message "Subscribe to CLT" and give us your name, position, and agency for our records. You can also download back issues of CLT from the website.



The Institute for Educational Advancement (IEA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting our nation's most talented young people to identify and develop their fullest potential. **IEA** focuses its attention on creating and supporting educational practices and policies that are student-centered and that promote academic rigor, high standards, excellence in the arts and educational innovation. Feature programs presented by **IEA** include the Caroline D. Bradley Scholarship, the Yunasa Summer Camp for the Gifted, and the Apprenticeship program. We also offer a FREE gifted resource center (GRC), located on our website. For more information on any of these programs, or to access the GRC, visit the **IEA** web site at www.educationaladvancement.org.



Stellar Compass for Space Explorers

by Patrick L. Barry

In space, there's no up or down, north or south, east or west. So how can robotic spacecraft know which way they're facing when they fire their thrusters, or when they try to beam scientific data back to Earth?

Without the familiar compass points of Earth's magnetic poles, spacecraft use stars and gyros to know their orientation. Thanks to a recently completed test flight, future spacecraft will be able to do so using only an ultra-low-power camera and three silicon wafers as small as your pinky finger-nail.

"The wafers are actually very tiny gyros," explains Artur Chmielewski, project manager at JPL for Space Technology 6 (ST6), a part of NASA's New Millennium Program.

Traditional gyros use spinning wheels to detect changes in pitch, yaw, and roll—the three axes of rotation. For ST6's Inertial Stellar Compass, the three gyros instead consist of silicon wafers that resemble microchips. Rotating the wafers distorts microscopic structures on the surfaces of these wafers in a way that generates electric signals. The compass uses these signals—along with images of star positions taken by the camera—to measure rotation.

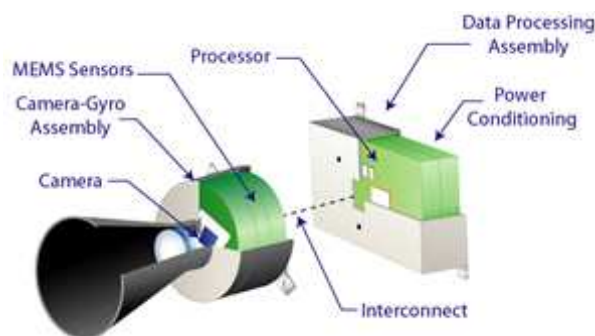
Because the Inertial Stellar Compass (ISC) is based on this new, radically different technology, NASA needed to flight-test it before using it in important missions. That test flight reached completion in December 2007 after about a year in orbit aboard the Air Force's TacSat-2 satellite.

"It just performed beautifully," Chmielewski says. "The data checked out really well." The engineers had hoped that ISC would measure the spacecraft's rotation with an accuracy of 0.1 degrees. In the flight tests, ISC surpassed this goal, measuring rotation to within about 0.05 degrees.

That success paves the way for using ISC to reduce the cost of future science missions. When launching probes

into space, weight equals money. "If you're paying a million dollars per kilogram to send your spacecraft to Mars, you care a lot about weight," Chmielewski says. At less than 3 kilograms, ISC weighs about one-fifth as much as traditional stellar compasses. It also uses about one-tenth as much power, so a spacecraft would be able to use smaller, lighter solar panels. Engineers at Draper Laboratory, the Cambridge, Massachusetts, company that built the ISC, are already at work on a next-generation design that will improve the compass's accuracy ten-fold, Chmielewski says. So ISC and its successors could soon help costs—and spacecraft—stay on target.

Find out more about the ISC at nmp.nasa.gov/st6. Kids can do a fun project and get an introduction to navigating by the stars at spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/st6starfinder/st6starfinder.shtml.



Compass is built as two separate assemblies, the camera-gyro assembly and the data processor assembly, connected by a wiring harness. The technology uses an active pixel sensor in a wide-field-of-view miniature star camera and micro-electromechanical system (MEMS) gyros. Together, they provide extremely accurate information for navigation and control.

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

New on the Space Place Web Site....

Solar Indigestion

We usually take our star for granted. We forget that it's not just a big, bright, warm light bulb crossing the sky each day for our comfort and convenience. On the contrary, the Sun has a very active (if not meaningful) life of its own. And it's not always in a good mood. When the Sun is having a tantrum, or, even worse, indigestion, we are included in its "suffering." Space weather includes the effects of solar activity on Earth's environment—and us. Find out more about what happens to Earth during bouts of "solar indigestion" at <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov>.



National Aeronautics
and Space Administration



The Bookshelf

By: Harriet Whitehouse

Song of the Sparrow

Lisa Ann Sandell

The legends of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table continue to be a part of the face of mystery imbedded in our culture. They are reinterpreted, rewritten, modernized, researched, and fantasized, ad infinitum.....Every era needs Arthur as a hero, righting wrongs, vanquishing terrorism, giving us ideals of chivalry, honor, valor, courage.

We know that the Arthur depicted in Sir Thomas Malory's medieval account, the Arthur of Camelot fame, is most probably a fantasy version of the Arthurian legend. We are fairly certain that the real Arthur was likely a Celtic-Roman chief, or a composite of several Celtic-Roman chiefs, who lived in Britain in the final, waning days of the Roman occupation. With the waves of invading Saxons encroaching deeper and deeper into Britain, Arthur and his troops held off their invasion and kept alive the flame of Roman civilization.

The Song of the Sparrow is an account of Arthur's heroism, told through the eyewitness account of a member of his household, where, far from the stately courts of Camelot, we have instead a warriors' camp, rough and hard, as the novel says:

We live here in this army encampment,
Where drums beat and beat.....
The here and home I speak of
Is no more than the collection of dirty,
Foul-smelling tents.....*

Enter Elaine of Ascolat, young maiden, child of war, daughter of a warrior in Arthur's circle, half-orphan, her mother dead in a Saxon attack. Elaine is the only woman in Arthur's camp. She is the healer, the confidante, the much-loved daughter of all of Arthur's followers. According to Arthurian legend, Elaine of Ascolat loved Lancelot with unrequited love. The author subtly wraps this legend into **The Song of the Sparrow** as Elaine and Lancelot do indeed love each until the advent of Gwynivere as Arthur's bride. Now, Lancelot's eyes turn away from Elaine and rest upon

Gwynivere, and Elaine's heart is broken. Gwynivere herself is cold and remote, not the hoped for friend for a lonely young maiden.

In a shining moment of valor, Arthur and his men set out to vanquish the Saxon horde in the famous battle of Mount Badon. Elaine is left behind, distraught both because all whom she loves are leaving for battle and because she is their healer. She secretly follows Arthur's army on foot, and, as she travels, she senses that she is being followed. Almost at her journey's end, Elaine is captured by the Saxon horde, and her stealthy follower is also revealed at the time of capture—Gwynivere, who also could not bear to stay at home. The two women are brutally imprisoned; yet, in their imprisonment, they share a spirit of valor, communion, and risk-taking: They know they must escape and warn Arthur that the Saxons are almost upon them. In a wild, frantic, courageous escape, both women succeed in finding and warning Arthur, providing him the victory in the battle of Mount Badon.

As in Arthurian legend, unresolved is Elaine's love for Lancelot, and the novel unfolds when Gwynivere's and Lancelot's love for each other rests securely in the future. For now, there is joy and celebration among the followers of Arthur.

Song of the Sparrow is told through the eyes of Elaine in free verse. The poetry is lyrical and pure, full of sensory details and very personalized experiences. The remoteness of Arthurian legend is diminished as one comes to know the characters of legend through the eyes of Elaine as very real people in all their flaws and their valor. The grittiness of an army camp, the horror of battle, the humanity of the men, the loveliness of the British countryside all emerge incredibly vividly through the medium of free verse. Elaine's joy, tribulations, heartache, fear, and triumphs are revealed with a timeless quality that crosses the centuries and unveils a sense of reality in the Arthurian myth.

A true jewel of a novel, **Song of the Sparrow** will appeal to the young Arthur-enthusiast and will add a human, approachable dimension to the legend of Arthur. Readers who are seeking more substance about King Arthur will find great rewards in **The Song of the Sparrow**. I recommend the novel for the middle school to early high school aged youth of either gender. **The Song of the Sparrow** is magnificent!

Calling All Student Writers!

Concepts! is looking for gifted students in Mississippi who are interested in writing book reviews to accompany our regular *Bookshelf* article. If you know a student who is an avid reader and an aspiring writer, contact Lisa Saucier, *Concepts!* editor at lsaucier@jackson.k12.ms.us for more information.



Karnes & Stephens Co-Edit Four More Books

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 Stephens, Assistant Professor of the Practice in the Program in Education at Duke University, have co-edited four more books in The Practical Strategies Series published by Prufrock Press.

This series offers teachers, counselors, administrators, parents, and other interested persons up-to-date instructional strategies and information on a variety of topics pertinent to the field of gifted education.

The newest additions to the series have been released. They are:

- Advocacy for the Gifted
- Developing Talent in the Arts
- Challenging Highly Gifted Learners
- Gifted Students in Early Childhood

Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award

The Mississippi Association for Gifted Children (MAGC) is pleased to announce that Prianna P. has been awarded the 2008 Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award from the National Association for Gifted Children and the Mississippi Association for Gifted Children. Prianna is the daughter of Anish and Rita P. of Olive Branch, Mississippi. She is a sixth grader at Desoto Central Middle School in Southaven, Mississippi.

Prianna was recommended for the Nicholas Green Distinguished Award because of her leadership, intelligence, and compassion for others. Prianna has participated in the gifted program in her school since second grade. She has also participated in many extra curricular events such as the Knowledge Bowl, Book Fairs, and Science Fairs. Prianna is very creative and artistic. She has won first place in the art competition at her school for the last two years. Her art work is displayed in her local school. Prianna enjoys helping others. Her goal is to go to medical school and one day work at St. Jude Hospital. Her caring and compassionate spirit is evident to those around her. Congratulations Prianna!

The Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award is sponsored by NAGC. One child in each state may be named a Nicholas Green Distinguished Student and each winner receives a \$500 U.S. savings bond and an NAGC Certificate of Excellence.

Elisabeth Mosley Memorial Student Scholarships

MAGC is pleased to announce the winners of the Elisabeth Mosley Memorial Student Summer Scholarships for 2008. This scholarship is to help gifted students attend summer camps throughout the state. We received many excellent applications this year. The selection committee stated that it was very difficult to choose one winner for each scholarship due to the excellent students who submitted applications. The scholarship winners are listed below.

- Hong C., a fifth grade student at Power APAC in Jackson, was awarded a scholarship to USA Chess Camp. He is the son of Meng Qin Dong.
- Vernon Kyler L., a sixth grade student at Stem Enhancement, was awarded a scholarship to attend USM's Summer Gifted Leadership Program. He is the son of Vernon and Amanda.
- Bobby F., a fifth grade student at Power APAC in Jackson, was awarded a scholarship to Camp Invention. He is the son of Angela.
- Lucia C., a second grade student at Cook Elementary, was awarded a scholarship to attend the Summer Discovery Program at Columbus, Mississippi. She is the daughter of Michael and Fenada.
- Samuel O., a fifth grade student at Power APAC in Jackson, was awarded a scholarship to attend the Jackson Public Schools Summer Discovery Program. Congratulations to all of the scholarship winners!

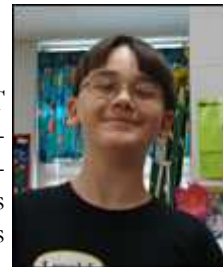
Gail P. Hammond Scholarship Awarded

MAGC is pleased to announce the winner of the Gail P. Hammond Teacher Scholarship. The winner is Liscelle Smyth. Liscelle teaches gifted and talented children with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. She has taught several grade levels as well as sponsored many scholastic teams such as Lego Robotics, Beta, We the People/Project Citizen competition, and the Stock Market Game. We congratulate Liscelle on receiving this award!

Hall of Honors

D'Iberville Fifth Grader Scores 17 on ACT

Michael C. is a fifth grade student at D'Iberville Middle School. Michael scored a 17 on the ACT as part of the Duke University Talent Search program. Michael's teachers, Pam Moreland and Pam Workman, state, "Michael is an exceptional student in the regular classroom and in the gifted program. He always strives to excel at anything he does. Michael has the determination to complete difficult assignments and enjoys a challenge. He goes above and beyond what is required." Congratulations to Michael and his family.



Biloxi Students Win First Place in Stock Market Game

A team of fourth and fifth grade gifted students at Beauvoir Elementary School in Biloxi recently won first place in the MS Stock Market Game. They were honored May 8th at an awards luncheon in Jackson where they received their trophy and a cash award. The team was led by their teacher, Kim Clemons and were advised by Mr. Bob Tatum of Bancorp South. According to Ms. Clemons, "My students have become very savvy about what companies they want to invest in through their research on P/E ratios, data on past performance and current news about the companies. I'm extremely grateful to the sponsors of the Stock Market Game, for providing them this wonderful opportunity."

Peebles Chess Team Ranked Nationally



The Peebles Middle School Chess Team of Jackson Public Schools traveled to Dallas, TX, April 3-6, for the 2008 National Junior High (K-9) Championship. They took two teams, an under 1000 rated team consisting of team members Jibri W., Monquez F., Corey M., Jason T., Alfred H., Colin P. and Lee M. and an unrated team with team members Katilin C., Alonzo T., Melvin Y., and Keshawna L. The under 1000 team placed 8th out of 33 teams and the unrated team came in 15th. Jibri W. placed 2nd in the under 1000 Individual competition out of 179 players.

On April 12th they went to Kosciusko to compete in the Mississippi Individual State Championship. Monquez F. placed 1st, Corey M. placed 2nd, Alfred H. placed 3rd, Melvin Y. placed 4th and Katilin C. came in 6th in the 6-8 Championship section. Coach Richard Cook is proud of the entire team for all of their hard work and dedication this year.

Teachers of the Gifted Win Grants

Five MS teachers, two of which teach gifted classes were awarded \$1500 grants for classroom project from Hancock Bank. Wanda Allen of West Elementary School in Gulfport won for her project, "Engineering is Elementary" and Pamela Carrubba of Bay-Waveland Middle School in Bay St. Louis won for "Around the World in 187 Days". In addition to the \$1,500, each teacher received a pewter apple designed for Hancock Bank by John Cannon of Ballard Pewter Studio in Ocean Springs.

Jackson Student Wins Reading Rainbow Contest

Congratulations to Boyd Elementary Open Doors 3rd grader Kayla L. of Jackson who won 2nd place in the state Reading Rainbow Contest. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners are selected for each grade level, with each receiving a Reading Rainbow backpack, set of books, Barnes and Noble gift card and DVD copy of a *Reading Rainbow* program. Kayla will also read her entry on the radio during the Reading Rainbow Celebration May 29 and May 30 at MPB. Kayla's entry was submitted by her Open Doors teacher, Mrs. Lynn Roth. Kayla is the only Jackson Public Schools student who placed in this contest. Over 400 students entered statewide.



Do you know Mississippi gifted students or teachers that have won honors? We'd like to recognize them in *Concepts!* Just send info and pictures to Lisa Saucier at magconcepts@comcast.net.



Happenings at the Karnes Center

Day of Sharing for Teachers of the Gifted, September 5, 2008—The Day of Sharing for Teachers of the Gifted will be held on Friday, September 5, 2008, at Joseph Greene Hall on the Hattiesburg campus of The University of Southern Mississippi. This conference, sponsored by The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies, is designed to educate teachers on current curriculum and instructional practices in gifted education. Teachers of the gifted, regular education teachers, psychologists, and administrators are encouraged to attend. There is no cost for the conference.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Julia Roberts, Professor from Western Kentucky University, who will present *Motivating Gifted Children to Achieve*. Other topics will include career exploration, continuous progress curriculum, and the state of gifted education in Mississippi.

Immediately following lunch, teachers will be given time to share activities and ideas. Teachers should indicate their intent to share materials on their registration form. CEUs are available. The deadline for registration is August 15, 2008

Parenting Gifted Children Conference XXI, September 6, 2008—The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies at The University of Southern Mississippi will hold its 25th Annual Parenting Gifted Children Conference on September 6, 2008. 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 at Joseph Greene Hall on the Hattiesburg campus of The University of Southern Mississippi. The cost of attendance is \$30.

Dr. Julia Roberts, Professor from Western Kentucky University, will be the keynote speaker in the morning, followed by a variety of sessions on topics of interest including: the state of gifted education in Mississippi, evaluating gifted children, career explorations for the gifted, social/emotional issues, continuous progress curriculum, and others.

The deadline for registration is August 15, 2008. Don't miss this opportunity to meet leaders in gifted education.

Career Explorations for Girls Conference, October 18, 2008—The Fifth Annual Career Explorations for Girls Conference will be conducted on the Hattiesburg campus of The University of Southern Mississippi on Saturday, October 18, 2008, from 8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. The conference is open to all girls in grades 7-12 and each girl must be accompanied by her mother or another adult female. Girls do **not** need to be enrolled in gifted education to attend. There will be a keynote speaker, followed by several distinguished presenters who will offer practical information to help girls plan for their education and entry into prospective careers. Careers to be discussed include business development, science and technology, health care, journalism, education, art, psychology, law, music, and sports.

The registration deadline is October 1, 2008. On the day of the conference registrants should sign in from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. in Joseph A. Greene Hall. There is no charge for the conference and lunch is included. The conference is co-hosted by The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies and the Spirit of Women at Forrest General Hospital.

Saturday Gifted Studies Program, January 19-March 1, 2009—The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies will be hosting the Saturday Gifted Studies Program beginning on January 19, 2009 concluding on March 1, 2009. The program is designed to provide appropriate enrichment and accelerated content for gifted learners ages four and five through grade 12. Watch for more information concerning courses and registration deadlines at www.usm.edu/gifted.

Graduate Degrees—USM and the Dept. of Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education, offers master's, specialist's, and doctoral degrees with an emphasis in gifted education. Five courses are offered for anyone interested in beginning an advanced degree program or in earning certification to teach the gifted.

SPE 560 Characteristics of the Gifted

SPE 661 Methods and Materials for Teaching Gifted Students

SPE 662 Curriculum Development in Gifted Education

SPE 663 Atypical Gifted Students

SPE 664 Practicum with Gifted Students

The Karnes Center has \$500.00 scholarships available for persons enrolled in graduate degree programs in gifted education for the summer of 2008. To qualify, the student must meet the admission requirements of the university for 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 and for the college and university positions in the field of gifted education.

For More Information Contact

The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies ■ The University of Southern Mississippi
118 College Drive #8207 ■ Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001 ■ (601)266-5236 ■ fax (601)266-4978
E-mail: gifted_studies@usm.edu ■ <http://www.usm.edu/gifted>

2008 Conference Lodging Reservations Pearl River Resort, Choctaw, MS

Mississippi Association for Gifted Children September 18-19, 2008

To receive the special conference rate, Pearl River Resort must receive your registration by Tuesday, August 26, 2008*.

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

MAGC Group Rate: \$65.00 per room per night – single /double occupancy
(All rates subject to 7% Sales tax – per room per night.)

Individuals make their own reservations by calling the Pearl River Resort Reservations Department at **1-866-44-PEARL**. Conference attendees must use the MAGC Group Code: **MISJ08B** in order to receive the special room rate. Cashier check, valid credit cards, or money orders are acceptable.

*****No cancellations or name changes will be accepted less than 24 hours prior to arrival. Any cancellation received less than 24 hours prior to arrival or no-shows will be charged one night room charge including tax.**



Imagination Stations

***Wanted: Creative and Enthusiastic Teachers
Willing to share ideas and expertise with colleagues***

Contact: Rhonda Denton rdenton@mpsd.k12.ms.us

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@comcast.net](mailto:magcconcepts@comcast.net)**

**or call at (601)891-
8054.**

**Stand Up for
Our
Brightest
Join MAGC!**



MAGC provides...

- An annual conference for teachers and families of gifted children
- Student scholarships and teacher grants
- Workshops and training for parents and teachers
- Opportunities for teachers and parents to network and form support groups
- Assistance to local parent affiliate groups
- Publications for teachers and families of gifted children

\$25 pays for membership from Jan. 1—Dec. 31

Visit the MAGC web-site to download an application!
<http://www.muw.edu/magc/membership.htm>

2008 MAGC CONFERENCE PROPOSAL

*MAGC's Annual Conference will be held **September 18-19**,
at the Pearl River Resort, Choctaw, Mississippi.*

This is the year to share your creative ideas with teachers from across our state! Send in your session proposals on topics ranging from curriculum to parent support. We especially want to encourage sessions on social/emotional issues, as well as, ideas for middle and high school gifted. *Proposals are also being accepted for the Pre-Conference Workshops on Wednesday, September 17 for counselors and psychometrists.* Completed proposals must be post marked no later than **May 30, 2008**. Note that the conference registration fee will be waived for only **the main** presenter of the session. Please print or type.

Name:

Institution /Affiliation:

Position/Job Title:

Home Address:

Email:

Telephone:

Title of proposed presentation is:

Below is a typed abstract (75 words or less) of the 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
- ☐ Gifted Eligibility Process

Intended AUDIENCE for PRESENTATION

- ☐ Elementary Teachers
- ☐ Middle School Teachers
- ☐ Secondary Teachers
- ☐ Parents of Gifted Children
- ☐ Administrators and/or counselors
- ☐ Psychometrists/Examiners

Mail form to: Joyce Youngblood, 60 53rd St., Gulfport, MS 39507 or email to JLY1272@aol.com

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

MAGC CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

September 18-19, 2008
Pearl River Resort, Choctaw, Mississippi

Registration Information: Registration includes MAGC membership for one year. 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 11, 2008, and are subject to a \$15.00 processing fee. Refunds will not be issued before November 15, 2008.

Transportation and Parking: Ample parking is available at Pearl River Resort. There is no fee for parking.

Lodging: Contact Pearl River Resort directly. (See Conference Lodging Information)

MAGC Membership card # _____ expiration date _____

Name _____

Preferred Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

School District/ Organization _____

Relationship to Gifted Education _____

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND/OR MEMBERSHIP FEES		AMOUNT
Select Only One	Early Registration Fee\$95.00 (must be postmarked by August 15, 2008)	\$
	Regular Registration Fee\$100.00 (must be postmarked by September 5, 2008)	\$
	On-Site Registration Fee (after September 5, 2008)\$110.00	\$
	Undergraduate Student Registration Fee (must show student ID at registration)\$30.00	\$
	Main Presenter Membership Fee \$25.00	\$
	Family Night ONLY\$3.00 per person or \$5.00 per family	\$
	<i>Pre-Conference Institutes for Counselors and Psychometrists*</i> <i>Wednesday, September 17 8:30-4:00</i> **Pre-Conference Institutes are not included in regular conference registration fee.	
a.	Counselors Pre-Conference Institute\$40.00	\$
b.	Psychometrists Pre-Conference Institute\$40.00	\$
c.	Combination Registration for a Pre-Conference Institute and Conference.....\$120.00	\$
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE		
(Check) _____ I plan to attend our MAGC Bayou Beach Party on Thursday evening, Sept. 18		Price included in registration fee

Method of Payment:

Personal Check# _____ School District Check # _____ Purchase Order # _____ (P.O. attached) Other _____

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

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MAGC

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