

Fall, 2010

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Please e-mail news for Concepts to
Deborah Holt at:
deboraholt@aol.com
 no later than
October 15, 2010.



Mississippi Association for Gifted Children Executive Board 2009-2010

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sherry@retrotorworld.com

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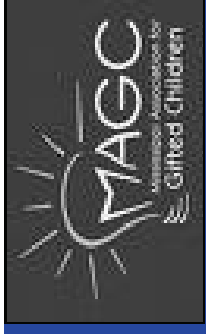
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Permanent and Founding Member: Dr. Frances Karnes, U.S.M. Hattiesburg



Concepts!

2010 MAGC Annual Conference Preview: Lighting the Way for Gifted Education in Mississippi

The MAGC Conference: *Lighting the Way for Gifted Education in Mississippi* is coming soon to the Imperial Palace in Biloxi. Many wonderful plans are on the agenda this year, starting with our keynote speaker, Dr. Joseph Renzulli. There will also be a special tribute to Dr. Conrad Castle, who passed away earlier this year. Breakout sessions will include presentations on technology, the arts, "Future Problem Solving", creative problem solving, "Best Practices" in gifted education, current issues in gifted education in the era of NCLB, and much more.

Dr. Jack Naglieri will address counselors and psychometrists in the Pre-Conference Institute. You will find highlights of the event on this page, as well as a schedule of events on page 15. Other pertinent forms are included in the newsletter.

Get ready for a very special event this year with the MAGC 2010 Conference: *Lighting the Way for Gifted Education in Mississippi* which takes place September 29-October 1, 2010. This is one event you do not want to miss.

Lighting the Way for Gifted Education
2010 MAGC Conference returns to the Mississippi Gulf Coast!

Featuring keynote speaker, Dr. Joseph Renzulli
 Pre-Conference Institute to feature Dr. Jack Naglieri
 Special tribute planned in memory of Dr. Conrad Castle, longtime Gifted Program Specialist at MAGC
 Practical conference sessions to include advocating for gifted education programs incorporating the fine arts, technology, and much more!
 Parent Night on Thursday evening includes Dr. Renzulli
 Low room rates at 79.99
 For additional information concerning conference events, visit www.magcweb.org

September 29-October 1, 2010
Imperial Palace Resort & Spa
Biloxi, MS

MAGC
 Mississippi Association for Gifted Children

A Word From our MAGC President....

As the new school year begins I am sure that many of us are facing many new changes in our schools and communities due to last year's budget cuts. These changes often make us apprehensive about the coming year and the challenges that we will face. Let me invite you to attend this year's 2010 MAGC Conference September 29- October 1, 2010. This conference will both encourage and energize you for the school year ahead!

We are very excited to have our conference on the beautiful Gulf Coast. This is an area that is no stranger to challenges such as Hurricane Katrina and the recent oil spill. This conference will not only support you but it will also show your support for the Mississippi Gulf Coast that we all love.

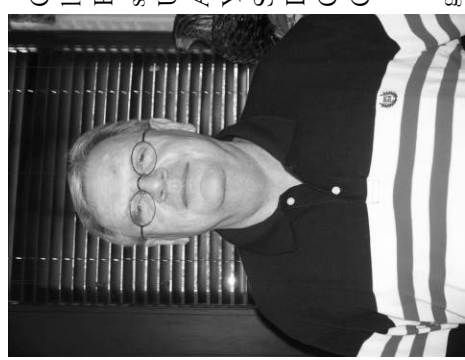
This year's conference will not only help you to renew your zeal for teaching but it will also provide you with valuable resources for the up-coming year. We have an excellent keynote speaker, Dr. Joseph Renzulli. We are also pleased to have Dr Jack Naglieri presenting at the pre-conference and the regular conference.

This is a conference that you will not want to miss! So pack your bags and get ready to return to the Mississippi Gulf Coast and the 2010 MAGC Conference.

I hope to see you there!

Sincerely,
MAGC President,
Sherry Willis

Meet our MAGC Vice-President



Glenn Nobles, retired teacher of the gifted for 30 years, is a lifelong resident of Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He earned a degree in Elementary Education from The University of Southern Mississippi, and completed graduate work at USM and William Carey University. He was selected as one of "Outstanding Educators in America" in 1979 and Grace Christian Elementary "Teacher of the Year 2005." Glenn is the former director of the Miss Hattiesburg Area Scholarship Pageant 1992-2000, a member of the Hattiesburg Area Daylily Society, an active member Court Street United Methodist Church, and co-founder and former president of The Pinebelt Gifted Teachers Association.

Our organization, (MAGC), is constantly striving for excellence in gifted education in the state of Mississippi. We hold the future of gifted children in our hands and should promote our program to all that we come in contact with. Speak up for gifted education!

Meet our Board Members: Each issue, we will focus on a different MAGC Board member so you can get to know them better. This issue, we will spotlight Glenn Nobles, Vice-President of MAGC.



MAGC Conference 2010
Lighting the Way for Gifted Education in Mississippi
September 29-October 1, 2010
Imperial Palace Resort & Spa ~ Biloxi, MS

Registration and lodging information at magcweb.org

Register now for low room rates - \$79.99

Conference Highlights:

Wednesday, September 29

- 8:00 am - 4:00 pm ~Pre-Conference Institute for Counselors and Psychometrists featuring Dr. Jack Naglieri
- 6:00 - 7:00 pm - Welcome Reception

Thursday, September 30

- 7:30 - 8:30 am - Registration
- 8:30 - 10:00 am - Opening Session
 - Special Tribute to Dr. Conrad Castle
 - Keynote Speaker: Dr. Joseph Renzulli
- 10:00 - Noon - Breakout Sessions
- 12:15 pm - Lunch provided
- 1:30 - 4:20 pm - Breakout Sessions
- 5:30 - 6:30 pm - Parent Evening at the IP
 - Keynote Speaker: Dr. Joseph Renzulli
- 6:30 pm - until - Free time to Explore the Mississippi Gulf Coast

Friday, October 1

- 7:30 - 8:00 - Complimentary Breakfast
- 8:00 - 8:45 am - Business Meeting
- 9:00 to 10:50 am - Breakout Sessions
- 11:00 - Noon - Closing Session

IMAGINATION STATION VENDORS BREAKOUTS SESSIONS ON TECHNOLOGY, THE ARTS, GIFTED EDUCATION IN THE ERA OF NCLB

A Message from Carol Paola, MAGC Executive Director



As we finish our summer vacation, all of us are eager to get back into action. We know we are facing the challenges that resulted from funding cuts last spring. Although it is not what we would have chosen, it is the reality of the current financial situation...so...let's get past that and get to work.

Your tasks will be to make every second count in meaningful and challenging lessons. Your students must be engaged in high level and rigorous learning experiences that are defensible and build your students' abilities to synthesize our gifted expectations with those of the classroom teachers and administrators. We all know that in gifted classes our students apply the skills they have been taught in the regular classroom. Many times my kids have said, "We learned HOW to do that in the classroom, but we actually DID it in here!" It is time that we reminded them of that on a regular basis. Although we are not bound by the frameworks, we must be knowledgeable of them at all times. Our co-workers in the classrooms are desperate for our support. If we are aware of the expectations for our students in the classroom, we will be more empathetic to ways in which we can build higher level thinking that will extend and enrich what they are being taught while still allowing us to provide gifted programming that meets their needs and interests.

As always, our gifted conference will be the gathering place to build friendships, networks, and a better understanding of what we should be doing in gifted education. Money will be tight this year, but we feel that this annual gathering will be too valuable to miss! We hope to see you there!

Your co-worker on the Coast,
Carol



ALL PARENT GROUPS MUST REGISTER EVERY YEAR TO AFFILIATE WITH MAGC

Parent Affiliate Registration

Note: There is no charge for affiliation with MAGC

School District: _____ School Year: _____
 Parent Group Name: _____
 Contact Person: _____
 Title: _____
 Address: _____
 Preferred Phone #: _____ Preferred E-Mail: _____

Submit this registration information to:

Kay Williams, MAGC Affiliate Chair
2074 HWY 48E, East
Magnolia, MS 39652



2010 Conference Registration Form

IP Casino Resort Spa – Biloxi
 Sept. 29 – Oct. 1

Registration Information: Registration includes MAGC membership from the date of conference until 9/30 of the following 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 15, 2010, and are subject to a \$15.00 processing fee. Refunds will not be issued before November 15, 2010.

Name _____ MAGC Membership # _____
 Preferred Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
 E-Mail Address _____
 School District or Organization _____
 Relationship to Gifted Children _____

Pre-Conference Institute Registration

Pre-conference Institutes for counselors and psychometrists are offered Wed., Sept. 29, 2010.

I am planning to attend...		
Counselor's Pre-Institute		\$50.00
Combo - Counselor's Pre-Institute PLUS Regular MAGC Conference		\$130.00
Psychometrist's Pre-Institute		\$50.00
Combo - Psychometrist's Pre-Institute PLUS Regular MAGC Conference		\$130.00

Conference Registration

I am planning to attend...		
Regular Conference Registration Fee		\$100.00
On-Site Registration Fee (postmarked after 9/20/10 or at conference site)		\$110.00
Undergraduate Student Registration Fee (Must send copy of student ID)		\$50.00
Breakout Presenter's Membership Fee (Main presenter only)		\$25.00
Imagination Station Presenter's Registration Fee (Main presenter only)		\$75.00

Total Amount Due	
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Paid by ... Personal Check # _____, School District Check # _____
 Parent Organization Check # _____, Purchase Order # _____
 (Original purchase orders must be attached)

Mail completed form and payment to Lisa D. Saucier, 144 W. Main St., Florence, MS 39073

Where could you have celebrated CREATIVITY, TEAMWORK, and PROBLEM SOLVING in 2009-10? At Destination ImagiNation® Global Finals 2010 in Knoxville, Tennessee. This world renowned celebration brought nine teams from Mississippi to an event that included the Fuel Up to Play 60 Activation Exchange, sponsored by the National Dairy Council and the NFL; the 3M Aftershock Challenge, which was a disaster-themed environment requiring intense creative problem solving; the Innovation Expo, featuring Volvo, Keva Planks, Promethean, Texas Instruments, Velcro, and HOPSports Training Systems. The above picture represents the teams that were able to show off their creative solutions to their chosen challenge at Global Finals. The picture was taken just before these team representatives marched into an arena with over 15,000 people from around the world during the Global Finals Opening Ceremony.

Destination ImagiNation is an exhilarating after-school or during-school activity in which students work in teams to solve mind-bending Challenges and present their solutions at Tournaments. Teams are tested to think on their feet, work together, and devise original solutions that satisfy the requirements of the challenges. Participants gain more than just basic knowledge and skills - they learn to unleash their imaginations and take unique approaches to problem solving.

Our challenges for 2010-11 are:

Technical: Unidentified Moving Object: A dam breaks, a bridge collapses, the electricity goes out—and the hustle and bustle of city life comes to a screeching halt. Few notice our nation's infrastructure...until something goes wrong! It will take all your creative powers and construction talents to reach new heights and deliver materials where they're needed most!

Scientific: Spinning A Tale: Carousels, Ferris wheels, revolving doors and twirling kids. It's enough to make you dizzy! Boundless energy, endless revolutions, and never starting or stopping at the same place. Can you write a story that does the same thing? In a world where the end is the beginning, your team will truly come full circle!

Fine Arts: Triple Take Road Show: Rock bands, salesmen, authors and politicians all perform on the road. New settings, new audiences, the same stories. Now it's your turn to pack your bags, go on tour and tell your tale! Your act is sure to be a success, but will it work for an audience of laughing hyenas? How about for menacing ogres or stuffy diplomats? On with the show...again and again!

Improv: Mythology Mission: Calling all fearless, daring adventures: team up to journey to new lands, stumble across new cultures, and never look back! But can you survive mythical creatures and come home with memories of your quest? Adventure awaits on this exciting Mythology Mission!

Structural: Verses! Foiled Again!: Place weights on a structure of foil, glue and wood. And tell us a story—one that's thoroughly good! When a character is foiled, what will you do? Will you laugh, will you triumph, or will you be foiled too?

Project Outreach: (community service challenge): Dynamic Networks: From smoke signals to blogs and texts, people have used communication tools for hundreds of years to connect to each other. Now it's your turn! Can you unite your community for a cause you care about? If so, you'll have the power to change the world!

Rising Stars! @: Big Bug's Bad Day: When Big Bug has a bad day, everyone has a bad day. All of Big Bug's friends want to get back to having fun. Explore their world and find out what's bothering Big Bug! Will Big Bug's Bad Day get better, or will it become an even bigger bummer? It's up to you!

Registration for the 2010-11 Destination ImagiNation year begins in September. If you are interested in learning more about Destination ImagiNation in Mississippi, call Ralph Carter at 662-574-2080 or email at ad@mississippiidi.org.

**2010 Conference Lodging Reservations
Imperial Palace Resort, Biloxi, MS**

Mississippi Association for Gifted Children September 29 – October 1, 2010

MAGC Group Rate: \$79.99 per room per night – single /double occupancy
(All rates subject to 7% state sales tax & 5% Harrison County room tax – per room per night. This tax is subject to increase without prior notice.)

To receive the special conference rate, Imperial Palace Resort must receive your registration by Tuesday, September 7, 2010*
*Any housing request received after this date will be accepted at the current room rate based on availability.

Individuals make their own reservations online at www.ipbiloxi.com using group code: **\$106022** or by calling the Imperial Palace Resort Reservations Department at **888-946-2847**.

Conference attendees must use the MAGC Group Code: **\$106022** in order to receive the special room rate.

School district checks, cashier checks, or money orders are accepted by mail if postmarked **five days (5) prior to check-in**.

Imperial Palace Resort
850 Bayview Avenue
Biloxi, MS 39530

*****All guests are required to post a mandatory \$100.00 deposit at check-in either with cash or major credit card. ***Hotel does not take personal or school district checks as method of payment at check-in. Credit card or Cash is the only valid form of payment accepted at check-in. *****

*****No cancellations or name changes will be accepted less than 48 hours prior to arrival. Any cancellation received less than 48 hours prior to arrival or no-shows will be charged one night room charge including tax.**

Check-in begins at 4:00 p.m. Check-out time is by 11:00 a.m.

"Rewards" players' cards are available by providing the following information:

- 1) First and last name
- 2) Full address of guest
- 3) Date of Birth



MAGC 2010 Conference – September 30 – October 1, 2010
Imperial Palace Resort
Application and Contract for Exhibitors

Company/Organization: _____
 Exhibitor Contact: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: () _____ Fax: () _____
 Email: _____
 Description of Product or Service: _____

We would like to participate as a vendor/exhibitor at the MAGC State Conference at the Imperial Palace Resort on September 30 – October 1, 2010 in the following ways:

- _____ Vendor/Exhibitor display with or without items for sale (\$125 for one 8 ft. table or if contract is returned by July 15, only \$100)
- _____ Send gift certificates to be given as door prizes. (Please include a catalog for each prize.)
- _____ Bring books, other instructional materials, or gift certificates for door prizes
- _____ Sponsorship: _____
- _____ Advertisement in the MAGC Conference Program (information enclosed)

Please sign contract and return with payment to: **MAGC via the address below.**
Exhibitor Options and Cost:

Options	Quantity	\$100 Before 7/15/10	Subtotal
Vendor Table		\$	
Sponsorship		\$	

Payment Information:
 Enclosed is my check payable to MAGC in the amount of \$ _____

Note: Neither MAGC nor the Imperial Palace Resort will assume liability for materials in the display area.

Signature of Contact Person _____ Date _____

Please mail signed contract and check payable to MAGC:

Glenn Nobles • 2605 Sierra Circle • Hattiesburg, MS 39402

Space Place: Black Holes No Joke

By Dr. Tony Phillips

Kip Thorne: Why was the black hole hungry? Stephen Hawking: It had a light breakfast!

Black hole humor—you gotta love it. Unless you're an astronomer, that is. Black holes are among the most mysterious and influential objects in the cosmos, yet astronomers cannot see into them, frustrating their attempts to make progress in fields ranging from extreme gravity to cosmic evolution.

How do you observe an object that eats light for breakfast? "Black holes are creatures of gravity," says physicist Marco Cavaglia of the University of Mississippi. "So we have to use gravitational waves to explore them."

Enter LIGO—the NSF-funded Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory. According to Einstein's Theory of General Relativity, black holes and other massive objects can emit gravitational waves—ripples in the fabric of space-time that travel through the cosmos. LIGO was founded in the 1990s with stations in Washington state and Louisiana to detect these waves as they pass by Earth.

Find out more about LIGO at <http://www.ligo.caltech.edu/>. The Space Place has a LIGO explanation for kids (of all ages) at <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/ligo>, where you can "hear" a star and a black hole colliding!



Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory in Livingston, Louisiana. Each of the two arms is 4 kilometers long. LIGO has another such observatory in Hanford, Washington.

Check out these great sites from Space Place



In addition to The Space Place website (<http://spaceplace.nasa.gov>), the team has created two other fun and educational websites for kids.



NASA Climate Kids at <http://climate.nasa.gov/kids> demystifies the "Big Questions" about global climate change using 4-6th-grade-level language, colorful illustrations, humor, interactivity, and games.



The *SciJinks Weather Laboratory* at <http://scijinks.gov> targets middle-schoolers. It explains the reasons for the seasons, the tides, and other weather and Earth science mysteries in colorful "Now I get it!" pages.

Announcements from the Karnes Center

MAGC – The Beginning

The Karnes family moved to Mississippi from Illinois in 1972. When Dr. Frances Karnes examined the Mississippi School Code, she found the definition of exceptional children. It read like a definition of the disabled as it was lacking the gifted. After consulting with her state representative and senator, it was decided that the definition should be amended to include the gifted. That was accomplished in 1973.

Realizing that there was a need to begin a statewide association to support gifted education, Frances asked several professionals to assist in the organization of the Mississippi Association for the Talented and Gifted now the Mississippi Association for Gifted Children. Dr. Karnes was the first president. Dr. Billie Bob Currie, school psychologist in the Hattiesburg Public Schools was vice-president. Dr. Douglas Everett, assistant superintendent in Meridian, was president-elect. The first annual conference was held in Meridian on October 24-25, 1975.

Teacher Scholarships

The Frances A Karnes Center for Gifted Studies offers scholarships during the summer semester for full-time students in graduate degree programs with an emphasis in Gifted Education. Both the Frances A. Karnes Endowed Scholarship and the Christopher J. Karnes Gifted Education Memorial Fund provide \$500 scholarships to recipients.

Career Explorations for Girls Conference

The Career Explorations for Girls Conference will be held, Saturday, September 25, 2010, in Joseph Greene Hall from 8:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Ann Blackwell, Interim Dean of the College of Education and Psychology at The University of Southern Mississippi. Her keynote address will be “Prepare Today for a Successful Tomorrow.” The conference is sponsored in partnership with Forrest General Hospital Spirit of Women. There is no charge for the conference, and lunch will be provided. This conference is open to all girls in grades 7-12. Each girl must be accompanied by her mother or another adult female. Enrollment in gifted education is not required.

Day of Sharing for Teachers of the Gifted

The Day of Sharing for Teachers of the Gifted will be held Friday, November 5, 2010 in the R.C. Cook Union Building, Rooms A/B, from 8:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Debbie Troxclair, Assistant Professor, Professional, Pedagogy Department, at Lamar University, Beaumont, TX. Dr. Troxclair will be speaking on social emo-



New book releases from NAGC include:

Special Populations in Gifted Education: Understanding Our Most Able Students From Diverse Backgrounds

Peak in the Middle: Developing Mathematically Promising Students in the Middle Grades

Light Up Your Child's Mind

Living With Intensity

Patterns and Profiles of Promising Learners From Poverty

Some Of My Best Friends Are Books



Increased Financial Readiness Comes to Columbus

Mississippi students are demonstrating that they are learning skills that will help them function in the real world. Nearly 200 students from throughout the state were recognized recently for their success in achieving financial and economic literacy at Millsaps College including students from Lee Middle School and Stokes Beard Elementary who excelled in the Stock Market Game. Thanks to the work of Emma Cornwall, a gifted education teacher at Lee Middle School, Mississippi has its first national winner in the writing competition, Investwrite. The Mississippi Council on Economic Education (MCEE) is focused on achieving demonstrated financial literacy of all students before they leave high school and the students who are making the greatest strides were awarded cash prizes, scholarships and trips.

Alon Bee, Jackson Metro President for Regions, described the event, "As we move forward through this challenging climate, Mississippi business leaders and educators realize that economic and financial literacy are skills that can be learned only if teachers have tools to deliver the skills to their students. The Mississippi Council on Economic Education has some real success stories and Regions is very proud to honor teachers and students."

The winners include students in Grades 4 through 12 from every region of the state. Among the top winners were students from:

- *Will Perkins from Lee Middle School in Columbus was named a national winner in Investwrite, a writing competition and four state winners;
- *Lee Middle School students won first place in the state competition for Spring 2010;
- *Stokes Beard Elementary students were the elementary school winners for Spring 2010



Stokes Beard Elementary students won the elementary division of the Stock Market Game in spring 2010 by increasing their \$100,000 portfolio to \$130,510 in the 10 week competition.



Lee Middle Students won the Mississippi Stock Market Game for spring 2010 by increasing their \$100,000 portfolio to \$137,320 in the 10 week competition.



Investwrite, a national writing competition where students solve problems relating to the stock market, produced the first national winner from Mississippi, Will Perkins, Lee Middle School (Columbus) with other Investwrite winners.

Long Beach Middle School Excel Students Win Second Place in International Global Competition

The online project of Global Virtual Classroom aims to provide students the opportunity to develop three skills that are essential in the 21st century: cross-cultural communication, collaboration, and computer skills. The GVC vision is to empower, enable and connect students around the world using Internet technology. The six month collaborative project is sponsored by Give Something Back International Foundation and AT&T. Students communicate and collaborate with their partners in the Global Virtual Classroom project which offers a platform to bridge gaps between cultures.

Students in Long Beach Middle School Excel, under the direction of teacher Mrs. Deborah Holt, were partners this past year with a class from Ein Ganim Elementary in Petach Tikva, Israel and The New Roberto Clemente in Paterson, NJ (USA). They enjoyed working with these partners to create an educational web page. The project began by each student signing into Nicenet to collaborate with partners in the “Conferencing” area. The website theme for the team was “Past/Present/Future” of all 3 schools/communities.

The team won 2nd place in this international competition with a cash prize of \$750 for each school. You may check out this site at: www.virtualclassroom.org, and click on Primary Sites to find the winning websites.

Announcements from the Karnes Center

tional issues for the gifted. Other session topics will be: Product Development; Parent Advocacy; and Gifted Education in Mississippi. There is no charge for the conference. CEUs will be available.

Parenting Gifted Children Conference

The Parenting Gifted Children Conference will be held Saturday, November 6, 2010, in Owings-McQuagge Hall, Room 105, from 8:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Debbie Troxclair, Assistant Professor, Professional, Pedagogy Department, Lamar University, Beaumont, TX. Dr. Troxclair will be speaking on social emotional issues for the gifted. Additional sessions will present information relevant for school administrators, teachers, counselors, psychologists, and other concerned adults. Registration fee is \$30.00 per person.

Saturday Gifted Studies Program

The Saturday Gifted Studies Program will be held from January 22-March 5, 2011, on the Hattiesburg campus of Southern Miss. The program meets on seven consecutive Saturdays from 9 a.m. – noon from the middle of January through February. It is open to gifted students in pre-kindergarten (4- or 5-year olds) through Grade 12. The program is designed to enhance cognitive and affective abilities of gifted students through planned enrichment/acceleration programming. Emphasis is placed on participation in areas that provide in-depth analysis of specific topics in small group activities with other gifted youth.

New Book Release

Dr. Frances A. Karnes, Distinguished University Professor of Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education at the University of Southern Mississippi and Dr. Kristen Stephens, Assistant Professor of Practice at Duke University have written a book entitled, *The Book of Questions*, for students, parents, grandparents, and teachers. Many adults look back in the past and regret not asking enough questions. The purpose of the book is to provide young people with a variety of questions that will be beneficial to them throughout their lives. The book is available through Royal Fireworks Press.

To register for the programs, please call The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies at 601-266-5236 or visit our website at www.usm.edu/gifted.

For more information on programs at the Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies, call 601-266-5236, or visit their website at www.usm.edu/gifted

Madison Middle School Students Win Christopher Columbus Grand Prize

We reported last issue that Madison Middle School students made it to the finals. Eighth-graders Mary Chiang, Gul Shaheen and Thomas Wiygul, and their coach, Nancy M. Rubel, are now winners of the grand prize — the \$25,000 Columbus Foundation Community Grant. Bright ideas, solid research and teamwork won these three students from Madison Middle School in Madison, Mississippi, the top prize in the Christopher Columbus Awards.

The students chose to focus their project on arthritis because it affects so many elderly people, including some of their own loved ones, and interferes with their quality of life. Further, the team's hometown of Madison is a certified retirement community and is therefore also home to many residents of retirement age — the age group most hampered by arthritis. The students identified the everyday act of gripping and turning a doorknob, which can trigger pain in an arthritis sufferer, as something they could simplify to alleviate discomfort.

The team hypothesized that a device that would allow arthritis sufferers to turn a standard doorknob by pulling downward rather than by using a twisting motion could help reduce the distress of opening a door. The students developed and tested a prototype of the device, which they dubbed "Arthritis Magic." Results indicated that Arthritis Magic does help alleviate the arthritic pain that can be caused by using a doorknob. Now that they've won the grant, the students plan to refine, produce and market their invention.

A panel of community leaders, scientists and experts in science education selected this idea as one of the top eight entries in the U.S. More than 600 students and coaches participated nationwide. The team and their coach won an all-expense-paid trip to the Walt Disney World® Resort, where they competed in the Christopher Columbus Awards' National Championship Week, and participated in the Christopher Columbus Academy, a custom-designed educational program conducted by scientists, engineers and educators. The program reveals the science and technology behind the thrills and excitement of *Epcot®* and the *Magic Kingdom®*.

Moss Point Lift Students Become "Rain"gers

The students in the Moss Point School District LIFT program, are a part of a Disney Foundation \$100,000 grant. The grant was written by Mozart Dedeaux, Education Director of the Pascagoula River Audubon Center. The environmental grant, "RAINgers", was voted on and chosen on line by students across the nation as the top winner. The LIFT students, along with parents and community members will plan and construct rainwater gardens at several schools throughout the district. The purpose of the project is to give students the opportunity to impact the quality of water that is filtered into the community, by helping to control the impurities of rain water runoff from impervious surfaces. The students began the planning stages of the project during the end of the 2009-2010 school year. This year the students will use the plans they developed to began construction of the rain water gardens. This project will allow the LIFT students to incorporate a variety of outcomes, as they research the construction of rain gardens, develop blueprints, and calculate the amount and cost of materials that will be used. The students will journal about the experience, develop power points, and share with students throughout the district, the importance that rainwater gardens play in the control of water quality. Through the use of the Polycorn system, the students will also share the information with partner schools throughout the state. LIFT teachers in the district are Sonja Boone, Kimberly Hansel, Angela Campbell, and Nani Jones.



Madison Middle School Arthritis Magic team wins Grand Prize in Christopher Columbus competition.



LIFT teacher Sonja Boone and LIFT students observe the school ground for the development of a rainwater garden.



LIFT students Jackson Callahan and Eddie Ortiz work on calculating the area for a rainwater garden.

West Point students present "Ancient Egypt Adventure"



Isable Elementary Super Stars

Isable Elementary School gifted program is a light shining brightly in the Jackson Public School District. The students are not afraid of challenges:

*A high ratio of their students, in Open Doors Program, successfully meet requirements for acceptance in the Academic and Performing Arts Complex (APAC) or the International Baccalaureate Program. They are champion students; most students that test into Power APAC or the International Baccalaureate program makes it. This school is full of dynamic "Super Stars". The students at Isable have, for 2 years, placed 1st in various categories at Jackson State University's International Bazaar. Students have represented the school at the State Reading Fair and science fair competitions and have won chess tournaments.

*For the past three years, these Open Doors students have published books through a program administered by an online publishing company. These students create their very own keepsake book that creates lifetime memories for them. The first year started with the gifted student's book entitled "Wishing for a Water Well." It was a book about wanting to help the kids in a Liberian village have clean drinking water. The students raised \$320 for the cause by creating a market at Christmas time, called "The Christmas Store." Since then, this market has become an annual project sponsored by gifted students in the Open Doors Program. Students in this program have also created a book of fables entitled "Fables from the Classroom." The book was a compilation of 40 self created fables from the students, to teach a lesson. This year's book was "Unwrap the Gift." Through individual profiles, students' special and unique talents were described.

*In September 2009, Michelle Obama sent a letter to the school commending Isable on the garden that was created with the help of adopters, "The Links, Inc". The school adopters have introduced healthy lifestyles to the children and recently some of the gifted students took the Blue Zone Challenge. They want to change their lifestyle so that they may live a long time. These students interviewed people 75 years and older to learn the secrets to living longer. The participants, "Super Seniors," have empowered the students with knowledge for longevity.

*For two years, students at Isable have taken a personal interest in helping The Salvation Army by sponsoring a clothes drive. In 2008 and 2009, the students collected a multitude of old shoes for recycling. They also donated 3,000 non-perishable food items to the less fortunate. What a team! Recently, students at Isable participated in "Pennies for Patients" a project to raise funds for Leukemia and Lymphoma research. The students eagerly accepted the challenge and within 8 days raised \$2,272.

West Point's Ancient Egyptian Adventure

Becky Domino's 39 gifted second and third graders in the QUEST program had a performance presentation for families and the School Board on May 14, 2010, after studying ancient Egypt and King Tut. Last year, her West Point School District students did a presentation on the Titanic in the format as museum curators. She included several factors of the scope and sequence in the unit studies and the student's performance was one of them.

The book *Mrs. Frizzles Ancient Egypt Adventure* was used as a starting point for the presentation. The presentation was called the "The Quizzes Ancient Egypt Adventures." The presentation was a huge success. See the pictures to the left of this amazing adventure by West Point Quest students.

Long Beach Gifted Students take Top Honors in Project Citizen State Showcase

Gifted students from Long Beach Middle School and Quarles Elementary recently took top honors and Superior ratings in the Mississippi Project Citizen Showcase for their projects to solve community problems. The Mississippi Showcase was held during the week of April 19-23, 2010, in the atrium of the Mississippi Department of Education in Jackson.

Long Beach Middle School students, under the direction of Deborah Holt, studied the problem of animal abuse in Long Beach and in the State of Mississippi, recommending an animal abuse ordinance for Long Beach requiring stricter penalties. Representatives of the class presented to the Long Beach Board of Aldermen and the Long Beach School Board in April.

Fifth grade gifted students in Allison Rhodes' and Carol Paola's Discovery classes from Quarles Elementary in Long Beach studied issues related to the tax base in Long Beach and funding for the schools. As part of their research, interviews were conducted with Mayor Billy Skellie and Mayor Rusty Quave of D'Iberville to study the potential tax benefits of Interstate 10 interchanges at Beatline and Canal Road through annexation of North Long Beach to Landon Road.

"Project Citizen," a program of the Center for Civic Education, encourages students to identify and solve school and community problems while learning how to monitor and influence public policy. The project completed by Deborah Holt's sixth grade Excel students will represent the State of Mississippi at the National Project Citizen Showcase in Louisville, Kentucky, July 25-28, 2010, as part of the National Conference of State Legislatures Annual Meeting.



Pictured above with D'Iberville Mayor Rusty Quave and city grant writer, Darren Cook, Mrs. Carol Paola, and Mrs. Allison Rhodes are Quarles Elementary 5th grade Discovery students interviewing for their project, "More Money for Our Schools."



Grade 6 LBMS students pictured above with Mrs. Deborah Holt after presenting their project "Stop Animal Abuse and Neglect in It's Tracks."



Congratulations to Marsha Partridge who retired this past year after 30 years of teaching. She taught in the gifted program for the past 20 years. Congrats and enjoy your retirement.



Madison Station Elementary 2nd grade Pathways students donated \$2400 to the Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. They raise the money by making and selling gifts and toys from recyclables.

We would love to get parent affiliate groups together for Parent Night at the MAGC Conference. If you are interested in having your group participate, or if you have any ideas or questions regarding Parent Affiliates, please contact:

Kay Williams at kay622@bellsouth.net

Remember, there is no fee for a Parent Affiliate group to register. But it is important for everyone to become a member of MAGC. Membership allows MAGC to continue to advocate and stand up for gifted children in MS as well as support gifted scholarships for children and teachers. Regular membership costs \$25 per year.

You may download a Parent Affiliate registration form at magcweb.org or use the form on page 3 of the newsletter.

Madison Station Donates \$2400 to Red Cross

Madison Station Elementary second grade gifted students in the Pathways program raised \$2400 for the Red Cross disaster relief fund to go to victims of the Haiti earthquake and the Mississippi tornados. They studied business owners, started a business, and produced over 450 items using recycled materials. They marketed and sold the items to students in kindergarten, first, and second grades. They named the project Planet Earth and learned to be entrepreneurs, good stewards of the environment and philanthropist in the process.