

## Summer, 2010

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*If you have news that you would like to have included in our next issue of Concepts, please*

*e-mail Deborah Holt at: [deborahholt@aol.com](mailto:deborahholt@aol.com)  
Deadline for Fall*

*Issue news:  
June 20, 2010*

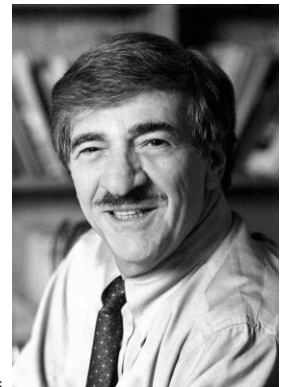


# Concepts!

## Dr. Joseph Renzulli to Keynote MAGC Conference

Joseph Renzulli is a professor of educational psychology at the University of Connecticut, where he also serves as director of the National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented. His research has focused on the identification and development of creativity and giftedness in young people, and on organizational models and curricular strategies for differentiated learning environments that contribute to total school improvement. A focus of his work has been on applying the pedagogy of gifted education to the improvement of learning for all students.

His most recent books include the second edition of *The Schoolwide Enrichment Model*, *The Multiple Menu Model for Developing Differentiated Curriculum*, *The Parallel Curriculum Model*, and the second edition of *Enriching Curriculum for All Students*. His 1978 article entitled *What Makes Giftedness* has been cited as the most frequently referenced article in the field. Dr. Renzulli is the author of more than 380 articles in professional journals, books, chapters in books, and numerous technical reports. He has been awarded more than \$50 million in research grants, \$1.3 million in personnel training grants, and \$3.7 million in grants and endowments to support direct service programs for students and teachers.



Dr. Renzulli is Fellow in the American Psychological Association, a former president of the Association for the Gifted, and he has served on the editorial boards of *Learning Magazine*, the *Journal of Law and Education*, *Exceptionality*, and most of the national and international journals dealing with gifted education. He was a consultant to the White House Task Force on Education of the Gifted and Talented, has worked with numerous schools and ministries of education throughout the U. S. and abroad. His work has been translated into several languages and is widely used around the world. His most recent work is a computer-based assessment of student strengths integrated with an Internet based search engine that matches enrichment activities and resources with individual student profiles [[www.renzullilearning.com](http://www.renzullilearning.com)].

Dr. Renzulli was designated a Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor at the University of Connecticut in 2000, and in 2003 he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from McGill University in Montreal, Canada. The American Psychological Association's *Monitor on Psychology* named Dr. Renzulli among the 25 most influential psychologists in the world. In 2009 Dr. Renzulli received the Harold W. McGraw Jr. Award for Innovation In Education, consider by many to be the Nobel Prize for educators. He lists as his proudest professional accomplishment being the founder of the summer Confratute program at UConn, which began in 1978, and has served approximately twenty-five thousand teachers and administrators from around the world.



*Announcing the return of the MAGC Conference to the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The conference will be held September 29 - October 1, 2010 at the Imperial Palace Resort and Spa in Biloxi. See Page 2 of the newsletter for more details.*



The National Association of Gifted Children 57th Annual Convention promises to stimulate your thinking with new insights into how to develop creativity and innovation in students, skills that are now considered "basic" in the new knowledge economy. Speakers such as Carol Dweck, Ron Clark, Joseph Renzulli, Robert Root, and Jim Gallagher have exciting lectures for this exciting Conference. The event will be held November 11-14 in Atlanta, Georgia. You may register on-line at: [www.nagc.org](http://www.nagc.org)

*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 our MAGC Treasurer, Pam Pape*

## A Word From our MAGC President...Sherry Willis

As we enter the month of May I know that many of us are busy trying to finish this school year. There are many special activities at schools as well as festivals in local communities and towns. During this busy season of the year I would like to take a moment to say "Thank you" to all of the parents, grandparents, concerned citizens, and teachers who contacted your legislator in support of gifted education. Your positive action really made a difference!



I recently attended the National Gifted Affiliate Conference in Washington DC. I met several leaders of gifted education from many states in the United States. I was very surprised to hear that many of those states no longer have a mandate to serve gifted students. Many of these states only have a mandate to identify the gifted students. I thought how sad that would be. I am so thankful that Mississippi still has a mandate to not only identify the gifted students in our state but to also serve them.

I realize we may face many budget crisis in the future but my hope and prayer is that we continue to meet the needs of all students in our state including gifted students.

As summer draws near let me urge every teacher to take a moment to submit a proposal for our upcoming gifted conference. We have so many talented teachers in our state. Please consider sharing some of your wonderful ideas with us during the 2010 MAGC Conference in Biloxi. Our conference this year features some excellent speakers. Please visit our website [www.magcweb.org](http://www.magcweb.org) for more information about the conference and a copy of the proposal form.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have about gifted education in the state of Mississippi.

MAGC President,

Sherry Willis

[sherry@rcrotorworld.com](mailto:sherry@rcrotorworld.com)

## MAGC Conference 2010

MAGC returns to the Mississippi Gulf Coast for its 2010 annual conference. The conference will be held **September 29 – October 1, 2010** at the **Imperial Palace Resort and Spa in Biloxi**. For nearly 36 years, MAGC has provided educators and parents of the gifted practical and informative professional development sessions and keynote speakers. This year promises to continue that tradition with **Dr. Joseph Renzulli** of the University of Connecticut as our **keynote speaker**. He will discuss the changing role of gifted education across our nation and the continued relevance of gifted education to our nation's most able learners. Dr. Renzulli will lead a breakout session with practical ideas for using technology to differentiate instruction for gifted students. He will also speak at Parent Night at Nichols Elementary School in the Biloxi School District.

In 2007, MAGC initiated the **Pre-Conference Institute for Counselors and Psychometrists**. This year we are excited to announce that **Dr. Jack Naglieri** is scheduled to present at the Pre-Conference Institute. What a wonderful opportunity for growth and learning we have in these two nationally-known speakers! Make your plans now to attend.

**The session proposal deadline has been extended until July 15** and may be submitted via email to Dr. Sandra Manning (see email address below). Proposal forms can be downloaded on the web at [www.magcweb.org](http://www.magcweb.org). **Lodging, registration, scholarship and vendor information** may also be found there. **Imagination Station** is planned for the conference again this year. Please consider showcasing your students' work at the conference.

**A special tribute is planned in memory of Dr. Conrad Castle**, long-time Gifted Program Specialist at the Mississippi State Department of Education. You are encouraged to contact MAGC board members or email Dr. Manning if you would like to contribute stories or photos of Dr. Castle's work for the advancement of gifted education in our state. **For more information** on any of these 2010 conference events, please visit the [www.magcweb.org](http://www.magcweb.org) or email [sandra.manning@usm.edu](mailto:sandra.manning@usm.edu).



## A Message from Carol Paola, MAGC Executive Director

As we finish another school year, it is time to take stock of what we have accomplished and make plans for next year. Along with your students, parents, teachers, and administrators, you have evaluated your programs. Although we love the positive comments, let's take the ones that made us feel uncomfortable and establish personal and program goals to make changes. We know that our programs must be more rigorous and highly visible in order to defend their value. Take every opportunity to "bump it up a notch" and then give the students opportunities to present to authentic audiences to show what they have learned. As an example, Kelly Tipton and Lisa McMillan's 4<sup>th</sup> grade students in George County did a "Project Citizen" this year called "Protecting Lucedale's Oldest Citizens"-the ancient oaks in their community! They appealed to their City Council to form a committee to identify and publicize the oaks and to their School Board to get a commitment to protect the trees on school district properties. What a great example of real-life problem solving and application of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills we teach in our gifted programs....as well as a highly visible parallel application of core subjects. I will be sharing more of these types of projects in the next edition of Concepts.

On another note...take this summer to renew your own love of learning and share it you're your families. Take your children and grandchildren on "Summer Explorations"...museums, hiking trails, train rides, excursions to places you've always wanted to go. Often the children we love the most are the ones we slight during the school year because of our many commitments. Make every minute of summer count. You will be glad you did!

Remember, if I can be of service to you or your district in any way, do not hesitate to e-mail or call. Thank you for all you do to serve the needs of gifted children in our state!

Carol Western Paola, Executive Director

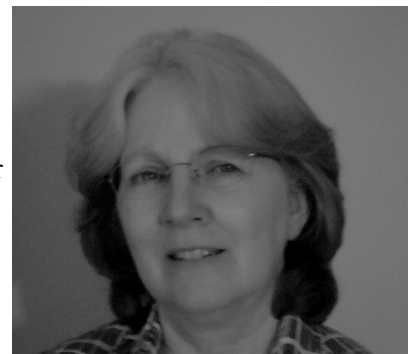
[Cwp1gab@aol.com](mailto:Cwp1gab@aol.com)

228-864-8520/228-860-1763



## Meet our MAGC Treasurer Pam Pape

Pam Pape has taught elementary gifted for the past ten years, all of them at Key Elementary in south Jackson. Pam came to teach after first receiving her B.A. with a major in Anthropology from the University of Texas. She and her husband moved to Jackson in 1984. Having her three children helped her discover the joy of teaching, and after becoming certified to teach, she taught second grade for seven years while completing her Masters at Mississippi College. Pam has served as Treasurer of MAGC since 2003.



## Announcements for the Karnes Center

### Teacher Scholarships

The Frances A Karnes Center for Gifted Studies offers scholarships 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 emotional 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.

## Gifted Super Teachers

Gifted teachers are a growing number who are excelling in bringing their children real life skills in financial literacy with professional development through the Mississippi Council on Economic Education. Among those who are at the top of the list are: Neil Burton, Oxford Middle School; Pam Carrubba, Bay Waveland Middle School; Kim Clemons, Beauvoir Elementary in Biloxi; Carol Oakes, Stern Elementary in Greenwood; Sebrina Esters, Marshall Elementary in Jackson.

These teachers have or are in the process of earning the Master Teacher in Economics certification so they can teach their students how to succeed in the real world. Economics is the science of choice and when kids know how to make decisions that will benefit them throughout their lives, they are motivated to learn. Most teachers get started learning that they can teach these skills through the Stock Market Game. Currently, Emma Cornwall's students at Stokes Beard in Columbus are winning the elementary division. To participate in MCEE's programming, go to [www.mscee.org](http://www.mscee.org). There is a full line up for the summer!

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](http://www.usm.edu/gifted)

For the most up-to-date information regarding gifted education in Mississippi, go to: [www.magcweb.org](http://www.magcweb.org)

## A Tribute to Dr. Conrad Castle

Conrad Castle

I heard just this morning my mentor and friend  
 Has passed away, I couldn't lend a hand  
 No time to say thank you for decades of caring  
 No chance to express the progress from his sharing



And now at Mardi Gras we know he did love  
 He'll wander the Quarter from up above  
 With his Proteus Krewe to Court of Two Sisters  
 I can hear his laughter and Who Dat whispers

He enjoyed coffee and chicory and good crawfish bread  
 A Baileys on ice and how Tom Dempsey's fed  
 An empty stomach and a need for New Orleans  
 That somehow renewed and stagnancy cleaned

The difference he made for children is spread far and wide  
 He taught us how to help them and be steadfast by their side  
 Though politics and funding were ever in his path  
 His beliefs, strength and his principles were rails that would last

A youngster from St. Joseph Missouri to New Orleans he came  
 A son of the south he proudly proclaimed  
 No stranger to struggle, heartache and loss  
 He overcame it all and reduced its cost



Childhood polio and the Vietnam War  
 Tenacity and hard work carried him far  
 His Louisiana students thank him over time  
 His Mississippi students too know the hills that he climbed

A brilliant mind and a heart he shared  
 Across the country recognized as one who repaired  
 A state of education for gifted children left behind  
 Leaders he molded and taught and intertwined

To change the direction of how the wind blew  
 And leave a legacy that could hold and be true  
 Opportunities for beautiful minds to grow  
 Because of his work we have come to know



Mathematics and photography and wonder at the skies  
 Writing, sharing knowledge and stories telling why  
 He was ever ready to relate an adventure  
 And provide his picture of what could be the future

No words can express how his quiet presence came  
 Not needing accolades or credit or fame  
 Just to move among the change agents, much as the wind  
 Forming a structure on which to begin

A future for youngsters so like he was  
 Gifted, creative, and all just because  
 A challenge for such people is always a need  
 He knew progress began with a seed

He was my mentor, at times my best friend  
 The lessons he taught me will have no end  
 A beautiful mind, a quiet, measured presence  
 Who offered his gifts...his gifted essence



~ Dr. Linda Mucha

*MAGC Parent**Affiliate Groups:*

- \*Clinton Association of Gifted Children
- \*Columbia's PAGE
- \*ECTAG (including Leake, Scott, Newton)
- \*Harrison County
- \*Hattiesburg
- \*Jackson Association for Gifted Children (Hinds County)
- \*Lamar County
- \*Long Beach Association
- \*McComb Association
- \*Neshoba County TAG
- \*New Hope Merit
- \*Parachute (Jefferson Davis School District)
- \*Pass Christian Parent Group
- \*Petal Parent Group
- \*Senatobia Gifted Parent Advocacy
- \*South Pike GT Parent Group
- \*Venture Parent Organization
- \*Yazoo County

## New Book Release

Dr. Frances A. Karnes, Director of the Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies at the University of Southern Mississippi, and Dr. Kristen R. Stephens, Assistant Professor of the Practice, Director of the Early Childhood Education Studies Certificate Program and Adjunct Research Professor at Duke University, have co-edited a new book in The Practical Strategies Series in Gifted Education. The book is titled *Advanced Placement Programs and Gifted Students*, and is written by Elissa F. Brown, the Director of Secondary Projects at the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. This text discusses one of the predominant service delivery options for secondary gifted students in America's high schools for the past two decades, which is the Advanced Placement (AP) program. It addresses misconceptions about AP courses, the benefits of AP courses for gifted learners, suggested core and targeted teaching strategies for differentiation within AP courses, and supporting and impeding structures for implementing and sustaining a coherent AP program within a high school program of studies.

## Spinnato Selected to Participate in TOP



Gail Spinnato has been selected by the Goethe-Institute Washington, DC, as one of 100 educators from across the country who will participate in a two-week culture study in Germany this summer with the Transatlantic Outreach Program (TOP). Her group will travel and study in Germany during late June and early July. The program begins with an orientation day in Washington, DC.

Gail looks forward to learning more about the history of Germany and current issues facing the German people and then being able to bring that knowledge to her students. As part of Gail's follow-up project, her Orken Elementary School QUEST students will present a creative drama of an "environmental fairy tale." This drama will be inspired by the German Fairy Tale Road and stories from The Brothers Grimm and created by her students (hopefully in collaboration with a German classroom). The plot of this fairy tale drama will focus on the "evils" of environmental misconduct/ignorance and ways to "rescue" the global environment. This culture study will help globalize their education by connecting them in fun and relevant ways with other young people half a world away!

## DeSoto Central Middle School's Knowledge Bowl Teams Take Top Awards

Bonnie Crabtree's 6<sup>th</sup> grade Spotlight Knowledge Bowl teams won BOTH 1st and 2nd place trophies in the Desoto County Knowledge Bowl competition. They competed against all the sixth grade schools in their district.

The two teams practiced frequently and consistently. They discussed and analyzed the strategy of competition as well as how the Knowledge Bowl team was chosen. They also discussed the varied skills (not just "smart") needed in order to earn a place on the KB team: to possess auditory processing skills, fine and gross motor skills, and be able to make a judgment about correct answers in split second timing, as well as the courage to sometimes be wrong. In addition, the students must articulate their answer in correct terms. The KB questions covered all content areas.

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade gifted classes at Desoto Central Middle School are proud of the Knowledge Bowl Team. They continually strive for excellence in their school.

## Mississippi Students Win State Tournament, Headed to Global Finals

March 27, 2010, Columbus, MS - Months of teamwork, and many days and nights of applying extraordinary creative brainpower have brought success to 10 teams of students throughout Mississippi who have earned the right to take part in the challenge of a lifetime at the Destination ImagiNation® Global Finals from May 27-29, 2010 in Knoxville, Tenn.

"It's been a fun, tough, exciting and rewarding time for these teams as they worked their way through several levels of competition in order to win a shot at the biggest challenge of them all - Destination ImagiNation's Global Finals," said Michelle Carter, Tournament Director for Mississippi Destination ImagiNation. "Competing in Global Finals is what Destination ImagiNation teams strive for, and the opportunity to compete means so much. This is the pinnacle event for creative problem solving."

Destination ImagiNation's Global Finals brings together the most talented teams from across the country and from more than 30 countries to showcase their creativity, teamwork and problem solving. The four-day event at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville celebrates achievements in applied creative problem solving, and for many participants, it is the mark of true achievement to earn the right to compete. Live video coverage of the Opening and Closing ceremonies, photos and news will be made available at [www.GlobalFinals.org](http://www.GlobalFinals.org) at the start of the event.

"Global Finals is my favorite time of the year! It's very fulfilling to see the preparation and care we put into our Challenges be interpreted in so many ways. That's what makes Destination ImagiNation such an important educational program: there is no right or wrong solution, just creativity, teamwork and problem solving," said Rusty McCarty, COO and Creative Director for Destination ImagiNation.

The teams with an opportunity to go to Global Finals attend Lee Middle School, Columbus (3 teams-Sylvia Collins, Team Manager), New Hope Christian School, Jackson (2 teams-Yvonne Jones, Team Manager), Madison Station, Madison (1 team-Cathy Lutz, Team Manager), South Pike School District, Magnolia (1 team-Bonnie McDaniel, Team Manager), Della Davidson Elementary, Oxford (2 teams-Michele Stuber, Team Manager), and Lighthouse Instruction For Enrichment, Southaven (2 teams, Michele LaMachio, Team Manager). These students and Team Managers have worked hard to achieve this accomplishment. It definitely shows in their great solutions and performances.

About Destination ImagiNation, Inc.

Destination ImagiNation, Inc. is an extraordinary non-profit organization that provides two educational programs for students to learn and experience creativity, teamwork and problem solving. Every year, we reach 100,000 students across the U.S. and in more than 30 countries. Destination ImagiNation, our core program, is an exhilarating educational program, offered primarily in after-school settings, in which students work in teams to solve mind-bending Challenges and present their solutions at Tournaments. In our Destination ImagiNation 4-Life program, we design and implement cause-based programming for client organizations to reach target audiences in a powerful way. Destination ImagiNation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with more than 1.3 million alumni and a global network of 35,000 volunteers. Visit <http://www.IDODI.org> for more information.

## Carlisle Awarded \$10,000 Toyota Grant

Peggy Carlisle recently received a \$10,000 Toyota TAPESTRY grant from the National Science Teachers Association to fund her 2010-2011 project "Rocket Boys and Girls." Through inquiry investigations, her students will explore the fundamentals of flight, including properties of air, air pressure, shape, angles and propulsion. They will then use the concepts discovered to design, build, and test original flying machines. Peggy teaches gifted students at Pecan Park in Jackson.

Congratulations to the Olive Branch gifted program for having 3 National Merit Finalists: Charlie Tran, Nathan Armstrong, and Hadley Pearson. In addition, Charlie and Hadley also qualified as part of the top 20 Star Students for the state. Congratulations to these students and the Olive Branch gifted program.

Congratulations to Mandy Goldman's artistically gifted students who placed in the Three Foot Arts Festival in Meridian.

Winners are:

Second grade:

Kaylee Womack 1st place drawing  
Megan Oliver 1st Place mixed media  
Tyler Slay 1st place 3-D  
Honorable Mention Harper Bryan Drawing

Third Grade:

Walker Hoffer Drawing  
2nd Place

3-D Honorable Mention  
Jackson Palmer

Fourth Grade:

Joseph Rebeles First Place



Madison Middle School Pathways students (from L-r) Kimberly Robinson, Pratik Rout, Shari Perkins, and Zach Ogletree won 1st place in Junior Division for Booklet and 1st place in Junior Division for skits.



Madison Middle School Pathways students (from left below) Chandler Henry, Baxter Martin, Nikhil Arora, Ethan Liles won 1st place in Middle Division for Booklet and 1st place in Junior Division for skits.

Not pictured: Madison Middle School Pathways student, Manisha Dubey won 1<sup>st</sup> place in Middle Division for Scenerio.



Nettleton High Seniors First Place FPS Team Problem Solving left to right: Wesley Lee, Channing Lansdell, Ra'Shun Jernigan and Josh Riley



Nettleton High Seniors Second Place FPS Team Problem Solving left to right: Devan Richardson, Dalton Sullivan, Dylan Sullivan, Holly Schlicht (only girl)



Nettleton High Senior FPS Alex Clark 2nd place Individual

## MMS Students Bring Home the Gold

Madison Middle School Pathways students returned with top honors from this years' State Affiliate Bowl for Future Problem Solving. The teams and their teachers have worked on practice problems in after-school sessions for several weeks to prepare for the competition. Gifted program teachers Nancy Rubel and Nicole Hoffman accompanied the teams to MUW in Columbus for the 2-day event.

Future Problem Solving (FPS) gives students a chance to address real-life problems and offer their solutions in both booklet and skit formats. This years' problem dealt with food distribution in various countries. "This is a terrific learning experience for these future leaders," said Nancy Rubel. Past problems presented to these students have included those related to sensory overload and invasive species.

"We are very proud of all our students. They worked hard and did a wonderful job," said Mrs. Rubel. First-place winners will advance to compete in the International competition for Future Problem Solving in La Crosse, Wisconsin from June 10- June 13<sup>th</sup>.

## Madison Crossing Students Win Top Honors at State Future Problem Solving Bowl

Teams of students from Madison Crossing Elementary, along with their coach, Lydia Bourn, brought home ribbons and plaques for their participation in the annual Mississippi Future Problem Solving Program Affiliate Bowl at Mississippi University for Women on March 23-24.

The Affiliate Bowl is the culmination of a year-long program where students are taught to creatively seek, attack, and solve problems related to projections into the future. More than 500 Mississippi students worked on three problems, during the 2009-2010 school year, which were critiqued by trained evaluators. The top teams from each of the three grade divisions (4-6, 7-9, 10-12) were invited to participate in the Affiliate Bowl.

Solutions were evaluated based on clearly established criteria, and the top three teams from each division received trophies and ribbons. Winning first place in the Junior Division for their skit were Shelby D'Amico, Torri Duckworth, Hunter Hardy, Dylan Durr, Cameron Duval, and Brooklyn Hutchinson. Placing fourth, also in the Junior skit, were Cameron Petermann, Jessica Clark, Brenden Harrell, Charley Lowe, and Peyton Vinson.

In the Individual Division, Madison Crossing captured all three top slots, with Charley Lowe placing first, Brooklyn Hutchinson placing second, and Hunter Hardy placing third.

As state champion, Charley is also invited to represent Mississippi at the 2010 Future Problem Solving International Conference coming up in June at The University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse where the topic will be "Green Living." In the past twenty years Mississippi participants have won approximately sixty-five awards at the International Conference.

## Nettleton High School State Affiliate Bowl Winners Senior Division

Nettleton High School Seniors took home first place problem solving, second place problem solving, and 2nd place in the Individual category. Nettleton's coach was Debbie Schlicht.

## Toshiba/NSTA Exploravision Contest Winners

Ms. Mary Edelen's students at North Bay Elementary School in Biloxi received two Honorable Mention awards in the Toshiba/ NSTA Exploravision Contest. The two teams that placed were Ty Peavy, Conner Daughdrill, and Brian Davis for their Protector Mask and Francena Sekul, Cecelia Powell, and Margaux Duhe' for the Healthy 365. There were 4,551 team entries.

The contest was a competition that encouraged students to use their imaginations with scientific tools to create and explore a vision of a future technology. Students worked in groups to simulate Research and Development teams. Each team selected a technology or an aspect of technology that already existed to explore what it does, how it works, and how, when, and why it was invented. Then the students projected the technology 20 years into the future. Their vision was expressed through both written description and five graphics simulating web pages. The entries were from all over North America. North Bay Elementary, Biloxi, MS is now listed on the Toshiba website: <http://www.exploravision.org/winners/honorable-mentions-2009.php>



Mary Edelen's students at North Bay Elementary

## Oxford Middle Science Olympiad Winners

Recently two teams from Oxford Middle School competed in the MS Science Olympiad sponsored by the University of Southern MS. The teams were comprised of sixth, seventh, and eighth graders who were coached throughout the year by Susan Jane Drummond and Pat Kincade. The Mississippi Science Olympiad is devoted to improving the quality of science education, increasing student interest in science and providing recognition for outstanding achievement in science education by both students and teachers. The Science Olympiad tournament was held on March 26<sup>th</sup> on the University of Southern Mississippi's campus. Students compete in twenty-three rigorous academic interscholastic competitions that are made up of a series of individual and team events. These challenging and motivational events are well balanced between the various science disciplines of biology, earth science, chemistry, physics, computers and technology. There is also a balance between events requiring knowledge of science facts, concepts, process skills, and science applications.

Oxford Middle School students who placed in these events were:

**Thomas Murphy & Joseph Whitaker** placed first in "Battery Buggy" – students constructed a vehicle that used electrical energy as its sole means of propulsion and that met rigorous construction parameters. The vehicle was required to travel between 5 & 10 meters as quickly as possible and come to a complete stop without straying from the track's center.

**Josh Redding & Taylor Thorne** placed second in "Bio-Process Lab" – this event consist of a series of lab stations with each station requiring the use of process skills to answer questions and/or perform a required task.

**Allie Roberson & Mark Zhao** placed first in "Disease Detectives" – students used their investigative skills in the scientific study of disease, injury, health & disability in populations with a focus on the effects of population growth on public health outcomes.

**Renee Sullivan-Gonzales & Matthew Wilkin** placed first in "Dynamic Planet" – students used process skills to complete task related to earthquakes & volcanoes.

**Jack Williams & Reid Mallette** placed third in "Elevated Bridge" – students designed and built the most efficient bridge out of wood and one that could support 15,000 kg.

**Jordan Repka & James Marcus Moore** placed third in "Junkyard Challenge" – students constructed a device on-site to solve a creative engineering challenge using only the materials and tools that fit in a "junk box" of specified dimensions.

**Peyton Farmer & Joonhee Jo** placed first in "Road Scholar" – students answered interpretative questions on state highway maps, internet-generated maps, a road atlas, and on USGS topographic maps.

**Ian Super & Quinn Elliott** placed third in "Shock Value" – students performed hands-on tasks and answered questions related to electricity, magnetism and electrical devices.

**Jasmine Minor & Drew Baker** placed first in "Solar System" while **Cindy Torma & Mark Zhao** placed second in the same event – students recorded observations, formulated and evaluated hypotheses, interpreted data concerning the Sun, planets, and their satellites, dwarf planets, comets, etc.

**Josh Redding & Taylor Thorne** placed third in "Wright Stuff" – following construction parameter, students will construct and test two rubber motor powered monoplanes with a single propeller assembly to achieve maximum flight times.

**Cindy Torma & Joelle Jo** placed first in "We've Got Your Number" - students will use their knowledge of whole-number operations and problem-solving ability to represent integers as expressions involving given digits.



Oxford Middle Science Olympiad Winners

*Millsaps is offering a variety of summer programs for students in grades K-12 in their Summer Enrichment 2010. They are offering opportunities such as Birding Camp for kids which will be directed by a team of educators and experts from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Jackson Audubon Society and Wild Birds Unlimited. Be a Nature Detective, one of the most unique camps for middle schoolers in their line up, offers a whole new perspective of nature by utilizing a jeweler's loupe and encouraging analogous thinking. How the world expands when we zoom in on the details! And the prestigious Chamber Music Day Camp, the only camp of its kind in the state of Mississippi, invites string, voice, and piano students to study with accomplished Millsaps faculty. For more details go to:*

[www.millsaps.edu/conted](http://www.millsaps.edu/conted)



Tupelo Challenge students

## Lights, Cameras, Action in Tupelo

Students in Teresa Gregory's Challenge class at Lawndale Elementary in Tupelo, recently wrote, directed, and produced an Idiom dvd. Parents, teachers, and administrators were invited to a Red Carpet event for the release of the dvd. Students were given "Oscar" awards and copies of the dvd as they were presented on the red carpet. Copies of the dvd will be housed in the school's media center to be checked out. Students at Lawndale were able to view the movie during the monthly Lollapalooza Awards Assembly.

## Holocaust Project Becomes a Reality One Penny at a Time

Susan Powell's seventh grade Spotlight students have been studying the Holocaust. The Horn Lake Middle School students have spearheaded a project to collect pennies to use in an on-line museum where they will host a virtual room. Each penny collected would represent one child lost in the Holocaust. The estimated population of DeSoto County is 154,748. They would collect 1.5 million pennies if each citizen collected just 10 pennies.

For more information on this incredible story, go to: <http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2009/nov/25/pennies-wanted/>.

## Brandon Middle Students "Promote the Vote"

The Secretary of States office held a contest called "Promote The Vote. "Students were encouraged to make commercials, essays and artwork encouraging people to exercise their civic responsibility to vote .

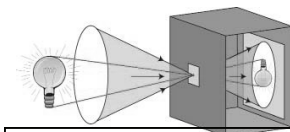
The following Brandon Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> grade Venture students won the contest. They received Savings Bonds and were honored at an award ceremony in March. The winners are for Political Cartoon- 1<sup>st</sup> place- Regan Emfinge, 2<sup>nd</sup> place- Chase Baker, 3<sup>rd</sup> William Lee; for Essay: 1<sup>st</sup> place- Taylor Sims, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Andrew Conquest, 3<sup>rd</sup>- Alex Green; for Video Production: 1<sup>st</sup>- Sarah Keeton Odom and Jordan Lloyd, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brooke Burrell, and 3<sup>rd</sup>- Ashley Pryor.

## Destination Imagination Winners from Lee Middle School in Columbus

The State tournament for the problem based competition Destination Imagination was held on March 27, 2010. Columbus SPIRIT from Lee Middle School in Columbus, Mississippi had 3 teams in the middle school level to place first in structure, fine arts and engineering/technology. The gifted Education teacher for these students is Sylvia Collins. The teams that placed are listed as follows: Engineering/Technology Team: Direct DIposit: Kaylee Ashford, RiCarrdon Byrd, Taylor Christian, Faith Hodge, Meisha Miller, Hunter Mullis, Corey Persons; Fine Arts Team: You're Gonna Flip: Kayla Berry, Taylor Christian, Gianni Edwards, Heath Fisackerly, Katie McCoy, Meisha Miller, Jalen Parker; Structure/Architecture: Breaking DI News: Tiffini Allen, Kaylee Ashford, Brandon Bowles, Dallas Brock, Tyrus Brooks, Kendall Edwards, Stephanie Smith.



Brandon Middle School students



Go to [spaceplace.nasa.gov](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov) for instructions on how to make a pinhole camera.

Go to: [spaceplace.nasa.gov](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov) to see what's new in NASA Space Place. Some highlights are: Photon Pile-Up game, Spotlight on Storybooks, Special Dates, and a classroom activity instructing students how to create a pinhole camera from a cereal box.

## Students at Madison Middle School Place in National Science Competition

Pathways students from Madison Middle School participated in the Christopher Columbus Awards, a nationwide program that challenges middle-school students to explore opportunities for positive change in their communities. Two teams from Mississippi, both from Madison Middle School, placed in the semi-finals.

The first team decided that they would make an invention to assist people with arthritis using the principle of simple machines. They created a device that would eliminate the need for arthritic people to twist their wrists to open doors thereby reducing their pain. Students took their prototypes and tested people in their community. In the Arthritis Magic group, most of the people they tested said that they liked the device because they didn't have to grip or twist their wrist when using it.

Student's who designed the prototype for Pack-Strapz found that by adding an additional strap that students could wear across their waist, eliminated back pain by redistributing the weight of the books they carried in their backpacks. This simple method reduced back pain and made carrying backpacks less stressful for students.

A panel of community leaders, scientists and experts in science education judged these ideas in the top 30 Christopher Columbus Awards entries in the U.S. More than 1,000 students and coaches participated nationwide.



Arthritis Magic students are (left to right): Mary Chiang, Thomas Wiygul, Gul Shaheen



Pack-Strapz students are (left to right): Sydney Standard, Katie Nester, Shari Perkins



McDowell Environmental Center pictures above and below.



## You Can Too: Daily Decisions That Help Save the Earth

.So each year as Earth Day rolls around, you find yourself teaching Environmental Education (EE). The concepts are crucial for the youth of today to address and study. However, these concepts can also place a heavy weight on gifted students who want to solve each of the issues they learn about. Here are a few small daily changes a young person (even 50 years young!) can make to help improve the environmental condition of the earth. Some so simple, yet so powerful if we all do them. Think of them as ways to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and **Re-Think!**

### Reduce ~

- Drink from a reusable bottle or glass. Get in the habit of taking along our own water container.
- Take half the shampoo you normally do and see if that is enough.
- Shake the water off your hands before you reach for a paper towel. (you will need less towel)

### Reuse ~

- Use the back sides of your paper, whether in a notebook or in a printer.
- Reuse your ziplock bags. Wash them out and hang them up to dry.
- Use a lunch box instead of paper or plastic.
- Take cloth bags to the grocery store instead of using paper or plastic.

### Recycle~

- Start a recycling program at your school.
- Encourage your family to recycle aluminum, plastic, glass and paper at home.

### RETHINK!

- Think before you buy anything... can you buy something with less packaging?
- Think before you throw something away... can you reuse it or recycle it? Play outside!

By Maggie Wade Johnston, McDowell Environmental Center



Snapshots of the  
Legislative Coffee



## Legislative Coffee a Huge Success

The MAGC Legislative Coffee Break was held in February, was a huge success! We had the opportunity to meet with many of your Legislators and discuss the importance of their continued support of gifted education. Gifted students, parents, and teachers were recognized in the gallery of the House of Representatives. Because of your continuing support of MAGC we were able to raise the awareness of the need for Gifted Education in the state of Mississippi.

### Renew Your Membership in MAGC!

It is time again for members to renew their MAGC Membership. Not only does membership in MAGC help provide the services listed below, but a strong membership is vital when lobbying for the rights of the gifted in Mississippi. Please take a few minutes and renew today!

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 through Sept. 30, 2010

Visit the MAGC web-site to download an application!

[www.magcweb.org](http://www.magcweb.org)

We would love to hear from you if you have any ideas or questions regarding Parent Affiliates. please contact:

Yoluanda Brown at [voluanda@yahoo.com](mailto:voluanda@yahoo.com) or Kay Williams at [kav622@bellsouth.net](mailto:kav622@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. Membership costs \$25 per year.

You may download a Parent Affiliate registration form at [magcweb.org](http://magcweb.org) and send it to the address below.

Yoluanda Brown

1122 Avon Way

Jackson, MS 39206



## 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

	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
	Main Presenter's Membership Fee	\$25.00

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

## 2010 Conference Lodging Reservations

### IP Casino Resort Spa, 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, IP Casino Resort Spa 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](http://www.ipbiloxi.com) using group code: S106022 or by calling the IP Casino Resort Spa Reservations Department at 888-946-2847.

Conference attendees **must use** the MAGC Group Code: S106022 in order to receive the special room rate.

School district checks, cashier checks, or money orders are accepted by mail if received 10 business days prior to check-in:

IP Casino Resort Spa

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 Annual Conference

Imperial Palace – Biloxi, MS

**2010 MAGC CONFERENCE PROPOSAL**

*MAGC's Annual Conference will be held September 29 – October 1, 2010*

*at the Imperial Palace, Biloxi, MS.*

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:

- advocating for gifted education programs
- ideas for incorporating the fine arts
- evidence of the positive impact of gifted education programs

**Proposals are also being accepted for the Pre-Conference Workshops on Wednesday, September 29 for counselors and psychometrists.**

Completed proposals must be **e-mailed** no later than **June 15, 2010**. Notification to the main presenter will be made no later than July 15, 2010. Note that the conference registration fee will be waived for only **the main** presenter of the session. Please print or type information below:

**Main Presenter Name:**

**Institution /Affiliation:**

**Position/Job Title:**

**Home Address:**

**E-mail:**

**Telephone:**

**Co-Presenter:**

**Title of presentation:**

Typed abstract (75 words or less) of the session as it will appear in the conference program.

**CATEGORY for PRESENTATION**

**Intended AUDIENCE for PRESENTATION**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social/emotional needs of gifted students  | <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary Teachers              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Differentiating curriculum and instruction | <input type="checkbox"/> Middle School Teachers           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creativity and/or the arts                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary Teachers               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluating student progress                | <input type="checkbox"/> Parents of Gifted Children       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special populations                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Administrators and/or counselors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Developing leadership                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Psychometrists/Examiners         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gifted Eligibility Process                 |   |

Email form as an attachment to: [sandra.manning@usm.edu](mailto:sandra.manning@usm.edu) or mail form to: Dr. Sandra Manning, 166 Jeff Byrd Road, Laurel, MS 39443

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



*Announcing the return of the MAGC conference to the Mississippi Gulf Coast!!*

*MAGC Conference  
2010  
September 29-  
October 1  
Biloxi, Mississippi*

*Keynote Speaker: Dr. Joseph Renzulli*

Look for more details in our fall issue of Concepts!



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