

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



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



MS teachers were cooking up bright ideas at Creativity Night!

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 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 Seago (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 rhyming 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)

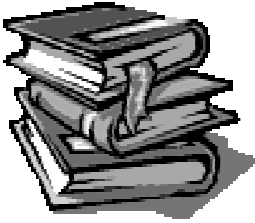
ShakeDown is a stack 'em game that requires great amounts of balance, concentration, and problem solving. On your turn, carefully lift up the *ShakeDown* tower and draw a card from the bottom of the base. If the card has a task to complete (such as spinning the tower or placing it on the ground), that 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 *Echthroï*, 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 Echthroï, 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."



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 attitude 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!

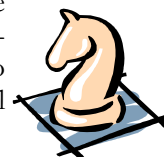
Contact your representatives!



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 Mosely at tmosely@jackson.k12.ms.us and let her know you're interested! You're wanted AND needed!

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