



Concepts!

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A Journal of the Mississippi
Association for Gifted Children

Dr. George Betts to Speak at Annual MAGC Conference

MAGC is very proud to host Dr. George Betts, as the keynote speaker for MAGC's 2005 Conference. The conference will be held in Olive Branch, MS at the Whispering Woods Hotel and Conference Center on September 29-30, 2005. More information about this year's conference, along with registration and lodging forms can be found in this issue of *Concepts*.

George Betts, Ed.D., is a Professor of Special Education in the area of gifted and talented education at the University of Northern Colorado, and former teacher and facilitator at Arvada West High School in Colorado. He has been a professor and director of the Center for the Education and Study of the Gifted, Talented, and Creative, as well as director of the Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) since 1978.

Dr. Betts is an internationally acclaimed speaker and consultant helping schools, districts, states, and national organizations implement and refine programs for the gifted and talented. He has worked extensively in the United States, Canada, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, and Taiwan. He is currently serving his sixth three-year term on the executive board of the National Association for Gifted Children.

Among the honors that Dr. Betts has earned are being featured in the book Profiles of Influence in Gifted Education, the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented in 1996 and the 1990-91 Distinguished Service Award from NAGC.

Dr. Betts was educated at Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma where he studied history and education and the University of Northern Colorado where he earned both a Master of Arts and a Doctor of Education in Psychology, Counseling and Guidance. After graduating in 1972 Dr. Betts and his wife Donni spent a year in Europe where George taught psychology classes to American military personnel. On their return to the U. S., George began teaching at Arvada West High School in Arvada, Colorado where he taught alternative programs, including Senior Seminar, working with a wide spectrum of students in out-of-classroom experiences.

At Arvada West he met colleague Jolene Kercher, and they collaborated with several gifted students to develop the Autonomous Learner Model for the Gifted and Talented. The Autonomous Learner Model is now well known and widely used worldwide. George has also written numerous books, chapters and articles on gifted education as well as nine books of poetry which were published by Celestial Arts, Berkeley, CA.

After teaching for six years at Arvada West, George returned to the University of Northern Colorado. He has been teaching there since 1979 as a Professor of Education, working with Master's and Doctoral level students in Gifted Education. It was there that he started the Summer Enrichment Program (SEP), which has served over 15,000 children in its 28 years of its operation. Dr. Betts has also served for 18 years on the Board of Directors of the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC), and he helped found the Division of Counseling. He has served as a consultant and presenter in almost every U. S. state, as well as Canada, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and Europe.

He plans to continue teaching for several years, writing, traveling and serving adults and young learners through his university programs and his consulting.



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From the Executive Director

Thanks you all of you who have been involved in our legislative efforts. I regret that I have no new information to share since there has been no special session yet. Keep abreast by following your local news media and going to the MDE Website. The past several years have proven that gifted education is certainly not in a safe harbor. This is the reason I continue to plead for a growth in membership of teachers and parent affiliate groups. The experience we have had the past couple of years of losing programs for some of our students and the overload for teachers, should drive home our need for more involvement. I would also suggest that you watch closely how your legislators vote on education and hold them accountable for that. You can do that by continuing to personally contact them and get the word out to the parents of your gifted students. The battle is not over yet!

On the national level there is a bill this year "Teacher Preparation Legislation" S.493/H.R.1156. Senators Cochran and Lott are cosponsors of this bill. This legislation has been introduced to amend the Higher Education Act (HEA) to help prepare new teachers to recognize and meet the unique needs of gifted and talented students. I have communicated with our congressmen to cosponsor and/or support the house bill. In some situations they are unable to do

that because of committee assignments. If they can't cosponsor we anticipate support for the bill. This will certainly be a boost for gifted education for regular education teachers to have this training.

Also on the national level, Dr. Castle has written a grant for Javits funding that would provide an opportunity to team gifted teachers and regular teachers to broaden the scope of gifted education in our state. MAGC will be vitally involved in this project if we do receive the grant. Combined with the current Javits Grant that our president Kate Brown directs, this would be a great distinction for Mississippi.

MDE and MAGC will be presenting a strand at the MEGA Conference in Biloxi on Monday, June 6. This session will focus on using the Standards, Strategies, and Outcomes documents to develop and/or revise Instructional Management Plans (IMP). We are excited over this opportunity and trust that many of you will be able to attend. It will certainly give you "heads up" on what is to come. You can get additional information on the MDE website.

I look forward to seeing you at the MAGC Conference in Olive Branch September 28-30. Thank you for what you have done in your respective positions to meet the needs of our gifted students. Have a great summer!

Jean C. Prather

From the MAGC President

Dear MAGC Membership,

As I write this, Mississippi schools still do not have a budget for next year, so we are unsure as an organization what the coming year will mean for gifted education. I appreciate the efforts that you have made to actively advocate for gifted education. At this time of fiscal uncertainty, it is increasingly important for us to establish parent advocacy groups who will vocalize the importance of gifted programs to the legislature. If you would like more information about starting a parent affiliate group in your area, please contact Teresa Mosely at tmosely@jackson.k12.ms.us.

With the new gifted standards emphasizing the importance of addressing the social and emotional needs of students in the G/T classroom, I am pleased

that Dr. George Betts will be our keynote speaker for this year's MAGC conference. Dr. Betts has a particular focus on this area and will inspire and motivate attendees to truly nurture the whole child. He will share valuable strategies that you can take straight back to your classroom and put into practice. In addition to the keynote address, Dr. Betts will lead a breakout session and Parent Night.

In response to the feedback provided by participants in the 2004 conference, Creativity Night will be led by De Soto County gifted teachers. The conference also offers a wide array of breakout sessions this year and many new presenters. We hope you'll join us this fall in Olive Branch to celebrate gifted education.

Kate M. Brown



**Be an advocate for gifted education!
Contact your representatives!**

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

2005 MAGC Conference News

It *isn't* too early! Register now to attend MAGC's 2005 Conference, September 29-30, Whispering Woods Hotel and Conference Center, Olive Branch, Mississippi! Once again, MAGC has secured a well-respected professional in the field of gifted education, Dr. George Betts, as our keynote speaker! Dr. Betts will also conduct a breakout session and Parent Night.

You evaluated and we listened! The De Soto County teachers of the gifted will host Creativity Night with some of their best ideas for your classroom. Your colleagues from across the state will lead breakout sessions. Listed are a few of the Creativity sessions.

- "CPS ~ Philanthropy to 3-D" – Edye Coleman
- "Connecting Curiosity with Technology" – Teresa Gregory and Kerry Boggs
- "Trash to Treasures" – Vicki Latham
- "A Little Pizzazz Goes a Long Way" – Anne Land
- "Beyond Center Stage" – Patsy Reese and Terry Meek
- "Making Masks – Facing the Real You" – Lisa Saucier
- "Fun with Visual Puns" – Connie Weaver

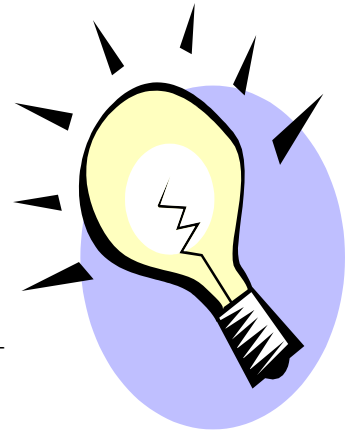
Be enticed by these sessions on differentiating the curriculum:

- "The Missing Residents Mystery?!?" – Tamarlyn Drake
- "Science Rocks!" – Wendy Hunt
- "Motivating Gifted Readers" – Sandee Manning, Tania Hanna, Heather Houston
- "Got Bloomers?" – Mitzi Nasce and Sherry Willis
- "PETS ~ Primary Education Thinking Skills" – Elaine Orrand
- "Real-Life Problem Solving" – Carol Paola
- "What's New in Literature?" – Bob Seney

Who is the most gifted person in your classroom? You are! Wesley Williams and Cecily McNair will present a session that will make you feel very appreciated! Want to make a real difference? Emily Nelson's session on "Ideas from *Rules for Radicals*" will help you get in touch with your education radical side. In addition to sessions on the social and emotional needs of the gifted and on developing leadership, you will want to attend presentations on the new standards for gifted programming, using the Teaching Strategies Notebook, grant writing, identifying giftedness, understanding assessment, the twice-exceptional gifted student, gifted preschoolers, and opportunities in Mississippi for serving older gifted and talented students.

Your interest should be sparked by this *sample* of the prospects for learning! Included in this edition of *Concepts!* are Conference registration and lodging forms. Send them in today! Hope to see YOU in September!

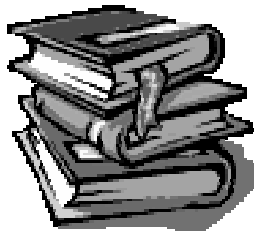
Margaret Snider
Conference Chair



MAGC would like to acknowledge and to offer gratitude to the following students for their generous contributions to MAGC Supportive Funding, in honor of special teachers.

Houston Buckley, in honor of Mrs. Rogers at Tupelo Middle School in Tupelo, MS

Nick Brewer, in honor of Mrs. Dawkins at Cook Elementary in Columbus, MS



The Bookshelf

By: Dr. Bob Seney

As we look forward to our summer reading, how about looking at this year's Newbery Award winners? This is certainly a "must" task if you have not already begun reading them and if you have, you will want to make sure that you catch them all. Normally, we begin our reviews of the Newbery books in the Spring Issue of *Concepts*, but back orders and the fact that I had not previously read any of the award books this year delayed my response. It is unusual for me not to have at least a nodding acquaintance with the Newbery Books, but they all caught me off guard this year. In checking with a couple of my colleagues, I found that they, too, were taken a bit by surprise.

As you know, the Newberys are awarded by the American Library Association and they are considered to be the academy awards of children's literature. This prestigious award is offered each year to outstanding books in children's literature, both fiction and non-fiction. The Newbery Committee names a medal winner and up to four honor books. This year's Medal Book is *Kira-Kira* by Cynthia Kadohata (2004, Atheneum Books). The three Honor Books are *Al Capone Does My Shirts* by Gennifer Choldenko (2004, G.P. Putnam's Sons); *The Voice That Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights* by Russell Freedman (2004, Clarion Books); and *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy* by Gary D. Schmidt (2004, Clarion Books). This last book was also named a Michael Printz Honor Book as well. I just received this book, so we will have to take a look at in a later *BookShelf*.

Kira-Kira is Kadohata's first book for young readers and it is her fourth novel. Her first book, *The Floating World* (1989, Viking Adult) was widely acclaimed and it is interesting to note that while it was written for an adult audience, it is narrated by a 12 year old girl and it deals with a Japanese-American family who moves to Arkansas in the 1950's. This is somewhat similar to *Kira-Kira*, which is narrated by Katie who is also 12 and who was born in 1951. In this case, Katie moves with her Japanese-American family to Georgia, where her father finds work.

The Japanese word *kira-kira* means glistening or glittering. This is a special word used between Katie and her older sister, Lynn. In fact, it represents what the two girls are looking for in their world. Lynn is the star in Katie's world. She is talented and academically gifted. Her unique view of life and her bright outlook help Katie to view and to live in their world, which is

marked by poverty and racial prejudice. Not as accomplished or academically strong as Lynn, Katie looks to her older sister for help and inspiration. Katie is almost devastated to learn that her older sister is dying. Her sister's illness almost destroys their close-knit family, but Katie finds the courage to help rebuild the wonderful and loving relationship of this special family. The relationship between Katie and her father is especially touching. *Kira-Kira* is a sensitive story that is beautifully crafted. At times, in the text itself, we find *kira-kira* – it just glistens! While I enjoyed this little novel tremendously, I was a bit surprised that it had been named as the Medal Book. True, it is beautifully written – almost lyrical at times – and has a plot that deals with some important and sensitive issues, however, it did not quite have the over-all effect that is often found in Newbery Medal Winners. This is certainly not to say that it is not worth your time to read it, on the contrary, it is a beautiful little book, but it did not, at least for me, grab my attention in the same way that many other Newbery Medal winners have. I certainly do not regret my reading time, but it just didn't have – well – the over all *kira-kira* that I expect in a Newbery Medal Book.

Two major criteria for the Newbery Awards are the quality of the writing and the book's appeal to children. Several studies have shown that a major feature of books that young readers like and want in a book is humor. Filling that bill completely and beautifully is Gennifer Choldenko's *Al Capone Does My Shirts* (2004, G.P. Putnam's Sons). This delightful novel provides a laugh on every page. What a great and very unusual concept for a book! Moose Flannigan, actually Matt but Moose to everyone because at 12 years old he is already 5 feet eleven and a half inches tall, and his family have moved to Alcatraz Island where his father has been employed as a guard and electrician. The move to San Francisco was prompted so that Moose's older sister, Natalie, could attend a special school. Natalie is autistic and in the mid 1930's little was known about this condition. This doesn't sound like the ingredients for a humorous novel, but we are dealing Gennifer Choldenko.

Choldenko's first novel, *Notes From a Liar and Her Dog* (2003, G.P. Putnam's Sons) was selected as a School Library Journal Best Book of The Year, an IRA-CBC Children's Choice, and also won the California Book Award for children's books. *School Library Journal* commented, "Choldenko has a wonderful witty way with words. Her first person narrative is humorous, tongue in cheek, and as irreverent as her independent heroine." We can easily say the same thing for *Al Capone*.

The novel is set up as Moose's diary. The first entry is dated Friday, January 4, 1935 and begins: "Today I moved to a twelve-acre rock covered with cement, topped with bird turd and surrounded by water. Alcatraz sits smack in the middle of the Bay—so close to the city of San Francisco, I can hear them call the score on a baseball game on Marina Green. Okay, not that close. But still. I'm not the only kid who lives here. There's my sister, Natalie, except she doesn't count. And there are twenty-three other kids who live on the island...Plus there are a ton of murderers, rapists, hit men, con men stickup men, embezzlers, connivers, burglars, kidnappers, and maybe even an innocent man or two, though I doubt it." (Page 1)

Thus the stage is set. The warden's daughter, Piper, is one of the twenty-three kids and she is their recognized leader. Her antics makes Moose wonder if perhaps she shouldn't be behind bars as well. It is Piper who comes up with the scheme of smuggling their classmates' shirts into their own laundry which is done by the inmates. Piper begins a "business" that she calls a "Once in a Life Time Opportunity" for their friends to have their clothing laundered by "world-famous public enemies" including Al Capone. This sets up a situation that later has several ramifications. One in particular is especially important, but I won't give that away!

Choldenko not only has a great sense of humor, but she has created some really great characters. Some of which have fairly serious issues that must be dealt with. She has created a novel that safely walks a perilous line between humor and some substantial sub-themes. This novel is really well crafted and the humor is just "icing on the cake." I can guarantee that any reader will get at least a couple of chuckles and a satisfied sense of justice and compassion.

Moose is an especially sensitively drawn character. Choldenko has given him attributes that are admirable but that also get him into trouble, sometimes humorously so. Looking for a good friend? Then I suggest that you read *Al Capone Does My Shirts* and meet Moose Flannigan. While I might have a few reservations about the Newbery Medal Winner, *Kira-Kira*, with *Al Capone* I have no reservations. Of these two books, this one would have received my vote. Read it and let me know which you would have selected.

Okay folks, I just did a word count and as usual I have gone over my limit and still two more Newbery books to go. At least you have the titles listed above and I will visit them in our next *BookShelf* in the Fall.

Happy Reading!
Bob Seney



Happenings at the Karnes Center

2005 Fall Day of Sharing—September 23, 2005 The Day of Sharing for Teachers of the Gifted will be held at the Center for Healthy Living located at the Hattiesburg Family Y. This conference is designed to educate teachers on current issues in gifted education. Teachers of the gifted, regular education teachers, and administrators are encouraged to attend. There is no cost for attendance.

Dr. Sylvia Rimm will be the keynote speaker. She will present "The Social Emotional Development of Gifted Children: Understanding and Serving their Needs." Additional speakers include Dr. Conrad Castle, and Sandee Manning, NBCT; M.S. Teachers will be given time to share activities and ideas.

Parenting Gifted Children Conference—September 24, 2005 The Karnes Center at USM will hold its 22nd annual Parenting Gifted Children Conference will be held on the campus of USM in Joseph Greene Hall and the cost of attendance is \$15. The conference is offered to assist parents and other concerned adults to better understand the unique intellectual, academic, and social-emotional needs of the gifted and talented.

Dr. Sylvia will be the keynote speaker. She will present "Growing Up Too Fast: What Parents Can Do To Help." Sessions will also be held on science activities, visual arts, young gifted children, leadership, and technology.

Advanced Degrees in Gifted Education USM offers a Master's Degree, Specialist's Degree, and a Ph.D. in curriculum, instruction, and special education with an emphasis in gifted education. This summer five courses are offered for anyone interested in beginning an advanced degree program.

The Karnes Center offers \$500.00 scholarships for persons enrolled in graduate degree programs in gifted education for the summer of 2005. To qualify, the student must meet the admission requirements of the university for master's, specialist's, or doctoral programs with an emphasis in gifted education.

For More Information Contact

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

The Autonomous Learner Model For the Gifted and Talented

By George Betts, Ed. D. & Jolene Kercher, M.S.

The Autonomous Learner Model (ALM) for the Gifted and Talented was developed specifically to meet the diversified cognitive, emotional, and social needs of learners. The model is currently implemented at all grade levels with the gifted and talented, as well as all learners in the regular classroom. Emphasis is placed on meeting the individualized needs of learners through the use of activities in the five major Dimensions of the Model.

Dimension One: Orientation

The Orientation Dimension of the Autonomous Learner Model provides learners, teachers, administrators, and parents with the opportunity to develop a foundation of the concepts of giftedness, talent, intelligence, creativity, and the development of potential. Learners discover more about themselves, their abilities, and what the ALM has to offer. Activities are presented to give learners an opportunity to work together as a group, to learn more about group process and interaction, and to learn more about the other people in the program.

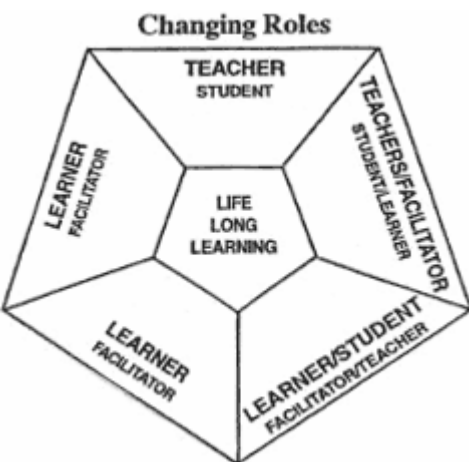
Dimension Two: Individual Development

The Individual Development Dimension of the model provides learners with the opportunity to develop the cognitive, emotional, social and physical skills, concepts, and attitudes necessary for life-long learning. In other words, learners become autonomous in their learning.

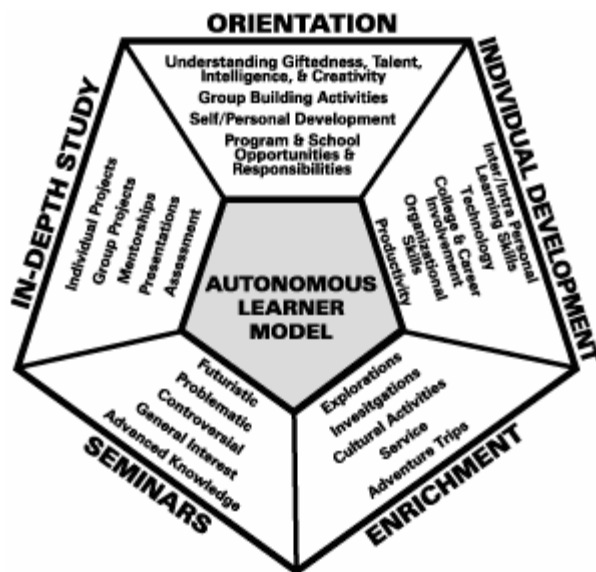
Areas within the dimension include opportunities for the inter/intrapersonal development of the learners, the appropriate learning skills for life-long learning, and the area of technology. The learners also participate in college and career involvement, the development of organizational skills and the importance of productivity skills, which are used when information is presented in a variety of ways.

Dimension Three: Enrichment

The Enrichment Dimension of the Autonomous Learner Model is developed to provide learners with opportunities to explore content and curriculum that is usually not part of the prescribed school curriculum. The highest level of learning is manifested when learners have the freedom to select and



to pursue content or curriculum in their own style. Curriculum differentiation by the learners begins with Explorations, where the goal is to "find out" what is out there. Become an explorer yourself and find new and unique knowledge in a variety of methods. The



second type of learner differentiation is Investigations. These are more in-depth than Explorations and require the learners to design, implement, complete, and present a project with a mini-product.

Learners are also involved in Cultural Activities that are designed so that they are involved in cultural events in the community. Service activities are essential and are non-negotiable. The humanitarian spirit is incorporated into the ALM. Through participation in Service activities, the majority of the learners want to make this a better world.

Dimension Four: Seminars

The Seminar Dimension of the model is designed to give learners in groups of three to five opportunities to research a topic, present it as a seminar to the rest of the class and other interested people, and to assess it by criteria selected and developed by the learners. A seminar is essential because it provides learners the chance to move from the role of student to the role of learner. If students are to truly become learners, they must have the opportunity to experience guided independent group learning, by experiencing learning in a structure that promotes the development of new knowledge.

Dimension Five: In-depth Studies

The In-depth Study Dimension of the Autonomous Learner Model empowers learners to pursue long-term in-depth studies in their passion areas. Learners determine what will be learned, how it will be learned, how it will be presented, and what facilitation will be necessary by the teacher and mentor. These plans are then implemented and completed by the learners with presentations being made at appropriate times until the completion of the project. Final presentations and assessments are given to all who are involved and interested.

Dr. George Betts is Professor of the Division of Special Education, Area of Gifted and Talented, as well as Director of the Center for the Education and Study of the Gifted at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, CO.

Hall of Honors



Hopkins Named Mississippi Teacher of the Year

Lindy Hopkins, a teacher of gifted and talented students in Lee County, was named as this year's Mississippi Teacher of the Year in May. Hopkins teaches 4th and 5th graders at Saltillo Elementary. She was praised for her innovative work with students as well as her willingness to share her knowledge and gifts with fellow teachers. Among Hopkin's other honors are being certified with the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, the Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics in 1998, being inducted into the Hall of

Three Rivers Gifted Students Honored in Art Contest

Ms. Pam Holley's gifted students at Three Rivers Elementary School on the MS Gulf Coast won special honors in the Audubon Centennial Art Contest held this April. First place went to 5th grader Emily M. Third place went to 6th grader Ryan B. Honorable mentions were won by Read R., Kartney E., and Nick W. (4th graders) and Emaleigh G., and David F. (6th graders). The students were presented their awards at a celebration at the Pelican Bay center in Moss Point, MS.

CLUE Students in Houlika, MS receive Weyhauser Grant

The 5th and 6th grade CLUE students at Houlika Attendance Center received \$1,000 from Weyhauser Company Foundation for the 2004-05 Mississippi Excellence in Recycling Award. Macey H., a 6th grade CLUE student, attended the luncheon with her teacher, Mrs. Moore on May 3, 2005 to receive the grant. She represented her school and the CLUE program at the luncheon by sharing with what being a part of earning this honor meant to her and her classmates.

Greenville Teacher and Students in the Spotlight

Congratulations go out to Mary Hardy, a teacher of the gifted at Stern Enhancement School in Greenville, MS. Hardy was elected president of the MS PTA during their April, 2005 convention. Hardy was also recently honored as an inductee in the Mississippi Hall of Master Teachers for 2004.

Students in Greenville's gifted programs have also received honors recently. Haley S., a 4th grader at Stern Enhancement School was chosen to record a piece of her writing with MS Broadcasting Networks Radio. Her writing was about her home of Greenville. The recording will be aired on Mississippi Public Broadcasting Networks as part of Rural Voices Radio.

Two more gifted students from Greenville, Douglas C., and Caleb C., traveled to Princeton, NJ this spring to attend the American Boychior School and music program. This school provides professional training as well as a traditional academic program for musically and academically talented boys between the ages of 9 and 14.

Future Problem Solving Winners

Theresa Rea, a teacher of the gifted in Harrison County, is proud to coach students who placed in this spring's Future Problem Solving Competition. Her teams placed 1st and 3rd in booklet, and 3rd and 5th in presentation. The team winning 1st place will go on to compete in the international competition in Lexington, KY in June.

Quest students at Alexander Jr. High School in Wesson, MS were also successful in FPS competition. They won all three places in the scenario writing competition. The students are Hannah R.—1st place, Ben R.—2nd place, and Rachel B., -3rd place. The students were coached by Lynn Campbell and Robin Furr.

Gifted Students Play the Stockmarket

Students in the Leap program in Grenada Middle School recently won the 1st place award for the junior division of the Stockmarket Game. The students participating are Beth J., Aaron J., Chase N., Robyn W., and Tori H. They were coached by Pat Sellars. For more information on the Stockmarket Game, visit their web site at www.mississippisms.com.

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

Roger F. Wicker



The Roger F. Wicker Center for Creative Learning opened in August, 2004 on the campus of MUW. The Center operates programs under four goal areas:

- Developing programs and services for K-12 learners
- Fostering involvement for parents of K-12 learners
- Providing teachers with professional development opportunities
- Connecting communities with schools through partnerships for learning

Programs for Parents and Students

- Parent Institutes featuring national speakers
- Workshops offered at area businesses and companies on parenting topics such as helping your child with homework
- “Mondays in Motion” program to provide opportunities for parents and children to learn together using the resources of the Center
- Student Institutes offering enrichment activities to K-12 learners

At Mississippi University for Women
Dr. Suzanne M. Bean, Director

Summer Teacher Institutes

For 2 weeks in June, the Roger F. Wicker Center for Creative Learning at MUW will host national speakers for FREE workshops for K-12 teachers from across the state. Each workshop will be from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Please join us for this exciting professional development opportunity.

Schedule of Topics

- June 13-14: Engaging Learners
- June 15-16: Differentiating Instruction
- June 20-21: Motivating and Improving Achievement of At-Risk Learners
- June 22-23: Developing Thinking and Reasoning Skills

For more information about the services provided by the Center, please visit our website: www.muw.edu/ccl. We can be reached by e-mail at center@muw.edu.

The Center is funded by a congressionally-directed grant through the U.S. Department of Education.

William Carey College's Creativity Workshop

William Carey College's Creativity Workshop program enters its fourteenth year this summer with the annual Creativity Exploration in Thomas Business Building on the Hattiesburg campus.* The program serves students from two school age groups, rising 2nd - 5th graders in the elementary program and 6th - 12th graders under the secondary publication format. Instructors develop the curriculum scaffolding from the expressed talents and interests of workshop participants. The low teacher to student ratio (a teacher for every two students) affords a rich learning environment with maximum potential for intellectual and creative development. The technologically rich environment includes designated computer lab use for student projects and also expedites publication of the *Voice of Gifted Youth* each summer.

Elementary students enter the program on Monday, July 18 and continue through Wednesday, the 20th. The three day program emphasizes creative production across a number of high interest disciplines, including the arts. Teachers locate the curriculum in specific topic areas according to a general profile of participating students. Specifics of instruction develop as students engage with content and production possibilities. Each day invites more individualization of instruction.

The focus for secondary students, July 19-21, is production of a scholarly publication, the *Voice*. Students assume roles as publication staff, undertaking the physical and intellectual preparation of a newspaper representing the summer work. Topical writing, illustrative artwork, documentary and artistic photographs, and presentation of workshop events flow through the secondary lens. Thus, the paper presents the unique perspective of this summer's participants and is solely a youth developed publication. William Carey College generously grants literary license to its young authors and responsibility for editorial and artistic content.

Debbie Meador, adjunct professor in gifted programming, shares workshop responsibilities with Center for Creative Scholars director, Dr. Read Diket. This year the workshop applications can be accessed directly from the William Carey College website at <http://www.wmcarey.edu/>. For more information, contact Read Diket at read.diket@wmcarey.edu.



2005 Conference Information
September 29-30
Whispering Woods Conference Center,
Olive Branch, MS

Schedule of Events

6: 30pm –8: 30pm	Wednesday, September 28, 2005 Registration and Vendor Setup
7: 30am – 8: 30am 8: 00am – 9: 00pm 8: 30am – 9: 00am 9: 00am – 10: 00am 10: 10am – 4: 50pm 6: 30pm 7: 00pm	Thursday, September 29, 2005 Registration Vendors Open Welcome/Opening Session Keynote Address, George Betts Breakout Sessions Family Night, Facilitated by George Betts Creativity Night – Facilitated by DeSoto County teachers
8: 00am – Noon 8: 00am – 8: 30am 8: 40am – Noon Noon	Friday, September 30, 2005 Vendors Open General Business Meeting Breakout Sessions Luncheon

Look forward to exciting and informative Breakout Sessions!
Make Plans Now to Attend!

Want to understand the stock market?

Too embarrassed to ask?

You need *Stock Market for All Ages* a book that makes it easy!

This quick reference source for anyone who wants to *know* also includes the history of Wall Street. It is used with gifted and talented students and with elementary children who play The Stock Market Game, as well as in high school civics, math, and economics classes. Author, Susie Hardeman, will be at Whispering Woods with her book and will present breakout sessions at the MAGC 2005 Conference.

The Center for Creative Learning Mini-Grants

Are you looking for an opportunity to develop new teaching strategies, engage in research related to teaching, or work with other teachers on topics of specific educational interest. We encourage you to apply for a mini-grant of up to \$2,000. Our goal is to fund innovative, action-based programs that directly impact student achievement.

We look forward to receiving your exciting proposals, which will enable you to provide students with a more creative, enhanced educational program. If your grant is awarded, you will be invited to present your project at the Center's dissemination conference. The fall deadline for proposals is October 31, 2005.

For more information contact us at...
 Center for Creative Learning
 1100 College Street, MUW 1635
 Columbus, MS 39701
 or visit our web site at <http://www.muw.edu/ccl/minigrant.html>

MAGC CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

September 29-30, 2005, Whispering Woods Hotel and Conference Center, Olive Branch, Mississippi

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

Cancellation Policy: Cancellations must be received in writing by September 19, 2005, and are subject to a \$15.00 processing fee. Refunds will not be issued before November 15, 2005.

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

Lodging: Complete separate lodging reservation form and send it directly to Whispering Woods.

MAGC Membership card # _____ expiration date _____

Name _____

Preferred Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

School District/ Organization _____

Relationship to Gifted Education _____

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND/OR MEMBERSHIP FEES		AMOUNT
SELECT ONLY ONE	Early Registration Fee\$90.00 <i>(Includes Complimentary Membership)</i> (must be postmarked by September 1, 2005)	\$
	Regular Registration Fee\$95.00 <i>(Includes Complimentary Membership)</i> (must be postmarked by September 15, 2005)	\$
	On-Site Registration Fee (after September 15, 2005)\$100.00 <i>(Includes Complimentary Membership)</i>	\$
	Undergraduate Student Registration Fee (must show student ID at registration)\$30.00	\$
	Main Presenter Membership Fee \$25.00	\$
	Family Night ONLY\$3.00 per person or \$5.00 per family	\$
	<div style="text-align: right;">TOTAL AMOUNT DUE</div>	\$

AFTER SEPTEMBER 15, 2005, BRING THIS FORM WITH YOU FOR ON-SITE REGISTRATION.
 FORMS POSTMARKED AFTER SEPTEMBER 16 WILL BE ASSESSED A \$5.00 ON-SITE SURCHARGE.

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

2005 Conference Lodging Reservation Form

Whispering Woods Hotel and Conference Center

Mississippi Association for Gifted Children

September 28-30, 2005

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

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

Name _____

Group _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Telephone _____ email _____

MAGC Group Rate: \$89.00 per room per night – single /double occupancy (All rates subject to 9% tax – per room per night.)

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Estimated Arrival Time _____ Arriving via: ___ car ___ van ___ air

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

Number and Type Rooms Requested: ___ Non-smoking ___ Smoking
 ___ 1 person: 1 bed ___ 2 persons: ___ 1 bed ___ 2 beds
 ___ 3 persons: 2 beds ___ 4 persons: 2 beds

Reservation Guaranteed by: ___ Check ___ Money Order ___ Assured by Credit Card (Complete info below.)
American Express, Visa, MasterCard

Type _____ Acct# _____ Exp. _____

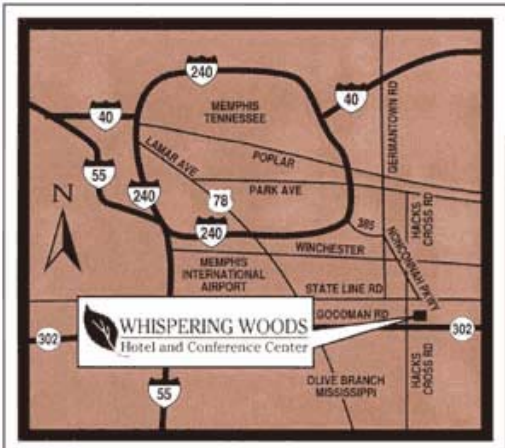
I understand that I am responsible for payment of guaranteed reservations.

Signature _____

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

Return this form to: Whispering Woods Hotel and Conference Center, Attn: Audrey Higgins, E-MAIL: audrey.higgins@ichotelsgroup.com
 11200 E. Goodman Road, Olive Branch, MS, 38654 662-895-2941 ext.177 or 358 FAX 662-895-1590

Directions to Whispering Woods Hotel and Conference Center



Directions From:

Memphis International Airport - Exit airport to I-240 East towards Nashville to 385 East (Bill Morris Parkway). Exit Hacks Cross Road south; continue for 4.5 miles. Whispering Woods is on the left.

I-40 Westbound from Nashville - Go West to I-240. Take I-240 South to 385 East (Bill Morris Parkway). Exit Hacks Cross Road south; continue for 4.5 miles. Whispering Woods is on the left.

I-40 Eastbound from Arkansas - Go East to I-240. Take I-240 towards Jackson, MS; continue on I-240 towards Nashville (not I-55 South) to 385 East (Bill Morris Parkway). Exit Hacks Cross Road south; continue for 4.5 miles. Whispering Woods is on the left.

I-55 Southbound from Arkansas - Go South to I-240 East towards Nashville to 385 East (Bill Morris Parkway). Exit Hacks Cross Road south; continue for 4.5 miles. Whispering Woods is on the left.

I-55 Northbound from Jackson, Mississippi - (South of State Highway 302) Exit State Highway 302 (Goodman Road); continue East for 14 miles. Whispering Woods is on the left.

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