

S A G E N E W S L E T T E R

ST. LOUIS ASSOCIATION
FOR
GIFTED EDUCATION

ADVOCATING FOR THE SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, AND EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF GIFTED AND TALENTED CHILDREN

SAGE celebrates 25 fruitful years

On the beautiful spring evening of Friday, May 21, 2004, SAGE celebrated its 25th anniversary with a wine-and-cheese reception at the inspiring Pere Marquette Art Gallery in DuBourg Hall at St. Louis University. More than fifty people were welcomed by Julius Hunter, Vice-President for Community Relations, St. Louis University and warmed by classroom reminiscences of Doloris Peple, GAM Outstanding Educator of 2003. SAGE was presented with a plaque honoring its dedication to gifted children by Kathlyn Fares, Missouri State Representative and Chairperson of Appropriations for Education.

In honor of the special occasion, SAGE instated the Ron Lightle Scholarship, named for a founding member of SAGE and Board Member emeritus. Although battling health problems, Mr. Lightle was present and recognized for his many years of dedicated service to our organization and gifted children. Jaime Rhoades, a board member and teacher of gifted children in the Valley Park school district, accepted the inaugural scholarship on behalf of one of her students. The scholarship covers the total cost of two College For Kids summer classes and a stipend for the accompanying SAGE Book Fair. ☼

House Resolution 3137

On May 21, 2004, Rep. Kathlyn Fares of District 91 presented SAGE with Missouri House of Representatives Resolution No. 3137. House members joined together to unanimously “applaud the long, productive history of the Saint Louis Association for Gifted Education and to convey to its members and constituents this legislative body’s heartiest congratulations as they observe the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the establishment of their esteemed organization and our sincerest best wishes for continued success for many more years to come.” ☼



Calendar of Events

DATE	PROGRAM	LOCATION	TIME
Friday November 19	Metro Council Twice Exceptional Modifications, Dr. Agnes Meyo	Clayton School District	9:00 a.m.
Saturday December 4	SAGE Open House	3205 Olive Room 201	11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Friday February 11	Metro Council Acceleration	Lindbergh School District	9:00 a.m.
Saturday April 9	Bi-Annual SAGE/GAM District A Conference	Maryville University	TBA
Friday April 15	Metro Council Fine Arts Program & Asperger's Gifted Program updates	Hazelwood School District	9:00 a.m.

Check our website at www.giftedsage.com for current information.

GAM - Gifted Association of Missouri

NAGC - National Association for Gifted Children

MODESE - Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

SENG - Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted

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The St. Louis Association for Gifted Education, a non-profit organization, provides resources and support for gifted and talented children as well as promoting programs which meet their social, emotional, and educational needs. Membership (includes SAGE Newsletter and library privileges) is \$20 per year.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2004-2005

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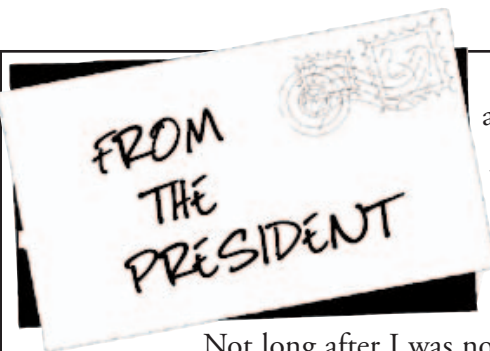
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on SLU campus

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St. Louis, MO 63108

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Not too long ago I had the privilege of becoming a member of the SAGE Board of Directors.

Not long after I was nominated to be President of this wonderful organization. I took on this responsibility with great pride as I knew that what makes SAGE so successful is the people who make up this organization. The people involved with SAGE dedicate so much of their valuable time to make the public aware of the importance of gifted education and the needs of gifted children. I am honored to be a part of such a dedicated team.

SAGE's role in advocating for the gifted is now even more important, since the number of state-funded gifted programs has been reduced over the last couple of years due to budget cuts. The need for gifted services in the private/parochial sector has increased as well. SAGE/GAPS (Gifted Advocacy for Private/Parochial Schools) committee members work diligently to find ways to assist those in the private/parochial sector interested in meeting the needs of their gifted students. Speaking of SAGE/GAPS, a recent conference titled "Filling in the Gaps: Teaching to the Top" held at Maryville University on August 14th was a huge success!

SAGE also celebrated its 25th Anniversary at Saint Louis University's DuBourg Hall on May 21st. Can you believe SAGE has been around since 1979?! We were proud to have Julius Hunter, Doloris Pepple and Representative Kathlyn Fares speak at this event on the behalf of SAGE and about the importance of gifted education.

SAGE Board members and GAM District A representatives are also currently working on the bi-annual SAGE/GAM District A conference. This conference will be in the spring. The conference will be Saturday, April 9, 2005 at Maryville University. More information will be mailed early next year.

Lastly, SAGE will be hosting its annual Open House on Saturday, December 4th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the SAGE Office located at 3205 Olive, Room 201 at the corner of Olive and Compton. Attendees will be able to mingle with others in the St. Louis area involved in gifted education, including educators and parents. Attendees will also be able to purchase books and games at that time from our extensive inventory.

I look forward to my role as President of SAGE and continuing to work with such a dedicated group of individuals and meeting others involved in advocating for gifted children.

JAIME RHOADES

SAGE proctors BESTS Tests January 29

Once again, SAGE will proctor the Belin-Blank Exceptional Student Talent Search (BESTS) for students in grades 4-6 on



Saturday, January 29, 2005 at Sperrang Middle School in the Lindbergh School District.

The BESTS is an academic talent search program sponsored by the University of Iowa which uses an above-level assessment to better determine students' specific academic strengths. By taking an 8th grade EXPLORE Assessment, participants are provided with an objective measure of a particular student's readiness for accelerative programming.

Students must pre-qualify by scoring at the 95th percentile or

above on a grade-level standardized test. Registration is completed in early fall; complete information is available at www.uiowa.edu/~belinctr/. After testing, participants will receive the Belin-Blank Center newsletter and access to the Center's programs.

Last year, SAGE proctored over fifty students. This is the only St. Louis site offering the BESTS on January 29th. Scores will be sent directly to students; SAGE does not receive any information or remuneration for providing this service to area gifted students. ☪

Metro Council Meeting at Maryville University

The first Metro Council Meeting this year was held at Maryville University on Sept. 10, 2004. Thanks to Dr. Sunny Pervil for arranging the accommodations. Many district representatives and other specialists in the field were in attendance to hear David Welch, DESE Director of State-Assisted Gifted Programs, share the status of Missouri gifted services.

One issue that is always a concern is the budget. The good news is there is more money this year: \$24,870,104, an increase of \$1.4 million from last year. However, the number of state programs being funded has dropped by 10 for two years in a row. He fears this may be a trend. Mr. Welch informed us that all state gifted applications are online and can be viewed by going to the DESE website. Being an election year, he urges us to know the candidate's

stand on funding gifted education and to contact them with our concerns.

Other points from the director concerned the Scholars Academy and the Fine Arts Academy, which were both funded this year and will be funded for another year. There were 330 and 220 in attendance, respectively. Please keep the funding in the forefront of needs, or the number of recipients will be reduced. Many teachers and parents not pursuing teaching in this field are taking more gifted education classes, which is wonderful for supporting and strengthening programs.

Mr. Welch asked us to encourage other educators to pursue gifted certification and teaching in this area. There are also many gifted education teachers retiring, making a greater need for providing outstanding services in our schools.

An additional concern was expressed about the difficulty in finding certified gifted education substitute teachers for long-term needs. Another point is the fact that curriculum guides will have to be written for all state funded gifted programs with affective needs being addressed as well as curriculum standards.

University of Missouri-Columbia has now changed its admission policy to accept students under the age of 16, which is good news for those who graduate early from accelerated programs. Speaking of accelerated programs, Dr. Nick Colangelo, with the Belin-Blank Institute in Iowa, has just released his research promoting acceleration for those who truly need it. A copy of the report is online at the Belin-Blank website. ❁

24th Annual Gifted Conference was a great success

The 24th Annual Missouri Conference on Gifted Education was a great success! The Gifted Association of Missouri and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education sponsored the conference. It was mainly geared towards educators with an emphasis on curriculum. Attendees flocked from all over the state to learn about the latest ideas in gifted education.

There were two lengthy sessions geared towards educators writing curriculum for 4th cycle MSIP. Dr. Linda Smith and Chris Puttcamp from Rockwood School District led these informative sessions.

Gifted cluster grouping was a hot topic as well. The session on gifted cluster grouping focused on how educators can initiate and maintain a cluster grouping program in their own school. This session also discussed how to integrate technology in the classroom to meet the needs of gifted students working in clusters.

There were several sessions that focused on effective teaching techniques and content area ideas for gifted students. All in all, the conference was a success, as usual, that provided some of the latest information related to gifted education. ❁

GAPS Conference: From the point of view of an attendee

by Dawn Cooksey

I was very excited to have the opportunity to attend the SAGE/GAPS conference on August 14, 2004 at Maryville University. Please allow me to explain just a bit about myself.

I am employed by Christ Community Lutheran School, which houses three campuses in the Kirkwood/Webster area. Last spring, our parents were asked to fill out a "Report Card" about the school. They indicated that a gifted program was a huge need of our school. This summer, my administrators asked me to begin a gifted program at our school.

My administrator knew I had taught Gifted Education in South Dakota before moving here over two years ago. I accepted a regular education, part-time position at this school in order to spend more time with my very young son. He knows I have a heart and a passion for gifted learners, since I myself was grade advanced, and my chil-

dren have been identified as gifted. He saw the announcement of the upcoming conference and suggested that I attend.

There were many facets of the conference that I felt were very beneficial. First, I had left most of my professional library in South Dakota, as it was paid for with school funds. I was able to browse the SAGE book fair and begin to rebuild my supply, as well as finding catalogs to order from when more funds allow.

Second, I was able to meet other individuals who care deeply about gifted education in our area. Through this networking, I found out about the upcoming GAM conference in October, and was able to make plans to attend.

I felt the most helpful session for me was conducted by Nancy Polette. She was a very lively, engaging speaker, and shared a wealth of ideas that could be used immediately. She shared projects that had been done by students she had worked with as examples. Her handout was extremely full of easy

to use activities that gifted learners will benefit from.

Overall, I thought the Saturday conference was of great benefit to me as a gifted educator in this area. I am very please to know that SAGE and GAPS are there to help me take on what seems like a very overwhelming undertaking

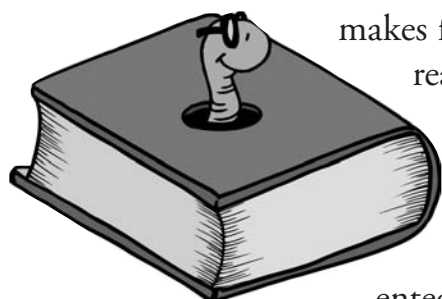
— beginning a gifted program from the ground up in a non-public school. I hope to stay informed and be able to attend more conferences in the future. ☺



Dr. Carolyn Cooper
Concurrent Session Presenter
at the GAPS Conference

Profiles of Influence in Gifted Education: Historical Perspectives and Future Directions

by Frances A. Karnes and Stephanie A. Nugent, Editors



This paperback book is available through the SAGE Office and makes for interesting reading. One can find the most popular figureheads in gifted and talented, as well as the

ones who started the concept back in the early 1900s. You will even find a certain person who has recently returned to the St. Louis area after 10 years in the state of Maryland.

This book is a must for graduate level classes and for any teacher of the gifted who wants information on those who have gone before (and are still at it). ☺

MSA - The Best Three Weeks of Your Life: *So Far*

by Nicholas Kirschman


The Missouri Scholars Academy (MSA) is a three-week academic program for 330 of Missouri's gifted students who are ready to begin their junior year in high school. The academy is a residential program held on the campus of the University of Missouri-Columbia.

When philosopher Albert Camus was searching for a model for humanity, he chose the mythical king of Corinth, Sisyphus. The reputation of Sisyphus is mixed, to say the least. Some said he was a great man who cheated death while others called him a thief and brigand. Homer viewed Sisyphus as the wisest and the most prudent of all mortals. He was the founder and the king of Corinth in his youth. Due to his lust for life, he outwitted death and Zeus was forced to punish him. His punishment was to roll a rock up a hill only to have it roll back down again. He was cursed to do this for all eternity.

Camus was interested in him not because of his punishment but because of the experience of standing at the top of the mountain, the very moment that he has reached the top, the moment the rock has rolled back down, and Sisyphus stands alone, looking out over the mountain tops. That moment, the break from his endless labor, Camus viewed as one of clarity, of total awareness, of enlightenment. MSA, for a teacher, is that moment: you stand at the summit, able to survey all the surrounding landscape. You have the resources of a first rate university, a wonderful support staff and the best students that Missouri has to offer. What is created is a true learning community in the classical Athenian sense: a place where all perceptions, all beliefs and all experiences can be questioned, challenged and reconsidered for both the students and the faculty. I do learn just as much from my students as, hopefully, they learn from me. The days are filled with classes, afternoon

activities and evening presentations. The choices range from challenging the world champion of Scrabble to a game, learning how to play GO and discussions on Great Equations of the 20th Century or Medical Ethics. The community created is vital to the continuing success of the program. Communities are being created constantly throughout the three weeks. Scholars form communities in their major classes, their minor classes, in PSD (the affective needs part of MSA), in the houses in which they live and in the activities in which they choose to participate. A safe, enriching environment is created which allows the students to be who they are. "Nerd pride" tee-shirts are frequently seen. While I am proud of the work I do with my high school students the other nine months of the year, the Missouri Scholars Academy is my real job. 🌟

Nicholas Kirschman has taught at MSA for the last 5 years and teaches social studies at Webster Groves High School. He can be contacted at kirschman.nicholas@mail.webster.k12.mo.us. Visit the Missouri Scholars Academy Website at <http://moscholars.org/>.



MSA:
**a true
learning
community**

Need a Speaker? SAGE can provide!

Our organization has been providing experienced speakers on various topics pertaining to the education of the gifted child for 20+ years.

If your school group, Parent-Teacher Association, teacher in-service needs center at all on the gifted and talented learner, call our hotline! New topics include "Hurdles to Success," "Survival of the Gifted," "Fostering Creativity," and "Administrative Recognition of Needs." Of course, our resources are second to none! 🌟

SAGE shares its volumes

SAGE is donating over 50 volumes each to gifted and talented programs in St. Louis Co., the home school organization, SHARE, and St. Louis University's Education Department. SAGE's own library will increase by over 200 volumes after these donations, thanks to the hundreds of books donated by long-standing member Ron Lightle. Check out SAGE's shelves or request an updated library list.

Gifted Parent Support Group: Gifted Support Services for Parents of Gifted Children

Sessions conducted by

Dr. Agnes Meyo, Psychologist

Dottie Fundakowski, MA Ed, Gifted Coordinator, Webster University, Certified Gifted K-12

Parent Support Sessions begin promptly at 7:00 PM and end promptly at 8:30 PM.

Session locations vary. Please call for location updates. (314-601-6358)

Sessions are for parents and adults only.

#1: Social Emotional/Characteristics

SEPTEMBER 17

Introduction and analysis of common characteristics of gifted children and social emotional issues

#2: Early Identification/Testing

OCTOBER 8

Discussion of various assessment measures used to identify giftedness

#3: Parenting the Gifted

OCTOBER 29

Can you pass the quiz?

#4: Motivating the Gifted Child

NOVEMBER 19

#5: Perfectionism

JANUARY 14

Characteristics of perfectionism and effective strategies to ameliorate perfectionism in the gifted child.

#6: Enhancing Self Esteem

FEBRUARY 4

#7: Friendships In and Out of School

FEBRUARY 25

#8: Adolescent Gifted

MARCH 18

#9: Underachievement and ADHD

APRIL 8

Characteristics of children with ADHD, LD, and pervasive developmental disorders

#10: Advocacy for Gifted Children

APRIL 29

Goals and Objectives of the Parent Support Group:

- Recognize and support special emotional needs of gifted children and their families
- Provide research-based information on parenting gifted children
- Provide opportunities for parents of gifted children to communicate with other parents to share experiences, ask questions, and learn effective parenting skills related to giftedness
- Develop a support system for parents to explore problem solving strategies beneficial in parenting gifted children
- Provide parents with resources on gifted children, gifted education, and professional organizations supporting gifted children

The Gifted Parent Support Group is solely a parent support group and, therefore, not a mental health treatment service. As a support group, we provide no rendition of professional counseling, diagnosis, or assessment of mental health. Referrals for professional counseling and/or educational support and consultation are available on request. 🌟

POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL. PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY.



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SAGE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The St. Louis Association for Gifted Education invites you to join or renew your membership to the largest organization in the St. Louis metropolitan area whose aim is to advocate for services which meet the social, emotional, and educational needs of gifted children.

Membership benefits include:

- free use of the lending library and all resources at the SAGE office
- regular meeting notices
- discount on books at the annual open house
- the *SAGE Newsletter*
- the opportunity to meet with and support those who advocate for gifted children.

Annual membership dues are \$20.

Make check payable to: SAGE MEMBERSHIP
P. O. Box 4739
St. Louis, MO 63108
314-878-5029

MEMBERSHIP New Renewal

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SCHOOL DISTRICT _____

SCHOOL NAME _____

Please check appropriate box/es.

I am a:

- Teacher - Gifted Education
- Teacher - Regular Classroom
- School Administrator
- Program Coordinator
- Parent
- Homeschooler
- Board of Education Member
- Other: _____

Please select the level/s of your concern:

- Pre-elementary
- Elementary
- Middle School
- High School
- College/University