

S A G E NEWSLETTER

ST. LOUIS ASSOCIATION
FOR
GIFTED EDUCATION

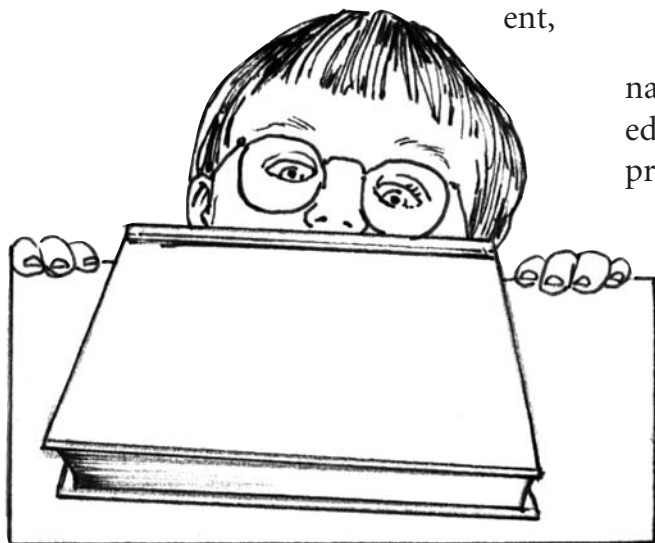
ADVOCATING FOR THE SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, AND EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF GIFTED AND TALENTED CHILDREN

Inquiring Minds Conference Coming in March 2006

by Michelle Ryder

Mark your calendars for Wednesday evening and Thursday, March 1-2, 2006 for the *Inquiring Minds, Responsive Teachers: Challenging Gifted Students in the Regular Classroom* conference. This conference explores how regular classroom teachers, parents, and administrators can work to maximize learning opportunities for gifted students

Whether you are a
parent,



teacher, or administrator, you will leave this conference with concrete suggestions and an awareness of the issues involved in quality education.

Keynote speaker Susan Baum, Ph. D. will present two sessions:

- WEDNESDAY EVENING
Supporting Gifted Children: Labels and Beyond
- THURSDAY MORNING
To Be Gifted and ??? ...
Understanding and Responding to Dual Exceptionalities

Dr. Baum is a national and international education consultant and professor in the education of gifted and talented students. She will spend time with teachers, parents and administrators sharing her more than 30 years of experience in public schools as a

classroom teacher, special education teacher, teacher of the gifted, and learning disabilities specialist.

She is a renowned writer and lecturer on gifted and talented education. Her most recent books are titled *Toolkit for Teens: A Guide for Helping Adolescents Manage Stress* and *To Be Gifted & Learning Disabled: Strategies for Meeting the Needs of Gifted Students – LD, ADHD, and More* (revised edition).

The Inquiring Minds conference is sponsored by the University of Missouri – St. Louis, Gifted Association of Missouri, Gifted Resource Council, and St. Louis Association for Gifted Education.

Attention teachers, parents, and administrators—

**THIS CONFERENCE IS
FOR YOU!**

Calendar of Events

DATE	PROGRAM	LOCATION	TIME
Friday Nov. 18	Metro Council Meeting Topic: Program Evaluation	Clayton School District	9 - 11 a.m.
Monday Dec. 5	Registration begins for College for Kids	(Proof of giftedness due Jan. 9) Call 314-984-7352 for further information	
Saturdays Feb. 4 thru Mar. 11	Spring College for Kids	SLCC-Meramec Campus	9:30 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.
Friday February 10	Metro Council Meeting Topic: Program Evaluation	Ladue School District	9 - 11 a.m.
Wed., March 1 Thurs., March 2	Inquiring Minds, Responsive Teachers Conference	University of Missouri - St. Louis	
Friday April 28	Metro Council Meeting Topic: Program Evaluation	St. Louis City Schools	9 - 11 a.m.

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

GAM - Gifted Association of Missouri

MODESE - Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

NAGC - National Association for Gifted Children

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 2005-2006

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FROM
THE
PRESIDENT

Over the past few years the attention to

gifted children in private and parochial schools has increased tremendously. Parents, educators and administrators from various schools around St. Louis have expressed their concerns and needs for wanting to understand and meet the needs of this exceptional population of children.

SAGE has been a popular resource for these schools and the individuals affiliated with them. GAPS (Gifted Advocacy for Private/Parochial Schools), a subgroup of SAGE, addresses the special needs of the gifted and talented in these sectors of education. GAPS also provides support and resources and establishes workshops geared towards gifted education in private and parochial schools.

Currently, SAGE has been working with individuals from Saint Louis

University to make stronger connections with those associated with private and parochial schools and with SLU itself. The SAGE Board of Directors would like to personally thank those from SLU who have helped SAGE in making gains in gifted education: Julius Hunter, Rina Chittooran, Martha Allen, Linda Bufkin and Bethany Hill-Anderson. The work of these individuals has been a valuable resource when promoting the importance of gifted education.

Working with gifted children in any school environment can be both exhilarating and frustrating for both staff and students. Often, those who are gifted will leave teachers feeling exhausted and overwhelmed. SAGE is one organization in the St. Louis area that can help others learn to manage and properly meet the needs of those considered gifted and talented. Continued growth within the SAGE organization and the strengthening of connections with other organizations will aid SAGE in our future endeavors in gifted education.

Sincerely,

JAIMÉ RHOADES

College For Kids Scholarships

by Gloria Decker

Remember, SAGE offers scholarships to gifted/talented children to attend College for Kids held in March and August at St. Louis Community College at Meramec.

Call Janet Turnbough, Director of College for Kids, at 314-984-7352. ☎



Underserved Gifted Populations: Responding to their Needs and Abilities

Edited by Joan Franklin Smutny

Published by Hampton Press, Inc. (2003)

Reviewed by Amanda Schmidt

Overall Framework:

What underlying factors/circumstances/challenges have made particular groups of gifted students difficult to recognize and serve within the existing mainstream system of gifted education?

Review of Book:

This book focuses on how there are so many children from certain backgrounds who are not well represented in gifted programs—the topics that make gifted children invisible or unqualified for gifted services. A wide range of topics is covered, including the environmental influences (urban, rural, impoverished), special learning problems, culture (multicultural, bilingual), age (early childhood), and gender (girls). These are the children who are “falling through the cracks” in our gifted programs. When gifted children are not identified, their abilities are untapped and invisible. Their talents aren’t able to develop and advance because they

aren’t challenged.

The editor stresses her belief that it is important for educators to be active and persistent advocates for the rights of gifted children by accepting the challenge of resolving the problems of under representation of these children in gifted programs—a belief I agree with completely. This main theme is integrated throughout the readings with selections by thirty-four authors who describe the inadequacy of our current educational system to identify the talents of non-mainstreamed gifted populations. These authors are very creditable because they write based on first-hand experience and research.

The editor also presents the text in a very non-biased way—she is informing the reader and not persuading them to believe one thing or another. Her hope is that this book “will function in an interventionist way, making giftedness more visible and identifiable in less mainstream contexts” (p. 3).

I would recommend this book for everyone to read who works with gifted children. It presents many common dilemmas in gifted education that might be decreased if more educators were informed on them. These are issues that are real and directly affect the children we work with.

Chapter 21:

*Gifted Girls:
Underachieving Politely,
Blending Perfectly,
Disappearing Quietly,
Succeeding Differently*

By Spomenka

Calic-Newman

This chapter strives to describe the gifted girl in many different aspects. The author, who teaches graduate-level courses in gifted education, explains how gifted girls lose self-esteem, experience declines in achievement, and lose career options as adolescents. She explains how gifted girls are able to comprehend cognitively what they are not yet able

Continued on page 5

Recommends ...

- **Best Teacher “Stuff”**
by Johnson
- **Differentiating Instruction in the Regular Classroom**
by Heacox
- **Growing Good Kids**
by Delisle
- **Guiding the Gifted Child**
by Webb
- **Perfectionism**
by Adderholt & Goldberg
- **Smart Boys**
by Kerr & Cohen
- **Smart Girls**
by Kerr
- **Survival Guide for Teachers of Gifted Kids**
by Delisle & Lewis
- **Teaching Gifted Kids in the Regular Classroom**
by Winebrenner
- **When Gifted Kids Don’t Have All the Answers**
by Delisle & Galbraith



Underserved Gifted Populations

Continued from page 4

to deal with socially and emotionally.

The author then goes on to portray the developmental stages gifted girls go through—from young girls as dreamers and achievers, to the adolescent years of the desire to blend, to the college years where they dream of romance, and finally to adulthood, where their dreams fade. Gifted girls face many struggles throughout their develop-

ment. “Dissatisfaction with ones life, depression, anxiety, perfectionism, exhaustion, isolation, and a feeling of underachievement may be dangerous results of dilemmas and expectations confronting the gifted women of today” (p. 399). Gifted girls only achieve enough not to be noticed.

Through all of her depictions, the author consistently cites multiple research studies, books,

and authors to support her statements. It reminds me of a literature review, due to the extensive citations—it’s not just an opinion paper. By doing this, the author presents you with a very thorough and clear perception of the gifted girl at all stages of her life. She presents you with the facts and doesn’t try to persuade you into believing one thing or another—that is up to you to decide.



25th Annual Missouri Conference on Gifted Education

by Lis Schraer

The 25th annual Missouri Conference on Gifted Education, co-sponsored by the Gifted Association of Missouri and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, was held at Tan-Tar-A Resort on October 9-11, 2005. This year's theme was "Create, Challenge, Inspire."

There were nine workshop sessions held over the three days, not counting the keynote address by Dr. Julia Link Roberts, who spoke on "Advocating for Gifted Children and Our Future" on Monday morning. There were a total of 49 different workshops offered. There

were also some two-hour sessions, titled "Curriculum Conversations," which were broken down by grade levels taught, as well as new programs and one-person programs.

One of the most interesting workshops attended by SAGE members was "Whether or Not to Preserve Our U. S. Historical Architecture." It covered a unit designed for upper elementary or middle school students beginning with research into historic lighthouses and ended with a project involving historical architecture in the students' own community.

Other areas covered in

workshops included engineering, affective needs curriculum, and assessment of student work.

The exhibit hall had a small but select group of vendors specializing in the needs of gifted educators; the SAGE table was quite popular.

Next year's conference will be held October 15-17, 2006. A Call for Proposals was included in the conference notebook and copies are available from GAM; the postmark deadline for presentation proposals is April 1, 2006. ☼

Surf the new and improved SAGE Website!

by Jaime Rhoades

The SAGE website—<http://www.giftedsage.com>—received a makeover this summer by *one2creative*. If you have not had a chance to visit SAGE's new and improved website, please take the time to do so.

The site is easy to navigate and contains a wealth of information for parents, educators and others interested in information pertaining to giftedness.

Some of the features of



[giftedsage.com](http://www.giftedsage.com) include a SAGE Newsletter archive, membership information, services and activities sponsored or affiliated with

SAGE, links to articles and resources in the St. Louis and surrounding areas, and information about SAGE, including its history. ☼

Gifted Advocacy for Private and Parochial Schools Workshop Nov. 5, 2005

by Donna Kerwin

Approximately 70* individuals attended this “first-of-its-kind” Saturday event on the campus of St. Louis University. The highly successful program was offered in the Knight’s Room of Pius XII Memorial Library, followed by an OPEN HOUSE at the SAGE office. A committee of SAGE Board members, Julius Hunter, Martha Allen, Rina Chittooran and Bethany Hill-Anderson did much to insure the positive outcome of this offering.

The morning began with a warm entertaining welcome by SLU Vice President of Community Relations, Julius Hunter, who presented SAGE with a copy of his newest publication! Sheila Glazer led an energizing panel discussion

“Meeting the Educational Needs of the G/T.” Special thanks to the panel participants:

Debbie Kopff, parent
Lisa Horner, teacher
Judy Talleur, principal
Yong Deng, SLU student

Participants then regrouped into simultaneous sessions. “The Good, Bad, and Not-So-Ugly Stuff That Works” were led by experienced educators Terry Keller, Linda Hohenberger, and Joan Brennan. Great ideas were voiced and shared!

The noontime boxed lunch gave attendees the option of dialoguing with Margaret (Wolf) Finley about “Meeting Social and Emotional Needs of the G/T.” Each participant received a folder as well as

additional session handouts. Then they had the opportunity to visit the SAGE office to view and/or purchase materials. It was a valuable Saturday for caring, sharing, and advocating for the children we all hope are NEVER LEFT BEHIND!!

A special thank you to Joan Brennan, Pattie Schaefer, Sheila Glazer, Sarah Dowd and especially, Martha Allen. ☺

*19 schools represented.
Approximate breakdowns:

2 librarians
29 educators
2 counselors
8 parents
27 students



Gifted Parent Support Group

Gifted Support Services for Parents of Gifted Children

Facilitated by:

Dr. Agnes Meyo, Psychologist, Gifted Children and Adults

Dottie Barbeau, MA. Ed, Gifted Coordinator Webster University

• January 10, 2006

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

• February 7, 2006

Enhancing Self-Esteem

• March 14, 2006

Friendships In and Out of School

• April 11, 2006

Underachievement and ADHD – Characteristics of children with ADHD, LD, and pervasive developmental disorders.

• May 9, 2006

Advocacy for Gifted Children

Phone 314-601-6358 for more information. ☺

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE W-(____)_____ H-(____)_____

E-MAIL _____

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