



World Gifted

NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLD COUNCIL FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED CHILDREN

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 1

JANUARY 1985



SIXTH WORLD
CONFERENCE
UPDATE

About 300 contributions from some 30 countries have now been accepted by the Organizing Committee. There will be 5 major symposia, and a number of others on special topics, as well as 2 two-day poster sessions and about 30 90-minute workshops. Contributions will be grouped to yield "streams": one will be of particular interest to parents, another to practicing teachers, and a third will emphasize theoretical issues. Keynote speakers include, among others of the German Democratic Republic, Dr. James Gallagher and Dr. Julian Stanley of the United States, and Mr. Henry Collis of the United Kingdom.

Letters have already been sent out to all those who submitted proposals on the official Abstract Form. If you sent in an abstract but have heard nothing, please wait a few days and then contact the Organizing Committee. Many people wrote in before the official Abstract Forms became available and indicated their interests in submitting a proposal. However, a number have not confirmed this by submitting an abstract. In the event that a misunderstanding has occurred, the Organizing Committee would still be willing to consider abstracts from such people, provided that they are sent immediately, and on the official Abstract Form. (This form can be obtained in the United States by contacting the World Council Secretariat at the University of South Florida (813) 974-3410.)

Participants are urged to make travel arrangements in the very near future, as a serious problem is developing with regard to reservations for air travel to and from the Conference, especially in the case of North American participants. The official North American Travel Agency, 2001 Travel Services, of Peterborough, Ontario, Canada (telephone number 705-748-2758) can only guarantee accommodation on preferred flights until February 1. Hotel accommodations in Hamburg can only be guaranteed in the Conference Hotels and at reduced rates for bookings received before this deadline by 2001 TRAVEL SERVICES, or in Hamburg by HAPAG-LLOYD.

Participants are also urged to remember to add 10 German marcs to the Bank Checks they send to pay for Registration fees, to cover for bank transfer charges. Where less than the full amount has been received, payment of the balance will be requested at the time of registration.

The WORLD COUNCIL and the CONFERENCE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE look forward to seeing you in Hamburg in August. For more information contact: Hamburg Gifted Conference/Psychologisches Institut II/Von-Melle Park 5/ 2000 Hamburg 13/ Federal Republic of Germany.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

James J. Gallagher

The theme of a recent conference in Tel Aviv, Israel, posed a critical issue for those of us interested in gifted children. That theme was equity versus excellence in education. The keynote speaker, Dr. James Coleman of the University of Chicago, posed the central dilemma.

If educational standards are set high in order to challenge the best students then many of the average or slow students will be unable to perform well. If the educational standards are set low then the best students are left bored and unfulfilled.

The nineteenth century solution of many countries was to sort out a small number of high performance students for higher education while the rest were shunted into vocational work or training. Few societies wish to do that in the Twentieth Century where "as much education for as many students as possible" is the theme. Thus, the dilemma posed by Coleman.

What is needed is the acceptance of a differentiated curricula to meet the wide range of needs and aptitudes that universal education brings forth. Only then will the gifted students be challenged without endangering the self-image of other students.

An Inroad For Gifted Education in Latin America**FROM THE SECRETARIAT**

Dorothy Sisk

The first Inter-American Conference (September 23 - 27) on Gifted and Talented was held in Mexico City at the University of the Americas under their cooperative sponsorship with the World Council.

Professor Janet Saenz was the coordinator of what turned out to be a very successful meeting. There were over 200 participants including teachers, parents, school administrators and psychologists attending presentations by Dr. James Gallagher, Nora Maier, Sandy Kaplan, Elena Konstat, Barbara Clark, Irina Arroyo, June Maker, Russell McNeilly, Dorothy Sisk, Zayre Mendez.

The highlight of the conference was the ample opportunity to speak with educators from other countries and share ideas and materials. A network for future correspondence was established allowing participants to maintain communication. In addition, the participants had the pleasure of visiting areas of interest in and around Mexico City, such as the pyramids, the Floating Gardens, and performances of the local ballet. Several people also were able to visit Puebla and were hosted by Senora Irina Arroyo at her school for the gifted. Maria Helena Novaes de Mira and Mrs. Zela Arnett were on hand to share materials and ideas with the teachers.

The enthusiasm was high and the need for continued involvement is essential if this inroad is to be maintained.

WORLD GIFTED is the newsletter of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children published 2 - 3 times a year at the University of South Florida. Inquiries, suggestions and items for inclusion for future issues should be sent to: Newsletter Editor, World Council for Gifted and Talented Children, HMS 414, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida 33620.

**LONGITUDINAL RESEARCH:
IDENTIFICATION AND
GUIDANCE OF HIGHLY
GIFTED CHILDREN**

A longitudinal study of highly gifted children has been initiated by Professor Dr. K. A. Heller in Munich, Germany. For the purpose of this study "giftedness" is defined as a marked pattern of talents with the following factors of abilities: general and/or specific intellectual abilities, creative abilities, artistic abilities, social competence, and psychomotoric abilities.

The aims of the planned study are (1) the development of a suitable diagnostic instrument for means of identification, (2) the development and testing of concepts and models for guidance and counseling of gifted children and (3) the observation of the development of the gifted in a longitudinal study.

The study is planned for a period of six years. During the first three years, the study will be concentrated on the identification of the gifted and the validation of the diagnostic instrument. The testing will take place each year. The specific problems of the highly gifted children and their parents will be considered during this period. Typical problems which occur at different ages are to be collected, as they are the basis for suitable counseling concepts. Their testing and evaluation will be the focus of the next three years study.

**PROGRAM PROFILE:
VISUAL AND PERFORMING
ARTS IN GUAM**

All students from preschool through 12th grade in Guam's public and private schools are eligible for participation in GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) Visual and Performing Arts Program. The primary functions of the program is to identify talented students in the arts and to provide special educational services to identified students and other highly motivated students in the arts.

Students may be nominated in one or more of the major artistic areas: Visual Arts (painting, sculpture, pottery, photography, video production, and ethnic crafts); Music (vocal, instrumental, western, or ethnic music); Drama (puppetry, clowning, acting); and Dance, (activities in modern, classical, or ethnic dance).

Students who meet the GATE performance criteria may elect to participate in resource room activities, Saturday classes, Kids' Eye on Guam T.V. series, special summer school, music and dance productions, master classes in the arts, workshops, competitions and exhibitions.

The GATE Visual and Performing Arts Program also provides many opportunities for non-identified students to participate in GATE activities. These activities provide an arena from which future GATE students are nominated and selected for the arts program. For further information, contact: Administrator/GATE Visual-Performing Arts Program/Division of Special Education/P. O. Box DE/Agana, Guam 96910.

**INTERNATIONAL
NETWORK**

Dr. E. Paul Torrance has established a communication system for teachers, students and other educators to share concerns, expertise and visions for the future through an International Network of Gifted Children and Their Teachers. More than 6000 students and 500 teachers from fourteen countries are already participating in the Network, which is under the auspices of the Torrance Studies for Gifted, Creative and Future Behaviors at the University of Georgia (USA). To join the Network, request registration forms from: Dr. E. Paul Torrance, 325 Alderhold Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602 USA.

The following information was submitted by World Council Delegate Klaus Urban (West Germany):

**FIRST DUTCH
SYMPOSIUM
ON GIFTEDNESS**

The first Dutch symposium on giftedness was held in May, 1984, in Nimegen, Netherlands. The theme was "Hoogbegaafden in Onze Samenleving" ("The Gifted in Our Society"). The conference was organized and sponsored by the Hugo de Groot Foundation in cooperation with the Department of Developmental Psychology of the Catholic University of Nijmegen.

**FIRST WORLD QUIZ BEE
MANILA, PHILLIPINES**

Youths from various nations will gather in Manila December, 1985, for the First World Quiz Bee, an academic olympiad in the areas of science, mathematics, history and culture. The theme will be "Quiz Bee for Peace" to emphasize the role of children and youth in the achievement of peace and international understanding.

A highlight of the project will be the awarding of the Romulo Prize to the competition winners. The Romulo prize has been named for General Carlos P. Romulo, founding chairperson of the Quiz Bee Foundation, to promote academic excellence among children and youth of the world and to inspire them to be socially involved in the family of mankind.

The Romulo Prize will also be awarded to outstanding international statesmen, educators and civic leaders who will be nominated to the Foundation's board of trustees. The Romulo Prize will, thus, recognize the winner's excellence and victory in the global olympiad and the international board's efforts in developing youth to work for world peace.

Students on the junior (10 - 13 years old) and senior (14 - 17 years old) levels who participate will experience international living through cultural exchange programs and the hospitality of Filipino families. Dates for the Quiz Bee will be December 1 - 10, 1985. For more information, contact: Mr. Rasty Tayag, Secretary General/Quiz Bee Foundation/Ramon Magsaysay Center/Roxas Boulevard/Metro Manila, Phillipines.

**PUBLICATION:
PARENT GUIDE**

Frieda Painter, World Council Delegate from the United Kingdom has authored a practical guide for parents of exceptionally bright children. **LIVING WITH A GIFTED CHILD** includes common problems of the highly gifted and how to solve them, working with individual teachers and education systems, family relationships, identification of exceptional ability, the gifted adolescent and a variety of other topics of interest to parents of gifted children. To order, or for more information, contact: Souvenir Press, 43 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3PA (1984, 8.95)

FIRST WORLD
GIFTED POLL
RESULTS

23 readers from around the world responded to the first World Gifted Poll's questions about personal perceptions regarding the nature and prevalence of giftedness. Respondents from the United States, Canada, West Germany, Australia, Nigeria and Micronesia/Polynesia generally favor a broad definition of giftedness that includes intellectual ability, general or specific exceptional achievement, fine arts ability, creative ability and leadership ability. Frequently mentioned additions include athletic and social ability. While the majority of the respondents consider from 3 - 10% of the population to be gifted, one respondent from the United States views more than 20% as gifted and talented. Most respondents who operate within an "official" definition of giftedness would prefer a broader definition than is currently utilized.

Below are some comments of individual respondents to the first World Gifted Poll:

"Exceptional achievement can get lost in 'what kind' of achievement questions. It is better to delineate an area and be fairly clear what about the level of exceptionality that is gifted." (Australia)

"I believe that no area of constructive human endeavor should be excluded from our recognizing and valuing creativity and excellence. We should aim to be aware of the 'growing edge' of knowledge/functioning in every field - and call 'gifted' those who are able and willing to move toward that edge." (United States)

"All discussions on leadership ability should bear the stamp: Handle with extra care . . . Hitler and Stalin undoubtedly were leaders." (West Germany)

". . . creative potential continues to be difficult to identify. When clarity is achieved, the power of interaction between the intellectually gifted and the creative will be awesome to behold. Leadership ability is fascinating to contemplate, but seemingly amorphous to behold." (United States)

"Pluralism is vital in finding and nurturing all exceptional ability-both for the individual and our cultures." (United States)

"Minority populations require a broader range of classifications; different talents are valued across cultures and within subsets of cultures." (Micronesia)

World Council Delegate Sandy Kaplan (USA) suggested that readers of World Gifted be queried about the sources of support for advocacy efforts. Readers are invited to submit observations on the following question:

WORLD GIFTED POLL:
ADVOCACY

WHAT FACTORS SEEM TO FACILITATE OR INHIBIT
ADVOCACY EFFORTS FOR THE GIFTED WITHIN YOUR
COUNTRY?

Responses will be analyzed and trends reported in the next issue of World Gifted. Readers are also invited to submit issues and questions that they would like to see addressed in future polls to the Newsletter Editor. Let us hear from you.

**WORLD CONFERENCE
TRAVEL AND STUDY
OPPORTUNITIES**

World Council Delegate Irving Sato will host a European tour that will include the 1985 World Conference. The July 30-August 18, 1985 Deluxe European Sojourn will originate in New York City and will include visits to Oslo, Copenhagen, Hamburg, Berlin, Vienna, Salzburg, Lucerne and Geneva. Graduate travel credit is available through Widener University. For information, contact: Will Travel, Inc., 1069 N. Second Street Pike, Richboro, Pennsylvania 18954.

World Council Delegate Dr. Alexenia Baldwin will direct an England and Germany Summer Seminar that will also include the 1985 World Conference. Graduate credit for the July 21-August 6, 1985 seminar will be available through the State University of New York at Albany. For information, contact: Dr. Alexenia Y. Baldwin, ED 309 SUNYA, 1400 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12222 USA.

**INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE**

**MULTICULTURAL SKILLS IN MULTIETHNIC SOCIETIES:
THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF YOUTH** will be the theme of a conference to be held in San Antonio, Texas,

USA, May 12-17, 1985. This meeting will be the tenth congress of The International Society for Intercultural Education, Training and Research (SIETAR INTERNATIONAL) and association concerned with promoting effective intercultural interaction. Included in the May conference will be two days of workshops for high school and university students. For more information, contact: SIETAR International Secretariat/1414 Twenty-second Street, N.W., Suite 102/Washington, D.C./USA/20037.

WORLD COUNCIL FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED CHILDREN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE James J. Gallagher (USA), President; Dan Bitan (Israel), Vice President; Elena Konstat (Mexico), Secretary; Aurora H. Roldan (Philippines), Treasurer; Elizabeth O. Adesokan (Nigeria), Jean-Charles Terrassier (France), and Klaus Urban (Federal Republic of Germany).

SECRETARIAT Dorothy Sisk, Executive Secretary; A. Harry Passow, Honorary Director.

**THE WORLD COUNCIL FOR
GIFTED AND TALENTED CHILDREN, INC.**

HMS 414
University of South Florida
Tampa, Florida 33620



U. S. Postage
PAID
Tampa, FL
Permit #764